

Confederation of Reformed Evangelicals

First Annual Presbytery

January 30, 1998

Minutes

Member delegates present

Patch Blakey, Doug Wilson (Community Evangelical Fellowship); Brett Baker, Marty Shaw (Eastside Evangelical Fellowship); Gene Helsel (Wenatchee Evangelical Fellowship).

Invocation

Patch welcomed all those assembled. Brett opened in prayer. Gene led all in singing Psalm 84.

Election of Moderator

Patch Blakey was elected moderator by unanimous vote.

Constitutional Amendments

Motion (BB/DW) to insert the following new Article III/M into the CRE constitution:

“A visiting delegation of a church, forming church, or interested group may be seated at the discretion of the moderator. Such a seating is not part of the process of joining the CRE. Visiting delegations may not participate in the debates of the presbytery.”

Passed 4-0.

Motion (DW/MS) to insert new Article III/T into the constitution. Amended after discussion to read:

“In making a motion to seat a fraternal delegation, a sponsoring church needs to be prepared to answer questions concerning the general health of that church and the likelihood of that church being able to embrace the CRE constitution when considered for full membership. The church which makes the motion to seat the fraternal delegation must be the church which moves to receive the church into full membership when that issue comes before presbytery. The church which moves to receive the church into membership must be prepared to answer questions related to the doctrinal integrity of the church’s confession, and the moral, spiritual, and covenantal health of the families of the eldership.”

Passed 4-0.

Motion (DW/GH) to insert the following new Article III/U into the constitution:

“When a church joins the CRE, the existing ordination of all its officers is thereby accepted, and does not necessitate a formal examination as with other candidates. Nevertheless, observations and questions concerning current pastoral and elder qualifications may occur in the discussion of that church’s potential admission.” Passed 4-0.

Motion (DW/BB) to amend Article IV/K to change “fraternal delegations” to “visiting delegations.” Passed 4-0.

Motion (GH/DW) to amend Article III/D. Amendment was modified after discussion to the following:

After the first sentence add, "The moderator will be elected at the end of the presbytery meeting." Change "the moderator will chair the meeting" to "the moderator will chair the following meetings". Add, "The moderator will be the spokesman for the presbytery upon his election." Passed 4-0.

Motion (DW/MS) to adopt the above amendment in Article IV/D, with "presbytery" being replaced by "council". Passed 4-0.

Exhortation by Steve Wilkins

Patch introduced Steve Wilkins, pastor of Auburn Avenue Presbyterian Church. Steve exhorted the presbytery to be a church which is faithful to her calling, acknowledges her sin, preaches with authority, is openly Reformed, seeks biblical, tangible unity, holds to orthodoxy with thankfulness, understands the central importance of church discipline, and is traditional without being traditionalistic.

Seating of Fraternal Delegations

Motion (DW/GH) that Grace Covenant Church be seated as a fraternal delegation. Doug described his relationship with Randy Booth. Motion passed 4-0.

Motion (BB/DW) that Christ the Sovereign Covenant Church be seated as a fraternal delegation. Brett described his relationship with Doug Hayes. Motion passed 4-0.

Motion (DW/BB) that Reformation Covenant Church be seated as a fraternal delegation. Doug described his relationship with Dennis Tuuri. Doug explained that RCC will seek reconciliation with Westminster Presbyterian Church. Motion passed 4-0.

Motion (DW/GH) that Reformed Evangelical Church be seated as a fraternal delegation. Doug described his relationship with Jeff Pennington. Motion passed 4-0.

Motion (DW/MS) that Christ Presbyterian Church be seated as a fraternal delegation. Doug described his relationship with Mike Chastain. Motion passed 4-0.

Seating of Visiting Delegations

Patch seated the following as visiting delegates: Steve Wilkins, Curt Baker, Alan Burrow, Jeff Kezar, Stuart Caton, and Ken Travato.

Message by Doug Wilson

Doug spoke on the disintegration and death of modern evangelicalism as a movement.

New Business

Doug presented a proposed logo for the CRE, and explained the historical significance of different elements of the logo. It was well received. Motion (GH/MS) to accept the design with minor font changes. Passed 4-0.

A short recess was taken.

Questions from the Floor

Patch opened the meeting for general questions. The following types of questions were asked and answered: Does the CRE plan to seek fraternal status with other denominations? What relationship would a mission church of a newly accepted CRE church have with the CRE? How can churches with different confessions work together effectively? Will not the gap between baptistic and paedobaptistic churches widen as the CRE grows? Are all the CRE confessions covenantal? Why was the Athanasian Creed not adopted? How is "hades" to be understood?

Photographs were taken.

Closing Song and Prayer

Gene Helsel led the presbytery in singing Psalm 22, and closed the meeting in prayer.