

MINUTES

Third Annual CRE Presbytery

Moscow, ID — 7:00 PM, September 30, 1999

Moderator

Patch Blakey, Community Evangelical Fellowship, Moscow, Idaho.

Voting representatives

Douglas Wilson, Community Evangelical Fellowship, Moscow, Idaho.

Brett Baker, Eastside Evangelical Fellowship, Bellevue, Washington.

Marty Shaw, Eastside Evangelical Fellowship, Bellevue, Washington.

Gene Helsel, Wenatchee Evangelical Fellowship, Wenatchee, Washington.

Randy Booth, Grace Covenant Church, Texarkana, Arkansas.

Admitted into membership

Bible Fellowship Church, Cherokee Village, AR.

Grace Evangelical Fellowship, Redondo Beach, CA.

Reformation Covenant Church, Oregon City, OR.

I. Invocation and Psalm Singing

Patch Blakey opened the 1999 presbytery meeting, and Randy Booth opened the meeting with prayer. The assembly sang Psalm 137.

II. Introduction of Visitors

Patch Blakey introduced the voting representatives. He then asked those assembled to introduce themselves and the churches they represented.

III. Exhortation from the Scriptures - Doug Wilson

Douglas Wilson taught from Isaiah 25.

IV. Actions in Regard to Fraternal Delegations

–Motion (DW/BB) to seat All Saints Presbyterian, Lancaster, PA (Marlin Detweiler, representative). After discussion, the motion passed 5-0.

–Motion (DW/GH) to seat Cornerstone Reformed Church, Carbondale, IL (Burke Shade, pastor). After discussion, the motion passed 5-0.

–Motion (DW/RB) to seat St. Peter's Presbyterian Church, Bristol, TN (R.C. Sproul, Jr., pastor). After discussion, the motion passed 5-0.

–Motion (BB/RB) to seat Christ Covenant Church, Brier, WA (Duane Hodges, pastor). After discussion, the motion passed 5-0.

–Motion (BB/GH) to seat Langley Reformed Evangelical Church, Langley, BC (Garry Vanderveen, pastor). After discussion, the motion passed 5-0.

–Motion (RB/DW) to seat Emmanuel Covenant Church, Phoenix, AZ (Jeff Niell, pastor). After discussion, the motion passed 5-0.

Extension of previously seated fraternal delegates:

–Motion (DW/GH) to extend the fraternal status of Beal Heights PCA, Lawton, OK (John Owen Butler, pastor). After discussion, the motion passed 5-0.

–Motion (DW/BB) to extend the fraternal status of Lakeside Church, Wales, WI (Jeff Pennington, pastor) After discussion, the motion passed 5-0.

–Motion (DW/RB) to extend the fraternal status of Shiloh Community Church, (Errol Hale, pastor). After discussion, the motion passed 5-0.

–Motion (DW/MS) to extend the fraternal status of Ladd Hill Bible Church, Portland, OR (Paul Dixon, pastor). After discussion, the motion passed 5-0.

–Motion (BB/RB) to extend the fraternal status of Evangelical Reformed Church of Tacoma, WA (Rich Hamlin, pastor). After discussion, the motion passed 5-0.

Withdrawal of fraternal delegate status:

–Motion (BB/DW) to withdraw the fraternal status of Christ the Sovereign Covenant Church, Auburn, WA. After discussion, the motion passed 5-0.

–Motion (GH/BB) to withdraw the fraternal status of Abounding Grace Church, Visalia, CA. After discussion, the motion passed 5-0.

V. Seating of Visiting Delegations

All other churches represented were seated as visiting delegations.

VI. Seating of New Members

–Motion (DW/RB) to seat Bible Fellowship Church, Cherokee Village, AR (Chori Seraiah, pastor; Mark Cave, elder), coming in under the Reformed Evangelical Confession. After discussion, the motion passed 5-0.

–Motion (DW/MS) to seat Grace Evangelical Church, Redondo Beach, CA (Greg Bero, pastor; Steve Perkins, elder), coming in under the London Baptist Confession. After discussion, the motion passed 7-0.

–Motion (DW/RB) to seat Reformation Covenant Church, Oregon City, OR (Dennis Tuuri, pastor; Richard Mahar, elder), coming in under the Westminster Confession of Faith 1647. After discussion, the motion passed 9-0.

Special category for discussion:

–Motion (DW/MS) to extend the fraternal status of Christ Presbyterian Church, Elkton, MD (Mike Chastain, pastor).

–Motion (DW/BB) to seat Christ Reformed Evangelical, Annapolis, MD (Mike

Chastain, pastoring) as a mission church.

VII. New Business

A. Consideration of Proposed Memorials

1. Proposed Christian Education Memorial.

–Motion (GH/MS) to adopt the following memorial for the CRE:

All things are to be considered and conducted under the Lordship of Jesus Christ, including education, and especially the education of our covenant children.

God has neither charged nor authorized the state to educate children within its civil jurisdiction. God has commanded parents to bring up their children in the education and admonition of the Lord (Eph. 6:4, Deu. 6:7). Given the importance and enormity of the task (Ps. 127:3-5, Deut. 6:7-9), and the impossibility of neutrality in education (Prov. 1:7, Matt. 12:30, Lk. 6:40, Col. 2:1-10, 2 Cor. 10:3-5), we do heartily affirm the necessity of educating our children in a manner that is explicitly Christian in content and rigor.

Government schools are, by decree and design, explicitly godless, and therefore cannot be considered a legitimate means of inculcating true faith, holy living and a decidedly Christian worldview in the children of Christian parents.

Parents who do not fully understand the indispensability of Christian education should be warmly received into membership. However, the leaders of Christ's church must thoroughly understand and plainly teach the divine imperative to disciple our children, the divine prohibition of rendering unto Caesar those who bear God's image (Matt. 22:20-21), the divine warning to those who cause their little ones to stumble (Matt. 18:6) and the divine promises to those who raise their children in faith (Deut. 7:9, Ps. 102:5-7, Ps. 103:17-18, Prov. 22:6, Lk. 1:48-50, Acts 2:39).

After discussion, the motion passed 11-0.

2. Proposed Creation Memorial.

–Motion (DW/RB) to adopt the following memorial for the CRE:

The doctrine of creation lies at the heart of Christian living, deeply embedded within our assumptions about worship, knowledge, faith, celebration, beauty, and redemption. In recent decades, many conservative evangelicals have been moved by the science of the day to oppose the historic view of creation in six sequential days of common length, several millennia in the past. Instead, they hold that the bare ideas of creation presented in Genesis have little to do with the actualities of creation. Falsely pitting poetry and symbolism against history, they distort the text of Scripture and divorce ideas from the created order in ancient gnostic fashion.

Science changes like the wind, and therefore its authority ought to pale beside the Spirit-led, traditional exegesis of creation in six days of common length. Intimidation by apparently more sophisticated non-Christian

knowledge-priesthoods is not new. Over the centuries, God has regularly tested the Church's courage to stand loyal to His revelation over against the ever-changing sciences of the day, those "profane and idle babblings and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge."

After discussion, the motion passed 11-0.

B. Ordination Examination of Dave Hatcher

Brett Baker introduced the candidate, Dave Hatcher, and explained the CRE procedure for examining candidates. The presbytery set forward four examiners to examine Dave Hatcher. The examiners were Gene Helsel, Randy Booth, Douglas Wilson, and Brett Baker.

VII. Psalm 47A and Closing Prayer

The assembly sang Psalm 47A, Brett Baker closed the meeting with prayer.