

Minutes of the 2006 Meeting of the Augustine Presbytery  
of the  
Confederation of Reformed Evangelical Churches  
October 19-20, 2006  
Lancaster, PA

The assembly was called to order by Moderator Gregg Strawbridge at 10:00 a.m. Marlin Detweiler, representing All Saints Presbyterian Church, welcomed the presbyters to Lancaster.

Pastor Burke Shade gave an invocation on behalf of presbytery and led the presbyters in the Lord's Prayer.

Tim Giese, of All Saints, led those assembled in the singing of Psalms 100 and 103.

Moderator of Council, Randy Booth, gave a message from the Scriptures, followed by an exhortation from Moderator Gregg Strawbridge, at the conclusion of which the presbyters joined in singing the Doxology.

Session One was called to order by Moderator Strawbridge at 10:30. The roll of delegates was called and a quorum was declared by Moderator Strawbridge.

Presbyters were introduced to give annual reports from the member churches.

Mission and Candidate churches and their representatives were introduced.

Visiting delegations were introduced.

Pastor Chori Seraiah read a letter briefly explaining the events which led to his acceptance of the pastorate of Christ Church, Abingdon, VA, (Reformed Evangelical Church).

Moderator Strawbridge introduced Jeff Neill, the representative of the Anselm Presbytery, to greet the presbyters and lead in prayer. Following prayer, at noon, Moderator Strawbridge recessed the meeting for lunch.

At 1:05, Moderator Strawbridge reconvened the meeting and led the singing of a verse of St. Patrick's Breastplate and prayer. Pastor Strawbridge then opened the floor for the consideration of mission churches into full membership in the CREC.

Pastor Jeff Neill offered, and Rick Young seconded, a motion to accept into full membership Christ the King Church, Springfield, MO. Pastor Neill, Elder Rob Davis and Pastor Eric Sauder answered questions concerning the health and doctrine of the congregation. The motion to accept carried without opposition.

Elder Marlin Detweiler offered, and Elder Gil Shivers seconded, a motion to accept into full membership Christ Covenant Church, Copiaque, NY. Pastor Brian Penney and Elder Kris Smith answered questions from the presbytery. The motion to accept carried without opposition.

Pastor Rick Young offered, and Jeff Harlow seconded, a motion to accept into full membership Covenant Heritage Reformed Fellowship, Yorktown, VA. Pastor Steve Hemmeke and Elders Marc Moss, Conrad Doskey, and Mark Essing answered questions. The motion to accept carried without opposition.

Elder Gil Shivers offered, and Pastor Randy Booth seconded, a motion to accept into full membership Heritage Covenant Church, Weatherford, TX. Pastor Patrick Hurd and Elder Tony Douglas answered questions from the presbytery. The motion to accept carried without opposition.

Pastor Randy Booth offered, and Pastor Virgil Hurt seconded, a motion to accept into full membership Immanuel Presbyterian Church, Clinton, MS. Pastor Lonn Oswalt and Elder Bill Grete answered questions from the presbytery. The motion to accept carried without opposition.

Pastor Joe Thacker offered, and Elder Sean Mahaffey seconded, a motion to accept into full membership Trinity Presbyterian Church, Birmingham, AL. Pastor Rich Lusk and Elder Gilbert Douglas, III answered questions from the presbytery. The motion to accept carried without opposition.

Moderator Strawbridge administered the oath of membership in the CREC (Article V. 3. of the Procedures of Presbytery) to the pastors/elders present from the above-named mission churches, to which their representatives responded affirmatively. Moderator Strawbridge then led the presbyters in a statement of welcome (Article V. 4. of the Procedures of Presbytery) to the newly accepted member sessions, to which the presbyters responded with a corporate "Amen."

Moderator Strawbridge opened the floor to the consideration of the conveyance and extension of candidate status in the CREC.

Pastor Burke Shade offered, and Pastor Jeff Evans seconded, a motion to convey candidate status upon Providence Church, Caro, MI. The motion carried without opposition.

Elder Marlin Detweiler offered, and Pastor Randy Booth seconded, a motion to convey candidate status upon Providence Community Church, Pensacola, FL. The motion carried without opposition.

Pastor Joe Thacker moved, and Pastor Todd Davis seconded, a motion to convey candidate status upon Salem Reformed Church, Rome, GA. The motion carried without opposition.

Elder Gil Shivers moved, and Pastor David Queener seconded, a motion to convey candidate status upon New City Church, Kampala, Uganda. The motion carried without opposition.

Pastor Todd Davis, and Elder Marlin Detweiler seconded, a motion to extend candidate status upon Christ Church, Marion, AR. The motion carried without opposition.

Moderator Strawbridge opened the floor to reports of the examination committees of Laurence Windham and Jay Barfield. Burke Shade, on behalf of the committee to examine Laurence Windham, reported that the committee unanimously recommended his ordination with one request of Elder Windham which would be forwarded to his session.

Eric Sauder, on behalf of the committee to examine Jay Barfield, recommended his ordination, commending his understanding and wisdom, and his grace under pressure, the gifts for ministry and for the pastorate.

Moderator Randy Booth made the delegates aware of a letter he has received from a group of churches in Myanmar which have named themselves the Confederation of Reformed Evangelical Churches of Myanmar.

Following a short break, Blake Purcell and David Givler presented reports of the reformed works in Russia and Uganda, respectively.

At 4:15, Moderator Strawbridge recessed the meeting until the following morning.

### **Friday, October 20, 2006**

At 8:10, Moderator Strawbridge called the meeting to order and introduced Tim Giese to lead the presbytery in singing Psalms 2 and 63. Pastor Virgil Hurt prayed for the morning session.

After a brief exhortation from Moderator Strawbridge, he opened the meeting to Old Business and introduced Elder David Alders to present a report from the Committee charged to develop a Book of Procedures for Augustine Presbytery.

David Alders discussed the context of a need for a Presbytery Book of Procedures and moved to adopt as that Book the existing CREC Book of Procedures. The motion (no second required) carried without opposition.

David Alders, on behalf of the aforementioned Committee, offered as an amendment to the Book of Procedures for Augustine Presbytery the motion posted under agenda item X as "E. Motion on Election of Delegates to Council". The amendment would be incorporated into the BOP as a new Article XI to be titled, "Election of Delegates to Council". Suggested editorial changes from the floor were incorporated into the motion so that the new Article XI would read:

*Council delegates shall be elected every three years at the Presbytery meeting held in conjunction with the meeting of Council. The election of Council delegates by the Presbytery must precede the opening of any business session of Council, as the newly elected delegates will represent the Presbytery at that year's meeting of Council. The Presbytery Moderator shall serve as one of the delegates to Council.*

*No later than two weeks before the date on which a joint Presbytery/Council meeting begins, each member church may nominate to its Presbytery Moderator one of its elders as a candidate for Council delegate. The names of all nominees received by*

*that date shall be printed on a paper ballot and shall be distributed to the delegates in the Presbytery meeting. Signed ballots shall not be required. At the discretion of the Moderator or a majority vote by the Presbytery as to necessity and/or time, the Presbytery may question the nominees. Following the tabulation of the votes, the candidates will be ranked according to the number of votes received until the Presbytery's prescribed delegate allocation is met. In the event two or more candidates receive the same number of votes and are vying for the final delegate position, those candidates shall stand for a run-off election according to the same procedure employed for the first ballot. The two delegate nominees securing the most votes among the nominees not elected shall serve as alternate delegates to Council.*

*The retiring Presbytery Moderator shall continue as a delegate to Council until the adjournment of that year's Council, notwithstanding the election of a new Presbytery Moderator immediately prior to that adjournment.*

After brief discussion, the motion carried without opposition.

David Alders, on behalf of the aforementioned Committee, offered as an amendment to the Book of Procedures for Augustine Presbytery the motion posted under agenda item X as "F. Motion on Election of Moderator and Moderator Pro Tem". The amendment would be incorporated into the BOP as a new Article X which would be re-titled, "Election of Moderator and Moderator *pro Tempore*". Suggested editorial changes from the floor were incorporated into the motion so that the new Article X would read:

*Churches wishing to nominate candidates for the office of Moderator shall submit their nominations to the Presbytery Moderator at least thirty days in advance of the opening of the Presbytery meeting for the nominations to be posted on the agenda. The Presbytery Moderator shall be elected according to the procedure delineated in Article IV.F. of the CREC Constitution. The vote required to elect the Presbytery Moderator shall be a majority. At the discretion of the retiring Moderator or a majority vote by the Presbytery as to necessity and/or time, the Presbytery may question the nominees.*

*Following the election of Moderator, the delegates may nominate candidates for the office of Moderator pro tempore. The nominees need not be limited to the delegates nominated for the office of Moderator. The names of nominees not originally nominated for the office of Moderator may be written on the unused ballots used for the election of Moderator and those ballots may be used for the election of Moderator pro tempore. The Moderator pro tempore also shall be elected by a majority vote. At the discretion of the retiring Moderator or a majority vote by the Presbytery as to necessity and/or time, the Presbytery may question the nominees.*

Further, the existing language of Article X would be retained in Article X after the aforementioned proposed language, in a new enumerated paragraph to read:

*In the absence of nominees submitted in advance of Presbytery, the following procedures will be followed:*

- 1. The Moderator will invite nominations from any delegate to presbytery.*
- 2. In order for a nominee to be recognized as a candidate, his nomination must be seconded on the floor of presbytery, and the nominee must vocalize his consent to be a candidate. The nomination and second may not come from two elders serving in the same church.*
- 3. In due time, moderator will close the nominations and identify the candidates.*
- 4. Moderator will invite open discussion about the candidates. Delegates may use this time to ask questions of the candidates or elicit statements from them. Delegates may also speak for or against any candidate.*
- 5. Roll call vote will be taken or at the Moderator's discretion, a written ballot will be tallied. The candidate with the most votes will be the next moderator. The current Moderator tallies the votes and then shall declare the results of the election.*

After brief discussion, the motion carried without opposition.

David Alders, on behalf of the aforementioned Committee, offered as an amendment to the Book of Procedures for Augustine Presbytery the motion posted under agenda item X as "G. Motion on Amendments". The amendment would be incorporated into the BOP as a new Article XII which would be titled, "Proposing Amendments to the CREC Constitution". Suggested editorial changes from the floor were incorporated into the motion so that the proposed Article XII would read:

*Any delegate to Presbytery may propose an amendment to the CREC Constitution, excluding Article X which contains the confessions of faith, at any regularly scheduled meeting of Presbytery, though no determinative action can be taken until the next regularly scheduled meeting of Council. Amendments offered at Presbytery for submission to the next regularly scheduled meeting of Council must receive a three-quarters majority to receive the imprimatur of Presbytery. All amendments receiving a three-quarters majority vote of Presbytery must be advanced to Council by the Presbytery delegation.*

After brief discussion, the motion carried without opposition.

Moderator Strawbridge explained that some of the motions of "New Business" were considered under the various reports contained under "Old Business" as posted in the 2006 Augustine Presbytery agenda, particularly items E, F, and G.

Moderator Strawbridge read a letter from Council Moderator pro tempore Chris Schlect concerning his work in recording the history of the CREC.

Moderator Strawbridge asked if there was a report from the Moderator and Ecclesial Committee. There was none.

Moderator Strawbridge introduced Moderator of Council, Randy Booth, to present his report. Considerable discussion ensued regarding the responsibilities and role of the office of Moderator and possible means of distributing the burden borne by the local church of the Moderator.

Moderator Strawbridge announced a break at 10:10. At 10:25, the meeting was called back to order.

Moderator Strawbridge reported the offering amounts from the worship service held on Thursday evening, October 19. The sums received were \$1000 for the Slavic Reformation Society, \$3390 for All Saints' Presbyterian to defray the costs of the Presbytery meeting, \$3550 for Grace Covenant Church of Nacogdoches for compensation for the Moderator of Council, and \$625 in cash.

Moderator Booth offered, and Pastor Burke Shade seconded, the motion to amend the BOP of the Augustine Presbytery to add to Article II, the language posted under agenda item X as "A. Motion on Ministerial Credentials" reading:

*Upon the request of a member church in the CREC, the moderator of presbytery has the authority to register the ministerial credentials of a minister lawfully ordained. Holding a man's ministerial credentials does not mean that the man is a member of presbytery or council, or a delegate to presbytery or council. The list shall be reviewed and approved by Presbytery annually. Removing a man's credentials from such a register is not equivalent to a defrocking, which can only be done in the CREC at the local church level.*

The motion carried without opposition.

Moderator Randy Booth offered, and Pastor Rick Young seconded, the motion posted under agenda item X as "B. Motion on Provisional Amendments" to amend the BOP of the Augustine Presbytery to add to Article XII the following paragraph:

*The presbytery may amend its Book of Procedures, provided the amendment is not in conflict with any existing element of the CREC Constitution, upon a three-quarters majority vote.*

The motion carried with one vote in opposition.

Elder David Alders offered, and Pastor Virgil Hurt seconded, a motion to amend Article XII of the Book of Procedures of the Augustine Presbytery such that Article XII would be re-titled "Amendments" and the portion of Article XII previously passed under agenda item X.G. would read:

*Any delegate to Presbytery may propose an amendment to the CREC Constitution or Book of Procedures, excluding Article X which contains the confessions of faith, at any regularly scheduled meeting of Presbytery, though no determinative action can be taken until the next regularly scheduled meeting of Council. Amendments offered*

*at Presbytery for submission to the next regularly scheduled meeting of Council must receive a three-quarters majority to receive the imprimatur of Presbytery. All amendments receiving a three-quarters majority vote of Presbytery must be advanced to Council by the Presbytery delegation.*

The motion carried with one abstention.

Pastor Randy Booth offered, and Elder Sean Mahaffey seconded, the motion posted under agenda item X as “C. Motion on Mission Churches in Alien Presbyteries”.

*In cases where the mother/sponsoring church of a mission/candidate church is a member of one presbytery, but the mission/candidate church will be voted on to become a member of another presbytery, the mother/sponsoring church may propose membership of the mission/candidate church via a delegate to the receiving presbytery to speak on behalf of the mission/candidate church or, in lieu of this, provide a written report and request. In cases where the action is proposed via a written report, an elder from the mission/candidate church must attend presbytery.*

After discussion, the motion was withdrawn without objection.

Elder Doug Roorda offered, and Pastor Jeff Harlow seconded, a motion to amend Article IX of the Book of Procedures of the Augustine Presbytery to add the following:

*Churches from other presbyteries may be granted the right to propose membership of a mission or candidate church either in person or in writing.*

The motion carried without opposition.

Pastor Randy Booth offered, and Elder Marlin Detweiler seconded, a motion to amend the Book of Procedures of Augustine Presbytery to include under Article V the language posted under agenda item X as “D. Motion on Failed Sponsorship” reading:

*In the event that a sponsoring church for a candidate church is unable to fulfill its commitments of sponsorship, the moderator of presbytery may assign a new member church to that candidate church to complete the sponsoring responsibilities. Normally, such a reassignment should occur at least 60 days prior to the next presbytery meeting.*

The motion carried without opposition.

The motion listed as agenda item X. H. was not offered and thus not considered.

Pastor Randy Booth offered, and Elder Ryan Young seconded, a motion to amend Article VII of the Book of Procedures of the Augustine Presbytery, with insertion of a new section essentially reflecting the language posted under agenda item X. I. to read:

*If two or more members of a local church believe that their session of elders has erred, the matter must first be addressed at the local church level. If the matter cannot be resolved, these members of the church may appeal to a broader assembly; or if the matter requires immediate attention, they may appeal to the moderator of their broader assembly. If the two members belong to the same household, three members are required to hear the case.*

*The broader assemblies (or moderators) must refuse to hear **what they regard as frivolous or unconstitutional appeals**. Appeals to council do not necessarily have to first be heard by presbytery. However, council may choose to remand the case to presbytery.*

*If **two or more sessions of CREC churches believe** the elders of **another CREC church** have committed a sin and **have hardened** themselves in it **after the prosecuting churches have pursued the equity of Matthew 18** , and the members of the **accused church** do not appeal to the broader assembly (or moderator), then **the prosecuting sessions** may request that a broader assembly (or committee appointed by the moderator) consider the matter. If the elders of the accused church are found guilty, and the assembly (or the committee appointed by the moderator) recommends the removal of the church from membership in the CREC, the assembly (or moderator) shall appoint a church or churches (if warranted) to form a "mission church" to care for the membership until the congregation is stable and meets the qualifications to be received in the membership of the CREC.*

After discussion, without objection Pastor Booth withdrew the motion.

Pastor Randy Booth offered, and Elder Rick Young seconded, a motion to amend Article VII of the Book of Procedures of the Augustine Presbytery, with the insertion of a new section to read:

*If **two or more sessions of CREC churches believe** the elders of **another CREC church** have committed a sin and **have hardened** themselves in it **after the prosecuting churches have pursued the equity of Matthew 18** , and the members of the **accused church** do not appeal to the broader assembly (or moderator), then **the prosecuting sessions** may request that a broader assembly (or committee appointed by the moderator) consider the matter. If the elders of the accused church are found guilty, and the assembly (or the committee appointed by the moderator) recommends the removal of the church from membership in the CREC, the assembly (or moderator) shall appoint a church or churches (if warranted) to form a "mission church" to care for the membership until the congregation is stable and meets the qualifications to be received in the membership of the CREC.*

The motion carried with a three-quarters majority vote.

Pastor Randy Booth offered, and Pastor Jeff Harlow seconded, a motion to add an Article XIII to the Book of Procedures of the Augustine Presbytery essentially reflecting the language posted under agenda item X. J. to read:



*The Presbytery recognizes its moderator as the embodiment of Presbytery when it is not in session. However, at each assembly, the moderator must report his actions for ratification by the Presbytery.*

*As the embodiment of his Presbytery, the moderator may encourage and spiritually strengthen the sessions of elders within his broader assembly. The moderator also has the authority to meet with the moderators of other broader assemblies to encourage them or to be encouraged, as well as to inquire about the spiritual and doctrinal health of the churches within the other assemblies. This should in no way be interpreted as a judicial or prelatival authority. The moderator has the authority to call an ad hoc meeting of Presbytery, with the issues related to the stated reasons for calling the meeting being the only agenda items.*

Without opposition, Pastor Booth withdrew the motion.

Elder David Alders offered, and Pastor Todd Davis seconded, a motion to add an Article XIII to the Book of Procedures of the Augustine Presbytery, titled “Authority of the Moderator”

*The Presbytery recognizes its moderator as the embodiment of Presbytery when it is not in session. However, at each assembly, the moderator must report his actions for ratification by the Presbytery.*

The motion carried without opposition.

Pastor Randy Booth offered, and Pastor Todd Davis seconded, a motion to amend Article IV (possibly either paragraphs F or I or a new paragraph, W) of the CREC Constitution at the next meeting of Council to the following:

*The Council recognizes its moderator as the embodiment of Council when it is not in session. However, at each assembly, the moderator must report his actions for ratification by the Council.*

The motion carried without opposition.

Elder Doug Roorda offered, and Elder Gil Shivers seconded, a motion that all proposed amendments to the CREC Constitution or Book of Procedures passed by the Augustine Presbytery shall be placed in an additional Article in the Book of Procedures of the Augustine Presbytery.

The motion carried without opposition.

Pastor Burke Shade offered, and Pastor Virgil Hurt seconded, a motion that Cornerstone Reformed Church sponsor as candidate churches to the CREC:

Trinity Presbyterian Church of Valparaiso, FL  
Christ Presbyterian Church of Baton Rouge, LA.

The motion carried without opposition.

Pastor Gene Liechty offered, and Elder Marlin Detweiler seconded, a motion to hold the 2007 Augustine Presbytery meeting in Cary, NC, on Thursday, October 11, 2007 through Friday, October 12, 2007.

Following the benediction and the singing of the Doxology, Presbytery was adjourned at 12:27 p.m.