

Minutes of the annual meeting of Knox Presbytery of the Communion of Reformed Evangelical Churches Lake Tahoe (Zephyr Cove, Nevada) – October 7, 2014

Terry Tollefson called the meeting to order at 9:01 AM.

Alan Burrow offered an invocation.

Jamie Soles led in singing Psalms 20 and 21.

Andrew Voelkel gave an exhortation from Ephesians 4:1-6 on being “eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit.”

Roll Call and Establishment of a Quorum

Terry Tollefson called the roll of member churches, and the delegates from each church identified themselves.

Christ Church – Moscow, ID (Ben Merkle, Csaba Leidenfrost)
Christ Church – Spokane, WA (Joost Nixon, Kenton Spratt)
Christ Covenant Church – Enterprise, OR (Terry Tollefson [Presiding Minister])
Christ Covenant Church – Grande Prairie, AB (Theo Hoekstra, Jamie Soles)
Christ Covenant Reformed Church – Billings, MT (Ryan Yeager)
Emmanuel Chapel – Helena, MT (no delegate present)
The King’s Congregation – Meridian, ID (Alan Burrow)
Trinity Church – Coeur d’Alene, ID (Stuart Bryan)
Trinity Church – Wenatchee, WA (Matt Canlis*, Marc Barger)
Trinity Church—Tri-Cities – Richland, WA (Mike Casbon, Toby Wilson)
Trinity Covenant Church – Fort St. John, BC (Desmond Jones)
Trinity Reformed Church – Moscow, ID (Toby Sumpter, Joshua Appel)
Christ Church Missoula – Missoula, MT (Andrew Voelkel, Kris Smith)

* Matt Canlis is a member of the Church of Scotland. At presbytery’s 2013 meeting, Matt was granted a one-year waiver of the membership requirement of CREC Constitution II B so that he might serve as interim pastor of Trinity Church—Wenatchee. Presbytery took no action with regard to CREC Constitution IV B 1, which requires that voting representatives to presbytery be members of the congregation they serve, “unless an exception is granted by presbytery.” It is unclear whether the Constitution intends that a waiver under II B also count as a waiver under IV B 1.

Introduction of Mission Churches

The mission churches were introduced, and representatives of those churches who were present were recognized.

All Souls Church – Lewiston, ID (mission of Christ Church, Moscow) (represented by Ben Merkle)

Grace Covenant Church – Gibsons, BC (mission of Christ Covenant Church, Grande Prairie)
(represented by Theo Hoekstra)
Holy Trinity Church – Colville, WA (mission of Christ Church, Spokane) (Jeff Moss)
King’s Cross Church – Wenatchee, WA (mission of Trinity Church, Kirkland) (Gene Hessel)

Presiding Minister of Presbytery’s Report and Pastoral Encouragement

Terry Tollefson asked to move the Presiding Minister’s Report to this point in the agenda. Approved by consent.

Terry presented his report as the Presiding Minister of Knox Presbytery.

Church Reports

The member and mission churches presented their reports, and delegates offered prayers for one another’s churches.

Christ Church – Moscow, ID
All Souls Church – Lewiston, ID (mission of Christ Church, Moscow)
Christ Church – Spokane, WA
Holy Trinity Church – Colville, WA (mission of Christ Church, Spokane)
Christ Covenant Church – Enterprise, OR

Presbytery recessed at 10:24 AM.

Presbytery reconvened at 10:38 AM.

Christ Covenant Church – Grande Prairie, AB
Grace Covenant Church – Gibsons, BC (mission of Christ Covenant Church, Grande Prairie)
Christ Covenant Reformed Church – Billings, MT
Emmanuel Chapel – Helena, MT
Christ Church Missoula – Missoula, MT
The King’s Congregation – Meridian, ID
Trinity Church – Coeur d’Alene, ID
Trinity Church – Wenatchee, WA
Trinity Church—Tri-Cities – Richland, WA
Trinity Covenant Church – Fort St. John, BC
Trinity Reformed Church – Moscow, ID
King’s Cross Church – Wenatchee, WA (mission of Trinity Church, Kirkland)

Presbytery recessed at 12:10 PM.

Presbytery reconvened at 12:55 PM.

Jamie Soles led in singing Psalm 42.

Terry Tollefson offered an invocation.

Presiding Minister of Council's Report and Pastoral Encouragement

Stuart Bryan read the action points from the report submitted by Jack Phelps as Presiding Minister of the CREC Council. Alan Burrow summarized the situation addressed by the Report of Council Committee on Constitutional Revision of Article IV.D (see Council Agenda 2014 – Appendices B, C, and D). Terry urged the delegates to Presbytery to read the Report from the Minister of Council and submit their opinions to the Presbytery's delegates to Council. Terry took a straw poll of the Presbytery, which voted unanimously to reject all of the proposed options for a new logo for the CREC.

OLD BUSINESS

Credential Assessment report regarding Trinity Church Wenatchee

Terry Tollefson reviewed the background of the Credential Assessment Committee's work last year in evaluating the ministerial credentials of Matt Canlis as the incoming pastor of Trinity Church – Wenatchee. Presbytery deliberated about whether to extend the waiver for Matt Canlis to the requirement that "each elder must be a member of the church, which he serves" (CREC Constitution, Article II.B), and about how to answer a request from the session of Trinity Church for counsel as to how to proceed with their relationship with the CREC. A discussion ensued between members of Presbytery and Matt Canlis (who was present but not an official seated delegate) regarding Matt's personal views in contrast with views represented by various CREC Memorials, particularly the memorials regarding creation and Christian education.

14/10/07:1 Motion (Burrow/Spratt) that presbytery go into executive session. The motion carried without dissent.

Presbytery went into executive session at 2:55 pm.*

* As previously noted, it is not clear whether Matt Canlis was a qualified voting delegate. In any event, he voluntarily absented himself during the executive session.

Presbytery came out of executive session at 3:18 PM.

Terry Tollefson announced the following action taken by presbytery during executive session:

14/10/07:2 Motion: that Presbytery find that Matt Canlis is not a good fit for the CREC, despite his great pastoral gifts, and that Presbytery delegate to Toby Sumpter authority to appoint one or two other elders to assist him in bringing that finding to the congregation and elders of Trinity Church-Wenatchee, with the aim that Matt change his views, or that the congregation release Matt. *The motion passed unanimously with Andrew Voelkel and Joshua Appel abstaining.*

Terry offered a prayer.

Presbytery recessed at 3:26 PM.

Presbytery reconvened at 3:33 PM.
Committee report on Doug Jones

14/10/07:3 Kenton Spratt reviewed the background of his committee's appointment at the 2013 meeting of Presbytery and read a summary of their recommendations:

"On the basis of Doug Jones's exceptions to the penal teaching of WCF VIII.5 and XI.3, his reasons for those exceptions, and all the theological and practical ramifications that follow, the committee recommends that Trinity Reformed Church request that Doug Jones demit his office, and if he refuses, that he through due process be deposed from office. The Committee further recommends that Trinity request that Doug Jones be removed from the list of recognized ministers in the CREC, and that no church consider him for any office in the CREC while he maintains his current views. Removing Doug Jones's ministerial credentials is not to be understood as excommunication or loss of membership in the congregation.

"On the polity question, the committee has recommended a revision to the CREC Book of Procedures Article XII 'Recognition of Ordained Ministers.' The suggested revision to the article is as follows: [see Appendix E to the CREC Council Agenda 2014]."

Toby Sumpter offered his thanks on behalf of the Session and congregation of Trinity Reformed Church for the Committee's careful work, and stated that Doug Jones himself is grateful to the Committee for their care in representing and responding to his views. He added that the Session agrees with the point made in Appendix A of the Committee's report, but has concerns about possible misunderstandings concerning some of the committee's statements related to the issue of rationalism as well as one of the quotations, and he suggests that the Appendix be more carefully nuanced before the report is adopted.

14/10/07:4 Motion (Bryan/Leidenfrost) to adopt the Committee's report while delegating to the Committee authority to make rhetorical changes in Appendix A.

14/10/07:5 Motion (Voelkel) to amend the report by striking the statement, "[T]he committee recommends that Trinity Reformed Church request that Doug Jones demit his office, and if he refuses, that he through due process be deposed from office."

The motion to amend died for lack of a second.

The main motion carried without dissent.

Terry Tollefson postponed the update on Christopher Schrock's recommended study plan (post-ordination).

Recognition of visitor

George Vander Dussen of Redeemer Presbyterian Church (a congregation of the Covenant Presbyterian Church) reported that through his congregation's joint work with Church of the King (Sacramento) to resolve a discipline issue, the CPC has come to see that they are very like-minded

with the CREC. At the invitation of Church of the King, Redeemer Presbyterian Church would like to bring greetings to the CREC and affirm their love and prayers for us, and announce their intention to pursue closer relations between the Covenant Presbyterian Church and the Communion of Reformed Evangelical Churches.

NEW BUSINESS

Terry Tollefson dispensed with discussion of the CREC Presbyters' Listserv conversation about Regeneration and Assurance, on the grounds that these issues would come up in connection with other items on the agenda.

Doug Wilson and other nominations for PM of Council

Presbytery deliberated about the nomination of Douglas Wilson to serve as Presiding Minister of the CREC Council.

The Presbytery took a show of hands on whether to recommend Doug as Presiding Minister of the CREC Council. Presbytery recommended Doug's election to this position, without dissenting votes.

Election of Presiding Minister for Knox Presbytery

Toby Sumpter nominated Alan Burrow as the next Presiding Minister of Knox Presbytery. The nomination was seconded by Joost Nixon. Alan Burrow was elected unanimously.

Input to Council delegates regarding matters before Council

Matters slated to arise before Council were discussed by presbytery so that delegates Terry Tollefson and Stuart Bryan could gauge the mind of presbytery and know how best to represent it.

Summer Sanctus Northwest

Joost presented information about a planned youth camp, Summer Sanctus Northwest, to be held Wednesday through Saturday, June 17-20, 2015. The cost is \$165, and the camp will follow the model of Randy Booth's summer camps in Texas. Joost will send out an email to Presbytery giving details of the planned camp. Douglas Wilson asked that the churches coordinate dates for summer events to avoid schedule conflicts between them.

Concluding matters and Adjournment

14/10/07:6 Motion (Nixon/Bryan) to accept the invitation of King's Cross Church to host the Presbytery meeting in Wenatchee next year on Wednesday, September 23. The motion passed without dissent.

Jamie Soles led in singing Psalm 47.

Gene Helsel offered a closing prayer.

Presbytery adjourned at 5:32 PM.