

2020 ANNUAL MEETING

OF

KNOX PRESBYTERY



COMMUNION OF REFORMED
EVANGELICAL CHURCHES

MINUTES

Moscow, Idaho
October 12-14, 2020

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2020

Preliminaries

The 2020 annual meeting of Knox Presbytery was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Presiding Minister (“PM”) Pastor Stuart Bryan.

- An invocation was offered by Christopher Schrock.
- Singing was led by Gene Helsel.
- Meditation on the book of Acts was delivered by Joshua Appel.
- Roll was called by PM Bryan and a quorum was established at 8:59 a.m.

Motion (10/13/20:01) was made by Gene Helsel to accept the published 2020 Knox Presbytery agenda. The motion was seconded by Kenton Spratt. **Motion carried** unanimously (17-0-0).

PM Bryan invited visitors to introduce themselves.

Church Reports

- Christ Church (Missoula, MT); Elder Taylor Crawford present.
- Christ Church (Moscow, ID); Pastor Douglas Wilson and Pastor Toby Sumpter present.
- Christ Church (Spokane, WA); Pastor Kenton Spratt and Elder Andre Fowlkes present.
- Christ Covenant Church (Enterprise, OR); Pastor Terry Tollefson present.
- Christ Covenant Reformed Church (Billings, MT); Pastor Christopher Schrock present.
- Emmanuel Church (Helena, MT); Pastor Jonah Barnes present.
- Holy Trinity Church (Colville, WA); Pastor Edwin Iverson and Elder Luke McGuire present.
- King’s Cross Church (Wenatchee, WA); Pastor Gene Helsel and Elder Jess Monnette present.
- The King’s Congregation (Meridian, ID); Pastor Alan Burrow present.
- Trinity Church (Coeur d’Alene, ID); Elder Ed MacBurnie present.
- Trinity Covenant Church (Fort St. John, BC); Pastor Adam Harris and Elder Des Jones observing and reporting via Skype.
- Trinity Reformed Church (Moscow, ID); Pastor Joshua Appel and Elder Timothy Van den Broek present.
- Valley Covenant Church (Lewiston, ID); Elder Sam Creason and Elder Daniel Schrempp present.

Candidate Church

Trinity Church (Denver, CO); Pastor Brian Brown and Elder Justin Riley present.

Motion (10/13/20:02) was made by Pastor Toby Sumpter to receive Trinity Church (Denver, CO) as a full member church in Knox Presbytery. Motion seconded by Gene Helsel. Discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously (17-0-0). (Per Art III.J-K.)

At 11:36 a.m. Pastor Brian Brown and Elder Justin Riley of Trinity Church Denver took full membership vows on behalf of their congregation administered by PM Stuart Bryan. Thereafter, the assembled delegates of Knox Presbytery extended to them the right hand of fellowship.

New St. Andrews College

NSA President Ben Merkle delivered a report on the ministry of New Saint Andrews College at 11:43 a.m. No action required.

Presbytery recessed for lunch at 12:04 p.m.

Preliminaries

Presbytery re-convened after lunch at 1:30 p.m.

- Singing led by Gene Hesel
- Reading of the introduction of the CREC Constitution by PM Bryan

Status of Francis Foucachon

Motion (10/13/20:03) was made by Douglas Wilson that Knox Presbytery grant that Francis Foucachon be granted exception to serve as a ruling elder at Christ Church, Moscow, ID, while still a member of the PCA. The motion was seconded by Christopher Schrock. **Motion carried** unanimously (16-0-0)

Presiding Ministers' Reports

The Report from Council PM Virgil Hurt was received and discussed (Attached).

- **Motion** (10/13/20:04) was made by Douglas Wilson that the incoming Knox PM communicate to Council PM Virgil Hurt, our contention that the content of anything in the agenda of an *Ad Hoc Council Meeting*, as well as the agenda itself, should be disseminated no later than 30 days prior to the meeting. The motion was seconded by Toby Sumpter. Motion carried unanimously (17-0-0)

The Report from Knox PM Stuart W. Bryan was received and discussed (Attached).

- **Motion** (10/13/20:05) was made by Alan Burrow that Knox Presbytery endorse PM Bryan's response to Athanasius Presbytery dated January 14, 2020 (Attached). The motion was seconded by Kenton Spratt. Motion carried unanimously (16-0-0).

Ad Hoc Council Meeting Report

Alan Burrow reported on the Ad Hoc Council Meeting in Dallas, TX (August 25-27).

- **Motion** (10/13/20:06) was made by Douglas Wilson that we request Presbytery PMs to report to the Council PM yearly how many ordinations happened at Presbytery at the behest of the local sessions. Motion was seconded by Kenton Spratt. Motion carried unanimously (16-0-0).
- **Motion** (10/13/20:07) was made by Edwin Iverson that Knox Presbytery refer the Longer Version of the Same Sex Committee proposal be read with some edits as a Memorial at the 2021 Council Meeting. Motion seconded by Terry Tollefson. Alan Burrow to edit per request and send to Council PM Virgil Hurt. Motion carried unanimously (17-0-0).

- **Motion** (10/13/20:08) was made by Toby Sumpter that incoming Knox PM Helsel form a committee to propose a change to the structure of the Memorials. One proposal is to reduce the Memorials to key summary statements with the present Memorials serving as supporting position papers. Seconded by Edwin Iverson. Discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously (17-0-0).

Christ Church (Moscow, ID) Report on Ben Zornes' Progress

Per Motion (10/19/19:01), Christ Church, Moscow reported on Ben Zornes' progress in language and exegetical work. Ben has completed much of his language work in Hebrew as well as some exegetical classes. He is in the midst of his Greek studies and should be finished by next year.

Christ Covenant Church, Grande Prairie

Terry Tollefson reported on Christ Covenant Church in Grande Prairie, Alberta, Canada. Delegates of Knox Presbytery expressed thankfulness for God's work in the community there. Simultaneously, they urged Pastor Tollefson to assure that his session performs due diligence if CCC requests to rejoin the CREC.

Committee on Confessional Statements

The Knox PM Committee on Confessional Statements did not have an updated report. It was not the will of Knox Presbytery to reform this committee. Said committee and its work, therefore, came to an end.

Election of Delegates to Council 2021

Motion (10/13/20:10) by Toby Sumpter, seconded by Christopher Schrock; amended by Joshua Appel, amendment seconded by Jess Monnette, amendment adopted (16-0-1). Delegates to Council 2021 will be Gene Helsel and Douglas Wilson with Kenton Spratt as alternate. Adopted (16-0-1).

Presbytery was recessed at 4:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14

Preliminaries

Presbytery was reconvened at 8:30 a.m. by PM Pastor Stuart Bryan.

- An invocation was offered by Toby Sumpter
- Singing was led by Gene Helsel

Trinity Church (Denver, CO) and Pastor Brian Brown present but not permitted to vote. Elder Andre Folkes present for Christ Church (Spokane, WA). Elder Rusty Olps present in place of Sam Creason for Valley Covenant Church (Lewiston, ID).

Discussion Items

- *The Covid-19 Crisis and the Limits of Civil Authority – Dialogue with Douglas Wilson*

- *Proposed Resolution of Thanksgiving to Pastor John MacArthur and Grace Community Church – Edwin Iverson*
 - **Motion** (10/14/20:01) was made by Edwin Iverson that Knox Presbytery pass a resolution of thanksgiving to Pastor John MacArthur and Grace Community Church (attached) and task the Knox PM to summarize the sentiments of that resolution in a personal letter to Pastor MacArthur and the elders of Grace Community Church and send that letter to the parties indicated in the resolution granting Pastor MacArthur the liberty of making the resolution public. Seconded by Toby Sumpter. Discussion ensued. Motion carried (16-0-1).
- *Palouse Council – Local Church Planting Proposal from Christ Church (Moscow, ID). While the delegates to Knox Presbytery were sympathetic to the challenges of planting churches in close geographic proximity, they were also skeptical of this particular proposal, suggesting that it might create as many problems as it solves.*
- *Thinking through the size of our presbyteries – Edwin Iverson. Delegates were directed to Article VII in the BOP which addresses this matter.*
- *Vaccination Resolution by the Covenant Presbyterian Church – Edwin Iverson*
 - **Motion** (10/14/20:02) was made by Douglas Wilson that incoming Knox PM Helsel petition Council PM Hurt to appoint a committee to draft a position paper on forcible vaccinations. Motion was seconded by Timothy Van den Broek. Discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously (17-0-0).

Presbytery recessed for lunch at 12:01 p.m.

Preliminaries

Presbytery reconvened at 1:30p.m.

- Singing was led by Gene Helsel

Abortion Memorial

After discussion, Knox Presbytery recommended that PM Bryan work in conjunction with incoming PM Helsel to incorporate the suggested edits by Douglas Wilson and others into the Abortion Memorial. Said edits will be forwarded to the Knox Presbytery email listserv for review and then sent to Athanasius Presbytery for input.

Council Reminders

Reminder that Knox Presbytery 2021 will meet, Lord willing, in conjunction with triennial Council in Chicago, Illinois.

- Three items to Council 2021 from Knox Presbytery:
 - *“On Authority, Order, and Equality within the Godhead: Affirmations and Denials.”* Endorsed by Knox Presbytery (10/09/19:04).
 - *“Officer Qualifications Amendment.”* Passed by Knox Presbytery and referred to Council

(10/09/19:08).

- *“Proposed Memorial X: Confusion Surrounding Abuse.”* Approved by Knox Presbytery and referred to Council (04/23/20:01).
- Reminders of Feedback on CREC Committee Work:
 - *“Memorial E. Terrorism & Just War [2020 Draft Revision]”* from Memorial on Terrorism Revision Committee. General agreement with proposed revisions.
 - CREC Social Media Committee: *“Statement on Social Media.”* Pastor Toby Sumpter presented proposed changes. Discussion ensued. **Straw vote:** (7-7-4).
 - CREC Same-Sex Marriage Committee: *“Proposed Amendments to the CREC Constitution Re Sex, Gender, and Marriage.”* Alan Burrow presented proposed changes. Discussion ensued. **Straw vote:** (22-0-0)
 - Wycliffe Presbytery, *“Proposal for Compensation for Presiding Minister of Council.”* Unanimous opposition to the proposal expressed given the fundamental change of polity it would represent in the CREC – increasing centralization of authority.

Motion (10/14/20:03) was made by Gene Helse at 2:30 p.m. to adjourn the 2020 Meeting of Knox Presbytery. Seconded by Joshua Appel. Motion carried unanimously (17-0-0).

PMoC Report 2020
Virgil Hurt
August 26, 2020
Dallas, Texas

It is an honor to continue to serve as the Presiding Minister of Council of the Communion of Reformed Evangelical Churches. This year has been especially difficult with all the goings on of Covid and shutdowns. We have all been in the trenches making difficult decisions on a daily basis. Most of the reports I hear from the churches are quite positive. Our churches have strived to continue to meet while many churches are closed. Several of our churches in California and Washington State have been meeting outside weekly for months. This is a great testament to their faith in Jesus as well as their desire to gather for corporate worship, which we have always claimed was the most important event of our week. Many new people are joining us and finding that this is, in fact, true.

While some churches have struggled through this time, many, if not most, of our churches report considerable growth during this shutdown. That is encouragement in the storm. May God continue to add to our number as we meet weekly to worship Him as the paradigm of how we should live our lives on a daily basis.

TRAVEL

2020 started off well. In February, Mrs. Hurt and I traveled to Japan and the Philippines with Joost Nixon and Ben Zedek Smith. We visited our CREC Mitaka Evangelical Church in Japan. I preached there and attended a house study with Ralph Smith. We then traveled to the Philippines and visited several churches of the Philippine Reformed Evangelical Association of Churches (PREACH). There are a total of 18 PREACH churches. The trip was largely a fact-finding mission to engage the level of interest of PREACH forming a relationship with the CREC.

We visited many churches in and around Manila. The main leader of this group is Leo Ordiales. He is doing an excellent job of teaching them the reformed faith as they study various reformers and make connections to current reformed groups. They were particularly attracted to us as Reformed Evangelicals.

Our trip was a whirlwind of visiting churches and then doing a great deal of teaching at a Pastor's Conference at the location of the Taal Volcano which had just erupted on January 13, 2020. Maybe that was a portent of things to come?

The PREACH churches are very much interested in a formal relationship with the CREC. They intended to send a delegation to Council this year. They have been almost entirely shut down since the beginning of Covid. In fact, our church sent them relief monies for food as many of their people and pastors were out of work and therefore out of money and food. It is still somewhat of a dire situation.

Lord willing, they will be able to send a delegation to Council next year. After Council and presbytery meetings this year, we will be forming plans with them to further the relationship as we help them develop constitutions for their churches. They are interested in a more Reformed mode of worship. They quickly saw the biblical wisdom of Child Communion and were eager to put it in practice. This may turn out to be an excellent opportunity for the CREC's influence in the Philippines.

ACTIONS

1. Letter to President Trump and officials as PMoC, April 14, 2020.

While we were in Japan, the cruise ship with Covid patients was docked in Tokyo harbor. By the end of our trip, things were breaking rapidly. We were glad to make it home safely.

As the country began to shut down, jobs were being lost at an alarming rate and the Governors were gaining power through various edicts at an equally alarming rate.

Even President Trump encouraged the shutdown. The initial request was a shutdown of 15 Days to Flatten the Curve. We are now in to the fifth month of various and ongoing shutdowns.

On 4/14/2020, after consulting with the CREC PMs, I published a letter to the President and various political leaders imploring them to open the country back up. That letter is contained below. I might add that it seems particularly applicable as I write this report in August, 2020. We mailed the letter to the President and all the leaders in Virginia and published it on our website as well as the CREC Website.

4/14/2020

Dear Mr. President, Governor, Senators, Congressmen, Mayor, and Civic Leaders in the USA and Abroad,

I am writing to you as the Presiding Minister of Council of the Communion of Reformed Evangelical Churches (CREC), an International Denomination.

We have been praying for you and continue to do so. May the Lord grant you His wisdom as you make decisions in this time of trial.

First of all, thank you for the care and concern you have shown for the citizens who elected you, and for your attempt to do what you believed to be best for the public good in light of the available information at the time.

It is now apparent that our initial information was incomplete. The pandemic is not what we all thought it was going to be. This is understandable. It was new. We all thought it was a dire threat and we all responded to protect the lives of our citizens, and our congregants, as we should have. It is now clear that the stated rationale for these temporary, emergency actions, "to flatten the curve", has been achieved, and that these temporary measures are no longer necessary. If we continue on the current course of action of extreme mitigation, things may get much worse, as we fear they most certainly will.

President Trump was right to say that the cure cannot be worse than the disease. In fact, it is. The pandemic did not justify putting millions of people out of work and locking down businesses and churches for the indefinite future. It is now time to open up for business, return to work and return to the worship of the Triune God.

While Covid-19 is among us and members of our churches have been harmed by the disease, the much larger damage to our members has been done by cutting off the means of supporting the lives of their families. In our churches, we have few Coronavirus cases, hospitalizations or

deaths. However, we have many people whose ability to support the lives of their families has been greatly damaged through the loss of wages and damage to their businesses. For us, the cure has been far worse than the disease.

We encourage you to consider the immense damage that will be caused by continuing down this current path of a closed economy. The lost livelihoods, closed businesses, and the isolation of our congregants, is a tremendous loss to the health and well-being of our society. This damage will only worsen the longer we stay on the present course of sheltering in place and keeping the economy and houses of worship closed. Dangerous social unrest is the likely result of staying on this course.

We have a great concern for the lives and health of our members as well as those in our communities. Many in our churches are elderly or are in a high-risk category for Covid-19. Those individuals and their families, pastors, leaders and physicians, are the ones to make the best decisions about how they should live during the spread of this disease. If this were a great plague, a direct threat to the health and lives of all of our congregants, as many of us initially thought it was, we would be glad to continue to comply with reasonable measures to mitigate the spread. However, it is now clear that it is not the plague and we are not prepared to continue to comply with extreme mitigation efforts.

Our desire is to be obedient to the civil magistrate. However, we must also do what we believe God expects of us, what is best for our people and our communities, and what our consciences dictate. For our American members, The U.S. Constitution rightly affords us these rights of speech and assembly because they extend to us from God, Himself.

The citizens of the United States and our congregants are already beginning to strongly feel the need to get back to regular living. While we do not currently have a date after which we will no longer comply with the extreme restrictions, ***we believe the time is now at hand for our leaders to stand down from the extreme isolation efforts***, and the date after which we will no longer comply, is soon approaching, in days or weeks, not months.

Our response in the churches has been to humble ourselves, confess our sins, the sins of the church and the sins of our citizens and governments. Please join us in humbling yourselves before the Lord Jesus.

We call upon the grace and mercy of God to give us relief. Death is an enemy, the last enemy that will be destroyed by the Lordship of Jesus Christ. We acknowledge this. While we despise death, we do not fear death, because for us, to live is Christ and to die is gain. May God grant us repentance, and as we confess and repent of our many sins, we trust that He will be gracious to us and heal our land.

In the service of King Jesus,

Virgil Hurt
Presiding Minister of Council
Communion of Reformed Evangelical Churches (CREC)

Motion to Ratify the sending of this letter to the Civil Magistrates.

2. May, 2020. Postponed 2020 Council.

Motion to ratify the decision to postpone Council 2020.

3. June 2020, Called Ad Hoc Council meeting for August 2020.

Motion to ratify the decision to call an Ad Hoc Council meeting.

4. 8/3/2020-Was requested by Mr. Mark Moormans to remove personal information regarding his appeal to Presbytery and Council vs. St. Peter Presbyterian Church. After conferring with the PMs, I agreed to remove the personal information. This was removed on August 24, 2020.

Motion to ratify the decision to honor this request.

EXPENSES

I do not have a current detailed tally of PM Expenses. Our church is approximately at break even right now but we will have expenses related to our Ad Hoc Council Meeting this week.

We continue to ask for \$250 per church per year for PMoC Support. Many of you have sent those funds regularly in the last few years. Thank you for your support. A fuller detailed financial report will be sent to the Elder List before Presbyteries are held.



September 1, 2020

Dear Brothers,

This is my third and final report while serving as Presiding Minister of Knox Presbytery. It has been an honor to serve among you and to learn from you. I am thankful for your patience with me, for your steady faithfulness to the Lord and your churches, and for the camaraderie we enjoy.

Report on Knox Presbytery

In accordance with the wishes of Presiding Minister of Council (PMC) Virgil Hurt, on October 21, 2019 I drafted a summary report of our 2019 Stated Meeting for the CREC Presbyters List (attached in Appendix E). Included with this report was a copy of the paper, “On Authority, Order, and Equality within the Godhead: Affirmations and Denials”, which Knox Presbytery endorsed at our 2019 Stated Meeting and commended to Council for endorsement.

Officer Qualifications Amendment

In accordance with the wishes of Knox Presbytery, on October 22, 2019 I forwarded the Officer Qualifications Amendment to PMC Virgil Hurt and to Pastor Jack Phelps who is chairing the Constitutional Review Committee requesting that this matter be raised at the next Stated Meeting of Council (currently scheduled for 2021 in Chicago, IL). Pastor Burrow and I discussed this amendment with the other delegates at the *ad hoc* Council Meeting in Dallas, TX and received mixed feedback.

Response to Athanasius Presbytery on the Proposed Abortion Memorial

On January 14, 2020 I penned a response to Athanasius Presbytery regarding the Proposed Abortion Memorial. Athanasius has proposed adding a footnote to the document that essentially adds an exception for the life of the mother. I wrote to articulate the rationale of Knox Presbytery for the compromise language regarding such an exception (attached in Appendix F). While I did my best to articulate our rationale, it is my understanding that Athanasius Presbytery remains opposed to the Proposed Abortion Memorial without the addition of the footnote.

- ❖ **Action Item: I ask that Knox Presbytery endorse my response to Athanasius Presbytery dated January 14, 2020.**

Covid-19 Crisis

In March, 2020 the Covid-19 crisis impacted our churches. For several weeks, I met regularly with PMC Hurt and the other Presiding Ministers via Zoom to discuss this crisis. I was very thankful for the regular encouragement in the midst of the uncertainties and thankful for PMC Hurt’s leadership. These have been unprecedented times for us as a people and are forcing us to wrestle with many issues we have not yet faced. PMC Hurt addresses this in his report as well.

Spring Business Meeting in Moscow, ID

As you will recall, we held our first ever Spring Business Meeting in Moscow, ID on April 23, 2020 in order to wrap up some important business prior to Council 2020. This business included revisiting the work of the Abuse Committee and nominating Presiding Ministers and Presiding Ministers Pro-Tem for Council and Presbytery. I would not recommend that we regularly make our spring meeting a business meeting, but it seemed important this year given the time-sensitive nature of some of the decisions that needed to be made prior to what we thought would be our stated meeting of Council in 2020.

***Ad hoc* Council Meeting in Dallas, TX, August 25-27**

In company with Pastor Alan Burrow, I represented Knox Presbytery at the *ad hoc* Council Meeting that was called by PMC Hurt in Dallas, TX, August 25-27. We received PMC Hurt's report and ratified his decision to write a letter to various civil magistrates on behalf of the CREC on April 14, 2020. We also ratified his decisions to postpone the stated Council meeting from 2020 to 2021, to call an *ad hoc* Council meeting, and to honor a request to remove certain personal information from the CREC website. In addition, Council voted to establish a new presbytery overseas called Jan Hus Presbytery consisting of the churches in Eastern Europe and Japan. The majority of our time was spent reviewing the proposal from the Ordination Process Committee. Council ratified a revised version of this proposal. I think that Alan and I succeeded in amending the document such that the concerns of Knox Presbytery about the vows were effectively addressed. Basically, the vows were left in, but such vows could only be taken at presbytery in cases where the local church requested that and under the oversight of the local session. Finally, Council adopted the "Short Version" of the Same-Sex Marriage Committee (with some revisions) as a confessional statement and amended the Constitution accordingly. The longer version will be considered as a Draft Memorial at the next stated Council meeting. The delegates also discussed a number of other matters that will be up for discussion at our next stated Council meeting.

I am humbled that you have trusted me to serve as PM of Knox Presbytery these last few years. It has been a learning and growing experience for me. I pray that the Lord may continue to grow us up into the fullness of Christ and grant that through us His glory be manifest in Eastern Washington, Eastern Oregon, Idaho, Montana, British Columbia, and Colorado.

For the Glory of Christ,

Stuart W. Bryan
Pastor, Trinity Church (Coeur d'Alene, Idaho)
Presiding Minister of Knox Presbytery

A Resolution of Knox Presbytery in the Communion of Reformed Evangelical Churches (CREC) to Thank and Honor Pastor John MacArthur and the Leadership of Grace Community Church, Los Angeles, CA. Approved October 14, 2020.

Whereas the Scriptures declare that the primary calling of all peoples is to love God with all the heart, soul, mind, and strength (e.g., Dt. 6:5; Mt 22:37-38) and to worship Him publicly (e.g., Ps 95; Heb 10:24-25);

And, whereas the First Amendment to the Constitution of these United States expressly declares that “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof”;

And, whereas this same document clearly guarantees the right of the people to peaceably assemble;

And, whereas the constitutions of the various states guarantee “absolute freedom of conscience in all matters of religious sentiment, belief and worship,” (e.g., Article 1, Section 11, Constitution of the State of Washington);

And whereas the governors of many states have left in place a declared state of emergency when it is no longer evident that a persistent health emergency can be demonstrated or documented; and this declared state of emergency is appealed to as the basis for the unlawful constraints on gatherings for worship and other restrictions of religious freedoms;

And whereas Pastor John MacArthur, pastor of Grace Community Church in Los Angeles, CA has publicly opposed and confronted civil restrictions which have compromised these aforesaid guarantees by preaching to those who have voluntarily gathered for worship in his local congregation;

And whereas Pastor MacArthur has been threatened with arrest and fines, and GCC has been threatened with a loss of power and the forfeiture of legal parking leases, yet without noteworthy outcry from influential Christian leaders or ministries;

And whereas Pastor MacArthur is a venerable and esteemed leader of the Church in America and beyond, and for many decades has been a mentor, counselor, and faithful guide to a multitude of Christian leaders and ministries—yet, in his time of need there have been very few expressions of gratitude, loyalty or manifest support from these same leaders;

Therefore, be it resolved:

- 1) Knox Presbytery of the Communion of Reformed Evangelical Churches gathered on October 14th, 2020, does hereby tender gratitude to Pastor John MacArthur and the elders of Grace Community Church for their wise and courageous confrontation of the civil authorities of the state of California, the County of Los Angeles, and the City of Los Angeles. These civil rulers have overstepped their bounds and are therefore to be resisted by godly Christian men.
- 2) Be it further known that Knox Presbytery, gathered in annual meeting, has agreed that Pastor John MacArthur, along with the leadership of Grace Community Church, is worthy of our commendation, public support, and such loyalty as is due to a doctrinally sound, effective, respected, and honorable churchman.

Copies to be sent to:

Virgil Hurt, Presiding Minister of Council, CREC;

The Presiding Ministers of each Presbytery in the CREC;

Pastor John MacArthur and the elders of Grace Community Church, 13248 Roscoe Blvd, Sun Valley, CA 91352.