

Tyndale Presbytery Minutes

Date: September 26-27, 2023

Meeting Location: Christ Church, Moscow, ID

Tuesday, September 26 @ 9am

I. Welcome & Exhortation

PM Smith led the Invocation:

- Psalm 100 sung
- Ephesians 4:1-16
- PM Smith exhorted presbytery to unity and peace.

II. Call to Order

Roll call and establishment of quorum:

- Hanby – Providence Caro, MI
- Davis / Sharp – Trinity Springfield, MO
- S. Peterson / Sharp - Wakasha, WI
- Fest / Harlan – Trinity Reformed S. Whitley, IN
- Behler / Spratt – CC Leavenworth, KS
- Hemmeke – CC Livingston County, MI
- Abens / Ralph CCTC MN
- Herr / Rapp – CCC Chicago, IL
- Peterson – CtK Springfield, MO
- Swanson – CC Ferry, MI (CC Ferry questioned if a church deacon could serve as a delegate – CREC Constitution was consulted and request was denied by statute)
- Shover / Lantz – Christ the Redeemer Pella, IA
- Brunaugh / Smith – CRC Carbondale, IL

Guests were introduced as well various delegations from churches interested in joining CREC.

III. PMoP Report was submitted by PM Smith

- Motion to Wycliffe presbytery to receive Reformed Presbyterian Church of Tyumen Russia transferring from Tyndale Presbytery – Hemmeke / Abens
 - Communication is difficult and peaceful transfer to Hus Presbytery is not feasible currently due to tensions between Ukrainian and Russian Churches

- Oleg Volkov is pro temp for RPC Tyumen and is also sponsored by a Wycliffe Church (Nacogdoches)
- The current status the church: one elder (Kirill) and one pro temp (Volkov). No pastor
- The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.
- PM Smith notified the delegates that the PM financial account is empty and needs replenishing.
- Not included in PM Smith's official report: Providence Reformed Presbyterian Church St. Louis, MO potential transfer
 - Pastor Jeff Meyers was recognized to give a report on his church's desired to come into the CREC. Recent events in the PCA has motivated the Session to bring the possible transfer to the congregation. A congregational meeting has taken place to inform the church of the Session mind on the matter. No congregational vote has been taken yet.
- Dave Rapp inquired how much money is needed for PM account to be made whole. (See final motion from CCTC for answer/response)

PM Smith's Report received.

IV. Motions to Receive Churches

- A. Motion to receive Trinity Presbytery Church of Waukesha, WI into membership (Christ Covenant Church of Chicago, sponsoring church)
 - a. Pastor Herr spoke to the health of TPC and recommends they be received.
 - b. Arnie Abens spoke to the motion bringing in his church's coming motion to have any candidate church's pastors be examined before (or as a part of the process of) being received into full membership.
 - c. Amendment to the motion – subject to an examination of qualifications and views by a committee appointed by the Tyndale PM. Hemmeke / Hanby. Question was called (hand vote due to division). 8 ayes / 4 nays – amendment was placed on the floor for discussion.
 - i. Friendly amendment to edit the wording: strike "subject to" and replace with "with the expectation of..."
 - ii. New amendment – "~~subject to~~ with the expectation of an examination of qualifications and views by a committee appointed by the Tyndale PM". Question called by PM Smith – passed unanimously.
 - d. Amended motion question called by PM Smith – passed unanimously.

- B. Motion to receive Christ Church of Leavenworth, KS as a particular church (Christ Church, Twin Cities, MN, sponsoring church)
- a. CCTC moved to amend their motion to include the afore voted and approved amended language “~~subject to~~ *with the expectation of an examination of qualifications and views by a committee appointed by the Tyndale PM*” – Abens/Hemmeke – motion added without objection.
 - b. Amended motion passed unanimously.
- C. Motion to receive Trinity Church Springfield-Fair Grove, MO (Christ Covenant Church of Chicago, sponsoring church)
- a. Dave Rapp spoke to the motion asking that Tyndale not require any further examination of Rob Davis if/when we receive the church into full membership.
 - b. Motion to amend CCCC’s motion to receive TC with the language “*with the expectation of an examination of qualifications and views by a committee appointed by the Tyndale PM*” - Abens, Behler – amendment failed unanimously.
 - c. Original motion questioned called by Pro Tem Hemmeke – passed unanimously.

Adjourned for lunch after singing Psalm 103 @ 12:05pm

Meeting called back to order @ 1:19pm

IV. Examination Committee Report

- Floor exam for Daniel Ralph (1 hour limit)
- The committee moved to recommend Pastor Daniel Ralph be approved as a minister in the Tyndale Presbytery
- The committee and Presbytery questioned Pastor Ralph with respect to practice, theology, bible knowledge and experience.
- Presbytery moved into executive session @ 2:20pm
- Hemmeke called the question @ 2:54pm – approved unanimously.
- PM Smith entertained a motion to dismiss the Tyndale Ordination Exam Committee – Ralph / Harlan - passed unanimously.

Wednesday, September 27, 2023 @ 9:03am

PM Smith called the meeting to order with song: How Sweet and Awful is the Place
PT Hemmeke exhorted the gathering to be “sons” and “fathers” toward other men in the faith/ministry.

V. Motions from Christ Church Twin Cities

- A. Motion to we vote for option 6 on the issue of sacramental unity. [To be discussed under “Council Motions,” letter J.]
- Much discussion ensued w/ various opinions about the options presented by the committee.
 - PM Smith called the question. Motion passed (7 ayes / 5 nays)
- B. That the PM and Pro Tem of Tyndale Presbytery be appointed at the Presbytery meeting on Tuesday 26th September and serve their three-year term from that date. Also, for the newly appointed PM and Pro Tem to represent Tyndale presbytery on Wednesday 27th September at the council meeting.
- Motion withdrawn by CCTC.
- C. Motion to create a new committee of three to review existing practices in the Book of Procedures and develop a new standard for examination for the different offices within the church and a process by which we determine qualification for each office. Once we have these issues addressed in Tyndale Presbytery, we can present this to other presbyteries.
- PM Smith called the question – voice vote / motion failed.

VI. Review of Council motions

A. 100 Word Memorials

- Motion to submit Jon Herr’s rewrite of the Homosexuality memorial titled “Human Sexuality” (see below) – Herr / Ralph – passed unanimously.
Humans are created in the image of God and therefore receive the highest honor among God's creatures. Humanity consists of two sexes – male and female – each with unique gifts, callings, and authority. God designed sexual intimacy to be enjoyed in marriage, between one man and one woman, for their mutual pleasure and the procreation of children. Any desire to deviate from this design is sinful and destructive, such as premarital sex, pornography, adultery, polygamy, same-sex attraction, homosexual behavior, and transgenderism. Christians must strive to forsake these sins, by the power of the Holy Spirit, trusting in the forgiveness of Jesus.
- Motion to submit Jon Herr’s rewrite of the memorial on Terrorism titled “Terrorism and Warfare” (see below) – Herr / Abens – passed unanimously.
Christians are called by our Lord to be peacemakers. We therefore renounce all acts of aggression and terrorism, while recognizing the right to self-defense for individuals and nations. Combat is lawful when it defends life, liberty, and property against criminal action. Biblical principles of warfare must be followed, never returning evil for evil, nor should women or children be mustered for combat. While God may use the actions of wicked men to administer judgment on persons or nations, His hidden decrees have not been revealed to us. Regardless, it is appropriate to respond to such events with humility and repentance.

- Motion to submit Jon Herr’s rewrite of the memorial on Worship (see below) – Herr / S. Peterson – passed unanimously.

Corporate worship on the Lord’s Day is one of our highest privileges and greatest duties. God draws us into his special presence to serve us in Word and Sacrament. He uses this time to transform us, and the world, into his likeness. A church’s liturgy must be shaped by the biblical pattern of worship, including a confession of sin, the preaching of the Word, and celebrating the Lord’s Supper. Worshipers must respond to God’s service with submission and joy, singing psalms and hymns with glorious music. The Scriptures require regular participation in the life and worship of a local church.

- Motion to submit Jon Herr’s rewrite of the memorial on Abortion (see below) – Herr / Fest – passed unanimously.

Because unborn humans from fertilization bear the image of God, the act of abortion is murder. When justice is not pursued on behalf of the innocent, lands are defiled and come under corporate guilt. Therefore, we oppose taking unborn human life by any means including the various types of abortive procedures, the use of the so-called morning after pill, or the use of abortifacients. In those rare circumstances when a pregnancy causes an immediate threat to the mother’s life, procedures which save her life are not equivalent to abortion.

B. Hus Constitutional Committee: “Communion” in CREC defined.

- Discussion but no action (generally approved, but many objected to the inclusion of ordination in the Preamble)

C. Memorial on Critical Social Justice

- Discussion but no action (generally approved)

D. Augustine Presbytery Split

- Discussion but no action.

E. Knox Presbytery Split

- Discussion but no action.

F. Constitutional Committee IV.C

- Discussion but no action.

G. Constitutional Committee: Constitution Article II

- Discussion but no action.

H. Constitutional Committee: Constitution III.D

- Discussion but no action.

I. Constitutional Committee: Constitution III.K

- Discussion but no action.

J. Sacramental Cooperation Committee: Final Report

- Discussion but no action.

K. Moton to amend the Book of Procedures and the Constitution

- Discussion but no action.

L. Tyndale: Constitution III.O

- Discussion but no action.

M. Memorial on Nations

- Motion to replace the memorial on Nations (see below) Herr / Hanby – passed 6 ayes / 2 nays / 4 abstained.

The duty to honor our fathers (Ex 20:12) includes honor of our earthly nation and the ethnic heritage of our forefathers, but not above the kingdom of Christ (1 Pt 2:9). Civilizations may be culturally superior to others on the basis of their Christianity, not by inherent, creational, or natural worth. Pursuing ethnic purity on the basis of supposed natural superiority is not a moral good that follows from natural affections. Therefore, all forms of kinism that would prohibit or discourage inter-ethnic marriage based on natural superiority are rejected. Every ethnicity finds its highest good in Christ alone.

VII. Election of new Presiding Minister & Presiding Minister *Pro Tem*

- Presiding Minister - Due to no other nominations and the fact that PM Smith was nominated again to the position, he is permitted to serve for one more 3-year term. By acclamation (no vote needed).
- PM pro tem – Jon Herr nominated but he did not accept.
- Steve Hemmeke was nominated to continue as Pro Tem by Hanby / Harlan – passed unanimously.

VIII. Other Business

- Christ the Redeemer Pella, IA offered to host Spring Presbytery meeting.
- Motion – The churches of Tyndale Presbytery thank PM Smith for his service and encourage all churches to send \$250 to CRC Carbondale if able – Herr / Sharp - passed unanimously.
- PM Smith closed Presbytery w/ prayer @ 12:05pm