

Tyndale Presbytery Annual Meeting

Day 1 – 9/19/2022

Cornerstone Reformed Church – Carbondale, IL

Meeting was called to order by PM Smith @ 5:09pm (N.Brunaugh secretary)

Hymn and Psalm:

- O God of Earth and Altar
- Psalm 8

Jeff Evans gave an exhortation from 1 Tim. 3:1 “He that desires the office of an overseer desires a noble task.”

Introductions and welcome

Dinner

Roll Call: (all churches present except Tyumen, Russia)

Establishment of the Agenda – without objection

Church Reports:

- Christ Church Livingston County – Pastor Hemmeke gave a report / Jeff Evans prayed for CCLC
- Christ Church Twin Cities – T.E. Dan Collins gave a report / Jon Herr prayed for CCTC
- Christ Covenant Church of Chicago – Pastor Jon Herr gave a report /
 - Trinity Church Springfield, MO – Rob Davis gave a mission church report /
 - CCCC Session moves to seat Trinity Presbyterian Church Waukesha, WI as ¹candidate church (Article 3.L) (no second needed as motion came from CCCC Session) – approved unanimously
 - Trinity Presbyterian Church, Waukesha, WI was formally seated as a member of presbytery – Pastor Jeff Pennington gave a report / Jeremy Sexton prayed.
- Christ the King Springfield, MO – Pastor Jeremy Sexton gave a report / Jeff Swanson prayed.
- Christ the King Ferry, MI – Pastor Jeff Swanson gave a report / Mike Shover prayed.
- Christ Our Redeemer Pella, IA – Pastor Mike Shover gave a report / Shawn Jack prayed.
 - Pastor Mike introduced Covenant Reformed Fellowship Atkinson, IL (potential mission) – Eric Bos gave an introductory report on his church and their practices and current polity.
- Cornerstone Reformed Church Carbondale, IL – R.E. Nathan Brunaugh gave a report / Jacob Hanby prayed.
- Providence Caro, MI – Pastor Jacob Hanby gave a report / Nate Harlan prayed.
- Trinity Evangelical Church Larwill, IN – Pastor Nate Harlan gave a report /
 - Christ Church Leavenworth, KS (mission of CCCC Twin Cities) – Daniel Spratt gave a report / Steve Hemmeke prayed for both.

¹ Edited – originally minutes read “member church” which was not correct.

Meeting close singing “The Son of God Goes Forth to War” and adjourned @ 9:45p

Day 2

Meeting opened w/ singing “Psalm 56”

Pastor Jacob Hanby gave the exhortation from 1 Cor. 11

The assembly sang “Psalm 47”

PM Smith called the meeting back to order (no roll call needed)

Pastor Jon Herr moved to create a separate agenda item from PM Smith’s report - the TEC/Larwill discussion - to its own agenda item in order to better facilitate Kazanski Ordination Exam (Jeff Evan seconded). – passed unanimously

Pastor Steve Hemmeke moved to consider “short memorials” under new business agenda item as time allowed. (Tom Plamondon seconded) – passed unanimously

PM Smith presented his report:

- Bobby Kazanski’s is being put forth by Christ the King Springfield, MO for ordination (oral exam upcoming)
- Discussion concerning the rules of licensure
 - All requirements of a normal ordination exam except a call and floor exam.
 - Jonathan Anderson is being put forth by Cornerstone Reformed Church for licensure

Kazanski Ordination Oral Exam

- Due to extenuating circumstances, Mr. Kazanski joined via Zoom at 9:35a
- Mission churches Christ Church Leavenworth, KS and Trinity Church Springfield, MO remained in the room for the ordination exam.
- The Ordination Committee (Harlan, Shover, Evans) led an oral exam of Mr. Kazanski with the help of other presbyters who submitted questions.
- At 11:19am, after questioning the candidate completed, presbytery convened into executive session by PM Smith to discuss the merits of the candidate
 - Mission/Candidate churches (Trinity Springfield and Waukasha) were allowed to stay for the discussion by PM Smith (without objection)
 - Motion to receive the committee’s recommendation to accept the ordination of Mr. Kazanski – passed unanimously
 - Ordination committee also reported on their work with the licensure of Jonathan Anderson.
 - PM Smith moved to approve the entire report – passed unanimously
 - Executive Session was closed (Swanson, Hanby) @ 11:55a

Lunch

PM Smith called the meeting back to order at 12:37pm

Pastor Steve Hemmeke moved to approve the PM report as currently presented (Larwill matter not included) (?? Seconded) – passed unanimously

PM Smith introduced the discussion of the Larwill complaints by giving a brief history of the matter and how it's been handled up to this point.

- PM Smith appointed a judicial committee as an advisor to him to avoid prejudicial optics and to help him make a more informed decision (more “sets of eyes” on the matter).
- PM Smith then reviewed the CREC governing docs to answer the recent email “plea” from the Carlins that presbytery take up this matter. (Article 4.F)
- Pastor Steve Hemmeke moved to accept PM Smith/judicial committee’s decision concerning the Carlin complaint (Hemmeke, Evans)
 - Hemmeke does not recommend a full trial and believes it would be a bad idea to protract this matter further.
 - Motion was tabled in order to further discuss the interconnected Bushong/Lliorca matter (Plamodon, Collins) – passed unanimously
- Motion to receive PM Smith’s report & Judicial Committee decision concerning the Carlin complaint – passed unanimously
- Motion to receive PM Smith’s report & Judicial Committee decision concerning the Bushong/Lliorca complain (Evans seconded) – passed unanimously

PM Smith appointed PM Pro Tem Steve Hemmeke as moderator while he presents a motion.

Pastor Bill Smith moved - Officers ordained in a 2-office congregation, and functioning as pastors in their churches (i.e., teaching elders, contra ruling elders), shall be subject to examination and approval by presbytery in accordance with the CREC constitution Article II.F and BOP Article XI. (Evans seconded)

- Pastor Smith spoke to the motion and much discussion followed.
- Jeff Evans proposed an amended motion – “I move that any elder who regularly preaches, teaches and administers the sacraments, should submit to and be approved by presbytery in accordance with the CREC Constitution Article II.F and BOP Article XI.”
- The amended and original motions are withdrawn due to a need to examine the new (recent updates) to the Constitution and BOP (release August 2022).
- Pastor Michael Shover asked PM Smith to add this matter to the Spring meeting agenda

Pastor Jon Herr motioned for the following Constitutional changes to Article III.H (Hanby seconded):

- *“Doctrinal differences within the CREC, such as how to reckon ~~in the transfer of members from one CREC church to another,~~ differences arising from issues such as membership, and the proper recipients of the sacraments ~~paedo-baptism and paedo-communion,~~ must be handled with pastoral sensitivity. ~~Receiving~~ Individual churches do not have to adopt or practice such Sacramental variations as ordinary, but they ~~should do all within their power to~~ must accommodate ~~them~~ those members with differences of conviction. Therefore, credo-baptist churches need not teach paedo-baptism positively, but must be open to its validity, and welcome the children of paedo-baptist families to the Baptismal font. Similarly, credo-communion churches need not teach paedo-communion positively, but must be open to its validity, allowing any baptized members to commune.”*

- PM Smith called the question *²without objection– motion failed.

Pastor Steve Hemmeke moved for a CREC Constitution change, adding Article III.O:

- 1. A CREC Session may ask a nearby CREC church Session to have one of its members serve on its Session as a Pro Tempore (for a time) elder. His renewable term, and purpose shall be specified by the Session. The purpose may be enriching its counsel, or also to temporarily supply a plurality of elders. Presiding Ministers should be advised and offer counsel before proceeding.
- 2. Member churches whose Session number is reduced to one local pastor/elder, shall be reduced in status to mission church at the second consecutive presbytery meeting in that situation, or earlier, at the presbytery’s discretion, regardless of pro tempore elder activity on said Session. The presbytery shall appoint an established Session to take oversight of the work until it is ready to return to full member status.
- 3. Pastors/elders from two different Sessions shall not serve on each other's Sessions, where either Session has only one local pastor/elder, without consent from the presbytery. A Session with only one local elder shall not allow him to serve as Pro Temp on another Session, without consent from the presbytery.
- PM Smith called the question ³without objection, motion passed with one dissenting vote.

PM Smith called for the scheduling of a 2023 Winter/Spring meeting. CCLC Howell, MI extended an invitation to host.

- PM Smith asked the assembly for latitude to consult with PM Pro Tem Hemmeke to work out dates and inform the presbytery.
- Pastor Jon Herr moved to designate Smith/Hemmeke as 2023 Council Delegates in Moscow, ID – passed with one dissenting vote.

The assembly adjourned after singing “At the Name of Jesus” @ 4:35pm

² Minutes edited to reflect that PM Smith asked if any had objections to the question being called, but no formal vote was taken to end debate.

³ (same procedure as footnote 1)