



BUCER PRESBYTERY - MEETING MINUTES

April 21-22, 2026

Tuesday – April 21, 2026

- I. Call to Order 7:15 PM - establish quorum
 - A. Roll call of member churches with named delegates
 1. All Saints Church, New Holland, PA
 - a. Rev. Kasey Horvath
 - b. Rev. Brandon Gilanyi
 2. Christ Covenant Church, Shippensburg, PA
 - a. Rev. Ray Barbeito
 - b. Elder Nicolas Barbeito
 3. Christ Reformed Church, Candor, NY
 - a. Rev. Michael Jones
 - b. Rev. Ralph Riegle
 4. Christ Reformed Church, Oakland, ME – not present
 5. Christ the King Church, Belfast, ME
 - a. Rev. Garrett Soucy
 - b. Nick Oakes
 6. Oakwood Bible Church, Troy, NY – not present
 7. The King's Chapel, Brooklyn, NY
 - a. Rev. Troy Greene
 8. The Shepherd's Church
 - a. Rev. Kendall Lankford
 9. Tri-City Covenant Church, Somersworth, NH
 - a. Rev. Paul Edgar
 - b. Rev. Harold Guptill (serving as moderator for the meeting)
 - B. PM Guptill declared a quorum present for the meeting

- II. Brandon Skarpa Floor Exam
 - A. Ordination Committee Members examined Brandon
 1. Kasey Horvath (Chairman), Ray Barbieto, Nick Oakes, Matt Corey (not present for the floor exam)
 2. Presbytery delegates further examined Brandon
 - B. PM Guptill dismissed the mission churches and guests for a delegates-only session to discuss and vote on Brandon's exam
 - C. At the conclusion of the delegates-only session, the mission churches and guests rejoined the meeting
 - D. Kasey Horvath announced that Brandon Skarpa passed his floor exam
 - E. PM Harold Guptill made the "Ministerial Declaration" per the CREC Book of Procedures, Appendix B.H "*Declaration at presbytery by the presiding minister.*"



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 - B. PM Guptill declared a quorum present for the meeting
 - C. Mission and Candidate Churches — Present
 1. Beverly Heights Presbyterian Church, Pittsburgh, PA — Rev. Nate Devlin, Rev. Peter Chace, Rev. Kyle Bennett
 2. Providence Reformed Church, Union City, PA — Elders Aaron Wood, David McIntire
 3. White Stone Reformed Church, Ontario, Canada — Brandon Skarpa
 4. Covenant Reformed Church, Warsaw, NY — Elders Aaron Masters, Nicholas Wells
 5. Ruler of Kings Church, Carlisle, PA — Elders Corey Gelbaugh, Michael Winkelman
 6. Christ Keystone Church — Pastor Jacob Tanner
 - D. Mission and Candidate Churches — Absent
 1. Christ the King Reformed, Groton, MA



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2. Heritage Reformed Church, ME
- E. Guests and Visitors
1. Mr. Matt Rioli, ministerial student, All Saints Church
 2. Mr. Simeon Riegle, Christ Reformed Church, Candor, NY
 3. Rev. Michael Burgos, Northwest Hills Community Church, Torrington, CT
 4. Rev. Virgil Hurt, Providence Church, Lynchburg, VA (Augustine Presbytery; Reformed Evangelical Seminary)
 5. Rev. Jim Dujack, Pastor, Oakwood Bible Church, Troy, NY
 6. Rich Marisa, congregant, Covenant Reformed Church, Warsaw, NY
- II. Presbytery Membership Actions
- A. Particularization of Covenant Reformed Church, Warsaw, NY
1. 04/22/2026:1
 - a. Rev. Jones moved that Covenant Reformed Church, Warsaw, NY, be particularized and received as a full member church of Bucer Presbytery.
 - b. Rev. Lankford seconded the motion.
 - c. It was noted that the timing of the Spring meeting was earlier than the past few years and that CRC is a well-established mission church
 - d. Upon motion duly made and seconded, Elder Nicholas Wells was granted leave to address the question.
 - e. Rev. Jones offered a friendly amendment that the Presbytery expressly waive Book of Procedures Article IV.C.3.b on this single occasion and on a meeting-to-meeting basis, the congregation standing approximately two weeks short of the two-year mission-church requirement.
 - f. Rev. Lankford agreed to the amendment
 - g. Motion carried 11-0-0
 2. Pursuant to Book of Procedures Article III.C, the Presiding Minister asked the five constitutional questions of Elders Nicholas Wells and Aaron Masters. To each question the delegation answered, "We do."
 3. The Presiding Minister read the statement of reception prescribed in Article III.D, and the delegates of the member churches signified their agreement with a corporate "Amen."
 4. Pastor Garret Soucy offered prayer.
 5. The delegates extended the right hand of fellowship.
- B. Northwest Hills Community Church, Torrington, CT — Candidate-Church Status
1. 04/22/2026:2
 - a. Rev. Green moved that Northwest Hills Community Church, Torrington, CT, be received as a candidate church.
 - b. Rev. Barbeito seconded the motion



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- c. Rev. Michael Burgos addressed the Presbytery. Delegate questions followed.
- d. Motion carried 11-0-0

III. Motion to Add an Item to the Agenda — Christ Reformed Church, Candor, NY

A. 04/22/2026:3

1. Rev. Jones, invoking Constitution Article V.F, moved to add to the agenda a discussion item concerning a minister's duty of response when a person attending a sister church in the CREC approaches him claiming that the leadership of that sister church has unjustly placed the person under discipline.
2. Rev. Reigle, of the same church, seconded the motion
3. A point of order, with an objection, was raised that a motion and a second cannot come from the same church
4. After consulting Robert's Rules of Order, the Presiding Minister ruled that in a delegated assembly, a motion and its second must come from delegates representing different congregations.
5. The Presiding Minister asked for a second to the motion from another church - no second was offered from another church.
6. Motion failed for lack of a qualifying second.

IV. Preliminary Discussions on Proposals for Council 2026

A. Continuation of Rev. Uri Brito as Presiding Minister of Council

1. Sense of the Presbytery: Generally supportive of Rev. Brito's election to a second consecutive term pursuant to Constitution Article IV.C.4.b.

B. Rev. Bill Smith as Presiding Minister Pro Tempore of Council

1. Sense of the Presbytery: Generally supportive of the nomination of Rev. Bill Smith of Tyndale Presbytery.

C. Hus Presbytery Nations Memorial Proposal

1. Upon motion duly made and seconded, Rev. Virgil Hurt of Augustine Presbytery was granted leave to speak.
2. Sense of the Presbytery: The Presbytery maintains its previously recorded position of opposition to the Hus Nations Memorial as presented.

D. Knox Presbytery Child Communion Memorial Proposal

1. Sense of the Presbytery: Generally supportive with editorial refinement. Favorable reception was given to a proposal to strike the word "ordinarily" from the memorial.
2. Delegates are to transmit editorial feedback to the Presiding Minister prior to Council.



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E. Hus Presbytery Constitution and Book of Procedures Revisions Proposal

1. Sense of the Presbytery: Mixed.
2. Concerns were raised regarding (i) redundancy with existing provisions, (ii) the proposed Licentiate category and the locus of licensure authority, (iii) the scope of “liturgical roles” in the proposed male-only restriction, and (iv) the interplay between the proposed supermajority requirement for Presiding Minister censure and the separate Knox resolution on the 2017 Presiding Ministers’ Report, which the Presbytery directs be considered together.
3. Action Item: Elder Nicholas Barbeito was assigned to draft, on behalf of the Presbytery, a summary of questions and concerns for transmittal to Rev. Bogumil Jarmulak of Hus Presbytery prior to Council. The draft is to be circulated among the delegates for revision in the week following this meeting.

F. Knox Presbytery Sacramental Cooperation Language Revision Proposal

1. Sense of the Presbytery: Divided. No consensus direction emerged.
2. The matter is to be taken up again in preparation for Council, with the Knox Sacramental Cooperation Revision, the Knox Child Communion Memorial, and Pastor Douglas Wilson’s white paper considered in conjunction.

G. Motion to Remove Memorial F

1. Sense of the Presbytery: In favor of removing Memorial F (Sexual Perversion) and retaining Memorial I (Human Sexuality), the latter being broader in scope and containing the substance of the former.

H. Westminster Revisions Proposal

1. Sense of the Presbytery: Delegates are encouraged to engage Pastor Douglas Wilson directly with substantive feedback on specific paragraphs prior to Council. No formal Presbytery position is recorded at this meeting.

I. Here We Stand Manifesto

1. Sense of the Presbytery: Significant concerns have been raised. The Presbytery requires clarification of the manifesto’s purpose and genre before taking a substantive position on its content.
2. Action Item: Elder Nicholas Barbeito was directed to include, in his draft communication to Rev. Bogumil Jarmulak, a request for clarification concerning (1) the intended status of the manifesto (confession, memorial, white paper, or other), (2) its proposed mode of ecclesiastical reception at Council, and (3) the Presbytery’s concerns regarding philosophical framing and internal consistency.

V. Presentation — Reformed Evangelical Seminary



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- A. The Presbytery received Rev. Virgil Hurt, Development Director and incoming President of Reformed Evangelical Seminary, who addressed the assembly on the seminary's mission, its place-based pedagogical model, its current enrollment, and its church-partnership program.
- B. The Presbytery received the presentation with appreciation.

VI. Point of Order raised

- A. Point of order made by Rev. Masters of Covenant Reformed Church, Warsaw, NY, concerning the earlier ruling on the motion of Rev. Jones under Section VIII.
- B. Rev. Masters cited Book of Procedures Article VII.D and Appendix A, arguing that the Constitution's provision of two delegates per church is in part to ensure that a single congregation's concerns may reach the floor for discussion.
- C. The Presiding Minister ruled the point not well taken, on the grounds that (i) no second from a different church had been offered when invited, which the moderator took as a sense-of-the-body indication, and (ii) Robert's Rules of Order, as incorporated by the Book of Procedures, requires the second to come from a separate delegation.
- D. The ruling of the moderator stood. No appeal was taken.
- E. For the record: a newly admitted member church seated at the meeting of its admission may make motions at that meeting but may not second a motion or vote on any matter of Presbytery business until the next stated meeting following admission, consistent with Constitution Article V.M.

VII. 11:25 - Closing Prayer

VIII. 04/22/2026:4

- A. Motion to adjourn with a second was made
- B. Motion carried 11-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Harold Guptill
Presiding Minister, Bucer Presbytery of the CREC