

ANSELM 2017 Minutes

Annual Stated Meeting of Anselm Presbytery Communion of Reformed Evangelical Churches Miramar Beach, FL November 14-15, 2017

November 14

Presiding Minister Jack Phelps gaveled the meeting to order at 14:13.

I. Invocation by Pastor Sebastian Smolarz

II. Psalm Singing led by Pastor Dave Hatcher - “God Shall Arise and by His Might” (Psalm 68)

III. Scriptural Exhortation by Pastor Garry Vanderveen

1 Thessalonians 1

Pastor Vanderveen exhorted ministers to come alongside their flocks, following the incarnational model of Jesus taking on flesh, and to identify with and disciple brothers in their struggles and difficulties, providing encouragement and example in the manner Christ led his disciples. This is the way of the Great Commission and the way in which it will be fulfilled.

IV. Roll Call and Establishment of a Quorum

1. Christ Covenant Church - Rogue River, OR
(absent)
2. Christ Covenant Church – Langley, BC
Garry Vanderveen
3. Christian Evangelical Reformed Church: Testament of Grace, Mykolaiv, Ukraine
(absent)
4. Christ the King Church – Eugene, OR
Flynn Ayers
5. Covenant Bible Church – Chugiak, AK
Gerald Allsup

6. Emmanuel Church - Bothell, WA
Jerry Owen, Erik Day
7. Evangelical Reformed Church - Mogilev, Belarus
(absent)
8. Reformed Church: Holy Trinity – Dunaivtsi, Ukraine
Oleksandr Pavlyuk
9. Evangelical Reformed Church – Poznan, Poland
Bogumil Jarmulak
10. Evangelical Reformed Church – Wroclaw, Poland
Sebastian Smolarz
11. Mitaka Evangelical Church – Tokyo, Japan
Ben Zedek Smith, Ralph Smith
12. Presbyterian Reformed Church – Burgas, Bulgaria
Yavor Rusinov
13. Redeemer Church – Lynwood, Washington
Michael Kloss, Dean Hellekson
14. Reformation Covenant Church – Oregon City, OR
George Shubin, John Unger
15. Rivne Biblical Church – Rivne, Ukraine
Oleksandr Orlov-Koshchavka (San Sanych)
16. Trinity Church – Kirkland, WA
Dave Hatcher, Eric Letsche

A quorum was established.

*Pastor Hatcher moved to adopt the agenda for the 2017 Anselm meeting. Pastor Owen seconded.
Motion carried without objection. (18:0:0)*

V. Introduction of Guests and Visitors

PM Phelps introduced:

Bethany Forster, Reformation Covenant Church - Oregon City, OR, Anselm Secretary
Michael and Yvette Shover, Covenant Reformed Church - Fairbanks, AK
Fred Phelps, Covenant Bible Church - Chugiak, AK

Pastor Ralph Smith introduced:

Miwaza Kanno, Mitaka Evangelical Church - Mitaka, Japan

Pastor San Sanych introduced:

Pastor Attila Hajdu, Evangelical Reformed Church of Budapest - Diosd, Hungary

Pastor Serhii Terentiev, God's Covenant Reformed Evangelical Church - Rivne, Ukraine

Pastor Unger introduced:

Matthew Dau, Reformation Covenant Church - Oregon City, OR.

VI. Consideration of Candidate Church for CREC Membership

Reformed Church of St. Andrew, Pidhaychyky, Ukraine (sponsored by Rivne Biblical Church).

Pastor Volodymyr Yakubovskiy was unable to secure a visa for U.S. entry.

Pastor San Sanych moved to extend the candidacy of this church for one more year, to the date of Anselm Presbytery's 2018 Stated Meeting. Pastor Jarmulak seconded. Motion carried without objection. (18:0:0)

VII. Ordination Examination – Michael Shover, Fairbanks, Alaska

PM Phelps spoke on the guidelines in the Book of Procedures and Michael Shover's satisfaction of them.

The examination committee, consisting of pastors Hatcher, Ayers, Allsup, Phelps, and Vanderveen, asked questions on biblical knowledge, the creeds and theology, church polity, pastoral theology and practice, church history, Greek, and Hebrew and gave witness to Michael Shover's successful written submissions.

The examination was opened to questions from other Anselm delegates.

The meeting went into executive session for consultation among the delegates, with the candidate present.

General session called back to order by PM Phelps at 16:16.

VIII. Reports from Ordination Committees

1) Eastern Europe Committee (Appendix A)

Pastor Jarmulak gave the committee report on Andrei Pauliuchy, Serhii Terentiev, and Yuriy Lishchinskiy. The committee is awaiting last written work from two men and recommended Yuriy Lishchinskiy for ordination.

Pastor Jarmulak moved that Yuriy Lishchinskiy of Rivne Biblical Church, Ukraine be recommended for ordination. Motion seconded by Pastor Vanderveen. Motion carried without objection. (18:0:0)

2) Michael Shover Committee Postponed to the following day.

IX. Anselm PM Report (Appendix B)

PM Phelps asked for ratification regarding his appointment of the Eastern European Ordination Examination Committee in its unusual circumstances and deviating from the guidelines in the Book of Procedures.

Pastor Ayers moved that Anselm Presbytery approve the action of PM Phelps, using the provision of Article I of the CREC BOP and deviating from the provision of BOP XI.2.b-c in his directions to the Eastern European ordination examination committee. Pastor Hellekson seconded. Motion carried without objection. (18:0:0)

PM Phelps asked for ratification regarding his appointment of the ordination committee for Michael Shover, allowing two seats of the committee to be filled by men of the sponsoring church.

Pastor Hatcher moved that Anselm Presbytery approve the action of PM Phelps using the provision of Article I of the CREC BOP and deviating from the provision of BOP Appendix B, Section 3. Pastor San Sanych seconded. Motion carried without objection. (18:0:0)

X. Overture to Council requesting merger of Calvin Presbytery into Anselm Presbytery

Consideration of merger request, viz. combining Calvin Presbytery with Anselm Presbytery. The name Anselm would be retained, as would Anselm's existing leadership structure.

Discussion on the situation and reasons, and the identity of the churches in Calvin Presbytery. The meeting was moved to executive session and reconvened at 16:54.

Pastor Ralph Smith moved that Anselm Presbytery hereby extends an overture to Council to approve a merger of Calvin Presbytery and Anselm Presbytery, with the combined presbytery carrying the name Anselm Presbytery. The merger will be effective on the date that Council approves the overture. Pastor George Shubin seconded. Motion carried without objection. (18:0:0)

XI. Approval of new exceptions – Covenant Bible Church (Appendix C)

Pastor Allsup moved that Anselm Presbytery affirm that the exceptions to the WCF taken by Covenant Bible Church are within the bounds of orthodoxy acceptable to the CREC. Motion seconded, and carried without objection. (18:0:0)

PM Phelps recessed the meeting at 17:08 until 8:30 the following morning.

November 15

PM Phelps called the meeting to order at 8:31. A quorum was established.

Pastor Ben Zedek Smith moved that the agenda be amended so God's Covenant Reformed Evangelical Church can be considered for full membership. Pastor San Sanych seconded. Motion carried without objection. (13:0:0) This new item was inserted as XIV in the amended agenda, with following sections renumbered accordingly.

Reversion up the agenda to VIII

The ordination committee for Michael Shover gave its report.

Pastor Hatcher, on behalf of the Ordination Examination Committee, moved that Michael Shover be recommended for ordination by Covenant Bible Church. Motion carried without objection. (15:0:0)

Pastor Vanderveen prayed for Michael Shover and his future ministry.

XII. Constitutional Review Committee Report (Appendix D)

Motion by Pastor Jarmulak on behalf of the committee: Anselm Presbytery approves the constitutional amendment proposed in Part 1 of the committee report and overtures Council for its adoption.

After discussion, the committee's motion was amended by unanimous consent to read:

*"A referral is a written request by a local church Session **or any member of the Session** or a regional Presbytery asking a broader assembly (Presbytery or Council, as the case may be) to accept jurisdiction for deciding a matter that would normally be decided by the more local assembly. Normally, all matters should be handled at the local church level. However, should a local church Session **or any of its members**, or subsequently a Presbytery, determine that the matter implicates the policies or reputation of a broader assembly, or that it otherwise justifies the consideration of a broader assembly, the more*

local assembly or any member of a church session or presbytery may refer the matter to the broader assembly. All referrals should be sent to the Presiding Minister of the broader assembly. The Presiding Minister may, subject to approval of the broader assembly, exercise discretion to accept jurisdiction over the matter. The Presiding Minister may subsequently, subject to approval of the broader assembly, remand the matter to the more local assembly.” The motion as amended carried without objection. (18:0:0)

Motion by Pastor Jarmulak on behalf of the committee: Anselm Presbytery approves the constitutional amendment proposed in Part 2 of the committee report (amending Constitution Article V.D.1.c and Article VIII.A), and overtures Council for its adoption. Carried without objection. (18:0:0)

The presbytery expressed appreciation for the committee’s work (committee members: Pastor Jarmulak, Pastor Ralph Smith, Pastor Vanderveen, and Pastor Phelps).

XIII. Constitutional amendment proposal – Poznan (Appendix E)

Pastor Jarmulak explained the proposed changes.

Pastor Jarmulak, on behalf of ERC, Poznan, moved that Anselm Presbytery approve the constitutional amendment set forth in Appendix E, and overture Council for its adoption. Seconded by Pastor Vanderveen.

After discussion, Pastor Jarmulak withdrew items b. and c. from the proposal.

Pastor Ralph Smith moved that the proposed constitutional amendment in Appendix E section a, be amended to read: “The Presiding Minister appoints an Ordination Examination Committee of five to oversee the evaluation; the majority of members of the committee must be ordained ministers/pastors/teaching elders under Book of Procedures Article XI, or recognized as ministers/pastors/teaching elders under Book of Procedures Article XII.” Pastor Hatcher seconded. The amendment carried without objection (18:0:0)

Main motion:

Anselm Presbytery approves the constitutional amendment as amended and overtures Council for its adoption. Motion carried without objection. (18:0:0)

XIV. Consideration of Candidate Church for CREC Membership

God's Covenant Reformed Evangelical Church, Rivne Ukraine (sponsored by Rivne Biblical Church)

Pastor San Sanych spoke to the character of God’s Covenant Church and Pastor Serhii Terentiev. God’s Covenant’s history, creeds, and confessions were discussed with both Pastor Terentiev and Pastor San Sanych. Pastor Terentiev answered questions from presbyters on family, faith, and ministry. Pastor Pavlyuk spoke of Pastor Terentiev’s character and church.

Pastor San Sanych moved to accept God's Covenant Reformed Evangelical Church as a full member church in the CREC. Pastor Jarmulak seconded. Motion carried without objection. (18:0:0)

PM Phelps read the vows and Pastor Terentiev swore for himself and the officers of his church. God's Covenant Reformed Evangelical Church was received. Pastor Terentiev was invited to the table.

PM Phelps recessed the meeting at 10:13.

PM Phelps called the meeting back to order at 10:27.

XV. Council PM Report (Appendix F)

Pastor Ralph Smith's suggestion to reinstate the CREC Elder's List as it was functioning "in its best days" was met with loud support from fellow pastors. Pastor Jarmulak and Pastor Vanderveen suggested moderation or rules be put in place instead of consolidation. Pastor Smolarz voiced his opinion that future actions should be decided by Council instead of the Presiding Minister. Discussion noted by Council delegates.

PM Phelps answered questions regarding confusion in the CREC's relationship with MinistrySafe. The way forward for individual churches who wish to work with MinistrySafe in the future was discussed.

XVI. Council PM *pro tempore* Report (Appendix G)

Short explanation from PM Phelps. No action.

XVII. Discussion of items on Council Agenda

Discussion items included a) consulting Calvin Presbytery in discussions for the date and location of Anselm's 2018 stated meeting; b) pros and cons of Florida Council meeting format; c) value of MinistrySafe training; d) the "overture on abuse" put forward by Knox Presbytery.

XVIII. Member Church Reports

Christ Covenant Church – Langley, BC

Pastor Vanderveen explained the reasons for Christ Covenant Church's move to the PCA and relationship to local ministry, fellowship, and available pastors. He expressed gratitude for the years in the CREC and the difficulty of leaving.

Grace Covenant Church in Gibsons, British Columbia, will now be in need of a new CREC sponsoring church. PM Phelps requested that Anselm churches consider answering this need. Pastor Vanderveen agreed to continue to serve as a mentor for the local pastor and to assist in the transition to a new church sponsor.

Pastor Vanderveen was thanked for his work and the ministry of his church. Christ Covenant Church will be missed and Anselm Presbytery is grateful for her past involvement. Prayers will be offered for her work in this new chapter of her life.

Other churches not discussed due to time constraints.

XIX. Updates on Mission Churches Not Being Considered for Full Membership

Not discussed due to time constraints.

XX. 2018 Anselm Presbytery Meeting:

Pastor Jarmulak moved that the 2018 Anselm Presbytery meeting be held in Eastern Europe. Elder Kloss seconded.

Discussion about Covenant Bible Church anniversary and other factors.

Pastor Jarmulak withdrew his motion.

The location and date of Anselm Presbytery's 2018 stated meeting will be the subject of an *ad hoc* meeting to be held in the near future.

XXI. Closing

Pastor Rusinov prayed.

The presbytery thanked PM Phelps for his service to the presbytery.

PM Phelps adjourned the meeting at 11:50.