

Minutes of Athanasius Presbytery
Rich Lusk, Minister of Presbytery
Rob Hadding, Minister of Presbytery Pro Tem
Alan Stout, Clerk of Presbytery
Communion of Reformed Evangelical Churches
23 October 2018
Birmingham, Alabama

Churches and Members of Presbytery Represented:

Christ Church, Branchville AL – Ted Phillips Justin Wallick
Christ Church, Pace, FL - Rob Hadding
Christ Presbyterian Church, Baton Rouge, LA - Galen Sorrey
Christ Presbyterian Knoxville, TN – Mike Pasarilla
Christ Redeemer, Live Oak, FL - Jimmy Gill
Holy Trinity Reformed Evangelical Church, Greenville SC - Eddie Field
Providence Church, Pensacola FL - Al Stout, Uri Brito
Redeemer Church Madison, AL - Stewart Jordan (arrived during Church Reports)
Salem Reformed Church, Rome GA - George Crocker, Eddie Johnson
St. Mark Reformed Church, Nashville TN - Joe Thacker
Trinity Presbyterian Church, Birmingham AL - Gilbert Douglas, Carl Peterson
Trinity Presbyterian Church, Valparaiso, FL - Ben Rossell, Mike Mosley

Church not represented:

Christ Church Lakeland, FL
Church of the Good Shepherd, North Augusta, GA - Kirk Downey
Immanuel Presbyterian Church, Clinton MS

Mission Church:

Covenant First Presbyterian Church in Live Oak, FL Sponsored by Christ Presbyterian Church Baton Rouge, LA
(Herman Gunter, III)
Igreja Reformada de Cristo, Porto Alegre, Brazil Sponsored by Providence Church Pensacola, FL
(Ernesto Ochikubo)

Guests

Mickey Schneider
Herman Gunter III
Job Dalomba
Kyle Stewart
Jim Hunter
Elder Keith Dimond
Daniel Ferril (deacon from Branch Cove)

- I. Called to order.
- II. Invocation. Rich Lusk
- III. Uri Brito leads in Song
- IV. Jimmy Gill delivers an exhortation. Col 1:24, 25. Pastors taking their turn in filling up in their body what is lacking in Christ's afflictions. What are Christ's afflictions? This word of afflictions is nowhere used for Christ's suffering on the cross. In Colossians the cross is a sign of victory. Paul is filling up the afflictions that are associated with Christ and being associated with Christ. We as pastors should

rejoice in the same way. Nothing lacking in Christ's redemptive work, but there is work that has to be done and all Christians are called in taking their turn in such affliction, especially ministers.

- V. Quorum established with the presbyters listed above. (16 Presbyters; 17 Presbyters after the Church reports)
- VI. **Motion 18/10/23:01** Motion to accept the agenda as amended (Enclosure 1), from the chair, without exception
- VII. **Motion 18/10/23:02** Motion to seat visitors and permit them to speak on the floor of Presbytery. Jimmy Gill moved, seconded Al Stout. Carried 16-0
- VIII. **Motion 18/10/23:03** Motion to approve the minutes from the fall 2017 Presbytery Meeting as amended (Enclosure 2) Jay Barfield moved, seconded Uri Brito. Carried 16-0
- IX. Church Reports: (Sent to the Presbytery, not part of the public record)
 - a. Christ Church Branch Cove Odenville, AL Justin Wallick delivers the report, Uri Brito Prays
 - b. Christ Church Lakeland, FL Rob Hadding delivers the report, Al Stout Prays (Church does not meet the criteria to be a mission Church and Athanasius will need to make a decision by next Presbytery)
Motion 18/10/23:04 Remove Christ Church Lakeland from Athanasius Presbytery. Al Stout moved, Gilbert Douglas seconded. Carried 16-0
 - c. Christ Church Pace, FL Rob Hadding delivers the report, Ben Rossell prays
 - d. Christ Presbyterian Church Baton Rouge, LA Galen Sorrey delivers the report, Jimmy Gill Prays
 - e. Christ Redeemer Presbyterian Church Live Oak, FL Jimmy Gill delivers the report, Joe Thacker Prays
 - f. Church of the Good Shepherd North Augusta, SC Rich Lusk provided and update, Eddie Johnson Prays
 - g. Holy Trinity Reformed Evangelical Church Greenville, SC Eddie Field delivers the report, Stewart Jordan Prays
- X. Adjourn for break
- XI. Reconvene Quorum established with the presbyters listed above (adding Stewart Jordan)
- XII. New Business
- XIII. Presbytery Floor Exam of Eddy Field Holy Trinity Reformed Evangelical Church, Greenville SC – The committee recommends ordination. Joe Thacker leads the on floor exam, with Jimmy Gill and Uri Brito also asking questions. Areas covered:
 - a. Personal life. Follower of Jesus Christ as Lord. Went to seminary to study, with no view to a call. As time went on I started to think about the importance of ministry in the Church. After visiting Holy Trinity, I accepted a call there. I seek the Lord regularly, without formula.
 - b. Church history. It is the growth of the body of Christ. Tradition is not infallible, but it has weight and value.
 - c. Bible
 - d. Theology Much discussion on Eddie's view on divorce and remarriage. Eddie believes that legal divorce does not dissolve the covenant of marriage. While he does take exception to WCF 24.5 and 24.6 the Church does not take such an exception

- XIV. Motion **18/10/23:05** to sustain the examining committee's recommendation. 17-0 Al Stout moved, Joe Thacker seconded. Carried 17-0.
- XV. Reading of Presiding Minister of Council Report: (Entertain a motion to dispense with the reading, assuming everyone has read the report) Motion **18/10/23:06** to dispense with the reading of the report Rob Hadding moved, Uri Brito seconded. Carried 17-0.
- a. Motion **18/10/23:07**: Approve PM Hurt's posting of his list serve guidelines Al Stout moved, Gilbert Douglas seconded. Carried 17-0
 - b. Motion **18/10/23:08**: Approve the appointment of Jack Phelps to form the CREC Court Guidelines Committee. Rob Hadding moved, Gilbert Douglas seconded. Carried 17-0
 - c. Motion **18/10/23:09**: Approve PM Hurt's action to gather demographic information from the churches. Gilbert Douglas moved, Ben Russell seconded. Carried 17-0
 - d. Motion **18/10/23:10**: Approve PM Hurt's CREC Statement on Sexuality Uri Brito moved, Ben Russell seconded. Carried 15-2
 - e. Motion **18/10/23:11**: The Council Committee on Ordination Procedures moves to approve the proposed Constitutional change, amending Article IV.A.2.g. on "The Broader Assemblies" to read: "to evaluate men for ordination and recommend or not recommend candidates for ordination;" Al Stout moved Carried 17-0
 - f. Motion **18/10/23:12**: The Council Committee on Ordination Procedures moves to approve the proposed Constitutional change, amending Article II.F. to read: "Any previously-unordained candidate for pastor, regardless of his level of formal education, will be examined before ordination (See Article IV.A.2.g). The candidate will be examined by a local session of elders with regard to his manner of life, knowledge of Scripture, and doctrinal understanding. The presbytery will also examine him and vote to determine whether the candidate is approved for ordination (Book of Procedures, Article XI)." Rich Lusk moved. Carried 17-0
 - g. Motion **18/10/23:13**: The Council Committee on Ordination Procedures moves to approve the proposed addition of Book of Procedures, XII.4 (add section 4) "CREC-Approved Ministers Serving Out of Bounds" - "For the purpose of ministerial accountability, promoting more broadly the views of the CREC, building up churches in the Biblical and Reformed faith, and for faithfully growing our communion, presbyteries may receive and recognize ministers serving out of the bounds of CREC congregations. Ordained ministers serving outside the CREC wishing to have their ordination recognized and received by a CREC presbytery shall be sponsored and recommended by a CREC member church. Such ministers shall be examined by a CREC presbytery regarding ordination status, ecclesiastical call, confessional stance, and doctrinal and pastoral matters. Upon a majority vote from presbytery, the minister may be recognized as a minister serving out of bounds (and thus placed the presiding minister's list of ministers within the presbytery, XII.1). The minister serving out of bounds may be seated at presbytery, make motions, serve on committees, give reports, but may not vote. Ordinarily, the ecclesiastical body in which a minister out of bounds serves shall begin the process of forming "fraternal relations," with the regional presbytery. A minister out of bounds may have this recognition revoked by a two-thirds vote of presbytery." Rob Hadding moved. Carried 17-0
 - h. Motion **18/10/23:14**: The Council Committee on Ordination Procedures moves to approve the proposed revision of Book of Procedures, Article XI. "Ordination in the CREC" (see the revision below). Rich Lusk moved. Failed. 0-17

- i. Motion **18/10/23:15**: The Council Committee on Ordination Procedures moves to approve the proposed revision of Book of Procedures, Appendix B. "Ministerial Examination Documents" (see the revision below) Rich Lusk moved. Carried 17-0
- j. Motion **18/10/23:16**: Approve the committee report on Social Media. Uri Brito moved. Failed. 0-14-3
- k. Motion **18/10/23:17**: Receive the report on Sex Abuse Prevention, requesting the committee make a recommendation on how to integrate this statement into the governing documents of the CREC. Jimmy Gill moved, Second Joe Thacker. Carried 17-0
- l. Motion **18/10/23:18**: Approve the committee report on the CREC List Serve. Al Stout moved. Carried 17-0
- XVI. Memorial on Abortion discussion. Where do the changes Athanasius Presbytery recommended in the Spring of 2018 currently stand?
- XVII. Memorial on Terrorism discussion. Seems to suffer from sprawling revision. Recommend a complete rewrite. **Motion 18/10/23:19**: Athanasius Presbytery rejects the proposed changes to the terrorism Memorial and asks that the Presiding minister of Athanasius presbytery form a committee to draft memorials on Just War Theory and Women in Combat. Ben Russell moved. Al Stout Seconded. Carried 17-0
- XVIII. Discuss Same Sex Marriage Proposal. Is a constitutional amendment the best place for this or would it fit better as a memorial. There are difficulties calling it a confessional statement (Article III D). It is not on par with WCF or TFU for example.
- XIX. Updates on mission Churches
- XX. Updates on current candidate, mission churches and others:
 - a. Covenant First Presbyterian Church, Live Oak, FL
 - b. Covenant Community Mission, Andrews, SC
 - c. Igreja de Cristo, Porto Alegre, Brazil
 - d. Christ Church, Lakeland, FL
- XXI. **Motion 18/10/23:20**: to approve letter of appreciation to the founders of the CREC. From the chair, without objection
- XXII. **Motion 18/10/23:21**: of thanksgiving to Michelle and Samantha Stevenson for the meal. From the chair, without objection.
- XXIII. **(Motion 18/10/23:22** to hold at Christ Church in Pace, FL on March 25th and 26th) Rob Hadding moved, Second Ben Russell. Carried 17-0.
- XXIV. **Motion 18/10/23:23**: Close Presbytery. Eddie Johnson moved, Second Ben Russell. Carried 17-0
- XXV. Hymn and Prayer