

Minutes of 28th Meeting of Athanasius Presbytery

April 18, 2023

Northminster Presbyterian Church (Pensacola, FL)

Uri Brito, Presiding Minister
Joe Thacker, Presiding Minister *pro tempore*
Jimmy Gill, Clerk of Presbytery

- I. PM Brito called the meeting to order at 8:30am (CDT) and Pastor Emeritus Mickey Schneider opened in prayer.
- II. PM Brito led in song and gave a brief exhortation about ministerial study and learning.
- III. Roll was called and a quorum was established with the (16) presbyters listed below.
 - Christ Church Branch Cove (Odenville, AL): Ted Phillips
 - Christ Church (Pace, FL): Bob McGee, Phil Bozarth
 - Christ Presbyterian Church (Baton Rouge, LA): Galen Sorey, Denny Dufour
 - Christ Redeemer Presbyterian Church (Live Oak, FL): Jimmy Gill
 - Holy Trinity Church (Greer, SC): Eddy Field, Bill McIlwain
 - Immanuel Presbyterian Church (Clinton, MS): Davy Durham
 - Providence Church (Pensacola, FL): Al Stout, Ed Greg
 - St. Mark Reformed Church (Nashville, TN): Joe Thacker
 - Trinity Presbyterian Church (Birmingham, AL): Rich Lusk
 - Trinity Presbyterian Church (Valparaiso, FL): Ben Rossell, Mike Ruff
 - Trinity Reformed Church (Huntsville, AL): Matt Carpenter

Member Churches not Present:

- Christ Presbyterian Church (Knoxville, TN)

Mission Churches Present:

- Christ the King Church (Greenville, SC): Michael Hansen, John Crawford & Co.
- Covenant First Presbyterian Church (Live Oak, FL): Herman Gunter III
- Trinity Presbyterian Church (Winter Springs, FL): Kyle Stewart
- Trinity Reformed Church (Newnan, GA): Jimmy Oliver
- Pilgrim Hill Reformed Fellowship (Goodlettsville, TN): Brooks Potteiger
- Christ the King Presbyterian Church (Tallahassee): Josh Waller & Co.
- Church of the Redeemer (Fairhope, AL): Tim Dornlan & Donald Thornbury

Mission Churches Participating by Zoom:

- Igreja de Reformada de Cristo (Porto Alegre, Brazil)

MOTION 23/04/18:1 Matt Carpenter moved to approve the agenda. Phil Bozarth seconded. The motion passed without audible dissent.

IV. Introduction of Guests

- Kameron Edenfield (Assistant Pastor at Trinity Pres. in Birmingham)
- Wesley Presnall (Pastoral Intern at Immanuel Pres. & student at RTS)
- Joshua Haymes (Pastoral Intern at Pilgrim Hill Reformed Fellowship)
- Providence: pastoral intern Ethan Lafont, Joe Harrell
- Trinity Pres. Winter Springs: Chris Brehm, Thomas Hanawalt, and Caleb Mohr
- Chaplain Josiah Alldredge (Trinity Pres. in Valparaiso)
- Cole Strawn (member at Christ Church Branch Cove)
- Jason Lollar (ruling elder at Holy Trinity Church)
- Kent Bergeron, Matt Gedge, Evan Turner, Randall Loeffler (All Saints Reformed Church in Covington, LA)
- Steve Traylor (elder at Christ Church, Pace)

MOTION 23/04/18:2 Ben Russell moved that visitors be seated and permitted to speak on the floor of presbytery. Al Stout seconded. The motion passed without audible dissent.

V. Old Business

- a. **MOTION 23/04/18:3:** Ben Russell moved to approve the minutes from the 2022 fall Meeting of Presbytery. Matt Carpenter seconded. The motion passed without audible dissent.

VI. New Business

- a. Membership Vows for Igreja de Cristo (Pastor Evandro Rosa) were administered by PM Brito and affirmed by the presbyters.
- b. Special prayer was made by Pastor Thacker for Justin & Shara Wallick, who are facing serious health problems.
- c. Examination of Elder Mike Ruff for ordination to the gospel ministry. The exam committee (Wallick—stepped down for family reasons, Russell, Potteiger, Field) led the oral exam for an hour, and then questions were taken from the floor for another hour.

The presbytery entered executive session, and the candidate was excused from the room during deliberation.

MOTION 23/04/18:4: The exam committee moved that Mike be ordained for gospel ministry. The presbyters discussed the situation involving one of Mike's adult children who is not walking with the Lord and believes that this situation does not disqualify Mike from ordained ministry. Mike's other adult children are faithful, and the unbelieving daughter apostatized several years after leaving home and while in the membership of another orthodox church. The motion passed without audible dissent.

- d. Examination of deacon Brian McLain for ordination to the gospel ministry. The exam committee (Thacker, Carpenter, Gill, Potteiger) led the oral exam for an hour.

The meeting was recessed for lunch at 12:50pm.

PM Brito reconvened the meeting at 1:35pm.

Brian McLain was questioned from the floor for another half hour.

The presbytery entered executive session, and the candidate was excused from the room during deliberation.

The exam committee did not recommend Brian for ordination at this time and will continue to work with him in preparation for re-examination at the fall presbytery meeting.

VII. Discussion & Deliberation

- Sacramental Committee & Proposals
 - Rich Lusk gave an update on the work of the committee, and discussion followed.
- Potential division of Athanasius Presbytery
 - PM Brito raised the prospect of forming a new presbytery when we reach 20 member churches in the next few years.
- Proposal for Candidacy of Uri Brito for Position of PMOC
 - Knox Presbytery has nominated PM Brito for the office of PMOC at CREC Council later this year. Pastor Randy Booth has been nominated to serve as PMOC *pro tempore*.
 - In the event that PM Brito is elected as PMOC, Joe Thacker would fill out the remainder of his term. Nominations for a new PMOP *pro tempore* will be accepted in the next few months.
- Joe Thacker and Rich Lusk were elected as delegates to the upcoming Council meeting.

VIII. The next presbytery meeting be held in Moscow, ID, on Sept. 26-27, 2023.

IX. Uri Brito led in song. Galen Sorey closed the meeting in prayer at 3:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jimmy Gill, Clerk of Presbytery