

Minutes of 29th Meeting of Athanasius Presbytery

September 26, 2023

Moscow, ID

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

- I. PM Brito called the meeting to order at 9:00am (PDT) and opened in prayer.
- II. Joe Thacker gave a brief exhortation about leadership from 1 Peter 5.
- 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
 - Christ Presbyterian Church (Knoxville, TN): Mike Pasarilla
 - Christ Redeemer Presbyterian Church (Live Oak, FL): Jimmy Gill
 - Holy Trinity Church (Greer, SC): Eddy Field, Jason Lollar
 - Immanuel Presbyterian Church (Clinton, MS): Davy Durham
 - Providence Church (Pensacola, FL): Al Stout, Ron Gilley
 - St. Mark Reformed Church (Nashville, TN): Joe Thacker
 - Trinity Presbyterian Church (Birmingham, AL): Kameron Edenfield
 - Trinity Presbyterian Church (Valparaiso, FL): Ben Rossell, Mike Ruff
 - Trinity Reformed Church (Huntsville, AL): Matt Carpenter

Member Churches not Present:

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

Mission Churches Present:

- Christ the King Church (Greenville, SC): Michael Hansen, John Crawford
- Trinity Presbyterian Church (Winter Springs, FL): Kyle Stewart
- Trinity Reformed Church (Newnan, GA): Jimmy Oliver
- Pilgrim Hill Reformed Fellowship (Goodlettsville, TN): Brooks Potteiger
- Trinity Reformed Church (Columbus, GA): Payne Nunn

Mission Churches not Present:

- Covenant First Presbyterian Church (Live Oak, FL)
- Christ the King Presbyterian Church (Tallahassee)
- Church of the Redeemer (Fairhope, AL)
- Immanuel Reformed Church (Birmingham, AL)

MOTION 23/09/26:1 Ben Rossell moved to approve the agenda. Ted Phillips seconded. Mike Pasarilla moved to amend by perfection the wording for item six (change the word “confirming” to “nominating”). The amended agenda was approved without audible dissent.

IV. Introduction of Guests

- Trinity Pres. (Winter Springs): Thomas Hanawalt
- Trinity Reformed Church (Huntsville): Brian McLain

MOTION 23/09/26:2 Al Stout moved that visitors be seated and permitted to speak on the floor of presbytery. Mike Ruff seconded. The motion passed without audible dissent.

V. Old Business

- a. **MOTION 23/09/26:3:** Matt Carpenter moved to approve the minutes from the 2023 spring Meeting of Presbytery. Ben Rossell seconded. The motion passed without audible dissent.

VI. New Business

- a. PM Brito opened the floor to receive nominations for a Council delegate to replace Rich Lusk. Joe Thacker nominated Matt Carpenter.

MOTION 23/09/26:4 No other nominations being received, Kameron Edenfield moved to close nominations. Ted Phillips seconded the motion.

Matt Carpenter was elected as Council delegate without audible dissent.

- b. Membership Vows for Pilgrim Hill Reformed Fellowship (represented by Pastor Brooks Potteiger) were administered by PM Brito and affirmed by the presbyters.
- c. Membership Vows for Christ the King Church (represented by Pastor Michael Hansen) were administered by PM Brito and affirmed by the presbyters.
- d. Examination of deacon Brian McLain for ordination to the gospel ministry. The exam committee (Thacker, Potteiger, Carpenter, Gill) 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 23/09/26:5: The exam committee moved that Brian be ordained for gospel ministry. The motion passed without audible dissent.

The meeting was recessed for lunch at 11:30am.

PM Brito reconvened the meeting at 1:17pm.

The moderator earlier admitted two mission churches into membership in the CREC without a vote of the presbytery, which Constitution III.E.3.a requires. After the error was brought to his attention, he corrected it by calling for a vote.

POINT OF ORDER: Eddy Field declared a point of order regarding the requirement that delegates being received into membership should normally provide a one-page summary of their church (BOP Article III.B). Because both mission churches had submitted written reports at the previous meeting, PM Brito asked them to provide a verbal update of anything that had changed since then.

MOTION 23/09/26:6 On behalf of St. Mark Reformed Church, Joe Thacker recommended that Pilgrim Hill Reformed Fellowship be received into membership of Athanasius Presbytery. PM Brito called for a vote.

POINT OF ORDER: Eddy Field declared a point of order regarding the necessity to discuss the motion. There was debate about whether or not the reception of a new congregation required a second and a motion. PM Brito consented to follow the procedure for a normal motion.

POINT OF ORDER: Galen Sorey declared a point of order that discussion must happen before the vote.

PM Brito called for discussion on **Motion 6**. Minimal discussion followed. The motion passed without audible dissent.

MOTION 23/09/26:7 On behalf of Trinity Presbyterian Church, Kameron Edenfield recommended that Christ the King Church (Greenville, SC) be received into membership. PM Brito called for discussion. Eddy Field read a prepared statement objecting to the reception of Christ the King Church.

MOTION 23/09/26:8 Galen Sorey moved that all visitors (non-delegates) be excused from the room, except Michael Hansen and John Crawford for executive session lasting no longer than thirty minutes. Al Stout seconded. The motion carried without audible dissent.

Visitors were dismissed and discussion ensued concerning the objections of Eddy Field.

POINT OF ORDER: Jimmy Gill raised a point of order about the propriety of bringing grievances against another church to the floor of presbytery which had not been handled according to Constitution Art. IV.D.1. PM Brito allowed the discussion to continue.

After the allotted time for discussion expired, PM Brito called for the vote on **Motion 7**. The motion carried with two dissenting votes.

The presbytery rose out of executive session at 2:15pm.

VII. Discussion & Deliberation

- Sacramental Committee & Proposals
 - Due to the absence of Rich Lusk, Uri Brito 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.
- Discussion of proposed memorials on nations and anti-Semitism
- Election of a new PMOP *pro tempore*
 - In the event that PM Brito is elected as PMOC, Joe Thacker would fill out the remainder of his term as PMOP.
 - Rich Lusk has been nominated to serve as PMOP *pro tempore*. Rich Lusk was elected unanimously.

VIII. The next presbytery meeting be held in Birmingham, AL, on April 16, 2024.

IX. Matt Carpenter closed the meeting in prayer at 3:15pm. Uri Brito led in song.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jimmy Gill, Clerk of Presbytery