

Minutes of 30th Meeting of Athanasius Presbytery

Easter, April 16th, 2024

Birmingham, AL

Joe Thacker, Presiding Minister
Rich Lusk, Presiding Minister *pro tempore*
Jimmy Gill, Clerk of Presbytery
Alan Stout, Clerk of Presbytery, Acting

- I. Mike Ruff provided an informational brief for RES.
- II. PM Thacker called the meeting to order at 8:35am (PDT) and opened in prayer.
- III. Pastor Rich Lusk gave a brief exhortation about what a pastor is to be, primarily from 2 Timothy 2.
 - Pastors are to be living testimonies
 - 1 Tim 3. There are things all Christians are to be striving for, but Pastors ought to have attained them.
 - Scriptures urge people to imitate the elders/pastors.
 - Avoid useless fights, fights over babblings. 2 Tim 2:14
 - Pastors should have multiple voices.
 - Augustine said that it is shameful for pastors to avoid confronting people for fear of them.
 - You should be a warrior shepherd. Don't be a man pleaser.
 - If you are a pastor you have one boss (not a thousand), that boss is God.
- IV. Roll was called and a quorum was established with the (19) presbyters listed below:
 - Christ Church Branch Cove (Odenville, AL): Ted Phillips, Justin Wallick
 - Christ Church (Pace, FL): Bob McGee, Phil Bozarth
 - Christ Presbyterian Church (Baton Rouge, LA): Denny DuFour
 - Christ Presbyterian Church (Knoxville, TN): Fred Young, Mike Passarilla
 - Christ the King Church (Greenville, SC): Michael Hansen, John Crawford
 - Holy Trinity Church (Greenville, SC): Eddy Field
 - Immanuel Presbyterian Church (Clinton, MS): Davy Durham
 - Pilgrim Hill Reformed Fellowship (Goodlettsville, TN): Brooks Potteiger
 - Providence Church (Pensacola, FL): Uri Brito, Ed Gregg
 - Trinity Presbyterian Church (Birmingham, AL): Rich Lusk
 - Trinity Presbyterian Church (Valparaiso, FL): Ben Rossell, Mike Ruff
 - Trinity Reformed Church (Huntsville, AL): Matt Carpenter, Brian McLain

Member Churches not Present or Represented:

- Igreja Reformada de Cristo (Porto Alegre, Brazil)
- St Mark Reformed Church (Nashville, TN)

Mission Churches Present:

- Covenant First Presbyterian Church (Live Oak, FL) Herman Gunter
- Trinity Presbyterian Church (Winter Springs, FL): Kyle Stewart
- Trinity Reformed Church (Newnan, GA): Jimmy Oliver, Thomas Countess
- Trinity Reformed Church (Columbus, GA): Payne Nunn, Kyle McMaster
- Church of the Redeemer (Fairhope, AL) Donald Thornbury
- Immanuel Reformed Church (Birmingham, AL) Peter Leithart
- Christ the King (Tallahassee, FL) Josh Waller
- All Saints Presbyterian (Covington, LA) Kent Burgeron
- Trinity Reformed Church (Chattanooga, TN) Glenn Jones

Mission Churches not Present:

- Trinity Reformed (Jacksonville, FL)

MOTION 24/04/16:1 Ben Rossell moved to approve the agenda; seconded Uri Brito. The motion passed without audible dissent.

MOTION 24/04/16:2 Matt Carpenter moved that visitors be seated and permitted to speak on the floor of presbytery. Seconded Ted Phillips. The motion passed without audible dissent.

Visitors are listed below:

Christ the King, Greenville:

Steve Roderer (Elder)
Tim Collins (Deacon)
Wilson Hunter (Deacon)
Josh Rollins (Deacon)
David Rowe (Deacon)

Christ the King, Tallahassee

Bradley Maxwell

Christ Presbyterian Church, Knoxville

Charles Clapp (Elder)

Visitors are listed below (Cont'd)

Pilgrim Hill, Nashville

Joshua Haymes

Providence Church, Pensacola

Ethan Lafont (Pastoral Intern)

Jonathan Franzone (Pastoral Intern)

Jordan Bush (guest of Providence)

Shane Hull (Interested in planting a Church in Sarasota, FL)

Trinity Presbyterian Church, Birmingham

Clay Staggs (RE, Veritas - Tuscaloosa, AL)

Allen Powers (RE, Veritas - Tuscaloosa, AL)

Jeremy Jones (Deacon, Veritas - Tuscaloosa, AL)

Steve Nippert (Deacon, Veritas - Tuscaloosa, AL)

Trinity Presbyterian Church, Valpariso

Josiah Aldridge (TPC member and Chaplain, Okaloosa County FL Jail.)

Trinity Presbyterian Church, Winter Springs

Caleb & Josh Mohr (TPC Member)

Trinity Reformed Church Huntsville:

Gage & Rachel Crowder (TRC Huntsville)

V. Old Business

- a. **MOTION 24/04/16:3:** Brooks Potteiger moved to approve the minutes from the 2023 Fall Meeting of Presbytery. Phil Bozarth seconded. The motion passed without audible dissent.

VI. New Business

- a. Examination of Gage Crowder for ordination to the gospel ministry at Trinity Reformed Church Huntsville, AL. The exam committee Justin Wallick, Matt Carpenter, Michael Hanson, led the oral exam for an hour, and then questions were taken from the floor for another half hour.
 - Gage did exceptionally well, with no serious deficiencies noted in any area.
 - His grasp of the bible and major themes therein was fantastic. He answered follow up questions over baptism, its meaning and efficacy, with great insight.
 - He was humble when not knowing the few questions put to him and those questions were not disqualifying in any sense.

Without objection, the presbytery entered executive session. Mission Churches, visitors, and the candidate were excused from the room during deliberation.

- b. **MOTION 24/04/16:4:** The exam committee moved that the examination of Gage Crowder be sustained and that he be ordained for gospel ministry. The motion passed without audible dissent.

The presbytery returned from executive session, invited Mission Churches, visitors, and Gage Crowder back in and announced that his examination had been sustained.

- c. Transfer Examination of Pastor Burke Shade to Associate Pastor at St. Mark in Nashville, TN.
 - Pastor Shade gave his history and updated the presbytery on his and his wife's health. He spoke about his family and that all of his children profess faith and his youngest daughter is about to get married.
 - His son Isaiah was with him as is often the case.
 - The session is pleased that Pastor Shade will be working at St Mark and believe we will be blessed by his wisdom and experience.
 - He answered questions from the floor, concerning his health and long term plans for ministry.
- d. **Peter Leithart** prayed for Burke, his wife Ruth, and Burke's work at St. Mark.

VII. Discussion & Deliberation

- Uri Brito provided an update of his work as PMOC
- Recognition of Mike Pasarilla on his retirement from Gospel ministry. The presbytery thanked Mike for his many years of ministry and particularly his help in crafting the final version of CREC abortion memorial. Eddy Field prayed for Mike.

VIII. Election of Council Delegates and Alternates for 2026.

- **MOTION 24/04/16:5** Uri Brito moved that the Presiding Minister of Athanasius Presbytery, Joe Thacker and Pro Tempore Min serve as delegates. Davy Durham Second. The motion passed without audible dissent.
- **MOTION 24/04/16:6** Nominations to Alternate. Rich Lusk nominated Michael Hanson Second by Uri Brito. No other nominations were heard. The motion passed without audible dissent.

IX. Next presbytery meeting be held in Greenville, SC; October 7-8, 2024 (Hosted by Christ the King).

X. Thanksgiving is offered to the folks at Trinity Presbyterian Birmingham and Christ Church Branch Cove for hosting this presbytery.

XI. **MOTION 24/04/16:7** Matt Carpenter moved to adjourn. Seconded by Ben Rossell. The motion passed without audible dissent.

XII. Joe Thacker closed the Presbytery in song.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alan Stout, Clerk of Presbytery, acting