

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
26 March 2019
Pace, FL

Churches and Members of Presbytery Represented:

Christ Church, Branchville AL – Justin Wallich
Christ Church, Pace, FL - Rob Hadding, Bob McGee
Christ Presbyterian Church, Baton Rouge, LA - Galen Sorrey, Denney Doufor (joins during Church reports)
Christ Presbyterian Knoxville, TN – Mike Pasarilla
Christ Redeemer, Live Oak, FL - Jimmy Gill
Holy Trinity Reformed Evangelical Church, Greenville SC - Eddie Field
Immanuel Presbyterian Church, Clinton MS – Jay Barfield
Providence Church, Pensacola FL - Al Stout, Uri Brito
Redeemer Church Madison, AL - Stewart Jordan
St. Mark Reformed Church, Nashville TN - Joe Thacker
Trinity Presbyterian Church, Birmingham AL – Phillip Woods
Trinity Presbyterian Church, Valparaiso, FL – Mike Mosley, Ben Rossell (joins during Kyle Stewarts examination)

Church not represented:

Church of the Good Shepherd, North Augusta, GA - Kirk Downey
Salem Reformed Church, Rome GA - George Crocker, Eddie Johnson

Mission Church:

Present Covenant First Presbyterian Church in Live Oak, FL Sponsored by Christ Presbyterian Church
Baton Rouge, LA (Herman Gunter, III)
Present - Trinity Presbyterian Church Winter Springs, FL, Sponsored by Providence Church Pensacola, FL
(Kyle Stewart)
Not Present - Igreja Reformada de Cristo, Porto Alegre, Brazil Sponsored by Providence Church
Pensacola, FL
(Ernesto Ochikubo)

Guests

Mickey Schneider – Trinity Valparaiso
Job Dalomba
Jim Hunter – Providence Church Pensacola
Elder Keith Dimond – Christ Church Branchville
Daniel Ferrill
Jeff Trexler - Covenant Community Mission

- I. Called to order.
- II. Invocation. Rich Lusk
- III. Uri Brito leads in Song Be Not Far Off (Psalm 22)
- IV. Galen Sorrey delivers an exhortation. Lent leading us up to the cross.
- V. Uri leads in song.
- VI. Quorum established with the presbyters listed above. (14 Presbyters)
- VII. **Motion 19/03/26:01** Motion to accept the agenda as amended (Enclosure 1), Carried 14-0
- VIII. **Motion 19/03/26:02** Motion to approve the minutes from the fall 2017 Presbytery Meeting (Enclosure 2) Al Stout moved, seconded (Enclosure 2) Carried 14-0
- IX. **Motion 19/03/26:03** Motion to seat visitors and permit them to speak on the floor of Presbytery. Al Stout moved, Justin Wallich seconded Carried 14-0
- X. Church Reports: (Sent to the Presbytery, not part of the public record) (Denney Doufor joins as a voting member of Presbytery)
 - a. Christ Presbyterian Church Knoxville, TN – No difficulties. Looking for ways to grow. For our size, the Lord provides through generous People. Stewart Jordan prays
 - b. Immanuel Presbyterian Church Clinton, MS – Doing well. Stable. Added a young couple, very enthusiastic. Various studies. Working with Child Evangelism to establish some bible clubs. Uri Brito prays
 - c. Providence Church Pensacola, FL All is well, growing with baby and adult baptisms. This is Uri's 10th Anniversary. Justin Wallich prays
 - d. Redeemer Presbyterian Church Madison, AL Encouragements and discouragements with folks leaving. Shane O'Neill, ER doctor, ministers at Recovery Mission, has led one man to Christ and to our Church. I now lead a discipleship class there and we have seen several men come to us through that. Two of our men are also starting discipleship groups through this ministry. One of the men of Redeemer has hired a few of these men. Pray for Patrick, who relapsed into drug use, that God would break his heart and restore him.
 - e. Salem Reformed Church Rome, GA – Salem is closing their doors and George is looking for work and trying to figure out his future. Al Stout Prays
 - f. St. Mark Reformed Church Nashville, TN – Just a couple of highlights. Ministry Meals: Officers host a Church family to see how they are doing and how we might minister to them. Exhausting and encouraging at the same time. Grateful for the peace and fellowship of the Church. Lost one family and one individual. Doing okay financially. Looking for ways to save money. Joe continues to teach part time. Pray for Deborah, for strength. Rob Hadding prays
 - g. Trinity Presbyterian Church Birmingham, AL God has blessed us. Added new elders (now at 5) added new deacons (now at 7) Approaching max size on our building. Beginning to look for a new building. Had a number of parenting/marriage seminars over the years and we have a marriage seminar coming up next week. Working closely with Wes Baker and Peru Mission. Opportunities for increased help there, including medical. Restarting college age bible studies, several in attendance. Also looking at starting a Christian school and accepting counsel. Mike Mosley Prays
 - h. Trinity Presbyterian Church Valparaiso, FL – Down in our numbers a little bit. One of our Jail ministers may seek ordination in the CREC. Ben Rossell started Grad School with Knox Seminary working on his masters. Huge involvement in jail ministry. Several of our

folks go there and teach classes there. Some of our missions trips were cancelled this year, but we hope to bring them back next year. We support various ministries. Jay Barfield prays

XI. Updates on Mission Churches

- a. Covenant Community Mission, no sponsoring Church at this time, seeking a sponsor. (Jeff Trexler) Praying for growth. Working with a couple different families. Jimmy Gill prays
- b. Covenant First Presbyterian Church in Live Oak, FL Sponsored by Christ Presbyterian Church Baton Rouge, LA (Herman Gunter, III). Preaching through books of the Bible. Thankful. 25 regular attenders no membership. Wisdom of the Presbytery would be appreciated. Denny Dufour prays
- c. Igreja Reformada de Cristo, Porto Alegre, Brazil Sponsored by Providence Church Pensacola, FL (Ernesto Ochikubo) Uri Brito provides update. Visitors have been coming. They have moved into a new meeting space. Pray that we can establish an examining committee to examine two of the deacons here for the office of Minister/Pastor. Phillip Woods prays
- d. Trinity Presbyterian Church Winter Springs, FL, Sponsored by Providence Church Pensacola, FL (Kyle Stewart) Worshiping together for four months now. Meeting at a local synagogue. Providence has been down to administer the Lord's Supper. Full Sunday School and CRW service. Patterned after our Bible Study. Mornings going through Matthew and Evenings going to through Psalms (19 in the AM about 15 in the evening). Seeking to meet needs and pray for our community. Trusting that our love for one another will be a testimony of God's faithfulness. Pray that we love each other well. Understanding what the CREC is all about, pray that our congregation will embrace the richness of the CREC. Pray that God will bless some studies planned for the men on Creedal Standards.

XII. Adjourn for break

XIII. Reconvene. Quorum established with the presbyters listed above

XIV. New Business

XV. Presbytery Floor Exam of Kyle Stewart, Trinity Presbyterian Church Winter Springs, FL (Ben Rossell joins as a voting member of Presbytery) – The ordination committee recommends ordination. Jimmy Gill leads the on-floor exam, with Justin Wallich, Rob Hadding and Joe Thacker also asking questions. Areas covered:

- a. Personal life. Native Floridian. Grew up in a covenant home. Homeschooled and private school. Went to Rollins College. At 18 or 19 I was grabbed by the Lord to serve him. Transferred to Clearwater Christian. Attended Bible Presbyterian Church During that time where I met my wife. We have 4 children. Did some graduate work at St. John. Both my parents and in-laws are Godly Christians and I was called back here to be close to them and where I decided to pursue ordination. The PCA required me to go through a second pastoral internship.
 - i. What does covenant family mean to you?
 - ii. Talk about St. Paul's and what your duties were. I was teaching the adult SS class. I taught through exegetical classes. I did pastoral work under the watch of the session.
 - iii. How do you know that God has called you into ministry? When you see a need and believe you have the gifts to meet that need you should submit.
 - iv. Do you think you will be here long term? If I die here in Winter Spring that will be a blessing.

b. Bible.

- i. How does Genesis form a foundation to the understanding the whole bible?
 1. Provide an outline of that book. Creation, fall and the struggle between the seed of the woman and the seed of the serpent.
 2. Give me a breakdown of the story of Abraham, Jacob and Joseph. God shows us in small glimpses of worship through Abraham. Continuation of the two seeds. Tension is built up and is released through Jacob and God using a scoundrel to continue his covenant.
- ii. How is the book of Leviticus instructive in worship? We see through the acts and ordinances of Leviticus what we need in the various offerings (sin, peace etc). We see how God consecrates us in the burnt offerings, etc. Important for us to understand what it means to worship.
- iii. What would you give to someone who wants help to understand the book of Judges? I want, as I am able, to walk through the book with them. Either reading it together or meeting regularly to discuss what they have read. My preaching should also be full enough to cover the themes of Judges and being able to connect those things.
- iv. What purpose does Ruth serve? I connect the book of Ruth to the covenant keeping God. Linking the Gentiles.
- v. How many books of Psalms are there? I believe there are 5.
- vi. What import does the book of Psalms have in the body. The Psalms are genuine Spirit driven works which show the life of the believer in God. It points us to the 2nd David, pointing to the Lord Christ. In them you see people living faithfully, suffering and rejoicing and questioning but realizing that Jesus answers all these.
- vii. What is the book of Jonah all about? The state of God's people through the kingdom period and how they are supposed to be a blessing to the world. How they have failed to be that blessing. We will see how they rejected it in books like Nehemiah.
- viii. We have 4 gospels. Why four gospels? The holy spirit wanted it that way. We have a full picture of the earthly ministry. Humanity of the Lord in Matthew. In Mark we see the Lord as the new David the king. Luke gives us the picture of God bringing love to the outcast. John. The preincarnate God and Lord.
- ix. Outline Paul's letter to the Ephesians. He does so
- x. Are James' and Paul's letters' emphasis on Grace in conflict with one another? They are not. They complement one another.
- xi. Make an argument from the OT and NT why women ought not be teachers/leaders of the family/Church. It is considered a shame when men won't stand up to lead and a woman has to exercise such leadership. Further explanation of biblical reason.
- xii. Both the OT NT make a case why the Church should be engaged in mercy ministry.

c. Theology and ethics

- i. You hold to a presuppositional apologetics. What tools do you gain from such an approach? The sufficiency of God's word in answering those who oppose. I can really trust that God will make the coherence of his word, his creation evident.
- ii. What place does natural law have in reformed apologetics?

- iii. Trinity. Ontological reality and economic reality are related. The reality of the triune nature of Father Son and Spirit is seen in what they do.
- iv. How do you understand the hypostatic union? Jesus is both fully God and fully man. That God can only suffer and die for man is if he is fully man.
- v. How do you understand the relationship of Israel and the Church. The Church does not replace Israel, but Israel grows up into the Church.
- vi. Does the Bible provide any order for worship. First Leviticus. The sacrifices show worship. The 5 C's of worship.
- vii. What is a sacrament? Visible sign and seal of God's covenant love toward us
- viii. What makes them effectual. God's spirit
- ix. What happens to a person who is baptized?
- x. What is your view of eschatology? Optimistic. Historic Premillennial
- xi. Since Jesus fulfilled the law how can we use the law in ethics? We have a renewed law in the Gospel.
- xii. What is your view of divorce in the Church? God hates divorce, but it is permitted in Adultery and abandonment. Would I counsel that? In extreme situations, but would urge reconciliation.
- xiii. Homosexuality is opposed to God's created order.
- xiv. How would you counsel a man who referred to himself as Gay Christian? I would urge him to find his identity in Christ and not in his sexual sin.

d. Church

- i. Do you recite creeds? Nicene Creeds
- ii. Confessions? WCF and 3foU
- iii. The creeds are faithful explanations of God's word.
- iv. Fathers in the faith have influenced you and how? Calvin and his love of Scripture and his pastoral heart. Calvin has been helpful in modeling that love for the Church.

e. Questions from the floor.

- XVI. Motion **19/03/26:04** to arrest the exam. Al Stout moved. Mike Pasarilla Seconded. Carried 16-0
- XVII. Motion **19/03/26:05** Move that Kyle Stewart examination be sustained and that, with the help of the examining committee, Providence clarify with Kyle Stewart, his position on the Westminster Standards, particularly Shorter Catechism question 83, and the Filioque clause in the Nicene Creed prior to ordination. Al Moved Bob McGee Second carried 16-0
- XVIII. Sustain the examining committee's recommendation. Move into executive session. Motion Carried 16-0.
- XIX. Church Planting Committee report. Presiding Minister commends the report. (Enclosure 3)
- XX. Nominations for New PM and PM Pro-tempore
 - a. PM: Rob Hadding
 - b. PM ProTem Jimmy Gill
- XXI. **Motion 19/03/26:06** to hold next Presbytery at TPC Birmingham, AL on October 7th and 8th 2019 Carried 16-0.
- XXII. **Motion 19/03/26:07** Adjourn Presbytery. Rob moved, Jay Barfield Second. Carried 16-0
- XXIII. Hymn and Prayer