

BONIFACE PRESBYTERY
Communion of Reformed Evangelical Churches

Minutes of the Fall Stated Meeting
30 September AD 2026
Sonesta Nashville Airport, Nashville, Tennessee

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Fall 2026 Stated Meeting of Boniface Presbytery, held at the same place and time as the 2026 stated meeting of the Council of the Communion of Reformed Evangelical Churches (Constitution V.C), was called to order at 12:55 p.m. by the Chair, Rev. Garry Vanderveen (Christ Covenant Church, Langley). The Chair appointed Rev. Jay Hildebrand (Covenant Presbyterian Church, Cochrane) Clerk for the meeting (Constitution IV.C.9.d), and he took the minutes.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBER CHURCHES

1. Christ Covenant Church (Grande Prairie, AB): Nathan Zekveld
2. Christ Covenant Church (Langley, BC): Garry Vanderveen, William Vroom
3. Covenant Presbyterian Church (Cochrane, AB): Chris Cousine, Jay Hildebrand
4. Grace Bible Church (Neilburg, SK): Curt Reimer
5. Trinity Covenant Church (Fort St. John, BC): James Zekveld, Desmond Jones
6. Christ Covenant Church (Selkirk, MB): David Forsythe, Matthew Hallick
7. Église Réformée Saint-Jean-Baptiste (Drummondville, QC): Olivier Joseph Imbernon

Absent member churches: none.

All seven member churches being represented, the Chair declared a quorum present (Constitution V.J). Eleven delegates of member churches were seated, of whom ten were eligible to vote while the Chair presided (Constitution V.E).

MISSION CHURCHES (NON-VOTING DELEGATIONS, CONSTITUTION III.E.2)

1. King's Reformed Evangelical Church (Creston, BC), sponsored by Christ Covenant Church, Langley: Rhys Demman, Forrest Demman
2. White Stone Reformed Church (Grimsby, ON), sponsored by Christ Covenant Church, Langley: Ryan Eras, William Ravensbergen

ABSENT MISSION CHURCHES

1. Grace Covenant Church (Sunshine Coast, BC), sponsored by Christ Covenant Church (Langley): Jed Schoepp

2. King's Covenant Church (Drayton Valley, AB), sponsored by Christ Covenant Church, Grande Prairie: Josh Holt
3. King's Cross Church (Coaldale, AB), sponsored by Covenant Presbyterian Church, Cochrane: Brian Friesen

Candidate churches: none.

The delegations of the mission churches present were seated by unanimous consent (Constitution V.N).

III. CONSTITUTING THE MEETING

Rev. James Zekveld (Trinity Covenant Church, Fort St. John) delivered an exhortation. Rev. Chris Cousine (Covenant Presbyterian Church, Cochrane) opened the meeting with prayer.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion 26/09/30:1. William Vroom (Christ Covenant Church, Langley) moved:

That the agenda be approved.

Seconded by Chris Cousine (Covenant Presbyterian Church, Cochrane). Carried 10–0–0.

V. ELECTION OF THE PRESIDING MINISTER, THE PRESIDING MINISTER *PRO TEMPORE*, AND DELEGATES TO COUNCIL

A. PRESIDING MINISTER

No nominations having been pre-posted on the agenda, the Presiding Minister received nominations from the floor (BOP VI.D.1).

Garry Vanderveen (Christ Covenant Church, Langley) was nominated by Chris Cousine (Covenant Presbyterian Church, Cochrane), seconded by Nathan Zekveld (Christ Covenant Church, Grande Prairie), and consented to stand (BOP VI.D.2).

Motion 26/09/30:2. Chris Cousine (Covenant Presbyterian Church, Cochrane) moved:

That Garry Vanderveen (Christ Covenant Church, Langley) be elected Presiding Minister of Boniface Presbytery.

Seconded by Nathan Zekveld (Christ Covenant Church, Grande Prairie). Carried 10–0–0, which exceeds the two-thirds required of a sole candidate (BOP VI.D.6) Garry Vanderveen is elected Presiding Minister of Boniface Presbytery for a first term of three years, commencing upon the adjournment of this meeting (Constitution IV.C.2).

B. PRESIDING MINISTER *PRO TEMPORE*

Motion 26/09/30:3. James Zekveld (Trinity Covenant Church, Fort St. John) moved:

That Rev. Chris Cousine (Covenant Presbyterian Church, Cochrane) be elected Presiding Minister Pro Tempore of Boniface Presbytery.

Chris Cousine consented to stand (BOP VI.D.2).

Carried 10–0–0, which exceeds the two-thirds required of a sole candidate (BOP VI.D.6). The Presiding Minister declared the result. Chris Cousine is elected Presiding Minister *Pro Tempore* of Boniface Presbytery, to serve in cases of the Presiding Minister's absence or to fill out his term should the office become vacant (Constitution IV.C.6.a).

C. DELEGATES TO COUNCIL

Motion 26/09/30:4. Matthew Hallick (Christ Covenant Church, Selkirk) moved:

That Garry Vanderveen (Christ Covenant Church, Langley) and Chris Cousine (Covenant Presbyterian Church, Cochrane) be elected Delegates to Council to serve until the election of their successors following the next regular meeting of Council (Constitution IV.B.3).

Seconded by Desmond Jones (Trinity Covenant Church, Fort St. John). Carried 10–0–0. Both delegates are seated delegates to this meeting of presbytery, as Constitution IV.B.3 requires in the year of a Council meeting. The Presiding Minister will enter them on the roster of Council delegates (Constitution IV.B.3).

VI. RECEPTION OF WHITE STONE REFORMED CHURCH (GRIMSBY, ONTARIO) INTO MEMBERSHIP

White Stone Reformed Church is a mission church of Christ Covenant Church, Langley, British Columbia. The Presiding Minister, his own church being the sponsoring church, relinquished the chair to the Presiding Minister *Pro Tempore*, Chris Cousine (Constitution IV.C.9.d; V.E). While Chris Cousine presided, Garry Vanderveen was eligible to vote as a delegate and Chris Cousine was not (Constitution V.E).

On behalf of the sponsoring church, Garry Vanderveen reported that the conditions for particularization set out in Book of Procedures IV.C.3 have been met.

Motion 26/09/30:5. Garry Vanderveen (Christ Covenant Church, Langley), on behalf of the sponsoring church (Constitution III.K), moved:

That Boniface Presbytery, acknowledging that the conditions for particularization set out in Book of Procedures IV.C.3 have been met, receive White Stone Reformed Church (Grimsby, Ontario) into membership in the Communion of Reformed Evangelical Churches and in Boniface Presbytery (Constitution III.E.3.a; BOP IV.C.3.f).

Seconded by Nathan Zekveld (Christ Covenant Church, Grande Prairie). Carried 10–0–0, which exceeds the two-thirds required by Constitution III.E.3.a.

The Presiding Minister put to the delegation of White Stone Reformed Church, Ryan Eras and William Ravensbergen, the five questions prescribed in Book of Procedures III.C, to each of which they answered in the affirmative. He then read the statement of reception in Book of Procedures III.D, and the delegates of the member churches signified their agreement with a corporate “amen.”

White Stone Reformed Church is received into membership in Boniface Presbytery. Its voting status begins at the next stated meeting of presbytery; until then its delegates may make motions but may not vote (Constitution V.M; BOP III.A).

VIII. MEMBERSHIP VOWS OF CHRIST COVENANT CHURCH (SELKIRK, MANITOBA)

Christ Covenant Church (Selkirk) having been received into membership at the Tyndale stated meeting (and transferred into Boniface), and its delegation not having then taken the vows of Book of Procedures III.C, the Presiding Minister put to its delegates, David Forsythe and Matthew Hallick, the five questions prescribed in Book of Procedures III.C, to each of which they answered in the affirmative, and the delegates of the member churches signified their reception of the church with a corporate “amen” (BOP III.D).

VIII. ORDINATION EXAMINATION OF MR. RYAN ERAS (WHITE STONE REFORMED CHURCH, GRIMSBY, ONTARIO)

Mr. Eras has accepted a call to serve as Pastor of White Stone Reformed Church (BOP XI.B.3). The ordination examination committee, consisting of William Ravensbergen (chair), Curt Reimer, and Garry Vanderveen, reported that the candidate had completed the written qualifying examination, the private oral examinations, and the required work (BOP XI.D.2–3; Appendix B.C–E), and that the committee was satisfied that he should be examined before presbytery (BOP XI.D.4).]

The committee led the examination of the candidate on the floor of presbytery in the areas prescribed by Book of Procedures XI.D.4: Christian experience, marriage and family, calling and ministry experience; knowledge of Scripture; theological depth and views touching on Christian orthodoxy, Reformational theology, worship, and the sacraments; knowledge of Church history; and knowledge and views of pastoral matters. Time was allowed for questions from other presbyters.

Motion 26/09/30:6. Garry Vanderveen moved:

*That the presbytery enter executive session to deliberate on the examination
(Constitution V.L; BOP XI.D.5).*

Seconded by Nathan Zekveld (Christ Covenant Church, Grande Prairie). Carried 10–0–0.

The candidate was dismissed, and the presbytery met in executive session. No minutes were kept of the deliberation (Constitution V.L). The presbytery rose from executive session and the candidate was recalled.

Motion 26/09/30:7. Garry Vanderveen moved:

That Mr. Ryan Eras be approved and recommended for ordination (BOP XI.D.5).

Seconded by James Zekveld (Trinity Covenant Church, Fort St. John). Carried 10–0–0, a majority being required (BOP XI.D.5).

The ordination is to take place at White Stone Reformed Church as soon as possible, and the church is to register the ordination and installation with the Presiding Minister (BOP XI.D.5; XII.C.3.a).

Garry Vanderveen resumed the chair.

X. STATED MEETINGS FOR 2027

Motion 26/09/30:8. Curtis Reimer (Grace Bible Church, Neilburg) moved:

That the presbytery hold two stated meetings in 2027: the Spring Stated Meeting, 15–17 March 2027, at Cochrane, Alberta, hosted by Covenant Presbyterian Church; and the Fall Stated Meeting, 13–15 September 2027, hosted by White Stone Reformed Church, Ontario, in Port Colbourne (Constitution V.A).

Seconded by David Forsythe (Christ Covenant Church, Selkirk). Carried 10–0–0.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion 26/09/30:9. Nathan Zekveld (Christ Covenant Church, Grande Prairie) moved:

That the meeting adjourn.

Seconded by David Forsythe (Christ Covenant Church, Selkirk). Carried 10–0–0

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Jay Hildebrand, Clerk

Rev. Garry Vanderveen, Presiding Minister