

**Minutes of the Called Meeting of the Athanasius Presbytery
Confederation of Reformed Evangelical Churches
5 March 2010
Holiday Inn Express, Greenville, South Carolina
Hosted by Holy Trinity Reformed Evangelical Church, Greer, South Carolina**

Churches and Members of Presbytery Represented:

Christ Church, Atlanta GA: Jeremy Sexton

Christ Church, Branchville AL: Ted Phillips

Christ Presbyterian Church, Baton Rouge LA: Galen Sorey

Holy Trinity Reformed Evangelical Church, Greenville SC: Craig Beaton and Bob Corneroli

Immanuel Presbyterian Church, Clinton MS: Bill Grete, Steven Wedgeworth

Providence Church, Pensacola FL: Uri Brito

Salem Reformed Church, Rome GA: George Crocker not present, due to lack of funds

St. Mark Reformed Church, Nashville TN – Joe Thacker and Mike Sacci

Trinity Presbyterian Church, Birmingham AL: Rich Lusk, Gilbert Douglas

Trinity Presbyterian Church, Valparaiso FL: Michael Schneider, Erik Stoer, Jonathon Sutton

Guests: Frank D'Agostino, Josh Fink, and Nathan Randolph (Deacons) and Joffre Swait from Holy Trinity, William Castro, Pastor of the Hispanic mission sponsored by Mitchell Road PCA in Greenville.

Morning Prayer began at 8:00 a.m., led by Pastor Craig Beaton of Holy Trinity Church

Docket approved. Jonathon Sutton, Trinity Presbyterian, Valparaiso approved as Clerk of Presbytery as of this meeting.

November 5, 2009 Presbytery Minutes approved as corrected.

Church Reports, followed by prayer for the churches

1. Holy Trinity Reformed Evangelical Church (Craig Beaton)

Ministerial training program ("Trinity Hall") well underway with three students, who are also deacons in the church – Frank D'Agostino, Josh Fink, and Nathan Randolph. Beaton meets with Josh weekly, and the three monthly, as they proceed at their own paces. The church holds morning prayer services on Wednesday and Friday. The deacons are also busy ministering to the needs of a widow in the church.

2. Providence Church (Uri Brito)

Brito spoke of coming liturgical changes at Providence, with the introduction of service music (introduced by Jim Jordan). A sister church in the area – Harmony Ridge Baptist – has experienced a significant exodus of members due to the increased Reformed character of the leadership. Providence and Harmony Ridge will be holding a joint Good Friday service this year. Providence is also joining with the churches represented in the Milton/Pace area Ministerial Association for a joint Easter service. Uri then introduced David Bostrom, pastor of Christ Church (Mission) of Lakeland, Florida.

Christ Church (Mission). David Bostrom related the history of the mission church, his experience in planting churches in the Midwest, and described his family. The church is off to a good start, and outreach efforts include a regular newspaper column and participation in social networking/blog sites.

These Minutes of the March Athanasius Presbytery Meeting clarify the November Minutes regarding Christ Church, Lakeland (Mission) thusly... At the November 2009 meeting of the Athanasius Presbytery, Uri Brito of Providence Church, Pensacola, notified the Presbytery that Providence Church had sponsored Christ Church of Lakeland, Florida as a mission church of Providence Church. If Christ Church meets the requirements for particularization in not less than two years from that notification, Providence Church will put Christ Church forward for membership within the CREC. Pastor David Bostrom, as an ordained minister in the CREC, serves as Christ Church's pastor, with the session of Providence Church also providing, as needed, Pro-Tem elders on the session of Christ Church.

The Presbytery put this question for the discussion by the CREC Council at its next meeting – Is it permissible (or wise) for CREC churches from one Presbytery to sponsor a church within the geographical confines of another Presbytery?

3. Immanuel Presbyterian Church (Bill Grete)

Grete spoke of the youth and strength of the church – young families with many children and their practice of family devotions. Lonn Oswalt is no longer pastor of the church, having taken a position as Headmaster of Mount Salus Christian School in Clinton. The church has not lost members over this transition, and a pastoral search is underway. It is hoped that Lonn will remain on the session as an elder at Immanuel. Steven Wedgeworth is currently providing the preaching for the church and will soon be married.

4. Salem Reformed Church (George Crocker not present)

Presiding Minister Schneider related that Crocker could not attend due to a lack of finances – there have been visitors of late at Salem Reformed, but no new tithing members. The situation of the church is tenuous.

5. Christ Church, Branchville (Ted Phillips)

Phillips spoke of ongoing work on the church's Fellowship Hall, of several regularly visiting families, and various regular and upcoming activities of the church, such as monthly Head of Household meetings, quarterly ladies' meetings, hosting the "Hope and a Future" neuro-development clinic, sponsorship of a Boy Scout Troop, and hosting of the American Vision Southeast Biblical Worldview Conference (May 14-16, 2010).

6. Trinity Presbyterian Church, Valparaiso (Jonathon Sutton)

Sutton spoke of the excellent work of the Trinity diaconate, as they dealt with many needs within the church, and the need for more church officers. Other topics: choir as a Sunday School class, a monthly "hospitality plan" matching church families for a series of fellowship meals in their homes, efforts to minister to youth and women within the church without segregating the church by age or sex, joint services with other local churches. Pastor Schneider to retire in 2012; work underway to locate his successor in the ministry.

7. Christ Presbyterian Church (Galen Sorey)

Sorey related Christ Presbyterian's ongoing Apologetics class and theological discussion around the table at a weekly Wednesday night supper at his home.

8. St. Mark Reformed Church (Joe Thacker)

Thacker spoke of new members having joined St Mark's, difficulties the Berea KY Mission is having, and a system that a St Mark's deacon has developed to assist congregations in learning the parts to congregational music.

9. Trinity Presbyterian Church, Birmingham (Rich Lusk)

Trinity has a Wednesday night service, various studies and groups having regular meetings. Special services in the near future include a series of Holy Week services – Shrove Tuesday, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday. They will again have their Fall Festival this year. Trinity Birmingham currently has two pastoral interns, and hosts “Heritage Academy”, an umbrella organization for Home Schoolers.(Home school families?)

10. Christ Church, Atlanta (Jeremy Sexton)

Sexton gave thanks for Christ Church Atlanta’s new pianist and electric piano, and continued church growth. They are now looking for a new location for the church (perhaps in Marietta), as they are outgrowing their current American Vision facility. He spoke of the church’s need for deacons.

Report of the Presiding Minister. *Schneider spoke of the past year’s visits to many CREC churches, and his *visiting churches* (preaching) in seven different presbyteries. He also addressed his desire to be of use, perhaps providing temporary pastoral service for churches in need, when he retires his post as pastor of Trinity Presbyterian Church of Valparaiso.*

Concerning General Council 2011. Schneider was asked to issue an offer to the Presiding Ministers of the CREC that the General Council of 2011 be held in SanDestin, Florida. (Word was received following the presbytery meeting from Jack Phelps, presiding minister of CREC General Council, that the 2011 meeting has been set for Portland, OR.)

The next Presbytery meeting will be hosted by Trinity Presbyterian Church of Valparaiso, Florida in Sandestin, Florida on November 11, 2010. The Spring 2011 meeting will be hosted by Trinity Presbyterian Church, Birmingham. There was some discussion concerning the content of these meetings – with general assent to the Spring meeting being a topical talk, followed by discussion.

The meeting recessed at 4:30 p.m. for supper.

6:30 p.m. – Worship Service at the church building. Craig Beaton presiding, David Bostrom preaching.

8:00 p.m. – Adjournment, followed by dessert and refreshments.

Respectfully Submitted:

Jonathon Sutton, Clerk

Approved: _____ 2010