

December 11, 2015

Announcement from the CREC Review Committee:

As of yesterday, Thursday, December 10, 2015, Rev. Randy Booth has tendered his resignation from the CREC Review Committee, formed in early October to review the actions of two CREC churches in Moscow, Idaho, involving cases of sexual abuse which occurred within their congregations 10 years ago.

The review was requested by Trinity Reformed Church and Christ Church, both of Moscow. The Committee was originally composed of duly elected Presiding Ministers from each of the CREC's seven presbyteries and Rev. Booth, who was serving a three year term as the Assistant Presiding Minister of the CREC Council.

Rev. Booth's chairmanship of and participation in the Committee ended yesterday. The remaining members of the Committee will continue their work on behalf of the denomination, with the aim of offering admonition and advice to the two Moscow churches and to all the churches of the CREC. As stated previously, the Committee has been "called upon to determine . . . whether there were errors, sins or any sort of malfeasance committed by either the Christ Church or Trinity Reformed Church leadership in their handling of the two cases." The Committee's report will "offer advice on any needed corrections as well as potential new policies, procedures or guidelines for future conduct. It is possible that part of the Committee's work will include bringing in outside and independent counsel to help with its efforts as well as provide training in dealing with matters of abuse that may arise within our churches in the future."

The future well-being of CREC member congregations, their ministerial staffs and the communities in which they serve is the highest priority as the Committee performs its work. The Committee will not be deterred in performing this vital ministry and is determined to conclude its work as quickly as is consistent with an honest and helpful final product. Thousands of pages of documents have already been accumulated and reviewed, and dozens of interviews have been conducted. This is painstaking labor, but the matter is a vitally important one and worthy of a careful review. Past and future victims of sexual abuse, their families and their friends deserve no less than the CREC's best efforts. The Committee asks for the prayers of God's people as it performs this critically important work.