

PRELIMINARY Augustine Presbytery Agenda 2011
October 3-7, 2010 in Minneapolis, MN
version date: September 5, 2011

Presbytery Documents (Reports, etc.) - [Available September 5, please print them out]

Costs and Giving

To give to the costs of hosting presbytery, funds should be directed to Providence Church, P.O. Box 3023 Lynchburg, Virginia 24503. I am not sure what the cost of Presbytery is at this point. PM Phelps has requested that each church pay \$360, If you have sent money to me for Presbytery costs, then you are already covered. We requested you send us \$300 per church to cover our Presbytery costs. If you have already paid, I will send your money to PM Phelps' Church.

Those already paid to our church for 2011 are:

- 1. CHRF, Yorktown*
- 2. Providence Church, Lynchburg*
- 3. All Saints, Lancaster*
- 4. Christ Church, Cary*
- 5. CRPC, Knoxville*
- 6. Tri-City, Somersworth*

I think that is all that have paid. Did I miss anybody?

To support the Presiding Minister (2011), funds should be directed to Providence Church, Lynchburg, Virginia. I have suggested \$40 per month per church for this support.

I have received this support from 6 of our churches for 2011, the same listed above. This is voluntary giving and should not put a hardship on any of our smaller churches. In fact, CHRF Yorktown sent extra funds to help some of our smaller churches. But please let me know if you have a financial hardship, so we can direct some funds your way for these meetings.

TRAVEL

The Minneapolis/Saint Paul airport (MSP) is roughly 35 minutes from the hotel, and so we encourage air travelers to either reserve a rental car or coordinate a ride with others who will be renting a car. Though our hotel is quite nice, it does not offer a shuttle service to the airport. Additionally, elders will need transportation for the short drive from the hotel to the locations in which their respective Presbytery will be meeting.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

We have reserved the [Cambria Suites](#) hotel in Maple Grove, MN ([click here for driving directions from MSP](#)). Hot breakfasts will be provided at the hotel for no additional cost. To book your room, please call Arnie Abens, an elder at Christ Church Twin Cities, at [612-281-1090](tel:612-281-1090). Arnie is taking reservations rather than the hotel as we have decided to roll

Presbytery/Council costs up into one low, LOW price! Though more can be explained on the phone, here's the brief breakdown on how hotel costs work:

1. One room all to yourself (or with your wife/children in the same room), \$100/night + tax
2. Share a two queen room with another non-family member, \$50/night per person + tax
3. Share a single king + comfortable pull out couch room with a non-family member, \$65/night & \$35/night per person respectively + tax

BRIEF SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- Monday, October 3 - Informal evening gathering at the Cambria, pipe and cigar smoking welcome on the patio.
- Tuesday, October 4 - Ordination Exams (8:00-9:30),

Steve Murphy, St. Peter Presbyterian Church, Bristol, Virginia

Tony Aguilar, The King's Chapel, Brooklyn, New York

- Tuesday Missions Conference (10:00 AM) / Evening Worship Service
- Wednesday, October 5 - Presbytery Meetings / Evening BBQ
- Thursday, October 6 - Council Meeting
- Friday, October 7 - Council Meeting (if necessary)

Agenda and Presentations (Contact Virgil Hurt, virgilhurt@gmail.com, 434-384-2765.)

**Augustine Presbytery, CREC
Oct. 5, 2011
Minneapolis, MN**

AGENDA

Monday, October 3, 2011

I. Informal Evening Gathering at the Cambria (Time TBD) –Pipe and cigar smoking welcome on the patio.

Tuesday, October 4, 2011

II. Ordination Exams (8:00am-9:30am)

- A. Tony Aguilar, The King's Chapel, Brooklyn, New York
- B. Steve Murphy, St. Peter Presbyterian Church, Bristol, Virginia

III. Missions Conference (10:00am)

IV. Worship Service in Evening (time and location TBD)

Wednesday, October 5, 2011- Augustine Presbytery Meeting, (8:30am)

V. Call to Order and Reports (8:30 a.m.)

A. Call the Meeting to Order

B. Calling of the Roll/Establishment of a Quorum

1. All Saints Presbyterian Church, Lancaster, PA, Gregg Strawbridge, Ty Fischer
2. Christ Church, Cary, NC, Gene Liechty, Tim McClelland
3. Christ Church of Morgantown, WV, Peter Jones, Woody Moss
4. Christ Covenant Church, Copiague, NY, Brian Penney
5. Christ Reformed Church, Albion, ME
6. Christ Reformed Evangelical Church, Annapolis, MD
7. Covenant Heritage Reformed Fellowship, Yorktown, VA, Steve Hemmeke
8. Covenant Reformed Presbyterian Church, Knoxville, TN, Mike Pasarilla, Randy Sadler.
9. Holy Trinity Reformed Church, Concord, NC, Brian Phillips
10. The King's Chapel, Brooklyn, NY, Troy Greene, Tony Aguilar
11. Providence Church, Lynchburg, VA, David Cooper
12. St. Peter Presbyterian Church, Bristol, VA, Laurence Windham, Steve Murphy
13. Tri-City Covenant Church, Sommersworth, NY, Tom Clark

VI. Welcome, Devotions and Church Reports

A. Greeting by Presiding Minister Rev. Virgil Hurt

B. Invocation – Rev. Tom Clark

C. Psalms - Rev. Brian Penney

D. Exhortation from the Presiding Minister - Rev. Virgil Hurt

E. *Gloria Patri*

F. Member Church Reports, Thanksgiving and Prayer

1. All Saints Presbyterian Church, Lancaster, PA, Gregg Strawbridge
2. Christ Church, Cary, NC, Gene Liechty
3. Christ Church of Morgantown, WV, Peter Jones
4. Christ Covenant Church, Copiague, NY, Brian Penney
5. Christ Reformed Church, Albion, ME
6. Christ Reformed Evangelical Church, Annapolis, MD
7. Covenant Heritage Reformed Fellowship, Yorktown, VA, Steve Hemmeke
8. Covenant Reformed Presbyterian Church, Knoxville, TN, Mike Pasarilla
9. Holy Trinity Reformed Church, Concord, NC, Brian Phillips
10. The King's Chapel, Brooklyn, NY, Tony Aguilar
11. Providence Church, Lynchburg, VA, David Cooper
*Christ Church, Strassburg, VA, Virgil Hurt
12. St. Peter Presbyterian Church, Bristol, VA, Laurence Windham
13. Tri-City Covenant Church, Sommersworth, NY, Tom Clark

VII. Recognition of Guests and Visiting Delegations

- A. Oakwood Bible Church, FORC, Troy, NY, Jason Biette

VIII. Churches Recommended for Membership, Sponsorship, or to Extend Sponsorship-

None this year.

IX. Mission Reports

- A. Rev. Pawel Bartosik, Gdansk, Poland
- B. Other Mission Reports

X. Reports from Ordination Examinations

- 1. Tony Aguilar
- 2. Steve Murphy

XI. Presiding Ministers and Committee Reports

- A. Pastoral Examination Committee for Rev. Mike Pasarilla given by Rev. Peter Jones. Vote for ratification.
- B. Pastoral Examination Committee for Rev. Troy Greene given by Rev. Peter Jones. Vote for ratification.
- C. Augustine Appeals Court, given by the Chairman of the Court, Mr. Ty Fischer. Vote for ratification.
- D. CREC Presiding Minister Phelps' Report- Read by Rev. Tom Clark. Vote for ratification.
- E. Augustine Presiding Minister's Report- given by Rev. Virgil Hurt. Vote for ratification.

XII. Old Business

- A. Motion 1 from Providence Church, Lynchburg VA, reading to present to Council.
- B. Motion 2 from Providence Church, Lynchburg, VA, reading to present to Council.
- C. Name Change Committee- Is this still a live issue for Council?
- D. Augustine Presbytery Family Camp July 7-10, 2011. Report from Rev. Gene Liechty.

XIII. New Business

A. Discussion led by All Saints on the following three issues arising from our presbytery trial: The Augustine Presbytery Court suggests to the Augustine Presbytery, and to the CREC (generally), that we should review Section IV, Part D of our Constitution and revise it in the follow manner:

1. We should make explicit that there are cases that involve questioning the decisions of a lower court. Presently, the language anticipates only cases that result from heinous sin on the part of an accused session.

2. We should also give clear standards of what is meant by "holding people accountable" if they lose their appeal—especially as this relates to churches outside our confederation.

3. (This item was not an express suggestion from the court but arose as we recruited men to serve on the court.) Who is responsible to cover the costs associated with a presbytery trial? If we should alter our BOP or Constitution to address this, where should it go and how should it read?

- B. Augustine Presbytery Family Camp 2012. Suggested dates? Location in Central Virginia? Other possible locations?
- C. Planning for an Informal Event for Presbytery (Spring 2012). Location? Dates?
- D. Consideration of Delegates for Council 2011 and 2014.

XIV. Council Agenda Discussion- Brief Discussion on Various Items for Council

I. Old Business

- a. Presiding Minister's Report
- b. Committee Reports
 - i. Committee on Missions – Chairman Stoos
 - ii. Committee on Military Chaplains – Chairman Brainerd
 - iii. Committee on Ordination Procedures – Chairman Tuuri
- c. Second Reading of Confessions for the Book of Confessions
 - i. Second Helvetic Confession (1566)
 - ii. 39 Articles of Christian Religion
<http://rechurch.org/recus/recus/39articles.html>

II. New Business

- a. Consideration of Motions and Overtures from Presbytery
 - i. Anselm
 - 1. Concerning ministerial lists
To insert a new paragraph 4 in Article XII of the CREC Book of Procedures as follows: *4. Upon receipt of a written request from the session of a CREC member church, the Minister shall add to the list of recognized ordained men a lawfully ordained minister who is a member of that local church, but who is not currently installed as an officer in that church. Such action by the Minister shall be subject to ratification at the next stated meeting of the presbytery.*
 - 2. Concerning Memorial “A”
To eliminate the Memorial on Incorporation from the Constitution of the CREC.
 - 3. Concerning minimum Presbytery size

To change the minimum required number of churches to form a presbytery from two to three.

Constitution Art. VI.A.1

4. Items arising from 2011 meeting

ii. Athanasius

1. Concerning the name of the CREC

That the name, Confederation of Reformed Evangelical Churches, be changed to Communion of Reformed Evangelical Churches.

2. Concerning Stated Meetings of Presbytery

To amend the first sentence of Article V.1 of the CREC Constitution to read: *The presbytery will have a at least one stated annual meeting.*

3. Request for discussion of the question: *Is it permissible (or wise) for CREC churches from one Presbytery to sponsor a church within the geographical confines of another Presbytery?*

4. Items arising from 2011 meeting

iii. Augustine

1. Concerning qualification of churches for full membership in the CREC

To amend the CREC Book of Procedures, Article IV.3.c.iii, as follows: *The mission church shall have at least ~~two~~ three member pastors/elders, not including pastors/elders of the mother church who have been assigned to serve pro tempore on the mission church's session.*

2. Concerning Ministers of Presbytery and Council

To amend the first sentence of Article IV.C.9.a) of the CREC Constitution as follows: *First, between meetings of the broader assembly, the minister ~~represents~~ is recognized as the embodiment of the broader assembly and acts by initiating and taking prudent steps in furtherance of an action, which he must report to the broader assembly for ratification.*

3. Concerning notification of Presiding Ministers
To insert a new Article IX into the CREC Book of Procedures, to read:

1. The session of elders of each church shall seek the counsel of the Minister of Presbytery under the following circumstances:

a. Before formally admonishing a minister or elder (formal admonishment consists of an act of the session, entered in the minutes and delivered to the minister or elder verbally or in writing).

b. Before dismissing a Pastor or elder or calling for his resignation.

c. Before excommunicating any member of the church.

d. If there is reason to believe that a crisis is developing in the church.

2. Ministers of Presbytery shall report to the Minister of Council the same information.

Renumber all following sections accordingly.

4. Items arising from 2011 meeting

iv. Calvin

1. Items arising from 2011 meeting

v. Knox

1. Items arising from 2011 meeting

vi. Tyndale

1. Concerning pastor compensation

To insert two new paragraphs into Article XI.1 of the CREC Book of Procedure, as follows:

e. ordination exam committees shall inquire of local elder boards (session, consistories) as to the adequacy of the teaching elder candidates' compensation package (salary, housing, insurance, etc.);

f. presbyteries shall regularly remind local churches of their duties to teaching elders in matters of compensation.

2. Items arising from 2011 meeting

vii. Wycliffe

1. Concerning a confidentiality statement

To insert in the CREC Book of Procedures at an appropriate place determined by the Minister of Council, the Confidentiality Statement attached to this agenda as Appendix A.

2. Items arising from 2011 meeting

- b. Proposals from Minister of Council
 - i. Regarding the list of recognized ordained ministers set forth in BOP Article XII – to be held by Minister of Council (presently ambiguous).
 - ii. Resolution of apparent conflict between Constitution Article VI.4.f and Book of Procedures Article V.4 regarding votes by the Minister.
 - iii. Regarding language in the forms of the Creeds found in Constitution, Article X.

III. Election of Presiding Minister for 2011-14

IV. Election of Presiding Minister *pro tempore* for 2011-14

XV. Reception and Dinner (time and location TBD)

Thursday, October 6, 2011

XVI. Council Meeting (8:30am)

Friday, October 7, 2011

XVII. Council Meeting (8:30am)

Supporting Documents

1. Motion from Name Change Committee

CREC Name Change Committee

Gregg Strawbridge, Steve Wilkins, Dennis Tuuri, Randy Booth, and Douglas Wilson (chair)

After much deliberation and discussion, our committee has resolved to present to our presbyteries the following proposal for a name change. We recommend changing our name from the Confederation of Reformed Evangelical Church (CREC) to the Evangelical Reformed Churches (ERC). The motion to recommend this change carried unanimously, with no dissenting votes. This was not because the committee was incapable of dissent, for many other proposals elicited robust discussion and strong responses, both for and against.

It is our understanding that this proposal may be voted on in the respective presbyteries, with a straight up and down vote. If five presbyteries approve it, then the name is formally changed. If the requisite number of presbyteries fail to approve this recommendation, then we will remain the CREC. If it is the will of the presbyteries to modify our proposal, or substitute another recommendation entirely, then that would have to wait until the Council of 2011.

We were charged with the task of investigating the possibility of a name change as a result of a request from one of our churches (dealing with the connotations of the word *confederation*). At the same time, we wanted a name that had some similarities and continuities with our current name in the belief that any proposal for a drastic name change would likely fail to gain the approval of the presbyteries.

We thank you for the opportunity to serve in this way, and await your decision.

Cordially in Christ,

Douglas Wilson

2. Motions and Rationale for Providence Church Motions

Motions from Providence Church, Lynchburg, Virginia

We offer two motions to change the Augustine Book of Procedures and to pass these changes on as motions to CREC Council in 2011 to change the CREC Book of Procedures.

Motion 1

Motion to change Article IX.3.c of BOP.

Article IX of the BOP is Mission Churches.

Section IX.3 currently reads:

3. Conditions for Particularization:

- a. The mission church shall have its own constitution and bylaws.
- b. The mission church shall have been formally constituted for not less than two years.
- c. The mission church shall have at least two member pastors/elders, not including pastors/elders of the mother church who have been assigned to serve *pro tempore* on the mission church's session.
- d. The mother church may require other conditions.
- e. The session of the mother church has formally acknowledged that conditions for particularization (a-d above) have been met.
- f. Presbytery acknowledges that conditions a-e above have been met, and does so by receiving the mission church into presbytery membership.

We are recommending the following for letter c.

Motion: Article IX.3.c. “The mission church shall have at least ~~two~~**three** member pastors/elders, not including pastors/elders of the mother church who have been assigned to serve pro tempore on the mission church’s session.”

Rationale for Motion 1

The CREC, having a Presbyterian form of government at the local level, requires rule by a plurality of elders. We have always considered two elders as meeting that requirement. However, there have been several instances in ours and other presbyteries where having just two elders created considerable trouble. When two elders are in stark disagreement with one another and they are the only two elders on the session, there is much more potential for some sort of split in the church. It is hoped that a third elder on the session would alleviate some of this trouble. At the very least, if one of three elders resigns or leaves a church, it is not nearly as damaging as having one of two founding elders leave a church.

Also, CREC practice in the past has been for an elder pro-tempore from another church or from a mother church, to be counted in the plurality of elders. Although it may be wise to have an elder from a more mature church serve on a session, we do not think this is a healthy situation or an adequate solution for the requirement of a plurality of elders. It is any local church’s prerogative to maintain elders pro tempore but this should not qualify them as having adequate leadership in their local church.

Motion 2

Article XII of the Augustine BOP currently reads: “The Presbytery recognizes its moderator as the embodiment of Presbytery when it is not in session. However, at each assembly, the moderator must report his actions for ratification by the Presbytery.”

Although this Article is part of the *Augustine* BOP, it has not yet been added to the *CREC* Book of Procedures. Augustine Presbytery will make a motion in 2011 for this to occur. Furthermore, we have the latitude to change the word Moderator to Minister as this change has already been approved by the Council in 2008.

Our motion is to add the following to Article XII.

Motion: Article XII. “The Presbytery recognizes its ~~moderator~~ **minister** as the embodiment of Presbytery when it is not in session. However, at each assembly, the ~~moderator~~ **minister** must report his actions for ratification by the Presbytery.” (note: *moderator* has been changed to *minister* to conform to the name of change of that office at the 2008 Council meeting. We do not need to vote on this conforming update.)

And all of the following is new information.

- 1. The session of elders of each church shall seek the counsel of the Minister of Presbytery under the following circumstances:**
 - a. Before formally admonishing a minister or elder. (formal admonishment consists of an act of the session, entered in the minutes and delivered to the minister or elder verbally or in writing.)**
 - b. Before dismissing a Pastor or elder or calling for their resignation.**
 - c. Before excommunicating any member of the church.**
 - d. If there is reason to believe that a crisis is developing in the church.**
- 2. Ministers of Presbytery shall report to the Minister of Council the same information.**

Rationale for Motion 2

We are a confederation of churches and call upon one another in the broader church to help us minister within our local churches. Although there is protection from making unwise decisions in a local session of elders, the particular blind spots of operating as a local church apart from the broader church, still remain.

It is our contention that early involvement of a Minister of Presbytery or Council in the situations outlined above will go a long way to prevent tumultuous discords within our churches. The Ministers are the embodiment of Presbytery in between meetings. It is our hope that their involvement in seeking peace in the churches would be a great benefit to the local churches.

The actions of Ministers do not become the permanent actions of Presbytery until the Ministers report on the actions and have them approved by the Presbyteries. Thus, there is no fear that the Ministers of Presbytery or Council can act beyond their constitutional authority beyond one year at the most, as Ministers must report their actions annually to have them either approved or disapproved. A concern that some elected minister might act over and above his authority should not keep us from using our ministers now to help keep peace in our churches. A failure to do so will cause our churches to continue to act, for all practical purposes, as independent churches.

3. Presiding Minister's Report, Pastor Virgil Hurt- Handout