

Augustine Presbytery, CREC
Agenda 2014
October 7, 2014 in Lake Tahoe, NV

Presiding Minister, Steve Hemmeke - hemmest@gmail.com, 757-810-3850
Presiding Minister, Pro Tempore Gregg Strawbridge - gs175@mac.com, 717-682-7052

I. Call to Order (8:30)

A. Call the Meeting to Order

B. Calling of the Roll/Establishment of a Quorum

1. All Saints Church, Lancaster, PA, Gregg Strawbridge, George Kong
Covenant Family Fellowship, Shippensburg, PA – Candidate church
Ray Barbeito, Myron Stoltzfus
2. Christ Church, Cary, NC
3. Christ Church of Morgantown, WV, Peter Jones, Alvin Moss
4. Christ Covenant Church, Copiague, NY, Tony Aguilar
5. Christ Presbyterian Church, Knoxville, TN, Mike Pasarilla?
6. Oakwood Bible Church, Troy, NY, Jim DuJack?
7. Christ Reformed Evangelical Church, Annapolis MD, CJ Bowen, Terry Brennan
8. Covenant Heritage Reformed Church, Newport News, VA
Steve Hemmeke (PM), Conrad Doskey (2 votes)
9. Holy Trinity Reformed Church, Concord, NC
10. Providence Church, Lynchburg, VA, Virgil Hurt, David Cooper
11. St Peter Presbyterian Church, Bristol, VA, Laurence Windham?, Wayne Hays?
12. The King's Chapel, Brooklyn, NY, Troy Greene
13. Tri-City Covenant Church, Somersworth, NY, Paul Edgar

C. Recognition of Guests and Visiting Delegations

II. Welcome, Devotions and Church Reports (8:45-11:00)

A. Greeting and opening devotion by Presiding Minister Steve Hemmeke

B. Invocation – Rev. Paul Edgar

C. Psalm singing - Rev. Steve Hemmeke

D. Member Church Reports: presentation, questions and prayer

Use roll call list above. Approximately 5 minutes per church

III. Church recommended for full membership into CREC (11:00)

A. Covenant Family Fellowship, Shippensburg, PA.

Sponsor: All Saints, Lancaster, PA, Pastor Gregg Strawbridge.

Became candidate church Sept 2013

Lunch - hour and a half

IV. Reports

- A. CREC Council Presiding Minister Jack Phelps' Report - Read by Rev. CJ Bowen.
Vote for ratification, if needed
- B. Augustine Presbytery Presiding Minister's Report- given by Rev. Steve Hemmeke.
Vote for ratification
- C. Church planting network – Virgil Hurt
- D. Presbytery Spring Retreat 2015 – Gregg Strawbridge and Steve Hemmeke
- E. Augustine Presbytery Family Camp Summer 2015 - David Cooper

VI. Old Business – none

VII. New Business

- A. Review of ordained minister list (see article 12 of the CREC BOP).
Italics = without call
Are there any oversights or corrections, according to the conditions in BOP 12?

Tony Aguilar	Jim DuJack	<i>Glen Knecht</i>
<i>Jay Barfield</i>	Duane Garner	Steve Murphy
<i>Jason Biette</i>	Troy Greene	Michael Pasarilla
CJ Bowen	Wayne Hays	Brian Penney
Tom Clark	Steve Hemmeke	Brian Phillips
<i>Mark Dewey</i>	Virgil Hurt	Gregg Strawbridge
	Peter Jones	Laurence Windham

- B. Motion (Strawbridge): The 2014 Council of the CREC appoint a **Missions Recommendation Commission (MRC)** consisting of one member from each Presbytery. This is a commission and therefore will act with the authority of Council, without the need of awaiting another Council to approve its recommendations.

Rationale: One of the CREC's great challenges in missions engagement is the lack of a united channeling of resources, including the assessment of mission agencies and/or missionaries. It is difficult for a congregation to do all the work of a mission agency. While most denominations accomplish this through centralized agencies and committees, our polity does not permit this (IV.A.4). However, our polity recognizes the value of the broader Church in Presbyteries and in Council which serves "to formulate plans of action concerning matters common to the churches" (IV.A.2.e). Missions rightfully should be a labor of congregations, yet some aspects of missions need the wisdom of the broader Church bodies, analogous to the way that congregations need the leadership of Presbyteries in helping assess men for the pastoral office, as well as to serve in oversight.

Tasks: This commission is to address the following tasks: 1) Create a set of guidelines or principles whereby to recognize CREC Council-approved missions endeavors by May 1, 2015. Note: this is not to prohibit local congregations from other efforts; this would merely provide a basis for recommendations to Presbyteries and congregations. 2) Review the missions efforts across the CREC and other opportunities that meet CREC Council-approved criteria (i.e., as in point 1). 3) Provide recommendations to the 2015-2017 Presbyteries of CREC-recommended mission opportunities and suggested goals of engagement for the various Presbyteries through the churches of each Presbytery. 4) Report on the Commissions work to 2017 Council along with recommendations to the Council to continue to further missions in the CREC.

- C. Motion (Greene): To provide the Presiding Minister (PM) with an annual stipend of money up to a total of \$10,000 annually, beginning with the election of a new Presiding Minister in 2015, from voluntary contributions of \$1,000 from each church per year.

Rationale: The purpose of this stipend is to adequately compensate the PM for his work and to ensure that the position is sought after by tenured and seasoned ministers of the Presbytery.

Over the recent years, the current role of the PM is something not desired by many of the tenured pastors because the labors are added, but with little regard or reward for the efforts entailed. If this attitude were to continue, the PM could be subject to being “passed around” to each and every member of presbytery (regardless of gifts) and subject to being misused and lead to harm of local churches because the men who would fill the position (at various times) would not be adequately qualified. It is my hope that the compensation mentioned above would ensure that the position is filled with well-respected, seasoned, and tenured ministers who have proven themselves to the Presbytery over years of service and would adequately be respected by the Presbytery for their counsel. It is my desire that the role of PM would be a position that would only change between a few men--alternating and mastering the role so that when counsel is given from this position of authority it is respected and given its proper due. Of course, the position is always up for the general election for all to vote according to their conscience, but with the adequate compensation, tenured men would likely not mind the additional work and would likely concede to being elected to the position and serve it honorably. I am aware that not every church will have the financial capability to give \$83.33/month (or \$1,000 per year). The contribution is voluntary. However, I am asking each church to consider giving something (if possible) to the Presbytery for this purpose. As the presbytery grows, the amount of money given for this purpose will likely exceed the \$10,000 maximum. However, the added funds can be used for other purposes at the PM’s discretion, but not for his own benefit.

D. Council business to deliberate on?

Forthcoming...

E. Other business

F. Good of the order (procedural clean-up, recognitions, thanks, prayer requests)

VIII. Conclusion of Meeting, motion to adjourn, closing prayer by PM Steve Hemmeke