

**Moderator**

Patch Blakey, *Community Evangelical Fellowship*, Moscow, Idaho.

**Voting representatives**

Douglas Wilson, *Community Evangelical Fellowship*, Moscow, Idaho.  
Brett Baker, *Eastside Evangelical Fellowship*, Bellevue, Washington.  
Steve Schaefer, *Eastside Evangelical Fellowship*, Bellevue, Washington.  
Gene Helsel, *Wenatchee Evangelical Fellowship*, Wenatchee, Washington.

**Admitted into membership**

Randy Booth, *Grace Covenant Church*, Texarkana, Arkansas.

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**Invocation and Psalm Singing**

Brett Baker opened the meeting in prayer. Psalm 137 was sung.

**Exhortation from the Scriptures**

Douglas Wilson taught from 1 Timothy 3:1-7.

**Introductions**

Patch Blakey introduced the voting representatives. He then asked those assembled to introduce themselves and the churches they represented.

**CRE Presbytery:**

Community Evangelical Fellowship, Moscow, ID  
Eastside Evangelical Fellowship, Bellevue, WA  
Wenatchee Evangelical Fellowship, Wenatchee, WA

**Other:**

CA	Abounding Grace Church, Visalia,	Covenant Community, Whitehall, MT
	Beal Heights Presbyterian	Covenant Gospel Church, Red Deer,
	Church, Lawton, OK	AB Canada
	Bible Fellowship Church,	Covenant Presbyterian Church,
	Cherokee Village, AR	Morehead City, NC
	Christ Presbyterian Church,	Emmanuel Christian Fellowship,
	Elkton, MD	Phoenix, AZ
	Christ the Sovereign Covenant	Evangelical Free Church, Caro, MI
	Church, Auburn, WA	Evangelical Reformed Church,
		Tacoma, WA

Grace Bible Church, La Grande,  
OR  
Grace Covenant Church,  
Texarkana, AR  
Grace Evangelical Church,  
Redondo Beach, CA  
Honolulu Bible Church, Honolulu,  
HI  
Ladd Hill Bible Church,  
Wilsonville, OR  
Lakeside Church, Milwaukee, WI  
Orthodox Reformed Church,  
Edmonton, AB Canada  
Sheridan Fellowship Church, Sheridan,  
IN  
Reformed Church Potchefstroom North,  
Noordbrug, RSA  
Reformed Evangelical Church, Helena,  
MT  
Reformed Evangelical Church,  
Annapolis, MD  
Reformation Covenant Church, Canby,  
OR  
Shiloh Community Church, Moorpark,  
CA  
Tree of Life Church, Bothell, WA  
Tyrone Covenant Presbyterian Church,  
Howell, MI

### **Seating/Extending the Status of Fraternal Delegations**

Motion (BB/GH) to seat Evangelical Reformed Church of Tacoma, Washington. Passed 5-0.

Motion (DW/BB) to extend the fraternal status of Reformed Evangelical Church of Helena, Montana one year. Passed 5-0.

Motion (DW/SS) to seat Lakeside Church of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Passed 5-0.

Motion (DW/BB) to seat Shiloh Community Church of Moorpark, California. Passed 5-0.

Motion (DW/GH) to seat Grace Evangelical Church of Redondo Beach, California. Passed 5-0.

Motion (GH/DW) to seat Abounding Grace Church of Visalia, California. Passed 5-0.

Motion (DW/BB) to seat Ladd Hill Bible Church of Wilsonville, Oregon. Passed 5-0.

Motion (DW/BB) to seat Bible Fellowship of Cherokee Village, Arkansas. Passed 5-0.

Motion (DW/GH) to seat Beale Heights Presbyterian Church of Lawton, Oklahoma. Passed 5-0.

Motion (BB/GH) to extend the fraternal status of Christ the Sovereign Covenant Church of Auburn, Washington. Passed 5-0.

Motion (DW/BB) to extend the fraternal status of Christ Presbyterian Church of Elkton, Maryland. Passed 5-0.

Motion (DW/GH) to seat Reformed Evangelical Church of Annapolis, MD. Passed 5-0.

### **Seating of Visiting Delegations**

All other churches represented were seated as visiting delegations.

### **Seating of New Members**

Motion (DW/GH) to receive Grace Covenant Church of Texarkana, Arkansas into membership in the CRE. Doug mentioned that a question had been raised concerning the fact that Randy Booth carries Greg Bahnsen's work at Covenant Media Foundation. He answered this concern. Questions about the state of the church, the elders, deacons and their families were discussed. Motion passed 5-0. Randy was welcomed and seated up front as a voting member.

Motion (DW/BB) to extend the fraternal status of Reformation Covenant Church of Canby, Oregon. Doug described that a concern about RCC had been raised by Westminster Presbyterian Church of at last year's CRE Presbytery meeting. The concern centered around the ordination of RCC's pastor, Dennis Tuuri. Doug mentioned many recommendations from pastors of other churches testifying to Dennis Tuuri's godly character. He believes that reconciliation between RCC and WPC is unlikely apart from RCC becoming part of a larger body like the CRE. Doug made it clear that this motion to extend RCC's fraternal status should not be misconstrued to reflect negatively on RCC. The CRE is not finding fault, but simply needs more time to decide how to proceed. We wish to treat RCC as a church body unto themselves, independently from WPC. Richard

Mahar, an elder at RCC, read a statement (see attachment A) which could be summarized as follows: RCC has sought reconciliation in the past with WPC, but WPC has refused further discussions until RCC has become accountable to another ecclesiastical authority. Yet WPC has, in effect, told the CRE not to allow RCC to become accountable to them. This puts RCC in a dilemma. Also, WPC has charged Dennis Tuuri with “abuse of the flock” because of certain actions which he took as a minister, actions which would be correct if WPC would recognize his ordination, which they do not. RCC believes the characterization of Dennis Tuuri is inaccurate, and welcomes the opportunity to be subject to a court outside RCC and WPC. They are concerned that, if the CRE postpones their entrance, the stigma of being denied entrance to the CRE will be added to the accusation that they are not accountable, giving their detractors additional opportunity to continue the accusations. He concluded with an appeal to the CRE to vote in favor of their entrance.

Doug defended Dennis Tuuri’s ordination as being valid, albeit irregular. The delay of one year has nothing to do with Dennis’s ordination. The CRE is not by its actions giving any credence to the ordination charge or any credibility to any other charge against RCC. Doug recognized that there are no formal, judicial charges against RCC. He noted that no such charge could be brought to the CRE unless it was made against the entire session. After a request for further input, the motion passed 6-0.

## **New Business**

Motion (BB/GH) to not allow the extending of fraternal status beyond the third presbytery meeting from which a church was first seated – that is, two years after their first seating as a fraternal delegation. The motion was ammended (BB/GH) to allow for a two-thirds vote to override and extend the status beyond two years. Passed 6-0. This ammendment should be inserted between sections M and N of article III of the CRE constitution. [I suggest that it rather be inserted either after section N, or between sections U and V–JN].

Doug introduced his suggestions for ordination examination study questions (see attachment B). These were reviewed with comments and questions, first from the presbytery, then from the floor. Gene suggested adding a question about the candidate’s relationship with his parents, particularly his father. The suggestion was made that questions about Bible content – that is, proficiency in English Bible – should be included. Gene encouraged the presbytery to draw the line biblically. Several men offered to send existing presbyterian ordination examination questions. Brett asked about some of the “leading questions,” especially questions about doctrines which differ among the statements of faith of various CRE congregations, such as baptism and the Sabbath. Other suggested questions were: “What happens when you die?” “Are women qualified to hold the office of deacon?” “Explain the importance of the laying on of hands.” Questions about prayer and devotional life should be included under the Personal section, along with questions about Christian liberty. Doug suggested adding a preamble to the questions, which would include the following statement: “The candidate should be prepared to answer any of the following questions and defend his answers from scripture.” The suggestion was made to include questions about the constitution of the CRE, and whether the candidate

believes they are in conformity with the scriptures. A suggestion was made to separate questions about the sacraments into their own section. The question was raised whether these decisions about ordination apply only to this presbytery. The members agreed that some standard questions which apply to all presbyteries should be established. Doug emphasized that questions could extend into areas beyond the stated questions. Motion (DW/RB) to adopt these ordination questions, as amended, to be used as guidelines for presbyterial examination. Passed 6-0.

Ordination examination procedures were discussed. Doug asked how long a good presbyterial examination takes. Visitors described the presbyterial exams of the PCA. They are extensive. Much discussion followed about methods and duration of examinations. Doug was about to volunteer to write the exam for the CRE when the motion was made (GH/RB) that Doug prepare the written exam to be sent to presbytery for consensus approval by February 1, 1999 and for the churches to respond by March 31, 1999. Passed 6-0. Doug asked for suggestions about the examination. Written papers, written exam questions, video/audio tapes and/or transcripts of sermons preached could all be part of the exam to be considered before the presbytery meeting. It was suggested that a written paper of 2000-6000 words be included. Motion (RB/BB) that the written exams and recordings of sermons be presented to the presbytery members no later than 90 days prior to the presbytery meeting. Passed 6-0. A question was asked about the standard for passing the exam. It was agreed that the decision to pass or fail the exam rests with the men doing the examining. Motion (RB/BB) for presbytery to vote on each section of the examination to sustain or not sustain, and then to give a final vote to recommend or not recommend to the session, with written comments. Passed 6-0. Motion (DW/SS) that the results of the candidate's exam be evaluated in executive session. Passed 6-0.

### **Closing Song and Prayer**

Psalm 47A was sung. Gene Helsel closed the meeting in prayer.

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Respectfully submitted by  
Jim Nance