

**Fifth Annual CRE Presbytery Minutes  
Bellevue, WA - 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM, October 19, 2001**

**Moderator**

Brett Baker, Eastside Evangelical Fellowship, Bellevue, WA.

**Voting representatives**

Greg Bero, Grace Evangelical Church (1999) - Redondo Beach, CA  
Ron Coverdale, Christ Covenant Church (2000) - Lynnwood, WA  
Jon DeJong, Trinity Church (1997) - Wenatchee, WA  
Ken Ewert, Langley Reformed Evangelical Church (2000) - Langley, BC  
Dave Hatcher, Eastside Evangelical Fellowship (1997) - Kirkland, WA  
Gene Hesel, Trinity Church (1997) - Wenatchee, WA  
Duane Hodges, Christ Covenant Church (2000) - Lynnwood, WA  
Richard Klaus, Emmanuel Covenant Church (2000) - Phoenix, AZ  
Jeff Niell, Emmanuel Covenant Church (2000) - Phoenix, AZ  
Bob Osinga, Cornerstone Reformed Church (2000) - Carbondale, IL  
Steve Ramsey, Grace Covenant Church (1998) - Texarkana, AR  
Eric Sauder, Christ Reformed Evangelical Church (2000)-Glen Burnie, MD  
Chris Schlect, Christ Church (1997) -Moscow, ID  
Burke Shade, Cornerstone Reformed Church (2000) - Carbondale, IL  
Dennis Tuuri, Reformation Covenant Church (1999)- Oregon City, OR  
Garry Vanderveen, Langley Reformed Evangelical Church (2000) - Langley, BC  
Chris Wilson, Reformation Covenant Church (1999)- Oregon City, OR  
Doug Wilson, Christ Church (1997) -Moscow, ID

**I. Invocation - Brett Baker, Moderator (Eastside Evangelical Fellowship)**

Brett Baker greeted those assembled. Brett Baker opened the meeting in prayer.

**II. Psalm Singing: 22H, 22I, 137**

Dave Hatcher led the assembly in singing Psalms (22H, 22I, 137).

**III. Exhortation from the Scriptures – David Hatcher (Eastside Evangelical Fellowship)**

Dave Hatcher taught on preachers and the pulpit from 1 Corinthians.

**IV. Introduction of Visitors**

Rick Young  
Ben Taverne  
Mike Harding  
Doug Hayes  
Monty Harmon  
Scott Snyder  
Mr. Poindexter  
Mark Filicetti  
Roy Atwood

**V. Roll call and establishment of a quorum**

Christ Church (1997)(Formerly Community Evangelical Fellowship) -Moscow, ID  
Doug Wilson  
Chris Schlect  
Christ Covenant Church (2000) - Lynnwood, WA  
Ron Coverdale  
Duane Hodges  
Christ Reformed Evangelical Church (2000)-Glen Burnie, MD  
Eric Sauder  
Cornerstone Reformed Church (2000) - Carbondale, IL

Burke Shade  
 Bob Osinga  
 Eastside Evangelical Fellowship (1997) - Kirkland, WA  
 Dave Hatcher  
 Emmanuel Covenant Church (2000) - Phoenix, AZ  
 Jeff Niell  
 Richard Klaus  
 Grace Covenant Church (1998) - Texarkana, AR  
 Steve Ramsey  
 Grace Evangelical Church (1999) - Redondo Beach, CA  
 Greg Bero  
 Langley Reformed Evangelical Church (2000) - Langley, BC  
 Garry Vanderveen  
 Ken Ewert  
 Reformation Covenant Church (1999)- Oregon City, OR  
 Dennis Tuuri  
 Chris Wilson  
 Trinity Church (1997) (Formerly Wenatchee Evangelical Fellowship) - Wenatchee, WA  
 Gene Helsel  
 Jon DeJong

## **VI. Member Reports: (3-5 minutes each)**

### **Christ Church (1997)(Formerly Community Evangelical Fellowship) -Moscow, ID**

- Changes to Credenda/Agenda (A ministry of Christ Church).
- Canon Press continues to prosper.
- New St. Andrews College moved from a subordinate ministry (daughter ministry) of Christ Church to a peer ministry (sister ministry).
- A shift in communion from monthly, to weekly has been a great blessing to the congregation.
- Duck Schuler's music ministry is a great blessing.
- The structure of the liturgy being made explicit and the blessing of this on the congregation.

### **Christ Covenant Church (2000) - Lynnwood, WA**

- Four elders oversee a small body of 50-60 members. They share the teaching responsibilities and are praying for direction on consolidating this.
- Boy's home orphanage in Tijuana, MX.
- Full time ministry in Tajikistan. She is seeing fruit and wants to stay.

### **Christ Reformed Evangelical Church (2000)-Glen Burnie, MD**

- Only one elder, but three men have been nominated for the office. No deacon nomination.
- Meeting location is causing some issues with ministry expansion. They are currently meeting at an Episcopal church at 3:00pm on the Lord's Day. They're praying for a better facility.
- Weekly instruction to Men about the calling of offices.

### **Cornerstone Reformed Church (2000) - Carbondale, IL**

- Church is about three years old, and has bought a building. They are operating in the black.
- Reaching out to the local community via various means. Seeing good success from these efforts.

### **Eastside Evangelical Fellowship (1997) - Kirkland, WA**

- The last year has been a great blessing with some interesting growth. There have been some broad challenges in the sprawl of our congregation (they are not all in a local city).
- Emphasis on family instruction to the congregation.

**Emmanuel Covenant Church (2000) - Phoenix, AZ**

**Grace Covenant Church (1998) - Texarkana, AR**

**Grace Evangelical Church (1999) - Redondo Beach, CA**

**Langley Reformed Evangelical Church (2000) - Langley, BC**

**Reformation Covenant Church (1999)- Oregon City, OR**

**Trinity Church (1997) (Formerly Wenatchee Evangelical Fellowship) - Wenatchee, WA**

Motion (Ramsey/Shade) – Take a ten-minute break. Motion passed unanimously.

Brett Baker called the meeting back to order.

## **VII. Consideration of Fraternal Delegates (Recommend/Extend/Withdraw)**

### **Christ Church, Moscow, ID.**

Motion (Wilson/Bero) To withdraw the following churches from Fraternal Status: Beal Heights PCA, Lakeside Church, St. Peter's Presbyterian Church. Beal Heights is no longer a church. Lakeside is waiting for information about PCA. St. Peter's Presbyterian Church is simply not rushing to join. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion (Wilson/Hatcher) To extend the fraternal status of All Saints Presbyterian for another year. The church is thriving and doing well. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion (Wilson/Niell) To extend the fraternal status of Blue Ridge Reformed Church (renamed to Providence Church) for another year. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion (Wilson/Hatcher) To transfer the fraternal oversight of Emmanuel Presbyterian from Christ Church to Trinity Church. Trinity Church states this amenable to them. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion (Wilson/Ewert) To receive Christ Church Spokane as a full member of the CRE. Joost Nixon is the pastor of Christ Church Spokane, with Doug Wilson and Patch Blakey (Christ Church Moscow) joining him in pastoral oversight. Once more elders are ordained at Christ Church Spokane the oversight from Christ Church Moscow will cease. Doug Wilson testified to the faithfulness of Joost Nixon and his family. He also spoke highly of Joost's teaching ability. Dave Hatcher asked about Joost's reputation outside of the CRE. Doug explained that Joost has gone the extra mile many times to ensure the relationships of his prior church are in good order. Christ Church Spokane will come under the original Westminster Confession. The church has been in existence for two years. Motion passed unanimously. Brett Baker welcomed Joost to the table.

Motion (Helsel/Sauder). To receive Christ Church Spokane exception(s) to the Westminster Confession. Joost Nixon passed out a copy of the exceptions to the member churches (A copy follows).

Motion passed unanimously.

### **Grace Covenant Church (Texarkana, AR)**

Motion (Ramsey/Schlect) To withdraw Covenant Presbyterian from fraternal status. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion (Ramsey/Wilson) To extend the fraternal status of Grace Covenant Church (Nacogdoches, TX). Motion passed unanimously.

Motion (Ramsey/Coverdale) To extend the fraternal status of Tanglewood Baptist Church.  
Motion passed unanimously.

#### **Langley Reformed Church**

Motion (Vanderveen/Wilson) To receive Grace Covenant Church (Sechelt, BC) as a full member of the CRE. Kenton Spratt is the Pastor of Grace Covenant Church (Sechelt, BC). It is a 16-year-old church. It was a mission church by the PCA many years ago. Doug Wilson asked whether there are outstanding issues regarding the PCA. Garry Vanderveen responded that there are some issues but Grace Covenant has worked hard to ensure these are addressed. There are currently two elders, and they are coming under the Reformed Evangelical Confession. Chris Schlect asked if it would be appropriate to table the vote until after the pending ordination exam. Garry stated that Kenton has not been ordained, but is functioning as pastor. Several families have requested he be examined, and he has agreed. Gene Helsel asked a question from section 2K (enough members to support the pastor being called (whether full time or part time). Motion passed unanimously. Brett welcomed Kenton and Nicol to the table.

#### **Reformation Covenant Church**

Motion (Tuuri/Shade) To withdraw fraternal delegate status of Reformation Bible Church.  
Motion passed unanimously.

Motion (Tuuri/Sauder) To receive Canyon Covenant Church as a full member of the CRE. Jeff Harlow is the pastor and read a statement to the presbytery:

Dave Hatcher asked the question about faithfulness of the other elders. Dennis stated that all of them are faithful (Jeff's father is one of the elders). The demographics of the church have changed in the last year, such that the church is able to consistently meet its obligations. The church is mostly made up of retirees from Crooked River Ranch. Motion passed unanimously. Brett welcomed Jeff and Tom.

#### **Trinity Church**

Motion (Helsel/Wilson) To extend the fraternal status of Emmanuel Presbyterian for another year. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **Brett administered the vows to the new member churches:**

Christ Church, Spokane, WA.  
Grace Covenant Church, Sechelt, BC.  
Canyon Covenant Church, Crooked River Ranch, OR.

### **VIII. Seating of Visiting Delegations**

#### **Christ the King Presbyterian Church, Eugene, OR.**

Scott Snider  
Kevin Gowen

### **IX. Seating of New Fraternal Delegations**

Motion (Tuuri/Bero) To receive Trinity Reformation Church, Salem, OR (Steve Walker, Marty Allen) as a fraternal delegate sponsored by Reformation Covenant Church. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion (Wilson/Shade) To receive Church of the King, Santa Cruz, CA as a fraternal delegate. Sponsored by Christ Church, Moscow, ID. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion (Schlect/Bero) To adjourn for lunch until 1:00pm. Motion passed unanimously.

Brett Baker called the meeting back to order.

## **X. Old Business**

### **A. Update on CRE involvement with the Illiana Presbytery (Christ Church, Moscow, ID).**

Chris Schlect – Summary of last year – At last years' Presbytery meeting, Cornerstone Reformed Church, where Burke Shade pastors, was admitted to the CRE. The issue is that Burke had been disciplined and defrocked by the Illiana Presbytery. Christ Church (The Session, not CRE) sent a letter to the Illiana Presbytery stating why their decision was action was problematic. The Illiana Presbytery then responded to Christ Church, which prompted a response from Christ Church (to be included at CRE office).

Chris then invited Burke to comment. He stated that at the April meeting of the Illiana Presbytery they declined to respond to Christ Church's latest letter, which closes the matter from the Illiana Presbytery's perspective.

Motion (Hatcher/Tuuri) To receive the text of the letter from Christ Church, Moscow, ID to the Illiana Presbytery. This action simply acknowledges the letter having been read at the CRE Presbytery meeting. Discussion ensued as to whether receipt of the letter is sufficient or if the CRE needs to add an amen to Christ Church's action.

The motion was amended (Hatcher/Tuuri) to also include the letter from the Illiana Presbytery to Christ Church. Motion failed.

The motion was amended (Hatcher/Tuuri) to receive the initial findings report, pages 1-10, (previously accepted in the 2000 CRE minutes) and the response from the Illiana Presbytery and the Christ Church response to the Illiana Presbytery response.

Motion passed unanimously.

### **B. Discussion on plurality of presbyteries tabled from last meeting. (Eastside Evangelical Fellowship, Kirkland, WA).**

Motion (Hatcher/Helsel) To extend the moratorium on having a plurality of presbyteries through the scheduled presbytery meeting 2002. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion (Schlect/Ramsey) Presbytery to select a sub-committee to propose constitutional language for the formation of a plurality of presbyteries. Motion passed unanimously.

Nominations for this sub-committee are:

Eastside Evangelical Fellowship, Kirkland, WA.  
Trinity Church, Wenatchee, WA.  
Christ Church, Moscow, ID.

Subcommittee was formed by unanimously approved.

## **XI. New Business**

### **A. Consideration of Proposed Procedures & Constitutional Revisions – Submitted by Eastside Evangelical Fellowship (Kirkland, WA)**

Motion (Hatcher/Schlect) To receive the procedures for CRE ordination exam included in section XI.A.1. There are three components to the motion. The conversation then turned to fine-tuning the text of the procedures. Motion passed unanimously.

- 1) Approval of procedures for presbyterial ordination exams. These procedures are not be submitted for inclusion in the Constitution but rather to be in a separate document of Procedures of Presbytery.

## Proposed Procedures for CRE Ordination Exam

### **Ordination Examination Statement of Purpose**

The pattern established in the scriptures (2Tim. 2:1-2) is that Timothy was to commit the things that he had learned to those faithful men who would be able to teach others. Having established elders in every city, it further was the pattern that this process of succession was perpetuated by those already established in the office. This task clearly requires that a determination be made as to whether a man is characterized by a faithful life and whether he is skilled in teaching others.

Our purposes are therefore twofold, first we must examine a Teaching Elder candidate's manner of life and doctrine and secondly his ability to teach scripturally. We believe that it is the local session that primarily carries the burden of this critical determination.

As a Presbytery, our purpose is to provide assistance to the local session in this examination, while recognizing the limitations of a presbytery to review a pastoral candidate. First, it is the session that is preeminently qualified to examine a candidate's manner of faithful life and ability to teach. Secondly, it is prudent for the session to seek the accountability of the broader church as a protection to the flock, and it is a good testimony when they do so. Thirdly, the broader church, as represented by the Presbytery, is generally better able to examine a candidate's doctrinal preparedness, ability to use the original languages, and his exegetical abilities, and knowledge of English bible.

Ultimately, the session is charged with faithfully considering the wisdom of the broader church and is responsible before God for the ordination of a candidate.

### **CRE Written Exam Procedures**

1. A written biographical background of the candidate will be sent to the Evaluation Committee.
2. The candidate will provide a 3000 – 5000 word exegesis of a passage, assigned by the moderator. This will be provided to the candidate one month prior to his written examination.
3. The written exam is to be administered by the local session and the results sent to each member of the Evaluation Committee two weeks prior to Presbytery.
4. The written exam is to be administered as an open Bible (not a study Bible) exam. The candidate is also permitted the use of one Hebrew and one Greek lexicon. The duration of the examination will be five hours not including a fifteen-minute break at the end of the second and fourth hours.
5. The local session may add questions to the written exam but may not remove any of the standard, approved questions.
6. The written exam will consist of four questions:
  - a. Write a brief historical and theological summary of 33 books of the bible (to be selected by the moderator).
  - b. Translate a passage from the Hebrew Old Testament (to be selected by the Moderator)
  - c. Translate a passage from the Greek New Testament (to be selected by the Moderator)
7. The results of the written examination are to be distributed to each member of the Evaluation Committee at least two weeks prior to any oral examination. Thus giving the Evaluator ample time to consider the written responses.

### **CRE Oral Exam Procedures**

1. A tape of one sermon is to be sent to each member of the Evaluation Committee, by the moderator, one month prior to Presbytery. This would be in lieu of preaching on the floor of the Presbytery.
2. The oral exam would take place as an agenda item during the annual presbytery meeting and be open to all in attendance (visiting and fraternal delegations).
3. The oral exam itself would have a set, published beginning and end (facilitated by the Moderator)
4. The oral exam would be recorded as part of the minutes of the presbytery meeting.
5. The oral exam board would operate as a sub-committee of the presbytery (called the Evaluation Committee).
6. The Moderator would be assigned the responsibility of selecting 5 members from the Presbytery to sit on the Evaluation Committee at least one month prior to the Presbytery meeting. Each member would be from a separate session. The session putting forth the Teaching Elder candidate would be allowed only one seat on the Evaluation Committee.
7. Before every oral examination, the Statement of Purpose would be read publicly so as to reiterate the purpose of the evaluation, which is primarily to protect the doctrinal integrity of the church and assist the local session in completing their evaluation of a candidate.

8. Using the completed written exam as a foundation for questions, plus having the other approved exam questions at their disposal, the Evaluation Committee evaluates/examines the candidate for the prescribed time. It would be incumbent upon the Moderator to ensure that the line of questioning be germane to the scope of the evaluation as reflected by the approved list of questions/topics.

#### **Recommendation Procedures**

1. At the end of the oral exam, the full presbytery would reconvene and proceed with the next agenda item for the annual meeting.
2. Members of the Evaluation Committee would have no more than two weeks following the Presbytery meeting, in which to respond in writing to the session of the candidate with his recommendation (with a copy sent to the Moderator of the Presbytery). Each member of the Evaluation Committee would summarize his findings and prayerful analysis that led to his recommendation (ordain or not to ordain) to the session.
3. The session would then receive 5 recommendations. If the recommendation were a unanimous "yes" to ordination, then the session would proceed.
4. If there are recommendations not to ordain, then the session will follow-up with the evaluator for further discussion. If the session determines to proceed with ordination against the recommendation(s) of the any of the evaluator(s), then the session would need to indicate in writing to the Moderator of the Presbytery their reasons for disregarding the recommendation(s). The Presbytery could then evaluate the criteria of the session to determine if there is egregious sin involved on the part of the session, and then proceed as per article 3(R) of the constitution.

Motion (Wilson/Bero) To add the previously approved text to a new section of these minutes, called Procedures of Presbytery. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **2) Consideration of new members to occur during executive session.**

*Proposal: It has been suggested that the discussions about church candidates for membership should occur in an executive session to allow more frank discussions. This could occur by excusing those in the gallery for a period of time while all the new member candidates are considered.*

Motion (Hatcher/Helsel) To modify the constitution to give the authority to discuss new member candidates in executive session before a vote is taken. The motion was amended (Hatcher/Wilson) to add a new section to the constitution (Article 8.H) giving "The presbytery has the authority to call for an executive session at its discretion by a simple majority vote". Motion passed unanimously.

#### **3) Allow Moderator church to have two delegates for its two votes.**

Motion (Hatcher/Vanderveen) To modify the constitution as written below. Motion passed unanimously.

*Proposal: While the Constitution states that the delegate representing the church of the moderator will have two votes, we would like to suggest that those two votes be represented by two delegates. This will not give the Moderator's church more influence but will give the lone delegate opportunity to have counsel with another voting member of his church during presbytery.*

*III E currently states: "At votes of presbytery, each delegate has one vote. The moderator may not vote, and so in those cases when a church has only one vote because one of their delegates has been elected moderator, the remaining delegate has two votes."*

*We would recommend the following revision to paragraph III E:  
"At votes of presbytery, each delegate has one vote. The moderator may not vote, and so in those cases when a church has only one vote because one of their delegates has been elected moderator, the church may put forth a new delegate to take the place of the moderator." If the church cannot put forth a replacement, the remaining delegate has two votes."*

### **B. Consideration of Proposed Constitutional Revision – Submitted by Christ Covenant Church (Lynnwood, WA)**

Motion (Coverdale/Wilson) To modify the constitution as written below. The motion was amended (Coverdale/Wilson) to read the new text below. Motion passed unanimously.

- 1) Article II/I of the CRE constitution. We would like to make a motion to change the wording to remove the ambiguity of the current language. Article II/I says, "All members in good standing in a local CRE congregation must be received into membership in any other CRE church, confessional differences between the churches notwithstanding."  
*Proposal:* No member in good standing in a local CRE congregation shall be refused membership in any other CRE church because of confessional differences between the churches.

"All members in good standing in a local CRE congregation must be received into membership in any other CRE church. No member in good standing in a local CRE congregation shall be refused membership in any other CRE church because of confessional differences between the churches."

Brett Baker welcomed Mr. Chris Butaud to the table.

### **C. Proposed Memorial on Terrorism - Submitted by Christ Church (Moscow, ID)**

Motion (Wilson/Niell) To receive the text listed below as a memorial to the CRE constitution.  
Doug Wilson withdrew the motion.

The member churches of the Confederation of Reformed Evangelicals (CRE)...

- 1) ...affirm that because God is God (omnipotent, omnipresent, omniscient, triune, etc), all of history is under His control. Nothing happens apart from His knowledge and without His divine decree. Therefore, we must view these recent events in the light of God's sovereignty rather than from the carnal point of view. God has brought this disaster upon our nation (Amos 3:6). While not denying that wicked individuals committed these acts, we affirm that God was active in these events for His glory and honor. The United States of America has broken her covenant with the true and living God and we have slipped into wholesale idolatry and polytheism. As citizens of the United States we have done this in the name of tolerance and acceptance. We tolerate everything except the truth and true beauty. Therefore, God has brought this judgment upon us as a warning. Our only correct response is to confess our sin, to draw near to God, and to repent from our sin.
- 2) ...deny that apart from true repentance there can be any blessing for our country found in these events. God is not blessing our nation in this attack by bringing the citizens of the nation and world together in some sort of humanistic neighborhood. Being an American is not the same as being a Christian.
- 3) ...affirm that it is a correct response of our federal government to respond to this terrorist attack by using force to bring the terrorists to justice. We affirm that it is lawful for believing Christians to participate in this military response.
- 4) ...also affirm that it is unlawful for women to be mustered for combat service; and worse, it is an abomination (Deuteronomy 22:5). Christian fathers must protect their daughters from being seduced or coerced into such a circumstance, and the Church must support them as they do so.
- 5) ...deny that it is correct to respond in the name of the false gods currently worshipped in our land, with a proud and arrogant spirit. We deny further that the United States has any right whatever to expect blessing from God on any military responses so long as our people embrace the idols of pluralism, protect the carnage of abortion, muster our daughters for combat service, and honor the perversions of sodomy. It is lawful and right for the United States to respond militarily, but if our citizens continue to protect these and other corruptions as the American way of life, we deny that we have any right to expect the blessing of God on such endeavors, or anything other than continued judgment on the battlefield or off.

Motion (Schlect/Klaus) To replace the last two sentences of Article VI.C with the following: "The presbytery may or may not recommend his ordination to the session of the local congregation. The local session is not judicially bound by the recommendation of presbytery. If a local session does not



abide by the presbytery recommendation, then the presbytery may or may not initiate proceedings according to Article III.R.” Motion passed unanimously.

Motion (Schlect/Shade) To replace the internal reference in Article III.R to read, “section P above” instead of “section N above”. Motion passed unanimously.

**D. Ordination Exam – Kenton Spratt (Sechelt, BC) 1.5 hours max.**

Brett Baker started the ordination exam by reading the ordination exam statement of purpose. Brett turned the exam over to the evaluation committee.

Burke Shade  
Gene Helsel  
Jeff Niell  
Nicol Warn  
Dennis Tuuri

Burke Shade opened the examination in prayer.

**E. Date and Location of 2002 Presbytery Meeting**

Motion (Butaud/Ewert) To hold the 2002 presbytery meeting Oct. 18, 2002. Motion passes unanimously.

**XII. Psalm Singing: 84B, Doxology**

Dave Hatcher led the assembly in singing Psalms (22H, 22I, 137).

**XIII. Closing Prayer**

Greg Bero led the presbytery meeting in prayer, closing the meeting.

Motion (Wilson/Osinga) To adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.