

Augustine Presbytery
Confederation of Reformed Evangelical Churches
Minutes of Presbytery, October 11th & 12th, 2007

Thursday, October 11, 2007

8:00 am: Prior to the meeting of the full Presbytery, Ordination Examination Committees performed oral examinations of Tom Brainerd, Wayne Hays and Toby Sumpter.

10:00 am: Moderator Gregg Strawbridge introduced Pastor Gene Liechty of Christ Church of North Carolina, the host church for the Presbytery meeting. Pastor Liechty welcomed the Presbyters on behalf of Christ Church and introduced his Assistant, Margaret Finnegan.

10:03 am: At the request of Moderator Strawbridge, Pastor Brian Penney opened the morning's meetings with Prayer.

10:05 am: The assembly joined in singing Psalms 102 and 2.

10:13 am: Council Moderator Randy Booth delivered an exhortation to the assembly.

10:21 am: Moderator Strawbridge delivered an exhortation to the assembly.

10:24 am Pastor Penney led in the singing of the *Gloria Patri*.

10:25 am: Roll was called and quorum was established based upon the representation of the following particular churches:

- All Saints Presbyterian Church, Lancaster, PA
- Christ Church, Branchville, AL
- Christ Church, Searcy, AR
- Christ Church, Cary, NC
- Christ Church of Livingston County, Howell, MI
- Christ Covenant Church, Copiague, NY
- Christ Reformed Evangelical Church, Annapolis, MD
- Christ the King Church, Springfield, MO
- Christ the Redeemer Church, Pella, IA
- Cornerstone Reformed Church, Carbondale, IL
- Covenant Heritage Reformed Fellowship, Yorktown, VA
- Covenant Reformed Presbyterian Church, Knoxville, TN
- Grace Covenant Church, Texarkana, AR
- Grace Covenant Church, Nacogdoches, TX
- Heritage Covenant Church of Weatherford, TX
- Immanuel Presbyterian Church, Clinton, MS
- Providence Church, Lynchburg, VA
- St. David's Church, Hockley, TX
- Trinity Presbyterian Church, Birmingham, AL

10:29 am: Church reports were presented.

10:51 am: Introduction of guests and delegations

12:00 noon: Moderator Strawbridge adjourned the meeting with the singing of the Doxology.

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Lunch Recess

1:51 pm: Moderator Strawbridge called the assembly to order with the singing of Psalm 42:1-7.

1:52 pm: Report of Slavic Reformation Society (SRS)

2:14 pm Moderator Strawbridge introduced Pastor Jeff Niell, the returning representative of Anselm Presbytery, who expressed greetings and thanks for the hospitality of Augustine Presbytery.

2:17 pm Recommendation of churches for full membership

Pastor Virgil Hurt offered, and Pastor David Queener seconded the motion that St. Peter Presbyterian Church of Bristol, TN, be admitted to full membership in the CREC. The motion passed without opposition.

Pastor Burke Shade offered, and Elder Sean Mahaffey seconded, the motion that Christ Presbyterian Church of Baton Rouge, LA, be admitted to full membership in the CREC. The motion passed without opposition.

Pastor Burke Shade offered, and Pastor Jeff Evans seconded, the motion that Providence Church of Caro, MI, be admitted to full membership in the CREC. The motion carried without opposition.

Elder Marlin Detweiler offered, and Elder Gil Shivers seconded, the motion that Providence Church of Pensacola, FL, be admitted to full membership in the CREC. The motion carried without opposition.

Elder Keith Diamond offered, and Elder Marlin Detweiler seconded, the motion that Salem Reformed Church of Rome, GA, be admitted to full membership in the CREC. The motion to admit carried without opposition.

Pastor Burke Shade offered, and Pastor Randy Booth seconded, the motion that Trinity Presbyterian Church, of Valparaiso, FL, be admitted to full membership in the CREC. The motion to admit carried without opposition.

Pastor Gene Liechty offered, and Pastor Todd Davis seconded, the motion that Holy Trinity Reformed Evangelical Church of Greenville, SC, be admitted to full membership in the CREC. The motion to admit carried without opposition.

Moderator Gregg Strawbridge administered the Oath for New Member Churches to their officers in attendance, followed by the welcoming affirmation of the member church officers, signified by their corporate "Amen."

3:19 pm: Nomination and Removal of Candidate Churches

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Pastor Todd Davis and Elder Bill Izzard seconded the motion that candidate status in the CREC be conveyed on Covenant Church of Heber Springs, AR. The motion carried without opposition.

Pastor Todd Davis offered and Elder Gil Shivers seconded a motion that candidate status in the CREC be withdrawn from Christ Church of Marion, AR. The motion carried without opposition.

Pastor David Bostrom offered, and Pastor Jeff Evans seconded, a motion that candidate status be conveyed on Trinity Evangelical Church of Larwill, IN. The motion carried without opposition.

Pastor David Bostrom offered, and Pastor Jeff Evans seconded, a motion that candidate status be conveyed on Covenant Christian Church, of Greenville, MI. The motion carried without opposition.

3:27 pm: Moderator Strawbridge called a ten-minute break

3:45 pm: Other Mission Reports

Pastor Ralph Smith gave a report on the work of Mitaka Evangelical Church in Mitaka, Japan.

Pastor Ron Weinbaum introduced Attila Hadju of Hungary, who made a presentation of his testimony and his vision for a Reformed church in Hungary.

Pastor Bogumil Jarmulak gave a presentation regarding the ongoing work of the Polish churches.

4:36 pm: Moderator Strawbridge exhorted the assembly to consider the manner in which their churches could support these overseas mission efforts. The day's sessions were then adjourned with prayer.

Friday, October 12, 2007

8:02 am: Moderator Strawbridge opened the day's session by leading the singing of Psalm 42:8-11 and Psalm 1, followed by opening prayer.

8:08 am: Elder Doug Roorda and Pastor Todd Davis gave reports on their communications with Pastor Rick Young of Christ Reformed Church, Albion, Maine. After the reports Elder Roorda led the assembly in prayer for the Young families and their church.

8:13 am: Moderator Strawbridge exhorted the assembly regarding contributions to the host church for defray the costs of hosting Presbytery, to Grace Covenant Church of Nacogdoches for defraying the costs incurred for Moderator Booth, to All Saints Presbyterian church for the defraying of costs incurred for Moderator Strawbridge and to Kings Highway Reformed Church to share in the costs of bringing Attila Hadju to the United States for the Presbytery meeting.

8:15 am: Ordination Examination Reports

Pastor Gene Franklin presented the report of the committee to examine Tom Brainerd and on its behalf recommended his ordination to Grace Covenant Church of Nacogdoches, TX.

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Pastor Todd Davis presented the report of the committee to examine Wayne Hays and on its behalf recommended his ordination to St. Peter Presbyterian Church of Bristol, VA.

Pastor Eric Sauder presented the report of the committee to examine Toby Sumpter and on its behalf recommended his ordination to Holy Trinity Reformed Evangelical Church of Greenville, SC.

8:18 am: Augustine Moderator's Report

Moderator *Pro Tem* Eric Sauder assumed the chair.

Moderator Strawbridge gave his annual report to the Presbytery and offered a motion, seconded by Elder Marlin Detweiler, that Augustine Presbytery adopts the Augustine Presbytery Book or Procedures as amended and presented. Moderator Strawbridge represented to the presbytery that the only changes were immaterial and insubstantial (e.g., to conform the Augustine BOP to an accurate identification of the CREC as opposed to CRE). Motion carried without opposition.

Moderator Strawbridge offered a motion, seconded by Elder Marlin Detweiler that the Augustine Presbytery recommend that the suggested size of newly formed presbyteries be 10-12 churches. The motion passed without opposition.

9:25 am: Ecclesiastical Committee Report

Pastor Ralph Smith presented the report of the Ecclesiastical Committee.

Moderator Strawbridge offered, and Elder Gil Shivers seconded, a motion that the Augustine Presbytery recommends that newly formed presbyteries be named on the model of Anselm and Augustine – after figures from Church history. After discussion, the motion carried without opposition.

Moderator Strawbridge resumed the duties of the chair.

A motion to receive the report of the ad hoc CREC Ecclesiastical Committee carried without opposition.

A motion that the Augustine Presbytery advances to the CREC Council the resolution that:

“The CREC understands itself to be a gathering of individual churches, a church in its own right, and part of the broader catholic Church. In popular terms, this means we understand ourselves to be a denomination and not merely a loose association of churches.”

The motion carried by voice vote. Elder Doug Roorda requested that his vote in opposition be recorded.

Elder Gil Shivers offered, and Pastor Jeff Evans seconded, a motion that the Augustine Presbytery petition the CREC Council of 2008 to replace all references to the “moderator(s)” of presbyteries and council with “minister(s)/pastor(s).” The motion passed without opposition.

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Elder Gil Shivers offered, and Pastor Burke Shade seconded, a motion that the Augustine Presbytery petition the CREC Council to amend its Constitution and/or Book of Procedures such that:

“The CREC grants Minister(s)/Pastor(s) of the presbyteries and council the express authority to require mediation in the case of intractable situations within a member church, between or among member churches, and between or among member churches and non-member churches. The mediation would be conducted by a committee of at least three ministers of CREC churches appointed by the Minister/Pastor of presbytery or council. In the case of intractable situations with non-member churches, the Minister/Pastor of the Council, in consultation with the Minister/Pastor of the presbytery, will arrange mediation with the non-member church or denomination.

“Because part of these disputes generally includes disagreement over whether they are intractable, the Minister/Pastor of Presbytery or Council can only do this with majority agreement of all the other Ministers/Pastors of Presbytery or Council. All of them must be consulted. The involved church or churches must also be consulted, and if they are agreeable to the mediation, the process can go forward. If they are not, then the respective Presbytery must ratify the required mediation within two months.

“A Minister/Pastor of Presbytery or Council is not acting judicially or prelatially if he requires mediation in the name of the presbytery or council.”

The motion carried without opposition.

11:05 am: Moderator Strawbridge called for a 10 minute break.

11:15 am: The short break ended.

Elder Bob Carneroli, of Holy Trinity Reformed Evangelical Church, introduced Pastor Thomas Clark, of Tri-Cities Covenant Church of Somersworth, NH, and moved that candidate status be conveyed upon Tri-Cities Covenant Church. Pastor Eric Sauder seconded the motion, and it carried without opposition.

11:18 am: Council Moderator’s Report

Moderator Booth offered, and Pastor Jeff Evans seconded, a motion that the CREC Constitution and/or Book of Procedures be amended such that “in the event that a sufficient number of moderator candidates who are willing and able to serve cannot be found, the Presbyteries or the Council, by a 2/3 vote of her delegates, can suspend the rules to allow for an extension of terms.” The motion carried without opposition.

Moderator Booth offered, and Elder John Guyer seconded, a motion that the CREC Constitution and/or Book of Procedures be amended such that “upon the establishment of a new Presbytery, the Council shall assign a year to begin the three-year rotation for the election of the moderator of that presbytery. The presbytery shall have the discretion to have her first moderator serve one or two additional years in order to meet this rotation requirement.” The motion carried without opposition.

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Moderator Booth offered, and Elder Patrick Hurd seconded, a motion that the CREC Constitution and/or Book of Procedures be amended such that “the Council Moderator actions reported to and approved by all presbyteries shall be deemed as approved by Church Council.” The motion carried without opposition.

Elder Gil Shivers offered, and Elder Kris Smith seconded, a motion to ratify the action of the Moderator to appoint John Stoos, Gene Liechty, and David Alders to comprise an ad hoc Committee on Foreign Missions to act as a liaison between the Russian churches and the CREC and to further examine issues related to foreign missions and make recommendations to the Presbyteries/Council for 2008. The motion carried without opposition.

Pastor Lonon Oswalt offered, and Pastor Gene Liechty seconded, a motion to ratify the action of the Moderator to appoint Douglas Wilson, Joost Nixon, Gregg Strawbridge, and Doug Roorda to comprise an ad hoc committee to examine the issues pertaining to presbytery divisions and to make recommendations to the Presbyteries/Council for 2008. The motion carried without opposition.

Council Moderator Booth announced that the 2008 joint Presbytery/Council meeting will be held in Houston, Texas, October 13 – 16. Tentative plans would have the Christ Church Ministerial Conference held immediately afterward, October 16 – 18.

Pastor Burke Shade offered, and Pastor Randy Booth seconded, to resolve the following:

The Augustine Presbytery, in concert with visitors from the Anselm Presbytery, wholeheartedly gives its thanks to Christ Church of Cary, NC, for its excellent planning, and joyful execution of this body’s annual meeting. We are grateful to Jesus Christ for their patience, their care, and their service to us these past two days. We have been greatly blessed by Pastor Liechty’s and Margaret Finnegan’s constant smiles, postmillennial joy, and selfless giving of themselves and their families, as well as the humble generosity and hospitality of the members of Christ Church. May our Lord bless this church and make it continue in faithfulness as it seeks to fulfill the Great Commission, discipling the many nations and tribes of North Carolina.

Council Moderator Booth commended Moderator Strawbridge for his excellent work in the planning and execution of the meeting, with which the assembly concurred..

Adjourned after singing Psalm 21 at 11:53 a.m.