

**Minutes of the annual meeting of Anselm Presbytery
of the Confederation of Reformed Evangelical Churches**

Conroe, Texas
October 14-15, 2008

Tuesday, October 14, 2008

Introductory Matters

8:31 a.m. – Douglas Jones opened the meeting with an invocation.

Dave Hatcher led in singing Psalm 148 and “Jesus Shall Reign.”

Gene Helsel gave an exhortation from the Scriptures (Luke 19).

8:47 a.m. – Moderator Douglas Wilson called the meeting to order.

Recognition of Member Churches and Establishment of Quorum

Moderator Wilson called the roll of member churches. All current member churches of Anselm Presbytery were represented, with the exception of Christ the King Church of Eugene, Oregon. Churches with delegates present:

Christ Church, Moscow, Idaho (Douglas Jones, Mike Lawyer)
Christ Church, Santa Clarita, California (Garrett Craw, Andrew Richardson)
Christ Church, Spokane, Washington (Stuart Bryan, Bill Bray)
Christ Covenant Church, Enterprise, Oregon (Terry Tollefson, Rahn Hostetter)
Christ Covenant Church, Grande Prairie, Alberta (Jamie Soles)
Christ Covenant Church, Langley, British Columbia (Garry Vanderveen)
Christ Covenant Church, Lynnwood, Washington (Dean Hellekson, Ron Coverdale)
Christ Reformed Church, Meeker, Colorado (Rogers Meredith, Craig Thiessen)
Church of the King, Sacramento, California (John Stoos, Theron Johnson)
Covenant Bible Church, Palmer, Alaska (Jack Phelps, Chris Wilson)
Emmanuel Covenant Church, Phoenix, Arizona (Jeff Niell, Rob Withem)
Evangelical Reformed Church, Wroclaw, Poland: (Bogumil Jarmulak, Aleksander Bieriejzanczuk)
Evangelical Reformed Church, Poznan, Poland (Sebastian Smolarz)
Immanuel Presbyterian Church, Fallon, Nevada (Tim Tucker)
Mitaka Evangelical Church, Tokyo, Japan (Ralph Smith)
Presbyterian Church, the Annunciation, Pushkin, Russia (Oleg Volkov)
Providence Reformed Evangelical Church, Grand Junction, Colorado (Mike Ferguson, David Zollner)
Reformed Presbyterian Church, St. Petersburg, Russia (Blake Purcell, Alexander Firsanov)

Reformed Covenant Church, Oregon City, Oregon (Dennis Tuuri, Doug Hayes)
King's Congregation, Boise, Idaho (Alan Burrow)
Trinity Church, Wenatchee, Washington (Gene Helsel, John Appel)
Trinity Church, Woodinville, Washington (David Hatcher, Brett Baker)
Trinity Covenant Church, Wichita, Kansas (Sean Brandt)
Trinity Reformation Church, Salem, Oregon (Jeff Harlow)
Trinity Reformed Church, Moscow, Idaho (Toby Sumpter, Christ Schlect)

A quorum was established and announced.

Recognition of Visitors and Distinguished Guests

Steve Jeffery from London, England, introduced himself and talked about the current ecclesiastical situation in the United Kingdom and the possibility of a mission church in greater London.

Yavor Rusionov from Bulgaria introduced himself and spoke about the Reformed church that he pastors in Bulgaria.

By common consent, the Presbytery allowed recognition of guests who were not on the agenda.

Attila Hajdú from Diósd, Hungary, introduced himself and spoke about the Reformed mission work that he is leading near Budapest.

Blake Purcell introduced Ravil Kunakayev from a church in Siberia, and Alexander (San Sanych) Orlov and Vitaliy Odnolko from Rovno, Ukraine.

Reports from Ordination Committees

Bill Bray announced that his committee recommended the ordination of Stuart Bryan with advice for further study.

Doug Jones announced that his committee recommended the ordination of Alan Burrow with advice for further study.

Moderator Wilson noted that Jeff Moss's ordination examination process has not yet been finished.

08/10/14:1 Motion (Schlect/Purcell) that Presbytery adopts these committee reports regarding the ordination of Stuart Bryan and Alan Burrow with commendation to those committees for their good work. The motion carried without dissent.

Consideration of Candidate and Mission Churches

08/10/14:2 Motion (Lawyer/Schlect) to accept Trinity Church of Tri-Cities, Washington into full membership in the CREC and Anselm Presbytery. The motion carried without dissent.

Moderator Wilson administered the oath of membership in the CREC to the representatives of Trinity Church and offered a prayer of blessing for the church.

John Stoos gave a report on Christ Covenant Church in Menlo Park, California.

Mike Ferguson gave a report on Covenant Reformed Fellowship in Greeley, Colorado, and introduced David Newton and Joseph Ametepe as representatives from that mission church.

Mike Ferguson gave a report on Christ Covenant Church in Steamboat Springs, Colorado,

08/10/14:3 Motion (Helsel/Meredith) to accept the decision of Providence Reformed Evangelical Church (Grand Junction, Colorado) to change the status of Christ Covenant Church from candidate church to mission church. The motion carried without dissent.

Bill Bray gave a report on Christ Covenant Reformed Church in Billings, Montana, and introduced Jay Barfield and Ryan Yeager as representatives from that mission church.

Bill Bray gave a report on Holy Trinity Church in Colville, Washington, and introduced Kenton Spratt as a representative from that mission church.

Dennis Tuuri gave a report on Christ Church in Medford, Oregon.

Mike Lawyer gave a report on Emmanuel Chapel in Helena, Montana.

Mike Lawyer gave a report on Trinity Covenant Church in Santa Cruz, California, and introduced Jason Farley as a representative from that mission church.

Bogumil Jarmulak gave a report on Evangelical Reformed Church in Gdańsk, Poland, and Evangelical Reformed Church in Legnica, Poland.

Stuart Bryan gave a report on Trinity Church in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

Jeff Niell gave a report on Trinity Reformed Church in Edgewood, New Mexico, and introduced Ben Allison as a representative from that mission church.

Dennis Tuuri led a prayer for the candidate and mission churches.

Introduction and Consideration of New Candidate Church

Jamie Soles introduced Trinity Covenant Church of Fort St. John, British Columbia, as a candidate church sponsored by Christ Covenant Church, Grande Prairie, Alberta.

New Business

08/10/14:4 Motion (Tucker/Helsel) that Anselm Presbytery recommend to Church Council for first reading an amendment to Article III.C, adding to it the following:

- The Thirty-Nine Articles of Religion (Reformed Episcopal Church)

The motion carried without dissent.

10:11 – Presbytery recessed for a short break.

10:23 – Presbytery reconvened.

Reconsideration of Earlier Agenda Items

Moderator Wilson proposed that the Presbytery return to earlier items on the agenda in order to complete unfinished business. No objection.

Bogumil Jarmulak reported further on Attila Hajdú's role as church planter in Budapest, Hungary.

Moderator Wilson offered a prayer for the mission work in Hungary

08/10/14:5 Motion (Jones/Schlect) that we ask the General Council to determine some form of ecclesiastical relationship between the CREC and our CREC friends in Myanmar. The motion carried without dissent.

New Business, continued

08/10/14:6 Motion (Schlect/Stoos) that Anselm Presbytery form a committee chaired by Doug Jones and consisting of Doug Jones, Alan Burrow, and Ralph Smith, to consult with R. C. Sproul Jr. and report back tomorrow with a resolution regarding relations with the churches in Myanmar that we can pass up to Council. The motion carried without dissent.

08/10/14:7 Motion (Harlow/Bryan) that Anselm Presbytery recommend to Church Council for first reading the inclusion of the Athanasian Creed as a required subscription, to be accomplished as follows:

- An amendment to Constitution Article III.B, inserting after the phrase: *Nicene Creed* the phrase: “, the *Athanasian Creed*”.
- An amendment to Constitution Article X, inserting after the Nicene Creed the following:

Whoever wills to be in a state of salvation, before all things it is necessary that he hold the catholic [1] faith, which except everyone shall have kept whole and undefiled without doubt he will perish eternally.

Now the catholic faith is that we worship One God in Trinity and Trinity in Unity, neither confounding the Persons nor dividing the substance. For there is one Person of the Father, another of the Son, another of the Holy Spirit. But the Godhead of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, is One, the Glory equal, the Majesty coeternal. Such as the Father is, such is the Son, and such is the Holy Spirit; the Father uncreated, the Son uncreated, and the Holy Spirit uncreated; the father infinite, the Son infinite, and the Holy Spirit infinite; the Father eternal, the Son eternal, and the Holy Spirit eternal. And yet not three eternals but one eternal, as also not three infinities, nor three uncreated, but one uncreated, and one infinite. So, likewise, the Father is almighty, the Son almighty, and the Holy Spirit almighty; and yet not three almighties but one almighty. So the Father is God, the Son God, and the Holy Spirit God; and yet not three Gods but one God. So the Father is Lord, the Son Lord, and the Holy Spirit Lord; and yet not three Lords but one Lord. For like as we are compelled by Christian truth to acknowledge every Person by Himself to be both God and Lord; so are we forbidden by the catholic religion to say, there be three Gods or three Lords. The Father is made of none, neither created nor begotten. The Son is of the Father alone, not made nor created but begotten. The Holy Spirit is of the Father and the Son, not made nor created nor begotten but proceeding. So there is one Father not three Fathers, one Son not three Sons, and one Holy Spirit not three Holy Spirits. And in this Trinity there is nothing before or after, nothing greater or less, but the whole three Persons are coeternal together and coequal. So that in all things, as is aforesaid, the Trinity in Unity and the Unity in Trinity is to be worshipped. He therefore who wills to be in a state of salvation, let him think thus of the Trinity.

But it is necessary to eternal salvation that he also believe faithfully the Incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ. The right faith therefore is that we believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is God and Man. He is God of the substance of the Father begotten before the worlds, and He is man of the substance of His mother born in the world; perfect God, perfect man subsisting of a reasoning soul and human flesh; equal to the Father as touching His Godhead, inferior to the Father as touching His Manhood. Who although He be God and Man yet He is not two but one Christ; one however not by conversion of the Godhead in the flesh, but by taking of the Manhood in God; one altogether not by confusion of substance but by unity of Person. For as the reasoning soul and flesh is one man, so God and Man is one Christ. Who suffered for our salvation, descended into hell, rose again from the dead, ascended into heaven, sits at the right hand of the Father, from whence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. At whose coming all men shall rise again with their bodies and shall give account for their own works. And they that have done good shall go into life eternal, and they who indeed have done evil into eternal fire.

This is the catholic faith, which except a man shall have believed faithfully and firmly he cannot be in a state of salvation.

1. apostolic / universal

With following paragraphs to be appropriately renumbered.

The motion failed.

08/10/14:8 Motion (Jarmulak/Stoos) that Anselm Presbytery recommend to Church Council for first reading an amendment to Article III.C, adding to it the following:

- The Second Helvetic Confession

The motion carried without dissent.

Church Reports

Representatives of member churches gave oral reports to supplement the written reports already submitted.

08/10/14:9 Motion (Phelps/Sumpter) thanking Randy Booth and Tom Brainerd for all the cricket-herding that went into planning the Presbytery and Council meetings here. The motion carried without dissent.

David Hatcher led in singing Psalm 124.

11:59 a.m. – Presbytery adjourned.

Wednesday, October 15, 2008

8:32 a.m. – Dave Hatcher led in singing Psalms 20 and 110.

Jeff Niell opened the meeting with an invocation.

8:40 a.m. – Moderator Wilson called the meeting to order.

Church Reports, continued

Oleg Volkov, Blake Purcell, and Alexander Firsanov reported on the CREC member churches in Russia, the work of the Slavic Reformation Society, and the “Galilee” prison ministry.

Representatives of member churches continued giving oral reports to supplement the written reports already submitted.

Recognition of Visitors and Distinguished Guests, continued

Bishop Royal Grote and Dr. Curtis Crenshaw of the Reformed Episcopal Church introduced themselves and brought greetings from their denomination.

New Business, continued

08/10/15:1 Motion (Schlect/Stoos) that Presbytery acknowledges the Christ Church (Moscow, Idaho) session's pending approval of Christ Covenant Church of Yangon, Myanmar, as a mission church of Christ Church. The motion carried without dissent.

The Presbytery discussed a motion that is on the table in Council to change the name of the Confederation of Reformed Evangelical Churches to "Communion of Reformed Evangelical Churches." Considerable discussion.

08/10/15:2 Motion (Stoos/Vanderveen) that the Presbytery supports the motion before Council to change the name to "Communion," with advice to appoint a committee to study the issue of the name with a view to future possible name changes.

10:40 a.m. – Presbytery recessed for a short break.

10:50 a.m. – Presbytery reconvened.

The motion failed, 11-25.

08/10/15:3 Motion (Bryan/Hatcher) to recommend that Council form a committee to study the issue of the name with a view to future name changes. The motion carried with one dissenting vote.

08/10/15:4 Motion (Jarmulak/Johnson) to ask Council to authorize an *ad hoc* committee to organize a missions conference, to occur following the 2011 meeting of Council. The members of the committee are Doug Jones, Todd Davis, Blake Purcell, Ralph Smith, Garry Vanderveen, Sebastian Smolarz, Bogumil Jarmulak, Oleg Volkov. The committee will also be charged to work out constitutional language with regard to international issues in the CREC. The motion carried without dissent.

08/10/15:5 Motion (Smith/Jones) that we ask Council to consider clarifying that international churches are allowed to use dynamic equivalence in their translation of technical terms in our constitution and other official documents wherever the literal translation would be a problem. The motion carried with one dissenting vote.

Consideration of Committee Reports

08/10/15:6 Motion (Stoos/Phelps) that Anselm Presbytery adopt into its Book of Procedures the definitions in section I.A of the report from the Committee on Constitutional Refinements. The motion carried without dissent.

08/10/15:7 Motion (Stoos/Meredith) to adopt the report of the Committee with the exception of the underscored language in the report. The motion carried with one dissenting vote.

08/10/15:8 Motion (Helsel/Stoos) to send the underscored language up to Council for discussion and debate with a recommendation.

Motion 08/10/15:8 was withdrawn by the maker and seconder of the motion.

08/10/15:9 Motion (Lawyer/Tucker) to send the underscored language up to Council without a recommendation one way or the other. The motion carried with one dissenting vote.

08/10/15:10 Motion (Harlow/Phelps) to acknowledge that the Committee on Constitutional Refinements has done its work and is dissolved. The motion carried without dissent.

Concluding Matters

08/10/15:11 Motion (Schlect/Phelps) that we heartily commend our Moderator, Douglas Wilson, for his work as moderator of Anselm Presbytery. The motion carried without dissent.

Dave Hatcher led in singing “O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing.”

Blake Purcell closed the meeting with prayer.

Motion (Burrow) to adjourn. The motion carried without dissent.

12:07 p.m. – Presbytery adjourned.