

**Minutes of Athanasius Presbytery  
Confederation of Reformed Evangelical Churches  
5 November 2009  
Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort, Florida**

**Churches and Members of Presbytery Represented:**

Christ Church, Atlanta GA: Jeremy Sexton

Christ Church, Branchville AL: Keith Diamond

Christ Presbyterian Church, Baton Rouge LA: Galen Sorey, Denny Dufour

Holy Trinity Reformed Evangelical Church, Greenville SC: Craig Beaton and Bob Corneroli

Immanuel Presbyterian Church, Clinton MS: Steven Wedgeworth

Providence Church, Pensacola FL: Uri Brito and Alan Stout

Salem Reformed Church, Rome GA: George Crocker

Trinity Presbyterian Church, Birmingham AL: Rich Lusk

Trinity Presbyterian Church, Valparaiso FL: Michael Schneider, Erik Stoer, Jonathon Sutton  
(Schneider and Stoer served as church representatives, Sutton as Clerk)

St. Mark Reformed Church, Nashville TN – not present. Joe Thacker sent the church report.

Guests: Ron Smith (Deacon), Providence Church, Pensacola. Igor Krutagolov and Oleg Volkov  
from St Petersburg were received as visiting brothers.

8:15 **Call to Order:** Mickey Schneider, Minister of Presbytery

Singing of Psalm 27 and “Rise to Arms”

Prayer

Docket approved.

Jonathon Sutton, Trinity Presbyterian, Valparaiso approved as Clerk of Presbytery for  
this meeting, in the absence of Gilbert Douglas, Trinity Presbyterian, Birmingham.

March 6, 2009 Presbytery Minutes approved.

8:30 – 9:15 a.m. – **Church Reports** (reports are appended to this document), followed by prayer  
for the churches

1. Christ Church (Keith Diamond)

*The church is debt-free and working to complete construction of the  
fellowship hall.. Keith’s father is near death. Seeking to break the lifestyle  
”definition” of the church (e.g., homeschool, large family) that is hindering  
church growth.*

2. Providence Church (Uri Brito)

*Jim Jordan has been helping with music and other teaching. Church is  
purchasing Cantus Christi hymnals. One family left when Providence began  
serving the Lord’s Supper directly to each member, instead of indirectly,  
through fathers (who would then distribute to their wives and children). Are  
working to learn all 150 psalms by the end of 2012.*

3. Trinity Presbyterian Church (Erik Stoer)

*Continued slow decline in membership. New emphasis on service in  
community. Need for more church officers. Two deaths of elderly saints in  
the church; two adult baptisms, seven childhood baptisms. Pastor Schneider  
to retire in 2012; work underway to locate his successor in the ministry.*

9:15 – 9:45 – Break

9:45 – 10:25 – Igor Krutagolov and Oleg Volkov gave a presentation on the Leningrad Prison Ministry, and their need for prayer and funding to complete the ministry’s half-way house.

10:25 – 12:15 – **Church Reports** resume

4. Salem Reformed Church (George Crocker)

*Considering whether to continue the ministry in Rome (will decide by the end of the year – a few are now visiting). Will shortly be hosting a community presentation of “Collision” (the Doug Wilson/Christopher Hitchens debates). Advertising efforts (radio and print)*

5. Christ Presbyterian Church (Galen Sorey)

*Thanks given to CPC session for their work concerning the Hattiesburg Mission. Gregg Strawbridge letter on this matter appended to this report. Discussion on lessons learned – taking greater care in judging the men propounding a mission and greater decisiveness needed in discouraging a mission judged unlikely to succeed. Interference by outside parties decried. Need for geographical boundaries to church sponsorship due to awareness of local conditions, personalities, giftings.*

6. Holy Trinity Reformed Evangelical Church (Craig Beaton)

*Developing ministerial training program (“Trinity Hall”). Students being ordained as deacons, as they prepare for further ordination. Holy Trinity holds a teaching co-op (“Trinity Co-Op”) for once-a-week instruction in Art, Science, and Latin.*

7. St. Mark Reformed Church (Rich Lusk gave the report for the absent Joe Thacker)

*St Mark’s is sponsoring the Berea KY Mission – Xon Hostetter may attend our March 2010 meeting.*

8. Trinity Presbyterian Church (Rich Lusk)

*New church property a great blessing; ministry in new community well received (e.g., annual feast). Desire to plant an inner-city church in Birmingham. Home-school co-op (“Heritage Academy”). Trinity is the overseeing church for Christ Church in Atlanta. Christ Church’s pastor, Jeremy Sexton, was a pastoral intern at Trinity, and two other men are currently interning there.*

Motion by Schneider. That the Presbytery expresses our good will toward and appreciation of the mission works in Lakeland FL and Berea KY (clerk to send letters to Bostrom and Hostetter). Seconded and approved.

Motion by Lusk. That the Presbytery recognize that Jeremy Sexton has passed his ordination examination. Seconded and approved. Rich Lusk, Craig Beaton, Joe Thacker, Michael Schneider, and Lonon Oswalt were the examining committee. Jeremy was ordained as pastor of Christ Church on October 18, 2009 in Atlanta.

9. Immanuel Presbyterian Church (Steven Wedgeworth)

*Slow growth. Pastor Oswalt and Elder Grete are on the boards of two local Christian schools; Wedgeworth teaches at one of these, and other members are involved as school staff. The Dead Theologians Society meets every other week for theological discussion and cigars.*

10. Christ Church Atlanta (Jeremy Sexton)

*Funding difficulties. (Jeremy received encouragement from Bob Corneroli of Holy Trinity, Greenville, which grew through early days of inadequate*

*funding to a more stable footing).*

11. Christ Church Lakeland (Mission – *Providence Pensacola is Sponsoring church*) (Brito). *David Bostrom intends to be present for March 2010 Presbytery meeting.*

12. Berea KY Reformed Church (Mission – *St Mark is the Sponsoring church*). *Xon Hostetter may attend our March meeting.*

12:15 – 12:45 – Lunch

12:45 – 1:00 – **Discussion of Examination Procedure** – Rich Lusk

CREC website “Guidelines and Instructions...” presents a three-stage process: 1) the local church administers an examination, 2) a written examination is then overseen by the Presbytery, and 3) an oral examination is undergone at Presbytery meeting. Questions – What latitude does the Presbytery have in these steps? Shall we continue on a case-by-case basis, or have a more set standard? Rich Lusk is to address these questions to Randy Booth.

Motion by Sorey. That Steven Wedgeworth be Communication Director for Athanasius Presbytery. These minutes to be submitted via the Athanasius Presbytery Yahoo Group. Seconded and approved.

1:00 – 1:45 – **Discussion of Procedure for Establishing Mission Churches** – Galen Sorey

CREC mission churches must be more than “paedo-communion clubs.” There must be giftedness in the church planter, good relations with former churches, etc. There is therefore a need for local sponsorship, so that these critical issues may be carefully considered.

Motion by Schneider. Schneider to present recommendation to next General Council (after the next Athanasius Presbytery meeting) that Council establish presbytery boundaries for the planting of mission churches.

1:45 – 2:00 – **New Business**

Report of Presiding Minister of General Council (appended to minutes)

Brief survey of views on CREC name. Docketed for March meeting.

Date and place for next meeting: Called meeting for Friday, March 5, 2010, hosted by Holy Trinity Reformed Evangelical Church, Greenville SC. Moved, seconded, and approved. A dinner will be held on Thursday night, for those who arrive early.

2:00 – **Adjournment**

Respectfully Submitted:

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Jonathon Sutton, Clerk

Approved: March 5, 2010