

**Minutes of Athanasius Presbytery**  
**Galen Sorey, Minister of Presbytery**  
**Alan Stout, Clerk of Presbytery**  
**Communion of Reformed Evangelical Churches**  
**8 November 2012**  
**San Destin, Florida**

**Churches and Members of Presbytery Represented:**

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

Holy Trinity Reformed Evangelical Church, Greenville SC: Craig Beaton

Immanuel Presbyterian Church, Clinton MS: no elders present, Steven Wedgeworth in attendance

Providence Church, Pensacola FL: Uri Brito and Alan Stout

Salem Reformed Church, Rome GA: Dr. Eddie Johnson

St. Mark Reformed Church, Nashville TN: Joe Thacker

Trinity Presbyterian Church, Birmingham AL: Rich Lusk

Trinity Presbyterian Church, Valparaiso FL: Michael Schneider, Erik Stoer, Gregg Perry, Michael Mosley, Ben Rosell

Christ Church, Branchville AL: Not Represented

**I. Morning**

- a. Invocation. Uri Brito leads in a Hymn of praise and petition.
- b. Exhortation by Joe Thacker (Matthew 9:35 – 10:4) – The work of ministry patterned after Christ (preaching, teaching and healing)), Psalm2.
- c. Galen Sorey calls the meeting to order.

**II. Galen Sorey Calls for the quorum. Established with the elders listed above**

- III. Visitors and Guests announced:**
- Rob Hadding Christ Church Pace, FL.
  - Jim Hunter, Member Providence (Pursuing ordination in the CREC)
  - Ron Smith, Deacon Providence
  - Jimmy Gill, Trinity Presbyterian Church, Pastoral Intern and staff member
  - Herman Gunter, Ruling Elder Grace Presbyterian Church, Covenant Presbyterian Lives in Live Oak, FL
  - Jeff Sober, Trinity Presbyterian, Valparaiso, FL
  - Josiah Alldredge, Forest Lake Bible Church, Niceville, FL
  - Gregg Strawbridge, All Saints Presbyterian, PA

**IV. Motions and Church reports:**

Motion 12/08/11:01 to seat the visitors and allow them to speak within Regular business (Denny Dufour, with Second. Carried, 12-0)

Motion 12/08/11:02 to accept the agenda as printed: (Erik Stoer, second: Carried, 12-0)

Mission Church Reports: Craig Beaton. Church of the Good Shepherd. They currently have around 50 on Sunday mornings. A family from the Mennonite faith is preparing to join. Preparing to bring on 2 elders and 1 deacon possibly in January. These are all solid men who have been leading the Church. A few folks in the area fill the pulpit. Craig B. tries to fill the pulpit quarterly. If no pastor then one of the three teaches. Baptism issues to be worked out

Lakeland – Saints doing well. Uri ordained two men (Joe McGuire deacon and Mike McQuade as an elder) Jim Fitzgerald and RC Jr fill the pulpit frequently. About 40 on Sundays with young folks who are drawn by the hospitality of the Church. Some tension with the PCA church, but that has been relieved through the efforts and irenic spirit of Joe McGuire

Old Business, None

New Business,

Nomination 2<sup>nd</sup> Delegate to 2014 Council – Craig Beaton is currently the Pro Tempore

Rich Lusk nominated by Craig Beaton and Craig Beaton by Rich Lusk

Motion 12/08/11:03 Close Nominations (Uri Birto, Second, Carried 12-0)

Discussion – Both men are qualified and willing to serve.

Call for the question, Erik Stoer

10- Rich Lusk

1 – Craig Beaton

Rich Lusk is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Delegate from Athanasius Presbytery

2013 Summit April - Nominate two additional delegates. Background of summit given - not required that presbyteries attend. Rich Lusk asks what topics are on the table for Summit

- Mission cooperation discussion, clarification of SRS status, the Eastern European churches. (Gregg Strawbridge provides some background on the Churches in Ukraine from his visit)

Topics proposed for summit: role of Council and Presbytery particularly the role of MoP (pastoral, administrative etc.)

Nominations or volunteers:

Craig Beaton nominated by Rich Lusk

Steven Wedgeworth as representative

Motion 12/08/11:04 Close nominations (Erik Stoer, second, carried 11-0) Craig Beaton and Steven Wedgeworth both willing to serve.

Motion 12/08/11:05 That Athanasius Presbytery amend our Book of Procedures to state that local churches should have unordained pastoral candidates submit to the presbytery ordination exam prior to extending a call to them.... (Craig Beaton, second, carried 7-2-2)

Discussion. Craig Rational – It has become common to extend calls before ordination. This practice has led to difficulty in some ordinations. Recommend that if any Church desires to call an unordained man that the Church arrange for an examination prior to extending a call.

Mickey speaks in favor.

Wedgeworth – in favor our presbytery has seen this as a pattern.

Rich Lusk – in favor. Our local church closed this within our constitution.

Greg Parry – Does the constitution stipulate what the requirements of exam **are?** (Constitution reviewed)

Stoer – In favor, but want further discussion on the details

(Substitute motion: Table the current motion and a committee be formed to investigate and make recommend whether or not we should attend. fails (3-7)

Motion 12/08/11:06 Eric Stoer moves the existing examination committee provide a further refined **an** expanded version of motion just passed. (seconded, carried 10-0-1)

Motion 12/08/11:07 New business moved to after the examination (11-0)

Barry Wells introduced and he introduced Bauke Stelma from Holland. Barry is a Member of ARP presbytery and his family members of Trinity, Valparaiso.

10 minute break

Back in Session – Examination of Ben Rossell for Ordination to Ministry (10:55)

Recommendation from the committee – reexamine at a future date.

Noticed the pastoral gifts, but needs to overcome deficiencies in theology and biblical knowledge.

Motion 12/08/11:08 Motion from the Committee: Ben Rossell shall come back at the next presbytery meeting for reexamination (Carried 7- 4)

Motion 12/08/11:09 Motion from the Committee: Committee meet with Ben before the next presbytery for reexamination and provide the recommendation of the committee to presbytery. (Carried 8-2-1)

Motion 12/08/11:10 Move that next meeting be held on April 22-23rd at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Birmingham. (Galen Sorey, seconded 11-0, Carried)

Motion 12/08/11:11 Move to adjourn (11-0, carried)

Additional discussions:

Expenses for this presbytery 700 dollars Monies to Christ pres.

Mickey requests that the pres. Forgive him for his failures in mentoring Ben Rossell.  
Granted

Herman Gunter – Background, Graduated mdiv 1975... Chaplain at boys ranch for 3 years. Business since then. Married with 7 children all communing members of Churches. First Pres of live oak, after leaving boys ranch became very active.

Part of several church splits. PCA formed... Preached over 300 sermons at various churches. First Pres split from PCUS, as independent then PCA as Community PCA. Part of a discipline process over theonomy. Moved to Grace Pres in Madison after 6 years. In the providence of God we were renting the First Pres. The PCUS Live Oak was closing First Pres and chose to sell First Pres, Community PCA offered 1/3d the asking price and it was accepted. June bought the property. They have begun to renovate the property (6000 sq. ft) church has existed there since 1871. In October 2012 they began to have services. Very grateful to BH and Trinity

Evening services with high liturgy. Sing the scriptures with antiphonal worship.

His desire is to be part of a church with weekly communion with wine.

Are the sessions supportive? Yes.

Barry Wells, grew up in military family... 2001 – 2011 with AF as chaplain. Came into contact with liturgy folks and read the Lord's Service and attended worship at Trinity. Part of CREC Maryland. Covenant Heritage in VA, w/Steve Hemeky. Hold to Covenant Communion and looking to serve as a full time ARP presbytery. Ordained in 1998. Looking for trinity pres to endorse. Trinity is looking at joining National association of Evangelicals to sponsor.

Jim Hunter – Independent Presbyterian in Birmingham, got involved in the Episcopal Church through youth group. Had a call to ministry since 7 years old, felt at a lesson and carols service. Rhoads College, religion. Not time going to seminary. Decided to go into business.

1988, continuing Church movement in the Episcopal Church. Been part of many churches. Looking for a church Reformed and Evangelical Church in keeping with J C Ryle, Cumming and Chaney. Desire to rekindle such a church in the US.

Differences with my brothers in the CREC on what that might look like.

My hope and prayer is to allow me to plant such a church.

Clerk of Presbytery

Minister of Presbytery

Alan Stout

Galen Sorey