

## **Augustine Presbytery (CREC) Minutes, 2013**

The Augustine Presbytery of the Communion of Reformed Evangelical Churches held its regular annual meeting on September 27, 2013 in Annapolis, Maryland, with Presiding Minister Steve Hemmeke moderating the meeting.

### **I. Call to order**

A. Presiding Minister Hemmeke called the meeting to order at 8:33 am.

B. Roll call was taken and a quorum was established.

Present were:

1. All Saints Church, Lancaster, PA, Gregg Strawbridge, Ty Fischer
2. Christ Church, Cary, NC, Duane Garner
3. Christ Church of Morgantown, WV, Peter Jones, Alvin Moss
4. Christ Covenant Church, Copiague, NY, Brian Penney, Tony Aguilar
5. Christ Presbyterian Church, Knoxville, TN, Mike Pasarilla
6. Oakwood Bible Church, Troy, NY, Jason Biette
7. Christ Reformed Evangelical Church, Annapolis, MD, C.J. Bowen, Terry Brennan
8. Covenant Heritage Reformed Church, Newport News, VA, Steve Hemmeke (PM), Conrad Doskey (2 votes)
9. Holy Trinity Reformed Church, Concord, NC – not present
10. Providence Church, Lynchburg, VA, Virgil Hurt, David Cooper
11. St. Peter Presbyterian Church, Bristol, VA, Laurence Windham, Wayne Hays
12. The King's Chapel, Brooklyn, NY, Troy Greene, Dan McCloud
13. Tri-City Covenant Church, Somersworth, NH, Paul Edgar

C. In Tom Clark's absence, Presiding Minister Hemmeke appointed Virgil Hurt as temporary PM Pro Tempore.

D. Approved two (2) additions to the agenda since 30 days ago (constitution V.E.) without objection

1. SRS video – no action.
2. Overture from Knoxville, to be taken up after Council PM report

E. Recognition of Guests and Visiting Delegations:

1. Trinity Church, Winston-Salem, NC - Steve Hemmeke introduced Trevor and Derrick. Started the church 18 months ago and exploring the CREC.
2. Covenant Family Fellowship, Shippensburg, PA - Gregg Strawbridge introduced Ray and Myron.
3. David Lort, and three ministerial students from All Saints, Lancaster.

## II. Devotions and reports

- A. Opening devotion by Presiding Minister Steve Hemmeke from Numbers 11:1-23
- B. Invocation by CJ Bowen
- C. Psalms sung, led by Brian Penney
- D. Member Church Reports: presentation, questions and prayer:

## III. Churches recommended for sponsorship into CREC

**Motion (13/09/27:1):** Strawbridge/Cooper: to convey candidate status to Covenant Family Fellowship of Shippensburg, PA.

Motion CARRIED

## IV. Presiding Ministers' Reports

A. CREC Council Presiding Minister Jack Phelps' Report - Read by Rev. Troy Greene.

- a. **Motion: (13/9/27:2):** Windham/Greene: to have the Council appeal court decision from January 2013 read on the floor. Motion CARRIED. Presiding Minister Hemmeke read the court's report. (See attached)
- b. **Motion:** Pasarilla/Doskey: that the Presbytery acknowledge the receipt of the findings of the CREC Court of Appeals in the case of SPPC appealing the decision of the Augustine Presbytery of October 5, 2011 (see Augustine Presbytery minutes 10:5:2011, dated January 12, 2013). By this motion, the Presbytery acknowledges its error as determined by the Court of Appeals and in reference will attempt in the future adhere to the guidance of the council in the courts findings.  
After discussion the motion was amended: Strawbridge/Hurt.  
Amendment carried by voice vote
- c. **Motion: (13/9/27:3): Pasarilla/Doskey:** Move that the Augustine Presbytery formally take note of the CREC's Court of Appeals ruling (published January 13, 2013) in the St. Peter Presbyterian Church Bristol VA versus Augustine Presbytery in the Presbytery's decision of October 5, 2011 (see minutes 2011:10:5:4). The court affirmed SPPC's appeal. We have received the court's ruling and will attempt in the future, to adhere to the court's guidance/findings. Further, the presbytery requests the presiding minister to communicate this note to the CREC in a timely fashion.  
Motion CARRIED: 13-7-0
- d. Christ Presbyterian Church, Knoxville, TN Overture (see attached)  
Mike Pasarilla presented the highlights of the overture and asked for adoption.  
Second: Laurence Windham

**Motion: (13/9/27:4):** Cooper/Doskey: to limit debate to three (3) minutes, one time, per speaker.

Motion to accept the overture (13/9/27:5):Pasarilla/Windham: defeated 7-12-1

- e. **Motion: (13/9/27:6): Greene/Biette:** for the PM to send a letter from the Presbytery to Jack Phelps summarizing the concerns over the court process, expressed in discussion of the Knoxville overture.

Motion DEFEATED

- f. **Motion: (13/9/27:7):** Fischer/Strawbridge: to receive Presiding Minister of Council Jack Phelps' Report

Motion CARRIED

- B. Augustine Presbytery Presiding Minister's Report - given by PM Steve Hemmeke

**Motion: (13/9/27:8):** Strawbridge/Aguiar: to receive and approve the Prime minister's report. Motion CARRIED

## V. New Business

- A. Committee assigned to propose CREC Constitutional Amendment to IV. D., on Appeals - Gregg Strawbridge and Peter Jones. Amendment attached. Peter Jones presented the proposed amendments.

**Motion: (13/9/27:9):** Doskey/Jones: to amend the proposal per Doskey's motions 2, 4, 6, 7, and 8 (see separate motions below). Motion CARRIED

2. In the proposed wording for Article IV.D.3.b, to replace the phrase "is normally" with the phrase "must be", and to strike the sentences, "However, an appeal may be made directly to Council. In such a case, the presiding Minister of Council may, in his sole discretion, remand the case to the Presbytery from which it arises."
4. In the proposed wording for Article IV.D.3.d, to insert the phrase "Presbytery or" after the phrase "on behalf of", to strike the phrase "of Council" after the phrase "the decision", and to replace the phrase "a future Council" with the phrase "subsequent appeal".
6. In the proposed wording for Article IV.D.4.b, to replace the phrase "2" with the phrase "3".
7. In the proposed wording for Article IV.D.4.e, strike the phrase "or Council".
8. In the proposed wording for Article IV.D.4.g, to replace the phrase "do not necessarily have to" with the phrase "must", and to strike the sentence, "However, Council, acting in Session or through the Minister, may choose to remand the case to Presbytery."

**Motion: (13/9/27:10):** Doskey/Pasarilla: to approve the proposed wording for Article IV.D.4.a, to insert the word “or” after the phrase “without formal action”, and strike the phrase “or the complainant is from outside the CREC”.

Motion CARRIED

**Motion: (13/9/27:11):** Doskey/Jones: to approve the proposed wording for Article IV.D.3.b, to insert the phrase “the validity of” following the phrase “right of appeal regarding”.

Motion CARRIED

**Motion: (13/9/27:12):** Doskey/Jones: to revise the proposed wording for Article IV.D.3.c, to add the following after the phrase “harmless error”: “In agreeing to hear an appeal, the appellate court shall not retry the case, but instead shall presume the lower court acted in good faith in rendering its decision. The appellate court shall restrict its review to the question of whether the lower court’s decision conflicts with the Scriptures or the constitution and bylaws of the lower court and the CREC. However, if the appellate court finds that the lower court did not act in good faith in rendering its decision, either through grievous violation of its constitution and bylaws, or by gross misbehavior, such a finding may be used by the appellant as grounds for a formal complaint against the original court in accordance with Section 4.”

Motion CARRIED

**Motion: (13/9/27:13):** Jones/Fischer: to forward, recommend and endorse the substance of this amendment to Council for it to consider in 2014.

Motion CARRIED

**B. Church planting network presentation**

Virgil Hurt gave a brief overview and asked for financial assistance.

See attached for the network’s governing document.

**C. Review of ordained minister list (see article 12 of the CREC BOP).**

Tony Aguilar	Jim DuJack	Glen Knecht
Jay Barfield	Duane Garner	Steve Murphy
Jason Biette	Troy Greene	Michael Pasarilla
CJ Bowen	Wayne Hays	Brian Penney
Tom Clark	Steve Hemmeke	Brian Phillips
Mark Dewey	Virgil Hurt	Gregg Strawbridge
	Peter Jones	Laurence Windham

Addition: Jay Barfield was added to the ministerial list at Laurence Windham’s request, without objection.

D. Proposal from Copiague for financial support – see attached  
Brian Penney discussed his church’s financial situation. They are looking to raise \$1,500 per month. See Brian Penny’s proposal, attached, for all options.

E. Planning for Presbytery Retreat (Spring 2014). Peter Jones to coordinate.

F. Augustine Presbytery Family Camp: report from 2013 and planning for 2014.  
David Cooper said that the family camp was a wonderful event.

G. Consideration of Delegates for Council 2014.

Currently Presiding Minister and Presiding Minister Pro Tempore

**Motion: (13/9/27:14):** Pasarilla/Strawbridge: for the Presiding Minister to choose an alternate for Tom Clark, if needed.

Motion CARRIED

Presbytery and Council will both be at Lake Tahoe, NV, October 6-9, 2014.

H. Other business

**Motion: (13/9/27:15):**Pasarilla/Windham: to ask the CREC to amend CREC BoP X.3  
*“Appellant(s) will give notice of intent to appeal, whether an initial appeal and / or after an appellate decision, to both the Presiding Minister of the next broader judicatory and the respondent(s) within four weeks of the action from which appeal is made. Additionally, the appeal in full must be submitted to the next broader judicatory within sixty (60) days of the action from which appeal is made. If the appeal is forwarded by the Presiding Minister for action, he shall constitute a Court of Appeals within two weeks of the appeal being fully submitted by the appellant(s), and will seek to ensure that the judgment of the court is promulgated within four months of being constituted. The goal is to render a judgment in the matter of the appeal within six (6) months of the action being appeals, to which all parties are to adhere. The Presiding Minister may grant additional time in the process only in extraordinary circumstances and will keep all parties informed.”*

Motion CARRIED

I. Good of the order

- a. PM Hemmeke thanked CJ and Lisa Bowen, and Christ Reformed Evangelical Church of Annapolis for hosting our meeting this year.
- b. PM Hemmeke thanked Paul Thompson for “clerking” the meeting.

VIII. Motion to adjourn: Cooper/Jones. Motion CARRIED.

Closing prayer by PM Steve Hemmeke at 6:25 p.m.