

Augustine Presbytery (CREC) Minutes, 2014

The Augustine Presbytery of the Communion of Reformed Evangelical Churches held its regular annual meeting on October 7, 2014 in Lake Tahoe, Nevada, with Presiding Minister Steve Hemmeke moderating the meeting.

I. Call to order

- A. Presiding Minister Hemmeke called the meeting to order at 9:02 am.
- B. Roll call was taken and a quorum was established.

Present were:

- 1. All Saints Church, Lancaster, PA, Gregg Strawbridge
- 2. Christ Church, Cary, NC - ABSENT
- 3. Christ Church of Morgantown, WV, Peter Jones, Alvin Moss
- 4. Christ Covenant Church, Copiague, NY, Tony Aguilar
- 5. Christ Presbyterian Church, Knoxville, TN - ABSENT
- 6. Oakwood Bible Church, Troy, NY, Jim DuJack
- 7. Christ Reformed Evangelical Church, Annapolis, MD, C.J. Bowen
- 8. Covenant Heritage Reformed Church, Newport News, VA
Steve Hemmeke (PM), Conrad Doskey
- 9. Holy Trinity Reformed Church, Concord, NC – ABSENT
- 10. Providence Church, Lynchburg, VA, Virgil Hurt, David Cooper
- 11. St. Peter Presbyterian Church, Bristol, VA, Laurence Windham, Steve Murphy
- 12. The King's Chapel, Brooklyn, NY, Troy Greene
- 13. Tri-City Covenant Church, Somersworth, NH, Paul Edgar

In Tom Clark's absence, Presiding Minister Hemmeke appointed Gregg Strawbridge as temporary PM Pro Tempore.

C. Recognition of Guests and Visiting Delegations:

- 1. Jay Barfield, member of St. Peter Pres., Bristol, VA
- 2. Michael Belice, member of Oakwood Bible, Troy, NY
- 3. Charles Cascio, church planter from King's Chapel to Long Island, NY
- 4. George Vander Dussen, visiting delegation from Covenant Presbyterian Church
- 5. Covenant Family Fellowship, Shippensburg, PA – candidate church
Ray Barbeito and Myron Stoltzfus

II. Devotions and reports

- A. Opening devotion by Presiding Minister Steve Hemmeke from 2 Corinthians 12:6-10, reflections on visiting Tom Clark
- B. Invocation by Paul Edgar
- C. Psalms sung, led by Gregg Strawbridge
- D. Member Church Reports: presentation, questions and prayer

III. Churches recommended for sponsorship into CREC

Motion (14/10/07:1): Strawbridge/Cooper: to receive Covenant Family Fellowship of Shippensburg, PA as full members of the CREC.

Motion CARRIED unanimously.

IV. Reports

A. CREC Council Presiding Minister Jack Phelps' Report - Read by Rev. C.J. Bowen.

- a. **Motion: (14/10/07:2):** Strawbridge/Cooper: to ratify all the PMoC's appointments. Motion CARRIED 12-2, Murphy and Windham against.
- b. **Motion: (14/10/07:3):** Strawbridge/Jones: to ratify the council court decision in 4.f. Motion WITHDRAWN.
- c. **Motion: (14/10/07:4):** to adopt logo #1 with a light background – no second.
- d. **Motion: (14/10/07:5):** Jones/Hurt: to reject all four logos and go back to the drawing board.

Motion CARRIED unanimously.

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

Motion: (14/10/07:6): Strawbridge/Cooper: to receive the Presiding Minister's report, and thank him for a job well done.

Motion CARRIED unanimously.

C. Church planting network – given by Virgil Hurt

- a. **Motion: (14/10/07:7):** Hurt/Strawbridge: to appoint a committee to advise the presbytery on church planting at next year's meeting, consisting of the Network board members (Virgil Hurt, George Kong, Dan Tuckwiller, Ty Fischer, Steve Hemmeke), Tony Aguilar, Troy Greene, and Conrad Doskey.

Motion CARRIED unanimously.

D. Presbytery Spring Retreat 2015 – Gregg Strawbridge. Location is Rehoboth Beach, DE, date to be announced. Steve Hemmeke announced tentative plans to have an outside speaker, and received input to keep the same relaxed atmosphere.

E. Presbytery Family Camp 2015 – David Cooper. June 11-14, 2015 at Virginia Nazarene Camp near Buckingham, VA, about an hour west of Richmond.

V. New Business

A. Review of ordained minister list: *Italics = without call* Underline = retired

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

- B. Motion (14/10/07:8): Strawbridge/Jones: The 2014 Council of the CREC appoint a Missions Recommendation Commission (MRC) consisting of one member from each Presbytery. This is a commission and therefore will act with the authority of Council, without the need of awaiting another Council to approve its recommendations. This commission is to address the following tasks: 1) Create a set of guidelines or principles whereby to recognize CREC Council-approved missions endeavors by May 1, 2015. Note: this is not to prohibit local congregations from other efforts; this would merely provide a basis for recommendations to Presbyteries and congregations. 2) Review the missions efforts across the CREC and other opportunities that meet CREC Council-approved criteria (i.e., as in point 1). 3) Provide recommendations to the 2015-2017 Presbyteries of CREC-recommended mission opportunities and suggested goals of engagement for the various Presbyteries through the churches of each Presbytery. 4) Report on the Commissions work to 2017 Council along with recommendations to the Council to continue to further missions in the CREC.

Rationale: One of the CREC’s great challenges in missions engagement is the lack of a united channeling of resources, including the assessment of mission agencies and/or missionaries. It is difficult for a congregation to do all the work of a mission agency. While most denominations accomplish this through centralized agencies and committees, our polity does not permit this (IV.A.4). However, our polity recognizes the value of the broader Church in Presbyteries and in Council which serves “to formulate plans of action concerning matters common to the churches” (IV.A.2.e). Missions rightfully should be a labor of congregations, yet some aspects of missions need the wisdom of the broader Church bodies, analogous to the way that congregations need the leadership of Presbyteries in helping assess men for the pastoral office, as well as to serve in oversight.

Motion CARRIED unanimously.

C. Motion (14/10/07:9): Greene/Edgar: to provide the Presiding Minister (PM) with an annual stipend of money up to a total of \$10,000 annually, beginning with the election of a new Presiding Minister in 2015, from voluntary contributions of \$1,000 from each church per year.

Rationale: The purpose of this stipend is to adequately compensate the PM for his work and to ensure that the position is sought after by tenured and seasoned ministers of the Presbytery.

Motion amended (Doskey/???) to: In order that more elders be encouraged to serve as PM, to provide the Presiding Minister (PM) with an annual stipend of money up to a total of \$10,000 annually, beginning with the election of a new Presiding Minister in 2015, from voluntary contributions of \$1,000 from each church per year.

Amendment CARRIED 7-5.

Motion DEFEATED 2-12.

Motion (14/10/07:10): Strawbridge/Cooper: Augustine Presbytery commends Pastor Jack Phelps for his service as PM of Council for a job done exceedingly well and we thank Covenant Bible Church for their sacrificial service rendered to the broader Church through Pastor Phelps's labors. We call upon all CREC congregations to provide a monetary gift to Pastor Phelps in thanks for his service.

Motion (14/10/07:11): Strawbridge/Jones: Augustine Presbytery commends the host churches and John Stoos on their labors to make council 2014 possible and enjoyable.

D. Council agenda deliberation.

Input was received on the election of council PM, the overture from Wycliffe, and the proposal to amend constitution article IV.D.

VIII. Motion to adjourn: Aguilar/Strawbridge. Motion CARRIED unanimously.

Closing prayer by PM Steve Hemmeke around 5:00 p.m.