

2018 ANNUAL MEETING

OF

KNOX PRESBYTERY



COMMUNION OF REFORMED
EVANGELICAL CHURCHES

MINUTES

Coeur d'Alene, Idaho
October 8-10, 2018

TUESDAY OCTOBER 9, 2018

Preliminary Matters

- The 2018 annual meeting of Knox Presbytery was called to order at 8:33 a.m. by Presiding Minister (“PM”) Stuart Bryan.
- An invitational prayer was offered by Pastor Kenton Spratt.
- Singing was led by Pastor Gene Helsel.
- Meditation was delivered by Pastor Christopher Schrock (Proverbs 24:26).
- Roll was called by PM Bryan and a quorum was established.
- Visitors were introduced and welcomed.

Motion (10/09/18:1) was made by Pastor Alan Burrow to accept the Presbytery agenda. Pastor Gene Helsel seconded it. **Motion carried** unanimously (17-0-0).

Church Reports

- Christ Church (Missoula, MT); Elder Michael Harkin present.
- Christ Church (Moscow, ID); Pastor Toby Sumpter and Elder Tyler Knight, present.
- Christ Church (Spokane, WA); Pastor Kenton Spratt and Elder Andre Fowlkes present.
 - Holy Trinity Church (Colville, WA) (mission church of Christ Church, Spokane); Pastor Ed Iverson, present.
- Christ Covenant Church (Enterprise, OR); Pastor Terry Tollefson, present.
- Christ Covenant Reformed Church (Billings, MT); Pastor Christopher Schrock, present.
- Emmanuel Church (Helena, MT); Pastor Jonah Barnes, present.
- King’s Cross Church (Wenatchee, WA); Pastor Gene Helsel and Elder Joel Penfold, present.
- The King’s Congregation (Meridian, ID); Pastor Alan Burrow, present.

- Trinity Church (Coeur d'Alene, ID); Pastor Stuart Bryan and Elder Ed MacBurnie, present.
- Trinity Covenant Church (Fort St. John, BC); Elder Desmond Jones, present.
- Trinity Reformed Church (Moscow, ID); Elders Timothy van den Broek and Christopher Schlect, present.
- Valley Covenant Church (Lewiston, ID); Pastor Matt Carpenter and Elder Rusty Olps, present.

Standard Business

Motion (10/09/18:2) was made by Pastor Toby Sumpter that Knox Presbytery grant that Pastor Francis Foucachon be granted exception to serve as a ruling elder at Christ Church, Moscow, ID, while still a member of the PCA. The motion was seconded by Elder Chris Schlect. **Motion carried** unanimously (17-0-0).

It was recognized by the Presbytery that Jack Bradley's credentials are being retained by Christ Church, Moscow, ID, though he is not serving as an elder in accordance with BOP XII.4.a.ii.1. It was also recognized that Rick Young's credentials have lapsed.

Gabe Rench delivered a report on the ministry of New St. Andrews College. No action was required.

Presiding Ministers' Reports

The report of Council PM Virgil Hurt (attached) was received. There were four action items for Presbytery.

- **Motion** (10/09/18:3) was made by Pastor Alan Burrow that Knox Presbytery ratify the list serve guidelines as put forth by Council PM Virgil Hurt. This was seconded by Elder Chris Schlect. **Motion carried** (16-0-1).
- **Motion** (10/09/18:4) was made by Pastor Christopher Schrock to approve the formation of the CREC Court Guidelines Committee and appointment of Pastor Jack Phelps as chairman. It was seconded by Pastor Toby Sumpter. **Motion carried** unanimously (17-0-0).
- **Motion** (10/09/18:5) was made by Elder Timothy van den Broek to approve PM Hurt's action to gather demographic information from the churches. The motion was seconded by Elder Tyler Knight. **Motion carried** (16-0-1).
- **Motion** (10/09/18:6) was made by Pastor Toby Sumpter to approve PM Hurt's CREC statement on sexuality. Motion was seconded by Pastor Christopher Schrock. **Motion carried** unanimously (17-0-0).

The report of Knox Presbytery PM Stuart Bryan (attached) was received, and the following action items were acted on by Presbytery:

- **Motion** (10/09/18:7) was made by Pastor Kenton Spratt that Knox Presbytery ratify PM Bryan's decision to:
 - December 6, 2017 – form the first Knox Presbytery committee on abuse, consisting of Kenton Spratt, Toby Sumpter (Chair), Terry Tollefson, Uri Brito, and Ben Rossell.
 - April 6, 2018 – terminate the first Knox Presbytery committee on abuse.
 - April 6, 2018 – form the second Knox Presbytery committee on abuse, consisting of Kenton Spratt (chair), Toby Sumpter, Terry Tollefson, and Gene Helsel.

Motion was seconded by Gene Helsel. **Motion carried** unanimously (17-0-0).

- **Motion** (10/09/18:8) was made by Pastor Toby Sumpter to ratify PM Bryan's decision to send the Officer Qualification Amendment to PM Virgil Hurt on June 4, 2018 with the request that PM Hurt form a committee. Motion was seconded by Pastor Kenton Spratt. **Motion carried** unanimously (17-0-0).
- **Motion** (10/09/18: 9) was made by Elder Chris Schlect to ratify PM Bryan's decision to establish an Ordination Examination Committee for Ryan Handermann in response to request from Trinity Reformed Church (Moscow, ID). Alan Burrow seconded the motion. **Motion carried** unanimously (17-0-0).
- **Motion** (10/09/18:10) was made by Pastor Alan Burrow to ratify PM Bryan's decision to procure the services of Tim Gallant Creative to make changes to the Knox Presbytery web page. Motion was seconded by Pastor Matt Carpenter. **Motion carried** unanimously (17-0-0).

Knox Committee Reports

- **Motion** (10/09/18:11) was made by Pastor Alan Burrow to adopt the findings and conclusions of the Committee for the Examination of Ministerial Candidate Ryan Handermann (attached). Motion was seconded by Pastor Terry Tollefson. **Motion carried** unanimously (17-0-0).

CREC Committee Reports

- Ordination Process Committee. "Proposal for CREC Examination and Ordination Procedures" [Appendix J]. Douglas Wilson presented the proposals. Discussion ensued. Knox Presbytery, by an informal poll, registered unanimous opposition to the proposals.

Presbytery was recessed at 4:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2018

- Presbytery was reconvened at 8:30 a.m. by PM Stuart Bryan.
- An invocation prayer was offered by Pastor Jonah Barnes.
- Singing was led by Pastor Gene Helsel.

CREC Committee Reports (Continued)

- CREC Memorial on Terrorism Revision Committee: “Memorial E. Terrorism & Just War (2018 Suggested Revision)” [Appendix K]. Stuart Bryan presented the proposed changes. Discussion ensued.
- CREC List Rules Committee: “Recommended List Serve Guidelines” [Appendix L]. Presented. Discussion ensued.
- CREC Sexual Abuse Prevention Committee: Recommendations [Appendix M]. Presented. Discussion ensued.
- CREC Social Media Committee: “Statement on Social Media” [Appendix N]. Toby Sumpter presented the statement. Discussion ensued.
- CREC Same-Sex Marriage Committee: “Proposed Amendments to the CREC Constitution Re Sex, Gender, and Marriage” [Appendix S]. Alan Burrow presented the proposed amendments. Discussion ensued.

Proposed Memorial on Abortion

- The Proposed CREC Memorial on Abortion was read [Appendix O]. Gene Helsel presented. Discussion ensued. Specific changes were recommended.
 - Other presbyteries asked the question whether the document prohibits the termination of ectopic pregnancies with these words: *“Even in those rare circumstances when a pregnancy causes an immediate threat to the life of a mother, the calling of fathers, mothers, and doctors is to do all they can to preserve life not take it.”* The delegates of Knox Presbytery were not in agreement as to the lawfulness of terminating such pregnancies. Consequently, these words reflect a compromise. Our understanding is that our document permits local sessions to make the judgment on this matter. We simply affirm the general principle that at all times best efforts should be made to preserve life.

Officer Qualifications Amendment

Motion (10/10/18:1) was made by Elder Chris Schlect for the Knox Presbytery PM to form a committee per PM Hurt’s suggestion to revise the Officer Qualifications Amendment Request (Appendix E) and pass it at the next Presbytery meeting. Motion was seconded by Pastor Toby Sumpter. **Motion carried** unanimously (17-0-0).

Presbytery and Council Details

Motion (10/10/18:2) was made by Pastor Kenton Spratt to have Trinity Reformed Church (Moscow, ID) host the 2019 Knox Presbytery meeting (October 7-9, 2019). Motion was seconded by Pastor Gene Helsel. **Motion carried** unanimously (17-0-0).

Motion (10/10/18:3) was made by Pastor Toby Sumpter to nominate PM Stuart Bryan to be the first delegate from Knox Presbytery to Council in 2020. Motion was seconded by Pastor Alan Burrow. **Motion carried** unanimously (17-0-0).

Pastor Douglas Wilson was elected to be a delegate to Council in 2020 with Pastor Alan Burrow as alternate.

Eternal Subordination of the Son Discussion

Pastor Douglas Wilson presented the sixth draft of “On Authority, Order, and Equality within the Godhead: Affirmations and Denials.” Discussion ensued.

- **Motion** (10/10/18:4) was made by Elder Timothy van den Broek that Knox Presbytery approve the Statement, “On Authority, Order, and Equality with the Godhead: Affirmations and Denials” for dissemination for discussion and input to:

1. Knox Presbytery
2. The CREC
3. Respected others

The motion was seconded by Elder Rusty Olps. **Motion carried** unanimously (14-0-0).

Miscellaneous Matters

Elder Michael Harkin presented his suggestion regarding Greyfriars Reserve (Appendix P). Discussion ensued. Delegates suggested Michael develop a formal proposal for future action.

PM Stuart Bryan presented the suggestion of a “Founders Fest” in conjunction with Council 2020. Discussion ensued. Delegates generally in favor of such an event.

Pastor Christopher Schrock presented for consideration the removal of 39 Articles from Acceptable Confessions. Discussion ensued. Delegates encouraged Christopher to develop a formal proposal that would include a rationale and roadmap for CREC either (1) requiring specific exceptions for 39 Article churches or (2) removing the 39 Articles from the CREC's list of accepted confessions of faith.

Motion (10/10/18:5) was made by Pastor Terry Tollefson to adjourn Knox Presbytery 2018 meeting. Motion was seconded by Pastor Gene Helsel. **Motion carried** unanimously (14-0-0).

Presbytery adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

**Presiding Minister Hurt
2018 Council Report**

PMoC Actions, items 1-4, that need a vote of approval.

1. List Serve Guidelines

In December of 2017, I posted the guidelines below on our elder list serve as basic operating principles. Later, a Council List Serve Rules Committee came up with rules that I also posted. I subsequently realized that a Committee report must be approved by Council to be an action, so I rescinded the posting of those Committee rules.

I do exhort you to abide by the following guidelines, perhaps with the one exception of length. Most posts should be brief, but if you have something meaningful to say and it takes a longer post, then have at it.

These were my posted guidelines.

1. **Keep your posts short.** It is an email list, not a blog. I won't be counting your words but you ought to be able to say something encouraging, give advice, or ask counsel, in far less than 250 words, for example. Nobody reads your long posts anyway! If you want to be persuasive, be brief. This entire post is 391 words. Too long!
2. **No Ad Hominem.** This includes presumptive speech or accusations against your brothers on this list. If you don't know what they mean by something they have said, then ask a question or two or twenty, if need be, before you draw conclusions. You can always call them or email them directly. Please do not be presumptuous. If you have a bone to pick with someone personally, call them, or email them. Please do not email ALL of us to express your issues with a particular person.
3. **Receive admonishment-** If you get out of line, chances are you won't even realize it. But if your brothers or your PM calls or emails you and suggests you back off, pipe down, or apologize, listen.
4. **Discuss and disagree.** No problem. Let's do that. Let's do it like Christian brothers. Let's do it like Christian brothers who love each other. Let's do it like Christian brothers who trust each other. Let's do it in short posts!
5. **Delete most of your posts before you hit send.** Be circumspect. I have typed countless responses to the elder list, sometimes long screeds, far more than my suggested 250 word max. Then, I usually re-read them and hit delete. I feel better and I have not needlessly offended my brothers. The delete button is in the upper right corner of your keyboard. Search it out and implement its use. Some of you Type, Send and Think. I encourage you to Think, Type and Send or probably even better, hit delete.

Motion: Approve PM Hurt's list serve guidelines.

2. Court Guidelines Committee Formation and Appointment

Appointed Anselm PM Jack Phelps to form a committee to draft language for Council approval that would establish guidelines for CREC courts. Duane Garner and

Rich Lusk are on the committee. This is a Council committee with work reported to Council.

Motion: Approve the formation of the CREC Court Guidelines Committee and appointment of Jack Phelps as Chairman.

3. CREC Demographics

I created a demographic spreadsheet to gather important information on our church size, pastor's salaries, confessional standards, polity, and generational faithfulness. The various Presiding Ministers of Presbytery sent the spreadsheet to pastors to fill out. We are still waiting on one Presbytery to return the data. Once the sheet is complete, I will compile the data and send you the pertinent pieces of information.

The data is important and helpful and for the most part, encouraging, particularly in the area of whether our children are embracing the faith as adults. They are! A few churches chose not to participate. In my opinion, we are in no danger of central control overreach and I thus encourage all the churches to participate in these sorts of good faith efforts to gain meaningful information that help move our denomination forward.

Motion: Approve PM Hurt's action to gather demographic information from the churches.

4. Statement on Sexuality

On July 16, I made the following Statement on Sexuality.

CREC Statement on Sexuality
July 16, 2018

The CREC affirms the Bible's teaching on the creation of man and woman and the establishment of the marriage relationship as only between one man and one woman. There are two sexes, male and female. We stand against all attempts to confuse the Bible's clear teaching in this area.

The CREC believes that Christians who struggle with various sexual temptations should receive ongoing pastoral care, including those who are tempted to engage in sexual perversions. At the same time, we believe that any teaching that combines LGBTQ *identity* with identity in *Christ* is completely unbiblical.

We believe that encouraging Christians who face certain sexual temptations to *identify* as lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and transgenders, whether in sexually active relationships or not, is unbiblical, and further, that this teaching will have destructive effects in the long term, both for individuals who follow it and for any Christian bodies that accommodate it.

We exhort all ecclesiastical bodies to declare the Bible's full and clear teaching on sexual behavior, whether in desires or actions, and to encourage individuals to repent of sinful desires and sexual behavior as they turn to Christ to resist temptation.

We encourage patient pastoral care for struggling individuals who repent of their sins and seek to be obedient to Jesus.

We exhort the broader Christian Church, and particularly Reformed Churches, to hold their churches and pastors accountable to faithful biblical doctrine and practice in all areas of sexuality.

Virgil Hurt
Presiding Minister of Council
Communion of Reformed Evangelical Churches (CREC)

Motion: Approve PM Hurt's CREC Statement on Sexuality.

Report of PMoC work, informational items 5-10 that do not need a vote of approval.

5. PM Summit

On February 19-20, I called a meeting of the Presiding Ministers, continuing a tradition begun by former PMoC Phelps.

We met in Dallas, Texas and discussed where we are as a denomination, what strengths we possess and what challenges we face. It proved to be a fruitful meeting and we plan to conduct these meetings annually. In the future, we are pleased to consider any discussion items that you might have for us.

This meeting is not a judicial body. We can discuss items that need work and suggest work for the PMs but we are not acting as a Presbytery or Council, and thus do not make motions or vote on any items.

6. Peacemaking

In the Spring of 2018, a strong clash of words broke out on our elder list that revealed Christ Church, Moscow's dissatisfaction with the Presiding Ministers Review Committee report. In my opinion, this was a potential threat to the unity of the CREC. As a result, In April, I made a trip to Moscow, Idaho to discuss Christ Church's concerns about the report. The purpose of the trip was to listen to the concerns and to work towards closure about the ongoing disagreement. After my trip, Douglas Wilson and Christ Church agreed to no longer voice their concerns about the report.

7. In June of 2018, Wycliffe PM, Todd Davis, experienced a medical issue and subsequently resigned. On 6/26/2018, I received PM Davis' resignation and appointed PM Pro Tempore, Steve Wilkins, to fulfill PM Davis' term, which expires after Presbytery 2019.
8. Knox Presbytery requested that a committee be formed to review and improve the language of Knox's Committee on Officer Qualifications. As we already had many Council committees going and were having a difficult time filling all of them, I was not willing to form this new committee. I suggested that Knox form a committee to review and improve their language and present their improvements to presbyteries.

9. Various Travels

In June, my wife, Katie, and I made a trip to Martinsburg, WV to spend time with Pastor Andrew Isker and his wife, Kara, who lost their four-month old baby, Aethelflaed.

In August, Katie and I traveled to Poland to speak at the annual family camp of the Polish CREC Churches. I preached 2 Sunday sermons on the Fruit of the Spirit, love, and self-control, respectively. In between these, I gave 9 sermons on the book of Colossians. My wife was greatly encouraging to the ladies. The time of fellowship was sweet. Our Polish CREC members love the Lord, are eager to learn from us and teach us, are enthusiastic about the Reformed faith and glad to be part of the CREC. I hope to visit Ukraine in 2019.

At time of writing, I am planning on visiting the Anselm Presbytery meeting in Anchorage, Alaska, September 25-27. The purpose of attending their presbytery meeting is two-fold. First, to build relationships with our Eastern European pastors. Second, to further develop a plan with Anselm PM Phelps, and the pastors in attendance, on forming an Eastern European Presbytery.

10. PMoC Expenses

To date, the office of PMoC has expenses totaling about \$11,000. These expenses included travel to Poland, Moscow, Idaho, the PM Summit in Dallas, Texas, an upcoming attendance at Anselm Presbytery in Alaska, and a couple of other church visit trips. I have not included additional pastoral and clerical help in these expenses. To date, Providence Church has gratefully received \$5050 from 15 churches. Thank you!

I have requested that unless you are a struggling church, please budget \$250 annually for the work of Presiding Minister of Council. Can you please contact your treasurer to see if you have sent us PMoC support for 2018? Our church has to cover all these expenses and we do very much appreciate your help.



COMMUNION OF REFORMED EVANGELICAL CHURCHES

Report from Knox Presbytery Presiding Minister Stuart W. Bryan

August 31, 2018

Dear Brothers,

As I began drafting this first of my reports as your Presiding Minister, I found myself marveling at all that has occurred in the last year. While I had initially thought the letter would be incredibly short since not much had happened, looking back has reminded me that much has happened. Through it all God has shown Himself gracious and I am honored to be serving among you as PM.

Changes at Christ Church, Missoula

On November 29, 2017 I received notice from Andrew Voekle, then pastor at Christ Church Missoula, of his intention to resign as pastor effective January 2018. After interacting with Pastor Voekle, it became evident that he was not settled in this desire and that he and the session were in need of help to develop a plan forward. Consequently, I hosted a meeting at my office in Coeur d'Alene on December 11, 2017 and met with Pastor Voekle, Elder Michael Harkin, and Elder Pro-Tem Francis Foucachon to discuss the situation. At that meeting, they determined that the best course forward for Christ Church Missoula was to hold elections for additional elder and deacon candidates as well as for Pastor Voekle to resign his position. The next week ballots were distributed to the church; and on January 6, 2018 Pastor Voekle announced his resignation. By January 23, 2018 affirmative votes were tallied for all candidates. Consequently, the various men were installed to office on January 28, 2018 which was also Pastor Voekle's last Sunday.

On May 27, 2018 I traveled to Missoula and preached. It was evident that the church there is struggling to reboot following this discouraging series of events. However, the leadership of the church is well-established and there is hope for the future.

PM Summit in Dallas, TX

February 19-21, 2018 I traveled to Dallas, TX to participate in the Presiding Minister Summit called by Council PM Virgil Hurt. This provided opportunity to discuss some of the feedback that I received from many of you regarding the strengths and weaknesses of the CREC as well as strategic opportunities and threats. It was a good meeting and I provided an email summary on February 28, 2018. As I mentioned at the time, the discussion was lively and edifying and caused me to grow in thankfulness for our local congregation and for our communion of churches - particularly for Knox Presbytery.

Trip to Valley Covenant Church, Lewiston, ID

In response to a request from Pastor Matt Carpenter of Valley Covenant Church in Lewiston, ID, I traveled to Valley Covenant Church on March 18, 2018 to participate in his installation service. During the Lord's Day Service, Francis Foucachon preached on the duties of the pastor to the congregation and I preached on the duties of the congregation to the pastor. I then invited the local elders forward and we prayed and installed Matt to this pastoral call. It was a great privilege to participate in the installation and to share in the feast afterward. Matt and his family are beloved by the flock there and committed to see the church grow. May the Lord grant him many fruitful years of ministry in Lewiston.

Trip to Moscow, ID with PM Virgil Hurt

Following some controversy on the CREC List-Serve, PM Virgil Hurt decided to travel to Spokane, WA and Moscow, ID for face to face meetings April 2-5, 2018. His stated purpose was to listen, to try to understand the concerns raised, and to preserve the unity of the CREC. He asked that I join him and I agreed to do so. We met with the sessions of Trinity Reformed Church-Moscow, ID, and Christ Church-Moscow, ID. In addition to these sessions of elders, we also met with several men individually, including Pastors Kenton Spratt, Douglas Wilson, and Toby Sumpter. I am thankful for all these men and pray that the Lord may continue to bless the CREC and preserve us in faithfulness and fellowship for years to come.

Knox Presbytery Committee on Abuse

At the 2017 Stated Meeting for Knox Presbytery, you asked that I form a committee to review the Trinity Reformed Church Statement on Abuse and make recommendations to our presbytery. Accordingly, on December 6, 2017 I formed the initial committee. After deliberating, this committee determined by a 3-2 vote that the statement was so deficient that no further action by Knox Presbytery was necessary. As chair of the original committee, Pastor Toby Sumpter relayed this decision to me. The two members of the committee who voted to continue the committee's work requested, however, that I form a new committee so that the issue not die. After considering their request and seeking outside counsel, I terminated the original committee and formed a second committee on April 6, 2018. I am currently awaiting a final report from the second committee.

★ Action Item: I ask that Knox Presbytery ratify my decisions to:

- **December 6, 2017 – Form the first Knox Presbytery Committee on Abuse consisting of Kenton Spratt, Toby Sumpter (chair), Terry Tollefson, Uri Brito, and Ben Rossell.**
- **April 6, 2018 – Terminate the first Knox Presbytery Committee on Abuse.**
- **April 6, 2018 – Form the second Knox Presbytery Committee on Abuse consisting of Kenton Spratt (chair), Toby Sumpter, Terry Tollefson, and Gene Helsel.**

Mid-Year Retreat in Moscow, ID

On April 12, 2018 Trinity Reformed Church kindly hosted our mid-year presbytery gathering. We shared stories from our churches, prayed for one another, as well as discussed a number of important theological and ethical matters. The latter included such important issues as regeneration, abortion, and the need for the children of officers to be walking with the Lord.

Officer Qualification Amendment

At the Mid-year gathering we discussed the Officer Qualification Amendment that Knox Presbytery had passed in 2015. Sensing that the amendment was still a matter of concern to the members of presbytery I made sure of this by informally tallying the sentiments of the churches via our Knox email loop. Having confirmed that the Officer Qualification Amendment continued to reflect the sentiments of our presbytery, I forwarded the matter to Council PM Virgil Hurt on June 4, 2018 requesting that he form a committee to improve the language.

- ★ **Action Item: I ask that Knox Presbytery ratify my decision to send the Officer Qualification Amendment to PM Virgil Hurt on June 4, 2018 with the request that PM Hurt form a committee.**

Ordination Examination Committee for Ryan Handermann

In late May 2018, Pastor Joshua Appel of Trinity Reformed Church requested that I establish an ordination committee for Ryan Handermann. I solicited volunteers to serve on that committee and on June 12, 2018 provided those men with their charge.

The committee interviewed Mr. Handermann and issued a report to me dated July 26, 2018. Having completed its work, I terminated the ordination committee on August 29, 2018.

- ★ **Action Item: I ask that Knox Presbytery ratify my decisions to:**
 - **Establish an Ordination Examination Committee for Ryan Handermann in response to request from Trinity Reformed Church (Moscow, ID).**
 - **Terminate the committee after receiving its report dated July 26, 2018.**

Changes to Knox Presbytery Website

In response to a couple complaints regarding the difficulty of navigating the Knox Presbytery web page, I solicited the services of Tim Gallant Creative in July 2018 to improve it. The cost for these improvements was \$75.

- ★ **Action Item: I ask that Knox Presbytery ratify my decision to procure the services of Tim Gallant Creative to make changes to the Knox Presbytery website.**

Permit me to close by expressing, once again, my thankfulness for the trust you have placed in me by selecting me to serve as PM of Knox Presbytery. I am deeply honored and pray that the Lord may continue to pour out His blessing on our fellowship of churches and knit our hearts together as one.

For the Glory of Christ,

Stuart W. Bryan
Pastor, Trinity Church (Coeur d'Alene, Idaho)
Presiding Minister of Knox Presbytery

July 26, 2018

TO: Knox Presbytery of the CREC
Attention: Stuart Bryan, Presiding Minister (sbryan@trinitycda.org)

FR: Committee for the Examination of Ministerial Candidate Ryan Handermann

RE: Report on Preliminary Interview

CC: Ryan Handermann
Session of Trinity Reformed Church
Attention: Timothy van den Broek, Moderator (timothyvandenbroek@gmail.com)

Dear Brothers of Knox Presbytery,

Please receive the following report of your committee. This committee was formed in late June 2018 by PM Stuart Bryan, who acted in consultation with Presbytery, and tasked to carry out the examination of Ryan Handermann, a ministerial candidate at Trinity Reformed Church in Moscow, Idaho. Committee members include Matt Carpenter, Christopher Schrock, Kenton Spratt, Terry Tollefson and Christopher Schlect (chair).

In accordance with CREC procedures, your committee conducted a preliminary interview of Mr. Handermann on July 13, 2018, via video conference. Members Matt Carpenter, Kenton Spratt, Terry Tollefson and Christopher Schlect participated. Christopher Schrock was excused. The committee interviewed Mr. Handermann in the areas of personal life, Bible, theology, church history and polity, ethics and pastoral care.

Based upon this interview, your committee recommends that the candidate continue his preparations and sit for an examination at the 2019 meeting of Knox Presbytery. Because the candidate shows real promise, we commend him to further study and preparation for the gospel ministry. We hope to see him become a colleague in the pastorate. On the other hand, Mr. Handermann presents deficiencies that lead us to demur for the 2018 meeting of Presbytery. Individual committee members have agreed to supply written feedback to the candidate by way of encouragement and guidance as he moves forward with his preparations.

Respectfully Submitted,



Christopher Schlect, Chair, on behalf of the committee:

Matt Carpenter
Christopher Schrock
Kenton Spratt
Terry Tollefson