

Minutes

2023 Spring Meeting of Knox Presbytery

Tuesday April 4, 2023

Knox Presbytery Meeting held at Trinity Reformed Church 101 E. Palouse River Dr.
Moscow, ID 83843

*The 2023 Spring Meeting of Knox Presbytery was called to order at 8:30 am by
Presiding Minister Gene Helsel, King's Cross Church, Wenatchee.*

Opening Prayer – Elder Matthew Gonnella; Christ Covenant Church: Enterprise, OR;
opened in prayer.

Singing – Psalm 148

Presiding Minister Gene Helsel, gave opening remarks.

Roll Call - Roll was called by Presiding Minister Gene Helsel and a Quorum was
established at 8:53 am; 25 Delegates were present, representing all 17 churches of
Knox Presbytery.

1. Christ Church: Missoula, MT; Flynn Ayers
2. Christ Church: Moscow, ID; Ben Zornes & Doug Wilson;
3. Christ Church: Spokane, WA; Kenton Spratt & Andre Fowlkes;
4. Holy Trinity Church: Colville, WA; Edwin Iverson;
5. Christ Covenant Church: Enterprise, OR; Terry Tollefson & Matthew Gonnella;
6. Christ Covenant Church: Grand Prairie, AB; Nathan Zekfeld & Brad Donovan
7. Christ Covenant Reformed Church: Billings, MT; Tedd Sutton & Ryan Yeager
8. Emmanuel Church: Helena, MT; Jonah Barnes
9. King's Cross Church: Moscow, ID; Toby Sumpter & Shawn Paterson
10. King's Cross Church: Wenatchee, WA; Jess Monnette
11. Redeemer Community Church: Centennial Colorado; Jeff Rodland
12. The King's Congregation: Meridian, ID; Alan Burrow & Israel Waitman
13. Trinity Church: Coeur d' Alene, ID; Stuart Bryan & Chase Fluhart
14. Trinity Church: Denver, CO; Brian Brown
15. Trinity Covenant Church: Fort Saint John, BC; Desmond Jones;
16. Trinity Reformed Church: Moscow, ID; Joshua Appel & Ryan Handermann
17. Valley Covenant Church: Lewiston, ID; Sam Creason

Jared Longshore (Alternate – for Christ Church, Moscow, ID)

Guests -

Zach Wilke (King's Cross, Moscow); David Hurley (Christ Covenant Church, Enterprise, OR); Samuel Davidson (Greyfriar); Chris Cousine (Covenant Presbyterian in Concord AB); George Little (Christ Church, Omaha, NE), Grant Little (Christ Church, Omaha, NE); Matthew Wutherich (Fort St. John, BC); Jeremiah Jasso (Moscow, ID Greyfriar); Kellen Meyer (Valley Covenant Church, Greyfriar). Josh Edgren (Greyfriar); Chris Gonnella (Matt Gonnella's son); Leon Lefarrier – (Tri-Cities). George Turner (King's Congregation Idaho). Micah Kramer (King's Cross, Moscow).

Church Reports - Presiding Minister Gene Helsel invited delegates to provide oral reports on their churches.

Motion 4/4/23: 1 → Jess Monnette, King's Cross Church: Wenatchee, WA, made the following Motion:

To accept and approve the Agenda.

Second - Stuart Bryan, Trinity Church: Coeur d' Alene, ID. **Motion Carried (25, 0, 0).**

Split Knox into two presbyteries? Presiding Minister Gene Helsel opened discussion on the question: Should Knox Presbytery be divided into two Presbyteries?

Motion 4/4/23: 2 → Douglas Wilson, Christ Church, Moscow, ID, made the following Motion:

For the Knox Presiding Minister to form a committee that shall make a proposal on the following: propose a plan on the division of Knox Presbytery including which churches go where, and joint meeting model and to coordinate with presiding minister of CREC. The committee will make a report to be circulated before the next Presbytery meeting and to be taken up at Council.

Second Edwin Iverson, Holy Trinity Church: Colville, WA. **Motion Carried (25, 0, 0).**

Individuals willing to be considered by the Presiding Minister for this committee: Stuart Bryan; Matt Gonnella, Terry Tollefson, Alan Burrow, Brian Brown, Ben Zornes, Brad Donovan, Ryan Handermann, Desmond Jones.

Motion 4/4/23: 3 → **Stuart Bryan**, Trinity Church: Coeur d' Alene, ID, made the following Motion:

For Joshua Appel to act as the next Presiding Minister of whichever presbytery Trinity Reformed Church, Moscow, ID, is going to be in.

Second Jess Monnette, King's Cross Church: Wenatchee, WA. **Motion Carried (25, 0, 0).**

Committees for Examinations:

Nathan Joslin (Christ Church, Omaha).

- a. Ben Zornes is acting as chair of the committee for Nathan Joslin's examination. Tedd Sutton to be on the committee. Ben Zornes will recruit other members.

James Zekveld (Trinity Covenant Church, Fort Saint John, BC)

- a. Desmond Jones is acting as chair of the committee for James Zekveld's examination. Edwin Iverson will be on the committee. Desmond Jones will recruit other members.

Council Items:

Presiding Minister Gene Helsel noted that Virgil Hurt, presiding minister of Council, has received our nomination of Uri Brito to be the next PM of Council.

Potential Church Plant in Jersey

Ryan Yeager, Christ Covenant Reformed Church: Billings, MT, gave a presentation on a potential church plant on the island of Jersey.

Examinations

Chris Cousine

- Chris Cousine is currently ordained in the SBC.
- Kenton Spratt, Edwin Iverson, Jeff Rodland, are the members of the Ordination examination committee. They led the floor discussion.

Motion 4/4/23: 4 Motion made by the Chris Cousine Ordination Credential Review Committee.

Motion that Knox Presbytery receive and recognize Chris Cousine's SBC ordination and commend him to the office of Pastor in good standing in the CREC.

Motion Carried (25, 0, 0) [No second necessary – motion from committee]

Nathan Zekveld

- Nathan Zekveld is currently ordained in the United Reformed Church
- Terry Tollefson (Chair), Ben Zornes and Ryan Handermann, are members of the ordination examination committee. They led the floor discussion.

Motion 4/4/23: 5 Motion made by the Nathan Zekveld Ordination Credential Review Committee.

Motion that Knox Presbytery receive and recognize Nathan Zekveld's ordination and commend him as Pastor in good standing in the CREC.

Motion Carried (25, 0, 0) [No second necessary – motion from committee]

Motion 4/4/23: 6 Stuart Bryan, Trinity Church: Coeur d' Alene, ID, made the following Motion:

To Adjourn.

Second: Jeff Rodland, Redeemer Community Church: Centennial Colorado.

Motion Carried (25, 0, 0).

Committee Report

Nathan Zekveld

February 16, 2023

To the Presiding Minister of Knox Presbytery,
Greetings, Gene Helsel (PM) CCC Session

The Ordination committee PM Gene Helsel appointed for Nathan Zekveld has completed their initial vetting of his ordination credentials and recommend him as Pastor in good standing in the CREC. Nathan is recommended with no reservations or further scrutiny. He was interviewed by our committee on both his manner of life and doctrine, and he is progressing well and above reproach on each of these fronts. His pastoral sense and his depth of biblical knowledge reflects the many years of study he has accomplished. He graduated from NSA, finished his M Div. from the Canadian Reformed Seminary in 2019, and passed the ordination examination of the United Reformed Church later that same year and has served several years as a minister in good standing in that denomination. He, along with his wife Ashley, and their two children, Haven and Lochland, are currently ministering in CCC of Grande Prairie. His gifts in teaching and preaching are apparent and we look forward to seeing Nathan and the saints of Christ Covenant Church flourish in Grande Prairie.
Blessings,

Terry Tollefson (Chair), Ben Zornes and Ryan Handermann

Committee Report

April 4, 2023

To Gene Helsel, PM of Knox Presbytery,

The committee PM Gene Helsel appointed for Chris Cousine has completed its review of his ordination credentials. We recommend him to the office of Pastor in good standing in the CREC. Chris is recommended with no reservations about his life and doctrine and encouraged to continue growing in his biblical, doctrinal, and pastoral understanding. In particular, we recommend pursuing a more thorough knowledge of the Old Testament. He has diligently followed our committee's reading recommendations, and we have every confidence in his ability and intention to grow. His humility is commendable, and he is eager to receive ongoing help.

Chris did not grow up in a Christian home. He was converted in late 2006 (age 33, now 50). He was married with children when he was converted and shortly after joined Bow Valley Baptist Church in Cochrane, AB. In 2009 he began attending the Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary and earned 32 credits toward an M.Div. In 2011, he planted a Reformed Baptist Church with the North American Mission Board of the SBC. His church closed after five years of ministry. In 2015, he transferred to RTS Orlando, earning an additional eight credits while growing in his understanding of Presbyterian ecclesiology and baptism. By early 2021, he had fully embraced Presbyterian theology. In the fall of 2021, he planted Covenant Presbyterian Church in Cochrane, AB, with Kevin Schwittai (pursuing a full ordination in the CREC). They approached the CREC and were taken under the care of Christ Church, Spokane. Chris continues to be bi-vocational, as he has been throughout this time. He has worked for the Calgary Fire Department since April 2006 and is now an Acting Lieutenant with the department. Chris has three grown sons walking with the Lord and meeting with the church he is pastoring.

Grace and peace,

Kenton Spratt (Chair), Ed Iverson, and Jeff Rodland