

2022 Wycliffe Presbytery Minutes
September 20, 2022
Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church
Nacogdoches, TX

PMoP Randy Booth opened the meeting with a welcome and prayer at 8:04 am, followed by a devotional on kindness in the ministry. After the devotional, we sang *The Church's One Foundation*.

The following delegates were seated:

- Trinity Covenant Church (Wichita, KS): Derek Hale, pastor
- Church of the Redeemer (West Monroe, LA): elders Aaron Booth and Phil Walters
- All Saints Presbyterian Church (Ft. Worth, TX): pastor Jeff Niell and Steve Jeffery
- St. David's Church (Tomball, TX): pastor Adam McIntosh and elder Steve Willborg
- Covenant Presbyterian Church (Sulphur, LA): pastor Rob Hadding and elder James Nabours
- Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church (Nacogdoches, TX): elders David Alders and Jonathan Landrum (clerk)
- Redeemer Presbyterian (Oklahoma City, OK): Mark Balthrop and Brad Bilheimer.

Pastor Gabe Wetmore (Christ Church, Boerne, TX) was introduced and gave an update on his church move from California.

Motion to receive Christ Church and seat them as delegates. Motion approved.

Visitors were introduced.

The ordination committee was seated (Niell, Hadding, McIntosh) and examined elder Roy Bradley (Grace Covenant Presbyterian, Nacogdoches, TX). Elder Bradley was questioned on numerous topics and issues including Bible knowledge, hermeneutics, ethics, apologetics, theology, church history, ecclesiology, polity, worship, sacraments, and eschatology.

After the oral exam, presbytery moved into executive session to vote on recommendation from the ordination committee. The committee recommended approval of Roy Bradley's exam, presbytery approved, and Elder Alders prayed and gave thanks for God's blessing

Christ Fellowship Church (Taylor, TX) was nominated as a candidate church by Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church (Nacogdoches, TX). Pastor Jeff Ripple gave a report on their history and interest in the CREC and their unanimous congregational vote to affirm their interest in the CREC.

The vote to receive as a candidate church was approved.

Church Reports were presented with prayer for each church. PMoP Booth noted that Pastor Todd Davis Christ Church (Searcy, AR) is resigning, and their church will revert to unofficial mission status under Grace Covenant Church (Bono, AR).

Before breaking for lunch, we sang *Jesus Shall Reign Where're the Sun*.

Church reports continued after lunch.

Motion regarding presiding minister of presbytery compensation:

Presentation by Pastor Rob Hadding after PMoP Booth recused himself. PMoC approved their motion and suggested this compensation for each presbytery: \$3,000/yr divided between all churches in the presbytery. This is separate from any requests to cover related expenses. Two objections were raised during the discussion: 1)it should be a voluntary position; and 2)churches don't want to be taxed. Each church contributes to the church of the PM and the PM's church pays him and would be taxable income. Discussion about combining support and expense requests. Requested PMoP Booth to update us on expense needs. Motion: Set annual compensation funded by the churches at \$3,000 (divided equally among churches) and \$2,000 to cover expenses. Motion was amended to remove the expense portion from the motion. Motion as revised: To set the annual compensation funded by the churches at \$3,000 (divided equally among churches). Motion was approved. (These funds will be sent to the PMoP's church to be distributed as needed in consultation with the PMoP.)

Before a brief break, we sang *Blest the Man That Feels Jehovah*.

PMoP Booth gave an update on the 100 word summaries to be considered at 2023 presbytery and council. He noted that these summaries do not introduce new material into the memorials.

Motion for Sacramental Unity in the CREC:

Pastor Adam McIntosh presented his motion and rationale.

Motion: That Council amend Article III.H of the CREC constitution as stated below, also adding III.H to the excerpts listed in the document titled, "Confessional Statements." Article III.H (current): "In the transfer of members from one CREC church to another, differences arising from issues such as membership, paedobaptism and paedocommunion, must be handled with pastoral sensitivity. Receiving churches do not have to adopt or practice such variations, but they should do all within their power to accommodate them." Article III.H (amended): "Doctrinal differences within the CREC, such as how to reckon membership and the proper recipients of the sacraments, must be handled with mutual respect and charity. Credobaptist congregations are not required to practice paedobaptism, but they must allow paedobaptist members to have their children baptized (e.g., by a visiting pastor in a private service). Likewise, paedobaptist congregations must not require credobaptist families to baptize their children; those children must be baptized upon profession of faith. Yet all baptized children, in all CREC churches, must be admitted to the Table. These are required practices, regardless of any confessional statements to the contrary."

"Confessional Statements" document (current): Lists Article III.B, C, and E.

"Confessional Statements" document (amended): Add the amended version of III.H.

After discussion, the motion was amended to drop the last sentence of the motion. After further discussion.

The motion failed.

A motion was made that Pastor Rob Hadding will be instructed to convene a study group to consider what constitutional modifications might be necessary in order to maintain our communion in the light of the likelihood of future growth from Baptist churches and non-paedocommunion churches joining the CREC. Approved.

Motion regarding Church Plants

PmoP Randy Booth presented the rationale.

Motion: Article: CREC Guided Church Plant

1. Purpose

When a group wishes to attempt to plant a church in a new location and cannot find a sponsoring church under our “mission church” guidelines, that group may seek to establish a voluntary “pastoral counsel,” (at least three men), of current CREC pastors/elders (not necessarily from the same church, two must be from the geographical presbytery where the new church would be located), who agree to offer counsel and guidance to the group.

2. Definitions

a) A CREC Guided Church Plant: is an informal group of families and individuals who are exploring the possibility of establishing a church and who might culminate in constituting an independent church with the intent of becoming a particularized church in the CREC.

b) Particularized church: a constituted body of Christians who have met all the criteria established by the CREC Book of Procedures to become a separate church governed by its own session and received into the CREC as full members.

3. Procedure

a) CREC Guided Church Plant: A church shall be considered a CREC Guided Church Plant when the following conditions have been met:

- i. A “pastoral counsel” of three or more CREC pastors/elders has formally agreed to sit on the pastoral counsel and provide advice and guidance to the group. Two of these must be from churches in the presbytery where the new church plant will be located.
- ii. A constitution has been written to define and govern the church plant work.
- iii. The local presbytery has approved the church plant.

b) Conditions for Particularization

- i. The church plant shall have its own constitution and bylaws.
- ii. The church plant shall have been formally constituted for not less than two years.
- iii. The church plant shall have at least two pastors/elders.

iv. The church plant must then start the “candidate church” process as described in the CREC Book of Procedures.

c) Relationship to the CREC

- i. CREC Guided Church Plants have an associate status with the CREC, if the above conditions are met, the pastoral counsel is maintained, and the local presbytery has approved.
- ii. Delegates from these church plants may attend presbytery meetings as visitors.

d) Termination of Relationship

i. Termination of the associate relationship between the CREC and the church plant can happen in four ways:

- (1) The church plant becomes particularized, defined by being received into CREC membership.
- (2) A decision by the established “pastoral counsel” to terminate the relationship.
- (3) A decision by the church plant to terminate the relationship with the CREC.
- (4) A vote of the presbytery to terminate the relationship.

Motion was amended for c) and d) as follows:

c) Relationship to the CREC

- i. CREC Guided Church Plants maintain their status as long as the above conditions are met, the pastoral counsel is maintained, and the local presbytery has approved.
- ii. Delegates from these church plants may attend presbytery meetings as visitors.

d) Termination of Relationship

i. Termination of the relationship between the CREC and the Guided Church Plant can happen in four ways:

- (1) The church plant becomes particularized, defined by being received into CREC membership.
- (2) A decision by the established “pastoral counsel” to terminate the relationship.
- (3) A decision by the church plant to terminate the relationship with the CREC.
- (4) A vote of the presbytery to terminate the relationship.

Motion passed.

Pastor Hadding gave a report on the Church Planting Network.
Reformation Bible Institute was shown.

We closed by singing *What Wondrous Love Is This* and prayer by Zach Parker.

Submitted by Jonathan Landrum
Clerk

Minutes Approved via email, November 16, 2022