

Tyndale Presbytery

Confederation of Reformed Evangelical Churches

Minutes of Presbytery, September 21, 2010

Meeting at Springfield, MO

Presiding Minister: the Rev. Burke Shade, Minister of Presbytery

Secretary: Mr. Rob Davis

Monday, September 20, 2010

3:00 pm: The day prior to the meeting of Presbytery, Pastor Jeffrey Meyers gave a seminar on Pastoring in the Midwest.

Tuesday, September 21, 2010

8:00 a.m.: In the morning, prior to the meeting of the full Presbytery, the Ordination Examination Committee performed an oral examination of Mr. Gabriel Wetmore.

10:00 a.m.: Pastor Eric Sauder of Christ the King Church, the host church for the Presbytery meeting, welcomed the Presbyters on behalf of Christ the King Church.

10:05 a.m.: Mr. Tim Bushong opened the meeting with Prayer.

10:06 a.m.: The assembly joined in singing Psalm 1 and Psalm 11.

10:10 a.m.: The Presiding Minister delivered an exhortation to the assembly from Psalm 11.

10:35 a.m.: The meeting was called to order by the Presiding Minister.

10:36 a.m.: The Presiding Minister called the roll of member churches.

All current member churches of Tyndale Presbytery were represented with delegates:

Christ Church of Livingston County, Howell, MI (1)

Elder Greg Harmon

Christ Church Twin Cities, Minnetonka, MN (2)

Pastor Jeff Evans

Elder Arnie Abens

Christ the King Church, New Era, MI (2)

Pastor Jeff Swanson

Elder Bill Hendrian

Christ the King Church, Springfield, MO (2)

Pastor Eric Sauder

Elder Rob Davis

Christ the Redeemer, Pella, IA (2)

Pastor Brian Nolder

Elder Scott Bailey

Cornerstone Reformed Church, Carbondale, IL (2)

Pastor Burke Shade

Elder Wayne Sutherland

Providence Church, Caro, MI (2)

Tyndale Presbytery
Confederation of Reformed Evangelical Churches
Minutes of Presbytery, September 21, 2010
Meeting at Springfield, MO

Elder Gabe Wetmore
Elder John Pollion
Trinity Covenant Church, Wichita, KS (1)
Elder Derek Hale
Trinity Evangelical Church, Larwill, IN (2)
Pastor Nate Harlan
Pastor Tim Bushong

A quorum was established.

10:40 a.m.: The Presiding Minister asked for amendments to the agenda (see below) for the meeting.
Mr. Evans proposed adding the Tyndale website as a discussion item. It was placed under new business as F.3.i.
Mr. Nolder proposed adding a motion to ask council to address compensation packages for pastors. It was placed under new business 6.E.ii.
Item B.ii was moved under C.ii.
All of B (to Extend Candidate Status) was removed from the agenda.
A missions committee announcement was added as H.
A motion of gratitude to the host church was added as I.

Mr. Swanson moved to approve the agenda as amended. Mr. Nolder seconded and the motion passed.

10:46 a.m.: Member church reports were presented.

12:10 p.m.: Introduction of guests and delegations
Mr. Sauder introduced Pastor Ravil Kunakaev of Reformed Presbyterian Church, Tyumen, Russia; Randy Swetnam from the Kansas City area; Luke Bechard and Bob Titus of Christ the King Church, Springfield, MO.

Mr. Nolder introduced Aaron Gunsaulus, interim pastor CRC church in Newton, IA; Steve Morris from St. Louis; and the Kou and Rapp families (from Christ Covenant Church of Chicago).

12:20 p.m.: The meeting recessed for lunch.

2:01 p.m.: The meeting resumed with prayer for the churches of Presbytery and singing of Psalm 42.

2:32 p.m.: Consideration of candidate churches.

The Presiding Minister moved that Christ Covenant Church of Chicago be received into full membership of Tyndale Presbytery. Mr. Wetmore seconded and discussion ensued according to Article III, sections J and K of the CREC Constitution. After discussion, the motion passed.

Tyndale Presbytery

Confederation of Reformed Evangelical Churches

Minutes of Presbytery, September 21, 2010

Meeting at Springfield, MO

Mr. Sauder moved that Reformed Presbyterian Church of Tyumen, Russia be received into full membership of Tyndale Presbytery. Mr. Wetmore seconded and discussion ensued according to Article III, sections J and K of the CREC Constitution. After discussion, the motion passed.

3:30 p.m.: Christ Covenant Church of Chicago and Reformed Presbyterian Church of Tyumen, Russia took vows and were received into membership.

3:40 p.m.: Break

3:52 p.m.: Ordination Examination Report

Mr. Abens presented the report of the committee to examine Gabriel Wetmore and their recommendation for Mr. Wetmore's ordination as pastor of Providence Church of Caro, MI.

3:53 p.m.: Minister Reports

The Presiding Minister read the items from the Council Presiding Minister's report (see below) which asked for the following actions from the presbyteries.

1. Request for ratification of dissolution of the name change committee. Mr. Wetmore moved. Mr. Swanson seconded and the motion passed.

2. Requested ratification of the appointment of Csaba Leidenfrost as a replacement member to the missions committee. Mr. Nolder moved. Mr. Harmon seconded and the motion passed.

3. Requested ratification of the appointment and subsequent dissolution of the Pastoral Commission regarding the dispute between the session and pastor of Covenant Reformed Presbyterian Church. Moved by Mr. Nolder. Seconded by Mr. Wetmore and the motion passed.

4:02 p.m.: The Presiding Minister gave the annual report as Minister of the Presbytery.

4:10 p.m.: Mission Reports

Mr. Sauder presented a report representing SRS and CREC Eurasia.

Mr. Kunakaev reported on personal experience with SRS and partnership with Christ the King Church of Springfield.

Mr. Nolder described Christ the Redeemer's part in helping SRS and encouraged adopting a church in Russia.

Mr. Randy Booth, via recording, described their experience in adopting Presbyterian Church of the Annunciation, Pushkin, Russia.

Tyndale Presbytery

Confederation of Reformed Evangelical Churches

Minutes of Presbytery, September 21, 2010

Meeting at Springfield, MO

4:41 p.m The Presiding Minister read the Name Change report (see below) and asked for a motion to approve.

Mr. Nolder moved to adopt the name change as recommended by the report. Seconded by Mr. Hale and the motion failed.

5:11 p.m.: New business.

Election of new Minister of Presbytery. No qualified and willing candidates were nominated. Mr. Evans moved that Mr. Shade be re-elected as Presiding Minister. Seconded by Mr. Pollion and the motion passed.

Mr. Evans moved that Mr. Nolder be elected Presiding Minister Pro Tempore, seconded by Mr. Swanson and the motion passed.

5:19 p.m.: Mr. Nolder moved that Council, in accordance with 1 Cor. 9, Gal. 6:6, 1 Tim. 5:17-18, etc., revise the Book of Procedures to state that

1. ordination exam committees inquire of local elder boards (session, consistories) as to the adequacy of the teaching elder candidates' compensation package (salary, housing, insurance, etc.),
2. presbyteries regularly remind local churches of their duties to teaching elders in these matters.

Grounds:

1. Scripture states that "those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel," "one who is taught the word must share all good things with the one who teaches," and "the laborer deserves his wages."
2. The current BOP makes no statement as to the necessity of local churches to support their pastors/teaching elders (Art. XI, XII).
3. It has historically been the responsibility of broader, regional assemblies to provide guidance and oversight to local churches on both the reception ("guard the flock"; Acts 20) and care of ministers/teaching elders.
4. It is usually awkward for a local pastor to exhort his congregation and elders as to their duties to him in terms of financial compensation, since it often appears self-serving.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Bailey and passed.

5:38 Presiding Minister noted that next year Presbytery and Council will meet in Minneapolis, MN.

5:43 Mr. Bailey moved that Tyndale Presbytery express's our thanksgiving to God for the hospitality of Christ the King Church of Springfield, MO. While here, we have tasted the delight of brethren who dwell in unity; we have directly experienced their provision and care for us. And we are grateful for their

Tyndale Presbytery
Confederation of Reformed Evangelical Churches
Minutes of Presbytery, September 21, 2010
Meeting at Springfield, MO

generosity and work to create a pleasant atmosphere for this presbytery meeting. Thanks for your service to the broader body of Christ. The motion was seconded by Mr. Nolder and passed.

5:45 Mr. Hendrian moved to adjourn seconded by Mr. Pollion. After passing, the Presiding Minister dismissed with prayer.

Rob Davis, Secretary

Tyndale Presbytery
Confederation of Reformed Evangelical Churches
Minutes of Presbytery, September 21, 2010
Meeting at Springfield, MO

TYNDALE PRESBYTERY

Tyndale Presbytery Agenda 2010

September 20-21, 2010

Springfield, Missouri

Presbytery Meeting Location: Faith Lutheran Church, 1517 E. Valley Watermill Road, Springfield, Missouri 65803

Version date: September 17, 2010

Costs and Giving

To give to the costs of hosting Presbytery, funds should be directed to Christ the King Church, Springfield, Missouri. Thank you.

Monday, September 20, 2010

3:00-6:00 p.m.—**Presbytery Conference (at the Presbytery meeting location) with Pastor Jeff Meyers** of Providence Reformed Presbyterian Church (PCA), St. Louis, MO. Pastor Meyers will be discussing/revealing insights on ministry in the Midwest.

7:00-10:00 p.m.—**Evening Social Reception:** Mohave Room, inside the Ramada Inn Oasis.

Tuesday, September 21, 2010

1. 8:00-9:30 a.m.—Ordination Exam of Gabe Wetmore
Arnie Abens-chair

2. Welcome and Exhortation (10:00 a.m.)

- A. Welcome from the host church: Christ the King Church
- B. Invocation-Tim Bushong
- C. Psalms
- D. Exhortation from the Presiding Minister-Burke Shade

3. Session One: Church Reports (10:30 a.m.)

- A. Call the Meeting to Order
- B. Calling of the Roll/Establishment of a Quorum (2/3 representation of member churches)

Tyndale Presbytery
Confederation of Reformed Evangelical Churches
Minutes of Presbytery, September 21, 2010
Meeting at Springfield, MO

- C. Member Church Reports (Note: Mission/Candidate churches will report with their sponsoring church—all reports five minutes each)
- i. Christ Church of Livingston County, Howell, MI
 - ii. Christ Church Twin Cities, Minnetonka, MN
 - iii. Christ the King Church, New Era, MI
 - iv. Christ the King Church, Springfield, MO
 - v. Christ the Redeemer Church, Pella, IA
 - vi. Cornerstone Reformed Church, Carbondale, IL
-Candidate: Christ Covenant Church of Chicago, Chicago, IL
 - vii. Providence Church, Caro, MI
-Candidate: Covenant Christian Church, Greenville, MI
 - viii. Trinity Covenant Church, Wichita, KS
 - ix. Trinity Evangelical Church, Syracuse, IN
Mission: Holy Trinity Church, Cincinnati, OH
- D. Recognition of Guests and Visiting Delegations

Lunch Break: 12:00-2:00 p.m.

Reconvene: 2:00 p.m.

4. Session Two: Review of Churches Recommended for Full Membership

- A. Mission Churches to be Extended
- B. Candidates for Sponsorship or to be Extend Candidate Status
 - i. Covenant Christian Church, Greenville, MI (extend)
 - ii. Reformed Presbyterian Church, Tyuman, Russia (extend)
- C. Seating of Candidate Churches
 - i. Christ Covenant Church of Chicago, IL
- D. Oath for New Members and Presbytery

Break

5. Session Three: Committee, Minister's, and Mission's Reports

- A. Report from Ordination Examination Committee
- B. Minister's Reports
 - i. Council Minister report
 - ii. Presbytery Minister report
- C. Mission Reports
 - i. SRS/CREC Eurasia report-Eric Sauder
 - ii. Ravil Kunakayev report

Tyndale Presbytery
Confederation of Reformed Evangelical Churches
Minutes of Presbytery, September 21, 2010
Meeting at Springfield, MO

6. Session Four: Other Business

D. Old Business

- i. CREC Name Change Committee Report (attached)

E. New Business

- i. Election of new Minister of Presbytery/Minister Pro Tempore for three year terms-
Eric Sauder by Jeff Swanson
Burke Shade by Brian Nolder

F. Presbytery Discussion Topics (as time allows)

i. Church growth - Without wanting to take on the baggage of modern church growth movements, discuss and perhaps even develop strategies for church growth within our Presbytery and the broader CREC as most of our churches are small and need to grow in numbers to be sustainable in the long run. Identifying what has/hasn't worked in the past as well as developing biblically faithful ways to promote the distinctives of the CREC may be a promising way to begin this discussion. Additionally, the session and congregants should both understand what their role is and isn't in this area.

ii. Pastoral Care - Given the relative infancy of the CREC, its churches, and leadership as well as the reluctance of pastors to speak up for themselves, it could be helpful if the Presbytery could discuss and provide general guidelines for caring for their pastors. Included in this would be discussions of expectations for salary, health insurance, pastoral expenses, retirement, vacation time, schooling for children, etc., as well as warnings about the 'hidden' duties of pastors that most cannot see, pastoral burnout/discouragement, and things that have an appearance of worth but in reality waste a great deal of a pastor's time.

G. Place of meeting for next year:

2011 Church Council and Presbytery meetings

Hosted by Christ Church, Minneapolis, MN

October 3-7, 2011

6. Adjourn: 5:00 p.m.

7:30 p.m. Worship Service at Faith Lutheran Church
Evening Social Event (tbd)

NAME CHANGE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Dear Presiding Ministers,

Tyndale Presbytery
Confederation of Reformed Evangelical Churches
Minutes of Presbytery, September 21, 2010
Meeting at Springfield, MO

The following is our submission to you for inclusion on your agenda for this fall's presbytery meetings. Thanks much.

Douglas

CREC Name Change Committee

Gregg Strawbridge, Steve Wilkins, Dennis Tuuri, Randy Booth, and Douglas Wilson (chair)

After much deliberation and discussion, our committee has resolved to present to our presbyteries the following proposal for a name change. We recommend changing our name from the Confederation of Reformed Evangelical Church (CREC) to the Evangelical Reformed Churches (ERC). The motion to recommend this change carried unanimously, with no dissenting votes. This was not because the committee was incapable of dissent, for many other proposals elicited robust discussion and strong responses, both for and against.

It is our understanding that this proposal may be voted on in the respective presbyteries, with a straight up and down vote. If five presbyteries approve it, then the name is formally changed. If the requisite number of presbyteries fail to approve this recommendation, then we will remain the CREC. If it is the will of the presbyteries to modify our proposal, or substitute another recommendation entirely, then that would have to wait until the Council of 2011.

We were charged with the task of investigating the possibility of a name change as a result of a request from one of our churches (dealing with the connotations of the word *confederation*). At the same time, we wanted a name that had some similarities and continuities with our current name in the belief that any proposal for a drastic name change would likely fail to gain the approval of the presbyteries.

We thank you for the opportunity to serve in this way, and await your decision.

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas Wilson, chair

Confederation of Reformed Evangelical Churches Minister of Council – Report to
Presbyteries September, 2010

Tyndale Presbytery

Confederation of Reformed Evangelical Churches

Minutes of Presbytery, September 21, 2010

Meeting at Springfield, MO

1. This report is primarily for informational purposes. However, I request action by the several presbyteries on items 4a, 4b and 4d.
2. Document revisions
 - a. CREC Constitution and Book of Procedures – these documents have been posted to the CREC website.
 - b. Minutes of Presbytery meetings in 2009 have been reviewed and posted to the CREC website.
3. Travel on behalf of the CREC
 - a. Second European Conference of the CREC, April 30 – May 2, 2010
 - i. The Second Annual European Conference of the CREC was held in Burgas, Bulgaria. Jeff Myers and Rich Bledsoe were the featured speakers.
 - ii. The European conference was attended by 15 ministers, elders and lay members from churches in five countries, including Poland, Hungary, Ukraine, Bulgaria and the USA.
 - iii. I flew first to Budapest, Hungary and gave the sermon at Lord's Day worship at the CREC mission in Diosd, Hungary. Then I traveled by car with Attila Hajdu from Hungary and short-term missionary, Jeff Moss, from Christ Church, Moscow, to Burgas for the Conference.
 - iv. After the conference, I remained in Burgas for an additional week, during which I conducted two mid-week Bible studies with the Presbyterian Reformed Church of Burgas, where Yavor Rusinov is pastor. I also gave the sermon at PRC-B's Lord's Day worship service, before flying back to the US.
 - b. Visit to Poland and Ukraine, August 11-17, 2010
 - i. I arrived in Warsaw, Poland, on August 12 and met with Bogumil Jarmulak, now pastor of the Evangelical Reformed Church (CREC) in Poznan, Poland. I provided encouragement and counsel to Bogumil regarding significant ministry changes taking place within the Polish CREC churches.
 - ii. With Bogumil, I traveled by car to Rivne, Ukraine, where the CREC has a mission, Rivne Biblical Church, served by Pastor San Sanych Orlov- Koshchavka. This church has been undergoing some difficulties with both external and internal pressures and had requested counsel and support. Bogumil and I met with the Elders to give counsel on these difficulties. On Sunday, I gave the sermon in worship and we also did some visitation with members of the congregation.
 - iii. As a result of this visit, the congregation voted unanimously to seek member status with the CREC. Since the church is a mission of Covenant Bible Church in Chugiak, Alaska, and because they satisfy all the requirements under the Constitution and Book of Procedures, they will be presented for full membership at the Anselm Presbytery meeting on October 4, 2010.
4. Committee and Commission appointments
 - a. The 2008 Council appointed a committee to review and recommend a potential denominational name change. The committee consists of Doug Wilson, Randy Booth, Dennis Tuuri,

Tyndale Presbytery

Confederation of Reformed Evangelical Churches

Minutes of Presbytery, September 21, 2010

Meeting at Springfield, MO

Gregg Strawbridge and Steve Wilkins. The committee has completed its deliberations, and is presenting its report to the seven presbyteries at their autumn, 2010, meetings. With the Committee's assignment complete, I declare the Committee resolved. Should there be a need for further committee action on this matter, I will appoint a new committee, which may or may not be composed of the same individuals.

Ratification of the dissolution is requested.

b. The 2008 Council appointed a foreign missions committee to 1) organize a missions conference immediately following the 2011 meeting of Council, and 2) to formulate constitutional language for organizing and standardizing relationships with international churches and groups of churches. The Council specifically named nine men to this committee. After one member resigned his position of eldership with the CREC church he had been serving, I appointed Csaba Leidenfrost to the committee as a replacement. The work of this committee is ongoing, and I expect an interim report prior to this year's presbytery meetings. **Ratification of the appointment of Csaba Leidenfrost is requested.**

c. In the summer of 2009, I appointed an *ad hoc* committee to help me review the matter of a dispute between King's Chapel in Brooklyn (a mission of Christ Covenant Church of Copiague, New York) and Messiah's Covenant Community Church, an independent church in New York. The committee consisted of Rev. Gene Helsel, Presiding Minister of Knox Presbytery and Rev. John Stoos, Presiding Minister of Calvin Presbytery. The matter of Rev. Ron Weinbaum's credentials has been resolved to the satisfaction of Augustine Presbytery, and King's Chapel is being considered for full CREC membership at presbytery in 2010. There having been no further need for committee activity for nearly a year, I am hereby dissolving this committee.

d. Late in 2009, a dispute emerged between the elders and pastor at Covenant Reformed Presbyterian Church in Knoxville, Tennessee. Pastor David Queener resigned, but the conflict was unresolved. A committee of presbytery was unable to reconcile the parties. With the agreement of the parties, I appointed a Pastoral Commission of Council to attempt to restore peace. The members of this Commission were Rev. Randy Booth, Chairman; Rev. Mike Ferguson; and Rev. James McDonald (from outside the CREC). After diligent effort and a lengthy process, this Commission was also unable to effect reconciliation, and the matter was remanded to the local Session. Subsequently, the Session of CRPC, Knoxville, defrocked and excommunicated its former pastor, David Queener. There has been no notice of appeal. It is my intention to dissolve the Pastoral Commission upon receipt of its final report. **Ratification of both the appointment and dissolution of this commission are requested.**

5. Miscellaneous activities

a. Since the presbytery meetings of 2009, I have fielded approximately two dozen inquiries from outside the CREC regarding the need for new church plants, help for existing churches both inside and outside the US, interest by pastors seeking a call and interest from men finishing their seminary training, and others. Responses have been given in each case. In several cases, I have referred the inquiry to pastors in the affected area, or to the Presiding Minister of the effected region.

b. One of the men from a CREC church graciously started a Facebook presence for the CREC. As one of the designated monitors, I have kept an eye on the activity and have been pleased with the number of hits, "likes" and inquiries that have come in via this medium. It has clearly expanded our exposure and created a familiarity with our name that had not existed before. It has also enabled some of our young people to connect and enter into ecclesiastical and theological online discussions.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tyndale Presbytery
Confederation of Reformed Evangelical Churches
Minutes of Presbytery, September 21, 2010
Meeting at Springfield, MO

Rev. Jack E. Phelps, Presiding Minister CREC Council