

# Presbytery of Southwest Florida

Minutes of the 90<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting

Saturday, February 9, 2013

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The Presbytery of Southwest Florida held its 90<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting on Saturday, February 9, 2013 at Covenant Life Presbyterian Church in Sarasota, FL (8490 McIntosh Road, Sarasota, FL 34238).

## **Call to Order**

The Moderator, TE John Keen, called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m.

## **Constituting Prayer**

TE John Keen offered the constituting prayer.

## **Introduction of the New Moderator**

The new Moderator, RE Jean Owens, was unable to attend the Presbytery meeting. Former Moderator, TE Dustyn Eudaly, was elected by common consent to chair this Presbytery meeting.

## **Morning Worship Service – Church of the Redeemer**

Covenant Life Presbyterian Church led the morning Worship Service. TE David McWilliams, Senior Pastor of Covenant Presbyterian Church in Lakeland, FL, preached a communion meditation from 1 Peter 1:18-21. This was followed by an observance of the Lord's Supper.

## **Prayer for Presbytery Member**

TE Dustyn Eudaly invited the Presbytery to pray for TE Bill Roldan who has significant medical needs. The entire gathered Presbytery around and laid hands on TE Roldan and several Presbyters prayed for him. At the conclusion of the prayer time, TE Roldan made a few remarks, particularly requesting prayer for Berea Presbyterian Church and its ongoing ministry.

## **Season of Prayer**

TE Danny Dalton led the Presbytery in a Season of Prayer. Presbyters shared praises and petitions from the following churches, after which prayer was offered for them:

- Cornerstone of Lakewood Ranch PCA: TE Ted Hamm shared that the church is still without a pastor. There are two prospective candidates that will be visiting the church in the next month. The church is active in outreach and missions.
- Covenant Life PCA: TE Scott Mawhinney shared that this has been a long season of transition. However, with the arrival of Senior Pastor Ken Aldrich a lot of that transition has come to an end, particularly as the congregation focuses on Christ. He asked for prayer for the pastoral staff.
- Covenant (Lakeland) PCA: TE David McWilliams praised God for the growth in grace at the church. There are three opportunities every week for the congregation to worship God. Children are taught the Word of God, the catechism, and the hymns of the faith. The renovation of the chapel should be completed next month. The Lord's Supper is administered every Wednesday evening. Missions is a large emphasis of the church. There are still ongoing counseling needs.
- Covenant (Sebring) PCA: RE Mark Breed shared that the mortgage on the building has been significantly reduced. Financial giving is still strong and the congregation is stable even though they are without a pastor. They hope to have TE Tom Schneider become

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their next pastor after this Presbytery meeting.

- Cypress Ridge PCA: TE Cory Kloth shared a story about how someone professed faith recently. There are many opportunities to share the gospel. The church has also added a pastoral staff member to deal with the growth.
- Faith (Sarasota) PCA: RE Ed Tribe shared that there are many opportunities for ministry. The church is seeking to raise matching funds to reduce the debt in order to share the gospel. They are trying to reach the youth with the gospel.

At the conclusion of the Season of Prayer at 10:15 a.m., a short recess was taken.

## Welcome of Commissioners

The Moderator called the meeting to order at 10:20 a.m.

TE Ken Aldrich (Covenant Life PCA) welcomed the commissioners to the church facility and provided directions for comfort of the commissioners and others in attendance.

The following Teaching Elders were in attendance:

### TEACHING ELDER ATTENDANCE

	TEACHING ELDER	CHURCH, MINISTRY, OR STATUS	May 11	Sep 11	Nov 11	Feb 12	May 12	Sep 12	Nov 12	Feb 13
1	Aldrich, Ken	Covenant Life PCA	*	*	P	P	P	P	P	P
2	Arnold, Darrell	Covenant (Sebring) PCA	P	P	E	P	P	A	A	A
3	Bennett, Drew	Church of the Redeemer PCA	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P
4	Bergman, Brent	Grace Community PCA	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P
5	Brevick, Arnie	First PCA	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
6	Brooks, Sammie	Grace (Lake Suzy) PCA	P	P	P	P	P	A	A	P
7	Brubaker, Bob	Christ Community (Clear.) PCA	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
8	Burridge, Bob	Out of Bounds (Director, GIRS)	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	P
9	Byrne, Bo	Cornerstone PCA	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P
10	Casselli, Steve	Holy Trinity PCA	P	P	P	E	P	P	P/E	P
11	Caswell, Lyle	Christ Community (Lake.) PCA	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A
12	Clark, John	Honorably Retired	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR
13	Culbertson, Rodney	Out of Bounds (with RTS)	E	A	A	P	E	A	E	E
14	Dalton, Daniel	Seminole PCA	P	P	P	P	P	P	P/E	P
15	Davis, Daryl	Stated Supply (2011)	A	A	A	A	P	A	A	A
16	Dolby, Dwight	Auburn Road PCA	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	E
17	Etienne, Esaie	MTW	A	A	A	P	A	A	A	A
18	Eudaly, Dustyn	Holy Trinity PCA	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
19	Fritz, Freddy	Tampa Bay PCA	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
20	Gibson, Dax	Christ Community (Lake.) PCA	P	E	P	E	P	P	P	E
21	Grady, John	Faith (Sarasota) PCA	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
22	Graham, Jack	Honorably Retired	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	P	HR
23	Hamm, Ted	Cornerstone of L. Ranch PCA	A	P	P	E	P	P	P	P
24	Hansen, Steven	Redeemer (Riverview) PCA	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	P
25	Harding, David	St. Petersburg PCA	P	E	P	P	P	P	P/E	P
26	Hart, Zane	Covenant Life PCA	*	*	*	*	*	*	P	P

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27	Holland, Wesley	Westminster PCA	P	P	P	P	P	P	P/E	P
28	Jeantet, Steven	Covenant Life PCA	E	P	P	E	P	P	P	P
29	Johnston, Quentin	Out of Bounds (CHA)	E	P	A	A	A	A	E	A
30	Keen, John	Seminole PCA	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
31	Kloth, Cory	Cypress Ridge PCA	P	P	E	P	P	P	E	P
32	Lamb, Andrew	MTW	P	E	A	P	P	E	E	P
33	Lambert, Ivan	Without Call	P	P	A	A	A	A	P	P
34	LaPointe, Peter	Christ the King PCA	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	E
35	Larrison, Brook	Faith (Wauchula) PCA	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P
36	Lee, Jeff	RUF at USF	E	P	P	P	E	E	P	P
37	Light, Steven	Holy Trinity PCA	*	A	E	E	P	P	P	P
38	Martin, David	Redeemer (Lakeland) PCA	P	P	E	P	P	P	E	P
39	Matlack, Ken	MTW	E	E	A	E	E	E	E	P
40	Mawhinney, Scott	Covenant Life PCA	P	E	P	A	P	P	E	P
41	McDonald, Jeff	Covenant (Lakeland) PCA	P	P	P	P	P	P	P/E	E
42	McWilliams, David	Covenant (Lakeland) PCA	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P
43	Rice, Tim	Trinity PCA	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P
44	Roldan, William	Iglesia Berea PCA	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
45	Sandhoff, Tom	Honorably Retired	P	P	P	P	E	HR	E	HR
46	Sidebotham, Tom	Honorably Retired	HR	HR	P	HR	HR	P	HR	HR
47	Sinclair, Steven	Christ the King PCA	P	E	E	P	A	E	E	P
48	Swartz, Craig	Redeemer (Riverview) PCA	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
49	Taylor, Frank	Westtown PCA	P	P	P	A	P	A	P/E	A
50	Winfrey, Jonathan	Christ the Redeemer PCA	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P

P = Present; E = Excused; A = Absent Without Excuse; HR = Honorably Retired; \* = Not a Presbytery Member

The following church Sessions had a commissioner/s in attendance:

### CHURCH SESSION ATTENDANCE

	CHURCH	May 11	Sep 11	Nov 11	Feb 12	May 12	Sep 12	Nov 12	Feb 13
1	Auburn Road / Venice	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
2	Christ Community / Clearwater	A	A	P	A	A	P	P	A
3	Christ Community / Lakeland	A	P	A	A	A	A	A	A
4	Christ the King / Seminole	P	A	A	P	P	P	P	P
5	Church of the Redeemer / Winter Haven	*	*	P	A	A	P	P	P
6	Cornerstone / Lutz	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
7	Cornerstone of Lakewood Ranch / Bradenton	P	P	A	A	A	P	P	A
8	Covenant Life / Sarasota	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
9	Covenant / Lakeland	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
10	Covenant / Sebring	A	A	A	A	A	P	P	P
11	Cypress Ridge / Winter Haven	A	A	A	A	P	A	A	A
12	Faith / Sarasota	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	P
13	Faith / Wauchula	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P
14	First / North Port	A	A	P	A	A	P	E	P
15	Grace / Lake Suzy	A	A	A	P	P	A	A	A
16	Grace Community / Palm Harbor	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
17	Holy Trinity / Tampa	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A
18	Iglesia Berea / Winter Haven	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	P

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19	Redeemer / Lakeland	P	P	P	P	P	A	A	E
20	Redeemer / Riverview	A	P	A	A	A	A	A	P
21	Seminole / Tampa	E	A	E	P	E	P	E	E
22	Sojourner Mission / Tampa	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
23	St. Petersburg / St. Petersburg	A	A	A	A	P	A	P	A
24	Tampa Bay / Tampa	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
25	Trinity / Lakeland	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
26	Westtown / Tampa	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
27	Westminster / Brandon	P	A	P	P	P	P	E	P

P = Present; E = Excused; A = Absent Without Excuse; \* = Mission / Dissolved

The following Ruling Elders were in attendance: Rodney Edwards (Auburn Road), Eric Roldan (Berea), Henry Vierling (Christ the King), Gene Lombard (Church of the Redeemer) Chris Volf (Cornerstone), John Gary (Covenant Life), Rick Drass (Covenant Life), Gordon Shaw (Covenant Life), Dave Hunniford (Covenant Life), Luke Larkin (Covenant Life), Peter Magnuson (Covenant Life), Bill Russel (Covenant Life), Stuart Turnbull (Covenant Life), Joel Van Dyke (Covenant Life), Ed Gross (Covenant Life), Ed Wilson (Covenant Life), Bill Campbell (Covenant – Lakeland), Allen Montgomery (Covenant – Lakeland), Mark Breed (Covenant – Sebring), Bill Mulcay (Covenant – Sebring), Ed Tribe (Faith – Sarasota), Emerson Jones (Faith - Wauchula), Steven Berard (First), Dale Hokrein (Redeemer – Riverview), Ken Kuebler (Redeemer – Riverview), Jim Aldrich (Tampa Bay), Ken Pothoven (Tampa Bay), Stan McMahan (Trinity) and David Crabtree (Westminster).

### **Introduction of Visiting Brethren, Visitors, and Guests**

The following visiting brethren, visitors, and guests were introduced or signed in as attending: Deacon Randy Coryell (Faith – Sarasota), Doug Knox (Tampa Bay), Wes Mollard (Tampa Bay), Garry Gawrych (Tampa Bay), Christopher Cleveland (Covenant – Lakeland), Kathy Mulcay (Covenant – Sebring), Nancy Ann Fritz (Covenant – Sebring), Brook Breed (Covenant - Sebring), Evelyn Crabtree (Westminster), Tom Schneider (ARP), Willy Ardon (Redeemer), Sue Harris (MTW), Paul Carter (Covenant Life), and John Kelley (North Texas Presbytery).

The following Candidates, Licentiates, and Interns were in attendance:

### CANDIDATES, LICENTIATES, AND INTERNS ATTENDANCE

	CANDIDATES, LICENTIATES, AND INTERNS	May 11	Sep 11	Nov 11	Feb 12	May 12	Sep 12	Nov 12	Feb 13
1	Abel, Matt (CAND/INTERN)							P	
2	Bennett, Rick (CAND/INTERN)								
3	Carter, Michael (CAND)								
4	DeVictoria, Joel (CAND)		P			P			
5	Elswick, Tony (CAND)		P						
6	Glandon, Heath (CAND)							P	
7	Harcourt, Cameron (CAND)								
8	Knecht, Jason (CAND)								
9	Krause, Jeff (CAND)								
10	Loveall, Matt (CAND)								

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11	March, Brian (CAND)		P		P		P	P	P
12	McMahan, Stan (LIC)				P		P		
13	Nichols, James (CAND)				P	P	P	P	P
14	Roldan, Ricky (CAND)			P			P	P	
15	Sanders, Mike (CAND)								
16	Syler, Marc (CAND)								
17	Turner, Ben (CAND)	P					P	P	P

P = Present; \* = Status Changed

## **Declaration of a Quorum**

The Clerk declared that a quorum was present.

## **Adoption of the Docket and Orders of the Day**

By common consent the docket was adopted with amendments. [See Appendix A.]

The Moderator set the Orders of the Day (Lunch: 12:00 – 12:30 p.m.; Licentiates' Sermons: 12:30 – 1:15 p.m.).

## **Appointment of Standing Committees: Bills and Overtures**

No appointments.

## **Appointment of Standing Committees: Judicial Business**

The Moderator appointed a Judicial Committee to consider the Complaint of First Presbyterian Church of North Port, FL Against the Presbytery of Southwest Florida. The members of the Committee are: TE John Keen (Chairman), TE Tim Rice, RE Allen Montgomery, and TE Bob Burrige. The Judicial Committee was permitted to leave the floor of the Presbytery meeting in order to conduct their business.

## **Stated Clerk's Report**

The Clerk gave his report:

- MSC to approve the Minutes of the November 13, 2012 Presbytery meeting. [See Appendix B.]
- MSC to approve the requests for excused absences from Teaching Elders Rod Culbertson, Ken Matlack (late arrival), Sammie Brooks (late arrival), Steve Sinclair (early departure), Pete LaPointe, Dwight Dolby, John Keen (early departure), Jeff McDonald, Dax Gibson, Joel DeVictoria, Brook Larrison (early departure), and for the Sessions of Seminole Presbyterian Church in Tampa, FL, Redeemer Presbyterian Church in Lakeland, FL, and Westminster Presbyterian Church in Brandon, FL (early departure).
- The Clerk reported that various correspondences were sent and/or received. He invited Presbyters to view them if they wished to do so at the Clerk's desk.
- MSC to elect the following presbyters to be nominated to serve on the GA Permanent Committees and Agencies at the 41<sup>st</sup> General Assembly at Greenville, SC in June 2103: TE Jonathan Winfree (Mission to the World). [See Appendix C.]
- MSC to elect the following presbyters to serve on a Committee of Commissioners at the 41<sup>st</sup> General Assembly at Greenville, SC in June 2013: RE David Crabtree (Administra-

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tion), TE Dustyn Eudaly (Interchurch Relations), TE Andrew Lamb (PCA Retirement & Benefits), TE Bob Brubaker (Mission to the World), TE Drew Bennett (Reformed University Ministries), RE Rodney Edwards (Overtures) and TE Steve Casselli (Overtures). [See Appendix D.]

- MSC to give the Stated Clerk authority to appoint a Presbyter to serve on an appropriate Committee of Commissioners at the 41<sup>st</sup> General Assembly at Greenville, SC in June 2013, providing the position is uncontested.
- MSC to elect TE Steve Jeantet to a 3-year term (Class of 2016) to serve on the General Assembly Nominating Committee. [See Appendix E.]
- MSC to elect TE Freddy Fritz to a 3-year term (Class of 2016) to serve on the General Assembly Review of Presbytery Records Committee. [See Appendix F.]
- The Clerk reported that the Presbytery website was offline for about two months. It is now back online. The website can be found at [www.swfpresbytery.org](http://www.swfpresbytery.org). Presbyters are encouraged to visit the website for current information regarding the Presbytery.
- The Clerk reminded the Presbytery that Annual Statistical Reports are due by Monday, February 11 to the Stated Clerk's Office of the General Assembly and our Presbytery.
- All Sessions are requested to send in their 2012 Session Minutes to the Stated Clerk.
- All churches are encouraged to check their church address and location at the new website of the PCA at [www.pcanet.org](http://www.pcanet.org).
- The Clerk reported that the Presbytery had received a Complaint Against the Presbytery of Southwest Florida from First Presbyterian Church of North Port, FL regarding the action taken at the November 13, 2012 Presbytery meeting. The Complaint was forwarded to the Judicial Business ad hoc Committee. [Appendix G.]
- The Clerk reminded Teaching Elders of the Minister's Fraternal that is hosted by TE David McWilliams every six weeks or so at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Lakeland, FL. The next meeting of the Minister's Fraternal will be held on Tuesday, February 26, 2013 from 12:30 to 2:00 p.m.

The Clerk closed the report with prayer.

## **Permanent Committee Report: Candidates for Ministry**

The Candidates for Ministry Committee Chairman, TE Steve Light, opened with prayer. He reported on the work of the Candidates for Ministry Committee. [See Appendix H.]

TE Light introduced Mr. Christopher Cleveland, who comes to be examined as a candidate for Gospel ministry. [See Appendix I.] Mr. Cleveland is a member in good standing for more than six months of Covenant Trinity Presbyterian Church in Lakeland, FL. The Session of his church has recommended him for candidacy. In accord with *BCO* 18-3, he gave testimony to his Christian experience and call to the ministry.

- MSC to approve his examination, and approve him to come under the care of Presbytery.

The Moderator posed the questions of *BCO* 18-3 to Mr. Cleveland, which he answered affirmatively. TE John Grady gave a brief charge to Mr. Cleveland and prayed for him.

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Mr. Matt Abel came to be presented as an applicant for internship in the Presbytery. Mr. Abel is a member of Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church in Tampa, FL, and is also a candidate under care of the Presbytery of Southwest Florida. In accordance with BCO 19-9, he had previously given the Presbytery a testimony of his inward call to the ministry. His internship program with Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church of Tampa, FL was presented to the Presbytery.

*Recommendation:* To approve the internship program for Mr. Matt Abel with Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church with TE Steve Casselli as his mentor and to receive him as an intern in the Presbytery of Southwest Florida. *Adopted.*

The Moderator invited TE Light to pray for Mr. Abel and then the Moderator read the charge of BCO 19-10, even though Mr. Abel was not present.

Thus, in accordance with BCO 19-10 the following record is made of Mr. Abel's internship: At the Covenant Life Presbyterian Church of Sarasota, FL, on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2013, the Presbytery of Southwest Florida, having received testimonials commending Mr. Matt Abel, and having previously received him as a candidate for ministry, has placed him under internship at his request in order to test his gifts for the holy ministry.

TE Steve Light closed the report with prayer.

## **Permanent Committee Report: Examining (Partial Report)**

The Examining Committee Chairman, TE Jonathan Winfree, opened with prayer. He presented the report of the Examining Committee. [See Appendix J.]

He introduced Mr. Ben Turner, who comes to our Presbytery to be licensed to preach the Gospel within the bounds of the Presbytery of Southwest Florida. [See Appendix K.] He is currently a member and church-planting apprentice at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Lakeland, FL. He preached before a portion of the Presbytery after lunch. He was examined in accord with *BCO 19-2*, in Christian experience, call to preach the Gospel, theology, Bible content, and church government. Mr. Turner stated his difference with the Standards as follows:

*WCF* 21-8, *WLC* 117, 199, and *WSC* 60, 61 (In Regards to the Language of "Recreations" and "Profaning the Day by Idleness"): I believe and affirm that one whole day in seven, the Christian Sabbath day of Sunday, must be kept holy, as God has commanded in his Word (Gen. 2:2-3; Ex. 20:11; Matt. 5:17). I also affirm that it should be kept holy by resting from worldly employments, publicly and privately worshipping God, and works of necessity and mercy (*WSC* #60). However, I do not believe that Scripture forbids "recreations" on the Sabbath nor do recreations "profane the day by idleness." It seems to me that the prohibition in the fourth commandment is only against work and that the biblical examples of those who break the Sabbath are of illegitimate work or employment, not recreations (see Ex. 31:13-17; 34:21; Num. 15:32-36).

After his oral examination, he was then excused from the assembly.

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- MSC to sustain his exam in Christian experience and Call to the Ministry.
- MSC to sustain his exam in Theology.
- MSC to sustain his exam in Church Government.
- MSC to sustain his exam in Bible Content.
- MSC to approve Mr. Turner's stated difference to our Standards to be more than semantic, but not out of accord with any fundamental of our system of doctrine (*BCO* 21-4).

TE Winfree introduced Mr. Brian March, who comes to our Presbytery to be licensed to preach the Gospel within the bounds of the Presbytery of Southwest Florida. [See Appendix L.] He is currently a member and college ministry director at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Lakeland, FL. He preached before a portion of the Presbytery after lunch. He was examined in accord with *BCO* 19-2, in Christian experience, call to preach the Gospel, theology, Bible content, and church government. Mr. March has no stated differences to our Standards.

After his oral examination, he was then excused from the assembly.

- MSC to sustain his exam in Christian experience and Call to the Ministry.
- MSC to sustain his exam in Theology.
- MSC to sustain his exam in Church Government.
- MSC to sustain his exam in Bible Content.

TE Winfree introduced Mr. James Nichols, who comes to our Presbytery to be licensed to preach the Gospel within the bounds of the Presbytery of Southwest Florida. [See Appendix M.] He is currently a member and intern at Tampa Bay Presbyterian Church in Tampa, FL. He preached before a portion of the Presbytery after lunch. He was examined in accord with *BCO* 19-2, in Christian experience, call to preach the Gospel, theology, Bible content, and church government. Mr. Nichols stated his difference with the Westminster Standards as follows:

*WCF* 21-8, *WLC* 117, and *WSC* 60 ("recreations"): I affirm the doctrine of the Sabbath, which focuses on rest and worship. Recreation is not clarified and I believe that some recreations are permissible. If I rest in the Lord by rejoicing with my sons and playing with them or taking a hike with them, I believe that I am still in the bounds of Scripture. Therefore, I take the continental view of the Sabbath.

After his oral examination, he was then excused from the assembly.

- MSC to sustain his exam in Christian experience and Call to the Ministry.
- MSC to sustain his exam in Theology.
- MSC to sustain his exam in Church Government.
- MSC to sustain his exam in Bible Content.
- MSC to approve Mr. Nichols' stated difference to our Standards to be more than semantic, but not out of accord with any fundamental of our system of doctrine (*BCO* 21-4).

TE Winfree concluded his partial report, and adjourned this session with prayer.



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## **Orders of the Day: Lunch (12:00 – 12:45 p.m.)**

The Moderator ordered a recess for lunch at noon. Lunch was served from noon until 12:45 p.m. at Covenant Life Presbyterian Church.

## **Orders of the Day: Licentiates' Sermons (12:45 – 1:30 p.m.)**

At 12:45 p.m. the Presbyters were divided into three groups and assigned three different rooms in order to listen to the sermons of the candidates for licensure. At the conclusion of each sermon and evaluation, all three groups reassembled in the sanctuary to continue with the rest of the Presbytery meeting.

The Moderator called the meeting to order at 1:20 p.m., and opened the afternoon session with prayer.

## **Report of the Standing Committees**

TE John Keen, Chairman of the Judicial Business Committee, reported on the Complaint Against the Presbytery of Southwest Florida. He opened the report with prayer.

- MSC that the Presbytery move into executive session.
- MSC that the Presbytery move out of executive session.
- MSC that the motions made in executive session be entered into the Presbytery Minutes.

The Judicial Committee made the following recommendations to the Presbytery:

*Recommendation:* That Presbytery find the complaint of the Session of First Presbyterian Church of North Port, FL in order. *Adopted.*

*Recommendation:* That Presbytery deny the complaint of the Session of First Presbyterian Church of North Port, FL based on the fact that no formal ecclesiastical action has been taken to complain against. *Adopted.*

*Recommendation:* In view of BCO 40-5 the Presbytery issue a formal citation for the Session of First Presbyterian Church of North Port, FL to appear before a Judicial Commission of Presbytery to give an answer for their failure to follow due process as instructed by Presbytery on November 13, 2012 and required by the Book of Church Order. *Adopted.*

*Recommendation:* That the Clerk of Presbytery communicate with [REDACTED] that the Presbytery is pursuing her case and is being given due process. *Adopted.*

- MSC that the following Presbyters be appointed to the Judicial Commission: TE John Keen (Convener), TE Bob Burridge, TE Tim Rice, RE Allen Montgomery, RE Bill Campbell, RE Don Bennett, and RE Matthew McKenzie.

TE Steve Hanson closed the report in prayer.

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## **Permanent Committee Report: Administration**

The Administration Committee Chairman, TE John Keen, opened with prayer. He reported on the work of the Administration Committee. [See Appendix N.] The Presbytery Treasurer, Deacon Randy Coryell, gave a report of the Presbytery finances. The Presbytery Income was \$44,069, the Expenses were \$44,605, for a Net Loss of \$536 as of December 31, 2012. The Cash reserve as of December 31, 2012 was \$10,943 [See Appendix O.]

*Recommendation:* That the Presbytery purchase Liability Insurance for the Presbytery of Southwest Florida for 2013. *Adopted.*

TE John Keen closed the report with prayer.

## **Permanent Committee Report: Examining (Continuing Report)**

The Examining Committee Chairman, TE Jonathan Winfree, opened with prayer. He presented the report of the Examining Committee. [See Appendix J.]

TE Winfree reported that each of the candidates for licensure, Mr. Ben Turner, Mr. Brian March, and Mr. Jason Nichols had preached after lunch. They were then excused from the assembly. The assembly took the following action:

- MSC to sustain each of the sermons of Mr. Ben Turner, Mr. Brian March, and Mr. James Nichols.

Upon their return to the assembly, the Moderator posed the questions of BCO 19-3 to Mr. Turner, Mr. March, and Mr. Nichols to which they each answered affirmatively. After prayer for them by the Moderator, the Moderator read the pronouncement of BCO 19-4, and they each received a Licensure Certificate from the Stated Clerk.

TE Winfree introduced TE Jason Riggs, who comes to our Presbytery to be examined according to BCO 13-6 for transferring his credentials from the Gulf Coast Presbytery to the Presbytery of Southwest Florida. [See Appendix P.] He is currently a Chaplain at the Bay Pines VA Hospital in St. Petersburg, FL. TE Riggs is a member in good standing of the Gulf Coast Presbytery, and will be dismissed from that Presbytery at their next meeting. TE Riggs was examined in Christian experience, and his views in theology, the Sacraments, and church government. TE Riggs stated his differences with the Westminster Standards in three areas. They are as follows:

1. *WCF 4.1 "in the space of six days..."* I believe the creation narrative is a semi-poetic, topical - yet true and historical - account of God's work of creation *ex nihilo*. I have never taught from this passage of Scripture without also explaining the different, orthodox points of view.
2. *WCF 21.8 "and thoughts about their worldly employments and recreations..."* I believe certain recreations - especially those that involve the family or church - serve the purpose of Sabbath by increasing our enjoyment of God.
3. *WCF 24.6 "nothing but adultery, or such willful desertion as can no way be remedied by*

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*the church, or civil magistrate, is cause sufficient of dissolving the bond of marriage...*” I believe spouse abuse is a form of desertion and grounds for divorce. I do not take exception to the Confession so much as I wish to expound my understanding of desertion.

After his oral examination, he was excused from the assembly.

- MSC to postpone definitely to the May Presbytery the exam for TE Riggs.

TE Winfree introduced TE Geoff Henderson, who comes to our Presbytery to be examined according to *BCO* 13-6 for transferring his credentials from the New River Presbytery to the Presbytery of Southwest Florida. [See Appendix Q.] He is currently the Assistant Pastor of Redeemer Presbyterian Church in Hurricane, WV. The MNA Committee of the Presbytery of Southwest Florida has called him to plant a church in the Bradenton, FL area. TE Henderson is a member in good standing of the New River Presbytery, and will be dismissed from that Presbytery at their next Presbytery meeting. TE Henderson was examined in Christian experience, and his views in theology, the Sacraments, and church government. TE Henderson stated his differences with the Westminster Standards in two areas. They are as follows:

1. WCF 21.8; WLC 117; WSC 60,61 “*words and thoughts about their worldly employments and recreations.*” I thoroughly affirm the need for rest, worship, and ceasing from work on the Lord’s Day. However, I do take exception regarding the language of “recreation.” I feel it restricts that which Scripture doesn’t restrict. Rather than refraining from any recreation, there needs to be a conscious regard for sanctifying such recreational activity so that it coincides with the purposes of rest, worship, and even at times mercy.
2. WLC 109 “*the making any representation of God, of all or of any of the three persons, either inwardly in our mind, or outwardly in any kind of image or likeness of any creature whatsoever.*” God is not ontologically a rock, a fortress, a mother hen, nor does he have literal wings. However in the Psalms, he reveals himself in poetic language. I find it impossible to not think of God as a rock, a fortress, a refuge,

After his oral examination, he was excused from the assembly.

- MSC to sustain his exam in Christian Experience and Call to Ministry.
- MSC to sustain his exam in Theology.
- MSC to sustain his exam in the Sacraments.
- MSC to sustain his exam in Church Government.
- MSC to approve TE Henderson’s stated differences to our Standards to be more than semantic, but not out of accord with any fundamental of our system of doctrine (*BCO* 21-4).
- MSC to approve the call of TE Geoff Henderson to undertake the role of church planter in the Bradenton, FL area, and that he be received as a Teaching Elder in the Presbytery of Southwest Florida. [See Appendix R.]

*Recommendation:* That the Presbytery receive TE Geoff Henderson, pending his dismissal from New River Presbytery. *Adopted.*

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Upon his return to the assembly, RE Mark Breed prayed for TE Henderson. TE Geoff Henderson then signed the Ministerial Obligation Form.

TE Winfree introduced TE Thomas G. Schneider who seeks to transfer into our Presbytery from the Florida Presbytery of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. TE Schneider was a member of our Presbytery for sixteen years before he transferred to the ARP in order to plant a church. He has been called to become the Pastor of the Covenant Presbyterian Church in Sebring, FL. [See Appendix S.] TE Schneider was examined in the areas prescribed by BCO 21-4, in Christian experience, call to the ministry, Bible content, theology, church government, sacraments, and church history, including the history of the PCA. TE Schneider stated his difference with the Westminster Standards. It is as follows:

*WCF* 21.8 says, "...all the day, from their own works, words, and thoughts about their worldly employments and recreations, but are also take up, the whole time, in the public and private exercises of His worship...". My exception is with the language of *WCF* 21.8 and how that Sabbath rest is to be carried out. For instance, what does the word "recreations" mean? I believe that Scripture would allow a father to play ball with his son on Sunday. I also believe that we can be involved in other "recreations" on Sunday.

After his oral examination, he was excused from the assembly.

- MSC to sustain his exam in Christian Experience and Call to Ministry.
- MSC to accept his seminary transcripts as evidence of his knowledge of Greek and Hebrew.
- MSC to sustain his exam in Bible Content.
- MSC to sustain his exam in Theology.
- MSC to sustain his exam in the Sacraments.
- MSC to sustain his exam in Church history.
- MSC to sustain his exam in history of the Presbyterian Church in America.
- MSC to sustain his exam in principles and rules of the government and discipline of the church.
- MSC to waive his theological paper as he was previously a member of this Presbytery.
- MSC to waive his exegetical paper as he was previously a member of this Presbytery.
- MSC to approve TE Schneider's stated difference to our Standards to be more than semantic, but not out of accord with any fundamental of our system of doctrine (*BCO* 21-4).
- MSC to approve the call of TE Thomas G. Schneider to serve as the Pastor of Covenant Presbyterian Church in Sebring, FL, and that he be received as a Teaching Elder in the Presbytery of Southwest Florida. [See Appendix T.]

*Recommendation:* That Presbytery receive TE Schneider, pending his dismissal from the Florida Presbytery of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, and install him as the Pastor of Covenant Presbyterian Church in Sebring, FL, *Adopted.*

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- MSC to appoint a Commission composed of TE Ivan Lambert, TE Scott Mawhinney, TE Jeff Lee, RE Mark Breed (Convener), RE Bill Mulcay, RE Joel Urban, RE Tom Nunnallee, RE Hal White to install TE Schneider, setting the quorum at 2 TEs and 2 REs.

Upon his return to the assembly, RE Mark Breed prayed for TE Schneider. TE Tom Schneider then signed the Ministerial Obligation Form.

TE Ted Hamm and TE Jonathan Winfree closed the report with prayer.

## **Permanent Committee Report: Mission to North America**

The Mission to North America Committee Chairman, TE Tim Rice, said that there was nothing to report.

## **Permanent Committee Report: Liaison for Christian Education**

The Liaison for Christian Education, TE Danny Dalton, said that there was nothing to report other than what was in his written report. [See Appendix U.]

## **Permanent Committee Report: Liaison for Mission to the World**

The Liaison for Mission to the World, TE Bob Brubaker, opened the report with prayer. He introduced Sue Harris from MTW, who encouraged the Presbytery to attend the MTW World Missions Conference at the end of the year in Atlanta. TE Steve Light prayed for Sue. Miriam Grady shared about her work with Mission to the World. TE Danny Dalton prayed for Miriam. TE Andres Lamb shared about his work with Mission to the World.

TE Bob Brubaker prayed for Andrew Lamb and closed the report with prayer.

## **Permanent Committee Report: Reformed University Ministries**

The Reformed University Ministries Chairman, TE Steve Casselli, called TE Jeff Lee, Campus Minister of Reformed University Ministries at the University of South Florida, shared about the work of campus ministry at the University of South Florida. [See Appendix V.]

*Recommendation:* That Presbytery elect TE Jeff McDonald (Class of 2015) to the Presbytery RUM Committee. *Adopted.*

*Recommendation:* That Presbytery approve a housing allowance in the amount of [REDACTED] for TE Jeff Lee for 2013 and every year following. *Adopted.*

TE Casselli closed the report with prayer.

## **Permanent Committee Report: Shepherding**

The Shepherding Committee Chairman, TE Dustyn Eudaly, opened with prayer. He reported on the work of the Shepherding Committee with regard to churches and Teaching Elders. [See Appendix W.]

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TE Eudaly shared that a request has been received from Cornerstone of Lakewood Ranch Church for TE Daryl Davis to serve as Stated Supply for another year.

- MSC for TE Daryl Davis to serve as Stated Supply at the Cornerstone of Lakewood Ranch Church for another year.

RE Henry Vierling reported on the declining health of TE Bill Roldan. TE Roldan intends to retire as of June 30 2013. More information about what happens to Berea Presbyterian Church will be shared at the May Presbytery meeting.

RE Bill Campbell reported on the discussion regarding the *PCA Call Package Guidelines*. Discussion regarding the implementation of these guidelines will take place at a future Shepherding Committee meeting and action requested at the May Presbytery meeting.

## **Miscellaneous Non-Docketed Business**

None.

## **Adjournment and Closing Prayer**

- MSC to adjourn. The 90<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Southwest Florida adjourned with prayer offered by TE Dustyn Eudaly at 5:18 p.m.

The 91<sup>st</sup> Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Southwest Florida will take place on Tuesday, May 14, 2013 at Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church in Tampa, FL at 8:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



TE Freddy Fritz  
Stated Clerk, Presbytery of Southwest Florida