

South Texas Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church in America
One Hundred Fifty-sixth Stated Meeting
CrossPointe Church
5703 McNeil Drive, Austins, Texas 78729
October 25-26, 2024

GATHERING

Pursuant to the Book of Church Order for the Presbyterian Church in America and the Standing Rules of the South Texas Presbytery, presbyters from Presbyterian churches located in South Texas were called together by an announcement made and distributed on October 2, 2024 for a quarterly stated meeting to be held on October 25 and 26, 2024, at CrossPointe Church at 5703 McNeil Drive, Austin, Texas (78729).

Standing committees of the presbytery met prior to the convening of the meeting to conduct business.

Afterwards presbyters and guests shared a meal.

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Vice Moderator Jeremy Whitley welcomed presbyters and guests and called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. on Friday, October 25. The meeting was opened by RE Whitley with a prayer of thanks.

DECLARATION OF QUORUM

Stated Clerk RE Barry McBee reported that he had reviewed the roll and determined that the Standing Rule requiring the presence of five teaching elders and five ruling elders elected by their sessions from at least three different churches was met and that a quorum was present.

WORSHIP

Music. Members of CrossPointe led the presbytery into worship through music. Candidate Justin Outlaw welcomed presbyters and prayed. TE Matt Southerland led the presbyters in confession and offered assurance of pardon.

Sermon. TE Johnson preached a sermon from Psalm 46.

Communion. TE Johnson presided over the administration of the Lord's Supper.

Benediction. TE Johnson pronounced the benediction.

Recess. The presbytery recessed for the day at 7:32 p.m. Presbyters retired to an evening of fellowship and rest.

CALL TO ORDER

Reconvening. Moderator Eric Landry called the meeting back to order at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 26 and read Psalm 95.

Stated Clerk McBee re-affirmed the presence of a quorum for the meeting.

Introduction of Guests. TEs noted the presence at the meeting of Jay Wieland from Reformed Theological Seminary in Dallas, Colin Peters with Reformed University Fellowship, and Sebastian Davalos, an intern with RUF at the University of Texas at El Paso.

Season of Prayer. The meeting was opened with a reading by the moderator from Psalm 95 and a season of prayer by presbyters, with specific prayers for: those suffering from chronic illness and those experiencing loss in their families; for Jon Green as he mourns the passing of his wife, Caroline; for Ben Hailey, as his wife Beth continues her battle with cancer; for the passing of Josh Eby's mom, Darlene; for John Ratliff and Dan Young as they each continue to struggle with Parkinsons; for Mike Haberkorn's son, who has recently been admitted to the hospital; and for the passing of Titus Bagby's, Chris Fisher's, and Colin Peters' fathers.

Expression of Thanks. Moderator Landry expressed thanks to CrossPointe Church for its hospitality and prayed for the church.

ADOPTION OF THE DOCKET

The proposed docket was distributed to the members on October 2, 2024 by email.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed without objection to adopt the docket.

REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK

Stated Clerk RE McBee opened his report with prayer.

RE McBee reminded all presbyters of the need to record their attendance at the meeting. RE McBee also reminded teaching elders of the recent request from the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) Administrative Committee to update biographical sketches for the PCA Yearbook and the need to update their contact and other information on the PCA portal. RE McBee asked that teaching elders also request their clerks of session to update information on their church's ruling elders.

Approval of Minutes. A motion was made, seconded, and passed without objection to approve the minutes of the August 2024 stated meeting and to permit the stated clerk to make corrections to perfect the final copy of the minutes.

Attendance. Requests for excused absences were received from the following active and retired teaching elders:

- TE Tim Frickenschmidt (denominational business)
- TE Italo Furieri (family commitment)
- TE Michael Haberkorn (family illness)
- TE Dan Young (denominational business)

A motion was made, seconded, and passed without objection to approve excused absences for these teaching elders.

Excused absences are also recognized for all active teaching elders on sabbatical, serving as missionaries or military chaplains, laboring out-of-bounds, living out-of-state, and honorably retired.

The following teaching elders were absent without excuse:

TE Keith Howard, Faith San Antonio
TE Byron West, Christ the King Austin (Stated Supply)

The following churches were without representation at the meeting without excuse:

Christ Kerrville
Christ Victoria
Covenant Harlingen
Emmanuel Austin
Faith San Antonio
Grace McAllen
Grace + Peace Austin
Hope New Braunfels
Iglesia La Vid, Laredo
Trinity Boerne
Trinity Grace San Antonio

Reports of Commissions. A report of the commission for the installation of TEs Dr. Bryant McGee and TE Pablo Chavarria at Redeemer San Antonio has been received and is attached to the minutes (Attachment A). The clerk reminded convenors that reports should be submitted following services of installation or ordination and that a form for the reports is available from the stated clerk. In addition, Ministerial Obligations should be signed by teaching elders who are being ordained or installed and provided with the commission reports.

Election of Recording Clerk. The floor was opened for nominations for Recording Clerk. TE Holt West was nominated from the floor. West was elected by acclamation for a term to serve through October 2025.

RE McBee closed his report with prayer.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Treasurer RE Ken Kieley opened his report with prayer.

Third Quarter 2024 Financial Report. RE Kieley reported on the financial condition of the presbytery for the year to date, including the amounts of restricted and unrestricted balances at the end of the September 30, 2024 quarter and the giving and spending during the quarter. The report (Attachment B) was received by the presbytery.

Approval of 2025 Presbytery Budget. RE Kieley presented the proposed presbytery budget for 2025 (Attachment C). RE Kieley answered questions from the floor. A motion coming from the Administrative Committee was made and passed without objection to approve the proposed 2025 budget for the South Texas Presbytery.

RE Kieley closed his report with prayer.

REPORT OF STUDY COMMITTEE ON EXCEPTIONS

Committee Chairman TE Landry opened his report with prayer.

TE Landry yielded to Administrative Committee chairman TE Michael Novak to act as moderator.

TE Landry presented the committee's final report (Attachment D). The presbyters discussed the report and Landry answered questions from the floor.

After discussion, the third proposed change described in the report was removed from the omnibus motion so that it would be considered separately.

After discussion, the motion coming from the committee was made and passed to adopt the first two proposed changes described in the report.

The third proposed change was discussed separately.

The time for Orders of the Day having arrived, debate on the report was paused.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Consideration of Amendments to Book of Church Order Sent Down by 51st General Assembly.

The moderator laid out the proposed amendments that had been sent down to the presbytery from the 51st General Assembly for voting, and for advice and consent (Attachment E).

The moderator stated his intention to take up the proposed amendments individually. There was no objection.

The presbytery took up and considered each of the following proposed amendments in the following order, thoughtfully and prayerfully considering each, with the following results recorded below announced after each vote.

ITEM 1 FINAL VOTE:	FOR	39	AGAINST	1	ABSTENTION	7
ITEM 2 FINAL VOTE:	FOR	55	AGAINST	0	ABSTENTION	0
ITEM 3 FINAL VOTE:	FOR	49	AGAINST	0	ABSTENTION	4
ITEM 4 FINAL VOTE	FOR	56	AGAINST	0	ABSTENTION	0

Consideration of Amendment to Overture on Christian Nationalism.

The moderator recognized TE Nick Bullock and RE Joshua Torrey for a motion to amend something previously adopted, specifically the Overture from the South Texas Presbytery to the 52nd General Assembly of the PCA calling for an Ad Interim Study Committee to study Christian Nationalism that was adopted by the presbytery at its August 2024 Stated Meeting.

TE Bullock and RE Torrey explained the changes that have been made to the Overture (Attachment F). The presbyters discussed the Overture and Bullock and Torrey answered questions from the floor.

After discussion, a motion was made, seconded, and passed to submit the amended Overture to the 52nd General Assembly of the PCA.

REPORT OF STUDY COMMITTEE ON EXCEPTIONS (Continued)

Debate on the report continued.

The third proposed change was discussed separately.

After discussion, the motion coming from the committee was made and passed to adopt the report of the study committee.

The moderator directed the Candidates Committee to outline the form and manner for implementing the changes called for by the report and to report to the presbytery at its next stated meeting, and the Study Committee on Exceptions was dismissed with thanks.

TE Landry closed his report in prayer.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

ADMINISTRATIVE:

Committee Chairman TE Michael Novak opened his report with prayer.

Dissolution of Session of Dios Con Nosotros. TE Novak reported that the temporary session for Dios Con Nosotros has been dissolved.

Election of Treasurer. The floor was opened for nominations for Treasurer. RE Ken Kieley was nominated from the floor to serve for another term. The nomination was seconded, and Kieley was unanimously elected to serve another term through October 2027.

Report Under Book of Church Order 40-5. TE Novak reported on correspondence received from RE Brad Isbell and TE Jacob Gerber under Book of Church Order 40-5 regarding actions taken by All Saints Presbyterian Church in Austin (Attachment G). TE Novak reported that a subcommittee was formed to take the matter under advisement for consideration at the next stated meeting.

The report of the Administrative Committee was received by the presbytery and TE Novak closed his report with prayer.

NOMINATIONS:

Committee Chairman RE Joshua Torrey opened his report with prayer.

Nominations to Denominational and Presbytery Committees. RE Torrey presented the following slate of nominations for the permanent, agency, and special committees of the PCA, to be submitted for consideration at the 52nd General Assembly in June 2025:

Administrative Committee: TE Paul Hahn
Committee on Discipleship Ministries: TE Jon Herr

Nominations: RE Joshua Torrey (Class of 2027)
PCA Foundation: RE Ken Kieley

RE Torrey also presented the following slate of nominations for the standing committees of the presbytery, all for the class of 2027:

Campus Ministries: TEs Billy Crain and Tim Frickenshmidt and RE Bret Mercer
Candidates: TE Tom McKeon and RE Tim Mulder
Credentials: TEs "Tree" Triolo and Greg Ward and RE Ed Arvin
Ministerial Relations: TEs Michael Barber, Jon Green, Bryant McGee, Marcus Serven, and Allen Taha and REs Paul Gonzales and Gordon Landreth
Mission to North America: TEs Chris Fisher, Adam Lopez, and David Vilches and REs John Fitch and Mike Gamble
Mission to the World: TE "Gama" Pozos
Review of Sessional Records: TE Rob Bailey

RE Torrey also presented the following slate of nominations for the standing committees of the presbytery, to fill vacancies for the classes shown:

Campus Ministries: RE Rick Mealer (2025)
Candidates: TEs Wade Coleman (2027) and Josh Keller (2027) and RE Andrew Waller (2025)
Credentials: TEs Mike Haberkorn (2025), Avery Kelly (2026), and John Weller (2027)

TE Paul Hahn withdrew his name from consideration for nomination to the permanent Administrative Committee.

A motion in omnibus coming from the committee was made and passed to approve all these nominations.

A motion coming from RE Torrey was made, seconded, and passed to approve the following slate of nominations for the permanent, agency, and special committees of the PCA, to be submitted for consideration at the 52nd General Assembly in June 2025:

Campus Ministries: RE Doug Morrice (Class of 2026)
Theological Education: TE Greg Ward (Class of ____)
Mission to the World: RE Larry Lane (Class of ____)

The report of the Nominations Committee was received by the presbytery and RE Torrey closed his report with prayer.

CAMPUS MINISTRIES:

Committee Chairman TE Billy Crain opened his report with prayer.

TE Crain invited TE Todd Robinson to report on the work of Reformed University Fellowship (RUF) at Texas A&M - Corpus Christi. TE Rob Bailey prayed for TE Robinson and RUF.

RUF Affiliation Agreement. TE Crain reported on and presented for adoption the RUF Affiliation Agreement for the Campus Ministry Affiliation of Presbyteries with Reformed University Fellowship of the Presbyterian Church in America that was approved at the 51st General Assembly of the PCA in June 2024 in Richmond,

Virginia (Attachment H). The presbyters discussed the agreement and Crain answered questions from the floor. A motion coming from the committee was made and passed to approve the agreement and to authorize execution of the agreement for each RUF ministry or chapter within the South Texas Presbytery by TE Billy Crain on behalf of the presbytery.

TE Crain reported on the efforts to secure campus ministers for RUF International at the University of Texas at Austin and RUF at Texas A&M University.

TE Crain encouraged the presbyters to consider contributing financially to the RUF chapters within the presbytery as churches consider their budgets for 2025.

The report of the Campus Ministries Committee was received by the presbytery and TE Crain closed his report with prayer.

MISSION TO THE WORLD:

Committee Chairman TE Matt Southerland opened his report with prayer.

TE Southerland shared about Robbie Mill's work with Mission to the World. TE Southerland informed the presbyters of MTW's new tool, Cultivate, intended to help churches set up mission committees and assist in narrowing their purpose and vision in order to maximize support. TE Southerland also encouraged presbyters to consider available MTW internships over the summer, especially for college students.

TE Southerland reported on the work of missionaries, including Marcus Rudd with Isaiah 55 in Reynosa, Mexico. TE Southerland encouraged the presbyters to consider contributing financially to supporting national staff in Reynosa to assist with the Rudds' ministry.

TE Southerland invited TE Julian Zugg to share about MINTS (Miami International Seminary), an institution intending to create a free and sustainable means of theological education.

The report of the Mission to the World Committee was received by the presbytery and TE Southerland closed his report with prayer.

MISSION TO NORTH AMERICA:

Committee Chairman TE Paul Hahn opened his report with prayer.

Particularization of Redeemer Presbyterian Church College Station. TE Hahn invited TE Ben Hailey to share about the work of Redeemer Presbyterian Church, a mission church in College Station, and the church's upcoming particularization on January 26, 2025.

A motion coming from the committee was made and passed to receive and approve the petition from the members of Redeemer College Station for particularization (Attachment I).

A motion coming from the committee was made and passed to establish a commission to organize Redeemer College Station and install TE Ben Hailey as pastor, as well as to ordain and install Ruling Elders, and to constitute Redeemer Presbyterian Church of College Station as a church within the PCA on January 26, 2025, in accordance with Book of Church Order 5-9.

The moderator appointed the following commission for the organization of Redeemer College Station and the installation of TE Hailey and ordination and installation of Ruling Elders on January 26, 2025:

TE Wade Coleman, Westminster Bryan, Convenor
TE Bill Crain, Christ Kerrville
TE Derek McCollum, Hope New Braunfels
TE Michael Novak, Trinity Grace San Antonio
RE Council Mills, Westminster Bryan
RE Chris Peterson, Westminster Bryan
RE Joshua Torrey, Redeemer Austin
RE Pat Wells, Westminster Bryan

A motion coming from TE Hahn was made, seconded, and passed without objection to add RE Lane Joffrion, Christ Georgetown to the commission for Redeemer College Station.

TE John Ratliff prayed for TE Hailey and Redeemer College Station.

TE Hahn invited TE Adam Radcliff to share about the work of Resurrection Austin. TE David Vilches prayed for Resurrection Austin.

TE Hahn invited TE Adam Lopez to share about his church planting efforts with Grace Mosaic in northwest San Antonio. TE John Sweet prayed for TE Lopez and for Grace Mosaic.

TE Hahn invited Josh Eby to share about his work at Vida House. TE Victor Martinez prayed for TE Eby and his ministry.

TE Hahn invited TE Paul Miller to share about his ministry with Metanoia. TE Bryant McGee prayed for TE Miller and his ministry.

Establishment of Grace Mosaic Mission San Antonio. A motion coming from the committee was made and passed to recognize and establish Grace Mosaic as a mission church of the South Texas Presbytery under Book of Church Order 5-2.a.iii, pending receipt by the stated clerk of a petition seeking this status.

Severance for TE “Gama” Pozos. A motion coming from the committee was made and passed to extend the severance payments to TE “Gama” Pozos through January 2025, consistent with the action of the presbytery at its July 2024 stated meeting.

TE Hahn reported that a working group has been established to coordinate discussions between the presbytery and Reach South Texas. Members of the working group are:

TE Luke Evans
TE Tim Frickenschmidt
TE Paul Hahn
TE Derek McCollum
TE David Vilches
RE Mike Gamble
RE Dan Young

The report of the Mission to North America Committee was received by the presbytery and TE Hahn closed his report with prayer.

MINISTERIAL RELATIONS:

Committee Chairman TE Allen Taha opened his report with prayer.

TE Taha summarized the threefold purpose of the Ministerial Relations Committee: (1) to oversee, pray for, and encourage TEs in their calling; (2) to assist churches with vacant pulpits in their searches and provide support; and (3) to provide encouragement and counsel to all TEs within the presbytery.

TE Taha reported that the committee had received and reviewed updates and reports from several TEs and prayed for them.

TE Bryce Waller to Without Call. A motion coming from the committee was made and passed to move TE Bryce Waller to without call. TE Waller has concluded his ministry in Colombia and moved back to the Texas with his family and is currently attending All Saints Austin.

Approval of Calls Under RUF Affiliation Agreement. A motion coming from TE Taha was made, seconded, and passed to approve the calls to serve as campus ministers under the RUF Affiliation Agreement for the following:

TE Holt West at RUF at Trinity University
TE Lee Wright at RUF at the University of Texas at San Antonio
TE Todd Robinson at RUF at Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi
Ryan Dougan at RUF at the University of Texas at Austin (pending Dougan's ordination)

TE Taha reported on the presbytery's Pastors and Wives' Retreat that was held on October 9-10, 2024 in San Antonio. Seven TEs and their wives attended and RE Jim Pocta (North Texas Presbytery) was the speaker. The committee is planning another retreat for TEs and wives in 2025, with details to be forthcoming.

Amendment to Standing Rules on First Reading. TE Allen Taha introduced TE Danny Morgan, who presented on behalf of the committee on first reading a proposed amendment to the Standing Rules from the Ministerial Relation Committee (Attachment I) regarding the presbytery's meeting dates. TE Morgan answered questions from the floor. The amendment will come before the January 2025 Stated Meeting for second reading.

Delegation of Approval of Call Under RUF Affiliation Agreement. A motion coming from TE Taha was made, seconded, and passed to delegate to the Ministerial Relations Committee approval of TE Titus Bagby's call to serve as campus minister under the RUF Affiliation Agreement for RUF International at Texas A&M University.

The report of the Ministerial Relations Committee was received by the presbytery and TE Taha closed his report with prayer.

CANDIDATES:

Acting Committee Chairman RE Joshua Torrey opened his report with prayer.

Reports on the presbytery's interns are found at Attachment J.

RE Torrey introduced Tomas Sanchez as a candidate for licensure to share his Christian experience in accordance with BCO 19-2. TE Mike Singestreu prayed for Sanchez.

Examination of Nate Esbenshade on Christian Call and Experience

RE Torrey introduced Nate Esbenshade as a candidate to come under care for the gospel ministry to serve at Redeemer Austin.

Esbenshade gave a description of his Christian experience and motives for and sense of inward call to the ministry of the Word.

A motion coming from the committee was made, seconded, and passed to approve the examination of Esbenshade.

The committee having received the endorsement of Redeemer Austin as to Esbenshade's membership for at least six months and its commendation of his candidacy, the committee recommends the reception of Nate Esbenshade as a candidate for the gospel ministry under the care of the South Texas Presbytery and for his name to be added to the roll of the presbytery, receiving and accepting Esbenshade's internship at Redeemer Presbyterian Church in Austin, with TE Jon Herr being assigned as his mentor. A motion coming from the floor to this effect was made, seconded, and passed.

Moderator Landry asked Esbenshade the questions from Book of Church Order 18-3, which he answered in the affirmative.

Moderator Landry declared Esbenshade an intern under Book of Church Order 19-10 and prayed for him.

TE Herr gave Esbenshade a brief charge and prayed for him.

Therefore, at Austin, Texas, the 26th day of October, 2024, the South Texas Presbytery, having received testimonials commending Nate Esbenshade and having received him as a candidate for the ministry, have placed him under internship at his request in order to test his gifts for holy ministry.

Amendment to Standing Rules on First Reading. RE Torrey presented on first reading a proposed amendment to the Standing Rules of the presbytery from the Candidates Committee (Attachment K) regarding the performance of background checks for candidates coming for examination for ordination or transfer. RE Torrey answered questions from the floor. The amendment will come before the January 2025 Stated Meeting for second reading.

The report of the Candidates Committee was received by the presbytery and RE Torrey closed his report with prayer.

CREDENTIALS:

Committee Chairman TE Matt Beham opened his report with prayer.

Examinations of Ryan Dougan, Brandon Flynn, and Daniel McDowell on Theology

TE Beham introduced the following:

Brandon Flynn, who was accepted as a candidate for the gospel ministry at the presbytery's August 2023 Stated Meeting and placed under internship, serving as director of music and discipleship at CrossPointe Church in Austin.

Ryan Dougan, who was accepted as a candidate for the gospel ministry at the presbytery's April 2024 Stated Meeting and placed under internship, serving as RUF Campus Associate at the University of Texas at Austin.

Daniel McDowell as a candidate for licensure, serving as director of discipleship at Christ Church Georgetown.

TE Kevin Witten asked questions of Dougan, Flynn, and McDowell on theology. Dougan, Flynn, and McDowell answered questions from the floor.

Recording Clerk TE Holt West read Flynn's stated exceptions in his own words to the Westminster Confession of Faith 4-1 and 21-8, Westminster Larger Catechism 15, 109, 117, 119, and 107, and Westminster Shorter Catechism 9, 60 and 61:

I differ from WCF 4-1, WLC 15, and WSC 9 in the phrase "in the space of six days," to the extent that the phrase implies the length of the creation days as being six twenty four hour periods. I hold to the analogical day view of the creation days, where the six days of work and one day Sabbath pattern established in the fourth commandment (Exod 20:8-11) is understood as being analogical to God's six days of work and one day of rest in the creation account.

Exodus 23:12 employs analogical reasoning from God's Sabbath to Israel's: Israel is to rest and be refreshed just as God did on the seventh day. And so I believe Israel is to view their Sabbath as analogical to God's own Sabbath, in which case I believe the entire creation week would also function in the same way. The precise length of days is a secondary consideration about which I do not feel I can make a definitive conclusion by good and necessary consequence.

I differ from WCF 21-8, WLC 117, WLC 119, WSC 60, and WSC 61 in the language that the Sabbath is to be sanctified by resting all the day not just from worldly "employments", but also "recreations." Looking at the scripture's teaching on the Sabbath as a whole, I do not think the category of "recreations" is warranted as something which is forbidden by the Sabbath command. I think it is often very good advice to cease from worldly recreations on the Sabbath, but I believe it goes beyond the scriptures when considered part of the perpetually binding moral commandment of the Sabbath day.

In which case I also differ from the language requiring that "the whole time (except so much as is to be taken up in works of necessity and mercy) is to be spent in the public and private exercises of God's worship" (WLC 117). I believe this goes beyond what the scriptures warrant as a perpetually binding moral commandment.

My view is that the perpetually binding moral duty of the Sabbath command consists in resting from one's daily labors of provision (along with all the preparation required to do so), as well as the broader command to keep the day Holy to the Lord.

I differ from WLC 109 in its defining the making of any representation of any member of the Trinity "either inwardly in our mind, or outwardly in any kind of image or likeness of any creature whatsoever." I think the forbidding of any inward representation of our mind is to go against the clear intentions of some passages of scripture to produce some sort of image in our mind. For example, at Jesus' baptism, in Luke 3:22 it says that "the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove", which is meant to evoke an image in the mind of the listener or reader of a dove.

I believe these inward images become violations of the second commandment when we identify them as the actual likeness of God, rather than just our mental representations.

When it comes to making any outward images, I think these are not automatic violations of the second commandment, provided that they are images of God that the scriptures themselves contain, and are not worshiped, or used in the context of worship. Just as with inward images, it must be clear that these outward images are not the actual likeness of God, but are rather representations made by man of images in the scriptures.

A motion coming from the committee was made and passed to judge and accept Flynn's stated differences as more than semantic but not out of accord with any fundamental of our system of doctrine.

Recording Clerk TE West read Dougan's stated exceptions in his own words to the Westminster Confession of Faith 4-1 and 21-8, Westminster Larger Catechism 109, and Westminster Shorter Catechism 60:

WCF 4-1 - I hold to the framework view of creation and therefore may have a difference with "the space of six days". Though I think that 7 literal 24 hour days of creation is possible, and the most straightforward reading, I believe that the framework view strikes more to the main concern or pastoral purpose of Genesis 1-2.

WCF 21-8 and WSC 60 - I believe that it is lawful for a family to participate in recreation in so far as it does not conflict with their participation in corporate worship. Certainly our primary focus on the Sabbath should not be on worldly employments and recreation but rather on God and his generous grace that even provides us our means to play.

WLC 109 - I believe that the primary concern of the 2nd commandment was the worship, or heart orientation towards false images of God. Therefore, I think it is okay for us to use tools of the imagination and art to think about God. Things like the *Jesus Story Book Bible* for example, may be helpful tools to use for the education of children, in so far as they do not begin to worship the image displayed on the page. Additionally, the Westminster's charge to refrain from a representation of God, even "inwardly or in our mind" seems impossible. How can one not imagine Christ as they think of the crucifixion? I would think that the disciples and the 500 witnesses would have thought of Jesus' face quite often.

A motion coming from the committee was made and passed to judge and accept Dougan's stated differences as more than semantic but not out of accord with any fundamental of our system of doctrine.

Recording Clerk TE West read McDowell's stated exception in his own words to the Westminster Confession of Faith 4-1:

WCF 4.1- My view of the days of creation is the Analogical View. This view sees the six creative days in Genesis 1 as God's work days that set up [the] model for our human week with the seventh day being that of rest and Sabbath. The main benefit of this view is that it doesn't try to do too much with the text or force a literal reading on what appears to be more poetic language—or even its own genre. After all, how can days 1-3 be calendar or 24-hour days when the Sun and Moon are created on the fourth day? Furthermore, what could it mean that God "rested" when other passages declare He "does not grow faint or weary" (Isa. 48:28)? In seeking to be faithful to the textual account, I find this view to be the best explanation.

A motion coming from the committee was made and passed to judge and accept McDowell's stated difference as more than semantic but not out of accord with any fundamental of our system of doctrine.

A motion coming from the committee was made and passed to sustain Dougan's, Flynn's and McDowell's examinations on theology.

TE Beham reported that the committee heard sermons from Dougan and Flynn and also sustained Flynn's character examination.

Licensure of Daniel McDowell Under Book of Church Order Chapter 19

All requirements of the Book of Church Order having been met, TE Beham announced that the licensure process for Daniel McDowell has been completed.

Moderator Landry asked McDowell the questions from Book of Church Order 19-3, which McDowell answered in the affirmative. The moderator pronounced the licensure of McDowell with the language of Book of Church Order 19-4 and prayed for McDowell.

Therefore, at Austin, Texas, the 26th day of October, 2024, the South Texas Presbytery, having received testimonials commending Daniel McDowell, proceeded to submit to him the prescribed examination for licensure, which was met to the approval of the presbytery. Having satisfactorily answered the questions for licensure, Daniel McDowell was licensed by the presbytery to preach the Gospel within the bounds of this presbytery.

Examination of TE Will Stockdale for Transfer from Potomac Presbytery under Book of Church Order 13-6

TE Beham introduced TE Will Stockdale, who has been called from Potomac Presbytery to serve as Assistant Pastor at All Saints Presbyterian Church in Austin.

TE Stockdale described his personal and educational background, his Christian experience, and his prior ministry service.

Recording Clerk TE West read TE Stockdale's exceptions in his own words to Westminster Confession of Faith 4-1 and 21-8 and Westminster Larger Catechism 109, 117, and 119:

WCF 4-1- The exception I would like to take is in regards to the days of creation. I believe that all things in heaven and on earth were made by God and are sustained by his power. As Genesis 1:1 states, "In the

beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” There is nothing that exists apart from his creative act. In The Westminster Catechism Question 9 we are asked, “What is the work of creation?” Answer, “The work of creation is God’s making all things of nothing, by the word of his power, in the space of six days, and all very good.” I believe that when Genesis 1 describes creation, it is describing creation by what pastors and theologians refer to as “The Framework View.” This view interprets the chapter in what can be called forming and filling. That is, days 1-3 refer to God forming all of the created order, while days 4-6 describe God filling with creation the creation that he formed. This is one of the four accepted views on creation as stated by the PCA study committee. The other three views are the “24 Hour View”, “The Day-Age View,” and “Analogic Day View.”

WLC 109 - The exception I would like to take regards the making of any representation of God. I believe that since the Gospels are written as narratives they elicit the inevitable result of imagining an image of Jesus during his earthly ministry. Upon this understanding of the WLC it would be impossible to read the gospels without violating the second commandment. Throughout Scripture we see the use of anthropomorphic language to describe God (Exodus 6:6, 2 Kings 19:16, Daniel 9:18, Isaiah 5:25, Nehemiah 1:6) without reducing God to those anthropomorphic qualities, or implying that the worship of those qualities is permissible. With this in mind I think it is possible for study aids, and children’s bibles to include depictions of Jesus for education, but not worship purposes. While I agree that one ought not worship visible images of the Godhead, I believe this question goes beyond the boundaries of what Scripture itself actually forbids.

WCF 21-8, WLC 117, 119 - The exception I would like to take is to the recreation portion of the paragraph. While I do believe the Westminster Confession of Faith states clearly and correctly that we ought to rest from our labors on the Sabbath, I believe recreation plays a part in our rest on the Lord’s Day. In Isaiah 58:13-14 the prophet commands the people to turn back from doing business on the Sabbath and talking idly (v. 13), and also commands them to delight in the Sabbath (v. 13). This is not a forbidding of pleasure (v. 13), but from personal business. I believe this passage leaves room for recreation. Consider Mark 2:23, “One Sabbath he was going through the grainfields, and as they made their way, his disciples began to pluck heads of grain.” In this paragraph Jesus appears to be taking a leisurely stroll through a field with his friends. Thus, I believe there is a biblical warrant to taking exception to the above stated portion of paragraph 8. Additionally, I do not believe that the Scriptures cited by the WLC (Ex. 16:25-28, Jer. 17:21-22, Jer. 17:24, 27, and the above mentioned Is. 58:13-14) support the forbidding of play or recreation on the Sabbath.

TE Stockdale answered questions from the floor regarding his stated differences..

A motion coming from the committee was made and passed to judge and accept TE Stockdale’s stated differences as more than semantic but not out of accord with any fundamental of our system of doctrine.

TE Beham examined TE Stockdale on whether there has been any change in his views since his ordination, on his Christian experience, and on his views on theology, the Sacraments, and church government. TE Stockdale answered questions from the floor.

TE Beham reported that the committee sustained TE Stockdale’s character examination.

TE Stockdale having been dismissed as a member in good standing from the Potomac Presbytery and the committee having reviewed and found the terms of TE Stockdale’s call to be in order, a motion coming from the committee was made and passed to sustain TE Will Stockdale’s transfer examination, to approve his transfer

and receive him into the South Texas Presbytery, and to install TE Stockdale as assistant pastor at All Saints Presbyterian Church in Austin.

The moderator appointed the following commission for the installation of TE Will Stockdale at All Saints Presbyterian Church in Austin on a date to be set by the moderator and convenor:

TE Tim Frickensmidt, Convenor
TE Brent Baker
TE Craig Chapman
TE Josh Keller
TE David Vilches
RE David Beisner
RE David Blank
RE Doug Byrkit
RE Doug Dolibois
RE Jordan Dwelle
RE Bruce Gregory
RE Matt Heininger
RE Taylor Holcomb
RE Drew Thompson
RE Ben Zinnecker

The report of the Credentials Committee was received by the presbytery and TE Beham closed his report with prayer.

NEW BUSINESS

TE Landry as a matter of personal privilege invited all presbyters to Redeemer Austin's 30th Anniversary Conference on November 1 and 2.

Election of Moderator. The Standing Rules of the presbytery call for the election of a moderator at each October meeting, to serve for a term of one year commencing at the conclusion of the October meeting. The office is to alternate between a teaching elder and a ruling elder. The floor was opened for nominations for a ruling elder to serve as moderator, effective at the end of the meeting. RE Joshua Torrey was nominated and a motion made, seconded, and passed to elect him as moderator for a term ending at the conclusion of the Stated Meeting in October 2025 .

UPCOMING MEETINGS

The stated clerk reminded the presbyters of the upcoming 157th stated meeting of the presbytery at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Bryan on January 24 and 25, 2025.

TE Rob Bailey as a matter of personal privilege thanked TE Landry for his service as moderator.

Other upcoming presbytery meetings are:

April 25-26, 2025	Faith San Antonio	Central
August 8-9, 2025	Redeemer Austin	North
October 24-25, 2025	Redeemer San Antonio	Central

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to adjourn. The one hundred fifty-sixth stated meeting of the South Texas Presbytery adjourned at 11:57 a.m. on Saturday, October 26, 2024 with singing the *Doxology* and a benediction from Moderator Landry.

Respectfully Submitted,

RE Barry R. McBee
Stated Clerk

DOCKET

South Texas Presbytery, 156th Stated Meeting, October 25-26, 2024
CrossPointe Church
5703 McNeil Drive, Austin, Texas 78729
(512) 249-1006

Friday, October 25, 2024

Standing Committee Meetings	1:30 PM
Shared Meal for Presbyters and Guests	5:30 PM
Convene and Welcome	6:30 PM
Roll Call and Quorum	
Resolution of Thanks	
Worship and Lord's Supper	
Recess to Fellowship	8:00 PM

Saturday, October 26, 2024

Call to Order	8:00 AM
Adoption of Docket	
Season of Prayer	
Report of Stated Clerk	
Election of Recording Clerk	
Treasurer's Report	
Approve Presbytery Budget for 2025	
Orders of the Day	9:00 AM
Consideration of BCO Amendments Sent Down by 51st General Assembly	
Consideration of Amendment to Overture on Christian Nationalism	
Report of Study Committee on Exceptions	
Committee Reports:	
Administrative	
Sessional Records	
Nominations	
Campus Ministries	
Mission to the World	
Mission to North America	
Ministerial Relations	
Candidates s	
Credential	
New Business	
Election of Ruling Elder to Serve as Moderator	
Announcement of Time and Place of Next Meeting	
Closing Hymn and Benediction	
Adjournment	Noon

South Texas Presbytery Attendance Rolls
CrossPointe Church
October 25-26, 2024

Teaching Elders:

TE Rob Bailey, Southside Community Corpus Christi
TE Brent Baker, All Saints Austin
TE Michael Barber, Chaplain, Buckner Villas
TE Matt Beham, Redeemer San Antonio
TE Nick Bullock, Christ New Braunfels
TE Craig Chapman, All Saints Austin
TE Pablo Chavarria, Redeemer San Antonio
TE Wade Coleman, Westminster Bryan
TE Billy Crain, Christ Church Kerrville
TE Greg Davidson, Honorably Retired
TE Ezekiel Dean, Christ New Braunfels
TE Terence Dykstra, Without Call
TE Josh Eby, Vida House
TE Luke Evans, Christ San Antonio
TE Chris Fisher, Young Life Austin
TE Paul Hahn, Redeemer San Antonio
TE Ben Hailey, Redeemer Mission College Station
TE Jonathan Herr, Redeemer Austin
TE Steve Johnson, CrossPointe Austin
TE Nathan Kelly, Grace + Peace Austin
TE Josh Keller, All Saints Austin
TE Eric Landry, Redeemer Austin
TE Bryan Lee, Christ San Antonio
TE Adam Lopez, Trinity Grace San Antonio
TE Victor Martinez, Redeemer San Antonio
TE Eduardo Martorano, Iglesia La Vid Laredo
TE Derek McCollum, Hope New Braunfels
TE Bryant McGee, Redeemer San Antonio
TE Tom McKeon, Grace McAllen
TE Danny Morgan, Redeemer Austin
TE Michael Novak, Trinity Grace San Antonio
TE "Gama" Pozos
TE Adam Radcliff, All Saints Austin/Resurrection Austin
TE John Ratliff, Honorably Retired
TE Todd Robinson, Reformed University Fellowship, Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi
TE Marcus Serven, Redeemer Austin
TE Danny Shuffield, Laboring Out-of-Bounds
TE Michael Singenstreu, Christ Victoria
TE Harrison Skeele, Honorably Retired
TE Matthew Southerland, CrossPointe Austin
TE John Sweet, Grace + Peace Austin
TE Alan Taha, Trinity Boerne
TE "Tree" Triolo, Westminster Bryan

TE David Vilches, All Saints Austin
TE Bryce Waller, Without Call
TE Gregory Ward, Emmanuel Austin
TE John Weller, Without Call
TE Holt West, Reformed University Fellowship, Trinity University
TE Kevin Witten, Trinity Boerne
TE Lee Wright, Reformed University Fellowship, University of Texas San Antonio

Ruling Elders Representing Churches:

RE Ramon Alvarez, Dios Con Nosotros Edinburg
RE Rick Bocock, Redeemer Austin
RE Gary Britigan, Christ Georgetown
RE Todd Finch, Christ the King Austin
RE Bob Hardister, Christ the King Austin
RE Taylor Holcomb, All Saints Austin
RE Morriss Hurt, Redeemer San Antonio
RE Lane Joffrion, Christ Georgetown
RE Robert James, Dios Con Nosotros Edinburg
RE Ken Kieley, Redeemer Austin
RE Larry Laine, Christ the King Austin
RE Gordon Landreth, Southside Community Corpus Christi
RE Landy Ligon, Redeemer Austin
RE Larry Lorimor, Christ Georgetown
RE Barry McBee, Redeemer Austin
RE Michael McDonald, Westminster Bryan
RE Rick Mealer, Redeemer Austin
RE Bret Mercer, Redeemer Austin
RE David Moore, Christ Georgetown
RE Doug Morrice, CrossPointe Austin
RE Jose Reyna, Dios Con Nosotros Edinburg
RE Randy Scott, Redeemer Austin
RE Adam Sweat, Christ the King Austin
RE Joshua Torrey, Redeemer Austin
RE Alan Tysinger, Christ San Antonio
RE Isai Uc, Dios Con Nosotros Edinburg
RE Jeremy Whitley, Redeemer San Antonio
RE Fred Willard, Christ New Braunfels
RE Mitchell Young, CrossPointe Austin

Other Teaching Elders:

TE Julian Zugg, Miami International Seminary

Other Ruling Elders:

TE Paul Miller, Metanoia

Licentiates:

Steve Hampton
Andrew Waller

Interns:

Michael Chapa
Ryan Dougan
Brandon Flynn
Justin Outlaw
Eddie Ramirez

Guests:

Sebastian Avalos, Reformed University Fellowship, University of Texas at El Paso
Nathan Esbenshade, Redeemer Austin
Cole Kirby, Christ San Antonio
Michael Martin, Redeemer Mission College Station
Evalyn Grace Pozos
Tomas Sanchez, Grace McAllen
Dan Tidwell, Miami International Seminary
Ross Van Klaveren, Redeemer San Antonio
Jay Weiland, Reformed Theological Seminary - Dallas

Churches:

All Saints Austin
Christ Georgetown
Christ New Braunfels
Christ San Antonio
Christ the King Austin
CrossPointe Austin
Redeemer Austin
Redeemer Mission College Station
Redeemer San Antonio
Resurrection Austin
Southside Community Corpus Christi
The Crossing Edinburg
Westminster Bryan