



Harvest Call

August 12, 2018

OPC Ecumenicity

In ecclesiastical union two denominations join in submitting to one common form of government. Since ecclesiastical jurisdiction includes the maintenance of spiritual discipline, unity in polity requires agreement in the standards of faith and worship which such discipline maintains. Hence unification in polity, when properly sought and achieved, involves also unity in faith, discipline, and worship.

As we take account of the diversity that exists between denominations arising from differences of ethnic identity, cultural background, and historical circumstance the most conclusive evidence derived from Scripture is required to support the position that the obliteration of denominational separateness is an obligation resting upon these Churches of Christ. The differences that exist often manifest the diversity which the church of Christ ought to exemplify and make for the enrichment of the church's total witness. If ecclesiastical union impairs this diversity, then it may be achieved at too great an expense and tends to an impoverishment inconsistent with the witness to Christ which the church must bear.

OPC Sister Church of the Week

The Free Church of Scotland (FCS)

The Free Church of Scotland subscribes to the Westminster Confession of Faith and is committed to the proclamation and furtherance of the Christian faith in the nation of Scotland and beyond. The FCS united desire is to proclaim the Lordship of Jesus Christ – the only Saviour to a dying world – and to live in obedience to the Bible and the great commission to make disciples by ordinary teaching and preaching of the Word.

The Free Church of Scotland was formed in 1843 when most of the confessional ministers in the Church of Scotland resigned because of state interference in its church affairs. Under the Patronage system,

landowners nominated and presented ministers to congregations, irrespective of whether those ministers were confessional or called by the congregation.

Historic Presbyterian Church in Scotland held Church and State independent in their own spheres without interference in each other's business, but rather help one another for the Christian good of Scotland. The breakaway in 1843, known as The Disruption, led to formation of the Church of Scotland, Free, but later renamed to The Free Church of Scotland.

The denomination currently has over 100 congregations in Scotland, 2 in London, sister churches founded by mission work in India, Peru and South Africa. The Church has a full time seminary in Edinburgh for the training of ministers and other Christian workers.

Please pray for the continued faithfulness and living witness of the FCS, and effective reach into the nation of Scotland and the world beyond her gates.

OPC Congregation of the Week

Providence OPC, Bradenton, FL, began in 2004 as a Wednesday night Bible study and prayer time committed to Biblical worship and the Westminster Standards. OPC Regional Home Missionary Jim Heemstra, and his wife Sandy, led this work. Worship services began at the Riverfront Holiday Inn, in May, 2004. Pastor David Smiley was called in June, 2005.

The Lord has raised up Elders in the midst of his people here at Providence, and provided accommodation. In the early 2011, a church of like faith and practice sold their building to Providence OPC- a great blessing to the congregation.

Providence OPC, Bradenton, FL, is uniquely blessed in west central FL, as numerous snowbirds from NAPARC churches head south for the winter months - a wonderful opportunity to worship with brothers and sisters from the Free Reformed Church, Heritage Reformed Church, United Reformed Churches, Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America, and Canadian Reformed Churches. Our snowbirds usually

Harvest Call

make their way here in October and stay until April or May.

Pastor Michael Borg grew up in a Christian family in Fairmont, MN, and was raised in the Evangelical Free Church of America. In high school he was introduced to the doctrines of grace for the first time by his youth pastor. Michael attended Bethel University in St. Paul, MN receiving a degree in biblical and theological studies and philosophy. Michael and his wife Rachel lived in Bandung, Indonesia for two years, where he served an Indonesian Classical School. After moving back Stateside, he received a Masters of Divinity from Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary in Grand Rapids, MI. Throughout his seminary days he fulfilled two summer long internships both in Cape Cod, MA and Kalamazoo, MI.



In May 2014 Michael was ordained in the Orthodox Presbyterian Church and accepted a call to serve at Providence Presbyterian in Bradenton, FL. He and his wife have five children: Benjamin, Ellathea, Jonathan, Asher, and Avril. Providence praises God for His ongoing blessing as we grow together in His grace.

Prayer items for Providence OPC, Bradenton:

- Thankfulness for new prospective members. We just finished up with a membership class of seven individuals.
- Thankfulness for a new ruling elder, Ron Geundjoian, who was ordained and installed Sunday July 29.
- Thankfulness for two pregnant women in our congregation.

- Request for the Lord to continued growth in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- For more younger families to worship with the congregation.
- Request for the session that as they continue to strive to plan for Providence's future that God would grant wisdom and unity.
- Request for a number of individuals in the church who seem to continually struggle with health issues (e.g. cancer [seven members right now], complications post surgery, heart issues [three members right now], etc.).

OPC Mission Work of the Week

Grace and Truth Presbyterian Church, Mifflintown, PA

Please pray for this new mission work now receiving CHMCE support. Evening worship services started February 18, and on average 23 people attend. Church planter Ron Beabout, who arrived in Mifflintown at the beginning of July, shares that they are in the early stages of planning their outreach to the area. In the coming months Ron will be working hard to establish influential contacts in the nearby communities. The church's website and accompanying promotional materials are currently being designed by a media consultant. And the congregation is excited to reach out with the good news of the gospel. Pastor Beabout specifically requests prayer:

- That good contacts would be made, and that the church would be warm and welcoming.
- Pray for worship and regular means of grace. Goal is to start morning services in the new year- with that goal- need to find a bigger place to meet.
- Pray also that fellowship would be strengthened and that the congregation would be faithful in worship and prayer.



Ron and Carol Beabout

SouthWest Presbytery News

Albuquerque Reformed Church (OPC) began in 1981 as Covenant of Grace Church (OPC). Its organizing pastor was Christopher Wisdom, he served as pastor until around 1985 at which time he joined the army and became a chaplain. Tim Barrow followed Chris as pastor until 1990. Pastor John Hunt came to Covenant of Grace Church (OPC) in October of 1991. In May of 2017, the church was incorporated under the name Albuquerque Reformed Church (OPC). They currently have 2 elders, no deacons, and 35 souls.



Pastor John Hunt

Pastor Hunt came out of Dispensational schools, and was led to Reformed theology and Presbyterianism by Dr. Leonard Coppes (retired OPC minister), Denver, CO. Pastor Hunt was stated supply after Tim Barrow moved back to Michigan. The congregation called Pastor Hunt in the summer of 1991. He was examined by the PSW in September of 1991 and installed in October, 1991.

The congregation has a leased facility and is financially challenged like other small churches.

- Please pray for wisdom for the session.
- Pray for outreach and evangelism opportunities and work.
- Pray for the congregation and for its comfort and growth in grace.

Listening In and Sounding Out

The Houston Harvey OPC Disaster Response Ministry has taken a break in its ministry. We re-start this ministry October 1st. We give thanks that a Site Coordinator (work projector manager) has been recruited to serve beginning October 1st. Good news!

Pray that the Lord will direct our diaconal relief efforts:

- To direct our steps to new flood-affected households that are still displaced and need house restoration.
- To bring teams of disaster response volunteer workers to Houston, starting in October 2018.
- To help the Houston churches to be faithful in practical witness over the days of August 25-28, the one-year anniversary of Hurricane Harvey (August 25-27th, 2017).

Harvest Call is published by South Austin Presbyterian Church (OPC), Austin, TX

Email: clerk@southaustinpres.org

Phone: (512) 900-1654