



# Harvest Call

August 19, 2018

## OPC Ecumenicity

Though the diversity which manifests itself in differentiating historical development might appear to make ecclesiastical union with various churches inadvisable or even perilous in certain cases, yet the biblical evidence in support of union is so plain that any argument to the contrary, however plausible, must be false.

In Christ there is now no longer Jew or Gentile, barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free (cf. Galatians 3:28; Colossians 3:11). The New Testament does not suppose that the differences natural to individuals nor those arising from ethnic identity, cultural background, and historical circumstance are to be obliterated by the gospel. But it does mean that the unity of Christ transcends all diversity arising from language, race, culture, history. What is more, this unity embraces and utilizes all the diversity that is proper and this is created by God's providence.

If we should maintain that the diversity is in any way incompatible with the unity of which the church is the expression, then we should be denying THAT unity which the ethnic universalism of the gospel implies. Implicit in the universalism of the gospel is the same kind of universalism in that which the gospel designs, the building up of Christ's church.

## OPC Sister Church of the Week

### The Independent Reformed Church of Korea (IRCK)

The Independent Reformed Church in Korea (IRCK) is a Conservative Christian denomination in South Korea. It was established in 1964, and was the only church to use Reformed in its name. It confesses the Westminster Confession, the Heidelberg Catechism, the Canons of

Dort and the ecumenical creeds, has its own seminary, the Theological Academy of the Independent Reformed Church, and is a member of the International Conference of Reformed Churches.

The Independent Reformed Church was started in 1964 with only one church, because of a serious schism in the largest Presbyterian denomination regarding the issue of whether to join the World Council of Churches. Now the denomination consists of four small churches. The churches' membership includes about 552 persons, of whom 310 are communicant members as of 2005.

The IRCK has limited ecclesiastical fellowship with the Christian Reformed Churches (Netherlands) and the Reformed Churches in the Netherlands (Liberated), closer ties with the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, and fellowship in Korea with the Independent Reformed Presbyterian Church in Korea which has 8 congregations and six hundred members.

- Please pray for the work of this small denomination given the enormous task she has before her.
- Pray that her witness may flourish and that her doors may fill with those called from darkness into the light of the Son of grace.

## OPC Congregation of the Week

**Emmaus OPC, Fort Collins, CO** - began weekly worship services on July 25, 1993, as a mission work under the oversight of an OPC in Denver with three families who were interested in establishing a confessional reformed church.

After Pastor Allison finished his training at the Theological College of the Canadian Reformed Churches and then under the Rev. G. I. Williamson and his father, the Rev. Sam M. Allison, along with the seven elders on the session of Bethel OPC in Carson, North Dakota, he began preaching and teaching in Fort

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Collins and was ordained and installed that fall on the same date (199 years later) as the renowned pastor and first professor at Princeton Theological Seminary, Archibald Alexander, after whom he was named.

The congregation became a particular congregation in 2001 and now has 52 communicant members and 32 non-communicant members. Two elders and the pastor serve on the session. The congregation currently has no deacons, but two men are beginning training. Last month the congregation celebrated the Lord's grace and faithfulness over the past twenty-five years.



**Pastor Allison moderating the 2015 General Assembly**

The church has Bible study and prayer meeting every Wednesday evening. The pastor teaches weekly catechism and church history classes for the youth of the church. Members of the church meet monthly to discuss a chapter of a book that they read together. The church enjoys a monthly fellowship meal together and three church picnics every summer.

Women in the church have enjoyed monthly fellowship and Bible study, as have the young and the singles. Over the years the church has sung at care centers once a month before the evening worship. This month

the church plans to begin conducting a monthly Sunday afternoon service at an assisted living facility.

The pastor began a reformed ministers fellowship in 1994 that meets every other month to read and discuss an article and pray for one another. The Lord has used this to build good communication, unity, and fellowship among the reformed churches in northern Colorado. The pastor serves the presbytery on many committees, in addition to fifteen years as stated clerk and several as moderator.

He has served twelve years on the General Assembly's Committee on Christian Education, including its Subcommittee on Internet Ministries, which oversees the OPC web site, as well as on the Board of Trustees of Great Commission Publications. He also serves the General Assembly's Committee on Coordination as an Ambassador for Worldwide Outreach in the presbytery.

Many members in the church actively witness to those with whom they come in contact and distribute Bibles and reformed literature. The church seeks to minister to students at Colorado State University through the regular ministry of the church as well as Bible studies on campus and other outreach events. God has used his people in Fort Collins to bring several to love, worship, and service him.

The congregation has ministered to many with great needs over the years. The Lord has richly blessed his people at Emmaus OPC. The more faithful and blessed the church has been, the fiercer the attacks from the wicked one have been, especially from within.

Pray fervently that the Spirit of the Lord will raise up a standard against the enemy when he comes in like a flood, and that the Lord of the harvest will pour out his Holy Spirit on our spiritually parched land and will anoint the preaching of his word and make it effectual to save the lost and build his church.

## OPC Mission Work of the Week

**Resurrection Presbyterian Church, Oshkosh, WI** - held their first worship service in their new building on July 15. Pastor Holda shares that it was a day of rejoicing at God's good provision.

Now that they're settled in their new space, the congregation is beginning the process of making contacts in their new community. In fact, they have set aside the month of August to intentionally focus on just that. Please pray for Pastor Holda and the members of RPC as they canvas neighborhoods and frequent farmers markets in an effort to make their presence known. During this time, they will also be inviting folks to attend a special Service of Thanksgiving for their church building on Friday, September 7, as well as the worship service the following Sunday. They'd love to see many people, both church and unchurched, attend these services and appreciate your prayers to that effect.



**Bob and Grace Holda**

## SouthWest Presbytery News

**Cornerstone OPC Houston, TX** - began as a Sunday night Bible study in August of 2010. Initially led by Rev. Andrew Moody, the Bible study group began meeting for Sunday evening worship in a series of venues before starting Sunday morning worship at a local daycare in March of 2011.

After Rev. Moody left the work to plant a church in San Antonio, the work continued with various men filling the pulpit until Rev. Robert Arendale was called to the work in 2012.

Rev. Arendale was installed as pastor when Cornerstone was particularized in 2014. We were blessed by our Lord with a local session and deacon.

Since 2015 the church has flourished and grown quickly. The congregation has been meeting at a local elementary school in the Copperfield area. In 2017 God in his providence provided a church building in the Champions area of Houston that is currently undergoing extensive renovations.

This past July Cornerstone called a new Pastor-Elect, the Rev. Dr. Todd Bordow after Rev. Arendale left the pastorate to become Executive Director of RTS Seminary in Houston. Rev. Bordow has been teaching through *"Helping and Counseling Christians in the Body of Christ"* in Adult Sunday School. He has also been preaching a series on what it means to live as believers in the New Covenant.

The Lord continues to bless us with new families, and we will start a new member's class soon as well as officer training for new elders and deacons.

Prayer items for Cornerstone OPC Houston include:

- Thankfulness for new prospective members.

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- Thankfulness for our new Pastor and his family.
- Thankfulness for our new building.
- Request for work to proceed to completion so that we may glorify God at our new location soon.
- Request for wisdom for our session and deacons as we near completion of the remodeling of our new building.
- Request that the LORD will raise up new elders and deacons for our growing congregation.

## Listening In and Sounding Out

Prayers are coveted for the following churches calling pastors from with the Presbytery of the Southwest.

- **Abilene:** Calling pastor Todd Dole
- **Cornerstone:** Calling pastor Todd Bordow
- **Flower Mound:** Calling Mr. Miller Ansell as a second pastor

Pray that the congregations may be united in the peace of Christ, that the work of the Holy Spirit may be increasingly evident in readiness to receive the man who God has chosen to shepherd the people of His pleasure. Pray also that each man may be uniquely gifted to lead God's people beside still waters and that the harvest may be great.

Please pray also for the PSW Committee on Candidates and Credentials, for wisdom in handling the matters placed before them in preparation for the Fall Stated meeting, September 20-21, 2018, at Flower Mound, Texas.

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