



# Harvest Call

February 17, 2019

## OPC Ecumenicity

### Sister Church

#### The Bible Presbyterian Church

##### Presbyterian Government

The Bible Presbyterian Church operates under a Presbyterian form of government because the Apostles established a representative form of government where the elected spiritual leaders, called elders or presbyters, make up the session of the local church to oversee affairs of the church.

The Bible Presbyterian denomination consists of one synod, four presbyteries, and 20 local churches. There are over 40 ministers listed on the roll. Each of these courts has its own distinct function in the worship of God, the promulgation of the faith, and the discipline of the church. The denomination adopts the Westminster Standards (Confession of Faith, Larger and Shorter Catechisms) along with the Book of Discipline and Form of Government as its constitution.

##### Local Churches

Each church is governed by a session, composed of the minister(s) and ruling elder(s), which administers the affairs and discipline of the church. Congregations approve or disapprove sessional recommendations such as extending calls to ministers and church budgets. Each congregation owns its own property and approves by-laws that help apply the Constitution to the local situation.

##### Presbyteries

A presbytery consisting of ministers and elder delegates represents each congregation in a certain geographic region. The presbytery duties include:

- Receiving and ruling on all appeals and complaints brought before it from sessions;
- Overseeing the spiritual welfare of the local churches in the region;
- Providing accountability for ministers and local churches;
- Examining, ordaining, installing, and judging ministers and missionaries;

- Ministering together in mutual projects across the region, such as church planting efforts, camps, seminars, evangelistic efforts, and so on.

##### Concerning Ecclesiastical Fellowship

The BPC has a strong commitment to a Scriptural purity in associations. Such purity has been important to the character, activity, and development of the denomination from its inception. This commitment has guided our fellowship with other major Protestant denominations that hold to the essential doctrines of Christianity and recognize the Bible as their only infallible rule of faith and practice. She opposes ecumenicity that seeks to bring together all churches without regard for their doctrine or faithfulness. At the same time, she extends the hand of fellowship and cooperation to other churches and ministries that endeavor to remain faithful to the Word of God. The Bible Presbyterian Church and the Orthodox Presbyterian Church have established a relationship of ecclesiastical relationship.

##### PRAYERS:

- For continued faithful walk, witness and growth.
- For continued warmth in fellowship between the BPC and the OPC.
- That the her saints shall be protected from harm in all her reaches world-wide.

### Sister Congregation

#### Bible Presbyterian Church, Grand Island, NY - Kevin M. Backus, Ph.D., Sr. Pastor

Pastor Kevin Backus and his wife Sharon have been members of Bible Presbyterian since they came to Christ as teenagers. Kevin joined the pastoral staff of Bible Presbyterian Church, Grand Island, in 1982. In 1998 the



congregation extended a call to him to become the Senior Pastor. His commitment to the sufficiency of Scripture is evident in all he does; and the congregation cherishes his gifted teaching, counseling and leadership which sets the tone for his ministry and is instrumental to the equipping of the church.

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## PRAYERS:

- We acknowledge that God has our best interests at heart.
- We acknowledge that we are not equals with God, but that He is far above us in majesty and glory, that He does whatever He pleases.
- For the Salvation of God's Elect.
- For the covenant children in our Congregation.
- For Bible colleges and seminaries in preparing upcoming pastors.
- For the gospel to be propagated throughout the world, even those countries which are currently shut up against the gospel.

## Reformed Presbyterian Church North America Missions - Japan

The Japanese are considered by many to be one the largest unreached people groups. But the Lord is establishing his church in Japan!

Our most mature field, there are 5 churches in and around Kobe. In the center of the city you will find the Covenanter Centre where there is housed the Covenanter Book Room and Kobe Theological Hall. Here also you will find number of on-going activities such as conversational English classes, activities for the youth, and a monthly worship service in English.

## PRAYERS:

- That the Lord would raise up a new generation of leaders in the church.
- That God would provide for the needs of these congregations.
- That the Holy Spirit would guide them as they seek to share the love and grace of Jesus with their neighbors and various spheres of influence.

## OPC Congregation

### Hillsdale OPC, MI - Rev. Everett Henes

Hillsdale OPC began as a church plant in October 2007 after local families and students of Hillsdale College petitioned the Presbytery of Michigan and Ontario.

During those formative months there was a session, appointed by the Presbytery, consisting of Glenn Jerrell,

Richard Gamble, and John Deliyannides. Peter Wallace served as the ministerial adviser. In 2008 a planting pastor (Everett Henes) was called, ordained, and installed. The work grew slowly in the coming years until it was able to petition the Presbytery, in 2015, to be recognized as a particular church. In 2013 the church was able to purchase a building near enough to Hillsdale College so they could continue their work of ministering to both community and college.



Rev. Everett Henes was installed at that time as pastor of the congregation. Everett was born and raised in Southern California. He did not grow up in a church but came to faith in his teenage years through a youth ministry at a local Foursquare Church. Sensing a call to the ministry, early on, Everett began to study and serve in various capacities in local congregations. In the coming years he would hold various jobs while discerning how to prepare for ministry. Everett married Kimberly in 1997 and they would go on to have five children.

In 2001 both Everett and Kimberly came to understand the doctrines of grace and joined a local OPC while they were in college. After college, Everett and his family moved to Philadelphia where he pursued his MDiv at Westminster Theological Seminary. Upon graduating in 2008 he was called to serve as church planter at Hillsdale OPC. Everett's background in working with young people – and his energy – made him the perfect fit for the congregation.

Since arriving in Hillsdale Everett has continued his education, completing a ThM in Systematic Theology at Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary in Grand Rapids and currently finishing his Doctor of Ministry at Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Pittsburgh. His dissertation is Biblical-Theological and Historical defense of simplicity in Reformed worship.

Hillsdale OPC focuses on the ministry of Word and Sacrament, meeting twice every Lord's Day. There are various activities for all ages in the church, including a

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college Bible study at the pastor's home, women's and men's Bible studies, a midweek Dinner & Theology meeting, and a Paideia Discussion Group (RTS) at both the church and on the campus of Hillsdale College (sponsored by the church).



The pastor meets with the college students, every Friday, on the campus and also writes a column for the local newspapers. Their small congregation has had quite a bit of sadness in recent years with several miscarriages and two infant deaths. Their families have been strong, but prayers for continued strength and hope in the resurrection is greatly appreciated. Hillsdale OPC have a solid group of men who lead and serve the congregation.

This is a church of mostly college people in a college town. The town/gown divide is real and they pray often that the Lord would add more community families. Lastly, Hillsdale OPC is a very active and young congregation.

Whenever you visit Hillsdale, MI, please make contact with Pastor Henes, he welcomes the opportunity to explain the hope that drives the work of this congregation.

## PRAYERS:

- For Pastor Henes and his family.
- For the elders and deacons at Hillsdale OPC.
- That the leaders will continue to be faithful and that the Lord would bless their efforts in shepherding the souls under our care.
- For the families who have suffered loss of the children (both prenatal and infants).
- For fathers to lead their families well.
- For congregation's marriages to be strong.
- That covenant children may grow up each day knowing Jesus as Lord.

## OPC Mission Work

### Yuma OPC, Arizona

Shortly after their last report in October, Yuma OPC was forced to look for a new meeting location when the food bank where they were meeting was badly flooded. In a little over a week the Lord provided the congregation with a space at First Presbyterian Church (PCUSA).

Jeremy shares the praise that the people at First were excited to help out Yuma OPC and were willing to rent their basement for a price well below their rent at the food bank. Not only this, but they now have access to the space all week. *"We continue to be encouraged by the Lord's grace and provision for us!"* Yuma is planning another barbecue at the park on the last Lord's day in February.



**Jeremy and Gwen Baker**

## PRAYERS:

- That the Lord would be pleased to add year round Yuma families to their number.
- For continued growth in their desire for outreach and evangelism.
- That some folks from the park would join them for lunch and might come to worship as well.

## SouthWest Presbytery News

### Providence Presbyterian Church, Pflugerville, TX - Rev. Robert Canode

Providence OPC gives thanks to the Lord for the safe arrival of Julian Michael Ray Cacciatore born on December 19, 2019.

#### PRAYERS:

- For two mothers whose due dates are quickly approaching.
- For our efforts in outreach and evangelism and for our various ministries that lost souls would be converted and the saints would be built up.
- Please humbly pray for the adult son of one of our members who is battling with very serious health issues.

## Evangelism Work

### Houston Harvey Mission - Rev. Nick Lamme

This last couple of weeks have been full of opportunities. I am very excited about what the Lord is doing. I wanted to explore different neighborhoods and see if I could make new contacts. I was able to identify a neighborhood that the city of Houston had identified as very hard hit by Harvey. It was just south of the airport. Of course, I didn't know anybody in this neighborhood.

When I got there, my first contact was a gentleman named Samuel. As soon as Samuel saw me coming, he tried to get away from me. But, since he was heavier-set and walked with a limp, I was able to overtake the gentleman. We talked for some time and he told me all about the area and the makeup of the neighborhood. I was encouraged to keep going.

That day, I spent three hours and walked four miles. I had over a dozen conversations in both English and Spanish. But the most unexpected conversation was with Erroll and his wife Joy.



**Erroll and Joy at Sunday Evening Worship**

This couple's couple's house had taken significant damage from Harvey, and they were working on getting their floor put back in. So, we sat outside their house talking for about 40 minutes (we had to be outside because Joy was too mortified to let anyone set foot in her house until her floor was finished).

As we talked, it became evident that this family had no church and hadn't been in church in years. I invited them to worship with us on Sunday and on Sunday night, Erroll and Joy showed up to evening worship. I am so grateful to the Lord for the brothers and sisters at Providence who embraced this couple in the love of Christ. They told us that they would like to attend worship in the morning the following week.

Both Joy and Erroll (featured in the photo) are from British Guiana in South America (they speak English there).

#### PRAYERS:

- Pray for Joy and Erroll and our continued ministry to this couple.
- Pray that the Lord would open up future opportunities in this new neighborhood, especially among the hispanics who make up about 80% of the residents.
- Pray that the Lord will allow us to start up a Bible study in the next month.
- Pray that I would have wisdom and that my feet would be guided to those whom the Spirit is calling to faith in Jesus.

## Judicial Meeting of the Presbytery of the Southwest

From February 21-23, 2019, the Presbytery of the Southwest will meet to conduct a judicial trial. The meeting will take place in Bedford, Texas.

### PRAYERS:

- For the proceedings of this meeting, and for all involved in the trial.
- For the peace and harmony of Christ's Church, the vindication of the honor of Christ, the purity of His Church.

## Listening In and Sounding Out

### Cornerstone OPC, Houston NW - Rev. Todd Bordow

Cornerstone OPC gives much thanks to our gracious God for calling men who have been certified following training, were elected to office, have been given to serve at Cornerstone. To Him be the glory! The following men were ordained and installed as new officers at Cornerstone OPC on Sunday morning February 10, 2019:

- Mr. Paul van Oudenaren (Ruling Elder)
- Mr. Harold Cobb (Ruling Elder) - Mr. Cobb is a previously ordained PCA Ruling Elder who was installed to serve at Cornerstone.
- Mr. Orlando Arnedo (Deacon)



Cornerstone OPC - Elder & Deacon Ordination

### PRAYERS:

- That the Lord will bless the work of the Session of Cornerstone OPC, NW Houston, TX.
- For the protection of the saints and their growth in grace.
- For Pastor Bordow and his ministry.
- For the peace and harmony of the congregation as they settle into their new facility.

### Rev. Chris and Ginny Wisdom

Rev. Chris Wisdom has retired from a lifetime of service as a military chaplain of the OPC. He and Ginny covet the prayers of the saints. He says: *"Ill health Has made it difficult for us to get fully settled into the house to which we have moved in Salem, Virginia. Too many details to share at this point, but a lot to pray for. The health issues chiefly concerned Ginny, who is dealing with serious internal health issues Involving her heart, and other major organ systems."*

### San Antonio Reformed Church, Texas - Rev. Andrew Moody

San Antonio Reformed Church requests the prayers of the saints. Their needs are self-evident as follows:

### PRAYERS:

- SA Reformed is moving to a new meeting location in March, that is much larger but will only be used on Sunday mornings. We are busy preparing for the move.
- Alethia Moody was recently diagnosed with cystic fibrosis and will have her first major workup this coming week.
- We are excited to have five families in a membership class.
- We are in need of more church officers.

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

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