

The Constituting of a New Presbytery on 19 August 2024

Following a prelude John Paul Marr read Psalm 145:18: “The LORD is nigh unto all them that call upon Him, to all that call upon Him in truth.”

John Paul Marr called the meeting to order.

Anthony Locke read John 16:25-17:26.

❖ HYMN: “HOLY, HOLY, HOLY”

John Paul Marr stated, “In order to uphold our ordination vows, before God, our Father, the Lord Jesus, our Savior, and the Holy Spirit, who guides us into all truth, and to adhere to the Holy Scripture with utmost honesty and integrity and therefore obey God over the ungodly whims of hierarchal human manipulations, this new presbytery is being constituted on this day, Monday, 19 August, in the year of our Lord Christ Jesus 2024.”

John Paul Marr continued, “Let it be known that gatherings of prayer on 26 July, 1 August, 9 August, 12 August, 13 August, and 16 August in the year 2024 precipitated this action.”

John Paul Marr then quoted John 15:5 - “ἐγὼ εἰμι ἡ ἄμπελος, ὑμεῖς τὰ κλήματα. ὁ μένων ἐν ἐμοὶ καγὼ ἐν αὐτῷ οὗτος φέρει καρπὸν πολὺν, ὅτι χωρὶς ἐμοῦ οὐ δύνασθε ποιεῖν οὐδέν.”

John Paul Marr then read from the Westminster Confession of Faith as a reminder of the solemn act of the proceedings.

CHAPTER 20 of WCF

OF CHRISTIAN LIBERTY, AND LIBERTY OF CONSCIENCE

“1. The liberty which Christ hath purchased for believers under the gospel consists in their freedom from the guilt of sin, the condemning wrath of God, the curse of the moral law, and in their being delivered from this present evil world, bondage to Satan, and dominion of sin, from the evil of afflictions, the sting of death, the victory of the grave, and everlasting damnation; as also in their free access to God, and their yielding obedience unto him, not out of slavish fear, but a childlike love, and a willing mind. All which were common also to believers under the law: but under the New Testament, the liberty of Christians is further enlarged in their freedom from the yoke of the ceremonial law, to which the Jewish Church was subjected; and in greater boldness of access to the throne of grace, and in fuller communications of the free Spirit of God, than believers under the law did ordinarily partake of.”

“2. God alone is lord of the conscience, and hath left it free from the doctrines and commandments of man which are in anything contrary to his Word, or beside it, in matters of faith or worship. So that to believe such doctrines, or to obey such commandments out of conscience, is to betray true liberty of conscience; and the requiring of an implicit faith, and an absolute and blind obedience, is to destroy liberty of conscience, and reason also.”

“3. They who, upon pretense of Christian liberty, do practice any sin, or cherish any lust, do thereby destroy the end of Christian liberty; which is, that, being delivered out of the hands of our enemies, we might serve the Lord without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life.”

“4. And because the powers which God hath ordained, and the liberty which Christ hath purchased, are not intended by God to destroy, but mutually to uphold and preserve one another; they who, upon pretense of Christian liberty, shall oppose any lawful power, or the lawful exercise of it, whether it be civil or ecclesiastical, resist the ordinance of God. And for their publishing of such opinions, or maintaining of such practices, as are contrary to the light of nature; or to the known principles of Christianity, whether concerning faith, worship, or conversation; or to the power of godliness; or such erroneous opinions or practices, as either, in their own nature, or, in the manner of publishing or maintaining them, are destructive to the external peace and order which Christ hath established in the Church: they may lawfully be called to account, and proceeded against by the censures of the Church.”

19 August in the Year of our Lord and Savior 2024

In order to uphold our ordination vows, before God, our Father, the Lord Jesus, our Savior, and the Holy Spirit, who guides us into all truth, and to adhere to the Holy Scripture with utmost honesty and integrity and therefore obey God over the ungodly whims of hierarchal human manipulations, this presbytery is constituted on Monday, 19 August, in the year of our Lord Christ Jesus 2024.

sermo tuus veritas est

[John 4:24](#) - God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.

[John 8:32](#) - And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

[John 14:6](#) - Jesus saith unto him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

[John 16:13](#) - Howbeit when He, the Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth: for He shall not speak of Himself; but whatsoever He shall hear, that shall He speak: and He will shew you things to come.

[John 17:17](#) - Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

[Ephesians 6:14](#) - Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness...

[2 Timothy 2:15](#) - Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

[1 John 3:18](#) - My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

**[NOTE: This document was signed by the ministers constituting
the new presbytery]**

NOMINATION and ELECTION OF MODERATOR (2024-2025) - Seth Yi nominated John Paul Marr; seconded by Mark Wright, that John Paul Marr serve as Moderator of Veritas Presbytery (2024-2025).

MOTION: That nominations be closed, and John Paul Marr be elected by acclamation; motion made by Peter Waid; seconded by Mark Wright. **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION: That Peter Waid be appointed Acting Moderator during Moderator Marr's absence 27 August through 6 September 2024; motion made by Mark Wright, seconded by Tony Locke. **MOTION CARRIED.**

PRAYER for newly constituted presbytery given by Peter Waid.

PRAYER for Moderator Marr given by Marc Faulkenberry.

MOTION: That the parliamentary procedure of the meeting will follow *Robert's Rules of Order, Twelfth Edition*; made by Mark Wright; seconded by Peter Waid. **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION: That the Name of this duly constituted presbytery be Veritas Presbytery; made by Peter Waid; seconded by Tony Locke. Mark Wright explained the appropriateness of this name. **MOTION CARRIED.**

As part of the naming ceremony of the new presbytery, John Paul Marr quoted John 17:17: "sanctifica eos in veritate sermo tuus veritas est."

MOTION: To receive Newberry, Unity, and Troy congregations into Veritas Presbytery; made by Seth Yi; seconded by Peter Waid. Elders from Newberry, Unity, and Troy submitted their transfer paperwork. **MOTION CARRIED.**

PRAYER for those congregations given by Herb Siegler.

Moderator Marr stated: “For the purpose of documenting the actions of this meeting, the Moderator agrees to record the minutes and act as the point of contact for all correspondence until a Stated Clerk be nominated and approved at a future meeting of the Veritas Presbytery.”

Moderator Marr reminded ministers to “please submit letters of good standing to the Moderator. Also, forward all future presbytery correspondence from your former presbytery and General Synod to the Moderator of Veritas Presbytery.”

THE EMAIL POINT OF CONTACT IS: veritaspresbytery@gmail.com

Moderator Marr reminded congregations to “please submit your congregational meeting documents approving dismissal from Second Presbytery to the Moderator of Second Presbytery, the Stated Clerk of Second Presbytery, and to the Moderator of the Veritas Presbytery. Again, direct all correspondence from your former presbytery to the Moderator of Veritas Presbytery.” Clerks were strongly encouraged to both email and send a letter by registered mail. Marc Faulkenberry also agreed to deliver in-person the dismissal notifications. Marc Faulkenberry was thanked for his willingness to deliver these documents.

Ministry of the Word: Reverend Mark Wright preached on I Peter 5:1-4.

❖ HYMN: “THE CHURCH’S ONE FOUNDATION”

Reverend John Paul Marr guided the new presbytery in a time of confession of sin and repentance unto life, mindful of the free offer of the gospel and how assurance of pardon is found in Christ alone as expressed by the Word of God. He began with a brief address.

MODERATOR'S ADDRESS & PRAYER

When individuals manipulate administrative and institutional means and create inner hierarchal structures, ministers, churches, and presbyteries must biblically decide, guided by continuing prayer, if such actions truly glorify God, or weaken and distract from kingdom ministry and mission.

When ambitious power, self-aggrandizement, and incremental and innovative movement towards episcopal polity infect a presbyterian denomination, ministers, churches (and presbyteries) must determine whether to participate explicitly, implicitly accept such trends, or stand firm in their historical origins and the fulfilling of those prayers lifted up throughout the years since the denomination's beginnings.

This newly constituted presbytery, being sorrowful, and accordingly, highly discouraged, for having to live in a time when Presbyterianism is only a surface nomenclature for a corporation of a diluted religiosity, rather than a meaningful pathway for honoring the Lord Jesus Christ and His Headship and governance, we commit ourselves in covenantal togetherness, fully grounded in the Holy Scripture, to the praise of His glory - His good pleasure that He set forth in Christ and the mystery of His will as prepared for the fulness of time, to gather up all things in Christ, things in heaven and things on earth.

Moderator Marr then began the prayer citing Psalm 1:1

אֲשֶׁר־יִהְיֶה אֱלֹהֵינוּ אֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ וְיִשְׁמַע בְּעֵצָת רְשָׁעִים וּבְדַרְדָּר וְיִבְדֹּל בְּעֵצָת רְשָׁעִים לֹא עָמַד וּבְמוֹשָׁב לֹא יָשָׁב:

The Moderator's prayer was based on Ephesians 1 and Psalm 139 and concluded with Psalm 115:1...

לֹא לָנוּ יְהוָה, לֹא-לָנוּ: כִּי-לַיהוָה, תֵּן כְּבוֹד--עַל-חַסְדָּךָ, עַל-אַמְתֶּךָ.

BUSINESS: Discussion ensued on the organization of the Veritas Presbytery.

Moderator Marr explained that officers would be determined in a forthcoming meeting:

- Stated Clerk
- Parliamentarian
- Treasurer

Until the electing of a Stated Clerk, the Moderator will record meeting minutes and oversee all correspondence of Veritas Presbytery.

MOTION: That two committees be constituted and the moderator task members of Veritas Presbytery to those committees; made by Seth Yi; seconded by Peter Waid.

- ❑ Constitution Committee – developing governing documents for Veritas Presbytery
- ❑ Declaration of Reason and Purpose Committee – developing our commitments for the presbytery and our commitments against certain pervading societal trends in Presbyterianism that are unbiblical and devalue the Headship of the Lord Jesus Christ

MOTION CARRIED.

A discussion on quorum ensued. The Moderator stated that *Robert's Rules of Order, Twelfth Edition*, will be followed for the upcoming meetings until a Veritas Presbytery procedural manual is written and approved.

ANNOUNCEMENT: Due to the urgency created by the 1 September 2024 dissolution of Second Presbytery of the ARPC, Veritas Presbytery's next meetings will be on Friday 23 August 2024 at 2:00 pm online and Monday 26 August 2024 at 2:00 pm online. The purpose of these meetings is to review and receive transfers from ministers and congregations.

MOTION: That guests be given voice; made by Seth Yi; seconded by Mark Wright.

MOTION CARRIED.

Eldredge Kelley gave a report on Lower Long Cane ARP Church and their upcoming congregational meeting (25 August 2024) moderated by a member from the Second Presbytery appointed Provisional Session. He then gave thanks for the constituting of Veritas Presbytery and its heart for prayer, its Scriptural adherence, and its procedural integrity.

Moderator Marr concluded the meeting, saying, “Hearing no other business, let us acknowledge yet again the precedence of this morning’s actions as done by Ebenezer Erskine, William Wilson, James Fisher, and Alexander Montcrieff in 1733; John McMillan and Thomas Nairn in 1743; Andrew Black, Thomas Mayne, and Thomas Clark in 1751; and Alexander Gellatly and Andrew Arnot in 1753. We must be convicted by their commitment and encouraged by their endurance... we must be guided by their vision and emboldened by their kingdom purpose of faith, hope, and love.”

The Moderator continued, “Although none of us can claim to be the swan that arises amidst persecution within the church and oppression from the world, we are mindful of the words Martin Luther stated at the Diet of Worms, 18 April 1521...

If, then, I am not convinced by proof from Holy Scripture, or by cogent reasons, if I am not satisfied by the very text I have cited, and if my judgment is not in this way brought into subjection to God's word, I neither can, nor will retract anything; for it cannot be either safe or honest for a Christian to speak against his conscience.

Here I stand. I cannot do otherwise. God help me. Amen.”

❖ **HYMN: “A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD”**

Stephen Bane read from Jeremiah 6:16 - *“Thus says the Lord, “Stand by the ways and see and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is, and walk in it; and you will find rest for your souls.”*

MOTION to Adjourn; made by Mark Wright; seconded by Larry Richardson.
MOTION CARRIED.

Closing Prayer offered by Mark Wright.

Benediction given by Seth Yi.