

What follows here is the response of the Elders and Members of Messiah Reformed Church, to Mr. Frost's Rejoinder here printed in full below. This rejoinder was sent to Dr. Birks by Mr. Frost on the occasion of Mr. Frost being notified by Dr. Birks of the charges that were being prepared against him to which he was bound to respond in person to. (Mr. Frost declined to do so.) It is interesting to note that Mr. Frost sent this to Dr. Birks, BEFORE the court of the elders and membership of Messiah Reformed Church (MRC) met to adjudicate and conclude on these matters. We believe Mr. Frost sent this as a pre-emptive act in order to slow or stop the proceedings against him. The purpose of this response is to show Mr. Frost's incorrect assessment of the historical and legal facts of the occasion that preceded his ordination by Dr. Birks ad MRC back in October of 2002.

Our responses are seen here in red type.

Statement to Kelly Birks, Pastor, Messiah Reformed Church

To: The Elders of Messiah Reformed Church

Cc: Mike Grace, Jason Bradfield, Mike Delorey, Janet Robinson (Not. Rep.)

Kelly Birks did charge that the ordination rights of Samuel M. Frost were under the jurisdiction of Messiah Reformed Church, Omaha, Nebraska, to wit:

"The validity of Mr. Frost's present ordination by the sending church of Messiah Reformed Church, under the present circumstances of Mr. Frost's current doctrinal positions that are found to be in contradiction to the statements of faith under the by-Laws and doctrinal constitution of Messiah Reformed Church."

Therefore,

"As the sending church who holds the responsibility of your ordination relative to the maintaining of said ordination as it is described by the By-Laws and standards of doctrine of Messiah Reformed Church as they are arrived at through the scriptures, we believe that we are bound to now exercise our authority as the ordaining church in light of several doctrinal issues that have come before us to take the following steps."

From these statements it is gathered that Messiah Reformed Church and its bylaws and standards of doctrine were over the jurisdiction of Christ Covenant Church and the ordination of Pastor Samuel M. Frost. That Samuel M. Frost was fully aware of such obligations and oaths, and that it is in legal, lawful rights of Messiah Reformed Church to revoke the ordination of Samuel M. Frost because such by laws and standards of doctrine were, in fact, violated.

Rejoinder:

- I. The by laws and standards of doctrine of Christ Covenant Church does not, and did not, recognize such obligations to the Elders of Messiah Reformed Church, but only the

individual authority of Dr. Kelly Birks in that he was lawfully ordained within an established Presbyterian denomination, not Messiah Reformed Church. To this, it is proven in the Constitution of Christ Covenant Church that:

What Mr. Frost and Christ Covenant Church (CCC) say here regarding not recognizing “then” any “obligations” to the Elders of MRC, is clearly contradicted by the fact that back in 2002, Sam Frost DID in fact recognize the authority of the Elders of MRC, in that Sam Frost on two occasions submitted himself to examination from Dr. Birks and Elder Keith Bernhagen as to his compliance with the doctrinal standards of the Westminster Confession of Faith, in order to seek ordination from the above body. MRC did not seek to bring CCC under its jurisdiction, as if CCC were seeking entrance into some form of a denomination. However, Mr. Frost did submit himself to the ordaining authority of Dr. Birks as a Presbyterian Teaching Elder (TE). This was clearly understood by all parties at the time of Mr. Frost’s examination which he willingly obligated himself to.

“Christ Covenant Church seeks no denominational affiliation at this time. We recognize the limited affiliation we have with Messiah Church in Omaha, Nebraska, under Dr. Kelly Birks. We exist under the Presbyterian policy of Independence as many Reformed Divines have articulated. This existence of Independence (extraordinary circumstances) is based solely on our espousal of certain doctrines that, at this time, disallow us to join with denominations that contradict our advocacy” (Art. I, Sect. 3), ratified and signed by Elders of Christ Covenant Church, November, 2002.

Therefore, Christ Covenant Church was clearly established as an Independent Church, having “limited affiliation” with Messiah Reformed Church, and in no way was or is under the obligations of said by laws and doctrinal standards of Messiah Reformed Church.

We agree that CCC did not seek any formal affiliation with MRC. However, it was not at the time the understanding of either the Elders or members of MRC that Mr. Frost was not coming under the ordaining authority of Dr. Birks and MRC. If there was no need for Mr. Frost to come under our ordaining authority, why did Mr. Frost submit himself to said authority? Why did he not consider himself as already ordained through some other means? More on this follows.

Nothing legally binding was signed to this effect. Nothing practically was ever made in this gesture from Kelly Birks in that he did not engage, disciple, monitor or maintain any relationship in writing or in person with Christ Covenant Church after the ordination of Samuel M. Frost. It is not until November of 2009 that such legal matters have arisen, which are a legal fiction of Messiah Reformed Church (seven years after said ordination).

It was only after April of 2009 that Dr. Birks began to become aware of Mr. Frost’s departure from certain core biblical and reformed doctrines that led to our present course of action. Mr. Frost insists that he has always believed the things that he currently teaches regarding the type of doctrinal deviation that Mr. Frost has recently been charged with. Both Dr. Birks and Elder Bernhagen, who examined Mr. Frost as to his conformity with the Reformed standards that MRC holds to, never during the course of those examinations discerned that Mr. Frost held to a series of beliefs concerning (for instance), the necessity of the extra component of Christ’s Parousia in order for believers to become

fully justified, or that Mr. Frost held to the notion that Christ's body for the three days in the tomb, went through post-mortem decay.

- II. The By Laws of Christ Covenant Church, ratified on November, 2002 (revised, 2004), did in fact state its purpose in plain, and in writing, submitted to its Elders and Deacon, to wit:

"Therefore, in acting with accords to Presbyterian principles, CCC was justified in establishing an Independent Reformed Church. To further add to CCC's claim, Dr. Kelly Birks, ordained, and Michael Delorys, ordained elder of the RCA, both oversaw as office-bearers, the ceremony of recognition for Samuel M. Frost on October 20th, 2002. The Certificate was approved, signed, and notarized by a NR of the State of Florida. CCC was operating in terms of the laws of the State of Florida for what constitutes a legitimate church, and was operating within the principles of Presbyterian polity in matters of an "unsettled condition" of a church" (By Laws of Christ Covenant Church, "History of Christ Covenant Church" – Preface, ratified, November, 2002).

It is made plain from this document that Christ Covenant Church was established as an Independent body, having no authority above it in terms of any denominational or affiliated by laws or standards of doctrine except its own.

This is fine, as it pertains to the doctrines that CCC desires to hold on its own, independent of another church body. However, by Mr. Frost's submission to the Elders of MRC, he placed himself under the standards of doctrine held by those elders, which said doctrine is established and ratified by the Standards and By-Laws of MRC by the members thereof. Mr. Frost's ordination and authority that comes with said ordination, comes under the jurisdiction of the Elders of MRC and none other. Therefore, Mr. Frost submitted himself to the authority of the Elders of MRC and was granted ordination under those principles and not to any principles of doctrine held by CCC or any other ordaining group with different standards than what is enunciated by MRC and its Elders.

One may note, also, the term, "to further add", which shows the clear intention that the invitation of Christ Covenant Church to Kelly Birks was a formality above and beyond its legal claim to be established as an Independent Presbyterian Church under the principles of Presbyterian polity and the Laws of the State of Florida.

We categorically deny the idea that our involvement with Mr. Frost's ordination was nothing more than a "formality" as it is stated here. We do not take ordination in the spirit of a formality. Rather, we see it as a very serious act that must be governed by biblical and historical reformed standards, and so it was.

The function of Kelly Birks was not "representative" of Messiah Reformed Church, nor was Christ Covenant Church ever under the jurisdiction, authority, by laws, or standards of doctrine of Messiah Reformed Church. They were never regarded as a "sending church".

The fact is (was) that Dr. Birks, according to the scriptures and Presbyterian polity in such matters, does in fact derive his authority to function as a church TE from holding his office in MRC, which said office is what Dr. Birks was originally ordained into back in 1982. Two erroneous statements made by Mr. Frost to Dr. Birks in personal Email should be here addressed: 1. Dr. Birks was originally ordained by the Foursquare Church in 1982. When Dr. Birks was accepted into the PCA, his original ordination by

Foursquare was examined and was found to be in order. His ordination was simply transferred into the PCA upon which Dr. Birks was then “licensed” in the PCA, but the PCA never formally ordained Dr. Birks, nor did Dr. Birks ever communicate to Mr. Frost that he was ordained by the PCA. 2. Mr. Frost has stated to Dr. Birks that Dr. Birks was not even living in Omaha, (or thereby pastoring MRC), back when Mr. Frost was ordained by Dr. Birks in '02. Dr. Birks began pastoring MRC in 1997 and was certainly the pastor there in 2002.

Ordination according to scripture and Presbyterian polity is unto an OFFICE in a local active church, which said office in Dr. Birks' case, is the office of Elder/Pastor/Teacher of MRC. The authority of this office is derived from the church and any other appointing of Elders, Deacons or the ordaining of another man into the office of Elder/ Pastor, is also derived from said church. This is the Presbyterian practice. Therefore, as much as Mr. Frost would like to deny these facts, he himself by accepting ordination from MRC through TE Birks, derives his own authority to occupy his office from Dr. Birks, who derives his authority from the body of MRC. Acts 13:1-3, 14:23, 1 Tim.4:14, Tit. 1:5. From these passages it is established that MRC is, in fact, the “sending church.”

- III. It is made plain by the Certificate of Ordination that “Christ Covenant Church” made this recommendation, and that the ordination of Samuel M. Frost was only under the authority of its Elders and Deacon.

First, this is categorically denied by the Elders and members of MRC, as to not being the understanding that we had with Sam Frost prior to or during his ordination. Neither did MRC receive any communication from CCC that this would be the case. While the local church certainly has the right to “recommend” who they want in the office, they have no biblical or Presbyterian authority to invoke such into that office. Only Elders may ordain others into the office of Elder (See the above cited passages). CCC at the time of Mr. Frost's ordination, had no “ordained” Elders that we knew of. If they did, then they themselves as Presbyterian TE's (if they were ordained as TE's), could have ordained Mr. Frost themselves. And yet, no such ordination by them took place. Why did Mr. Frost seek to have Dr. Birks perform the examination and subsequent service of ordination with the appropriate laying on of hands, if the authority to perform such a task was available within the confines of the “Elders” of CCC? Simply calling a man an “elder” does not make him one. In Presbyterian polity, only a TE and NOT a Ruling Elder (RE) has the authority to ordain. This document from CCC, presented here before the reader, insists that they were following Presbyterian practice and polity. Yet the framers of this document do not seem to know anything about such Presbyterian practice by asserting all that they have so far herein.

Kelly Birks did sign this document which states that Samuel M. Frost, to wit, “had full and sufficient opportunity for judging the God-given abilities, and after satisfactory examination by us...

Note the “us” here. Dr. Birks never would have signed this document had he believed that the “us” was a reference to CCC. Dr. Birks understood the process to have been made under the understanding previously stated here in our response...

...in regards to the Christian experience, call to the ministry, and views of the Bible doctrine, hereby certify that...” (Certificate of Ordination, October 22nd, 2002, signed by Presiding Elder Rev. Kelly Birks; Presiding Elder Mike Delorys; Notary Public, Janet L. Robinson)

This reference to Sam being “legally ordained” (and elsewhere stated by them herein) based upon “The Laws of the State of Florida”, is completely and absolutely incorrect and is an invalid position to hold that demonstrates that Mr. Frost and the now “disbanded” church of CCC, do not understand the biblical or Presbyterian standards of how ordination is enacted. A Notary Public’s function is to do nothing more than simply attest that a signature is valid upon the examination of identification evidence. And Dr. Birks’ identity was never examined by said Notary. Their seal does not legally demonstrate (nor could it ever) that, in this case, the “State of Florida” recognized that Mr. Frost is an ordained Pastor. This would have been a clear violation of the separation clauses that all states have, which reflects the doctrine of the separation of church and state. This is clearly an absurd attempt on Mr. Frost’s part to seek some form of legitimacy where no such legitimacy exists. The “state” does not “ordain” and neither the scriptures nor Presbyterianism would recognize such as lawful.

This document clearly shows all the intents and purposes and legal status of said ordination of Samuel M. Frost. It can be proven and demonstrated that Samuel M. Frost has not changed his views of “Bible doctrine” which offends the standards of doctrine of Messiah Reformed Church from the date, and before the date, of October 22nd, 2002. It is upon matters of “Bible doctrine” that said charge of Messiah Reformed Church is brought.

If this is true, that Mr. Frost has always held that justification by faith required the additional component of the Parousia in order for it be fully enacted, then Mr. Frost bore false witness to Dr. Birks and Elder Bernhagen when he was examined as to such back in 2002. Also, it was incumbent upon Mr. Frost to have declared any exceptions or scruples to the doctrines enunciated by the WCF if he had any. Personally, Dr. Birks does not believe that Mr. Frost held to these things back in 2002, and that they rather have developed within Mr. Frost since the time of his ordination.

Conclusion:

Christ Covenant Church, which no longer meets, and its ordained Bible Teacher, Samuel M. Frost,

Stop right there...If, as Sam Frost has attested, he has been ordained under the authority of CCC, and since CCC no longer functions as a legitimate organized church body, then since Mr. Frost’s ordination (according to him) is directly tied to that church, then since the church no longer exists, his so-called ordination upon their authority, no longer exists either...

...do not then recognize the authority, jurisdiction, by laws and standard of doctrine of Messiah Reformed Church or Kelly Birks as Pastor of Messiah Reformed Church. Kelly Birks was recognized as representing himself and his ordination within an established Presbyterian denomination,

“Kelly Birks was recognized as representing himself and his ordination...” Therefore, the power to revoke Mr. Frost’s ordination would lie in the authority of Dr. Birks who originally gave it, as well as the authority to revoke it. The Elders and members of MRC having met on November 20, 2009 to consider these matters of doctrinal deviation from scripture and Presbyterianism, have authorized Dr. Birks to revoke and rescind Mr. Frost’s ordination. This has been done and since Mr. Frost and CCC recognize here that the power to ordain has passed through Dr. Birks (TE) to Mr. Frost...

“I, Dr. Kelly Nelson Birks, do formally revoke and remove the ordination of Mr. Samuel M. Frost from the Christian ministry as of this date, November 20, 2009.”...

...of which Mike Delorys was brought in as well.

Mr. Delorys was a Ruling Elder (RE) within the RCA and as such, had no ordaining authority to act on his own without the presence of a TE such as was the case when Dr. Birks ordained Mr. Frost. This is Presbyterian polity that can be easily researched, to which said polity, CCC according to this document, has fully subscribed itself to.

This was an “additional” move, and did not, and does not, authorize Messiah Reformed Church to revoke the ordination of Samuel M. Frost under the Constitution of Christ Covenant Church or its By Laws. Only those who are still regarded as lawful authorities are able to do this (the Elders of Christ Covenant Church).

As has been previously noted by us here, the so-called “elders” of CCC (a congregation that no longer exists and therefore exercises no further power in these matters), were not lawfully ordained by a Presbyterian TE and therefore have no authority in these matters. Not then, not now. Again, if CCC had lawfully ordained Elders back in 2002, why did they not simply ordain Mr. Frost themselves? Why did Mr. Frost deem it necessary to submit to the authority of TE Birks and RE Bernhagen? Clearly, Mr. Frost’s actions back in 2002, contradict the statements here in this document.

If Christ Covenant Church ever were to find it in the Providence of God to raise such a congregational meeting establishment again, it would be recognized that Samuel M. Frost was duly, legally ordained in the State of Florida under the principles obtained from Presbyterian polity. All rights and privileges of ordination within the State of Florida are hereby granted and recognized and shall remain so.

The State of Florida has neither the right nor authority nor any standing laws to grant such “rights and privileges” of Ecclesiastical ordination. All the laws of separation and the clauses therein contained, prohibit the state to take such action. The above statement as to the State granting rights and privileges to the Christian ministry and recognizing such is an unprovable and false statement.

Mr. Frost’s defrocking stands and Mr. Frost as of this writing, is currently in a state of non-ordination until such time true repentance takes place on Mr. Frost’s part and a formal renouncing of his erroneous beliefs transpires and a re-examination by the Elders of MRC takes place. Unless of course, Mr. Frost seeks ordination through some other means.

Ratified as such by the Elders and Members of Messiah Reformed Church, November 20, 2009.