

# Belle Center Session Report to Presbytery

The session of the Belle Center, OH, Congregation met for 7 regular meetings since our last report to Presbytery. The minutes of the session were submitted to the presbytery and approved without correction. Our pastor attended Synod and 2 regular meetings of the Presbytery. Elder Scott Hunt represented us at 2 meetings of presbytery. As well, two men of the congregation have attended Presbytery several times as interested visitors. Due to having no local ruling elders and the pestilence abroad, we have not done family visitation in this past year but hope to accomplish this soon if Providence allows. We hope to visit all families in the congregation. We discussed portions of the Covenant of Communicant Membership with each family, according to our perception of their need(s). The session believes that the current number of elders and deacons is obviously inadequate but may prepare the congregation for elections for both offices in 2021, as we see evidence of the necessary gifts in certain members of the congregation. We have not had to exercise formal discipline in the past year, but we fear that we foresee this possibility soon.

At the end of 2020, our total membership was 64 (47 communicant and 17 baptized members), a decrease of 2, +1, and -3 since the end of 2020. In addition, we have 9 adherents to the congregation, including one individual who is studying with our pastor for membership. We joy that four baptized members successfully completed a Communicants' Class and made credible professions of faith before the Session, being received into communicant membership on November 29, 2020. We also anticipate that at least one further baptized member will profess faith during 2021, and that a baby will be born among our families. The congregation met once, on January 30, 2021, for its annual congregational meeting. There was a good spirit among us. We do not currently have congregational officers except for Greg Probst, treasurer.

Our deacon, Greg Probst, serves us admirably. He cared for two families in distressing circumstances this past year. Our deacon coordinates the maintenance of the properties of the congregation in good condition. Greg is our treasurer and prepares a draft of the annual budget which he submitted to the elders for their approval before submission to the congregation at the annual congregational meeting in January. At least twice a year, the deacon meets with the session in order to keep communication open between us; one meeting concerns the budget.

We meet each Lord's Day at 1:00 PM for worship. Since things so greatly changed in March, we have had no second services or fellowship meals. We hope soon, again as Providence allows, to restart both. Our pastor preached through Matthew's Gospel during the first service and through the last few questions of the Westminster Shorter Catechism and started Paul's Epistle to the Romans in the second service. Average attendance was 53 (+5) in the first service. That number is both in person and virtual. Following morning worship, we meet as a single group. Several young people attended many of the presbytery youth activities in the past year, and one hopes to attend TFY at the Reformed Presbyterian Seminary this year. She planned to last year but was providentially hindered by the TFY suspension.

The congregation meets for prayer on Wednesday evenings at 7:30, with an average attendance of four (the same as last year).

The financial picture of the congregation will be found in the attached treasurer's report and proposed 2021 Budget.

The Church owns its own building, built in 1987 and purchased in 2013; renovation and conversion has occupied the congregation since, as money and manpower were available. It is in generally good condition, and we have finally been able to move in and use it this past year, with much thanks to Charlie Leverett, Paul Soma, Greg Probst, with other members of the congregation and other friends. We, of course, thank all for their generous gifts and prayer that allowed us to have the building finished with no debt. The manse, purpose-built in 1877, has much need for work. At this juncture, we should mention that we began the year 2020 renting the facility of the Mt. Zion United Methodist Church, six miles to the north, but had to move location due to the Methodist Bishop of Western Ohio closing all his buildings to their congregations and, of course, tenants. For some weeks we met only virtually on Zoom, until the weather was warmer. It was with great joy that we were able to meet for some weeks *at* our new church building in the parking lot; when we were issued our Occupancy Permit by the State of Ohio, it was with greater joy that we began, finally, to meet *in* our own building for the first time since 2006.

Several members of the congregation have been sharing the gospel with others. They are working to follow-up with several people who expressed interest. The is active online via Facebook, their website, SermonAudio/Reformed Voice, and Zoom; several people have visited as a result.

There are currently four "population centers" in the congregation, which our pastor and others are praying might eventually be used by Jesus for centers for daughter congregations. These include Belle Center/Bellefontaine, Lima/Bluffton, Marysville/northwest Columbus suburbs, and Greenville/Union City, all here in western and central Ohio. Members from these areas travel up to two hours each way for Sabbath worship with commendable regularity.

We look forward to 2021 as a united congregation with a rather clear vision of where we want to go, as we continue to advance a testimony for the mediatorial kingship of Jesus in our area.

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Pockras, Moderator

Scott Hunt, Clerk

## Belle Center RP Church Budget vs. Actual 2020

	<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>ACTUAL</b>
<b>Income</b>	<b><u>\$ 70,337.00</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 77,069.39</u></b>
Tithes & Offerings	\$ 68,000.00	\$ 74,467.53
Synod' Dividend	\$ 2,202.00	\$ 2,196.96
Interest Income	\$ 135.00	\$ 44.90
Gifts Received	\$ - 0 -	\$ 360.00
Building fund	\$ - 0 -	\$ - 0 -
 <b>Fixed Expenses</b>	 <b><u>\$ 6,661.00</u></b>	 <b><u>\$ 6,105.17</u></b>
Insurance	\$ 1,584.00	\$ 1,891.00
Rent	\$ 2,600.00	\$ 650.00
Taxes	\$ 930.00	\$ 1,351.45
Utilities	\$ 1,547.00	\$ 2,212.72
Electric	\$ 300.00	\$ 359.42
Gas	\$ 370.00	\$ 675.10
Sewer	\$ 607.00	\$ 450.27
Water	\$ 120.00	\$ 208.80
BC Cap. Imp.	\$ 150.00	\$ 156.00
Garbage	\$ -0-	\$ -0-
Internet	\$ -0-	\$ 363.13
 <b>Flexible Expenses</b>	 <b><u>\$ 104,725.00</u></b>	 <b><u>\$109,340.45</u></b>
Church Building Rehab.	\$ 34,533.00	\$51,526.84
Interior	\$ 34,000.00	\$51,292.02
Furn & Fixt.	\$ 533.00	\$ 234.82
Flowers	\$ 50.00	\$ - 0 -

**Flexible Expenses Con't****Budget****Actual**

Guest Speakers		\$ 300.00	\$ 748.50
Mercy Fund		\$ 500.00	\$ 783.57
Mowing		\$ 150.00	\$ 125.00
Office Supplies		\$ 400.00	\$ 428.25
Pastor's Expense		\$ 54,783.00	\$ 52,269.20

Book Allow.	\$ 200.00	\$ - 0 -
Covfamikoi	\$ 200.00	\$ - 0 -
Health Ins.	\$ 9,600.00	\$ 9,600.00
Housing Allow.	\$ 5,300.00	\$ 5,300.16
Med. Exp. Reim.	\$ 500.00	\$ - 0 -
Mileage	\$ 500.00	\$ - 0 -
Office Exp.	\$ 1,650.00	\$ - 0 -
Pension	\$ 4,400.00	\$ 5,150.00
Salary	\$ 32,219.00	\$ 32,219.04
Synod Reg.	\$ 214.00	\$ - 0 -

Presbytery Assessment	\$ 813.00	\$ 812.25
RP M&M	\$ 1,870.00	\$ 640.00
Repairs	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 537.84

Church	\$ - 0 -	\$ 436.67
Manse	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 215.41 <small>101, 17</small>

Synod's Assessment	\$ 1,326.00	\$ 1,469.00
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**Budget****Actual**

<b>Total Budget Income 2020</b>	<b>\$ 70,337.00</b>	<b>\$ 77,069.39</b>
<b>Total Budget Expenses 2020</b>	<b>\$ 111,386.00</b>	<b>\$ 115,445.62</b>
<b>Difference</b>	<b>- \$ 41,049.00</b>	<b>- \$ 38,376.23</b>

## 2020 Asset Summary

Checking Acct. Balance 1/1/20	\$ 59,615.65
Checking Acct. Balance 12/31/20	\$ 23,499.68

Difference	- \$ 36,115.97
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Savings Acct. Balance 1/1/20	\$ 6,151.75
Savings Acct. Balance 12/31/20	\$ 6,156.07

Total cash assets	12/31/20	\$ 29,655.85
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Designated Mercy Fund	\$ 2,600.00
Designated Manse Repairs	\$ 9,898.83

2020 General Fund	\$ 17,157.02
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2019 General Fund	\$ 15,633.82
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# Budget - 2021

## Belle Center Reformed Presbyterian Church

### Income

\$ 74,244.00

#### Tithes & Offerings

\$ 72,000.00

1st Qtr.	\$ 18,000.00
2nd Qtr.	\$ 18,000.00
3rd Qtr.	\$ 18,000.00
4th Qtr.	\$ 18,000.00

#### Synods Dividend

\$ 2,200.00

#### Interest Income

\$ 44.00

Checking	\$ 40.00
Savings	\$ 4.00

### Fixed Expenses

\$ 62,150.00

#### Insurance

\$ 1,900.00

#### Taxes

\$ 1,352.00

Church	\$ 177.00
Manse	\$ 1,175.00

#### Utilities

\$ 2,727.00

Electric	\$ 360.00
Gas	\$ 675.00
Internet	\$ 876.00
Sewer	\$ 451.00
Water	\$ 209.00

Belle Center Cap. Imp. \$ 156.00

Garbage	\$ - 0 -
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#### Pastor's Expense

\$ 56,171.00

Book Allowance	\$ 200.00
Covfamiko Reg.	\$ 200.00
Health Ins.	\$ 9,600.00

Housing Allow.	\$ 5,300.00
Med. Exp. Reim.	\$ 500.00
Mileage	\$ 500.00
Office Expense	\$ 1,650.00
Pension Exp.	\$ 4,500.00
Salary	\$ 33,507.00
Synod Reg.	\$ 214.00

**Flexible Expenses**

**\$ 26,003.00**

<u>Church Building Rehab</u>	\$ 8,200.00
Exterior	\$ 2,500.00
Chairs	\$ 3,200.00
Furn. & Fixt.	\$ 2,500.00

<u>Church Building Cleaning Supplies</u>	\$ 500.00
<u>Flowers</u>	\$ 50.00
<u>Guest Speakers</u>	\$ 800.00
<u>Mercy Fund</u>	\$ 500.00
<u>Mowing</u>	\$ 150.00
<u>Office Expense</u>	\$ 150.00
<u>Presbytery Assessment</u>	\$ 813.00
<u>Synod's Assessment</u>	\$ 1,470.00
<u>RP M&amp;M</u>	\$ 1,870.00
<u>Repairs</u>	\$ 11,500.00
Manse	\$ 11,500.00

<u>Total Budget Income</u>	<u>\$ 74,244.00</u>
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<u>Total Budget Expenses</u>	<u>\$ 88,153.00</u>
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<u>Difference in Budget</u>	<u>\$ -13,909.00</u>
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<u>Designated Funds on Hand</u>	<u>\$+ 12,498.83</u>
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Manse	\$ 9,898.83
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Mercy Fund	\$ 2,600.00
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<u>Budget Difference</u>	<u>\$ -1,410.17</u>
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