

SESSION REPORT

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. James 1:2-4

In some respects, many of us would rather just forget about 2020. It was a difficult year for us personally as we had to adjust our daily lives as we navigated the waters that were Covid-19. Church life was no different. The Session has tried to balance the command to meet together as commanded in Hebrews 10:25 with the due care that we must show for one another's health and well-being as commanded in Exodus 20:13 and Mark 12:31. It is apropos for us to describe this year as a great testing for us as a congregation. Instead of grumbling and complaining, though, the Session encourages the congregation to reflect on 2020 as a time that our faith was tested, and as a result steadfastness is being produced in our lives. As we look back at how the LORD has been at work in us the past year, let us be confident that He is working in us that we may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

As we began the year, one of the great challenges we faced was financial uncertainty. In an attempt to show our trust in Christ, we encouraged the congregation to consider the budget shortfall proposed as a challenge and not an obstacle. We trusted that the Lord who owns the cattle on a thousand hills and has all things at His disposal can and would provide for our every need. As we look back, the Session can report to you (as will be shown in the financial reports) that not one of our needs was left unmet. God has indeed been faithful to his saints in Marion.

Part of being Presbyterian is that we are a part of a broader body of believers with whom we have the privilege to serve alongside. The Session has been heavily involved in the lives not only of this congregation, but of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery this past year. Greg has served on the Presbytery's *Ad Interim* Commission, Scott has continued to serve as a Provisional Ruling Elder for the Belle Center Congregation, and Jason has served on committees and has been appointed to serve on a Judicial Commission with respect to issues at the Emmanuel (West Lafayette) Reformed Presbyterian Church. We share this with you so that you know how best to pray for your Session as we seek to do the work that we have been called to. It is with all this in mind that we are prayerfully considering the addition of Deacons to help us oversee the needs of the congregation. Please join us in that petition to the LORD.

Despite the many challenges we have faced this past year, the Session is grateful for this congregation. The love you share and demonstrate to one another is a clear indication that you are Disciples of Christ, just as He told us in John 13:35. We thank the LORD for that token of His grace.

As has been mentioned in prior years, it is one of the wonderful privileges of the Session to meet together as a Court of Christ's church to meet with you, to pray for you, to counsel you, and to witness the Lord's work in your life. The Session met in constituted court on ten occasions this past year, and an untold number of times informally. We were able to celebrate the Lord's Supper nine times this past year as well. We were also able to witness two baptisms: a covenant child and converted adult. Please pray for continued opportunity to see this sacrament displayed in our midst!

The session would like to take this time again to publically express our gratitude and thankfulness for each one of you. Your many acts of sacrifice and service for the Body of Christ has been an encouragement to us. You have been a great example of what the Church should look like and how the people of God should respond in difficult and trying times. Though we have gone through a year of trials of various kinds in 2020, we can be confident that those trials were for our good and will be used by Christ to bring us Him lacking in nothing as we continue to serve our risen savior in 2021.

Respectfully Submitted,

Scott J. Hunt

Clerk of Session, Marion Reformed Presbyterian Church

PASTOR'S REPORT

The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them. Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him! Ps.34:7-8

To say that 2020 was a strange year seems to be an understatement. We started the year out well, looking forward to God's design for us here in Marion. By March, the Session agreed to close in-person worship for a time in cooperation with the civil authorities due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. After several long weeks of being apart, we were finally able to open our doors again on May 10th, although with limited services. This caused much inward deliberation within my heart as we wrestled with obeying God's word about worshipping on the Lord's Day and obeying the governing authorities over us. The theme in this report comes from the scripture above, in which we see the protection of Christ's Church by the Lord.

Calvin states:

Though the faithful are exposed to many dangers, they may be assured that God is the faithful guardian of their life. The power of God alone would be sufficient, but in mercy, for our infirmity, God employs angels as his ministering spirits to protect us. It helps confirm our faith to know that God has innumerable legions of angels that are ready to serve as often as he is pleased to help us. What is more, the angels that are called principalities and powers are always intent on preserving our life because they know that this duty is entrusted to them.¹

The Lord has indeed sent angels to protect this small body of believers, and we have always enjoyed His mercy since day one. In 2020, I preached mainly from the Book of Luke and a few topical sermons on different weeks when led by the Lord to do so. My prayer is that you, the congregation of Marion RP Church, have been encouraged by these messages in various ways.

¹ Calvin, J., & Beeke, J. R. (2008). [*365 Days with Calvin*](#) (p. 66). Leominster; Grand Rapids, MI: Day One Publications; Reformation Heritage Books.

As we look ahead to this year, let's remember our vows of church membership. I was thinking about vow 6 in particular, and it states:

Do you purpose to seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness in all the relationships of life, faithfully to perform your whole duty as a true servant of Jesus Christ, and seek to win others to Him?

Our prayer is that in seeking the kingdom of God in all of our relationships in this life, we would indeed be a servant to each other. That type of love for each other wins people to Christ, and this world needs a church that is trying to honor the Lord in everything we say and do! I am excited to see what the Lord has for us this year and hope that we can have new families join our fellowship!

In Christ,

Pastor Jason

Here is an update to our congregational report.

- 1) Total Membership: Communicant and Baptized (12/31/20), 42
- (2) Average AM Worship Attendance, 38
- (3) Average PM Worship Attendance, 20
- (4) Baptized Members Professing, 1
- (5) New Members by Profession, 1
- (6) Net Change in Total Membership, -1

Marion Reformed Presbyterian Church
2020 Spending Report Through December 31, 2020

Income:	2020 Proposal	2020 Actual	2021 Proposal
Tithes & Offerings	93000.00	80215.94	80000
Gifts			
RPM+M	November Collection	43.61	November Collection
Interest		36.16	25
RPCNA Vital Funds			
Other Income (RPCNA Pension Plan)		250	250
Preschool Rent	28,000.00	28325.92	28,325
Special Collections			
Transfer from Savings account		6022.8	
India Mission, 2nd RPC Indianapolis		459.9	500
Total	121000.00	115354.33	109100

200s MRPC Administration

201 - Administration	2000	669.97	1000
202 - Christian Education	350	342.04	350
203 - Pulpit Supply	750	600	750
204 - Pastor Expense	500	602.64	500
205 - MISC.	300	166.05	150
206 - Nursery	300	0	100
208 - Media & Website	2400	1938.13	2000
Total Administration	6600	4318.83	4850

210s MRPC Building

211 - Mortgage	6655.2	6655.2	6655.2
212 - Maintenance	7,500.00	5496.82	5500
213 - Grounds and Parking	2,500.00	2162.48	2000
214 - Supplies	2,000.00	1182.93	1500
215 - Utilities	17,500.00	19319.4	19000
216 - Insurance	4,960.00	5081	5140
217 - Building Improvements			
Total Building	41,115.20	39897.83	39795.2

220s MRPC Ministries

221 - Fellowship & Hospitality	1,500.00	1170.19	1500
222 - Outreach/Evangelism	1,000.00	934.02	1000
223 - Mercy	1,000.00	201.01	500
224 - India Mission	500.00	490	500
225 - Grant County Rescue Mission	250.00		
226 - Atlanta Mission	250.00	250	250
227- RP M+M	November Collection	43.61	November Collection
228 - Synod Assessment	2,400.00	2368	2,400
229 - Presbytery Assessment	1,000.00	860.85	900

Total MRPC Ministries	7,900.00	6317.68	7050
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230s Pastor Camery

231 - Housing	31980	31980	31980
232 - Salary	21,320.00	21,319.92	21320
233 - Pension	4500	4500	4500
234 - Health Insurance	7200	7020	7200
235- Health Expense		0	
236-Pastor Education		0	

Total Pastor Expenses	65000	64819.92	65000
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Grand Total Expenses	120,615.20	115354.26	116695.2
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Savings Account balance after transfer from 2020: 30,050