

Reformed Presbyterian Church of Southside Indianapolis

Report to Great Lakes/Gulf Presbytery – Spring 2021

Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit"; whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow.

For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.

Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that."

James 4:13-15

Fathers and Brethren,

James says "Come now..." reminding us that we need to repent of arrogant presumptions regarding our plans and recognize our times are not in our hands. This past year has reminded us of our need for submissive dependence on our all-governing, all-wise Father.

Session met in constituted court twenty-one times during the year with three by video conference. In addition to the monthly stated meetings, nine special meetings were held for planning ministry initiatives, for communicant membership interviews, to conduct an election for ruling elders, and to ordain and install John Cavanaugh as ruling elder. In the March meeting, session set aside time to meet jointly with the deacon board to review and discuss ministry initiatives. At this meeting, it was also agreed to appoint a COVID-19 Response Committee to advise session on safety measures for the congregation during the coronavirus pandemic. Session is grateful to the committee (Chris Eddy, Pam Mattox, Rafa Perez, and Jerry Porter) for their help and advice and grateful to the deacons for their help implementing the protocols. Additionally, special appreciation goes to John Cavanaugh for his leadership in researching and acquiring the technology that enabled livestreaming of our worship services and hosting video conferences for meetings and Bible studies.

Public Services

The congregation found the preaching of God's word particularly sweet last year, undiminished by bitter providences brought by the Lord. Pastor Hanson's exposition of Numbers showed God's faithful provision for His church in the wilderness and Pastor Wise's exposition of The Book of Revelation displayed the glory of God and assured us of ultimate reality.

Session is thankful we were able to maintain worship services throughout the year despite the coronavirus pandemic maximum attendance restrictions placed on assembled gatherings. Adjustments included making video livestreaming of morning and evening services available, splitting the morning service into two services to increase physical distancing in the auditorium as attendance limits were increased, holding evening services outdoors when weather permitted, and hosting virtual fellowship times between the morning services via video conference software.

The sacrament of the Lord's Supper was observed eight times on the second Lord's Day of most months throughout the year but was suspended March through June due to the pandemic. The sacrament of baptism was administered to seven covenant children: Atticus Job Gwaltney, Elliott Reid Gwaltney, Ailie Elaine Hart, Nathan Michael Heaton, Benjamin Richard Kleyn, Caleb Paul Sturm; and Jane Margaret Sturm.

In addition to corporate prayer in the worship services, a mid-week prayer meeting was held most Wednesday evenings throughout the year, via video conference as necessary. The meeting was led by the pastors and occasionally by pastoral interns.

Pastoral Care

Session conducted elder visitations with a significant portion of the congregation in January and February before further visits needed to be cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic.

At the end of 2020, the total membership of the congregation stood at 263. The communicant membership was 192, an increase of nineteen, and the baptized membership was 71, an increase of one, from 2019.

The following twenty-seven individuals united with Southside RPC as communicant members: Daniel Barnard by transfer from Calvary OPC, Tallahassee FL; Chris, Amy and Sylvia Eddy, by transfer from Redeemer Presbyterian Church, Indianapolis IN; Cameron Elder; Ken and Lisa Gomes; Burley and Taelor Gwaltney; Sarah Heaton; Marjorie Main; Josiah Manring; Megan (Sun) Manring by transfer from Free Reformed Church of Hamilton, Ancaster, Ontario; Joe and Kathy Marcisz by transfer from Marion RPC, Marion IN; Sam, Rebekah, Archie, and Titus McKissick by transfer from Christ Church RPC, Indianapolis IN; and Jim McMahan by transfer from Sparta RPC, Sparta IL; Aaron Scott by transfer from Christ Presbyterian Church, Owensboro KY; Ian, Deanna, Forrest, Ethan, Janet, and Kathryn Wise by transfer from Pageland Mission Church, Pageland SC.

In addition to the seven baptized children mentioned above, the following four covenant children were added to the roll as baptized members: Jasper and Felix Eddy by transfer from Redeemer Presbyterian Church, Indianapolis IN; Islay and Greta McKissick by transfer from Christ Church RPC, Indianapolis IN.

Tim Erney was transferred to Columbus RPC, Columbus IN at his request. The following members were dismissed from the rolls: Jesse and Jenna Burgess along with their baptized children Caleb, Cora, and Knox; Jonathan and Andrea Elliott along with their baptized children Ethan, Joshua, Samuel, Matthew, and Elizabeth; and Lorna Peden.

Our two dear sisters, Betty Ray (on 1/24) and Charlene Rider (on 11/21), were transferred to the Church Triumphant upon their deaths.

There were six births during the year: Ailie Elaine Hart (2/24), Caleb Paul Sturm (4/23), Benjamin Richard Kleyn (5/30), Sean Aaron Mauser (7/28), Jane Margaret Sturm (9/4), and Abigail Elise Manring (12/31). There were two weddings: David Manring and Megan Sun (3/21) and Timothy Erney and Jenessa Decker (10/17).

Participation in the Higher Courts and Wider Church Ministry

Presbytery - Our ruling elder delegates to the Spring meeting of Presbytery held at Elkhart RPC were John Hanson and Mark Hart. They also served as our delegates at other special meetings of Presbytery in September and October.

Pastor Hanson served as the Presbytery moderator and as moderator of the Louisville Commission. Jim Bishop continues to serve as Presbytery Treasurer. Mark Hart serves as the Presbytery Assistant Treasurer.

Synod – Pastor Hanson served as President of the Board of RP Global Missions.

Training

Joe Smith and Jonathan Sturm began full-time study at the Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary (RPTS) this past fall. Abel Manring continued in an exploratory pastoral internship at Southside. Session has included funds in the 2021 budget to promote the new RPTS Ruling Elders Training Program for men who are considering or preparing for eldership, as well as current elders.

Respectfully submitted,
Southside Indianapolis RPC Session

Reformed Presbyterian Church of Southside Indianapolis
Proposed Budget for 2021 - General Fund

	Actual 2019	Budget 2020	Actual 2020	Budget 2021	% Chg-21 Budget vs. 20 Budget
RECEIPTS					
Total contributions	\$505,293	\$480,000	\$566,338	\$500,000	4.2%
Other income	202,483	2,000	34,147	2,000	0.0%
Total receipts	<u>707,776</u>	<u>482,000</u>	<u>600,485</u>	<u>502,000</u>	
EXPENDITURES					
CONGREGATION					
101.0 Pastor's Salary	97,234	120,434	120,434	125,059	3.8%
102.0 Parsonage Allowance	42,159	63,612	63,612	65,941	3.7%
104.0 Pastor's Pension	6,092	18,800	18,800	18,800	0.0%
105.0 Secretarial Services	12,802	15,390	8,740	16,020	4.1%
106.0 Worker's Compensation	1,259	1,510	1,343	1,555	3.0%
107.0 Ministry Expenses	3,566	12,900	7,542	7,950	-38.4%
108.0 Church Office	5,841	7,250	5,042	7,250	0.0%
109.0 Benevolence	1,275	1,000	89	1,000	0.0%
110.0 Pastoral Intern	16,000	6,000	4,000	3,000	-50.0%
112.0 Traffic/Security Officer	4,695	8,100	5,307	10,800	33.3%
113.0 Child Protection Background Checks	89	560	387	560	0.0%
Sub-total	<u>191,012</u>	<u>255,556</u>	<u>235,296</u>	<u>257,935</u>	<u>0.9%</u>
EDUCATION					
201.0 Sabbath School	3,573	3,750	1,208	3,750	0.0%
203.0 Youth Group	1,154	1,000	688	1,000	0.0%
204.0 Conferences & Guest Ministry	10,909	4,000	350	4,000	0.0%
205.0 Fellowship Activities	3,865	5,800	2,294	5,800	0.0%
206.0 Library	90	450	84	450	0.0%
207.0 Seminary Student Assistance	-	4,488	4,488	4,500	-
208.0 Ruling Elder Training	-	-	-	3,000	-
Sub-total	<u>19,591</u>	<u>19,488</u>	<u>9,112</u>	<u>22,500</u>	<u>15.5%</u>
MISSIONS					
301.0 Local Evangelism	870	3,000	1,362	3,000	0.0%
302.0 Missionary Support	45,000	48,300	62,300	51,400	6.4%
304.0 Ministry of Mercy	5,904	6,000	6,000	6,000	0.0%
305.0 Special Missions Projects	-	1,500	-	1,500	0.0%
307.0 Local Ministries	6,500	4,900	4,900	5,800	18.4%
Sub-total	<u>58,274</u>	<u>63,700</u>	<u>74,562</u>	<u>67,700</u>	<u>6.3%</u>
DENOMINATION					
401.0 Presbytery Assessment	7,359	6,288	6,288	5,774	-8.2%
403.0 Synod Assessment	12,506	10,106	15,571	11,327	12.1%
405.0 Synod/Presby. Expenses	331	1,500	218	1,500	0.0%
407.0 R.P. Missions/Ministry	22,500	24,000	44,000	24,700	2.9%
Sub-total	<u>42,696</u>	<u>41,894</u>	<u>66,077</u>	<u>43,301</u>	<u>3.4%</u>
PROPERTY					
503.0 Maintenance & Supplies	28,343	37,680	28,553	38,765	2.9%
504.0 Capital Purchases	7,832	20,000	8,230	20,000	0.0%
505.0 Utilities	16,622	17,280	16,228	16,880	-2.3%
506.0 Insurance	8,771	8,975	7,332	9,425	5.0%
510.0 Debt Service	-	-	-	-	-
Sub-total	<u>61,568</u>	<u>83,935</u>	<u>60,342</u>	<u>85,070</u>	<u>1.4%</u>
Total expenditures	<u>373,142</u>	<u>464,573</u>	<u>445,390</u>	<u>476,506</u>	<u>2.6%</u>
Net increase/(dec.) in General Fund Assets	<u>334,634</u>	<u>17,427</u>	<u>155,095</u>	<u>25,494</u>	
Other receipts	369,292	-	2,993	-	
Other expenses	-	-	(15,132)	-	
Total increase/(dec.) in Net Assets	<u>\$703,926</u>	<u>\$17,427</u>	<u>\$142,956</u>	<u>\$25,494</u>	