

The Clerk's Report

2021 Spring Meeting — Kokomo, IN
March 4-6, 2021

Dear Fathers & Brethren,

As we begin another ecclesiastical year together, I want to thank everyone for their support, encouragement, patience, and gratitude over the years. During my two years as assistant clerk (2014-15), Mr. Morton graciously helped to “show me the ropes” of clerical work, for which I am abundantly thankful. Now entering the “busy season” of my sixth year as clerk (2016-Present), I can say without question that none of this would have been possible without those two crucial years of preparation and mentorship, or without the faithful service of assistant clerks, Mr. Hemken and Mr. Koons. My only hope is that someday I can, in some sense, return the favor by training up my own successor to take on this challenging role.

Since my last report (Spring 2020), I have engaged in the following labors as clerk of this presbytery:

- Sent “Letters of Standing” at the request of ministers in this presbytery.
- Sent membership transfer letters in cooperation with the Shepherding Committee and the Ad Interim Commission.
- Forwarded various communications from the Clerk of Synod to the GLG delegates email list.
- Recorded, distributed, and submitted presbytery minutes in accordance with the law and order of the church, which (due to the cancellation of the 2020 synod) will be submitted to the 2021 synod for review.
- Worked with Dale Koons, David Hanson, Kent Butterfield, Adam Niess, and others to help coordinate GLGP meetings.
- Prepared the agenda for this meeting and emailed various reminders and documents to the delegates.
- Forwarded “Delegates List” email change requests to Keith Evans for processing.¹

COMMUNICATIONS

The last call for papers will be Friday 3/5 after the mid-AM break. Relevant communications are as follows:

1. **19-5**: A 2019 petition from the St. Lawrence Presbytery (RPCNA) which has yet to be properly disposed of.²
2. **20-12**: A letter from CCRP member, Mr. Nathan Enas, expressing concern over the cancellation of Mr. LeFebvre’s trial.
3. **20-13**: A request from the Presbytery of the Alleghenies (RPCNA) regarding the work in Birmingham, Alabama.
4. **20-14**: A request from two families at Immanuel RPC for a presbytery judicial commission (AIC Minutes).³
5. **20-15**: A communication from the Immanuel RPC session to the AIC in response to GLG 20-14 (AIC Minutes).⁴
6. **21-1**: A petition from Mr. Smith, forwarded and approved by the Atlanta TGB.
7. **21-2**: A communication from Rev. Kenneth A. Smith of the OPC certifying Rev. Bryan Dage’s ministerial credentials.⁵

HOUSEKEEPING MATTERS

1. Last year, I mistakenly assigned the name “Communication 20-6” to two different items. Please note that the communication from Revs. Holdeman and Faris has been renamed **Communication 20-6A** and the letter from Dr. Ophoff has been renamed **Communication 20-6B**. I sincerely apologize for this admittedly careless mistake.
2. Due to the cancellation of synod last year, we are somewhat behind in terms of obtaining moderator signatures for our presbytery’s minute books. Therefore, I will plan to place the minute books on the clerk’s table with “sign here” color-coded sticky notes indicating where Mr. Mann (2019, **Green**) and Mr. Hanson (2020, **Blue**) may sign their names to the approved minutes.

PROPOSED CORRECTIONS

Words cannot express how grateful I am for the excellent work of our moderator, Mr. Hanson, this past year. Without a doubt, he is the best presbytery moderator I’ve ever had the privilege of working alongside. His wise decision to relieve me of my clerical duties during the October 23 meeting was much appreciated. Mr. Morton’s willingness to come out of retirement to serve in that challenging capacity surely serves to reflect his great love for Christ and His Church. The fact that the minutes from October 23 stand in desperate need of correction ought not to diminish our great admiration for these two godly men. Rather, it ought to increase our reliance upon Christ, who alone is perfect.

¹ Please note that the clerk is unable to make these changes and, therefore, cordially recommends that all such requests be sent directly to Keith Evans: kevans@rpts.edu.

² DCG 6:12 (D-33): “The presbytery... shall adjudicate all matters coming before it by appeal, complaint, reference or petition...” Disposing of this communication could be as simple as returning it to the St. Lawrence Presbytery along with a brief explanation.

³ This communication has already been acted upon by the AIC.

⁴ This communication requires no further action.

⁵ This communication will be held by the clerk pending Mr. Dage’s exams.

Ordinarily, when our minutes are approved at the end of a meeting, they are read and approved in their final *written* form (typed out paragraphs, not handwritten notes or terse oral summaries), with only minor stylistic or typographical changes to be made at the clerk's discretion. Next the approved draft is emailed to the delegates list for further review and correction of any errors or omissions. Only after all errors and omissions have been corrected are the minutes posted on the website, signed by the clerk and moderator, and eventually submitted to synod for review.

On 12/4/20, Mr. Morton submitted the minutes for the 10/23 special meeting. Upon reading them, my impression was that certain sections did not seem to reflect either what was read and approved at the end of the meeting, or my own personal notes and vivid recollection. (Please understand, I am not accusing anyone of wrongdoing or incompetence. I am simply sharing my impression of the document, as one who has spent several years writing and reviewing minutes as a clerk.) It was certainly understandable that numerous names were misspelled. These things happen, after all. It was slightly more concerning that several deliberative actions were left out, multiple motions were incorrectly worded, an amendment was attached to the wrong motion, and John Kim (rather than myself) was listed as a certified delegate representing Southfield. In addition, Robert McKissick's recorded dissent cites (what I would argue is) the *correct* wording of Motion 1 (as amended) and makes mention of a point of order which is nowhere adequately recorded in the minutes. This leaves the careful reader wondering *which* point of order Mr. McKissick has dissented from, and *why* his citation of Motion 1 differs from the minutes.

As a presbytery clerk, I am generally very grateful when others catch my own *many* mistakes (even in matters of substance) in time to be corrected. So, on 12/5/20, while sitting in a Western Pennsylvania deer blind, I emailed Mr. Morton, who suggested that we discuss my concerns over the phone on 12/16/20, to which I agreed. Then, on 12/15/20, Mr. Morton sent me another email cancelling our phone call, insisting that he "cannot make any changes to the substance of the minutes", and urging that "any such changes have to be written and [sent] to me." I quickly followed Mr. Morton's advice and sent him an email on 12/15/20 detailing the proposed corrections. It has been more than two months since then, and I still have not received a response from Mr. Morton. Once again, I am not writing this to accuse Mr. Morton or anyone else of anything. I am simply stating facts and sharing my concerns as charitably as possible.

Given my role in the 10/23 special meeting and its ongoing aftermath, I was hopeful that other delegates would take action to help address this issue. To this end, I forwarded my list of corrections to the AIC chairman in hopes that the AIC might appoint a three-man committee of delegates to review my suggestions and work with Mr. Morton *either* to make the necessary changes, *or* to bring a recommendation to the full meeting. In God's providence, this has not happened and the matter remains unresolved. As clerk of presbytery, despite the awkwardness of the situation and the potential for an accusation of bias, I simply cannot in good conscience remain passive while inaccurate minutes are submitted to synod. These errors need to be corrected immediately, lest further complaints to synod add further complications to this case.

Thankfully, I am not aware of *any* impact that these proposed corrections would have upon the pending judicial case. Therefore, I am confident that delegates on both sides of this controversy will immediately appreciate this as a non-partisan proposal aimed at correcting *unintentional* mistakes made by *godly* men that we all respect and admire for their *excellent* service to Jesus Christ.

My proposed revision is attached, I have attached a piece of evidence. On 10/30/21, I emailed a letter to Mr. LeFebvre (copied to the moderator) in which I conveyed the actions of the court on 10/23/20 *as they were actually adopted*. This email also included a letter of standing, a copy of Ross Fearing's credentials (as an example), and a request for the information necessary to supply Mr. LeFebvre his ministerial credentials. That same day, I received an email response from the moderator, which stated, "I think you did a great job w/ neutral wording."⁶ This wording, however, is noticeably different from that of Mr. Morton's minutes in describing the actions taken by presbytery. Both cannot be correct.

Attached to this report you will find my proposed revisions, along with the emails and attachments noted above. Hopefully all of this will help to demonstrate that there is a real discrepancy that needs to be examined by the judicial committee (of the day) and addressed before these minutes are sent to synod.

In conclusion, while I cannot promise that my proposed revision is devoid of errors, I *can* promise, however, that I have submitted it for the good of the court and not for any private advantage. If my proposal has personally injured or offended anyone, please forgive me. This was not my intent. The countless hours I spend on presbytery work are a labor of love. I appreciate you all very much and simply want our presbytery minutes to be as accurate as possible. If any of my proposed changes have already been made... *GREAT!*

⁶ It is entirely possible that I have misunderstood the meaning of this statement. If that is the case, I apologize in advance for any harm done. My intent here is simply to help the court understand the reasons for my proposed revision.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That presbytery appoint Jon Hughes and Steve Rhoda as parliamentarians for this meeting, with Keith Evans, Jason O'Neill, and James Odom serving as alternates.⁷
2. That presbytery instruct the nominating committee to determine the congregations to be visited this year.
3. That presbytery refer the clerk's proposed revision of the 10/23/20 minutes to the judicial committee (of the day) to report back with a recommendation later in the meeting.
4. That presbytery refer GLG 19-5 and GLG 21-1 to the judicial committee (of the day) to report back with recommendations later in the meeting.
5. That presbytery defer any consideration of GLG 20-12 until all relevant complaints have been adjudicated by the synod.
6. That presbytery refer GLG 20-13 to the Southern Church Extension Committee (SOCHEx)⁸ to bring their perspective and recommendation later in the meeting during their oral report.
7. That presbytery adopt the proposed agenda for this meeting.
8. That presbytery receive all written congregational/TGB reports submitted in writing without hearing oral reports.
9. That presbytery approve the following committee/commission reports as submitted⁹, without hearing oral reports:
 - A. Inter-Church Liaison Report
 - B. Visitation Reports (Second RP, Sparta)
 - C. Youth Ministries Committee of Synod Report
 - D. Covfamiko Report
 - E. Internet Maintenance Committee Report
 - F. Geneva College Board of Corporators Report
 - G. Commission to Conduct Student Exams (8/25/20)
 - H. Andrew B. Installation Commission Report (1/8/21)
 - I. Sparta Installation Commission Report (1/15/21)
10. That presbytery grant all RPCNA elders present, including all non-certified delegates from this presbytery, the privilege of the floor during the remainder of this meeting.¹⁰

Respectfully Submitted,
Adam Kuehner, Clerk

⁷ The addition of an extra alternate is designed to allow parliamentarians to recuse themselves from certain items which may present a conflict of interest. Please note that Phil Pockras has been replaced by James Odom due to his anticipated absence from the meeting for medical-related reasons.

⁸ Following H.P. McCracken's departure, SOCHEx was reduced to just two members (James Faris and Kent Butterfield). However, these are two of our most experienced presbyters, who (more importantly) have a long history of interactions with Sam Ketcham and the folks in Birmingham.

⁹ This motion is designed to facilitate "line item" amendments in case the court prefers to hear an oral report from any of these committees, or if the court desires to add other reports to this list.

¹⁰ Note: Recommendation #4 does not grant *voting* privileges to GLG elders lacking written session certification.

Special Meeting of the Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery,

meeting on October 23, 2020, at 1:00 p.m.,

at Southside, Indianapolis, Reformed Presbyterian Church.

The Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery assembled at 1:00 p.m. on October 23, 2020 at the Southside Reformed Presbyterian Church for a special meeting called by the moderator¹ for “the consideration of the Ad Interim minutes & actions up until that day, Communications 20-06 through 20-10, and any other pertinent items related to the disposition of Mr. LeFebvre's credentials and the November 13 and 14 scheduled trial meeting.”

The Moderator, David Hanson, called the meeting to order at 1:02 PM.

The Moderator read Deut. 17: 8-20.

The Moderator led in prayer and constituted the court.

Roll: Roll call by the Assistant Clerk, Dale Koons, as follows:

ATTENDANCE

¹ Moderator's Edict (10/13/20): Brothers, As moderator, I am calling a Great-Lakes Gulf Presbytery Meeting for October 23rd, 2020 to convene at 1 p.m. at Southside R.P. Indianapolis. The specified business for this meeting is the consideration of the Ad Interim minutes & actions up until that day, Communications 20-06 through 20-10, and any other pertinent items related to the disposition of Mr. LeFebvre's credentials and the November 13 and 14 scheduled trial meeting. DoCG 6.4 "A Presbytery may arrange special meetings. The moderator may, at his own discretion, or upon the request of two members, call a meeting to transact business requiring immediate attention. At least ten days' notice shall be given, and the call shall specify the business to be considered. The first decision after the organization of the court shall be on the question of sustaining the action of the moderator in calling the meeting. The presbytery shall consider only the business specified, other items may be introduced by a two-thirds vote." The rationale for this meeting is that in my judgment we are not prepared and settled enough for our next meeting to be the beginning of a trial. There are several undealt with communications that are complex and lengthy, there are actions of the Ad Interim Commission that have been called into question, and there are other trial preparation issues to work through. To summon witnesses to appear at a meeting at which hours may be spent untangling the past month is an unfair burden to the witnesses. Also, just for your understanding, I communicated to the AIC Moderator, Mr. Butterfield last Thursday that if they moved the trial date that I would take this action of calling a special meeting. Because the AIC's actions are being questioned, they aren't in the best position to request a meeting like this for a review of their own actions, so I am acting. Once again, the responsibility for this action is mine alone, so you know who to blame. In Christ, David Hanson. October 13, 2020

Certified Delegates and Alternates for 2020 Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery Special Meeting, October 23, 2020

			Certifications	Status	Notes	Roll Call
Church	First	Last Name	Certified			
Atlanta Presbyterian Fellowship	Frank J.	Smith	Spring	TE	Excused*	
Belle Center RPC	Phillip	Pockras	Spring	TE		P
Belle Center RPC- Provisional	Scott	Hunt	Spring	RE	Excused*	
Bloomington RPC	Richard	Holdeman	Spring	TE		P
Bloomington RPC	Phillip	McCollum	Spring	TE		P
Bloomington RPC	Kenneth	De Jong				
Bloomington RPC	Wes	Archer				
Bloomington RPC	CJ	Davis				P
Bloomington RPC	Stephen	Shipp	Spring	RE		
Bloomington RPC	Eric	Cosens	Spring	RE		
Bloomington RPC	Wendell	McBurney				
Christ Church RP	Jason	O'Neill	Spring	ALT		P
Christ Church RP	Dale	Koons	Spring	RE		P
Christ Church RP	Sean	Bird	Spring	RE		P
Christ Church RP	Andrew	Falk	Spring	ALT		
Christ Church RP	Duane	Judd				
Columbus RPC	Gary	McNamee	Spring	RE		P
Columbus RPC	Jeffrey	Jones	Fall	RE		P
Columbus RPC	Ed	Schisler	Spring	RE		
Columbus RPC	David	Schisler				
Durham First RPC	Kent	Butterfield	Spring	TE		P
Durham First RPC -Provisional	Robert	Bibby	Fall	RE	Lafayette	
Elkhart RPC	Wade	Mann	Spring	TE		P
Elkhart RPC	Fikre	Menbere	Spring	RE		
Elkhart RPC	Jonathan	Ummel	Spring	ALT		

Elkhart RPC	Andy DeRosa	Spring	ALT		
Grand Rapids First RPC	Craig Scott	Spring	TE	Excused*	
Grand Rapids First RPC	Jake Schwartz	Spring	RE	ZOOM	P
Hetherton RPC	Ray Morton	Spring	TE		P
Hetherton RPC	Barton Briley	*	RE		
Immanuel RPC, West Lafayette	Jared Olivetti	Spring	TE		P
Immanuel RPC, West Lafayette	David Carr	Fall	RE		P
Immanuel RPC, West Lafayette	Benjamin Larson	Spring	ALT		
Immanuel RPC, West Lafayette	Keith Magill		*	See Retired	
Immanuel RPC, West Lafayette	Nate Pfeiffer	10/16/20	RE		P
Immanuel RPC, West Lafayette	Zachary Blackwood	Spring	ALT		
Immanuel RPC, West Lafayette	Sergei Spirydovich				
Lafayette RPC	Adam Niess	Spring	TE	ZOOM	P
Lafayette RPC	Ken Nelson	Spring	ALT		
Lafayette RPC	Robert Bibby	Spring	RE	ZOOM	P
Lafayette RPC	Jeff Kessler	Spring	RE	Excused*	
Lafayette RPC	Chris Stockwell	Fall	RE	ZOOM	P
Lafayette RPC	Dan Webb				
Marion RPC	Jason Camery	Spring	TE		P
Marion RPC	Greg Fisher	Spring	RE		P
Marion RPC	Scott Hunt	Spring		Excused*	
Orlando RPC	Jonathon Schaefer	Spring	RE	Excused*	
Orlando RPC	James Pennington				
Orlando RPC	Joe Worsham				
Second RPC, Indianapolis	James Faris	Spring		EXCUSED	
Second RPC, Indianapolis	Joel Hart	Spring	TE	ZOOM	P
Second RPC, Indianapolis	Russ Pulliam	Spring	ALT		
Second RPC, Indianapolis	Richard Blankenship	Spring	RE		
Second RPC, Indianapolis	Richard Blum	Spring	ALT		
Second RPC, Indianapolis	Donald Cassell, Jr				
Second RPC, Indianapolis	Dean Filson		RE		
Second RPC, Indianapolis	David Mauser				
Second RPC, Indianapolis	Terry Magnuson	Spring	ALT		P

Second RPC, Indianapolis	Jeff Platt	Spring	ALT		
Second RPC, Indianapolis	David Pulliam	Fall		ZOOM	P
Second RPC, Indianapolis	Karl Stoicheff				
Second RPC, Indianapolis	Walt Zebrun				
Selma RPC, Alabama	George Evans				
Selma RPC, Alabama	Averette Woodson	Spring	RE	Excused*	
Selma RPC, Alabama	Greg Woodson	Spring	RE	Excused*	
Southfield RPC, Michigan	Adam Kuehner	Spring	TE		P
Southfield RPC, Michigan	Jon Hughes	Spring	RE		P
Southfield RPC, Michigan	John Kim				P
Southside RPC, Indianapolis	David Hanson	Spring	TE		P
Southside RPC, Indianapolis	Ian Wise	Spring	TE		P
Southside RPC, Indianapolis	Steve Sturm				
Southside RPC, Indianapolis	Ross Cerbus				
Southside RPC, Indianapolis	John Hanson	Spring	RE		P
Southside RPC, Indianapolis	Mark Hart	Spring	RE		P
Southside RPC, Indianapolis	David Klyen Klyen				
Southside RPC, Indianapolis	Jerry Porter				
Southside RPC, Indianapolis	Don Prichard				
Southwest Ohio RPC, Mason, Ohio	Dick Knodel, Jr.	Spring	TE		P
Southwest Ohio RPC, Mason, Ohio	Timothy Vincze	Spring	RE		P
Southwest Ohio RPC, Mason, Ohio	Greg Damerow	Spring	ALT		
Sparta RPC	James Odom	Spring	RE		P
Sparta RPC	Jim McMahon				
Sycamore RPC, Kokomo	Shawn Anderson	Spring	RE		P
Sycamore RPC, Kokomo	Robert McKissick	Spring	RE		
Sycamore RPC, Kokomo	Tom Dinkledine				
Terre Haute RPC	Steve Rhoda	Spring	TE		P
Terre Haute RPC	Russell Lodge	Spring	RE		
Terre Haute RPC	Josh Reshey	Fall	RE		
Westminster RPC, Prairie View,					

IL						
Westminster RPC, Prairie View, IL	Robert Koch		Spring	RE		
Westminster RPC, Prairie View, IL	Jim Ritchhart					
Ministers, Retired	Godfrey Franklin					
Ministers, Retired	Richard Johnston				ZOOM	P
Ministers, Retired	Gordon Keddle					
Ministers, Retired	Ray Lanning		Fall	TE		
Ministers, Retired	Keith Magill		Spring	TE		P
Ministers, Retired	Paul Matthews					
Ministers, Retired	Robert McCracken					
Ministers, Retired	Glenn McFarland					
Ministers, Retired	James McMahon					
Ministers, Retired	Robert Morrow					
Ministers, Retired	James Pennington		Fall	TE		
Ministers, Retired	Dennis Prutow					
Ministers, Retired	Frank Schutz		Fall	TE		
Ministers, Retired	Steven Work		Spring	TE		P
Ministers, Retired	James Wright					
Ministers, in Synod Service	Keith Evans		Spring	TE		P
Ministers, in Synod Service	Michael LeFebvre		Spring	TE		
Ministers, Presbytery Missionary	Zachry Smith		Fall	TE		
Ministers, in Synod Service	David Whitla		Spring	TE		P
				ZOOM		
* Status per email from Adam Kuehner on October 22 at 11:51 PM					Attendance	38 39
			Teaching Elders	26	57	
			Ruling Elders	31	7	
			Alternates	12		

The Assistant Clerk announced that a quorum was present.

The Moderator sought that his call of this meeting be sustained (DCG 7.4 on D-31).

Challenge: Shawn Anderson, Phil Pockras, Adam Kuehner, Dick [Knodle] Knodel

A point of order was submitted in writing, stating that “The motion to ratify the moderator’s edict is out of order, being an improper motion, in that it conflicts with a motion previously adopted by the court, thereby requiring a *Motion to Rescind*, which cannot be moved prior to the ratification of the meeting”; after which the moderator ruled against the point of order and was upheld in his decision by a vote of 19-11.

The following delegates indicated their intent to file a complaint to synod: Shawn Anderson, Phil Pockras, Adam Kuehner, Dick Knodel.

Motion: moved, seconded and passed that the call of this meeting by the Moderator is sustained.

The following recorded a dissent from this action: Phil Pockras and Dick ~~Knodel~~ Knodel.

Motion: moved, seconded and passed that the moderator’s proposal² for the use of Zoom communication is agreed for today for:

Rich Johnston, Adam Niess, Bob ~~Biddy~~ Bibby, Chris Stockwell, Joel Hart, David ~~Pollman~~ Pulliam, Jake ~~Swartz~~ Schwartz.

² Moderator’s Email (10/23/20): Here is what I am proposing: **(1)** A Zoom link will be made available only to elder delegates staying away for Covid related reasons. [Rationale: 1) Other sicknesses have kept presbyters away for years and are just part of God’s providence, and we haven’t and will continue to not allow those men to video in. However, in this case we are dealing with men who have no symptoms but are choosing to protect the court by staying away. Therefore, since they are loving their neighbor as themselves via their absence, we will attempt to love them as ourselves by including them. 2) We are not seeking to C-Span this event! It will only be made available to certified delegates.] **(2)** Zoom delegates will have privileges of the floor, but will not have “last-second” privileges of the floor. [Rationale: If the moderator is getting ready to call a vote, and a delegate in row 10 wants to make a speech, he is able to wave his hand and get my attention at the last second. It is too cumbersome to require checking the Zoom feed to make sure no one on Zoom is seeking the floor. So, if the Zoom delegates want to speak, they will need to give indication early in the discussion.] **(3)** If Zoom freezes up, the presbytery will proceed as usual. It will be as if those men stepped out of the room voluntarily to get a cup of coffee or something. When Zoom unfreezes, it will be as if they reentered the room. **(4)** Voting: Zoom delegates will only vote when there is a division or roll call vote. [Rationale: The electronic feed may slightly delay the timing of their responses, and the amplification + or - may not accurately convey the actual votes. Limiting their participation in voice votes while permitting participation in division votes should preserve their right to vote on the more controversial matters while allowing the court to proceed smoothly and fairly on the more clear votes.] **(5)** Monitoring of the system: (Not the Moderator!) There will be two technology clerks to monitor Zoom both to report when someone is seeking the floor and to inform the clerks of the Zoom vote counts in cases of division. They will also be responsible for keeping the feed live. **Authorization:** This is a proposal. At the time of the roll call: 1) The roll of those in the room will be called. 2) The moderator’s calling of the meeting will be sustained/not sustained. 3) I will then rule that this Zoom plan is legal participation/attendance. This ruling can then be challenged to the full court, if you deem it to be unconstitutional or unfair. All or individual parts of it can be challenged. 4) If this plan is sustained, we will then add those on Zoom to the roll by calling their names. **Participation:** Those wishing to participate in this way need to inform me, by noon if at all possible, stating your desire and your Covid reason. Provided that you qualify, we will send you the link and you will be able to join in. You will need to be present when the roll call is taken in order to be considered a voting delegate for this meeting.

Motion: moved, seconded and passed to certify and seat Terry Magnuson as a ruling elder delegate from Second RPC of Indianapolis.

Clerk's Report: Raymond Morton, Clerk pro tem.

a. Listing of the communications as received:

(The text of these communications is in the Addendum)

Communication 20-06B from Roel Ophof, RE from Los Angeles congregation in support of Mr. LeFebvre.

Communication 20-07 a review of AIC Actions from the Defense, Mr. Chellis.

Communication 20-08 Rebuttal Brief from the Prosecution; ~~and Moderator's Memo.~~

Communication 20-09 Michael Lefebvre letter to the AIC with his concerns.

Communication 20-10 addressing certain aspects of the defendant's latest communication, 20-09.

Communication 20-11 An alternate way for the Presbytery to move forward regarding Michael LeFebvre.

Motion: Moved, seconded, and passed, that Communication 20-11 be taken up immediately after the Clerk's Report and the approval of this agenda.

- b. That the **parliamentarians** for this meeting are Jared Olivetti and Keith Evans.
- c. **Motion:** moved, seconded and passed that the Presbytery grant all RPCNA elders present, including all non-certified delegates from this Presbytery, the privilege of the floor during the remainder of this meeting.
- d. **Ad Interim Report**
- e. **Reading of the Minutes.**
- f. **Prayer of Adjournment.**

Motion: moved, seconded, and passed that Presbytery adopt the proposed agenda for this meeting.

The Clerks Report was received.

Recess: The Moderator announced recess from 2:20 to 2:30.

Communication 20-11 was taken up.

Item 1: ~~The Moderator ruled that #1 was constitutional.~~ That Mr. LeFebvre be given his credentials (with the pending charges attached) in order to transfer to another denomination.

~~(Item #1—That Michael LeFebvre be given his credentials (with the pending charges attached) in order to transfer to another denomination.~~

A point of order was submitted in writing, claiming that “The motion to grant Mr. LeFebvre his credentials conflicts with multiple previous actions of this court, thereby requiring a Motion to Rescind those actions, which can only be adopted by a two-thirds majority of this assembly, or the equivalent of a simple majority of the entire membership of the court (33/64)”³; after which the moderator ruled against the point of order, noting that it contradicts DCG 9.11 (D-46).

Another point of order was submitted in writing, claiming that “The motion to grant Mr. LeFebvre his credentials is out of order, in that it violates the RPCNA Constitution by failing to specify the specific ecclesiastical body with which Mr. LeFebvre plans to affiliate”⁴; after which the moderator ruled against the point of order and his decision was challenged.

Following debate the Moderator was sustained on a 21 to 17 vote.

The following ~~filed~~ indicated their intent to file a complaint to synod: Adam Kuehner, Shawn Anderson, Steven Work, Kent Butterfield, and Dick ~~Knoble~~ Knodel.³; ~~Robert [Mc] McKissick.~~

Amendment: Motion: moved, seconded, and passed that Michael LeFebvre be removed from the jurisdiction of RPCNA. “That presbytery amend Motion #1 by adding the words ‘thereby removing him from the RPCNA.’”

Motion: moved, seconded, and passed to call the question.

The original motion “~~that Michael LeFebvre be removed from the jurisdiction of the RPCNA~~” “That Mr. LeFebvre be given his credentials (with the pending charges attached) in order to transfer to another denomination, thereby removing him from the jurisdiction of the RPCNA” passed 20-18.

The following registered their dissent: Phil Pockras, Kent Butterfield, Greg Fisher, ~~John~~ Jon Hughes, Jason ~~Camrey~~ Camery, Keith Evans, Shawn Anderson, Adam Kuehner, David Whitla, Dick Knodel, Steve Work, Bob Bibby, Jake Schwartz.

The following ~~filed~~ indicated their intent to file a complaint to synod: Shawn Anderson, Adam Kuehner, Jake Schwartz, Kent Butterfield, and Dick ~~Knoble~~ Knodel.⁴, ~~Robert McKissick (filed November 21, 2020).~~

The Following are the written dissents:

³ Robert McKissick, who did not attend the meeting, filed his complaint with the clerk pro tem on 11/21/20.

⁴ Robert McKissick, who did not attend the meeting, filed his complaint with the clerk pro tem on 11/21/20.

From Adam Kuehner:

I hereby request that my dissent at yesterday's meeting of presbytery (regarding Motion 1 of communication 20-11) include the following rationale:

Ministers are officers of the church and men under authority (DCG 6:2; 6:13). How can a man be regarded as a credentialed church officer if he is no longer a member of (or a recognized officer in) any specific branch of the visible church? By giving Mr. LeFebvre's credentials to himself (rather than to a specified ecclesiastical body), we have violated our constitution (DCG 6:2; 6:13) and strayed from Scriptural ecclesiology (2 Cor. 8:23).

Still worse, this action short-circuits the Biblical process of church discipline (Lev. 19:17; Matt. 18:15-18; 1 Tim. 5:19-22) which is a dynamic, Spirit-blessed means of grace "to reclaim a sinning member, to deter others from similar offenses, to maintain the honor of Christ and the purity and peace of His Church, to maintain the truth of the gospel, and to avoid the wrath of God coming upon the church" (BOD 1:3).

Therefore, while I appreciate the noble intentions of the brothers who voted to pass this motion, I must register my dissent in hope that the Lord will be patient and merciful to further sanctify us in the truth of His word. Otherwise, I fear that "A church which does not follow our Lord's commands regarding church discipline will certainly lose His blessing, deteriorating more and more in doctrine and life" (BOD 1:4).

Blessings,
Adam K.

From Shawn Anderson:

There are charges of alleged censurable sin against Mr. Lefebvre. The right and just thing to do is to adjudicate those charges, finding Mr. Lefebvre guilty or innocent. While these charges were filed by two men against Mr. Lefebvre's published works, there was already a request by the St. Lawrence Presbytery to investigate whether these writings were consistent with our subordinate standards, a paper detailing the specific concerns from a session within our presbytery, a record of deep concern and criticism from the faculty of our seminary, a presbytery committee that studied these writings and found that the content was out of accord with our standards, not to mention Mr. Lefebvre's own admission that his writings were contrary to our standards in at least one area. The allegations are not over young earth versus old earth, but concerning a fundamental doctrine of the Gospel, the denial of the necessity of Adam being our first parent and the root of mankind.

The judicial process was enacted by this presbytery, yet this same presbytery has never stated that Mr. Lefebvre has violated his vows; those charges have been formally left unanswered – but not informally. Mr. Lefebvre has never admitted or confessed that he is guilty of the alleged charges against him. He maintains his innocence, yet there have been attempts to admonish him, to exhort, to rebuke, to call to repentance, to warn – all without going through the process of contesting these charges. Instead of holding Mr. Lefebvre accountable to the charges and

encouraging him to confess or contest, the simple majority of this court has prejudged the case. It has concluded that it is less costly to make Mr. Lefebvre a “free agent” minister rather than spend the time and resources for a trial.

Further, this court has abandoned the Biblical means of dealing with accusations of guilt in this case. Instead of seeking to lead him in repentance and restoration if guilty, or exoneration and vindication if innocent, they have allowed Mr. Lefebvre to pursue his own course. They have received an accusation against Mr. Lefebvre, and under the pretense of love, they are willing to attach these allegations to his credentials instead of dealing with them. Leviticus 19:17 ‘You shall not hate your brother in your heart. You shall surely rebuke your neighbor, and not bear sin because of him.

This is not honoring to Christ, nor loving toward Mr. Lefebvre, nor maintaining the peace and purity of Christ’s Church, nor protecting the truth of the Gospel, nor avoiding the discipline of the Lord coming upon the Church (BoD 1.3). Therefore, I dissent from this action. May the Lord grant us forgiveness and repentance.

Thank you for your service,
-Shawn Anderson

From Keith Evans:

As notified at yesterday’s presbytery meeting, and for inclusion in the minutes, please find attached my formal statement of dissent in relation to adoption of Motion 1 of Communication 20-11.

I would like my registered dissent at yesterday’s meeting of presbytery regarding Motion 1 of communication 20-11 to include the following rationale:

“By failing to move forward with the properly ordered disciplinary proceedings, unconstitutionally giving Mr. LeFebvre his credentials without an ecclesiastical destination, and dismissing him from the RPCNA, we have grievously deprived our erring brother of Christ’s effectual means of grace: church discipline. We have therefore failed to love our brother, functionally disregarded the blessing of discipline, and allowed unresolved charges to hang over Mr. LeFebvre’s head without properly adjudicating the accusations. We have done a great disservice in this action to Mr. LeFebvre, Christ’s church, and the honor of Christ himself, and I hereby record my dissent.” Keith Evans

From David Whitla:

**Dissent to Action of GLG Presbytery
re. Communication 20-11, Motion 1**

October 23, 2020

I respectfully request my dissent to be registered to this action of presbytery for the following reasons: It suspends presbytery's already-initiated actions of judicial process without proper rescindment, leaving serious charges against Mr. Lefebvre unresolved. Our Book of Discipline reminds us that, "The purpose of Christian discipline is to bring about a redemptive change" (BD, *Intro* [E-1]). This action has deprived Mr. Lefebvre of this means of grace, and thus the opportunity for repentance and restoration to useful service in our midst, to his and our great loss.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. David G. Whitla

Registered Complaints:

Robert McKissick - Registered Complaint against motions at GLGP meeting Oct 23, 2020⁵

1) the sustained motion to uphold the moderator's ruling that the proposed motion granting Dr. Lefebvre's credentials to himself rather than to a receiving denomination

2) the sustained motion that Mr Lefebvre be given his credentials (with pending charges attached) in order to transfer to another denomination, thereby removing him from the jurisdiction of the RPCNA.

Recess: the Moderator announced recess from 3:45 to 3:55.

Item 2: That the November 13-14 trial date be cancelled.

Motion: moved, seconded and passed that the trial date be cancelled.

The following registered their dissent: ~~John~~ Jon Hughes, Steven Work, Jake Schwartz.

Motion: moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The motion failed.

Item 3: That communications 20-6 to 20-10 be referred to a judicial committee (appointed by the moderator) to report back at the spring meeting.

Item 3 was voted down.

⁵ Mr. McKissick did not attend the meeting, but, upon hearing of the decision, registered his complaint with the clerk pro tem on November 21, 2020.

Item 4: That ~~Michael~~ Mr. LeFebvre be counseled to have his identification as a pastor in the RPCNA and adjunct professor at RPTS be removed, insofar as possible, from his publications concerning the issues found in these charges.

~~Amendment: **Motion:** moved, seconded and passed that Michael LeFebvre ought to have declared to Presbytery the publication of his views.~~

The item was debated and subsequently passed.

Item 5: That the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery reaffirm its commitment to RP Testimony 4.4 and exhort Mr. LeFebvre to turn away from his unbiblical exception to it.

~~Amendment: **Motion:** moved, seconded and passed “That presbytery amend Motion #5 by adding the words ‘and inform him that he ought to have declared his exception to the presbytery before publishing his view~~

~~**Motion:** moved, seconded and passed Item 5 by a count of 20 to 14.~~

~~**Motion:** moved, seconded and passed that this meeting be extended by 30 minutes.~~

Jared Olivetti ~~presented the following statement~~ introduced the following motion:

“Whereas God has used Pastor Michael Lefebvre in many and wonderful ways to bless our presbytery and denomination and to make the RPCNA a blessing to the bride of Jesus throughout the world;

“Whereas God has blessed Pastor Lefebvre’s church planting and pastoring of Christ Church Reformed Presbyterian;

“Whereas God has uniquely gifted our brother’s academic and writing abilities to our great benefit, including the areas of Psalmody, ministering to those struggling with gender issues and same-sex attraction, and our understanding of God’s law in the Old Testament be it;

~~**Motion:** moved, seconded and passed~~ It is moved that presbytery rise to express our profound gratitude to Pastor Lefebvre for his ministry and labors among us, our love for him as our friend and co-laborer, our sorrow at his departure, and that presbytery pray for God’s blessing on his future endeavors to serve Jesus.”

The motion was seconded, after which it was debated and passed.

Pastor Philip McCollum led the Court in prayer.

~~**Report of the Ad Interim Commission.**~~

~~The Report, at this time, was unnecessary.~~

Minutes:

The Clerk read the Minutes of this meeting.

The Minutes were adopted.

Motion: moved, seconded and passed that Presbytery adjourn.

Pastor Phil Pockras led the prayer of adjournment.

The Presbytery adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

David Hanson, Moderator

Raymond Morton, Clerk, pro tem



Attachments

From: A K
ak@streetsermon.org >

To: Michael LeFebvre
michael@lefebvre.us >

Cc: David Hanson
davidrpts@hotmail.com >

[Hide details](#)

Date: On Fri, Oct 30, 2020 at 10:53 AM

3 Attachments

ross fearing credentials.pdf (282 KB)

letter 10-30 (lefebvre).pdf (55 KB)

letter of standing (lefebvre) 10-30-20.pdf (47 KB)



Dear Michael,

Please see the attached letter, formally notifying you of the recent decisions of presbytery, and requesting the information that will appear on the hard copy of your credentials.

Also attached are: an example of ministerial credentials recently received from MWP (as a point of reference), and an official letter of standing to confirm your credentials in the meantime while we get our paperwork in order.

I have also copied our moderator, David Hanson, so that he can provide clarification where needed.

Blessings,
Adam K.



Reply



Reply All



Forward



Re: Attachments

From: David Hanson
davidrpts@hotmail.com >

To: A K
ak@streetsermon.org >

[Hide details](#)

Date: On Fri, Oct 30, 2020 at 11:35 AM

Thanks Adam,

I thought you weren't getting to this until next week. I think you did a great job w/ neutral wording.

DWH

From: A K <ak@streetsermon.org>
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2020 10:53 AM
To: Michael LeFebvre <michael@lefebvre.us>
Cc: David Hanson <davidrpts@hotmail.com>
Subject: Attachments

Dear Michael,

Please see the attached letter, formally notifying you of the recent decisions of presbytery, and requesting the information that will appear on the hard copy of your credentials.

Also attached are: an example of ministerial credentials recently received from MWP (as a point of reference), and an official letter of standing to confirm your credentials in the meantime while we get our paperwork in order.

I have also copied our moderator, David Hanson, so that he can provide clarification where needed.



Reply



Reply All



Forward

GREAT LAKES-GULF PRESBYTERY, RPCNA

Rev. Adam M. Kuehner
Clerk of Presbytery
248-356-3932
ak@streetsermon.org

October 30, 2020
Dr. Michael LeFebvre
5881 Skyward Lane
Indianapolis, IN 46234

26580 Evergreen Road
Southfield, MI 48076

Dear Dr. LeFebvre,

On Friday October 23, 2020, the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery met for a special meeting at the Southside Indianapolis RP Church. The purpose of this letter is to communicate several decisions made at this meeting and to request the information needed to issue a hard copy of your credentials. Among the decisions made on October 23, please note the following:

1. **That Mr. LeFebvre be given his credentials (with the pending charges attached) in order to transfer to another denomination, thereby removing him from the jurisdiction of the RPCNA.**
 2. **That the November 13-14 trial date be cancelled.**
 3. **That Mr. LeFebvre be counseled to have his identification as a pastor in the RPCNA and adjunct professor at RPTS be removed, insofar as possible, from his publications concerning the issues found in these charges.**
 4. **That the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery reaffirm its commitment to RP Testimony 4.4 and exhort Mr. LeFebvre to turn away from his unbiblical exception to it, and inform him that he ought to have declared his exception to the presbytery before publishing his views.**
 5. **Whereas God has used Pastor Michael Lefebvre in many and wonderful ways to bless our presbytery and denomination and to make the RPCNA a blessing to the bride of Jesus throughout the world; Whereas God has blessed Pastor Lefebvre's church planting and pastoring of Christ Church Reformed Presbyterian; Whereas God has uniquely gifted our brother's academic and writing abilities to our great benefit, including the areas of Psalmody, ministering to those struggling with gender issues and same-sex attraction, and our understanding of God's law in the Old Testament; It is moved that presbytery rise to express our profound gratitude to Pastor Lefebvre for his ministry and labors among us, our love for him as our friend and colaborer, our sorrow at his departure, and that presbytery pray for God's blessing on his future endeavors to serve Jesus.**
-

For reference purposes, I have included a separately attached example of ministerial credentials recently received by our presbytery. Please look over this document and provide any personal or professional information that you would like included on the hard copy of your credentials. In addition, I have attached an official Letter of Standing, to confirm your present ministerial status in the meantime, as we put the finishing touches on your paperwork.

For Christ's Crown and Covenant,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Adam M. Kuehner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a blue ink color.

Rev. Adam M. Kuehner, Clerk

GREAT LAKES-GULF PRESBYTERY, RPCNA

Rev. Adam M. Kuehner
Clerk of Presbytery
248-356-3932
ak@streetsermon.org

October 30, 2020

26580 Evergreen Road
Southfield, MI 48076

To Whom It May Concern,

This letter of standing is to confirm that Dr. Michael LeFebvre was ordained as a minister of the gospel by the Great Lakes/Gulf Presbytery of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America (RPCNA) by the laying on of hands on January 26, 2006. He then served continuously as the local pastor of the Christ Church Reformed Presbyterian, located in Brownsburg, Indiana, from his installation on October 27, 2006 until his resignation on October 5, 2020.

On Friday October 23, the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery (RPCNA) passed a motion "That Mr. LeFebvre be given his credentials (with the pending charges attached) in order to transfer to another denomination, thereby removing him from the jurisdiction of the RPCNA."

At the time of Dr. LeFebvre's dismissal, there were four pending charges against him, which the court made into a written accusation on Friday September 11, 2020. Please note that these charges, listed below, were filed by two presbyters (not the court itself), and that Dr. LeFebvre was neither tried nor found guilty of any of them.

1. Violating Ordination Query #8 ("to study and promote the purity, peace, unity and progress of the church") and/or Ordination Query #9 (to "engage to follow no divisive courses from the doctrine and order which the church has solemnly recognized and adopted") by publishing doctrinal teaching which contradicts our rejection of the theory of human macro-evolution, as articulated in RPT 4.3, RPT 4.4, WCF 4.2, and/or WLC 17;
 2. Violating Ordination Query #8 ("to study and promote the purity, peace, unity and progress of the church") and/or Ordination Query #9 (to "engage to follow no divisive courses from the doctrine and order which the church has solemnly recognized and adopted") by publishing doctrinal teaching which contradicts our belief that Scripture presents Adam and Eve as the first human beings and sole biological progenitors of humanity, as articulated in WCF 6.1, WCF 6.3, WSC 13, WSC 15-16, WLC 21-22, and/or WLC 26;
-

-
3. Violating Ordination Query #8 (“to study and promote the purity, peace, unity and progress of the church”) and/or Ordination Query #9 (to “engage to follow no divisive courses from the doctrine and order which the church has solemnly recognized and adopted”) by publishing doctrinal teaching which contradicts our belief that the weekly Sabbath is a creation ordinance first instituted by God for the good of all mankind “from the beginning of the world”, as articulated in WCF 21.7, WSC 59, WLC 20, and/or WLC 116;
 4. Violating Ordination Query #4 (“Do you believe in and accept the system of doctrine and the manner of worship set forth in the Westminster Confession of Faith, the Larger and Shorter Catechisms, and the Testimony of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, as being agreeable to, and founded upon, the Scriptures?”) by holding a personal exception to RPT 4.4, which states “We deny that man evolved from any lower form of life. Gen. 2:7, 21-22”.

Therefore, by order of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery (RPCNA), please be advised that Dr. LeFebvre, while no longer affiliated with the RPCNA, retains valid credentials as an ordained minister of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

For Christ's Crown and Covenant,



Rev. Adam M. Kuehner, Clerk
