

First Reformed Presbyterian Church

Grand Rapids, MI

GLG Presbytery Spring 2021 Meeting Congregational Report

Dear fathers and brethren,

If there is a verse that adequately describes 2020 for First RPC it would be Psalm 116:1, "I love the LORD, because he hath heard my voice *and* my supplications." At the beginning of the year we had no local ruling elder, were \$25,000 under budget, and needed new members. The congregation sought the Lord with prayer and fasting, and our gracious God answered!

Ruling Elder: The congregation elected Jake Schwartz in January 2020 as ruling elder. Jake was ordained into office in February 2020. This was a great blessing to the whole congregation for Jake is a pro-active man with a real love for pastoral work. Visitations, counselling, and shepherding has been much improved thanks to the extra elder. The session is seeking two new ruling elders and has instituted a discipleship meeting for the purpose of training men in the work, qualifications, and call of ruling elder. Pray that Christ will raise up such men for our congregation.

Finances: Our God owns the cattle on a thousand hills (Ps. 50:10) and promises to provide for His Church. He provided in 2020 by increasing our giving by \$33,000. This means the congregation is self-sufficient for the first time since 2015. Pray that God will continue to meet our financial needs.

New Members: The congregation prayed to the Lord for new households to come and be part of our church family. He heard our petitions and added to the church. The increase includes two young men who were recently converted and began to attend the congregation. One of these new babes in Christ was baptized as a professing adult. According to the membership this was First RP's first adult baptism. May the God of salvation give us more adult baptisms as He delivers sinners from the wrath to come. Each new member actively serves and is faithful in attending both worship services and Wednesday prayer meeting. Pray for the Lord to sustain the new members and to add to the church with conversions.

Covid: The Lord who keeps Israel (Ps. 121) protected His flock in Grand Rapids this past year. We were able to maintain in-person public worship throughout the whole year as we continued to gather in the Seminary, with the exception of 3 weeks of outdoor worship due to the Seminary closing for a period. So far we have had only one minor Covid case. Praise God for His protection.

Lord's Day: Our Sabbaths are a market day for the soul. Pastor Scott's main preaching was Mark in the morning, and two doctrinal series on Worship and Revival in the evening service. Sabbath School was cancelled from May-December due to seminary restrictions during Covid. Our communion seasons continue to be a highlight as we prepare for the Lord's Supper with preparatory services, fellowship, and hospitality.

Women's Fellowship: The sisters in the congregation greatly enjoy their studies. They completed J. C. Ryle's *Practical Religion* and have now begin a study on Christology with John Flavel's *The Fountain of Life Opened*. The women also have a monthly breakfast for fellowship and prayer.

Evangelism: Personal and public outreach continues. Lost family and friends have attended ordinary services and evangelistic services. The street evangelism continues every Saturday throughout the

year. The Tuesday outreach was cancelled for the year due to Covid but will return spring 2021. Thousands have received tracts, Bibles, and apologetic materials. Many new relationships are built through conversations, one on one coffee meetings, and bring many to worship. We plead for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit to see lost souls saved for Christ.

We are very thankful to the Father of Lights for His graciousness to us this past year. We pray with humility seeking His face to further use us for the glory of His name.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig Scott TE
Jake Schwartz RE
Stephen Rhoda Provisional RE

Congregational Stats

Church Membership:	29 communicant & 15 baptized = Total 44 members
Baptisms:	2 baptisms. 1 adult and 1 infant.
Net Change In Membership:	Increase of 9

Average Morning Attendance: 60

Average Evening Attendance: 66

First Reformed Presbyterian Church (Grand Rapids)

Financial Report - 2021 Budget and 2020 Budget to Actual

	2021 Budget	2020 Budget	2020 Actual	2020 Budget vs Actual
INCOME				
101 Contributions	\$80,141.40	\$55,000.00	\$80,332.34	\$25,332.34
102 Interest/Dividends	120.00	150.00	149.49	(0.51)
105 Designated Gifts	-	-	8,550.00	8,550.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$80,261.40	\$55,150.00	\$89,031.83	\$33,881.83
EXPENSES				
CONGREGATION				
201 Christian Education	200.00	200.00	281.25	\$(81.25)
202 Fellowship Activities	200.00	200.00	30.13	169.87
204 Pulpit Supply	2,000.00	2,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
205 Administration/Office Expenses	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,176.10	23.90
206 Ministry Expenses	200.00	150.00	185.15	(35.15)
Congregation Sub-total	\$3,800.00	\$3,750.00	\$2,672.63	\$1,077.37
PASTORAL SUPPORT				
301 Salary	25,116.00	25,116.00	\$25,116.00	\$-
302 Housing Allowance	21,720.00	21,720.00	21,720.00	-
303 Ministry Expenses	1,500.00	1,500.00	697.52	802.48
304 Pension (RPCNA Plan)	-	-	-	-
305 Medical Insurance	6,000.00	6,000.00	5,029.52	970.48
306 Retirement Contribution	5,850.00	4,200.00	2,800.00	1,400.00
Pastoral Support Sub-total	\$60,186.00	\$58,536.00	\$55,363.04	\$3,172.96
MISSIONS				
401 Media	479.40	360.00	459.40	(99.40)
403 Overseas Missions	-	-	-	-
404 Other Missions/Conferences	2,000.00	2,000.00	83.00	1,917.00
405 Mercy Ministry	-	-	-	-
Missions Sub-total	\$2,479.40	\$2,360.00	\$542.40	\$542.40
DENOMINATION				
501 Presbytery Assessments	500.00	660.00	458.36	201.64
502 Synod Assessments	1,200.00	1,000.00	1,155.00	(155.00)
503 Synod & Presby Expenses	500.00	500.00	-	500.00
505 Home Missions	-	-	-	-
506 Foreign Missions	-	-	-	-
510 RP Missions/Ministry	-	-	-	-
Denomination Sub-total	\$2,200.00	\$2,160.00	\$1,613.36	\$546.64
PROPERTY				
601 Building Rent	10,500.00	10,500.00	10,500.00	-
602 Utilities	-	-	-	-
603 Maintenance & Supplies	-	-	-	-
604 Liability Insurance	521.00	530.00	527.00	3.00
606 Office Equipment	-	-	-	-
607 Other Equipment	-	-	-	-
Property Sub-total	\$11,021.00	\$11,030.00	\$11,027.00	\$3.00
800 Benevolence	575.00	-	6,800.00	(6,800.00)
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$80,261.40	\$77,836.00	\$78,018.43	\$(182.43)
YTD NET	\$-	\$(22,686.00)	\$11,013.40	\$33,699.40
FUNDS				
General Fund				
Beginning Balance Jan 1	33,365.41		23,049.79	
Change	-		10,315.62	
Balance General Fund	33,365.41		33,365.41	
Synod 403b fund Contribution				

