

# Great Lakes – Gulf Presbytery Minutes of the Ad Interim Commission

## Ad Interim Commission Minutes from September 17, 2020

The Ad Interim Commission of the Great Lakes – Gulf Presbytery met on Thursday, September 17, 2020 by Zoom video conference call.

1. Elders present were Moderator Kent Butterfield (Durham), Greg Fisher (Marion), Jon Hughes (Southfield), Phil Pockras (Belle Center) and Steve Rhoda (Terre Haute). Pastoral Intern at Durham, Drew Poplin was present as an observer.
2. The court was constituted, in prayer in the name and by the authority of Jesus Christ, by Steve Rhoda at 4:34 p.m. EDT.
3. By common consent Jon Hughes was appointed as Clerk.
4. It was moved, seconded and passed to approve the agenda.
5. It was moved, seconded and passed to set the time and place for the trial of Michael LeFebvre for Friday and Saturday October 23-24, 2020 at Southside RP Church, Indianapolis, IN, starting at 2:00 p.m. on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and again starting at 8:30 a.m. on the 24<sup>th</sup>.
6. It was moved, seconded and passed to ask Ray Morton to serve as Clerk for the trial (with Jon Hughes as alternate).
7. Kent Butterfield will co-ordinate with Southside RPC regarding audio recordings for the trial.
8. Mr. Lefebvre has asked whether counsel needs to be a member in the RPCNA or if private counsel can have privileges of the floor during the trial. Book of Discipline II.3.3 requires that counsel speaking during the trial for either the prosecution or the defense must be members of the RPCNA (private counsel can be any other parties but will not have privileges of the floor during the trial).
9. It was moved, seconded and passed to declare Orlando's pulpit vacant as of October 19, 2020 as H.P. McCracken leaves for Longmont, CO, to appoint Teaching Elder James Pennington as Interim Moderator of the Orlando Session, and to transfer the credentials of Mr. McCracken to the Midwest Presbytery. The Orlando Session is hereby authorized to continue to conduct the sacraments and to make out a call for a new pastor.
10. The minutes were read and approved.
11. It was moved, seconded and passed to adjourn.
12. Greg Fisher adjourned the court in prayer in the name and by the authority of Jesus Christ at 5:40 p.m. EDT.



Kent Butterfield, AIC Moderator



Jon Hughes, AIC Clerk

Letter from H.P. McCracken leaving Orlando RPC

From: H.P. McCracken <mccracken.hp@gmail.com>  
To: Kent Butterfield <kentbutterfield@yahoo.com>; Kent Butterfield <kentbutterfield@gmail.com>  
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2020, 12:46:06 PM EDT  
Subject: AIC

Kent,

I'm writing you as moderator of the AIC. I will be leaving Orlando RPC October 19. I guess I need the presbytery to dissolve the relationship, declare the pulpit vacant, etc. as outlined in Constitution. I also need AIC to transfer my credentials to Midwest Presbytery at that point. Thanks!

H.P.

H.P. McCracken


Pastor,  
Reformed Presbyterian Church of Orlando  
324 E. Livingston St.  
Orlando, FL 32801  
407-843-4361

Declaring Orlando Pulpit Vacant

The pastor of the Orlando congregation, H.P. McCracken, indicated his intention to accept a call to Salt and Light RP Church in Longmont, CO and presented his resignation to Presbytery's Ad Interim Commission at its meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of September, in the year 2020. The resignation was accepted, to take effect on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of October in the year 2020 at which date the pastoral relationship will be dissolved. May the Lord guide the Orlando congregation to the choice of another under-shepherd. The Orlando Session is hereby authorized to continue to conduct the sacraments and to make out a call for a new pastor.



Kent Butterfield, AIC Moderator



Jon Hughes, AIC Clerk

Ad Interim Commission Minutes from September 19, 2020

The Ad Interim Commission of the Great Lakes – Gulf Presbytery met on Saturday, September 19, 2020 by Zoom video conference call.

1. Elders present were Moderator Kent Butterfield (Durham), Jon Hughes (Southfield), Phil Pockras (Belle Center) and Steve Rhoda (Terre Haute).
2. The court was constituted, in prayer in the name and by the authority of Jesus Christ, by Steve Rhoda at 9:00 a.m. EDT.
3. It was moved, seconded and passed to approve the Immanuel RP Session's request to appoint Keith Magill as a temporary moderator of the Session for meetings covering

matters from which Jared Olivetti desires to recuse himself. This would be in force until at least the Spring 2021 meeting or Presbytery.

4. The minutes were read and approved.
5. It was moved, seconded and passed to adjourn.
6. Phil Pockras adjourned the court in prayer in the name and by the authority of Jesus Christ at 9:10 a.m. EDT.



Kent Butterfield, AIC Moderator



Jon Hughes, AIC Clerk

Immanuel RP Session's Request to Appoint Keith Magill as a Temporary Moderator
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From: Jared Olivetti <jared@immanuelrpc.com>  
To: Kent Butterfield <kentbutterfield@yahoo.com>; Keith & Becky Magill <keith@magill.com>  
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2020, 01:24:12 PM EDT  
Subject: Request to AIC from IRPC

Kent,

Here's the motion we passed this morning:

That the IRPC session request the AIC to appoint Keith Magill as a temporary moderator of the IRPC Session for meetings covering matters from which Jared desires to recuse himself and not be present. This would include the power to call those meetings on his own.

Our understanding is that this is necessary for meetings from which I desire to be absent, hence the request. Thanks in advance for your help.

In Christ,  
Jared

Ad Interim Commission Minutes from September 21, 2020
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The Ad Interim Commission of the Great Lakes – Gulf Presbytery met on Monday, September 21, 2020 by Zoom video conference call.

1. Elders present were Moderator Kent Butterfield (Durham), Greg Fisher (Marion), Jon Hughes (Southfield), Phil Pockras (Belle Center) and Steve Rhoda (Terre Haute).
2. The court was constituted, in prayer in the name and by the authority of Jesus Christ, by Steve Rhoda at 4:30 p.m. EDT.
3. It was moved, seconded and passed to approve the agenda.
4. A request was received by the Clerk of Presbytery and forwarded to the Ad Interim Commission. It was from Scott McCullough requesting the cessation of his ordination as a

ruling elder. While the Directory for Church Government, 3.I.E.7 (p. D-12) says, "The continuing privileges and responsibilities of ordination would cease if: a. An elder is deposed from his ordination by judicial action of a church court. b. An elder's request that his ordination be terminated is granted by a church court after careful consideration" our determination is that his local Session is the court of jurisdiction. As a result it was moved, seconded and passed to refer Mr. McCullough's request for cessation of his ordination be referred to the Marion Session for their disposition and counsel to him.

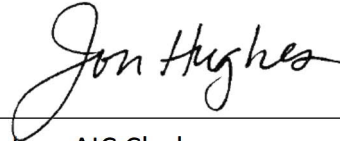
5. As Michael Lefebvre has announced his resignation from Christ Church RP, it was moved, seconded and passed to accept the resignation and to declare Christ Church's pulpit vacant as of October 5, 2020, and to appoint Teaching Elder James Faris as Interim Moderator of the Christ Church Session,. The Christ Church Session is hereby authorized to continue to conduct the sacraments and to make out a call for a new pastor.
6. A further request from Mr. Lefebvre has asked if counsel for the defense during the scheduled trial of October 23 could be someone not a member of the RPCNA. The Book of Discipline II.3.3 (p. E-12) says, "No person shall be permitted to act as counsel who is not a member of the church and subject to the jurisdiction of its courts. This does not preclude the parties from seeking legal advice privately." We are not persuaded that someone in another denomination meets the requirement of both being a member of the church and subject to its jurisdiction as stated in our Constitution. If we were to allow that interpretation then we would have to allow a re-interpretation of vow 4 of the Covenant of Communicant Membership in which members promise to respect the authority and discipline of "the church". In addition in Book of Discipline II.1.2 (p. E-9) it says, "Any member in good standing in the church may press charges against any other member before the court to whose jurisdiction he himself belongs." This is similar to the case regarding counsel. The intent of that section is that only members of the RPCNA ("the church") may bring charges against another member of the RPCNA. Also, Book of Discipline II.2.6 (p. E-11) says, "Only members of the church can be summoned to appear, and these only by the court to which they are subject." Other examples could be noted. So while the word church is often used in the Constitution to refer to the visible Church, we do not believe that we have any warrant to interpret as such in the case of counsel. It was moved, seconded and passed that we state that Book of Discipline II.3.3 (p. E-12) precludes the use of counsel (with privileges of the floor during a trial) from anyone other than a member of the RPCNA.
7. It was moved, seconded and passed that further requests from Mr. Lefebvre regarding his ordination and credentials be referred to the full Presbytery to answer at the outset of the trial scheduled for October 23.
8. It was moved, seconded and passed to appoint Jon Hughes as the Assistant Clerk during the October 23 trial. (Note: Ray Morton has agreed to serve as Clerk.)
9. It was noted that the credentials of H.P. McCracken have been transferred to the Clerk of the Midwest Presbytery.
10. The minutes were read and approved.
11. It was moved, seconded and passed to adjourn.



12. Greg Fisher adjourned the court in prayer in the name and by the authority of Jesus Christ at 6:00 p.m. EDT.



Kent Butterfield, AIC Moderator



Jon Hughes, AIC Clerk

Letter from Scott McCullough

16 September 2020

To: Jared Olivetti, Chair of Candidates and Credentials, Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery, RPCNA

Re: Request to terminate license to preach

Dear Jared,

I am writing to you in your capacity as chair of the Candidates and Credentials Committee to request that Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery terminate my license to receive a call. I need to do so because I have an exception to item 4.4 of the RP Testimony that was ruled to be unacceptable by the Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery at their meeting on Friday, 11 September 2020, at Second Reformed Presbyterian Church in Indianapolis. There is not an explicit provision for termination of licensure in the Directory for Church Government, but I make the request by analogy with the provision for termination of ordination for a ruling elder as stated in Chapter 3-I-E-7-b on page D-12.

I have already resigned from the board of RP Global Missions and synod's Pakistan Commission and will also submit a request for my ordination as a ruling elder to be terminated.

I make this request with sadness but without rancor or resentment. I am grateful for the trust you placed in me in at the time of licensure and for the privilege of ministering the Word in many congregations.

With gratitude,



Scott McCullough

Cc David Hanson, Moderator

Cc Adam Koehner, Clerk

Letter from Michael Lefebvre

September 20, 2020

To the Christ Church RP Congregation  
and Great Lakes–Gulf Presbytery,

This letter is to announce my resignation as the pastor of this congregation, effective two weeks from tomorrow. Serving this congregation has been one of the great privileges of my life. However, in view of the conclusions drawn by presbytery on September 11th, I feel it is necessary to resign as your pastor at this time.

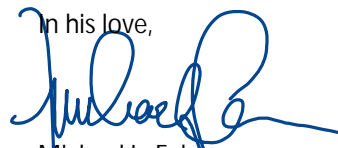
When I wrote my recent book and articles on the early chapters of Genesis, I believed that my views were acceptable within the parameters of the RP ministerial vows.<sup>1</sup> Ministers frequently have various personal exceptions to the RP Testimony which they are permitted to hold.

I believed mine were in that category. However, at its recent meeting, presbytery ruled that certain of my views are not acceptable to hold while a minister in the RP Church.<sup>2</sup> That being the case, I can no longer be faithful to my ordination vows and must resign.

Our church order requires that "any teaching elder desiring to resign shall give notice of his intention to the congregation at least two weeks before offering his resignation to the presbytery."<sup>3</sup> Therefore, I am presenting this letter to you, my congregation, on Sunday, September 20th; and I will forward the same to presbytery's Ad Interim Commission, requesting that they make this effective on Monday, October 5th. I anticipate October 4th will be my final Sunday in the pulpit.

I want to thank each of you in this congregation for the fellowship we have shared in the worship and service of our Lord. It has been an immense privilege to serve among this exceptional group of God's people. It is no light matter to undertake the office of a shepherd anywhere in Jesus' flock, but I am especially thankful to have had the opportunity to fulfill that role in this fellowship.

I will forever cherish the blessings of these past fourteen and a half years. Although I will no longer be your pastor, my family and I look forward to continuing to enjoy our friendships with you. If I, as your brother in Christ, can ever be of support to you in any way, please do not hesitate to let me know.

In his love,  
  
Michael LeFebvre

<sup>1</sup> See my Feb. 6, 2020, letter to presbytery; GLGP Communication. 20-01.

<sup>2</sup> Specifically, my exception to RPT 4.4.

<sup>3</sup> Dir. Ch. Gov. 3-II-E-5b, p. D-21.

Declaring Christ Church Pulpit Vacant
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The pastor of the Christ Church congregation, Michel Lefebvre, presented his resignation to his congregation on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of September, and to Presbytery's Ad Interim Commission at its meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of September, in the year 2020. The resignation was accepted, to take effect on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of October in the year 2020 at which date the pastoral relationship will be dissolved. May the Lord guide the Christ Church congregation to the choice of another under-shepherd. The Christ Church Session (Moderated by James Faris) is hereby authorized to continue to conduct the sacraments and to make out a call for a new pastor.



Kent Butterfield, AIC Moderator



Jon Hughes, AIC Clerk

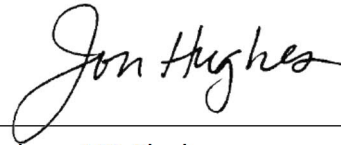
Ad Interim Commission Minutes from September 24, 2020

The Ad Interim Commission of the Great Lakes – Gulf Presbytery met on Thursday, September 24, 2020 by Zoom video conference call.

1. Elders present were Moderator Kent Butterfield (Durham), Greg Fisher (Marion), Jon Hughes (Southfield), Phil Pockras (Belle Center) and Steve Rhoda (Terre Haute).
2. The court was constituted, in prayer in the name and by the authority of Jesus Christ, by Steve Rhoda at 9:33 p.m. EDT.
3. It was moved, seconded and passed to approve a response explaining our previous action on Mr. LeFebvre’s request regarding his credentials. The response (which includes Mr. LeFebvre’s request) follows.
4. A report from Westminster RPC (Prairie View, IL) concerning the hiring of Orthodox Presbyterian Church Chaplain Brett Mahlen as interim pastor was received. The report follows. Recommendation 1 was moved, seconded and passed. Recommendation 2 was moved, seconded and passed.
5. The minutes were read and approved.
6. It was moved, seconded and passed to adjourn.
7. Greg Fisher adjourned the court in prayer in the name and by the authority of Jesus Christ at 10:15 p.m. EDT.



Kent Butterfield, AIC Moderator



Jon Hughes, AIC Clerk

Ad Interim Commission response on Mr. LeFebvre’s Request Regarding His Credentials

To: Elders of the Great Lakes - Gulf Presbytery September 24, 2020

It was the intent of the AIC to include the correspondence from Mr. Michael LeFebvre in our Minutes to give clarification to the context of the requests that came to our attention. We are including Mr. LeFebvre’s correspondence with the AIC (in bold italics).

Mr. LeFebvre requested he be able to secure counsel from outside the RPCNA membership. The AIC Minutes of September 17, 2020 item 8 responded to Mr. LeFebvre’s earlier request for having counsel outside of the RPCNA:

8. Mr. Lefebvre has asked whether counsel needs to be a member in the RPCNA or if private counsel can have privileges of the floor during the trial. Book of Discipline II.3.3 requires that counsel speaking during the trial for either the prosecution or the defense must be members of the RPCNA (private counsel can be any other parties but will not have privileges of the floor during the trial).

The AIC received another request from Mr. LeFebvre on this same issue regarding counsel with his reasoning in a letter dated September 18, 2020:

To the GLGP Ad Interim Commission:

Thank you for your attention to my inquiry regarding BOD II.3.3, which states:

Each of the parties shall be entitled to appear and to be represented by counsel. No person shall be permitted to act as counsel who is not a member of the church and subject to the jurisdiction of its courts. This does not preclude the parties from seeking legal advice privately. No one who serves as a party to or counsel or special prosecutor in a case may participate in the judgment of that case.

Based on the opportunity for counsel provided in that paragraph, and the lack of express indication that counsel must be a member of the Reformed Presbyterian branch of the church, I respectfully appeal your ruling and ask that you reconsider in light of the following factors relevant to my case.

The positive purpose of that passage is to ensure that parties have access to counsel. BOD II.2.7 further elaborates, "A church court is obliged to afford the accused every opportunity to protect his or her good name," competent counsel surely being one such opportunity. But finding competent counsel in my defense is particularly difficult for the following reasons. To be fairly represented, I am in need of an advocate who (a) understands the church courts, (b) possesses sufficient legal capabilities, and (c) is already up to speed on my writings and their theological nuance. That last point is particularly challenging.

The only individual whom I believe can serve in this role is Anthony Selvaggio. As a former minister in the RPCNA, Mr. Selvaggio is well acquainted with our courts. He has also read and interacted with my writings extensively, and is therefore able to step into this trial with full understanding of both the courts and the issues of this case.

Although Mr. Selvaggio is not currently a member of the RPCNA, he is a minister in another branch of the church and is under the oversight of its courts. Mechanisms exist to communicate objections over his behavior for ecclesiastical redress, if necessary. Furthermore, since he would be granted the privileges of the floor in this presbytery as a minister from another denomination: at any time during the trial, presbytery could remove that privilege if he were to step out of line.

It seems that both the intentions and the wording of BOD II.3.3 can be satisfied, even if in an unusual arrangement, by allowing me to avail of Mr. Selvaggio's service. This could be accomplished, either if "the church" in that provision is found to allow for other branches beyond the RPCNA, or, more particularly, if AIC were to rule that Mr. Selvaggio can serve as my "private legal advisor" alongside another lead, RP counselor, granting Mr. Selvaggio privileges of the floor alongside that lead, RP counselor.

I would therefore ask that you reconsider your ruling in light of these specifics and the unique challenges with finding a competent counselor for my case. Alternately, I fear I will lack adequate counsel; or, I may need to seek a second summons (BOD II.2.4) to secure more time than the present trial date allows to bring another counselor up to speed to represent me.

I am grateful for your carefulness in these matters and look forward to hearing back from you regarding this appeal.

Respectfully,  
Michael LeFebvre  
September 18, 2020

In response to Mr. LeFebvre's request to the AIC to reconsider its earlier decision, the AIC provided reasons for our decision in the September 21, 2020 Minutes:

6. A further request from Mr. Lefebvre asks if counsel for the defense during the scheduled trial of October 23, 2020 could be someone who is not a member of the RPCNA. The Book of Discipline II.3.3 (p. E-12) says, "No person shall be permitted to act as counsel who is not a member of the church and subject to the jurisdiction of its courts. This does not preclude the parties from seeking legal advice privately." We are not persuaded that someone in another denomination meets the requirement of both being a member of the church and subject to its jurisdiction as stated in our Constitution. If we were to allow that interpretation then we would have to allow a re-interpretation of vow 4 of the Covenant of Communicant Membership in which members promise to respect the authority and discipline of "the church". In addition in Book of Discipline II.1.2 (p. E-9) it says, "Any member in good standing in the church may press charges against any other member before the court to whose jurisdiction he himself belongs." This is similar to the case regarding counsel. The intent of that section is that only members of the RPCNA ("the church") may bring charges against another member of the RPCNA. Also, Book of Discipline II.2.6 (p. E-11) says, "Only members of the church can be summoned to appear, and these only by the court to which they are subject." Other examples could be noted. So while the word church is often used in the Constitution to refer to the visible Church, we do not believe that we have any warrant to interpret as such in the case of counsel. It was moved, seconded and passed that we state that Book of Discipline II.3.3 (p. E-12) precludes the use of counsel (with privileges of the floor during a trial) from anyone other than a member of the RPCNA.

The AIC answered Mr. LeFebvre's question whether his counsel could be someone outside of the RPCNA. We see the BOD II.3.3 (p. E-12) stating clearly a "no" to that question. Mr. LeFebvre can have "private legal advice" that can be present at the trial. The private legal advisor does not need to be a member of the RPCNA, but they do not have the privilege of the floor in a trial. The private legal advisor, in other words, cannot speak to the Court of Presbytery but only advise privately.

The AIC received an email with an attached resignation letter from Mr. LeFebvre on September 20, 2020 with a request concerning his credentials. [The email, and the letter of resignation is below, in that order.]

To the AIC (cc: GLGP Moderator; CCRP Session), (dated September 20, 2020)

At a congregational meeting held this evening, I announced my resignation to my beloved congregation at Christ Church RP. I wanted to address these matters personally with them, before presenting my resignation to presbytery. This Sunday was the first opportunity to do so after the recent presbytery meeting. Therefore, having now announced this step to my congregation, I am attaching my letter of resignation for the AIC's attention.

As explained in this letter, I feel this step is necessary since presbytery ruled on Sept. 11th that exceptions to RPT 4.4 violate Ordination Query 4. That being the finding of the court, now indicated for the first time, I recognize I can no longer uphold my ordination vows and I must resign. I ask that

you act on this letter according to DCG 3.II.E.5.b-c by dissolving the pastoral relationship two weeks after my announcement. I am asking that this be made effective on Oct. 5, 2020. Furthermore, my session is requesting that the AIC would appoint James Faris to serve as the session's interim moderator from that date. We have already discussed this with Mr. Faris, and he is willing to serve in this capacity.

I also recognize that it would seem prudent under these circumstances, not only to resign, but to withdraw my ordination from the RPCNA altogether. According to the provisions of DCG 3.II.E.5.i, it seems that I would typically be able to request such a release of my credentials for transfer to another denomination. I want you to know that I am willing to take that step, as I do not desire to be in violation of my vows now that it has been determined (as of 9/11) that I am. But I also recognize that presbytery specifically voted not to grant me allowance to depart peaceably. I am certainly willing to cooperate and walk through the trial process if that is what presbytery deems best; however, I want to go on record that presbytery's actions in this manner force me into a quandary of conscience in the meantime. I would therefore like to state that, with my submission of this letter of resignation, I would welcome the opportunity to withdraw peaceably because of my respect for the ordination vows, if the AIC thought, under the circumstances, that it would be consistent with the will of presbytery and the guidance of the Directory for me to do so. I welcome your guidance on this matter, as you deem fitting.

Meanwhile, I leave you with the attached letter of resignation for your attention.

Thank you.  
Michael LeFebvre

[attached resignation]

September 20, 2020 To the Christ Church RP Congregation and Great Lakes–Gulf Presbytery,

This letter is to announce my resignation as the pastor of this congregation, effective two weeks from tomorrow. Serving this congregation has been one of the great privileges of my life. However, in view of the conclusions drawn by presbytery on September 11th, I feel it is necessary to resign as your pastor at this time.

When I wrote my recent book and articles on the early chapters of Genesis, I believed that my views were acceptable within the parameters of the RP ministerial vows. (1) Ministers frequently have various personal exceptions to the RP Testimony which they are permitted to hold. I believed mine were in that category. However, at its recent meeting, presbytery ruled that certain of my views are not acceptable to hold while a minister in the RP Church. (2) That being the case, I can no longer be faithful to my ordination vows and must resign.

Our church order requires that "any teaching elder desiring to resign shall give notice of his intention to the congregation at least two weeks before offering his resignation to the presbytery." (3) Therefore, I am presenting this letter to you, my congregation, on Sunday, September 20th; and I will forward the same to presbytery's Ad Interim Commission, requesting that they make this effective on Monday, October 5th. I anticipate October 4th will be my final Sunday in the pulpit.

I want to thank each of you in this congregation for the fellowship we have shared in the worship and service of our Lord. It has been an immense privilege to serve among this exceptional group of God's people. It is no light matter to undertake the office of a shepherd anywhere in Jesus' flock, but I am especially thankful to have had the opportunity to fulfill that role in this fellowship.

I will forever cherish the blessings of these past fourteen and a half years. Although I will no longer be your pastor, my family and I look forward to continuing to enjoy our friendships with you. If I, as your brother in Christ, can ever be of support to you in any way, please do not hesitate to let me know.

In his love,  
Michael LeFebvre

1. See my Feb. 6, 2020, letter to presbytery; GLGP Communication. 20-01. 2. Specifically, my exception to RPT 4.4. 3. Dir. Ch. Gov. 3-II-E-5b, p. D-21. 3

The AIC would like to clarify what is meant by the wording of item #7 in the AIC Minutes of September 21, 2020.

[From the GLGP AIC Minutes of September 21, 2020]

7. It was moved, seconded and passed that further requests from Mr. LeFebvre regarding his ordination and credentials be referred to the full Presbytery to answer at the outset of the trial scheduled for October 23.

The members of the AIC see our role as limited on behalf of presbytery. We do not possess any authority to overrule previous actions of presbytery or circumvent future intended actions of the presbytery (the transfer of Mr. LeFebvre's credentials to another denomination or the trial of Mr. LeFebvre).

The AIC responded to Mr. LeFebvre's correspondence to us on September 20, 2020. He stated:

To the AIC (cc: GLGP Moderator; CCRP Session),

I also recognize that it would seem prudent under these circumstances, not only to resign, but to withdraw my ordination from the RPCNA altogether. According to the provisions of DCG 3.II.E.5.i, it seems that I would typically be able to request such a release of my credentials for transfer to another denomination. I want you to know that I am willing to take that step, as I do not desire to be in violation of my vows now that it has been determined (as of 9/11) that I am. But I also recognize that presbytery specifically voted not to grant me allowance to depart peaceably. I am certainly willing to cooperate and walk through the trial process if that is what presbytery deems best; however, I want to go on record that presbytery's actions in this manner force me into a quandary of conscience in the meantime. I would therefore like to state that, with my submission of this letter of resignation, I would welcome the opportunity to withdraw peaceably because of my respect for the ordination vows, if the AIC thought, under the circumstances, that it would be consistent with the will of presbytery and the guidance of the Directory for me to do so. I welcome your guidance on this matter, as you deem fitting.

Meanwhile, I leave you with the attached letter of resignation for your attention.

Thank you.  
Michael LeFebvre

Ordinarily a Teaching Elder may request his credentials to be transferred to another denomination. But this is not an ordinary situation because presbytery adopted four sets of charges against Mr. LeFebvre on Sept 11, 2020. A motion failed at that meeting to grant Mr. LeFebvre ninety days to reconsider his position and also be allowed to transfer his credentials. The AIC cannot reverse that, and in fact we understand presbytery must follow through with the trial set for September 23, 2020.

We do recognize as part to the process to trial, our Book of Discipline states in ii, 3.4 (E-13)

4. The accused may offer objections to proceeding with the trial on the grounds that there have been gross irregularities, that the court has no jurisdiction, or that the offense charged, if proved, is not censurable. The court shall hear his objections, but he shall not be permitted to argue against the principles of the church. If any of these objections prove to be well founded, the court must dismiss the case, or permit amendments to the charge without changing its nature. The accused may challenge the right of any member of the court to sit in judgment of the case. If the challenge is sustained and there is no longer a quorum, the case shall be referred to a higher court.

The AIC recognizes that at the “outset of the trial” Mr. LeFebvre can bring objections to the proceedings of the trial on a number of issues, if he chooses to do so. It will be the whole court that weighs in on these objections. If the charges are dismissed then the court can rule on the matter of credentials being transferred. The AIC was simply recognizing the process that is ahead, and only if all the charges are dismissed can the presbytery transfer Mr. LeFebvre’s credentials based on simply his request to do so.

At the present time the presbytery has committed itself to a trial of Mr. LeFebvre and preparations are underway by both the prosecution and defendant for that trial. The AIC cannot reverse or hinder the process for trial.

Some presbyters have brought up the following provision in The Directory of Church Government in E, 5.i (D-21)

i. A teaching elder desiring affiliation with another denomination may upon application be given credentials by his presbytery and a letter of standing by his session. If there are charges pending, they shall be included.

The “charges pending”, we the AIC, would interpret as meaning they have not been filed and accepted by the presbytery court. In Mr. LeFebvre’s case the charges have been made and accepted by presbytery and a trial date set. To simply give a Teaching Elder his credentials in this situation would in essence allow a Teaching Elder to flee justice without due process.

Whether it is the AIC, the presbytery or individual presbyters, we are all bound and guided by the Book of Discipline and the Directory of Church Government. Scripture is our final authority in all things and controversies. We hope this brings clarification and smooths the way to the work set before us on October 23, 2020.

Sincerely in Christ,



GLGP AIC  
Kent Butterfield - Moderator  
Greg Fisher  
Jon Hughes - Clerk  
Phil Pockras  
Stephen Rhoda

Report of the Westminster RP Church (Prairie View, IL) to the Great Lakes – Gulf Presbytery AIC, September 20, 2020
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Dear Fathers and Brothers,

We are writing to update you on the latest ministry developments at Westminster RPC. It has now been almost 14 months since Pastor Rhoda and his family departed for ministry in the Terra Haute RPC. During this time, the Lord has sustained the congregation with regular preaching ministry. Some pastoral candidates have been heard, but the Lord has not yet opened the way to a pastoral call. The COVID-19 outbreak has significantly hindered the search process. It also limited our gatherings for worship, but we greatly appreciated joining Second RPC, Indianapolis worship livestream for three and a half months until we resumed local worship in July, and in person services in August. While the number of worshipers has dwindled, there is a strong nucleus of about 20 committed members who gather. At our recent, September 12, session meeting we were saddened to receive and accept the resignation of Jim Ritchart from the office of elder with gratitude for his over 15 years of service. He is seeking to worship with his wife Connie, as they pursue membership in a church near where they live in Kenosha, WI.

In God's gracious providence, we received a ministry proposal from Chaplain Brett Mahlen in early August. His ministry credentials are with the Orthodox Presbyterian Church and he is supported by Covenant OPC in Orland Park, IL in his work as a chaplain at the Stateville Correctional Center, Joliet, IL. Brett is married with an 11-year-old daughter. He was trained at Westminster Theological Seminary, graduating in 2009 and has almost 10 years of ministry experience since his ordination in early 2011. He is currently working on his DMin at RPTS. Since March, due to a high infection rate of the coronavirus at Stateville, he has been prevented from entering the facility for ministry. Covenant OPC continues to support him, but Pastor Mahlen is eager to minister in other ways while his access to Stateville is significantly restricted. Over the past year, he has served as pulpit supply for WRPC, and God has put a burden on his heart for this congregation. As a result, in consultation with the Covenant OPC Session, he presented to us a proposal to serve as a part-time interim minister at WRPC. (The agreement is attached to this report.)

After consideration and interaction with him and the Covenant OPC Session, the WRPC Session agreed to move forward with this proposal. On August 23, we presented this to the Westminster congregation, and it was unanimously approved along with the budget revisions necessary to accommodate the remuneration package. We are excited about this new relationship which has begun on September 1. As you can see from the agreement, Pastor Mahlen will not only be filling the pulpit, but also doing shepherding ministry. He has already contacted a number of WRPC families, as he seeks to get acquainted and encourage the saints of WRPC.

It is our understanding that Presbytery has approved of NAPARC ministers administering the sacraments in our congregations, so we are planning for Pastor Mahlen to do so while he serves in this capacity. As noted in the agreement, this relationship may be concluded if a pastor is called by WRPC or when Pastor

Mahlen is able to take up chaplain duties again at Stateville. All parties plan to evaluate the relationship at the end of 2020.

We ask that Presbytery approve the following recommendations as we move forward with this ministry plan.

Recommendations:

1. That Presbytery sustain the action of the Westminster Session in hiring Pastor Brett Mahlen as their interim pastor.
2. That, as long as he is the interim pastor at Westminster RPC, Pastor Mahlen be invited to the meetings of Presbytery, be granted the privilege of the floor of Presbytery and be included in the Presbytery Travel Fund.

Your servants in Christ,

Robert Koch, Clerk

Wade Mann, Interim Moderator

### Ad Interim Commission Minutes from October 2, 2020

The Ad Interim Commission of the Great Lakes – Gulf Presbytery met on Friday, October 2, 2020 by Zoom video conference call.

1. Elders present were Moderator Kent Butterfield (Durham), Greg Fisher (Marion), Jon Hughes (Southfield), Phil Pockras (Belle Center) and Steve Rhoda (Terre Haute).
2. The court was constituted, in prayer in the name and by the authority of Jesus Christ, by Steve Rhoda at 5:34 p.m. EDT.
3. It was moved, seconded and passed to approve the agenda.
4. A pastoral call to Gary McNamee from Grace RPC (Columbia, MO) was reviewed. It was moved, seconded and passed to approve it as a regular gospel call and forward it to Mr. McNamee.
5. It was moved, seconded and passed to receive a letter from Roel Ophoff, Ruling Elder at Los Angeles RP Church and to thank him for it, to inform him that it was delivered to the Commission members and that we have no authority to end or suspend the LeFebvre trial.
6. A request from Adam Kuehner and Shawn Anderson, prosecutors in the LeFebvre trial was taken up. The request follows. Request #1 was moved, seconded and passed. Request #2 was moved, second and passed, noting however that we judge the materials do not constitute evidence but rather supporting documentation germane to the case and the defense will also be free to use them. It was moved, second and passed to return request #3 to the authors recognizing that the prosecutors can communicate with the defense in that matter.
7. Letters were received from Rev. Bill Chellis stating that he is to serve as counsel for the defense to Mr. LeFebvre and also requesting a possible delay in the trial date to accommodate his schedule (which was not stated). It was noted that the Book of Discipline (II.2.3) only allows for a delay based on the introduction of new evidence or witnesses.
8. The minutes were read and approved.

9. It was moved, seconded and passed to adjourn.

10. Greg Fisher adjourned the court in prayer in the name and by the authority of Jesus Christ at 6:45 p.m. EDT.



Kent Butterfield, AIC Moderator



Jon Hughes, AIC Clerk

Pastoral Call for Gary McNamee

**Pastor's Call**

We, the **Grace Reformed Mission Church of Columbia, MO**, under the care of the **Midwest Presbytery**, being without a pastor to take the spiritual oversight of us in the Lord; and satisfied that your spiritual attainments, intellectual abilities and soundness in the faith and the Testimony of the Reformed Presbyterian Church are fitted to our capacities, do now, with the concurrence of Presbytery, call you,

Gary McNamee,

to undertake the office of pastor among us. Upon your accepting this call and performing the duties of your office as set forth by the Constitution, we promise you all due respect and support in the Lord.

We hereby promise to pay you **\$50,000** a year, as the Lord provides, in the event of your accepting this call, and performing the duties of a pastor among us—a direct compensation of **\$44,000**, payable in **24** installments of **\$1,833.34** each. An amount for health insurance was considered and is included in the base salary. The pastor will be accountable for securing his own health insurance. Of this compensation **60%** is designated as an allowance for furnishings and appurtenances for your dwelling as set forth by Section 107 of the I.R. Code. **The provisions of this call are based upon our current budget and the expectation of the RPCNA Home Mission Board's declining scale funding beginning in the year of 2021.**

**1. Housing** (Indicate which of the following you will provide.)

We include the following in the compensation package, except item 4 as shown below:

- N/A - Free use of the manse.
- \$      N/A      per month to be used for housing.
- \$      N/A      as an interest-free loan to be used for down payment on housing.
- N/A - Payment of utilities, water, gas, electricity, phone, trash service, etc.
- Payment of \$      N/A      to be used for utilities.
- List any other housing arrangements.

**2. Business Expense** (Indicate which of the following you will provide by a check mark and/or fill in the amount.)

- Mileage allowance as set forth by Synod for travel to Synod – **reimbursed by Synod**
- Mileage allowance of **57.5 cents per mile** (2020 IRS Allowance) up to **\$100** / month
- Office materials and supplies used for church work reimbursable
- Book allowance of **\$50** per month.
- Fees:     Synod;     Presbytery;      Presbytery Camps;

**3. Other Benefits** (Indicate the congregation's specific plan and commitment to provide for the new pastor's continuing pastoral development such as sabbatical leaves, annual professional conference attendance, the purchase of books and related professional resources as recommended by the Synod.) (Indicate which of the following you will provide by a check mark and/or fill in the amount.)

- Pension Plan: **\$4,200 per year for Synod's retirement plan** - paid quarterly
- 3   [number] of weeks will be provided for vacation time each year.
- Attendance at church functions:     Yes    time off for Synod;     Yes    Presbytery
- [number] of Communion(s) allowed each year in the congregations   1   per year; family youth conferences **1 per year**; & a, **1 month sabbatical for 3 every years of service.**



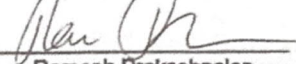
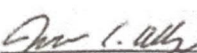
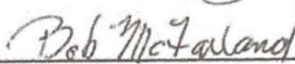
**4. Moving Expenses** (Indicate which of the following you will provide.)

One-time cost to be used for moving expenses from present location to new location, up to **\$2,500** (negotiable).

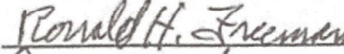
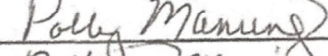
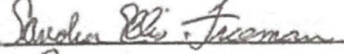
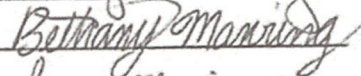
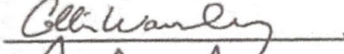
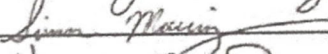
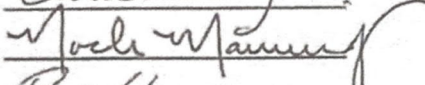
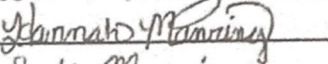
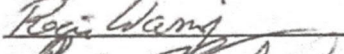


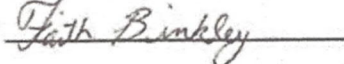
**We promise to review annually** with you the adequacy of this compensation prior to the adoption of the congregation's budget meeting to take into account the cost of living increase (e.g. C.P.I.).

In witness thereof, we subscribe this call and financial agreement, the 28th day of August in the year 2020, in the presence of these witnesses:

**Grace Reformed Church Temporary Governing Board (Columbia Commission):**

 _____ Greg Stiner - Moderator	 _____ Bryan Schneider	 _____ Romesh Prakashalan
 _____ Joe Allyn - Clerk	 _____ Bob McFarland	

**Grace Reformed Church Communicant Members:**

 _____ Ronald H. Freeman	 _____ Polly Manning
 _____ Andrea B. Freeman	 _____ Bethany Manning
 _____ Celia Manning	 _____ Lina Manning
 _____ Noel Manning	 _____ Hannah Manning
 _____ Razi Wang	 _____ Lydia Manning
 _____ Ben Binkley	_____
 _____ Faith Binkley	_____

**Adherents:**

_____	_____
_____	_____

**Attestation of a Call and Financial Agreement**

I hereby certify that this call and financial agreement were made out on the date therein specified in accord with the law and order of the church.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Greg Stiner, Moderator

Letter from Roel Ophoff, Ruling Elder at Los Angeles RP Church

My dear brothers and fathers of the Great Lakes Presbytery:

I am writing this letter to express my full support for Dr. Michael Lefebvre in his efforts to come to a faithful and Biblical exegesis of the creation account of Genesis 1-4 as presented in his book "The Liturgy of Creation" and article "Adam reigns in Eden". This book provides a brilliant exposé of times and calendars found in Scripture, and especially in the Pentateuch. Realizing that the purpose of the creation account is not a scientific report of chronological events but that it provides a display of God's power and splendor, in which all of creation is positioned and mankind is receiving special endowment, all leading to the Sabbath's rest, makes me marvel in amazement that this God is my Abba Father. His article further highlights Adam's position in God's story of redemption. In my opinion Dr. Lefebvre's contribution promotes the purity, peace, and progress of the church by taking the Word of God seriously and acknowledging that our historic (and perhaps anachronistic) attitude toward the creation account does not always match with special revelation or general revelation. Psalm 19 summarizes it so beautifully: "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork." and "The law of God is perfect, reviving the soul".

In his book and article Dr. Lefebvre gives full weight to the Scriptures and so must any discussion of his thesis be based on the Word of God as well. Not every biblical topic is mentioned in the Westminster Confession that was written almost 400 years ago. Not every topic was considered as relevant or important, and sometimes a more restrained approach was used by the Westminster Divines to describe topics such as the "Last Judgment". One day, we will experience Christ's return, and we will all share that experience with one another, glorifying the triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. I wonder sometimes how this will work for the creation of the world. We could ask Adam or Eve about this, but would they fully know? Will we ever gain a full knowledge of that time beyond the Genesis account? There is no such thing as a shared experience of creation as we will have with Christ's return. Well, we will certainly praise God's name when we experience His fulness in the new heavens and the new earth.

I am Roel Ophoff and a ruling elder at the Los Angeles congregation of the Reformed Presbyterian Church. I am a tenured professor of Human Genetics and Psychiatry at the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA). In the professor series I have reached step 6 which requires a formal recognition of great academic distinction, recognized nationally, in scholarly achievement. My professional expertise is in human genetics and genomics. I obtained my PhD (cum laude) in 1997 at the Leiden University in The Netherlands. I have published more than 330 peer reviewed papers and my current H-index (an author-level metric of productivity and citation impact) is >100 which puts me in the top 5% of my field. Because of my expertise, I have served on many review committees of the National Institutes of Health and am a member of a number of PhD thesis committees at UCLA. I have also a secondary appointment as full professor at the Erasmus University Medical Center in Rotterdam in The Netherlands. I am not listing my accomplishments to boast but to demonstrate my scientific credentials in my field and the value that is attached to my opinion when discussing matters dealing with human genetics and genomics.

When we consider the scientific knowledge of human genetics with regard to human origin and expansion, I would like to share the following facts that have some bearing on the Genesis creation account:

1. The genetic history of man goes back some 100,000 – 200,000 years.
2. The origin of mankind resides in the geographic heart of Africa and the human populations subsequently spread throughout the world; this global spread started some 60,000 years ago.
3. Based on the genetic diversity of humans today, the best estimate of the founding population size from which all humans are derived, is a few thousand individuals.
4. The genetic makeup of the human genome in non-African populations demonstrates an admixture with other hominoids that are now extinct, such as the Neanderthals and Denisovans (from which we have genome sequence data obtained from very old bones). There is emerging evidence that other distinct hominoids may also have intermingled with humans in the founding African populations.

It is clear that the human genetic evidence is incompatible with a recent ex nihilo creation some 6,000 years ago, and that the origin of humanity resides in the Middle East. There is also conflicting data between the genetic diversity today and the suggestion that mankind arose from a single couple, one man and one woman. Furthermore, it is now well established that the biological progenitors of non-African human populations include other hominoid species.

How do these observations inform our interpretation of Genesis 1? Shall we close our eyes and dismiss the science as irrelevant since most of the scientists are non-Christians? That is not the attitude we find in Scripture, not even in the early chapters of Genesis. Descendants of Cain were the first to build cities, dwell in tents and have livestock, make instruments and music, and were forgers of bronze and iron

(Genesis 4:17-22). These were not the 'Sons of God' but they were still recipients of God's common grace, to bless mankind with their inventions. Today, the notion of a solar system that is heliocentric is widely accepted but it was a Copernican revolution that took place in the 1600s requiring a paradigm shift from the Ptolemaic model of the heavens depicted in the Bible. As Christians, knowing that God has created all things and continues to uphold all things, we are at ease. 'Test everything and hold fast what is good' (1 Thess 5:21). The Copernican revolution turned out to be more of an evolution in our thinking. We adjusted our viewpoint about the language used in Scripture without violating the historic and trustworthy nature of the writings. There can be no threat against the Creator in God's handiwork, nor is there an imperfection in his revealed will. In other words, be faithful exegetes of the Word of God, accept our creaturely status with all its limitations in these activities, and be amazed how much more there is to learn through special revelation as well as general revelation. We confess that 'The whole counsel of God concerning all things necessary for His own glory, man's salvation, faith, and life, is either expressly set down in Scripture, or by good and necessary consequence may be deduced from Scripture.' (WCF 1.6). Any apparent obscurity of special and general revelation, or alleged confusion or contradiction between them, arises from the natural limitations of man (RPT 1.2). I am grateful for Dr. Lefebvre's contribution toward opening up the Word of God, reflecting on his majesty, and pointing us toward the eternal rest from the very first pages of the Pentateuch.

I am therefore enormously surprised and deeply troubled by the fact that charges have been filed with the Great Lakes Presbytery of the RPCNA (by Shawn Anderson and Adam Kuehner), claiming that Dr. Lefebvre has committed censurable offenses by writing his book "The Liturgy of Creation" and the article entitled "Adam reigns in Eden".

Dr. Michael Lefebvre is the example par excellence of a man within our denomination who has worked tirelessly toward studying and promoting the purity, peace, unity, and progress of the church. He has been serving as a pastor in a local church, serving on the board of our seminary for years, publishing books that have shaped our thinking and understanding of the singing of the psalms, of worship, substantially contributing toward discussions at presbytery and synod meetings for many years. His latest writings on creation may require more time and consideration for some of us. For me, he is one of the first theologians that has unlocked the creation account in a consistent, biblical and faithful approach of exegesis. This does not mean that no questions or disagreements remain – on the contrary, there are many texts in Scripture (including in the book of Genesis) that will elicit a widespread display of opinions, even within the walls of our own denomination. His writings, however, should certainly not be condemned as leading to or following divisive courses.

Let us consider the charges. First, I would argue that in cases of censurable offenses that deal with the exegesis of Scripture, the use of the Westminster Confession of Faith (WCF) and especially the Reformed Presbyterian Testimony (RPT), come secondary to Scripture itself. These documents are called "secondary standards" for a reason. Thus far, I have not seen a substantiated/substantial effort to address the writings of Dr. Lefebvre through the primary standard, i.e. Scripture itself.

Charge 1:        Contradiction of 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.

RPT 4.3 states that 'the theory of evolution which assumes that chance happenings are an explanation of the origin and development of matter and living things is unscriptural.' Nowhere in Dr. Lefebvre's writing does he state that chance happenings are an explanation of origin and development of matter and living things. There are multiple ways to describe evolution (e.g. selection or adaptation) but the core element of the definition of evolution in



RPT 4.3 is the notion of 'chance happenings', which is impossible with God (Col 1:16-17; Heb 1:3).

RPT 4.3 further states that 'the increase of varieties which has occurred is within genetic limitations provided at creation.' As human genetics expert I have no idea what the expression 'genetic limitations' means in this statement. Every living being has genetic limitations, that is Biology 101, but how is that relevant for our discussion? As far as I know this topic is not being discussed or debated in any of the writings of Dr. Lefebvre.

RPT 4.4 states that 'we deny that man evolved from any lower form of life.' I assume that the original writers of this text used the word 'evolve' based on the prior definition of 'evolution' in the preceding paragraph (in RPT 4.3), which implies the chance happenings leading to the rise of Homo sapiens as a species. I am not aware, based on my reading of the book 'The Liturgy of Creation' and article "Adam reigns in Eden", that this is propagated by Dr. Lefebvre.

If we assume that the writers intended to say that there is no direct biological link between Homo sapiens and any (other, lower) species independent of chance happenings, the statement is simply incorrect. Not only are there direct genetic introgressions of other hominoids into the human genome of individuals with European ancestry (i.e. 90% of all members of the RPCNA carry genetic material from Neanderthal or Denisovan ancestors!), there is also abundant evidence of DNA sequences in the human genome of viral origin that directly impacts cell biology. The evolution, i.e. the development, of the human species as we know it today, is genetically marked by lower forms of life. This is not a statement of unbelief or rejection of Scripture, but simply a statement of fact.

The wisdom of the Westminster Divines is shown in their faithful reflection of the creation account of Adam and his wife in WCF 4.1 and 4.2. The confession does not elaborate on the details beyond Scripture and I am not aware of Dr. Lefebvre taking any exception on these statements.

Charge 2: Adam and Eve as sole biological progenitors of humanity.

I am not sure where the WCF states that Adam and Eve are the sole biological progenitors of humanity. The WCF highlights the fact of the Fall into sin with the first Adam as our federal head and the subsequent condemnation of all mankind of all generations. Moreover, the biological evidence clearly shows that those among us with European ancestry have hominoid biological progenitors that are non-Homo sapiens species.

Charge 3: The weekly Sabbath as creation ordinance from the beginning of the world.

Have you read the book? The whole thesis of Dr. Lefebvre is about the creation account pointing toward the Sabbath.

The words "from the beginning of the world" is language used by the Westminster Divines to reflect that this ordinance is connected to the creation account of Adam and Eve. I do not see an issue here, but if we prefer to take a literal approach, (which I do not advocate) the Sabbath was not in place until the end of the creation account in Genesis 1, sometime after the beginning of the world.

Charge 4: Holding a personal exception to RPT 4.4, the denial that man evolved from any lower form of life.

Please see my response to Charge 1.

In summary, I strongly encourage you, my dear brothers and fathers, for the peace and purity of the church and the honor of God's name, to end your trial against Dr. Lefebvre and acquit him from the four charges brought forward by Shawn Anderson and Adam Kuehner.

Roel A. Ophoff, PhD

Los Angeles, September 28, 2020

Request from Prosecutors Adam Kuehner and Shawn Anderson
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To the Ad Interim Commission of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery (RPCNA),

In preparation for Dr. Lefebvre's upcoming trial, we, as the prosecutors, would like to make three requests of the court, by way of your commission.

According to Book of Discipline II.2.3 (E-11),

At least ten days shall pass between the issuing of the accusation and the date of the trial, except by consent of all concerned. If additional witnesses or new evidence are discovered, the accused shall be informed and further time given him or her to prepare a defense.

REQUEST #1

Having discovered additional witnesses that will prove vital to our case, we hereby request that the following individuals, all members in good standing within the RPCNA, be summoned (per form 24, H-21) to appear before the court as witnesses at Dr. Lefebvre's trial.

1. Joel Hart
2. Richard Holdeman
3. Jon Hughes
4. Michael Lefebvre
5. Jared Olivetti
6. Jeffrey Stivason
7. C.J. Williams

REQUEST #2

Having discovered additional evidence that will prove vital to our case, we hereby request that the following items be added to our existing list of evidence as detailed in the written accusation.

1. The Minutes of the RPCNA Synod
2. The Minutes of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery
3. The Minutes of the GLG Ad Interim Commission
4. The Letter from GLG to MWP concerning Rev. Brian Schwertley (March 2, 2018)
5. The GLG Student Handbook
6. GLG Communications 18-06, 18-08, and 19-04.
7. The report of the Judicial Committee to review 19-04

According to our reading of BOD II.2.3 (E-11), the granting of our first two requests would require the court to grant the defendant "further time... to prepare a defense" ONLY IF he failed to receive notice of the action "at least ten days" prior to the trial. We trust that, if our requests are granted, you will notify the defendant as soon as possible, exercising proper discretion in determining the most equitable way forward.

REQUEST #3



In light of Dr. Lefebvre's recent letter(s) of resignation, we would like to give the defendant an opportunity to join us in affixing his signature to the following document, which would essentially permit us to drop Charge #4 from the written accusation against him.

Before presenting our offer to the defendant, we thought it best to run it by your commission for advance confirmation. We ask that you would please review the proposed agreement and make a ruling as to whether or not it accords with the law and order of the church. We also desire that this communication be included in the AIC minutes.

Finally, we want to clarify that the list of new witnesses and evidence enumerated above was compiled with an eye to prosecuting all four of the charges included in the written accusation against Dr. Lefebvre. If Charge #4 were to be dropped, per the proposed agreement, it is possible that some of these persons and/or documents might no longer be vital or necessary to our case.

The proposed agreement is as follows:

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Proposed Agreement Regarding Charge #4

I, the rev. Dr. Michael Lefebvre, do hereby freely and voluntarily attest that the following statements are, to the best of my knowledge, entirely true, accurate, and agreeable to my own sincerely held personal beliefs.

1. Based upon my own conscientious understanding of Biblical teaching, I hold an exception to RPT 4.4, which states "We deny that man evolved from any lower form of life. Gen. 2:7, 21-22."
2. On September 11, 2020, the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery (RPCNA) determined "That an exception to RPT 4.4 be found out of accord with the system of doctrine set forth in the Westminster Confession of Faith, the Larger and Shorter Catechisms, and the Testimony of the Reformed Presbyterian Church."
3. Due to the presbytery's recent decision, I acknowledge that (a) my exception has been found in violation of Ordination Query 4, (b) I can no longer uphold my ordination vows as an RPCNA minister, and (c) I can no longer continue, in good conscience, as an ordained minister within the RPCNA.
4. In hindsight, I regret not having declared my exception to the presbytery more promptly.
5. While this attestation addresses substantial elements of Charge #4 in the written accusation against me, it shall not be construed as a formal plea of "guilty" to any of the charges, nor as waiving any of my ecclesiastical rights and privileges as outlined in our blue book, including the right to file an appeal or complaint with the higher court in connection with the upcoming trial.

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Defendant's Signature

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Date

We, the prosecutors in this case, Revs. Adam Kuehner and Shawn Anderson, do hereby make the following promises in good faith, contingent upon the defendant affixing his signature (along with the date) to the preceding attestation, and submitting it electronically via email to either of us no later than 11:59 p.m. on October 12, 2020.

1. Being satisfied with the preceding attestation, we do hereby drop Charge #4 against the defendant, which accuses him of "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.'"
2. We will not use the defendant's signature on this document as evidence against him at his trial.
3. We will submit this signed document to the Ad Interim Commission of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery to be received, included in their minutes, and appended to the minutes of the upcoming trial.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Prosecutor's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Prosecutor's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

---

We are grateful to your commission for taking the time to consider our three requests. We will continue to intercede in prayer on your behalf for abundant wisdom as you seek to honor the Lord in all your labors. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Adam Kuehner  
Shawn Anderson

REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
OF NORTH AMERICA  
GREAT LAKES GULF PRESBYTERY

-----  
ADAM M. KUEHNER,  
SHAWN ANDERSON,

Complainants

NOTICE OF APPEARANCE

- vs. -

MICHAEL LEFEBVRE,

Defendant

-----  
TO: Ad Interim Commission, Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery,  
Moderator, Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, THAT I, William H. Chellis, Esq., have been retained by  
and appear for the above named defendant with regard to the above-entitled matter.

Please provide me a copy of the record as it exists to today, as well as a formal copy of  
the charges made against Dr. LeFebvre. I will accept serve by email a  
william@chellislaw.com

Dated: 10/1/20

  
Counsel for Defendant

Address:

27 Maple Avenue  
PO Box 624  
Jeffersonville, New York 12748

Ad Interim Commission Minutes from October 9, 2020

The Ad Interim Commission of the Great Lakes – Gulf Presbytery met on Friday, October 9, 2020  
by Zoom video conference call.

1. Elders present were Moderator Kent Butterfield (Durham), Jon Hughes (Southfield), Phil Pockras (Belle Center) and Steve Rhoda (Terre Haute).
2. The court was constituted, in prayer in the name and by the authority of Jesus Christ, by Steve Rhoda at 5:36 p.m. EDT.

3. It was moved, seconded and passed to approve the agenda.
4. It was moved, seconded and passed to appoint an Installation Commission for installing Rev. Ross Fearing at Sparta RPC consisting of Rich Johnston (Moderator), Russell Lodge and Wade Mann on Friday, December 4, 2020.
5. Having received a letter of acceptance of the call to Grace Reformed Church from Gary McNamee, it was moved, seconded and passed to approve the transfer of his license to receive a call to the Midwest Presbytery effective October 26, 2020.
6. The minutes were read and approved.
7. It was moved, seconded and passed to adjourn.
8. Phil Pockras adjourned the court in prayer in the name and by the authority of Jesus Christ at 6:03 p.m. EDT.



Kent Butterfield, AIC Moderator

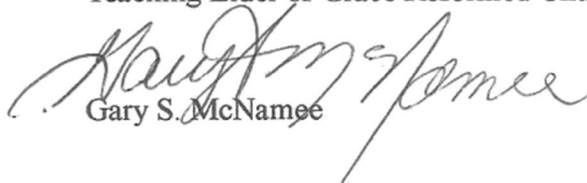


Jon Hughes, AIC Clerk

Letter from Gary McNamee Accepting the Call to Grace Reformed Church
----------------------------------------------------------------------

**To: The TGB of Grace Reformed Church and Grace Reformed Church, Columbia, MO**  
**From: Gary S. McNamee**  
 10/09/20

**I hereby humbly and gladly accept the attached call to become the Pastor/  
 Teaching Elder of Grace Reformed Church, Columbia, MO.**



Gary S. McNamee

Ad Interim Commission Minutes from October 12, 2020
-----------------------------------------------------

The Ad Interim Commission of the Great Lakes – Gulf Presbytery met on Monday, October 12, 2020 by Zoom video conference call.

1. Elders present were Moderator Kent Butterfield (Durham), Greg Fisher (Marion), Jon Hughes (Southfield), Phil Pockras (Belle Center) and Steve Rhoda (Terre Haute).
2. The court was constituted, in prayer in the name and by the authority of Jesus Christ, by Steve Rhoda at 8:04 p.m. EDT.
3. It was moved, seconded and passed to approve the agenda.
4. Having received a request from the prosecutors (in a letter addressed to the Ad Interim Commission on 10/10/2020 and subsequently in communication 20-10 addressed to the Presbytery on 10/12/2020) for a continuance to delay the LeFebvre trial and due to

previous granting of the introduction of additional prosecution witnesses and also in concurrence with BOD II.2.3 (E-11) which says, "If additional witnesses or new evidence are discovered, the accused shall be informed and further time given him or her to prepare a defense", it was moved, seconded and passed to grant the continuance and re-schedule the trial of Mr. Michael Lefebvre at Southside Reformed Presbyterian Church on Friday, November 13, 2020 and Saturday the 14<sup>th</sup> starting at 2:00 p.m. EST on the 13<sup>th</sup> and again at 8:30 a.m. EST on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

5. It was also moved, seconded and passed, at the prosecution's request, to remove the name of Mr. Michael Lefebvre from the prosecution's witness list.
6. The minutes were read and approved.
7. It was moved, seconded and passed to adjourn.
8. Greg Fisher adjourned the court in prayer in the name and by the authority of Jesus Christ at 8:56 p.m. EDT.



Kent Butterfield, AIC Moderator



Jon Hughes, AIC Clerk

Request from the Prosecutors for a Continuance
------------------------------------------------

To the Ad Interim Commission,

We, the prosecution, hereby request that AIC approve a continuance, postponing the defendant's upcoming trial until Friday, November 13 and Saturday, November 14, 2020.

Rationale: The defense's counsel had approached the prosecution on Tuesday, Oct. 6, offering to drop opposition to prosecution's witness list in exchange for a "more workable trial date". An agreement was quickly and amicably reached, and prosecution intended to sign a joint petition with defense on Thursday, Oct. 8, in time for the AIC's meeting on Friday, Oct. 9. We never received the joint petition; therefore, we would still petition the AIC for a postponement of the trial, believing that this would be in the best interest of the defense.

We also request that Mr. Michael Lefebvre be removed from our list of witnesses.

Respectfully submitted,

Shawn Anderson  
Adam Kuehner  
Date: 10/10/2020

Ad Interim Commission Minutes from October 20, 2020
-----------------------------------------------------

The Ad Interim Commission of the Great Lakes – Gulf Presbytery met on Monday, October 20, 2020 by Zoom video conference call.

1. Elders present were Moderator Kent Butterfield (Durham), Jon Hughes (Southfield), Phil Pockras (Belle Center) and Steve Rhoda (Terre Haute).

2. The court was constituted, in prayer in the name and by the authority of Jesus Christ, by Jon Hughes at 5:34 p.m. EDT.
3. It was moved, seconded and passed to approve the agenda.
4. It was moved, seconded and passed to appoint Ruling Elder David Schisler to the Louisville Commission at the commission's request.
5. It was moved, seconded and passed to refer to the Clerk of Presbytery, Mr. Kuehner, a request for transfer of the Rhyne family to First Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church in Lancaster, SC.
6. It was moved, seconded and passed to adopt the Ad Interim Commission report to presbytery for the upcoming meeting on October 23, 2020.
7. The minutes were read and approved.
8. It was moved, seconded and passed to adjourn.
9. Phil Pockras adjourned the court in prayer in the name and by the authority of Jesus Christ at 6:02 p.m. EDT.



Kent Butterfield, AIC Moderator



Jon Hughes, AIC Clerk

Request from the Louisville Commission
----------------------------------------

Gary McNamee <gmcnamee@rpts.edu>

To: Kent Butterfield

Wed, Oct 14 at 3:46 PM

Hi Kent,

The Louisville Commission would like to ask the AIC to Appoint RE Dave Schisler of the Columbus RPC to serve as a member of the Louisville Commission.

Dave has worked with the commission in matters regarding the Louisville work and would be a great asset to the commission and provide a valuable link to the Columbus RPC which is largely funding the Louisville work.

Dave has agreed to serve on this commission. This commission started with 5 members. Since Andy McCracken left in February, we have been operating with 4 members. With the impending move of Gary McNamee to Columbia, MO, this commission would be down to 3 members. Therefore we are asking that you appoint Dave Schisler to the commission.

Thank you,  
For the Louisville Commission  
Gary McNamee

## Rhyne Family Transfer Request



## First Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church

701 North Main Street • Lancaster, SC 29720  
P.O. Box 864 • Lancaster, SC 29721  
803.285.1578  
email: onahill@comporium.net  
website: firstarplancaster.org

October 12, 2020

Great Lakes/ Gulf Presbytery of RPCNA  
ak@streetsermon.org

Attention: Adam Keener

Dear Mr. Keener,  
R. Glenn Rhyne, Anna Rhyne, and Madelyn Rhyne met with the Session on October 4, 2020 and expressed their desire to join the fellowship of First ARP Church. Please transfer their membership from the Great Lakes/Gulf Presbytery of the RPCNA on behalf of the former Pageland Reformed Presbyterian (Mission) Church which is now closed.

We look forward to their participation in the ministry here at First ARP. Thank you for your attention in this matter.  
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sam Huey".

Mr. Sam Huey  
Clerk of Session

## Ad Interim Commission Minutes from October 23, 2020

The Ad Interim Commission of the Great Lakes – Gulf Presbytery met on Friday, October 23, 2020 at Southside Indianapolis RP Church (in conjunction with a special meeting of Presbytery).

1. Elders present were Moderator Kent Butterfield (Durham), Jon Hughes (Southfield), Phil Pockras (Belle Center) and Steve Rhoda (Terre Haute). Also present were Jeff Jones and Gary McNamee.
2. The court was constituted, in prayer in the name and by the authority of Jesus Christ, by Phil Pockras at 5:35 p.m. EDT.

3. It was moved, seconded and passed to appoint Dave Schisler as Interim Moderator of the Columbus RP Church effective October 27, 2020.
4. The minutes were read and approved.
5. It was moved, seconded and passed to adjourn.
6. Steve Rhoda adjourned the court in prayer in the name and by the authority of Jesus Christ at 5:38 p.m. EDT.



Kent Butterfield, AIC Moderator



Jon Hughes, AIC Clerk

<p>Ad Interim Commission Minutes from November 12, 2020</p>
-------------------------------------------------------------

The Ad Interim Commission of the Great Lakes – Gulf Presbytery met on Thursday, November 12, 2020 by Zoom video conference call.

1. Elders present were Moderator Kent Butterfield (Durham), Greg Fisher (Marion), Jon Hughes (Southfield), Phil Pockras (Belle Center) and Steve Rhoda (Terre Haute). Also present was Drew Poplin (pastoral intern at Durham).
2. The court was constituted, in prayer in the name and by the authority of Jesus Christ, by Steve Rhoda at 5:33 p.m. EST.
3. It was moved, seconded and passed to approve the agenda.
4. It was moved, seconded and passed to receive the ministerial credentials for Rev. Bill Roberts from the Midwest Presbytery.
5. It was moved, seconded and passed to receive the ministerial credentials for Rev. Ross Fearing from the Midwest Presbytery.
6. A letter addressed to the Great Lakes – Gulf Presbytery from Nathan Enas (member of Christ Church RP) dated October 23, 2020 was sent directly to the Clerk of Presbytery (and forwarded to this Commission). The Directory for Church Government 8.11 (page D-40) says, "A petition addressed to a presbytery or Synod shall first be submitted to a session, and by it transferred to the presbytery or through the presbytery to the Synod." It was moved, seconded and passed that the letter be referred back to Mr. Enas with encouraging instruction that he re-submit the letter to his local Session requesting them to forward it to the Presbytery. Greg Fisher will communicate this to him.
7. Mr. Rhoda left the meeting.
8. It was moved, seconded and passed to acknowledge receipt of complaints against actions of the Ad Interim Commission from James Faris and also from Jared Olivetti (with James Faris) which have also been filed with the Clerk of Synod.
9. The minutes were read, corrected and approved.
10. It was moved, seconded and passed to adjourn.



11. Greg Fisher adjourned the court in prayer in the name and by the authority of Jesus Christ at 6:20 p.m. EST.



Kent Butterfield, AIC Moderator



Jon Hughes, AIC Clerk

## *Certificate of Ministerial Credentials*

in the REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA

**Name:** **Roberts, William L.**

Birth Place: Missoula, MT

Date of Birth: March 2, 1951

Citizenship: United States of America

Baptized: May 19, 1960 in Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Horseheads, NY

Profession of Faith: June 6, 1966 in Our Savior's Lutheran Church.

### Education

<i>Institutions attended, high school and up</i>	<i>From/To</i>	<i>Diploma/Degree</i>
Horseheads High School, (Horseheads, NY)	1965-1969	Regents Degree
Cornell University, (Ithaca, NY)	1969-1973	A. B in mathematics
Purdue University, (W.Lafayette, IN)	1973-1974	
Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary,	1976-1979	M.. Div.

### Record of Church Service

#### Date Presbytery

Under Care of Ohio-Illinois Presbytery 1975 Ohio-Illinois Presbytery

Ordination July 22, 1983 Ohio-Illinois Presbytery

Installed in the Bloomington [IN] congregation 1983

Released by Bloomington [IN] congregation 2010 Great Lakes-Gulf Presb.

Church Planting in the Terre Haute [IN] mission 2009 Great Lakes-Gulf Presb.

Released by Terre Haute [IN] mission June 30, 2019 Great Lakes-Gulf Presb.

Transfer from GLG Nov. 15, 2019 Midwest Presbytery

**Other:** Clerk, Ohio-Illinois Presbytery 1985-88. American Representative, Reformation Translation Fellowship, 1989-\_\_\_\_.

# Certificate of Ministerial Credentials

in the REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA

**Name:** Fearing, Olin Ross  
Birth Place: San Antonio, TX  
Date of Birth: 30 June 1988  
Citizenship: United States of America  
Baptized: 1992(?) in the Westminster Presbyterian Church, Jacksonville, FL Rev. Tony Dollison (sp?).  
Profession of Faith: 2001(?) in the Covenant Presbyterian Church, Lufkin, TX.

## Education

<u>Institutions attended, high school and up</u>	<u>From/To</u>	<u>Diploma/Degree</u>
Home-school,	2001-2005	High School Diploma
Texas A&M University,	2005-2010	Bachelors in Science
Greenville Presbyterian Theological Seminary,	2010-2014	Master of Divinity

## Record of Church Service

	<u>Date</u>	<u>Presbytery</u>
Taken under care as student of theology	2010	Houston Metro Presbytery
Licensed to preach the gospel	2013	Calvary Presbytery
Ordination	Sep 2014	SE Alabama Presbytery
Installed in (MMI) Ministry to the Military and Internationals	Sep 2014	SE Alabama Presbytery
Released by MMI	Oct 2019	SE Alabama Presbytery
Received by the Midwest Presbytery	Nov. 8, 2019	Midwest Presbytery

**Other:** \_\_\_\_\_

### Ad Interim Commission Minutes from November 24, 2020

The Ad Interim Commission of the Great Lakes – Gulf Presbytery met on Tuesday evening, November 24, 2020, by Zoom video conference call.

1. Elders present were Moderator Kent Butterfield (Durham), Greg Fisher (Marion), Phil Pockras (Belle Center), and Steve Rhoda (Terre Haute).
2. Kent Butterfield called the meeting to order and asked Phil Pockras to pray and constitute. He did so, seeking God's blessing on the meeting and constituting the meeting as a commission of the court of Christ, in His name and by His authority at 8:03 p.m. EST
3. By common consent, Steve Rhoda was appointed as temporary clerk in the absence of Jon Hughes.

4. Kent Butterfield presented the agenda and asked for additions. None were offered, and the agenda was approved by motion made, seconded and passed.
5. A Commission was appointed, by motion made, seconded and passed, for the ordination of Andrew Battiato, at the request of the Global Mission Board, at 2nd RPC, Indianapolis, Indiana, at 7:00 pm, on January 8, 2021. Members of the commission are the following: Dean Filson, James Faris, David Hanson, Joel Hart, and Jared Olivetti.
6. The Commission acknowledged the existence of three complaints to Synod regarding the recent LeFebvre judicial case, all of which have been processed through the moderator and clerk of Presbytery, according to Book of Discipline II.4.3.
7. A request from the Presbytery of the Alleghenies was received, asking that the Great Lakes – Gulf Presbytery appoint a teaching elder to serve as an advisory member of their Birmingham Commission. The AIC discussed the request and decided, by motion made, seconded and passed, to refer this request to the full Presbytery, and to communicate this decision to the Presbytery of the Alleghenies.
8. The minutes were read and approved.
9. The motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and passed.
10. Moderator Kent Butterfield asked Greg Fisher to close with prayer and adjourn the meeting, which he did, giving thanks to God, seeking His continued blessing upon our Presbytery, and adjourning the court in the name and by the authority of Christ.



Kent Butterfield, AIC Moderator



Steve Rhoda, AIC Clerk Pro Tem

Ad Interim Commission Minutes from December 11, 2020
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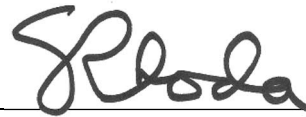
The Ad Interim Commission of the Great Lakes – Gulf Presbytery met on Friday evening, December 11, 2020, by Zoom video conference call.

1. Elders present were Moderator Kent Butterfield (Durham), Greg Fisher (Marion), Phil Pockras (Belle Center), and Steve Rhoda (Terre Haute).
2. Kent Butterfield called the meeting to order and asked Greg Fisher to pray and constitute. He did so, seeking God's blessing on the meeting and constituting the meeting as a commission of the court of Christ, in His name and by His authority at 5:50 pm.
3. By common consent, Steve Rhoda was appointed as temporary clerk in the absence of Jon Hughes.
4. Kent Butterfield presented the agenda, which was approved by motion made, seconded, and passed.
5. A request was received from Rehobeth Presbyterian Church (ARP), Waxhaw, North Carolina, for the transfer of membership to them of Ron and Judy Posvar, former members of Pageland Reformed Presbyterian Church, Pageland, South Carolina.
6. The minutes were read and approved.

7. The motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and passed.
8. Moderator Kent Butterfield asked Phil Pockras to close with prayer and adjourn the meeting, which he did, giving thanks to God, seeking His continued blessing upon our Presbytery, and adjourning the court in the name and by the authority of Christ.



Kent Butterfield, AIC Moderator



Steve Rhoda, AIC Clerk Pro Tem

<b>Ad Interim Commission Minutes from December 18, 2020</b>
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The Ad Interim Commission of the Great Lakes – Gulf Presbytery met on Friday, December 18, 2020 by Zoom video conference call.

1. Elders present were Moderator Kent Butterfield (Durham), Greg Fisher (Marion), Jon Hughes (Southfield), Phil Pockras (Belle Center) and Steve Rhoda (Terre Haute). Also present was Drew Poplin (pastoral intern at Durham).
2. The court was constituted, in prayer in the name and by the authority of Jesus Christ, by Steve Rhoda at 5:31 p.m. EST.
3. It was moved, seconded and passed to approve the agenda.
4. A petition for a Presbytery Judicial Commission from two families at one of the congregations was considered. The petition normally should have been made to the session first, which would then be required to pass it to Presbytery with or without approval. However, DCG.8.11 (D-40) includes a provision that, "The higher court may in exceptional cases admit a petition directly from a person who is not a member of the court." Since the content of the petition is in its nature dealing with an urgent matter the AIC agrees that it is an exceptional case. In addition the AIC is expecting to receive a letter from another TE on the matter in the next few days. It was agreed that once that letter is received then to meet on Monday, December 21, 2020 with some of the principal parties to determine a course of action.
5. A request from Immanuel RPC for approval to request a loan from Synod to purchase a new building was received. It was moved, seconded and passed to table the request until the next meeting on Monday, December 21, 2020.
6. A pastoral call from Orlando RP Church was received but, as required by DCG 3.II.D.5.e (D-17, 18), it did not include signatures, the membership roll or the minutes of the congregational meeting. It was moved, seconded and passed to return the call to the Session with instructions to provide the required documents.
7. The minutes were read, corrected and approved.
8. It was moved, seconded and passed to adjourn.
9. Greg Fisher adjourned the court in prayer in the name and by the authority of Jesus Christ at 6:37 p.m. EST.



Kent Butterfield, AIC Moderator



Jon Hughes, AIC Clerk

Ad Interim Commission Minutes from December 21, 2020
------------------------------------------------------

The Ad Interim Commission of the Great Lakes – Gulf Presbytery met on Monday, December 21, 2020 by Zoom video conference call.

1. Elders present were Moderator Kent Butterfield (Durham), Greg Fisher (Marion), Jon Hughes (Southfield), Phil Pockras (Belle Center) and Steve Rhoda (Terre Haute).
2. Kent Butterfield read Psalm 39.
3. The court was constituted, in prayer in the name and by the authority of Jesus Christ, by Steve Rhoda at 8:08 p.m. EST.
4. It was moved, seconded and passed to approve the agenda.
5. The required documents having been received and inspected, it was moved, seconded and passed to approve the pastoral call from Orlando RP Church on Rev. Nathan Eshelman as a regular gospel call and to forward it to the Pacific Coast Presbytery AIC.
6. Keith Magill, Zachary Blackwood, David Carr, Nate Pfeiffer and Ben Larson from the Immanuel RP Session joined the meeting at 8:36 p.m.
7. The request from two families of the Immanuel RP Church for a judicial commission was taken up regarding matters for which a previous AIC (on July 26) established an Immanuel Advisory Committee to counsel the Session of Immanuel and the families. The AIC asked questions and received answers after which the Immanuel RP Session members were dismissed at 9:48 p.m.
8. By common consent the AIC will plan to meet with the Immanuel Advisory Committee on December 29 at 7:00 p.m. prior to any other action. This timetable was also acceptable to the concerned families.
9. It was moved, seconded and passed to approve Immanuel RPC's request for a loan from Synod towards the purchase of a new building.
10. The minutes were read, corrected and approved.
11. It was moved, seconded and passed to adjourn.
12. Greg Fisher adjourned the court in prayer in the name and by the authority of Jesus Christ at 10:37 p.m. EST.



Kent Butterfield, AIC Moderator



Jon Hughes, AIC Clerk





REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH *of* ORLANDO

Pastor's Call

We, the **Orlando Reformed Presbyterian Church, 324 E. Livingston St. Orlando Florida** under the care of the **Gulf- Great Lakes Presbytery**, being without a pastor to take the spiritual oversight of us in the Lord; and satisfied that your spiritual attainments, intellectual abilities and soundness in the faith and the Testimony of the Reformed Presbyterian Church are fitted to our capacities, do now, with the concurrence of Presbytery, call you, **Dr. Nathan Eshelman**, to undertake the office of pastor among us. Upon your accepting this call and performing the duties of your office as set forth by the Constitution, we promise you all due respect and support in the Lord. We hereby promise to pay you **\$80,000.00, (total package, excluding moving expense is \$105,900.00)** in the event of your accepting this call, and performing the duties of a pastor among us:

**Direct Compensation**

**\$80,000.00**, payable in 24 installments of **\$3,333.33** each. Of this compensation 55% is designated as an allowance for furnishings and appurtenances for your dwelling as set forth by Section 107 of the I.R. Code. We include the following in the compensation package:

**Housing**

**\$3,666.66** per month from direct compensation to be used for housing. (see direct compensation above)

**\$35,000.00** or up to 12% of the cost to purchase a house as an interest-free loan to be used for the down payment/closing on housing. The Loan is to be repaid in monthly installments over the first 10 years of the contract at **\$291.66** per month. If the pastor dies during the term of this loan, monthly payments are not required as this would be a burden on the widow. Payment of the remaining balance will be paid from the proceeds when and if the residence is sold or ownership transferred.

**Health Insurance \$10,000.00** per year(company and coverage to be determined with pastor input)

### **Business Expense**

Mileage allowance of **\$1,800.00 per year** including e-pass and toll payments. Actual tolls.

**\$200.00** per year Special office materials and supplies. (General office supplies through general budget)

Book allowance of **\$1,000.00** per year.

Study/Office: Provide a private study/counseling room supplied with office furniture, a computer, printer, internet connection and cell phone **\$800.00** per year.

Secretarial services provided as needed on volunteer basis.

### **Fees:**

All non-reimbursed travel, supplies, and fees for attending Synod, Presbytery and assigned committee work.

Presbytery Family Camp: **\$1,500.00** per conference travel and cost for family Gulf-Great Lakes Presbytery or international conference in U.S.

Seminars: **\$200.00** Ligonier Orlando national conference (or other approved conference) registration and expenses.

**\$2,000.00** per year to be used for hospitality and/or entertainment expenses.

**Pension Plan:** X **\$7,500.00** per year Synod:

### **Vacation:**

4 (Four) weeks per year

Paid Sabbatical of 6 weeks after 7 years of continuous service.

In addition, the time for attendance at Synod, Presbytery, Family Conference and assisting with one communion per year, preaching is not required the Sabbath following these events. Attendance at these and other session approved conferences or ministries will not count against vacation time.

### **Moving Expenses:**

Cost of professional movers from present location to new location or as arranged by session in agreement with the pastor.

### **Other Benefits:**

Life Insurance **\$900.00** per year

We promise to review annually with you the adequacy of this compensation prior to the adoption of the congregation's budget meeting to take into account the cost of living increase (e.g. C.P.I.). In witness thereof, we subscribe this call and financial agreement, the 17 day of December in the year 2020, in the presence of these witnesses:

**Elders:**

James Pennington James Pennington  
Jonathan Schaefer Jonathan Schaefer  
Joseph A. Worsham Joseph Worsham

**Deacons:**

Scott Bailey Scott Bailey  
Becky Farrant Becky Farrant  
Steve Garrow Steve Garrow  
Chuck Bloom Chuck Bloom



**Communicant Members:**

<u>Elyse de la Cruz</u>	<u>Diane Schaefer</u>
<u>Laura &amp; Jenn Duffey</u>	<u>Katie Pote</u>
<u>Jessica Schaefer</u>	<u>Mr. Petra</u>
<u>Al Jupp</u>	<u>Jayna Bailey</u>
<u>Steven Family</u>	<u>Anthony J. Farrant</u>
<u>Timothy</u>	<u>Judith Bailey</u>
<u>Anja Knutson</u>	<u>Pell Binkley</u>
<u>Joe Johnson</u>	<u>Stephen Garrow</u>
<u>R. R. R.</u>	<u>Erin</u>
<u>Willie D.</u>	<u>Donna Worsham</u>
<u>J. J.</u>	<u>Pete &amp; Pat</u>





**Adherents:**

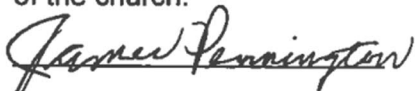
  
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**Witnesses:**

  
  
\_\_\_\_\_

Attestation of a Call and Financial Agreement I hereby certify that this call and financial agreement were made out on the date therein specified in accord with the law and order of the church.

  
James Pennington, Moderator

Request from Families of Immanuel RP Church  
(Note: names have been redacted)

**GLG 20-14**  
*Partially Redacted*

December 5, 2020

To the Presbyters of the Great Lakes / Gulf Presbytery

Greetings,

We the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ families are writing to request action of the GLG Presbytery following a decision of the Ad Interim Commission of this Presbytery. This commission, on July 26, 2020, passed a motion as follows:

At the request of the Immanuel RPC session, a motion was made to form a committee of three to advise the Immanuel RPC session as they deal with a sensitive matter. The committee members will be chosen by the Immanuel RPC session. The motion was seconded and carried.

The members chosen to formulate the Immanuel Advisory Committee were Adam Niess (chair), David Hanson, and Wade Mann. This committee has given real help to us while a sensitive matter has unfolded within our congregation (a situation which affects us deeply as families and congregants). However, as we have sought for an equitable path forward in this situation we have come upon limitations that are couched within the nature of a committee. Therefore we are asking that Presbytery give more authority to resolve the situation before us and the Immanuel Session. Our formal petition follows as thus:

That Presbytery dismiss the Immanuel Advisory Committee (which was established on July 26, 2020) and in its place, form a five-man Commission, to be composed of Adam Niess, David Hanson, Keith Evans, and two additional men at Presbytery’s discretion, in order to facilitate resolution in this sensitive matter and to ensure a just and impartial decision between the various parties of this case.

Sincerely yours,  
\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

Petition Addendum, December 14, 2020

Dear Ad-Interim Commission of the Great Lakes / Gulf Presbytery,

We would like to modify our original petition in regard to the naming of three members for the requested commission. In an email on December 9, 2020 the Immanuel Advisory committee wrote a document which included their hesitations for their involvement on a Presbytery commission:

The current committee members each has questions about our own ability to serve on such a commission for various reasons including: scheduling in light of other responsibilities, growing conflicts of interest that we feel, and questioning our own ability with all the evidence we have heard already to honestly rehear & reevaluate alongside an expanded team.

We take their concerns seriously and would like to modify our petition to reflect that Presbytery choose all members of this commission. An updated version of this petition would be:

That Presbytery dismiss the Immanuel Advisory Committee (which was established on July 26, 2020) and in its place, form a five-man Judicial Commission, members selected at Presbytery's discretion, in order to adjudicate this sensitive matter between us and the Immanuel Session, and to ensure a just and impartial decision between the various parties of this case.

Sincerely yours,  
\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_



December 18, 2020

Ad Interim Commission  
Great Lakes – Gulf Presbytery

Fathers and Brothers,

Attached please find a petition to the Presbytery from two of our member families asking

That Presbytery dismiss the Immanuel Advisory Committee (which was established on July 26, 2020) and in its place, form a five-man Judicial Commission, members selected at Presbytery’s discretion, in order to adjudicate this sensitive matter between us and the Immanuel Session, and to ensure a just and impartial decision between the various parties of this case.

At this time we are opposed to this appeal for a Presbytery commission. Another more expeditious approach would be our desire.

Our session has been working closely with the Presbytery committee appointed on July 26, 2020 to help all of us through this difficult situation. The Presbytery committee has spent many hours over the last several months becoming familiar with the issues, consulting other resources, and giving counsel to all the parties involved.

The committee is willing and able to continue their ministry to us.


To attempt to bring the issues to a conclusion, they have offered to spend up to three days in January working with all of us in a “binding mediation” setting. If any of us are dissatisfied with the results of that mediation, an appeal could be made to Presbytery at that time.

We agree with the Presbytery Committee’s concerns that to bring five other men (likely three other teaching elders and two ruling elders) up to speed who are completely unfamiliar with the issues, would take a tremendous amount of time and effort delaying any resolution for many months or longer.

We recommend giving the plan of the present Presbytery committee the opportunity to be used of the Lord to bring resolution before starting all over again now with a Presbytery commission.

Attached are the members’ petition and also the proposal of the Presbytery committee on how to move forward.

  
Keith R. Magill, Moderator Pro Tempore

  
David J. Carr, Clerk



# Immanuel RPC Building Loan Request

## **MORTGAGE LOAN APPLICATION For Congregations and Presbyteries of the RPCNA**

### **Applicant:**

Name Immanuel RP Church, Inc

Date December 12, 2020

Address 1893 E 600 N

Phone 765.320.0077 - church main

W. Lafayette, IN 47906

E-mail [keith@immanuelrpc.com](mailto:keith@immanuelrpc.com) (574-206-6394)

### **Summary of Application Requirements:**

- Building Loan Fund mortgages can be a maximum of \$175,000 at 3% interest over a max of 20 years. All loans may be paid off early with no penalty.
- General Mortgage Loan funds can be a maximum of \$225,000 at approximately market rates of interest over 20 years. The combined maximum loan for both types of loans is \$400,000.
- There is a small grant available with specific requirements listed in the application in order to qualify. Any grant received would reduce the total loan amount available.
- If approved, payments will be required on a monthly or quarterly basis **by ACH withdrawal only.**
- All loans require a minimum 10% down payment, or 10% of the project paid by the congregation's funds. A larger down payment is much preferred.
- All loans require much the same information that a bank would request, such as an income statement (prior year's income and expenses and a budget for the next calendar year) and a balance sheet (a list of your assets and loans or debts). The committee that oversees these loans has a fiduciary responsibility over these investment funds of the church, so they must ask for complete financial information much like a bank.
- An appraisal of the property, whether being purchased or improved, is usually necessary, and is the responsibility of the applying congregation. A local realtor or a title company or lawyer can usually help arrange for these things and the other requirements below.
- If approved, the congregation would be required to also arrange for and pay for a mortgage and note to be drawn up and filed at your local courthouse, along with a title search and title insurance and property insurance. The Trustees do not charge any fee for the loan, but you may have considerable expense for these other items.
- If possible, please return the application and other material by email. It will help speed up the committee's approval process. Please feel free to ask questions, I'll be happy to help. Our contact information is in the letterhead.

**Before completing this application, please read the applicable portions copied below from the "*Policies and Procedures for Loans and Grants Through Synod's Board of Trustees' Building Loan and Grant Committee*" and the article written by Ray Bowman.**

### **Please check all of the following that you are requesting:**

X General Investment Mortgage    X Building Loan Mortgage    X Grant

**Purpose of the Loan Request:** (Check both A and B)

- A. Purchase  \_\_\_\_\_  
Construct \_\_\_\_\_  
Remodel  \_\_\_\_\_  
Repair \_\_\_\_\_
- B. Church Building  \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsonage \_\_\_\_\_  
Property \_\_\_\_\_

If "Purchase" is checked, attach a **written appraisal** (Appendix #1) of the property prepared by a qualified real estate appraiser (a real estate listing of a property for sale is not sufficient).  
Also include a **survey** (Appendix # 2 & 3 – poor quality but the best available) of the property.

C. On a **separate sheet** (Page 6 below), please describe in some detail the cost, need, and other pertinent factors of the project for which this loan is being requested. Please demonstrate in your response how this plan satisfies the requirements in section IV. D. of the "Policies and Procedures" below. If a grant is being requested, please specifically respond to items IV.C., IV.D.9., and IV.E. below in demonstrating the need for a grant.

**Additional Information:**

- A. Do you currently own property (building and / or land)? Yes  \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
- B. Value of present property and buildings, if any \$ 425,000 - sale price of present property  
(Attach a **realtor's appraisal** **Purchase Agreement** (Appendix #4) to support the above figure)
- C. In whose name is the title to the property? Immanuel Reformed Presbyterian Church
- D. Are there any restrictions to this title? No
- E. What mortgages or other liens are on the above titled property; and by whom are they held? None
- F. Is this requested loan to apply to any property on which there is already any mortgage or other outstanding lien? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, please give details:

**The following additional requirements apply to a congregational request for a loan:**

1. Attach a report of the current year's total congregational budget and a copy of the previous year's total financial report (income statement). Also include all assets and liabilities of the congregation (balance sheet).

**Note:** Our fiscal year end is June 30. Attached are the **2019-20 Financial Report** (Appendix #5), the **2020-21 Budget** (Appendix #5) and the **July thru September 2020 Financial Report** (Appendix #6).

2. Attach a copy of next year's budget (or proposed budget), which shows all expenses of the above proposed project, including payments on this mortgage loan.

Note: We have allocated \$56,500 for building expenses on Line 19 of our current 2020-21 Budget

Note: We do not have a 2021-22 budget at this time.

Note: We are in the process of replacing our “homemade” financial spreadsheets with commercial software. Unfortunately, we have not yet completed that transition.

3. In light of the work of the Board to Address Disability Concerns, we recommend that: “in all new construction, additions, or renovations, consideration be given to including accessibility to persons with disabilities.”

**Financing Arrangements:**

A. Total proposed cost of project	(1)	\$ 1,100,000
Available cash on hand	(2)	\$ 480,000
Additional amount to be raised by borrower	(3)	\$ 190,000
Additional amount to come from a Grant or other sources	(4)	\$ 30,000
Total of (2), (3), and (4)	(5)	\$ 700,000
Amount requested; (1) less (5)	(6)	\$ 400,000

**Please give details of (3) and (4):**

- (2) – Includes our Building Fund plus proceeds from the sale of our current property
- (3) – Please see the letter at the end of this application as requested in “Purpose of the Loan Request Section C” above for the details
- (4) – The Center for Congregations in Indianapolis is the source

**B. Repayment Schedule:**

**Please note:** The loan period shall not exceed twenty (20) years for either type of Mortgage loan. The more rapidly funds are repaid, the more quickly others can be helped with loans. Payments will be due quarterly unless otherwise arranged, and all payments will be made by ACH withdrawal only.

1. Please give details on the loan period you are requesting, and the payment frequency.  
We are requesting a 20 year loan, payable on a quarterly basis via ACH.
2. The Trustees of Synod hold funds for approved loans available for a maximum of 90 days. This limit has been set so funds will not be held inactive for an undue length of time. If the loan is approved, how soon would you plan to use the funds?  
by 12/30/20

**C. Requirements For Closing:**

1. As security for the Church’s investment, the Trustees of Synod require that they be issued a standard commitment for title insurance and given a recorded mortgage for the amount of the loan. These will be the responsibility of the borrower.
2. Adequate property and casualty insurance is required with a mortgagee clause included according to item IV. L. of the “Policies and Procedures”. A certificate of insurance to confirm the coverage should be sent to the Trustees of Synod.



Note: We will send these items to you as soon as we have them.

**Authorization:**

Signature of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

For loans to congregations, please provide signatures of all elders, **and the deacon chair.**

Signature <i>Keith R. Magill</i>	Signature <i>Madison Blackwood</i>
Signature <i>Benjamin D. Larson</i>	Signature <i>David J. Carr</i>
Signature <i>Nathaniel D. Phillips</i>	Signature <i>Israel P. Christ</i>
Signature <i>Benjamin C. [unclear]</i>	(Deacon Chair)

Loans to congregations require the approval of the Presbytery or Ad Interim Commission based on their evaluation and counsel according to item IV. G. of the "Policies and Procedures" below.

Name of Approving Organization: Ad Interim Commission of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery

Officers: Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Title Moderator

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Title Clerk

**Your signature means you have read, evaluated, and approved this application.**

<b>FOR TRUSTEES USE ONLY</b>	
Date of Receipt of Application _____	Date of Reply _____
<b>BUILDING LOAN MORTGAGE</b>	<b>GENERAL INVESTMENT MORTGAGE</b>
Amount Requested \$ _____	Amount Requested \$ _____
Amount Approved \$ _____	Amount Approved \$ _____
Time Period of Loan _____ Years	Time Period of Loan _____ Years
Annual Interest Rate _____ %	Annual Interest Rate _____ %
Payments \$ _____ per _____ (Includes Interest & Principal)	Payments \$ _____ per _____ (Includes Interest & Principal)

**FUNDS GRANTED** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Trustees,

A couple years ago, it was becoming clear to our Session that our congregation was approaching the maximum capacity that could reasonably be expected to function well in our present building. The Session decided to ask Keith Magill to take on a newly created position of “Facilities Administration and Planning Coordinator” to address both how to maximize the use of our present facility and to begin planning for what might be next if our congregation continued to grow. In God’s Providence, we’ve experienced an unprecedented growth in adherents and members over the past year and a half, far beyond what we anticipated when this position was first being proposed. In the past 18 months Jesus has added to his church at Immanuel about 17 family units and 25 covenant children. More are in the membership process. We’ve had 18 baptisms so far in 2020 and more are coming. With COVID, we have had to go to 2 services in the morning and crowded classrooms for our Sunday evening Sunday School. Our facilities have gone from tight to overcrowded. Our classrooms are packed, our sanctuary seating likely violates fire code and necessitates either overflow to the fellowship hall or two services, and our fellowship dinners (before COVID) overflow to the sanctuary or to the outdoors. This is a great blessing to our congregation, as many of these new adherents and members are new to Reformed and Presbyterian doctrine and life.

We have carefully considered sending out a group of our people to start a new congregation at this time. But for many reasons we don’t see this as a workable option right now. Reasons include, that of our total communicant and baptized membership of 173, there are 94 children high school age and below. This does not count adherent families and children who are in the process of joining. In addition, all these new families are not yet sufficiently oriented to the RP church to become “seed families” in a new work.

In 2019 a Facilities Expansion Committee was created to consider how to deal with the pressing situation with our facilities. We talked with church builders about new construction and about adding onto our present facilities. When the numbers they provided were reviewed, the consensus was that our congregation was much better off buying another existing building if at all possible. However, the few properties that were available were too expensive or weren’t going to meet our needs in terms of space or parking. So, we praised God when a local Masonic Lodge came on the market that was a good size and a great location for a price that we felt was viable. The Masons quickly received several full price offers (\$670,000) from others who wanted to convert the building into apartments or tear it down. We offered \$600,000, waited and prayed for several months while things shut down due to COVID-19, met with the Masons to discuss the offer, and revised our offer upward to \$610,000 (plus side perks like manpower for doing the clean-out and providing storage space). We rejoiced greatly when the Lord answered our prayers, and they accepted our offer. The building has been poorly maintained for the past decade or more, so there is a great deal of cosmetic work to do. For example, the 70+ year old boiler heating system needs to be completely replaced with a modern HVAC system. Initial estimates are \$100,000+. However, the



building has a 2 year old roof and is constructed with concrete block and poured concrete floors with a limestone exterior veneer (Masons!). The structure is very solid. You can see a lot of details in the Appraisal (Appendix # 1) that is included with this application.

As for our present property - We have a signed **Purchase Agreement** (Appendix #4) with a local Lutheran church for its sale for \$425,000. The anticipated closing date is December 28, 2020. This will provide much of the seed money for the new building. Our financial plan also includes \$190,000 of further fundraising by our congregation, nearly half of which has been pledged already. And we are debt free. Our tithe (General Fund) income is up about 35% over last year and, there is \$56,890 in our Building Fund. We praise God that the increase in members and adherents is evident in our giving increases. We have budgeted about \$475,000 for renovations to the new (to us!) building. Although this loan application is requesting the maximum amount from Synod, we feel confident that we can pay it off without difficulty.

You can see from the included financial reports that our budget this year (2020-21) (Appendix #5 & 6) is much the same as last year (2019-20) in terms of our ministry expenses and giving to missions. The congregation is committed to keeping spiritual ministry preeminent even in the midst of what will be a large renovation project, and our budget is evidence of that.

We are in the process of revising our 2020-21 budget now that we have a better idea of Building Expenses.

We are requesting a grant from the Building Loan and Grant Fund. We are not a wealthy congregation per capita, especially since over half our congregation is children. Finances are dictating that we will need to do much of the work on this building ourselves. Our greatest concern as a congregation is losing sight of the ministry in front of us because of the large amount of work to do on this building. Our members have offered hundreds of hours of volunteer labor over the next couple years. So, we request a grant simply because it will allow us to contract out some parts of the renovation that otherwise would not have been possible and will free time up for our members to do other kinds of spiritual work that may not be possible with a hammer in hand.

The building does need modifications to make it handicap accessible. We have plans for permanent fixes that include a ramp and a multi-level lift. The lift, in particular, will be expensive, but we are committed to allowing all people to worship the Lord, not just those who can walk up stairs.

We appreciate your consideration of our request.

## Ad Interim Commission Minutes from December 29, 2020

The Ad Interim Commission of the Great Lakes – Gulf Presbytery met on Tuesday, December 29, 2020 by Zoom video conference call.

1. Elders present were Moderator Kent Butterfield (Durham), Greg Fisher (Marion), Jon Hughes (Southfield), Phil Pockras (Belle Center) and Steve Rhoda (Terre Haute). Also present were two of the three members of the Immanuel Advisory Committee (David Hanson and Adam Niess).
2. The court was constituted, in prayer in the name and by the authority of Jesus Christ, by Steve Rhoda at 7:03 p.m. EST.
3. Kent Butterfield read from and commented on 1 John chapter 5.
4. It was moved, seconded and passed to approve the agenda.
5. The Immanuel Advisory Committee members gave an update on their work with the Immanuel Session and other affected families and answered questions.
6. David Hanson and Adam Niess were dismissed from the meeting at 8:13 p.m.
7. It was moved, seconded and passed to establish a five-man Judicial Commission to investigate the degree of problems of child abuse at Immanuel RP Church, determine what counseling and any help that any perpetrators and victims, along with their families, and the Session and congregation may need and whether parties involved are cooperating with civil authorities (since the Department of Child Services and the Tippecanoe County Sheriff have been involved). They are also to give recommendations to Presbytery in the following areas: 1. Legal, 2. Ecclesiastical and 3. Pastoral. In addition, we call upon the churches and members of Presbytery who are becoming aware of this situation to practice grace, mercy, and patience. We would give assurance that much ministry has already taken place and the establishing of a Judicial Commission is for the purpose of ensuring good and just ministry in the future.
8. A pastoral call from Columbus RP Church on Rev. Joel Hart was taken up. It was moved, seconded and passed to approve the call as a regular gospel call and to forward it to Joel Hart.
9. The minutes were read and approved.
10. It was moved, seconded and passed to adjourn.
11. Greg Fisher adjourned the court in prayer in the name and by the authority of Jesus Christ at 9:34 p.m. EST.



Kent Butterfield, AIC Moderator



Jon Hughes, AIC Clerk

## Pastor's Call

We, the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Columbus, Indiana, under the care of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery, being without a pastor to take the spiritual oversight of us in the Lord; and satisfied that your spiritual attainments, intellectual abilities, and soundness in the faith and the Testimony of the Reformed Presbyterian Church are fitted to our capacities, do now, with the concurrence of Presbytery, call you, Joel Hart, to undertake the office of pastor among us.

Upon your accepting this call and performing the duties of your office as set forth by the Constitution, we promise you all due respect and support in the Lord. We hereby promise to pay you a direct compensation of \$7,000 per month, equivalent to \$84,000 annually. Of this compensation, up to 50% is designated as an allowance for furnishings and appurtenances for your dwelling as set forth by Section 107 of the I.R. Code. We include the following in the annual compensation package, except item 4 as shown below:

1. Housing: up to 50% of total compensation designated as housing allowance
2. Business Expense
  1. Study/office and furnishings
  2. Office materials and supplies
  3. Secretarial services
  4. Mileage allowance as set forth by the IRS Standard Mileage Rate
  5. \$500/year for refreshment and/or continuing education
  6. \$1,000/year for book allowance
  7. \$1,500/year for hospitality and/or entertainment expenses
3. Other Benefits
  1. Pension Plan: \$6,000 per year
  2. 3 weeks paid vacation time each year
  3. Paid time off for attendance at church functions: Synod, Presbytery, Presbytery Family Camp or RP International
  4. Presbytery Family Camp or RP International: family fees paid
4. Relocation Package: \$5,000

We promise to review annually with you the adequacy of this compensation prior to the adoption of the congregation's budget meeting to take into account the cost of living increase.



In witness thereof, we subscribe this call and financial agreement, the 28th day of December in the year 2020, in the presence of these witnesses:

Elders:

John Decker David Schisler Edward Schisler

Deacons:

Shane R. Decker R.L. Grayson  
Scott D. Decker Sean Matthews

Communicant Members:

<u>Ann Ann Brown</u>	<u>L.S.E.</u>	<u>Stephen Plana</u>
<u>Cynthia McNause</u>	<u>Amelir Jones</u>	<u>R.L. Grayson</u>
<u>Marvin Sabatino</u>		<u>Mary Lynn McCracken</u>
<u>Jacqueline Sabatino</u>		<u>Kara L. Schisler</u>
<u>McKenzie Marston</u>	<u>Jenelle C. Schisler</u>	<u>Katelyn Schisler</u>
<u>Henry Miller</u>	<u>Richard W. Holcomb</u>	<u>Debbie Woodman</u>
<u>Krista Best</u>	<u>Jane Melling</u>	<u>Abigail Plana</u>
<u>Lisa R. Shoop</u>	<u>Bryan Plana</u>	<u>Tommy</u>
<u>Shane R. Decker</u>	<u>Michael Melling</u>	<u>Katherine Jones</u>
<u>Denise Meng</u>	<u>H.A.</u>	<u>Brenda Plana</u>
<u>Benji R. Meng</u>	<u>John Decker</u>	<u>Robert McCracken</u>
<u>Andrew Meng</u>	<u>Jayanna G. Decker</u>	<u>Lynn Schisler</u>
<u>Harry D. Webb</u>		<u>Zachary Plana</u>
<u>Sarah Key</u>	<u>Lydia Plana</u>	<u>Laura M. Decker</u>

Communicant Members:

Julia Keller Heather R. Stearns  
Kelly Hoover [Signature]  
Scott Hoover [Signature]  
Angela Fox [Signature]  
Sean Mathews [Signature]  
Karen Mathews [Signature]  
Ethan Mathews [Signature]  
Logan Schultz [Signature]  
Amanda Schultz [Signature]  
Beth Crawford [Signature]  
Sylvia Mills [Signature]

Adherents:

Charlene Mae  
[Signature] Gray Mae

Attestation of a Call and Financial Agreement

I hereby certify that this call and financial agreement were made out on the date therein specified in accord with the law and order of the church.

David Schuster Moderator  
28 DEC 2020

## Ad Interim Commission Minutes from January 1, 2021

The Ad Interim Commission of the Great Lakes – Gulf Presbytery met on Friday, January 1, 2021 by Zoom video conference call.


1. Elders present were Moderator Kent Butterfield (Durham), Jon Hughes (Southfield), Phil Pockras (Belle Center) and Steve Rhoda (Terre Haute).
2. The court was constituted, in prayer in the name and by the authority of Jesus Christ, by Steve Rhoda at 8:07 p.m. EST.
3. Kent Butterfield read from and commented on James 1:12-27.
4. It was moved, seconded and passed to approve the agenda.
5. It was moved, seconded and passed to appoint the following men to the five-man Immanuel RP Church Judicial Commission (established on December 29, 2020):
  - Rev. Jason Camery (Marion), Moderator
  - Rev. Shawn Anderson (Kokomo)
  - Rev. Ian Wise (Southside)
  - Josh Reshy (Terre Haute)
  - Bob Burchfield (Southside)

This Commission should plan to report to the Spring 2021 meeting of Presbytery (March 4-6 at Southside RP Church).

6. The minutes were read and approved.
7. It was moved, seconded and passed to adjourn.
8. Phil Pockras adjourned the court in prayer in the name and by the authority of Jesus Christ at 8:31 p.m. EST.



Kent Butterfield, AIC Moderator



Jon Hughes, AIC Clerk

## Ad Interim Commission Minutes from January 11, 2021

The Ad Interim Commission of the Great Lakes – Gulf Presbytery met on Monday, January 11, 2021 by Zoom video conference call.

1. Elders present were Moderator Kent Butterfield (Durham), Greg Fisher (Marion), Jon Hughes (Southfield), Phil Pockras (Belle Center) and Steve Rhoda (Terre Haute).
2. The court was constituted, in prayer in the name and by the authority of Jesus Christ, by Phil Pockras at 7:04 p.m. EST.
3. It was moved, seconded and passed to approve the agenda.
4. It was moved, seconded and passed to grant Selma RP Church the privilege of calling a pastor.



5. It was moved, seconded and passed to approve a request from Selma RP Church for Ruling Elder Dr. George Evans to Moderate the meeting to elect a pastor tentatively scheduled for February 7, 2021.
6. The Clerk of Presbytery having informed us of the need for corrections to the minutes of the meeting of Presbytery on October 23, 2020 at Southside, it was moved, seconded and passed to refer the communication to Presbytery at the 2021 spring meeting.
7. The Sparta Installation Commission (for the installation of Rev. Ross Fearing) notified us that one member of the Commission is under quarantine due to COVID-19. Since according to the Book of Church Government (6.15 page D-33, "A quorum of a commission shall consist of not less than two-thirds of its members") the remaining two members of the Commission still constitute a quorum and so it was agreed that they could operate with two members (the third member could still "attend" via video conference).
8. The minutes were read and approved.
9. It was moved, seconded and passed to adjourn.
10. Greg Fisher adjourned the court in prayer in the name and by the authority of Jesus Christ at 7:43 p.m. EST.



Kent Butterfield, AIC Moderator



Jon Hughes, AIC Clerk

<h3>Ad Interim Commission Minutes from January 19, 2021</h3>
--------------------------------------------------------------

The Ad Interim Commission of the Great Lakes – Gulf Presbytery met on Tuesday, January 19, 2021 by Zoom video conference call.

1. Elders present were Moderator Kent Butterfield (Durham), Greg Fisher (Marion), Jon Hughes (Southfield), Phil Pockras (Belle Center) and Steve Rhoda (Terre Haute).
2. The court was constituted, in prayer in the name and by the authority of Jesus Christ, by Steve Rhoda at 7:06 p.m. EST.
3. Southside RP Church has informed us that they are unable to host the spring meeting of Presbytery in March. Sycamore RP Church has agreed to host the meeting. It was moved, second and passed to move the location of the March 4-6, 2021 meeting of presbytery to Sycamore RP Church, Kokomo IN (starting at 2:00 p.m. on March 4).
4. There was discussion regarding how to allow participation via Zoom conferencing. It was moved, seconded and passed to allow only those certified delegates with specific COVID-19 or other medical excuses to vote via video conferencing. This decision would need to be ratified at the start of the actual meeting of presbytery on March 4.
5. The minutes were read and approved.
6. It was moved, seconded and passed to adjourn.

7. Greg Fisher adjourned the court in prayer in the name and by the authority of Jesus Christ at 7:59 p.m. EST.



Kent Butterfield, AIC Moderator



Jon Hughes, AIC Clerk

<p>Ad Interim Commission Minutes from January 29, 2021</p>
------------------------------------------------------------

The Ad Interim Commission of the Great Lakes – Gulf Presbytery met on Friday, January 29, 2021 by Zoom video conference call.

1. Elders present were Moderator Kent Butterfield (Durham), Greg Fisher (Marion), Jon Hughes (Southfield), Phil Pockras (Belle Center) and Steve Rhoda (Terre Haute).
2. The court was constituted, in prayer in the name and by the authority of Jesus Christ, by Steve Rhoda at 7:03 p.m. EST.
3. It was moved, seconded and passed to approve the agenda.
4. It was moved, seconded and passed to appoint the following men as the Installation Commission for the installation of Rev. Nathan Eshelman at Orlando RP Church on March 18, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.:
  - a. Craig Scott, Moderator
  - b. Shawn Anderson
  - c. Ray Lanning
  - d. Jonathan Schaefer
5. It was moved, seconded and passed to appoint Wade Mann to moderate the beginning of the Spring Meeting (March 4-6, 2021 at Sycamore RP Church, Kokomo, IN) until a new Moderator is elected and for Phil Pockras to bring the opening sermon.
6. The minutes were read and approved.
7. It was moved, seconded and passed to adjourn.
8. Greg Fisher adjourned the court in prayer in the name and by the authority of Jesus Christ at 7:46 p.m. EST.



Kent Butterfield, AIC Moderator



Jon Hughes, AIC Clerk

## Ad Interim Commission Minutes from February 19, 2021

The Ad Interim Commission of the Great Lakes – Gulf Presbytery met on Friday, February 19, 2021 by Zoom video conference call.

1. Elders present were Moderator Kent Butterfield (Durham), Jon Hughes (Southfield), Phil Pockras (Belle Center) and Steve Rhoda (Terre Haute).
2. The court was constituted, in prayer in the name and by the authority of Jesus Christ, by Phil Pockras at 7:16 p.m. EST.
3. It was moved, seconded and passed to approve the agenda.
4. A pastoral call from Selma RP Church on Mark Brown was taken up. It was moved, seconded and passed to approve the call as a regular gospel call and to forward it to Mark Brown when he is licensed to receive a call.
5. It was moved, seconded and passed to adopt the report to Presbytery for the spring meeting March 4-6, 2021 in Kokomo, IN.
6. The minutes were read and approved.
7. It was moved, seconded and passed to adjourn.
8. The Moderator adjourned the court in prayer in the name and by the authority of Jesus Christ at 7:30 p.m. EST.



Kent Butterfield, AIC Moderator



Jon Hughes, AIC Clerk

**PASTOR'S CALL**

We, the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Selma, Al, under the care of the Great Lakes/Gulf Presbytery, being without a pastor to take the spiritual oversight of us in the Lord; and satisfied that your spiritual attainments, intellectual abilities and soundness in the faith and the *Testimony of the Reformed Presbyterian Church* are fitted to our capacities, do now, with the concurrence of Presbytery, call you, Mark Brown, to undertake the office of pastor among us. Upon your accepting this call and performing the duties of your office as set forth by the Constitution, we promise you all due respect and support in the Lord.

We hereby promise to pay you \$ 29,750.00, in the event of your accepting this call, and performing the duties of a pastor among us----a direct compensation of \$ 21,540.00, payable in 12 installments of \$ 1,795.00 each, on the first of each month. In the event that any new tithing members join the church, all compensation will be adjusted accordingly.

We include the following in the compensation package:

**1. Housing**

Free use of the manse.

\$ N/A per month to be used for housing.

\$ N/A as an interest-free loan to be used for down payment on housing.

Payment of utilities, water, gas, electricity, phone, trash services, security, internet:

All utilities covered

**Other housing arrangements.**

Repairs and upkeep. (The church is not obligated for anything outside of normal wear and tear. The church should be informed before any repairs are made).

## 2. Business Expenses

  VAN   Provide a car/van for church use.

  N/A   Mileage allowance as set forth by Synod.

Mileage allowance of   56   cents per mile for church related business.

\$  480.00  Office material and supplies, per year.

Book allowance of \$  200.00  per year.

\$   45   Cell phone allowance per month. (Included in direct compensation)

Fees: \$ 700.00  Synod; \$ 700.00  Presbytery; \$ 500.00  Conferences;

    \$  N/A  Seminars; \$ 500.00  Educational Meetings; \_\_\_\_\_ (list any others). Permitted upon approval.

  N/A   Secretarial services

\$   N/A   to be used for hospitality and/or entertainment expenses.

## 3. Other Benefits

Pension Plan: \$ 4,200.00  Synod: \$   N/A   Annuity: \$   N/A   per month.

\$   N/A   Payment in lieu of Social Security.

Health Insurance:   Pastor's Preference  . Amount to be paid \$   N/A  .

This Insurance only applies to the Pastor and coverage amount is included in the direct compensation. Said coverage amount may not exceed \$4,200 annually. In the event the Pastor marries the Pastor can choose to be covered by a Spouse's Health Plan without any further obligations from the church.

Vacation:

  3   weeks will be provided each year. (No carryover)

Holidays:

New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and day after, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. (If any holiday falls on a Sunday another day can be chosen in lieu of).



Attendance at church functions: 1 week time off for Synod; 1 week time off for Presbytery; 1 week time off for guest preaching/speaking opportunities; 1 week time off for Presbytery Summer Conference or RP International Conference; 1 week time off for Ministry-Related Conference.

Other functions: Pulpit exchanges after Presbytery and Synod.

Non-financial compensation-e.g. food for locker, etc. N/A

**Other special benefits.**

Discretionary Fund. (Line item on budget, no more than \$ 210.00 ).

Long Term Disability Insurance

The church presumes that the pastor shall carry long term disability Insurance (LTDI) protection. The church agrees to pay for 20% of the cost of the premium for such policy. However, the church has the right to approve the usage of a given policy. Should the pastor not purchase any (LTDI), the church has no additional obligation other than what is discussed in the subsequent paragraph of this agreement. The church will not reimburse the pastor for any short term disability Insurance premiums.

Disabling Event

In the event of a disabling accident or illness, the church will continue to pay the pastor the usual compensation (as quantified in above Total Dollar Financial Compensation) through the first three (3) months of the disability. After the above three (3) month period, the church shall compensate the pastor at a rate of 40% of the pastor's compensation for an additional three (3) month period. The session has full discretion with respect to whether the pastor has suffered a disabling event. However, in the event that the pastor has LTDI, any determination by the insurance carrier that the pastor is disabled will result in the presumption that a disabling event has indeed occurred.

## Death

Should the pastor die during his employment with the church, his surviving spouse shall be compensated in the same fashion as in the foregoing paragraph entitled "Disabling Event." Should the pastor not be married at the time of his death, the church shall not have any obligation with respect to the above "Disabling Event" paragraph unless the pastor has children under the age of twenty one (21).

### **4. Moving Expenses**

Cost of professional movers from present location to new location.

Up to \$     N/A     to be used for moving expenses.

We promise to review annually with you the adequacy of this compensation prior to the adoption of the congregation's budget meeting to take into account the cost of living increases.

