

Great Lakes – Gulf Presbytery
Report of the Ad Interim Commission to Presbytery
March 4-6, 2021

The Ad Interim Commission of the Great Lakes – Gulf Presbytery would respectfully report that we have taken the following actions in constituted court since September 17, 2020:

1. Regarding the trial of Dr. Michael LeFebvre:
 - a. Set the time and place for a trial for October 23-24, 2020 at Southside RP Church, Indianapolis.
 - b. Appointed Ray Morton as Clerk and Jon Hughes as Assistant Clerk for the trial.
 - c. Determined that counsel for the defense must be a member of the RPCNA.
 - d. Received a letter from Roel Ophoff, Ruling Elder at Los Angeles RP Church, requesting the trial be cancelled, and informed him that we had no authority to end or suspend the trial.
 - e. Informed Rev. Bill Chellis, who was to serve as counsel for the defense of Mr. LeFebvre, that a requested delay in the trial was not to be allowed simply to accommodate his preferred schedule.
 - f. Approved a request from the prosecutors to add additional witnesses to be summoned and subsequently approved a request for a continuance. Re-scheduled the trial for November 13-14, 2020.
 - g. Informed Nathan Enas (a member of Christ Church RP) that a petition from him to the Presbytery, regarding the trial, that was sent directly to the Ad Interim Commission, needed to be re-submitted to his local Session for them to forward it to Presbytery.
 - h. Received complaints against actions of the Ad Interim Commission from James Faris and also from Jared Olivetti (with James Faris) which had also been filed with the Clerk of Synod. Also, acknowledged the existence of three complaints to Synod regarding the LeFebvre judicial case, all of which had been processed through the Moderator and Clerk of Presbytery.
2. Regarding vacant pulpits, pastoral calls, ministerial credentials, etc.:
 - a. Declared the Orlando RP Church pulpit vacant effective October 19, 2020. Appointed Teaching Elder James Pennington as Interim Moderator of the Orlando Session. Transferred the credentials of Mr. H.P. McCracken to the Midwest Presbytery. Authorized the Orlando Session to call a new pastor.
 - b. Declared Christ Church RP's pulpit vacant effective October 5, 2020 on the resignation of Dr. LeFebvre. Appointed Teaching Elder James Faris as Interim Moderator of the Christ Church Session. Authorized the Christ Church Session to continue to conduct the sacraments and to make out a call for a new pastor.
 - c. Sustained the action of the Westminster RP Church Session in hiring Pastor Brett Mahlen as their interim pastor and that, as long as he is the interim pastor, he be invited to the meetings of Presbytery, be granted the privilege of the floor of Presbytery and be included in the Presbytery Travel Fund.

- d. Approved a pastoral call to Gary McNamee from Grace RPC (Columbia, MO) as a regular gospel call and forward it to Mr. McNamee. On his acceptance of that call approved the transfer of his license to receive a call to the Midwest Presbytery effective October 26, 2020.
 - e. Appointed an Installation Commission for installing Rev. Ross Fearing at Sparta RPC on December 4, 2020 consisting of Rich Johnston (Moderator), Russell Lodge and Wade Mann. Subsequently, agreed that due to COVID-19 restrictions that the Commission could operate with two members (the third member could still “attend” via video conference).
 - f. Appointed Ruling Elder David Schisler as Interim Moderator of the Columbus RP Church effective October 27, 2020.
 - g. Received the ministerial credentials for Rev. Bill Roberts from the Midwest Presbytery.
 - h. Receive the ministerial credentials for Rev. Ross Fearing from the Midwest Presbytery.
 - i. Approved a pastoral call to Rev. Nathan Eshelman from Orlando RPC as a regular gospel call and forwarded it to the Ad Interim Commission of the Pacific Coast Presbytery.
 - j. Approved a pastoral call to Rev. Joel Hart from Columbus RPC as a regular gospel call and forwarded it to Mr. Hart.
 - k. Granted Selma RP Church the privilege of calling a pastor. Approved a request from the Selma Session for Ruling Elder Dr. George Evans to Moderate the meeting to elect a pastor on February 7, 2021.
 - l. Appointed a commission for the installation of Rev. Nathan Eshelman at Orlando RP Church on March 18, 2021 consisting of Craig Scott (Moderator), Shawn Anderson, Ray Lanning and Jonathan Schaefer.
3. Other matters:
- a. Appointed Keith Magill temporary moderator of the Immanuel RP Session for matters in which Pastor Jared Olivetti desired to recuse himself.
 - b. Referred a request from Mr. Scott McCullough for cessation of his ordination back to the Marion Session for their disposition and counsel to him.
 - c. Appointed Ruling Elder David Schisler to the Louisville Commission at the commission’s request.
 - d. Referred to the Clerk of Presbytery, Mr. Kuehner, a request for transfer of the Rhyne family from the roll of Presbytery to First Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church in Lancaster, SC.
 - e. Appointed a commission for the ordination of Andrew Battiato, at the request of the Global Mission Board, at 2nd RPC, Indianapolis, IN, on January 8, 2021 consisting of James Faris (Moderator), Dean Filson, David Hanson, Joel Hart, and Jared Olivetti.
 - f. Referred to this spring 2021 meeting of Presbytery a request from the Presbytery of the Alleghenies, asking that the Great Lakes – Gulf Presbytery appoint a teaching elder to serve as an advisory member of their Birmingham Commission. Communicated that referral to the Presbytery of the Alleghenies.
 - g. Referred to the Clerk of Presbytery, Mr. Kuehner, a request from Rehobeth Presbyterian Church (ARP), Waxhaw, NC, for the transfer of membership to them of Ron and Judy Posvar, former members of Pageland RP Church, Pageland, SC.

- h. Met with members of the Immanuel RP Church Session regarding matters for which a previous Ad Interim Commission (on July 26, 2020) established an Immanuel Advisory Committee to counsel the Session of Immanuel and families of the congregation. Also met with two members of that advisory committee. Established a five-man Judicial Commission to investigate problems at Immanuel RP Church and to bring recommendations to Presbytery at this spring 2021 meeting. The Commission consists of Rev. Jason Camery [Marion] (Moderator), Rev. Shawn Anderson [Kokomo], Rev. Ian Wise [Southside], Josh Reshy [Terre Haute] and Bob Burchfield [Southside].
- i. Approved Immanuel RPC's request for a loan from Synod towards the purchase of a new building.
- j. Referred a question from the Clerk of Presbytery, Mr. Kuehner, regarding the need for corrections to the minutes of the special meeting of Presbytery on October 23, 2020 at Southside, to Presbytery at this spring 2021 meeting.
- k. Moved the location of this March 4-6, 2021 meeting of Presbytery to Sycamore RP Church, Kokomo IN. Approved only those certified delegates with specific COVID-19 or other medical excuses to vote via video conferencing. This decision needs to be ratified at the start of this meeting on March 4, 2021.
- l. Appointed Wade Mann to moderate the beginning of this spring 2021 meeting until a new Moderator is elected and for Phil Pockras to bring the opening sermon.

Recommendations

- 1. That the nominating committee in the future nominate men from different sessions for the Ad Interim Commission.

Kent Butterfield [Durham], Moderator

Jon Hughes [Southfield], Clerk

Greg Fisher [Marion]

Phil Pockras [Belle Center]

Steve Rhoda [Terre Haute]