

To: Great Lakes – Gulf Presbytery, c/o Rev. Adam Kuehner, *clerk*

From: St. Lawrence Presbytery, Brian E. Coombs, *clerk*

October 25, 2019

Dear Brothers,

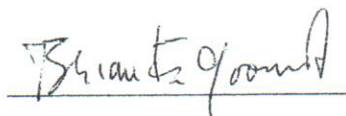
Greetings in the Lord Jesus Christ.

I have been tasked to write to you on behalf of the St. Lawrence Presbytery. At our October 9, 2019 meeting of Presbytery, we received a petition from four of our Canadian ministers. Our Presbytery Minutes consolidate the matter, and read as follows:

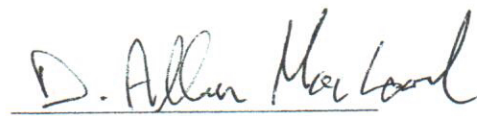
Presbytery considered a petition from Revs. Matt Dyck, Matt Kingswood, Andrew Quigley, and Scott Wilkinson. They moved 'that the St. Lawrence Presbytery write to our brothers in the Presbytery of the Great Lakes – Gulf, and ask them to appraise Rev. Dr. Michael LeFebvre's book 'The Liturgy of Creation: Understanding Calendars in Old Testament Context', his article 'Adam Reigns in Eden,' and his recent posting on the Biologos website (<https://biologos.org/articles/cracking-the-code-of-cadence-the-genre-of-genesis>) to ascertain whether or not these writings are consistent with the subordinate standards of the RPCNA, (viz. The Westminster Confession, and the Larger and Shorter Catechisms and the Reformed Presbyterian Testimony). We request that the Presbytery of the Great Lakes – Gulf be asked to forward their conclusions to this Presbytery.' Presbytery discussed the matter, noting also that the Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary has seated a committee of professors to consider the essence of this Presbytery's motion. Presbytery recessed for lunch at 12pm. Presbytery reconvened at 1:15pm with prayer by led by Victor Tochijara. ... Presbytery returned to the motion it was considering before recess. Presbytery passed the motion unanimously.

We recognize that the Great Lakes – Gulf Presbytery did not ask the Seminary professors to seat their review committee, nor to our knowledge is involved in formal matters of investigation of Rev. LeFebvre's writings. Even so we respectfully request that the Presbytery consider and support our formal, presbyterial request of you. The Lord guide you in your deliberations, brothers.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the St. Lawrence Presbytery,



Brian E. Coombs, *clerk*



D. Allan MacLeod, *moderator*



# Christ Church reformed presbyterian

---

[www.ccrp.church](http://www.ccrp.church) • Phone. 317-456-2551

Mailing address: P.O. Box 34182, Indianapolis, IN 46234

Meeting location: 5075 N. Raceway Road, Indianapolis, IN 46234

November 20, 2020

Dear Mr. Kuehner,

Please find the attached letter from Mr. Nathan Enas, a member in good standing at Christ Church Reformed Presbyterian, for the attention of the Presbytery.

Mr. Enas submitted his communication to the CCRP Session on November 14, 2020. The Session acted on November 17, 2020 to forward the communication to Presbytery without endorsement.

In Christ

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jason O'Neill".

Jason O'Neill, Clerk

23 Oct 2020

To the Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery (GLGP):

Today has been a trying day, I am sure, as you met at Southside RPC to deliberate the disposition of Dr. Michael LeFebvre's credentials/charges and the trial you had previously agreed to hold. I attended today's meeting, as well as the 11 Sep 2020 meeting at Second RPC. Church reformers of past centuries taught that Christ's body, the church, is defined by three characteristic marks: the faithful preaching of the whole counsel of God in His word, the faithful administration of the sacraments, and the faithful execution of discipline. GLGP has generally excelled at the first two of these, from my observation, but these last two presbytery meetings have shown your failure to ensure the last one: discipline. Our Testimony says, "When sound preaching and proper discipline are neglected, it is the duty of Christians to attempt its reformation." This is the reason for my letter.

I don't need to create a new thesis. The thesis several of you already explained during today's meeting will suffice: your work of discipline in the case of Dr. LeFebvre remains incomplete until you hold a trial for his alleged offenses that you deemed were credible, and so voted to schedule (and later, did schedule) a trial. The fact that he has since resigned as my pastor, and subsequently asked to be removed from the roles of my church, should have no bearing on the need to complete your work. Yet, you not only cancelled the trial, but you washed your hands of the entire matter by voting that you no longer have jurisdiction over him. Once Motion #1 was approved, I noticed the mood of the meeting lighten greatly. I would have been relieved, too, if I were one of you, to be able to move on to other pressing needs in my life. But our happiness is not paramount, but rather the glory of Christ in His house, and your actions today sacrificed the latter to achieve the former.

Now, I realize some of you have heard that the LeFebvres feel bullied by GLGP, and if indeed any of you have bullied them, or if you have not properly shepherded Michael, you should certainly repent to the LeFebvres. However, no one stood up at today's meeting to represent the members of CCRP who feel betrayed by Michael and the rest of the session at CCRP, and now by GLGP. I did not hear any of you even ask how the members of CCRP had been affected by the controversy that has ensued since Michael's writings were published.

Instead, in a very close vote, you declared Michael is no longer your ecclesiastical concern since he "self-censured" himself and his family has suffered enough for alleged sins he will never be tried for, either to acquit Michael as innocent, or to censure him as guilty. There were some angry words for those who reminded you to do what you committed to do on 11 Sep 2020, but you eventually found a way to stop the bleeding and cover the wound, and now you may feel freed up to get back to your usual duties.

But I don't believe God has freed you. And I don't believe those of you who registered your dissent with the vote believe God has freed you. Those of you who dissented must continue to seek justice and reconciliation for Michael, for CCRP, for GLGP, for the RPCNA, for the blessed bride of Christ, and for the glory of Christ in his church. Otherwise, we are no church.

I believe that we at CCRP enjoyed Michael's exegesis, preaching and teaching for many years, and that, by God's grace, we grew by the sincere milk of God's word. However, now I am sad that 1) this era is over for CCRP, 2) Michael and his family have separated from CCRP and the RPCNA, 3) you have voted to abort church discipline in Michael's case, and 4) the only hope for proper discipline and reconciliation is if some of you will appeal to Synod, in which case our mutual pain and suffering will be prolonged for God knows how long.

For one, I will not go about business-as-usual and ignore this travesty. This is why I have taken time to write this letter. I have prayed for God's grace to attend it. God will defend the righteous, whoever they are, and by His mercy, He will help us all forsake our wicked ways, seek His forgiveness, reconcile with one another, make restitution where it is required, and walk humbly with God and one another until our blessed Lord returns.

Sincerely,

Nathan Enas  
Member, Christ Church Reformed Presbyterian  
Contact info: [enasnate@gmail.com](mailto:enasnate@gmail.com)



## PRESBYTERY OF THE ALLEGHENIES

Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America - [www.rpcna.org](http://www.rpcna.org)  
Moderator: Matt Filbert - [PastorMatt@firstprchurch.org](mailto:PastorMatt@firstprchurch.org) - 412-901-3553

Clerk: Martin Blocki - [mblocki1@consolidated.net](mailto:mblocki1@consolidated.net) - 412-901-3008  
Mailing address: 5368 Hardt Road, Gibsonia, PA 15044-9165

November 20, 2020

Rev. Kent Butterfield  
Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery, AIC  
727 Clarion Drive  
Durham, North Carolina 27705

Martin Blocki  
Clerk, Presbytery of the Alleghenies  
5368 Hardt Road  
Gibsonia, Pennsylvania 15044

Dear Kent:

At the recent meeting of the Presbytery of the Alleghenies, the following motion was passed:

“that we ask the Great Lakes Gulf presbytery to appoint a teaching elder from their presbytery to be an advisory member of our Birmingham commission.”

As clerk, it is my responsibility to pass this request on to you as chair of the Great Lakes Gulf Ad Interim Commission. Moderator Matt Filbert has signed the document attesting to the accuracy of this request.

If you would like more information surrounding the nature of the debate and the rationales for this request, I would invite you to contact Matt or myself. We will glad to give you background information that is germane to the request.

In Christ's love and service,

---

Martin Blocki  
Clerk, Presbytery of the Alleghenies

---

Matt Filbert  
Moderator, Presbytery of the Alleghenies.

*Atlanta RPC*  
*Temporary Governing Body*  
*Rev. Steven Work, Moderator*  
*Timothy J. Vincze, Clerk*

January 21, 2021

Dear Mr. Kuehner

Please find attached to this email two .jpg files containing a petition from Pastor Frank Smith to the Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery for its consideration at the upcoming March meeting. The members of the Atlanta RPC TGB approve this petition.

Yours in the Lamb,

Timothy J. Vincze  
Clerk of TGB

5830 Millstone Drive  
Cumming, Georgia 30028  
770-241-3946

December 31, 2020

To the Temporary Governing Body of Atlanta Reformed Presbyterian Church

Dear Fathers and Brethren:

I am hereby asking that you forward this petition to Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery, for it to adopt the following statements, and also for it to forward this petition to the RPCNA Synod so that it can likewise adopt these statements.

*1. This court hereby declares that belief in the literal parentage of Adam and Eve as our first parents is an essential point of the Christian system of doctrine.*

*2. This court hereby declares that belief in biological evolution (that is, the change from one "kind" of animal to another), and particularly belief in the evolution of the body of Adam from lower creatures, is incompatible with the Christian system of doctrine, and furthermore that denial of said evolutionary views is an essential point of the Christian system of doctrine.*

I am presenting this petition in the sincere hope that the adoption of these statements may serve as a way of healing the wounds which the RPCNA has suffered as a result of having to deal with Michael Lefebvre's writings. Even though this Presbytery did not approve of Dr. Lefebvre's views, nevertheless, the fact that the Presbytery did not complete the disciplinary process has raised serious concerns that threaten the peace and unity of the RPCNA, and that threaten our reputation as a Reformed branch of the church and a member of NAPARC.

Our brother was well regarded for the work he had done on behalf of the RPCNA—work which also had been of benefit more widely. Personal factors, including considerations of friendship, undoubtedly, played a major role in the decision to terminate judicial process. Short-circuiting the proceedings is, therefore, from one perspective, understandable. However, not following through with the charges raises questions as to whether or not this Presbytery believes that the aberrant positions evident in the Lefebvre corpus are really that serious. For this reason, it is incumbent upon us as a Presbytery to declare, without equivocation, where we stand.

The two issues addressed in these proposed statements go to the heart of the matter. Anyone who does not know who our first parents were (in the plain, common-sense meaning of those words) is not fit to hold church office. The young people of our congregations know who our first parents were—and it would be unconscionable to allow someone who does not know that fundamental truth to occupy our pulpits. Similarly, Genesis 1 and 2 is abundantly clear and plain: God created each of the animals after its own kind, and then, by a separate act of fiat creation, made Adam of the dust of the ground and Eve from one of Adam's ribs. There is no excuse for anyone who holds church office not to adhere to these doctrines.

I am not usually a fan of *in thesi* statements. Our Presbyterian standards are sufficiently clear on these points. However, having failed to carry out discipline on someone who could not affirm these truths, we are now obligated to try to rectify the confusion that has been sown in our congregations and throughout the denomination as a whole. Now is the time. And that is true not only from the perspective that we need to make clear our theological commitment, but also from the perspective that there is at this time no pending judicial case. There is no personal dimension to distract us. While the bonds of friendship could have tempted us not to follow through with ecclesiastical justice, there is no such temptation at this very moment. Accordingly, now is the time to act.

Our making these declarations would be an act of candor and kindness. Dr. Lefebvre argued that he did not know that certain of his views, even though at odds with our standards, would disqualify him from official service. Perhaps there are others in our communion who are likewise confused on these matters. Our taking the envisioned action would clarify our position, so that, going forward, there will be no possibility of confusion.

Let me state what I believe is the crucial issue with respect to these two statements. Let's assume that everyone in our Presbytery personally would agree that Adam and Eve are our first parents, and also would personally disagree with biological evolution, including the idea that Adam's body evolved from a lower creature. However, *those personal beliefs of the members of the court are irrelevant*. What is critical is that the court maintains that beliefs contrary to these doctrines of the Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms is incompatible with holding church office.

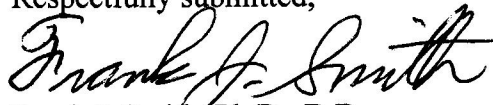
In the 1920s and 1930s, very few ministers in the PCUSA would have denied the virgin birth of Christ. However, a substantial majority of the ministers and elders was willing to allow office-bearers to remain in office even though those liberals denied belief in the virgin birth. Of course, the mushy middle making common cause with the liberals resulted in J. Gresham Machen and others being driven out of the denomination, and has led to the total apostasy and shipwreck of a once-great church.

Not making a firm declaration on these doctrines will signal an uncertain sound on our part. In such a scenario, if church history can be a guide, sliding into doctrinal decline and apostasy would be inevitable. That degradation would be accelerated by the inability of many in the RPCNA to remain within her, should she not take decisive action.

And, as I have suggested, NOW is the time to act, before another judicial case comes before us. Let us hope that that never happens. But, especially given what has transpired, it is far better for us to make clear where we stand, before another situation arises.

Thank you for your kind consideration of this petition.

Respectfully submitted,



Frank J. Smith, Ph.D., D.D.



On Tue, Feb 2, 2021 at 1:01 PM Kenneth A. Smith <[515baldwin@gmail.com](mailto:515baldwin@gmail.com)> wrote:

Mr. Kuehner,

I am writing to inform you that the Presbytery of Michigan and Ontario of the OPC has approved the transfer of Rev. Bryan Dage, a minister in good standing, to your presbytery. Please inform me when you have received him and we will at that point remove him from our rolls.

Rev. Ken Smith  
clerk