

**FIRST REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF GRAND RAPIDS  
VISITATION COMMITTEE  
INTERIM UPDATE REPORT TO GREAT LAKES-GULF PRESBYTERY - JUNE 2022**

**I. Background to the appointment of the Committee**

In early 2022 the First RPC-Grand Rapids ("FRPC-GR") Session forwarded to the Ad Interim Commission ("AIC") a request for the appointment of a visitation committee. That request came from two member families and one individual member who had expressed an intent to leave the FRPC congregation. Following the receipt of that request, an additional request for a visitation committee was received from another member of the congregation.

On February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022, the AIC, appointed a two-man Inquiry Committee to inquire into the request for the visitation committee to better understand the request. From that inquiry, the committee found that the FRPC-GR Session was also agreeable to the request of a visitation committee.

The Presbytery, at its Spring meeting in March 2022, upon the recommendation of the Inquiry Committee, appointed the FRPC-GR Visitation Committee ("Visitation Committee" or "Committee").

**II. Remit of the Committee**

The remit of the Committee was to meet with the parties petitioning for the visitation committee, the Session, and members of the congregation to hear concerns raised and to offer aid and counsel for the benefit of the congregation and report back to the Presbytery at the June meeting of Presbytery.

**III. Committee's Initial Plan**

To understand why the Visitation Committee was requested and what concerns there were in the church, the Committee's plan was to meet with the Session, with the individual parties that had petitioned for the Committee and any other members of the congregation who desired to meet with the Committee. From those meetings the Committee planned to assess needs in the church and offer aid and counsel as was deemed appropriate and beneficial to the Session and congregation.

**IV. Committee's Activities to Date**

The Committee had two meetings with the Session, meetings with three of the parties that petitioned for the Visitation Committee and with two other member families and one other individual member. All meetings were video conferences via Zoom.

**V. Status Update on the Committee's Work**

The Committee assessed what it learned from the meetings and has formulated an initial draft report for presentation to the Session and the congregation. Due to timing constraints and committee member availability the Committee has not finalized its report to the Session and congregation nor its report to the Presbytery as of the date of the submission of this report, June 7, 2022.

**VI. Committee's Remaining Plan**

The Committee's remaining plan is to finalize its report to the Session and congregation and then meet with the Session to discuss its report. Following that meeting, the Committee will present the report to the Session and the congregation. Delaying the report to Presbytery will not affect the timing of the presentation of the report to the Session and the congregation.

The Committee will prepare a final report to be provided to Presbytery at the planned Fall meeting of Presbytery.

Respectfully Submitted,

The First Reformed Presbyterian Church of Grand Rapids Visitation Committee  
Philip McCollum, Chairman (member of the original Inquiry Committee)  
Richard Blankenship (member of the original Inquiry Committee)  
Bryan Dage  
Jon Hughes