

Report of the Committee to Review Communication 22-13

The Ad Interim Committee of the Great Lakes – Gulf Presbytery, in constituted court, on May 18, 2022, tasked the Moderator, Mr. Nathan Eshelman, to appoint a three-man committee to review communication 22-13 (dealing with charges against Rev. James Faris) and bring recommendations to the Synod meeting of Presbytery in June 2022.

As that committee we have reviewed the material and met by video conference call on two occasions.

In light of these facts:

- Mr. Faris, while a Teaching Elder in the Presbytery, is also a member of Second Reformed Presbyterian Church, in Indianapolis.
- BOD II.1.5 (E-10), "The presbytery has original jurisdiction in relation to suspension, deposition, or excommunication of teaching elders; the session in relation to all others."
- BOD I.4.3.b (E-7), "The session may discipline a teaching elder as a member of the congregation, but its authority is limited to the censures of admonition and rebuke."

It appears to us that the court of original jurisdiction in this matter is the Session of Second Reformed Presbyterian Church.

Therefore, our recommendations are:

1. That Presbytery return the communication to the author with instruction that, if desired, the concerns can be brought to the Session of Second Reformed Presbyterian Church.
2. That this committee be dismissed.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Rhoda (chair)

Jon Hughes

Ian Wise