

The Clerk's Report

2022 Fall Presbytery Meeting
Oct 7-8, 2022 @ Columbus RPC

Dear Fathers & Brethren,

In the spring of 2023, I will (if elected) be entering my tenth year at the clerk's table, having previously served as assistant clerk (2014-15) and, more recently, as clerk (2016-Present). Appended to this report are detailed job descriptions for these two roles. At present, I am devoting *well* in excess of 200 hours per year to clerk work. After much thought and prayer, I have concluded that this is no longer sustainable for me on a long term basis.

Having spent considerable time attempting to divide up the clerk-load into a third clerk's role (as suggested by the Realignment Comte, of which I am a member), I have been unable to come up with a proposal that would be realistic, sustainable, or desirable for me to manage, given my local church and family responsibilities. The tasks involved in this job are far too interrelated to simply divide up in that fashion, and the time it would take to coordinate all these moving parts would not be insignificant.

Therefore, I am hereby notifying the presbytery that 2024-25 will be the last year in which I intend to accept a nomination to serve as clerk or assistant clerk of the GLGP. This gives the court until **March 2025 (approx. 30 months)** to find a suitable replacement or alter its mode of operations. I want to thank everyone for their kind words of encouragement over the years. I have been immensely blessed by the privilege of serving you, and look forward eventually to continuing that service in a variety of other ways, as the Lord leads.

New and existing communications are as follows.

- **21-5**: Letter from Jo. Kessler (RPCL) expressing concern regarding GLGP's handling of IRPC judicial case.¹
- **22-17**: Complaint ~ Swan et al v. GLGP-AIC, received 9/16/22.
- **22-18**: Complaint ~ Enas v. CCRP Commission, received 9/16/22.
- **22-19**: Petition from RPC of Lafayette requesting authorization to call an additional teaching elder.²
- **22-20**: Petition from Bloomington RPC proposing a revision to the GLGP's Child Protection Policy

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That presbytery appoint the following parliamentarians for this meeting: J. Odom, J. O'Neill, F. Smith, (alt.), S. Rhoda (alt).
2. That presbytery adopt it as a standing policy to prohibit all audio and/or video recordings of its ecclesiastical reports and deliberations — excluding non-deliberative items, e.g. preaching (with the preacher's permission), Psalm-singing, ordination/installation services; and excluding the recording of oneself — without express permission from the court.
3. That presbytery receive the minutes of the Smith Ordination/Installation Commission and the Murray Exam Commission, along with the written report of the CCRP Shepherding Committee.
4. That presbytery return GLG 21-5 to its author, Jordan Kessler (RPCL), with thanks, referring him to synod's recent verdict.
5. That presbytery rule GLG 22-17 out of order (DCG II.4.3, E-15) due to its submission on 9/16/22, which is more than 30 days subsequent to the action complained against: namely, the AIC's appointment of commission members on 6/10/22.³
6. That presbytery, prior to hearing GLG 22-18 as outlined in the proposed agenda, vote on the receiving of the CCRP Commission minutes; after which, if the minutes are received without rescindment of the commission's decision to not sustain GLG 22-15, the court shall "decline to act" upon GLG 22-18 (BOD II.4.1, E-15) by returning GLG 22-18 to its authors, reminding all parties of their liberty to appeal presbytery's decision concerning GLG 22-15 to the higher court of synod (BOD II.4.10, E-17); this action being grounded upon at least two "sufficient reasons": (1) Hearing the complaint after receiving the commission minutes without rescindment of the action complained against would involve the presbytery in the tedious redundancy of adjudicating a complaint against an action which it has already affirmed; and (2) GLG 22-18 lacks the precision and clarity requisite for proper adjudication, being self-styled as a complaint (BOD II.4.3, E-15), yet hinging in substance upon the appeal of "a case already decided by a lower court [i.e. the CCRP Commission]" (BOD II.4.10, E-17), and featuring a petition (DCG 8.11, D-40) with recommendations far exceeding the reasonable repercussions of the specific action complained against, namely the CCRP Commission's decision "to not sustain GLG 22-15."
7. That presbytery authorize the RPC of Lafayette to call an additional teaching elder.
8. That presbytery restructure the ordinary process for reviewing Session/TGB minute books as follows:
 - A. All minutes shall be reviewed digitally by presbyters in advance of the annual spring meeting.

¹ GLGP Minutes (11/5/21): "That presbytery defer any consideration of GLG 21-5 (Jo. Kessler) until synod's judicial commission has finished its work."

² GLG 22-19 (9/15/22): "The Lafayette Session would like to ask the AIC to grant us permission to call an additional pastor." (Deferred to Fall Mtg.)

³ AIC Minutes (6/10/22): "It was moved, seconded, and passed, to appoint a three-member commission of presbytery: (i) to investigate issues raised by Christ Church RPC ("CCRPC") by communication GLG 22-14, (ii) to seek reconciliation, and (iii) to take any other appropriate and necessary actions to resolve issues raised by communication GLG 22-14. . . In a separate and related action, it was moved, seconded, and passed, to appoint the following as members of the above mentioned three-member CCRPC Commission: Jonathan Schaefer, Moderator, Bryan Dage, Steve Sturm." [CCRPC = CCRP]

- B. The moderator shall send his review appointments to the asst. clerk by Dec. 31; otherwise, the asst. clerk will appoint reviewers himself.
 - C. Session/TGB clerks shall submit digital minute files⁴ to the asst. clerk (or to the reviewers specified thereby) each year by Jan. 15, to be reviewed by the reviewers, who shall then forward the results to the asst. clerk no later than Feb. 15.
 - D. The results of the review process shall be reported in the spring clerk's report.
 - E. Session/TGB clerks shall bring physical minute books to the spring meeting of presbytery to be stamped by the asst. clerk, who shall be responsible for confirming all necessary signatures.
9. That presbytery appoint Nathan Eshelman to begin serving as assistant clerk at the 2023 spring meeting, following the election of a new moderator.
 10. That presbytery adopt the proposed agenda for this meeting.⁵
 11. That presbytery grant all RPCNA elders present, including all non-certified delegates from this presbytery, the privilege of the floor during the remainder of this meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Adam Kuehner, Clerk

ASSISTANT CLERK'S DUTIES

1. Solicit, receive, and record congregational delegate certificates in advance of each presbytery meeting.
2. Create an attendance/voting roll in advance each presbytery meeting.
3. Receive and record all excused absences, noting them in the attendance/voting roll.
4. Oversee congregation/TGB minute book review process.
5. Take and record attendance and roll call voting during presbytery meetings.
6. Assist clerk and moderator counting standing votes during presbytery meetings.
7. Monitor designated time limits for reports and exams during presbytery meetings.
8. Annually review and update the presbytery roster for the GLG website and minutes of synod.
9. Oversee submission of congregational membership/financial and presbytery officer data to RP Trustees.
10. Collect 100-word reports from each congregation for Presbytery Report to Synod.
11. Respond to requests for information from various denominational agencies.

CLERK'S DUTIES

1. Send out reminders and updates to delegates list throughout the year, and answering various questions in response to these reminders, especially in connection with upcoming presbytery meetings.
2. Receive and grant requests for excused absences and communicate these to the assistant clerk to be noted in the attendance roll.
3. Solicit feedback and information from the C&CC chairman and various other delegates in preparation for the composition of the proposed agenda and clerk's recommendations.
4. Compose the proposed agenda for each presbytery meeting, seeking to promote maximum time-efficiency while incorporating requests from individual delegates and committee members as to timing and availability.
5. Compose and submit clerk's report before each presbytery meeting, with a list of recommendations.
6. Receive and distribute all last-minute submissions prior to each presbytery meeting, and integrating them as seamlessly as possible into the existing agenda.
7. Provide assistance and counsel to the moderator, the AIC, and various other committees/commissions as needed: before, during, or after presbytery meetings.
8. Call a presbytery meeting (at least theoretically) if/when necessary in the absence of the moderator.
9. Record, review, and submit presbytery minutes for posting on the presbytery website.
10. Organize and submit annual compilation of presbytery minutes in digital format to the synod review committee for approval.
11. Organize and print the annual compilation of presbytery minutes in hard copy format and bring the minute book(s) to synod to be stamped by the assistant clerk.
12. Solicit all necessary signatures of moderators and clerks in the official minute book(s) to be submitted to synod.
13. Maintain care/storage of existing minute books (purchasing binders/archive paper, expensing through J. Bishop) along with storage boxes full of past minutes.
14. Oversee collection of student and ministerial query signatures in the presbytery minute book for licensure, ordination, and installation.
15. Deliver past batches of GLGP minutes to RP archives for scanning and, upon receiving them back, deliver them to Bloomington RPC to be placed in the fire safe.

⁴ As noted under "E", these digital minute files need not include signatures. All signatures will be confirmed at the spring meeting by the asst. clerk.

⁵ The proposed agenda includes the consideration of GLG 22-18 alongside the other CCRP-related reports.

16. Function as documentary middle-man between the presbytery and the synod clerk, other presbyteries, other denominations, outside law firms, etc.
17. Forward various reports and communications from authors to the delegates email list at their request.
18. Format, classify, label, and distribute all presbytery communications in a timely and orderly manner.
19. Monitor/moderate delegates list according to its official usage policy, courteously flagging inappropriate content.
20. Cooperate with presbytery/synod legal counsel in connection with the preservation of documents related to potential lawsuits.
21. Correspond via email with other RPCNA clerks for mutual counsel, clarification, and standardization.
22. Compose and distribute ministerial credentials and letters of standing to delegates at their request in a timely manner.
23. Compose and distribute membership transfers from the roll of presbytery to local churches as requested by the Shepherding Committee and approved by the AIC.
24. Research and respond to thorny procedural and parliamentary questions from inquiring delegates, local members, complainants/appellants, etc.
25. Chair the internet maintenance committee, including oversight of the GLG Internet Maintenance Technician.
26. Respond to requests for information from various denominational agencies.
27. Train incoming assistant clerks who may initially be unfamiliar with their new job description.
28. Monitor and assist with the work of the assistant clerk wherever necessary to ensure that all of our work is completed adequately and on time.