

## **First Reformed Presbyterian Church**

Session Meeting

Via Zoom

August 27, 2022 @ 4:40 PM

Participants

Craig Scott, Jake Schwartz, Steve Rhoda

Minutes

1 - Craig Scott constituted the court by prayer in the name of Jesus Christ, Zion's only Head and King, at 4:40 PM.

2 - Session approved the meeting minutes for August 2, 2022 as amended, and August 21, 2022 as amended.

3 - It was moved, seconded, and approved to suspend all local ministry effective Monday, August 29, 2022. This decision is in light of God's providence to call Pastor Craig Scott to another ministry; the Spirit's leading of Jake Schwartz to move to Pittsburgh for further training for the ministry; the lack of other local elders; and the expressed and known decision of a large majority of the congregation to seek church membership elsewhere.

4 - It was moved, seconded, and approved to withdraw the request to Presbytery for the assignment of additional provisional elders.

5 - It was moved, seconded, and approved to transfer the membership of Sean and Laura McDonald, with the following note of concern: "We the Session of First Reformed Presbyterian Church, Grand Rapids, Michigan, entrust to you the membership and spiritual care of the McDonalds. While Sean and Laura had previously been a blessing to our congregation for many years, the manner of their departure from us has been unconscionably hurtful and divisive and has contributed significantly to the closure of our ministry. We hope they will find with you a greater contentment, a more appropriate willingness to submit to ordained leadership, and a deeper commitment to their membership vows in the church of Jesus Christ. Please plan to give them your cautionary care as they continue their fellowship, and now membership, within your congregation."

6 - It was moved, seconded, and approved to dismiss the membership of William and Savannah Luke, with their baptized children, with this notification attached: "As we recognize significant doctrinal concerns and points of error within the Eastern Orthodox church, we express our utter dismay that William Luke, while pursuing a degree from Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary, and an internship with First RPC, Grand Rapids, suddenly chose earlier this year to withdraw from all Reformed fellowship and accountability to take up ardent loyalty to Eastern Orthodoxy, without any consultation with us as a Session. Having sought to minister to him, and though current circumstances prevent us from carrying out any further ministry of discipline, we

can only declare that William and Savannah Luke have been unfaithful to their vows of membership and remain, as of this declaration, unresponsive to our attempts to minister to them."

7 - It was moved, seconded, and approved to transfer all the remaining membership of First RPC, Grand Rapids, to the role of presbytery. Names and contact information will be sent to the Clerk of Presbytery, and Session will provide instruction to members on how to request transfer of their membership in the future to a specific local church.

8 - It was moved, seconded, and approved to cancel the church's rental agreement with Zion Protestant Reformed Church. If there are outstanding fees or penalties, they will be paid from the church's remaining funds.

9 - It was moved, seconded, and approved to send funds specifically designated for missions, mercy ministry, the Craig Shoemaker fund, and the church building fund, to RP Global Missions; and all leftover funds go to the balance which is turned over to Synod.

10 - It was moved, seconded, and approved to authorize Jake Schwartz to pay any outstanding bills from the church funds, with joint approval from Elder Steve Rhoda; and to turn over remaining church funds to the Synod of the RPCNA, on October 1, 2022; thus closing the church's bank account. Bank statements and receipts from the past six months will be submitted as funds are turned over to Synod.

11 - Session confirmed with Craig Scott that their moving expenses will be covered by the Free Church of Scotland Continuing.

12 - It was moved, seconded, and approved to reimburse Craig \$180 for property storage, and medical of \$50, and to forgive the outstanding loan of \$1,100.

13 - A letter of resignation was received from Craig Scott in order to accept a call. Session has accepted it with great thanks for his years of service. Resignation is effective upon dissolution of Session in a future meeting.

14 - It was moved, seconded, and approved to transfer the membership of Daniel Cross to the Free Reformed Church of Grand Rapids.

15 - It was moved, seconded, and approved to give Joe and Meleah Tubergen four copies of the church's 1912 psalters, and to sell the remaining 31 psalters to Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary at \$5 each.

16 - Session records that the physical minute books were given to Namsik Yang for safekeeping.

17 - It was moved, seconded, and approved to adjourn. Craig Scott adjourned the meeting by prayer in the name of Jesus Christ, Zion's only Head and King, at 6:30 PM.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Craig J. Scott, Teaching Elder, Moderator

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Harley J. Schwartz, Ruling Elder, Clerk