

Reformed Presbyterian Church of Southside Indianapolis

Report to Great Lakes/Gulf Presbytery – Spring 2022

I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

Ephesians 4:1-6

Fathers and Brethren,

Author and journalist Marvin Olasky recently wrote: “I also thank God for making me a Christian in 1976. It’s OK if we differ in some secondary understandings: We are still brothers and sisters, made siblings by Christ’s sacrifice. The Bible tells us the church will be made up of people of every tribe and tongue—and that will be part of its beauty.” In a day characterized by divisive “tribalism,” it is refreshing to remember our union with Christ is what gives us the basis for unity and peace as a congregation of God’s people.

Session met in constituted court eighteen times during the year. In addition to the monthly stated meetings, six special meetings were held for a planning retreat and for communicant membership interviews. In two meetings, session set aside time to meet jointly with the deacon board to review and discuss ministry initiatives.

Public Services

Our congregation is doubly blessed to have pastors who so ably expound the scriptures week by week. Pastor Hanson completed preaching through Numbers, continued his series through Colossians, and began a new series on the Gospel of John. Pastor Wise completed preaching through 2 Corinthians, preached a series on the Life of Joseph, and began a new series from 1 Kings. In addition to the preaching ministry of our own teaching elders, the congregation also heard these guest preachers: Tre Cranford, Martin Monteith, Michael Myers, Bill Roberts, Mark Ross, Joe Smith, and David Whitla.

Session is thankful that except for one Lord’s Day in early January, we were able to maintain in-person worship services throughout the year and mid-year resume some activities despite the continuing coronavirus pandemic. In July, we returned to a single morning worship service. In August, we resumed fellowship luncheons with two shepherding groups at a time. For the Fall quarter, we resumed Sabbath School classes.

The sacrament of the Lord’s Supper was observed eleven times on the second Lord’s Day of most months throughout the year but was suspended in January due to pandemic complications. Communion was administered at both morning services February through June. In July, session returned the Lord’s Supper to the evening service but with a new schedule of observing the sacrament in morning worship once a quarter. The sacrament of baptism was administered to six covenant children: Charlotte Laura Koons, Abigail Elise Manning, Sean Aaron Mauser, Kenzie Grace Kathleen Porter, Emily Lois Ritenour, and Phinehas Thomas Smith.

In addition to corporate prayer in the worship services, a mid-week prayer meeting was held most Wednesday evenings throughout the year, with video conference participation as an option. The meeting was led by the pastors and through the summer by pastoral intern Martin Monteith.

Pastoral Care

Session resumed elder visitations in December after a long hiatus from the visitations begun in early 2020 that were cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic.

At the end of 2021, the total membership of the congregation stood at 277. The communicant membership was 200, an increase of eight, and the baptized membership was 77, an increase of six, from 2020.

The following sixteen individuals united with Southside RPC as communicant members: Richard and Karen Dark; Daniel and Natalie Faris by transfer from First RP Church, Beaver Falls PA; Timothy Hanson; Parker Hilliard by transfer from College Hill Reformed Church, Beaver Falls, PA; Mike and Lois Lawson, Stacy Hoffman, Dustin Newland, Bill and Rachel Roberts by transfer from the roll of the Midwest Presbytery; Tyler Spiegel; John and Tarrah Westercamp; and Cally Wilson by transfer from Terre Haute RPC, Terre Haute IN.

In addition to the six baptized children mentioned above, Samuel, Liam, and Isaiah Faris were added to the roll as baptized members by transfer from First RP Church, Beaver Falls PA.

Each at their own request, Beth Cavanaugh was transferred to Second RPC, Indianapolis IN; Suzy (Leonard) Mordecai was transferred to Heritage Presbyterian Church, Royston GA; and Melanie (Sturm) Monteith was transferred to College Hill Reformed Church, Beaver Falls PA. After they united with congregations at their new locations, Austin Hochstedler and Glen Anleitner were removed from the communicant members roll.

Our dear friends Joe Marcisz (on 2/24), Lori Eacret (on 3/17), and Beth Cady (on 11/8) found fullness of joy in the presence of our Savior as they joined the Church Triumphant upon their deaths.

There were two births during the year: Phineas Thomas Smith (6/10) and Emily Lois Ritenour (6/18). Erica Porter adopted Kenzie Grace Kathleen (5/4). Six members were married last year: Eric Burriss to Briana Harrison (5/14), Kay Ritenour to Daniel Roesner (5/15), Melanie Sturm to Martin Monteith (8/21), Suzy Leonard to Ben Mordecai (12/4), Abel Manning to Danielle Craig (12/11), and Dustin Newland to Verayna Spell (12/18).

Participation in the Higher Courts and Wider Church Ministry

Presbytery - Our ruling elder delegate to the Spring meeting of Presbytery held at Sycamore RPC was John Cavanaugh. John Cavanaugh, Ross Cerbus, David Kleyn, and Steve Sturm served as delegates at other special meetings of presbytery in June and November.

John Cavanaugh serves on Presbytery's Ad Interim Commission. Pastor Wise serves on the Candidates and Credentials Committee. Jim Bishop serves as Presbytery Treasurer. Mark Hart serves as the Presbytery Assistant Treasurer. Pastor Hanson serves as moderator of the Louisville Commission. Ross Cerbus serves as the COVFAMIKOI Conference manager. Bill Roberts served as a provisional elder and moderator of Immanuel RPC's session. John Hanson serves as a provisional elder for Immanuel RPC. In June, John Hanson once again organized and led a team of Presbytery youth to serve at the ECHO (Educational Concerns for Hunger Organization) farm in Ft. Myers, Florida.

Synod - Our ruling elder delegates to the RPCNA Synod meeting held at Indiana Wesleyan were Ross Cerbus and Don Prichard.

Training

Session was pleased to offer a pastoral internship to RPTS student Martin Monteith for the summer. Martin reported that the internship was a great blessing and that he learned valuable lessons and developed necessary skills for the future. We remain open to offering future internships and have included a line item in the 2022 budget for another pastoral intern. Joe Smith and Jonathan Sturm continue their full-time study at the Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary (RPTS) with Joe anticipating graduation this Spring.

May we, with the Spirit's help, walk worthy of the calling with which we have been called in 2022.

Respectfully submitted,
Southside Indianapolis RPC Session

Reformed Presbyterian Church of Southside Indianapolis
Proposed Budget for 2022 - General Fund

	Actual 2020	Budget 2021	Actual 2021	Budget 2022	% Chg-22 Budget vs. 21 Budget
RECEIPTS					
Total contributions	\$570,831	\$500,000	\$610,211	\$600,000	20.0%
Other income	34,147	2,000	17	2,000	0.0%
Total receipts	604,978	502,000	610,228	602,000	
EXPENDITURES					
CONGREGATION					
101.0 Pastor's Salary	120,434	128,459	128,459	133,296	3.8%
102.0 Parsonage Allowance	63,612	62,541	62,541	65,204	4.3%
104.0 Pastor's Pension	18,800	18,800	18,800	20,000	6.4%
105.0 Secretarial Services	8,740	16,020	10,352	16,380	2.2%
106.0 Worker's Compensation	1,343	1,555	1,523	1,569	0.9%
107.0 Ministry Expenses	7,542	7,950	5,888	7,950	0.0%
108.0 Church Office	5,042	7,250	7,021	7,240	-0.1%
109.0 Benevolence	89	1,000	1,204	1,000	0.0%
110.0 Pastoral Intern	4,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	0.0%
111.0 Audit/Compilation fees	-	-	1,900	2,000	0.0%
112.0 Traffic/Security Officer	5,247	10,800	7,927	11,340	5.0%
113.0 Child Protection Background Checks	387	560	2,382	1,400	150.0%
Sub-total	235,236	264,935	257,997	277,379	4.7%
EDUCATION					
201.0 Sabbath School	1,208	3,750	2,884	3,750	0.0%
203.0 Youth Group	688	1,000	387	1,000	0.0%
204.0 Conferences & Guest Ministry	350	4,000	3,546	4,000	0.0%
205.0 Fellowship Activities	2,294	5,800	3,241	5,800	0.0%
206.0 Library	84	450	168	450	0.0%
207.0 Seminary Student Assistance	4,488	4,500	4,500	4,500	0.0%
208.0 Ruling Elder Training	-	3,000	-	3,000	0.0%
209.0 Family Camp Scholarship	-	-	-	5,000	0.0%
Sub-total	9,112	22,500	14,725	27,500	22.2%
MISSIONS					
301.0 Local Evangelism	1,362	3,000	2,366	3,000	0.0%
302.0 Missionary Support	62,300	51,400	65,400	64,000	24.5%
304.0 Ministry of Mercy	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	0.0%
305.0 Special Missions Projects	-	1,500	-	1,500	0.0%
307.0 Local Ministries	4,900	5,800	5,800	6,150	6.0%
Sub-total	74,562	67,700	79,566	80,650	19.1%
DENOMINATION					
401.0 Presbytery Assessment	6,288	5,774	5,774	6,657	15.3%
403.0 Synod Assessment	15,571	12,558	13,310	13,425	6.9%
405.0 Synod/Presby. Expenses	218	1,500	1,425	1,500	0.0%
407.0 R.P. Missions/Ministry	44,000	24,700	34,700	30,000	21.5%
Sub-total	66,077	44,532	55,208	51,582	15.8%
PROPERTY					
503.0 Maintenance & Supplies	28,553	38,765	37,313	39,765	2.6%
504.0 Capital Purchases	8,230	20,000	1,941	25,000	25.0%
505.0 Utilities	16,228	16,880	18,462	19,820	17.4%
506.0 Insurance	7,332	9,425	10,193	10,710	13.6%
510.0 Debt Service	-	-	-	-	0.0%
Sub-total	60,343	85,070	67,908	95,295	12.0%
Total expenditures	445,330	484,737	475,405	532,406	9.8%
Net increase/(dec.) in General Fund Assets	159,648	17,263	134,823	69,594	303.1%
Other receipts	2,993	-	19,200	-	
Other expenses	(15,132)	-	(41,306)	-	
Total increase/(dec.) in Net Assets	\$147,509	\$17,263	\$112,716	\$69,594	303.1%