

# The Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery (RPCNA)

Proposed Agenda — Upd. 3/3/22

## CLERK

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## ASST. CLERK

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## 2022 ANNUAL SPRING MEETING

**Time:** Thursday March 3 @ 10:30 a.m. to Saturday March 5 @ Noon

**Place:** Reformed Presbyterian Church of Lafayette

**Address:** 1723 S. 9th St. Lafayette, IN 47905

**Phone:** (765) 474-3307

## DAILY SCHEDULE

### THURSDAY

**Business Session #1** (10:30 - 12:30p)

- Lunch Break (12:30 - 1:30p)

**Business Session #2** (1:45 - 5:30p)

- Mid-Session Break (3:15 - 3:45p)

- Dinner Break (5:30 - 6:30p)

**Business Session #3** (6:45 - 9:00p)

### FRIDAY

**Business Session #4** (8:30a - 12:30p)

- Mid-Session Break (10:45 - 11:00a)

- Lunch Break (12:30 - 1:30)

**Business Session #5** (1:45 - 5:30p)

- Mid-Session Break (3:15 - 3:30p)

- Dinner Break (5:30 - 6:30p)

**Business Session #6** (6:45 - 9:00p)

### SATURDAY

**Business Session #7** (8:30a - 12:00p)

- Mid-Session Break (10:15 - 10:30a)

- Adjournment (Noon)<sup>1</sup>

## BUSINESS SESSION #1

*Thu 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. (No Break)*

- 1. CALL TO ORDER** (Mann/Anderson) 30 mins [11:00]
  - A.** Introductory Address (Kuehner)<sup>2</sup>
  - B.** Prayer of Constitution (Mann/Anderson)
- 2. ROLL CALL** (Koons) 5 mins [11:05]
- 3. FORMAL INTRODUCTIONS** (First-Time Delegates, Fraternal Delegates, Special Guests) 5 mins [11:10]
- 4. CLERK'S REPORT** (Kuehner) 20 mins [11:30]
  - A.** Report & Recommendations
  - B.** Call for Papers<sup>3</sup>, Session/TGB Minute Books, Report to Synod

<sup>1</sup> Lunch is typically served following adjournment, with sack lunches available upon request.

<sup>2</sup> At 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday 3/2, the moderator, Dr. Frank J. Smith, informed the clerk of his inability to attend spring presbytery. A statement from Dr. Smith will be read during the clerk's report. In Dr. Smith's absence, a previous moderator (Wade Mann or Shawn Anderson) will moderate the special meeting on 3/2 along with the opening portion of the spring meeting on 3/3. Dr. Smith has appointed Adam Kuehner to preach the introductory sermon for the spring meeting on his behalf.

<sup>3</sup> The last call for papers will be Friday 3/4, immediately following the mid-morning break.

5. **OFFICER ELECTIONS** (Nominations from Floor) *Moderator, Clerk, Asst. Clerk* — 5 mins [11:35]
6. **RULING/TEACHING ELDER MEMORIALS** (If Applicable) 5 mins [11:40]
7. **AD INTERIM COMMISSION REPORT** (F. Smith) 5 mins [11:45]
8. **TREASURER'S REPORT** (Magill) 5 mins [11:50]
9. **SHEPHERDING COMMITTEE REPORT** (F. Smith) 5 mins [11:55]
10. **INTERNET MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE** (Kuehner) 10 mins [12:05]
11. **CANDIDATES AND CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT** (Niess)
  - A. Oral Report/Update & Recommendations — 5 mins [12:10]
  - B. Exam: Bible Results — Jake Schwartz (Voice Vote) 2.5 mins
  - C. Exam: Bible Results — Jonathan Sturm (Voice Vote) 2.5 mins [12:15]
12. **INTERCESSORY PRAYER FOR CHRIST'S FLOCK** — *Order of the Day @ 12:15p* — 15 mins [12:30]
  - Pre-assigned delegates will prepare in advance to lead in prayer for: *Hetherton (Poplin), Orlando (Fearing), Second RP (F. Smith-Recess)*
13. **PRAYER TO RECESS FOR LUNCH** (12:30 p.m.)

## BUSINESS SESSION #2

*Thu 1:45 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. (Break @ 3:15p)*

14. **CALL TO ORDER / PRAYER TO RECONVENE** (Moderator) *Appointments?* — 5 mins [1:50]
15. **VISUAL ATTENDANCE** (Asst. Clerk)
16. **READING OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES** (Clerk) 5 mins [1:55]
17. **CANDIDATES AND CREDENTIALS COMTE REPORT** — **Continued** (Niess) — 80 mins [3:15]
  - A. Exam: Personal Godliness — Jake Schwartz — 40 mins [2:35]
  - B. Exam: Theology 1 — Jonathan Sturm — 40 mins [3:15]
18. **MID-SESSION BREAK (15 mins)** — *Order of the Day @ 3:15p* [3:30]
19. **CANDIDATES AND CREDENTIALS COMTE REPORT** — **Continued** (Niess) — 40 mins [4:10]
  - Exam: Theology 2 — Aaron Murray — 40 mins [4:10]
20. **CHRIST CHURCH RECONCILIATION COMTE** (Scott) 30 mins [4:40] *Incl. GLG 22-10*
  - A. Comte Oral Report (5 mins)
  - B. GLG 22-10 Oral Presentation (5 mins)
  - C. Questions for Comte from Floor (5 mins)
  - D. Comte Recommendations: 2, 3, 1, 4 (15 mins)<sup>4</sup>
21. **CONGREGATIONAL REPORT** — **Christ Church** 20 mins [5:00] *Incl. GLG 22-7 + Recommendations*

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<sup>4</sup> A motion may be made at any time to lay on the table to entertain the Recommendations outlined in GLG 22-10.

**22. CONGREGATIONAL REPORT — Belle Center** 15 mins [5:15] *Incl. Request for Investigative Comte<sup>5</sup>*

**23. INTERCESSORY PRAYER FOR CHRIST’S FLOCK — Order of the Day @ 5:15p**

- Pre-assigned delegates will prepare in advance to lead in prayer for: *Belle Center (D. Hanson), Bloomington (Eshelman), Christ Church (Dage-Recess).*

**24. PRAYER TO RECESS FOR DINNER** (5:30 p.m.)

### **BUSINESS SESSION #3**

*Thu 6:45 - 9:00 p.m. (No Break)*

**25. CALL TO ORDER / PRAYER TO RECONVENE** (Moderator) *Appointments?* — 5 mins [6:50]

**26. VISUAL ATTENDANCE** (Asst. Clerk)

**27. READING OF PREVIOUS MINUTES** (Clerk) 5 mins [6:55]

**28. GRAND RAPIDS INQUIRY COMTE** (McCollum) 20 mins [7:30]

**29. CONGREGATIONAL REPORT — Grand Rapids** 10 mins [7:40]

**30. CANDIDATES AND CREDENTIALS COMTE REPORT — Continued** (Niess)

- A.** Paper: Church History — Jonathan Sturm (Comte Report, Comments, Voice Vote) 10 mins [7:50]
- B.** Paper: Exegesis — Joe Smith (Comte Report, Voice Vote) 10 mins [8:00]

**31. INTERCESSORY PRAYER FOR CHRIST’S FLOCK — Order of the Day @ 8:00p** — 15 mins [8:15]

- Pre-assigned delegates will prepare in advance to lead in prayer for: *Columbus (Whittle), Durham (Niess), Grand Rapids (McCollum)*

**32. BUSINESS COMTE OF THE DAY [BUSCOM] — Order of the Day @ 8:15p** — 45 mins [9:00]

**33. PRAYER TO RECESS FOR EVENING** (9:00 p.m.)

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<sup>5</sup> AIC Minutes (2/17/22): “A request from the Belle Center RPC Session for additional support in handling a pastoral matter was referred back to the Session. The Session is asked to provide more definitive information regarding the request. To aid in further consideration it is recommended that a written summary of the issue(s), the form or nature of support requested and any recommendations regarding the request be provided to the Presbytery or the next appointed AIC.” Belle Center Report to Presbytery (Spring 2022): “The second [challenge] has been the arrest and trial process of Paul and Dana Soma in July, and subsequent matters. Paul has been charged with gross sexual imposition and Dana with child endangering. Their cases are in the local Court of Common Pleas and our county Family Court. Their children have been taken from them, and have been worshiping with Southfield congregation a few times, and now with the Southwest Ohio RPC in Mason, OH. Session, with its small size, has felt overwhelmed at times. We have not proceeded on Church Discipline, yet, since we have no complaint before us, and with a desire not to impede the civil magistrate in his work. We anticipate church discipline procedure to take place after the magistrate has finished his work. When first we heard allegations, we immediately contacted Children’s Services and notified families in our congregation. The Somas’ arrest and situation were extensively covered in the local media, so it is quite public. Session has asked Presbytery to appoint an investigative committee to help us, in our small size and physical separation, determine facts for any church discipline proceedings.” **Presumably, this excerpt from the Belle Center report satisfies the AIC’s request for more definitive information, thereby making it possible to entertain the following motion (if moved and seconded): “That presbytery form a three-man committee, appointed by the moderator, to counsel the Belle Center session regarding (1) Appropriate congregational safety protocols with respect to the Somas, especially Paul, (2) When and how to investigate the relevant facts of the case, and (3) When and how to institute formal church discipline as needed.”** (Other motions could be made. This is just an example.)

## **BUSINESS SESSION #4**

*Fri 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. (Break @ 10:40a)<sup>6</sup>*

- 34. **CALL TO ORDER / PRAYER TO RECONVENE** (Moderator) 5 mins [8:35]
- 35. **VISUAL ATTENDANCE** (Asst. Clerk)
- 36. **READING OF PREVIOUS MINUTES** (Clerk) 5 mins [8:40]
- 37. **CHILD PROTECTION POLICY COMTE REPORT** (Poplin) 20 mins [9:00]
- 38. **ATLANTA TGB REPORT** (F. Smith) 5 mins [9:05]
- 39. **CONGREGATIONAL REPORT — Marion** (Camery) 10 mins [9:15]
- 40. **ANDERSON VERDICT RESPONSE COMTE REPORT** (Schwartz/Odom) 25 mins [9:40]
- 41. **BUSCOM/REALCOM REPORT — Order of the Day @ 9:40a** (Chairman) 60 mins [10:40]
- 42. **MID-SESSION BREAK (15 mins) — Order of the Day @ 10:40p** [10:55]
- 43. **CANDIDATES & CREDENTIALS COMTE REPORT - Order of the Day @ 10:55a** (Niess) 80 mins [12:15]
  - A. Exam: Pastoral & Evangelistic Gifts — Joe Smith — 40 mins [11:35]
  - B. Exam: Theology 2 — Allen Blackwood — 40 mins [12:15]
- 44. **INTERCESSORY PRAYER FOR CHRIST'S FLOCK — Order of the Day @ 12:15p** [12:30]
  - Pre-assigned delegates will prepare in advance to lead in prayer for: *Atlanta (Faris), Marion (Mann), Sparta (Schaefer), Lafayette (Holdeman-Recess)*.
- 45. **PRAYER TO RECESS FOR LUNCH** (12:30 p.m.)

## **BUSINESS SESSION #5**

*Fri 1:45 - 5:30 p.m. (Break @ 3:15p)*

- 46. **CALL TO ORDER / PRAYER TO RECONVENE** (Moderator) 30 mins [2:15]
  - Preaching Exam: Expository 2 Sermon (Joe Smith)
- 47. **VISUAL ATTENDANCE** (Asst. Clerk)
- 48. **READING OF PREVIOUS MINUTES** (Clerk) 5 mins [2:20]
- 49. **CANDIDATES & CREDENTIALS COMTE REPORT - Continued** (Niess) 55 mins [3:15]
  - A. Exam: Expository Sermon 2 — Joe Smith (Floor Comments & Vote) 10 mins [2:30]
  - B. Exam: Pastoral & Evangelistic Gifts — Allen Blackwood — 45 mins [3:15]
- 50. **MID-SESSION BREAK (15 mins) — Order of the Day @ 3:15p** [3:30]
- 51. **CANDIDATES & CREDENTIALS COMTE REPORT - Continued** (Niess)
  - A. Vote: Licensure to Receive a Call — Joe Smith (Roll Call, Queries, Prayer, Charge) 15 mins [3:45]
  - B. Motion: To receive report as a whole. 5 mins [3:50]

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<sup>6</sup> The deadline for papers occurs immediately following the mid-morning break.

52. **IMMANUEL JUDICIAL COMMISSION** 10 mins [4:00] *Unfinished Business: Reception of Minutes / Motion to Defer*<sup>7</sup>
53. **LOUISVILLE COMMISSION REPORT** (Hanson) 10 mins [4:10]
54. **COVFAMIKOI REPORT** (Nelson) 5 mins [4:15]
55. **INTERCESSORY PRAYER FOR CHRIST'S FLOCK — Order of the Day @ 4:15p** [4:30]
- Pre-assigned delegates will prepare in advance to lead in prayer for: *Selma (Anderson), Immanuel (Foltz), Elkhart (Scott), Students Under Care (Pockras).*
56. **BUSCOM/REALCOM REPORT — Order of the Day @ 4:30p** (Chairman) 60 mins [5:30]
57. **PRAYER TO RECESS FOR DINNER** (5:30 p.m.)

### **BUSINESS SESSION #6**

*Fri 6:45 - 9:00 p.m. (No Break)*

58. **CALL TO ORDER / PRAYER TO RECONVENE** (Moderator) 5 mins [6:50]
59. **VISUAL ATTENDANCE** (Asst. Clerk)
60. **READING OF PREVIOUS MINUTES** (Clerk) 5 mins [6:55]
61. **CLERK'S MOTION** - *That members of the C.Y.P.U. leadership team be granted privileges of the floor during the Presbytery Youth Report.*
62. **PRESBYTERY YOUTH REPORT — C.Y.P.U.** (Rhoda) 30 mins [7:25]
63. **SOUTHERN CHURCH EXTENSION COMTE [SOCHEX] REPORT** (Faris) 10 mins [7:35]
64. **CONGREGATIONAL REPORT — Immanuel** 10 mins [7:45]
65. **BUSCOM/REALCOM REPORT — Order of the Day @ 7:45p** (Chairman) 60 mins [8:45]
66. **INTERCESSORY PRAYER FOR CHRIST'S FLOCK — Order of the Day @ 8:45p**
- Pre-assigned delegates will prepare in advance to lead in prayer for: *Louisville (de Jong), Southside (Kim), SWORP (Odom), SOCHEX (Wise-Recess).*
67. **PRAYER TO RECESS FOR DINNER** (9:00 p.m.)

### **BUSINESS SESSION #7**

*Sat 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (Break @ 10:15a)*

68. **CALL TO ORDER / PRAYER TO RECONVENE** (Moderator) 5 mins [8:35]
69. **VISUAL ATTENDANCE** (Asst. Clerk)
70. **FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT** (Chairman) 10 mins [8:40]
71. **NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT - Draft** (Chairman) 10 mins [8:50]

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<sup>7</sup> Previous Minutes (11/6/21): "Jason Camery presented the report of the IRPC Judicial Commission, introducing Recommendation 1 (That presbytery receive the minutes of the IRPC Judicial Commission and dismiss the committee.) It was moved and seconded to defer action on Recommendation 1 until after the report of the Synod Judicial Commission, after which the parliamentarians ruled that this motion requires a two-thirds majority, and the motion failed to receive a two-thirds majority by voice vote. Recommendation 1 was discussed, after which it failed by a vote of 13-15." **Since the commission has not brought a recommendation, the motion to defer the matter of receiving the minutes and dismissing the committee no longer requires a 2/3 majority to be adopted. This motion could be made and passed by a simple majority. Otherwise, this item hangs in limbo.**

**72. TIME & PLACE COMMITTEE REPORT** (Chairman) *5 mins* [8:55]

**73. REPORT ON SESSION MINUTE BOOKS** (Asst. Clerk) *5 mins* [9:00]

**74. BUSCOM/REALCOM REPORT — *Continued, If Necessary*** (Chairman) *60 mins* [10:00]

**75. INTERCESSORY PRAYER FOR CHRIST'S FLOCK — *Order of the Day @ 10:00a*** [10:15]

- Pre-assigned delegates will prepare in advance to lead in prayer for: *Southfield (TBD), Sycamore (O'Neill), Terre Haute (Nelson), Westminster (Schwartz).*

**76. MID-SESSION BREAK (15 mins) — *Order of the Day @ 10:15a*** [10:30]

**77. BUSCOM/JUDCOM REPORT — *Continued, If Necessary*** (Chairman) *30 mins* [11:00]

**78. NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT - *Final*** (Chairman) *10 mins* [11:10]

**79. RESOLUTION OF THANKS COMMITTEE** (Chairman) *5 mins* [11:15]

**80. READING OF PREVIOUS MINUTES** (Clerk) *5 mins* [11:20]

**81. BREATHING ROOM** *40 mins* [12:00]

**82. PRAYER OF ADJOURNMENT** (Noon)