

**The Atlanta Commission/TGB for
Atlanta Reformed Presbyterian Church**
Report to Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery
March 2022

The Atlanta Commission/TGB for Atlanta Reformed Presbyterian Church has met regularly over the past year. With regard to Atlanta RPC, we are happy to report that the state-of-the-congregation is strong.

Membership

At the end of 2020, total membership was 17 (including ten communicants and seven non-communicants). At the end of 2021, total membership was 19. Reflected in those numbers is a gain of 2 communicant members upon profession of faith. One of those new members was dismissed from a Southern Baptist congregation with its blessing. The other took his vows while on a hospice bed; he later checked himself out of hospice, hopped on a MARTA bus, and took a MARTA train on his own as he made his way back home; he continues to attend church as he is able. In February 2022, we added another communicant member upon profession of faith and baptism.

Contacts, Visitors, and Prospects

We come across a lot of people in our ministry, some of whom remain anonymous to us. However, we keep track of those whose names we are able to learn and for whom we are able to glean contact information for possible follow-up. In 2021, we made a total of 121 contacts. Some of these are not necessarily prospects for church membership (examples would include out-of-towners whom we might happen to meet); nevertheless, we try to place such people on the Penny's Pen email list. Others, though, can be considered potential recruits for Atlanta RPC.

In 2021, there were no fewer than 63 first-time visitors in attendance at a worship service.

At the moment, at least seven people (including two children who would be baptized and join as non-communicants) have formally expressed a desire to join the church. We can count maybe another five individuals who may be considered reasonable prospects for membership for the future.

Attendance

In 2020, the average attendance (for the 45 weeks we met for public worship) was 24.56. (The figure for 2020 includes folks who joined the service by telephone. If those attending remotely are not included, then the average attendance would have been 23.11.) In 2021, the average attendance was 26.73. (If those attending via telephone were not included, the figure would have been 23.12.)

Worship

Customarily, in the worship service, we sing five psalm selections (including a doxology after the benediction). In 2021, we observed the sacrament of communion three times. Our plan is to have the Lord's Supper on a quarterly basis.

In 2021, the pastor finished a series on I Thessalonians, and began a series on the book of Revelation. Four others have also filled the pulpit this past year: Pastor Steven Work, Elder T.J. Pattillo, Pastor J. Bruce Martin, and Dr. Michael Rasmussen, a PCA minister who teaches Old Testament at Metro Atlanta Seminary.

Sunday School

Currently, we offer three classes: adult (taught by Elder T.J. Pattillo), older children (taught by Miss Amy Work), and younger children (taught by Mrs. Michele Haag).

Church Life

Every Lord's Day, we experience warm and sincere fellowship. There is a genuine sense of *koinonia* amongst our people, and a real caring for one another. In numerous informal ways, folks maintain contact with each other during the week.

Discipline Matters

On two occasions in 2021, the TGB exercised discipline—in one case a rebuke, and in the other an admonition.

Bible Studies

Our Wednesday night Bible study/prayer meeting for adults met 22 times from January to May and from September to December, with an average attendance of 8.64. The highlight of this series of gatherings occurred on October 27th, when 15 people attended for a special time of prayer at the end of the Presbytery-wide day of prayer and fasting. Heartfelt prayer was followed by a breaking of the fast as we shared a BBQ meal with one another.

Staff Workers

We are blessed with a wonderful cadre of staff workers, including Miss Amy Work, Mrs. Michele Haag, Mrs. Penny Smith, Elder T.J. Pattillo, and Mrs. Nancy Pattillo. Without them, this ministry would not be able to function.

Ministerial Intern

Since September 2019, Elder T.J. Pattillo has faithfully served as a ministerial intern. In addition to teaching adult Sunday School and helping to pick up people for church, he has shown a lot of initiative.

Leadership Development

One of our goals for 2021 is the development of other leadership, not only for the meeting of present needs, but also in anticipation of eventual organization of the mission church as a congregation. We believe that we have identified several men who show potential to serve in a diaconal capacity (if not ordained, then at least as diaconal assistants), and at least two who could serve as elders.

In the meantime, we could really, really use a deacon! (Any volunteers want to move to Georgia?)

Pastoral Activity

The pastor is a tentmaker, being a fulltime Lecturer of History at Georgia Gwinnett College—a circumstance which helps to pay the bills and also provides good health insurance. Most significantly, his being in that role affords many opportunities for Christian witness.

In 2021, the pastor engaged in at least 350 counseling occasions. Sometimes this counseling might last only a few minutes; other times, it took hours. He has counseled many people in the congregation, but also has counseled others (including college students) who do not attend ARPC, and still others from across the RPCNA and in other branches of the church on a wide variety of topics, including ecclesiastical matters.

In July, he published a book on race relations, *Race, Church, and Society*, which underwent a second printing in January 2022 and is now featured as a Kindle on Amazon. He also wrote “Books in Brief,” an overview of ten books, for *The Confessional Presbyterian*. He hopes to bring to completion a biography of his father entitled, *God’s Man From Brooklyn: The Life and Times of a Twentieth-Century Minister*.

Outreach

In November 2020, Atlanta RPC was a sponsor of the video, *The Pilgrims, 17th-Century English Emigrant*, which has hit more than 2800 views on YouTube.

The pastor’s wife continues to write Penny’s Pen, with a new article about three times per year. There are almost 700 names on the email list.

The weekly pulpit messages are placed on SermonAudio.

In April, a front-page article about our ministry appeared in the *Forsyth County News*.

We are hoping soon to go door-to-door in our neighborhood, in order to invite folks to come to church. Meanwhile, most of our new attenders have come through the most effective means, viz., as a result of word-of-mouth, including meeting folks on the street.

Utilizing a Building

We are presently making modest modifications and renovations, to make the edifice more attractive and useful.

A building is, of course, just a building. It has no life in itself. However, it can be very important in terms of establishing a presence in a community, particularly when it is located strategically (as ours is), and when it is somewhere people know that they can go for diaconal and spiritual needs. Our vision is for our building to be open most days of the week, as a place of *shalom* from the hustle and bustle of the world’s frenetic pace; a place that can offer a health clinic and an ask-a-lawyer event on a monthly basis; a place where tutoring can be offered as an after-school program. We are also hoping to lease space to an organization that would provide food to people in the area.

Finances

The Lord continues to bless us financially (see attached financial report as well as the budget for 2022). Once renovations are completed, we will be in a good position to evaluate how much of the mortgage we should pay off.

Planning for the Future

Our goal is that Atlanta RPC could be formally organized in the next year or two or three. Already, we are seeing financial stability, along with the occupation of our own building. We have a great leadership corps, and are working to develop other leaders. We look to the future, with optimism, and with the hope that the Lord who has blessed us so much will continue to supply our needs and to protect us in the uncertain days ahead.

Prayer Requests

1. For a dedicated driver or two, in order to facilitate our transporting folks to and from church.
2. For a deacon, who could bring expertise in helping us to discern and to meet diaconal needs.
3. For the raising up of leadership, so we can be prepared for formal organization.
4. For strength and stamina for the current leadership, that they might not be discouraged or lose heart.
5. For courage and boldness in the gospel, that the church would be a faithful witness for King Jesus.
6. For the building renovation, so that the building might be not only attractive but also useful in presenting a visible witness of the kingdom.

Recommendations

1. That the membership of the Atlanta Commission consist of the current members.
2. That Presbytery grant \$2,000.00 for the work of Atlanta RPC for 2021.
3. That Presbytery provide \$2,000.00 for the expenses of the Atlanta Commission.
4. That this report of the Atlanta Commission be approved and spread on the minutes of Presbytery.

2022 Budget for Atlanta Reformed Presbyterian Church

100 Facilities and Operation

101 Mortgage	\$ 9,982.80
102 Utilities	4,200.00
103 Building Insurance	3,000.00
104 Van: Insurance/Registration	500.00
105 Van: Fuel	300.00
106 Van: Maintenance/Repair	500.00
107 Mileage	3,000.00
108 Building Supplies/Maintenance	550.00
109 Synod/Presbytery/Conference	500.00
110 Office Supplies	750.00
111 Other Supplies (paper goods, etc.)	400.00
112 Hospitality (coffee, snacks, food, etc.)	800.00
113 Administration	900.00
113 Administration—website maintenance	400.00

200 Ministerial Compensation

201 Housing Allowance	19,500.00
202 Pension	4,500.00
<u>300 Expenses for Diaconal Workers</u>	100.00
<u>400 Pulpit Supply</u>	1,200.00

500 Edification

501 Teaching Supplies	250.00
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700 Mercy

701 Pastor Smith's ministry	8,000.00
702 Tawana Franklin	20,000.00

<u>800 Intern</u>	10,000.00
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900 Miscellaneous and Contingency

901 Miscellaneous Travel	200.20
902 Miscellaneous General	467.00
Total	\$90,000.00

Atlanta Reformed Presbyterian Church

Financial Statement

of

2021

	2021 Year to Date						
	January	February	March	April	May	June	Totals
Opening Balance	\$125,592.32	\$124,632.12	\$122,677.80	\$123,739.51	\$121,725.88	\$121,616.91	
Regular Giving	\$4,092.00	\$6,350.16	\$6,227.00	\$4,100.20	\$5,821.00	\$10,480.00	\$37,070.36
Designated Giving apart from Bldg Fund	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$276.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,276.50
Designated Giving for Building Fund	\$1,425.00	\$16,364.34	\$345.00	\$489.00	\$1,525.00	\$25.00	\$20,173.34
Transfer from Bldg Fund to Gen Fund	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Inflow	\$5,517.00	\$22,714.50	\$7,572.00	\$4,865.70	\$7,346.00	\$10,505.00	\$58,520.20
Sub-total	\$131,109.32	\$147,346.62	\$130,249.80	\$128,605.21	\$129,071.88	\$132,121.91	
Budgeted Expenses	\$5,052.20	\$8,304.48	\$6,165.29	\$6,363.83	\$5,929.97	\$5,992.36	\$37,808.13
Designated Exp apart from Bldg Fund	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$26.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$26.50
Capital Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Transfers to Building Fund	\$1,425.00	\$16,364.34	\$345.00	\$489.00	\$1,525.00	\$25.00	\$20,173.34
Total Outflow	-\$6,477.20	-\$24,668.82	-\$6,510.29	-\$6,879.33	-\$7,454.97	-\$6,017.36	-\$58,007.97
Closing Bank Balance	\$124,632.12	\$122,677.80	\$123,739.51	\$121,725.88	\$121,616.91	\$126,104.55	
Currently in Building Fund	\$65,328.54	\$81,692.88	\$82,037.88	\$82,526.88	\$84,051.88	\$84,076.88	
Checking and Bldg Fund Accts Combined	\$189,960.66	\$204,370.68	\$205,777.39	\$204,252.76	\$205,668.79	\$210,181.43	

	Jan - June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Totals
Opening Balance	\$126,104.55	\$121,821.18	\$119,684.37	\$116,670.89	\$110,789.57	\$114,243.92		
Regular Giving	\$37,070.36	\$2,596.00	\$4,796.00	\$6,798.00	\$3,373.20	\$9,365.00	\$13,969.00	\$77,967.56
Designated Giving apart from Bldg Fund	\$1,276.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$41.00	\$150.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,467.50
Designated Giving for Building Fund	\$20,173.34	\$950.00	\$1,025.00	\$900.00	\$125.00	\$630.00	\$1,075.00	\$24,878.34
Other Income			\$15.00			\$420.00	\$0.00	\$435.00
T/F from Bldg Fund (Capital Expenses)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Inflow	\$58,520.20	\$3,546.00	\$5,836.00	\$7,739.00	\$3,648.20	\$10,415.00	\$15,044.00	\$104,748.40
Sub-total	\$129,650.55	\$127,657.18	\$127,657.18	\$127,423.37	\$120,319.09	\$121,204.57	\$129,287.92	
Budgeted Expenses	\$37,808.13	\$6,879.37	\$6,947.81	\$9,852.48	\$9,298.17	\$6,330.65	\$11,870.29	\$88,986.90
Designated Exp apart from Bldg Fund	\$26.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$106.35	\$0.00	\$425.00	\$557.85
Capital Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Transfers to Building Fund	\$20,173.34	\$950.00	\$1,025.00	\$900.00	\$125.00	\$630.00	\$1,075.00	\$24,878.34
Total Outflow	-\$58,007.97	-\$7,829.37	-\$7,972.81	-\$10,752.48	-\$9,529.52	-\$6,960.65	-\$13,370.29	-\$114,423.09
Closing Bank Balance	\$121,821.18	\$119,684.37	\$116,670.89	\$110,789.57	\$114,243.92	\$115,917.63		
Currently in Building Fund	\$85,026.88	\$86,051.88	\$86,951.88	\$87,076.88	\$87,706.88	\$87,706.88	\$88,781.88	
Checking & Bldg Fund Accts combined	\$206,848.06	\$205,736.25	\$203,622.77	\$197,866.45	\$201,950.80	\$204,699.51		