

Report of the Bloomington Congregation

2021

"Witnessing for Christ in Bloomington for 200 Years"

"For I know the plans I have for you", declares the Lord, "plans to build you up and not to tear down, plans to give you a future and a hope."

- Jeremiah 29:11

Membership:

Communicant: 141 (-5)

Baptized: 46 (-1)

Total: 187 (-6)

Changes:

Professions of faith: 2

Covenant baptisms: 3

Transfers out: 7

Transfers to glory: 2

Removal: 1

Excommunication: 1

Attendance (in-person only):

AM: 153 (+9)

PM: 111 (-1)

After the turmoil of the last two years, we, as a session, are so thankful for the Lord's promises, even as we see tokens of their passing.

The session has met 12 times for regular session meetings, and 5 additional meetings for particular purposes, such as communion interviews. We had an additional meeting to ordain Brad Dale, Adam Fritz, and David Perron as new deacons for the congregation.

As the core of the session's work centers around taking care of individuals and families in the congregation, we take the first half hour of each meeting in systematic prayer for people. Often the majority of the rest of our meetings involves thinking through individual questions and situations. Particularly joyful is the privilege of interviewing new members and communion visitors, and particularly sorrowful is the long and arduous process of exercising discipline with members who have wandered away from the

congregation and from the Lord. While we have had relatively less coming and going from the congregation this year, we have witnessed additions to the congregation, seen some leave the congregation for other cities, and have had the difficult responsibility of removing one member by excommunication. Two of our members of many years have passed away this year.

Like last year, we have had to give attention to matters related to holding services against the backdrop of public policy pronouncements of various kinds, but thankfully have not had to make difficult decisions concerning changing venues and holding services. We have, by God's grace, been in good physical and spiritual health as a congregation and are very thankful for the Lord's gracious care for us in this matter. In this light, the congregational life has largely returned to the patterns from 2019. The one item that has not resumed is the resumption of the International Conference. After last year, this year has, strangely, seemed placid in this regard, even though the community around us has been roiling with many difficult issues. We pray for God's wisdom in these matters as we go forward.

The one major issue that has continued to occupy the session's attention is that of considering paths forward for expanding the facilities for the growing congregation. The purchase of property is leading now to the process of determining options for this expansion, including reviewing potential site plans for the property. We anticipate continued incremental work on this problem in the coming year and are particularly asking for prayer concerning securing the relevant property for the options we are considering, and then for wisdom as to the next

steps. We do want to acknowledge the grace of God, who has provided for our congregation so abundantly in terms of our finances. During a period of great disruption in our society, God has continued to pour out his blessings on us through the generous giving of His people.

Concerning the overall congregational membership, the pattern of numerical movement this year has slowed down a bit, though, the number of visitors and interaction with other interested individuals indicates continued growth. The following figures pertain to the comings and goings of the calendar year 2021.

1. The average in-person morning worship service attendance was 153, an increase of 9 over 2020 (average for pre and post-pandemic).
2. The average in-person evening worship service attendance was 111, a decrease of 1 over 2020 (average for pre and post-pandemic).
3. The average Sunday School class attendance was 110, an increase of 3 over 2020 (average for pre and post-pandemic).
4. The total communicant (141) and baptized (46) membership on December 31, 2021, was 187, a net decrease of 6 over 2020.
5. Two new communicant members were added: Edward & Lewis Gatewood.
6. Besides the Gatewoods, three individuals were baptized, Maria Kniess, Madeleine Punt, and Samuel Marcotte.
7. Seven members were transferred to other reformed churches: Grey Gordon & JoAnne Yi along with Judah, Teddy, and Moss in Richmond, VA, and Geoff and Patricia Horton, in St. Louis, MO. One communicant member was excommunicated, Cole Engel, and two were transferred to glory, Joy Shook, and Jean McBurney. Anna (Dale) Callahan was removed from the roles due to an oversight in transferring her prior to her marriage.
8. Altogether, communicant membership at the end of 2020 was at 146 and fell to 141 at the end of 2021. The number of baptized non-communicant members at the end of 2020 was at 47 (not 46 as previously reported) and fell to 46 by the end of 2021.

Concerning our pastors, we are planning on continuing the sabbatical plans for Pastor Holdeman this coming summer. The plan is contingent on a variety of events this coming summer, but we are planning on its unfolding in some form, as we believe this best supports Pastor Holdeman and fits in with the congregational needs. As part of last year's plan, the congregation extended a third summer internship to Samuel Dong, with him working through a more rigorous preaching schedule. This internship has been an important part of preparing Samuel's work in his home congregation, planting a new congregation in a very difficult circumstance. We continue to pray for his and Cherry's work and well-being and are so thankful for the time we had with them.

We have continued interacting with the overseeing body of the Bloomington Chinese Christian Church and have been pleased to see them returning to meeting in the afternoons. Our current relationship with Elijah and Jennifer is good, and we are committed to supporting

their work in a way which helps them gain strength, vitality, and, as the Lord leads, independence.

Our session is in the process of assessing the suitability of one of the young men in our congregation for the pastoral ministry. Toward that end, we plan to do a formal internship during the fall of 2022. The congregation approved this plan at our annual meeting. We are praying for God's blessing and clear leading as we work with our intern.

We have had quarterly meetings with the deacons, though with the four new deacons, we have shifted away from collecting everyone together towards a model with specific individuals discussing specific issues of interest in the quarterly meetings. We are very blessed to have such a large number of talented men and women in these roles.

With regard to the mission of mercy, we have been in discussion with leadership at the Wheeler Mission as to how our congregation might be of more direct service to the mission. John Pederson has been involved pursuing these opportunities, and we will see how the Lord leads in this matter.

The congregation has seen a large involvement of high schoolers in the various ministries and programs of the larger church. This year, we had a total of five students in the TFY summer program (Theological Foundations of Youth) in Pittsburgh, with Jesse Burton and Ian Hamstra engaging in this year's program, and Liberty Cosens, Abigail de Jong, and Priscilla Gatewood engaging in last year's program which was delayed to this year. In addition, Abby Archer, Jesse Burton, Liberty Cosens, Abby de Jong, Grace and Ian Tubbs all worked this summer at the ECHO farm in Florida, supporting an agricultural mission to churches around the world.

The session also oversees the preaching plans for our services directly and will often also consult on plans for Sunday School classes. Over the winter break between classes, the session coordinated a series of topical classes in areas typical of the TFY program, to help the congregation catch up with our high school graduates!

With respect to the church beyond our congregation, our session members have fulfilled various responsibilities. Five of us were appointed to the presbytery meetings during this year (Cosens, de Jong, Holdeman, McCollum, Shipp). Ken de Jong has been elected vice-chair of the Trustees of Geneva College, is currently chairing the academic affairs committee of the college, and has served on various special presbytery committees this last year. Rich Holdeman is a Trustee of the Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary and is also an active member of the Candidates and Credentials Committee of the presbytery, a body that oversees processes related to bringing pastors into the presbytery and maintaining their credentials. This work is a crucial part of our service to our sister churches in the presbytery. Ken de Jong has been serving as the provisional moderator of the Immanuel RP Church in West Lafayette, and Philip McCollum was on the governing board for the Louisville church plant, which is an appointment of the presbytery. Philip is also serving on the Ad Interim Commission of the presbytery, which directs the presbytery's affairs between meetings. Stephen Shipp has is serving on a presbytery committee to formulate child safety policies for the presbytery.

The most obvious events of this last year, however, are clearly the 200th anniversary celebrations this summer and fall. It is truly remarkable how the congregation has been preserved over these numerous generations, and having these celebrations in the context of

such chaotic events in the background, really underscores the grace of the Lord in preserving us. His plans are to build up His church, and not to tear us down. We pray that our congregation will be used mightily in this coming year to build up His people.

Respectfully submitted by the Session of the Bloomington Congregation

Wes Archer, Eric Cosens, CJ Davis, Ken de Jong, Rich Holdeman, Philip McCollum, & Stephen Shipp

**Bloomington Reformed Presbyterian Church
Budget Summary - January 29, 2022**

<u>Income</u>	<u>2021 Budget</u>	<u>2021 Actuals</u>	<u>2022 Budget</u>
External Income			
Book Table Income		2,813.36	
Contributions - Offerings	350,000.00	442,726.21	400,000.00
Designated Income		4,945.00	
Diaconal Ministry - Vol. Fund		-	
Facilities Capital Income		-	
Facilities: 619 S. Lincoln Income	9,000.00	9,004.59	18,000.00
Grants		-	
Interest - Capital Investments & Savings	500.00	204.93	200.00
Miscellaneous Income	75.00	10,050.00	75.00
Offerings & Donations	-	2,437.45	-
Total External Income	359,575.00	472,181.54	418,275.00
Designated Income from Savings Revolving Funds	5,462.17	200.00	6,734.31
Total Income	365,037.17	472,381.54	425,009.31
<u>Expense</u>			
External Expenses			
Book Table Expense	376.91	2,541.22	649.05
Facilities Capital Expense	8,000.00	5,870.00	25,000.00
Facilities: 619 S. Lincoln St.	12,300.00	13,342.57	9,600.00
Facilities - Operating	46,890.00	33,310.52	43,230.00
Finance Committee	10,875.00	9,466.58	13,134.40
Ministry: Diaconal	2,500.00	604.00	2,500.00
Educational	14,685.26	9,630.42	17,085.26
Fellowship	3,300.00	2,079.98	3,860.00
Library	1,000.00	73.40	1,000.00
Nursery	350.00	233.43	350.00
Outreach	5,480.00	3,660.63	5,480.00
Session	4,275.00	1,322.28	4,275.00
Student	1,400.00	282.06	1,400.00
Technology	3,500.00	3,204.86	4,320.00
Youth	1,200.00	483.10	1,200.00
Missions	23,125.00	24,989.45	23,825.00
Offerings - Disbursements		1,940.00	
Office Expense	15,870.00	24,319.85	16,870.00
Pastoral Compensation - Holdeman	100,010.96	100,260.96	103,751.00
Pastoral Compensation - McCollum	79,692.96	79,692.96	83,433.00
Pastoral Internship	7,000.00	6,000.00	4,375.40
Pastoral Expenses	7,300.00	2,678.71	7,300.00
Presbytery	4,334.17	4,334.17	4,636.95
RPCNA Works	11,357.00	11,336.00	15,765.00
Special Funds	25,000.00	26,551.98	9,000.00
Total External Expenses	389,822.26	368,209.13	402,040.06
Designated Disbursements - to Savings Revolving Funds			
Benevolence		-	
Book Table		272.14	
Camp Fundraiser		-	
Capital Improvements - 8 yr. plan		-	
Facilities Capital	15,000.00	15,000.00	50,000.00
Ministry Hedge	4,000.00	4,000.00	-
Total Disbursements to Savings Revolving Funds	19,000.00	19,272.14	50,000.00
Total Expense	408,822.26	387,481.27	452,040.06
Net Income	(43,785.09)	84,900.27	(27,030.75)

Bloomington RPC
Balance Sheet
As of December 31, 2021

Dec 31, 21

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

Old National

Checking 3,585.23

Savings

6 Year Plan - Ministry Hedge 32,432.80

Benevolence 9,416.05

Book Table 649.05

Facilities Capital 15,000.00

Facilities Renovation Reserve 7,218.00

Fundraiser-Camp Assistance 5,085.26

General Savings 237,411.59

Security Deposit 500.00

Total Savings 307,712.75

Total Old National 311,297.98

Total Checking/Savings 311,297.98

Total Current Assets 311,297.98

Other Assets

Capital Investment-RPCNA

***McClintock Endowment Fund** 12,341.85

Occasion Contribution 157,661.17

Total Capital Investment-RPCNA 170,003.02

Total Other Assets 170,003.02

TOTAL ASSETS 481,301.00