Christ Church reformed presbyterian

5075 N Raceway Road, Indianapolis IN 46234

February, 2022

Fathers and Brothers of the Great Lakes—Gulf Presbytery,

Christ Church Reformed Presbyterian (CCRP) respectfully requests that the Great-Lakes Gulf Presbytery (GLGP) authorize CCRP to engage Nathan Shaver in an interim pastoral role, commencing upon or about approval of this request, and continuing through June 30, 2022.

CCRP has been without a full-time pastor since October 2020. During that time, various pastors and seminary students have filled our pulpit. In the summer of 2021, Nathan Shaver preached an eight-week series of sermons for us, and he began a second eight-week series in January 2022. He has also preached for us at various other times, totaling more than 20 times in our pulpit over the last few years.

Nathan is an ordained Southern Baptist pastor who has come to Reformed convictions. In October 2021, Nathan and his family officially became members of CCRP. In February of this year, Nathan requested that he be referred by the Session to the Candidates and Credentials Committee to be taken under care as a pastoral candidate. He has preached at Lafayette RPC, at Second RP in Indianapolis, and been invited to preach in other congregations within the Presbytery.

We have greatly appreciated Nathan's faithful exposition and application of God's word from the pulpit. In an entirely natural and informal role, Nathan's pastoral abilities have been evident to many in the congregation, which he has demonstrated gently and ably without being asked.

As also presented to the GLGP, the Christ Church Reconciliation Committee in its initial report recommended the appointment of an interim pastor. After its second visit to CCRP, meeting Nathan, and hearing the congregation's desires, the Committee recommended that the congregation indeed pursue Nathan for this interim role.

On February 6, 2022, at the CCRP annual congregational meeting, the congregation voted on a proposal to request approval from Presbytery to engage Nathan in a more formal, interim pastoral role. This role would extend beyond regular preaching and could include teaching in classroom settings, counseling, participating in visitation, and attending Session meetings. Session explained that Nathan would not be an ordained officer in the church, could not moderate (or vote in) Session meetings, and could not administer the sacraments, among other restrictions. After a brief discussion, the congregation voted unanimously to adopt this proposal.

CCRP thus requests that the GLGP approve the CCRP proposal to engage Nathan Shaver to serve in a more formal interim pastoral role as described above. This appointment would continue through the end of June, 2022, subject to renewal by the congregation, and endorsement by the Presbytery for a similar time.

By a separate request, CCRP is requesting that Nathan would be taken under care of Presbytery to be licensed to preach. That that process, overseen by the Candidates and Credentials Committee, will inform and help CCRP ascertain what role, if any Nathan would have in an ongoing capacity with CCRP. Once licensed, and if it is agreeable to the congregation, Presbytery could appoint Nathan as "stated supply" to our congregation as he continues to work toward receiving a call. The proposed action does not obligate either Nathan or the congregation to any specific action in the future. Nathan is coming under care with a commitment to discern the Lord's direction to wherever he would be called to serve within the RPCNA.

Recommendations:
1. That Nathan Shaver be given five minutes to address the Court during this meeting to share about his testimony, pastoral experience, and call to the ministry within the RPCNA.
2. That Presbytery authorize CCRP to engage Nathan Shaver in an interim pastoral role through June 30th, 2022, with responsibilities that could include preaching, teaching, counseling, assisting with visitation, and attending Session meetings.

Respectfully submitted,
CCRP Session