



First Reformed Presbyterian Church of Durham Annual Congregation Report to Presbytery Spring Meeting, 2022

2 Thessalonians 2:13-15 But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth, to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle.

Membership: 32 Communicant, 7 Baptized

New Communicant Members: 8

Received by Transfer of Membership: 0

Professions of Faith in-lieu of Transfer: 5

Professions of Faith: 3

Transferred Out: 12 (8 communicant, 4 baptized)

Transfer to other RP Churches: 8 (4 communicant, 4 baptized)

Transfer to other congregations: 4 (4 communicant)

Removed from Roll: 1

Baptisms: 4

Average Attendance for Lord's Day Morning Worship: 46

The Lord manifested His loving presence over this past year at First Reformed Presbyterian Church of Durham by His gracious working in the lives of the saints. We have witnessed the growth of many struggling Christians to have a greater peace in the midst of increasingly troubling times. Members are learning to utilize the doctrines they learn, to apply them to their daily lives and to look at the world through the lens of God's eternal truths. As a result, anxiety and fear has decreased greatly among the members of the congregation, and a very evident increase in joy in the worship and fellowship of the church manifests itself each week. We thank the Lord for these developments that give Him praise and glory.

In the beginning of 2021, we at First Reformed Presbyterian Church of Durham, were able to elect and install two new elders, Eric Hallfors and Drew Poplin (who was also approved this last year to serve as Resident In-Training and was received as a Teaching Elder by the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery). We are truly grateful for our previous provisional elders Bob Bibby and Shawn Anderson for their many years of service.

Over the course of the year, we gained eight members by profession of faith, three of whom professed faith for the first time. The Lord has greatly blessed the congregation with the birth of

three covenant children, with another child also added to that number of baptized members. In addition to the blessing of adding to the membership of the congregation, we rejoiced in celebrating the marriage of two of our members this past September. The Session transferred out eight communicant and four baptized members, with four communicant and four baptized members being transferred to other RPCNA congregations; and one member was removed from the roll for indifference. Presently, four communicant and four baptized members are seeking to transfer from another church, two others are seeking to go through the membership class, and others seeking to resolve discipline issues from other churches are regular in attendance. At present our membership stands at 32 communicant and 7 baptized with an average attendance in worship of 46.

In worship on the Lord's Day morning, Kent Butterfield and Drew Poplin preach in alternating series, with Kent Butterfield going through the Psalms, and Drew Poplin completing Philippians and now in 1 Thessalonians. Following morning worship, we have a weekly fellowship meal, where the congregation continues to encourage one another in the Lord, shares a meal together, discusses the sermon and other theological topics, as well as ministers to one another's needs. Following the fellowship meal, we have our Sabbath School hour, with Kent Butterfield and Drew Poplin teaching in alternating series. Kent Butterfield completed a study through the book of James, and is now working through a detailed study of the Ten Commandments; Drew Poplin continues working through the book of Exodus. In our desire to have deacons elected, the congregation studied through the RPTS Deacons and Mercy Ministry video series by Dr. Barry York. It was very edifying and encouraged much discussion. Following the Sabbath School, we have a prayer meeting. By God's grace, we have seen many prayers answered, as well as the saints growing in their maturity, love and fervency in prayer. Following the Lord's Day prayer meeting, the elders host members and visitors in their home for fellowship, encouragement and counseling.

On Wednesday evenings, we have a mid-week Bible Study and prayer meeting. This year, we worked through most of the New Testament epistles, as well as the book of Haggai, particularly drawing applications and lessons for prayer.

The elders conducted regular visitations with the members throughout the course of the year. There has also been much counseling done inside and outside of the congregation. In light of the oppressive Canadian law which seeks to outlaw biblical counseling and the call to repent of sexual sin, Kent and Rosaria Butterfield have made themselves available to a PCA Session to offer counseling for any struggling with sexual sin or identity issues.

A number of our members have grown in their burden for the lost and have engaged in regular street evangelism, with one member exploring whether he has a call to preach the Gospel and working with the Session in evaluating his gifts and qualifications. Drew Poplin preached in the open air on two occasions near the Duke campus, while members of the congregation distributed tracts and engaged in evangelistic conversations. We hold a monthly Bible study in Garner, NC,

in southern Wake County, as an ongoing outreach, with members from the congregation and others from the area regularly attending. In January we held our first exploratory evening worship in southern Wake County with 14 in attendance (2 of whom are not members of the congregation), and now we have other people outside of our congregation interested to see a RPCNA work established in southern Wake County. Drew Poplin is leading the study and preaching in Wake County.

The congregation held a meeting in November and voted to petition Synod to transfer our congregation into the Presbytery of the Alleghenies. The reason behind this desire to be moved from the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery to Presbytery of the Alleghenies is due to geographical reasons. Next year will mark the 25th anniversary of the First Reformed Presbyterian Church of Durham, and still the congregation has no real connection to the rest of the presbytery. None of our members attend the camps, and our youth are too far away to participate in any youth events. The elders are unable to fully attend the presbytery meetings due to the long distance and time required for traveling. However, the Grace and Truth congregation, who Lord willing will organize later this year, is our nearest neighbor in Virginia, being just over 3.5 hours away. Likewise, the Trinity Congregation in Maryland is only 4.75 hours away, and the Seminary is 7.5 hours away. Indianapolis, however, is 10.5 hours away. Therefore, it seems prudent for our congregation be part of the Presbytery of the Alleghenies, as we would be better positioned to both contribute aid to and be aided by the ministry of that Presbytery, as well as church planting efforts in North Carolina and Virginia.

The Session, desiring to have long-term help with ongoing ministry of the church and the efforts to church plant in Wake County, petitioned Presbytery for permission to call an associate pastor. Having gained approval from the Ad-Interim Commission, the Session continues to discuss that possibility with the members of the congregation and hopes to hold an election soon.

We thank the Lord and you men for the many years of prayer and support you devoted to us as a congregation. Even though we are seeking to be part of another presbytery, we are thankful to be part of the same denomination serving King Jesus together and seeking to make Him known.

For Christ's Crown and Covenant,
The Session of First RPC Durham

	First RPC Durham Budget - 2022	2021 Budget	2021 Actual	2022 Budget
	Checking Account Balance (1/1/22): \$34,506.50			
	Investment Account Balance (1/1/22): \$355,868			
100	Undesignated tithes and offerings to general fund	\$ 115,955.62	\$ 113,971.00	\$ 115,164.00
120	Designated giving - Diaconal Fund	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 590.00	\$ 300.00
110	Other designated giving	\$ 250.00	\$ 8,611.00	\$ 3,000.00
115	HMB Resident In-Training Funds (offsets line 206)	\$ 16,000.00	\$ 16,000.00	\$ 24,000.00
190	Subtotal Funds Available (Tithes/Offerings, Designated)	\$ 135,205.62	\$ 139,172.00	\$ 142,464.00
199	Withdrawal from Investments and Cash	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00
	100 Total Funds Available	\$ 160,205.62	\$ 164,172.00	\$ 167,464.00
	Ministry Expenses			
200	Payroll Expenses & Pastoral Compensation			
201	Salary & Housing (60% is for housing)	\$ 62,447.00	\$ 62,447.00	\$ 67,443.00
202	Medical Insurance	\$ 16,621.68	\$ 16,800.00	\$ 16,928.00
203	Retirement	\$ 9,600.00	\$ 9,850.00	\$ 10,200.00
204	Professional Expenses and Cell Phone Allowance	\$ 800.00	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00
205	Pastoral Hospitality	\$ 300.00	\$ 243.00	\$ 300.00
	Subtotal Pastoral Compensation	\$ 89,768.68	\$ 89,940.00	\$ 95,471.00
206	Resident In-Training Compensation (60% is for housing)	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 37,800.00
207	Resident In-Training Medical Insurance	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00
208	Resident In-Training Other Expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Subtotal Resident In-Training Compensation	\$ 41,000.00	\$ 41,000.00	\$ 43,800.00
	Total 200 Ministry Expenses	\$ 130,768.68	\$ 130,940.00	\$ 139,271.00
	300 Worship, Session, Diaconal, Administration			
285.5	Pulpit Supply	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
315	Intern	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
320	Session Work	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 1,347.00	\$ -
330	Communion Expenses	\$ 150.00	\$ 163.00	\$ 170.00
340	Diaconal Fund	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,609.00	\$ 2,000.00
345	Children's Teaching Materials	\$ 250.00	\$ -	\$ 250.00
350	Administration			
351	Office Equipment	\$ 200.00	\$ 38.00	\$ 200.00
352	Treasure's, Clerk's, CPA Expenses	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ 50.00
353	Banking Expenses	\$ 50.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 50.00
355	Paypal Fees (2.93% per \$1000)	\$ 150.00	\$ 99.00	\$ 50.00
362	Conferences for Training	\$ -	\$ 672.00	\$ 650.00
	300 Total Worship, Session, Diaconal, Administration	\$ 6,300.00	\$ 4,938.00	\$ 3,420.00
	400 Synod and Presbytery			
410	Synod Room and Board Fee (TE and one RE)	\$ 600.00	\$ 1,554.00	\$ 1,600.00
411	Synod and Presbytery Travel Expenses (TE and one RE)	\$ 450.00	\$ 145.00	\$ 500.00
431	Presbytery Assessments	\$ 686.84	\$ 687.00	\$ 1,190.00
432	Presbytery Assessments (2.2% of 2021 line 100)	\$ 2,320.70	\$ 2,320.00	\$ 2,507.00
	400 Total Synod and Presbytery	\$ 4,057.54	\$ 4,706.00	\$ 5,797.00

500 Missions			
510 RPM&M	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00	\$ 700.00
520 Other RP Works (all from designated giving)	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ -
530 Outreach	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ -
	500 Total Missions	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 600.00
600 Book Table, Literature, Sermon Audio			
440 Book Table - Free Literature	\$ 50.00	\$ 25.00	\$ -
612 Free literature for distribution (class, prisoners)	\$ 300.00	\$ 260.00	\$ 260.00
620 Sermon Audio	\$ 479.40	\$ 479.00	\$ 480.00
	600 Total Book Table, Literature, Sermon Audio	\$ 829.40	\$ 765.00
700 Fellowship			
710 Fellowship expenses - food	\$ 300.00	\$ 296.00	\$ 300.00
711 Fellowship expenses - other (kitchen, bathroom supplies)	\$ 500.00	\$ 743.00	\$ 700.00
	700 Total Fellowship	\$ 800.00	\$ 1,039.00
800 Publicity			
830 Website	\$ 250.00	\$ 219.00	\$ 250.00
	800 Total Publicity	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00
900 Facilities			
910 Utilities (building only)			
911 Gas	\$ 750.00	\$ 739.00	\$ 1,000.00
912 Electric	\$ 1,700.00	\$ 1,688.00	\$ 1,700.00
913 Water	\$ 800.00	\$ 782.00	\$ 800.00
915 Internet ackage for office	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,212.00	\$ 1,416.00
	910 Subtotal Utilities	\$ 4,450.00	\$ 4,421.00
920 Cleaning supplies	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ 200.00
921 Cleaning contract	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,815.00	\$ 2,220.00
930 Facilities maintenance	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 8,273.00	\$ 5,000.00
935 Lawncare/Landscaping	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ -
940 Facilities equipment	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
941 Sound System	\$ 50.00	\$ -	\$ 50.00
950 Insurance	\$ 3,800.00	\$ 3,776.00	\$ 3,900.00
	900 Total Facilities	\$ 16,000.00	\$ 18,285.00
	Total Disbursements	\$ 160,205.62	\$ 161,492.00
	Ending Balance	\$ -	\$ 2,680.00