

February 14, 2022

Re: Marion Reformed Presbyterian Church Petition

PETITION: The Session of the Marion Reformed Presbyterian Church formally petitions the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery to appoint two provisional elders to help handle a discipline case that has just happened in our congregation.

Fathers and Brothers,

The facts of the case are as follows as we currently know them to be. In the early morning of February 12, 2022, Christian Camery, a member of Marion RP Church, was in Jaybo's bar. Chris had been in the bar between 9 pm, and 3 am and had become intoxicated. At a little before 3am the 12th, Chris was approached by a man he did not know and was struck/punched, knocking Chris to the ground. Chris proceeded to leave the bar and drive to his residence. While at his home, Chris retrieved two firearms and then returned to the bar. The bar was closed after 3 am, and the door was locked. Chris discharged his gun into the entrance of the bar breaking the locks. Chris entered the bar pointing his weapon at the remaining workers and patrons, demanding to know who struck him. The police arrived while this was going on and disarmed Chris without anyone getting injured.

Chris has been arrested and charged with several serious felonies. If convicted, these will require time in state prison. This is a very public crime, and as you can imagine, it has been picked up on Facebook and the local newspaper. The Marion RPC Session is asking the GLG presbytery for help because we have two conflicts of interest in this case. First, elder Scott Hunt is a deputy prosecutor for Grant County, Indiana. Mr. Hunt cannot give any advice or help to this case because of the implications of personal assistance in the criminal case. Second, Christian is the brother of Jason Camery, the pastor of Marion RPC. It is difficult for pastor Camery to shepherd Christian while also taking on a brotherly role in his life. Pastor Camery willingly admits his inclination to be stricter with Christian in this case. In light of these two conflicts, we believe two other elders would be helpful to come alongside Greg Fisher and Jason Camery to shepherd Chris through this challenging time.

The session would like to note that before the Marion church was organized and still a church plant under the oversight of the Kokomo RP Church, the Kokomo RPC session met with the parents of Chris (Joel and Kay Camery) to counsel them concerning problems Chris was having then. The session of Kokomo RPC does have some background and insight into Chris's history, and that is why we are requesting that elders Shawn Anderson and Bob McKissick be appointed as provisional elders in this matter.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. The GLG Presbytery AIC would appoint pastor Shawn Anderson and ruling elder Bob McKissick from Kokomo RP Church as provisional elders to handle the oversight and discipline of Christian Camery.
2. The GLG Presbytery AIC would appoint pastor Shawn Anderson as the moderator Pro-tem over the case involving Christian Camery.

Sincerely in Christ,
The Session of Marion RP Church
Jason Camery, Greg Fisher, Scott Hunt