

2022 Spring Presbytery Meeting

*Meeting of the Great Lakes / Gulf Presbytery of the
Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America*

Addendum to the Omnibus

Addendum Revision 1

Table of Contents

Proposed Agenda.....	AD-1
Clerk’s Report.....	AD-7
Communication 22-4C (Grand Rapids)	AD-11
Communication 22-9 (2RP)	AD-12
Communication 22-10 (2RP)	AD-14
Communication 22-11 (Bloomington).....	AD-24
Louisville Commission Report	AD-27
Selma Congregational Report	AD-28
SWORP Congregational Report	AD-32
Addendum to CCRP Reconciliation Committee Report.....	AD-35

The Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery (RPCNA)

Proposed Agenda — Upd. 3/3/22

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2022 ANNUAL SPRING MEETING

Time: Thursday March 3 @ 10:30 a.m. to Saturday March 5 @ Noon

Place: Reformed Presbyterian Church of Lafayette

Address: 1723 S. 9th St. Lafayette, IN 47905

Phone: (765) 474-3307

DAILY SCHEDULE

THURSDAY

Business Session #1 (10:30 - 12:30p)

- *Lunch Break (12:30 - 1:30p)*

Business Session #2 (1:45 - 5:30p)

- *Mid-Session Break (3:15 - 3:45p)*

- *Dinner Break (5:30 - 6:30p)*

Business Session #3 (6:45 - 9:00p)

FRIDAY

Business Session #4 (8:30a - 12:30p)

- *Mid-Session Break (10:45 - 11:00a)*

- *Lunch Break (12:30 - 1:30)*

Business Session #5 (1:45 - 5:30p)

- *Mid-Session Break (3:15 - 3:30p)*

- *Dinner Break (5:30 - 6:30p)*

Business Session #6 (6:45 - 9:00p)

SATURDAY

Business Session #7 (8:30a - 12:00p)

- *Mid-Session Break (10:15 - 10:30a)*

- *Adjournment (Noon)¹*

BUSINESS SESSION #1

Thu 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. (No Break)

1. **CALL TO ORDER** (Mann/Anderson) 30 mins [11:00]
 - A. Introductory Address (Kuehner)²
 - B. Prayer of Constitution (Mann/Anderson)
2. **ROLL CALL** (Koons) 5 mins [11:05]
3. **FORMAL INTRODUCTIONS** (First-Time Delegates, Fraternal Delegates, Special Guests) 5 mins [11:10]
4. **CLERK'S REPORT** (Kuehner) 20 mins [11:30]
 - A. Report & Recommendations
 - B. Call for Papers³, Session/TGB Minute Books, Report to Synod

¹ Lunch is typically served following adjournment, with sack lunches available upon request.

² At 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday 3/2, the moderator, Dr. Frank J. Smith, informed the clerk of his inability to attend spring presbytery. A statement from Dr. Smith will be read during the clerk's report. In Dr. Smith's absence, a previous moderator (Wade Mann or Shawn Anderson) will moderate the special meeting on 3/2 along with the opening portion of the spring meeting on 3/3. Dr. Smith has appointed Adam Kuehner to preach the introductory sermon for the spring meeting on his behalf.

³ The last call for papers will be Friday 3/4, immediately following the mid-morning break.

5. **OFFICER ELECTIONS** (Nominations from Floor) *Moderator, Clerk, Asst. Clerk* — 5 mins [11:35]
6. **RULING/TEACHING ELDER MEMORIALS** (If Applicable) 5 mins [11:40]
7. **AD INTERIM COMMISSION REPORT** (F. Smith) 5 mins [11:45]
8. **TREASURER'S REPORT** (Magill) 5 mins [11:50]
9. **SHEPHERDING COMMITTEE REPORT** (F. Smith) 5 mins [11:55]
10. **INTERNET MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE** (Kuehner) 10 mins [12:05]
11. **CANDIDATES AND CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT** (Niess)
 - A. Oral Report/Update & Recommendations — 5 mins [12:10]
 - B. Exam: Bible Results — Jake Schwartz (Voice Vote) 2.5 mins
 - C. Exam: Bible Results — Jonathan Sturm (Voice Vote) 2.5 mins [12:15]
12. **INTERCESSORY PRAYER FOR CHRIST'S FLOCK** — *Order of the Day @ 12:15p* — 15 mins [12:30]
 - Pre-assigned delegates will prepare in advance to lead in prayer for: *Hetherton (Poplin), Orlando (Fearing), Second RP (F. Smith-Recess)*
13. **PRAYER TO RECESS FOR LUNCH** (12:30 p.m.)

BUSINESS SESSION #2

Thu 1:45 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. (Break @ 3:15p)

14. **CALL TO ORDER / PRAYER TO RECONVENE** (Moderator) *Appointments?* — 5 mins [1:50]
15. **VISUAL ATTENDANCE** (Asst. Clerk)
16. **READING OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES** (Clerk) 5 mins [1:55]
17. **CANDIDATES AND CREDENTIALS COMTE REPORT** — **Continued** (Niess) — 80 mins [3:15]
 - A. Exam: Personal Godliness — Jake Schwartz — 40 mins [2:35]
 - B. Exam: Theology 1 — Jonathan Sturm — 40 mins [3:15]
18. **MID-SESSION BREAK (15 mins)** — *Order of the Day @ 3:15p* [3:30]
19. **CANDIDATES AND CREDENTIALS COMTE REPORT** — **Continued** (Niess) — 40 mins [4:10]
 - Exam: Theology 2 — Aaron Murray — 40 mins [4:10]
20. **CHRIST CHURCH RECONCILIATION COMTE** (Scott) 30 mins [4:40] *Incl. GLG 22-10*
 - A. Comte Oral Report (5 mins)
 - B. GLG 22-10 Oral Presentation (5 mins)
 - C. Questions for Comte from Floor (5 mins)
 - D. Comte Recommendations: 2, 3, 1, 4 (15 mins)⁴
21. **CONGREGATIONAL REPORT** — **Christ Church** 20 mins [5:00] *Incl. GLG 22-7 + Recommendations*

⁴ A motion may be made at any time to lay on the table to entertain the Recommendations outlined in GLG 22-10.

22. CONGREGATIONAL REPORT — Belle Center 15 mins [5:15] *Incl. Request for Investigative Comte⁵*

23. INTERCESSORY PRAYER FOR CHRIST'S FLOCK — Order of the Day @ 5:15p

- Pre-assigned delegates will prepare in advance to lead in prayer for: *Belle Center (D. Hanson), Bloomington (Eshelman), Christ Church (Dage-Recess).*

24. PRAYER TO RECESS FOR DINNER (5:30 p.m.)

BUSINESS SESSION #3

Thu 6:45 - 9:00 p.m. (No Break)

25. CALL TO ORDER / PRAYER TO RECONVENE (Moderator) *Appointments?* — 5 mins [6:50]

26. VISUAL ATTENDANCE (Asst. Clerk)

27. READING OF PREVIOUS MINUTES (Clerk) 5 mins [6:55]

28. GRAND RAPIDS INQUIRY COMTE (McCollum) 20 mins [7:30]

29. CONGREGATIONAL REPORT — Grand Rapids 10 mins [7:40]

30. CANDIDATES AND CREDENTIALS COMTE REPORT — Continued (Niess)

- A. Paper:** Church History — Jonathan Sturm (Comte Report, Comments, Voice Vote) 10 mins [7:50]
- B. Paper:** Exegesis — Joe Smith (Comte Report, Voice Vote) 10 mins [8:00]

31. INTERCESSORY PRAYER FOR CHRIST'S FLOCK — Order of the Day @ 8:00p — 15 mins [8:15]

- Pre-assigned delegates will prepare in advance to lead in prayer for: *Columbus (Whittle), Durham (Niess), Grand Rapids (McCollum)*

32. BUSINESS COMTE OF THE DAY [BUSCOM] — Order of the Day @ 8:15p — 45 mins [9:00]

33. PRAYER TO RECESS FOR EVENING (9:00 p.m.)

⁵ AIC Minutes (2/17/22): “A request from the Belle Center RPC Session for additional support in handling a pastoral matter was referred back to the Session. The Session is asked to provide more definitive information regarding the request. To aid in further consideration it is recommended that a written summary of the issue(s), the form or nature of support requested and any recommendations regarding the request be provided to the Presbytery or the next appointed AIC.” Belle Center Report to Presbytery (Spring 2022): “The second [challenge] has been the arrest and trial process of Paul and Dana Soma in July, and subsequent matters. Paul has been charged with gross sexual imposition and Dana with child endangering. Their cases are in the local Court of Common Pleas and our county Family Court. Their children have been taken from them, and have been worshiping with Southfield congregation a few times, and now with the Southwest Ohio RPC in Mason, OH. Session, with its small size, has felt overwhelmed at times. We have not proceeded on Church Discipline, yet, since we have no complaint before us, and with a desire not to impede the civil magistrate in his work. We anticipate church discipline procedure to take place after the magistrate has finished his work. When first we heard allegations, we immediately contacted Children's Services and notified families in our congregation. The Somas' arrest and situation were extensively covered in the local media, so it is quite public. Session has asked Presbytery to appoint an investigative committee to help us, in our small size and physical separation, determine facts for any church discipline proceedings.” **Presumably, this excerpt from the Belle Center report satisfies the AIC's request for more definitive information, thereby making it possible to entertain the following motion (if moved and seconded): “That presbytery form a three-man committee, appointed by the moderator, to counsel the Belle Center session regarding (1) Appropriate congregational safety protocols with respect to the Somas, especially Paul, (2) When and how to investigate the relevant facts of the case, and (3) When and how to institute formal church discipline as needed.”** (Other motions could be made. This is just an example.)

BUSINESS SESSION #4*Fri 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. (Break @ 10:40a)⁶*

- 34. CALL TO ORDER / PRAYER TO RECONVENE** (Moderator) 5 mins [8:35]
- 35. VISUAL ATTENDANCE** (Asst. Clerk)
- 36. READING OF PREVIOUS MINUTES** (Clerk) 5 mins [8:40]
- 37. CHILD PROTECTION POLICY COMTE REPORT** (Poplin) 20 mins [9:00]
- 38. ATLANTA TGB REPORT** (F. Smith) 5 mins [9:05]
- 39. CONGREGATIONAL REPORT — Marion** (Camery) 10 mins [9:15]
- 40. ANDERSON VERDICT RESPONSE COMTE REPORT** (Schwartz/Odom) 25 mins [9:40]
- 41. BUSCOM/REALCOM REPORT — Order of the Day @ 9:40a** (Chairman) 60 mins [10:40]
- 42. MID-SESSION BREAK (15 mins) — Order of the Day @ 10:40p** [10:55]
- 43. CANDIDATES & CREDENTIALS COMTE REPORT - Order of the Day @ 10:55a** (Niess) 80 mins [12:15]
- A. Exam:** Pastoral & Evangelistic Gifts — Joe Smith — 40 mins [11:35]
 - B. Exam:** Theology 2 — Allen Blackwood — 40 mins [12:15]
- 44. INTERCESSORY PRAYER FOR CHRIST'S FLOCK — Order of the Day @ 12:15p** [12:30]
- Pre-assigned delegates will prepare in advance to lead in prayer for: *Atlanta (Faris), Marion (Mann), Sparta (Schaefer), Lafayette (Holdeman-Recess)*.
- 45. PRAYER TO RECESS FOR LUNCH** (12:30 p.m.)

BUSINESS SESSION #5*Fri 1:45 - 5:30 p.m. (Break @ 3:15p)*

- 46. CALL TO ORDER / PRAYER TO RECONVENE** (Moderator) 30 mins [2:15]
- Preaching Exam: Expository 2 Sermon (Joe Smith)
- 47. VISUAL ATTENDANCE** (Asst. Clerk)
- 48. READING OF PREVIOUS MINUTES** (Clerk) 5 mins [2:20]
- 49. CANDIDATES & CREDENTIALS COMTE REPORT - Continued** (Niess) 55 mins [3:15]
- A. Exam:** Expository Sermon 2 — Joe Smith (Floor Comments & Vote) 10 mins [2:30]
 - B. Exam:** Pastoral & Evangelistic Gifts — Allen Blackwood — 45 mins [3:15]
- 50. MID-SESSION BREAK (15 mins) — Order of the Day @ 3:15p** [3:30]
- 51. CANDIDATES & CREDENTIALS COMTE REPORT - Continued** (Niess)
- A. Vote:** Licensure to Receive a Call — Joe Smith (Roll Call, Queries, Prayer, Charge) 15 mins [3:45]
 - B. Motion:** To receive report as a whole. 5 mins [3:50]

⁶ The deadline for papers occurs immediately following the mid-morning break.

52. **IMMANUEL JUDICIAL COMMISSION** 10 mins [4:00] *Unfinished Business: Reception of Minutes / Motion to Defer*⁷
53. **LOUISVILLE COMMISSION REPORT** (Hanson) 10 mins [4:10]
54. **COVFAMIKOI REPORT** (Nelson) 5 mins [4:15]
55. **INTERCESSORY PRAYER FOR CHRIST'S FLOCK — Order of the Day @ 4:15p** [4:30]
- Pre-assigned delegates will prepare in advance to lead in prayer for: *Selma (Anderson), Immanuel (Foltz), Elkhart (Scott), Students Under Care (Pockras).*
56. **BUSCOM/REALCOM REPORT — Order of the Day @ 4:30p** (Chairman) 60 mins [5:30]
57. **PRAYER TO RECESS FOR DINNER** (5:30 p.m.)

BUSINESS SESSION #6

Fri 6:45 - 9:00 p.m. (No Break)

58. **CALL TO ORDER / PRAYER TO RECONVENE** (Moderator) 5 mins [6:50]
59. **VISUAL ATTENDANCE** (Asst. Clerk)
60. **READING OF PREVIOUS MINUTES** (Clerk) 5 mins [6:55]
61. **CLERK'S MOTION** - *That members of the C.Y.P.U. leadership team be granted privileges of the floor during the Presbytery Youth Report.*
62. **PRESBYTERY YOUTH REPORT — C.Y.P.U.** (Rhoda) 30 mins [7:25]
63. **SOUTHERN CHURCH EXTENSION COMTE [SOCHEX] REPORT** (Faris) 10 mins [7:35]
64. **CONGREGATIONAL REPORT — Immanuel** 10 mins [7:45]
65. **BUSCOM/REALCOM REPORT — Order of the Day @ 7:45p** (Chairman) 60 mins [8:45]
66. **INTERCESSORY PRAYER FOR CHRIST'S FLOCK — Order of the Day @ 8:45p**
- Pre-assigned delegates will prepare in advance to lead in prayer for: *Louisville (de Jong), Southside (Kim), SWORP (Odom), SOCHEX (Wise-Recess).*
67. **PRAYER TO RECESS FOR DINNER** (9:00 p.m.)

BUSINESS SESSION #7

Sat 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (Break @ 10:15a)

68. **CALL TO ORDER / PRAYER TO RECONVENE** (Moderator) 5 mins [8:35]
69. **VISUAL ATTENDANCE** (Asst. Clerk)
70. **FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT** (Chairman) 10 mins [8:40]
71. **NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT - Draft** (Chairman) 10 mins [8:50]

⁷ Previous Minutes (11/6/21): "Jason Camery presented the report of the IRPC Judicial Commission, introducing Recommendation 1 (That presbytery receive the minutes of the IRPC Judicial Commission and dismiss the committee.) It was moved and seconded to defer action on Recommendation 1 until after the report of the Synod Judicial Commission, after which the parliamentarians ruled that this motion requires a two-thirds majority, and the motion failed to receive a two-thirds majority by voice vote. Recommendation 1 was discussed, after which it failed by a vote of 13-15." **Since the commission has not brought a recommendation, the motion to defer the matter of receiving the minutes and dismissing the committee no longer requires a 2/3 majority to be adopted. This motion could be made and passed by a simple majority. Otherwise, this item hangs in limbo.**

72. TIME & PLACE COMMITTEE REPORT (Chairman) *5 mins* [8:55]

73. REPORT ON SESSION MINUTE BOOKS (Asst. Clerk) *5 mins* [9:00]

74. BUSCOM/REALCOM REPORT — *Continued, If Necessary* (Chairman) *60 mins* [10:00]

75. INTERCESSORY PRAYER FOR CHRIST'S FLOCK — *Order of the Day @ 10:00a* [10:15]

- Pre-assigned delegates will prepare in advance to lead in prayer for: *Southfield (TBD), Sycamore (O'Neill), Terre Haute (Nelson), Westminster (Schwartz).*

76. MID-SESSION BREAK (15 mins) — *Order of the Day @ 10:15a* [10:30]

77. BUSCOM/JUDCOM REPORT — *Continued, If Necessary* (Chairman) *30 mins* [11:00]

78. NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT - *Final* (Chairman) *10 mins* [11:10]

79. RESOLUTION OF THANKS COMMITTEE (Chairman) *5 mins* [11:15]

80. READING OF PREVIOUS MINUTES (Clerk) *5 mins* [11:20]

81. BREATHING ROOM *40 mins* [12:00]

82. PRAYER OF ADJOURNMENT (Noon)

AD-7**The Clerk's Report**

2022 Spring Meeting — Lafayette, IN
March 3-5, 2022

Dear Fathers & Brethren,

This past year has proved to be my busiest as clerk, since taking over the reigns from Mr. Morton in 2016. Nevertheless, I am especially grateful for the collaborative efforts of several men, including Dale Koons (Retiring Asst. Clerk), Nathan Eshelman (Asst. Clerk *pro tem*), Frank Smith (GLG/AIC Mod.), Adam Niess (C&CC Ch.), and Richard Blankenship (AIC Clerk, *G.O.A.T.*¹). Since last spring, I have performed the following tasks as clerk.

- Sent official correspondence in response to various communications as directed by the presbytery.
- Sent membership transfer letter(s) in cooperation with the Shepherding Comte and the Ad Interim Commission.
- Forwarded intra-church correspondences from the Clerk of Synod (and others) to the GLG delegates email list.
- Disseminated formal communications from various sources to the GLG delegates email list.
- Recorded, distributed, and submitted all presbytery minutes in accordance with the law and order of the church.
- Cooperated with assistant clerk to formulate attendance rolls and submit annual presbytery report to synod.
- Completed and submitted annual RPCNA statistical questionnaire to our home office in Pittsburgh.
- Worked with various other presbyters (including those mentioned above) to help coordinate all GLGP meetings.
- Cooperated with the AIC in formulating a plan to facilitate the ongoing work of internet maintenance.
- Prepared all meeting agendas, submitted clerical reports with recommendations, disseminated reminders and documents via email, fielded procedural questions from various sources (delegates, committees, individual members), assisted delegates in obtaining information posted on our website (e.g. dates, documents, contact info, etc.), received and implemented feedback regarding password-protection issues, cooperated with attorneys to provide them with pertinent contact information for various delegates, forwarded “Delegates List” email change requests to Keith Evans for processing, sought and received clarification from the Synod Judicial Committee on a variety of questions, and worked with members of the AIC to respond appropriately to the Indianapolis Star.

EXISTING COMMUNICATIONS

We have four existing communications from 2021 which are still in the process of being addressed by the court.

1. **21-5**: Letter from Jordan Kessler (RPCL) expressing concern over our handling of the IRPC judicial case.²
2. **21-10**: Clerical communication relaying synod decisions regarding the LeFebvre and IRPC complaints, etc.³

¹ I am not exaggerating. If it were possible to appoint an AIC clerk *in perpetuity*, Mr. Blankenship would receive my vote.

² Previous Motion Adopted (11/5/21): “That presbytery defer any consideration of GLG 21-5 (Jo. Kessler) until synod’s judicial commission has finished its work.”

³ Previous Motion Adopted (11/5/21): “That presbytery refer GLG 21-10 (Synod Decisions) to BUSCOM, to be appointed, to report back at this meeting with its recommendation(s) regarding an appropriate corporate response, if any, to the judicial decisions of synod. Additional Minutes (11/6/21): “Mr. Dage introduced Item #2, Recommendation 1, concerning GLG 21-10, a clerical communication relaying the recent decisions of synod regarding the LeFebvre and IRPC complaints. It was moved and seconded to lay this recommendation on the table to entertain the following substitute motion: ‘Upon reflection of Synod’s sustaining the Anderson complaint, the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery confesses that the suspending of judicial process for Dr. Lefebvre and granting Dr. Lefebvre’s credentials to himself was unwise, unconstitutional, and unbiblical.’ The motion to lay on the table was discussed, after which it was moved and seconded ‘That this matter be referred to the upcoming spring meeting of presbytery.’ The referral motion was discussed and adopted, after which it was moved, seconded, and adopted ‘That the moderator appoint a three-man committee to consider the matter of Synod’s sustaining the Anderson complaint (Comm. 20-05), and to bring a report to the Spring 2022 meeting of the presbytery.’” [Comte: Tom Reid, James Odom, Jake Schwartz]

AD-8

3. **21-11**: Letter from Enas/Swan (CCRP) requesting a committee to investigate concerns and provide counsel.⁴
4. **21-15**: Pre-Litigation Letter Copied to the Presbytery.⁵

NEW COMMUNICATIONS

In addition, we have several new communications to address at this meeting.⁶

1. **22-1**: Paper from A. Kuehner, endorsed by Southfield session, proposing minor revisions to RPCNA queries.
2. **22-2**: Paper from A. Kuehner proposing comte to explore solutions to geographical/logistical challenges.
3. **22-3**: Paper from A. Kuehner outlining proposed advice for presbytery's nominating committee.
4. **22-4A**: Petition from five communicant members of FRPC-GR requesting a visitation committee.⁷
5. **22-4B**: Comments from FRPC-GR Session relative to its forwarding of GLG 22-4A without endorsement.
6. **22-4C**: TBA — *Pre-notification received; awaiting transmission from local session.*
7. **22-5**: Petition from FRPC-D Session requesting transfer to the Presbytery of the Alleghenies (RPCNA).
8. **22-6**: Petition from Atlanta TGB requesting a comte to explore subdividing the GLGP into regional commissions.
9. **22-7**: Petition from the CCRP Session requesting authorization for interim pastoral care.
10. **22-8**: Petition from Marion session requesting assistance with a challenging discipline case.⁸
11. **22-9**: Petition from J. Faris (endorsed by 2RP Session) proposing presbytery realignment.
12. **22-10**: 2RP Session's response to the CCRP Reconciliation Comte Report.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

In the proposed agenda for this meeting, you will notice that each business session includes fifteen minutes of corporate intercessory prayer for three or four designated churches or committees. In order to give our prayer leaders ample time to study the corresponding congregational report in advance, I have listed each proposed prayer assignment in parenthesis. **Please look over the agenda to see if you've been pre-appointed for this important task!** (Even if these assignments are approved with the agenda, they may be swapped with someone else or amended by the moderator.) As in the past, when our prayer time immediately precedes the end of a business session, the final prayer leader will conclude his prayer by recessing the court in the name and by the authority of Zion's only Head and King.

⁴ Previous Motion Adopted (11/5/21): "That presbytery refer GLG 21-11 (Enas/Swan) to BUSCOM, to be appointed, to report back with its recommendation(s) at this meeting." Additional Minutes (11/6/21): "Mr. Dage introduced BUSCOM's two recommendations for Item 4, concerning GLG 21-11, a petition from CCRP members, Nathan Enas and Kevin Swan, requesting a committee to investigate concerns and provide counsel. Recommendation 1 ("That Communication 21-15 be received.") was withdrawn, being already implied by presbytery's referral of this communication to BUSCOM. Recommendation 2 ("That the moderator appoint a three-person committee to hear from the authors of the GLG 21-11 and the session to pursue reconciliation, and report back to the Spring meeting.") was introduced, after which it was moved, seconded, debated, and adopted to grant Nathan Enas and Kevin Swan ten minutes to address the court. Mr. Enas addressed the court for five minutes, after which Recommendation 2 was discussed and adopted without vocal dissent." [Comte: Craig Scott, David Kley, Drew Poplin]

⁵ Previous Minutes (11/6/21): "Mr. Dage introduced BUSCOM's two recommendations for Item 3, concerning GLG 21-15, a letter copied to the presbytery. Recommendation 1 ("That Communication 21-15 be received.") was discussed and adopted. Recommendation 2 ("That the moderator appoint a presbyter to contact Jim McFarland by Tuesday, 11/9/21 to coordinate retention of legal counsel.") was discussed, after which it was moved, seconded and adopted to refer the matter to the AIC. In response to a question from the assistant clerk pro tem, the moderator clarified that GLG 21-15 has become part of the public record, albeit password-protected on the internet. It was moved and seconded by the clerk that presbytery instruct the clerk to password-protect all online versions of GLG 21-15, and refer all requests for the written copy to the AIC. This motion was discussed and adopted." AIC Minutes (11/6/21): "Upon request of the moderator, AIC advises that Andrew Falk (Christ Church, RPC) be appointed to communicate with Mr. Jim McFarland in regard to communication 21-15." AIC Minutes (11/9/21): "It was moved, seconded, and approved to authorized Andrew Falk (Ruling Elder – Christ Church RPC) to retain legal counsel on behalf of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery regarding Communication GLG 21-15 and all related matters with an initial budget of \$5,000. Approval of additional funds for the engagement may be approved by unanimous vote of the AIC. Such vote may be taken and approved via email."

⁶ The deadline for papers will be Friday 3/5 after the mid-morning break, regardless of whether or not it is announced on the floor.

⁷ AIC Minutes (2/3/22): "It was moved, seconded, and approved regarding Communications 22-4A and 22-4B to appoint an Inquiry Committee consisting of Philip McCollum and Richard Blankenship to inquire further into the concerns reported to the AIC by three families and the Session of First RPC of Grand Rapids. The Inquiry Committee is to report their findings and any recommendations to the Presbytery at the Presbytery meeting scheduled for March 3, 2022."

⁸ AIC Minutes (2/17/22): "The request and recommendations received from the Marion RPC Session for help in handling a discipline case in their congregation were moved, seconded, and approved, those being specifically (i) appointing Shawn Anderson (Sycamore RPC—Kokomo) and Bob McKissick (Sycamore RPC—Kokomo) as provisional elders to handle the oversight and discipline of Christian Camery and (ii) appointing Shawn Anderson as moderator pro-tem over the case involving Christian Camery. A copy of the request from the Marion RPC Session is attached to and made a part of these minutes."

AD-9

BUSCOM

As a general rule, in order to facilitate greater efficiency of deliberation, I am recommending that all *petitionary* communications be referred to the moderator-appointed *Business Committee of the Day* (BUSCOM) to report back with recommendations at various designated time slots later in the meeting. Such a vetting mechanism enables three competent men, acting on the court's behalf, to (1) examine each referral carefully in light of our constitution, (2) solicit valuable clarification from the author and/or involved parties, (3) inform the court of its findings, and (4) present a recommended course of action which the court may then discuss. By doing all of this in *advance* of any substantive floor discussion, we are helping to ensure that we have all the information we need to maintain an efficient and constructive deliberation process.

JUDCOM

At the moment, none of our incoming communications warrant referral to a moderator-appointed *Judicial Committee of the Day* (JUDCOM). However, if an item of *judicially-oriented business* (JOB) were to arrive on our doorstep, how would we handle it? On the one hand, presbytery could refer the JOB to JUDCOM. On the other hand, it could authorize BUSCOM to handle *all* types of business (judicial *and* non-judicial), thereby precluding the need for a separate JUDCOM. Generally speaking, if there are *multiple* JOBs, it might make more sense to appoint a separate JUDCOM, so as not to overload BUSCOM. However, if the JOB is singular in nature, perhaps BUSCOM would be the better option. In either case, if the presbytery does see fit to appoint a separate JUDCOM, this committee would need to share the time slots currently assigned to BUSCOM in the proposed agenda.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That presbytery appoint James Odom and Jason O'Neill as parliamentarians for this meeting, with Steve Rhoda and Phil Pockras serving as alternates.
2. That presbytery instruct the nominating committee to determine the congregations to be visited this year.
3. That presbytery instruct the moderator to make the following appointments:

A. Session/TGB Min. Book Reviewers (2/Bk)	D. Finance Committee (3)
B. Business Comte OTD [BUSCOM] (3) ⁹	E. Resolution of Thanks Committee (2)
C. Nominating Committee (3)	F. Time and Place Committee (2)
4. That presbytery adopt it as a standing policy that the deadline for papers at a spring meeting occurs immediately following the mid-morning break on the second day (usually a Friday) regardless of whether or not a "last call for papers" has been made by the clerk or moderator.
5. That presbytery refer GLG 22-1 and 22-3 to the business committee (of the day) [BUSCOM] to report back with recommendations later in the meeting.
6. That presbytery refer GLG 22-2, 22-5¹⁰, 22-6, and 22-9 to a five-man realignment committee (of the day) [REALCOM] consisting of the authors of these four communications (James Faris^{Ch}, Adam Kuehner, Kent Butterfield, and a member of the Atlanta TGB appointed by the moderator), along with an additional delegate appointed by the moderator, to discuss all four communications and report back later at this meeting with relevant recommendations.¹¹
7. That presbytery refer GLG 22-4C to the Grand Rapids Inquiry Committee, to report back with any recommendations during its scheduled time slot at this meeting.
8. That presbytery take up GLG 22-7 in connection with the CCRP congregational report.
9. That presbytery take up GLG 22-9 in connection with the CCRP Reconciliation Comte report.

⁹ If there are judicial matters to refer, the court can decide to turn BUSCOM into a judicial committee or simply form a separate judicial committee.

¹⁰ The FRPCD Session is requesting that their petition be taken up by the court no later than Friday.

¹¹ The rationale here is very simple: We will save precious time by giving the respective authors an opportunity to present a unified proposal to discuss, rather than spinning our wheels discussing all four communications separately. If for some reason, the committee cannot come to agreement, the individual communications and their respective recommendations may still come before the court for consideration.

AD-10

10. That presbytery receive all written congregational reports *without* hearing oral reports¹² — with the exception of Belle Center, Christ Church, Grand Rapids, Immanuel, and Marion¹³ each of which shall report orally — and refer the provisional elder recommendations from Elkhart and Westminster to the nominating committee.
11. That presbytery approve the following committee reports and commission minutes as submitted¹⁴, without hearing oral reports:
 - A. Inter-Church Liaison Report
 - B. Visitation Reports (Second RP, Sparta)
 - C. Youth Ministries Comte of Synod Report
 - D. Covfamikoi Report
 - E. Geneva College Board of Corp.'s Report
 - F. Military Chaplaincy Report (R. Fearing)
12. That presbytery grant all RPCNA elders present, including all non-certified delegates from this presbytery, the privilege of the floor during the remainder of this meeting.¹⁵
13. That presbytery excuse BUSCOM to begin its work.
14. That presbytery receive the clerk's report.

Respectfully Submitted,
Adam Kuehner, Clerk

¹² Note: This recommendation simply enables the court to *receive* the reports without hearing them orally. It is *not* an absolute prohibition that would hinder the court from adopting a later motion to hear any (or all) of these oral reports, should the current slate of business be completed more efficiently than expected, leaving a sizable surplus of time. Moreover, this recommendation would not prevent the court from hearing oral congregational reports at a future meeting, e.g. our June meeting(s) at Synod or a possible special meeting in the fall. This same principle applies to #7.

¹³ It should be evident that these four congregations are enjoying special priority here due to recent developments. If there are other congregations you would like to hear from orally during this meeting, feel free to make a motion to that effect and we can try to fit them in.

¹⁴ Similar to #6 above, this motion is designed to facilitate “line item” amendments in case the court prefers to hear an oral report from any of these committees, or if the court desires to add other reports to this recommendation.

¹⁵ Note: Recommendation #4 does not grant *voting* privileges to GLG elders lacking written session certification.

Dear Brothers of the Great Lakes/Gulf Presbytery,

As members of First Reformed Presbyterian Church of Grand Rapids, I'd like to reiterate our desire to have presbytery's involvement in the current matters in our congregation. This is something that I had publicly communicated during the open forum held on January 26th, and I believe that it is of the utmost importance to the future and health of our congregation for presbytery to send a visitation committee.

This has been very difficult for our family, as it has been for our whole congregation, and the hope is with the involvement from presbytery that clarity and healing can begin for our small flock.

The Lord bless you and your work.

In Christ,
Brenden & Elizabeth Boudreau

March 2022

Fathers and Brothers of the Great Lakes-Gulf,

I propose that the current Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery of the RPCNA be divided into two presbyteries, effective at the 2022 Synod meeting. One, stretching from Hetherton to Orlando would remain named as the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery. The other would be named the Illinois-Indiana Presbytery. This proposal would have to be approved by the RPCNA Synod, but we can make a request and recommendation.

Rationale:

The Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery has more work than it can efficiently do in its current framework. This has been acknowledged by a number of people. Some have suggested regional commissions to be erected to disperse the load. It's good to consider possibilities like this one. However, no such category exists constitutionally, and creating new administrative layers often produces unintended consequences of a negative kind, even if well-intentioned. The simplest, most structurally sound method would be to create two presbyteries. Though in this proposal the Illinois-Indiana Presbytery would be numerically larger than the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery, the number of delegates to each would be similar. The new Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery would also still be larger than three other presbyteries in the RPCNA.

In light of the numerical imbalance of a strict geographical division and in light of recent events, the proposed presbyteries are intentionally aligned to promote healing in each place in such a way that churches are best able to fulfill our callings to magnify the Lord and balance the numbers to a greater extent. There may come a time to revisit this alignment in future years, but it seems wise to divide ourselves in such a way as to allow brothers to labor together who are like-minded in philosophies of administration. We all long for the peace and prosperity of Zion, and the fruit of this proposal would be to make the presbyteries effective in their callings by distributing the workload which is necessary at this juncture and to do so in a way that best facilitates peaceable co-laboring.

Proposed Presbyteries:

The proposed presbyteries are as follows (Membership numbers are taken from 2022 reports to presbytery or the 2021 Minutes of Synod where necessary. Estimated Delegates numbers are based on the number of delegates a congregation usually sends plus an estimate of the retired pastors who regularly attend presbytery who are a part of the congregations listed):

Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery	Membership	Estimated Delegates		Illinois-Indiana Presbytery	Membership	Estimated Delegates
Atlanta	17	1		Bloomington	187	4
Belle Center	59	2		Christ Church	87	2
Grand Rapids	50	2		Columbus	136	3
Durham	39	2		Elkhart	59	2
Hetherton	20	2		Immanuel	174	3
Lafayette	150	3		Second	235	4
Marion	48	2		Southside	277	4
Orlando	124	3		Sparta	26	1
Selma	17	1		Terre Haute	39	2
Southfield	68	2		Westminster	19	1
Sycamore	63	2				
SWORP	33	3				
Totals	688	25			1239	26

Recommendation: That the presbytery endorse the following recommendation to synod:

That effective at the 2022 Synod meeting the RPCNA Synod establish the Illinois-Indiana Presbytery comprised of the following congregations: Bloomington, Christ Church (Indiana), Columbus, Elkhart, Immanuel, Second, Southside, Sparta, Terre Haute, Westminster (Illinois).

Respectfully Submitted,
James Faris

Dear Fathers and Brothers,

We praise God for the significant time, energy, prayer, and love that the CCRP Reconciliation Committee (the “Committee”) has given to the CCRP Session and the Enas and Swan families. We hope and pray that this labor was not in vain and that the Lord will indeed bless this work.

Notwithstanding its love and good intentions, however, the Committee has erred in two significant ways that cannot be ignored. With the endorsement of the Session of the Second Reformed Presbyterian Church of Indianapolis, the undersigned submit this petition to Presbytery to protest the work of the Committee. Specifically, the 1) Committee has improperly exceeded its remit¹ by acting as a judicial commission, and 2) failed to report to the Presbytery all the material facts of its work, which opens itself up to the appearance of irregular influence in its findings and recommendations.

1. The CCRP Reconciliation Committee Has Improperly Acted As A Judicial Commission:

Although the CCRP Reconciliation Committee purports to act as a reconciliation committee, it has effectively assumed a judicial role in 1) adjudicating the sin of the CCRP Session, and 2) calling for a remedy directed at preventing future sins by the CCRP Session.

The undersigned respectfully disagree with the Committee that the distinction between a reconciliation committee and a judicial commission is simply that the latter “look[s] back” and the former “look[s] forward.” (CCRP Reconciliation Committee (Revised) Report (“Rev. Report”) at 1). Rather, the question is whether there will be an “investigat[ion] [into] a situation” and “adjudicat[ion] [of] a case which has come before the presbytery.” (Directory, Ch. 6, Sec. 15). If so, then the Committee is acting as a judicial commission.

Here, the Committee has done more than look forward. It has effectively investigated a complaint filed by the Enas and Swan families against their elders, effectively adjudicated that the elders sinned, recognized the repentance of the elders for sin, effectively committed its decisions to writing for the Presbytery’s review, and now effectively seeks to impose an up-to one-year probationary period supervised by a two-man Shepherding Committee. These actions and recommendations are outside the scope of its remit.

The Committee did not enter “findings” or “rulings” in so many words, but it did so in substance. The Committee stated that it “prepared short-term steps for each of the parties which *should* be followed in pursuit of reconciliation.” (Rev. Report at 2) (emphasis added). The Committee’s Revised Report later stated that “the [CCRP] Session . . . confess[ed] their *sins and infirmities* to the congregation, as well as [laid] out clear and practical steps to grow in their work as undershepherds.” (Rev. Report at 3) (emphasis added). With these and other similar statements, the Committee has informed the Presbytery that the short-term steps it prepared for the CCRP

¹ The action of the GLG Presbytery with respect to the Committee was “That the moderator appoint a three-person committee to hear from the authors of the GLG 21-11 and the session to pursue reconciliation, and report back to the Spring committee.” Minutes of the 2021 Fall Meeting of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery, BUSCOM Item #4 – Petition from Two CCRP Members (GLG 21-11).

Session reflect the standard of care that the Committee expects from RPCNA ruling elders² who find themselves in a situation similar to what the CCRP church has experience.

The Committee now seeks, in its Revised Report, to effectively enforce this standard of care in the case of the CCRP Session by adding a new recommendation to its Revised Report that “a two-man Shepherding Committee be appointed to meet at least every other month (either in-person or by phone, Zoom, etc.) until either the next spring meeting of Presbytery or until a Pastor is installed at CCRP (whichever comes first), in order to ensure and aid the Session in growing in their active shepherding of CCRP.” (Rev. Report at 6). This up to one-year remedial action is the natural outflow of its effective finding that the CCRP Session has sinned by breaching the standard of care the Committee has described, thereby necessitating ongoing accountability. The Committee is not recommending ongoing shepherding of all parties to facilitate ongoing reconciliation and renewed fellowship. Rather, the Committee is recommending an act that has the appearance of being more punitive toward only one party: effectively, the supervised probation of the CCRP Session.

These are the actions of a judicial commission that has decided a case, not a committee that has been tasked only with “pursu[ing] reconciliation, and report[ing] back to the Spring committee.” Accordingly, the Committee has overstepped its remit.

There are many approaches to this unique situation that the Committee could have chosen. The undersigned lack the understanding of and familiarity with the necessary facts and circumstances to know what other approaches might have been better suited to pursue reconciliation. But what is clear is that the Committee assumed a judicial posture to this case. And that was not warranted.

2. The CCRP Reconciliation Committee Has Not Reported To The Presbytery All The Material Facts Of Its Work. The Committee published its original CCRP Reconciliation Committee Report (“Original Report”)³ on February 11, 2022. It has now published its Revised Report “after further consideration” on February 28, 2022. The basis for “further consideration” is not fully explained in the Revised Report. Yet, the Revised Report makes at least one significant change, namely, the Committee now recommends imposing an up-to one-year supervised probation on the CCRP Session.

This revision begs the following questions:

1. With whom did any member of the CCRP Reconciliation Committee communicate about the substance of the February 11, 2022 Report after it was published to the Presbytery?
2. What was the substance of those communications?
3. How did the substance of those communications impact the Committee’s decision to put forth its new recommendation, which did not appear in the Original Report,

² The standard of care reflected in the Revised Report is a serious and important matter that our Presbytery would do well to consider. However, this substantive question is better discussed, debated, and decided on the floor of Presbytery or in further communications – not decided by a reconciliation committee in response to a unique situation.

³ The Original Report is attached to this Petition.

namely: *“That a two-man Shepherding Committee be appointed to meet at least every other month (either in-person or by phone, Zoom, etc.) until either the next spring meeting of Presbytery or until a Pastor is installed at CCRP (whichever comes first), in order to ensure and aid the Session in growing in their active shepherding of CCRP.”* (Rev. Report at 6).

4. When was the CCRP Session informed of this new recommendation, and were they given the opportunity for comment and input?

These questions should be addressed on the floor of Presbytery or in further communication from the Committee. These questions are material to the work of the Committee. The Committee provided a detailed timeline of its meetings with the CCRP Session and the Enas and Swan families, starting in December 2021 and then again in January 2022. However, the subtext of the Committee’s Revised Report is that additional meetings and/or conversations were held after publication of the February 11, 2022 Original Report that materially impacted the substance of the Original Report and recommendations. Accordingly, these recent communications and the manner in which they impacted the Committee’s work should, in fairness to all and for the sake of good and decent order, be fully disclosed. Failure to do so would create the appearance of undue influence upon the Committee and would be prejudicial to the reputation of the CCRP Session.

The undersigned, therefore, recommend that the Presbytery

1. disapprove the CCRP Reconciliation Committee (Revised) Report as the work of an improperly constituted judicial commission,
2. require further communication from members of the Committee regarding the circumstances occurring between the February 11, 2022 publication of the original CCRP Reconciliation Committee Report and the February 28, 2022 publication of the Revised Report,
3. continue in prayer for the ongoing reconciliation of all parties involved, and
4. dismiss the Committee.

We pray that the Lord would indeed bring reconciliation and healing to the CCRP Session, the Enas and Swan families, and the CCRP congregation. We trust that Christ will indeed rule and reign in the hearts of His people even now, and forevermore. Amen.

Respectfully Submitted in Christ,

Richard Blankenship	Dave Mauser
Donald Cassell	Justin Olson
Adam Doerr	Jeff Platt
James Faris	David Pulliam
Dean Filson	Russ Pulliam
Terry Magnuson	

**CHRIST CHURCH REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN RECONCILIATION COMMITTEE
REPORT TO GREAT LAKES-GULF PRESBYTERY – MARCH 2022**

*Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;
that they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us:
that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. – John 17:20-21*

*Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind,
meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel
against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity, which
is the bond of perfectness. – Colossians 3:12-14*

I. THE MANDATE OF THIS COMMITTEE

On November 6, 2021, the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery took the following action:

That the moderator appoint a three-person committee to hear from the authors of the GLG 21-11 and the session to pursue reconciliation, and report back to the Spring meeting.¹

Upon appointment, the CCRP Reconciliation Committee understood reconciliation as outlined in the *Book of Discipline* of the RPCNA:

If a member sins against another person, or if a member sins and this sin becomes known to another member of the church, the person sinned against or aware of the sin should go privately to the sinner and confront him. *If the sinner repents, there must be forgiveness and reconciliation, and the matter shall be closed. You have won your brother.*²

Accordingly, this Committee understood our mandate to be that of a reconciliation committee, rather than an investigative or judicial committee. Whereas an investigative or judicial committee's primary aim is to look back, a reconciliation committee's primary aim is to look forward. Our tone is, therefore, seeking to be pastoral and practical; our objective, forgiveness and restoration.

II. THE PROCESS OF THIS COMMITTEE'S WORK

Upon our appointment, this Committee communicated multiple times via Zoom in order to ensure we were unified in our understanding of our mandate, to formulate a plan, and to seek the Lord's blessing in prayer. We then communicated with the CCRP Session, as well as the Enas and Swan families, to arrange a time to meet together.

Our process was to meet with each party separately and then altogether on the final night. Before meeting, this Committee communicated to both parties that it was our prayer and aim that each party will have a

¹ *Minutes of the 2021 Fall Meeting of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery*, BUSCOM Item #4 – Petition from Two CCRP Members (GLG 21-11).

² *RPCNA Constitution, Book of Discipline, Chapter 2 "Dealing with Sin in the Church — Personal Responsibility,"* Paragraphs 1-2, p. E-3. Emphasis added.

concrete understanding of what needs to be done for reconciliation to occur, what they personally need to do to accomplish this, and a route of how this will come to fruition. Being formed as a reconciliation committee, we communicated to both parties that our presupposition is that there is alienation between the Session and members of the congregation. In each meeting, therefore, our task was: (a) to pastorally seek to find the main point(s) of alienation whether it be miscommunication, oversight, mistake, or personal sins; (b) to seek necessary confession of said miscommunication, oversight, mistake, or personal sins; (c) to seek and receive forgiveness for miscommunication, oversight, mistake, or personal sins; and, (d) to have a plan of action where each party seeks to heal the relationship and show the necessary fruits of reconciliation.³

The Committee first met with the Session and families in Indianapolis on the evenings of December 7, 2021, through December 9, 2021 – meeting first with the Session, then the families, and then with all parties together. After the first two evenings of our meetings, and in preparation for the third evening, the Committee prepared short-term steps for each of the parties which should be followed in pursuit of reconciliation.⁴

The steps for the Session were as follows:

- A. Confess particular actions and sins regarding the shepherding of Michael Lefebvre and the congregation; the first six which arose in discussion with the Session, with the seventh from the Committee:
 - 1) The need to have brought publications forward to the congregation sooner;
 - 2) The need to have more oversight over Michael's publications, confronting contra-confessional matters;
 - 3) The need to have read the materials more quickly and fully;
 - 4) The need to have interacted with the seminary more diligently;
 - 5) The need to have shared more openly the opposition to Michael's writings;
 - 6) The need to have not heeded problematic counsel which encouraged the keeping private Michael's problematic views regarding the Creation account; and,
 - 7) The need to have engaged the congregation with greater transparency and initiative.
- B. Communicate to the congregation (in some kind of congregational-meeting format) a timeline of the facts of what has transpired from the time of Michael's disclosing to Session his problematic writings through working with the Reconciliation Committee.
- C. Conduct regular family visitations.

The steps for the Enas and Swan families were as follows:

- A. Be ready and desirous to receive the confession of the Session, extending forgiveness and encouragement to the Session in their duties.
- B. Resolve to maintain a charitable framework toward the Session regarding their words and actions.

³ This paragraph was adapted from an email, dated Monday, December 6, 2021, communicating the CCRP Reconciliation Committee's understanding of our remit and approach, sent from this Committee to all the parties involved.

⁴ The following steps were provided during the meeting between both parties, December 9, 2021, and then were sent to all parties via email on December 10, 2021.

- C. Be patient toward the Session, allowing your leaders to lead; likewise, be patient through this process of reconciliation.

Additionally, the following long-term steps were advised for CCRP:

- A. Pursue the option of finding an intentional interim (or at the least regular, stated pulpit supply).
- B. Both parties are to continue to follow-up with this Committee [between the December and January meetings in order to help mediate communication].
- C. It is recommended that CCRP's congregational report to Presbytery should include information on how trust is being built and reconciliation is occurring within the life of the congregation.
- D. Session is to continue to take initiative on cultivating a spirit of transparency within the Session and congregation.

After prayer and discussion, the Session called for an informal congregational meeting after morning worship on Lord's Day, January 23, 2022, during which they verbally confessed these matters to the congregation, provided a clear timeline of the facts pertinent to the Session's oversight of Michael, and communicated clear steps for repentance and ways in which they desire to grow in their shepherding of the congregation. This statement was then provided in writing to the congregation. This Committee gives thanks to God for evidence of His grace and kindness in strengthening the Session to confess their sins and infirmities to the congregation, as well as to lay out clear and practical steps to grow in their work as undershepherds. Also, the Session is pursuing regular, stated pulpit supply.

The Committee met again in Indianapolis with the Session and families the evenings of January 23, 2022, through January 25, 2022 – meeting first with the Session, then the families, and then with all parties together. During these meetings, there were further conversations which were, though at times filled with disagreement, helpful in establishing open communication between the Session and families.

III. FURTHER COUNSEL REGARDING RECONCILIATION AND STRENGTHENING CCRP

It would be naïve on the part of this Committee to believe that the work of reconciling these parties is concluded. But based upon the evaluation of this Committee's interactions with the Session and families, this Committee believes that what is now needed is not the work of a Presbytery Committee, but commitment and follow-through for both parties to have humility and grow in the following ways. For the Session, there are two long-term changes which will help guard against the lack of diligence in shepherding both the members and pastor of the congregation in the future. Likewise for the families, there are two long-term changes which will help guard against a quarrelsome spirit and encourage charity. It is the belief of this Committee that as the Session and families grow in the following ways, by God's grace, reconciliation will occur and the congregation will thrive. In other words, as the leaders lead well, and as those who follow receive shepherding well, the flock of Christ will be well-tended. For each of the following principles, this Committee has provided practical applications for the Session and families.

For the Session:

First, there is a need for the Session to grow in an active approach to shepherding the flock. The most important way in which this can develop, to which the Session has publicly stated their agreement, is by elders conducting regular, intentional visitations in the members' homes. Up to this point, the Session has maintained an informal and less structured manner of pastoral care; but it is the counsel of this Committee that having systematic pastoral visits ensures each family is receiving care, relationships are built between the elders and households of the congregation, and each member is given an opportunity to speak openly but privately with the elders. By regularly engaging each household in their home, asking about their growth under the means of grace and of their walk with the Lord, the elders and members alike will grow in their communication and care. This Committee gives the Lord thanks that the Session has demonstrated great humility before God and love for the Bride of Christ by being eager and desirous to begin this work, as they have reached out further to the members of this Committee to learn more about systematic visitations. To aid the elders in equipping them for such work, in addition to receiving encouragement and counsel from their fellow presbyters, this committee would suggest studying, as a Session, through either David Dickson's *The Elder and His Work*, or Timothy Witmer's *The Shepherd Leader: Achieving Effective Shepherding in Your Church*. Along this same subject, this Committee would encourage the CCRP Session to grow in their ability and readiness to have direct confrontation. This Committee witnessed among the Session what is perceived to be an unwillingness to have confrontational disagreement. But often the work of the elder requires a readiness to speak directly with clarity and courage regardless, and the lack thereof leads to a lack of communication and perceived lack of transparency. This is an area where, this Committee believes, our brothers need particular prayer and encouragement. But, by God's grace, as these men grow in their active shepherding, the whole congregation of Christ Church Reformed Presbyterian may flourish beyond what we could even desire – such is the work of God's kindness towards His Church. This Committee notes that at our January 25, 2022, meeting, the Session already showed improvement in their willingness to have difficult conversations and confront issues – for which we thank the Lord.

Second, there is a need for the Session to grow in theological discernment and zeal for doctrinal purity. This Committee believes that these men are called by the King of the Church to be the undershepherds of the particular congregation of CCRP. And being called, they are fully equipped for their task through the means God has provided. Regarding Michael Lefebvre's writings, the Session felt unprepared and unqualified to contend against their Pastor's contra-confessional and unbiblical views. This Committee would seek to exhort and encourage these men in their duty as elders to guard the purity of both the doctrine and life of the Church; and, in areas which they are theologically weak, to diligently study as issues arise. This Committee would encourage our brothers from Christ Church RP to reach out to fellow presbyters for help in finding resources on doctrinal matters they may be unfamiliar with, and for fellow presbyters to be quick in aiding our brethren. Furthermore, this Committee would recommend to the Session that they lead the congregation through a study of the Confession using G. I. Williamson's *The Westminster Confession of Faith: For Study Classes*, or through the Larger Catechism using J. G. Vos's *The Westminster Larger Catechism: A Commentary*. Doing so would be an aid not only to the Session, but to the congregation, that they too would have a greater understanding of and zeal for reformed theology as confessed in the Westminster Standards. This Committee also gives thanks to the Lord for the Session's publicly-stated commitment to review the writings of their future minister, Lord willing, before their publication. Such resolve shows their desire to grow in this area, as well as demonstrates learning from past mistakes.

For the Families:

First, the Enas and Swan families need to grow in their understanding of Proverbs 10:12, “Hatred stirreth up strifes: but love covereth all sins;” as well as 1 Peter 4:8, “And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.” This Committee and the families, in our communication with one another, clearly are not in agreement with one another on the understanding of these verses. For example, it is the position of this Committee that not all sin must be confessed in order for there to be both forgiveness and reconciliation. Indeed, we as Christians do not confess every one of our sins against God, often out of mere ignorance of them. Yet, we have the wonderful comfort that “He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities” (Psalm 103:10). Upon being offended, it is indeed the immediate duty of the offender to seek forgiveness, but it is also the immediate duty of the offended to forgive, even if no forgiveness has been sought. The holiness of God’s mercy and forgiveness of His elect is the standard which we are to follow in our own relationships with others, and particularly with our brothers and sisters in Christ. It is the position of this Committee that this foundational misunderstanding has contributed to the increase of offense and to the difficulty in achieving reconciliation. This Committee would, therefore, counsel the families to meditate well upon these two passages. To that end, this Committee has included below the following two expositions upon these verses:

And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves, v. 8. Here is a noble rule in Christianity. Christians ought to love one another, which implies an affection to their persons, a desire of their welfare, and a hearty endeavour to promote it. This mutual affection must not be cold, but fervent, that is, sincere, strong, and lasting. This sort of earnest affection is recommended above all things, which shows the importance of it, Col. 3:14. It is greater than faith or hope, 1 Cor. 13:13. One excellent effect of it is that it will *cover a multitude of sins*. Learn, (1.) There ought to be in all Christians a more fervent charity towards one another than towards other men: *Have charity among yourselves*. He does not say for pagans, for idolaters, or for apostates, but among yourselves. Let brotherly love continue, Heb. 13:1. There is a special relation between all sincere Christians, and a particular amiableness and good in them, which require special affection. (2.) It is not enough for Christians not to bear malice, nor to have common respect for one another, they must intensely and fervently love each other. (3.) It is the property of true charity to cover a multitude of sins. It inclines people to forgive and forget offences against themselves, to cover and conceal the sins of others, rather than aggravate them and spread them abroad. It teaches us to love those who are but weak, and who have been guilty of many evil things before their conversion; and it prepares for mercy at the hand of God, who hath promised to forgive those that forgive others, Mt. 6:14.⁵

A simple but forcible contrast! *Hatred*, however varnished by smooth pretence, is the selfish principle of man (Titus 3:3). Like a subterraneous fire, it continually stirs up mischief, creates or keeps alive rankling coldness, disgusts, dislikes, “envyings and evil surmisings;” carps at the infirmities of others; aggravates the least slip (Isa. 29:21); or resents the most trifling, or even imaginary, provocation. These *strifes* are kindled (Pr. 15:18, 16:27-28; 28:25, 29:22) to the great dishonor of God, and the marring of the beauty and consistency of the gospel. Is not here abundant matter for prayer, watchfulness, and resistance? Let us study 1 Corinthians 13 in all its detail. Let

⁵ Matthew Henry, *A Commentary on the Whole Bible, Volume VI: Acts to Revelation* (Iowa Falls, IA: World Bible Publishers), 1 Peter 4:8, pp. 1029-1030.

it be the looking-glass for our hearts, and the standard of our profession. *Love covers*, overlooks, speedily forgives and forgets (Pr. 17:9; Gen 45:5-8). Full of candor and inventiveness, it puts the best construction on doubtful matters, searches out any palliation, does not rigidly eye, or wantonly expose (Gen. 9:23) a brother's faults; nor will it uncover them at all, except so far as may be needful for his ultimate good. To refrain from gross slander, while abundant scope is left for needless and unkind detraction, is not covering sin. Nor is the "seven-times forgiveness" the true standard of love (Mt. 18:21), which, like its Divine Author, *covers all sins*. And who does not need the full extent of this *covering*? What is our brother's *all* against us, compared with our *all* against God? And how can we hesitate to blot out a few pence, who look for the *covering* of the debt of ten thousand talents. Oh! Let us "put on the Lord Jesus" in his spirit of forbearing, disinterested, sacrificing love – "Even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye" (Col. 3:13).⁶

Second, the Enas and Swan families need to grow in their application of "love covereth all sins." Whereas the Session have indeed confessed sins and mistakes, and the families have acknowledged the Session's confession, the families have continued to bring up the same issues that they have against the Session. This is compounded by what this Committee perceives as an argumentative, or quarrelsome, spirit among the families (for example, the families insist upon the use of the particular word "neglect" even though the concept of neglect is clearly conveyed). Another compounding factor is the families' use of generalization in describing complaints against their Session (for example, there is a difference between never being visited by the Session and having been only visited twice). This Committee recommends the families study through *Graciousness: Tempering Truth with Love* by John Crofts in order to aid them in their application of the Lord's command, "Above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins." It is the counsel of this Committee that the families, as our brothers and sisters in Christ, accept the confession of the Session, rejoice in seeing the Lord cause the Session to bear fruits of repentance and growth as their overseers, and resolve to the judgment of charity.

IV. CONCLUSION

As the members of this Committee, as well as the members of the families, have stated to the Session of Christ Church Reformed Presbyterian, we believe that these men are those whom God has called to shepherd the flock of that particular congregation. Likewise, this Committee recognizes that the families who have brought forward this petition have a true love for Christ and the purity of the Church. This Committee submits that what is most needed for reconciliation is humility and patience; commitment to follow through with these steps; as well as the need to build up the relationships between the Session, the Enas and Swan families, and the whole congregation. It is the desire of this Committee that God would be honored through the strengthening of these men in their work as undershepherds, the growth of these families in mercy and grace, and that the whole congregation would thrive in pursuing the chief end for which they were made – to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.

⁶ Charles Bridges, *Proverbs* (Carlisle, PA: The Banner of Truth Trust, 1998), Proverbs 10:12, pp. 97-98.

V. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1) That this report be received by Presbytery.
- 2) That the Presbytery pray for the strength, purity, unity and peace of Christ Church Reformed Presbyterian – particularly that both the Session and the Enas and Swan families would be humble and find reconciliation through the powerful work of the Gospel in their lives.
- 3) That this Committee be dismissed.

For the Peace and Good of Zion,
Craig Scott, Chairman
David Kleyn
Drew Poplin

Fathers & brothers,

Although we recognize the sincere, sacrificial labors of our brother elders as they have sought to navigate a complex and troubling situation, we feel compelled to request the following:

- 1. That Presbytery appeal to Synod to critically review the work of the Synod Judicial Commission with respect to Immanuel RPC and to give fresh consideration to how to do justly, love mercy, to walk humbly, as we seek to shepherd well those entrusted to our care, including our fellow shepherds.**

Countless hours have been spent seeking a God-honoring resolution of the abuse that occurred in the Immanuel RPC congregation. Sadly, a resolution has not proved forthcoming. Given the horror at what occurred, there was a general sense that a strong response was needed. However, efforts thus far now appear deeply flawed in ways that invite doubts about the integrity of the process. The GLG Presbytery desired Synod's help. Now, we ask Presbytery to once again appeal to Synod, this time to critically review the SJC's work.

While it is generally agreed that the SJC has been faced with a complicated matter, several broad concerns about their work have emerged. We long for peace in our presbytery and fear that these concerns will sow doubt in the integrity of the investigation and thus doubt in the trial, and so sow discord and division:

- The SJC appears not to have appreciated the magnitude of concern about the Presbytery Judicial Commission (PJC). Instead, the SJC appears to have used the PJC's work as the starting point for its own—even though the PJC's handling of the investigation was the reason for the flood of complaints that led Synod to intervene.
- The SJC's choice of investigators casts doubt on the integrity of the process by including one with the strong appearance of bias. Kyle Borg was in communication with the PJC, volunteered himself for the SJC at Synod, took part in Synod's investigation, and now is serving as a prosecutor after recommending (as an investigator) that prosecution was needed. Meanwhile, three months before Synod, he authored [a piece on *Gentle Reformation*](#) describing past abuse he suffered and declaring: "I'm so tired of hearing one story after another of the failures of leadership to respond to sexual abuse in the church. I'm also angry." The process thus has failed to remain above reproach.
- A significant number of IRPC members, as well as those appointed as provisional elders, attest to real reconciliation and renewed confidence in their former leadership. Yet this on-the-ground reality seems to have weighed little in the SJC's proceedings. Instead, the SJC, following the PJC's recommendation, reached the extraordinary decision to deprive a hurting but spiritually thriving flock of each and every one of its shepherds.
- To outward appearance, the proceedings thus far have downplayed both the spirit and the letter of the Book of Discipline. The animating spirit of the Book of Discipline is a desire for repentance and reconciliation. The former elders of IRPC have pursued repentance and reconciliation. The elders' lapses in judgment, doubtless clearer in retrospect, have met with confession and repentance and credible steps toward reconciliation. Yet now we are at a point where, after many months, numerous witnesses, and much testimony, we

are going to try select, former elders for failing to see their way more quickly, in the moment, without the benefit of hindsight.

- At points, the proceedings thus far appear to have downplayed the demands of Scripture and instead substituted non-Scriptural standards in their place. The SJC preserved the PJC's non-Scriptural equation of repentance with resignation. It remains unclear whether Matthew 18 has been followed. Meanwhile, the SJC seems not to have broken free of the victim-centered approach pursued by the PJC. With its decision to suspend the remaining IRPC elders from ministry, the SJC also appears to have preserved the PJC's conflation of the sins of the abuser with the sins of the session.
- Despite the intensity of the SJC investigations, the proceedings thus far appear strangely selective. Some at IRPC have expressed concern that the SJC's investigation was not exhaustive, reportedly omitting key witnesses. Pastoral care appears to have been selective: From the communications and processes that we have been able to observe, relatively little presbytery-level concern has been shown for pastoring the abuser or the abused or IRPC as a church or IRPC's elders. Rather, there has been a curious fixation on removing from office those who responded, successfully it seems, to the abuse—those who, with the benefit of hindsight, found mistakes and sins, and who repented and made public confession. The selectivity is seen, too, in the individuals selected for trial. Those elders who resigned earlier are not up for trial. Those who resigned later are to be tried. Meanwhile, the counselor and seminary professor upon whose advice the session relied, and who counseled individuals on both sides of the abuse, has neither confessed nor repented, nor has received discipline – despite the fact that the PJC found serious failings in his conduct.

2. That the elders of our Presbytery join together in repentance for the spirit with which we have conducted the work of the church.

Love is the heart of the law. Without love, we have nothing. Love rejoices in the truth, but also suffers long and is kind—bears, believes, hopes, and endures all things.

Yet the spirit animating our presbytery's approach in recent years has too often displayed little of the gospel of grace and the heart of the pastor. The pastor ought to be spiritual, and the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Rather than focus on gently and patiently seeking to bring about repentance and reconciliation, however, we have allowed our focus to be consumed by accusations and trials. The spirit of the world is active among us. We are quick to judge. We see a corresponding breakdown of trust. We see open references among presbyters to "sides" and "parties." We see the weaponization of procedure. We see a preference for the standards of the world (e.g., the victim-centered approach) to the high calling of God (e.g., Matthew 18, I Corinthians 6:1). We see little faith in the power of God to bring about forgiveness and reconciliation and little concern for sheep deprived of shepherds. Instead, we have ruined men's reputations and then declared them disqualified from office because their reputations are ruined.

We may disagree on this or that detail. But surely we can agree that something is not right—that there is a spirit of mistrust, accusation, and division in our midst that is not of God.

Thus, we ask Presbytery to declare a day of fasting for its presbyters in order to engage in self-examination, repentance, and prayer that God, in His mercy, might make us fertile soil for the fruit of the Spirit.

3. That Presbytery exhort the sessions of the various churches in our presbytery to pursue Christian reconciliation by Christian means.

Scripture requires Christians to meet together about points of conflict, to preserve one another's reputations to the extent possible, and to settle disputes within the courts of the church. The way of Christian reconciliation does not lie through the popular press or the civil courts, and it is the responsibility of sessions to counsel and, if necessary, to call to repentance, those who disobey God's Word in these ways.

To that end, we urge Presbytery to exhort our sessions to attend to this difficult, delicate duty.

4. That Presbytery seek to encourage Immanuel RPC.

Our Lord commands us to “weep with those who weep,” remembering that “if one member suffers, all suffer together.” Our brothers and sisters at Immanuel RPC are part of our body, bound to us by common vows. And it has become clear that many at IRPC are hurting. They are grieving over the sin that has occurred in their midst. They are also grieving because they feel isolated, even attacked, by brothers and sisters in Christ within the denomination. But the truth is that we are members of the same body. Under the circumstances, it seems good, then, to communicate our love and unity by joining together in worship, an activity that is a sign and seal of our oneness in Christ Jesus.

And so, we urge the presbytery to formally call sessions, first, to exhort their members to seek an opportunity to worship with IRPC in coming weeks and, second, to encourage local sessions to organize joint communion services.

Session, Bloomington Reformed Presbyterian Church (Wes Archer, Eric Cosens, CJ Davis, Ken de Jong, Rich Holdeman, Philip McCollum, Stephen Shipp)

Louisville Commission
Spring 2022 Report to Presbytery

On September 5, 2021 the final evening worship service was held in Louisville for the foreseeable future. At the fall meeting of presbytery, we explained to you some additional items of concern that had come to light concerning Tre Cranford.

Since September, many of the remaining Louisville attendees have begun or continued worshipping regularly in Columbus. We have also worked with the Columbus session to send letters urging a few others from the Louisville group to unite with churches in the Louisville area.

The remaining motions:

- 1) The attached minutes of the Louisville Commission be spread on the minutes of presbytery.
- 2) The remaining funds of the Louisville work be given to the Columbus Reformed Presbyterian Church.

Rationale: The funds in the Louisville bank account have come almost entirely from a) seed money given by Columbus RPC and b) contributions given by members of Columbus RPC who were worshipping as part of the Louisville group. In addition, Columbus RPC has ongoing responsibility for some remaining mercy needs amongst the Louisville group.

- 3) The commission be dismissed.

In Christ, Jeff Platt, Philip McCollum, David Schisler, and David Hanson (moderator)



REFORMED
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF SELMA, ALABAMA

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Selma, Alabama
36701-5576

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E-mail:
SelmaRPCChurch@Gmail.com

Officers;

Elder/Clerk; George Evans

Elders;
James Martin

Elder/Deacon;

Greg Woodson
Averette Woodson, Sr.

Deacons;

Charles Moorner
Bertran Woodson, Sr.
Lynne Brown
Regina Woodson
Jeannie Evans

Report to Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery March 3-5, 2022

The Selma congregation is continuing to carry on without a pastor and the Lord is still enabling us to persevere and endure. Regardless of the situation, the love for God's Word and the meaning of His Son, Jesus, dying on the cross for our sins, is exemplified through our desire to give Him the praise and the glory and try to be shining lights in this dark world.

We thought we were on the right path in acquiring a pastor, but Mark Brown declined the call to fill that position. There was much discussion in trying to convince him to stay but his mind and heart was made up. We understood that God had other plans for him, so, we prayed for him and wished him success on whatever God has in store for him, although we thank God for allowing us to spend the time that we had together.

Our pulpit is being filled by Rev. Winston Williams and Rev. John Grayson, both prominent ministers in the vicinity. Rev. James Martin has not been accessible due to his work schedule, but we pray that his supervisors will have a change of heart, somewhere down to line, to allow him time off on the Sabbath. We are not lacking in receiving God's Word and we are thankful for that. Rev. Williams, at this time, is having a prayer meeting on Tuesdays from 11:30 – 1:00 each week and the doors are open to anyone who wants to come. Also, we continue to have fellowship and a joint service with New Covenant Presbyterian Church during the Thanksgiving Holidays.

Although we lost two members in 2021, Joe Evans and Mrs. Juanita Jones, and Mrs. Crandell Brown moving over to Marietta, Ga. with her son and daughter-in-law because of her age, we still strive to spread God's Word to all who are willing to hear, whether they live here or just visiting. We know that a lot of our younger people don't see God as being relevant in their lives today, but we must continually pray for them and show them that Jesus is the way and there is no other.

Respectfully submitted,

Averette Woodson
Greg Woodson
George Evans, Clerk
James Martin
Adam Niess, Moderator
Jerrv O'Neill, Provisional Elder

AD-29

Total membership: 17; Average AM worship attendance: 10; Average PM worship attendance: N/A; Baptized members professing: 0; New members by profession: 0; Net change in total membership: -1 (by removal), -2 (by death)

Recommendation 1: That Adam Niess and Jerry O'Neill be appointed to continue serving as interim moderator and provisional elder respectively.

2022 General Fund Budget (Reformed Presbyterian Church of Selma, AL)

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	General	Category	2020 Budget	2020 Actual	2021 Budget	2021 Actual	2022 Budget
2	Income						
3		Tithes and Offerings	\$26,000.00	\$25,030.00	\$26,000.00	\$25,434.00	\$26,000.00
4		Open Collection	\$1,600.00	\$715.01	\$1,600.00	\$1,363.00	\$1,600.00
5		Courtesy Offering	\$300.00	\$201.73	\$300.00	\$215.00	\$300.00
6		Other Income	\$2,500.00	\$4,487.27	\$2,500.00	\$2,019.67	\$2,500.00
7		Transfer from Money Market	\$25,694.61	\$19,848.00	\$34,825.90	\$10,000.00	\$15,000.00
8	Total		\$56,094.61	\$50,282.01	\$65,225.90	\$39,031.67	\$45,400.00
9							
10	Expenses						
11	Pastoral Support						
12		Pastor's Salary	\$12,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$16,800.00	\$8,000.00	\$0.00
13		Health & Medical Insurance	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
14		Cell Phone Allowance	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$540.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
15		Manse Utilities	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,800.00	\$3,576.65	\$0.00
16		Office Expenses	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$480.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
17		Discretionary Fund	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$210.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
18		Book Allowance	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
19		Pastor's Pension Assessment	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
20		Synod and Presbytery Expenses (Averette)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
21		Synod and Presbytery Expenses (Greg)	\$0.00	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
22		Synod and Presbytery Expenses (Mark)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,400.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
23		Mileage Allowance (Church Related)-.56 per mile	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
24		Conference Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
25	Total		\$12,800.00	\$10,300.00	\$32,830.00	\$11,576.65	\$0.00
26							
27	Congregation Life & Worship						
28		Guest Ministers	\$3,500.00	\$3,250.00	\$1,000.00	\$3,275.00	\$7,500.00
29		Travel/Lodging for Guest Ministers	\$1,600.00	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$1,600.00
30		Sabbath School Materials	\$1,800.00	\$1,298.52	\$1,350.00	\$1,321.29	\$1,350.00
31		Communion Assistant	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$300.00
32		Catechisms	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$56.07	\$0.00
33		Bulletin Covers/Inserts/Envelopes	\$400.00	\$295.80	\$300.00	\$426.47	\$350.00
34	Total		\$7,600.00	\$4,844.32	\$3,050.00	\$5,078.83	\$11,100.00
35							
36	Instruction						
37		Vacation Bible School	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
38		Special Events & Youth Groups	\$600.00	\$0.00	\$450.00	\$0.00	\$450.00
39	Total		\$600.00	\$0.00	\$450.00	\$0.00	\$450.00
40							
41	Fellowship						
42		Congregational Dinners	\$300.00	\$248.00	\$300.00	\$450.00	\$300.00
43	Total		\$300.00	\$248.00	\$300.00	\$450.00	\$300.00
44							
45	Local Ministries						
46		Youth Groups	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
47		Youth Conference Exp.	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
48		Outreach & Discretionary Funds	\$1,200.00	\$250.00	\$400.00	\$100.00	\$400.00
49		Courtesies	\$350.00	\$0.00	\$350.00	\$0.00	\$350.00
50	Total		\$1,550.00	\$250.00	\$750.00	\$100.00	\$750.00
51							
52	Denominational Responsibilities						
53		Mission and Ministries	\$1,000.00	\$625.00	\$750.00	\$1,450.00	\$750.00
54	Total		\$1,000.00	\$625.00	\$750.00	\$1,450.00	\$750.00
55							
56	Presbytery Responsibilities						
57		Presbytery Assessments	\$436.67	\$436.37	\$408.86	\$408.86	\$420.00

2022 General Fund Budget (Reformed Presbyterian Church of Selma, AL)

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	General	Category	2020 Budget	2020 Actual	2021 Budget	2021 Actual	2022 Budget
58	Total		\$436.67	\$436.37	\$408.86	\$408.86	\$420.00
59							
60	Synod Responsibilities (23 Comm Mbrs)						
61		Synod's Assessment	\$1,112.92	\$1,113.00	\$1,097.00	\$1,097.00	\$1,200.00
62	Total		\$1,112.92	\$1,113.00	\$1,097.00	\$1,097.00	\$1,200.00
63							
64	Charitable Contributions						
65		American Red Cross	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$150.00	\$0.00	\$150.00
66		Ruth J. Brooks Humanitarian Scholarship	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
67		The Miller-Childers Center (Foodbank)	\$300.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$250.00
68		American Cancer Society	\$0.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00
69		National Council of Negro Women	\$50.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
70		Wilcox County PBNM Heritage Museum, Inc	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$0.00
71		Evans Special Benefit Fund	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$400.00
72		United Way	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
73		R.P. Seminary	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
74	Total		\$1,650.00	\$600.00	\$1,250.00	\$750.00	\$1,650.00
75							
76	Other Expenses						
77		Moving Expenses for Tentative Pastor	\$2,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
78	Total		\$2,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
79							
80	Property Maintenance & Improvement						
81		Property/Van Insurance	\$5,200.00	\$5,117.75	\$5,224.00	\$5,293.25	\$5,300.00
82		Church Utilities	\$10,000.00	\$10,695.20	\$7,000.00	\$8,042.52	\$10,000.00
83		Janitorial Services	\$2,900.04	\$2,900.04	\$2,900.04	\$2,900.04	\$3,230.00
84		Van Repair	\$1,000.00	\$30.00	\$250.00	\$30.00	\$1,400.00
85		Van Gasoline (Church Related)	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
86		Church & Pars. Improv.	\$6,000.00	\$7,707.38	\$7,000.00	\$0.00	\$7,000.00
87		Copier/Supplies	\$400.00	\$730.89	\$750.00	\$449.28	\$650.00
88		Parsonage Development	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
89		Unallocated Operating Costs	\$1,344.98	\$600.00	\$1,216.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00
90	Total		\$27,045.02	\$27,781.26	\$24,340.04	\$17,915.09	\$28,780.00
91							
92	Total Expenses		\$56,094.61	\$49,197.95	\$65,225.90	\$38,826.43	\$45,400.00
93	Total Income		\$56,094.61	\$50,282.01	\$65,225.90	\$39,031.67	\$45,400.00
94	Difference (L92-L93)		\$0.00	\$1,084.06	\$0.00	\$205.24	\$0.00
95							
96	Budget		\$56,094.61	\$50,282.01	\$65,225.90	\$39,031.67	\$45,400.00
97							
98	Income vs Expenses Surplus			\$1,084.06		\$205.24	
99	Income vs Expenses Shortfall						
100							
101							
102	(Synod's assessment is calculated as 2% of the congregation's prior year undesignated receipts as determined by						
103	Synod's statistics calculations).						

2022 SW Ohio RP Church (SWORP) Report to GLG Presbytery By Dr. R. E. Knodel, Jr.

A.D. 2021 was our sixth year as an organized church. We had many reasons to give God thanks for his continual providential care. 2021, like 2020, was lived under the shadow of the COVID-Chinese Virus and its variants. Most churches have been stressed by this epidemic, and **Southwest Ohio R. P. Church** (SWORP) has been no different. We feel blessed to have maintained our worship and fellowship. This met our great need to 'bless the Lord,' and to maintain the living organism called the 'body of Christ' in Southwest Ohio.

Services were held weekly. Our weekly attendance has averaged 28 people, including members/adherents following us via our livestream broadcast. We average 30 additional livestream connections to our services every week, and 300+ Sermon Audio downloads per month. So, it would seem that many people find our ongoing services a thing that inspires and strengthens.

Our **financial support** has held-up through the epidemic. We seem to have dedicated members who tithe and continue to enjoy their worship and sanctification. We entered the year with a bank surplus of \$53,000.00, and ended with a \$54,000.00 balance. The pastor was given a 5% raise to combat inflationary growth.

It was our great joy to provide **TGB** (Temporary Governing Body) **support to Atlanta RPC**. Our Session plus the Rev. Frank Smith and TE T.J. Patillo make up this body. Ever present stresses continue, but by God's grace — a magnificent Reformed work is ongoing in Urban Atlanta. Most of our RPC/Atlanta members show God's grace in their lives. Lord's Suppers have been begun this past year, and the Rev. Steven Work and TE G. Scott Damerow have been our major Ohio contributors to this work. The Building was purchased with money contributed. Major repairs have been accomplished. Dr. Frank Smith has kept up an unbelievably heavy schedule of witnessing in the neighborhood, visitation of the membership and preaching/teaching. TJ Patillo seems to be maturing and becoming more and more helpful.

Our church has made further contributions to GLG Presbytery via the ministry of **TE Steven Work**. Steven has supply-preached any number of times at probably 3-4 churches — as well as some more distant places like Denver, Colorado.

Pastor Knodel has tried to maintain a wider witness in terms of both teaching and counseling. Where he has expertise, he has tried to represent Reformed positions publicly (for example on Social Media) — especially regarding Cultural-Political areas where most of our men have been more quiet. Dr. Knodel's writings are always replete with Scriptural references and reasoning — enabling the wider church to learn how to apply the Scriptures like the 'men of Issachar' (1 Chronicles 12:32) He has two Counseling Certifications (a BCCC and BCPC) awarded by the College of Pastoral Supervision and Psychotherapy (CPSP/<www.cpsp.org>).

SWORP is also excited about the start-up effort called **Christendom Bible College** (CBC). After purchasing a \$400,000 building in New Richmond — just east of Cincinnati — CBC proposes to establish an academic 'gap-year' program starting the Fall of 2022, whereby prospective college students can gain an academic preparation that would allow them to matriculate at other typical schools with a stronger Christian worldview. President Clauson is moving to our area beginning in March (to June 2022) and will be joining SWORP in Mason for worship.

Please see the attached Budgets for A.D. 2021 and 2022.

SWORP Budgeting 2022

	<u>2021 Actual</u>	<u>2022 Projected</u>
Giving	\$63,021.68	\$64,256.31
General Fund	\$60,587.68	\$61,799.43
Diaconal	\$1,144.00	\$1,166.88
Special Designations	\$1,290.00	\$1,290.00
Expenses	\$61,938.80	\$62,620.12
Pastor's Salary	\$35,280.00	\$37,044.00
Pastor's Expense	\$1,860.00	\$1,860.00
Pastor's Insurance	\$5,286.60	\$5,286.60
Liability Insurance	\$305.00	\$305.00
Rent	\$3,675.00	\$3,750.00
Pulpit Supply	\$625.00	\$1,000.00
Synod Assessment	\$1,470.00	\$1,470.00
GLGP Assessment	\$450.08	\$600.00
Synod Registration	\$918.00	\$800.00
Sermon Audio	\$439.45	\$480.00
Zoom	\$175.56	\$191.52
Advertizing	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
Reimbursement	\$874.52	\$800.00
Other	\$10,579.59	\$8,033.00
Surplus/Deficit	\$1,082.88	\$1,636.19

1 March 2022

Dear brothers of the Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery,

We write this letter to publicly thank you for hearing our petition (GLG 21-11), allowing us to publicly address the court in person at the last Presbytery meeting, and agreeing to send the Christ Church Reconciliation Committee (CCRC) to help our church. We realize there is a great deal of weighty activity within this presbytery, and that our petition took your time and many resources (physical, emotional, spiritual) to handle and consider. Even now, there is a related report to consider and, we hope, follow-up effort to expend in our behalf. We believe the expense of human energy, guided by the Holy Spirit, has been worthwhile for Christ Church RP, and beyond, even if it has been exhausting work for many of us who are involved. Again, we express our deepest gratitude for your support and care in the Lord.

Secondly, we want to publicly express gratitude for the work of the CCRC (Elders Scott, Poplin, Kleyn) on behalf of our congregation. We realize these men have vocational, familial, ecclesiastical, and other duties, so we were so grateful for their willingness to travel many hours, answer texts and emails, work through years of another church's history, weigh the rights and responsibilities of the various parties, write summaries and reports, and so forth. The CCRC showed skill in moderating and listening to all, teaching us and others when needed, while also being open to changing their minds along the way, and expressing great zeal for our church. Although the work of reconciliation is not complete in our minds, we have witnessed substantial fruit in our own lives and among members of Session. For all of this, we are grateful to God and his ministers.

Finally, we want to commend our Session for their time and effort expended toward reconciliation, and their commitments to visit families, teach doctrine, and increase their protection over the flock. We acknowledge that these past several years have been a great challenge to them, including our various requests and concerns. We trust that God will use this difficult time in their lives and in the life of Christ Church RP to encourage and embolden them for the significant ministry God has called them to among His flock.

We praise God for His love, demonstrated through His church, and its courts.

Humbly,

Kevin and Rachelle Swan
Nathan and Ginny Enas