

**Great Lakes–Gulf Presbytery Ad Interim Commission Minutes**  
**July 31, 2023**

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The Ad Interim Commission of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery met by video conference call.

Those present included Shawn Anderson (moderator, Sycamore RPC-Kokomo, IN), G. Scott Damerow (SW Ohio RPC), Jerry Porter (Southside RPC, Indianapolis, IN) and Alejandro Ramirez (Orlando RPC, Orlando, FL). Aaron Hartzler (RPC of Lafayette, IN) was absent, attending a session meeting.

Shawn Anderson opened the meeting and constituted the court in prayer in the name and by the authority of Jesus Christ, King and Head of the Church, at 7:06 pm.

**Agenda Item 25:** *(From GLG Presbytery, June 20, 2023)* Recommendation carried from GLG 23-19, for the AIC to appoint the initial membership of the standing finance committee before fall 2023, so that this committee can be ready for presentations at any fall 2023 presbytery meeting or spring 2024 presbytery meeting. Direct the AIC to

**Action Taken:** It was moved, seconded, and carried to appoint Ross Cerbus (1 year), Ken Nelson (2 years), and Joel Hart (3 years) to the Finance Committee. The presbytery treasurer and assistant treasurer are ex officio, non-voting members of the committee as well.

**Agenda Item 26:** *(From GLG Presbytery, June 20, 2023)* That the GLG Presbytery authorize the AIC to assess the number and significance of agenda items and determine the necessity of a fall meeting no later than August 1, 2023.

**Action Taken:** After some discussion, the only pressing items for the Presbytery to address before the 2024 spring meeting are two appeals. By common consent the AIC will distribute a straw poll to the Presbytery, seeking the court's will to handle the appeals. Mr. Porter recused himself from making decisions or consenting on this matter.

**Option A:** Mr. Manring's appeal (GLG 23-26) and complaint (GLG 23-27) would be sent to an AIC-appointed judicial commission to hear and decide the matter.

This Judicial Commission would consist of: Ross Fearing (TE *Convener*), Phil Pockras (TE), Jerry Foltz (TE), Jonathan Schaefer (RE), and Greg Fisher (RE). The JC appoints its moderator & clerk. Steven Work (TE), Joshua Smith (TE), and Robert McKissick (RE) will serve as alternates.

Mr. Allison has also provided a notice to appeal, but the appeal has not yet been received. When received, his appeal would be sent to an AIC-appointed judicial commission to hear and decide the matter.

This Judicial Commission would consist of: Adam Niess (TE *Convener*), Aaron Murray (TE), Joel Hart (TE), Jeffrey Brotherton (RE), Brentt VanSickle (RE). The JC appoints its moderator & clerk. Nathan Eshelman (TE), Philip McCollum (TE), and James Odom (RE) will serve as alternates.

**Option B:** The appeals and complaint would be heard and decided by the whole presbytery at a one-day meeting from 2pm to 8pm. This would require minimal

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hosting and one meal from the host congregation. Each appeal could be heard and determined within a two-hour block.

The straw poll will be available until Friday, August 4, at noon.

**Agenda Item 27:** *(From Ben Manring, June 3, 2023)* Mr. Manring sent a notice of appeal to the GLGP.

**Action Taken:** According to BOD II.4.11 (E-17) “...*the clerk shall transmit the same, with the necessary records and papers, to the clerk of the higher court.*” The AIC clerk will reach out to Mr. Sturm to make sure all necessary records have been transmitted.

According to BOD II.4.11 (E-17) “*The higher court, upon receiving notice of the intent to appeal, shall make available an appropriate advisor from among the members of the court for the appellant.*” The AIC has appointed **Stephen Rhoda** to advise Mr. Manning in his appeal.

According to BOD II.4.11 (E-17) “*At least sixty (60) days shall be given for preparing the appeal and transmitting it to the clerk of the higher court, along with a full statement of reasons for the appeal and all relevant documents.*” The AIC determines that an advisor was appointed by the AIC on July 31, 2023. Therefore, the appellant may have until **September 29, 2023**, to prepare his appeal.

According to BOD II.4.11 (E-17) “*In order for members of the higher court to have time to read and process the appeal, a period of at least thirty (30) days must elapse between the court's receiving the appeal and the meeting where it is to be adjudicated.*” The appeal has not yet been shared with the court. Once shared, the appeal would have to be heard after at least 30 days.

**Agenda Item 28:** *(From Gary Allison, July 13, 2023)* Mr. Allison sent a notice of appeal to the GLGP.

**Action Taken:** According to BOD II.4.11 (E-17) “...*the clerk shall transmit the same, with the necessary records and papers, to the clerk of the higher court.*” The AIC clerk will reach out to Mr. Hughes to make sure all necessary records have been transmitted.

According to BOD II.4.11 (E-17) “*The higher court, upon receiving notice of the intent to appeal, shall make available an appropriate advisor from among the members of the court for the appellant.*” The AIC has appointed **Wade Mann** to advise Mr. Allison in his appeal.

According to BOD II.4.11 (E-17) “*At least sixty (60) days shall be given for preparing the appeal and transmitting it to the clerk of the higher court, along with a full statement of reasons for the appeal and all relevant documents.*” The AIC determines that an advisor was appointed by the AIC on July 31, 2023. Therefore, the appellant may have until **September 29, 2023**, to prepare his appeal.

According to BOD II.4.11 (E-17) “*In order for members of the higher court to have time to read and process the appeal, a period of at least thirty (30) days must elapse between the court's receiving the appeal and the meeting where it is to be adjudicated.*”

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The appeal has not yet been shared with the court. Once shared, the appeal would have to be heard after at least 30 days.

Shawn Anderson prayed for the Church and adjourned the court in prayer in the name and by the authority of Jesus Christ, Head and King of the Church at 8:30 pm.

These minutes of July 31, 2023, were read and approved by common consent.



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G. Scott Damerow,  
Clerk Pro Tem of the Ad Interim Commission



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Shawn Anderson,  
Moderator of the Ad Interim Commission