

Great Lakes–Gulf Presbytery Ad Interim Commission Minutes
April 24, 2023

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), Aaron Hartzler (RPC of Lafayette, IN), and Jerry Porter (Southside RPC, Indianapolis, IN). Alejandro Ramirez (Orlando RPC, Orlando, FL) was absent due to eldership responsibilities.

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 7:04 pm.

Agenda Item: Approve minutes from March 23, 2023, meeting.

Action Taken: It was moved, seconded, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the March 23, 2023, meeting.

Agenda Item 7: *(From Adam Kuehner/IRPC Resolution Comte)* Appoint someone to replace Mr. Kuehner on the IRPC Resolution Committee.

Action Taken: The current IRPC Resolution Committee members were consulted. No additional member was appointed.

Agenda Item 2: *(From Presbytery, March 2-4, 2023)* 10. (Rec 7) That presbytery instruct the incoming AIC to determine and disseminate the time and place for the fall meeting by July 31, 2023.

Action Taken: Feedback was provided that a fall meeting was perhaps not necessary. Bloomington RPC is willing to host a meeting, from October 3-5, 2023. A vote to meet in the fall will be taken during the presbytery meeting at synod on June 22, 2023. Mr. Anderson will consult with the GLGP clerk to determine if we needed to have an earlier start time for the June presbytery meeting.

Agenda Item 5: *(From Presbytery, March 2-4, 2023)* 80. (Rec 2) That presbytery appoint a provisional elder for Sparta RPC.

Action Taken: Sparta had an elder election since the last meeting, and a provisional elder is no longer needed.

Agenda Item 3: *(From Presbytery, March 2-4, 2023)* 47. “That presbytery, in response to Mr. Faris’ request ‘for his credentials to be sent to Zionsville Fellowship Church’ (ZFC), send a letter of ministerial standing, and instruct the AIC to dismiss James Faris from the roll of GLGP TEs upon confirmation of the ZFC clerk’s receipt and acceptance of that letter.”

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Action Taken: Having received confirmation from Zionsville Fellowship Church regarding Mr. Faris’ letter of standing, it was moved, seconded, and carried unanimously that he be removed from the roll of Teaching Elders of the Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery.

Agenda Item 4: (*From Presbytery, March 2-4, 2023*) 76. It was moved and seconded that a three-man AIC-appointed committee evaluate the differences between the forgiveness granted at this meeting to Mr. Borg and the response to requests for forgiveness made at previous meetings (this motion carried).

Action Taken: It was moved, seconded, and carried that the following men serve as a study committee “to evaluate the differences between the forgiveness granted at this [Spring 2023 presbytery] meeting to Mr. Borg and the response to requests for forgiveness made at previous meetings” and report at the 2024 Spring meeting of presbytery:

1. Aaron Murray
2. David Mauser
3. Frank Smith (moderator)

The following are appointed as alternates to the Commission, in the order listed, in the event any of the above men are unable to serve:

4. Jeff Brotherton (alt)
5. Ross Fearing (alt)

Agenda Item 10: GLG 23-15 (Allison v. GLGP)

Action Taken: It was moved, seconded, and carried that Mr. Allison’s complaint and appeal be returned to him with the following rationale as to why it is out of order:

1. Book of Discipline II.4.11 (E-17), “Written notice of an intent to appeal and a summary statement of the reasons must be filed with the clerk of the court appealed from within thirty (30) days after the accused is informed of the action...”
2. Book of Discipline II.4.3 (E-15), “A complaint is a written statement made to a higher court by one or more persons aggrieved by an action of a lower court...The complainant shall give notice to the lower court within 30 days.”

Therefore, GLG 23-15 is out of order for the following reasons:

1. The thirty-day deadline for filing the appeal (both intent & summary) expired on April 2, 2023, but Mr. Allison submitted this appeal on April 9, 2023.
2. No prior notice of an intent to file an appeal or intent to file a complaint was communicated to the GLGP clerk.

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3. The GLGP moderator (Mr. Nathan Eshelman occupying the chair) instructed Mr. Allison on the floor of the presbytery meeting on March 3, 2023, concerning the thirty-day window for taking such action.

Agenda Item 11: GLG 23-16 (Allison v. Southfield RPC) and 23-17 (Allison v. Southfield RPC) (AIC item #11)

Action Taken: It was moved, seconded, and carried to forward the complaints to presbytery.

Agenda Item 12: GLG 23-18 (Southfield RPC response)

Action Taken: It was moved, seconded, and carried to forward the complaint to presbytery. Item closed.

The minutes of the actions taken, along with assignments, were reviewed.

Scott Damerow prayed for the Church and Allison the adjourned the court in prayer in the name and by the authority of Jesus Christ, Head and King of the Church at 9:21 PM.

These minutes of April 24, 2023, were read and approved by common consent.

Aaron Hartzler,
Clerk of the Ad Interim Commission

Shawn Anderson,
Moderator of the Ad Interim Commission