

To Adam M. Kuehner, Clerk of Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America:

And now, this eighteenth day of April A.D. 2023, comes Gary V. Allison and complains against the decision on March 19, 2023 of the Session of Southfield Reformed Presbyterian Church of The Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America, which was first communicated to me by written summons delivered on April 2, 2023.

In bringing this complaint I affirm that I believe that the Session has erred and that this error is serious; that I have tried to understand the Session's point of view; that I have seriously examined, in prayer before the Lord, my willingness to be in subjection to my brothers in Christ; and that I have made a serious effort to correct the error short of entering a complaint.

I complain to the Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery against the session's summons delivered to me on April 2, 2023 to appear and to answer to the charges, at Southfield Reformed Presbyterian Church, 26550 Evergreen Rd, Southfield MI on Friday, April 21, 2023 at 6:30pm EDT and to bring any counsel and witnesses I may have.

In support of this complaint I set forth the following grounds:

1. Subsequent to the March 2-4 meeting of the Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery I was expecting and waiting to receive a written response from the Presbytery communicating to me its action in regard to my written complaint that I submitted on January 6, 2023. Without receiving any written communication informing me of the action taken by the Presbytery, I have followed the instruction of the Book of Discipline to appeal in a timely manner (the Book of Discipline calls for notice of intent to appeal in 30 days from the date of being informed, and at least 60 days to be given to me for completion of my appeal).

The Book of Discipline states:

"11. 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, and the clerk shall transmit the same, with the necessary records and papers, to the clerk of the higher court. 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. 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. 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. Parties are entitled to such extracts from the minutes as may be necessary in preparing an appeal. The clerk of the court shall furnish such extracts, but, if they are large, the court may request the party demanding them to pay the necessary expense."

2. I have clearly stated multiple specific grounds of my appeal to the Synod of the RPCNA which detail irregularity in the proceedings, injustice, manifest prejudice, admission of improper testimony and refusal to hear testimony that is important, and undue haste in reaching a decision before all the testimony has been heard.

3. To the present date I also have not yet been informed in writing of the Presbytery's answer to the grounds of my complaint, which are also grounds why the Session's March 19, 2023 decision is in error. These grounds are as follows:

1. The charge alleges five ways that I have sinned against God but does not state one specific instance and the "time, place and circumstances of its commission" as required in The Book of Discipline II.2.1. In addition, both Form 21 and Form 22 (H-20 and 21) require that a charge or accusation of sin give specific instance and the date on which a person has sinned against God.

2. The evidence for the alleged charge is a list of family members and one ruling elder who are not witnesses of the things alleged. One family member requested to testify is not a Christian and has lived elsewhere for many years with little contact. None of the witnesses listed has followed Matthew 18:15-17 and personally brought these allegations to me as our Lord requires and which is the "orderly manner for dealing with sin in His church" (The Book of Discipline, I.1.2 and I.2.1-4).

3. These allegations are based on false things my wife says in her sinful opposition to my patient and loving guidance and direction for daily living, including family worship, eating as a family, financial stewardship, education of our children, and entertainment, but the Session has not investigated the allegations as required in The Book of Discipline 1.3.2. If the Session properly investigated these allegations, it would find that she has been disregarding and violating the moral law as it is taught in Scripture and by the church and as I have lovingly brought to her attention (The Book of Discipline I.1.6). Leviticus 19:15; Deuteronomy 1:16-17, 16:18-20; Psalm 45:6-7; Proverbs 24:23-26; John 7:24; I Timothy 3:15; Hebrews 1:8-9. Larger Catechism #144-145.

4. The Session has brought a charge based on false statements from my wife, "who manifests malice" toward me consistently, both privately and openly in the presence of our children, which The Book of Discipline II.1.2 forbids.

5. The Session has instituted formal process without evidence being presented that the means of reconciliation referred to in The Book of Discipline section 1, chapter 2 have been tried as required in The Book of Discipline II.1.1.

6. The Session has instituted formal judicial process without "evidence sufficient to warrant a trial" and without determining that "Christ's rule (Matt. 18:15-16) has been followed," both of which are required in The Book of Discipline II.2.2.

7. Requiring family members to testify against the head of the family concerning matters of which they have no knowledge, is not right and will harm the family instead of strengthening it, which can only be done by addressing the actual sins, which the Session has ignored.

4. Session notified me on April 2, 2023 that previously on February 23, 2023 the Session added records from Hope Protestant Reformed Church as evidence without providing me a copy so I can prepare a defense.

I humbly ask the Presbytery to annul or reverse the action of the Session of Southfield Reformed Presbyterian Church on March 19, 2023, communicated to me on April 2, 2023, to schedule a trial without following the requirements of the Bible, our confessional standards, and The Book of Discipline.

Date: April 18, 2023

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary V. Allison". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "G".

Complainant: Gary V. Allison