

Gary V. Allison
4848 Fairway Ridge South
West Bloomfield, MI 48323

GLG 23-23

May 23, 2023

Dear Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery of the RPCNA,

I hereby complain against the Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery to the Synod of the RPCNA and humbly submit the enclosed complaint against the Presbytery decision on April 24, 2023, (emailed to me April 26, 2023, received by me on May 4, 2023) declaring out of order my April 4, 2023, complaint to Synod (with grounds) against the action of the Presbytery on March 3, 2023, in not sustaining my December 30, 2022, complaint against the Southfield Reformed Presbyterian Church session's decision on December 8, 2022 (The Book of Discipline II.4.3).

In accord with the Directory for Church Government Chapter 8, Section 11, I humbly submit to the Synod this complaint against the Presbytery, and I request the Presbytery transfer this complaint to the Synod of the RPCNA.

With brotherly love,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary V. Allison". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Gary V. Allison

Complaint

To John McFarland, Clerk of the Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America:

And now, this 23rd day of May A.D. 2023, comes Gary V. Allison and complains against the decision of the Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery through its Ad Interim Commission meeting on April 24, 2023, emailed to me from Pastor Shawn Anderson on April 26, 2023, which I received on May 4, 2023, declaring “out of order” my April 4, 2023, complaint to the Clerk of the Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church against the action of the Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery during its meeting March 2-4, 2023.

In bringing this complaint I affirm that I believe that the Presbytery has erred and that this error is serious; that I have tried to understand the Presbytery'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.

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

1. The three grounds communicated to me in the Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery April 24, 2023, decision through its Ad Interim Commission ignore the truth of the situation regarding my complaint against the Presbytery's March 2-4 action concerning my December 30, 2022, complaint.

“(1) The thirty-day deadline for filing the appeal (both intent & summary) expired on 4/2/23, but you submitted this appeal on 4/9/23.

(2) No prior notice of an intent to file an appeal or intent to file a complaint was communicated to the GLGP clerk.

(3) The GLGP moderator (*Mr. Nathan Eshelman occupying the chair*) instructed you on the floor of the presbytery on 3/3/23 concerning the thirty-day window for taking such action.”

At the conclusion of Presbytery mid-day on March 4, 2023, while seated and speaking face to face with Pastor Shawn Anderson, I stated that Presbytery acted on my complaint without anyone speaking to me regarding the grounds of my complaint, without investigating the grounds of my complaint, and without showing how the session's action follows the requirements of Scripture and the Book of Discipline, and that my only redress is to bring this to the Synod. After several minutes of discussion Pastor Anderson stated that, since he needed to depart immediately, he would continue discussion with me later. He texted me his phone number with the message: “Shawn Anderson” at 12:36pm. At 1:29pm my phone call to him went to voicemail, and later that day I also followed up to his text to me with the message: “Hello Pastor Anderson, I appreciate your willingness to talk with me, please let me know when you have opportunity. Thank you, Gary Allison.” I expected to speak further with him within the next seven to ten days, but Pastor Anderson did not return my phone call or respond to my text.

Immediately subsequent to my face to face communication with Pastor Anderson, seated face to face with the Presbytery's Assistant Stated Clerk and “GLGP moderator (*Mr. Nathan Eshelman occupying the chair*)” I communicated to Pastor Nathan Eshelman that the presbytery acted on my complaint without anyone speaking to me regarding the grounds of my complaint, without investigating the grounds of my complaint, and without giving answer to the grounds or showing how the session's action follows the requirements of Scripture and the Book of Discipline, and that I now must seek corrective action by

requirements of Scripture and the Book of Discipline, and that my intent is to seek redress by bringing this matter to the Synod.

2. The complainant communicated the original December 30, 2022, complaint in writing and was expecting a written response. The presbytery did not inform the complainant that the presbytery would not respond in writing. The presbytery based its April 24, 2023, decision on words spoken orally by the GLGP moderator but ignored the words spoken orally by the complainant to the GLGP moderator and Pastor Anderson. Presbytery ignored the provision in the Book of Discipline, "At least sixty (60) days shall be given for preparing the appeal and transmitting it to the clerk of the higher court." After not receiving written or verbal responses that the complainant was reasonably expecting to the December 30, 2022, complaint, the complainant prepared a written appeal to Synod by the 4th day of the month following Presbytery's March 2-4 meeting and personally submitted the full, completed appeal in writing to the moderator of presbytery on April 9th.

These under shepherds in Christ's church are requiring more of His sheep than the under shepherds require of themselves, directly contrary to our Lord's teaching in Mt 23:3-4, "All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not. For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers."

3. The appeal that the Presbytery declared out of order deals with matters of grave importance in the church and family. It is wrong and dishonors God to avoid dealing with matters of great importance that should be addressed and corrected. Presbytery has shirked this solemn duty. A lack of clarity by the session and the presbytery of the proper, right application of the requirements of Scripture and the Book of Discipline has led to poor communication and hindered them from comprehending and resolving these important matters.

I humbly ask the Synod to annul or reverse the decision of the Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery on April 24, 2023, to declare out of order my April 4, 2023, appeal of the December 30, 2022, complaint against the Southfield Reformed Presbyterian Church session (which the Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery denied) to the Synod.


_____, Complainant
Gary V. Allison

Date: May 23, 2023