

GREAT LAKES – GULF PRESBYTERY
2022/2023 AD INTERIM COMMISSION
REPORT TO PRESBYTERY
Spring 2023 Presbytery Meeting

The Great Lakes – Gulf Presbytery *Ad Interim Commission* for 2022/2023 was appointed at the March 2022 Annual Spring Meeting of Presbytery and consists of the following five members:

David Hanson, Moderator (TE, RPC of Southside Indianapolis, Indiana)
Richard Blankenship, Clerk (RE, Second RPC – Indianapolis, Indiana)
Robert McKissick (RE, Sycamore RPC (Kokomo, IN)
James Odom (RE, Sparta, Illinois RPC)
Thomas Reid (TE, Orlando, Florida RPC)

The Commission met nine times between March 2022, and March 2023, on the following dates.

April 22, 2022	September 10, 2022
May 18, 2022	November 16, 2022
June 10, 2022	December 10, 2022
June 25, 2022	February 7, 2023
August 3, 2022	

A copy of the draft minutes (pending approval) or the final approved minutes of each meeting was distributed to the delegates of Presbytery following each meeting.

Attached, as a part of this report to Presbytery, is a Topical Summary of actions taken by the *Ad Interim Commission*, presented in a Topical Index to the Minutes. The original signed minutes of the meetings of the 2022/2023 *Ad Interim Commission* will be delivered to the Clerk of Presbytery for retention and for spreading on the minutes of Presbytery at the Spring 2023 Presbytery meeting.

Recommendation:

1. That Presbytery receive this report.
2. That the Minutes of this *Ad Interim Commission* be spread on the minutes of Presbytery.

Respectively submitted,

David Hanson, Moderator
Richard Blankenship, Clerk
Robert McKissick
James Odom
Thomas Reid

February 10, 2023

Attachment: 2022/2023 *Ad Interim Commission* Topical Summary of Actions Taken and Index to the Minutes

**2022/2023 AD INTERIM COMMISSION TOPICAL SUMMARY OF ACTIONS
AND
INDEX TO THE MINUTES**

CONGREGATION OR TOPIC	SUMMARY OR DETAIL	MINUTES (DATE & ITEM #)
Ad Interim Commission	Appointment of Clerk	April 22, 2022 / 3
	Appointment of Clerk <i>pro tem</i>	May 18, 2022 / 1
	Fall AIC Report to Presbytery to be drafted by Clerk and reviewed by AIC members prior to submission to Presbytery	September 10, 2022 / 7
	Final, February 2023 AIC Report to Presbytery approved for submission to Presbytery.	February 7, 2023 / 9
Atlanta RPC	Appointment of Judicial Commission and members of the Commission	April 22, 2022 / 5
Approval of AIC Minutes	April 22, 2022 Minutes	June 10, 2022 / 3
	May 18, 2022 Minutes	June 10, 2022 / 3
	June 10, 2022 Minutes	June 25, 2022 / 3
	June 25, 2022 Minutes	June 25, 2022 / 5
	August 3, 2022 Minutes	September 10, 2022 / 3
	September 10, 2022 Minutes	November 16, 2022 / 3
	November 16, 2022 Minutes	December 10, 2022 / 3
	December 10, 2022 Minutes	February 7, 2023 / 3
	February 7, 2023	February 7, 2023 / 10
Allen Blackwood	Laramie RPC Pastoral Call to Allen Blackwood approved	May 18, 2022 / 3
Christ Church Brownsburg RPC	Committee to examine Communication GLG 22-13 regarding charges against James Faris appointed	May 18, 2022 / 7
	Commission appointed to investigate and address issues in Communication GLG 22-14	June 10, 2022 / 5

CONGREGATION OR TOPIC	SUMMARY OR DETAIL	MINUTES (DATE & ITEM #)
Christ Church Brownsburg RPC (Cont.)	Notation recorded that virtually all physical property of Christ Church has been distributed to various congregations in the Presbytery.	November 16, 2022 / 13
Christ Church Shepherding Committee	No action taken on request for dismissal of Committee	August 3, 2022 / 9
CYPU	Approval of CYPU Board Members and Director <i>pro tem</i>	April 22, 2022 / 6
	Request to rule on CYPU Leadership statement on GL-G Child Protection Policy declined	April 22, 2022 / 7
James Faris	Request for transfer of his credentials to Zionsville Fellowship Church in Zionsville, IN, sent to March 2023 full Presbytery meeting for consideration	December 10, 2022 / 7
First RPC Durham	Approval of Call of Drew Poplin as Associate Pastor. Appointment of Drew Poplin Installation Commission	April 22, 2022 / 9
First RPC – Grand Rapids	Appointment of Stephen Rhoda as temporary Moderator	April 22, 2022 / 8
	Appointment of Bryan Dage and Jon Hughes as Provisional Elders	August 3, 2022 / 6
	Resignation of Stephen Rhoda as Provisional Elder accepted	August 3, 2022 / 7

CONGREGATION OR TOPIC	SUMMARY OR DETAIL	MINUTES (DATE & ITEM #)
First RPC – Grand Rapids (Cont.)	Request for transfer of Joe and Meleah Tubergen’s membership to Providence Reformed Church returned to First RPC – Grand Rapids Membership Committee for counsel	November 16, 2022 / 12
	Approval of Joe and Meleah Tubergen’s request for transfer of their membership to Providence Reformed Church (RCA) in Grand Rapids, Michigan	December 10, 2022 / 4
	AIC Clerk directed to express to the Tubergens the AIC’s concern over their becoming a part of the Reformed Church in America	December 10, 2022 / 5
	Approval of Dick and Rieta Bonner’s request for transfer of membership to Reformation OPC of Grand Rapids, Michigan	February 7, 2023 / 5
	Approval of Rebekah, Alastair, and Margaret Scott’s request for transfer of membership to the US Presbytery of the Free Church Continuing	February 7, 2023 / 6
	Approval of Jake and Lydia Schwartz’s request for transfer of membership to Providence RPC in Pittsburgh, PA	February 7, 2023 / 7
	Approval of Roy Clark’s request for transfer of membership to Reformation OPC of Grand Rapids, Michigan	February 7, 2023 / 8

CONGREGATION OR TOPIC	SUMMARY OR DETAIL	MINUTES (DATE & ITEM #)
Mark Goerner	Ministerial Credentials received from the St. Lawrence Presbytery forwarded to the GL-G Candidates and Credentials Committee	May 18, 2022 / 8
Immanuel RPC	Communications regarding the Synod Judicial Commission transmitted to Synod	May 18, 2022 / 6
	Presbytery appointed Provisional Elders asked to report and give advice on developments and actions taken at July 2022 congregational meetings	August 3, 2022 / 10
	Report of Presbytery appointed Provisional Elders reviewed – no further action needed	September 10, 2022 / 6
	Resignation of Presbytery appointed Immanuel RPC Provisional Elders, Ken DeJong, John Hanson, and Terry Magnuson, accepted	November 16, 2022 / 4
Marion RPC	Permission granted to make out a call for a second pastor to succeed Jason Camery	June 25, 2022 / 4
	Call of Aaron Murray sustained as a regular gospel call and approved for presentation.	August 3, 2022 / 3
	Aaron Murray Ordination and Installation Commission appointed	September 10, 2022 / 4
	Moderator and alternate Moderator for the Aaron Murray Ordination and Installation Commission appointed	September 10, 2022 / 5

CONGREGATION OR TOPIC	SUMMARY OR DETAIL	MINUTES (DATE & ITEM #)
Marion RPC (Cont.)	Minutes of the Commission to Ordain and Install Aaron Murray returned to Commission for clarification	November 16, 2022 / 5
	Minutes of the Commission to Ordain and Install Aaron Murray received to be spread on the minutes of Presbytery	December 10, 2022 / 6
	AIC informed of Teaching Elder Aaron Murray appointed as Moderator of the Marion RPC Session. Marion Session encouraged to report to the March 2023 meeting of Presbytery what Jason Camery's membership is on the Marion Session.	February 7, 2023 / 4
Aaron Murray	Coldenham-Newburgh RPC Pastoral Call to Aaron Murray approved	May 18, 2022 / 4
	Aaron Murray Ordination Exam Commission appointed	August 3, 2022 / 4
	Ordination and Installation Commission appointed	September 10, 2022 / 4
	Moderator and alternate Moderator for the Ordination and Installation Commission appointed	September 10, 2022 / 5
Presbytery	Approval of Minutes of 2022 Annual Spring Meeting	April 22, 2022 / 4
	Fall meeting set for October 7 and 8, 2022, in Columbus, Indiana	August 3, 2022 / 5
	Complaint of Enas and Swan against Presbytery policy on recording minutes sent to full Presbytery to be processed. (Communication GLG 22-22)	November 16, 2022 / 10

CONGREGATION OR TOPIC	SUMMARY OR DETAIL	MINUTES (DATE & ITEM #)
Presbytery (Cont.)	Complaint of Enas against Presbytery regarding the handling of complaint against Christ Church RP Commission sent to full Presbytery to be processed. (Communication GLG 22-23)	November 16, 2022 / 11
Second RPC, Indianapolis	Teaching Elder Jerry Foltz approved as interim Moderator of Session during James Faris' sabbatical leave(s)	August 3, 2022 / 8
	Resignation of Pastor James Faris accepted	November 16, 2022 / 6
	Pastoral relationship between Second RPC and James Faris dissolved	November 16, 2022 / 7
	Approval given to call a Teaching Elder/Pastor to replace James Faris	November 16, 2022 / 8
	Teaching Elder, Jerry Foltz confirmed as Moderator of Second RPC Session	November 16, 2022 / 9
Synod 2022	Certification of At-Large Teaching Elders	April 22, 2022 / 10
Westminster (IL) RPC	Approval of Pastoral Call to Joshua Smith approved	May 18, 2022 / 5
	End of Items	

2022/2023 AIC Report to Presbytery v1.8 Final

Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery
Minutes of the *Ad Interim* Commission
April 22, 2022

The *Ad Interim* Commission (“AIC”) of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery met on April 22, 2022, by Zoom video conference call.

1. Elders present were David Hanson (Moderator, Southside RPC, Indianapolis, IN), Richard Blankenship (Clerk, Second RPC, Indianapolis, IN), Robert McKissick (Sycamore RPC, Kokomo, IN), James Odom (Sparta RPC), and Tom Reid (Orlando RPC).
2. David Hanson opened the meeting and constituted the Court in prayer in the name of and by the authority of Jesus Christ, the King and Head of the Church at 7:35 pm.
3. By common consent, Richard Blankenship was appointed Clerk of the AIC.
4. By common consent, Items 59 through and including Item 85 of the minutes of the Annual Spring meeting of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery held March 3, 2022, to March 5, 2022, were approved.
5. By common consent, the request of the Atlanta RPC TGB for a three-man judicial commission to process and adjudicate charges against one of the members of the Atlanta RPC was approved.

In a separate and related action, it was moved, seconded, and approved to appoint the following as members of the three-man Atlanta RPC Judicial Commission:

Frank Smith, Moderator
Greg Burgreen, Clerk
Drew Poplin

with the Moderator of Presbytery authorized to appoint any alternate members of the Commission as needed.

6. By common consent, at the request and recommendation of Steve Rhoda, CYPUR Director Pro Tem, the following were approved as CYPUR leadership:

Board Members: Stephen Rhoda, Chairman
Kevin Duffey
Brian Planalp
Anna Roberts
Joy Whitt

CYPUR Director Pro Tem: Jacob Long

7. By common consent, the AIC declined to act on the request from CYPU leadership to rule on their statement regarding compliance with the newly adopted GL-G Child Protection Policy, because the request lies beyond the authority of the AIC.
8. By common consent, the request from the Session of First RPC-Grand Rapids for the appointment of Stephen Rhoda as temporary moderator of the First RPC-Grand Rapids Session from April 11, 2022, through June 12, 2022, was approved.
9. By common consent, the call of Drew Poplin as Associate Pastor of First RPC of Durham was approved as a regular gospel call made in accordance with the law and order of the church, to be forwarded to Mr. Poplin. The Congregational Meeting Minutes, Roll of Communicant Members, and Pastor's Call and Financial Agreement are attached to and made a part of these minutes.

In a separate but related action, given that Mr. Poplin has expressed his intent to accept the call, it was moved, seconded, and approved to appoint a five-man Drew Poplin Installation Commission, consisting of the following:

Kent Butterfield, Chairman (TE, Durham)
Eric Hallfors (RE, Durham)
Shawn Anderson (TE, Sycamore)
Bob Bibby (RE, Lafayette)
Frank Smith (TE, Atlanta)

Alternates: Adam Kuehner (TE, Southfield)
Jason Camery (TE, Marion)

The Clerk of AIC, in consultation with the Installation Commission Chairman, is authorized to establish the date, time, and place of the Installation Service and prepare the Edict for Installation of a Teaching Elder.

10. By common consent, the following At-Large Teaching Elders are certified as delegates to the meeting of Synod meeting June 21, 2022, to June 24, 2022, at Indiana Wesleyan University in Marion, IN:

Andrew B.
Brian Dage
Rich Johnston
Dennis Prutow
Thomas Reid
Bill Roberts
Zachary Smith
Steven Work

It was further approved that, in the event of any oversight regarding the list above or the need for additional certifications, the Moderator and the Clerk of AIC are authorized to address the certification of any additional at-large teaching elder Synod certifications after the date of this meeting.

The certifications will be prepared by the AIC Clerk and provided to the Clerk of Synod and to the Clerk and Assistant Clerk of the GL-G Presbytery. The certifications shall be attached to and made a part of these minutes.

11. The Minutes were reviewed.
12. By common consent, adjournment was approved.
13. James Odom prayed for the Atlanta RPC and the CYPUs leadership.
14. Robert McKissick prayed for Craig Scott, his sabbatical, and First RPC-Grand Rapids, Drew Poplin and his installation as Associate Pastor of First RPC-Durham, and adjourned the Court in prayer in the name of and by the authority of Jesus Christ, the Head and King of the Church, at 8:50 pm.



David Hanson, Moderator
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery
Ad Interim Commission



F. Richard Blankenship III, Clerk
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery
Ad Interim Commission

First Reformed Presbyterian Church of Durham
Congregational Meeting Minutes
April 2, 2022, 4:00 PM

Kent Butterfield (Moderator), Eric Hallfors and Drew Poplin (Clerk) met, along with the congregation of First RPC Durham, at the Church Meeting Place (1316 Watts St, Durham, NC 27701).

1. The Moderator, Pastor Butterfield, called the meeting to order and then constituted the court in prayer in the Name and by the authority of the Lord Christ Jesus at 4:08 pm.
2. Elder Poplin took non-verbal attendance by sight and announced that a quorum was present with 20 communicant members (out of 36 active, resident communicant members) in attendance.
3. The Moderator inquired to the congregation, "Does the congregation desire to move forward with the election of an Associate Pastor and up to two Deacon(s)?" To which the congregation answered in the affirmative without any dissent.

4. The Moderator read the edict.

The Session having decided to conduct an election for an associate pastor and deacon (up to two deacons to serve) on the 2nd day of April in the year of 2022, at 4pm at 1316 Watts Street, Durham, NC.

Members unable to be present may send absentee votes to the meeting enclosed in a sealed envelope, or given or mailed/mailed (each vote must be from a separate email address) to the Moderator/Pastor of Session at the church address. The envelope shall bear the name of the communicant member, and shall be addressed to the session. Absentee votes are valid only on the first electing ballot.

Given this 9th day of March in the year 2022, by order of the Session.

5. The Moderator explained the voting process and then process for examination of any deacon-elects. The Moderator then read the prospective call for the Associate Pastor. The floor was open to any questions or discussion. There were neither questions nor discussion from the floor.
6. A service of divine worship was held. The Moderator called the congregation to the worship of the Triune God from Psalm 135:1-3, and then called upon God's name in prayer. The congregation sang Psalm 125 to the praise of God. Pastor Butterfield then preached from Matthew 13:31-32 upon the theme of Christ building His Kingdom, after which Pastor Butterfield called upon God's name in prayer and the congregation sang Psalm 133A.
7. Nominations for an Associate Pastor were taken. The Session nominated Drew Poplin. There were no other nominations from the floor.
8. Nominations for Deacons were taken. The Session nominated Jeff Kassler and Nicholas Albano. There were no other nominations from the floor.
9. The active communicant members cast their ballots for the election of an Associate Pastor and up to two deacons. While the ballots were being counted, the congregation sang Psalms.

10. The ballots being counted, the congregation voted to elect Drew Poplin as Associate Pastor (with a total of 28 votes affirmative, out of 28 votes cast).
11. The ballots being counted, the congregation voted to elect Jeff Kassler (with a total of 28 votes affirmative, out of 28 votes cast) and Nicholas Albano (with a total of 26 votes affirmative, out of 28 votes cast) to the office of Deacon.
12. The Clerk read the minutes for this congregational meeting. Motion carried to approve the minutes for the congregational meeting, April 2, 2022, as read and amended.
13. Pastor Butterfield led the congregation in prayer for the Lord's blessing upon this congregation, the business conducted at this meeting, and the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America; and then adjourned the court in the Name and by the authority of the Lord Christ Jesus at 5:27 pm.

ROLL OF COMMUNICANT MEMBERS OF FIRST RPC DURHAM

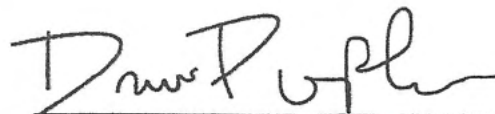
Adams, John (Inactive)	DeSoto, Ranleigh+
Albano, Nicholas*	Godwin, Hermonta*
Anderson, Hunter Grace	Hallfors, Denise*
Baybutt, Esther*	Hallfors, Eric*
Baybutt, Ida*	Hunter, Lawrence*
Baybutt, Rick*	Jackson, Bill+
Baybutt, Stephen*	Jackson, Donna+
Baybutt, Vickie*	Julien, Mikayla
Baybutt, Walter†	Kassler, Brendan+
Branch, Andrew*	Kassler, Jeff*
Butterfield, Alicia*	Manring, Levi
Butterfield, Christopher*	Manring, Autumn
Butterfield, Kent*	Murphy, John*
Butterfield, Rosaria*	Oakley, Ashley
Cornejo, Ana	Oakley, Tyler*
Cornejo, Jeanne+	Perez, Julian
Cornejo, Nic (Inactive)	Perez, Ana
Cornejo, Roger+	Poplin, Anna*
DeSoto, Amillia+	Poplin, Drew*

* Indicates present at the meeting

+ Indicates submitted an absentee ballot



(Kent Butterfield, Moderator)



(Drew Poplin, Clerk)



First Reformed Presbyterian Church of Durham

1316 Watts Street
Durham, NC 27701

Pastor's Call and Financial Agreement

We, the First Reformed Presbyterian Church of Durham, 1316 Watts Street, Durham, North Carolina, under the care of the Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery, desiring to call an associate pastor to take the spiritual oversight of us in the Lord; and satisfied that your spiritual attainments, intellectual abilities and soundness in the faith and the Testimony of the Reformed Presbyterian Church are fitted to our capacities, do now, with the concurrence of Presbytery, call you, Drew Poplin, to undertake the office of pastor (associate pastor) among us. Upon your accepting this call and performing the duties of your office as set forth by the Constitution, we promise you all due respect and support in the Lord.

We hereby promise to pay you \$37,800 annually, in the event of your accepting this call, and performing the duties of a pastor among us payable in 12 installments of \$3,150 each. Of this compensation 60% is designated as an allowance for furnishings and appurtenances for your dwelling as set forth by Section 107 of the I.R. Code.

We include the following in the compensation package:

1. Salary/Housing Allowance - \$37,800 paid in monthly installments
 2. Medical - \$6,000 per year paid in monthly installments
 3. Retirement Contribution - \$4,500 per year paid in monthly installments with increases following at the least the Synod required minimum amount. This will be paid directly into an established IRS approved fund set up by the associate pastor.
 4. *Reimbursement for ministry expenses according to current church policy.*
- Four weeks will be provided for vacation time each year. Time will also be given for Synod and Presbytery meetings each year. A Sabbatical every 5 years will be considered along with the length of the Sabbatical as is affordable by the congregation.

We promise to review annually with you the adequacy of this compensation prior to the adoption of the congregation's budget meeting to take into account the cost of living increase.

In witness thereof, we subscribe this call and financial agreement, the 2nd day of April in the year 2022 in the presence of these witnesses:

Attestation of a Call and Financial Agreement

I hereby certify that this call and financial agreement were made out on the date therein specified in accord with the law and order of the church.

Pastor Kent Butterfield, Moderator

Signatures of Communicant Members approving the call:

Elders:

1. *Kent Butterfield*
2. *Earl Harty*



First Reformed Presbyterian Church of Durham

1316 Watts Street
Durham, NC 27701

Communicant Members:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Nicholas Alpano | 2. Rosaria Butterfield |
| 3. John Kessler | 4. Andrew Branch |
| 5. Richard Baylutt | 6. Alicia Butterfield |
| 7. Richard C Baylutt | 8. Christopher Butterfield |
| 9. Denise Dion Halfon | 10. Loletha Baylutt |
| 11. Zyla M Oakley | 12. Richard Baylutt |
| 13. Anna V Poplin | 14. Stephen D. Baylutt |
| 15. William T Jauch | 16. Richard Baylutt |
| 17. Lawrence Burke | 18. Amilia DeSoto |
| 19. Gummy Gadei | 20. Donna Jackson |
| 21. Bel D. M. | 22. Jani Mahony |
| 23. Mikayla Julien | 24. Ashley Oakley |
| 25. Autumn Manning | 26. Richard Baylutt |
| 27. Roger D. Corneo | 28. Jeanne Corneo |
| 29. Richard Baylutt | 30. Don R. Camp (Anastasia Corneo) |
| 31. | 32. |
| 33. | 34. |
| 35. | 36. |

Baptized Members.

- | | | |
|---------------|-----------------|-----|
| 1. Abraham B. | 2. Constance B. | 11. |
| 3. | 4. | 12. |
| 5. | 6. | 13. |
| 7. | 8. | 14. |
| 9. | 10. | 15. |



First Reformed Presbyterian Church of Durham

1316 Watts Street
Durham, NC 27701

Adherents:

1. James Contable
3. Carrie Bay
5. Christi Brinson
7. Haddon Fox
9. J. M. J.
11. Thomas Neal
- 13.
- 15.
- 17.
- 19.
- 21.
- 23.
- 25.

2. Anna Jise McJowan
4. Clifa Z. Brinson
6. Timothy Brinson
8. Jilly Klein (Fox)
10. Robin Mays
12. Erin Neal
- 14.
- 16.
- 18.
- 20.
- 22.
- 24.
- 26.

**EDICT FOR INSTALLATION OF REV. DREW POPLIN
IN THE
FIRST REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DURHAM**

The Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery has received a call made by the First Reformed Presbyterian Church of Durham upon Drew Poplin to be their Associate Pastor and has sustained it as a regular gospel call. He has signified his intention to accept the call. Notice is hereby given that the 10th day of June in the year 2022, has been fixed as the time for his installation, with certification that the Presbytery will proceed in the same, unless some valid objections be offered to the Presbytery, which is to meet at First Reformed Presbyterian Church of Durham on the 10th day of June in the year 2022.

The meeting for the installation will be held at 7:00 p.m. at First Reformed Presbyterian Church of Durham, 1316 Watts Street, Durham, North Carolina 27701.



Clerk of the Ad Interim Commission
F. Richard Blankenship, III



Moderator of the Ad Interim Commission
David Hanson

By order of the Presbytery this 25th day of April in the year 2022.

Certification of Teaching Elders to Synod for Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery

1 message

Richard Blankenship <richardblankenship3@gmail.com>

Tue, Apr 26, 2022 at 1:17 PM

To: jmmlawrence@aol.com, A K <ak@streetsermon.org>, Dale Koons <dlkoons49@gmail.com>


Cc: David Hanson <davidrpts@hotmail.com>

John,

Attached is the Certificate of Teaching Elders to Synod from the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery.

If you have any questions or need any additional information please let me know.

richardblankenship3@gmail.com

 **Cert to Synod 4.22.pdf**
313K

RPCNA Form 3 – Certificate of Teaching Elder to Synod

The **Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery** has certified the following teaching elders to the meeting of Synod, meeting **June 21-24** of **2022**, starting at **8:30 a.m.** on **June 21** at Indiana Wesleyan University (Marion, Indiana).

Andrew B.
Rich Johnston
Thomas Reid
Zachary Smith

Bryan Dage
Dennis Prutow
Bill Roberts
Steven Work

Given this **22nd** day of **April** in the year **2022**, by order of the Presbytery.



F. Richard Blankenship, III
Clerk of the Ad Interim Commission



David Hanson
Moderator of the Ad Interim Commission,

Updated Great Lakes-Gulf Certification of Teaching Elders to Synod

1 message

Richard Blankenship <richardblankenship3@gmail.com>

Wed, May 11, 2022 at 11:30 AM

To: jmmlawrence@aol.com

Cc: David Hanson <davidrpts@hotmail.com>, A K <ak@streetsermon.org>

John,

Attached is a Revised and Updated Certificate of Teaching Elders to Synod from the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery.

The certification attached includes those Teaching Elders certified under the previously submitted certificate of April 22, 2022 and can replace the previously submitted certificate.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

richardblankenship3@gmail.com

 **GLGTEC~2.PDF**
394K

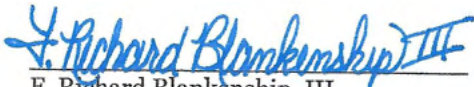
RPCNA Form 3 – Certificate of Teaching Elder to Synod

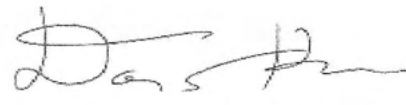
Revised and Updated

The **Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery** has certified the following teaching elders to the meeting of Synod, meeting **June 21-24 of 2022**, starting at **8:30 a.m.** on **June 21** at Indiana Wesleyan University (Marion, Indiana).

Andrew B.	<i>*Jack Baumgarder</i>
Bryan Dage	Rich Johnston
<i>*James Pennington</i>	Dennis Prutow
Thomas Reid	Bill Roberts
<i>*Frank Schutz</i>	<i>*Frank Smith</i>
Zachary Smith	<i>*David Whitla</i>
Steven Work	

Given this **11th** day of **May** in the year **2022**, by order of the Presbytery.


F. Richard Blankenship, III
Clerk of the Ad Interim Commission


David Hanson
Moderator of the Ad Interim Commission

* *Note: The names of the Teaching Elders listed above in italics are new certifications. The other Teaching Elders listed were previously certified under a certificate dated April 22, 2022.*

Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery
Minutes of the *Ad Interim* Commission
Wednesday, May 18, 2022

The *Ad Interim* Commission ("AIC") of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery met on Wednesday, May 18, 2022, by Zoom video conference call.

1. Members present were David Hanson, Moderator, Robert McKissick, James Odom, and Thomas Reid. It was noted that our Clerk, Richard Blankenship, was unable to be involved in this meeting due to a sudden providence, so Robert McKissick agreed to serve as Clerk, *pro tem*.
2. The meeting of the Commission was called to order by Moderator David Hanson at 8:35 pm on Wednesday, May 18, 2022, with prayer to our Lord asking for wisdom and unity and constituting the Court in the name of and by the authority of Jesus Christ, the King and Head of the Church.
3. It was moved, seconded, and passed, that (i) the Laramie RPC pastoral call to Allen Blackwood be approved and forwarded to Mr. Blackwood as a regular gospel call as soon as he is certified to receive a call, and (ii) the AIC recommend to the Laramie RPC that they shift \$1,000 from salary to auto allowance, to provide more adequately for their pastor's travel expenses. The congregational meeting minutes, roll of communicant members, and pastor's call and financial agreement are attached to and made a part of these minutes.
4. It was moved, seconded, and passed, that the Coldenham-Newburgh RPC pastoral call to Aaron Murray be approved and forwarded to Mr. Murray as a regular gospel call as soon as he is certified to receive a call. The congregational meeting minutes, roll of communicant members, and pastor's call and financial agreement are attached to and made a part of these minutes.
5. It was moved, seconded, and passed, that the Westminster RPC pastoral call to Joshua Smith be approved as a regular gospel call and forwarded to the Presbytery of the Alleghenies. The congregational meeting minutes, roll of communicant members, and pastor's call and financial agreement are attached to and made a part of these minutes.
6. The Commission, having received two communications regarding the Immanuel Synod Judicial Commission, one from Mr. Dan Dillon of the Immanuel RPC and one from members of the Lafayette RPC, observes that both papers are in order, were submitted in appropriate language, and were submitted in the appropriate timeframe. These communications are hereby transmitted to Synod. A copy of each of the communications is attached to and made a part of these minutes.
7. The Commission discussed Presbytery Communication GLG 22-13, from two members of Christ Church Brownsburg RPC. It was moved, seconded, and passed, that the AIC ask the Moderator of Presbytery, Nathan Eshelman, to appoint a three-man committee to examine Communication 22-13 and bring recommendations to the Synod meeting of Presbytery concerning its disposition. A copy of Communication GLG 22-13 is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

8. By common consent, the Commission agreed to forward the Certificate of Ministerial Credentials of Mark Goerner to the GL-G Candidates and Credentials Committee for action.
9. It was moved, seconded, and passed, that the meeting be adjourned.
10. The prayer of adjournment was given by Tom Reid at 10:01 pm, with thanks for the men who were called into ministerial service and for continued wisdom and unity in our presbytery.



David Hanson, Moderator
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery
Ad Interim Commission

Robert McKissick, Clerk *pro tem*
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery
Ad Interim Commission

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R. McKissick

David Hanson, Moderator
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery
Ad Interim Commission

Robert McKissick, Clerk *pro tem*
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery
Ad Interim Commission

Robert Hemphill called the Congregational Meeting to order at 11:34 AM at the Lincoln Center on Grand Avenue in Laramie, WY.

Clyde Brown read the Edict that gave notice of the Congregational Meeting.

It was determined that a quorum was present. (13 members of the 17 resident members were present)

Robert Hemphill led the congregation in devotions pointing out the Overseer's Reputation, Responsibilities, Remuneration, and his Reward as developed in 1 Timothy and 1 Peter.

The Session Court was constituted in prayer by Robert Hemphill.

Psalm 23A was sung – The Lord is My Shepherd.

Robert Hemphill explained the procedure and opened the floor for questions and discussion. The congregation discussed Allen's qualifications and preaching.

The session nominated Edwin Allen Henry Blackwood II to be our pastor. No other nominations were received. It was moved, seconded and passed that the nominations be closed.

Clyde Brown asked our heavenly Father to bless our election. The ballots were distributed, completed and gathered by tellers Luiz Leal and Andy Ommen. The tellers counted the votes and determined that 16 total votes were received. 14 votes were for Allen. There was one blank vote and one NO vote.

Robert Hemphill declared that Edwin Allen Henry Blackwood II was elected.

The Call was distributed to the congregation to review. Deacon Jesse Mann explained the financial package that was part of the call.

It was moved, seconded and passed to approve the Financial Package attached to the call.

The congregation sang Psalm 133A and Robert Hemphill closed the court with a prayer of adjournment.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Hemphill, Provisional Moderator

Clyde Brown, Clerk Pro temp

Laramie, Wyoming Reformed Presbyterian Church Membership List

Active Communicant Members

Clyde Brown
Mary Brown
Hope Brown
Tim Brown
Chad Campsey
Christi Campsey
Joe Campsey
Shirley Campsey
Lucas Donato
Amandah Donato
Bob Hemphill
Cheryl Hemphill
Peggy Kennedy
Elise Mann
Jess Mann
Katie Mann
Breanna McCaragher
Larry McCracken
Jan Romsa
Lexie Tippin

Baptized Members

David Brown
Evyne Mann

CALL OF TEACHING ELDER

We, the Laramie Reformed Presbyterian Church congregation ("congregation"), under the care of the Midwest Presbytery ("Presbytery"), being without a pastor to take the spiritual oversight of us in the Lord; and being satisfied that your spiritual attainments, intellectual abilities, and soundness in the faith and the Testimony of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America ("RPCNA") are fitted to our capacities, do now, with the concurrence of Presbytery, earnestly call you, [Edwin Allen Henry Blackwood II], to undertake the office of teaching elder among us. Upon your accepting this call and performing the duties of your office as set forth by the RPCNA Constitution, we promise you all due respect and support in the Lord.

SUMMARY OF COMPENSATION PACKAGE

We hereby promise to pay you an annual salary of \$52000, as the Lord provides, payable in monthly installments of \$4,333.33 each. To the extent your performance of the duties of pastor among us does not begin on the first day of the year, the annual salary is to be pro-rated based on the number of days you serve as pastor during the year (beginning with the date of commencement of your service). Of this compensation, up to \$52,000 is allowable for appurtenances, furnishing, housing, maintenance, utilities, etc. under Section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code.

In addition to an annual salary, we include the following additional items in your compensation package:

- Transition Expenses – We will provide you with a one-time payment of up to \$6000 to be used for transition expenses (e.g., moving expenses, down payment on house, rent deposit, furnishings, etc.).
- Retirement – We will contribute \$4400 annually to a 403(b) retirement plan for your benefit (or similar retirement-type account), payable in quarterly installments of \$1100 each.
- Health Insurance – We will reimburse you for the lesser of your total health insurance premiums (or membership payments as part of a health care sharing ministry – e.g., Samaritan Ministries) or \$4000 annually.
- Continuing Education Expense Reimbursement – We will reimburse you for the lesser of your out-of-pocket continuing education expenses (book purchases, seminar/conference fees, etc.) or \$500 annually.
- Auto Allowance – We will reimburse you for the lesser of the mileage (using business mileage rate as designated by the IRS) you use your personal vehicle in the ministry (does not include commuting) or \$250 annually.
- Family Conference Reimbursement – We will reimburse you for the lesser of your expenses to attend annual Presbytery/Denominational Family Conference or \$500 annually.
- Vacation Time – Four weeks (28 days including four Sundays) will be provided for vacation time each year. This is in addition to time off from preaching duties for annual Presbytery/Denominational meetings and Family Conference.
- Sabbatical Leave – Two weeks of accrued sabbatical leave per year of service. Every six years of continuous service establishes eligibility for sabbatical leave (up to twelve weeks).

We promise to review annually with you the adequacy of this compensation package, as the Lord provides, prior to the adoption of the congregation's budget, to take into account the cost of living increase and other factors.

CONGREGATIONAL SIGNATURES

In witness thereof, we subscribe this call and financial agreement, this May 1, 2022, in the presence of these witnesses:

Ruling Elders:



Deacons:

Joseph M. [Signature]

Communicant Members & Adherents:

Shirley Campney Breanna McLurgler [Signature]

Lucas RV Donat Rose Brown Katie Mann

Amanda Bonato Timothy D Brown Elin Mann

Cheryl Hemphill David Brown _____

Bob Hemphill Helen O'Brien [Signature]

Cheryl A. Cappy _____

Christa Campney _____

Peggy A. Kedy _____

Janice M. Roman _____

ATTESTATION OF A CALL AND FINANCIAL AGREEMENT

I hereby certify that this call and financial agreement were made out on the date therein specified in accord with the law and order of the church.

Robert L. Hemphill
Session Moderator

Coldenham, NY
April 9, 2022

The session met in the auditorium of the church in Coldenham, NY. Elders David Coon, Phillip Shafer, and Ernie Johnson were present. Student intern Zach Dotson was in Canada. The purpose of the meeting was for the congregation to consider making out a call for teaching elder.

With eleven communicant members present, it was determined that a quorum had been met. A twelfth member joined later.

At 9:30 AM David Coon led those present in worship. John 13: 1 – 17 was read and appropriate remarks were made. Psalm 68 B and F were sung. Prayer for the meeting was offered up to our Lord.

The edict was read for the third and final time.

David Coon constituted the session as a court at 10:00 AM.

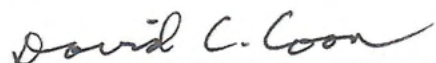
The session placed the name of Aaron Murray before the congregation as a nominee. There were no other nominations. Instructions as to voting were given and papers were handed out. Mike DeSocio, who had been a provisional elder appointed by Atlantic Presbytery for eight years, prayed God's direction as we voted.

Mike DeSocio and adherent Ben Hollo were appointed tellers. The vote was collected by roll call. In addition to those present, there were five absentee votes cast.

While the tellers counted the vote, Psalm 128 B was sung. The vote count was 17 in favor of Aaron Murray with no other votes cast. David Coon pronounced that Mr. Murray had been properly elected.

The financial arrangement had been prepared beforehand and was reviewed and approved by the congregation. It was MSC that the proposal be adopted.

Psalm 121 C was sung and David Coon adjourned the court in prayer at 10:40 AM



Moderator of the Session



Clerk of the Session

Coldenham-Newburgh Reformed Presbyterian Church

Roster as of April 9, 2022

Necy Arnott	Rebecca Johnson
Allen Bailey >	Charles Leach
Debbie Bailey >	Susan Leach
Raymond Baisden	Steve Leach
Sharon Baisden	Christopher Leach @1
Daniel Belknap	Barbara Nickerson
Dale Davidson *	Ernie Rumfield
Joyce DeFont	Irene Rumfield
Zachary Dotson #	Esther Salazar
Wilma Dotson #	Phillip Shafer (elder)
Shirley Hernandez	Lesesne Shafer
Ernest Johnson (elder)	Sarah Shafer @2

> Allen and Debbie Bailey are likely transitioning out of the congregation. Allen is convinced of believer baptism and is looking to a local Reformed Baptist church.

* Dale is handicapped and lives 30 minutes from the church. He receives the bulletin weekly and prays for the church but seldom attends.

Zach and Wilma are moving to Tasmania where he will take up the ministry of a congregation there.

@1 Chris is in the army, presently stationed in the Philippines. He prays regularly for the church.

@2 Sarah teaches in the United Arab Emirates and is only in the States for a month in the summer.

PASTORAL CALL

We, the Coldenham-Newburgh congregation, Walden, NY, under the care of the Atlantic Presbytery, being without a pastor to take the spiritual oversight of us in the Lord, and satisfied that your intellectual abilities, spiritual attainments, and soundness in the faith and the *Testimony of the Reformed Presbyterian Church* are fitted to our capabilities, do now, with concurrence of Presbytery, call you, Aaron Murray, to undertake the office of pastor among us. Upon your acceptance of this call and performing the duties of your office as set forth by the Constitution of the RPCNA, we promise you all due respect and support in the Lord.

We hereby promise to pay you \$53,400.00 in the event of your accepting this call and performing the duties of pastor among us – a direct compensation of \$36,400.00 annually, payable in twenty-six (26) installments of \$1,400.00 each. Of this compensation, and for tax purposes, \$10,000.00 is designated as an allowance for furnishings and appurtenances for your dwelling as set forth by Section 107 of the US Internal Revenue Code.

We include the following in the compensation package as shown below:

1. Housing: Free use of the manse and garage
2. Special inclusions:
 - a. \$5500.00 to be used for utilities
 - b. \$7000.00 for health insurance
 - c. \$4500.00 annually toward self-employment taxes
3. Accountable plan for business expenses from which:
 - a. upon presentation of receipt, you can withdraw up to \$2400.00, including car expense, books, seminars, hosting, office materials and supplies, etc.
 - b. a one-time amount of up to \$2000.00 will be available for moving expenses because it is necessary that you move to this area to assume the role of pastor.

4. Other annual benefits:

- a. Use of the church office, equipment, telephone, copy machine, etc.
- b. Attendance fees paid for Synod and one Presbytery camp
- c. \$4500.00 paid to the pension plan of your choice
- d. Four (4) weeks' vacation per calendar year
- e. Time off: Synod, Presbytery, two communions, and speaker at one family conference

We promise to annually review the adequacy of this compensation with you, prior to the adoption of the congregational budget to assess the cost-of-living expense.

In witness thereof, we subscribe this call and financial agreement, the 9th day of April in the year 2022, in the presence of these witnesses:

Elders: Phillip A. Shaffer Ernest Johnson

Deacon: Ernest Johnson

Communicant Members:

<u>Lesue C. Shaffer</u>	<u>Shirley Hernandez</u> P/S
<u>Barbara E. Mickerson</u>	<u>Susan Leach</u>
<u>Esther Salazar</u>	<u>Joyce A. DeFont</u>
<u>Virginia Baird</u>	<u>Charles W. Leach</u>
<u>Sharon Baird</u>	<u>Kim M. Balkman</u>
<u>Ernest R. Baird</u>	<u>Christopher Leach</u> P/S
<u>Ernest R. Baird</u>	<u>Ernest Johnson</u>
<u>Ernest R. Baird</u>	<u>Stephen Leach</u>

Communicant Mem bers (continued)

Joseph and Viktoria Butler

Adherents:

Raymond A. Hill

Ryan Hill

Becky Hill

Andrew J. Hill

Witnesses:

Luca De Sisto

Raymond A. Hill

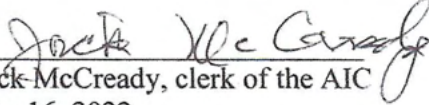
Attestation of the Call and Financial Agreement

I hereby certify that this call and financial agreement were made out on the date ^herein specified in accord with the law and order of the church.

David C. Coon

Moderator

The Ad Interim Commission of the Atlantic Presbytery of the RPCNA sustained the call of the Coldenham-Newburgh congregation to Aaron Murray as a regular gospel call and sent the call on to the clerk of the Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery.


Jack McCready, clerk of the AIC
May 16, 2022

Westminster Reformed Presbyterian Church

Prairie View, Illinois

SESSION MEETING- CONGREGATIONAL MEETING FOR THE ELECTION OF A TEACHING ELDER

April 24, 2022, at 2:30 PM -Meeting at the Church 16670 Easton Avenue,
Prairie View, IL.

Elders present were Pastor Wade Mann (interim moderator) and Bob Koch- Clerk. Also attending were Jack Baumgardner (new interim moderator), and Brett Mahlen interim pastor.

The purpose of this meeting was to conduct an election of a Teaching Elder.

The meeting was called to order and the court was constituted in prayer by Pastor Mann.

1. Determination of a quorum.

The quorum was confirmed visually. There were 10 of 15 members present.

2. Inquiry as to whether the congregation wished to proceed with the election was answered in the affirmative.

3. The edict was read for the final time.

4. Worship

- We sang Psalm 111A.
- Wade opened the word from Acts 6:1-7.
- We explored the election process which we were undertaking from a Biblical point of view.
- Prayer
- Singing of Psalm 67A.

5. Election of a teaching elder

a. Nominations were opened from the floor. Mr. Joshua Smith was nominated. There were no additional nominations.

Motion was made and seconded for the closing of nominations. The vote was unanimous to close nominations.

b. Tellers appointed were Jack Baumgardner and Brett Mahlen.

c. Vote was taken by role call with 10 members voting and one additional absentee ballot.

d. The election was 9 in favor 1 against and one blank ballot. The Moderator declared Mr. Joshua Smith elected as Teaching Elder for Westminster RPC.

e. Bob Koch then presented the congregation with the terms of the call and a revised budget. A motion was received and seconded to approve the

terms of the call and the revised 2022 budget which was passed unanimously.

- f. The call was then placed at the front of the church for everyone present to sign. It will be present at worship for the next two weeks for all to sign.

6. Psalm 48C was sung.

7. The meeting was adjourned in prayer at 3:25 PM by Elder Bob Koch.

WESTMINSTER REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Members, Adherents and Contacts

* = Baptized child (NR) = Non-resident (IA) = Inactive

Members – Communicant & Baptized

8/17/2021

1. JENNINGS, Charlie

2. JENNINGS, Luz

*1. Lisa (College-UNI)

*2. Kimberley

3. KAIRELIS, Richard

4. KOCH, Robert

5. KOCH, Pamela

6. KOCH, Stephen

7. Mace Roman

8. RITCHHART, James

9. RITCHHART, Rebekah

10. STIEGERT, Matthew

11. ZELLER, Chris

12. ZELLER, Elizabeth

13. Zeller, Clarisa

*3. Trystan

*4. Thadeus

14. ZELLER, Kirstie

15. ZELLER, Erin

Friends Attending Regularly

Christian Osario

Pastor's Call to Joshua Smith

We, the Westminster Reformed Presbyterian Church, Prairie View, IL 60069, under the care of the Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery, being without a pastor to take the spiritual oversight of us in the Lord; and satisfied that your spiritual attainments, intellectual abilities and soundness in the faith and the Testimony of the Reformed Presbyterian Church are fitted to our capacities, do now, with the concurrence of Presbytery, call you, Joshua Smith, to undertake the office of pastor among us. Upon your accepting this call and performing the duties of your office as set forth by the Constitution, we promise you all due respect and support in the Lord.

1. We hereby promise to pay you \$32,400.00/year, in the event of your accepting this call, and performing the duties of a pastor among us, payable in 12 installments of \$2,700.00/month.
2. We will provide the use of the manse, including the payment of utilities, water, gas, electricity, phone, and trash service.
3. \$5,000/year for Mileage Expense will be provided at the IRS government rate, reimbursed monthly.
4. \$1,200/year for Administrative Expenses will be supplied for office equipment and expense, telephone, etc., reimbursed monthly
5. \$ 1000.00 will be provided for pastoral development for books and instructional materials.
6. \$500/year for Pastoral Refreshment will be encouraged. This would include such things as attendance at an annual pastors' conference, mini courses, etc. This will need to be discussed and approved by the session.
7. Pension Plan: we will make annual payment to you as directed by the Synod pension plan. (\$4,500 for 2022, prorated from start date).
- 8.. 4 weeks will be provided for vacation time each year.
9. Attendance at church functions will be provided in addition to vacation time. This includes participation in Synod and Presbytery meetings. It also includes attendance 1 week attendance at annual presbytery and Synodical family conferences.
11. One Lord's Day per year for guest preaching will be provided, such as for communion seasons, pulpit supply, and/or conferences.
10. \$5,000 for Moving Expenses will be provided.

We promise to review annually with you the adequacy of this compensation prior to the adoption of the congregation's budget meeting to take into account cost-of-living increase, etc. (e.g. C.P.I.).

In witness thereof, we subscribe this call and financial agreement, the 24th day of April in the year 2022, in the presence of these witnesses:

Elders:

Robert L. Koch
Robert L. Koch, Clerk

Wade R. Mann
Wade R. Mann, Interim Moderator

Communicant Members:

Richard Lindley
Chris Jones
Mark L. Stegert
Monica Marie
[Signature]
Justin York
Kelley [Signature]
Pam Koch
Elizabeth [Signature]

[Signature]

Adherents:

Brett Muhlman
[Signature]

Attestation of a Call and Financial Agreement

I hereby certify that this call and financial agreement were made out on the date therein specified in accord with the law and order of the church.

Wade R. Mann
Wade R. Mann, Interim Moderator

1 **2022 Communication #22-13** GLG Dillon Complaint vs. SJC

2 Complaint to the Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America

3 Dan Dillon (IMMANUEL RPC member) submitted this complaint to Synod 2022: Kenneth J. De Jong and
4 Matt Wilburn (serving on the IRPC session) were informed. David Hanson (AIC chairman for the GLG)
5 was informed, as well as Adam Kuehner (GLG clerk) & Tom Fisher (Synod’s Judicial Commission clerk)
6 & John McFarland (clerk of Synod ... on May 12 of 2022). On that date, Mr. Dan Dillon summarized:
7 “... For the record: The complaint was submitted to my Session on April 20 and acknowledged 4/21.
8 On 4/23, Sam Carr of the IRPC Session stated that ‘We will be forwarding your complaint to the Synod.’
9 The complaint was submitted to Messrs. Wing & Fisher on April 23. Mr. Fisher acknowledged receipt
10 the same day. On April 26, Mr. Fisher stated that the complaint had been duly filed, and ‘this evening
11 the commission authorized me to inform you we believe it is best for your complaint to move forward
12 as it stands. We don’t anticipate taking action that would result in your withdrawal of it, so you should
13 continue to pursue filing with Synod as well.’ ~ Dan Dillon ...” On that same day, Tom Fisher replied:
14 “Dear Mr. Dillon: ... I can affirm that your complaint was properly filed with the SJC. ... It sounds as
15 though the IRPC Session has now forwarded your complaint to the [GLG] presbytery, so presumably,
16 the GLG AIC will be able to act quickly to forward it to Synod.” Adam Kuehner (GLG clerk) wrote on
17 that same day, confirming that by filing the complaint with the SJC, it is now [properly] before Synod.
18 Synod Clerk McFarland verified that on May 14, then published this on May 17.

19 April 20, 2022

20 Dan Dillon; member, Immanuel Reformed Presbyterian Church, West Lafayette, IN

21 In accordance with the provisions of Section 2, Chapter 4, of the Book of Discipline, I issue
22 this *Complaint to Synod* concerning the actions of the Synod Judicial Commission (SJC)
23 appointed to try the case of Jared Olivetti against his accusers. Two specific complaints
24 are made, both of which are described and supported in turn. After the complaints, in the
25 spirit of constructive engagement, I propose remedies for the consideration of Synod.

26 The complaints concern the Trial Decision Announcement [*Announcement*] of March 11,
27 2022, and related matters. After announcing that Jared Olivetti was guilty on each of
28 three counts brought against him, the *Announcement* states:

29 “After further prayer and considerable deliberation, we find that the censure of Deposition
30 is appropriate. [Therein follows a description of what deposition entails] He is additionally
31 excluded from the privileges of Church membership, including participation in the
32 sacraments until penitence and new obedience on his part has shown him worthy of the
33 exercise of those privileges, and until this Court restores his ordination by prayer and
34 laying on of hands making him then eligible for re-election to an office.”

1 The SJC provided a correction to the *Announcement* on March 28, 2022. It is included
2 here for the sake of completeness, but does not materially affect the Complaint:

3 “By deposition, we remove Mr. Olivetti from his ordination and office of elder. We declare
4 the relationship to the congregation in this capacity is dissolved. He is forbidden to
5 exercise any of the powers or duties of the office anywhere in the Church of Christ, and
6 until this Court restores his ordination by prayer and laying on of hands making him then
7 eligible for re-election to an office. He is additionally excluded from the privileges of
8 Church membership, including participation in the sacraments until penitence and new
9 obedience on his part has shown him worthy of the exercise of those privileges.”

10 **Complaint No. 1.** The suspension of Mr. Olivetti is unjust because it fails to meet the
11 standard required by our Constitution. The standard of the Constitution is ... “*This*
12 [i.e., suspension] *becomes necessary when members are guilty of gross sin or of*
13 *persistent neglect*” (BoD I:4.1c). Nowhere does the *Announcement* provide a statement
14 of the gross sin or persistent neglect committed by Mr. Olivetti. It states that Mr. Olivetti
15 is guilty of certain charges, but provides no basis—not even in summary form—that his
16 guilt involves gross sin or persistent neglect. Given this situation, an objective reader
17 must conclude that the suspension has no basis and is therefore unjust.

18 Someone may respond that the Trial Decision Announcement is not the Trial Decision
19 itself; i.e., the SJC has provided it basis for suspension to Mr. Olivetti alone and decided
20 not to provide the basis for suspension to rest of the RPCNA. However, under the
21 Constitution, note the following about when suspension accompanies deposition:

22 “Deposition ... This is the disciplinary removal of an ordained officer of the church
23 from his office. It may also be accompanied by suspension from church privileges.
24 This censure shall be imposed for serious offenses in doctrine or in conduct that
25 obviously disqualify the person for exercising office. The sentence shall be pronounced
26 by the moderator in constituted court, and in the name of Jesus Christ. The court shall
27 also make the people under its oversight aware publicly of the fact of and reason for
28 the suspension.” (BoD I:4.1d; *emphasis added*)

29 It seems clear that the SJC believes that, in this matter, the Immanuel R. P. Church (IRPC)
30 members were under their oversight. Its members were allowed to attend the trial remotely,
31 but only under strict requirements, including signing in each day and affirming each time
32 that it would operate under its strictures. Latter parts of the *Announcement* directly
33 address IRPC. Yet, the court did not make IPRC aware of the reason for the suspension.
34 This, too, leads to a conclusion that the suspension has no basis and is therefore unjust.
35 Note that this complaint does not depend upon the guilt or the innocence of Mr. Olivetti;
36 it only complains about the censure. I do not believe myself to be in a position to judge
37 Mr. Olivetti’s guilt or innocence, beyond what he has already confessed.

1 **Complaint No. 2.** The SJC failed to properly execute discipline by failing to maintain
2 the peace of the Church and effectively deter others from similar offenses.

3 According to our Constitution, there are several purposes for church discipline:

4 “... Five purposes of church discipline are: primarily, to reclaim a sinning member;
5 *then to deter others from similar offenses; to maintain the honor of Christ and the*
6 *purity and peace of His Church;* to maintain the truth of the gospel; and to avoid the
7 wrath of God coming upon the church.” (BoD I:1.3; *emphasis added*)

8 Besides providing no basis for the suspension, the *Announcement* provides no
9 explanation of the verdict, beyond the fact of the verdict. Here is the complete statement:

10 “Mr. Olivetti was charged as follows:

11 Mr. Jared Olivetti’s conduct in relation to the sexual abuse case at Immanuel
12 Reformed Presbyterian Church since at least 2019 to the present, has not safeguarded
13 or maintained the qualifications for the eldership contrary to the biblical requirements
14 of 1 Timothy 3:2,4,7; Titus 1:6-7 in violation of [several of the Ten Commandments
15 and RPCNA vows]. We found him guilty on each of the three counts: (1) ‘... Mr. Olivetti
16 has not conducted himself in a way that is above reproach ... resulting in distrust and
17 disunity within the church and failing to promote its peace, purity, and progress.’ (2)
18 ‘... Mr. Olivetti has not managed his own household well,’ and (3) ‘Mr. Olivetti has not
19 conducted himself in a way that has protected or maintained a good reputation ...
20 threatening dishonor on the name of Jesus Christ, the Reformed Presbyterian Church
21 of North America, Immanuel R. P. Church, and himself.’” [Note: The ellipses in this
22 paragraph are in the original.]

23 These statements are so vague as to of no use in deterring others from similar offenses.
24 The above statement provides categories of offenses, but not the offenses themselves.
25 How can officers or members of His Church learn from this statement about what to do
26 or not to do in future? In fact, it may only discourage others from pursuing the office of
27 Teaching Elder. Who among us has not failed to behave in a way that is above reproach?
28 Who of us has not failed to manage his household well? Who has not failed to conduct
29 oneself in a way that maintains the honor of Christ? By providing such broad categories,
30 without explanation, qualification, or proportion, the *Announcement* may provide a
31 chilling effect on those pursuing office in the church.

32 Further, the failure to provide detail may lead some to believe that the SJC acted in an
33 arbitrary or capricious manner. Note, I am not saying that the SJC *has* behaved this way.
34 I am saying that the *Announcement*, considered by itself, leaves the SJC with little defense
35 against accusations of arbitrariness or capriciousness, thereby failing to maintain the
36 honor of Christ and disturbing the peace of the Church.

1 Our Constitution recognizes courts must act with discretion:

2 “In giving information to the people under its oversight regarding any censure, the court
3 should use discretion in determining how much to reveal to those under its oversight of
4 the details of the case. Only that which is necessary and proper should be stated, and then
5 normally only to the members. The court shall seek to protect the sinner from undue
6 exposure and those under its oversight must not engage in gossip or improper curiosity.”

7 ... and even without this explicit provision, I am *not* complaining that courts need to
8 provide excruciating detail. And in sensitive cases, no details should be provided. I have
9 *no* desire to know the details of the charges, evidence or conclusions related to the
10 accusation that Mr. Olivetti has not managed his household well. A summary explanation
11 is more than adequate. But all of that notwithstanding, to provide *no* details about the
12 censure (beyond its mere existence) seems to fall far, far short of what is required in this
13 high-profile case. Note that this complaint does not complain about the verdict, per se,
14 only the lack of detail in the *Announcement*. As noted above, I do not believe myself to be
15 in a position to judge Mr. Olivetti’s guilt or innocence.

16 **Brief remarks before proposing remedies**

17 Please note that two complaints are slightly different: That the suspension is unjust and
18 the explanation of the deposition lacks sufficient detail. I note that there have been
19 complaints that the charges against Mr. Olivetti were too vague. I am not in the position
20 to complain about this because I have not seen the charges. But I note that my complaint,
21 about the lack of justification and appropriate detail in the *Announcement*, is consistent
22 with a complaint that the charges lack sufficient detail.

23 Further, I am not complaining about any hurt against me. Instead, I am grieved at the
24 SJC’s *Announcement* because of the potential harm against the RPCNA that may have
25 occurred or may yet occur because of the issuance of the *Announcement*. I harbor no ill
26 will against the members of the SJC. They have had—and still have—a difficult task ahead of
27 them. I don’t complain about their motives, only their behavior in issuing the *Announcement*.

28 And so, with a great deal of love and respect for all involved, I file this statement about
29 how my heart grieves for my church. I humbly acknowledge that I may be wrong!

1 **Proposed remedies**

2 I request that Synod appoint a new Commission to review the records of the SJC to
3 determine if they have recorded their basis for the censure of deposition and suspension
4 in the trial records. If Synod agrees with this remedy, I further request that Mr. Olivetti's
5 suspension be immediately lifted until the work of the new Commission is completed.

6 1. If the SJC has recorded its basis for both deposition or suspension in the trial records,
7 I request that the SJC, under the supervision of the new Commission, reissue the
8 *Announcement* with sufficient detail to meet the standards of the Constitution. If the
9 *Announcement* is reissued, I request that the current *Announcement* be voided and
10 the reissued *Announcement* be considered a definitive action of the SJC, i.e., an action
11 subject to further Complaints.

12 2. If the SJC has not recorded its basis for deposition and/or suspension in the trial
13 records, I request that the group of men review the trial records and make its own
14 judgment as to the appropriate censure. The entire judgment of the SJC should be
15 voided and the judgment of the new Commission should be considered the definitive
16 action, and such action should be subject to further Complaint.

17 I appreciate consideration of the Complaint and look forward to the response of Synod.

18 In Christ, [SIGNATURE on mailed PDF] *Dan Dillon*

Beloved Fathers and Brothers,

We are aware that you have received a number of complaints regarding the decisions of the Synod Judicial Commission (SJC) tasked to address the problems at Immanuel Reformed Presbyterian Church (IRPC) in West Lafayette, IN. Specifically, we understand that the complaints argue against the suspension of membership and deposition of Pastor Jared Olivetti.

Much has been written and argued by those complaining about the decision. We, the undersigned, wish to provide a brief counter point-of-view. We are all former members of Immanuel who have witnessed various aspects of the case, the way it has been handled at Immanuel, and the fallout. We wish to state our support for the SJC's decision for many reasons. For the sake of brevity, only five points are listed below (although much more could be said).

1. We are deeply concerned that many of the complainants have not had an opportunity to hear both sides of the story and that many important aspects of the case appear to have been misrepresented to them. We are also concerned that communication to the IRPC congregation by the session set incorrect expectations about the SJC's task and starting point. For example, the congregation was told that several complaints to Synod (alleging bias on the part of the Presbytery Judicial Commission (PJC)) were "basically sustained" by Synod in 2021, but that unfortunately Synod "could not make it all go away." As a result, many at IRPC incorrectly expected that the PJC investigation was being discarded¹.
2. Due to the involvement of minors in the original issue at Immanuel, much of the information relevant to the situation has not been made public (even to IRPC members during the trial). By contrast, the members of the SJC had the opportunity to consider the public and private facts of the case before reaching their verdict.
3. Much prayer and thought went into selecting wise and godly men who did not have prior biases to serve on the SJC.
4. We believe that both the PJC that investigated in early 2021 and the SJC are comprised of men of wisdom, godliness, and integrity who desired to know and act on the truth. The fact that the character of many of these men has been called into question following their decisions being made public is distressing, perplexing, and grievous.
5. We are dismayed by the requests for yet another "professional"² investigation into this situation. The lack of resolution for over two years now (since the case broke in April 2020) has allowed untruths to fester and grow. Continuing delay will only make efforts at reconciliation even more difficult. We are concerned that another investigation would

¹ The Synod Judicial Committee of the Day assigned to deal with the IRPC complaints wrote "First, it is our opinion that the IJC [Presbytery's Immanuel Judicial Commission] did NOT enter this investigation with preconceived notions, or proceed in a way that warped their investigation. We think that they proceeded with the right motives and in a competent manner." While their report does acknowledge "events that led to the appearance of bias" it also affirms that the PJC "did excellent investigative work (in line with its remit)" and recommended that "the judicial process should proceed."

² Ironically, we have heard complaints that the SJC investigators were not "professionals" while also hearing complaints that the original PJC investigation included a DCS lawyer and a former police officer who might not be able to separate themselves from their professional occupations.

place an undue burden on victim families who have already met with multiple investigators multiple times to discuss these painful events. We are also convinced that an outside organization specializing in abuse will not find the actions of the 2020 IRPC session to be less grievous than the previous investigators found.

Finally, fathers and brothers, we ask you to please pray for us all. The burden of this situation on everyone it has touched is heavy. We are grateful to many of you who have prayed faithfully for Immanuel and those involved. Please continue. Much work remains to be done in bringing about the fruits of repentance, making truth known, working toward forgiveness and reconciliation, and rebuilding a congregation whose foundations were shaken. Many relationships are strained or even completely broken. Many are struggling to regain trust in church leadership. A number of parents need wisdom over how to shepherd their affected children and are struggling with deep hurts themselves. And we all need wisdom as to how to care for those who are hurting. Please pray that the peace of Christ would rest on His people once again and that Satan would be defeated among us to the glory of God.

Praying that the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ will be with you in your labors at Synod,

Jeremiah Blocki

Heather Blocki

David Daniels

Michele Daniels

James Johnson

Sarah Johnson

James Hunter Johnson

Charlotte Johnson

Shawn Johnson

Jennifer Johnson

Haozheng Qu

Meng Zhang

Andrew Robison

Emily Robison

Ally Wiger

JJ Nance*

Maggy Nance*

Gail Overholser*

* former members of Immanuel RPC who have left the RPCNA but wanted to express their support for this petition

Cover Letter

28 April 2022

To the Ad Interim Commission of the Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery:

Attached you will find charges of sin against a member of your court, Rev. James Faris. Here is a short history of the sins and our attempts to confront them out of love for Rev. Faris, the church of Christ, and Jesus Christ, the King and Head of the church.

March 3, 2022:

The sins of Rev. Faris manifested at a meeting of Presbytery during his speech (Appendix A) in support of a paper submitted by the Session of Second Reformed Presbyterian Church, which opposed the revised report of the Christ Church Reconciliation Committee. We were in attendance and shocked at Rev. Faris' words—so much so that we asked to respond. Presbytery granted us the privilege of the floor and each of us described his dismay at Rev. Faris' comments. Though he knew we were offended by his speech, Rev. Faris did not talk with us about what he said. We returned home, thankful that Presbytery had appointed a Shepherding Committee to help our church, yet grieved by Rev. Faris' sin.

March 12 - 15, 2022:

We sought counsel and were advised that we should meet with Rev. Faris accompanied by witnesses, so we decided to ask our Session for help.

March 16, 2022:

Since Rev. Faris would be preaching at Christ Church RP on March 20, we asked our Session if they could meet with us and Rev. Faris on Sunday, prior to worship. We were told that Rev. Faris could meet on Saturday, the 19th. Unfortunately, the Enases were out of town, so our Session said they'd reschedule.

March 21, 2022:

Our Session told us that James had changed his mind and that the Second RP Session wanted to delay the meeting until they could counsel Rev. Faris.

March 29, 2022:

We asked for an update from our Session but there was no new information.

April 5, 2022:

Nathan arranged to meet with an elder at Second RP to inquire about the delay. After that meeting, the elder stated he would discuss with Rev. Faris our desire to confront his sins.

April 13, 2022:

The Second RP elder told us that Rev. Faris did not believe he had sinned, so there was no reason to meet with him. Our session also told us that Rev. Faris was unwilling to meet with our elders present, but they said we could still try approaching him directly.

April 18, 2022:

We asked Rev. Faris directly to meet with us privately, and he agreed on the condition that two additional members of the Second RP Session would attend.

April 21, 2022:

Five weeks after our first request, we met at Second RP Church with Rev. Faris, Donald Cassell, and Justin Olson from the Second RP Session and Dale Koons from our Session. We read our charges (Appendix B) to Rev. Faris, asking him to confess after each sin was identified, but his repeated answer was that he came to listen. He requested that we send the charges in writing, so we sent the written speech that day.

April 23, 2022:

Rev. Faris kindly responded (Appendix C) but refused to admit any sin in his speech at Presbytery; instead, he asked us to “look beyond this matter....”

To date, we have attempted to follow the law and order of the church but have not won our brother. As to the following steps, we have received various counsel, including taking our case to the court of Second RP. We don't believe this is wise for two reasons. First, Rev. Faris sinned publicly while speaking on behalf of the Second RP Session against the Committee that Presbytery sent to help Christ Church. Second, the Second RP Session has provided counsel to Rev. Faris and has acted as a witness in our latest meeting.

As the Book of Discipline I.2.5 states, “If the sin is known generally, and therefore cannot be solved privately, charges may be taken directly to the appropriate church court.” Since the sins were committed at Presbytery, we believe you are the appropriate court, so we are appealing to you directly. Thank you for taking the time to listen to the sheep.

In Christ our Lord,

Nathan Enas & Kevin Swan

Charge of Sin

To the Ad Interim Commission of the Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery:

Your informant respectfully states that Rev. James Faris, a member of your Presbytery, is believed guilty of serious sins, contrary to the Word of God and the profession of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, in that Rev. Faris, on the evening of Thursday, March 3, 2022, during a constituted court of the Lord Jesus Christ, did

1. **bear false testimony against his neighbors** (i.e., the “two families,” namely, Nathan and Ginny Enas and Kevin and Rachelle Swan), as explained in Westminster Larger Catechism Q.143-Q.145, including “prejudicing the truth, and the good name of our neighbors, ..., calling evil good, and good evil, ..., slandering, ..., misconstruing intentions, words, and actions, ..., not hindering what we can in others, such things as procure an ill name,” (e.g., see underlined text in the speech of Rev. Faris in Appendix A),
2. **publicize what he believed to be sin before seeking to win his brethren**, according to the command of Christ (Matthew 18:15) and the law and order of the church (e.g., Book of Discipline sections I.1.2, I.1.5, I.2.1)
3. **take the Name of the Lord our God in vain** (as explained in Westminster Larger Catechism Q.111-Q.113), including “misinterpreting, misapplying, or any way perverting the Word, or any part of it” (e.g., see **bold italic** text in the speech of Rev. Faris in Appendix A),

which sins were considerably aggravated (according to WLC Q.151) by the following facts:

1. Rev. Faris is “of riper age, greater experience or grace, eminent for profession, gifts, place, office, guides to others, and whose example is likely to be followed by others,”
2. Those offended include “the saints ... and the common good of all or many”,
3. The nature and quality of the offense: was “against the express letter of the law,” did “break forth in words and actions, scandalize others, and admit of no reparation,” and was “done deliberately, willfully, [and] presumptuously,”

and that Rev. Faris ought to be proceeded against by your court to determine whether or not these charges are accurate.

Date: April 28, 2022

Names: Nathan Enas & Kevin Swan

List of witnesses: all presbyters/delegates on record attending Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery on the evening of March 3, 2022, including but not limited to Rev. Nathan Eshelman, Rev. Adam Kuehner, Rev. Jack Baumgardner, Rev. Jerry Foltz, Rev. Richard Holdeman, Rev. Craig Scott, Rev. Dick Knodel, Rev. Drew Poplin, Rev. James Faris, Dale Koons, Jason O’Neill, Sean Bird, and Jeff Platt.

List of material offered in evidence:

- All manner of public conversation spoken on the floor of Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery on said date, under the oversight of the moderator (Rev. Nathan Eshelman), related to the report of the Christ Church Reconciliation Committee, including the speech of Rev. Faris (Appendix A).
- The Holy Bible
- The Constitution of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America
- Sermon delivered by Rev. James Faris on February 13, 2022, at Second RP Church, entitled “When Joshua Failed” (available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k--fnNdFhTc>; sermon begins at about 20:40 and lasts about 35 minutes)
- Email correspondence supporting the timeline provided in the cover letter.

Appendix A: 2022.03.03 Speech Given by Rev. Faris

The following is a quotation of a speech given by Rev. James Faris on the floor of Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery (March 3, 2022) during the period of discussion related to the report of the Christ Church Reconciliation Committee:

“I think one of the things that’s important to note is just the impact on the congregation. I would say that maybe for those of you who are sitting here in this meeting wondering, what exactly does this mean, are we just sort of parsing words? To be frank, what we’re talking about here really is, who is it that leads this congregation? Is it the Session, or is it a minority that is constantly picking at the Session’s decisions and doubting them? And I think this takes us really fundamentally to the larger question that is really important for us as Presbytery. And again this has to do with the nature of the relationship with the elders to the Session. And, as interim moderator, I can tell you that there are those, and this was reported to the Committee, this was one of the communications from one of the elders, who said—and he may be happy to say it here, too, but it was said to the Committee as well as to the other elders—that this is just not an acceptable solution, this is the sort of thing that may be the death knell of this congregation. And I think that that may very well be the case.

“There are many people who are very much on the brink in the congregation. Many, many tears were shed when this communication went out to the congregation because they recognized the significance of it. And not only the significance of it in terms of the content but also in terms of the timing, all the way in which this unfolded. And it’s just remarkably weighty for the congregation. This congregation has been through a great deal, this congregation where the vast majority trusts their leadership. And so it is a question fundamentally of who leads the congregation.

“Now, certainly the elders have not led perfectly. This is part of the question we are wrestling with in our culture: can leaders be forgiven? ***When we go to Leviticus chapter 4, there are provisions for atonement for leaders who have committed unintentional sins, and they haven’t done things perfectly. What is to be the solution? There is to be a sacrifice that’s offered and then it doesn’t say that the person is to resign or to be submitted to some other sort of committee that would oversee them and these kinds of things. It says he shall be forgiven.***

“We have to understand the reality of the atonement of the Lord Jesus Christ. And it’s really significant that William Symington who is so famous for writing “Messiah The Prince” wrote on the atonement and intercession of Jesus Christ. That’s his first volume. ***Because it’s only as we understand the atonement of the Lord Jesus Christ, particularly with regards to leadership, that we will see men raised up and led into positions of leadership with the knowledge that they may not do everything exactly perfectly as they begin. But where sins are committed, the atoning sacrifice is enough, because Jesus has provided that atoning sacrifice, and because He has raised from the dead, and He is leading from on high, and He raises up leaders.*** He does so, then, organically within the congregation. Jesus came to be a near kin to us. And He came as one of his own was raised up to be a leader. And we see that happening in this congregation. This congregation trusts its leadership. Yes, there are a couple of families that have dispute but the vast majority of the congregation trusts the leadership, and they are very disturbed by the things that they see happening here.

“And so the question is, will Presbytery acknowledge these men as the leaders of the congregation? Will it call out the sins of those who are on the other side of this dispute, these two families that are bringing a complaint as well, and call them to account, and set the leaders free in Jesus Christ to lead this congregation? So it’s really a question of leadership, and I’m just encouraging, brothers: ***there is no future in a model of “cancel culture”.*** There’s no future there. ***It’s not going to encourage people to be raised up to leadership. We have to understand the atonement of the Lord Jesus Christ, and His glory on the throne, the way in which He leads His people.***

“And so we don’t want to fall prey to the individualism of our day or the standpoint there is where one aggrieved party begins to sort of rule the whole. So this is very much why this is before us. And I do believe, as the interim moderator, as your Presbytery’s appointee to this, that this very well may be the death knell of the congregation. So what we have here before us is very, very weighty, and I just want the whole of the assembly to understand that.”

Appendix B: 2022.04.21 Speech by Mr. Enas to Rev. Faris

James, thank you for meeting with us today. You have been a dear brother in Christ to me for many years, and your family has been dear to my family for many years as well. We have had sweet fellowship together in God's house, and in our own homes. Our wives are dear friends, as are several of our children. We have homeschooled our children together. You have ministered to us in Word and in prayer, beginning with your involvement with the "west side" church plant. And when we were having concerns about the elders at Christ Church RP and their shepherding, you welcomed us to find shelter for a time back at Second RP, where we met new friends and reconnected with old ones. This also gave us more time in worship with our own children, who have enjoyed the fellowship at Second for many years.

So, today, we want to affirm and reaffirm our love for you, your wife and children, your extended family, and the congregation where you were ordained by God to shepherd. In addition to the various ways we have tried to show love for you and the church over these past 25 years, we also have a duty of love to confront serious sins in your life when we observe them, so that, by God's grace and mercy, you may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit, and made to conform more and more to the image of Christ, who created us for good works that glorify God. That is the topic of today's meeting. But, before I confront specific sins, I would like to ask you a question. Are you willing on this occasion to confess, repent of, and make restitution for sins that you have committed against God and your brethren in Christ?

[James indicated he was prepared to listen.]

Thank you for that affirmation. I have one more introductory remark. In this meeting, we are here to confront you with sins, but we will not be debating them at this time. So, allow me to confront your particular sins, and to give you the opportunity to confess them particularly.

At the meeting of the Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery, March 3, 2022, while in a constituted court of the Lord Jesus Christ, you made a speech in favor of your Session's complaint, and against the revised report of Christ Church Reconciliation Committee, particularly their recommendation to send a two-man shepherding committee to assist the Session at Christ Church to execute what that Session called their "fruits of repentance". During your speech, you sinned in three specific ways. First, you bore false testimony against your neighbors (that is, Nathan and Ginny Enas, and Kevin and Rachelle Swan), as explained in Westminster Larger Catechism Q.143-Q.145, including "prejudicing the truth, and the good name of our neighbors, ..., calling evil good, and good evil, ..., slandering, ..., misconstruing intentions, words, and actions, ..., not hindering what we can in others, such things as procure an ill name." Second, you publicized what you called our "sins" before seeking to win us, according to the command of Christ (Matthew 18:15) and the law and order of the church (e.g., Book of Discipline section I.1.2, I.1.5, I.2.1). And, third, you took the Name of the Lord our God in vain (as explained in Westminster Larger Catechism Q.111-Q.113), including "misinterpreting, misapplying, or any way perverting the Word, or any part of it." All of these sins were considerably aggravated (according to WLC Q.151) by several facts. First, you are "of riper age, greater experience or grace, eminent for profession, gifts, place, office, guides to others, and whose example is likely to be followed by others". Second, those you offended include "the saints ... and the common good of all or many". And third, the nature and quality of your offenses were "against the express letter of the law," did "break forth in words and actions, scandalize others, and admit of no reparation," and were "done deliberately, willfully, [and] presumptuously."

Allow me to explain each of your sins. First, you gave false testimony against your neighbors. Although you did not name us on the floor of Presbytery, there is no doubt about whom you were talking. You referred to "these two families that are bringing a complaint" at Christ Church RP. Only two families brought the complaint that led Presbytery to send a Reconciliation Committee, whose report you were discussing at the time. Hence, we infer that you were speaking of us. You broke the ninth commandment in a number of ways. To demonstrate this, I will quote your own speech on the floor of Presbytery:

- "To be frank, what we're talking about here really is, who is it that leads this congregation? Is it the Session, or is it a minority that is constantly picking at the Session's decisions and doubting them?"
- "This congregation has been through a great deal, this congregation where the vast majority trusts their leadership."
- "This congregation trusts its leadership. Yes, there are a couple of families that have dispute but the vast majority of the congregation trusts the leadership, and they are very disturbed by the things that they see happening here."

- “Will it call out the sins of those who are on the other side of this dispute, these two families that are bringing a complaint as well, and call them to account, and set the leaders free in Jesus Christ to lead this congregation?”
- “We don’t want to fall prey to the individualism of our day or the standpoint there is where one aggrieved party begins to sort of rule the whole.”
- “There is no future in a model of ‘cancel culture.’”

In these statements, as part of your whole speech, in the words of the Westminster Larger Catechism, you prejudiced the truth about us, and the good name of our neighbors; you called evil good and good evil; you slandered us; you misconstrued our intentions, words, and actions; not hindering what you can in others, such things as procure an ill name. You spoke falsehood about our intentions toward our Session (to lead this congregation). You spoke falsely about our demeanor towards our Session (ie, constantly picking at them and doubting them, don’t trust them). You spoke falsehood about our effect on our Session (ie, to enslave them so that they needed to be set free). You gave false testimony about our motivations for confronting our Session (ie, the individualism of our day). Instead of confirming our “fervent love for Christ and the purity of His Church” as the Reconciliation Committee did in their revised report, you condemned our complaint to Presbytery as sin that needed to be called into account. You also spoke falsehood about what our church believed with regard to our Session by repeatedly referring to the “vast majority of the congregation”. You never asked the congregation how they feel about their Session. If you concluded this based on Session’s input only, certainly you should have realized that they and their families constituted much of the congregation, so that such a statement before Presbytery, who were not acutely aware of the actual makeup of our congregation, would mislead them about the variety of opinions within our church. In any event, if there is sin within a Session, even if it is known to only one person, the fact that a vast majority doesn’t recognize the sin does not imply that God is not terribly concerned about the sin. That is, logic based on “vast majority” is erroneous, and intentionally using such faulty logic to achieve your goal is falsehood.

Let me pause and ask you, “Do you confess to committing these sins against us, and against God?”

[James repeated his commitment to listen.]

Second, you sinned when you publicized our so-called “sins” before seeking to win us, according to the command of Christ and the law and order of the church. Your speech at Presbytery was shocking to us. We have been available to you for confrontation for many months, both in your role as interim moderator of our Session, your role as our pastor while we attended Second RP, and just being your friend and brother in Christ. We have been available and near to you. Yet, you never approached us once about trying to usurp leadership from our Session, for constantly picking at them and doubting them, for trying to “cancel” them according to a worldly model, for not trusting them. You have not initiated conversation with us before Presbytery or since. Yet, you saw fit to use your pastoral privilege of the floor and a public court of Christ’s church to announce our “sins” to the church, prior to confronting us with them privately, and then with 2 or 3 witnesses, as Christ commands.

So, let me ask you, “Do you confess to committing this sin against us, and against Christ?”

[James repeated his commitment to listen.]

Finally, you took the Name of the Lord our God in vain, by “misinterpreting, misapplying, or any way perverting the Word” in your interpretation and application of Leviticus chapter 4. In your speech, you taught that, even though our Session sinned, because our Session has been atoned by the blood of Christ, there is no need or even warrant for Presbytery to enact any helpful measures, including the Reconciliation Committee’s recommendation to appoint a Shepherding Committee to meet with our Session over the next year. Simply put, your teaching confuses justification and sanctification. Your logic is, apparently, since the members of Session have been justified by the atoning work of Christ, there is no need for them to undergo the rigors of sanctification, which certainly could include a loving Shepherding Committee sent by a loving Presbytery to lovingly shepherd our shepherds to help them learn how to shepherd well. You knew that members of our Session admitted that no one has ever taught them how to be shepherds, and yet you perverted God’s Word in an attempt to sway Presbytery’s mind against the thought that “the person is to resign or to be submitted to some other sort of committee that would oversee them and these kinds of things”. So, let me ask you, “Do you confess to committing this sin against God and all those who witnessed your speech at Presbytery?”

[James repeated his commitment to listen.]

Appendix C: 2022.04.23 Email from Rev. Faris

JF

James Faris <james@2rp.church>

... Apr 23

to Nathan Enas <enasnate@gmail.com>, CC: Kevin Swan <me@kevinswan.com>, Donald Cassell <dona1d@sagamoreinstitute.org>, Jus Ro <jusolson@gmail.com>, and Dale Koons <d1koons49@gmail.com>

Dear Nathan and Kevin,

I am thankful for you and for your concern for me. The comments I made on the floor of presbytery in March were made in the context of debate around the original and revised versions of the CCRP Reconciliation Committee along with the Second RP Session's paper and the many months of history behind those documents.

Obviously, we disagreed over those matters as I argued for the essence of the original Reconciliation Committee report. In the course of debate, I was not seeking to hurt you personally or sin against you, but rather to bring help to all parties. The nature of debates in church courts will always include our infirmities as finite beings in the scope of our knowledge as speakers and listeners, our words, how we hear what is said, and more. I am deeply sorry that you were hurt and offended by my comments and perceive them as sinful. Please know that I did not seek to hurt nor sin against you men. These were not my intent nor my desire. I pray you will be able to look beyond this matter and that we can press on to know the Lord together.

I pray this response will help bring the matter to a close. If you want to discuss this further, I'm sure our Session will be desirous to help being the next court of appeal in this situation. The Lord bless you both.

In Christ,
James

CERTIFICATE OF MINISTERIAL CREDENTIALS

- For Ministers in the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America -

(as filed in the St. Lawrence Presbytery)

NAME: Mark Goerner
CURRENT ADDRESS: 1127 Rush St., Celebration, FL, 34747

BIRTHPLACE: New Hartford, NY

Date:

Citizenship: U.S.A.

DATE OF BAPTISM:
DATE OF PROFESSION:

EDUCATION:

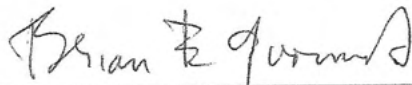
Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary, 1996-1999

RECORD OF SERVICE:

Taken under Care	<i>March 12, 1996</i>
Eligibility to Preach	<i>June 17, 1998</i>
Personal Godliness	<i>July 14, 1997</i>
English Bible	<i>July 14, 1997</i>
Systematic Theology/Distinctive Principles	<i>June 17, 1998</i>
Expository Sermon	<i>March 25, 1997</i>
Church History Paper	<i>June 17, 1998</i>
Eligibility for Call	<i>March 30, 1999</i>
[Eligibility renewed: April 22, 2003; April 17, 2008; April 16, 2013, April 17, 2018]	
Pastoral & Evangelistic Gifts	<i>March 30, 1999</i>
Systematic Theology/Distinctive Principles	<i>March 30, 1999</i>
Church History	<i>October 20, 1998</i>
Expository Sermon	<i>March 30, 1999</i>
Exegesis Paper	<i>October 20, 1998</i>
Not yet Ordained to Service.	

TRANSFER to Great Lakes – Gulf Presbytery, April 19, 2022 by action of S.L. Presbytery

On behalf of the St. Lawrence Presbytery of the Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America, I attest that this information is accurate.



Rev. Brian E. Coombs, *clerk*

Action on Laramie RPC Call to Allen Blackwood and Coldenham-Newburgh RPC Call to Aaron Murray

1 message

Richard Blankenship <richardblankenship3@gmail.com>

Sat, May 21, 2022 at 3:13 PM

To: A K <ak@streetsermon.org>

Cc: mccreadyjb@hotmail.com, pashafer@gmail.com, MWP Clerk <mwpcclerk@gmail.com>, David Hanson <davidrpts@hotmail.com>, Robert McKissick <rammd51@gmail.com>, "James M. Odom" <james.odom@covenanthome.com>, Thomas Reid <tgreidjr@gmail.com>

Adam,

The Ad Interim Commission met this past Wednesday evening, May 18th, and two items of business addressed were the Laramie RPC pastoral call to Allen Blackwood and the Coldenham-Newburgh RPC pastoral call to Aaron Murray.

Both calls were reviewed and approved with a special recommendation provided for the Laramie RPC regarding their call to Mr. Blackwood (see the excerpt from the minutes presented below).

Though both calls were reviewed and approved, neither Mr. Blackwood nor Mr. Murray have been licensed to receive a call. Therefore, ***the AIC is not forwarding the calls to these gentlemen, but is instead forwarding both calls to you as Clerk of the Presbytery to be held for forwarding to them once they have been licensed to receive a call***, which is anticipated to take place at the Presbytery meetings at the upcoming Synod. I have underlined the notation of the calls being held until the recipients of the calls have been licensed to receive a call.

Below is an excerpt from the AIC minutes regarding the action taken.

Laramie RPC/Blackwood Call

"It was moved, seconded, and passed, that (i) the Laramie RPC pastoral call to Allen Blackwood be approved and forwarded to Mr. Blackwood as a regular gospel call as soon as he is certified to receive a call, and (ii) the AIC recommend to the Laramie RPC that they shift \$1,000 from salary to auto allowance, to provide more adequately for their pastor's travel expenses. The congregational meeting minutes, roll of communicant members, and pastor's call and financial agreement are attached to and made a part of these minutes."

Coldenham-Newburgh RPC/Murray Call

"It was moved, seconded, and passed, that the Coldenham-Newburgh RPC pastoral call to Aaron Murray be approved and forwarded to Mr. Murray as a regular gospel call as soon as he is certified to receive a call. The congregational meeting minutes, roll of communicant members, and pastor's call and financial agreement are attached to and made a part of these minutes."

The calls are attached.

The Clerks of the Laramie RPC Session, Midwest Presbytery, the Coldenham-Newburgh RPC Session and the Atlantic Presbytery AIC are copied on this communication to let them know of the status of these calls and the recommendation from the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery regarding the Laramie call to Allen Blackwood.

4 attachments

 **2022 AIC 5.18 Min Laramie Blackwood Call.pdf**
1281K

 **2022 AIC 5.18.2022 Min Laramie Blackwood Roll.xlsx**
11K

 **2022 AIC 5.18.2022 Min Laramie Blackwood Mtg Min.docx**
14K

 **2022 AIC 5.18.2022 Min Coldenham Murray Call.pdf**
4388K

Transfer of Credential to the Candidates and Credentials Committee

1 message

Richard Blankenship <richardblankenship3@gmail.com>

Sat, May 21, 2022 at 2:09 PM

To: Adam Niess <adamniess@reformedlafayette.com>

Cc: A K <ak@streetsermon.org>, David Hanson <davidrpts@hotmail.com>, Robert McKissick <rammd51@gmail.com>, 'James M. Odom' <james.odom@covenanthome.com>, Thomas Reid <tgreidjr@gmail.com>, Brian Coombs <briancoombs@me.com>

Adam Niess and Adam Kuehner,


The Ad Interim Commission met this past Wednesday evening, on May 18th and one item of business addressed was the request for the transfer of the Mark Goerner's Ministerial Credentials from the St. Lawrence Presbytery to the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery.

From the minutes of the May 18th meeting the following action was taken:

"By common consent, the Commission agreed to forward the Certificate of Ministerial Credentials of Mark Goerner to the GL-G Candidates and Credentials Committee for action."

The transfer of Mark's Credential was approved and I am hereby informing the Candidates and Credential Committee and the Clerk of our Presbytery of that action.

richardblankenship3@gmail.com

 2022 AIC 5.18.2022 Min Mark Goerner credentials.pdf
771K

Forwarding of Pastoral Call to Joshua Smith

1 message

Richard Blankenship <richardblankenship3@gmail.com>

Sat, May 21, 2022 at 4:27 PM

To: mblocki1@consolidated.net

Cc: A K <ak@streetsermon.org>, David Hanson <davidrpts@hotmail.com>, Robert McKissick <rammd51@gmail.com>, "James M. Odom" <james.odom@covenanthome.com>, Thomas Reid <tg Reidjr@gmail.com>, WadeMann@elkhartpc.org, rkochsales@gmail.com

Martin,

The Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery Ad Interim Commission met this past Wednesday evening, May 18th, 2022 and reviewed the call from the Westminster RPC (IL) to Joshua Smith. The Commission approved the call and I am forwarding the call to the Presbytery of the Alleghenies for its review and presentation to Mr. Smith.

An excerpt from the minutes of our meeting is provided below.

"It was moved, seconded, and passed, that the Westminster RPC pastoral call to Joshua Smith be approved as a regular gospel call and forwarded to the Presbytery of the Alleghenies. The congregational meeting minutes, roll of communicant members, and pastor's call and financial agreement are attached to and made a part of these minutes."

Attached to this email are the Transfer of a Call, the Call, the Congregational Meeting Minutes, and the roll of communicant members.

I do not have a printer available at this time to print the Transfer and sign it, so I have noted signatures on the Transfer of a Call that I have prepared.

If you have any questions or comments please let me, Adam Kuehner, Clerk of our Presbytery, and Robert Koch, Clerk of the Westminster Session know.

richardblankenship3@gmail.com

4 attachments

 **2022 AIC5.18.2022 Min Westminster Smith Call.pdf**
956K

 **2022 AIC 5.18.2022 Min Westminster Smith Mtg Min.docx**
19K

 **2022 AIC 5.18.2022 Min Westminster Smith Roll.docx**
20K

 **Transfer of a Call Westminster to Joshua Smith.docx**
13K

Transfer of a Call

**From the
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery**

**To the
Presbytery of the Alleghenies**

This call made by the **Westminster Reformed Presbyterian Church of Prairie View, Illinois** upon **Joshua Smith** on the **24th** day of **April** in the year **2022**, was made in accordance with the law and order of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America, and has by the **Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery** been sustained as a regular gospel call.

It is hereby transferred to the **Presbytery of the Alleghenies**, of which **Joshua Smith** is a member, for presentation.

By order of the Presbytery this **21st** day of **May** in the year **2022**.

/s/ F. Richard Blankenship, III
Clerk of the Ad Interim Commission
of the
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery

/s/ David Hanson
Moderator of the Ad Interim Commission
of the
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery

G AIC Forward of Communications to Synod

1 message

Richard Blankenship <richardblankenship3@gmail.com>

Sat, May 21, 2022 at 1:54 PM

To: jmmlawrence@aol.com

Cc: A K <ak@streetsermon.org>, David Hanson <davidrpts@hotmail.com>, Robert McKissick <rammd51@gmail.com>, 'James M. Odom' <james.odom@covenanthome.com>, Thomas Reid <tgreidjr@gmail.com>

John,

This past week on Wednesday, May 18th, the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery's Ad Interim Commission met and approved the forwarding to Synod two communications that it had recently received. One of those communications was the Dillion complaint which you have already received and the other is from former members of the Lafayette RPC.

The AIC is forwarding the attached communications to you for Synod. An excerpt from the minutes of our May 18th AIC meeting is below.

"The Commission, having received two communications regarding the Immanuel Synod Judicial Commission, one from Mr. Dan Dillon of the Immanuel RPC and one from members of the Lafayette RPC, observes that both papers are in order, were submitted in appropriate language, and were submitted in the appropriate timeframe. These communications are hereby transmitted to Synod. A copy of each of the communications is attached to and made a part of these minutes."

You need anything else or if I have not followed proper protocol, please let me know and I will work on getting things correct.

Thank you for your service to us.

richardblankenship3@gmail.com

2 attachments

 **2022 AIC 5.18.2022 Min Dillion Complaint to Synod .pdf**
497K

 **2022 AIC 5.18.2022 Min Synod Petition from Former IRPC Members.pdf**
334K

Resolution of the AIC May 18, 2022 Regarding Charges Against James Faris

1 message

Richard Blankenship <richardblankenship3@gmail.com>

Sat, May 21, 2022 at 12:06 PM

To: Nathan Eshelman <n.p.eshelman@gmail.com>

Cc: A K <ak@streetsermon.org>, David Hanson <davidrpts@hotmail.com>, Thomas Reid <tgreidjr@gmail.com>, "James M. Odom" <james.odom@covenanthome.com>, Robert McKissick <rammd51@gmail.com>

Nathan,

The Ad Interim Commission met this past Wednesday evening, May 18th, and one of the items addressed was the charges brought against James Faris by Nathan Enas and Kevin Swan, members of Christ Church RPC, Brownsburg. Those charges were received by and passed on to the AIC by Adam Kuehner who had asked that the communication containing those charges be considered Communication GLG 22-13.

After the discussion the AIC passed a motion asking you, as Moderator of the Presbytery, to appoint a three-man committee to examine the charges and bring recommendations to the upcoming Synod meeting of the Presbytery concerning the disposition of those charges.

The minutes of the meeting related to this issue are below.

"The Commission discussed Presbytery Communication GLG 22-13, from two members of Christ Church Brownsburg RPC. It was moved, seconded, and passed, that the AIC ask the Moderator of Presbytery, Nathan Eshelman, to appoint a three-man committee to examine Communication 22-13 and bring recommendations to the Synod meeting of Presbytery concerning its disposition. A copy of Communication GLG 22-13 is attached to and made a part of these minutes."

A copy of the charges is attached.

I was not able to attend the meeting. If you have any questions about the AIC's request you can contact me and I will reach out to one of the other AIC members who were present to seek to address any issue you have or you may contact our Moderator, David Hanson.

richardblankenship3@gmail.com

 2022 AIC 5.18.2022 Min Charges of Sin GLG 22-13.pdf
341K

Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery
Minutes of the *Ad Interim* Commission
June 10, 2022

The *Ad Interim* Commission ("AIC") of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery met on June 10, 2022, by Zoom video conference call.

1. Elders present were David Hanson, Moderator, (Southside RPC, Indianapolis, IN), Richard Blankenship, Clerk, (Second RPC, Indianapolis, IN), James Odom (Sparta RPC), and Tom Reid (Orlando RPC). Robert McKissick (Sycamore, RPC) was not able to be present.
2. David Hanson opened the meeting and constituted the Court in prayer in the name of and by the authority of Jesus Christ, the King and Head of the Church, at 8:10 pm.
3. By common consent, the AIC meeting minutes of April 22, 2022, were approved, as amended.
4. By common consent, the AIC meeting minutes of May 18, 2022, were approved, as amended.
5. It was moved, seconded, and passed, to appoint a three-member commission of Presbytery (i) to investigate issues raised by Christ Church RPC ("CCRPC") by communication GLG 22-14, (ii) to seek reconciliation, and (iii) to take any other appropriate and necessary actions to resolve issues raised by communication GLG 22-14. Communication GLG 22-14 is attached to and made a part of these minutes.
6. In a separate and related action, it was moved, seconded, and passed, to appoint the following as members of the above mentioned three-member CCRPC Commission:

Jonathan Schaefer, Moderator
Bryan Dage
Steve Sturm

with the following appointed as alternates to the Commission, in the order listed:

Bob Bibby
Phil Pockras
Eric Cosens
John Cavanaugh
C. J. Davis
Tom Reid

7. By common consent, adjournment was approved.
8. James Odom prayed for the CCRPC Commission and adjourned the Court in prayer in the name of and by the authority of Jesus Christ, the Head and King of the Church, at 9:20 pm.



David Hanson, Moderator
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery
Ad Interim Commission



F. Richard Blankenship III, Clerk
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery
Ad Interim Commission

We believe further outside assistance is necessary because the Session is too much a party to this conflict. Furthermore, factors such as operating without a local teaching elder, the recent resignation of one ruling elder, health limitations, and work constraints limit the Session's ability to maintain the ministry while also addressing this conflict. Finally, the nature of the work extends beyond the remit of the current Shepherding Committee, and the availability of our Interim Moderator (both of which have contributed time generously and without complaint).

We would like to call on our brethren for assistance in this time of great difficulty for the congregation. This is an urgent matter. We have reached an inflection point in the life of the congregation, and the next steps may determine the future existence of the congregation, and/or whether the Session can continue to serve. We ask that Presbytery appoint a judicial commission to take original jurisdiction of the issues of conflict between the CCRP Session and members, visit the congregation, and to make formal binding recommendations regarding the situation. CCRP will reimburse the Presbytery for all expenses incurred by this commission.

Recommendation:

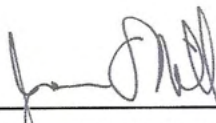
That Presbytery to appoint a judicial commission to take original jurisdiction of the issues of conflict between the CCRP Session and members, and to make formal binding recommendations regarding the situation.

In Christ,

The CCRP Session



Joel Hart, Interim Moderator



Jason O'Neill, Clerk



Christ Church reformed presbyterian

www.ccrp.church • Phone. 317-456-2551

Mailing address: P. O. Box 34182, Indianapolis, IN 46234

Meeting location: 5075 N. Raceway Road, Indianapolis, IN 46234

May 28, 2022

Dear Fathers and Brothers,

The CCRP Session is thankful for the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery's support over recent years. In October 2021, Presbytery appointed a Reconciliation Committee to pursue reconciliation between the Session and two households. Then, in March 2022, Presbytery appointed a two-man shepherding committee to provide continued counsel and guidance. There has been good fruit borne out of the work of both committees. The Session has confessed sin and mistakes in shepherding, asked for forgiveness from the congregation, and has committed to new courses of action in its care for the congregation.

After the conclusion of its work, the Reconciliation Committee counseled the congregation, "*...there is no reason why the entire congregation should not be united and reconciled. It has been a very difficult two years for everyone associated with CCRPC and it is now time to put the past behind and move on in love, peace, and unity as the congregation seeks to serve Christ.*"

However, interactions in recent weeks with the members involved have confirmed that we have reached an impasse over the affirmation and acceptance of the Reconciliation Committee's recommendations, the members' level of trust and confidence in the Session, and, in turn, our ability to shepherd these members (and potentially other members) in unity at CCRP.

Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery
Minutes of the *Ad Interim* Commission
August 3, 2022

The *Ad Interim* Commission ("AIC") of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery met on August 3, 2022, by Zoom video conference call.

1. Elders present were David Hanson, Moderator, (Southside RPC, Indianapolis, IN), Richard Blankenship, Clerk, (Second RPC, Indianapolis, IN), Robert McKissick (Sycamore, RPC), James Odom (Sparta RPC), and Tom Reid (Orlando RPC).
2. Tom Reid opened the meeting and constituted the Court in prayer, in the name of and by the authority of Jesus Christ, the King and Head of the Church, at 8:34 pm.
3. It was moved, seconded, and passed, to sustain the Marion RPC call of Aaron Murray as a regular gospel call made in accordance with the law and order of the church and to forward the call to Aaron Murray for his acceptance. A copy of the Call, Minutes of the meeting for the election of a Teaching Elder, and Membership Roll are attached to and made a part of these minutes. Aaron Murray has indicated his intent to accept the call.
4. By common consent, it was approved that the Moderator and Clerk of the AIC appoint an Aaron Murray Ordination Exam Commission, consisting of nine men, to conduct the ordination exams for Aaron Murray.

The appointment of the members of the Commission were as follows:

Phil Pockras
Bruce Bowers or Jeffrey Brotherton
Shawn Anderson (Moderator)
Tom Dinkledine
Ken Nelson
Chris Stockwell
Ian Wise
Dick Knodel
Scott Damerow

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

Mark Hart
Adam Doerr
Rich Johnston

5. It was moved, seconded, and passed, to convene the Fall meeting of the Presbytery at Columbus RPC in Columbus, Indiana, on Friday, October 7, 2022, beginning at 10:00 am, and adjourning at Noon, Saturday, October 8, 2022.
6. By common consent, in response to a request from First RPC of Grand Rapids and a recommendation from the Presbytery's First RPC of Grand Rapids Visitation Committee, Bryan Dage and Jon Hughes were appointed as the Provisional Elders of First RPC of Grand Rapids.
7. It was moved, seconded, and passed, to accept Steve Rhoda's resignation as a Provisional Elder of First RPC of Grand Rapids, effective when Bryan Dage and Jon Hughes begin serving as Provisional Elders of First RPC of Grand Rapids (see item number 6 above).
8. By common consent, it was approved to appoint Jerry Foltz as Second RPC, Indianapolis, interim Moderator of Session during James Faris' sabbatical leaves at various times during 2022 and 2023, the length and dates of which are pending agreement and approval by the Second RPC Session.
9. The AIC declined to act on the request for the dismissal of the Christ Church RP Shepherding Committee ("CCRP Shepherding Committee"), but moved, seconded, and passed a motion to encourage the CCRP Shepherding Committee to report on its work at the Fall meeting of Presbytery and to request dismissal at that time, if the Committee deems dismissal appropriate.
10. It was moved, seconded, and passed, that the AIC ask the Presbytery appointed Provisional Elders of Immanuel RPC to report on and give advice to the AIC, by August 17, 2022, regarding developments and actions taken at any congregational meeting(s) by Immanuel RPC in July 2022.
11. The minutes of the actions taken were reviewed.
12. It was moved, seconded, and passed, that the meeting be adjourned.
13. Bob McKissick prayed and adjourned the Court in prayer in the name of and by the authority of Jesus Christ, the Head and King of the Church, at 10:41 pm.



David Hanson, Moderator
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery
Ad Interim Commission



F. Richard Blankenship III, Clerk
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery
Ad Interim Commission

Marion Reformed Presbyterian Church

1100 West Jeffras Ave

Marion, IN 46952

Pastor's call and Financial Agreement

We, the Marion Reformed Presbyterian Church of Marion, Indiana 1100 West Jeffras Ave, under the care of the Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery, desiring to call a pastor to take the spiritual oversight of us in the Lord; and having satisfied that your spiritual attainments, intellectual abilities and soundness in the faith and the testimony of the Reformed Presbyterian Church are fitted to our capacities, do now, with the concurrence of the Presbytery, call you, Aaron Murray, to undertake the office of pastor among us. Upon your accepting this call and performing the duties of your office and set forth by the Constitution of the RPCNA, we promise you all the respect in the Lord.

We hereby promise to pay you \$45,000 annually, in the event of your accepting this call, and performing the duties of a pastor among us payable 12 installments of \$3,750.00 each. Of this compensation 60% is designated as an allowance for furnishings and appurtenances for your dwelling as set forth by section 107 of the IRS code.

We include the following in the compensation package:

1. Salary/Housing allowance-\$45,000 paid in monthly installments
2. Medical- up to \$6,000 per year paid in monthly installments
3. Retirement Contribution \$4,700 per year paid quarterly into an established IRS approved fund for pastors. This will follow the Synod's direction and will adjust over time according to the Synod's minimum requirements.
4. Reimbursement for ministry expenses according to current church policy.
5. The congregation will provide from our saving account \$1500 dollars in moving expenses and 5% of a house purchase cost, up to \$9,500, in help for a down payment for a house in the Marion city limits. This will be a maximum total of \$11,000 in loans given to the Murrays and will be forgiven in year 5 of his pastoral service to the church. If Mr. Murray leaves the Marion RP church before year 5 then he would be responsible for paying this loan back at a pro-rated rate given his years of service to the church.
6. Two weeks of vacation time each year with a new week added every third year maxing out at 6 weeks of vacation.
7. Time will be given for attendance at Synod meetings, Presbytery meetings, CovfamikoI family conference, and International Conference each year they are held. A Sabbatical

will be considered at year 10 with the length of the sabbatical to be determined by the congregation.

We promise to review annually with you the adequacy of this compensation prior to the adoption of the congregation's budget meeting to take in account the cost-of-living increase.

In the witness thereof, we subscribe this call and financial agreement, the 17th day of July in the year 2022 in the presences of these witnesses:

Attestation of the Call and Financial Agreement

I hereby certify that this call and financial agreement were made out on the date therein specified and in accord with the law and order of the church

Signatures of Communicant Members approving the call:

Elders:

1. Jason Camery
2. Greg Fisher
3. Scott Hunt

Deacons:

1. Billy Cole
2. Jacob Fisher

Communicant Members:

Elders:

Gregory A. Asher
~~_____~~ _____

Deacons:

~~_____~~ _____

Communicant Members:

Thomas & Randy ~~_____~~ _____

Vernon Li Chris Bah

Mark Li Jess Bah

Patricia & Lesher Jimmy Camery

Patricia McClintock ~~_____~~ _____

~~_____~~ Beverly Camery

Audrey M. Hunt

Rebecca Fisher

~~_____~~ _____

~~_____~~ _____

Others:
Baptized

Dot Luo Lyha

Astoria Lundquist Sh. Benz

~~_____~~ _____

ARIA

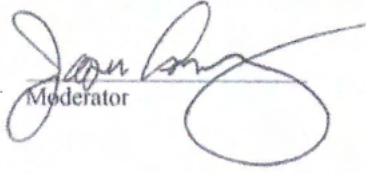
TEGAN

TESSA

Lily

Attestation of a Call and Financial Agreement

I hereby certify that this call and financial agreement were made out on the date therein specified in accord with the law and order of the church.


Moderator

Marion Reformed Presbyterian Church

Marion, Indiana

Session Meeting- Congregational meeting for the election of a Teaching Elder

July 17, 2022, at 12:30 PM -Meeting at the Church 1100 West Jeffras Ave, Marion, Indiana 46952

Elders present were Pastor Jason Camery, Greg Fisher, and Scott Hunt- Clerk.

The purpose of this meeting was to conduct an election of a Teaching Elder.

The meeting was called to order and the court was constituted in prayer by Pastor Camery.

1. Determination of a quorum.
 - a. The quorum was confirmed by the reading of the congregational role.
2. Inquiry as to whether the congregation wished to proceed with the election. Congregation unanimously answered in the affirmative by voice vote.
3. The edict was read for the final time.
4. Worship
 - We sang Psalm 91B.
 - Pastor Camery opened the word from Titus 1:1-16.
 - Pastor Camery explained the election process and we asked the Lord to bless our deliberations.
 - o Extensive discussions regarding the financial package presented. Removing Pastor Camery's compensation and adding in the proposed annual package as outlined in the call roughly matches the annual budget we approved in January. The loan for the moving expenses and house down payment would come from our savings.
 - o Motion by Chris Baker (seconded by Jenny Camery) to amend the call as follows:
 - Adjustment in Point #1 of the salary package from "\$49,000" to "\$45,000" salary/year.
 - Discussion about possible amendments to the motion. No amendments were made.
 - Motion passed unanimously by voice vote. The secretary will make the appropriate adjustments to the call.
 - o Motion by Greg Fisher (seconded by Jacob Fisher) to amend the call as follows:
 - Adjustment in Point #2 of the salary package from "Medical - \$6,000" to "Medical - up to \$6,000"
 - Motion passed unanimously by voice vote. The secretary will make the appropriate adjustments to the call.
 - o Motion by Jacob Fisher (seconded by Thomas Planalp) to amend the call as follows:
 - Adjustment in Point #5 of the salary package from "\$9,500 in help for a

down payment for a house” to “up to \$9,500 in help for a down payment for a house”

- Discussion about possible amendments to the motion. Motion amended from “up to \$9,500 in help for a down payment for a house” to “5% of a house purchase, up to \$9,500, in help for a down payment for a house.”
 - Final motion was to amend the call as follows:
 - Adjustment in Point #5 of the salary package from “\$9,500 in help for a down payment for a house” to “5% of a house purchase, up to \$9,500, in help for a down payment for a house”
 - Moderator ruled that the voice vote did not pass the amended motion. Division was noted. Therefore, the vote was re-taken by raised hand. The motion passed by 10-6 raised hand vote. The secretary will make the appropriate adjustments to the call.
 - Motion by Scott Hunt (seconded by Chris Baker) to amend the call as follows:
 - Adjustment in Point #6 of the salary package from “6 weeks vacation time in your 9th year as pastor.” To “6 weeks vacation time.”
 - Motion passed unanimously by voice vote. The secretary will make the appropriate adjustments to the call.
 - Motion by Jenny Camery (seconded by Kevin McClintock) to amend the call as follows:
 - Adjustment in Point #7 of the salary package from “Synod and Presbytery meetings each year” to “Synod meetings, Presbytery meetings, Covfamikoi family conference, and International Conference each year they are held.”
 - Motion passed unanimously by voice vote. The secretary will make the appropriate adjustments to the call.
 - With the above amendments, the call was presented for vote.
 - The call passed unanimously by voice vote.
 - We prayed for the Lord to guide His church.
 - Singing of Psalm 133A.
4. Election of a teaching elder
- a. Nominations were opened from the floor. On behalf of the Session, Greg Fisher nominated Aaron Murray. No other nominations were made.
 - b. Motion by Kevin McClintock (seconded by Chris Baker) to close the nominations.
 - c. Tellers appointed were deacons Billy Cole and Jacob Fisher.
 - d. Vote was taken by roll call (anonymous paper ballot).
 - i. While the votes were being tallied, the congregation sang Psalm 84B.
 - e. The voted tallied by the tellers were twenty affirmative and one no.
 - f. Jason Camery then presented the congregation with the terms of the call and a revised budget. A motion was made by Scott Hunt (seconded by Tatiana Cole) to approve the terms of the call and to revise the 2022 budget according to the new terms of the call.

- i. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.
 - g. The session made a motion based upon the election of Aaron Murray as Pastor to keep Jason Camery as Moderator of the session.
 - i. A motion was made by Scott Hunt (seconded by Chris Baker) to amend the motion as follows:
 - 1. "as Moderator of the session" to "as Moderator of the session for 6 months to be revisited at the annual congregational meeting in January 2023."
 - ii. Amended motion passed unanimously by voice vote.
 - h. The session made the motion that all financial obligations to Mr. Camery would stop except for a \$4,600 a year payment into his retirement fund once Mr. Murray is ordained and installed at Marion RPC.
 - i. A motion was made by Scott Hunt (seconded by Chris Baker) to amend the motion as follows:
 - 1. "except for a \$4,600 a year into his retirement fund" to "except for the \$4,600 per year into his retirement fund for 2022."
 - 2. Clarification was made that the Session plans to have this on the 2023 agenda for coming years.
 - ii. Amended motion passed unanimously by voice vote.
 - i. The call was then placed at the front of the church for everyone present to sign. It will be present at worship for the next two weeks for all to sign.
 - i. Motion by Chris Baker (seconded by Scott Hunt) to finish the meeting business before the congregation signs the call. Motion passed by majority voice vote (one dissent).
5. Psalm 115B was sung.
7. The meeting was adjourned in prayer by Elder Greg Fisher.

Marion Reformed Presbyterian Church

Membership Roll

As of August 3, 2022

Membership

1. Baker, Chris
2. Baker, Jessica

3. Bright, Josh
4. Bright, Candace
 1. Peter
 2. Andrew
 3. Margaret

5. Camery, Christian

6. Camery, Jason
7. Camery, Jenny

8. Camery, Kay

9. Camery, Luke

10. Cole, Billy
11. Cole, Tatiana
 4. Lilly
 5. Tessa
 6. Emma

12. Dunning, Lindell

13. Fisher, Greg
14. Fisher, Pam

15. Fisher, Jacob
16. Fisher, Bekah
 7. Luna
 8. Teagan
 9. Aria
 10. Jackson
 11. Wade

17. Hunt, Scott

18. Hunt, Allison
19. Hunt, Ian
20. Hunt, Audrey
21. Hunt, Collin
12. Ashtyn

22. Li, Mark
23. Li, Veronica

24. McClintock, Kevin
25. McClintock, Patty

26. Morgan, Dave
27. Morgan, Mary

28. Morgan, David
29. Morgan, Melanie
 13. Levi
 14. John

30. Planalp, Thomas

31. Schwarte, Russell
32. Schwarte, Michele
33. Schwarte, Gabrielle
34. Schwarte, Nathaniel
35. Schwarte, Abigail

Roll of Adherents

1. Bergen, Shawn

2. Jones, Robert

3. Minton, Monty
4. Minton, Brianne
5. Minton, Mason

Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery
Minutes of the *Ad Interim* Commission
September 10, 2022

The *Ad Interim* Commission (“AIC”) of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery met on Saturday, September 10, 2022, by Zoom video conference call.

1. Elders present were David Hanson, Moderator, (Southside RPC, Indianapolis, IN), Richard Blankenship, Clerk, (Second RPC, Indianapolis, IN), Robert McKissick (Sycamore, RPC), James Odom (Sparta RPC), and Tom Reid (Orlando RPC).
2. Tom Reid opened the meeting and constituted the Court in prayer, in the name of and by the authority of Jesus Christ, the King and Head of the Church, at 4:01 p.m.
3. By common consent, the minutes of the August 3, 2022, meeting of the AIC were approved.
4. It was moved, seconded, and passed, (i) to appoint an Ordination and Installation Commission for the ordination and installation of Aaron Murray as Pastor and Teaching Elder of Marion Reformed Presbyterian Church, said Commission to consist of David Whitla, Joel Hart, Shawn Anderson, Don Prichard and Bob Bibby, with Russ Pulliam, Adam Niess and George Gregory appointed as alternates, in that order, in the event any of the appointed men are unable to serve, (ii) to authorize AIC’s Moderator and Clerk to appoint any other alternates, if needed, and (iii) for the Clerk to issue the Ordination and Installation Edict for the ordination and installation service of Aaron Murray as Pastor and Teaching Elder of Marion Reformed Presbyterian Church at Marion RPC on Thursday, October 6, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

A copy of the Ordination and Installation Edict is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

5. By common consent, David Whitla was appointed Moderator of the Aaron Murray Ordination and Installation Commission. Shawn Anderson appointed as alternate.
6. In response to the request of the AIC (see AIC Minutes of August 3, 2022, Item No. 10), Kenneth de Jong provided a report to the AIC from the Presbytery appointed Provisional Elders of Immanuel RPC regarding developments and actions taken at a July 2022 congregational meeting of Immanuel RPC. The AIC reviewed the report and determined no further action was needed at the present time.
7. By common consent, it was agreed the Richard Blankenship will circulate a draft AIC Report to Presbytery for approval by the members of the AIC prior to submission to the Presbytery for the upcoming October 7, 2022, meeting of Presbytery.

8. By common consent, it was agreed the meeting be adjourned.
9. Bob McKissick prayed and adjourned the Court in prayer in the name of and by the authority of Jesus Christ, the Head and King of the Church, at 4:35 p.m.



David Hanson, Moderator
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery
Ad Interim Commission



F. Richard Blankenship III, Clerk
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery
Ad Interim Commission

**Edict for the Ordination and Installation
of Aaron Murray
in the
Marion Reformed Presbyterian Church**

The Great Lakes/Gulf Presbytery has received a call made by the Marion Reformed Presbyterian Church upon Aaron Murray to be their pastor and has sustained it as a regular gospel call. He has accepted the call. Notice is hereby given that the 6th day of October in the year 2022, has been fixed as the time for his ordination and installation, with certification that the Presbytery will proceed in the same unless some valid objections be offered to the Presbytery which is to meet by Commission at Marion Reformed Presbyterian Church on the 6th day of October in the year 2022 for the ordination and installation.

The meeting for the ordination and installation will be held at 7:00 p.m. at Marion Reformed Presbyterian Church, 1100 West Jeffras Ave., Marion, Indiana.



F. Richard Blankenship, III
Clerk of the *Ad Interim* Commission



David Hanson
Moderator of the *Ad Interim* Commission

By order of the Presbytery this 10th day of September in the year 2022.

Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery
Minutes of the *Ad Interim* Commission
November 16, 2022


The *Ad Interim* Commission ("AIC") of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery met on Wednesday, November 16, 2022, by Zoom video conference call.

1. Elders present were David Hanson, Moderator, (Southside RPC, Indianapolis, IN), Richard Blankenship, Clerk, (Second RPC, Indianapolis, IN), Robert McKissick (Sycamore, RPC), James Odom (Sparta RPC), and Tom Reid (Orlando RPC).
2. James Odom opened the meeting and constituted the Court in prayer, in the name of and by the authority of Jesus Christ, the King and Head of the Church, at 8:34 p.m.
3. By common consent, the minutes of the September 10, 2022, meeting of the AIC were approved.
4. By common consent, the October 1, 2022, resignations of the Presbytery appointed Immanuel RPC Provisional Elders, Ken DeJong, John Hanson, and Terry Magnuson, were accepted. This action was taken up by the AIC at the request of the Clerk of the Presbytery, because of the Presbytery overlooking this matter at the Fall Presbytery meeting in October 2022.
5. It was moved, seconded, and passed, that the October 6, 2022, Minutes of the Commission to Ordain and Install Aaron Murray as pastor of Marion RPC in Marion, Indiana, be returned to the Commission to clarify (i) whether they elected Shawn Anderson as Clerk and, (ii) whether they met to assign the responsibilities for the different parts of the Ordination and Installation service. This action was taken up by the AIC at the request of the Clerk of the Presbytery, because of the Presbytery overlooking this matter at the Fall Presbytery meeting in October 2022.
6. It was moved, seconded, and passed, to accept the November 1, 2022, resignation of James Faris, as pastor of Second RPC, Indianapolis. A copy of the resignation is attached to these minutes.
7. It was moved, seconded, and passed, at the request of Second RPC, Indianapolis, to dissolve the pastoral relationship between Second RPC, and James Faris effective November 1, 2022. Appreciation was expressed for James Faris' service and ministry at Second RPC. Tom Reid effected the dissolution with a prayer of thanksgiving for James' ministry and the good done for God's glory, along with an appeal for the Lord's blessing on James' future, the congregation of Second RPC, and its pursuit of another pastor.
8. It was moved, seconded, and passed, to approve the request of the Session of Second RPC, Indianapolis, to call a Teaching Elder/Pastor to replace James Faris.

9. It was moved, seconded, and passed, to confirm the Second RPC Session's appointment of Teaching Elder, Jerry Foltz, as Moderator of the Second RPC Session.
10. It was moved, seconded, and passed, that the complaint contained in Communication GLG 22-22 be processed by the whole Presbytery at the 2023 Spring meeting of Presbytery. Communication GLG 22-22 is the complaint of Mr. Nathan Enas and Mr. Kevin Swan against the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery, regarding a policy adopted October 7, 2022, by the GLG Presbytery governing the recording of Presbytery meetings. For information purposes, a copy of Communication GLG 22-22 is attached.
11. It was moved, seconded, and passed, that the complaint contained in Communication GLG 22-23 be processed by the whole Presbytery at the 2023 Spring meeting of Presbytery. Communication GLG 22-23 is the complaint of Mr. Nathan Enas against the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery regarding the Presbytery's action on October 7, 2022, returning to the author his complaint (Communication GLG 22-18) against the Christ Church Reformed Presbyterian Commission for its not sustaining a complaint (Communication GLG 22-15) against an action of the Christ Church RP Session. For information purposes, a copy of Communication GLG 22-23 is attached.
12. It was moved, seconded, and passed, that the request forwarded to the AIC from the Membership Committee for the transfer of Joe and Meleah Tubergen's membership to Providence Reformed Church of Grand Rapids, Michigan, be returned to the Shepherding Committee for counsel as to whether Providence Reformed Church is a true branch of the visible church. The Tubergens are former members of the now disorganized First Reformed Presbyterian Church of Grand Rapids, and their memberships are currently on the roll of Presbytery.
13. It was noted that, as reported by Bill Roberts, virtually all the physical property of Christ Church RP, Indianapolis, has been distributed to various congregations in the Presbytery.
14. By common consent, it was agreed the meeting be adjourned.
15. Bob McKissick prayed and adjourned the Court in prayer in the name of and by the authority of Jesus Christ, the Head and King of the Church, at 10:19 p.m.



David Hanson, Moderator
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery
Ad Interim Commission



F. Richard Blankenship III, Clerk
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery
Ad Interim Commission

Resignation as pastor of 2RP

1 message

James Faris <jas.faris@gmail.com>

Tue, Oct 25, 2022 at 8:53 PM

To: David Hanson <davidrpts@hotmail.com>, Richard Blankenship <richardblankenship3@gmail.com>

Dear David and Richard,

As you both know, I have given my resignation as pastor to the session of Second Reformed Presbyterian Church. Two weeks notice was given on October 17 for my resignation effective November 1, 2022.

I'm writing to you in your roles on the AIC in accordance with the Directory of Church Government (DCG 3.ii.5.b, D-21). I am giving notice to the presbytery of my resignation from Second Reformed Presbyterian Church effective November 1, 2022.

Please let me know if there is anything else needed from me.

In Christ,
James

05 November 2022

To the Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America:

We, the undersigned, wish to register a complaint regarding an action of the Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery on October 7, 2022, in which Presbytery elected the following: *"That presbytery adopt it as a standing policy to prohibit all audio and/or video recordings of its ecclesiastical reports and deliberations — excluding non-deliberative items, e.g. preaching (with the preacher's permission), Psalm-singing, ordination/installation services; and excluding the recording of oneself — without express permission from the court."* We also ask Synod 1) to declare that audio recordings of open meetings of all church courts are good, and 2) to commission a policy to be developed for the orderly recording of the church courts and the curation of recordings for the preserving of truth and justice for the good of the church, now and in perpetuity, until King Jesus returns to judge every idle word.

SOME BIBLICAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL DATA

- WLC Question 144. What are the duties required in the ninth commandment?
Answer. The duties required in the ninth commandment are, the preserving and promoting of truth between man and man...
- "No one after lighting a lamp covers it with a jar or puts it under a bed, but puts it on a stand, so that those who enter may see the light. For nothing is hidden that will not be made manifest, nor is anything secret that will not be known and come to light. Take care then how you hear, for to the one who has, more will be given, and from the one who has not, even what he thinks that he has will be taken away." (Luke 8:16-18)
- "For thus says the Lord of hosts: "As I purposed to bring disaster to you when your fathers provoked me to wrath, and I did not relent, says the Lord of hosts, so again have I purposed in these days to bring good to Jerusalem and to the house of Judah; fear not. These are the things that you shall do: Speak the truth to one another; render in your gates judgments that are true and make for peace; do not devise evil in your hearts against one another, and love no false oath, for all these things I hate, declares the Lord.'" (Zechariah 8:14-17)
- "So David reigned over all Israel. And David administered justice and equity to all his people. Joab the son of Zeruiah was over the army, and Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud was recorder, and Zadok the son of Ahitub and Ahimelech the son of Abiathar were priests, and Seraiah was secretary, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was over the Cherethites and the Pelethites, and David's sons were priests." (2 Samuel 8:15-18)

BASIC REASONING

1. The essence of courts is contained in words, written and spoken. Words matters to God, so words matters. Words can be good (truth in love), and words can be evil (falsehood, lack of love).
2. Recording open meetings of the church courts is a good practice for many reasons (see "Detailed Rationale" below). To prohibit a good practice is sinful. Therefore, to prohibit the recording of all open meetings of a church court is sinful.

DETAILED RATIONALE

1. Few people can remember the volume of speech and reasoning on a variety of topics over several days that is commonly experienced at meetings of the courts. Audio/video recordings can mitigate such human frailty. Instead of everyone taking notes (which cannot be completely accurate), they can spend their energy and thought to engage in the debates and discussion, knowing that they can come back to an accurate recording for more consideration later on.
2. Recording open sessions of the court has the obvious advantage of making the entire proceedings available for those who would like to have been, but were not able to be, present.
3. Imagine if you could hear the actual debates in past courts on a particular topic. This orderly reasoning can be more valuable than the decisions that a court makes because it teaches the church how a court came to a decision. This reasoning can be evaluated for its current relevance, and it can be used to instruct future generations of the courts and the broader church.
4. Recordings are an efficient way to preserve the truth about important conversations. If there is any accusation of impropriety in the courts, this truth may be used to acquit the righteous and to sanctify the unrighteous. This truth may be used to settle disputes over what actually happened in the courts. This will save much time and litigation by preventing needless disputes and wrangling over words and history.
5. Recording can help court participants grow in sanctification. As we listen to recordings of ourselves and others, we can reflect on what was said and how it was said, and then seek God in word and prayer for how to grow in grace in our speech.
6. Recordings provide necessary accountability for how people converse in the courts. Those who speak in the courts presumably have the right to speak. But no one has the right to sin. Of course, all men do sin, and sometimes men will speak sinfully in the courts. In these cases, the sinner should confess, and make repairs toward reconciliation. Recordings are some of the Godly means for documenting speech, encouraging Godly speech, and helping to correct ungodly speech, if it occurs.
7. Even secular courts are public events, and complete audio or written transcripts are created by paid recorders. How much more carefully should the courts of King Jesus be preserved and curated!
8. Recording courts promotes needed transparency and communication. How much more will the trust between the shepherds and the sheep of God's house be strengthened by complete openness about what was said in the courts of King Jesus!
9. Since we always speak in God's presence, we should always speak in such a way that glorifies God and that we would be happy for others to hear as well. As our Lord commands, "But above all, my brothers, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your "yes" be yes and your "no" be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation." (James 5:12).

SOME OBJECTIONS ANSWERED

1. **Recordings can be used against people on the recording.**
Answer: Truth and righteousness cannot harm anyone; on the contrary, they can only acquit and defend people. However, falsehood and wicked speech should be exposed for the sake of sanctification.
2. **Recording meetings is uncharted territory for the church.**
Answer: Recording is actually a standard process in worldly courts. Also, the courts of the Biblical kings used recorders, who were important officials in the court.

3. **The church doesn't know what will be done with the recordings.**

Answer: This objection seems motivated by fear. If the recording is truth, Jesus says it will set us free, not enslave us.

4. **Privacy will be compromised by recordings.**

Answer: First, church courts are open meetings. Second, a court may elect to enter an executive session if the value of privacy outweighs the value of openness.

5. **Recordings can be edited and posted on social media platforms, but without the appropriate context of the entire discussion.**

Answer: First, this is true of any speech, recorded by written notes, or just recollected from memory. Yet, the Presbytery did not vote to prohibit all note-taking, just audio and video recording. Second, this argument actually argues for due diligence to preserve an accurate, full recording of the courts, so that an authoritative answer can be given, if anyone posts a misleading version of the deliberations of the courts.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That Synod declare that recording open meetings of church courts is good and permissible throughout the RPCNA.
2. That Synod admonish Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery for prohibiting recording, a good deed, in the courts.
3. That Synod commission a policy to govern the recording of church courts, and proper curation of the recordings, for the glory of God and the good of His church.

SIGNED,

Nathan Enas

Kevin Swan

Former members, Christ Church Reformed Presbyterian, Indianapolis, Indiana
Current members, Roll of Presbytery (Great Lakes Gulf)

5 November 2022

To the Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America:

I wish to register a complaint regarding the following action of the Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery (GLGP), on October 7, 2022: *“Recommendation 1 [i.e., “that Presbytery receive this (CCRP Commission) report”] was adopted without vocal dissent, after which the clerk read Clerk’s Recommendation 6 (Footnote #6 Above), reminding the court that the receiving of the CCRP Commission minutes without rescindment automatically returns GLG 22-18 to its author along with the instructions included in the Recommendation.”*

My reasons for this complaint are as follows:

1. The CCRP Commission violated the 9th Commandment in their report, in which they repeatedly damaged “the good name of our neighbor [Mr. Nathan Enas]” (see WLC Q144-145) without charging Mr. Enas with sin and without providing Mr. Enas opportunity to defend his good name.
2. The CCRP Commission failed in its charge to “seek reconciliation”, as evidenced by 5 families separating from CCRP upon reading the CCRP Commission Report, followed by the resignation of the CCRP Interim Pastoral Assistant, and the resignation of the entire CCRP Session from ordained office, thus disorganizing the congregation due to lack of elders.
3. By receiving the CCRP Commission report without dissent, GLGP has joined the CCRP Commission and the former CCRP Session in their errors.

I have already outlined the Commission’s errors in my complaint to Presbytery (GLG 22-18, attached). In this kind of situation, there are only two possibilities: either you agree with the Commission’s report, or you don’t. Case 1: If you agree with the Commission as did Presbytery, then you are agreeing with their claim that Mr. Enas does not respect church authority. If this is true, this appears to be an example of “contempt for the courts of the church” which includes “refusal...to respect the authority and discipline of the church”. Clearly, no church court has attempted to discipline Mr. Enas for this, even though this is an “offense [which] requires discipline” (BOD I.1.6). If Mr. Enas does not respect church authority, the church must discipline him, which it hasn’t. This is an error. Case 2: If you do not agree with the Commission, then the Commission (and hence Presbytery) has maligned Mr. Enas falsely. This also is an error.

Thus, in either of the two possible cases, the Commission and hence Presbytery has made an error, and I am asking you to help Presbytery correct their errors for the good of Christ’s body and the glory of His name.

For errors such as these, I believe God is judging this Presbytery. Evidences of God’s judgment are manifest and manifold:

- once thriving congregations are now disorganized or wanting to separate from the RPCNA;
- long-time pastors are resigning their pastorates and leaving the RPCNA;
- many long-time members are leaving the RPCNA to other denominations or none at all;
- entire Sessions are resigning;
- church members who were once dear friends to each other now don’t speak to each other;
- credible charges of sin against elders are ignored;

- when these troubles came before Presbytery, the focus of the discussion was on technicalities, such as “did he follow the proper legal procedures to submit his complaint?”, “who will get the money in the church’s bank account?”, “is the proper term ‘dissolution’ or ‘disorganization’”, and even a joke like “I’ve been ‘disorganized’ for a long time” during the discussion regarding the disorganization of CCRP.

God has spoken:

“Make sure that none of you suffers as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler; but if anyone suffers as a Christian, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God in this name. For it is time for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? And if it is with difficulty that the righteous is saved, what will become of the godless man and the sinner? Therefore, those also who suffer according to the will of God shall entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right.” (1 Peter 4:15-19)

Recommendations:

1. That Synod recuse GLGP from voting on any action related to this complaint.
2. That Synod instruct the judicial committee of the day to investigate said action of Presbytery, including all the actions that led up to said action (including actions of the former CCRP Session and the CCRP Commission), adjudicate these actions appropriately by the Word of God and the law and order of the church, discipline the guilty and acquit the innocent.
3. That Synod admonish GLGP for their errors.
4. That Synod form a judicial commission to investigate the manifest evidences of God’s judgment on this Presbytery, to adjudicate the sins that have led to God’s judgment, to discipline the guilty and acquit the innocent.

Sincerely,

Nathan Enas

Former member, Christ Church Reformed Presbyterian, Indianapolis, Indiana
Current member, Roll of Presbytery (Great Lakes Gulf)

Attachment: GLG 22-18

16 September 2022

To the Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery:

This letter is a complaint against the recent action of the Christ Church Reformed Presbyterian (CCRP) Commission given in their report, which was distributed to CCRP on Aug 17, 2022. Their action was to not "sustain complaint 22-15" which is disappointing on its face, since I believed (and still believe) that our complaint (22-15, from 14 members/adherent of CCRP) against an action of the CCRP Session is valid and seeks a vital corrective to a breakdown of Biblical discipline in our church.

Biblical Reconciliation and How It Is Achieved

First, I want to help clarify what Biblical reconciliation is. A good summary is found in our Book of Discipline:

"When the court sees satisfactory evidence of true repentance, it shall restore the person with the same solemnity and publicity that attended the imposition of the censure, and lead its members in granting its forgiveness. Such repentance would include satisfactory attempts at reconciliation and restitution to any parties sinned against." (BOD I.6.2, page E-8) I realize that no formal censure has been imposed in the case of the CCRP Session, but this Session committed and confessed sins. Biblically, this is only the beginning, not the end, of reconciliation. I will try to explain why.

Sin produces debt, as our Lord Jesus taught us to pray, "Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors." When God reconciled His people to Himself in Christ, God paid our infinite debts through the vicarious sacrifice of Christ. By doing this, God brought us judicially back in harmony, back on speaking terms, back in fellowship with Him, so that we may "counsel again" (re-council or re-concile). This is reconciliation that results from justification, and occurred positionally before we even existed. When this reconciliation resulting from justification is applied to us upon regeneration, personal faith in Christ, and confession/repentance, we are actually and experientially reconciled to Him. However, we continue to sin, and we have a continuing need to confess and repent as part of our sanctification. In this case, we have an additional duty to pay back debts to those we sin against. If we steal, we must repay what we have stolen, plus penalties. If we lie, we must repay with truth and repair any damage caused by the lie. If we misuse God's name, we must repair any damage caused. If we make an idol, we must destroy the idol and replace it with true worship. Such debt payments are called restitution, and are vital to restoring relationships. This is reconciliation that results from sanctification.

God commands that such restitution be paid willingly from a broken and contrite heart. If the sinner fails to make the repairs of restitution, this indicates a failure to make proper confession and repentance in his heart. However, when we confess, then make restitution, this brings about Biblical reconciliation.

In the case of Session at CCRP, they confessed their sins, and we forgave them. But their sins damaged our relationship and created a deficit of trust from the congregation to its elders. As I told Session in my email (July 19, 2020), "I have lost my confidence in the CCRP Session." Almost two years later, when Session confessed their mistakes this past January 23 (with the help of the Reconciliation Committee), they published a plan (calling it the "fruits of repentance") to make repairs and rebuild trust and confidence in them. Following further confession of sins on April 10 (with the help of the Shepherding Committee), there were some positive signs, as they began to deliver on some of their promises, and we grew in hope that

repairs would be made and our confidence would be restored. However, on May 12, 2022, almost 4 months after our last joint meeting with the Reconciliation Committee, at the end of a long Session meeting to discuss another (controversial) topic, elder Jason O'Neill said the following:

"So, we don't have very long for a conversation, we need to cut this off in just a few minutes. But, we haven't sat down with you since the Reconciliation Committee. At the end of that process, after they were dismissed, the Reconciliation Committee sent the letter about the timeline, their reports, the steps the Session were to take, which we're trying to take. The end here is that "there is no reason why the entire congregation should not be united and reconciled. So, I guess, one of the questions that I'm personally curious is, "do you feel that that's the case: are we now united and reconciled?""

We responded that, although there were some encouraging signs, there were also some discouragements, and so there was more work to be done on accomplishing what Session committed to doing to lead to reconciliation.

Joel Hart, interim moderator of Session, apparently agreed that reconciliation is a process, when he concluded, "The Committee encouraged you guys to be patient and charitable toward the elders as they follow the steps of reconciliation. ... I would just encourage you, as the Session is busy and challenged on many fronts, to be patient as they think through the best ways of implementing the steps they've been called to implement by the Presbytery."

To be clear, we had been patient and charitable since the Reconciliation Committee met with us, and since Presbytery approved their findings and recommendations. No one has disputed this. Yet, within 2 weeks of this Session meeting, the Session, in constituted court, read me a letter stating that I needed to find another congregation, or affirm my full trust in them, and demonstrate my trust by making certain promises that other members are not required to promise, even when they knew they had not fully accomplished "the steps of reconciliation."

So, I ask this court the question elder O'Neill asked me: "are we now united and reconciled?" If so, I ask you to demonstrate that Session has fully accomplished the steps of reconciliation. If not, I ask you to censure Session for their impatient, uncharitable, and sinful letter of May 23, and the Commission for their erroneous defense of the Session. This is not only for righteousness' sake, but to deter future sins among elders, and to demonstrate to the church of Christ that confession of sin is not sufficient to reconcile brothers who have been alienated by sin, especially when elders have sinned against the sheep that the elders are called to nurture, protect, and teach.

Significant Errors Made by the CCRP Commission and CCRP Session

Error #1: Mr. Enas owes trust to Session.

"It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in man.
It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in princes." (Psalm 118:8-9)

First, there is not a single instance in Scripture or in our Constitution of a command to trust in man. In order to command me or anyone to trust in another man, and thereby bind my conscience, the Commission and the Session will need Scripture. They gave no such reference because there is no such reference. On this basis alone, Session's command, and Commission's support, violate God's word.

Consider an analogy. My children naturally trust me, their father, because I have cared for them since conception. If they tell me they no longer trust me, do I then command them to trust me or else leave my house? Of course not. As the superior in the situation, my duty is to discover how trust has been damaged. It may be my sin that has caused the breakdown in trust. If I confess my sin to my children, is it then correct to command them to trust me? Of course not. Making restitution and correcting my errors will rebuild trust.

It is the same in the church. We trusted our Session for 15 years, and they appeared to treat us decently. We did not interact with the church courts once in this entire time. Only when our former pastor's contra-confessional writings were published, and our pastor gave me a copy of one of them, did I begin to realize that Session had neglected to shepherd us and our pastor in his theology and practice, and only then did my trust begin to waver. When I confronted them in love, they defended our pastor and themselves for 18 months, and only confessed sin after we requested Presbytery to investigate and give them counsel. During this 18 months, we spent hours and hours trying to get answers from them, trying to understand how could all this trouble have happened to our church which had been so blessed prior to this. They never asked us how they could rebuild the trust we had once given them implicitly, like children to parents. They have never thanked me for bringing this matter to Presbytery. But they have mocked me in public for saying that my complaints demonstrated my love for them.

I say this next statement carefully, but emphatically: How dare Session — who neglected my family and church for years, who abused me for months while I tried to get answers from them, who have turned my fellow church members against me and my family, who have avoided discipline at all costs — how dare they command me to trust them! And how dare this Commission defend such a Session and emphasize this Session's erroneous and abusive command. This command should demonstrate to Spirit-led and honest men that there is a great deficit of love, theological understanding, and wisdom in some of the elders of this Presbytery.

By the way, for the benefit of the Commission, and for those who agree with them, there is NOT a "world of difference between trusting elders and putting trust in princes." They are all men placed in authority by God's ordinance. Just read the Westminster Larger Catechism:

Q. 124. Who are meant by father and mother in the fifth commandment?

A. By father and mother, in the fifth commandment, are meant, not only natural parents, but all superiors in age and gifts; and especially such as, by God's ordinance, are over us in place of authority, whether in family, church, or commonwealth.

Error #2: Mr. Enas must submit to Session and all church courts, including the Commission itself.

The Commission rightly quoted Scripture and the Constitution on page 4 in their report. But they interpreted these quotations wrongly and selectively, making their applications to me erroneous in the present situation. Each quote has a key phrase that the Commission overlooked. I will copy their quotes and underline the key phrase:

Hebrews 13:17. "Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you."

Larger catechism 127 "The honor which inferiors owe to their superiors is, all due reverence in heart, word, and behavior; prayer and thanksgiving for them; imitation of their virtues and graces; willing obedience to their lawful commands and counsels; due

submission to their corrections; fidelity to, defense and maintenance of their persons and authority, according to their several ranks, and the nature of their places; bearing with their infirmities, and covering them in love, that so they may be an honor to them and to their government.”

DCG 7.13 “After the roll has been determined, all the communicant members of the new congregation shall stand and give assent to the Covenant of Communicant Membership and to this additional pledge:

‘Do you solemnly covenant with God and with one another that you will live together in brotherly unity as an organized congregation on the basis of the Constitution of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America; that you will be obedient to the courts that are over you in the Lord; and that you will, by a godly life, seek to promote the purity, peace, and prosperity of the church as a whole?’”

Membership vow 4. “Do you promise to submit in the Lord to the teaching and government of this church as being based upon the Scriptures and described in substance in the Constitution of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America? Do you recognize your responsibility to work with others in the church and do you promise to support and encourage them in their service to the Lord? In case you should need correction in doctrine or life, do you promise to respect the authority and discipline of the church?”

The Commission emphasized submission and obedience, but they neglected to qualify these words properly. Submission and obedience are only commanded by God “in the Lord” only, as those who are accountable to God. The Westminster Confession of Faith (chapter 30.2) summarizes this important doctrine as follows:

“To these officers, the keys of the kingdom of heaven are committed: by virtue whereof, they have power respectively to retain, and remit sins; to shut that kingdom against the impenitent, both by the Word and censures; and to open it unto penitent sinners, by the ministry of the Gospel, and by absolution from censures, as occasion shall require.”

John Calvin put it this way, in his Institutes of the Christian Religion (chapter 11.1): “This command concerning remitting and retaining sins, and that promise made to Peter concerning binding and loosing, ought to be referred to nothing but the ministry of the word.”

In other words, authority is not inherent in any man. Rather, authority among men is only derived from God’s command, and the authority only exists in God’s word. When men command what God commands, God’s authority is present, and all men must obey. However, men ought not seek to bind one’s conscience where God has not. Our Confession (chapter 20.2) states:

“God alone is Lord of the conscience, and hath left it free from the doctrines and commandments of men, which are in any thing contrary to His Word; or beside it, if matters of faith or worship. So that, to believe such doctrines, or to obey such commands, out of conscience, is to betray true liberty of conscience: and the requiring of an implicit faith, and an absolute and blind obedience is to destroy liberty of conscience, and reason also.”

The CCRP Session and Commission both apparently believe that I may be violating my conscience in being a member of CCRP. The Commission wrote, “the Session is not seeking to dismiss Mr. Enas, but to work with him to shepherd him to a congregation where he can hold his membership vows in good conscience.” But I declare that I have never offended my

conscience or God's word in my church membership, and these ministers of God's courts should not declare otherwise.

Error #3: The Commission believes purity and peace/unity can conflict with each other.

The Commission stated, "While a desire for the purity of the Church is a noble and necessary thing, the Commission is very concerned that in this case it has been to the detriment of church unity." It is possible to have an ungodly peace and unity. Just observe all of the modern unity of the wicked, seeking to disregard God's law in public and private. But God commands purity and righteousness first, and as a fruit of righteousness, He grants peace to His people. Again, God has spoken:

- "But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you." (Matthew 6:33)
- "Then justice will dwell in the wilderness, and righteousness abide in the fruitful field. And the effect of righteousness will be peace, and the result of righteousness, quietness and trust forever." (Isaiah 32:16-17)
- "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin." (1 John 1:7)

A more insidious problem in this church is elders who do not lead in righteousness and humility, calling evil what is good, and calling good what is evil. Our Session began well, confessing their sins, making a plan to lead well, and then beginning to execute the plan. And we were waiting patiently and praying for them to succeed. It is sad they grew weary in doing well, and then turned on me, leading others to believe I am the problem, yet without any preventive or corrective discipline. Now the Commission has joined in their error.

Error #4: The Commission's work has the appearance of partiality.

The Commission's report is so biased, it will not stand in the Day of Judgment. How can I be so sure? Because I sat with 7 other concerned members of CCRP and the Commission for over 3 hours (August 6), during which the CCRP members did most of the talking; but the only words or ideas that the Commission mentioned from this meeting in its report were a few of my words that the Commission twisted to support their erroneous conclusions. This is not justice, and appears to be partiality in its worst form, in which God cannot be pleased. How can I be so sure? God has spoken in His word:

- "You shall not pervert justice. You shall not show partiality." (Deuteronomy 16:19)
- "Partiality in judging is not good." (Proverbs 24:23)
- "In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus and of the elect angels I charge you to keep these rules without prejudging, doing nothing from partiality." (1 Timothy 5:21)

Error #5: The Commission states that Mr. Enas has broken his vow, yet the Commission has not charged him with sin.

The Commission made following statements in their report:

- "The CCRP Session has indicated that Mr Enas's actions do not align with his membership vows."
- "The Commission observes a disrespect for the Session that has grown out of mistrust and suspicion. This is contrary to the vow to, "Respect the authority and discipline of the church." Mr. Enas maintains his submission to the Session, but by his actions, identified

by the Session in the May 23 letter, and in numerous other documented actions, he demonstrates an unwillingness to do so.”

- “This open suspicion and lack of trust (which is clearly observable by the Commission) has bred a lack of respect for the elders, which has no place in God’s church.”
- “The Commission finds Mr. Enas’ lack of reconciliation at this point very concerning.”
- “Mr. Enas appears to have put himself in this position of being “irreconcilable”, which is a dangerous place, and the Commission counsels Mr. Enas to give careful thought and prayer to his situation.”

Taking these statements at face value, one must conclude that the Commission believes that I have broken my vows to God and the church, that I am breeding disrespect for the elders, and that I am unwilling and even unable to reconcile with Session. Just like it is sin to break a marriage vow, so it is sin to break a vow to the Bride of Christ. As our Confession (chapter 22) states,

4. An oath is to be taken in the plain and common sense of the words, without equivocation, or mental reservation. It cannot oblige to sin: but in anything not sinful, being taken, it binds to performance; although to a man’s own hurt. Nor is it to be violated, although made to heretics, or infidels.
5. A vow is of the like nature with a promissory oath, and ought to be made with the like religious care, and to be performed with the like faithfulness.

Yet, the Commission gave me the following answers (email dated Sept 12) to my follow-up questions concerning their report:

“Does the Commission believe the Session has charged me with sin?
Answer: No.

In your report, did the Commission charge me with sin (formally or informally)?
Answer: No.”

I don’t believe I have broken my vows, but apparently both the Commission and Session do. It is inappropriate to publicly castigate me as a putative sinner, but not take appropriate loving disciplinary action as Christ commands. Either they should retract their statements publicly as erroneous, or they should act on their beliefs. This duplicity is certainly a cause for God’s judgment on His church.

Final comments

This Presbytery is broken. Righteousness and justice are under attack from within. Christian love has been imprisoned. There is a dark cloud enshrouding the people of God. From my vantage point, the responsibility for this damage rests squarely on your shoulders. You are not all individually responsible, but if you do not speak out against injustice, you will share in the blame of this court.

In the past, there have been calls for prayer and fasting and repentance, but I have not seen the fruits of repentance. I see worldly divisions, insensitivity to the horrors of sin, a vacuum of brotherly love and “speaking the truth in love,” crumbling churches, and sheep without a shepherd.

God is shaking this Presbytery. This Presbytery has proven repeatedly that it cannot discipline its own elders, despite being presented with evidence of wrongdoing. The cases of LeFebvre, Olivetti, and now Faris are crying out to you. God’s discipline is palpable. Humility, repentance,

and restitution are a sure path to God's mercy; but obstinance and complacency will be your doom, and many will suffer as a result. And the glorious Name of our blessed Redeemer will be further blasphemed among the nations. Instead of a City on a Hill, whose light cannot be hidden, and whose Messiah is lifted up for all to see and fear, there will be a white-washed tomb full of lifeless bones.

There is yet a Day of salvation. It is called Today. But that Day is quickly fading, and darkness approaches. The time to act is now. Jesus says, "Act like men!" (1 Corinthians 16:13) and "My righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him." (Hebrews 10:38)

The words of Jesus to His church are completely relevant to today:

"And to the angel of the church in Sardis write: 'The words of him who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. "I know your works. You have the reputation of being alive, but you are dead. Wake up, and strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your works complete in the sight of my God. Remember, then, what you received and heard. Keep it, and repent. If you will not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come against you. Yet you have still a few names in Sardis, people who have not soiled their garments, and they will walk with me in white, for they are worthy. The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments, and I will never blot his name out of the book of life. I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'" (Revelation 3:1-6)

Recommendations

1. That Presbytery not receive the report of the CCRP Commission.
2. That Presbytery adjudicates the written evidence of sin in the CCRP Commission's report, demonstrated above, and censures (with expectation of proper restitution) the Commission in justice for the good of the Commission, for the good of those who have been sinned against (including Mr. Enas) by their actions, and the glory of Christ in His church, for whom Jesus died.
3. That Presbytery appeal to Synod to create an impartial judicial commission to investigate and adjudicate the sins of neglect and abuse committed by the Session at CCRP against past and present members and guests of this congregation, along with any necessary restitution;
4. That Presbytery humbles itself, confesses its corporate sins of neglecting discipline, justice, and sanctification, and establishes an enduring restitution commission to seek out those saints this Presbytery has harmed so as to pursue restitution and repair for the sake of Christ's blessed Name and Body.

For Christ's crown and covenant,

Nathan Enas
Member, Christ Church Reformed Presbyterian

Appendix 1

Some Relevant Points from a Recent Sermon on Forgiveness, by Nathan Eshelman (May 8, 2022)

- “Forgiveness requires accountability in the Scriptures, because if we are not going to hold a sin against another person, that means that we have to negotiate the terms of that forgiveness according to God’s word.”
- “Forgiveness is not a pass for you to continue to sin against another person.”
- “Forgiveness is not forgetting.”
- “Forgiveness does not mean that everything is back to normal. There may be things that are needed for reconciliation, things that need to be worked through.”

Appendix 2

Divergent Answers to Some Key Questions

Key question #1: Must reconciliation follow immediately (or even quickly) after confession and repentance and forgiveness?

Answer from CCRP Commission: “Yes”

- “Regarding accepting the Reconciliation Committee’s work, Mr. Enas has declared that he is not yet reconciled to the Session, even after a full confession of specific sins by the Session has been made on April 10, and Mr. Enas has offered his forgiveness in writing. BOD 3.3 tells us, “If the sinner confesses and repents, there must be forgiveness and reconciliation, and the matter shall be closed. You have won your brother. Such closure may include counsel or censure appropriate to the circumstances.”
- The Reconciliation Committee wrote in a March 26 letter, “As the elders are already following the steps of reconciliation, there is no reason why the entire congregation should not be united and reconciled.” Mr. Enas, however, has expressed that he does not agree with the Reconciliation Committee on this and other points. The Commission finds Mr. Enas’ lack of reconciliation at this point very concerning.
- “To be reconciled over a matter that has been settled and forgiveness offered – as discussed above, is a Biblical and confessional requirement.”

Answer from CCRP Session: “Yes”

- “We know this is a serious and difficult conversation, but we believe it is our responsibility to encourage you in your spiritual growth, which in this case means shepherding you to a place you can worship with greater trust of the leadership, unless you can continue in full affirmation of the questions and actions above.” (Letter read to Mr. Enas in Constituted Court, May 23, 2022)
- “The Session has confessed sin and mistakes in shepherding, asked for forgiveness from the congregation, and has committed to new courses of action in its care for the congregation. ... However, interactions in recent weeks with the members involved have confirmed that we have reached an impasse over the affirmation and acceptance of the Reconciliation Committee’s recommendations, the members’ level of trust and confidence in the Session, and, in turn, our ability to shepherd these members (and

potentially other members) in unity at CCRP.” (Communication 22-14, Letter to Presbytery from CCRP Session, May 28, 2022)

Answer from Scripture: “No”

- “And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, “Speak to the people of Israel, When a man or woman commits any of the sins that people commit by breaking faith with the LORD, and that person realizes his guilt, he shall confess his sin that he has committed. And he shall make full restitution for his wrong, adding a fifth to it and giving it to him to whom he did the wrong.” (Numbers 5:5-7)
- “Then David’s anger burned greatly against the man, and he said to Nathan, “As the Lord lives, surely the man who has done this deserves to die. He must make restitution for the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing and had no compassion.” Nathan then said to David, “You are the man! ... Then David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the Lord.” And Nathan said to David, “The Lord also has taken away your sin; you shall not die. However, because by this deed you have given occasion to the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme, the child also that is born to you shall surely die.”” (2 Samuel 12: 5-14)
- “Zaccheus stopped and said to the Lord, “Behold, Lord, half of my possessions I will give to the poor, and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will give back four times as much.” And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.” (Luke 19:8-10)

Answer from RPCNA Constitution: “No”

- “When the court sees satisfactory evidence of true repentance, it shall restore the person with the same solemnity and publicity that attended the imposition of the censure, and lead its members in granting its forgiveness. Such repentance would include satisfactory attempts at reconciliation and restitution to any parties sinned against.” (BOD I.6.2, page E-8)

Key Question #2: Who is causing the trouble at CCRP?

Answer from CCRP Commission: “Mr. Enas is causing the trouble at CCRP.”

- “The CCRP Session has indicated that Mr Enas’s actions do not align with his membership vows. They desire Mr. Enas to be able to demonstrate a trust of the Session and a willingness to “submit to the direction and oversight of the CCRP elders”. The Commission finds that these are reasonable, biblical requirements also expressed in the subordinate standards of our RPCNA Constitution.”
- “The Commission observes a push for the purity of the church at the expense of peace and prosperity as a whole.”
- “The Commission observes a disrespect for the Session that has grown out of mistrust and suspicion. This is contrary to the vow to, “Respect the authority and discipline of the church.” Mr. Enas maintains his submission to the Session, but by his actions, identified by the Session in the May 23 letter, and in numerous other documented actions, he demonstrates an unwillingness to do so.”
- “This open suspicion and lack of trust (which is clearly observable by the Commission) has bred a lack of respect for the elders, which has no place in God’s church.”
- “The Commission finds Mr. Enas’ lack of reconciliation at this point very concerning.”

- "Mr. Enas appears to have put himself in this position of being "irreconcilable", which is a dangerous place, and the Commission counsels Mr. Enas to give careful thought and prayer to his situation."

Corollary answer from Commission: "Session is not causing the trouble at CCRP."

- "[Session] are asking him to accept this counsel or to work with them so that he can continue to remain a member in good standing of the church, and for the sake of peace in the church."
- "The CCRP Session has indicated that Mr Enas's actions do not align with his membership vows. They desire Mr. Enas to be able to demonstrate a trust of the Session and a willingness to "submit to the direction and oversight of the CCRP elders". The Commission finds that these are reasonable, biblical requirements also expressed in the subordinate standards of our RPCNA Constitution."
- "This demonstrates the Session's graciousness to Mr. Enas in not desiring to impugn his motives but to accept his statements at face value."
- "Regarding the queries and stipulations that the Session gave to Mr. Enas should he desire to stay at CCRP, the Commission finds that these are both appropriate and necessary for the peace of the congregation moving forward."
- "The Commission believes that the May 23 letter was a reasonable and wise communication for the good of Mr. Enas, the congregation of CCRP, for the peace, purity and progress of the church."
- "Contrary to the claim in 22-15, the Session is not seeking to dismiss Mr. Enas, but to work with him to shepherd him to a congregation where he can hold his membership vows in good conscience."
- "The Commission finds that the Session's questions to Mr. Enas to be affirmed ... are reasonable expressions of trust that are necessary and essential to healthy congregational life."
- "The Session has the authority to ask Mr. Enas to fulfill his membership vows, but first they offered a solution that they hoped might solve the problem."

Answer from the CCRP Reconciliation Committee: "CCRP Session is causing the trouble at CCRP."

- "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, being mindful that elders have a particular responsibility and authority in the Church, which holds them to not only a higher standard, but also a stricter judgment."
- "There is a need for the Session to grow in an active approach to shepherding the flock."
- "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 would encourage the CCRP Session to grow in their ability and readiness to have direct confrontation. ... the lack thereof leads to a lack of communication and perceived lack of transparency."
- "There is a need for the Session to grow in theological discernment and zeal for doctrinal purity. ... 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. ... 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.”

- “And indeed, there was warrant for [bringing a petition to Presbytery regarding Session], as the Session of CCRP did neglect in part to shepherd both the Pastor and the congregation through this difficult tribulation.”
- “One further application for the Presbytery, which would aid our brothers in their growth in these areas, is to form a two-man Shepherding Committee, which would meet at least every other month with the Session ... in order to ensure that they are indeed following through on their tasks and growing in their active shepherding.”
- “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.”

Appendix 3

Some Important Background Narrative

To understand the basis of Communication 22-15 and this present complaint, we need only recall the Revised Report of CCRP Reconciliation Committee, which was received by Presbytery during Business Session #3 on March 3, 2022. (I recommend re-reading this report, and even the original, but overridden, report from that Committee.) In this report, the Committee stated:

“It would be naïve on the part of this Committee to believe that the work of reconciling these parties is concluded. ... this Committee believes that what is now needed is ... commitment and follow-through to humbly 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, being mindful that elders have a particular responsibility and authority in the Church, which holds them to not only a higher standard, but also a stricter judgment. Likewise for the families, this Committee has provided two encouragements which will aid in going forward with reconciliation.”

Note that the Committee admits that reconciliation is not concluded as of March 3 when Craig Scott delivered the report. It is also very important to note that, as of January 23, the CCRP Session had already read a public letter of confession to the entire congregation following Lord’s Day worship, in which letter, Session laid out their plan (called “Fruits of Repentance – Steps for the Future”):

1. “Enact regular pastoral visits”
2. “Develop [editorial] expectations” for future pastors
3. “Restart regular fellowship events” (stopped for Covid)
4. “Provide more comprehensive updates of Presbytery and Synod activity”
5. “Provide input and assistance to Presbytery” in improving unclear policies and processes related to controversial viewpoints
6. “Work with Reconciliation Committee ... to pursue reconciliation within the congregation”

Even though they repented in this letter, they still knew that there was work to be done to “pursue reconciliation” in the congregation (step 6). This reflects an important Biblical concept: confession of sin is necessary for reconciliation, but confession is not sufficient to produce (or

require) reconciliation. This notion is revealed clearly in the “less formal” section I of the Book of Discipline, “when the church member ... has admitted his sin,” as follows:

“When the court sees satisfactory evidence of true repentance, it shall restore the person with the same solemnity and publicity that attended the imposition of the censure, and lead its members in granting its forgiveness. Such repentance would include satisfactory attempts at reconciliation and restitution to any parties sinned against.” (BOD I.6.2, page E-8)

Hence, Session properly committed to perform practical steps that would demonstrate the “fruits of repentance”. Their confession and repentance were essential, and their plan of steps toward reconciliation was encouraging, but Session did not immediately or even expeditiously carry out their plan. They performed steps 2 and 3 quite readily, and attempted step 4 with some hiccups, but they have failed in, arguably, the most important steps (1 and 6). As of writing this complaint, Session has not yet conducted a “regular pastoral visit” with my family (or any family who has formally complained), and, yet, they believe all the prerequisites for reconciliation have been accomplished.

I pause to ask, Is this proper behavior for the representatives of God’s people, who are called to be above reproach?

As to step 6, when the Reconciliation Committee submitted their “revised” report to Presbytery, James Faris (then moderator of CCRP Session) and the Second RP Session immediately and very quickly wrote and submitted a letter to Presbytery challenging the Reconciliation Committee’s revised report and its recommendation to send a follow-up “Shepherding Committee” to CCRP for an entire year to “ensure and aid the Session in growing in their active shepherding of CCRP”. In Mr. Faris’ speech at Presbytery, he stated that “as interim moderator I can tell you that there are those, and this was reported to the [Reconciliation] Committee, this was one of the communications from one of the [CCRP] elders, who said — and he may be happy to say it here, too, but it was said to the Committee as well as to the other elders — that this is just not an acceptable solution, this is the sort of thing that may be the death knell of this congregation.” It is very significant that, at the very same Presbytery, following Mr. Scott’s report and the speech of Mr. Faris against the revised report, CCRP elder Dale Koons rose to state that he would be resigning from Session, and he intimated that another elder might soon resign. As it turned out, Mr. Koons did not resign as he stated, but CCRP elder Andrew Falk did resign from Session, and the denomination, within 2 weeks of Presbytery (on March 13 after Lord’s Day worship). Indeed, at Presbytery, Mr. Faris also resigned as interim moderator of CCRP Session.

Again, I pause to ask, Does this sound like a Session eager to “work to pursue reconciliation within the congregation”? Does this sound like the beginning of a quick and successful effort to accomplish reconciliation? Were I and the other members of CCRP expected to be encouraged by these events at our near-term prospects for reconciliation?

Yet, even during the same Presbytery, there were forces at work to diminish our prospects even further. Mr. Scott, under duress on the floor of Presbytery to defend the Committee’s work, changed the original recommended remit of the Shepherding Committee from “ensure and aid the Session in growing in their active shepherding of CCRP” to “aid and encourage both parties in following through with reconciliation.” (Whether this change was made decently and in order, without convening the entire Committee, I will leave to the experts.) While this change certainly fit with a hypothesized narrative that the troubles at CCRP were a combination of the sins of both the complaining families and their elders, I testify that the families were not quarrelsome or any of the other terrible accusations levied against them throughout this entire affair. As the Reconciliation Committee wrote in their apology in the revised report, the “families brought forward their petition, at great expense, out of fervent love for Christ and the

purity of His Church. And indeed, there was warrant for doing so, as the Session of CCRP did neglect in part to shepherd both the Pastor and the congregation through this difficult tribulation.”

Finally, with regard to the work of the Reconciliation Committee, which Adam Kuehner praised on the floor of Presbytery as “unprecedented”, I must emphasize one important fact that may have escaped this court. On March 3, Presbytery dismissed the Reconciliation Committee per Recommendation #4. Yet, this “dissolved” Committee, with no more commission from this court, acted to send a letter to CCRP (on March 26), but apparently not to Presbytery. It is this letter that has been repeatedly quoted by Session and the Commission, in which the dissolved Committee concludes,

“As the elders are already following the steps of reconciliation, there is no reason why the entire congregation should not be united and reconciled. It has been a very difficult two years for everyone associated with CCRPC and it is now time to put the past behind and move on in love, peace, and unity as the congregation seeks to serve Christ.”

It is not clear what exactly the dissolved Committee meant, but an equally valid interpretation is that they were expecting full completion of the “steps of reconciliation” prior to “the entire congregation [being] united and reconciled.” Yet, Session and the Commission have quoted this unofficial statement to “prove” that the Committee thought reconciliation should be completed now, and that any complaints or questions or even mentions of “reconciliation” should cease.

Nevertheless, our hope is in Yahweh our God who made heaven and earth. (Psalm 146:5-6) Hence, the families at CCRP were encouraged that there were still written commitments from Session and a newly appointed Shepherding Committee to help our church on the road to reconciliation. Indeed, within about 3 weeks, the Shepherding Committee (i.e. Craig Scott and Jonathan Schaefer) met with Session and, then, with the two concerned couples. When this Committee finished listening to us, Mr. Schaefer said he had a good idea of what was needed. Thankfully, at the next Lord’s Day worship, Session included a confession of their particular sins particularly during the prayer of confession. This was very encouraging, and we were hopeful that the “fruits of repentance” and the “steps of reconciliation” would be pursued zealously and publicly for the encouragement of all. Sadly, this did not happen.

Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery
Minutes of the *Ad Interim* Commission
December 10, 2022

The *Ad Interim* Commission (“AIC”) of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery met on Saturday, December 10, 2022, by Zoom video conference call.


1. Elders present were David Hanson, Moderator, (Southside RPC, Indianapolis, IN), Richard Blankenship, Clerk, (Second RPC, Indianapolis, IN), Robert McKissick (Sycamore, RPC), James Odom (Sparta RPC), and Tom Reid (Orlando RPC).
2. Tom Reid opened the meeting and constituted the Court in prayer, in the name of and by the authority of Jesus Christ, the King and Head of the Church, at 12:03 p.m.
3. By common consent, the minutes of the November 16, 2022, meeting of the AIC were approved.
4. It was moved, seconded, and passed, that the request forwarded to the AIC from the Membership Committee for the transfer of Joe and Meleah Tubergen’s membership to Providence Reformed Church of Grand Rapids, Michigan, be approved. The Tubergens are former members of the now disorganized First Reformed Presbyterian Church of Grand Rapids, and their memberships are currently on the roll of Presbytery.
5. By common consent, the AIC Clerk is to communicate the AIC’s concern about the Tubergens becoming part of the Reformed Church in America denomination.
6. It was moved, seconded, and passed, that the October 6, 2022, Minutes of the Commission to Ordain and Install Aaron Murray as pastor of Marion RPC in Marion, Indiana, be received, and spread on the minutes of Presbytery. A copy of the minutes is attached to an made a part of these minutes.
7. It was moved, seconded, and passed, to send to the full Presbytery meeting in March 2023, the request of James Faris (former Teaching Elder at Second RPC, Indianapolis) for his credentials to be sent to Zionsville Fellowship Church in Zionsville, Indiana. David Hanson expressed his dissent with the decision, and his dissent is attached to these minutes. A copy of Mr. Faris’ request is attached to these minutes for information purposes.

8. By common consent, it was agreed the meeting be adjourned.

9. Bob McKissick prayed and adjourned the Court in prayer in the name of and by the authority of Jesus Christ, the Head and King of the Church, at 12:56 p.m.



David Hanson, Moderator
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery
Ad Interim Commission



F. Richard Blankenship III, Clerk
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery
Ad Interim Commission

Dissent of David Hanson to the Action Taken Regarding the Request of James Faris for the Transfer of his Credentials

The reasons for my disagreement with this decision are as follows:

1. Pastor Faris has made an ordinary, legal request and it should be simply granted as the routine item of business that it is.
2. For more than 18 months, Pastor Faris has clearly articulated his concern and disagreement with the decisions and direction of the presbytery and synod. Therefore, Pastor Faris's desire to remove himself from our denomination should not surprise anyone.
3. Pastor Faris is not currently charged with any sin and is within his God-given rights to state that he can no longer in good conscience submit to the RPCNA. For us to hold onto his credentials is to unlawfully bind his conscience, keeping him within a denomination that he believes is in serious error.
4. Pastor Faris has asked for the transfer of his credentials to a true branch of the visible church, and the RPCNA's recognition of this is clear from the standpoint that members of Zionsville Fellowship would be served communion at any RPCNA congregation.
5. Other transfers of credentials, have been treated as routine, so to deny Pastor Faris's request demonstrates bias and favoritism.
6. We do not know and Pastor Faris is not required to share all of his reasons for asking for his credentials at this time. However, refusing to transfer his credentials is uncharitable as it places our interests and desires above his.

David W. Hanson
December 10, 2022

Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery
Minutes of the Commission to Ordain and Install Aaron Murray

The commission to ordain and install Aaron Murray as pastor of the Marion Reformed Presbyterian Church in Marion, Indiana, met on October 6, 2022.

1. Dr. David Whitla opened the meeting and constituted the Court in prayer, in the name and by the authority of Jesus Christ, the King and Head of the Church, at 7:01 PM.
2. Shawn Anderson, serving as clerk, called the roll of the commission. Elders present from the five-man commission: Shawn Anderson (clerk), Bob Bibby, Joel Hart, Don Prichard, and David Whitla (moderator).
3. The moderator asked that all elders and ministers rise and introduce themselves to the congregation.
4. Motion carried, that elder delegates without certificates be seated, that all Reformed Presbyterian ruling and teaching elders present who are not delegates be made consultative members of the court and that all elders in good standing in denominations with which we have fraternal relations be invited to participate in the laying on of hands.
5. Narration of the Steps and final reading of the Edict were read by Elder Scott Hunt.
6. Members of Marion RPC rose to confirm their call of Aaron Murray.
7. Aaron Murray rose to signify his acceptance of the call.
8. Dr. Whitla read the Call to Worship (Psalm 95:1-7a).
9. The congregation sang Psalm 95A to the praise of God.
10. Dr. Whitla prayed the invocation.
11. Pastor Joel Hart preached from 1 Corinthians 16:13-14 (“Called to Battle”).
12. Congregation responded to the preaching of God’s Word by singing Psalm 31D.
13. Pastor Jason Camery put the queries to Aaron Murray who confirmed them.
14. Aaron Murray signed the Queries for Ordination and Installation.
15. Elder Don Prichard led the court in prayer of ordination and installation as elders laid hands upon Aaron Murray.

16. The right hand of fellowship was offered to Pastor Aaron Murray.
17. Congregation responded in praise by singing Psalm 122A.
18. Dr. Whitla gave the charge from John 1:6-8 to Pastor Aaron Murray.
19. Pastor George Gregory gave the charge from Acts 9 to the congregation.
20. Congregation responded in praise by singing Psalm 104A.
21. Pastor Aaron Murray pronounced the Benediction.
22. Congregation sang in praise to the Lord from Psalm 72C.
23. The Minutes were read and approved by common consent.
24. Dr. Whitla gave thanks and adjourned the Court in prayer, in the name and by the authority of Jesus Christ, the King and Head of the Church, at 8:49 PM.

E-signature:

David Whitla, Moderator

Shawn Anderson, Clerk

Transfer of Tubergen Membership to Providence Reformed Church

message

Richard Blankenship <richardblankenship3@gmail.com>

Sat, Dec 10, 2022 at 7:55 PM

To: walter@adavalley.com

Cc: Meleah Bazen <meleahjoy713@gmail.com>, David Hanson <davidrpts@hotmail.com>, Frank Smith

<franksmith76@gmail.com>

Mr. Rozeboom,

The Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America received from Joe and Meleah Tubergen a request for the transfer of their membership to Providence Reformed Church.


Attached is the Certificate of Transfer of Membership they requested.

If you have any questions or need any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

May Providence be used in the Tubergen's continued growth in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ and may they be a blessing to the congregation at Providence.

Sincerely,

 richardblankenship3@gmail.com

 **AIC Tubergen Transf.pdf**
600K

Great Lakes – Gulf Presbytery
Ad Interim Commission

December 10, 2022

Mr. Walter Rozeboom
Providence Reformed Church
1700 Coit Avenue North East
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49505

Re: Certificate of Transfer for Joe and Meleah Tubergen

Dear Mr. Rozeboom:

The *Ad Interim* Commission of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery has received from Joe and Meleah Tubergen, former members of the now dissolved First Reformed Presbyterian Church of Grand Rapids and who are now on the membership roll of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery, a request for a transfer of their memberships to Providence Reformed Church. The *Ad Interim* Commission has considered their request and approved the request.

Below is a Certificate of Transfer of Membership for your records. If you have any questions or need anything further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



F. Richard Blankenship, III

Clerk of Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery *Ad Interim* Commission

Certificate of Transfer of Membership

This is to certify that Joe and Meleah Tubergen are members on the roll of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America ("RPCNA") having been members of the now dissolved First Reformed Presbyterian Church of Grand Rapids and are at their own request, hereby dismissed to unite with Providence Reformed Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Given this 10th day of December in the year 2022, by order of the *Ad Interim* Commission of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery of the RPCNA



F. Richard Blankenship, III
Clerk of the *Ad Interim* Commission



David W. Hanson
Moderator of the *Ad Interim* Commission

Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery
Minutes of the *Ad Interim* Commission
February 7, 2023

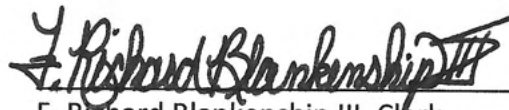
The *Ad Interim* Commission (“AIC”) of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery met on Tuesday, February 7, 2023, by Zoom video conference call.

1. Elders present were David Hanson, Moderator, (Southside RPC, Indianapolis, IN), Richard Blankenship, Clerk, (Second RPC, Indianapolis, IN), Robert McKissick (Sycamore, RPC), James Odom (Sparta RPC), and Tom Reid (Orlando RPC).
2. Richard Blankenship opened the meeting and constituted the Court in prayer, in the name of and by the authority of Jesus Christ, the King and Head of the Church, at 8:20 p.m.
3. By common consent, the minutes of the December 10, 2022, meeting of the AIC were approved, as amended.
4. The AIC had been informed of Aaron Murray’s appointment as Moderator of the Marion RPC Session. After discussion, it was determined by the Commission that it is not clear what the position of Jason Camery is to the elders of the Marion church. By common consent, the Commission agreed to encourage the Marion Session to report to the March 2023 meeting of Presbytery, concerning Jason Camery’s membership on the Marion Session.
5. By common consent, the request for the transfer of Dick and Rieta Bonner’s membership to Reformation OPC of Grand Rapids, Michigan, was approved. The Clerk of the AIC will issue the Certificate of Transfer to Reformation OPC. The Bonners are former members of the now disorganized First Reformed Presbyterian Church of Grand Rapids, and their memberships are currently on the roll of Presbytery.
6. By common consent, the request for the transfer of Rebekah, Alastair, and Margaret Scott’s membership to the U. S. Presbytery of the Free Church Continuing was approved. The Certificate of Transfer will be issued by the Clerk of the AIC to the U. S. Presbytery of the Free Church Continuing. The Certificate will note that Alastair and Margaret are baptized children, and not communicant members. The Scotts named are the wife, son, and daughter of Craig Scott, former Pastor of the now dissolved First Reformed Church of Grand Rapids, and their memberships are currently on the roll of Presbytery. The transfer is made to the U. S. Presbytery of the Free Church Continuing because the church where Craig is presently serving as Pastor is a mission church. Memberships in mission churches in the U. S. Presbytery of the Free Church Continuing are held by the Presbytery.

7. By common consent, the request for the transfer of Jake, Lydia, Abigail, Verity, Aiden, and Idelette Schwartz's membership to Providence Reformed Presbyterian Church of the Presbytery of the Alleghenies, was approved. The Clerk of the AIC will issue the Certificate of Transfer to Providence RPC. The Certificate will note that Abigail, Verity, Aiden, and Idelette Schwartz are baptized children, and not communicant members. Jake and Lydia Schwartz's membership is currently on the roll of Presbytery. Jake Schwartz was a ruling elder of the now dissolved First Reformed Presbyterian Church of Grand Rapids and is currently enrolled as a student at Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary and resides in the Pittsburgh area.
8. By common consent, the request for the transfer of Roy Clark's membership to Reformation OPC of Grand Rapids was approved. The Clerk of the AIC will issue the Certificate of Transfer to Reformation OPC. Mr. Clark is a former member of the now disorganized First Reformed Presbyterian Church of Grand Rapids, and his membership is currently on the roll of Presbytery.
9. It was moved, seconded, and passed, to approve the AIC Report to Presbytery containing the minutes of the AIC. The Report will be submitted to Presbytery at the March 2023 meeting of Presbytery for the minutes of the AIC to be spread on the minutes of Presbytery.
10. The minutes of the February 7, 2023, meeting of the AIC were read. By common consent, the minutes of the meeting were approved.
11. James Odom prayed and adjourned the Court in prayer in the name of and by the authority of Jesus Christ, the Head and King of the Church, at 9:04 p.m.



David Hanson, Moderator
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery
Ad Interim Commission



F. Richard Blankenship III, Clerk
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery
Ad Interim Commission

**GREAT LAKES – GULF PRESBYTERY
REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA
AD INTERIM COMMISSION**

February 9, 2023

Pastor David C. Noe
Reformation OPC
2565 Forest Hill Avenue SE, Suite 101
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49546

Via Email and First-Class Mail

Re: Certificate of Transfer for Dick and Rieta Bonner

Dear Pastor Noe:

The *Ad Interim* Commission of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery has received from Dick and Rieta Bonner, former members of the now dissolved First Reformed Presbyterian Church of Grand Rapids and who are now on the membership roll of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery, a request for a transfer of their memberships to Reformation OPC. The *Ad Interim* Commission has considered their request and approved the request.

Below is a Certificate of Transfer of Membership for your records. If you have any questions or need anything further, please do not hesitate to contact me. My contact information is as follows:

Richard Blankenship, Clerk of GL-G Presbytery AIC
c/o Second Reformed Presbyterian Church
4800 North Michigan Road
Indianapolis, IN 46228

Email: richardblankenship3@gmail.com / Telephone: (317) 650-3673

Sincerely,



F. Richard Blankenship, III
Clerk of Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery *Ad Interim* Commission

Cc: Dick and Rieta Bonner
5417 60th Street SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49512
Email: rietabonner@gmail.com

Pastor David Noe, via email: davidcnoe@gmail.com

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP

This is to certify that Dick and Rieta Bonner are members on the roll of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America ("RPCNA") having been members of the now dissolved First Reformed Presbyterian Church of Grand Rapids and are at their own request, hereby dismissed to unite with Reformation OPC in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Given this 7th day of February, in the year 2023, by order of the *Ad Interim* Commission of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery of the RPCNA



F. Richard Blankenship, MI
Clerk of the *Ad Interim* Commission



David W. Hanson
Moderator of the *Ad Interim* Commission

GREAT LAKES – GULF PRESBYTERY
REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA
AD INTERIM COMMISSION

February 9, 2023

Pastor David C. Noe
Reformation OPC
2565 Forest Hill Avenue SE, Suite 101
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49546

Via Email and First-Class Mail

Re: Certificate of Transfer for Mr. Roy Clark

Dear Pastor Noe:

The *Ad Interim* Commission of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery has received from Mr. Roy Clark, a former member of the now dissolved First Reformed Presbyterian Church of Grand Rapids and who is now on the membership roll of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery, a request for a transfer of his membership to Reformation OPC. The *Ad Interim* Commission has considered his request and approved the request.

Below is a Certificate of Transfer of Membership for your records. If you have any questions or need anything further, please do not hesitate to contact me. My contact information is as follows:

Richard Blankenship, Clerk of GL-G Presbytery AIC
c/o Second Reformed Presbyterian Church
4800 North Michigan Road
Indianapolis, IN 46228

Email: richardblankenship3@gmail.com / Telephone: (317) 650-3673

Sincerely,



F. Richard Blankenship, III
Clerk of Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery *Ad Interim* Commission


Cc: Mr. Roy Clark
c/o Rest Haven Homes
1424 Union Avenue NE,
Grand Rapids, MI 49505

Pastor David Noe via email: davidcnoe@gmail.com

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP

This is to certify that Mr. Roy Clark is a member on the roll of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America ("RPCNA") having been a member of the now dissolved First Reformed Presbyterian Church of Grand Rapids and at his own request, is hereby dismissed to unite with Reformation OPC in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Given this 7th day of February, in the year 2023, by order of the *Ad Interim* Commission of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery of the RPCNA



F. Richard Blankenship, III
Clerk of the *Ad Interim* Commission



David W. Hanson
Moderator of the *Ad Interim* Commission

GREAT LAKES – GULF PRESBYTERY
REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA
AD INTERIM COMMISSION

February 9, 2023

Via First Class Mail and Email

Mr. John Uselding
Clerk of Hunt County Preaching Station Commission
US Presbytery of the Free Church Continuing
325 Shadowbrook Dr.
Burlington, NC 27215
Via email: uselding@yandex.com

Re: Certificate of Transfer for Rebekah, Alastair, and Margaret Scott

Dear Mr. Uselding:

The *Ad Interim* Commission of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery has received from Mr. Craig Scott a request for Rebekah Scott, his wife, and Alastair and Margaret Scott, his children, to have their church membership transferred to the U.S Presbytery of the Free Church Continuing. Rebekah, Alastair and Margaret are former members of the now dissolved First Reformed Presbyterian Church of Grand Rapids, Michigan and are now on the membership roll of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery. I understand that the transfer request is for a transfer to the Presbytery because the church where Craig is ministering is still a mission church and members of the mission church have their memberships held by the Presbytery.

The *Ad Interim* Commission has considered and approved.

Below is a Certificate of Transfer of Membership for your records. If you have any questions or need anything further, please do not hesitate to contact me. My contact information is as follows:

Richard Blankenship, Clerk of GL-G Presbytery AIC
c/o Second Reformed Presbyterian Church
4800 North Michigan Road
Indianapolis, IN 46228

Email: richardblankenship3@gmail.com / Telephone: (317) 650-3673

Sincerely,



F. Richard Blankenship, III
Clerk of Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery *Ad Interim* Commission


Cc: Craig Scott, email: craig.scott1560@hotmail.co.uk


CERTIFICATE OF TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP

This is to certify that Rebekah, Alastair, and Margaret Scott are members on the roll of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America ("RPCNA") having been members of the now dissolved First Reformed Presbyterian Church of Grand Rapids and are, at their own request, hereby dismissed to unite with the U.S. Presbytery of the Free Church Continuing.

It is noted in this transfer certificate that Alastair and Margaret Scott are baptized children and not communicant members.

Given this 7th day of February, in the year 2023, by order of the *Ad Interim* Commission of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery of the RPCNA


F. Richard Blankenship, III
Clerk of the *Ad Interim* Commission



David W. Hanson
Moderator of the *Ad Interim* Commission

GREAT LAKES – GULF PRESBYTERY
REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA
AD INTERIM COMMISSION

February 9, 2023

Pastor Steven Bradley
Providence Reformed Presbyterian Church Via Email and First-Class Mail
2001 Pioneer Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15226

Re: Certificate of Transfer for Jake and Lydia Schwartz and Family

Dear Pastor Bradley:

The *Ad Interim* Commission of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery has received from Jake and Lydia Schwartz, former members of the now dissolved First Reformed Presbyterian Church of Grand Rapids and who are now on the membership roll of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery, a request for a transfer of their memberships to Providence Reformed Presbyterian Church. The *Ad Interim* Commission has considered and approved their request.

Below is a Certificate of Transfer of Membership for your records. If you have any questions or need anything further, please do not hesitate to contact me. My contact information is as follows:

Richard Blankenship, Clerk of GL-G Presbytery AIC
c/o Second Reformed Presbyterian Church
4800 North Michigan Road
Indianapolis, IN 46228

Email: richardblankenship3@gmail.com / Telephone: (317) 650-3673

Sincerely,



F. Richard Blankenship, III
Clerk of Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery *Ad Interim* Commission

Cc: Pastor Steven Bradley, via email: bygracealone@verizon.net
Elder Dan Berkenpas, via email: berkenpasdb1@gmail.com
Jake Schwartz, via email: rpephesian@gmail.com


CERTIFICATE OF TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP

This is to certify that Jake, Lydia, Abigail, Verity, Aiden, and Idelette Schwartz are members on the roll of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America ("RPCNA") having been members of the now dissolved First Reformed Presbyterian Church of Grand Rapids and are at their own request, hereby dismissed to unite with Providence Reformed Presbyterian Church in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania.

It is noted in this transfer certificate that Abigail, Verity, Aiden and Idelette Schwartz are baptized children and not communicant members.

Given this 7th day of February, in the year 2023, by order of the *Ad Interim* Commission of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery of the RPCNA


F. Richard Blankenship, III
Clerk of the *Ad Interim* Commission



David W. Hanson
Moderator of the *Ad Interim* Commission