

Elkhart, IN RPC Session Report For Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery Meeting, March 2-4, 2023

*“You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you.
Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD GOD is an everlasting rock.” Isaiah 26:3-4 (ESV)*

1) Total Membership: Communicant and Baptized (12/31/22), 53. (2) Average AM Worship Attendance, 45. (3) Average PM Worship Attendance, 23. (4) Baptized Members Professing, 0. (5) New Members by Profession, 0. (6) Net Change in Total Membership, -6.

Praise God for His abundant love and faithfulness in guiding, guarding, and upholding His church at ERPC in 2022. It has been an unusual and eventful year in which we have seen Jesus’ gracious care and provision for His body here. Session met 21 times in constituted court to oversee the life and work of the ministry of ERPC. Three of the meetings were joint meetings with the Board of Deacons. For each meeting devotions were led by one of the elders from the book *Learning to Love the Psalms* by Robert Godfrey.

The provision of a four-month sabbatical for rest, reflection, and refreshment was a wonderful blessing for which I am sincerely grateful to the congregation. It came at a good time for me, and I praise God for how He blessed the congregation through those months with faithful preaching and ministry, protection and provision.

In 2022 my preaching ministry at ERPC was abbreviated by the sabbatical but focused on a new series through the Gospel of Luke in the morning worship services covering Chapters 1-6. We continued with sermon discussions during the evening services on the first and third Lord’s Day evenings and initiated a monthly congregational prayer meeting on the second Lord’s Day evenings. We had three congregational Psalm Sings at the church on the fifth Lord’s Day evenings. Also, we celebrated the Lord’s Supper six times on the first Lord’s Day evenings of alternating months.

S.S. classes for children have been provided along with adult classes in which we covered Colossians and Philemon, and video series on *Learning to Love the Psalms* by Robert Godfrey, *The Doctrines of Grace in the Gospel of John* by Steven Lawson, *Developing Christian Character* by R.C. Sproul, and *The Lord’s Day* by Robert Godfrey.

In late April our combined mid-week Bible study concluded a review of *A Proverbs Driven Life*, by Anthony Selvaggio. After our summer break, in early October the Wednesday dinner, Kid’s Group, and Bible study began again, focusing on *The Sermon on the Mount*, by Sinclair Ferguson. This year the monthly women’s group continued a study of *With the Master on Our Knees*, by Susan Heck. The men’s group began studying *A Field Guide on False Teaching* from Ligonier Ministries. In early July our second VBS program was held and blessed by the Lord.

Throughout 2022, the elders have helped some families as they sought to transfer their membership to other congregations for various reasons or relocate in order to serve an aging parent. In March, the Ummels and DeRosas departed from ERPC. We accepted Jon’s request for resignation as an elder at our April meeting with gratitude for his service. We have greatly appreciated Andy’s continued service virtually until another elder was in place. In November 2022 we also granted a temporary leave of absence to deacon Isaac Moore at his request. The elders are thankful for all who have stepped up to serve as the ministry adjusted to these changes. On November 22, 2022, the congregation unanimously voted to elect Bob Daniels to serve as elder. After examining Bob, members of Session unanimously voted to sustain elder-elect Bob, who was ordained and installed on January 15, 2023. We accepted Andy DeRosa’s resignation as elder on February 8, 2023 with gratitude for his service.

We give praise to God that in recent months, He has brought several new individuals and families to worship and fellowship in our midst. In May 2022, Cody and Emily Work both earned their Ph.D. degrees in chemistry at Notre Dame University. They have become an integral part of the ministry at ERPC, and we rejoice that Cody has indicated his sense of God’s call to the ministry. After interviewing him in May, Session recommended Cody to be taken under care of the Great Lakes – Gulf Presbytery, which took place at its June

meeting. Beginning in September, he has been taking classes remotely at RPTS while he and Emily work as visiting professors at Notre Dame. They plan to move to Pittsburgh in the fall of 2023 for seminary study.

We rejoice in the births of several children in 2022 and give thanks for the baptisms of covenant children: Joshua Dean, son of Eric and Jessica Dean on May 1, 2022. James Work, son of Cody and Emily Work on December 4, 2022.

We pray for God to bless those who have requested and received dismissals and transfers of membership: Joe Moore to the Nappanee Missionary Church on January 9, 2022; the Jon and Jennifer Ummel family to Michiana Covenant Presbyterian Church, Granger, IN on December 13, 2022.

Early in the year, Session began preparing for Pastor Mann's sabbatical which was scheduled to take place between May and August. We are very thankful for Pastor Ian Wise who served as provisional moderator of our Session. He preached and served the Lord's Supper on June 5. Pastor Rich Holdeman preached on three Lord's Days and served the Lord's Supper on August 7. Rev. Ed Blackwood preached on four Lord's Days and assisted with VBS. Mr. Brandon Fisher and Rev. Namsik Yang each preached on two Lord's Days. Pastors Harry Metzger, Garrett Mann, Brett Mahlen, and David Landow each preached once at a Lord's Day worship service. We are thankful to the Lord for each of His servants and their ministry to all of us at ERPC.

We praise our gracious Lord for each member of the body of Christ at ERPC and pray that the Lord Jesus will be pleased to pour out His blessing in this coming year. Pray that He will strengthen the commitment of each member to sound Reformed Biblical truth and to faithful committed service in His church here, and that He will enable us to love one another more and more, joyfully enfolding those He brings into our fellowship as we faithfully minister His glorious Gospel in word and deed!

"Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen." Ephesians 3:20-21 (NASB)

Respectfully submitted,

Wade Mann—TE, Robert Daniels—RE, Fikre Menbere—RE

ERPC 2022 Financial Report and 2023 Budget

	2022 Budget	2022 Actual	2022 Difference	2023 Budget
INCOME				
101 Contributions	143,803.00	164,045.50	20,242.50	154,396.19
102 Interest	0.00	8.73	8.73	0.00
105 Designated Gifts	0.00	5,500.00	5,500.00	0.00
107 Other	0.00	16.00	16.00	0.00
TOTAL INCOME =	143,803.00	169,570.23	25,767.23	154,396.19
EXPENSES				
CONGREGATION				
201 Christian Education	1,000.00	911.55	88.45	1,000.00
202 Fellowship Activities	1,750.00	2,107.58	(357.58)	1,000.00
203 Youth Ministry	500.00	398.94	101.06	500.00
204 Guest Ministry	2,200.00	936.65	1,263.35	2,200.00
205 Administration	1,500.00	652.58	847.42	1,500.00
206 Pastor's Ministry Expenses	3,000.00	2,013.91	986.09	3,000.00
207 Workman's Comp Insurance	350.00	332.69	17.31	350.00
208 Group Study Resources	250.00	0.00	250.00	250.00
209 Session Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
210 Other	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Congregation Sub-total =	10,550.00	7,353.90	3,196.10	9,800.00
PASTORAL SUPPORT				
301 Salary	31,960.00	31,960.00	0.00	32,960.00
302 Parsonage Allowance	33,740.00	33,740.00	0.00	33,740.00
303 Salary Supplement	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
304 Pension	9,620.00	9,620.00	0.00	9,620.00
305 Medical Insurance	6,400.00	6,400.00	0.00	6,400.00
Pastor Sub-total =	81,720.00	81,720.00	0.00	82,720.00
306 Associate Pastor (Sabbatical)	3,000.00	5,665.07	(2,665.07)	0.00
307 New Pastor Relocation	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
308 Professional Development	1,500.00	1,127.69	372.31	1,500.00
Pastoral Support Sub-total =	86,220.00	88,512.76	(2,292.76)	84,220.00
MISSIONS				
401 Local Outreach (Wednesday Dinner)	2,000.00	775.18	1,224.82	2,000.00
402 Vacation Bible School	500.00	674.00	(174.00)	500.00
403 Short Term Missions	250.00	0.00	250.00	250.00
404 Other Missions (Family Conference)	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	500.00
405 Mercy Ministry	1,500.00	0.00	1,500.00	1,000.00
406 Protection and Preservation of Life	500.00	170.00	330.00	500.00

407 Seminary Student Support				2,000.00
Missions Sub-total =	5,750.00	1,619.18	4,130.82	6,750.00
DENOMINATION				
501 Presbytery Assessments	1,532.00	1,532.23	(0.23)	1,929.19
502 Synod Assessments	2,970.00	3,316.00	(346.00)	2,970.00
503 Synod & Presby Delegate	300.00	0.00	300.00	300.00
505 RP Home Missions	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00
506 RP Global Missions	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00
510 RP Missions/Ministry	7,181.00	9,556.32	(2,375.32)	7,181.00
Denomination Sub-total =	13,983.00	16,404.55	(2,421.55)	14,380.19
PROPERTY				
601 Mortgage	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
602 Utilities	9,500.00	8,690.07	809.93	9,500.00
603 Maintenance & Supplies	9,000.00	6,521.42	2,478.58	5,000.00
604 Property Insurance	5,000.00	4,382.25	617.75	5,000.00
605 Property Improvements	3,000.00	297.16	2,702.84	18,946.00
606 Office Equipment	500.00	0.00	500.00	500.00
607 Other Equipment	300.00	0.00	300.00	300.00
Property Sub-total =	27,300.00	19,890.90	7,409.10	39,246.00
TOTAL EXPENSES =	143,803.00	133,781.29	10,021.71	154,396.19
YTD NET =	0.00	35,788.94	35,788.94	0.00

Total Cash Balance

Beginning Balance January 1:	87,803.44
Net from This Year:	35,788.94
Balance =	123,592.38