

Membership Committee

Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery

March 2023

The October 2022 meeting of Presbytery marked the dissolution of two congregations: Christ Church Reformed Presbyterian, Indianapolis, Indiana; and First Reformed Presbyterian Church of Grand Rapids, Michigan. Several people who had been members of those congregations had already transferred their membership prior to the congregational disorganization. Those who had not already transferred their membership were placed on the general roll of Presbytery.

Over the past several months, the chairman of this committee has been involved in interaction with respect to a number of folks who had belonged to one of these now-dissolved congregations. However, your committee has been hampered in providing proper pastoral care by virtue of two factors:

1. Due to the transfer out of the Presbytery of two committee members, your committee has since October consisted only of its chairman. (At least obtaining a quorum has been easy!)
2. As of February 14, 2023, no list of the members from either congregation had been provided to your committee.

Two items have just recently come to our attention.

1. Stephanie Thomson Ek, who had been a member of Christ Covenant Reformed Presbyterian, desires to unite with Indy Reformed Church (URCNA).
2. On February 8, 2023, First Presbyterian Church (PCA), Macon, Georgia, received Deidra (Dee Dee) Shaw into membership. Mrs. Shaw had been a member of Northminster Reformed Presbyterian Church. She, along with her three covenant (i.e., baptized) children who were attending church with her, were placed on the general roll of Presbytery when that congregation was dissolved in 2014. In 2018, she was transferred to Dayspring Presbyterian Church (PCA), Forsyth, Georgia, effective upon her being received on February 25, 2018, though her covenant children were not received by that congregation. However, Central Georgia Presbytery recently concluded that due to the fact that that action was not recorded in the Session minutes, she was not technically a member of Dayspring. She has been desirous of joining First Presbyterian in Macon, but when this confusion arose as to where her membership actually is, she requested a letter of transfer from the RPCNA. According to Rev. Elliott Everitt, an assistant pastor of First Presbyterian, the action of that congregation's Session on February 8th was made pending the clearing up of the membership issue.

Your committee recommends the following:

1. That Stephanie Thomson Ek be transferred to Indy Reformed Church (URCNA) with our blessing.
2. That Deidra (Dee Dee) Shaw be transferred to First Presbyterian Church (PCA), Macon, Georgia, with our blessing.
3. That the Nominating Committee nominate three new members of the Membership Committee.
4. That this report be approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank J. Smith

Frank J. Smith, Chairman