

# Reformed Presbyterian Church of Southside Indianapolis

Report to Great Lakes/Gulf Presbytery – Spring 2023

*Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ...*

*But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.*

1 Peter 2:4-5, 9

Fathers and Brethren,

It is good to pause and reflect on the “spiritual house” the Lord has continued to build here at Southside Indianapolis this past year. Session met in constituted court twenty-one times during the year. In addition to eleven monthly stated meetings, ten special meetings were held for communicant membership interviews or matters needing timely attention. In three meetings, session set aside time to meet jointly with the deacon board to review and discuss progress on ministry initiatives.

## Public Services

Our congregation continues to be well-fed from God’s word each week. Pastor Hanson completed preaching through the Gospel of John and finished his Colossians series. He preached occasionally from Psalms. He begins preaching from 2 Timothy in the new year. Pastor Wise continued preaching through 1 Kings followed by 2 Kings and then preached through Lamentations. In the summer he preached a month-long series from Romans 8. In the new year he has begun preaching through Micah. In addition to the preaching ministry of our own teaching elders, the congregation also heard from these guest preachers: Dr. W. Robert Godfrey, Venkatesh Gopalakrishnan, Joel Hart, and Jonathan Sturm.

The sacrament of the Lord’s Supper was observed twelve times on the second Lord’s Day of the month throughout the year, in the morning service once per quarter and in the evening service the other months. The sacrament of baptism was administered to Caleb Alan Brewster at the time of his profession of faith and these eight covenant children: Zoey Lynn Erney, Sofia Mykhaylovna Fatyanov, Amelia Jane Kleyn, Andrew Jeffrey Koons, Joanna Irene Manring, Annika Miriam Ritenour, Avalon Roxann Sturm, and Marianne Elisabeth Sturm. In addition to corporate prayer in the worship services, a mid-week prayer meeting led by the pastors was held throughout the year. The meeting that had been occurring on Wednesday evenings was moved to Tuesdays, excluding weeks when the session and deacons have their meetings.

## Pastoral Care

At the end of 2022, the total membership of the congregation stood at 300. The communicant membership was 219, an increase of nineteen, and the baptized membership was 81, an increase of four, from 2021.

The following thirty-one individuals united with Southside RPC as communicant members: Aaron and Maggie Becker by transfer from Terre Haute RPC, Terre Haute IN; Sean and Monica, Miriam, Elizabeth, Joseph, Rebekah, and John Bird by transfer from Christ Church RP, Indianapolis IN; Caleb Brewster; Jeff and Heather Derouin; Alexandria Erney; Michael and Rachel Fatyanov by transfer from Second RPC, Indianapolis IN; Catie Hilliard; Duane and Anne Judd by transfer from Christ Church RP, Indianapolis IN; Dale and Laura Koons by transfer from Christ Church RP, Indianapolis IN; James Lefebvre by transfer from Christ Church RP, Indianapolis IN; Stephen Manring; Will Martin by transfer from Friendswood Baptist Church, Camby IN; Jennifer Neel by transfer from Christ Church RP, Indianapolis IN; Jason and Michelle O’Neill by transfer from Christ Church RP, Indianapolis IN; Verayna Newland; Cody Perrault; Anna Roberts by transfer from Christ Church RP, Indianapolis IN; Craig Stone by transfer from Christ Church RP, Indianapolis IN; and Daniel Wilson by transfer from Bloomington RPC, Bloomington IN.

In addition to the seven baptized children mentioned above, Isaac and Samuel Fatyanov by transfer from Second RPC, Indianapolis IN and Abigail, Jack, and Kaitlyn O'Neill by transfer from Christ Church RP, Indianapolis IN were added to the roll as baptized members.

Each at their own request, Michael and Angela Eddy were transferred to First Southern Baptist Church, Floyds Knobs IN; Sarah Erney was transferred to The SOMA Gathering, Beaver Falls PA; Miriam Hanson was transferred to Trinity Presbyterian Church, Rochester MN; David and Megan Manring along with their daughters Abigail and Joanna were transferred to Providence Presbyterian Church, Opelika, AL; Joe and Ally Smith along with their children Alexis, Gavin, Ophelia, and Phineas were transferred to Westminster RPC, Westminster CO where Joe was called to serve as their pastor. After they united with new congregations in Indianapolis, Wesley Dewar and Kay Roesner were each removed from the communicant members roll. For our dear Marjorie Main, her faith became sight on August 31 as she entered the presence of her Savior.

There were nine births during the year: Avalon Sturm (1/17), Joanna Manring (1/30), Zoey Erney (6/17), Amelia Kleyn (8/5), Sofia Fatyanov (8/27), Andrew Koons (9/3), Marianne Sturm (10/12), Benjamin Lanza (10/31), and Annika Ritenour (12/6)

### **Participation in the Higher Courts and Wider Church Ministry**

*Presbytery* - Our ruling elder delegates to the Spring meeting of Presbytery held at Lafayette RPC were John Cavanaugh, Ross Cerbus, David Kleyn, and Jerry Porter. The Fall meeting delegates were John Hanson, David Kleyn, and Don Prichard. Dale Koons served as Assistant Clerk. Pastor Hanson served as moderator of the Presbytery Ad Interim Commission and as a member of the Nominating Committee. Pastor Wise serves on the Candidates and Credentials Committee. Jim Bishop serves as Presbytery Treasurer. Mark Hart serves as the Presbytery Assistant Treasurer. Ross Cerbus serves as the COVFAMIKOI Conference manager. Pastor Wise served as interim moderator for Elkhart RPC from May through August. John Hanson concluded his service as a provisional elder for Immanuel RPC. Steve Sturm served on the Christ Church RP Commission. In June, John Hanson once again organized and led a team of Presbytery youth to serve at the ECHO (Educational Concerns for Hunger Organization) farm in Ft. Myers, Florida. He also organized a "Seniors ECHO" trip in November. Jonathan Sturm continues as a student under care of Presbytery and was licensed to preach at the Spring meeting. He anticipates further Presbytery exams this Spring pursuing licensure to receive a call along with graduation from Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary (RPTS) in May.

*Synod* - Our ruling elder delegate to the RPCNA Synod meeting held at Indiana Wesleyan was Steve Sturm. Bill Roberts serves as chairman of the Trustees of Synod, John Cavanaugh serves on the Central America and South America Committee, Jason O'Neill chairs and Mark Hart serves on the Finance Committee, and Steve Sturm serves on the Olivetti Restoration Commission.

### **Initiatives**

Session is thankful for progress this year on several initiatives. In the Spring, Session completed elder visitations begun in early 2020 that had been interrupted due to the coronavirus pandemic. One take-away from visitation feedback resulted in the "Men's Ministry Night" meetings on Thursday evenings. The Child Protection Policy Review Committee in consultation with the GRACE (Godly Response to Abuse in the Christian Environment) organization has made steady progress developing an updated Safe Church Policy that should be adopted soon. The Master Plan Committee has worked with our design team to reach several milestones for the Site Improvements Project introduced at last year's meeting. We have signed a construction contract for the work and are awaiting City permit approval. We are in the planning stages for an elder election in 2023.

May we be faithful to "proclaim the praises of Him who called [us] out of darkness into His marvelous light" in 2023.

Respectfully submitted,  
Southside Indianapolis RPC Session

Reformed Presbyterian Church of Southside Indianapolis  
Proposed Budget for 2023 - General Fund

	Actual 2021	Budget 2022	Actual 2022	Budget 2023	% Chg-23 Budget vs. 22 Budget
<b>RECEIPTS</b>					
Total contributions	\$610,118	\$600,000	\$652,306	\$645,000	7.5%
Other income	111	2,000	56	2,000	0.0%
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>610,229</b>	<b>602,000</b>	<b>652,362</b>	<b>647,000</b>	
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>					
<b>CONGREGATION</b>					
101.0 Pastor's Salary	128,459	133,296	133,296	143,160	7.4%
102.0 Parsonage Allowance	62,541	65,204	65,204	69,768	7.0%
104.0 Pastor's Pension	18,800	20,000	20,000	20,400	2.0%
105.0 Secretarial Services	10,352	16,380	10,880	17,000	3.8%
106.0 Worker's Compensation	1,523	1,569	1,672	1,723	9.8%
107.0 Ministry Expenses	5,888	7,950	4,244	8,450	6.3%
108.0 Church Office	7,021	7,240	8,856	9,130	26.1%
109.0 Benevolence	1,204	1,000	1,011	1,000	0.0%
110.0 Pastoral Intern	10,000	10,000	-	10,000	0.0%
111.0 Audit/Compilation fees	1,900	2,000	1,000	1,100	-45.0%
112.0 Traffic/Security Officer	7,927	11,340	5,537	10,125	-10.7%
113.0 Safe Church Policy	2,382	1,400	6,596	1,625	16.1%
Sub-total	257,997	277,379	258,296	293,481	5.8%
<b>EDUCATION</b>					
201.0 Sabbath School	2,884	3,750	2,222	3,750	0.0%
203.0 Youth Group	387	1,000	1,416	1,500	50.0%
204.0 Conferences & Guest Ministry	3,546	4,000	1,718	4,000	0.0%
205.0 Fellowship Activities	3,241	5,800	5,532	7,300	25.9%
206.0 Library	168	450	209	450	0.0%
207.0 Seminary Student Assistance	4,500	4,500	5,845	3,425	-23.9%
208.0 Ruling Elder Training	-	3,000	-	3,000	0.0%
209.0 Family Camp Scholarship	-	5,000	2,735	5,000	0.0%
Sub-total	14,726	27,500	19,677	28,425	3.4%
<b>MISSIONS</b>					
301.0 Local Evangelism	2,366	3,000	1,092	3,000	0.0%
302.0 Missionary Support	65,400	64,000	78,000	70,000	9.4%
304.0 Ministry of Mercy	6,000	6,000	3,093	6,000	0.0%
305.0 Special Missions Projects	-	1,500	850	1,500	0.0%
307.0 Local Ministries	5,800	6,150	6,150	6,550	6.5%
Sub-total	79,566	80,650	89,185	87,050	7.9%
<b>DENOMINATION</b>					
401.0 Presbytery Assessment	5,774	6,657	6,657	8,837	32.7%
403.0 Synod Assessment	13,310	13,425	13,441	14,351	6.9%
405.0 Synod/Presby. Expenses	1,425	1,500	578	1,500	0.0%
407.0 R.P. Missions/Ministry	34,700	30,000	40,000	35,000	16.7%
Sub-total	55,209	51,582	60,676	59,688	15.7%
<b>PROPERTY</b>					
503.0 Maintenance & Supplies	37,313	39,765	41,529	42,175	6.1%
504.0 Capital Purchases	1,941	25,000	1,614	25,000	0.0%
505.0 Utilities	18,462	19,820	21,235	22,740	14.7%
506.0 Insurance	10,193	10,710	10,491	11,020	2.9%
510.0 Debt Service	-	-	-	-	0.0%
Sub-total	67,909	95,295	74,869	100,935	5.9%
<b>Total expenditures</b>	<b>475,407</b>	<b>532,406</b>	<b>502,703</b>	<b>569,579</b>	<b>7.0%</b>
<b>Net increase/(dec.) in General Fund Assets</b>	<b>134,822</b>	<b>69,594</b>	<b>149,659</b>	<b>77,421</b>	<b>11.2%</b>
Other receipts	19,200	-	3,750	-	
Other expenses	(41,306)	-	(112,663)	-	
<b>Total increase/(dec.) in Net Assets</b>	<b>\$112,716</b>	<b>\$69,594</b>	<b>\$40,746</b>	<b>\$77,421</b>	<b>11.2%</b>