

Sparta Reformed Presbyterian Church  
Session Report to Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery  
February 17, 2023

**Pastor**

Ross Fearing completed his second year as pastor this year and continues to serve in the United States Army Reserve as a Chaplain. He transferred to the 85<sup>th</sup> Army Reserve Support Command which is located in Arlington Heights, IL, which has greatly reduced his commute to monthly drills.

**Public Ministry**

The congregation continued to worship morning and evening each Lord's Day, with Ross providing most of the preaching. Because Ross serves in the Army approximately fourteen Lord's Days each year, we thank Pastor Terry Dowds for providing regular pulpit supply. This year we completed the book of Micah and are currently studying in Mark and Deuteronomy.

Regular Sabbath School continued this year with Jeanne Finley teaching the elementary and kindergarten class. This year Jim Jones began teaching the youth class. Ross Fearing and Bill Wilson led the adult class. In the last few months, we have been working through Ken Ham's video series, "Foundations". We celebrated communion April 24, July 31, October 30, and January 29 (2023).

During the months of September and October we spent Sunday evenings working through the Christianity Explored program as a congregation.

**Session**

The session consists of Moderator Ross Fearing and Clerk James Odom. Ruling Elder Bob Morrow retired from the session and was granted emeritus status on February 17, 2023.

There are currently 14 communicant members, 7 baptized members. For morning worship average attendance was 21 and for evening worship 17 which represents an approximately 10% decline from the last report.

The session is requesting Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery to provide a provisional elder.

**Properties**

The church building continues to be in good condition, without need of major repairs in the last year.

**Finances**

While the final financial report has not been completed, the preliminary report shows expenses significantly exceeded income and the church relied on cash reserves for the difference.

**Conclusion**

This year the focus of the church has been on equipping the congregation for life together and evangelism and improving the teaching ministry of the congregation. In the last few months we have seen encouragement from several visitors, including one family which has been attending

regularly for over a month. We are facing challenges related to the areas of finances and filling essential leadership positions in the congregation.

**Recommendation:** Presbytery assign a provisional elder to the Sparta RPC session.

In Christ Jesus,

Sparta Reformed Presbyterian Church Session

Ross Fearing, Moderator

James Odom, Clerk