

SYCAMORE RP CHURCH 2023 REPORT

Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery Mar 2-4, 2023

He has made everything appropriate in its time. He has also set eternity in their heart, yet so that man will not find out the work which God has done from the beginning even to the end. (Eccl 3:11)

This has been a year of growth for Sycamore RPC, and where there is growth, there is often that divine discipleship through challenges which yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness (Heb 12:11). We certainly feel the fleeting, fading, and frustrating nature of this brief life under the sun. Yet the Lord has given us much to rejoice in as we look forward to an eternal communion in the glorious presence of our Triune God. How dependent we are mutually upon the Spirit of God, the Holy One of Israel, and the Father of Lights!

| Congregational Stats | 2021 | 2022 |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Total Members | 35 C 28 B (63) | 44 C 46 B (90) |
| AM Attn | 57 | 67 |
| PM Attn | 37 | 45 |
| Professions of Baptized | 1 | 0 |
| Professions of New Converts | 0 | 0 |
| Change in Members | -3/+1 | -0/+27 |

The session continues through Darby Strickland's "*Is It Abuse?*" as we prepare to discern and shepherd sufferers and sinners in abusive situations under the gentle & lowly heart of Christ. We also spent time in other devotional materials.

Statistically, the Session constituted as a court **16** times in 2022. We met with the deacons twice and many other times informally for reciprocal counsel and discussion. Sycamore RPC currently has **44** communicant members and **46** baptized members, for a total of **86** resident members. We witnessed the Lord add Ian Blue and Nicodemus to the congregation, as well as the Prevosts, Daniels, and Murrays. Our average weekly attendance is **67** in the AM (approx. 9 on Zoom) and **45** in the PM (approx. 11 on Zoom). Compare this with 57 in AM and 37 in PM.

As a congregation we had a Day of Remembrance and Review of our life and ministry. We enjoyed a Memorial Day picnic at Highland Park. In our community, some attended the mayor's prayer breakfast in January, the Recovery Celebration in May, and the annual PRC Life Banquet in September. On the Presbytery level, some went to Covfamikoi family conference. We sent youth to CYPUs events. We hosted the CORPS Winter Conference in January. We attended the annual northern Indiana Thanksgiving Psalm Sing in November, hosted by Elkhart RPC. The session maintained our family visitation schedule, meeting with most households. We plan to make it into each of our homes in 2023. Most significant to our work, we added a ruling elder in Brentt VanSickle.

Regarding our preaching & teaching ministry, we've heard from the Spirit speaking in His Word as we completed our Romans series, then a series on Spheres of Worship. In April 2022 our pastor began preaching through Ecclesiastes. We also had several one-off sermons often related to communion. We celebrated the Lord's Supper 5 times in 2022, including our Communion Weekends. In these weekends, we conferenced on the Beatitudes in April, and in October, Christ's call to His disciple to "*deny yourself, take up your cross daily, and follow Him.*" Guest preachers included Jason Camery, Aaron Murray, and Steven Work. In Sabbath evening, we answered Shorter Catechism questions 1-38, and read Dane Ortland's *Gentle and Lowly*. We sang consecutively through Psalms 1139A to 150C. We began at 1A again in August 2022. We also enjoyed an evening Psalm sing four times this year on the fifth Lord's Day of the month.

A weekly schedule of classes was maintained, including Judges and Keller's *Making Sense of God* on Mondays; Genesis and Tripp's *War on Words* in our women's study; and a men's study on Trueman's *Strange New World*, then selections from John Owen on *Communion with God*, as well as a Wednesday evening Elder's Training class for the church. Apart from several weekly Biblical counseling, our pastor continues to tutor several students from church in the Classical Conversations Challenge program each Wednesday.

We continue to see the Lord's work in our midst through our diaconal ministry (growing in mercy ministry and improving/maintaining a 100 yr old building) as well as our Christian education ministry. We enrolled 39 students in our Sabbath School program this year.

June 2023 marks a decade of Shawn's ministry at Sycamore RPC. Concerning this, he wrote in his annual report. "*At times it seems like I have been here much longer. Other times it is as if I just started, having so much more to learn in the will and ways of the Lord. It is my greatest privilege to serve Christ's Word and His people... I can say with Paul, "concerning you, my brethren, I myself also am convinced that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able also to admonish one another... I have found refreshing rest in your company"* (Rom 15:14, 32)." We give thanks to the Lord for His faithfulness to us all.

Regarding our budget, our average monthly income this year was around \$10,000 (above the \$8,333/mo. budgeted). We brought in \$22,000 over budget and spent \$11,000 over the budgeted amount of \$100,000 giving us a total surplus of around \$11,000 for the year. We have been greatly cared for and blessed by the Lord.

We trust and pray that as we experience our God's benediction of His love, grace, fellowship, & trial, we would increase in our knowledge and experience of His all-surpassing love.

SYCAMORE RP CHURCH 2023 BUDGET

| | 2022 Budget | 2022 Actual | 2023 Proposal |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 100 Income | | | |
| 101 Interest | \$0.00 | | |
| 102 Tithes and Offerings | \$100,000.00 | \$120,721.84 | \$126,500.00 |
| 103 Flow-In (Anonymous & RP Witness) | | \$626.00 | |
| 104 Building Emergency Fund | | | |
| 105 Compassion International | | | |
| 107 Other Income | | | |
| 108 Building Improvements | | \$799.88 | |
| 110 Building Cleaning | | | |
| 111 Special Gifts (Seminary Fund) | | \$1,000.00 | |
| Subtotal | \$100,000.00 | \$123,147.72 | \$126,500.00 |
| 200 Administration | | | |
| 201 Administration | \$3,000.00 | \$5,126.23 | \$3,000.00 |
| 202 Christian Education | \$1,200.00 | \$2,105.68 | \$2,190.00 |
| 203 Library Education | \$150.00 | \$148.48 | \$150.00 |
| 205 Anderson Ministry Expense | \$2,000.00 | \$3,687.88 | \$300.00 |
| 206 Miscellaneous | \$50.00 | \$118.00 | \$50.00 |
| 207 Gift/Donation | \$500.00 | \$555.69 | \$500.00 |
| 208 Speakers | \$1,500.00 | \$1,025.00 | \$1,500.00 |
| 209 Media | \$500.00 | \$20.12 | \$500.00 |
| Subtotal | \$8,400.00 | \$12,787.08 | \$8,190.00 |
| 300 Congregation | | | |
| 301 Fellowship & Hospitality | \$1,000.00 | \$708.11 | \$1,000.00 |
| 303 Mercy | \$1,000.00 | \$1,177.82 | \$1,000.00 |
| 304 Memorials | \$100.00 | \$0.00 | \$100.00 |
| 305 Outreach & Evangelism | \$100.00 | \$58.04 | \$100.00 |
| 306 Compassion International | \$456.00 | \$456.00 | \$456.00 |
| 310 Sermon Audio | \$480.00 | \$479.40 | \$480.00 |
| 311 Pastoral Continuing Education | \$500.00 | \$516.00 | 500 |
| 313 Seminary Attendance Fund | | \$1,500.00 | 1000 |
| 323 Conference and Missions | \$800.00 | \$0.00 | \$5,000.00 |
| Subtotal | \$4,436.00 | \$4,895.37 | \$9,636.00 |

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|--|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 400 Denomination & Missions | | | |
| 403 Presbytery Assessments | \$1,200.00 | \$1,214.44 | \$1,102.00 |
| 405 RPM&M | \$1,200.00 | \$1,200.00 | \$1,200.00 |
| 407 Synod Assessments | \$1,765.00 | \$2,563.00 | \$2,500.00 |
| 410 Synod | \$400.00 | \$0.00 | \$400.00 |
| Subtotal | \$4,565.00 | \$4,977.44 | \$5,202.00 |
| 500 Pastor | | | |
| 501 Health | \$8,000.00 | \$8,000.03 | \$9,000.00 |
| 502 Housing | \$19,000.00 | \$18,999.96 | \$20,000.00 |
| 503 Salary | \$28,132.00 | \$28,132.09 | \$28,332.00 |
| 504 Pension | \$5,200.00 | \$5,200.00 | \$6,000.00 |
| Subtotal | \$60,332.00 | \$60,332.08 | \$63,332.00 |
| 600 Building | | | |
| 602 Domestic Supplies | \$1,200.00 | \$1,054.89 | \$1,200.00 |
| 603 Maintenance | \$3,500.00 | \$2,277.73 | \$3,500.00 |
| 604 Building Emergency Fund | \$2,127.00 | \$299.88 | \$0.00 |
| 605 Insurance | \$3,840.00 | \$3,801.51 | \$3,840.00 |
| 607 Utilities | \$9,000.00 | \$9,169.02 | \$9,000.00 |
| 608 Building Improvements | \$0.00 | \$8,700.00 | \$20,000.00 |
| 610 Building Cleaning | \$2,600.00 | \$2,692.50 | \$2,600.00 |
| 703 Flow Out (Anonymous & RP Witness) | \$0.00 | \$626.00 | \$0.00 |
| Subtotal | \$22,267.00 | \$28,621.53 | \$40,140.00 |
| Total | \$100,000.00 | \$111,613.50 | \$126,500.00 |
| Over/Under Budget: | \$0.00 | -\$11,613.50 | \$0.00 |
| 2021 Balance | \$25,262.83 | | |
| 2022 Balance | \$36,797.05 | | |
| EM Fund balance 2021 \$299.88 | | | |
| EM Fund balance 2022 \$0 | | | |