

The Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery (RPCNA)

Official Mtg. Minutes, Distr. 3.13.24

CLERK

Adam Kuehner
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ASST. CLERK

Nathan Eshelman
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2024 ANNUAL SPRING MEETING

Time: Thursday February 29 @ 2:00 p.m. to Saturday March 2 @ Noon

Place: Second Reformed Presbyterian Church

Address: 4800 Michigan Rd. Indianapolis, IN 46228

Phone: (317) 787-1211

BUSINESS SESSION #1

The Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery met on Thursday February 29, 2024 at the Second Reformed Presbyterian Church at 2:00 p.m. for its annual spring meeting.

1. CALL TO ORDER / RETIRING MODERATOR'S ADDRESS

The moderator, Jon Hughes called the court to order at 2:02 p.m. with the reading of Psalm 23, and delivered the retiring moderator's address concerning the Lord's gracious ministry to His people as the Good Shepherd, who also ministers through His under-shepherds.

2. PRAYER OF CONSTITUTION

The moderator constituted the court in prayer at 2:24 p.m., after which the court sang Psalm 23A in praise to God.

3. ATTENDANCE

The assistant clerk, Nathan Eshelman, called the attendance roll and confirmed that a quorum was present.

4. FORMAL INTRODUCTIONS

Nathan Eshelman introduced the court to first-time delegate, Elder Kevin Duffey of the Orlando congregation, after which David Hanson introduced first-time delegate, Elder Daniel Sturm of the Southside congregation. The court welcomed the first-time delegates with a round of applause.

5. CLERK'S REPORT

Adam Kuehner presented the clerk's report, bringing its recommendations before the court.

Recommendation 1¹ was seconded and carried.

Recommendation 2² was seconded and carried.

¹ Rec. 1 (Clerk): That Presbytery appoint the following parliamentarians for this meeting: J. Hughes, S. Shipp, B. Dage (alt), P. Pockras (alt), J. Odom (alt), W. Mann (alt), S. Anderson (alt). [Carried]

² Rec. 2 (Clerk): That Presbytery instruct the nominating committee to (A) Determine the congregations to be visited this year, (B) Recommend a new Inter-Church Liaison, and (C) Recommend a prospective clerk to begin preparing to replace Mr. Kuehner in the Spring of 2025. [Carried]

Recommendation 3³ was seconded and carried.
Recommendation 4⁴ was seconded and carried.
Recommendation 5⁵ was seconded and carried.
Recommendation 6⁶ was seconded and carried.

Recommendation 7⁷ was seconded, at which time a point of order was raised, noting that the complaint (GLG 23-34) was submitted 33 days after the action complained against, beyond the 30-day deadline specified in BOD II.4.3 (E-15).

The moderator ruled the complaint (GLG 23-34) out of order, after which his ruling was challenged and sustained by the court.

The moderator ruled Recommendation 7 to be moot, and instructed the assistant clerk to notify all relevant parties of the outcome.

Recommendation 8⁸ was seconded and carried.
Recommendation 9⁹ was seconded and carried.
Recommendation 10¹⁰ was seconded and carried.
Recommendation 11¹¹ was seconded and carried.

Recommendation 12¹² was seconded, at which time a point of order was raised and then withdrawn, after which Recommendation 12 was defeated.

³ Rec. 3 (Clerk): That Presbytery instruct the AIC to determine and publicize the time and place for the fall meeting by 7/31/23. [Carried]

⁴ Rec. 4 (Clerk): That Presbytery approve the following committee reports as submitted, without hearing oral reports: (A) Geneva College Board of Corporators, (B) Fearing Chaplaincy, (C) Inter-Church Liaison, and (D) Manning Appeal Verdict Rationale Committee. [Carried]

⁵ Rec. 5 (Clerk): That Presbytery instruct sessions to oversee an annual audit of congregational finances, employing either a professional accountant or a congregational committee, and to attach the signed audit form to its financial report to presbytery each spring, in keeping with denominational requirements. [Carried]

⁶ Rec. 6 (Clerk): That Presbytery instruct the moderator to announce the following committee appointments by the start of Business Session #2 at the latest: Nominating (3), Resolution of Thanks (2), Time and Place (2). [Carried]

⁷ Rec. 7 (Clerk): That Presbytery hear Mr. Odom's Complaint (GLG 23-34) as specified in the proposed agenda, and receive the WRPC Session's response (GLG 23-38) for informational purposes. [Ruled moot.]

⁸ Rec. 8 (Clerk): That Presbytery take up the Orlando Session's Petition (GLG 24-1), with a view to voting on the question of endorsement, as specified in the proposed agenda. [Carried]

⁹ Rec. 9 (Clerk): That Presbytery receive Rev. Namsik Yang's ministerial credentials from the Pacific Coast Presbytery (RPCNA) at his request. [Carried]

¹⁰ Rec. 10 (Clerk): That Presbytery transmit the Bloomington Session's Paper (GLG 24-3) to Synod, at their request, without reference to endorsement. [Carried]

¹¹ Rec. 11 (Clerk): That Presbytery receive Mr. Pockras' chaplaincy ministry update (GLG 24-4). [Carried]

¹² Rec. 12 (Clerk): That Presbytery entertain a motion from the floor regarding whether or not to take up GLG 24-5, Mr. Rhoda's communication, which was received beyond the two-week deadline (two-thirds majority required). [Defeated]

Rather than entertaining Recommendation 13¹³, the moderator, without objection from the court, opened the floor for motions concerning GLG 24-6.

It was moved and seconded “That Presbytery take up GLG 24-6 and include it in the agenda.” This motion failed to receive the required two-thirds majority by a vote of 12-11, thereby returning the petition to its authors.

The clerk added to his report Recommendation 14 in response to GLG 24-7, a communication submitted earlier in the week by Mr. Ben Manring, which had not been referenced in the clerk’s report. This motion was seconded.

Rather than entertaining Recommendation 14¹⁴, the moderator, without objection from the court, opened the floor for motions concerning GLG 24-7.

It was moved, seconded, and carried unanimously¹⁵ “That presbytery not take up GLG 24-7 due to its inclusion of an explicit accusation of sin against an elder in good standing within the RPCNA without having followed the biblical process laid out in the Book of Discipline, and in violation of the AIC’s counsel on 2/13/24, ‘that accusations of sin against other church members or officers must follow the biblical process of church discipline outlined in the RPCNA Book of Discipline.’”

The Southside delegates voluntarily recused themselves from voting on the disposition of GLG 24-7.

Recommendation 15¹⁶ was seconded and carried.

Recommendation 16¹⁷ was seconded and carried, after which it was moved, seconded, and carried to approve the clerk’s report.

6. INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Aaron Murray led the court in prayer for the physical healing of Rev. Bryan Dage, Elder James Odom, and Minsol Yang, the son of Rev. Namsik Yang.

7. PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Adam Kuehner expressed his gratitude for the faithful service of retiring moderator, Elder Jon Hughes, circulating a copy of George Horne’s *Commentary on the Psalms*, to be signed by the delegates and given to Mr. Hughes in appreciation for his many labors. The court responded with a round of applause for Mr. Hughes.

8. OFFICER ELECTIONS

The court proceeded with its annual election of presbytery officers.

It was moved and seconded to nominate Joel Hart as the new moderator. It was moved, seconded, and carried to close the nominations, at which time the court rose to welcome its newly elected moderator, Joel Hart.

¹³ Rec. 13 (Clerk): That Presbytery entertain a motion from the floor regarding whether or not to take up GLG 24-6, the Sycamore petition to Synod, which was received beyond the two-week deadline (two-thirds majority required). [Granted by the moderator without objection]

¹⁴ Rec. 14 (Clerk): That Presbytery entertain a motion from the floor regarding whether or not to take up GLG 24-7, a communication from Mr. Manring, which was received beyond the two-week deadline (two-thirds majority required). [Granted by the moderator without objection]

¹⁵ i.e. without audible dissent.

¹⁶ Rec. 15 (Clerk): That Presbytery adopt the proposed agenda for this meeting. [Carried]

¹⁷ Rec. 15 (Clerk): That Presbytery grant all RPCNA elders present the privilege of the floor during the remainder of this meeting. [Carried]

It was moved seconded, and carried to reappoint the existing clerk (Adam Kuehner) and assistant clerk (Nathan Eshelman).

9. AD INTERIM COMMISSION REPORT

Shawn Anderson presented the *Ad Interim* Commission (AIC) Report, bringing its recommendations before the court.

Recommendation 1¹⁸ was defeated.

Recommendation 2¹⁹ carried.

Recommendation 3²⁰ was adopted by common consent.

10. MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Philip McCollum presented the Membership Committee report, bringing its sole recommendation before the court.

Recommendation 1²¹ was referred to the Nominating Committee, after which it was moved, seconded, and carried to approve the report.

11. CANDIDATES AND CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT

Adam Niess presented the Candidates and Credentials Committee Report, bringing its recommendations before the court.

Recommendation 1²² carried.

Recommendation 2²³ was referred to the Nominating Committee.

12. MID-SESSION BREAK

The court took its mid-session break at 3:53 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 4:01 p.m. with the singing of Psalm 125, at which time Phil Pockras led the court in prayer.

13. CANDIDATES AND CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT — *Continued*

Adam Niess resumed his presentation of the Candidates and Credentials Committee Report.

Pastoral and Evangelistic Gifts Exam — Joe Johnson (Unanimously Sustained)

Mr. Niess introduced Joe Johnson's Pastoral and Evangelistic Gifts Exam, to be administered by Wade Mann. Mr. Johnson answered questions from Mr. Mann and from the floor, after which it was moved, seconded, and carried to extend the time for two additional questions. The exam was unanimously sustained by roll call vote.

Personal Godliness Exam — T.J. Pattillo (Sustained)

Adam Niess introduced T.J. Pattillo's Personal Godliness Exam, to be administered by Joel Hart, at which time Jon Hughes took the moderator's chair from Joel Hart. Mr. Pattillo answered questions from Mr. Hart and from the floor, after which it was moved, seconded, and carried to extend the time to hear the current speaker. The exam was sustained by roll call vote, at which time Mr. Hart returned to the chair.

¹⁸ Rec. 1 (AIC): That the nominating committee nominate a three-man forgiveness evaluation committee to evaluate the differences between the forgiveness granted to Mr. Borg in Spring 2023 and the response to requests for forgiveness made at previous meetings. [Defeated]

¹⁹ Rec. 2 (AIC): That the GLG Presbytery determine that the decision of the Southfield RPC session against Mr. Gary Allison stand. [Carried]

²⁰ Rec. 3 (AIC): That the GLG Presbytery adopt the AIC minutes of 7/31/23, 9/4/23, 11/20/23, 01/15/24, 2/13/24, and spread all AIC Minutes on the Minutes of Presbytery. [Carried]

²¹ Rec. 1 (MemCom): That the Nominating Committee appoint one new member to our Committee. {Philip McCollum and Chris Stockwell plan to continue serving. Dr. Frank Smith is stepping down after serving in this position as chair since 2017.} [Referred]

²² Rec. 1 (C&CC): That student exams be conducted according to the schedule outlined below. [Carried]

²³ Rec. 2 (C&CC): That Adam Niess, Jonathan Schaefer, and Ian Wise be nominated to continue serving on the Committee for another three-year term. [Referred]

14. COVFAMIKOI REPORT

Ken Nelson presented the Covfamikoi Report, informing the court regarding the plans for its next presbytery family conference in 2025, after which the report was approved by common consent.

15. RECESS FOR DINNER

The moderator led the court in prayer, giving thanks for the meal and recessing the court for dinner at 5:30 p.m.

BUSINESS SESSION #2

16. CALL TO ORDER / PRAYER TO RECONVENE

The moderator called the meeting to order following the dinner break at 6:34 p.m. with the singing of Psalm 34A and Bob Bibby reconvened the meeting in prayer.

17. ATTENDANCE

The assistant clerk took visual attendance, confirming that a quorum was present.

18. MODERATOR APPOINTMENTS

The moderator announced the following committee appointments: Nominating Committee (McCollum, Brotherton, Whitla), Time and Place Committee (D. Hanson, Damerow), and Resolution of Thanks Committee (J. Sturm, Goerner).

19. CANDIDATES AND CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT — *Continued*

Adam Niess resumed his presentation of the Candidates and Credentials Committee Report.

Personal Godliness Exam — T.J. Pattillo (Sustained)

Mr. Niess introduced Joe Johnson's Expository Sermon II Exam. Joe Johnson came forward and read Luke 18:1-18, after which he preached from the text on the theme of persistent prayer and called upon God's name in prayer. The court then sang Psalm 68A to the praise of God. Comments were received from the floor, after which the exam was sustained by roll call vote.

20. HETHERTON VISITATION COMMITTEE

David Hanson presented the Hetherton Visitation Committee Report, after which the report was approved and the committee dismissed by common consent.

21. INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Phil Pockras led the court in prayer for Rev. Ray Morton and his wife Susan.

22. HETHERTON SESSION REPORT

Wade Mann presented the Hetherton Session Report, which was received by common consent.

23. SOUTHWEST OHIO (SWORP) VISITATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Jeff Brotherton presented the SWORP Visitation Committee Report, after which the report was approved and the committee dismissed by common consent.

24. SOUTHWEST OHIO (SWORP) SESSION REPORT

Scott Damerow presented the SWORP Session Report, after which multiple comments were made encouraging the SWORP Session to meet more regularly. The report was received by common consent.

25. SOUTHFIELD VISITATION REPORT

Wade Mann presented the Southfield Visitation Committee Report, after which a comment was received from another member of the committee. By common consent, the report was approved and the committee dismissed.

26. SOUTHFIELD SESSION REPORT

Adam Kuehner presented the Southfield Session Report, which was received by common consent.

27. ATLANTA TEMPORARY GOVERNING BODY (TGB) REPORT

Scott Damerow presented the Atlanta TGB Report and answered questions from the floor, after which the report was approved by common consent.

Recommendation 1²⁴ was referred to the Finance Committee.
Recommendation 2²⁵ was referred to the Finance Committee.
Recommendation 3²⁶ was referred to the Nominating Committee.
Recommendation 4²⁷ was adopted by common consent, thereby approving the Atlanta TGB Report.

28. BELLE CENTER SESSION REPORT

Phil Pockras presented the Belle Center Session Report, which was received by common consent.

29. BLOOMINGTON SESSION REPORT

Stephen Shipp presented the Bloomington Session Report, which was received by common consent.

30. COLUMBUS SESSION REPORT

Jeff Jones presented the Columbus Session Report, which was received by common consent.

31. MINUTE BOOK REVIEW REPORT

The clerk updated the court regarding the digital review of Session and TGB minutes which was conducted in the weeks leading up to the spring meeting. So far, all Session minutes books, except for those from Sparta and Marion, have been reviewed, with nothing found contrary to the law and order of the church. This report was approved by common consent.

32. PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Nathan Eshelman shared a point of personal privilege, notifying the court with thankfulness to God that Minsol Yang was safely removed from electronic breathing support.

33. READING OF THE MINUTES

The clerk read the minutes from the preceding business sessions, after which it was moved, seconded, and carried to adopt the minutes as corrected.

34. INTERCESSORY PRAYER

The court entered a time of intercessory prayer, led by Steve Rhoda (Hetherton), Josh Smith (SWORP), Jonathan Sturm (Southfield), Stephen Shipp (Atlanta), Philip McCollum (Belle Center), Russell Lodge (Bloomington), and Jon Hughes (Columbus), who gave thanks to God for His gracious deliverance of Minsol Yang, and recessed the court for the evening at 9:06 p.m. on Thursday February 29, 2024.

BUSINESS SESSION #3

35. CALL TO ORDER / PRAYER TO RECONVENE

The moderator, Joel Hart, called the court to order at 8:30 a.m. on Friday March 1, 2024 with the singing of Psalm 145B, after which he led the court in prayer, reconvening the meeting.

36. ATTENDANCE

The Assistant Clerk took visual attendance, confirming that a quorum was present.

37. SPECIAL INTRODUCTION

Mr. Kuehner introduced the court to first-time delegate, Rev. Colin Samul, who was greeted with a round of applause.

38. CANDIDATES AND CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT — *Continued*

Adam Niess resumed his presentation of the Candidates and Credentials.

²⁴ Rec. 1 (ATL): That Presbytery grant \$4,000.00 for the work of Atlanta RPC for 2024. [Referred]

²⁵ Rec. 2 (ATL): That Presbytery provide \$1,000.00 for the expenses of the Atlanta Commission [TGB]. [Referred]

²⁶ Rec. 3 (ATL): That the membership of the Atlanta Commission [TGB] consist of the current members. [Referred]

²⁷ Rec. 4 (ATL): That the report of the Atlanta Commission [TGB] be approved. [Referred]

Evidence of Progress Sermon Exam — T.J. Pattillo (Unanimously Sustained)

Mr. Niess invited T.J. Pattillo forward for his Evidence of Progress Sermon Exam. Mr. Pattillo read Ephesians 2:1-10 and preached from the text on God's gracious gift of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ, after which he called upon God's name in prayer and the court sang Psalm 145C in praise to God. Comments were received from the floor, after which it was moved, seconded, and carried to extend the time for one more comment from the floor. The exam was unanimously sustained.

Church History Exam — Joe Johnson (Sustained)

Adam Niess invited Joe Johnson forward for his Church History Exam, to be administered by David Whitla. Mr. Johnson answered questions from Mr. Whitla and from the floor, after which comments were received from the floor and the exam was sustained.

39. HOME MISSION BOARD REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Josh Smith presented the Home Mission Board Representative Report, after which the report was received by common consent.

40. ORLANDO PETITION (GLG 24-1)

Mr. Eshelman addressed the court for five minutes, introducing the Orlando Petition (GLG 24-1) and providing reasons why the Presbytery should transmit it to Synod with endorsement.

It was moved, seconded, and carried to extend the time three minutes to hear the remainder of Mr. Eshelman's presentation.

Mr. Eshelman answered questions from the floor for ten minutes, after which it was moved, seconded and carried to extend the time five minutes for additional questions.

The court entered into a period of fifteen minutes for discussion, during which time it was moved and seconded "That Presbytery transmit GLG 24-1 to Synod with endorsement." This motion was discussed for about nine minutes, at which point the court reached an order of the day: its mid-session break.

41. MID-SESSION BREAK

The court took its mid-session break at 10:30 a.m. with the singing of Psalm 67C, after which Shawn Anderson led the court in prayer. The court resumed its meeting at 10:50 a.m. with the singing of Psalm 117B.

42. ORLANDO PETITION (GLG 24-1) — *Continued*

The discussion concerning the endorsement of the Orlando Petition (GLG 24-1) continued for another six minutes, at which point it was moved, seconded, and carried to allow the current speaker to finish his speech.

The question was divided into Part A ("That Presbytery transmit GLG 24-1 to Synod." and Part B ("That Presbytery endorse GLG 24-1.")

Part A carried unanimously. Part B carried by a vote of 20-15. Phil Pockras registered his dissent.

43. ELKHART SESSION REPORT

Wade Mann presented the Elkhart Session Report, which was received by common consent.

44. LAFAYETTE SESSION REPORT

Ken Nelson presented the Lafayette Session Report, which was received by common consent.

45. MARION SESSION REPORT

Aaron Murray presented the Marion Session Report, which was received by common consent.

46. ORLANDO SESSION REPORT

Mark Goerner presented the Orlando Session Report and answered questions, after which the report was received by common consent.

47. COVENANTER YOUNG PEOPLE'S UNION (CYPU) BOARD REPORT

Steve Rhoda presented the CYPU Board Report on behalf of Board President, Bryan Planalp, bringing before the court the board's proposed list of changes to the GLGP Child Protection Policy (CPP).

It was moved, seconded, and carried to entertain questions from the floor regarding the board's proposed changes to the Child Protection Policy (CPP) for a period of ten minutes.

Mr. Rhoda answered questions from the floor, after which the board's recommendation to adopt the proposed changes²⁸ carried.

The court expressed its appreciation for Mr. Rhoda's faithful service with a round of applause.

48. TIME AND PLACE COMMITTEE REPORT

David Hanson presented the Time and Place Committee Report, after which Recommendation 1²⁹ carried, and the report was received by common consent.

49. SECOND RPC SESSION REPORT

Jerry Foltz presented the Second RPC Session Report, which was received by common consent.

50. SELMA SESSION REPORT

Adam Niess presented the Selma Session Report and answered questions from the floor, after which the report was received by common consent.

51. INTERCESSORY PRAYER

The court sang Psalm 72C in praise to God and entered into a time of intercessory prayer, led by Nathan Eshelman (Elkhart), Wade Mann (Lafayette), David Hanson (Marion), Rich Holdeman (Orlando), Brentt VanSickle (Second RP), and Jeff Jones (Selma), who recessed the court for its lunch break at 12:34 p.m.

BUSINESS SESSION #4

52. CALL TO ORDER / PRAYER TO RECONVENE

The moderator called the court to order at 1:54 p.m. with the singing of Psalm 84A and 84B, and reconvened the meeting in prayer.

53. ATTENDANCE

The Assistant Clerk took visual attendance, confirming that a quorum was present.

54. CANDIDATES AND CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT — *Continued*

Adam Niess resumed his presentation of the Candidates and Credentials Report.

Evidence of Progress Sermon Exam — John Punt (Unanimously Sustained)

Mr. Niess introduced John Punt's Evidence of Progress Sermon Exam. Mr. Punt came forward and read Titus 3, preached from the text on the nature and proper attitude of Christ-like gospel service, and called upon God's name in prayer, after which the court sang Psalm 133B to the praise of God. Comments were received from the floor, after which it was moved, seconded, and carried to extend the time five minutes to hear further comments. The exam was unanimously sustained.

Church History Paper — John Punt (Unanimously Sustained)

Mr Pockras presented the report of the Committee to Review John Punt's Church History Paper, recommending that Presbytery sustain the paper, which was then sustained unanimously³⁰ by voice vote.

²⁸ Rec. 1 (CYPU): That Presbytery adopt the proposed changes to the GLGP Child Protection Policy (CPP) outlined in the CYPU Board Report. [Carried]

²⁹ Rec. 1 (T&P): That Presbytery meet for its next Spring Meeting at Bloomington RPC on March 6-8, 2025. [Carried]

³⁰ i.e. without audible dissent.

55. SOUTHSIDE SESSION REPORT

Daniel Sturm presented the Southside Session Report, offering a word of thanksgiving to God for the ministry of the late Rev. Gordon Keddie, former minister at Southside, after which the report was received by common consent.

56. SPARTA SESSION REPORT

Ross Fearing presented the Sparta Session Report and answered questions from the floor, after which the report was received by common consent.

57. MOTION FROM THE FLOOR

It was moved, seconded, and carried to grant the Sparta Shepherding Committee (Anderson, Pulliam, J. Sturm) five minutes to provide an update to the court.

58. SPARTA SHEPHERDING COMMITTEE

Shawn Anderson reported on behalf of the Sparta Shepherding Committee, relating its progress thus far during its first three meetings with the parties involved.

59. SYCAMORE SESSION REPORT

Brentt VanSickle presented the Sycamore Session Report, which was received by common consent.

60. TERRE HAUTE SESSION REPORT

Steve Rhoda presented the Terre Haute Session Report, which was received by common consent.

61. INTERCESSORY PRAYER

The court sang Psalm 22E and entered into a time of intercessory prayer, led by Adam Niess (Southside), Ian Wise (Sparta), Ross Fearing (Sycamore), and Bob Bibby (Terre Haute).

62. MID-SESSION BREAK

The court took its mid-session break at 3:38 p.m. and resumed the meeting with the singing of Psalm 150A, after which the moderator reconvened the meeting in prayer at 3:53 p.m.

63. NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Philip McCollum presented an initial draft of the Nominating Committee Report, after which questions were answered from the floor.

64. CANDIDATES AND CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT — *Continued*

Adam Niess resumed his presentation of the Candidates and Credentials Report.

Bible Exam — John Punt (Unanimously Sustained)

Mr. Niess announced that John Punt passed his written (English) Bible Exam with distinction, at which point the exam was sustained unanimously³¹ by voice vote.

Personal Godliness Exam — John Punt (Unanimously Sustained)

Mr. Niess introduced John Punt's Personal Godliness Exam, to be administered by Aaron Murray. Mr. Punt answered questions from Mr. Murray, after which the exam was unanimously sustained by roll call vote.

Report as a Whole

Recommendation 3³² carried, thereby approving the Candidates and Credentials Committee Report as a whole.

65. FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Ken Nelson presented the Finance Committee Report, which was approved, thereby adopting the budget.

³¹ i.e. without audible dissent.

³² Rec. 3 (C&CC): That our report be received. [Carried]

66. WESTMINSTER SESSION REPORT

Josh Smith presented the Westminster Session Report, which was received by common consent.

67. RECONSIDERATION

It was moved, seconded, and carried to reconsider the Finance Committee Report in order to address an additional question from the floor. The moderator confirmed that the mover and seconder previously voted in the majority.

68. FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT — *Reconsidered*

Ken Nelson returned to the podium to answer further questions from the floor regarding the Finance Committee Report. A question was raised regarding the need to add increased funding for Covfamiko, after which the Finance Committee Report was approved. The moderator clarified that the adoption of the budget remains in force.

69. READING OF THE MINUTES

The clerk read the previous minutes, after which it was moved, seconded, and carried to adopt the minutes as read.

70. NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT — *Continued*

Philip McCollum presented a revised version of the Nominating Committee Report. It was moved, seconded, and carried to amend the CYPU Member Terms in keeping with the previous year's report.

It was moved, seconded, and carried to adopt the slate of nominees as amended.

Recommendation 1³³ carried, and the report was approved by common consent.

The formally adopted Nominating Committee Report is as follows:

Ad Interim Commission

Jerry Foltz (Ch)
Jeff Brotherton
Ken Nelson
Josh Smith
Stephen Shipp

Candidates & Credentials Comte

Class of 2026
Joel Hart
Rich Holdeman
Adam Kuehner

Class of 2027

Adam Niess (Ch)
Jonathan Schaefer
Ian Wise

Home Mission Board Rep.

Josh Smith

Church Extension Comte

Nathan Eshelman
Jason Camery
Bryan Dage

Financial Officers

Treasurer: Mark Hart
Asst. Treasurer: Ross Cerbus

Membership Comte

Philip McCollum (Ch)
Josh Smith
Chris Stockwell

Interim Moderators of Congregations

Selma: Adam Niess

Provisional Elders

Hetheron: Wade Mann (Mod.),
Phil Pockras

Visitation Committees

Marion RPC
David Hanson (Ch)
Bruce Bowers
Dave Mauser

Sparta

Phil Pockras (Ch)
Jeff Jones
Daniel Sturm

Inter-Church Liaison

Ian Wise

Synod Finance Comte

Jon Hughes

Geneva Board of Corporators Rep.

Phil Pockras

Atlanta TGB

Steven Work (Ch)
G. Scott Damerow
Frank Smith
Dick Knodel
Tim Vincze
T.J. Pattillo

Covfamiko Conf. Comte

Director: Ken Nelson
Manager: Ross Cerbus
Advisory: J. Schaefer, N. Eshelman,
D. Hanson

CYPU Board

Class of 2026
Bryan Planalp (Pres.)
Anna Roberts (Treas.)
Kevin Duffy
Aaron Murray

Class of 2027

Joy Whitt

CYPU Director / YMCS Rep.

Aaron Murray

Prospective Clerk & Asst. Clerk

Nathan Eshelman
Joel Hart

³³ Rec. 1 (NomCom): That the nominated Prospective Clerk and Assistant Clerk be given 30 days to prayerfully consider their nominations and report their decision to the Ad Interim Commission. Should they decline, the AIC will nominate willing candidates to be elected at the summer 2024 meeting of presbytery. [Carried]

71. INTERCESSORY PRAYER

The court sang Psalm 37C and Psalm 46C in praise to God, after which Mr. Mauser led the court in prayer for the Westminster congregation and recessed the court for its dinner break at 5:13 p.m.

72. CALL TO ORDER / PRAYER TO RECONVENE

The moderator called the court to order at 6:45 p.m. with the singing of Psalm 144B, after which he reconvened the meeting in prayer.

73. ATTENDANCE

The Assistant Clerk took visual attendance, confirming that a quorum was present.

74. CYPY PRESBYTERY YOUTH REPORT

CYPY Director, Aaron Murray, presented the CYPY Presbytery Youth Report, introducing the Youth Leadership Team (Adalyn Nelson, Joseph Shipp, Samuel Faris, K.J. Aladejebi, Duncan Blank, Evelyn Mauser, and Abby Archer).

By common consent, members of the CYPY Leadership Team were granted privileges of the floor, after which they delivered an update concerning youth ministry within the Presbytery.

The court dismissed the team with a round of applause, and the report was approved by common consent.

75. MINUTE BOOK REVIEW REPORT — *Continued*

The clerk informed the court that the Marion minute book has been reviewed with nothing found contrary to the law and order of the church. Therefore all the Session and TGB minute books have been reviewed except for Sparta. This report was approved by common consent.

76. RESOLUTION OF THANKS COMMITTEE

Jonathan Sturm presented the Resolution of Thanks Committee Report, after which the report was adopted by common consent, and the court showed its appreciation with a round of applause for the host congregation volunteers.

77. READING OF THE MINUTES

The clerk read the previous minutes, after which it was moved, seconded, and carried to adopt the minutes as read.

78. ADJOURNMENT

By common consent, it was determined to adjourn the meeting, at which time the court sang Psalm 133A, and the moderator adjourned the court in prayer at 7:20 p.m. on Friday March 1, 2024.

**Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery Spring 2024 Meeting
Second Indianapolis; February 29-March 2**

		Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4	Session 5	Session 6	Session 7
Atlanta Mission Church	Frank Smith	A	A	A	A			
Belle Center	Phil Pockras	X	X	X	X			
	Bruce Bowers (Jeff Brotherton alt)	X	X	X	X			
Bloomington	Rich Holdeman	X	X	X	X			
	Philip McCollum	X	X	X	X			
	Stephen Shipp	X	X	A	X			
	Ken de Jong (Eric Cosens, alt)	A	A	A	A			
Columbus	Joel Hart	X	X	X	X			
	Jeff Jones	X	X	X	X			
	Dave Schisler (Scott Hoover, alt)	A	A	A	A			

		Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4	Session 5	Session 6	Session 7
Elkhart	Wade Mann	X	X	X	X			
	Fikre Menbere	E	E	E	E			
Hetherton	Bryan Dage	E	E	E	E			
Lafayette	Adam Neiss	X	X	X	X			
	Jonathan Sturm	X	X	X	X			
	Bob Bibby	X	X	X	X			
	Ken Nelson (Aaron Hartzler, alternate)	X	X	X	X			
Marion	Aaron Murray	X	X	X	X			
	Jason Camery	A	A	A	A			
	Greg Fisher (Scott Hunt, alt)	X	X	X	X			
Orlando	Nathan Eshelman	X	X	X	X			
	Kevin Duffey	X	X	X	X			
	Mark Goerner	X	X	X	X			
Second Indianapolis	Jerry Foltz	X	X	X	X			

		Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4	Session 5	Session 6	Session 7
	Terry Magnuson	X	X	X	X			
	Dave Mauser Adam Doerr, alternate	X	X	X	X			
Selma								
Southfield	Adam Kuehner	X	X	X	X			
	Jon Hughes	X	X	X	X			
Southside	Dave Hanson	X	X	X	X			
	Ian Wise	X	X	X	X			
	Jerry Porter	X	X	X	X			
	Daniel Sturm	X	X	X	X			
Southwest Ohio	Richard Knodel	X	X	X	X			
	Steven Work	X	X	X	X			
	Scott Damerow	X	X	X	X			
Sparta	Ross Fearing	X	X	X	X			
	James Odom	E	X	X	X			

		Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4	Session 5	Session 6	Session 7
Sycamore	Shawn Anderson	X	X	X	X			
	Brent VanSickle (McKissick, alt)	X	X	X	X			
Terre Haute	Stephen Rhoda	X	X	X	X			
	Russell Lodge	X	X	A	A			
Westminster	Joshua Smith	X	X	X	X			
RPTS	David Whitla	X	X	X	X			
Retired/ Without Charge	Colin Samul	E	E	X	X			
	Ray Morton	X	X	X	X			

X: Present
E: Excused
A: Absent

Great Lakes–Gulf Presbytery Ad Interim Commission Minutes
March 27, 2023

The Ad Interim Commission of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery met by video conference call.

Those present included Shawn Anderson (moderator, Sycamore RPC-Kokomo, IN), G. Scott Damerow (SW Ohio RPC), Aaron Hartzler (RPC of Lafayette, IN), Jerry Porter (Southside RPC, Indianapolis, IN), and Alejandro Ramirez (Orlando RPC).

Shawn Anderson opened the meeting and constituted the court in prayer in the name and by the authority of Jesus Christ, King and Head of the Church at 7:04 pm.

By common consent the agenda was adopted.

Agenda Item 1: Appoint a clerk.

Action Taken: Aaron Hartzler volunteered. By common consent, Aaron Hartzler was appointed clerk.

Agenda Item 2: *(From Presbytery, March 2-4, 2023)* 10. (Rec 7) That presbytery instruct the incoming AIC to determine and disseminate the time and place for the fall meeting by 7/31/23.

Action Taken: Jerry Porter will check with Bloomington RPC if they can host in October 2023.

Agenda Item 3: *(From Presbytery, March 2-4, 2023)* 47. “That presbytery, in response to Mr. Faris’ request ‘for his credentials to be sent to Zionsville Fellowship Church’ (ZFC), send a letter of ministerial standing, and instruct the AIC to dismiss James Faris from the roll of GLGP TEs upon confirmation of the ZFC clerk’s receipt and acceptance of that letter.”

Action Taken: Shawn Anderson will check to see if there are any pending judicial actions taken against Mr. Faris. He will also look into what official action(s) are included in “dismissal from the roll” of Presbytery.

Agenda Item 4: *(From Presbytery, March 2-4, 2023)* 76. It was moved and seconded that a three-man AIC-appointed committee evaluate the differences between the forgiveness granted at this meeting to Mr. Borg and the response to requests for forgiveness made at previous meetings (this motion carried).

Action Taken: By common consent, Shawn Anderson and Jerry Porter will come up with names of men to serve on this study committee.

1 **Agenda Item 5:** *(From Presbytery, March 2-4, 2023)* 80. (Rec 2) That presbytery appoint a
2 provisional elder for Sparta RPC.

3 **Action Taken:** A Ruling Elder was suggested. Shawn will check his availability prior to
4 appointment.

5 **Agenda Item 6:** *(From the Presbytery of the Alleghenies)* Approve and forward a call from Trinity
6 RPC to Jonathan Sturm.

7 **Action Taken:** It was moved, seconded, and carried unanimously to approve the Trinity RPC
8 pastoral call to Jonathan Sturm as a regular gospel call, to be forwarded to Mr.
9 Sturm. The congregational meeting minutes, roll of communicant members, and
10 pastor's call with financial agreement are attached to and made part of these
11 Minutes.

12 **Agenda Item 7:** *(From Adam Kuehner/IRPC Resolution Comte)* Appoint someone to replace Mr.
13 Kuehner on the IRPC Resolution Committee.

14 **Action Taken:** Shawn Anderson will ask the present committee for their input regarding (1) the
15 need for, and (2) possible suggestions for a replacement for Mr. Kuehner.

16 **Agenda Item 8:** *(From the Southfield RPC session)* Forward GLG 23-14 Complaint (Kuehner v.
17 GLG Presbytery) to synod with session endorsement.

18 **Action Taken:** It was moved, seconded, and carried unanimously to forward GLG 23-14 Complaint
19 (Kuehner v. GLG Presbytery) to synod.

20 **Agenda Item 9:** *(From the Lafayette RPC session)* Request to (1) appoint a commission to conduct
21 Jon's ordination exams for some time in the month of May, and (2) appoint Friday,
22 June 23, to hold Jon's ordination and installation service in Lafayette.

23 *[This would be the evening of the last day of Synod when elders would already be*
24 *in the vicinity, which would save mileage for the Presbytery. If housing is needed*
25 *for members of the GLGP that night, we could provide it for them.]*

26 **Action Taken:** Regarding (1) By common consent, the following Jonathan Sturm Ordination Exam
27 Commission was appointed, consisting of seven men, to conduct the ordination
28 exams for Jonathan Sturm:

- 29 1. Shawn Anderson (Clerk)
30 2. Bob McKissick
31 3. Jerry Foltz
32 4. Dean Filson
33 5. Ian Wise (Moderator)
34 6. John Hanson

1 7. Wade Mann

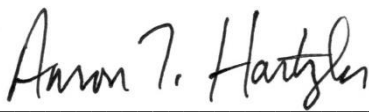
2 The following are appointed as alternates to the Commission, in the order listed, in
3 the event any of the above men are unable to serve.

- 4 8. Josh Smith
- 5 9. Joel Hart
- 6 10. Aaron Murray

7 Regarding (2) It was moved, seconded and carried unanimously, pending Mr. Sturm
8 sustaining his ordination exams, that Mr. Sturm’s ordination and installation service
9 be held on Friday, June 23.

10 The minutes of March 27, 2023, were reviewed and approved by common consent.

11 Jerry Porter prayed for the Trinity RP Church and adjourned the court in prayer in the name and by the
12 authority of Jesus Christ, Head and King of the Church at 8:44 p.m.



13 _____
14 Aaron Hartzler,
15 Clerk of the Ad Interim Commission
16



17 _____
18 Shawn Anderson,
19 Moderator of the Ad Interim Commission

17 **Great Lakes–Gulf Presbytery Ad Interim Commission Minutes**
18 **April 24, 2023**

19 The Ad Interim Commission of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery met by video conference call.

20 Those present included Shawn Anderson (moderator, Sycamore RPC-Kokomo, IN), G. Scott Damerow
21 (SW Ohio RPC), Aaron Hartzler (RPC of Lafayette, IN), and Jerry Porter (Southside RPC,
22 Indianapolis, IN). Alejandro Ramirez (Orlando RPC, Orlando, FL) was absent due to eldership
23 responsibilities.

24 Shawn Anderson opened the meeting and constituted the court in prayer in the name and by the
25 authority of Jesus Christ, King and Head of the Church, at 7:04 pm.

26 **Agenda Item:** Approve minutes from March 23, 2023, meeting.

27 **Action Taken:** It was moved, seconded, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the
28 March 23, 2023, meeting.

- 1 **Agenda Item 7:** *(From Adam Kuehner/IRPC Resolution Comte)* Appoint someone to replace Mr.
2 Kuehner on the IRPC Resolution Committee.
- 3 **Action Taken:** The current IRPC Resolution Committee members were consulted. No additional
4 member was appointed.
- 5 **Agenda Item 2:** *(From Presbytery, March 2-4, 2023)* 10. (Rec 7) That presbytery instruct the
6 incoming AIC to determine and disseminate the time and place for the fall meeting
7 by July 31, 2023.
- 8 **Action Taken:** Feedback was provided that a fall meeting was perhaps not necessary.
9 Bloomington RPC is willing to host a meeting, from October 5-7, 2023. A vote to
10 meet in the fall will be taken during the presbytery meeting at synod on June 22,
11 2023. Mr. Anderson will consult with the GLGP clerk to determine if we need to
12 have an earlier start time for the June presbytery meeting.
- 13 **Agenda Item 5:** *(From Presbytery, March 2-4, 2023)* 80. (Rec 2) That presbytery appoint a
14 provisional elder for Sparta RPC.
- 15 **Action Taken:** Sparta had an elder election since the last meeting, and a provisional elder is no
16 longer needed.
- 17 **Agenda Item 3:** *(From Presbytery, March 2-4, 2023)* 47. “That presbytery, in response to Mr. Faris’
18 request ‘for his credentials to be sent to Zionsville Fellowship Church’ (ZFC), send
19 a letter of ministerial standing, and instruct the AIC to dismiss James Faris from
20 the roll of GLGP TEs upon confirmation of the ZFC clerk’s receipt and acceptance
21 of that letter.”
- 22 **Action Taken:** Having received confirmation from Zionsville Fellowship Church regarding Mr.
23 Faris’ letter of standing, it was moved, seconded, and carried unanimously that he
24 be removed from the roll of Teaching Elders of the Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery.
- 25 **Agenda Item 4:** *(From Presbytery, March 2-4, 2023)* 76. It was moved and seconded that a three-
26 man AIC-appointed committee evaluate the differences between the forgiveness
27 granted at this meeting to Mr. Borg and the response to requests for forgiveness
28 made at previous meetings (this motion carried).
- 29 **Action Taken:** It was moved, seconded, and carried that the following men serve as a study
30 committee “to evaluate the differences between the forgiveness granted at this
31 [Spring 2023 presbytery] meeting to Mr. Borg and the response to requests for
32 forgiveness made at previous meetings” and report at the 2024 Spring meeting of
33 presbytery:
34

- 1 1. Aaron Murray
- 2 2. David Mauser
- 3 3. Frank Smith (moderator)

4
5 The following are appointed as alternates to the Commission, in the order listed, in
6 the event any of the above men are unable to serve:

- 7
- 8 4. Jeff Brotherton (alt)
- 9 5. Ross Fearing (alt)

10 **Agenda Item 10:** *(From Gary Allison via Southfield RPC, April 11, 2023)* request to forward
11 complaint (GLG 23-15 Allison v. GLGP) to synod.

12 **Action Taken:** It was moved, seconded, and carried that Mr. Allison’s complaint and appeal be
13 returned to him with the following rationale as to why it is out of order:

14 1. Book of Discipline II.4.11 (E-17), “Written notice of an intent to appeal and a
15 summary statement of the reasons must be filed with the clerk of the court
16 appealed from within thirty (30) days after the accused is informed of the
17 action...”

18 2. Book of Discipline II.4.3 (E-15), “A complaint is a written statement made to
19 a higher court by one or more persons aggrieved by an action of a lower
20 court...The complainant shall give notice to the lower court within 30 days.”

21
22 Therefore, GLG 23-15 is out of order for the following reasons:

23
24 1. The thirty-day deadline for filing the appeal (both intent & summary) expired
25 on April 2, 2023, but Mr. Allison submitted this appeal on April 9, 2023.

26 2. No prior notice of an intent to file an appeal or intent to file a complaint was
27 communicated to the GLGP clerk.

28 3. The GLGP moderator (Mr. Nathan Eshelman occupying the chair) instructed
29 Mr. Allison on the floor of the presbytery meeting on March 3, 2023,
30 concerning the thirty-day window for taking such action.

31 **Agenda Item 11:** *(From Gary Allison via Southfield RPC, April 22, 2023)* request to forward GLG
32 23-16 (Allison v. Southfield RPC) and 23-17 (Allison v. Southfield RPC) (AIC
33 item #11) to presbytery.

34 **Action Taken:** It was moved, seconded, and carried to forward the complaints to presbytery.

35 **Agenda Item 12:** GLG 23-18 (Southfield RPC response)

1 **Action Taken:** It was moved, seconded, and carried to forward the complaint to presbytery. Item
2 closed.

3 The minutes of April 24, 2023 were reviewed and approved by common consent.

4 Scott Damerow prayed for the Church and Allison the adjourned the court in prayer in the name and
5 by the authority of Jesus Christ, Head and King of the Church at 9:21 PM.

6 These minutes of April 24, 2023, were read and approved by common consent.

7 



8 Aaron Hartzler,
9 Clerk of the Ad Interim Commission

Shawn Anderson,
Moderator of the Ad Interim Commission

11 April 26, 2023

12 Dear Mr. Allison,

13 We want to update you of the actions taken by the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery's Ad Interim
14 Commission in our meeting on April 24, 2023.

15 **Regarding GLG 23-15 (Allison v. Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery)**

16 We regret to inform you that this complaint/appeal is out of order based on:

- 17 1. Book of Discipline II.4.11 (E-17), "Written notice of an intent to appeal and a summary
18 statement of the reasons must be filed with the clerk of the court appealed from within
19 thirty (30) days after the accused is informed of the action..."
- 20 2. Book of Discipline II.4.3 (E-15), "A complaint is a written statement made to a higher
21 court by one or more persons aggrieved by an action of a lower court...The
22 complainant shall give notice to the lower court within 30 days."

23 Therefore, GLG 23-15 is out of order for the following reasons:

- 24 (1) The thirty-day deadline for filing the appeal (both intent & summary) expired on
25 4/2/23, but you submitted this appeal on 4/9/23.
- 26 (2) No prior notice of an intent to file an appeal or intent to file a complaint was
27 communicated to the GLGP clerk.
- 28 (3) The GLGP moderator (*Mr. Nathan Eshelman occupying the chair*) instructed you on
29 the floor of the presbytery on 3/3/23 concerning the thirty-day window for taking such
30 action.

31 A further point of information, appeals and complaints are two different types of actions which
32 must be filed with the clerk *separately*, not combined within the same communication.

1 **Regarding GLG 23-16 (Allison v. Southfield) & GLG 23-17 (Allison v. Southfield)**

2 These have been forwarded to the GLG Presbytery and will be taken up at our next meeting
3 during the week of the RPCNA Synod, June 20-23, 2023.

4 Further, we will also be forwarding to the Presbytery the Southfield RPC Session's response to
5 these complaints.

6 Finally, Mr. Allison, we understand that you are under the impression that these complaints will
7 arrest or postpone your trial with the Southfield Session. This is not our understanding. The
8 Presbytery has already heard your complaint and returned it to you. The court has told the Session
9 that they may proceed with the trial. It was also explained to you that you may appeal the trial
10 results. The Book of Discipline II.10-15 lays out the appeal process, pages E-17-19.

11
12 Sincerely,

13 The Ad Interim Commission of the Great Lakes- Gulf Presbytery

14
15 **Great Lakes–Gulf Presbytery Ad Interim Commission Minutes**
16 **May 15, 2023**

17 The Ad Interim Commission of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery met by video conference call.

18 Those present included Shawn Anderson (moderator, Sycamore RPC-Kokomo, IN), G. Scott Damerow
19 (SW Ohio RPC), Jerry Porter (Southside RPC, Indianapolis, IN) and Alejandro Ramirez (Orlando
20 RPC, Orlando, FL). Aaron Hartzler (RPC of Lafayette, IN) was absent.

21 Shawn Anderson opened the meeting and constituted the court in prayer in the name and by the
22 authority of Jesus Christ, King and Head of the Church, at 7:21 pm.

23 **Agenda Item 2:** *(From Presbytery, March 2-4, 2023)* 10. (Rec 7) That presbytery instruct the
24 incoming AIC to determine and disseminate the time and place for the fall meeting
25 by July 31, 2023.

26 **Action Taken:** A Fall meeting is penciled in from October 5-7, 2023, at Bloomington RPC. Having
27 consulted with the clerk of presbytery, several things that could potentially be on
28 the Fall meeting agenda. After AIC gives its report at the Presbytery meeting at
29 Synod and sharing such agenda items, it will come with the following
30 recommendation:

31 **Recommendation 1:** That the GLG presbytery authorizes the AIC to assess
32 the number and significance of agenda items and determine the necessity of a
33 fall meeting no later than August 1, 2023.

1 **Agenda Item 13:** *(From the Synod the RPCNA)* That at-large teaching elders be certified for Synod
2 in Marion, IN at Indiana Wesleyan University (IWU) from June 20-23, 2023.

3 **Action Taken:** By common consent, the following at-large teaching elders are certified as
4 delegates to the meeting of Synod on June 20-23, 2023, at IWU (Marion, IN):

5 Andrew B.
6 Jack Baumgardner
7 Bryan Dage
8 Rich Johnston
9 Gordon Keddie
10 Ray Lanning
11 R. Paul Matthews
12 Glenn McFarland
13 Jim McMahan
14 James Pennington
15 Dennis Prutow
16 Thomas Reid
17 Bill Roberts
18 Frank Schutz
19 Zachary Smith
20 David Whitla
21 Steven Work
22 James Wright

23
24 The certification will be prepared by the AIC clerk and forward it to the clerk of
25 Synod and to the clerk and assistant clerk of the GLG presbytery. The certification
26 will be attached to and made a part of these minutes.

27 In the event of any oversight to the above list of at-large teaching elders, the AIC
28 moderator and clerk are authorized to certify those elders.

29 **Agenda Item 14:** *(From Candidates and Credentials Committee, May 11, 2023)* That Presbytery
30 meet after synod on Friday June 23 at RPC of Lafayette to conduct student exams.

31 **Action Taken:** By common consent, the GLG Presbytery will meet from 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm on
32 Friday June 23 at RPC of Lafayette.

33 **Agenda Item 15:** *(From Orlando RPC, April 25, 2023)* request to forward a communication (GLG
34 23-21) from the Orlando RPC Session to Synod.

35 **Action Taken:** It was moved, seconded, and carried to forward ORPC's communication to Synod
36 without endorsement.

37 **Agenda Item 16:** *(From Bryan Dage & Jason LaPointe, May 3, 2023)* request (GLG 23-20) for a
38 visitation committee of Presbytery for Hetherton RP Church.

1 **Action Taken:** By common consent the following Hetherton RPC Visitation Committee was
2 appointed to visit and report back to Presbytery at its next meeting following their
3 visit.

4 Committee: Joshua Smith, Scott Hunt, David Hanson (chair)

5 Alternates: Bob Bibby, Jason Camery

6 **Agenda Item 17:** (*From Joel Hart via Columbus RPC session [endorsed], May 6, 2023*) request for
7 the AIC to specify if/when/how Petition GLG 23-19 comes before the court.

8 **Action Taken:** It was moved, seconded, and carried to 1) distribute the Petition GLG 23-19 to the
9 presbytery asap, 2) come to Presbytery at Synod with a recommendation to erect a
10 standing Finance Committee, and 3) provide nominations for the Presbytery to vote
11 on at said meeting (*similar to receiving a report from a Nominations Committee*).

12 These minutes of May 15, 2023, were read and approved by common consent.

13 Alejandro Ramirez prayed for the Church and adjourned the court in prayer in the name and by the
14 authority of Jesus Christ, Head and King of the Church at 7:54 pm.

15 

16 G. Scott Damerow,
17 Pro Tem Clerk of the Ad Interim Commission

15 

16 Shawn Anderson,
17 Moderator of the Ad Interim Commission

18

19 **Great Lakes–Gulf Presbytery Ad Interim Commission Minutes**
20 **June 5, 2023**

21 The Ad Interim Commission of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery met by video conference call.

22 Those present included Shawn Anderson (moderator, Sycamore RPC-Kokomo, IN), G. Scott Damerow
23 (SW Ohio RPC), Aaron Hartzler (clerk, RPC of Lafayette, IN), Jerry Porter (Southside RPC,
24 Indianapolis, IN) and Alejandro Ramirez (Orlando RPC, Orlando, FL).

25 Shawn Anderson opened the meeting and constituted the court in prayer in the name and by the
26 authority of Jesus Christ, King and Head of the Church, at 7:07 pm.

27 **Agenda Item 17:** (*From Joel Hart via Columbus RPC session [endorsed], May 6, 2023*) request for
28 the AIC to specify if/when/how Petition GLG 23-19 comes before the court.

1 **Action Taken:** By common consent, the AIC nominations so far include Joel Hart (3 years) and
2 Ross Cerbus (1 year).

3 **Agenda Item 18:** (*From Gary Allison via Southfield RPC, April 25, 2023*) request to forward a
4 complaint [GLG 23-22] and an appeal [GLG 23-23] to Synod against the GLGP
5 AIC decision to return his complaint [GLG 23-15] because it was ruled out of order.
6 Pertinent documents to be forwarded include: GLG 23-15; AIC Minutes (4/24/23);
7 AIC letter to Mr. Allison (4/24/23)

8 **Action Taken:** It was moved, seconded, and carried to forward GLG 23-22 and GLG 23-23 to
9 Synod with the following explanation:

10 *“The complaint and the appeal are the same in substance. Previously he filed a*
11 *communication which he called an appeal and complaint. It appears that he has*
12 *filed the same document with two different titles to avoid his previous mistake. We*
13 *are forwarding both with this explanation to shed light on the possible confusion.”*

14 **Agenda Item 19:** (*From Nathan Enas and Kevin Swan, June 5, 2023*) request to forward a complaint
15 [GLG 23-24] to Synod against the GLGP decision to remove Rev. James Faris
16 from the roll of Teaching Elders of the GLGP.

17 **Action Taken:** It was moved, seconded, and carried to forward GLG 23-24 to Synod without
18 endorsement.

19 Pertinent documents to be forwarded include: Rev. Faris request for dismissal;
20 Minutes of GLG Presbytery (March 2-4, 2023); Letter of Standing of Rev. Faris;
21 AIC Minutes (3/27/23 & 4/24/23)

22 **Agenda Item 20:** Since (1) the Book of Discipline II.4.4 stipulates that if there is a complaint against
23 a court then, “...The lower court is the defendant in the case, and shall be
24 represented by one or more of its members or other persons appointed for this
25 purpose...” and (2) there are several complaints against the GLGP, therefore the
26 following representative appointments are made for the 2023 Synod.

27 **Action Taken:** By common consent, here are representative appointments for Synod 2023
28 23-01 [GLG 22-16 Enas, et al vs. GLG & Faris] A. Kuehner / N. Eshelman
29 23-02 [GLG 22-23 Enas vs. GLG & CCRP Comm.] A. Kuehner / N. Eshelman
30 23-03 [GLG 22-22 Enas & Swan vs. GLG Recording] A. Kuehner / N. Eshelman
31 23-06 [GLG 23-14 Kuehner vs. GLGP] J. Hughes / N. Eshelman
32 23-XX [GLG 23-24 Enas/Swan vs. GLGP] R. Holdeman / S. Rhoda

1 **Agenda Item 21:** *(From Ben Manring, June 3, 2023)* notice of appeal and request to instruct the
2 SSRPC session to withdraw their announcement of rebuke, per BOD II.4.12.

3 **Action Taken:** It was moved, seconded, and carried that in accord with Book of Discipline II.4.11
4 (E-17) the AIC will inform Mr. Manring that when they receive his notice of appeal
5 formally from the clerk of Southside RPC session, Mr. Sturm, then the AIC will be
6 able to act on his notice.

7 Mr. Jerry Porter recused himself from voting on this motion.

8 **Agenda Item 22:** *(From Adam Kuehner, June 5, 2023)* request to fill GLGP’s interchurch liaison due
9 to Dick Knodel’s resignation.

10 **Action Taken:** By common consent Shawn Anderson was appointed as GLGP’s interchurch
11 liaison.

12 **Agenda Item 23:** AIC suggests taking up Mr. Allison’s complaints [GLG 23-16 – *summoning Mr.*
13 *Allison to trial* and GLG 23-17 – *proceeding with Mr. Allison’s trial*] as a single
14 complaint.

15 **Action Taken:** It was moved, seconded, and carried to that the following procedure be adopted
16 and slated for the GLGP’s upcoming meeting on Friday, June 23 from 3:30-5:30
17 pm at the RP Church of Lafayette (1723 S 9th St, Lafayette, IN 47905).

- 18 1. COMPLAINT HEARING — GLG 23-16, 23-17 (Combined) 50 mins [5:25]
 - 19 A. Complainant (10 mins) [4:45]
 - 20 B. Defendant (10 mins) [4:55]
 - 21 C. Floor Discussion (20 mins) [5:15]
 - 22 D. Vote on GLG 23-16 5 mins [5:20]
 - 23 E. Vote on GLG 23-17 5 mins [5:25]
- 24 2. The AIC will inform Mr. Allison of this date and schedule with the plan for
25 combining the complaints.
- 26 3. We will place this recommendation before the Presbytery at Synod for their
27 approval of this procedure.

28 **Recommendation:** *That the GLG Presbytery approve of the procedure and*
29 *schedule to take up Mr. Allison’s combined complaints (GLG 23-16, GLG 23-*
30 *17) at the Presbytery meeting on June 23, 2023 at the RPC of Lafayette.*

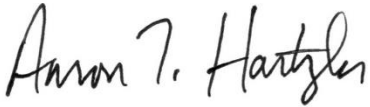
31 **Agenda Item 24:** *(From the Membership Committee, June 5, 2023)* request to transfer the Boudreau
32 family (Brenden*, Elizabeth*, George, Genevieve, Walter), former members of the

1 First RPC of Grand Rapids congregation, from the membership roll of the GLGP
2 to Little Farms Chapel OPC in Coopersville, Michigan, at their request, effective
3 June 5, 2023. (*Communicant)

4 **Action Taken:** It was moved, seconded, and carried to transfer the Boudreau family (Brenden &
5 Elizabeth Boudreau are communicant members, and George, Genevieve, and
6 Walter are baptized members) from the membership roll of the Great Lakes-Gulf
7 Presbytery to Little Farms Chapel OPC (Coopersville, MI).

8 These minutes of June 5, 2023, were read and approved by common consent.

9 Aaron Hartzler prayed for the Church and adjourned the court in prayer in the name and by the authority
10 of Jesus Christ, Head and King of the Church at 8:20 pm.

11 

12 Aaron Hartzler,
13 Clerk of the Ad Interim Commission



Shawn Anderson,
Moderator of the Ad Interim Commission

14 June 5, 2023

15 Little Farms Chapel OPC
16 Attn: Session Clerk Hank Veldman
17 2518 Arthur St E
18 Coopersville, MI 49404
19 Email Address: hankveldman@yahoo.com, office@lfcopc.org

20 Re: Certificate of Transfer for the Boudreau Family

21 Dear Mr. Veldman,

22 The *Ad Interim Commission (AIC)* of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery has received from Brenden
23 and Elizabeth Boudreau, former members of the now dissolved First Reformed Presbyterian
24 Church of Grand Rapids and who are now on the membership roll of our Presbytery, a request to
25 transfer their membership to Little Farms Chapel (OPC). The AIC has considered and approved
26 their request.

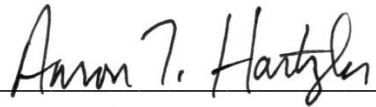
27 The following Certificate of Transfer is submitted for your records. If you have any questions or
28 need anything further, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your shepherding care
29 of this dear family. May the Lord bless your church family with the addition of this family, their
30 faith and service.

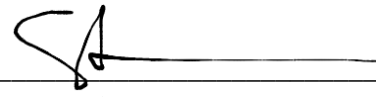
31 Sincerely,
32 Shawn Anderson, Moderator of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery AIC

1 **Certificate of Transfer of Membership**

2 This is to certify that Brenden and Elizabeth Boudreau, communicant members in good standing
3 on the roll of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery (RPCNA) along with their baptized children,
4 George, Genevieve, and Walter, are at their request hereby dismissed to unite with Little Farms
5 Chapel—OPC (2518 Arthur Street, Coopersville, MI 49404).

6 Given this fifth day of June in the year of 2023, by order of the The *Ad Interim Commission* of the
7 Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery of the RPCNA.

8 
9 _____
10 Aaron Hartzler,
11 Clerk of the Ad Interim Commission



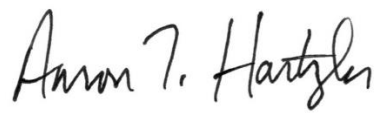
Shawn Anderson,
Moderator of the Ad Interim Commission

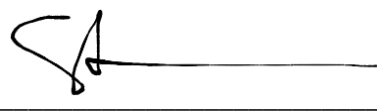
12
13 **Edict for the Ordination and Installation**

14 **of Jonathan Sturm**

15 **in the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Lafayette**

16 The Great Lakes/Gulf Presbytery has received a call made by the Reformed Presbyterian Church
17 of Lafayette upon Jonathan Sturm to be their associate pastor and has sustained it as a regular gospel
18 call. He has accepted the call. Notice is hereby given that the 23rd day of June in the year 2023,
19 has been fixed as the time for his ordination and installation, with certification that the Presbytery
20 will proceed in the same unless some valid objections be offered to the Presbytery which is to meet
21 at the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Lafayette (1723 S 9th St, Lafayette, IN 47905) on the 23rd
22 day of June in the year 2023 for the ordination and installation. The meeting for the ordination and
23 installation will be held at 7:00 p.m.

24 
25 _____
26 Aaron Hartzler,
27 Clerk of the Ad Interim Commission



Shawn Anderson,
Moderator of the Ad Interim Commission

28 The Directory for Church Government 3.II.E.2.a (D-19) states "The commission or presbytery shall
29 issue an edict and direct that it be read to the congregation on the two preceding Lord's Days." The
30 Ad Interim Commission (AIC) of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery set the date for this ordination,
31 pending Mr. Sturm sustaining his ordination exams, which he did on May 25, 2023. However, the

1 AIC failed to issue this edict 2 preceding Lord's Days of the scheduled ordination and installation.
2 Let it be noted that this edict is issued irregularly.

3 By order of the Ad Interim Commission of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery this 14th day of June
4 in the year 2023.

5
6 **Great Lakes–Gulf Presbytery Ad Interim Commission Minutes**
7 **July 31, 2023**

8 The Ad Interim Commission of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery met by video conference call.

9 Those present included Shawn Anderson (moderator, Sycamore RPC-Kokomo, IN), G. Scott Damerow
10 (SW Ohio RPC), Jerry Porter (Southside RPC, Indianapolis, IN) and Alejandro Ramirez (Orlando
11 RPC, Orlando, FL). Aaron Hartzler (RPC of Lafayette, IN) was absent, attending a session meeting.

12 Shawn Anderson opened the meeting and constituted the court in prayer in the name and by the
13 authority of Jesus Christ, King and Head of the Church, at 7:06 pm.

14 **Agenda Item 25:** *(From GLG Presbytery, June 20, 2023)* Recommendation carried from GLG 23-
15 19, for the AIC to appoint the initial membership of the standing finance committee
16 before fall 2023, so that this committee can be ready for presentations at any fall
17 2023 presbytery meeting or spring 2024 presbytery meeting.

18 **Action Taken:** It was moved, seconded, and carried to appoint Ross Cerbus (1 year), Ken Nelson
19 (2 years), and Joel Hart (3 years) to the Finance Committee. The presbytery
20 treasurer and assistant treasurer are ex officio, non-voting members of the
21 committee as well.

22 **Agenda Item 26:** *(From GLG Presbytery, June 20, 2023)* That the GLG Presbytery authorize the
23 AIC to assess the number and significance of agenda items and determine the
24 necessity of a fall meeting no later than August 1, 2023.

25 **Action Taken:** After some discussion, the only pressing items for the Presbytery to address before
26 the 2024 spring meeting are two appeals. By common consent the AIC will
27 distribute a straw poll to the Presbytery, seeking the court's will to handle the
28 appeals. Mr. Porter recused himself from making decisions or consenting on this
29 matter.

30 **Option A:** Mr. Manring's appeal (GLG 23-26) and complaint (GLG 23-27) would
31 be sent to an AIC-appointed judicial commission to hear and decide the matter.

32 This Judicial Commission would consist of: Ross Fearing (TE *Convener*), Phil
33 Pockras (TE), Jerry Foltz (TE), Jonathan Schaefer (RE), and Greg Fisher (RE).

1 The JC appoints its moderator & clerk. Steven Work (TE), Joshua Smith (TE),
2 and Robert McKissick (RE) will serve as alternates.

3 Mr. Allison has also provided a notice to appeal, but the appeal has not yet been
4 received. When received, his appeal would be sent to an AIC-appointed judicial
5 commission to hear and decide the matter.

6 This Judicial Commission would consist of: Adam Niess (TE *Convener*),
7 Aaron Murray (TE), Joel Hart (TE), Jeffrey Brotherton (RE), Brentt VanSickle
8 (RE). The JC appoints its moderator & clerk. Nathan Eshelman (TE), Philip
9 McCollum (TE), and James Odom (RE) will serve as alternates.

10 **Option B:** The appeals and complaint would be heard and decided by the whole
11 presbytery at a one-day meeting from 2pm to 8pm. This would require minimal
12 hosting and one meal from the host congregation. Each appeal could be heard
13 and determined within a two-hour block.

14 The straw poll will be available until Friday, August 4, at noon.

15 **Agenda Item 27:** *(From Ben Manring, June 3, 2023)* Mr. Manring sent a notice of appeal to the
16 GLGP.

17 **Action Taken:** According to BOD II.4.11 (E-17) “...the clerk shall transmit the same, with the
18 necessary records and papers, to the clerk of the higher court.” The AIC clerk will
19 reach out to Mr. Sturm to make sure all necessary records have been transmitted.

20 According to BOD II.4.11 (E-17) “The higher court, upon receiving notice of the
21 intent to appeal, shall make available an appropriate advisor from among the
22 members of the court for the appellant.” The AIC has appointed **Stephen Rhoda**
23 to advise Mr. Manring in his appeal.

24 According to BOD II.4.11 (E-17) “At least sixty (60) days shall be given for
25 preparing the appeal and transmitting it to the clerk of the higher court, along with
26 a full statement of reasons for the appeal and all relevant documents.” The AIC
27 determines that an advisor was appointed by the AIC on July 31, 2023. Therefore,
28 the appellant may have until **September 29, 2023**, to prepare his appeal.

29 According to BOD II.4.11 (E-17) “In order for members of the higher court to have
30 time to read and process the appeal, a period of at least thirty (30) days must elapse
31 between the court's receiving the appeal and the meeting where it is to be
32 adjudicated.” The appeal has not yet been shared with the court. Once shared, the
33 appeal would have to be heard after at least 30 days.

34 **Agenda Item 28:** *(From Gary Allison, July 13, 2023)* Mr. Allison sent a notice of appeal to the
35 GLGP.

36 **Action Taken:** According to BOD II.4.11 (E-17) “...the clerk shall transmit the same, with the
37 necessary records and papers, to the clerk of the higher court.” The AIC clerk will
38 reach out to Mr. Hughes to make sure all necessary records have been transmitted.

1 According to BOD II.4.11 (E-17) “The higher court, upon receiving notice of the
2 intent to appeal, shall make available an appropriate advisor from among the
3 members of the court for the appellant.” The AIC has appointed **Wade Mann** to
4 advise Mr. Allison in his appeal.

5 According to BOD II.4.11 (E-17) “At least sixty (60) days shall be given for
6 preparing the appeal and transmitting it to the clerk of the higher court, along with
7 a full statement of reasons for the appeal and all relevant documents.” The AIC
8 determines that an advisor was appointed by the AIC on July 31, 2023. Therefore,
9 the appellant may have until **September 29, 2023**, to prepare his appeal.

10 According to BOD II.4.11 (E-17) “In order for members of the higher court to have
11 time to read and process the appeal, a period of at least thirty (30) days must elapse
12 between the court's receiving the appeal and the meeting where it is to be
13 adjudicated.” The appeal has not yet been shared with the court. Once shared, the
14 appeal would have to be heard after at least 30 days.

15 Shawn Anderson prayed for the Church and adjourned the court in prayer in the name and by the
16 authority of Jesus Christ, Head and King of the Church at 8:30 pm.

17 These minutes of July 31, 2023, were read and approved by common consent.

18 

18 

19 G. Scott Damerow,
20 Pro Tem Clerk of the Ad Interim Commission

19 Shawn Anderson,
20 Moderator of the Ad Interim Commission

22 **Great Lakes–Gulf Presbytery Ad Interim Commission Minutes**
23 **September 4, 2023**

24 The Ad Interim Commission of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery met by video conference call.

25 Those present included Shawn Anderson (moderator, Sycamore RPC-Kokomo, IN), G. Scott Damerow
26 (SW Ohio RPC), Aaron Hartzler (clerk, RPC of Lafayette, IN), Jerry Porter (Southside RPC,
27 Indianapolis, IN) and Alejandro Ramirez (Orlando RPC, Orlando, FL).

28 Shawn Anderson opened the meeting and constituted the court in prayer in the name and by the
29 authority of Jesus Christ, King and Head of the Church, at 7:10 pm.

30 **Agenda Item 29:** Appoint a Clerk Pro Tem for the May 15, 2023 and July 31, 2023 AIC meeting.

31 **Action Taken:** It was moved, seconded, and carried to appoint G. Scott Damerow as the AIC Clerk
32 Pro Tem for the AIC meetings in May and July, 2023. Scott will sign these AIC
33 Minutes.

1 **Agenda Item 30:** Officially designate the time and place for the one-day Fall GLG Presbytery
2 meeting.

3 **Action Taken:** By common consent the Fall GLG Presbytery meeting will be held on Friday
4 October 6, 2023, at the Sycamore Reformed Presbyterian Church (300 E. Mulberry
5 St., Kokomo, IN 46901). The business of this meeting is to hear the complaint and
6 appeal of Mr. Ben Manring and complaint of Mr. Gary Allison, pending reception
7 of appeals by September 5, 2023.

8 The court will also take up the transfer of credentials of Mr. Colin Samul and
9 receive under care as a theological student, Mr. Nathan Shaver. The Hetherton RP
10 Church Committee may also have a report to give. The CYPUB board requests for
11 officers will come before the court for approval.

12 **Agenda Item 31:** (*Communication from assistant clerk, Nathan Eshelman*) Request to cover Mr.
13 Colin Samul's travel expenses to Presbytery (October 6, 2023).

14 **Action Taken:** By common consent, Mr. Samul's travel expenses will be covered according to the
15 present Presbytery GLG reimbursement policy.

16 **Agenda Item 32:** (*From Jake Schwartz and Steve Rhoda, June 29, 2023*) The remaining elders from
17 First RPC (Grand Rapids) session sent a letter to the AIC with requests for
18 Presbytery's approval for the disbursement of remaining funds by the RPCNA
19 Trustees of Synod.

20 **Action Taken:** By common consent, the AIC, on behalf of the GLG Presbytery approves the
21 recommendations for the disbursement of the First RPC (Grand Rapids) remaining
22 funds. The AIC will communicate this to the RPCNA Trustees of Synod.

23 **Agenda Item 33:** (*From GLG Clerk, Adam Kuehner, July 31, 2023*) request to transfer Tara Wykstra,
24 former communicant member in good standing of First RPC of Grand Rapids, from
25 the membership roll of the GLGP to Bethany URC in Wyoming, MI, at her request.

26 **Action Taken:** It was moved, seconded, and carried to transfer Tara Wykstra from the membership
27 roll of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery to Bethany URC (5401 Byron Center Ave.,
28 Wyoming, MI 49519).

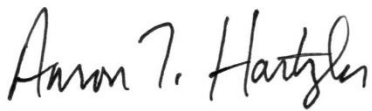
29 **Agenda Item 34:** Finalize a procedure to recommend at our Fall October 6 meeting for dealing with
30 appeals.

31 **Action Taken:** It was moved, seconded, and carried to approve the "AIC Recommendations for a
32 GLG Presbytery Appeals Process on October 6, 2023". Jerry Porter recused
33 himself from the vote.

1 **Agenda Item 35:** Appoint advisors for appellants, Mr. Manring, and Mr. Allison.
2 **Action Taken:** By common consent on August 11, 2023, the following advisors were appointed
3 and contacted along with their respective appellants:
4 Mr. Gary Allison – Mr. Ross Fearing
5 Mr. Ben Manring – Mr. Nathan Eshelman

6 These minutes of September 4, 2023, were read and approved by common consent.

7 Aaron Hartzler prayed for the Church and adjourned the court in prayer in the name and by the authority
8 of Jesus Christ, Head and King of the Church at 8:30 pm.

9 

10 Aaron Hartzler,
11 Clerk of the Ad Interim Commission



Shawn Anderson,
Moderator of the Ad Interim Commission

13

September 4, 2023

14 Dear Trustees of Synod,

15 The Great Lakes-Gulf (GLG) Presbytery *Ad Interim Commission (AIC)* met on September 4,
16 2023. Our agenda included a request to approve several recommendations sent to you regarding
17 the disbursement of the remaining finds of the First RPC of Grand Rapids.

18 We note in our minutes that “*by common consent, the AIC, on behalf of the GLG Presbytery*
19 *approves the recommendations for the disbursement of the First RPC (Grand Rapids) remaining*
20 *funds. The AIC will communicate this to the RPCNA Trustees of Synod.*”

21 Thank you for your service to Christ and His Bride,

22 

23 Aaron Hartzler,
24 Clerk of the Ad Interim Commission



Shawn Anderson,
Moderator of the Ad Interim Commission

September 4, 2023

Bethany URC
Attn: Consistory Clerk Larry Koetje
5401 Byron Center Ave.,
Wyoming, MI 49519
Email Address: clerk@bethanyurc.com

Re: Certificate of Transfer for Tara Wykstra

Dear Mr. Koetje,

The *Ad Interim Commission (AIC)* of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery has received from Tara Wykstra, former communicant member of the now dissolved First Reformed Presbyterian Church of Grand Rapids and who is on the membership roll of our Presbytery, a request to transfer her membership to Bethany URC. The AIC has considered and approved her request.

The following Certificate of Transfer is submitted for your records. If you have any questions or need anything further, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your shepherding care of this dear saint. May the Lord bless your church family with the addition of Tara, her faith, witness, and service.

Sincerely,
Shawn Anderson, Moderator of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery AIC

Certificate of Transfer of Membership

This is to certify that Tara Wykstra, communicant member in good standing on the roll of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery (RPCNA) is at her request hereby dismissed to unite with Bethany URC (5401 Byron Center Ave., Wyoming, MI 49519).

Given this fourth day of September in the year of 2023, by order of the *Ad Interim Commission* of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery of the RPCNA.



Aaron T. Hartzler, Clerk of AIC



Shawn Anderson, Moderator of AIC

Great Lakes–Gulf Presbytery Ad Interim Commission Minutes
November 20, 2023

The Ad Interim Commission of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery met by video conference call.

Those present included Shawn Anderson (moderator, Sycamore RPC-Kokomo, IN), G. Scott Damerow (SW Ohio RPC), Aaron Hartzler (RPC of Lafayette, IN), and Jerry Porter (Southside RPC, Indianapolis, IN), and Alejandro Ramirez (Orlando RPC, Orlando, FL).

Shawn Anderson opened the meeting and constituted the court in prayer in the name and by the authority of Jesus Christ, King and Head of the Church, at 7:06 PM.

Agenda Item 32: (From GLG Clerk, Adam Kuehner, October 19, 2023) request to transfer Les Wilwerding, former member of the First RPC of Grand Rapids congregation, from the membership roll of the GLGP to Redeemer Presbyterian Church PCA in Holland, Michigan, at his request, effective November 20, 2023.

Action Taken: It was moved, seconded, and carried to transfer Les Wilwerding from the membership role of the GLGP to Redeemer Presbyterian Church PCA in Holland, Michigan.

Agenda Item 33: (From the Membership Committee, November 14, 2023) request to transfer the Clauson family (Kevin*, Marcia*, Lori, Rachel), former members of the Dayton RPC congregation, from the membership roll of the GLGP to Grace OPC in Lynchburg, Virginia, at their request, effective November 20, 2023. (*Communicant)

Action Taken: It was moved, seconded, and carried to transfer the Clauson family (Kevin and Marcia Clauson are communicant members, Lori and Rachel are baptized members) from the membership roll of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery to Grace OPC in Lynchburg, Virginia.

Agenda Item 34: (From Ben Manring, October 9, 2023) request to forward an appeal [GLG 23-26] and complaint [GLG 23-27] to Synod against the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Southside Indianapolis.

Action Taken: It was moved, seconded, and carried to forward GLG 23-26 and GLG 23-27 to Synod.

Agenda Item 35: (From Rationale Committee, November 9, 2023) to receive and adopt the GLGP rationale for the October 6, 2023, Manring Appeal decision.

1 **Action Taken:** It was moved, seconded, and carried (Jerry Porter abstained) to table this item
2 until the next AIC meeting.

3 **Agenda Item 36:** (From Jim Bishop via Hetherton Reformed Presbyterian Church, November 13,
4 2023) Hetherton Reformed Presbyterian Church 2023 GLGP dues.

5 **Action Taken:** It was moved, seconded, and carried to waive the Hetherton RPC 2023 GLGP
6 dues.

7 **Agenda Item 37:** (From James Odom, November 10, 2023) James Odom complaint against the
8 Westminster Reformed Presbyterian Church.

9 **Action Taken:** It was moved, seconded, and carried to forward Mr. Odom's complaint against
10 Westminster RPC and attached Admonition which are only to be shared with
11 presbyters within the GLG Presbytery.


12 **Agenda Item 38:** (From Ross Fearing, November 20, 2023) Sparta Reformed Presbyterian Church
13 request for a shepherding committee.


14 **Action Taken:** It was moved, seconded, and carried to create a Shepherding Committee.

15
16 Committee: Shawn Anderson (chair), Russ Pulliam, Jonathan Sturm
17

18 These minutes of November 20, 2023, were read and approved by common consent.

19 Jerry Porter prayed for the Church and adjourned the court in prayer in the name and by the
20 authority of Jesus Christ, Head and King of the Church at 8:15 PM.

21 
22 _____
23 Aaron Hartzler,
Clerk of the Ad Interim Commission



Shawn Anderson,
Moderator of the Ad Interim Commission

November 20, 2023

1
2
3 Redeemer Presbyterian Church PCA
4 Attn: Chip Byrd
5 556 Butternut Drive, Holland, MI 49424
6 Email Address: sermonbyrd@sbcglobal.net
7

8 Re: Certificate of Transfer for Les Wilwerding
9

10 Dear Mr. Byrd,
11

12 The Ad Interim Commission (AIC) of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery has received from
13 Les Wilwerding, former communicant member of the now dissolved First Reformed
14 Presbyterian Church of Grand Rapids, Michigan, and who is on the membership roll of our
15 Presbytery, a request to transfer his membership to Redeemer Presbyterian Church PCA.
16 The AIC has considered and approved his request.

17 The following Certificate of Transfer is submitted for your records. If you have any
18 questions or need anything further, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your
19 shepherding care of this dear saint. May the Lord bless your church family with the addition
20 of Les, his faith, witness, and service.

21 Sincerely,
22 Shawn Anderson, Moderator of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery AIC
23

24 **Certificate of Transfer of Membership**

25 This is to certify that Les Wilwerding, communicant member in good standing on the roll
26 of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery (RPCNA) is at his request hereby dismissed to unite
27 with Redeemer Presbyterian Church PCA (556 Butternut Drive, Holland, MI 49424).

28 Given this twentieth day of November in the year of 2023, by order of the Ad Interim
29 Commission of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery of the RPCNA.

30 
31
32

33 Aaron Hartzler,

34 Clerk of the Ad Interim Commission


31
32

33 Shawn Anderson,

34 Moderator of the Ad Interim Commission

November 20, 2023

Grace Orthodox Presbyterian Church
Attn: Scott Shallenberger
3300 Carroll Ave, Lynchburg, VA 24501
Email Address: foresterscott83@gmail.com

Re: Certificate of Transfer for the Kevin and Marcia Clauson family

Dear Mr. Shallenberger,

The Ad Interim Commission (AIC) of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery has received from Kevin and Marcia Clauson, former communicant members of the now dissolved Reformed Presbyterian Church of Dayon, Tennessee, and who are on the membership roll of our Presbytery, a request to transfer their membership to Grace Orthodox Presbyterian Church. The AIC has considered and approved their request.

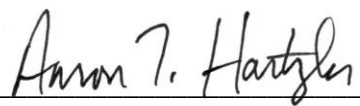
The following Certificate of Transfer is submitted for your records. If you have any questions or need anything further, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your shepherding care of these dear saints. May the Lord bless your church family with the addition of this family, their faith, witness, and service.

Sincerely,
Shawn Anderson, Moderator of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery AIC


Certificate of Transfer of Membership

This is to certify that Kevin and Marcia Clauson, communicant members in good standing on the roll of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery (RPCNA) along with their baptized children, Lori and Rachel, are at their request hereby dismissed to unite with Grace Orthodox Presbyterian Church (3300 Carroll Ave, Lynchburg, VA 24501).

Given this twentieth day of November in the year of 2023, by order of the Ad Interim Commission of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery of the RPCNA.



Aaron Hartzler,
Clerk of the Ad Interim Commission



Shawn Anderson,
Moderator of the Ad Interim Commission

Great Lakes–Gulf Presbytery Ad Interim Commission Minutes
January 15, 2024

The Ad Interim Commission of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery met by video conference call.

Those present included Shawn Anderson (moderator, Sycamore RPC-Kokomo, IN), G. Scott Damerow (SW Ohio RPC), Aaron Hartzler (RPC of Lafayette, IN), and Jerry Porter (Southside RPC, Indianapolis, IN). Alejandro Ramirez (Orlando RPC, Orlando, FL) was absent due to a session meeting.

Shawn Anderson opened the meeting and constituted the court in prayer in the name and by the authority of Jesus Christ, King and Head of the Church, at 7:06 PM.

Agenda Item 35: (From Rationale Committee, November 9, 2023) to receive and adopt the GLGP rationale for the October 6, 2023, Manring Appeal decision.

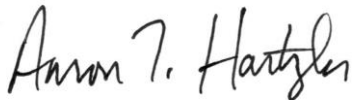
Action Taken: It was moved, seconded, and carried (Jerry Porter abstained) to adopt the GLGP rationale for the October 6, 2023, Manning Appeal decision.

Agenda Item 39: (From Joshua Ip via GLG Clerk, Adam Kuehner, January 15, 2024) Joshua Ip, former member of Grand Rapids RP Church requests that his membership be removed from the membership roll of the GLG Presbytery.

Action Taken: It was moved, seconded, and carried to dismiss Joshua Ip from the membership roll of the GLG Presbytery at his request from June 7, 2023 (See Certificate of Dismissal).

These minutes of January 15, 2024, were read and approved by common consent.

Scott Damerow prayed for the Church and adjourned the court in prayer in the name and by the authority of Jesus Christ, Head and King of the Church at 7:20 PM.



Aaron Hartzler,
Clerk of the Ad Interim Commission



Shawn Anderson,
Moderator of the Ad Interim Commission

1 **Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery (RPCNA)**

2 **The rationale for the October 6, 2023, Manring Appeal decision**

3 *The Ad Interim Commission of the GLG Presbytery adopted the following rationale on January 15,*
4 *2024.*

5 The appellant, Mr. Ben Manring, was rebuked by the Southside RPC Session for
6 uncharitable and divisive speech in an email sent to approximately 60% of the communicant
7 membership of the Southside congregation prior to an elder election.

8 Mr. Manring was not disciplined merely for sharing public information about an elder
9 candidate. His email suggested that, in signing a 2021 synod complaint, the current chairman of the
10 SSRPC deacon board does not adhere to Presbyterianism and is therefore disqualified from the
11 eldership. This would amount to a deposable offense for a deacon, based on Ordination Query 5.
12 Mr. Manring’s email also draws attention to the fact that SSRPC’s senior pastor registered his
13 dissent when the synod complaint was defeated. This clearly implies that the senior pastor no
14 longer adheres to Presbyterianism and is unfit for the eldership. Once again, this would be a
15 deposable offense.

16 Rather than respectfully filing charges against these existing church officers, or seeking
17 counsel from his session or presbytery, Mr. Manring made his case before the court of public
18 opinion with sweeping and censorious judgments, some of which had no direct bearing on the elder
19 election itself. This is neither the way of charity, nor the way of peace and order, as demonstrated
20 by the session’s various citations from Scripture and the Larger Catechism.

21 The SSRPC session has been scrutinized for not granting Mr. Manring’s request for an
22 informal meeting prior to receiving his censure, and for the level of censure. According to the
23 session, their actions in this case occurred within the broader shepherding context of their prior
24 interactions with Mr. Manring during his nearly six years as a member of the congregation.

25 During the hearing, Mr. Manring’s presentation seemed to confirm the session’s outlook.
26 In his speeches, he accused the session of “manipulation,” “retaliation,” “suppressing information,”
27 “gerrymandering” the election, and other sharply worded speculations for which no adequate
28 evidence was provided. At one point, without provocation, Mr. Manring disrupted the hearing by
29 shouting at the defense counsel, by name, from the pews. This outburst continued until he nearly
30 had to be removed from the courtroom. Such behavior served to reinforce, rather than to refute, the
31 session’s rationale for its actions in this case, and may help to explain why the appeal was defeated.

32 In conclusion, our presbytery’s decision ultimately reflects the fact that Mr. Manring, when
33 given the opportunity to present his appeal, failed to prove his case against the SSRPC session to
34 the satisfaction of a majority of the court.

35 

36 

37 _____
38 Aaron Hartzler,
39 Clerk of the Ad Interim Commission

37 _____
38 Shawn Anderson,
39 Moderator of the Ad Interim Commission

January 15, 2024

Email Address: grjoshua.ip@yahoo.com

Re: Certificate of Dismissal for Joshua Ip

Dear Mr. Ip,

The Ad Interim Commission (AIC) of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery has received your request to have your membership removed from the roll of the Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery so that “you may join a church with biblical ordinance that asserts, maintains, and defends the faith which was once delivered unto the saints in due course.”

The following Certificate of Dismissal is submitted for your records. We are deeply saddened that you have separated yourself from the visible church, outside of which there is no ordinary possibility of salvation. If you have any questions or further needs, please contact our Presbytery via our Clerks, Mr. Adam Kuehner (ak@streetsermon.org) or Mr. Nathan Eshelman (n.p.eshelman@gmail.com).

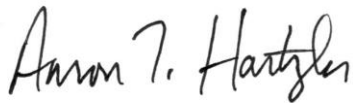
Sincerely,

Shawn Anderson, Moderator of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery AIC

Certificate of Dismissal

This is to certify that you, Joshua Ip, a former member of the now-dissolved First Reformed Presbyterian Church of Grand Rapids, are hereby removed from the membership roll of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery at your own request. We are deeply saddened that you have thereby separated yourself from the visible church, outside of which there is no ordinary possibility of salvation.

Given this fifteenth day of January in the year 2024, by order of the Ad Interim Commission of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery of the RPCNA.



Aaron Hartzler,
Clerk of the Ad Interim Commission



Shawn Anderson,
Moderator of the Ad Interim Commission

Great Lakes–Gulf Presbytery Ad Interim Commission Minutes
February 13, 2024

The Ad Interim Commission of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery met by video conference call.

Those present included Shawn Anderson (moderator, Sycamore RPC-Kokomo, IN), G. Scott Damerow (SW Ohio RPC), Aaron Hartzler (RPC of Lafayette, IN), and Alejandro Ramirez (Orlando RPC, Orlando, FL). Jerry Porter (Southside RPC, Indianapolis, IN) was absent due to eldership responsibilities.

Shawn Anderson opened the meeting and constituted the court in prayer in the name and by the authority of Jesus Christ, King and Head of the Church, at 7:05 PM.

Agenda Item 40: To approve the proposed AIC report to Presbytery.

Action Taken: The report was approved by common consent.

Agenda Item 41: Respond to Mr. Ben Manring about an email sent to the GLGP delegates.

Action Taken: It was moved, seconded, and carried that the AIC inform Mr. Manring, through Mr. Anderson, that communications to higher courts must be transmitted through the local session, and that accusations of sin against other church members or officers must follow the biblical process of church discipline outlined in the RPCNA Book of Discipline.

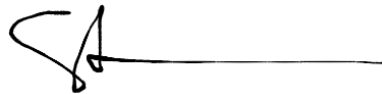
The minutes of the actions taken, along with assignments, were reviewed.

Alejandro Ramirez prayed for the Church and adjourned the court in prayer in the name and by the authority of Jesus Christ, Head and King of the Church at 8:11 PM.

These minutes of February 13, 2024, were read and approved by common consent.



Aaron Hartzler,
Clerk of the Ad Interim Commission



Shawn Anderson,
Moderator of the Ad Interim Commission