

The Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery (RPCNA)

Spring Meeting Minutes
March 15, 2017 (Updated)

CLERK

Rev. Adam Kuehner
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ASST. CLERK

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2017 ANNUAL SPRING MEETING

Time: Thursday March 2 @ 2pm to Saturday March 4 @ Noon

Place: Reformed Presbyterian Church of Columbus
550 N. National Rd, Columbus, IN 47201

Phone: (812) 378-3003

The Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery met for its annual Spring Meeting on Thursday March 2 at 2:00 p.m. at the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Columbus, Indiana.

BUSINESS SESSION #1

Thursday 2:00 - 5:30 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The moderator, Mr. H.P. McCracken, called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. The presbytery sang Psalm 22D to the praise of God.

Mr. McCracken read Philippians 1:12-18, preached from the text on Paul's ministry report from prison to the Philippian church, highlighting the glorious victory of Christ's gospel over various daunting hindrances..

He then constituted the court in prayer.

2. ROLL CALL

The assistant clerk, Mr. Hemken, called the roll and confirmed that a quorum was present.

All attendance and voting records from this meeting are included in Appendix 1.

3. INTRODUCTION OF FIRST-TIME DELEGATES

Mr. Niess introduced Mr. Averette Woodson, ruling elder from Selma RPC. Mr. Knodel introduced Timothy Vincze, ruling elder from SWORP.

4. CLERK'S REPORT

Mr. Kuehner presented the clerk's report.

Recommendation 1 was seconded and passed.¹

Recommendation 2 was seconded and passed.²

Recommendation 3 was seconded and passed.³

Recommendation 4 was seconded and passed.⁴

Recommendation 5 was seconded and failed.⁵

Recommendation 6 was seconded and failed.⁶

Recommendation 7 was seconded and passed.⁷

Recommendation 8 was seconded and passed.⁸

5. ASSISTANT CLERK'S REPORT

Mr. Hemken issued a call for papers and none were received.

¹ That the parliamentarians for this meeting be Mr. Pockras and Mr. Magill, with Mr. Evans serving as an alternate.

² That the nominating committee determine the congregations to be visited this year.

³ That the moderator appoint a committee of three to report back before the end of this meeting with a specific plan for the ongoing pastoral oversight of our membership roll.

⁴ That presbytery instruct Mr. Evans to post presbytery minutes in electronic format on the presbytery website.

⁵ That Paper 2017-01 be referred to a committee of three, appointed by the moderator, to report back with a recommendation before the end of this meeting.

⁶ That Paper 2017-02 be referred to a committee of three, appointed by the moderator, to report back with a recommendation before the end of this meeting.

⁷ That presbytery adopt the proposed agenda for this meeting.

⁸ That all RPCNA elders present, including all non-certified delegates from this presbytery, be granted the privilege of the floor during the remainder of this meeting.

He then issued a call for the submission of session and TGB minute books for examination by the court.

Finally, he reminded each congregation of its duty to submit a brief paragraph summary for the presbytery's annual report to synod.

6. OFFICER ELECTIONS

Mr. McKenzie was nominated to succeed Mr. McCracken as moderator. It was moved, seconded, and passed to close the nominations, after which Mr. McKenzie was elected by the court and took the chair.

Mr. Kuehner was nominated to continue as clerk, and Mr. Hemken to continue as assistant clerk.

It was moved, seconded, and passed to close the nominations, after which Mr. Kuehner and Mr. Hemken were elected by the court.

7. RULING/TEACHING ELDER MEMORIALS

The memorials for Rev. Roger Adams and Rev. Milton Harrington were deferred to a later time during this meeting.

8. AD INTERIM COMMISSION REPORT

Mr. Anderson presented the Ad Interim Commission Report.

It was moved, seconded, and passed to refer Recommendation 1⁹ back to the Ad Interim Commission to consult with the parliamentarians regarding a possible need to expunge certain statements made on page 9 of their minutes. (Continued on pp. 9-10)

9. TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Pockras called upon God's name in prayer, interceding for the treasurer, Mr. Bishop, who is currently undergoing open heart surgery.

Mr. Magill presented the treasurer's report in Mr. Bishop's absence, and answered questions from the floor.

Mr. Morton expressed his gratitude to the presbytery for the special honorarium he received last year as retiring clerk.

It was moved, seconded, and passed to receive the report.

⁹ That the minutes of the Ad Interim Commission be spread upon the minutes of presbytery.

10. INTER-CHURCH LIAISON REPORT

It was moved, seconded, and passed to receive the written version of Mr. Cassell's Inter-Church Liaison Report.

11. CANDIDATES AND CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Olivetti presented the Candidates and Credentials Committee Report. Recommendation 1 passed.¹⁰

Recommendation 2 passed¹¹, after which Columbus RPC ruling elder, Mr. McNamee, shared a testimony of his faith, described his own personal sense of calling to the gospel ministry, and answered questions from the floor.

Recommendation 3 passed.¹²

Recommendation 4 was referred to the finance committee.¹³

Recommendation 5 passed.¹⁴

Recommendation 6 was referred to the nominating committee.¹⁵

Recommendation 7 was referred to the nominating committee.¹⁶

12. MID-AFTERNOON BREAK

The court took its mid-afternoon break at 3:28 p.m. and returned at 3:48 p.m. with the singing of Psalm 119M to the praise of God.

13. PERSONAL PRIVILEGE (Prayer)

Mr. Butterfield shared a prayer request regarding a member of the Durham congregation suffering from a possible blood clot.

Mr. McKenzie called upon God's name in a prayer of intercession for the member in Durham and for the court as it resumes its business.

¹⁰ That student examinations be conducted at this meeting of presbytery according to the schedule outlined on page 1.

¹¹ That Gary McNamee be granted up to 10 minutes to share his testimony and sense of calling to the ministry with presbytery.

¹² That presbytery receive Gary McNamee as a student under care.

¹³ That student aid continue according to the outline in this report on page 2.

¹⁴ That Donald Cassell's license to receive a call be renewed for one year (through 3/18).

¹⁵ That James Faris be re-appointed to this committee for another three year term.

¹⁶ That Jared Olivetti be re-appointed to this committee for another three year term.

14. CANDIDATES AND CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT (Continued)

CHURCH HISTORY EXAM (Ketcham)

Mr. Olivetti invited Mr. Ketcham forward to receive his Church History exam from Mr. Pockras.

Mr. Ketcham answered various questions from Mr. Pockras and then from the floor of presbytery, after which various comments were made from the floor and the exam was unanimously sustained by a roll call vote.

STUDENT EXEGESIS PAPER (Hart)

Mr. Gregory presented the review committee's findings along with its recommendation that Mr. Joel Hart's exegesis paper be sustained by the presbytery.

The paper was unanimously sustained by voice vote.

STUDENT EXEGESIS PAPER (Ketcham)

It was moved, seconded, and passed to delay the voice vote on Mr. Ketcham's exegesis paper until this evening, due to the committee's very recent circulation of the report.

Mr. (H.P.) McCracken presented an oral summary of the review committee's findings regarding Mr. Ketcham's exegesis paper along with its recommendation that the paper be sustained.

15. SELMA COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Niess presented the Selma Committee Report.

Recommendation 1 passed.¹⁷

Recommendation 2 was referred to the finance committee.¹⁸

Recommendation 3 was referred to the nominating committee.¹⁹

¹⁷ That the Selma Committee be allowed to serve for another year.

¹⁸ That the Selma Committee be given \$3000.00 for another visit to the congregation and any other expenses that may be required.

¹⁹ That Adam Niess be appointed to the Selma Session as a provisional elder for a period of one year.

Recommendation 4 was laid on the table until a summary of the congregation's financial situation can be circulated later today.²⁰

16. CHURCH OFFICER ELECTION COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Pockras presented the Church Officer Election Committee Report and answered questions from the floor.

Recommendation 1 failed.²¹

Recommendation 2 failed.²²

It was moved, seconded, and passed to refer recommendation 3 back to the committee, to report back next Spring.²³

17. CONGREGATIONAL & VISITATION REPORTS

WESTMINSTER

Mr. Rhoda presented the Westminster congregational report.

Mr. Holdeman presented the Westminster visitation committee report and answered questions from the floor.

It was moved, seconded, and passed to receive the Westminster congregational and visitation reports.

WEST LAFAYETTE (IMMANUEL)

Mr. Larsen presented the Immanuel (West Lafayette) congregational report, followed by a ministry report from Mr. Olivetti.

²⁰ That up to 15 minutes be given for the committee to receive feedback from the presbytery regarding the following: 1) providing long-term financial support for a pastor's salary; 2) providing financial support for a new chair lift; 3) finding a current ruling elder to accompany the next pastor; 4) future plans for continued relationship building between the presbytery and congregation.

²¹ That this Presbytery declares that DCG 3.II.D.4.k (p. D-18) and parallel passages demand a minimum of three ballots in elections for ministers, ruling elders, and deacons when a two-thirds majority has not been attained for any nominee for a position or positions to be filled.

²² That this Presbytery deeply discourage any use of nominating ballots, mentioned in DCG 3.II.D.4.i, for officer elections within the bounds of this Presbytery until Synod should change the Directory for Church Government, and that the Clerk of Presbytery shall notify all Sessions of this resolution.

²³ That this Presbytery send this report to Synod and recommend to Synod that DCG 3.I.D.4.j (p D-11), 3.II.D.4.i (p D-18), and 3.III.D.4.j (p D-26) be amended by striking the words "The use of a nominating ballot is not encouraged, if it is used," at the beginning of these paragraphs, and "electing" before the word "ballot", so that these paragraphs read, "Absentee votes are valid only on the first ballot."

It was moved, seconded, and passed to receive the report.

18. INTERCESSORY PRAYER / RECESS FOR DINNER

The presbytery concluded with a time of intercessory prayer for the Westminster and West Lafayette congregations, led by Mr. McCracken and Mr. Mann, who recessed the court in prayer at 5:35 p.m.

BUSINESS SESSION #2

Thursday 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

19. CALL TO ORDER

The presbytery sang Psalm 139B to the praise of God and Mr. McKenzie called upon God's name in prayer to reconvene the court at 7:04 p.m.

20. CANDIDATES AND CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT (Continued)

EXPOSITORY SERMON ON ASSIGNED TOPIC (Ketcham)

Mr. Olivetti invited Mr. Ketcham forward for his expository sermon on an assigned topic.

Mr. Ketcham read Jonah 3, preached from the text on the subject of personal and corporate revival, and called upon God's name in prayer, after which the presbytery sang Psalm 119U to the praise of God.

21. CLERK'S MOTION

It was moved, seconded and passed that the assistant clerk be authorized to take attendance visually in this and all remaining business sessions.

22. READING OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Mr. Kuehner read the minutes from the previous business session, after which it was moved, seconded, and passed to approve them as amended.

23. INTRODUCTION OF FIRST-TIME DELEGATES

Mr. Johnston introduced first-time delegate, Mr. Wade Mann, teaching elder at Elkhart RPC.

Mr. McKenzie issued a brief welcome to Mr. Hanson, teaching elder at Southside RPC, as he returns the presbytery as a delegate.

24. MODERATOR APPOINTMENTS

Mr. McKenzie announced the following moderator appointments:

REVIEW OF MINUTE BOOKS

Belle Center — Porter, Magill

Bloomington — LeFebvre, Olivetti

Christ Church — H.P. McCracken, Faris

Columbus — S. Rhoda, D. Hanson

Dayton — Johnston, Anderson

Durham — Niess, Scott

Elkhart — Butterfield, Morton

Grand Rapids — Camery, Evans

Hetherton — Larson, Vincze
Immanuel — Pulliam, Mann
Lafayette — Wise, McKissick
Marion — Gregory, Smith
Orlando — Cosens, Holdeman
Pageland — Webb, A. McCracken
Second RP — Pockras, McNamee

Southfield — Morrow, Pulliam
Southside — Knodel, Briley
SWORP — Woodson, Mauser
Sycamore — O'Neill, B. McCracken
Terre Haute — Carr, Stockwell
Westminster — Menbere, Keddie

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Magill (Ch.)
Mr. Cosens
Mr. Morton

RES. OF THANKS COMMITTEE

Mr. Pulliam (Ch.)
Mr. Camery

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Mr. Faris (Ch.)
Mr. Mann
Mr. Scott
Mr. Carr

TRAVEL AGENT

Mr. Larson

PASTORAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Mr. Holdeman (Ch.)
Mr. Smith
Mr. Butterfield

TIME AND PLACE COMMITTEE

Mr. Porter (Ch.)
Mr. Johnston
Mr. McNamee

JUDICIAL COMMITTEE

Mr. LeFebvre (Ch.)
Mr. Evans
Mr. Pockras

25. INTRODUCTION OF FIRST-TIME DELEGATE

Mr. Morton introduced first-time delegate, Mr. Barton Briley, ruling elder at Hetherton RPC.

26. CANDIDATES AND CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT (Continued)

EXPOSITORY SERMON ON ASSIGNED TOPIC (Ketcham - Continued)

Mr. Olivetti introduced a time of feedback for Mr. Ketcham's sermon. Comments were made from the floor and the time was extended by common consent to hear all the comments. Mr. Ketcham's sermon was unanimously sustained by a roll call vote.

27. AD INTERIM COMMISSION REPORT (Continued)

Mr. Anderson informed the court that the Ad Interim Commission has removed certain sections of its minutes entirely and expunged certain other sections, which have been crossed out.

It was moved, seconded, and passed to spread the amended Ad Interim Commission Minutes upon the minutes of presbytery and to receive the report as a whole.

28. CONGREGATIONAL & VISITATION REPORTS (Remainder of Session)

SPARTA

Mr. Hemken presented the Sparta congregational report.
It was moved, seconded, and passed to receive the report.

SOUTHFIELD

Mr. Kuehner presented the Southfield congregational report and answered questions from the floor.
It was moved, seconded, and passed to receive the report.

ORLANDO

Mr. (H.P.) McCracken presented the Orlando congregational report.
It was moved, seconded, and passed to receive the report.

SOUTHWEST OHIO

Mr. Knodel presented the Southwest Ohio congregational report.
It was moved, seconded, and passed to receive the report.

MARION

Mr. Camery presented the Marion congregational report.
It was moved, seconded, and passed to receive the report.

29. INTERCESSORY PRAYER / ADJOURNMENT

The presbytery concluded with a time of intercessory prayer for congregations previously reporting, led by Mr. Butterfield, Mr. Scott, Mr. Morton, Mr. Evans, and Mr. Larsen, who then adjourned the court at 9:03 p.m.

BUSINESS SESSION #3

Friday 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

30. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. McKenzie called the court to order at 8:30 a.m. reconstituted it in prayer, after which Psalm 119S was sung to the praise of God.

31. CANDIDATES AND CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT (Continued)

EVIDENCE OF PROGRESS SERMON (Battiato)

Mr. Olivetti invited Mr. Battiato forward for his evidence of progress sermon. Mr. Battiato called upon God's name in prayer, read Romans 12:1-11, preached from the text on the believer's duty to serve Christ from the heart with fervency and zeal, and concluded in prayer, after which the presbytery sang Psalm 69A to the praise of God.

32. INTRODUCTION OF FIRST-TIME DELEGATE

Mr. Faris introduced first-time delegate, Mr. David Mauser, ruling elder at Second RPC.

33. READING OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Mr. Kuehner read the minutes from the previous business session and it was moved, seconded, and passed to approve them as amended.

34. CANDIDATES AND CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT (Continued)

EVIDENCE OF PROGRESS SERMON (Battiato - Continued)

Mr. Olivetti introduced a time of feedback for Mr. Battiato's sermon, after which comments were made from the floor.

Mr. Battiato's sermon was unanimously sustained by a roll call vote.

35. SELMA COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Niess resumed his presentation of the Selma Committee Report. Recommendation 4 was passed, after which Mr. Niess answered questions and received comments from the floor.

It was moved, seconded, and passed to receive the report.

36. GENEVA COLLEGE BOARD OF CORPORATORS REPORT

Mr. Pockras presented the Geneva College Board of Corporators Report. It was moved, seconded, and passed to receive the report.

37. HOME MISSION BOARD REPORT

Mr. Anderson presented the Home Mission Board Report and answered questions from the floor. It was moved, seconded, and passed to receive the report.

38. CANDIDATES AND CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT (Continued)

PERSONAL GODLINESS EXAM (Battiato)

Mr. Olivetti invited Mr. Battiato forward to receive his Personal Godliness exam from Mr. Anderson.

Mr. Battiato answered questions from Mr. Anderson and then from the floor. It was moved, seconded, and passed to extend the time to finish the exam, after which additional comments were made.

The exam was unanimously sustained by a roll call vote.

39. MID-MORNING BREAK

The court took its mid-morning break at 10:45 a.m.

The court returned from its mid-morning break at 11:11 a.m. with the singing of Psalm 119C.

40. CANDIDATES AND CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT (Continued)

Mr. Olivetti resumed his presentation of the Candidates and Credentials Committee report.

STUDENT EXEGESIS PAPER (Ketcham)

Mr. Ketcham's exegesis paper was again brought before the court. It was unanimously sustained by a voice vote.

THEOLOGY AND DISTINCTIVES II EXAM (Ketcham)

Mr. Olivetti invited Mr. Ketcham forward to receive his Theology and Distinctives II exam from Mr. McKenzie, who was temporarily replaced as moderator by Mr. (H.P.) McCracken.

Mr. Ketcham answered questions from Mr. McKenzie and then from the floor of presbytery.

It was moved, seconded, and passed to extend the time ten minutes in order to ask further questions of Mr. Ketcham.

Mr. Ketcham answered further questions from the floor and received further comments.

It was moved, seconded, and passed to extend the time another ten minutes to allow more comments from the floor, after which more comments were made.

It was moved, seconded, and passed to extend the time another ten minutes to hear additional comments from the floor, after which additional comments were made.

It was moved, seconded, and passed to extend the time in order to vote on the exam.

Mr. Hemken called the roll and announced that the exam, which requires a two thirds majority, was not sustained by a vote of 23 (Sustain), 20 (Not Sustain), and 4 (Abstain).

The following delegates registered their dissent from this action of the court: Mr. Pockras, Mr. Knodel, Mr. Keddie, Mr. Kuehner, and Mr. Anderson.

Prior to the next day's business session, in accordance with DCG 7.18 (D-39), a written statement outlining the reasons for this dissent was received by the clerk, bearing the names of Mr. Pockras, Mr. Keddie, and Mr. Knodel.

The statement is as follows:

THE UNDERSIGNED DISSENT FROM THE DECISION OF THE GREAT LAKES-GULF PRESBYTERY OF THE RPCNA TO NOT SUSTAIN SAMUEL KETCHAM'S "SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY AND DISTINCTIVE PRINCIPLES" EXAMINATION FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

(1) The expressed opinions of many who voted not to sustain were opposed to positions once held by the RPCNA and still held by many officers and members.

(2) The expressed opinions of many who voted not to sustain were opposed to positions held by other sections of the Reformed Presbyterian Church in other parts of the world, particularly in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland.

(3) The expressed opinions of many who voted not to sustain were opposed to granting dissent on these issues, which have been regularly allowed in the past.

(4) The expressed opinions of many who voted not to sustain seem, to us, to undercut the very same procedures that were previously used to change the beliefs and practices within the RPCNA since 1945, including practical political dissent, much of what was understood on public social covenanting, close communion, and the use, sale, and manufacture of alcoholic beverages, among others.

Philip H. Pockras
R.E. Knodel, Jr.
Gordon J. Keddie

41. PRAYER / RECESS FOR LUNCH

Mr. Olivetti called upon God's name in prayer, recessing the court for lunch at 12:40 p.m.

BUSINESS SESSION #4

Friday 2:00 - 5:30 p.m.

42. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. McKenzie called upon God's name in prayer, reconvening the court at 2:03 p.m.

43. READING OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Mr. Kuehner read the minutes from the previous business session, after which it was moved, seconded, and passed to approve them as read.

44. CANDIDATES AND CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE (Continued)

PASTORAL AND EVANGELISTIC GIFTS EXAM (Hart)

Mr. Olivetti invited Mr. Hart forward to receive his Pastoral and Evangelistic Gifts exam from Mr. Roberts.

Mr. Hart answered questions from Mr. Roberts and then, in the absence of questions from the floor, comments were made from the floor and the exam was unanimously sustained by a roll call vote.

45. LAST CALL FOR PAPERS

Mr. Hemken issued a last call for papers and none were received by the court.

46. PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Mr. Anderson introduced Pastor Adam Novinger, a gospel minister from Kokomo, Indiana who is visiting to observe the meeting.

47. TEMPORARY GOVERNING BODY REPORTS

TERRE HAUTE

Mr. Porter presented the Terre Haute TGB report.

Recommendation 1 passed²⁴, after which Mr. Roberts provided the court with a brief ministry update.

It was moved, seconded, and passed to receive the report.

²⁴ The Commission asks Presbytery to allow 10 minutes on Friday afternoon to hear from Pastor Bill Roberts regarding the work in Terre Haute.

DAYTON

Mr. McNamee presented the Dayton TGB report, introduced two men presently involved in Dayton, and answered questions from the floor. It was moved, seconded, and passed to receive the report.

PAGELAND

Mr. Olivetti presented the Pageland TGB report and introduced Mr. Wise, who provided a brief ministry update and answered questions from the floor. Mr. Olivetti then concluded his presentation, after which it was moved, seconded, and passed to receive the report.

48. CANDIDATES AND CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE (Continued)

PASTORAL AND EVANGELISTIC GIFTS EXAM (Ketcham)

Mr. Olivetti invited Mr. Ketcham forward to receive his Pastoral and Evangelistic gifts exam from Mr. Niess.

Mr. Ketcham answered questions from Mr. Niess and then from the floor, after which it was moved to extend the time in order to finish the exam.

Comments were made from the floor and the exam was sustained by a roll call vote.

49. MID-AFTERNOON BREAK

The court took its mid-afternoon break at 3:40 p.m.

The presbytery sang Psalm 105B and Mr. McKenzie reconvened the court in prayer at 4:02 p.m.

50. CANDIDATES AND CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE (Continued)

Mr. Olivetti resumed his presentation of the candidates and credentials report, answering questions and receiving comments from the floor.

It was moved, seconded, and passed to receive the report.

51. ATLANTA OVERSIGHT COMMISSION REPORT

Mr. Anderson presented the Atlanta Oversight Commission Report.

Recommendation 1 passed²⁵, after which Mr. Smith provided a brief ministry update and answered questions from questions from the floor.

Recommendation 2 passed²⁶, after which Mr. Anderson answered questions and received comments from the floor.

It was moved, seconded, and passed to grant Mr. Chris Myers privileges of the floor, after which he shared his background and reasons for considering an internship in Atlanta.

It was moved, seconded, and passed to extend the time to finish the Atlanta Commission Report.

Mr. Anderson answered further questions and received further comments from the floor.

Recommendation 3 passed and was referred to the nominating committee.²⁷

Recommendation 4 was referred to the finance committee.²⁸

Recommendation 5 was passed.²⁹

It was moved, seconded, and passed to receive the report.

52. PRAYER / RECESS FOR DINNER

The presbytery concluded with a time of intercessory prayer for local congregations and works previously reporting, led by Mr. (H.P.) McCracken, Mr. Johnston, Mr. Hanson, and Mr. Knodel, who recessed the court in prayer at 5:44 p.m.

²⁵ That Presbytery give Dr. Smith up to 10 minutes to address the court and answer any questions.

²⁶ The Presbytery take up to 20 minutes to give counsel to the commission on any of the following points: (1) The commission investigating and interviewing all of those interested in joining APF (2) The petition of the board of advisors and their recommendation to be received as a mission church (3) Our counsel to Capt. Chris Myers about moving within 5 miles of the Bluff.

²⁷ That Presbytery reappoint the Atlanta Commission until 2018 spring meeting of Presbytery.

²⁸ That Presbytery provide \$2,000 for the Commission to accomplish its work.

²⁹ That the Atlanta Commission Minutes be spread on the Presbytery's Minutes.

BUSINESS SESSION #5

Friday 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

53. CALL TO ORDER

The presbytery sang Psalm 127A, after which Mr. McKenzie reconvened the court in prayer at 7:03 p.m.

54. READING OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Mr. Kuehner read the minutes from the previous business session, after which it was moved, seconded, and passed to approve them as read.

55. CLERK'S MOTION

It was moved, seconded, and passed that members of the C.Y.P.U. leadership team be granted privileges of the floor during the Presbytery Youth Report.

56. PRESBYTERY YOUTH REPORT - C.Y.P.U.

Mr. Evans presented the presbytery youth report, after which members of the C.Y.P.U. leadership team provided a brief update concerning various youth ministries and activities within the presbytery.

Mr. Evans resumed the floor to complete the report, after which it was moved, seconded, and passed to receive the report.

57. YOUTH MINISTRIES COMMITTEE OF SYNOD REPORT

Mr. Larson presented an oral report regarding the youth ministries committee of synod.

It was moved, seconded, and passed to receive the report.

58. PERSONAL PRIVILEGE (Prayer)

Mr. Porter provided an update regarding the successful open heart surgery of Southside ruling elder and presbytery treasurer, Mr. Jim Bishop, after which Mr. Porter led the court in a prayer of thanksgiving.

59. COVFAMIKOI CONFERENCE REPORT

Mr. Baum presented the Covfamikoi conference report, answered questions from the floor, and was thanked for his willingness to oversee the conference. Recommendation 1 passed.³⁰

³⁰ That Presbytery increases the yearly level of conference funding from \$2,000 to \$3,000.

It was moved, seconded, and passed to receive the report.

60. SOUTHERN CHURCH EXT. COMMITTEE REPORT (Mr. H.P. McCracken)

Mr. (H.P.) McCracken presented an oral report of the Southern Church Extension Committee and answered questions from the floor.

It was moved, seconded, and passed to receive the report.

61. PAPER 17-01 (Congregational Officers)

Mr. LeFebvre presented Paper 17-01 and answered questions from the floor. Recommendation 1 passed.³¹

62. PASTORAL OVERSIGHT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mr. Holdeman presented the Pastoral Oversight Advisory Committee Report and answered questions from the floor.

Recommendation 1 passed.³²

Recommendation 2 passed.³³

It was moved, seconded, and passed to receive the report.

63. CONGREGATIONAL & VISITATION REPORTS (Remainder of Session)

SELMA

Mr. Woodson presented the Selma congregational report and answered questions from the floor.

It was moved, seconded, and passed to extend the time for five minutes.

Mr. Woodson completed his report, after which it was moved, seconded, and passed to receive the report.

LAFAYETTE

³¹ That presbytery approve this paper and forward it to synod with endorsement.

³² That presbytery appoint a "Shepherding Committee" to be made up of three elders (we propose Frank Smith, Kent Butterfield, and Bob Shapiro) to contact the former Northminster members and determine membership status, provide appropriate pastoral guidance, and encourage them to get connected to a local congregation. This committee will report back at the next spring meeting in 2018.

³³ That the ministers on the general roll of presbytery, who are not members of a particular congregation or mission church, be shepherded by the Candidates and Credentials Committee. The Committee will contact these men and determine membership status, provide appropriate pastoral guidance, and encourage them to get connected to a local congregation. The Committee will report back at the next spring meeting in 2018.

Mr. Webb presented the Lafayette congregational report. It was moved, seconded, and passed to receive the report.

SYCAMORE (KOKOMO)

Mr. Anderson presented the Sycamore congregational report. It was moved, seconded, and passed to receive the report.

SOUTHSIDE (INDIANAPOLIS)

Mr. Pritchard presented the Southside congregational report. It was moved, seconded, and passed to extend the time to finish the report. Mr. Pritchard completed his report, after which it was moved, seconded, and passed to receive the report.

64. INTERCESSORY PRAYER / ADJOURNMENT

The presbytery concluded with a time of intercessory prayer for local congregations and works previously reporting, led by Mr. McKissick, Mr. Rhoda, Mr. Wise, Mr. Gregory, and Mr. Smith, who adjourned the court in prayer at 8:56 p.m.

BUSINESS SESSION #6

Saturday 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

65. CALL TO ORDER

The presbytery sang Psalm 121A, after which the moderator called the court to order and reconstituted the court in prayer at 8:32 a.m.

66. READING OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Mr. Kuehner read the minutes from the previous business session and it was moved, seconded, and passed to approve them as read.

67. PERSONAL PRIVILEGE (Miscellaneous)

Mr. Mann introduced Mr. Mark Loving, a deacon in the Elkhart congregation.

Mr. Olivetti and Mr. Wise shared an update on their pastoral oversight of Mr. Ketcham in the aftermath of his exams.

Mr. McKenzie offered a word of thanksgiving for the faithful service of retiring moderator, Mr. (H.P.) McCracken, over the past year.

68. PAPER 17-02 (Sabbath-Keeping at Family Conferences)

Mr. Scott presented paper 17-02 and brought its recommendation³⁴, which was then discussed by the court.

It was moved, seconded, and passed by a two-thirds majority to close discussion and vote on the recommendation.

The recommendation failed.

69. CONGREGATIONAL & VISITATION REPORTS

SECOND RP (INDIANAPOLIS)

Mr. Pulliam presented the Second RP congregational report.

It was moved, seconded, and passed to receive the report.

HETHERTON

³⁴ That a three-member committee be appointed by the moderator to (1) study our Constitution's Scriptural teaching on the Sabbath, (2) report back to this presbytery by next Spring with practical Sabbath-keeping advice for RP family camps, and (3) author a brief summary of its findings for our presbytery to then forward to Synod.

Mr. Morton presented the Hetherton congregational report along with memorials for Rev. Roger Adams and Rev. Milton Harrington. It was moved, seconded, and passed to receive both the congregational report and the teaching elder memorials.

GRAND RAPIDS

Mr. Scott presented the Grand Rapids congregational report and answered questions from the floor. It was moved, seconded, and passed to receive the report.

ELKHART

Mr. Mann presented the Elkhart congregational report and received comments from the floor. It was moved, seconded, and passed to receive the report.

DURHAM

Mr. Butterfield presented the Durham congregational report and answered questions from the floor. It was moved, seconded, and passed to receive the report.

70. PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Mr. Johnston conveyed greetings from the RP mission in India and reminded the court to pray for this important work.

Mr. Scott shared a prayer request regarding Los Angeles RPC minister, Rev. Namsik Yang, whose pre-born child has been diagnosed with an extremely serious heart defect.

71. NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT (Preliminary Draft)

Mr. Faris presented an initial draft of the nominating committee report for the review of the court.

72. CONGREGATIONAL & VISITATION REPORTS

COLUMBUS

Mr. (Andy) McCracken presented the Columbus congregational report and received comments from the floor. It was moved, seconded, and passed to receive the report.

73. MID-MORNING BREAK

The presbytery took its mid-morning break at 10:18 a.m. and resumed its business at 10:42 a.m.

74. CONGREGATIONAL & VISITATION REPORTS

BROWNSBURG (Christ Church)

Mr. O'Neill presented the Christ Church congregational report. It was moved, seconded, and passed to receive the report.

BLOOMINGTON

Mr. Cosens presented the Bloomington congregational report. It was moved, seconded, and passed to receive the report.

BELLE CENTER

Mr. Pockras presented the Belle Center congregational report. It was moved, seconded, and passed to receive the report.

Mr. Magill presented the Belle Center visitation report and answered questions from the floor. It was moved, seconded, and passed to receive the report.

75. FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Magill presented the finance committee report and answered questions from the floor.

Recommendation 1 passed.³⁵

Recommendation 2 passed³⁶, after which Mr. Magill received further comments from the floor.

It was moved, seconded, and passed that presbytery instruct its clerks to develop a list of required statistics for congregational reports and to include them as a recommendation in a future clerk's report.

³⁵ That the Mar[ch] 2017 Revised Budget and the 2018 Budget be adopted.

³⁶ That the annual financial report to Presbytery of all congregations show all financial assets of the congregation including beginning and ending balances of their general fund, building fund, mercy fund, etc.

It was moved, seconded, and passed to receive the report.

76. TIME & PLACE COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Porter presented the report of the time and place committee and answered questions from the floor.

God willing, next year's Spring Meeting will be hosted by Christ Church and held at Second RPC on March 1-3, 2018.

It was moved, seconded, and passed to approve the report.

77. REPORT ON SESSION MINUTE BOOKS

The assistant clerk, Mr. Hemken, reported that nothing was found in the examined minutes that was against the law and order of the church.

It was moved, seconded, and passed to take note of the misstatement in the Grand Rapids minutes regarding discipline for those not participating in communion when the common cup is used, and counsel the session to correct the minutes of December 12, 2016.

It was moved and seconded to counsel the Grand Rapids session to reestablish the offering as an element of worship.

It was moved, seconded, and passed to entertain a substitute motion: That presbytery counsel the GR session to inform the congregation that, according to our Reformed Presbyterian Testimony, the presentation of tithes and offerings is an ordinary element of worship.

It was moved, seconded, and passed to approve the substitute motion.

It was moved, seconded, and passed to approve the report.

78. NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT (Final)

Mr. Faris presented the nominating committee report, noting several amendments to the distributed copy.

It was moved, seconded, and passed to adopt the report as follows:

Ad Interim Commission

Columbus Session
Tim Vincze (SWORP)

2019: Jon Hughes
2019: Michael LeFebvre
2018: George Gregory
2018: Dean Filson
2018: Rich Holdeman

Candidates & Credentials Committee

Emeritus: Roy Blackwood
2020: Jared Olivetti (Ch.)
2020: James Faris

GLG Internet Maintenance

Keith Evans

Southern Ch. Ext. Cmtee. (SOCHEX)

H.P. McCracken (Ch.)
Kent Butterfield
George Gregory
James Faris

Northern Ch. Ext. Cmtee. (NOCHEX)

Andy McCracken (Ch.)
Phil Pockras
Jeff Platt
Jason Camery

Financial Officers

Treasurer – Jim Bishop

Visitation: First RP, Grand Rapids

Steve Rhoda (Ch.)
Rich Johnston
Chris Stockwell

Visitation: Orlando

Wade Mann (Ch.)
Kent Butterfield
Jason O'Neill

Home Mission Board Rep.

Andy McCracken (Cl. of '18)

Geneva College B.O.C. Nom. to Synod

Phil Pockras

Selma Committee

Adam Niess (Ch.)
Dr. Jerry O'Neill
Richard Blankenship
Daniel Hemken

COVFAMIKOI Conference

Director: Erich Baum
Manager: Charley Moore
Adv. Comte: Kessler, Larson, J. Schaefer

Interchurch Liaison

Donald Cassell

Youth Secretary

Keith Evans

Synod Finance Committee

Jason O'Neill

Rep's to Youth Min. Comte. of Synod

Ben & Anna Larson

Moderators of Vacant Congregations

Selma: Jerry O'Neill

*Approve all Congregations without pastors
be permitted to administer the sacraments
and call a new pastor.*

*Grant Second RP the privilege of calling a
teaching elder.*

Provisional Elders

Durham: Bibby, Burchfield

Selma: Adam Niess

Heatherton: Paul Matthews

Belle Center: Scott Hunt

Pageland TGB

Jared Olivetti (Mod.)

Ron Posvar

Bob Shapiro

Ian Wise

Terre Haute TGB

Jerry Porter (Mod.)

Gordon Keddie

Rich Holdeman

Ken DeJong

Eric Cosens

Dayton TGB

Gary McNamee (Mod.)

Andy McCracken

Phil Pockras

Atlanta Commission
Shawn Anderson (Mod.)
Erich Baum
Jon Hughes

Jason Camery
G. Scott Damerow

79. RESOLUTION OF THANKS COMMITTEE

Mr. Pulliam presented the report of the resolution of thanks committee. It was moved, seconded, and passed to adopt the report.

80. READING OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Mr. Kuehner read the minutes from the final business session, after which it was moved, seconded, and passed to approve the minutes as amended.

81. PRAYER & ADJOURNMENT

The presbytery entered a time of intercessory prayer for congregations previously reporting, led by Mr. Magill, Mr. Anderson, Mr. Faris, Mr. Olivetti, Mr. Pockras, Mr. LeFebvre, Mr. Niess, Mr. Bob McCracken, Mr. Magnuson, Mr. Johnston, Mr. McKenzie, who adjourned the court in prayer at 12:36 a.m., after which Psalm 133A was sung to the praise of God.

APPENDIX ONE

Roll Call Voting and Attendance Records

Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery
 March 2-4, 2017
 Roll-Call Votes
 Exams: Andrew Battiato and Joel Hart

S = Sustain
 N = Do Not Sustain
 A = Abstain

Congregation	Delegate	Battiato: Personal Godliness	Battiato: Sermon	Hart: Pastoral and Evangelistic Gifts
Belle Center	Phil Pockras TE	S	S	S
Bloomington	Rich Holdeman TE	S	S	-
	Adam Niess TE	S	S	S
	Eric Cosens RE	S	S	S
	Wendell McBurney RE		-	-
Christ Church	Michael LeFebvre TE	S	S	S
	Jason O'Neill RE	S	S	S
Columbus	Andy McCracken TE	A	S	S
	Gary McNamee RE	S	S	S
Elkhart	Wade Mann	S	S	A
	Fikre Menbere	S	S	S
First RP Durham	Kent Butterfield TE	S	S	-
First RP Grand Rapids	Craig Scott TE	S	S	S
Hetherton	Ray Morton TE	S	S	S
	Barton Briley	S	S	S
Immanuel	Jared Olivetti TE	S	S	S
	David Carr TE	S	S	S
	Ben Larson RE	S	S	S
Lafayette	Keith Evans TE	S	S	A
	Dan Webb	S	S	S
	Chris Stockwell	S	S	S
Marion	Jason Camery TE	S	S	-
Orlando	H.P. McCracken Te	S	S	S
Second Indianapolis	James Faris TE	S	S	S
	Rich Johnston Te	S	S	S
	Terry Magnuson RE		-	S
	Russ Pulliam RE	S	S	-
	David Mauser RE (Alt.)	S	S	S
Selma	Averette Woodson RE	S	S	S
Southfield	Adam Kuehner	S	S	S

Congregation	Delegate	Battiato: Personal Godliness	Battiato: Sermon	Hart: Pastoral and Evagelistic Gifts
Southside Indianapolis	David Hanson TE	S	S	S
	Stanley McKenzie TE	S	S	S
	Jerry Porter RE	S	S	S
	Don Pritchard RE	S	S	S
Southwest Ohio	Dick Knodel TE	S	S	S
	Timothy Vincze	S	S	S
	Scott Damerow			
Sparta	Daniel Hemken TE	S	S	S
	Bob Morrow RE	S	S	S
Sycamore	Shawn Anderson TE	S	S	S
	Bob McKissick	S	S	S
Westminster	Stephen Rhoda TE	S	S	S
	James Ritchhart Re	S	S	S
Pageland Mission	Ian Wise TE	S	S	S
Terre Haute Mission	Bill Roberts TE		-	S
Active w/o Pastorate	George Gregory	S	S	S
Active w/o Pastorate	Keith Magill	S	S	S
Active w/o Pastorate	Frank Smith		-	-
Retired Minister	Gordon Keddie	S	A	-
Retired Minister	Bob McCracken		S	S
Retired Minister	Denny Prutow	S	S	S
Retired Minister	Steven Work	S	S	S

Roll Call Vote: Sam Ketcham

S = Sustain
N = Do Not Sustain
A = Abstain

Congregation	Delegate	Sam Ketcham: Church History	S.K.: Sermon	S.K.: Past & Evang. Gifts	S.K.: Theology & Distinctives
Belle Center	Phil Pockras TE	S	S	S	S
Bloomington	Rich Holdeman TE	S	S	S	N
	Adam Niess TE	S	S	S	S
	Eric Cosens RE	S	S	S	N
Christ Church	Michael LeFebvre	S	S	S	N
	Jason O'Neill RE	S	S	S	S

Congregation	Delegate	Sam Ketcham: Church History	S.K.: Sermon	S.K.: Past & Evang. Gifts	S.K.: Theology & Distinctives
Columbus	Andy McCracken TE	S	S	S	N
	Gary McNamee RE	S	S	A	N
Elkhart	Wade Mann	S	S	S	A
	Fikre Menbere	-		S	N
First RP Durham	Kent Butterfield TE	S	S	N	S
First RP Grand Rapids	Craig Scott TE	S	S	S	S
Hetherton	Ray Morton TE	S	S	S	S
	Barton Briley	S	S	S	S
Immanuel	Jared Olivetti TE	S	S	S	N
	David Carr TE	-	-	S	N
	Ben Larson RE	S	S	S	S
Lafayette	Keith Evans TE	S	S	S	N
	Dan Webb	S	S	S	A
	Chris Stockwell	S	S	S	A
Marion	Jason Camery TE	S	S	S	S
Orlando	H.P. McCracken Te	S	S	S	N
Second Indianapolis	James Faris TE	S	S	N	N
	Rich Johnston Te	S	S	S	N
	Terry Magnuson RE	-	S	S	N
	Russ Pulliam RE	S	S		-
	David Mauser RE (Alt.)	-	-	S	N
Selma	Averette Woodson RE	S	S	S	S
Southfield	Adam Kuehner	S	S	S	S
Southside Indianapolis	David Hanson TE	S	S	S	N
	Stanley McKenzie TE	S	A	S	S
	Jerry Porter RE	S	S	S	N
	Don Pritchard RE	S	S	S	S
	Bob Burchfield RE (Alt.)	S	-		
Southwest Ohio	Dick Knodel TE	S	S	S	S
	Timothy Vincze	S	-	S	S
Sparta	Daniel Hemken TE	S	S	S	S
	Bob Morrow RE	S	S	S	S

Congregation	Delegate	Sam Ketcham: Church History	S.K.: Sermon	S.K.: Past & Evang. Gifts	S.K.: Theology & Distinctives
Sycamore	Shawn Anderson TE	S	S	S	S
	Bob McKissick	S	S	S	S
Westminster	Stephen Rhoda TE	S	S	S	S
	James Ritchhart Re	-	-	S	A
Pageland Mission	Ian Wise TE	S	S	S	S
Terre Haute Mission	Bill Roberts TE	-	-	A	N
Active w/o Pastorate	George Gregory	S	S	S	N
Active w/o Pastorate	Keith Magill	S	S	S	N
Active w/o Pastorate	Frank Smith	-	-	S	-
Retired Minister	Gordon Keddie	S	S		S
Retired Minister	Bob McCracken	S	S	S	
Retired Minister	Denny Prutow	S	S	S	N
Retired Minister	Steven Work	S	S	S	S

Congregation	Delegate	1	2	3	4	5	6
Southwest Ohio	Dick Knodel TE	P	P	P	P	P	P
	Timothy Vincze RE	P	P	P	P	P	P
	Scott Damerow RE (Alt.)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sparta	Daniel Hemken TE	P	P	P	P	P	P
	Bob Morrow	P	P	P	P	P	P
Sycamore	Shawn Anderson TE	P	P	P	P	P	P
	Bob McKissick	P	P	P	P	P	P
Westminster	Stephen Rhoda TE	P	P	P	P	P	P
	James Ritchhart Re	E	E	P	P	P	P
Dayton Mission							
Pageland Mission	Ian Wise TE	P	P	P	P	P	P
Terre Haute Mission	Bill Roberts TE	E	E	E	P	E	E
Active w/o Pastorate	George Gregory	P	P	P	P	P	P
Active w/o Pastorate	Keith Magill	P	P	P	P	P	P
Active w/o Pastorate	Frank Smith	E	E	E	P	P	P
Retired Minister	Gordon Keddie	P	P	P	E	E	E
Retired Minister	Bob McCracken	P	P	P	P	P	P
Retired Minister	Bob Morrow (See Sparta)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Retired Minister	Denny Prutow	P	P	P	P	P	E
Retired Minister	Steven Work	P	P	P	P	P	P