

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

Official Meeting Minutes
Distributed 10/7/19

CLERK

Rev. Adam Kuehner
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(248)497-9187

ASST. CLERK

Elder Dale Koons
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(317)228-9522

TIME & PLACE

Time: Friday September 27 from 2:00 to 5:15 p.m.

Place: Second Reformed Presbyterian Church
4800 N. Michigan Rd. Indianapolis, IN 46228

Phone: (317) 255-7557

SCHEDULE

Business Session (2:00 - 5:15p)

Mid-Aft. Break (3:30 - 3:45p)

Dinner On-Site (5:30 - 6:30p)

Ordination Service (7:00 - 8:30p)

Followed by Reception

The Great Lakes/Gulf Presbytery met at 3:00 p.m. on Friday September 27, 2019 at Second Reformed Presbyterian Church in Indianapolis to conduct student exams and to ordain Zach Smith to the gospel ministry.

1. CALL TO ORDER / PRAYER OF CONSTITUTION

The moderator, Mr. Mann, called the court to order at 3:03 p.m. with the singing of Psalm 66A, and constituted the court in prayer.

2. RATIFICATION OF AMENDED START-TIME

It was moved, seconded, and passed to ratify the amended start-time for this meeting from 2pm to 3pm.¹

3. ATTENDANCE

Mr. Koons called the attendance roll and confirmed that a quorum was present.

4. INTRODUCTION OF FIRST-TIME DELEGATES

Mr. Kuehner introduced a personal guest, Mr. Donald Little, a member of the Southfield congregation.

- Mr. Pockras introduced a personal guest, Mr. Bruce Bowers, a member of the Belle Center congregation.
- Mr. Faris introduced several members of the RP Global Mission Board who are present for the evening's ordination, including Heather Huizing, Vince Ward, and Lucas Hanna.

5. CLERK'S REPORT

Mr. Kuehner presented an oral clerk's report, calling for any outstanding papers and/or Session/TGB minute books.²

- It was moved, seconded, and passed to adopt the proposed agenda.
- It was moved, seconded, and passed to approve the clerk's report.

6. CANDIDATES AND CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Olivetti presented the Candidates and Credentials Committee Report, after which Recommendation 1 passed.³

Systematics and Distinctives 2 Exam (Battiato)

Mr. Olivetti invited Mr. Andrew Battiato forward to receive his Systematics and Distinctives 2 exam from Mr. Rhoda, after which Mr. Battiato answered questions from Mr. Rhoda.

¹ This slight change in the schedule was communicated to the delegates by the clerk via the Delegates Email List on Wednesday September 25, 2019 at 3:35 p.m.

² On Wednesday September 25, 2019 the clerk notified the court via the Delegates Email List of Mr. Scott's decision to formally decline the pastoral call from the Las Vegas Reformed Presbyterian (Mission) Church.

³ Recommendation 1: That student exams be conducted according to the schedule outlined below [in the attached C&CC Report].

- It was moved, seconded, and passed to extend the initial phase of the exam for five minutes in order for Mr. Rhoda to ask Mr. Battiato additional questions about Reformed Presbyterian distinctives, after which this was done.
- Mr. Battiato then answered questions from the floor, and received comments from the delegates.
- The exam was unanimously sustained by a roll call vote.

Church History Exam (Battiato)

Mr. Olivetti invited Carr forward to administer Mr. Battiato's church history exam, after which Mr. Battiato answered questions from Mr. Carr and from the floor, followed by comments from the floor.

- The exam was unanimously sustained.

Hebrew Exegesis Paper (Battiato)

Mr. Wise presented the report of the committee to review Mr. Battiato's Hebrew exegesis paper on Psalm 96 and received comments from the floor, after which the paper was sustained by a voice vote without vocal dissent.

Licensure to Receive a Call (Battiato)

Mr. Dean Filson administered the queries for licensure to receive a call to Mr. Battiato, who publicly affirmed them and signed the queries in the minute book, after which his licensure to receive a call was unanimously sustained by a roll call vote.

- Mr. Faris called upon God's name in prayer, licensing Mr. Battiato to receive a call to the gospel ministry in the name and by the authority of Jesus Christ, the only King and Head of the Church, after which Mr. Faris delivered a brief word of counsel to Mr. Battiato regarding the privileges, responsibilities, and limitations of his licensure.

Reception of a New Student Under Care (J. Sturm)

Mr. Olivetti resumed his presentation of the Candidates and Credentials Committee Report, after which Recommendation 2 passed,⁴ and Mr. Jon Sturm shared his personal testimony of salvation and sense of calling to the gospel ministry, and answered questions from the floor.

- Recommendation 3 passed, thereby receiving Mr. Sturm as a student under care of the presbytery.⁵

Motions from the Floor

It was moved, seconded, and passed that the Candidates and Credentials Committee review the work of the 2018 Synod "Special Committee on Standardization of Student Papers", compare it to the GLG current Student Handbook, and report to the 2020 Spring GLG Presbytery meeting on the import of the Synod committee recommendations to our current standards for student papers.

- It was moved, seconded, and passed to approve the Candidates and Credentials Committee Report.

7. READING OF THE MINUTES

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

8. PRAYER OF RECESS

It was moved, seconded, and passed to recess the meeting, after which Mr. Pockras recessed the court in prayer at 5:06 p.m.

ORDINATION SERVICE MINUTES

The Great Lakes/Gulf Presbytery reconvened for the ordination of Mr. Zachary Smith to the gospel ministry at 7:00 p.m. on Friday September 27 at Second Reformed Presbyterian Church in Indianapolis.

1. CALL TO ORDER / PRAYER OF RECONSTITUTION

The moderator, Mr. Mann, welcomed the assembly and called the court to order at 7:00 p.m., calling upon God's name in prayer, and reconstituting the court for the ordination of Mr. Zachary Smith to the gospel ministry.

⁴ Recommendation 2: That Jon Sturm be permitted to share his testimony and sense of calling to the ministry for up to 10 minutes.

⁵ Recommendation 3: That Jon Sturm be received as a student under care.

2. ATTENDANCE

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

3. PARTICIPATORY MOTION

It was moved, seconded, and passed that elder delegates without certificates be seated, that all Reformed Presbyterian ruling and teaching elders present who are not delegates be made consultative members of the court and that all elders in good standing in denominations with which we have fraternal relations be invited to participate in the laying on of hands.

4. NARRATION, EDICT & ADHERENCE

Mr. David Hanson read a brief narration of the steps leading to Mr. Smith's ordination, read the edict for Mr. Smith's ordination for the final time, and rose to confirm the RP Global Mission Board's adherence to the call, after which Mr. Smith also rose, confirming his adherence to the call.

5. CALL TO WORSHIP

The moderator, Mr. Mann, called the assembly to worship and called upon God's name in a prayer of invocation, after which the assembly sang Psalm 72C to the praise of God.

6. QUERIES OF ORDINATION

Mr. Don Smith administered the queries of ordination to the gospel ministry to Mr. Zachary Smith, who publicly affirmed them in the sight of God and signed the queries in the minute book, after which the assembly sang Psalm 65A to the praise of God.

7. PREACHING OF THE WORD

The moderator welcomed to the pulpit Mr. Lucas Hanna, who read Psalm 22, sought God's blessing in prayer, preached a sermon from the text, entitled, "Far Off Forsaken... Nations Brought Near", and called upon God's name in prayer, after which the assembly responded in praise with the singing of Psalm 22E.

8. ORDINATION TO THE GOSPEL MINISTRY

Mr. Vince Ward called upon God's name in prayer on behalf of the court, ordaining Mr. Smith to the gospel ministry as a missionary pastor to South Sudan, in the name and by the authority of Jesus Christ, the only King and Head of the Church, through the laying on of the hands of the elders, after which the moderator declared Mr. Smith to be a lawfully ordained gospel minister.

9. CHARGE TO THE NEW PASTOR

Mr. Faris issued a charge to Mr. Smith on behalf of the court from 2 Timothy 1:3-7, exhorting him to fan into flame the gift of God conferred through the laying on of hands, with a God-given spirit of bold leadership and vision.

10. PRAYER, PRAISE & BENEDICTION

Mr. Faris called upon God's name in prayer, after which the assembly sang Psalm 67C in praise to God, and Mr. Smith pronounced the Lord's blessing upon the assembly, which responded by singing Psalm 57B (Stanza 5).

11. READING OF THE MINUTES

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

12. PRAYER OF ADJOURNMENT

It was moved, seconded, and passed to adjourn the court, after which the moderator called upon God's name in a prayer of adjournment at 8:37 p.m.

Meeting of Presbytery 2019 Fall Presbytery September 27, 2019 Second RP, Indianapolis, IN 3:00 to 8:30 pm		Church Represented	Attendance Afternoon Session	Andrew Battiato Theology & Distinctives 2	Andrew Battiato Church History	Andrew Battiato Licensee to Receive a Call	Attendance Installation Service Zach Smith		
Church	First Last Name								
Bell Center RPC	Phillip Pockras	*	P	S	S	S	P		
Bloomington RPC									
Christ Church RP	Michael LeFebvre						P		
Christ Church RP	Dale Koons	*	P	S	S	S	P		
Columbus RPC	Andrew McCracken	*	P	S	S	S	P		
Columbus RPC	Gary McNamee		P	S	S	S	P		
Durham 1st RPC									
Elkhart RPC	Wade Mann	*	P	S	S	S	P		
Grand Rapids 1st RPC									
Hetherton RPC	Ray Morton	*	P	S	S	S	P		
Immanuel RPC, West Lafayette	Jared Olivetti	*	P	S	S	S	P		
Immanuel RPC, West Lafayette	David Carr		P	S	S	S	P		
Immanuel RPC, West Lafayette	Zachary Blackwood		P	S	S	S	P		
Lafayette RPC									
Marion RPC									
Orlando RPC									
Second RPC, Indianapolis	James Faris	*	P	S	S	S	P		
Second RPC, Indianapolis	Joel Hart		P	S	S	S	P		
Second RPC, Indianapolis	David Mauser		P	S	S	S	P		
Second RPC, Indianapolis	Richard Blankenship		P	S	S	S	P		
Selma RPC									
Southfield RPC	Adam Kuehner	*	P	S	S	S	P		
Southside RPC, Indianapolis	David Hanson	*	P	S	S	S	P		
Southside RPC, Indianapolis	Steve sturm		P	S	S	S	P		
Southside RPC, Indianapolis	David Kleyn		P	S	S	S	P		
Southside RPC, Indianapolis	John Hansen		P	S	S	S	P		
Southwest Ohio RPC	Scott Damerow	*	P	S	S	S	P		
Southwest Ohio RPC	Steve Work		P	S	S	S	P		
Sparta RPC									
Sycamore RPC, Kokomo	Shawn Anderson	*	P	S	S	S	P		
Terre Haute RPC	Steve Rhoda	*	P	S	S	S	P		
Westminster RPC									
Ministers, Retired	Richard Johnston		P	AB	AB	AB	P		
Ministers, Without a Pastorate	Ian Wise		P	S	S	S			
Ministers, Without a Pastorate	Keith Magill		P	S	S	S	P		
Church Represented (*), Present(P), Sustain(S)		12	25	24	24	24	25	0	0
Abstain (AB)				1	1	1	0	0	0

The Great Lakes-Gulf
Presbytery (RPCNA)
Special Meeting Agenda
Distributed 9/18/19

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BUSINESS ITEMS

1. **CALL TO ORDER / PRAYER OF CONSTITUTION** (Mr. Mann)
2. **ROLL CALL** (Mr. Koons)
3. **INTRODUCTION OF FIRST-TIME DELEGATES**
4. **CLERK'S REPORT** (Mr. Kuehner)
 - A. Call for any outstanding Papers, Session/TGB Minute Books.
 - B. Motion to adopt the proposed agenda for this meeting.
5. **CANDIDATES AND CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT** (Mr. Olivetti)
 - Consult C&CC Report for recommendations and student exam details.
6. **PRAYER OF ADJOURNMENT** (5:15 p.m.) Dinner is tentatively scheduled to begin at 5:30 p.m.
 - Ordination service for Mr. Zach Smith to follow, starting at 7:00 p.m.

C&CC (GLG) Fall 2019 Report
September 27, 2019

Recommendations:

1 - That student exams be conducted according to the schedule outlined below.

Student	Exam	Time*	Examiner
Andrew Battiato	Theology & Distinctives, 2	20/10/5	Steve Rhoda
	Church history	20/10/5	David Carr
	Exegesis paper	--	Ray Morton Ian Wise

*Duration - The first number is the allotted time for the examiner's question or sermon, the second is for questions from the presbytery and the third is for discussion by the presbytery about the exam prior to voting.

2 - That Jon Sturm be permitted to share his testimony and sense of calling to the ministry for up to 10 minutes.

3 - That Jon Sturm be received as a student under care.

Report to Presbytery

Committee to Review Andrew Battiato's Hebrew Exegesis Paper

September 27, 2019

Fathers and brothers,

We found Andrew Battiato's exegesis and exposition of the 96th Psalm to be a capable handling of the Hebrew Scriptures. The work, amounting to some forty pages, was divided into the following sections:

- Introduction explaining his interest in this particular psalm as it relates to his inclination toward missions;
- Discussion of its place within the flow of salvation-history;
- Verse-by-verse analysis of the psalm from the viewpoint of genre and logical progression;
- Text-critical analysis of the Hebrew of the psalm, along with reference to the LXX;
- His own translation of the text, with explanations;
- Theological reflections on the text, and its relation to Christ;
- Detailed homiletic outline.

Battiato deals meaningfully with the Hebrew language of the psalm, showing a grasp of how the language works. He capably handles difficult questions that arise from within the text, one example being his interaction with the minor differences between the version of the psalm found in the Psalter and that read in I Chronicles 16. And he shows skill in arriving at the organically-derived meaning of the text for the Church.

Apart from a stylistic quibble or two (using 'I' in a formal paper, for instance), our one concern was what we perceived as a dearth of footnotes for a technical paper. We want to encourage care in giving adequate credit to those whose ideas and expertise we depend on, as well as reference to respected sources in order to sharpen and deepen one's own thinking.

We recommend that this paper be sustained.

Respectfully submitted,

Ian Wise

Ray Morton