

The Great Lakes-Gulf
Presbytery (RPCNA)

Official Meeting Minutes
Submitted 9/25/19

CLERK

Rev. Adam Kuehner
ak@streetsermon.org
(248)356-3932

ASST. CLERK

Elder Dale Koons
dlkoons49@gmail.com
(317)228-9522

TIME & PLACE

Time: Friday September 13 from 1:00 to 5:15 p.m.

Place: Terre Haute RP Church
1407 N. 25th St. Terre Haute, IN 47803

Phone: (812) 612-1646

SCHEDULE

Business Session (1:00 - 5:15p)

Mid-Aft. Break (3:00 - 3:15p)

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

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

No additional activities scheduled.

The Great Lakes/Gulf Presbytery met on Friday September 13 at 1:00 p.m. at the Terre Haute Reformed Presbyterian Church, to conduct business and to organize the Terre Haute congregation.

1. CALL TO ORDER / PRAYER OF CONSTITUTION

The moderator, Mr. Mann, called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m., reading and expounding 1 Peter 2:9-10, after which the court sang Psalm 96A and constituted the court in prayer to God.

2. ROLL CALL

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

3. INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Pockras introduced a guest, Mr. Ethan Soma, a member of the Belle Center congregation.

4. CLERK'S REPORT

Mr. Kuehner presented an oral clerk's report, indicating that Mr. Pockras will serve as parliamentarian for this meeting, and calling for outstanding papers and/or session/TGB minute books.

- It was moved, seconded, and passed that the moderator appoint a three-man committee to review Las Vegas RPC's pastoral call to Mr. Scott and report back by the end of this meeting, after which the moderator appointed the following delegates to the committee: Mr. Work (chair), Mr. Niess, and Mr. McCollum.
- It was moved, seconded, and passed to adopt the agenda as amended.
- It was moved, seconded, and passed to approve the edict for Mr. Wise's installation at Southside RPC, after which the clerk read the edict to the court.¹
- It was moved, seconded, and passed to approve the report.

5. PAGELAND TGB (ORAL) REPORT

Mr. Olivetti presented an oral report of the Pageland TGB, describing the committee's recent visit to Pageland and answering questions from the floor.

- It was moved, seconded, and passed to reappoint Mr. Ron Posvar to the Pageland TGB.
- It was moved, seconded, and passed to approve the oral report from the Pageland TGB.

6. CANDIDATES AND CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Olivetti presented the Candidates and Credentials Committee Report.

- Recommendation 1 passed.²

¹ The edict is as follows: "The Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery has received a call made by the Southside Reformed Presbyterian Church upon Ian Wise to be their associate pastor, and has sustained it as a regular gospel call. Mr. Wise has accepted the call. Notice is hereby given that Saturday, the 28th day of September in the year 2019 has been fixed as the time for his installation, with certification that the Presbytery will proceed in the same, unless some valid objections be offered to the Presbytery. The meeting for the ordination and installation will be held at 10:30 a.m., at Southside Reformed Presbyterian Church, 6969 S. Meridian St., Indianapolis, Indiana, 46217. Given this 13th day of September in the year 2019, by order of the Presbytery."

² That student exams be conducted according to the schedule outlined below. [See C&CC Report.]

ORDINATION-LEVEL PREACHING EXAM (Z. Smith)

Mr. Olivetti invited Mr. Zach Smith forward for his ordination-level preaching exam, after which Mr. Smith read John 11:17-27, called upon God's name in prayer, and preached from the text on Jesus' conversation with Martha following the death of Lazarus.

- Feedback was received from the floor and the exam was unanimously sustained by a roll call vote.

ORDINATION-LEVEL PERSONAL GODLINESS EXAM (Z. Smith)

Mr. Olivetti invited Mr. Zach Smith forward to receive his ordination-level personal godliness exam from Mr. Pockras, after which Mr. Smith answered questions from Mr. Pockras, and from the floor of presbytery.

- Comments were received from the floor, and the exam was unanimously sustained by a roll call vote.

EVIDENCE OF PROGRESS SERMON (J. Smith)

Mr. Olivetti invited Mr. Joe Smith forward for his evidence of progress sermon, after which Mr. Smith read Deuteronomy 9 (Psalm 110D), called upon God's name in prayer, and preached from the text on Israel's conquest of the land of Canaan.

- Comments were received from the floor, after which the court took its mid-afternoon break at 3:22 p.m. and resumed at 3:37 p.m.
- The sermon was unanimously sustained by a roll call vote.

7. NORTHERN CHURCH EXTENSION REPORT

Mr. Hanson presented a report on behalf of the Northern Church Extension Committee, briefly describing its recent visit to Louisville, and answered questions regarding its written petition to the presbytery.³

- It was moved, seconded, and passed to amend the petition's recommendation, so as to specify that the members of this proposed commission to oversee the church-planting work in Louisville would be *appointed by the moderator*.⁴
- The recommendation was passed as amended, thereby creating a commission of presbytery, appointed by the moderator, to oversee the church-planting efforts in Louisville, KY which are currently being overseen by the CRPC Session.⁵
- It was moved, seconded, and passed to approve the NOCHEX report.

8. CANDIDATES AND CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Olivetti resumed the Candidates and Credentials Committee Report, noting that, due to time constraints, Mr. Joe Smith's personal godliness exam will likely need to be delayed until a future meeting of presbytery.

ORDINATION-LEVEL SOUNDNESS IN THE FAITH EXAM (Z. Smith)

Mr. Olivetti invited Mr. Zach Smith forward to receive his ordination-level examination in Soundness in the Faith and Commitment to the Reformed Presbyterian Testimony from Mr. Andy McCracken, after which Mr. Smith answered questions from Mr. McCracken, then from the floor of presbytery, and received comments from the floor.

- The exam was sustained by a roll call vote, after which a separate vote to sustain Mr. Smith for ordination was unanimously sustained by a roll call vote.

ENGLISH BIBLE EXAM (T. Cranford)

Mr. Olivetti reported that Mr. Tre Cranford received a passing score on his written English Bible exam, after which the exam results were sustained without dissent by voice vote.

PERSONAL TESTIMONY & SENSE OF CALLING (A. Murray)

Recommendation 2 passed,⁶ after which Mr. Aaron Murray shared with the court his personal testimony and sense of calling to the ministry, and answered questions from the floor.

- Recommendation 3 passed.⁷

³ NOCHEX Petition (Received 9/7/19): "We the NOCHEX Committee, having met on 4/16-4/17/19, petition the GLG to: Appoint a Temporary Governing Body (TGB) to oversee the church planting efforts in Louisville, KY which are currently being overseen by the CRPC Session. We believe the TGB will better be able to assess the readiness of the Louisville Fellowship to become a mission church, its ability to call a church planting pastor, and to enlist greater financial support from the GLG and its churches. The following names are suggested to be on this TGB: Dave Hanson (Southside), Jeff Platt (2nd Indianapolis), An Elder to be determined (Bloomington), Andy McCracken, Gary McNamee (Columbus)."

⁴ The moderator subsequently appointed the following delegates to serve on the Louisville Commission: Andy McCracken, Gary McNamee, David Hanson (chair), Jeff Platt, Philip McCollum.

⁵ Clerk's Note: The original NOCHEX petition refers to this commission as a TGB, but per the blue book, it is an oversight commission (similar to the Atlanta Commission prior to Atlanta's attainment of mission church status), not a TGB.

⁶ That Aaron Murray be permitted to share his testimony and sense of calling to the ministry for up to ten minutes.

⁷ That Aaron Murray be received as a student under care.

EDICT FOR UPCOMING MEETING

It was moved, seconded, and passed to approve the edict for Mr. Zach Smith's ordination *sine tutela* at 7:00 p.m. on September 27, 2019 at Second Reformed Presbyterian Church in Indianapolis, after which the clerk read the edict to the court.⁸

- It was moved, seconded, and passed to call a meeting of presbytery to convene at 2:00 p.m. on Friday September 27, 2019 at Second RPC in order to conduct student exams prior to Mr. Smith's ordination service.

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

9. COMMITTEE TO REVIEW LAS VEGAS CALL TO MR. SCOTT

Mr. Work presented an oral report on behalf of the committee to review the Las Vegas call, indicating that the call meets the requirements of a regular gospel call, after which the committee's recommendation passed.⁹

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

10. POINTS OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Mr. Pockras shared a point of personal privilege, informing the court of some recent incidents where pastors have taken their own lives, and urging the delegates to seek brotherly help and encouragement if they are struggling with depression.

- Mr. Faris shared a point of personal privilege, urging local sessions to appoint a congregational missions advocate to help develop a closer relationship with the RP Global Mission Board, and reminded the court of an upcoming campaign to raise money to help purchase and distribute Bibles in South Sudan.
- Mr. Work shared a point of personal privilege, requesting prayer for Mr. Shawn Anderson, who is mourning the recent death of his grandmother and seeking opportunities to share the gospel with unsaved family members during this time of grief.

11. READING OF THE MINUTES

The clerk read the minutes for this session, after which it was moved, seconded, and passed to approve the minutes as amended.

12. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved, seconded, and passed to adjourn the meeting.

- Mr. McNamee called upon God's name in prayer, interceding for Mr. Anderson and adjourning the court at 5:08 p.m.

ORGANIZATION SERVICE MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

The moderator, Mr. Mann reconvened the Great Lakes/Gulf Presbytery for the organization of the Terre Haute Reformed Presbyterian Church at 7:01 p.m., calling upon God's name in prayer to constitute the court.

2. ATTENDANCE

The assistant clerk, Mr. Koons called the attendance 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. CALL TO WORSHIP

The moderator, Mr. Mann, issued the call to worship, after which Psalm 100B was sung to the praise of God, and the moderator called upon God in a prayer of invocation.

⁸ The edict is as follows: "The Great-Lakes Gulf Presbytery has received a call made by the Reformed Presbyterian Global Mission Board upon Zachary Smith to serve as a missionary to South Sudan and has sustained it as a regular gospel call. He has signified his intention to accept the call. The Presbytery has fixed the twenty-seventh day of September in the year 2019 as the time for his ordination with certification that the Presbytery will proceed in the same, unless some valid objections be offered to the Presbytery. Due to Mr. Smith's "sine tutela" ordination (without a congregation), this edict shall be publicly read in his home congregation, Second Reformed Presbyterian Church, for two Lord's Days prior to his ordination. The meeting for the ordination will be held at Second Reformed Presbyterian Church, 4800 North Michigan Road, Indianapolis, Indiana, 46228, on the twenty-seventh day of September in the year 2019 at 7:00 p.m. Given by order of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery on the thirteenth day of September, in the year 2019."

⁹ That the pastoral call from the Las Vegas RPC to Mr. Craig Scott be approved as a regular gospel call in accordance with the law and order of the church, and that it be forwarded to Mr. Scott for his response.

5. NARRATIVE OF EVENTS

Mr. Cosens presented a brief narrative of events leading to the organization the Terre Haute Reformed Presbyterian Church, giving all honor and glory to God.

6. PREACHING OF GOD'S WORD

Mr. Holdeman read Revelation 14:1-5, preached a sermon from the text entitled, "The Lamb's Army", and called upon God's name in prayer, after which the court sang Psalm 149B to the praise of God.

7. PUBLIC AFFIRMATION

Mr. De Jong called the roll of the local congregation, confirming that a quorum was present, after which the members of the Terre Haute Reformed Presbyterian Church affirmed their acceptance of the Covenant of Church Membership along with an additional vow of unity, both administered by the moderator.

8. ORGANIZATION OF LOCAL CONGREGATION

Mr. Roberts called upon God's name in prayer to formally organize and constitute the congregation, after which the moderator declared the Terre Haute Reformed Presbyterian Church to be a fully organized congregation of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America.

- The assembly responded by singing Psalm 48C to the praise of God.

9. ORDINATION & INSTALLATION OF RULING ELDERS

Mr. De Jong administered the ordination queries for ruling elders to Mr. Josh Reshly and Mr. Russell Lodge, who publicly affirmed them in the sight of God.

- Mr. De Jong called upon God's name in a prayer of ordination and installation by the laying on of the hands of the presbyters, who greeted Mr. Reshy and Mr. Lodge with the right hand of fellowship as duly ordained and installed elders in the RPCNA.

10. INSTALLATION OF TEACHING ELDER

Mr. Jack Rhoda administered the queries of installation for ministers to Mr. Steve Rhoda, who publicly affirmed them in the sight of God.

- Mr. Bob McCracken called upon God's name in a prayer of installation, thereby installing Mr. Rhoda as pastor of the Terre Haute Reformed Presbyterian Church, after which presbyters extended the right hand of fellowship.

11. CHARGE FROM PRESBYTERY

On the presbytery's behalf, Mr. Hart issued a charge to the newly organized congregation, the newly ordained and installed ruling elders, and the newly installed pastor, reading several key passages from the 15th and 16th chapters of Paul's Epistle to the Romans.

12. WORD OF THANKS

Mr. Rhoda addressed the assembly with a word of greeting and thanks to the congregation for its warm reception of his family and ministry, as well as for their faithful labors to help in hosting the meeting, and to the presbytery for its brotherly help and encouragement.

13. READING OF THE MINUTES

The clerk, Mr. Kuehner, read the minutes from the organization service, after which it was moved, seconded, and passed to adopt the minutes as read.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The moderator, Mr. Mann, called upon God's name in a prayer of adjournment, after which Psalm 67C was sung to the praise of God, Mr. Steve Rhoda pronounced the benediction, and the service concluded with the singing of a doxology from Psalm 57B.

Meeting of Presbytery
2019 Fall Presbytery
September 13, 2019
1:00 to 5:15 pm
Terre Haute, IN

Church	First Last Name	Attendance	JOE SMITH Sermon (evidence of progress)	ZACH SMITH Personal Godliness	ZACH SMITH Sermon (Expository)	ZACH SMITH Soundness in the Faith & Testimony	ZACH SMITH Ordination
Bell Center RPC	Phillip Pockras	P	S	S	S	NOT	S
Bloomington RPC	Richard Holdeman	P	S	S	S	S	S
Bloomington RPC	Philip McCollum	P	S	S	S	S	S
Bloomington RPC	Ken De Jong	P	S	S	S	S	S
Christ Church RP	Dale Koons	P	S	S	S	S	S
Christ Church RP	Michael LeFebvre	P	S	S	S	S	S
Columbus RPC	Andrew McCracken	P	S	S	S	S	S
Columbus RPC	Gary McNamee	P	S	S	S	S	S
Elkhart RPC	Wade Mann	P	S	S	S	S	S
Hetherton RPC	Ray Morton	P	S	S	S	S	S
Immanuel RPC, West Lafayette	David Carr	P	S	S	S	S	S
Immanuel RPC, West Lafayette	Jared Olivetti	P	S	S	S	S	S
Lafayette RPC	Adam Neiss	P	S	S	S	S	S
Orlando RPC	H.P. McCracken	P	S	S	S	S	S
Second RPC, Indianapolis	James Faris	P	S	S	S	S	S
Second RPC, Indianapolis	Dean Filson	P	S	S	S	S	S
Second RPC, Indianapolis	Joel Hart	P	S	S	S	S	S
Second RPC, Indianapolis	Russ Pulliam	P	S	S	S	S	S
Southfield RPC	Adam Kuehner	P	S	S	S	S	S
Southside RPC, Indianapolis	David Hanson	P	S	S	S	S	S
Southside RPC, Indianapolis	David Kleyn	P	S	S	S	S	S
Southside RPC, Indianapolis	Jerry Porter	P	S	S	S	S	S
Southwest Ohio RPC	Greg Damerow	P	S	S	S	NOT	S
Southwest Ohio RPC	Steve Work	P	S	S	S	S	S
	Rich Johnston	P	S	S	S	S	S
	Keith Magill	P	AB	S	S	S	S
	Bill Roberts	P	S	S	S	S	S
	Ian Wise	P	S	S	S	S	S
Present(P) Sustain(s)		28	27	28	28	26	28
Absent (AB)		0	1	0	0	0	0
NOT SUSTAIN (NOT)		0	0	0	0	2	0

C&CC (GLG) Fall 2019 Report (draft)

Date: 9/13/19

Time: 1pm

Recommendations:

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

Student	Exam	Time*	Examiner
Tre Cranford	English Bible Exam	--	--
Joe Smith	Personal Godliness	20/10/5	Philip McCollum
	Sermon (evidence of progress)	25/-/5	(Deuteronomy 9:1-12)
Zach Smith	Personal Godliness	20/10/5	Phil Pockras
	Sermon (expository)	25/-/5	(John 11:17-27)
	Soundness in the Faith & Testimony	20/10/5	Andy McCracken
	Final roll call vote	--	--

*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 Aaron Murray be permitted to share his testimony and sense of calling to the ministry for up to 10 minutes.

3 - That Aaron Murray be received as a student under care.

N.B.

Future exam

On September 27, before Zach Smith's ordination (d.v.), we hope to give Andrew Battiato the remaining exams he needs before being licensed to receive a call (theology 2, church history, exegesis paper) and two exams to Jay Dharan (preaching & theology 2).

Student	Exam	Time*	Examiner
Andrew Battiato	Theology & Distinctives, 2	20/10/5	Steve Rhoda
	Church history	20/10/5	David Carr
	Sermon (evidence of progress)	25/-/5	--
	Exegesis paper	--	Ray Morton Ian Wise
Jay Dharan	Theology & Distinctives, 2	20/10/5	Adam Kuehner
	Sermon (sermon on assigned topic)	25/-/5	--

We the NOCHEX Committee, having met on 4/16-4/17/19, petition the GLG to

- Appoint a Temporary Governing Body (TGB) to oversee the church planting efforts in Louisville, KY which are currently being overseen by the CRPC Session.

We believe the TGB will better be able to assess the readiness of the Louisville Fellowship to become a mission church, its ability to call a church planting pastor, and to enlist greater financial support from the GLG and its churches.

The following names are suggested to be on this TGB:

Dave Hanson, (Southside)

Jeff Platt, (2nd Indianapolis)

An Elder to be determined, (Bloomington)

Andy McCracken, Gary McNamee (Columbus)