

The Great Lakes-Gulf
Presbytery (RPCNA)
Official Meeting Minutes
Published 3/26/19

CLERK

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ASST. CLERK

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2019 ANNUAL SPRING MEETING

Time: Thursday February 28 @ 2pm to Saturday March 2 @ Noon

Place: Orlando Reformed Presbyterian Church
324 E. Livingston St. Orlando, FL 32801

Phone: (407)843-4361

BUSINESS SESSION #1

Thursday 2:00 - 5:30 p.m. (Break @ 3:30a)

The Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery met at the Orlando RP Church at 2:00pm on Thursday February 28, 2019 for its annual spring meeting.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The moderator called the court to order at 2:01 p.m. with the singing of Psalm 57B, after which he called upon God's name in prayer, read Ephesians 4:1-16 and Psalm 133, and preached on the theme of Christian unity, highlighting various causes of (and remedies for) disunity in the church.

- The court responded by singing Psalm 34B to the praise of God and Mr. Anderson constituted the court in prayer at 2:44 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Mr. Koons took attendance by calling the roll, after which he confirmed that a quorum was present.

3. INTRODUCTION OF FIRST-TIME DELEGATES

Mr. Olivetti introduced Mr. Zachary Blackwood and Mr. Nate Pfeiffer, both newly-elected ruling elders at Immanuel RPC in West Lafayette, Indiana.

4. CLERK'S REPORT

Mr. Kuehner presented the clerk's report.

- Recommendation 1 passed.¹
- Recommendation 2 passed.²

¹ That presbytery appoint Mr. Pockras and Mr. Hughes as parliamentarians for this meeting, with Mr. Rhoda and Mr. [Keith] Evans serving as alternates.

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

- Recommendation 3 passed.³
- Recommendation 4 passed.⁴
- Recommendation 5 passed.⁵
- It was moved, seconded, and passed to approve the report.

5. ELECTION OF CLERKS

It was moved, seconded, and passed to nominate the existing clerk (Mr. Kuehner) and assistant clerk (Mr. Koons) to continue serving in these capacities, after which it was moved, seconded, and passed to close nominations, and both nominees were elected.

6. ELECTION OF MODERATOR

It was moved, seconded, and passed to nominate Mr. Wade Mann to serve as moderator, after which it was moved, seconded, and passed to close nominations, and Mr. Mann was elected.

7. RULING ELDER MEMORIAL

Mr. Frank Smith submitted a written memorial for Elder Bob Shapiro, which the presbytery received by common consent.

8. AD INTERIM COMMISSION REPORT

Mr. Kuehner presented the Ad Interim Commission report.

- It was moved, seconded, and passed to approve the Ad Interim Commission report and to spread its minutes on the minutes of presbytery.

9. TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Bishop presented the treasurer's report, after which it was moved, seconded, and passed to receive the report.

10. INTER-CHURCH LIAISON REPORT

Mr. Knodel presented the Inter-Church Liaison report, after which it was moved, seconded, and passed to receive the report.

11. SHEPHERDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Frank Smith presented the Shepherding Committee report, after which it was moved, seconded, and passed to extend the time to finish the report.

- In response to a question from the clerk, clarification was offered regarding the process of seeking approval from the Ad Interim Commission when transferring members from the roll of presbytery.
- It was moved, seconded, and passed to approve the report.

12. MID-AFTERNOON BREAK

Mr. H.P. McCracken made several announcements on behalf of the host congregation, after which the court took its mid-afternoon break at 3:35 p.m.

- The court resumed its business at 3:57 p.m. with the singing of Psalm 100D to the praise of God.

13. CANDIDATES AND CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Olivetti presented the Candidates and Credentials Committee Report.

- Recommendation 1 passed.⁶

³ That presbytery take up Communication 19-3 as part of the Candidates and Credentials Report.

⁴ That presbytery adopt the proposed agenda for this meeting.

⁵ That presbytery grant all RPCNA elders present, including all non-certified delegates from this presbytery, the privilege of the floor during the remainder of this meeting.

⁶ That student exams be conducted according to the schedule outlined [in the report] below.

- Recommendation 2 passed.⁷
- Recommendation 3 passed.⁸

CHURCH HISTORY EXAM

Mr. Olivetti invited Mr. McNamee forward to receive his Church History Exam from Mr. Hart, after which he answered questions from Mr. Hart and from the floor.

- Comments were received from the floor and the exam was sustained.

COMMUNICATION 19-3

Mr. Olivetti brought Communication 19-3 before the court, after which discussion ensued on the floor.

- It was moved and seconded to place Rev. Stan McKenzie and his wife Juliet on the membership roll of presbytery, at their request.
- It was moved, seconded, and passed to lay the motion on the table to entertain a substitute.
- It was moved and seconded to counsel Mr. and Mrs. McKenzie to meet in person with their session for a shepherding visit.
- It was moved, seconded, and passed to refer this matter to a three-man committee of the day to be named by the moderator, to report back at this meeting with a plan on how to address Mr. McKenzie's letter.

14. TERRE HAUTE MISSION CHURCH TEMPORARY GOVERNING BODY (TGB) REPORT

Mr. Porter presented the report of the Terre Haute TGB and received comments from the floor, after which it was moved, seconded, and passed to approve the report.

15. SYCAMORE CONGREGATIONAL REPORT

Mr. McKissick presented the Sycamore congregational report and received comments from the floor, after which it was moved, seconded, and passed to receive the report.

16. INTERCESSORY PRAYER & RECESS FOR DINNER BREAK

Mr. Work and Mr. Hart led the court in a time of intercessory prayer for the Terre Haute mission church and the Sycamore congregation, respectively after which Mr. Hart recessed the court for its dinner break at 5:35 p.m.

BUSINESS SESSION #2

Thursday 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. (No Break)

17. PRAYER TO RECONVENE

Mr. Mann called the court to order at 7:05 p.m., after which Mr. Pockras led the court in a prayer to reconvene the court at 7:07 p.m.

18. ATTENDANCE

It was moved, seconded, and passed to authorize the assistant clerk to take attendance visually in this and all remaining business sessions, after which Mr. Koons took attendance visually.

19. CHANGE OF MODERATOR

Mr. Mann vacated the chair to complete his list of nominations, and Mr. Anderson took the chair as moderator pro tem.

20. INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUEST

Mr. Butterfield introduced Mr. Thomas Fitzpatrick, a member of the Durham congregation who is exploring a possible future call to the eldership.

21. READING OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

⁷ That Michael LeFebvre and Jon Hughes be nominated to continue serving on our committee.

⁸ That the following change be made: Bill Roberts' status be "retired."

Mr. Kuehner read the previous minutes, after which comments were received from the floor and it was moved, seconded, and passed to approve the minutes as amended.

22. SECOND RPC ETHICS REVIEW COMMITTEE REPORT (EXECUTIVE SESSION)

It was moved, seconded, and passed to enter executive session in order for Mr. Evans to present the report of the Second RPC Ethics Review Committee.

- Mr. Pockras instructed the court regarding the nature and duties of executive session.
- It was moved, seconded, and passed to approve the Second RPC Ethics Committee Report and to dissolve the committee.
- It was moved, seconded, and passed to rise from executive session.

23. CHURCH OFFICER ELECTION COMMITTEE

Mr. Pockras presented an oral report of the Church Officer Election Committee, after which it was moved, seconded, and passed to receive the report.

24. QUESTION REGARDING CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS

Mr. Magill shared a point of personal privilege, seeking feedback regarding how congregations are implementing the recent changes to the Directory for Church Government in relation to the election of local congregational officers, after which various responses were received from the floor.

25. CHANGE OF MODERATOR

Mr. Mann resumed the moderator's chair.

26. NORTHERN CHURCH EXT. COMTE. (NOCHEX) REPORT

Mr. Andy McCracken presented the Northern Church Extension Committee Report, indicating that the Committee is still working to schedule their visit to Louisville⁹, after which it was moved, seconded, and passed to receive the report.

27. MODERATOR APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Mann announced his list of moderator appointments.

REVIEW OF SESSION MINUTE BOOKS

Belle Center — Olivetti, Morton
Bloomington — D. Hanson, McNamee
Christ Church — Pockras, Hughes
Columbus — Knodel, Nelson
Durham — Anderson, Blackwood
Elkhart — A. McCracken, Kessler
Grand Rapids — Niess, D. Hanson
Hetherton — Magill, Mauser
Immanuel — McKissick, Butterfield
Lafayette — H.P. McCracken, Knodel
Marion — Niess, Scott

Orlando — K. Evans, Pfeiffer
Pageland — Porter, Work
Second RP — F. Smith, Sturm
Selma — Sturm, LeFebvre
Southfield — Worsham, Faris
Southside — Evans, McCollum
Sparta — Hart, Kessler
Sycamore — Butterfield, Hart
SWORP — Cassell, McKissick
Terre Haute — Work, Scott
Westminster — Cassell, Nelson

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Magill (Ch.)
Mr. Mauser
Mr. Worsham

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Mr. Holdeman (Ch.)
Mr. K. Evans
Mr. Damerow

RES. OF THANKS COMMITTEE

Mr. McCollum (Ch.)
Mr. Scott

⁹ **November 9, 2018:** "It was moved, seconded, and passed that presbytery send NOCHEX (plus one additional elder, in light of Mr. McCracken's voluntary recusal) to visit Columbus and counsel the session regarding the best path forward for a possible church planting effort in Louisville, Kentucky, and to report back to presbytery at the upcoming Spring meeting.

TIME AND PLACE COMMITTEE

Mr. Niess (Ch.)
Mr. Faris

JUDICIAL COMMITTEE (19-3)

Mr. LeFebvre (Ch.)
Mr. Anderson
Mr. A. McCracken

28. SOUTHERN CHURCH EXT. COMTE. (SOCHEX) REPORT

Mr. H.P. McCracken presented the Southern Church Extension (SOCHEX) Committee Report and answered a question from the floor, after which it was moved, seconded, and passed to receive the report.

29. SELMA COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Niess presented the Selma Committee Report and received feedback from the floor.

- Recommendations 1¹⁰ and 2¹¹ were referred to the nominating committee.
- Recommendation 3 was referred to the Time and Place Committee.¹²
- Recommendation 4 was referred to the Finance Committee.¹³
- Comments and questions were received from the floor, after which it was moved, seconded, and passed to receive the report.

30. SPARTA CONGREGATIONAL REPORT

Mr. Magill presented the Sparta congregational report, after it was moved, seconded, and passed to extend the time to finish the report.

- Comments were then received from the floor, and presbytery applauded Mr. Magill's faithful and diligent labors in helping to shepherd the flock in Sparta.
- It was moved, seconded, and passed to receive the report.

31. SOUTHWEST OHIO (SWORP) CONGREGATIONAL REPORT

Mr. Knodel presented the SWORP congregational report, after which comments were received from the floor, and it was moved, seconded, and passed to receive the report.

32. SOUTHSIDE (INDIANAPOLIS) CONGREGATIONAL REPORT

Mr. Sturm presented the Southside congregational report, after which it was moved, seconded, and passed to receive the report.

33. INTERCESSORY PRAYER

The court interceded in prayer for the congregations previously reporting, led by Mr. Pockras (Sparta), Mr. LeFebvre (SWORP), and Mr. Worsham (Southside).

34. SOUTHFIELD CONGREGATIONAL REPORT

Mr. Kuehner presented the Southfield congregational report, after which it was moved, seconded, and passed to receive the report.

35. SELMA CONGREGATIONAL REPORT

Mr. Niess presented the Selma congregational report, after which it was moved, seconded, and passed to receive the report.

¹⁰ That Jerry O'Neill be appointed interim moderator of the Selma session for another year.

¹¹ That Adam Niess be appointed a provisional elder on the Selma session for another year.

¹² That the Time and Place Committee consider the possibility of changing the dates for the 2020 spring meeting in order to accommodate the elders in Selma.

¹³ That \$2,000 be given to the committee for another visit to Selma in 2019.

36. SECOND RP (INDIANAPOLIS) CONGREGATIONAL REPORT

Mr. Mauser presented the Second RP congregational report, and received a comment from the floor, after which it was moved, seconded, and passed to receive the report.

37. PAGELAND MISSION CHURCH TEMPORARY GOVERNING BODY (TGB) REPORT

Mr. Olivetti presented the Pageland Mission Church TGB Report, and received comments from the floor, after which it was moved, seconded, and passed to receive the report.

38. INTERCESSORY PRAYER & ADJOURNMENT

It was moved, seconded, and passed to extend the time to pray for the congregations previously reporting.

- The court interceded in prayer, led by Mr. Mauser (Southfield), Mr. McNamee (Selma), Mr. Olivetti (Second), and Mr. Scott (Pageland), who adjourned the court at 9:13 p.m.

BUSINESS SESSION #3

Friday 8:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. (Break @ 10:15a)

39. CALL TO ORDER / PRAYER OF CONSTITUTION

Mr. Mann called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m. with the reading Lamentations 3:23-24 and the singing of Psalm 67C, after which he appointed Mr. Pockras to serve as clerk *pro tem* and called upon God's name in prayer to constitute the court at 8:36 a.m.

40. CANDIDATES AND CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT (Continued)

EXPOSITORY II PREACHING EXAM

Mr. Olivetti invited Mr. Zach Smith forward for his Expository II preaching exam, after which Mr. Smith read Luke 7:1-10, called upon God's name in prayer, and preached from the text on *Three Features of the Centurion's Marvelous Faith*.

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

41. ATTENDANCE

Mr. Koons took attendance visually.

42. READING OF PREVIOUS MINUTES (Clerk)

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

43. FORMAL DISSENT

Mr. Pockras registered his dissent from the action of the court approving the minutes, and afterward submitted the following reason: "I respectfully dissent from Presbytery's declining to note its prayers of constitution and adjournment with an explicit notation of prayer being offered "in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, the King and Head of the Church." With this specific command in our DCG 6.7 (p. D-33), it should be noted always that it was carried out as mandated by our Constitution."

44. CANDIDATES & CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE (Continued)

THEOLOGY & DISTINCTIVES II EXAM

Mr. Olivetti invited Mr. McNamee forward to receive his Theology and Distinctives II Exam from Mr. Niess.

- Mr. McNamee answered questions from Mr. Niess and then from the floor of presbytery, after which further comments were received from the floor, and it was moved, seconded, and passed to extend the time for further comments.
- It was moved, seconded, and passed to extend the time to vote on the exam before the mid-morning break, after which the exam was sustained by a roll call vote.

45. MID-MORNING BREAK

Mr. Olivetti recessed the court in prayer at 10:19a.m. for its mid-morning break.

- Mr. Mann called the court to order at 10:38a.m. with the singing of Psalm 149B.

46. DAYTON COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. McNamee presented the Dayton Committee Report, after which comments were received from the floor.

- Recommendation 1 passed.¹⁴
- Recommendation 2 was withdrawn by the committee.¹⁵
- Recommendation 3 passed.¹⁶
- Recommendation 4 passed.¹⁷
- Recommendation 5 passed, as amended to include the phrase “with our thanks”.¹⁸
- It was moved, seconded, and passed to approve the report.

47. PAPER 19-4

Mr. Kuehner issued a final call for papers, and announced the receipt of a petition (Paper 19-4) from Mr. LeFebvre.

- It was moved, seconded, and passed to refer Paper 19-4 to a judicial committee of the day, appointed by the moderator, consisting of Mr. David Hanson (chair), Mr. Work, and Mr. Hart.¹⁹

48. ATLANTA COMMISSION REPORT

Mr. Anderson presented the Atlanta Commission Report.

- Recommendation 1 passed, after which Mr. Frank Smith addressed the court for ten minutes, and Mr. Anderson resumed the report.²⁰

¹⁴ That Presbytery direct the DPS treasurer Adam Campbell to send a check for all the remaining funds to the Treasurer of the RPCNA according to the Constitution of the RPCNA, (DCG, Chapter 2, paragraph 16) and to close this account, once all outstanding obligations have been cleared. The OC Chair, Gary McNamee; has spoken with Jim McFarland of the Trustees of the Synod regarding these matters. Mr. McFarland confirmed that the remaining monies should be sent to the Trustees and that Presbytery can then request to get these funds back for their use in church planting efforts or other Presbytery endeavors. He also noted that the distribution of the chairs and Psalters will be left to the will of the GLGP.

¹⁵ That Presbytery direct Adam Campbell to close the DPS Facebook page and website.

¹⁶ That the remaining Blue Psalters (around 30 each) be sent to the Columbus RPC so that they can be used by the Louisville Reformed Presbyterian Fellowship, a church planting effort of the CRPC.

¹⁷ That Kevin Clauson, member of the DPS, Professor and Department Chair at Bryan College, be allowed to facilitate the donation of the remaining chairs to Bryan College in Dayton, TN. (Approximately 30 chairs)

¹⁸ That the Oversight Committee be directed to execute any recommendations necessary and once these actions are completed, the DPS Oversight Committee be dismissed with our thanks.

¹⁹ The moderator announced his intention to appoint these men prior to the making of the motion.

²⁰ That presbytery give Dr. Smith up to ten minutes to address the court and answer any questions.

- Recommendation 2²¹ was discussed and subsequently divided, after which Recommendation 2A²² passed and Recommendation 2B²³ passed.
- Recommendation 3 was discussed, after which it was moved, seconded, and passed to refer it back to the Commission to report back to this meeting of presbytery.²⁴
- Recommendation 4 was referred to the Finance Committee.²⁵

49. ORLANDO CONGREGATIONAL REPORT

Mr. H.P. McCracken presented the Orlando congregational report and received a question from the floor, after which it was moved, seconded, and passed to approve the report.

50. INTERCESSORY PRAYER & RECESS FOR LUNCH BREAK

Mr. Kessler led the court in a prayer of intercession for the Orlando congregation, giving thanks for the meal, and recessing the court at 12:21 p.m. in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, the King and Head of the Church.

BUSINESS SESSION #4

Friday 2:00 - 5:30 p.m. (Break @ 3:30p)

51. PRAYER TO RECONVENE

Mr. Mann called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. with the singing of Psalm 84B, after which Mr. Work reconvened the court in prayer at 2:03 p.m.

52. ATTENDANCE

Mr. Koons took attendance visually.

53. READING OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

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

54. POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

The previous moderator, Mr. Anderson, indicated his intention to present the current moderator, Mr. Mann, with a book to be signed by the members of the court as a token of appreciation for his faithful service.

55. CANDIDATES & CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE (Continued)

²¹ In accord with DCG Chapter 7, paragraphs 5, 7b and 8: That Atlanta Presbyterian Fellowship be established as a mission church of the Great Lakes/Gulf Presbytery and that the members of the session of South West Ohio Reformed Presbyterian Church and Rev. Dr. Frank Smith be appointed to serve as the commission and Temporary Governing Body of the new Atlanta Reformed Presbyterian Mission Church (ARPMC).

²² In accord with DCG Chapter 7, paragraphs 5, 7b and 8: That Atlanta Presbyterian Fellowship be established as a mission church of the Great Lakes/Gulf Presbytery.

²³ That the members of the session of South West Ohio Reformed Presbyterian Church and Rev. Dr. Frank Smith be appointed to serve as the commission and Temporary Governing Body of the new Atlanta Reformed Presbyterian Mission Church (ARPMC).

²⁴ That Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery call Frank J. Smith as the organizing pastor for the mission church in Atlanta, with compensation of \$24,000 per year, out of which the minimal pension payment shall be made with the residual being designated for housing allowance and granting him four weeks of vacation per year of employment.

²⁵ That the Presbytery provide \$2,000 for the ARPMC.

THEOLOGY & DISTINCTIVES II EXAM

Mr. Olivetti invited Mr. Zach Smith forward to receive his Theology and Distinctives II exam from Mr. Evans, after which Mr. Smith answered questions from Mr. Evans, and from the floor of presbytery.

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

Mr. Olivetti summarized various aspects of the Candidates and Credentials Report, after which it was moved, seconded, and passed to approve the report.

56. REPORT OF COMMITTEE TO REVIEW RPGM CALL TO MR. ZACH SMITH

Mr. Mann announced that the clerk has received a missionary call from the RPCNA Global Mission Board for Mr. Zach Smith.

- It was moved, seconded, and passed that the moderator appoint a committee of the day to evaluate Mr. Smith's call in anticipation of the completion of his remaining licensure exams at a later time.
- The moderator appointed the following delegates to serve on the committee: Mr. Butterfield (chair), Mr. Cassell, Mr. Worsham).

57. PAPER 19-01²⁶

Mr. Olivetti addressed the court regarding Paper 19-1, after which discussion ensued on the floor.

58. MID-AFTERNOON BREAK

The court took its mid-afternoon break at 3:30 p.m.

- Mr. Mann called the court to resume its work at 3:48p.m. with the singing of Psalm 72E.

59. PAPER 19-01

Mr. Olivetti resumed his presentation of paper Paper 19-1 and the discussion continued.

- It was moved, seconded, and passed to send Paper 19-01 to synod with the presbytery's endorsement.
- Division was requested and the motion carried 25-6.

60. PAPER 19-02²⁷

Mr. Anderson addressed the court regarding Paper 19-2, after which discussion ensued.

- Recommendation 1 failed by a vote of 16-17 (Division), with the moderator casting the deciding vote.
- It was moved, seconded, and passed to return Paper 19-2 to the Sycamore session.

61. TEACHING ELDER MEMORIAL

Mr. Faris presented a memorial for Dr. Roy Blackwood written by Elder Russ Pulliam of Second RPC.

62. MARION & WESTMINSTER CONGREGATIONAL REPORTS

It was moved, seconded, and passed to approve the written congregational reports from Marion and Westminster, since there are no elders present from either congregation to provide an oral report.

63. LAFAYETTE CONGREGATIONAL REPORT

Mr. Nelson presented the Lafayette congregational report, after which it was moved, seconded, and passed to approve the report.

64. IMMANUEL (WEST LAFAYETTE) CONGREGATIONAL REPORT

Mr. Pfeiffer presented the Immanuel congregational report, after which it was moved, seconded, and passed to approve the report.

²⁶ This is a paper submitted by the Immanuel RPC session proposing changes to our constitution's existing definition of the law and order of the church, specifically in relation to past actions of synod.

²⁷ This is a paper submitted by the Sycamore RPC session proposing changes to Chapter 24 of the RPCNA Testimony, specifically in relation to the matter of abortion.

65. INTERCESSORY PRAYER & RECESS FOR DINNER BREAK

The court interceded in prayer for the congregations previously reporting, led by Mr. Cassell (Marion, Westminster), Mr. McKissick (LaFayette), and Mr. Damerow (Immanuel), who asked God's blessing upon the meal, and recessed the court at 5:29 p.m.

BUSINESS SESSION #5

Friday 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. (No Break)

66. PRAYER TO RECONVENE

Mr. Mann called the court to order at 7:00 p.m. with the singing of Psalm 150B, after which Mr. McCollum reconvened the court in prayer at 7:03 p.m.

67. ROLL CALL / VISUAL

Mr. Koons took attendance visually.

68. READING OF PREVIOUS MINUTES (Clerk)

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

69. PRESBYTERY YOUTH REPORT - C.Y.P.U. (Mr. Larson)

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, after which Mr. Larson and the leadership team presented their report via video conferencing.

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

70. COMMITTEE TO REVIEW PAPER 19-3

Mr. LeFebvre presented the report of the Committee to Review Paper 19-3, after which Recommendation 1 passed.²⁸

71. COMMITTEE TO REVIEW RPGM MISSIONARY CALL TO ZACH SMITH (Mr. LeFebvre)

Mr. Butterfield presented the report of the Committee to Review the RPGM Missionary Call to Zach Smith, after which Recommendation 1 passed.²⁹

72. COVFAMIKOI CONFERENCE REPORT

Mr. Blackwood presented the Covfamiko Conference Report, after which Recommendation 1 was referred to the Finance Committee³⁰, and it was moved, seconded, and passed to approve the report.

73. HOME MISSION BOARD REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Mr. Andy McCracken presented the Home Mission Board Representative Report, after which it was moved, seconded, and passed to approve the report.

74. GENEVA COLLEGE BOARD OF CORPORATORS REPORT

Mr. Pockras presented the Geneva College Board of Corporators Report, and comments were received from the floor, after which it was moved, seconded, and passed to receive the report.

²⁸ That presbytery appoint a three-man committee comprised of Shawn Anderson, Michael LeFebvre, and Andy McCracken to meet with the McKenzies and with the Southside Session in order to mediate and make appropriate recommendations to both parties and/or presbytery.

²⁹ That Presbytery approve this Gospel Call to Zachary Smith with the addendum on vacation and furloughs from the RP Global Missions Board and pass it onto him when he is eligible to receive such a call.

³⁰ That Presbytery approves \$2,000 for conference expenses.

75. SPECIAL PRAYER REQUEST

Mr. Andy McCracken shared a point of personal privilege requesting prayer for a meeting of the RPC of Australia this evening as they consider the extension of a pastoral call to Mr. McCracken.

76. FIRST RPC (GRAND RAPIDS) CONGREGATIONAL REPORT

Mr. Scott presented the First RPC of Grand Rapids congregational report, after which comments were received from the floor, and it was moved, seconded, and passed to approve the report.

77. HETHERTON CONGREGATIONAL REPORT

Mr. Morton presented the Hetherton congregational report, after which it was moved, seconded, and passed to approve the report.

78. ELKHART CONGREGATIONAL REPORT

Mr. Anderson temporarily assumed the moderator's chair from Mr. Mann, who presented the Elkhart congregational report, after which comments were received from the floor, and it was moved, seconded, and passed to approve the report.

- Mr. Mann returned to the moderator's chair.

79. FIRST RPC (DURHAM) CONGREGATIONAL REPORT

Mr. Butterfield presented the Durham congregational report, after which a comment was received from the floor, and it was moved, seconded, and passed to approve the report.

80. FIRST RPC (DURHAM) VISITATION REPORT

Mr. Magill presented the Durham Visitation Committee Report, after which questions and comments were received from the floor.

- Recommendations 1-5 were taken together and passed³¹, after which it was moved, seconded, and passed to approve the report.

81. INTERCESSORY PRAYER

The court interceded in prayer for the congregations previously reporting (and for the special election in Australia) led by Mr. Nelson (Hetherton), Mr. Frank Smith (Grand Rapids), Mr. Anderson (Elkhart), and Mr. Pfeiffer (Durham).

82. JUDICIAL COMMITTEE TO REVIEW PAPER 19-4

Mr. David Hanson distributed hard copies of the Report of the Judicial Committee to Review Paper 19-4.

83. PRAYER OF ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Holdeman led the court in prayer, adjourning the court at 9:06 p.m.

³¹ Recommendations 1-5 are as follows:

1. Rejoice with the Durham congregation and their pastor for the Lord's blessing on their ministry in recent years.
2. Pray for local ruling elders to be called, equipped and installed on their session. Remember that Kent has gone more than 41/2 years without local ruling elders.
3. Provide provisional elders that, if at all possible, can be available to visit Durham more regularly to support this work.
4. Support Kent with pulpit supply so that Kent and Rosaria will be able to have more uninterrupted family vacation times.
5. Pray that God would bless the Durham RP Church with new members who love the Lord with all their heart and who have the gifts necessary to faithfully proclaim the Gospel and equip the saints for ministry.

BUSINESS SESSION #6

Saturday 8:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. (Break @ 9:45a)

84. PRAYER OF CONSTITUTION

Mr. Mann called the court to order at 8:32 a.m. with the singing of Psalm 125 and the reading of Psalm 33:16-22, after which he constituted the court in prayer at 8:37 a.m.

85. ATTENDANCE

Mr. Koons took attendance visually.

86. 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.

87. NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT - Preliminary Draft

Mr. Holdeman distributed hard copies of a preliminary draft of the Nominating Committee Report, after which questions and comments were received from the floor.

88. DAYTON COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. McNamee resumed the Dayton Committee Report, after which it was moved, seconded, and passed to request permission from the Trustees of Synod to distribute the remaining funds from the Dayton preaching station to meet an urgent mercy need among its families.

89. JUDICIAL COMMITTEE TO REVIEW PAPER 19-4

Mr. David Hanson presented the report of the Judicial Committee of the Day regarding Paper 19-4.

- Recommendation 1 was amended to include the phrase “with the understanding that presbytery welcomes further consideration of the issues raised in this paper”, after which it passed.³²

90. ATLANTA COMMISSION REPORT

Mr. Anderson resumed the report of the Atlanta Commission, after which an updated version Recommendation 3³³ passed, thereby calling Rev. Frank J. Smith as the organizing pastor in the Atlanta mission church, upon the following terms: *We, the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery, satisfied that your spiritual attainments, intellectual abilities and soundness in the faith and the Testimony of the Reformed Presbyterian Church are fitted to the capacities of the Atlanta Reformed Presbyterian Mission Church (ARPMC), do now call you, Frank Smith, to undertake the office of organizing pastor to take the spiritual oversight of the Atlanta RP Mission Church. Upon your accepting this call and performing the duties of your office as set forth by the Constitution, we promise you all due respect and support in the Lord. From the funds of the ARPMC you will be paid \$19,700, in the event of your accepting this call, and performing the duties of a pastor of ARPMC—a direct compensation of \$19,700, payable in 12 installments. This compensation is designated as housing allowance as set forth by Section 107 of the I.R. Code. The Presbytery will not be responsible for any of these funds. To provide for the pastor’s continuing pastoral development and refreshment, the ARPMC will provide pulpit supply in order for the pastor to attend an annual professional conference. The pastor will be provided the Pension of \$4,300 annually. Presbytery and Synod accommodations will be reimbursed by ARPMC up to \$300 annually. Pastoral Ministry expenses will be reimbursed by ARPMC up to \$300 annually. Three weeks will be provided for vacation time each year. The pastor is expected to attend all Synod and Presbytery meetings. We promise to review annually with you the adequacy of this compensation prior to the adoption of the congregation’s budget meeting to take into account the cost of living increase (e.g., C.P.I.). In witness thereof, we subscribe this call and financial agreement, the 2nd day of March in the year 2019 Anno Domini.*

- Mr. Frank Smith, having been furnished with a digital copy of the call, indicated his acceptance of it.

³² That the presbytery return Paper 19-2 to the author, with the understanding that presbytery welcomes further consideration of the issues raised in this paper.

³³ That Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery call Frank J. Smith as the organizing pastor for the mission church in Atlanta, upon the following terms (Listed above in the body of the minutes).

- Recommendation 5 passed.³⁴
- Recommendation 6 passed.³⁵
- It was moved, seconded, and passed to approve the report.

91. MID-MORNING BREAK

The court took its mid-morning break at 9:47 a.m.

- Mr. Mann resumed the court at 9:58a.m. with the singing of Psalm 128B.

92. SPECIAL PRAYER REQUEST

Mr. Niess asked the court to pray for Elder Bob Bibby, who recently learned of the possibility that he may have cancer, after which Mr. Pockras led the court in prayer for Mr. Bibby and his family.

93. POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

The clerk presented Mr. Mann with a copy of Knowing Christ by Mark Jones, signed by members of the court in appreciation of his faithful service as moderator.

94. COLUMBUS CONGREGATIONAL REPORT

Mr. Andy McCracken presented the Columbus congregational report, and Recommendation 1 was seconded and passed³⁶, after which it was moved, seconded, and passed to approve the report.

95. CHRIST CHURCH (BROWNSBURG) CONGREGATIONAL REPORT

Mr. LeFebvre presented the Christ Church congregational report, after which it was moved, seconded, and passed to approve the report.

96. BLOOMINGTON CONGREGATIONAL REPORT

Mr. Holdeman presented the Bloomington congregational report, after which it was moved, seconded, and passed to approve the report.

97. BELLE CENTER CONGREGATIONAL REPORT

Mr. Pockras presented the Belle Center congregational report, after which it was moved, seconded, and passed to approve the report.

98. INTERCESSORY PRAYER

The court interceded in prayer for the congregations previously reporting, led by Mr. Schaefer (Columbus, Christ Church), and Mr. Magill (Bloomington, Belle Center).

99. POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Mr. Magill informed the court regarding his upcoming medical treatments to address health concerns, and shared personal reflections on the Christ-centered ministerial legacy of Dr. Roy Blackwood.

100. FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Magill presented the Finance Committee Report, after which questions and comments were received from the floor, and Recommendation 1 passed.³⁷

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

³⁴ That the Atlanta Commission Minutes be spread on Presbytery's Minutes.

³⁵ That Presbytery dissolve this current Atlanta Commission.

³⁶ That presbytery authorize the Columbus congregation to apply for a Resident In Training (RIT) Grant from the RPCNA Home Mission Board.

³⁷ That the March 2019 Revised Budget and the 2020 Budget be adopted.

101. TIME & PLACE COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Niess presented an oral report of the Time and Place Committee, and Recommendation 1 failed³⁸, after which the committee offered an alternative Recommendation, which passed.³⁹

102. REPORT ON SESSION MINUTE BOOKS

Mr. Koons confirmed that 18 of 23 session and TGB minute books have been duly examined and nothing has been found contrary to the law and order of the church, and urged the remaining minute books to be submitted for review at the Synod meeting of presbytery.

103. NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT (FINAL DRAFT)

Mr. Holdeman presented the Nominating Committee Report, after which questions and comments were received from the floor, and the report was adopted.

104. RESOLUTION OF THANKS COMMITTEE

Mr. McCollum presented the report of the Resolution of Thanks Committee, after which it was moved, seconded, and passed to adopt the report.

105. READING OF PREVIOUS MINUTES (Clerk)

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

106. PRAYER & ADJOURNMENT

It was moved, seconded, and passed to adjourn the court, after which the court sang Psalm 133A, and Mr. Mann interceded in prayer for Mr. Magill and adjourned the court in prayer at 11:06 a.m.

³⁸ That next year's spring presbytery meeting be held at Elkhart RPC on March 12-13, 2020.

³⁹ That next year's spring presbytery meeting be held at Elkhart RPC on March 5-7, 2020.

Meeting of Presbytery
2019 Spring Presbytery
February 28-March 2
Orlando, FL

Meeting of Presbytery 2019 Spring Presbytery February 28-March 2 Orlando, FL			Church Represented	Roll Call Attendance Business Section 1	Visual Attendance Business Section 2	Visual Attendance Business Section 3	Visual Attendance Business Section 4	Visual Attendance Business Section 5	Visual Attendance Business Section 6
Church	First Last Name	Certification							
Bell Center RPC	Phillip Pockras	2/4/19	*	P	P	P	P	P	P
Bloomington RPC	Richard Holdeman	1/7/19	*	P	P	P	P	P	P
Bloomington RPC	Philip McCollum	1/7/19		P	P	P	P	P	P
Christ Church RP	Michael LeFebvre	12/19/18	*	P	P	P	P	P	P
Christ Church RP	Dale Koons	12/19/18		P	P	P	P	P	P
Columbus RPC	Andrew McCracken	1/21/19	*	P	P	P	P	P	P
Columbus RPC	Gary McNamee	1/21/19		P	P	P	P	P	P
Elkhart RPC	Wade Mann	1/9/19	*	P	P	P	P	P	P
First RPC Durham	Kent Butterfield		*	P	P	P	P	P	
First RPC, Grand Rapids	Craig Scott	1/24/19			P	P	P	P	P
Hetheron RPC	Ray Morton	1/19/19	*	P	P	P	P	P	P
Immanuel RPC, West Lafayette	Jared Olivetti	12/14/18	*	P	P	P	P	P	P
Immanuel RPC, West Lafayette	Nate Pfeiffer	12/14/18		P	P	P	P	P	P
Immanuel RPC, West Lafayette	Zachary Blackwood	12/14/18		P	P	P	P	P	P
Lafayette RPC	Adam Niess	1/14/19	*	P	P	P	P	P	P
Lafayette RPC	Jeff Kessler	1/14/19		P	P	P	P	P	P
Lafayette RPC	Ken Nelson	1/14/19		P	P	P	P	P	P
Orlando RPC	H.P. McCracken	2/21/19		P	P	P	P	P	P
Orlando RPC	Jonathan Schaefer	2/21/19							P
Orlando RPC	Joe Worsham			P	P	P	P	P	P
Second RPC, Indianapolis	James Faris	1/8/19	*	P	P	P	P	P	P
Second RPC, Indianapolis	Joel Hart	1/8/19		P	P	P	P	P	P
Second RPC, Indianapolis	David Mauser	1/8/19		P	P	P	P	P	P
Second RPC, Indianapolis	Donald Cassell	1/8/19		P	P	P	P	P	P
Southfield RPC	Adam Kuehner	1/21/19	*	P	P	P	P	P	P
Southfield RPC	Jon Hughes	1/21/19		P	P	P	P	P	P
Southside RPC, Indianapolis	David Hanson	1/8/19	*	P	P	P	P	P	P
Southside RPC, Indianapolis	Steve sturm	1/8/19		P	P	P	P	P	P
Southside RPC, Indianapolis	Jerry Porter	1/8/19		P	P	P	P	P	P
Southwest Ohio RPC	Dick Knodel, Jr.	2/2/19	*	P	P	P	P	P	P
Southwest Ohio RPC	Greg Damerow	2/2/19		P	P	P	P	P	P
Southwest Ohio RPC	Steve Work	2/2/19		P	P	P	P	P	P
Sycamore RPC, Kokomo	Shawn Anderson	1/30/19	*	P	P	P	P	P	P
Sycamore RPC, Kokomo	Robert McKissick	1/30/19		P	P	P	P	P	P
	Keith Evans	2/3/19		P	P	P	P	P	P
	Keith Magill	2/3/19		P	P	P	P	P	P
	Frank Smith	2/3/19		P	P	P	P	P	P
			Present	35	36	36	36	36	36
			Churches Present	14					

Meeting of Presbytery 2019 Spring Presbytery February 28-March 2 Orlando, FL		GARY McNAMEE Church History Exam	ZACH SMITH Expository Sermon No. 2	GARY McNAMEE Theology and Distinctives No. 2	ZACH SMITH Theology and Distinctives No. 2
Church	First Last Name				
Bell Center RPC	Phillip Pockras	AB	S	S	S
Bloomington RPC	Richard Holdeman	S	S	S	S
Bloomington RPC	Philip McCollum	S	S	S	S
Christ Church RP	Michael LeFebvre	S	S	S	S
Christ Church RP	Dale Koons	S	S	NOT	S
Columbus RPC	Andrew McCracken	S	S	S	S
Columbus RPC	Gary McNamee	AB	S	S	S
Elkhart RPC	Wade Mann	S	S	AB	S
First RPC Durham	Kent Butterfield	S	S	NOT	S
First RPC, Grand Rapids	Craig Scott		S	NOT	S
Hetherton RPC	Ray Morton	S	S	S	S
Immanuel RPC, West Lafayette	Jared Olivetti	NOT	S	S	S
Immanuel RPC, West Lafayette	Nate Pfeiffer	S	S	S	S
Immanuel RPC, West Lafayette	Zachary Blackwood	S	S	S	S
Lafayette RPC	Adam Niess	S	S	S	S
Lafayette RPC	Jeff Kessler	S	S	S	S
Lafayette RPC	Ken Nelson	S	S	S	S
Orlando RPC	H.P. McCracken	S	S	S	S
Orlando RPC	Jonathan Schaefer				
Orlando RPC	Joe Worsham	S	S	S	S
Second RPC, Indianapolis	James Faris	NOT	S	S	S
Second RPC, Indianapolis	Joel Hart	S	S	S	S
Second RPC, Indianapolis	David Mauser	S	S	S	S
Second RPC, Indianapolis	Donald Cassell	S	S	S	S
Southfield RPC	Adam Kuehner	NOT	S	NOT	S
Southfield RPC	Jon Hughes	NOT	S	NOT	S
Southside RPC, Indianapolis	David Hanson	S	S	S	S
Southside RPC, Indianapolis	Steve sturm	S	S	S	S
Southside RPC, Indianapolis	Jerry Porter	S	S	S	S
Southwest Ohio RPC	Dick Knodel, Jr.	S	S	S	S
Southwest Ohio RPC	Greg Damerow	AB	S	S	S
Southwest Ohio RPC	Steve Work	S	S	S	S
Sycamore RPC, Kokomo	Shawn Anderson	NOT	S	NOT	S
Sycamore RPC, Kokomo	Robert McKissick	S	S	S	S
	Keith Evans	S	S	S	S
	Keith Magill	S	S	S	S
	Frank Smith	AB	NOT	NOT	S
	SUSTAIN (S)	26	35	28	36
	ABSTAIN (AB)	4	0	1	0
	NOT SUSTAIN (NOT)	5	1	7	0