

# The Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery (RPCNA)

*Official Fall Meeting Minutes  
Distributed 10/25/22*

## CLERK

Adam Kuehner  
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## ASST. CLERK

Dale Koons  
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## 2022 GLG FALL MEETING

**Time:** Fri Oct 7 @ 10:00 a.m. to Sat Oct 8 @ Noon

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

### FIRST BUSINESS SESSION (Fri 10/7 @ 10:00 a.m.)

The Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery met at 10:00 a.m. on Friday October 7, 2022 at the Columbus Reformed Presbyterian Church for its stated fall meeting.

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

The moderator, Nathan Eshelman, constituted the court at 10:01 a.m. with the reading of 2 Corinthians 3:3-7 and constituted the court in prayer, after which Psalm 46C was sung to the praise of God.

#### 2. PREACHING OF THE WORD

Jake Schwartz entered the pulpit, called upon God's name in prayer, read 2 Corinthians 2:6-12, preached from the text on God's unique revelation of Himself by His Word and Spirit, and concluded in prayer, after which the court sang Psalm 19B in praise to God.

#### 3. ATTENDANCE

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

#### 4. CLERK'S REPORT

The clerk, Adam Kuehner, presented the clerk's report, shared a brief update concerning GLG 22-12, and introduced the clerk's recommendations.

- Recommendation 1<sup>1</sup> was seconded and adopted.
- Recommendation 2<sup>2</sup> was seconded and adopted, after which Ross Fearing, Dick Knodel, Ray Morton, and Frank Smith registered their dissent.
- Recommendation 3<sup>3</sup> was seconded and adopted.

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<sup>1</sup> Rec. 1 (Clerk): That presbytery appoint the following parliamentarians for this meeting: J. Odom, J. O'Neill, F. Smith, (alt.), S. Rhoda (alt).

<sup>2</sup> Rec. 2 (Clerk): That presbytery adopt it as a standing policy to prohibit all audio and/or video recordings of its ecclesiastical reports and deliberations — excluding non-deliberative items, e.g. preaching (with the preacher's permission), Psalm-singing, ordination/installation services; and excluding the recording of oneself — without express permission from the court. Discussed and adopted. Frank Smith, Dick Knodel, Ross Fearing, Ray Morton dissent. [Dick Knodel's Dissent: "I dissent from GLG's passing this motion because the wisdom and tradition of openness and free speech of all presbyterian proceedings (with the exception of executive sessions) articulated by Dr. Frank Smith should be respected and not supplanted by any other reasonings."]

<sup>3</sup> Rec. 3 (Clerk): That presbytery receive the minutes of the Smith Ordination/Installation Commission and the Murray Exam Commission, along with the written report of the CCRP Shepherding Committee.

- Recommendation 4<sup>4</sup> was seconded and adopted.
- Recommendation 5<sup>5</sup> was seconded and adopted.
- Recommendation 6<sup>6</sup> was seconded and adopted.
- Recommendation 7<sup>7</sup> was seconded and adopted.
- Recommendation 8<sup>8</sup> was seconded and adopted.
- Recommendation 9<sup>9</sup> was seconded and adopted.
- Recommendation 10<sup>10</sup> was seconded, discussed and withdrawn.
- Recommendation 11<sup>11</sup> was seconded and adopted.
- Recommendation 12<sup>12</sup> was seconded and adopted.
- Recommendation 13<sup>13</sup> was seconded and adopted as amended.
- Recommendation 14<sup>14</sup> was seconded and adopted during the discussion concerning Recommendations 8, in order to permit a non-delegated GLGP ruling elder to speak.
- Recommendation 15<sup>15</sup> was seconded and adopted.

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<sup>4</sup> Rec. 4 (Clerk): That presbytery return GLG 21-5 to its author, Jordan Kessler (RPCL), with thanks, referring him to synod's recent verdict.

<sup>5</sup> Rec. 5 (Clerk): That presbytery rule GLG 22-17 out of order (DCG II.4.3, E-15) due to its submission on 9/16/22, which is more than 30 days subsequent to the action complained against: namely, the AIC's appointment of commission members on 6/10/22.

<sup>6</sup> Rec. 6 (Clerk): That presbytery, prior to hearing GLG 22-18 as outlined in the proposed agenda, vote on the receiving of the CCRP Commission minutes; after which, if the minutes are received without rescindment of the commission's decision to not sustain GLG 22-15, the court shall "decline to act" upon GLG 22-18 (BOD II.4.1, E-15) by returning GLG 22-18 to its author, reminding all parties of their liberty to appeal presbytery's decision concerning GLG 22-15 to the higher court of synod (BOD II.4.10, E-17); this action being grounded upon at least two "sufficient reasons": (1) Hearing the complaint after receiving the commission minutes without rescindment of the action complained against would involve the presbytery in the tedious redundancy of adjudicating a complaint against an action which it has already affirmed; and (2) GLG 22-18 lacks the precision and clarity requisite for proper adjudication, being self-styled as a complaint (BOD II.4.3, E-15), yet hinging in substance upon the appeal of "a case already decided by a lower court [i.e. the CCRP Commission]" (BOD II.4.10, E-17), and featuring a petition (DCG 8.11, D-40) with recommendations far exceeding the reasonable repercussions of the specific action complained against, namely the CCRP Commission's decision "to not sustain GLG 22-15."

<sup>7</sup> Rec. 7 (Clerk): That presbytery authorize the RPC of Lafayette to call an additional teaching elder.

<sup>8</sup> Rec. 8 (Clerk): That presbytery restructure the ordinary process for reviewing Session/TGB minute books as follows: (A) All minutes shall be reviewed digitally by presbyters in advance of the annual spring meeting. (B) The moderator shall send his review appointments to the asst. clerk by Dec. 31; otherwise, the asst. clerk will appoint reviewers himself. (C) Session/TGB clerks shall submit digital minute files to the asst. clerk (or to the reviewers specified thereby) each year by Jan. 15, to be reviewed by the reviewers, who shall then forward the results to the asst. clerk no later than Feb. 15. (D) The results of the review process shall be reported in the spring clerk's report. (E) Session/TGB clerks shall bring physical minute books to the spring meeting of presbytery to be stamped by the asst. clerk, who shall be responsible for confirming all necessary signatures.

<sup>9</sup> Rec. 9 (Clerk): That presbytery appoint Nathan Eshelman to begin serving as assistant clerk at the 2023 spring meeting, following the election of a new moderator.

<sup>10</sup> Rec. 10 (Clerk): That presbytery, by way of special resolution, take up GLG 22-21 in connection with the Immanuel RPC congregational report. Discussed and withdrawn

<sup>11</sup> Rec. 11 (Clerk): That presbytery establish a three man committee appointed by the moderator to report back in the spring with its evaluation and recommendation concerning GLG 22-21.

<sup>12</sup> Rec. 12 (Clerk): That presbytery instruct the moderator to appoint two elders to the Shepherding Committee.

<sup>13</sup> Rec. 13 (Clerk): That presbytery adopt the proposed agenda for this meeting as amended to include the Murray Ordination/Installation Commission minutes.

<sup>14</sup> Rec. 14 (Clerk): 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.

<sup>15</sup> Rec. 15 (Clerk): That presbytery receive the clerk's report.

## 5. FORMAL INTRODUCTIONS

The court paused for the formal introduction of first-time delegates and other special guests in attendance.

- David Whitla introduced Josh Smith, pastor at Westminster RPC.
- Phil Pockras introduced Jeff Brotherton, ruling elder at Belle Center RPC.
- Jason Camery introduced Aaron Murray, pastor at Marion RPC.
- Chris Stockwell introduced Aaron Hartzler, ruling elder at RPC of Lafayette.
- Joel Hart introduced the court to the home congregation and shared various hospitality details.
- Nathan Eshelman introduced Mark Goerner, ruling elder at Orlando RPC, Alejandro Ramirez, a ruling elder-elect at Orlando RPC, and Joe Johnson, who will be interviewed for care status later in the meeting.

## 6. AD INTERIM COMMISSION REPORT

Richard Blankenship presented the report of the Ad Interim Commission, after which it was moved, seconded, and adopted to receive the report.

## 7. CANDIDATES AND CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Rich Holdeman presented the Candidates and Credentials Committee report, introducing its recommendations.

- Recommendation 1<sup>16</sup> was adopted.
- Recommendation 2<sup>17</sup> was adopted.
- Recommendation 3<sup>18</sup> was adopted.
- Recommendation 4<sup>19</sup> was adopted.
- Recommendation 5<sup>20</sup> was referred to the finance committee.

### EVIDENCE OF PROGRESS SERMON (J. SCHWARTZ) — UNANIMOUSLY SUSTAINED

Comments were received from the floor regarding Jake Schwartz's evidence of progress sermon, after which the sermon was unanimously sustained by roll call vote.

### CARE STATUS INTERVIEW (J. JOHNSON) — SUSTAINED w/o VOCAL DISSENT

Joe Johnson addressed the court, sharing his testimony of faith and call to the ministry, after which he answered questions from the floor and the court placed him under care by voice vote without vocal dissent.

### REPORT AS A WHOLE

Recommendation 6<sup>21</sup> was adopted, thereby receiving the Candidates and Credentials Committee report as a whole.

## 8. TREASURER'S REPORT

Jim Bishop presented an oral treasurer's report, after which he recessed the court for its lunch break in prayer at 12:35 p.m.

## 9. RECESS FOR LUNCH

The moderator recessed the court, which took its lunch break from 12:35 p.m. to 1:35 p.m.

## **SECOND BUSINESS SESSION (Fri 10/7 @ 1:30 p.m.)**

### 10. CALL TO ORDER

The moderator called the court to order, reconvening the meeting at 1:35 p.m. with the singing of Psalm 25A.

### 11. ATTENDANCE

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

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<sup>16</sup> Rec. 1 (C&CC): That student exams be conducted according to the schedule outlined below [in the C&CC report].

<sup>17</sup> Rec. 2 (C&CC): That Nathan Shaver no longer be a student under care, per his request.

<sup>18</sup> Rec. 3 (C&CC): That Joe Johnson be given ten minutes to share his testimony and be received as a student under care.

<sup>19</sup> Rec. 4 (C&CC): That the suggested addition to the Student Handbook be approved.

<sup>20</sup> Rec. 5 (C&CC): That presbytery consider increasing the monthly stipend for students under care.

<sup>21</sup> Rec. 6 (C&CC): That our report be received.

## 12. TREASURER'S REPORT (Continued)

The court returned to the treasurer's report, after which, by common consent, finance committee chairman, Richard Blankenship, introduced the recommendations from the finance committee's addendum to the treasurer's report.

- Recommendation 1<sup>22</sup> was adopted.
- Recommendation 2<sup>23</sup> was adopted.
- Recommendation 3<sup>24</sup> was adopted, thereby receiving the finance committee's addendum.
- It was moved, seconded, and adopted to receive the treasurer's report as a whole.

## 13. INTERNET MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

Adam Kuehner presented the Internet Maintenance Committee report, bringing its recommendations before the court.

- Recommendation 1<sup>25</sup> was adopted.
- Recommendation 2<sup>26</sup> was adopted.
- Recommendation 3<sup>27</sup> was adopted.
- Recommendation 4<sup>28</sup> was adopted.
- Recommendation 5<sup>29</sup> was adopted, thereby receiving the report as a whole.

## 14. REALIGNMENT COMMITTEE

Adam Kuehner, presented the Realignment Committee report, introducing the committee's recommendations.

- Recommendation 1<sup>30</sup> was adopted.
- Recommendation 2<sup>31</sup> was discussed, after which it was moved and seconded to replace "30" with "14" and to remove the phrase "student papers".

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<sup>22</sup> Rec. 1 (FinCom): [That presbytery] Amend the 2023 budgeted income in the 2023 Budget approved in the Spring 2022 meeting of Presbytery from \$42,000 to \$48,000.

<sup>23</sup> Rec. 2 (FinCom): [That presbytery] Authorize the Presbytery Treasurer to borrow funds before year end from one or more Presbytery congregations, as needed, to meet 2022 operating expenses, with repayment of any such borrowed funds to be in the form of a credit against those congregations' 2023 assessments for the funds loaned to the Presbytery.

<sup>24</sup> Rec. 3 (FinCom): That the Presbytery receive this report of the Finance Committee.

<sup>25</sup> Rec. 1 (IMC): That presbytery remove the password-protection feature from its website, with the understanding that any document classified by the court as sensitive or confidential shall neither be posted on the presbytery website, nor distributed via the delegates list without password-protection.

<sup>26</sup> Rec. 2 (IMC): That presbytery classify the presbytery roster, containing the personal names and addresses of its delegates and their families, as a sensitive document to be distributed via email, but not posted publicly on the presbytery website.

<sup>27</sup> Rec. 3 (IMC): That presbytery authorize the IMC, in consultation with Mr. Bishop, to implement a user-friendly online travel expense reimbursement form in time for the 2023 spring meeting of presbytery.

<sup>28</sup> Rec. 4 (IMC): That presbytery revise the ordinary process for certifying presbytery delegates as follows: (A) Session clerks shall receive the link to a Session Certification Form hosted via the presbytery website to be completed each year by January 31. (B) Session clerks, on session's behalf and with session's approval, shall certify the name and valid credentials of each active elder on the session — *good for the entire calendar year* — indicating which elders are expected to serve as delegates at the spring meeting. (C) Session clerks shall be responsible to notify the clerks in a timely manner, using this form, whenever a RE is added to, or subtracted from, the list of certified, credentialed elders on the session. (D) The IMT shall maintain the resulting database of certified, credentialed delegates on behalf of the clerks, including an official record of RE credentials within the GLGP. (E) Prior to each *additional* meeting of presbytery, session clerks shall use this form to indicate which elders (REs + TEs) plan to attend the meeting, once again, as a courtesy to the presbytery clerks. (F) All certifications shall be confirmed via legally binding E-Signature technology, without any need for handwritten signatures, snail mail, and/or scanned PDFs.

<sup>29</sup> Rec. 5 (IMC): That presbytery receive this report as a whole.

<sup>30</sup> Rec. 1 (RealCom): That communication 22-6 and 22-9 be laid on the table, believing that they are not required to be acted upon at this time.

<sup>31</sup> Rec. 2 — Original (RealCom): That presbytery adopt as a standing policy that, apart from a special resolution (two-thirds majority vote), no written report, communication, student paper, or amendment thereto, shall be received by the court unless disseminated to the delegates (or submitted to the clerk) at least 30 full calendar days in advance of the meeting, with the sole exception of all clerical communications (e.g. clerk's report, proposed agenda, etc.).

- The motion to amend was divided, after which Amendment 2A<sup>32</sup> was adopted and Amendment 2B<sup>33</sup> failed. The amended version of Recommendation 2<sup>34</sup> was adopted.
- Recommendation 3<sup>35</sup> failed.
- Recommendation 4<sup>36</sup> was divided, after which Recommendation 4A<sup>37</sup> was adopted and Recommendation 4B<sup>38</sup> failed.
- Recommendation 5<sup>39</sup> was adopted.
- Recommendation 6<sup>40</sup> was adopted, after which it was moved, seconded, and adopted to receive the report.

#### 15. BELLE CENTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Adam Kuehner presented the Belle Center Advisory Committee report, clarifying that the committee's directives were advisory rather than compulsory, after which Phil Pockras briefly updated the court on the situation in Belle Center, and Recommendation 1<sup>41</sup> was adopted, thereby dissolving the committee with thanks.

#### 16. FIRST RPC OF GRAND RAPIDS — CONGREGATIONAL REPORT

Steve Rhoda presented an oral congregational report on behalf of First RPC of Grand Rapids, providing an update of recent events leading to the session's decision in August to suspend worship services, after which questions and comments were received from the floor, and, by common consent, the oral congregational report was received.

#### 17. FIRST RPC OF GRAND RAPIDS — VISITATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Philip McCollum presented the report of the First RPC of Grand Rapids Visitation Committee.

##### MOTION TO DISORGANIZE (DISCUSSED)

- It was moved, seconded, and discussed "That presbytery make the official determination that the First RPC of Grand Rapids congregation has become disorganized, per the criteria set forth in DCG 2.9."

##### MOTION TO ENTERTAIN SUBSTITUTE (FAILED)

- It was moved and seconded to lay the existing motion on the table to entertain a substitute: "That the presbytery dissolve the First RPC of Grand Rapids congregation and appoint a commission to explore the possibility of reviving the work."
- The motion to substitute was discussed, after which a motion to divide the question was withdrawn.

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<sup>32</sup> Amend. 2A (RealCom): That presbytery replace the numeral "30" with the numeral "14" in Recommendation 2.

<sup>33</sup> Amend. 2B (RealCom): That presbytery remove the phrase "student paper" from Recommendation 2.

<sup>34</sup> Rec. 2 — Amended/Adopted (RealCom): That presbytery adopt as a standing policy that, apart from a special resolution (two-thirds majority vote), no written report, communication, student paper, or amendment thereto, shall be received by the court unless disseminated to the delegates (or submitted to the clerk) at least 14 full calendar days in advance of the meeting, with the sole exception of all clerical communications (e.g. clerk's report, proposed agenda, etc.).

<sup>35</sup> Rec. 3 (RealCom): That Presbytery allow for the election of a second assistant clerk of presbytery, and task the current clerk, assistant clerk, and the new assistant clerk to work out the division of workload among themselves.

<sup>36</sup> Rec. 4 (RealCom): [That] Presbytery take our current "shepherding" committee which deals with those on the membership role [sic] of Presbytery and rename it the "membership committee", following which, appoint a new "shepherding committee", focused on dealing with shepherding needs within our presbytery.

<sup>37</sup> Rec. 4A (RealCom): [That] Presbytery take our current "shepherding" committee which deals with those on the membership role [sic] of Presbytery and rename it the "membership committee".

<sup>38</sup> Rec. 4B (RealCom): [That] Presbytery appoint a new "shepherding committee", focused on dealing with shepherding needs within our presbytery.

<sup>39</sup> Rec. 5 (RealCom): [That presbytery] Request the "Candidates & Credentials" committee develop a proposal that allows some exams to be performed within a committee structure communicating summary results to the Presbytery as a whole.

<sup>40</sup> Rec. 6 (RealCom): That the "Realignment Committee" be dismissed by Presbytery.

<sup>41</sup> Rec. 1 (BC): That presbytery receive this report and dismiss our committee.

- By friendly amendment, the word “dissolve” was changed to “disorganize”, after which the amended motion to substitute<sup>42</sup> failed, and the original motion to disorganize was discussed further.

#### **18. MID-SESSION BREAK**

The court recessed for its mid-session break at 3:51 p.m. and resumed its the meeting at 4:06 p.m.

#### **19. FIRST RPC OF GRAND RAPIDS — VISITATION COMMITTEE REPORT (Continued)**

The court returned to the report of the First RPC of Grand Rapids Visitation Committee.

##### **MOTION TO DISORGANIZE — Continued (ADOPTED)**

The court resumed its consideration of the original motion to disorganize<sup>43</sup>, which was further discussed and adopted.

##### **POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE**

Jake Schwartz, who served as ruling elder at First RPC of Grand Rapids until its disorganization, shared a point of personal privilege, asking the court’s forgiveness for having posted an update in August regarding the congregation’s suspension of worship services on Facebook before the court was fully aware of the decision; and provided an update on the local situation in Grand Rapids. The moderator subsequently expressed the court’s forgiveness.

##### **MOTION TO PLACE MEMBERS ON ROLL OF PRESBYTERY (ADOPTED)**

It was moved, seconded, and adopted that the First RPC of Grand Rapids members be placed on the roll of presbytery.

##### **REPORT AS A WHOLE (RECEIVED, COMTE DISMISSED)**

It was moved, seconded, and adopted to receive the report of the First RPC of Grand Rapids visitation committee, after which it was moved, seconded, and adopted to dismiss the committee with thanks.

#### **20. FIRST RPC OF GRAND RAPIDS — PRAYER OF DISORGANIZATION**

David Whitla led the court in a prayer of disorganization for the First RPC of Grand Rapids congregation, giving thanks for the Lord’s blessing over the years and commending its members into His hands.

#### **21. CHRIST CHURCH RP — COMMISSION REPORT**

Steve Sturm presented the CCRP Commission report, summarizing its contents, introducing Recommendation 1<sup>44</sup>, and clarifying that the language of Recommendation 1 implies the receiving of the appended commission minutes.

- Recommendation 1 was adopted without vocal dissent, after which the clerk read Clerk’s Recommendation 6 (Footnote #6 Above), reminding the court that the receiving of the CCRP Commission minutes without rescindment automatically returns GLG 22-18 to its author along with the instructions included in the Recommendation.
- The moderator announced that, by common consent, the previously scheduled evening Psalm Sing would be cancelled due to time constraints.

#### **22. CHRIST CHURCH RP — CONGREGATIONAL REPORT**

Joel Hart presented the Christ Church RP congregational report, summarizing the local situation, along with the reasons for the congregation’s impending disorganization.

- It was moved, seconded, and adopted “That presbytery make the official determination that the CCRP congregation will become disorganized effective October 8 at 11:59pm, per the criteria set forth in DCG 2.9.”
- It was moved, seconded, and adopted “That presbytery transfer the members of CCRP to the roll of presbytery with the understanding that any transfers from CCRP in progress are automatically granted.

#### **23. CHRIST CHURCH RP — PRAYER OF DISORGANIZATION**

Rich Holdeman led the court in a prayer of disorganization for the CCRP congregation, thanking God for His goodness to the flock over the years and interceding for continued blessing upon its departing membership.

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<sup>42</sup> Motion to Substitute (Amended): That the presbytery disorganize the First RPC of Grand Rapids congregation and appoint a commission to explore the possibility of reviving the work.

<sup>43</sup> Motion to Disorganize (Original): That presbytery make the official determination that the First RPC of Grand Rapids congregation has become disorganized, per the criteria set forth in DCG 2.9.

<sup>44</sup> Rec. 1 (CCRP-Com): That Presbytery receive this report.

#### 24. IMMANUEL RPC — CONGREGATIONAL REPORT

John Hanson came forward to present the IRPC congregational report, requesting permission for Samuel Carr to assist in presenting the report.

- It was moved, seconded, discussed, and adopted by a vote of 22-11, “That presbytery grant Samuel Carr privileges of the floor, as a visitor, to address the court regarding the content of the IRPC congregational report.”
- Samuel Carr addressed the court concerning recent events within the local flock, after which, by common consent, the time was extended to permit Mr. Carr to finish his thought prior to the scheduled dinner break.

#### 25. DINNER BREAK

Steve Rhoda recessed the court in prayer at 5:34 p.m., after which the court entered its dinner break.

### THIRD BUSINESS SESSION (Fri 10/7 @ 6:45 p.m.)

#### 26. CALL TO ORDER

The moderator called the court to order at 6:49 p.m., reconvening the meeting following the dinner break.

#### 27. ATTENDANCE

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

#### 28. IMMANUEL RPC — CONGREGATIONAL REPORT (Continued)

The court returned to the IRPC congregational report, after which Samuel Carr concluded his comments and John Hanson returned to present the remainder of his oral report.

#### MOTION REGARDING THE STATUS OF IRPC (DIVIDED)

A motion<sup>45</sup> regarding the status of IRPC was moved, seconded, discussed, and divided into three distinct resolutions, after which the court entered into a discussion of Resolution 1<sup>46</sup>.

- It was moved, seconded, and adopted to extend the time to 8:30 p.m.
- It was moved, seconded, and adopted by a vote of 17-13 to defer the current discussion to Saturday morning as the order of the day following devotions.

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<sup>45</sup> Motion Regarding the Status of IRPC (Original): Whereas the original jurisdiction for making a final determination regarding the status of a congregation resides with the presbytery and not with the local session or congregation (DCG 2.11); Whereas the Immanuel RPC was originally organized as a congregation by the GLGP and shall remain an organized congregation under the ecclesiastical oversight of this presbytery until such a time as presbytery determines otherwise (DCG 2.9, 11); Whereas every RPCNA office bearer has solemnly affirmed that “the permanent form of church government is presbyterian” rather than independent or congregationalist (Ord. Query #5); Whereas to release an organized RPCNA congregation into a state of independency for any length of time, without a specified branch of the visible church to shepherd the flock and its undershepherds, is contrary to Biblical Presbyterianism as set forth in the RPCNA Constitution (RPT 25.10, 14, 17; DCG 4.2; 6.2; 6.10); Whereas the IRPC elders, by virtue of their consent to the actions taken on 9/30/22 along with their maintaining themselves to no longer be elders in the RPCNA, have de facto resigned from active service on the session of the Immanuel Reformed Presbyterian Church; Resolved, (1) That presbytery declare the action taken at the IRPC congregational meeting on 9/30/22 to leave the RPCNA to be out of order, such that IRPC remains an RPCNA congregation under the oversight of the GLGP until formally disorganized. (2) That presbytery accept the de facto resignations of the IRPC ruling elders from service on the session (implicit in their 9/30/22 decision), along with the written resignations of the provisional elders, determine that the congregation has become disorganized; place its membership on the roll of presbytery; and refer all matters related to congregational assets and liabilities to the Board of the Trustees of Synod (DCG 2.9, 11). (3) That presbytery instruct the three man committee assigned with evaluating GLG 22-21 to report back in the spring with its advice concerning the constitutionality [and, if constitutional, the proper method] of transferring a congregation into the care of another true branch of the visible church.

<sup>46</sup> Res. 1: That presbytery declare the action taken at the IRPC congregational meeting on 9/30/22 to leave the RPCNA to be out of order, such that IRPC remains an RPCNA congregation under the oversight of the GLGP until formally disorganized.

### 29. IMMANUEL RPC — JUDICIAL COMMISSION

Jason Camery presented the report of the IRPC Judicial Commission<sup>47</sup>, after which Recommendation 1<sup>48</sup> was adopted.

### 30. IMMANUEL RPC — SLANDER/LIBEL COMMITTEE

Ross Fearing resumed the IRPC Slander/Libel Committee report, which had been cut short on Tuesday June 21, 2022.

- Recommendation 3<sup>49</sup> failed.
- Recommendation 4<sup>50</sup> was adopted and the report was received.

### 31. INTERCESSORY PRAYER / EVENING RECESS

The moderator led the court in a time of intercessory prayer as various delegates interceded for Belle Center, Christ Church, Grand Rapids, and South Asia, after which the moderator recessed the court in prayer at 8:34 p.m.

## THIRD BUSINESS SESSION (Sat 10/8 @ 8:30 a.m.)

### 32. CALL TO ORDER

The moderator called the court to order at 8:38 a.m. with the reading of 2 Corinthians 6:1-10, after which the court sang Psalm 131 in praise to God and the moderator reconvened the court in prayer.

### 33. ATTENDANCE

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

### 34. ATTENDANCE

The clerk read the minutes from the previous business sessions and, by common consent, due to some technical difficulties preventing the clerk from accessing the Realignment Committee recommendations, it was agreed that the minutes would be read and approved at the conclusion of the business session.

### 35. IMMANUEL RPC — CONGREGATIONAL REPORT (Continued)

The court returned to the IRPC congregational report, resuming its discussion of Resolution 1 from the previous evening's motion regarding the status of IRPC.

#### **RESOLUTION 1 — Continued (AMENDED, ADOPTED)**

The court entered into further discussion concerning Resolution 1<sup>51</sup>, at which point the moderator issued the following clarifications: (1) Due to the request for division the previous evening, the court will take up each resolution distinctly; and (2) The court will not be voting to adopt the mover's preamble, but only the resolutions themselves.

- Further discussion of Resolution 1 ensued, after which a friendly amendment removed the phrase "until formally disorganized" from Resolution 1.
- The newly-amended version Resolution 1<sup>52</sup> was discussed further and adopted by a vote of 28-6, with Steve Rhoda registering his dissent and the moderator instructing him concerning his ability to submit reasons for his dissent to the clerk within 24 hours.

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<sup>47</sup> GLGP Minutes (11/6/21): "Jason Camery presented the report of the IRPC Judicial Commission, introducing Recommendation 1 [That presbytery receive the minutes of the IRPC Judicial Commission and dismiss the commission.] It was moved and seconded to defer action on Recommendation 1 until after the report of the Synod Judicial Commission, after which the parliamentarians ruled that this motion requires a two-thirds majority, and the motion failed to receive a two-thirds majority by voice vote. Recommendation 1 was discussed, after which it failed by a vote of 13-15."

<sup>48</sup> Rec. 1 (LJC): That presbytery receive the minutes of the IRPC Judicial Commission and dismiss the commission.

<sup>49</sup> Rec. 3 (SLC): That presbytery advises those who believe they are slandered to consider the possibility that God intends them to receive these damages to their good name as his loving correction.

<sup>50</sup> Rec. 4 (SLC): That this committee be dismissed.

<sup>51</sup> Res. 1 (Original): That presbytery declare the action taken at the IRPC congregational meeting on 9/30/22 to leave the RPCNA to be out of order, such that IRPC remains an RPCNA congregation under the oversight of the GLGP until formally disorganized.

<sup>52</sup> Res. 1 (Amended/Adopted): That presbytery declare the action taken at the IRPC congregational meeting on 9/30/22 to leave the RPCNA to be out of order, such that IRPC remains an RPCNA congregation under the oversight of the GLGP.



### 36. MID-SESSION BREAK

It was moved, seconded, and adopted that presbytery take its fifteen minute mid-session coffee break.

### 37. IMMANUEL RPC — CONGREGATIONAL REPORT (Continued)

Following the coffee break, the court returned to the IRPC congregational report, entering into a consideration of Resolution 2<sup>53</sup> from the previous evenings divided motion regarding the status of IRPC.

#### MOTION TO ENTERTAIN SUBSTITUTE FOR RESOLUTION 2 (ADOPTED)

It was moved, seconded, and adopted to lay Resolution 2 on the table to entertain a substitute [New Resolution 2].<sup>54</sup>

#### MOTION TO AMEND NEW RESOLUTION 2 (DIVIDED, AMENDED, ADOPTED)

New Resolution 2 was discussed, after which it was moved and seconded to amend this motion by inserting the following statement into the opening sentence after the phrase “Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery”: “[We] are grieved that IRPC has made the decision to depart from the RPCNA, and ask forgiveness for our failures to care for her more effectively during this period.”

- Division was called, after which Amendment 2A<sup>55</sup> was discussed and a friendly amendment substituted the word “desires” for the phrase “has made the decision”, after which the amended version of Amendment 2A<sup>56</sup> was adopted.
- Amendment 2B<sup>57</sup> was discussed, after which a friendly amendment substituted the phrase “and we regret that our efforts were not successful in preventing this desire” for the phrase “and ask forgiveness for our failures to care for her more effectively during this period,” and the amended version of Amendment 2B<sup>58</sup> was adopted by a vote of 21-10.

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<sup>53</sup> Res. 2 (Original): That presbytery accept the de facto resignations of the IRPC ruling elders from service on the session (implicit in their 9/30/22 decision), along with the written resignations of the provisional elders, determine that the congregation has become disorganized; place its membership on the roll of presbytery; and refer all matters related to congregational assets and liabilities to the Board of the Trustees of Synod (DCG 2.9, 11).

<sup>54</sup> New Res. 2 (Original): Resolved, That we, the Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery, counsel the Immanuel RPC session and congregation, in the interests of maintaining the peace and order of the church during this time of transition, (1) That, if they desire to come under the presbyterial oversight of another true branch of Christ’s visible church, they should (a) identify a true branch of Christ’s visible church with which the session and congregation would desire to affiliate, and which is inclined to accept that affiliation, and then (b) petition the presbytery for approval of this transition to the presbyterial oversight of another true branch of Christ’s visible church, meanwhile the GLG 22-21 committee will research the constitutional viability of such a transition and whether or not presbytery or synod has original jurisdiction to handle this matter. (2) That, in order to be disorganized as a congregation of the RPCNA (DCG 1:14; 2.9, 11), they must (a) receive and accept the formal resignations of all resident elders from service on the session, (b) cooperate with Synod’s Board of Trustees concerning the disposition of congregational assets and liabilities, per DCG 2.11. (3) That, apart from pursuing one of the two options listed above, Immanuel RPC remains an organized congregation of the RPCNA, subject to all applicable privileges and responsibilities thereof, in accordance with the RPCNA Constitution.

<sup>55</sup> Amend. 2A (Original): That presbytery amend New Resolution 2 by inserting the following statement into the opening sentence after the phrase “Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery”: “We are grieved that IRPC has made the decision to depart from the RPCNA.”

<sup>56</sup> Amend. 2A (Amended/Adopted): That presbytery amend New Resolution 2 by inserting the following statement into the opening sentence after the phrase “Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery”: “We are grieved that IRPC desires to depart from the RPCNA.”

<sup>57</sup> Amend. 2B (Original): That presbytery amend New Resolution 2 by inserting the following statement into the opening sentence after the newly inserted phrase “depart from the RPCNA”: “and ask forgiveness for our failures to care for her more effectively during this period.” [Grammatically adapted by the clerk to fit into the sentence: See footnotes 59 & 60 below.]

<sup>58</sup> Amend. 2B (Amended/Adopted): That presbytery amend this motion by inserting the following statement immediately after the newly inserted phrase “depart from the RPCNA” in the opening sentence: “and regret that our efforts were not successful in preventing this desire.” [Grammatically adapted by the clerk to fit into the sentence: See footnotes 59 & 60 below.]

**DELIBERATION ON NEW RESOLUTION 2 (AMENDED, ADOPTED w/o VOCAL DISSENT)**

The court resumed its discussion of the newly amended version of New Resolution 2,<sup>59</sup> after which a friendly amendment replaced the word “all” with the phrase “at least all but one of the”, and the court adopted the final version of New Resolution 2<sup>60</sup> without vocal dissent.

**RESOLUTION 3 (WITHDRAWN)**

The court took up Resolution 3 of the original motion, after which it was discussed and withdrawn by the mover.

**MOTION TO APPOINT A COMMITTEE (DEFERRED)**

It was moved and seconded “That presbytery appoint a three man committee to meet with the IRPC leadership to explain the outlined procedures and help them in their departure from the RPCNA if desired.”

- Discussion of the motion was deferred till later in the meeting in order to handle the CYPUR reports.

**38. CYPUR LEADERSHIP TEAM & BOARD REPORTS**

By common consent, the court transitioned to the presentation of the CYPUR Leadership Report, after which it was moved, seconded, and adopted “That presbytery grant members of the C.Y.P.U. Leadership Team privileges of the floor to present their report.”

- Nora Shipp then presented the report of the CYPUR leadership team, and Steve Rhoda presented the report of the CYPUR Board.
- It was moved, seconded, and adopted to receive the reports of the CYPUR Leadership Team and CYPUR Board.

**39. IMMANUEL RPC — CONGREGATIONAL REPORT (Continued)**

The court returned to the IRPC congregational report.

**MOTION TO APPOINT A COMMITTEE (ADOPTED)**

Discussion ensued concerning the motion on the floor concerning the appointment of a committee.

- By way of friendly amendment, the motion was changed to the following: “That presbytery task the GLG 22-21 committee with communicating the contents of the resolutions regarding the IRPC elders and congregation, listening to the elders and congregation, and discussing appropriate next steps.”
- The amended motion was adopted.

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<sup>59</sup> New Res. 2 (Amended): Resolved, That we, the Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery — being grieved that IRPC desires to depart from the RPCNA and regretting that our efforts were not successful in preventing this desire — counsel the Immanuel RPC session and congregation, in the interests of maintaining the peace and order of the church during this time of transition, (1) That, if they desire to come under the presbyterial oversight of another true branch of Christ’s visible church, they should (a) identify a true branch of Christ’s visible church with which the session and congregation would desire to affiliate, and which is inclined to accept that affiliation, and then (b) petition the presbytery for approval of this transition to the presbyterial oversight of another true branch of Christ’s visible church, meanwhile the GLG 22-21 committee will research the constitutional viability of such a transition and whether or not presbytery or synod has original jurisdiction to handle this matter. (2) That, in order to be disorganized as a congregation of the RPCNA (DCG 1:14; 2.9, 11), they must (a) receive and accept the formal resignations of all resident elders from service on the session, (b) cooperate with Synod’s Board of Trustees concerning the disposition of congregational assets and liabilities, per DCG 2.11. (3) That, apart from pursuing one of the two options listed above, Immanuel RPC remains an organized congregation of the RPCNA, subject to all applicable privileges and responsibilities thereof, in accordance with the RPCNA Constitution.

<sup>60</sup> New Res. 2 (Amended/Adopted): Resolved, That we, the Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery — being grieved that IRPC desires to depart from the RPCNA and regretting that our efforts were not successful in preventing this desire — counsel the Immanuel RPC session and congregation, in the interests of maintaining the peace and order of the church during this time of transition, (1) That, if they desire to come under the presbyterial oversight of another true branch of Christ’s visible church, they should (a) identify a true branch of Christ’s visible church with which the session and congregation would desire to affiliate, and which is inclined to accept that affiliation, and then (b) petition the presbytery for approval of this transition to the presbyterial oversight of another true branch of Christ’s visible church, meanwhile the GLG 22-21 committee will research the constitutional viability of such a transition and whether or not presbytery or synod has original jurisdiction to handle this matter. (2) That, in order to be disorganized as a congregation of the RPCNA (DCG 1:14; 2.9, 11), they must (a) receive and accept the formal resignations of at least all but one of the resident elders from service on the session, (b) cooperate with Synod’s Board of Trustees concerning the disposition of congregational assets and liabilities, per DCG 2.11. (3) That, apart from pursuing one of the two options listed above, Immanuel RPC remains an organized congregation of the RPCNA, subject to all applicable privileges and responsibilities thereof, in accordance with the RPCNA Constitution.

**MOTION TO EXPAND THE GLG 22-21 COMMITTEE (ADOPTED)**

It was moved, seconded, and adopted to expand the GLG 22-21 committee to five members.

**REPORT AS A WHOLE (RECEIVED)**

It was moved, seconded, and adopted to receive the IRPC congregational report.

**SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS CONCERNING IRPC**

The three main resolutions of the court concerning the status of IRPC are as follows:

- I. That presbytery declare the action taken at the IRPC congregational meeting on 9/30/22 to leave the RPCNA to be out of order, such that IRPC remains an RPCNA congregation under the oversight of the GLGP
- II. That we, the Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery — being grieved that IRPC desires to depart from the RPCNA and regretting that our efforts were not successful in preventing this desire — counsel the Immanuel RPC session and congregation, in the interests of maintaining the peace and order of the church during this time of transition,
  - A. That, if they desire to come under the presbyterial oversight of another true branch of Christ's visible church, they should
    1. Identify a true branch of Christ's visible church with which the session and congregation would desire to affiliate, and which is inclined to accept that affiliation, and then
    2. Petition the presbytery for approval of this transition to the presbyterial oversight of another true branch of Christ's visible church, meanwhile the GLG 22-21 committee will research the constitutional viability of such a transition and whether or not presbytery or synod has original jurisdiction to handle this matter.
  - B. That, in order to be disorganized as a congregation of the RPCNA (DCG 1:14; 2.9, 11), they must
    1. Receive and accept the formal resignations of at least all but one of the resident elders from service on the session, and
    2. Cooperate with Synod's Board of Trustees concerning the disposition of congregational assets and liabilities, per DCG 2.11.
  - C. That, apart from pursuing one of the two options listed above, Immanuel RPC remains an organized congregation of the RPCNA, subject to all applicable privileges and responsibilities thereof, in accordance with the RPCNA Constitution.
- III. That presbytery task the GLG 22-21 committee [5 members] with communicating the contents of the resolutions regarding the IRPC elders and congregation, listening to the elders and congregation, and discussing appropriate next steps.

**40. GLG 22-20 — Bloomington Petition to Revise Presbytery CPP**

Stephen Shipp addressed the court regarding GLG 22-20, summarizing the rationale for its proposed revision to the presbytery's Child Protection Policy (CPP), and introducing its sole petition<sup>61</sup>, which was adopted without vocal dissent.

**41. RESOLUTION OF THANKS COMMITTEE**

Josh Smith presented the report of the resolution of thanks committee (Josh Smith, Aaron Murray), after which it was moved, seconded, and passed to adopt the report, which is as follows:

Whereas the Columbus Reformed Presbyterian Church has generously hosted the Fall meeting of the Great Lakes/Gulf Presbytery with great charity and much kindness;

Whereas CRPC has shared with us their wonderful building to aid the fulfillment of our agenda over two days;

Whereas CRPC has welcomed us warmly, fed us fully, and housed us hospitably;

Whereas CRPC has served the Church well to advance the Kingdom of Christ;

Now therefore, we offer to our beloved sister church our heart-felt gratitude, expressing our deep appreciation for the blessings they have bestowed upon us; and we offer to God our thanksgiving for CRPC; along with our prayers that our great God and Father will prosper the Gospel ministry in Columbus, sustaining by His Word and Spirit our fathers and mothers, and brothers and sisters, of CRPC, for their continued faithfulness and fruitfulness unto the coming of the Kingdom of Christ on earth until His glorious return to make all things new.

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<sup>61</sup> Petition (22-20): This communication petitions the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery (GLGP) to update the GLGP Child Protection Policy (CPP), replacing the current version with the version attached.

**42. READING OF THE MINUTES**

The clerk read the minutes from the current business session, along with those from Friday's Realignment Committee report, after which it was moved, seconded, and passed to adopt the minutes for the entire meeting as amended.

**43. ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved, seconded, and adopted to adjourn the meeting, after which the court sang Psalm 133 in praise to God and the moderator adjourned the meeting in prayer at 12:07 p.m.

**GREAT LAKES-GULF PRESBYTERY  
FALL MEETING, OCTOBER 7-8, 2022  
COLUMBUS RPC  
COLUMBUS, INDIANA**

Attendance and Roll Call Voting Records  
LEGEND: P-present; S-Sustain; NOT-Not Sustain,  
ABS-Abstain; EXC-Excused

Printed October 9, 2022

<p align="center"><b>GREAT LAKES-GULF PRESBYTERY FALL MEETING, OCTOBER 7-8, 2022 COLUMBUS RPC COLUMBUS, INDIANA</b></p> <p align="center">Attendance and Roll Call Voting Records LEGEND: P-present; S-Sustain; NOT-Not Sustain, ABS-Abstain; EXC-Excused</p> <p align="center">Printed October 9, 2022</p>					ATTENDANCE			EXAMS
					Session 1 Oct. 7, 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 pm	Session 2 Oct. 7, 1:30 pm to 5:30 pm	Session 3 Oct. 8, :30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	Jake Schwartz Sermon Exam Roll Call Vote
Congregation	First Last Name	Date Certified	Status					
Atlanta Presbyterian Fellowship	Frank Smith		TE	P	P	P	S	
Belle Center RPC	Philip Pockras	03/02/22	TE	P	P	P	S	
Belle Center RPC	Jeff Brotherton	09/05/22	RE	P	P	P	S	
Bloomington RPC	Richard Holdeman	06/02/22	TE	P	P	P	S	
Bloomington RPC	Philip McCollum	02/21/22	TE	P	P	P	S	
Bloomington RPC	Stephen Shipp	02/21/22	RE	P	P	P	S	
Bloomington RPC	Eric Cosens	02/21/22	RE	P	P	P	S	
Christ Church RP	Jason O'Neill	03/03/22	RE	P	P	EXC	S	
Christ Church RP	Dale Koons	03/03/22	RE	P	P	P	S	
Christ Church RP	Sean Bird	03/03/22	ALT			P		
Columbus RPC	Joel Hart	09/25/22	TE	P	P	P	S	
Columbus RPC	David Schisler	09/25/22	RE	P	P	P	S	
Elkhart RPC	Wade Mann	06/02/22	TE	P	P	P	S	
Hetherton RPC	Ray Morton	05/25/22	TE	P	P	P	S	
Hetherton RPC	Brian Dage	05/25/22	EXC	EXC	EXC	EXC		
Lafayette RPC	Aaron Hartzler	09/14/22	RE	P	P	P	S	
Lafayette RPC	Chris Stockwell	09/14/22	RE	P	P	P	S	
Marion RPC	Aaron Murray	09/01/22	TE	P	P	P	S	
Marion RPC	Jason Camery	09/01/22	TE	P	P	P	S	
Marion RPC	Greg Fisher	09/01/22	RE		P	P		
Orlando RPC	Nathan Eshelman	08/15/22	TE	P	P	P	S	
Orlando RPC	Mark Goerner	08/15/22	RE	P	P	P	S	
Second RPC, Indianapolis	James Faris	02/13/22	EXC	EXC	EXC	EXC		
Second RPC, Indianapolis	Jerry Foltz	03/03/22	TE	P	P	P	S	
Second RPC, Indianapolis	Richard Blankenship	10/02/22	RE	P	P	P	S	
Second RPC, Indianapolis	Donald Cassell	10/02/22	RE	P	P	P	S	
Southfield RPC, Michigan	Adam Kuehner	09/01/22	TE	P	P	P	S	

**GREAT LAKES-GULF PRESBYTERY  
FALL MEETING, OCTOBER 7-8, 2022  
COLUMBUS RPC  
COLUMBUS, INDIANA**

Attendance and Roll Call Voting Records  
LEGEND: P-present; S-Sustain; NOT-Not Sustain,  
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					Session 1 Oct. 7, 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 pm	Session 2 Oct. 7, 1:30 pm to 5:30 pm	Session 3 Oct. 8, :30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	Jake Schwartz Sermon Exam Roll Call Vote
Congregation	First Last Name	Date Certified	Status					
Southfield RPC, Michigan	John Kim	09/01/22	RE	P	P	P	S	
Southside RPC, Indianapolis	David Hanson	09/13/22	TE	P	P		S	
Southside RPC, Indianapolis	John Hanson	09/13/22	RE	P	P	P	S	
Southside RPC, Indianapolis	David Kleyn	09/13/22	RE	P	P	P	S	
Southside RPC, Indianapolis	Steve Sturm	09/13/22	ALT					
Southwest Ohio RPC, Mason, O	Dick Knodel, Jr.	02/27/22	TE	P	P	P	S	
Southwest Ohio RPC, Mason, O	Steven Work	02/27/22	TE	P	P	P	S	
Southwest Ohio RPC, Mason, O	Greg Damerow	02/27/22	ALT	P	P	P	S	
Sparta RPC, Sparta Illinois	Ross Fearing	02/23/22	TE	P	P	P	S	
Sparta RPC, Sparta Illinois	James Odom	02/23/22	RE	P	P	P	S	
Sycamore RPC, Kokomo	Shawn Anderson	02/16/22	TE	P	P	P	S	
Sycamore RPC, Kokomo	Robert McKissick	02/16/22	RE	P	P	P	S	
Terre Haute RPC	Steve Rhoda	02/12/22	TE	P	P	P	ABS	
Westminster RPC, Prairie View,	Joshua Smith		TE	P	P	P	S	
Ministers, in Synod Service	David Whitla	05/31/22	TE	P	P	P	S	
			Total Sustained				34	
			Total Abstain				1	
			Total Present	37	38	37		

**GREAT LAKES – GULF PRESBYTERY**  
**2022/2023 AD INTERIM COMMISSION**  
**REPORT TO PRESBYTERY**  
**Fall Presbytery Meeting**

The Great Lakes – Gulf Presbytery *Ad Interim Commission* for 2022/2023 was appointed at the March 2022 Annual Spring Meeting of Presbytery and consists of the following five members:

David Hanson, Moderator (TE, RPC of Southside Indianapolis, Indiana)  
Richard Blankenship, Clerk (RE, Second RPC – Indianapolis, Indiana)  
Robert McKissick (RE, Sycamore RPC (Kokomo, IN)  
James Odom (RE, Sparta, Illinois RPC)  
Thomas Reid (TE, Orlando, Florida RPC)

The Commission met six times to date between March, 2022, and September, 2022, on the following dates.

April 22, 2022  
May 18, 2022  
June 10, 2022  
June 25, 2022  
August 3, 2022  
September 10, 2022

A copy of the draft minutes (pending approval) or the final approved minutes of each meeting was distributed to the delegates of Presbytery following each meeting.

Attached as a part of this report to Presbytery is a Topical Summary of actions taken by the *Ad Interim* Commission presented in a Topical Index to the Minutes. The original signed minutes of the meetings of the 2022/2023 *Ad Interim* Commission will be delivered to the Clerk of Presbytery for retention and to spread on the minutes of Presbytery at the Spring Presbytery meeting.

**Recommendation:**

1. That Presbytery receive this report.

Respectively submitted,

David Hanson, Moderator  
Richard Blankenship, Clerk  
Robert McKissick  
James Odom  
Thomas Reid

September 12, 2022

Attachment: 2022/2023 *Ad Interim* Commission Topical Summary of Actions Taken and Index to the Minutes

*Note: Items in blue italics are items listed in minutes that have yet to be formally approved by the AIC. Approval of the minutes containing those items is pending.*

**2022/2023 AD INTERIM COMMISSION TOPICAL SUMMARY OF ACTIONS  
AND  
INDEX TO THE MINUTES**

CONGREGATION OR TOPIC	SUMMARY OR DETAIL	MINUTES (DATE & ITEM #)
Ad Interim Commission	Appointment of Clerk	April 22, 2022 / 3
	Appointment of Clerk <i>pro tem</i>	May 18, 2022 / 1
	<i>Fall AIC Report to Presbytery to be drafted by Clerk and reviewed by AIC members prior to submission to Presbytery</i>	<i>September 10, 2022 / 7</i>
Atlanta RPC	Appointment of Judicial Commission and members of the Commission	April 22, 2022 / 5
Approval of AIC Minutes	April 22, 2022 Minutes	June 10, 2022 / 3
	May 18, 2022 Minutes	June 10, 2022 / 3
	June 10, 2022 Minutes	June 25, 2022 / 3
	June 25, 2022 Minutes	June 25, 2022 / 5
	<i>August 3, 2022 Minutes</i>	<i>September 10, 2022 / 3</i>
	<i>September 10, 2022 Minutes</i>	<i>Pending</i>
Allen Blackwood	Laramie RPC Pastoral Call to Allen Blackwood approved	May 18, 2022 / 3
Christ Church Brownsburg RPC	Committee to examine Communication GLG 22-13 regarding charges against James Faris appointed	May 18, 2022 / 7
	Commission appointed to investigate and address issues in Communication GLG 22-14	June 10, 2022 / 5
	Members of the above referenced Communication GLG 22-14 Commission appointed	June 10, 2022 / 6



<b>CONGREGATION OR TOPIC</b>	<b>SUMMARY OR DETAIL</b>	<b>MINUTES (DATE &amp; ITEM #)</b>
Christ Church Shepherding Committee	No action taken on request for dismissal of Committee	August 3, 2022 / 9
CYPU	Approval of CYPUB Board Members and Director <i>pro tem</i>	April 22, 2022 / 6
	Request to rule on CYPUB Leadership statement on GL-G Child Protection Policy declined	April 22, 2022 / 7
First RPC Durham	Approval of Call of Drew Poplin as Associate Pastor. Appointment of Drew Poplin Installation Commission	April 22, 2022 / 9
First RPC – Grand Rapids	Appointment of Stephen Rhoda as temporary Moderator	April 22, 2022 / 8
	Appointment of Bryan Dage and Jon Hughes as Provisional Elders	August 3, 2022 / 6
	Resignation of Stephen Rhoda as Provisional Elder accepted	August 3, 2022 / 7
Mark Goerner	Ministerial Credentials received from the St Lawrence Presbytery forwarded to the GL-G Candidates and Credentials Committee	May 18, 2022 / 8
Immanuel RPC	Communications regarding the Synod Judicial Commission transmitted to Synod	May 18, 2022 / 6
	Presbytery appointed Provisional Elders asked to report and give advice on developments and actions taken at July 2022 congregational meetings	August 3, 2022 / 10

CONGREGATION OR TOPIC	SUMMARY OR DETAIL	MINUTES (DATE & ITEM #)
Immanuel RPC (cont.)	<i>Report of Presbytery appointed Provisional Elders reviewed – no further action needed</i>	<i>September 10, 2022 / 6</i>
Marion RPC	Permission granted to make out a call for a second pastor to succeed Jason Camery	June 25, 2022 / 4
	Call of Aaron Murray sustained as a regular gospel call and approved for presentation.	August 3, 2022 / 3
	<i>Aaron Murray Ordination and Installation Commission appointed</i>	<i>September 10, 2022 / 4</i>
	<i>Moderator and alternate Moderator for the Aaron Murry Ordination and Installation Commission appointed</i>	<i>September 10, 2022 / 5</i>
Aaron Murray	Coldenham-Newburgh RPC Pastoral Call to Aaron Murray approved	May 18, 2022 / 4
	Aaron Murray Ordination Exam Commission appointed	August 3, 2022 / 4
	<i>Ordination and Installation Commission appointed</i>	<i>September 10, 2022 / 4</i>
	<i>Moderator and alternate Moderator for the Ordination and Installation Commission appointed</i>	<i>September 10, 2022 / 5</i>
Presbytery	Approval of Minutes of 2022 Annual Spring Meeting	April 22, 2022 / 4
	Fall meeting set for October 7 and 8, 2022 in Columbus, Indiana	August 3, 2022 / 5
Second RPC, Indianapolis	Jerry Foltz approved as interim Moderator of Session during James Faris' sabbatical leave(s)	August 3, 2022 / 8

CONGREGATION OR TOPIC	SUMMARY OR DETAIL	MINUTES (DATE & ITEM #)
Synod 2022	Certification of At-Large Teaching Elders	April 22, 2022 / 10
Westminster (IL) RPC	Approval of Pastoral Call to Joshua Smith approved	May 18, 2022 / 5
	End of Items	

Fall 2022 AIC Report to Presbytery v1.2

IRPC Judicial Commission Minutes  
January 6, 2021  
(via Zoom Conference Call)  
Shawn Anderson, Bob Burchfield, Jason Camery (mod.), Josh Reshey, Ian Wise

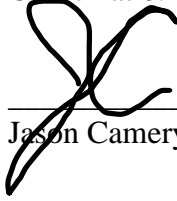
1. Jason Camery read Psalm 119:105-112 and constituted the court in prayer at 6:10 pm.
2. Motion passed to have Shawn Anderson serve as Clerk, and Ian Wise as Assistant Clerk.
3. Motion passed to approve draft of letter to the victims which will be emailed to them after this meeting.
4. Commission discussed an online repository to hold and share files. Shawn has set this up with a password.
5. Commission discussed the revised investigation template that Jason had drafted, giving support and affirmation.
6. Bob Burchfield shared his comments on the IRPC congregational meeting. Jason and Shawn were also present and shared comments.
7. Shawn gave his report of his call with Keith Evans.
8. Jason shared his report of his call with Jared Olivetti.
9. Jason brought the remit forward to consider which is:

*It was moved, seconded and passed to establish a five-man Judicial Commission to investigate the degree of problems of child abuse at Immanuel RP Church, determine what counseling and any help that any perpetrators and victims, along with their families, and the Session and congregation may need and whether parties involved are cooperating with civil authorities (since the Department of Child Services and the Tippecanoe County Sheriff have been involved). They are also to give recommendations to Presbytery in the following areas: 1. Legal, 2. Ecclesiastical and 3. Pastoral. In addition, we call upon the churches and members of Presbytery who are becoming aware of this situation to practice grace, mercy, and patience. We would give assurance that much ministry has already taken place and the establishing of a Judicial Commission is for the purpose of ensuring good and just ministry in the future.*

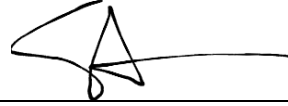
10. Assignments:

- a. JASON – Collect all documents and correspondence from Immanuel session.
- b. JASON – Communicate with victims and gather any additional information they may want to provide.
- c. JASON – Contact law enforcement (ie. DCS and Tippecanoe Sheriff’s dept).
- d. IAN – Contact the Presbytery’s advisory committee (Hanson, Mann, and Niess) and receive their documentation and report.
- e. SHAWN – Contact Keith Evans and receive his documentation.
- f. SHAWN – Contact insurance provider to gather protocol/policy regarding sex abuse event.
- g. BOB – Contact Faith Baptist Church Counseling Center and get a report on the status of their counseling and interaction with the Immanuel Session.

11. A follow-up meeting to update on the progress of assignments was set for Thursday, January 14 at 6:00 pm for any commissioners willing and able to attend. Our next mandatory meeting was set for Thursday, January 21 at 6:00 pm for all commissioners.
12. Bob prayed and adjourned the court in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, King and Head of the Church at 8:10 pm.



Jason Camery, Moderator

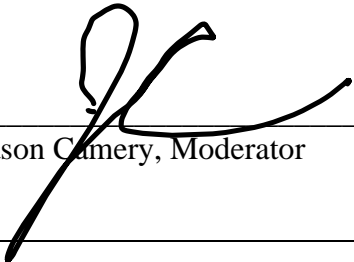


Shawn Anderson, Clerk

<p>IRPC Judicial Commission Minutes January 14, 2021 (via Zoom Conference Call) Shawn Anderson, Bob Burchfield, Jason Camery (mod.), Josh Reshey, Ian Wise</p>
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1. Jason Camery read Colossians 3:1-11 and constituted the court in prayer at 6:05 pm.
2. Agenda was approved by common consent.
3. Motion passed to approve Minutes from January 6, 2021.
4. Commission discussed progress in assignments.
5. Jason and Adam Niess communicated via email about Mr. Bright's letter to Mr. Pfeiffer. Pastor Niess will talk with Mr. Bright.
6. Jason requested documentation from IRPC session.
7. Jason drafted a letter to the victims which was approved and sent out Jan 8. Commission discussed sending out regular (possibly weekly) communication. Content could include the phases of our procedure, the receiving and reading of documents, the building of a master timeline, etc.
8. Jason got in contact with Tippecanoe sheriff who shared that the case is presently open.
9. Ian contacted the advisory committee, and they plan to meet next week to put together a report to give to the commission.
10. Bob contacted Keith about a possible joint meeting with Keith and Josh Greiner.
11. Bob contacted Josh Greiner to ask for any information he had. Josh was willing to share and sent the details to Shawn and Ian.
12. Commission discussed the ability to access and navigate the shared folder on One Drive. Currently, the folder is helpful.
13. The Nance family contacted the Commission asking for a meeting. A meeting is set for tonight.

14. Cos Gardner asked a question about the postponement regarding ordination. The Commission did not see this as part of their remit. Cos was encouraged to be an encouragement to the church in his service to a hurting people.
15. The next mandatory meeting was set for Thursday, January 21 at 6:00 pm for all commissioners.
16. Ian prayed and adjourned the court in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, King and Head of the Church at 7:15 pm.



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Jason Camery, Moderator



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Shawn Anderson, Clerk

<p>IRPC Judicial Commission Minutes January 21, 2021 (via Zoom Conference Call) Shawn Anderson, Bob Burchfield, Jason Camery (mod.), Josh Reshey, Ian Wise</p>
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1. Jason Camery read Proverbs 24:23-29 and constituted the court in prayer at 6:05 pm.
2. Agenda was approved by common consent.
3. Motion passed to approve Minutes from January 14, 2021.
4. Commission went over the content on the One Drive shared folder.
5. Commission discussed the contentious email exchange between session and some members of the congregation. Motion passed to communicate the following to the IRPC session and congregation:


...urge session that they are not to communicate with the congregation about this topic, nor the congregation with the session, while we are doing our work. All relevant congregational comments and questions are to be directed to the commission. Any relevant congregational communication to the session will be forwarded to the commission.
- Jason will draft a letter with the above notice and get approval from the commission via email.
6. Josh will gather documents for us to request DCS release forms from victims.
7. Josh will gather information related to a PCUSA report on Child Abuse and Safety.
8. Commission discussed the rights of the parents of victims to not disclose information related to the nature of sexual abuse involved. While acknowledging this parental right, it is the commission's understanding that the scope of its investigation does include, minimally, a list of those abused and, where appropriate, that a report with civil authorities has been made.
9. At present, the commission has received information from all involved parties, except one victim family. Shawn will reach out to them.

10. Commission agreed that there ought to be a preliminary meeting with the session before meeting with other involved parties. Jason will set up a tentative meeting with the elders of IRPC without Jared.
11. A proposed list of interviewees was presented to the commission. There was common consent to the order with the understanding that if we need to deviate, then we can with common consent.
12. The next mandatory meeting was set for Thursday, January 28 at 6:00 pm for all commissioners.
13. Bob prayed and adjourned the court in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, King and Head of the Church at 8:30 pm.



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Jason Camery, Moderator

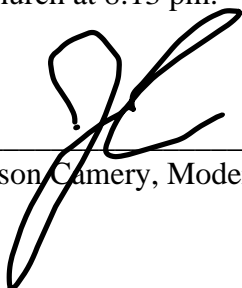


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Shawn Anderson, Clerk


IRPC Judicial Commission Minutes  
January 28, 2021  
(via Zoom Conference Call)  
Shawn Anderson, Bob Burchfield, Jason Camery (mod.), Josh Reshey, Ian Wise

1. Jason Camery read Ephesians 6:10-20 and constituted the court in prayer at 6:04 pm.
2. Agenda was approved by common consent.
3. Josh shared his notes regarding DCS release forms. Shawn will follow up with DCS in Tippecanoe county. He also forwarded a report on child sexual abuse from the PCUSA.
4. Commission considered a draft outline for our meeting with IRPC session and provided helpful comments and feedback in order to prepare for the meeting.
5. It was confirmed that IRPC has video conferencing capabilities.
6. Jason will follow up with a meeting between the commission and the Blocki family.
7. Shawn will follow up with a meeting between the commission and the Spirydovich family.
8. Jason will draft a communication to the IRPC congregation.
9. Shawn will set up a meeting between the commission and Keith Evans next week.
10. The next meeting was set tentatively for Thursday, February 4 at 6:00 pm for all commissioners.
11. Bob prayed and adjourned the court in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, King and Head of the Church at 8:13 pm.



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Jason Camery, Moderator



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Shawn Anderson, Clerk

IRPC Judicial Commission Minutes  
January 30, 2021  
1893 E 600 N in West Lafayette, IN  
Shawn Anderson, Jason Camery, Josh Reshey, Zachary Blackwood, David Carr, Ben Larson,  
Keith Magill, and Nate Pfeiffer present in person. Ian Wise and Bob Burchfield present via video  
conference.

1. Jason Camery read 1John 3:11-24 and constituted the court in prayer at 9:43 am.
2. Agenda was shared with IRPC session and approved by common consent. Pastor Olivetti was not present; therefore the opinions of the session do not represent his opinions or interactions here.
3. The Commission opened with a word of sympathy regarding the tragedy and challenge that IRPC has faced in the past year.
4. The Commission shared their understanding of the purpose of the investigation, including allegations that have been made by former members, present members, members of the advisory committee, and Biblical counselors.
  - 1) Unwarranted and disproportionate concealment of nature & scope of abuse
  - 2) Providing too much freedom to the perpetrator
  - 3) Some would say that you have been abuser-centered, showing partiality to the benefit, advantage, and undue cover of abuser, prioritizing reconciliation with the abuser over protection of the flock.
  - 4) Others would accuse you of being ministry-centered, seeking to manage the impression of the leadership, protect the reputation and vision of the ministry, to the harm of the congregation.
  - 5) All of this would imply neglect of the victims.
  - 6) By our investigation we hope to determine the accuracy of these allegations and to highlight both what has been handled rightly and wrongly. It is helpful that you have already been able to identify a list of your sins by name.
  - 7) We acknowledge a difference between sins of neglect versus sins of concealment.
5. The Commission invited the session to share their allegations or concerns regarding how others have mishandled the case before them.
6. It was clarified that the Jan. 2, 2021 meeting was not a congregational meeting, but an informal meeting, which they call a church family meeting.
7. The Commission listed their objectives in the investigation. The following was shared:
  - a) This commission realizes that both the session and the congregation have viewpoints on how this case has developed. The commission is committed to hearing all parties fairly and with respect. We are open to suggestions, but we also reserve the ability to act on information and requests to ensure the best possible outcomes. If there is a misunderstanding in our actions, we are more than willing to hear those parties that need more clarification.
  - b) We will bring recommendations to the Presbytery based on our findings within three areas of concern: Legal, Ecclesiastical, & Pastoral.




- c) If your policy and procedure is found to be legitimate and appropriate, this will be reported to the Presbytery. And if the sin of concealment is found, then Presbytery will need to be informed to some degree and consequences are inevitable.
8. The IRPC session is troubled by the remit of the AIC, which has appointed this judicial commission to be like a study committee, unable to make a judgment on the case. Due to the confidential issues and sensitive nature of the case, the IRPC session would prefer the Commission to act judicially based on their findings.
9. The Commission and session continued to discuss many aspects of the case, sharing information to ensure that all understood the same facts. Follow up questions regarding procedure, present handling, leadership changes were all discussed.
10. It was agreed upon that the email communication between session and the congregation on this issue has been disruptive. The session updated their email list, and all email communications will be sent via the use of Bcc by the Commission.
11. Apart from the questions that the Commission answered at the meeting, the following questions were given for future counsel:
- a) How should the IRPC session facilitate helpful things to victims (ie. letters, communication, etc.)
  - b) Do you think it is wise to get an interim moderator for the session outside of Immanuel RPC?
  - c) Given the circumstances, should particular elders step down?
  - d) In light of raised concerns about the session's communication regarding the Pastor's sabbatical, how should the session address these questions?
12. Josh prayed and adjourned the court in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, King and Head of the Church at 1:43 pm.



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Jason Camery, Moderator

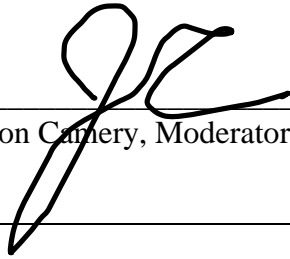


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Shawn Anderson, Clerk

<p>IRPC Judicial Commission Minutes February 2, 2021 (via Zoom Conference Call) Shawn Anderson, Bob Burchfield, Jason Camery (mod.), Josh Reshey, Ian Wise</p>
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1. Jason Camery read Psalm 128 and constituted the court in prayer at 8:04 pm.
2. Agenda was approved by common consent.
3. Discussed questions for interviews from session.
4. Discussed highlights of meeting with IRPC session.
5. The next meeting was set tentatively for Thursday, February 4 at 6:00 pm for all commissioners.
6. Shawn prayed and adjourned the court at 10:02 pm.



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Jason Camery, Moderator



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Shawn Anderson, Clerk

IRPC Judicial Commission Minutes  
February 4, 2021  
(via Zoom Conference Call)  
Shawn Anderson, Bob Burchfield, Jason Camery (mod.), Josh Reshey, Ian Wise, & Keith Evans

1. The meeting was recorded with consent of all parties.
2. Jason Camery read Acts 20.32-35 and constituted the court in prayer at 6:05 pm.
3. Commission interviewed Keith Evans until 8:28 pm.
4. Keith was dismissed and the Commission continued some business.
5. Jason will put together a list of responsibilities and needed interviews for the next 2 weeks, then send it out for the Commission's approval.
6. Jason will draft a letter to the congregation to help them understand that we will not be taking action before Presbytery, but investigate in order for action to be taken soon.
7. Ian will set up a meeting with the Advisory Committee.
8. The next meeting was set tentatively for Thursday, February 11 at 6:00 pm for all commissioners.
9. The Court adjourned at 8:45 pm.



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Jason Camery, Moderator



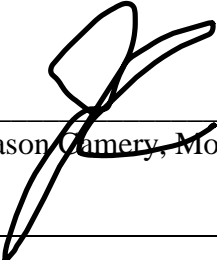
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Shawn Anderson, Clerk

IRPC Judicial Commission Minutes  
February 9, 2021  
(via Zoom Conference Call)  
Shawn Anderson, Bob Burchfield, Jason Camery (mod.), & Ian Wise,  
with David Hanson, Wade Mann, & Adam Niess


1. The meeting was recorded with consent of all parties.
2. Jason Camery read Ecclesiastes 5:1-7 and constituted the court in prayer at 1:06 pm.
3. Commission interviewed the Advisory Committee. Bob closed the interview time with prayer at 3:41 pm.
4. The next meeting was set tentatively for Thursday, February 11 at 6:00 pm for all commissioners.

5. The Court adjourned at 8:45 pm.



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Jason Camery, Moderator

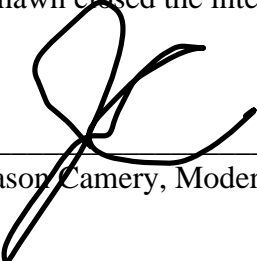


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Shawn Anderson, Clerk


IRPC Judicial Commission Minutes  
February 13, 2021  
1723 S 9th St, Lafayette, IN 47905  
Shawn Anderson, Bob Burchfield, Jason Camery (mod.), Josh Reshey, & Ian Wise

1. Jason Camery constituted the court in prayer at 9:10 am.
2. The Commission met with three victim families as well as members from the session of the RPC of Lafayette. The meetings were recorded with consent of all parties.
3. Shawn closed the interview time with prayer at approximately 5:15 pm.



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Jason Camery, Moderator




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Shawn Anderson, Clerk

IRPC Judicial Commission Minutes  
February 18, 2021  
(via Zoom Conference Call)  
Shawn Anderson, Jason Camery (mod.), Josh Reshey, & Ian Wise.


1. Jason Camery read 1Timothy 3:1-7 and constituted the court in prayer at 6:03 pm.
2. The following Minutes were approved by common consent:
  - a. Jan. 21, 2021;
  - b. Jan. 28, 2021;
  - c. Feb. 02, 2021;
  - d. Feb. 04, 2021;
  - e. Feb. 09, 2021.
3. The Commission discussed questions in the upcoming interviews with members of IRPC session.
4. Bob Burchfield joined the meeting at 8:03 pm.
5. A party joined the Commission at 8:40 pm to discuss their timeline and expectations. They were dismissed in prayer at 11:30 pm.

6. The Commission discussed the document “IRPC Session Docs for Commission”.
7. The Court adjourned at 11:42 pm.



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Jason Camery, Moderator



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Shawn Anderson, Clerk

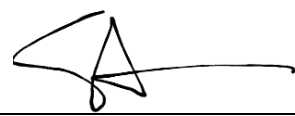
<p>IRPC Judicial Commission Minutes March 30, 2021 (via Zoom Conference Call) Shawn Anderson, Jason Camery (mod.), &amp; Josh Reshey. Ian Wise absent.</p>
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1. Jason Camery constituted the court in prayer at 6:03 pm.
2. The following Minutes were approved by common consent:
  - a. Jan. 30, 2021;
  - b. Feb. 13, 2021;
  - c. Feb. 18, 2021.
3. The minutes of March 30, 2021 were read and approved by common consent.
4. The Court adjourned at 6:18 pm.



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Jason Camery, Moderator



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Shawn Anderson, Clerk

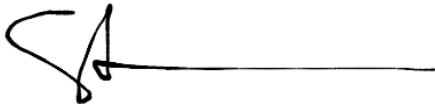
**Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery**  
**Minutes of the Commission to Ordain and Install Joshua Smith**

The commission to ordain and install Joshua Smith as pastor of the Westminster Reformed Presbyterian Church in Prairie View, Illinois, met on August 19, 2022.

1. Elders present from the five-man commission: Jack Baumgartner (chair), Jerry Foltz (clerk), Bob Koch, Steve Rhoda, and Craig Scott.
2. Jack Baumgartner opened the meeting and constituted the Court in prayer, in the name of and by the authority of Jesus Christ, the King and Head of the Church, at 7:10 PM
3. Call to Worship (Psalm 95:6) and Invocation by Jack Baumgartner
4. Psalm of Praise 100A
5. Narration of the steps and final reading of the edict were read by Bob Koch
6. Members of Westminster RPC rose to confirm their call of Joshua Smith
7. Joshua Smith rose to signify his acceptance of the call
8. Pastor Wade Mann put the quires to Joshua Smith who confirmed them
9. Pastor Adam Kuehner received signature of quires from Joshua Smith
10. Ordination Sermon on 1 Corinthians 16:5-18 (“The Ministry of the Lord”) was preached by Pastor Keith Evans
11. Congregation responded to the preaching of God’s Word by singing Psalm 34C
12. Pastor Steve Rhoda gave the charge to the congregation
13. Pastor Craig Scott gave the charge to Joshua Smith
14. Elder Bob Koch led the court in prayer of ordination and installation as elders laid hands upon Joshua Smith
15. Congregation responded in praise by singing Psalm 122A
16. Pastor Joshua Smith gave the benediction (Num. 6:25-26)
17. Jack Baumgartner gave thanks and adjourned the Court in prayer, in the name of and by the authority of Jesus Christ, the King and Head of the Church, at 8:50 PM

**Commission for Aaron Murray's Ordination Exams <> Minutes**  
**Via Zoom <> August 13, 2022**

1. Adam Niess, Ken Nelson, Scott Damerow, Mark Hart, Tom Dinkledine, and Shawn Anderson were present via zoom
2. The court was constituted in prayer at 8:37 am.
3. Agenda was received by common consent.
4. Motion carried to elect Ken Nelson to serve as clerk.
5. Motion carried to set the time and place for Aaron Murray's Ordination Exams on Wednesday, August 17, 2022, at the Marion RP Church (1100 W Jeffras Ave, Marion, IN 46952) beginning at 6:30 pm.
6. For Mr. Murray's Expository Sermon on an Assigned Text, he will preach from Judges 17.
7. It was agreed by common consent that Mr. Phil Pockras will facilitate Mr. Murray's Personal Godliness exam
8. It was agreed by common consent that Mr. Ian Wise will facilitate Mr. Murray's Soundness in the Faith and Commitment to the RPC Testimony exam
9. It was agreed by common consent that Mr. Dick Knodel can join us via Zoom on Aug 17.
10. The court adjourned in prayer in Christ's name and authority at 8:45 am.




Shawn Anderson, Moderator



Ken Nelson, Clerk

**Commission for Aaron Murray's Ordination Exams <> Minutes**  
**Marion RP Church (1100 W Jeffras Ave, Marion, IN 46952)**  
**August 17, 2022**

1. Adam Niess, Ken Nelson, Scott Damerow, Mark Hart, Tom Dinkledine, Phil Pockras, Ian Wise, and Shawn Anderson were present. Dick Knodel was present via zoom.
2. Shawn Anderson read Acts 8:26-40 and those in attendance sang from Psalm 95A to the praise of God. The court was constituted in prayer at 6:41 pm in the name of Jesus Christ, the only King and Head of the church.
3. The agenda was approved by common consent.
4. Motion carried so that privileges of the floor were granted to all ordained presbyters in the RPCNA.
5. Aaron Murray came forward to preach his ordination-level Sermon exam, called upon God's name in a prayer of illumination, read Judges 17, preached from the text, and concluded in the singing of Psalm 125, after which comments were received, and the exam was unanimously sustained by roll call vote.
6. Aaron Murray received his ordination-level Soundness in the Faith & Commitment to the RPC Testimony exam from Ian Wise, who asked Mr. Murray questions and received answers, after which questions and comments were received from the floor and the exam was unanimously sustained by roll call vote.
7. Aaron Murray came forward to receive his ordination-level Personal Godliness exam from Phil Pockras, who asked Mr. Murray questions and received answers, after which questions and comments were received from the floor and the exam was unanimously sustained by roll call vote.
8. The court unanimously sustained Aaron Murray's ordination by roll call vote. The AIC will handle the time and place of Mr. Murray's ordination.
9. Motion carried to adjourn the meeting.
10. The clerk read the minutes (8/13, 8/16), and it was moved, seconded, and passed to adopt the minutes.
11. The court adjourned in prayer in Christ's name and authority at 8:17 pm.



Shawn Anderson, Moderator



Ken Nelson, Clerk

<p>Commission for Aaron Murray's Ordination Exams Marion RP Church (1100 W Jeffras Ave, Marion, IN 46952) August 17, 2022</p>	<p>Attendance</p>	<p>Ordination Level Sermon Exam</p>	<p>Soundness of the Faith &amp; Commitment to RPC Testimony Exam</p>	<p>Personal Godliness Exam</p>	<p>Vote for Ordination</p>
<p><b>Name</b></p>					
Adam Niess	P	S	S	S	S
Dick Knodel	P	S	S	S	S
Ian Wise	P	S	S	S	S
Ken Nelson	P	S	S	S	S
Mark Hart	P	S	S	S	S
Phil Pockras	P	S	S	S	S
Scott Damerow	P	S	S	S	S
Shawn Anderson	P	S	S	S	S
Tom Dinkledine	P	S	S	S	S
(S)=sustain		9	9	9	9
(N)= not sustain		0	0	0	0
(A)=Abstain		0	0	0	0



**GREAT LAKES – GULF PRESBYTERY  
CHRIST CHURCH RP COMMISSION  
REPORT TO PRESBYTERY  
Fall Presbytery Meeting**

The Christ Church Reformed Presbyterian (CCRP) Commission was appointed by the Great Lakes – Gulf Presbytery *Ad Interim Commission* on June 10, 2022, in response to Communication 22-14 from the Christ Church RP Session requesting “outside assistance”:

“It was moved, seconded, and passed, to appoint a three-member commission of presbytery:

- (i) to investigate issues raised by Christ Church RPC (“CCRP”) by communication GLG 22-14,
- (ii) to seek reconciliation, and
- (iii) to take any other appropriate and necessary actions to resolve issues raised by communication GLG 22-14.”

The Commission consists of the following three members:

Jonathan Schaefer, Moderator (RE, Orlando RPC – Orlando, Florida)  
Bryan Dage, Clerk (RE, Hetherton RPC – Johannesburg, Michigan)  
Steve Sturm (RE, RPC of Southside Indianapolis, Indiana)

On June 21, 2022, at the Presbytery meeting at Synod, the Commission’s remit was expanded:

Adopted: “That presbytery refer GLG 22-15 (Complaint v. CCRP Session) to the Christ Church Commission (the “Commission”) for adjudication.”

The Commission met twelve times in constituted court:

July 20, 2022  
July 28, 2022  
August 3, 2022  
August 10, 2022  
August 13, 2022  
August 15, 2022  
August 17, 2022  
August 31, 2022  
September 7, 2022  
September 12, 2022  
September 14, 2022  
September 21, 2022

A copy of the approved minutes of each meeting is included in *Appendix A*.

On August 5 and 6, the Commission visited the Christ Church congregation to conduct a series of in-person meetings. On the Lord’s Day of August 7, moderator Jonathan Schaefer gave a message from the Commission to the congregation following the morning worship service. The text of the message is included in *Appendix B*.

*Appendix C* includes the August 17, 2022 report the Commission distributed to the congregation through the CCRP Session describing the Commission’s remit, investigation, and conclusions. In summary, the conclusions are:

- That CCRP Session’s counsel to Mr. Enas “was a reasonable and wise communication for the good of Mr. Enas, the congregation of CCRP, [and] for the peace, purity and progress of the church.”
- That “the Commission does not sustain complaint 22-15.”

Following the distribution of the Commission’s report, the congregation was invited to submit questions or comments to the Commission via email. The Commission collected thirty-three written questions and comments submitted by CCRP members from August 8 through August 30. On September 12, 2022, the Commission distributed written responses to the four individuals who had submitted the questions/comments and cc’d the CCRP Session on the responses.

Since distributing the August 17 report to the congregation, the Commission has responded to questions and requests for counsel from the CCRP Session regarding the path forward for the congregation.

Recommendation:

1. That Presbytery receive this report.

Respectively submitted,

Jonathan Schaefer, Moderator  
Bryan Dage, Clerk  
Steve Sturm

## Appendix A – CCRP Commission Meeting Minutes

Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery  
Minutes of the Christ Church RP Commission  
July 20, 2022

The Christ Church RP (CCRP) Commission of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery met remotely on Wednesday, July 20, 2022.

1. Commission members present were: Jonathan Schaefer (Moderator), Steve Sturm, and Bryan Dage (Clerk).
2. Jonathan opened the meeting and constituted the Court in prayer, in the name of and by the authority of Jesus Christ, the King and Head of the Church, at 7:04 PM.
3. By common consent, Bryan Dage was appointed clerk of the commission.
4. Discussion of main issues to explore, questions to answer and objectives to pursue. Each commission member will develop further thoughts and suggestions on these items to be discussed at the next meeting.
5. Discussion of schedule, including a visit to Christ Church. Tentative schedule involves worshiping at CCRP on a Lord's day and holding meetings on the following Monday and Tuesday. Possible dates discussed were August 6 and 13, to be determined.
6. Steve closed in prayer and adjourned the court at 8:41 PM.

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Jonathan Schaefer, Moderator  
CCRP Commission

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Bryan Dage, Clerk  
CCRP Commission

Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery  
Minutes of the Christ Church RP Commission  
July 28, 2022

The Christ Church RP (CCRP) Commission of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery met remotely on Thursday, July 28, 2022.

1. Commission members present were: Jonathan Schaefer (Moderator), Steve Sturm, and Bryan Dage (Clerk).
2. Jonathan opened the meeting and constituted the Court in prayer, in the name of and by the authority of Jesus Christ, the King and Head of the Church, at 7:03 PM.
3. The minutes of the July 20, 2022 meeting were approved as written.
4. Discussion of our thinking on the questions from the previous meeting. Jonathan will prepare a planned schedule and clarifying questions for the session and for the concerned families for the weekend visit of August 5-7. Bryan will attend these meetings via zoom.
4. Steve closed in prayer and adjourned the court at 8:57 PM.

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Jonathan Schaefer, Moderator  
CCRP Commission

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Bryan Dage, Clerk  
CCRP Commission

Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery  
Minutes of the Christ Church RP Commission  
August 3, 2022

The Christ Church RP (CCRP) Commission of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery met remotely on Wednesday, August 3, 2022.

1. Commission members present were: Jonathan Schaefer (Moderator), Steve Sturm (Clerk *pro tem*) (Bryan Dage excused absence due to illness).
2. Jonathan opened the meeting and constituted the Court in prayer, in the name of and by the authority of Jesus Christ, the King and Head of the Church, at 7:03 PM.
3. Steve agreed to serve as clerk *pro tem* in Bryan's absence.
4. The minutes of the July 28, 2022 meeting were approved as written.
5. The draft of clarifying questions prepared by Jonathan in advance of the meeting were reviewed and discussed for each of the four scheduled meetings to take place August 5 and 6. The meetings schedule was confirmed.
6. An outline of topics to be addressed in the presentation to the congregation on Sunday afternoon was discussed. Jonathan's travel schedule for the weekend was reviewed.
7. Jonathan closed in prayer and adjourned the court at 8:57 PM.

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Jonathan Schaefer, Moderator  
CCRP Commission

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Steve Sturm, Clerk *pro tem*  
CCRP Commission

Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery  
Minutes of the Christ Church RP Commission  
August 10, 2022

The Christ Church RP (CCRP) Commission of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery met remotely on Wednesday, August 10, 2022.

1. Commission members present were: Jonathan Schaefer (Moderator), Steve Sturm, and Bryan Dage (Clerk).
2. Bryan opened the meeting and constituted the Court in prayer, in the name of and by the authority of Jesus Christ, the King and Head of the Church, at 7:04 PM.
3. The minutes of the August 3, 2022 meeting were approved as written.
4. Discussion of the report to the congregation.
5. Jonathan closed in prayer and adjourned the court at 8:53 PM.

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Jonathan Schaefer, Moderator  
CCRP Commission

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Bryan Dage, Clerk  
CCRP Commission

Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery  
Minutes of the Christ Church RP Commission  
August 13, 2022

The Christ Church RP (CCRP) Commission of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery met remotely on Saturday, August 13, 2022.

1. Commission members present were: Jonathan Schaefer (Moderator), Steve Sturm, and Bryan Dage (Clerk).
2. Steve opened the meeting and constituted the Court in prayer, in the name of and by the authority of Jesus Christ, the King and Head of the Church, at 2:31 PM.
3. Discussion of the report and schedule for its delivery.
4. Jonathan closed in prayer and adjourned the court at 3:17 PM.

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Jonathan Schaefer, Moderator  
CCRP Commission

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Bryan Dage, Clerk  
CCRP Commission

Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery  
Minutes of the Christ Church RP Commission  
August 15, 2022

The Christ Church RP (CCRP) Commission of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery met remotely on Monday, August 15, 2022.

1. Commission members present were: Jonathan Schaefer (Moderator), Steve Sturm, and Bryan Dage (Clerk).
2. Jonathan opened the meeting and constituted the Court in prayer, in the name of and by the authority of Jesus Christ, the King and Head of the Church, at 5:02 PM.
3. The minutes of the August 10 and 13, 2022 meeting were approved as written.
4. Editing and discussion of the report and schedule for its delivery.
5. Jonathan had to leave early for a session meeting.
6. Bryan closed in prayer and adjourned the court at 6:22 PM.

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Jonathan Schaefer, Moderator  
CCRP Commission

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Bryan Dage, Clerk  
CCRP Commission



Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery  
Minutes of the Christ Church RP Commission  
August 17, 2022

The Christ Church RP (CCRP) Commission of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery met remotely on Wednesday, August 17, 2022.

1. Commission members present were: Jonathan Schaefer (Moderator), Steve Sturm, and Bryan Dage (Clerk).
2. Steve opened the meeting and constituted the Court in prayer, in the name of and by the authority of Jesus Christ, the King and Head of the Church, at 12:34PM.
3. The minutes of the August 15, 2022 meeting were approved as written.
4. Final editing and discussion of the report. Report was adopted and scheduled for delivery.
5. Jonathan closed in prayer and adjourned the court at 1:32 PM.

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Jonathan Schaefer, Moderator  
CCRP Commission

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Bryan Dage, Clerk  
CCRP Commission

Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery  
Minutes of the Christ Church RP Commission  
August 31, 2022

The Christ Church RP (CCRP) Commission of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery met remotely on Wednesday, August 31, 2022.

1. Commission members present were: Jonathan Schaefer (Moderator), Steve Sturm, and Bryan Dage (Clerk).
2. Jonathan opened the meeting and constituted the Court in prayer, in the name of and by the authority of Jesus Christ, the King and Head of the Church, at 8:17PM.
3. The minutes of the August 17, 2022 meeting were approved as written.
4. The Commission worked on responses to some of the questions and comments that have been received following the report of August 17.
5. Bryan had to leave the meeting early.
6. Steve closed in prayer and adjourned the court at 9:45 PM.

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Jonathan Schaefer, Moderator  
CCRP Commission

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Bryan Dage, Clerk  
CCRP Commission

Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery  
Minutes of the Christ Church RP Commission  
September 7, 2022

The Christ Church RP (CCRP) Commission of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery met remotely on Wednesday, September 7, 2022.

1. Commission members present were: Jonathan Schaefer (Moderator), Steve Sturm, and Bryan Dage (Clerk).
2. Jonathan opened the meeting and constituted the Court in prayer, in the name of and by the authority of Jesus Christ, the King and Head of the Church, at 7:07PM.
3. The minutes of the August 31, 2022 meeting were approved as written.
4. The Commission continued work on responses to some of the questions and comments that have been received following the report of August 17.
5. Steve closed in prayer and adjourned the court at 9:53 PM.

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Jonathan Schaefer, Moderator  
CCRP Commission

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Bryan Dage, Clerk  
CCRP Commission

Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery  
Minutes of the Christ Church RP Commission  
September 12, 2022

The Christ Church RP (CCRP) Commission of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery met remotely on Monday, September 12, 2022.

1. Commission members present were: Jonathan Schaefer (Moderator), Steve Sturm, and Bryan Dage (Clerk).
2. Bryan opened the meeting and constituted the Court in prayer, in the name of and by the authority of Jesus Christ, the King and Head of the Church, at 8:43PM.
3. The minutes of the September 7, 2022 meeting were approved as written.
4. The Commission finalized responses to all of the questions and comments that have been received following the report of August 17. Jonathan will send out answers via email to the four parties who asked questions with their respective answers.
5. Steve closed in prayer and adjourned the court at 9:50 PM.

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Jonathan Schaefer, Moderator  
CCRP Commission

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Bryan Dage, Clerk  
CCRP Commission

Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery  
Minutes of the Christ Church RP Commission  
September 14, 2022

The Christ Church RP (CCRP) Commission of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery met remotely on Wednesday, September 14, 2022.

1. Commission members present were: Jonathan Schaefer (Moderator), Steve Sturm (Clerk Pro Tem). (Bryan Dage excused absence due to family illness)
2. Jonathan opened the meeting and constituted the Court in prayer, in the name of and by the authority of Jesus Christ, the King and Head of the Church, at 7:03PM.
3. Steve agreed to serve as clerk *pro tem* in Bryan's absence.
4. The minutes of the September 12 meeting were approved as written.
5. The Commission reviewed questions received from the CCRP Session in preparation for a meeting with them following adjournment.
6. Steve closed in prayer and adjourned the court at 7:50 PM.

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Jonathan Schaefer, Moderator  
CCRP Commission

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Steve Sturm, Clerk *pro tem*  
CCRP Commission

Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery  
Minutes of the Christ Church RP Commission  
September 21, 2022

The Christ Church RP (CCRP) Commission of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery met remotely on Wednesday, September 21, 2022.

1. Commission members present were: Jonathan Schaefer (Moderator), Steve Sturm, Bryan Dage (Clerk).
2. Jonathan opened the meeting and constituted the Court in prayer, in the name of and by the authority of Jesus Christ, the King and Head of the Church, at 7:03 PM.
3. Minutes from September 14, 2022 were approved.
4. Discussion of final report and recommendations to Presbytery, and its distribution.
5. Minutes from September 21, 2022 were approved.
6. Steve prayed and adjourned the Court in prayer in the name of and by the authority of Jesus Christ, the Head and King of the Church, at 8:07 PM.

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Jonathan Schaefer, Moderator  
CCRP Commission

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Bryan Dage, Clerk  
CCRP Commission

## **Appendix B – Moderator Jonathan Schaefer Message to the CCRP Congregation, delivered orally on August 7, 2022**

### **Message to the Congregation**

On behalf of the Commission, I want to begin with a word of thanks for the kindness and care you have extended to us. Many hours of time have been dedicated to communications, some have provided many documents, some have taken time to write personal letters, or spent time on the phone with us, we have been fed, lodged, and transported and I am sure that many if not all of you have prayed for and about our efforts. For these and other loving gestures we are truly thankful.

We want to assure you that you are also being faithfully prayed for by brothers and sisters in several other congregations, including the ones we represent.

This weekend we met with Session on Friday evening from 6:15-8:15pm. Saturday morning from 10-12pm we met with Nathan Shaver and 2-5pm and 6-9:30pm Saturday afternoon and evening with met with members of the congregation.

We began meeting officially after COVIFAMIKOI Family Conference. If you haven't been to a family camp, I highly recommend it as a time of worship, praise, prayer, fellowship, recreation and for you young men and women perhaps a time to meet a like-minded Christian spouse, as I did at RP International Conference at Carleton College.

We have read over a large amount of the written material generated over the past year, discussed and prayed much over this current situation, and we remain hopeful that that the Lord will continue His work among you. The meetings this weekend have helped further clarify our understanding and our goal is to first leave you today with some words of encouragement and then to summarize our counsel and have that back to you electronically in two weeks.

### **Message of Encouragement**

First, I think it is important to remember that the members of this congregation are co-laborers in Christ. We are wrestling with issues of dissention among believers in the same congregation. Having witnessed the confession of sin and the corresponding forgiveness, what remains appears to be disagreements on opinion and perspective, rather than continuing sin.

Disputes of this kind are not new to the body of Christ. In fact, the apostle Paul addresses one such issue in Philippians 4.

Philippians 4:2-7

*I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to live in harmony in the Lord. Indeed, true companion, I ask you also to help these women who have shared my struggle in [the cause of] the gospel, together with Clement also and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life. Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentle [spirit] be known to all men. The Lord is near. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

Philippians 4 deals with a situation wherein there was discord among two faithful believers, both with good intentions and serving Christ well. Before I get too much further, I need to talk about what I am not saying. I am not saying that there was no sin involved. I am not saying that there were not biblical principles that come into play. However, Paul does not address any sins committed.

Paul singles these members out by name, noting their faithful ministry but encouraging them to live in harmony in the Lord. He then asks his true companion to help these fellow believers resolve their conflict. I think it is significant that Paul implores the two women in conflict by name. I find it interesting that he leaves

the arbiter, the "true companion", urged to "help these women" unnamed. Some commentators think it could have been Timothy, others suggest it could have been Epaphras who carried the letter. Whether we name the arbiter or not, it is helpful to observe that this disagreement was important enough in the life of the church to admonish the parties publicly and solicit help to settle the matter, which echoes our commission's remit.

Paul's counsel was to:

- Rejoice in the Lord;
- Let your gentle spirit be known to all men;
- Be anxious for nothing, but pray; and
- Expect the Lord to bring the peace that guards our hearts and minds in Christ.

We see many similarities between this situation and the situation that we are here to address. First, we are not questioning the intentions of those who find themselves at odds. We believe that all are seeking to honor Christ and move forward, yet there are differences in the way those at odds see the path forward.

We know that locally efforts have been made by both parties to resolve conflict, yet currently the remains at an impasse. Now, we have been appointed to come in and address the situation. Our message this to you now is the same:

- 1.) Rejoice in the Lord: we encourage you all to consider deeply the grace of the Lord evidenced in Philippians 2 – Jesus condescended to take on the lowly form of His own creation and being found in this low form, He the very Son of the Most High God humbled Himself even to that dreadful death on the Cross for the sins of people such as you and me, redeeming to Himself His own enemies to everlasting glory with Him in the Heaven of God for eternity.
- 2.) Let your gentle spirit be known to all men: we encourage you to all consider your own spirit before the Lord. His people are characterized by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit the fruit of which is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness and self-control. This fruit does not come as payment in exchange for the agreement of others, it comes from the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives through His sanctifying work in our hearts. These outworkings demonstrate His transforming work and our grateful, self-emptying response.
- 3.) Be anxious for nothing but pray: there is anxiety here present. This anxiety is deeply affecting not only the worship of God and ministry of this body of believers, but many others. We need to continue in fervent prayer. That is our work – to pray. This is so very humbling. We are people that want to take action and see our results, yet this is the Lord's body, not ours. He is not surprised by what has happened. What has happened is for His glory and perhaps unbelievably at times, our benefit.
- 4.) Expect the Lord to bring the peace that guards our hearts and minds in Christ: we must live out our lives expectantly waiting for His peace to transform our hearts and minds in and toward Christ. Psalm 37 encourages believers to not worry, but to trust in the Lord and do good. We are to dwell in the land and cultivate faithfulness, delighting ourselves in the Lord. When we trust Him and commit ourselves to Him, He will give us our heart's desires – Trust Him, He will do it!

Our hope is that this message of encouragement will resonate with you and in the coming days as you wait expectantly on our counsel. We encourage you to pray fervently over these words and rest in Christ, your salvation and peace.



**Appendix C – Commission Report to CCRP Regarding GLGP Communications  
22-14 and 22-15, August 17, 2022**

**CCRP COMMISSION**  
**Report to CCRP Regarding GLGP Communications 22-14 and 22-15**

*Galatians 5:14-15. "For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another."*

**Commission Remit**

This Commission was established by the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery (GLGP) Ad-Interim Commission (AIC) on June 10, 2022, in response to GLGP Communication 22-14 from the Christ Church RP Session requesting "outside assistance":

"It was moved, seconded, and passed, to appoint a three-member commission of presbytery:

- (i) to investigate issues raised by Christ Church RPC ("CCRP") by communication GLG 22-14,
- (ii) to seek reconciliation, and
- (iii) to take any other appropriate and necessary actions to resolve issues raised by communication GLG 22-14."

On June 21, 2022, at the GLGP Meeting at Synod, our remit was expanded:

Adopted: "That presbytery refer GLG 22-15 (Complaint v. CCRP Session) to the Christ Church Commission (the "Commission") for adjudication."

**The Commission's Work**

The Commission had an initial email exchange and phone conference the week before the COVFAMIKOI family conference. Shortly after the conference, the Commission began meeting regularly by phone. Jonathan Schaefer, having served on the CCRP Shepherding Committee, was able to quickly provide several background documents to the other two members of the Commission. This written material was surveyed by Commission members independently in advance of our meetings where they were reviewed and discussed. A list of formal GLGP Communications, Reports, and related actions from GLGP meeting minutes that were considered are listed in the Appendix titled "Background".

While the review of written material was very helpful for our investigation of issues described in GLGP 22-14, the Commission agreed it would be wise to conduct an in-person visit with various parties at CCRP over a weekend to ask clarifying questions and to worship together with the congregation on the Lord's Day. The Commission scheduled and conducted a series of meetings on August 5 and 6:

- Friday, August 5 from 6:15 pm to 8:15 pm with the CCRP Session, including interim moderator Joel Hart.
- Saturday, August 6 from 10:00 am to noon with Interim Pastoral Assistant, Nathan Shaver.
- Saturday, August 6 from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm with individual CCRP members who responded to our invitation for an in-person conversation with the Commission.
- Saturday, August 6 from 6:00 pm to 9:30 pm with concerned members who signed the GLGP 22-15 complaint and responded to our invitation to meet.

The Commission also received a number of written communications from members before and during the visit. Due to family illness, Bryan Dage was unable to attend the meetings in person, but he did attend each scheduled meeting either by phone or video conference.

Our visit affirmed many of the assessments expressed by the CCRP Session's GLGP 22-14 request for the formation of the Commission. Despite significant effort invested by GLGP's Reconciliation Committee and the subsequent Shepherding Committee, the congregation remains deeply divided, perhaps more now than ever, over their "level of trust and confidence in the Session." More than one described CCRP as "two congregations." In the Saturday series of meetings, the Commission observed one "congregation" in strong support of Session's leadership, and the other "congregation" expressing significant questions concerning Session's overall fitness as elders. Disputes related to this division consume the Session's time and energy in a way that diminishes attention from other important matters like evaluating options for longer-term pulpit supply and investigating other meeting venues knowing the current landlord may sell the property with 60 days' notice. It is indeed a "time of great difficulty for the congregation" and the Commission agrees that "the future existence of the congregation" is at stake.

On the Lord's Day, the Commission members present were encouraged to find that deep divisions observed the preceding day were not evident in morning worship or the informal times before and after the service. There were many encouragements as attending Commission members were warmly welcomed, communed together, and noted the congregation engaging with each other and first-time visitors. Commission members present greatly appreciated Nathan Shaver's skillful preaching and evident shepherd's heart for every member and commend him for his good work. Jonathan Schaefer ended the Commission's visit with a message to the congregation following morning worship expressing gratitude for a warm welcome, describing the Commission's work thus far, explaining our next steps, and bringing encouragement from Philippians 4:2-7.

At the heart of our remit, prompted by GLGP 22-14 requesting our formation, and GLGP 22-15, complaining against a recent action of the CCRP Session is the May 23 letter of counsel from the Session to Mr. Enas. The remainder of this report addresses the appropriateness of that letter and a reply to the complaint about it.

### **Discussion of the May 23 Letter**

The Commission notes the following concerning the May 23 letter:

1. The Commission finds that the May 23 letter is neither a 'dismissal', nor a judicial action. It is a shepherding action. Thus, it does not fall under the category of any of the formal judicial processes of the Book of Discipline. As RP Testimony 30.3 says, "Some

offenses may be resolved by informal counsel by one or more elders.” The Commission finds that the May 23 letter was a gracious attempt to resolve this conflict by informal counsel apart from formal judicial process.

2. Elders take all kinds of actions to shepherd their congregants that are not judicial in nature and are thus not specifically outlined in the Book of Discipline. The fact that their action is not spelled out in the RP Constitution does not mean that it is invalid.

3. The crux of the question regarding the May 23 letter is found in these words: “We [CCRP Session] need to shepherd you to a different congregation.”

The Commission finds that Session’s action is strong counsel to Mr. Enas, but it is counsel nonetheless. The Session will not be transferring Mr. Enas to another congregation against his will. They are asking him to accept this counsel or to work with them so that he can continue to remain a member in good standing of the church, and for the sake of peace in the church.

An analogy would be the case of a member who became convinced of (for example) credo-baptism. In that case, the session would seek to work with the individual, but if over time it became evident that that individual was not going to change their viewpoint, and if there was a disturbance in the congregation as a result of that member’s conviction and actions, the most reasonable course of action would be for the session to seek to shepherd that individual to a different branch of the true church (in this example, to some sort of a Reformed Baptist church), where they would be in tune with the leadership of the church and be able to thrive.

This is uncommon counsel. A session would not want to take this sort of action lightly, but only when it was necessary. The May 23 letter spells out the necessity in this case and lists five examples that demonstrate why they are taking this action.

Specifically, the CCRP Session has indicated that Mr Enas’s actions do not align with his membership vows. They desire Mr. Enas to be able to demonstrate a trust of the Session and a willingness to “submit to the direction and oversight of the CCRP elders”. The Commission finds that these are reasonable, biblical requirements also expressed in the subordinate standards of our RPCNA Constitution:

Hebrews 13:17. “Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.”

Larger catechism 127 “The honor which inferiors owe to their superiors is, all due reverence in heart, word, and behavior; prayer and thanksgiving for them; imitation of their virtues and graces; willing obedience to their lawful commands and counsels; due submission to their corrections; fidelity to, defense and maintenance of their persons and authority, according to their several ranks, and the nature of their places; bearing with their infirmities, and covering them in love, that so they may be an honor to them and to their government.”

DCG 7.13 “After the roll has been determined, all the communicant members of the new congregation shall stand and give assent to the Covenant of Communicant Membership and to this additional pledge:

‘Do you solemnly covenant with God and with one another that you will live together in brotherly unity as an organized congregation on the basis of the Constitution of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America; that you will be obedient to the courts that are over you in the Lord; and that you will, by a godly life, seek to promote the purity, peace, and prosperity of the church as a whole?’”

Membership vow 4. “Do you promise to submit in the Lord to the teaching and government of this church as being based upon the Scriptures and described in substance in the Constitution of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America? Do you recognize your responsibility to work with others in the church and do you promise to support and encourage them in their service to the Lord? In case you should need correction in doctrine or life, do you promise to respect the authority and discipline of the church?”

The Commission draws distinction between these requirements and Mr. Enas’s actions in the following ways:

1. The Commission observes a push for the purity of the church at the expense of peace and prosperity as a whole. Duties of members include, “...seek to promote the purity, peace, and prosperity of the church as a whole.” (DCG 7.13). This seems to also lift purity above WLC 127’s instruction to be “Bearing with their infirmities, and covering them in love”. This prioritization is threatening to devour the entire congregation. We are commended in RPT 25:16 to “pray for and seek the purity and unity of the Church.” While a desire for the purity of the Church is a noble and necessary thing, the Commission is very concerned that in this case it has been to the detriment of church unity.
2. The Commission observes a disrespect for the Session that has grown out of mistrust and suspicion. This is contrary to the vow to, “Respect the authority and discipline of the church.” Mr. Enas maintains his submission to the Session, but by his actions, identified by the Session in the May 23 letter, and in numerous other documented actions, he demonstrates an unwillingness to do so.

Another detail not in the May 23 letter is that there appears to be an increasing level of division and discord within the congregation since the November 2021 communication to Presbytery. It is this Commission’s assessment that since that date, and indeed, since the ending of the Reconciliation Committee’s work in April 2022, that the trouble and sorrow in the congregation has only compounded, and with no end in sight.

The Session has a responsibility “to care for the interest of the congregation and of each member” (DCG 4.7). The Session has God-given authority to shepherd and care for the flock under their care. The Commission affirms that the Session would be remiss if they did not attempt to address this matter in the congregation.

If CCRP Session is concerned about Mr. Enas’ behavior, why are they allowing him to transfer to a different congregation rather than bringing charges and going through a formal judicial process?

Mr. Enas has stated that he lost confidence in the Session regarding the LeFebvre controversy and that despite ongoing efforts of both Session and Presbytery, he has not regained his confidence in the Session. The Session hopes that, in transferring him to a different congregation, he will be able to respect, trust, and submit to his new session and that no further action would need to be taken. This is an application of the wisdom of 1 Thessalonians 5:14, to assess a situation and apply the needed action, with a dose of patience. This demonstrates the Session's graciousness to Mr. Enas in not desiring to impugn his motives but to accept his statements at face value. The Commission sees as prudent the Session having a robust discussion with the session of Mr. Enas's new congregation in order to help them in their task of shepherding.

Regarding the queries and stipulations that the Session gave to Mr. Enas should he desire to stay at CCRP, the Commission finds that these are both appropriate and necessary for the peace of the congregation moving forward.

The Commission notes that both in the complaint of GLG 22-15 and in discussion with the signers of 22-15, the complainants have stated that it would be wrong to trust the Session, because the Bible says "not to trust in man". While it is true that we ought not to put our trust in princes, it is a shocking assertion that we ought not to trust any men, especially those that have been ordained to the office in the manner prescribed by our denominational standards. There is a world of difference between trusting elders, and putting trust in princes.

Without a basic level of trust, there can be nothing but division and quarreling. The absence of trust means suspicion of the Session: suspicion of their motives, of their actions, of their abilities. This open suspicion and lack of trust (which is clearly observable by the Commission) has bred a lack of respect for the elders, which has no place in God's church.

Regarding accepting the Reconciliation Committee's work, Mr. Enas has declared that he is not yet reconciled to the Session, even after a full confession of specific sins by the Session has been made on April 10, and Mr. Enas has offered his forgiveness in writing. BOD 3.3 tells us, "If the sinner confesses and repents, there must be forgiveness and reconciliation, and the matter shall be closed. You have won your brother. Such closure may include counsel or censure appropriate to the circumstances."

The Reconciliation Committee wrote in a March 26 letter, "As the elders are already following the steps of reconciliation, there is no reason why the entire congregation should not be united and reconciled." Mr. Enas, however, has expressed that he does not agree with the Reconciliation Committee on this and other points. The Commission finds Mr. Enas' lack of reconciliation at this point very concerning.

The Bible warns in passages such as 2 Timothy 3:2-3 of those who are "unappeasable" (ESV) or "unforgiving" (NKJV). The intent behind the Greek word here, ἄσπρονδοι, is one who is unwilling or unable to be reconciled – defined as 'admitting of no truce; implacable' or 'Of one who is unwilling to negotiate a solution to a problem involving a second party, irreconcilable.' Mr. Enas appears to have put himself in this position of being "irreconcilable", which is a dangerous place, and the Commission counsels Mr. Enas to give careful thought and prayer to his situation.

The Commission believes that the May 23 letter was a reasonable and wise communication for the good of Mr. Enas, the congregation of CCRP, for the peace, purity and progress of the church.

## **Response to 22-15**

The Commission, responding to communication 22-15 (the complaint signed by Mr. Enas and others against the Session's May 23 Letter), notes the following:

The Commission rejects the 4 points from page 1 of the complaint:

1. Contrary to the claim in 22-15, the Session is not seeking to dismiss Mr. Enas, but to work with him to shepherd him to a congregation where he can hold his membership vows in good conscience.
2. Contrary to the claim in 22-15, the Session is not asking Mr. Enas to give "unqualified" trust to the Session. Though during discussion at the May 23 meeting, one elder used the adjective "unqualified", he retracted the word when he saw his meaning was not being understood. As discussed above, the signers of the complaint have stated that they do not believe it is right to "trust men" whether qualified or not. The Commission finds that the Session's questions to Mr. Enas to be affirmed ("*Do you trust the CCRP Session to shepherd you and your family, and do you have confidence in its ability to shepherd Christ Church Reformed Presbyterian?...*") are reasonable expressions of trust that are necessary and essential to healthy congregational life.
3. Contrary to the claim in 22-15, the Commission rejects the assertion that Mr. Enas was given an "unbiblical ultimatum". The Session has the authority to ask Mr. Enas to fulfill his membership vows, but first they offered a solution that they hoped might solve the problem.
4. Contrary to 22-15, the Commission rejects the claim that the Session's requirements for Mr. Enas, should he decide to stay at CCRP, are "unbiblical and ungodly". Specifically:
  - To be reconciled over a matter that has been settled and forgiveness offered – as discussed above, is a Biblical and confessional requirement.
  - To fulfill membership vow #5 by giving to the Lord's work of the CCRP congregation - "Contribute financially to the work of CCRP" is described by the complainants in 22-15 as a "dangerous requirement". This is not a dangerous requirement; it is a biblical requirement. Galatians 6:6; 1 Timothy 5:18. To argue, as was explained to the Commission that membership vow #5 wherein members promise to "give to the Lord's work as he shall prosper [them]" does not mean specifically the local church where they hold their membership is to twist the meaning and intent of those words.
  - To cease recording interactions without consent is a basic courtesy that is within the Session's purview to require.
  - To inform the Session in the future of the source and content of your counsel "from other presbyters if you believe the Session is not responding appropriately" is narrowly focused on who from ("presbyters") and when ("if you believe the Session is not responding appropriately") counsel is received. This requirement is prudent to avoid future occurrences of past contentions and allow Session to exercise Proverbs 18:17 with fellow presbyters.

Given the above reasoning, the Commission does not sustain complaint 22-15.

### **Final Words**

Presbytery has provided a Reconciliation Committee to assist CCRP in the work of reconciliation. Following their work, a Shepherding Committee was appointed to provide ongoing encouragement in the recommendations of the Reconciliation Committee. This Commission has been appointed by Presbytery to take action on communications 22-14 and 22-15, which has been addressed above. The Commission writes this to affirm Presbytery's concern for CCRP and its desire that the congregation now lay aside its grievances, having received Presbytery's decision.

Since a portion of the Commission's remit includes "...any other appropriate and necessary actions to resolve issues raised by communication GLG 22-14", we understand that the Session, the interim pastoral assistant and the congregation may continue to require additional counsel and care as you move past these issues and once again take up the full ministry to members, adherents and your community.

It should be an encouragement to the congregation that your Session is trustworthy and faithfully laboring for your continued spiritual development. They have been growing in knowledge and righteousness and have been working hard to lead this congregation well. As you consider the Commission's findings and counsel, the Commission again charges the congregation to:

- Rejoice in the Lord;
- Let your gentle spirit be known to all men;
- Be anxious for nothing, but pray; and
- Expect the Lord to bring the peace that guards our hearts and minds in Christ, and
- While you wait expectantly on the Lord, love the brethren fervently.

Praying with you for the peace of Zion,

The CCRP Commission

Bryan Dage,  
Steve Sturm,  
Jonathan Schaefer, Moderator

## Appendix: Background

Listed below are a sequence of Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery (GLGP) formal communications and actions related to Christ Church Reformed Presbyterian (CCRP) since November 2020.

November 20, 2020 **GLGP Communication 20-12**, Nathan Enas letter to GLGP alleging "...your work of discipline in the case of Dr. LeFebvre remains incomplete..."

2021 GLGP Spring Meeting – Adopted: "That presbytery defer any consideration of GLG 20-12 until all relevant complaints have been adjudicated by the synod."

2021 GLGP Fall Meeting – Adopted: "That presbytery return GLG 20-12 to its author, Mr. Enas, along with a copy of GLG 21-10 to relay the relevant synod decision(s) on the matter raised in his letter."

October 20, 2021 **GLGP Communication 21-11**, Enas and Swan petition to GLGP several allegations are stated including "...the CCRP Session failed to properly shepherd Michael...the CCRP Session neglected to properly shepherd the flock of God at CCRP..." includes a petition that GLGP form a committee "to investigate our concerns, provide counsel to both Session and concerned members of Christ Church Reformed Presbyterian pursuant to reconciliation, and report back with any pertinent recommendations..."

2021 GLG Fall Meeting – Adopted: "That the moderator appoint a three-person committee to hear from the authors of 21-11 and the session to pursue reconciliation, and report back to the Spring meeting."

March 4, 2022 Christ Church Reconciliation Committee (CCRP) reports and communication surrounding the 2022 GLGP Spring Meeting:

February 11, 2022 CCRP Reconciliation Committee Report - original distribution

February 14, 2022 Enas and Swan email re "Follow up to CCRC Report to Presbytery -- response requested"  
"...we would like to briefly summarize one hurtful point and ask you to take corrective action..."

February 28, 2022 CCRP Reconciliation Committee Report - revised distribution

2022 GLGP Spring Meeting – Adopted: "That a two-man Shepherding Committee be appointed to meet at least every other month (either in- person, or by phone, Zoom, etc.) until either the next spring meeting of Presbytery or until a Pastor is installed at CCRP (whichever comes first), in order to aid and encourage both parties in following through with reconciliation; That the Presbytery pray for the strength, purity, unity, and peace of Christ Church Reformed Presbyterian — particularly that both the Session and the Enas and Swan families would be humble and find reconciliation through the powerful work of the Gospel in their lives; That this report be received by Presbytery; That this Committee be dismissed."

March 26, 2022 Dissolved Reconciliation Committee writes a letter to the CCRP congregation answering questions about the changes made to the report two days



before the GLGP Spring Meeting. At the end of the report, they state, “As the elders are already following the steps of reconciliation, there is no reason why the entire congregation should not be united and reconciled.” (GLGP 22-15, Appendix D)

April 28, 2022 **GLGP Communication 22-13**, Enas and Swan charges of sin  
“Attached you will find charges of sin against a member of your court, Rev. James Faris.”

2022 GLGP Meeting at Synod – Adopted: “That presbytery rule that the evidence presented in GLG 22-13 is insufficient to warrant a trial for a censurable offense”

July 30, 2022 Enas et al submit a complaint re GLGP’s action to Synod  
“We, the undersigned, wish to register a complaint regarding the ... action of the Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery (GLGP), on June 21, 2022...”

May 23, 2022 CCRP Session delivers a letter of counsel to Nathan Enas in person at a session meeting.

May 28, 2022 **GLGP Communication 22-14**, CCRP Session requests the Ad Interim Commission (AIC) appoint a presbytery commission for outside assistance  
“We would like to call on our brethren for assistance in this time of great difficulty for the congregation. This is an urgent matter. We have reached an inflection point in the life of the congregation, and the next steps may determine the future existence of the congregation, and/or whether the Session can continue to serve.”

June 10, 2022 GLGP AIC appoints CCRP Commission  
“It was moved, seconded, and passed, to appoint a three-member commission of presbytery  
(i) to investigate issues raised by Christ Church RPC (“CCRPC”) by communication GLG 22-14,  
(ii) to seek reconciliation, and  
(iii) to take any other appropriate and necessary actions to resolve issues raised by communication GLG 22-14.”

June 12, 2022 **GLGP Communication 22-15**, Enas et al complaint against CCRP Session  
“We, the undersigned, wish to file a complaint regarding an action of the Session of Christ Church Reformed Presbyterian (CCRP), which occurred on May 23, 2022 at a Session meeting.”

2022 GLGP Meeting at Synod – Adopted: “That presbytery refer GLG 22-15 (Complaint v. CCRP Session) to the Christ Church Commission for adjudication.”

August 5-6, 2022 Commission visits CCRP



## **CHILD PROTECTION POLICY GREAT LAKES – GULF PRESBYTERY (RPCNA)**

The Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery takes the protection of her covenant children very seriously. The Covenant of Baptism, noting that children are a possession of God entrusted to the care of his or her parents, requires watchful protection of covenant children by the entire church.

*Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven."  
~ Matthew 19:14 ~*

# **CHILD PROTECTION POLICY GREAT LAKES – GULF PRESBYTERY (RPCNA)**

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## I. INTRODUCTION AND THEOLOGICAL FOUNDATION

### A. Purpose

These procedures and policies have been developed to ensure a safe, loving environment conducive to the protection and care of children during youth ministry programs of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery (GLGP) of the RPCNA.

### B. Biblical Mandate

**Matthew 19:14** - Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.”

**John 21:15** – So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?” He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.” He said to him, “Feed My lambs.”

**Ephesians 5:3** - But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God’s holy people.

### C. Confessional Foundation

**Confession of Faith 1.6** – . . . There are some circumstances concerning the worship of God, and government of the Church, common to human actions and societies, which are to be ordered by the light of nature and Christian prudence, according to the general rules of the Word, which are always to be observed.

**Testimony XXIV.30** – Education of children is primarily the responsibility of parents, though they may delegate part of this responsibility to the church or other agencies . . .

**Directory for Church Government I.8** – Members should willingly consecrate their talents and gifts to the service of Christ. They should prayerfully consider accepting a position in the church when called to do so.

## II. SCOPE AND DEFINITIONS

### A. The Scope of This Policy

This Policy applies to GLGP programs for youth under the age of 18. This Policy provides basic guidelines that are to be read and interpreted in light of the Constitution of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America. Those responsible for presbytery youth programs may create additional or stricter procedures.

The policy applies as well to vulnerable adults.

## **B. Definitions of Key Terms**

- 1) **Child Abuse** – Child neglect, child physical abuse, or child sexual abuse.
  - a) **Child Neglect** – Depriving a minor of his or her essential needs, such as adequate food, water, shelter, safety, and medical care.
  - b) **Child Physical Abuse** – Any use of violence or threats of violence toward a minor, apart from the proper and biblical sphere of a parent’s loving and corrective discipline of their child.
  - c) **Child Sexual Abuse** – Any contact or interaction (visual, verbal, or emotional) between a minor and another person in which the minor is being used for the sexual arousal, molestation, or gratification of the perpetrator or any other person.
- 2) **Event Staff (“Staff”)** – Anyone eighteen (18) years of age or older who is approved to administer a GLGP youth program under the terms of this Policy.
- 3) **Presbytery Youth Leadership (“Leadership”)** – Any GLGP-sanctioned leadership of an official GLGP youth program (e.g., Covfamikoι Director, Youth Secretary, Youth Committee).
- 4) **Volunteer.** Any adult (18 years or older) or youth, ages 13-17 year of age, approved under this policy to assist in the care of youth at a GLGP youth program.
- 5) **Vulnerable Adult** – Any person 18 years of age or older who is unable to legally consent, unable to comprehend, or is otherwise particularly susceptible to coercion or abuse (e.g., those who are mentally or physically disabled).
- 6) **Youth (a.k.a., children, minors).** Those the age of 18 years of age or younger.

## **III. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

### **A. Selection of Workers**

Only approved and Staff and Volunteers may serve in the various youth ministries of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery.

- 1) In order to be eligible to serve as Staff, a person must:
  - a) Be aged eighteen (18) years of older;
  - b) Be a communicant member in good standing of a congregation of the RPCNA for the past six months;

- c) Submit the Youth Ministry Application and Disclosure Form (see Appendix B) to event leadership; and
  - d) Complete a criminal background check through the Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery's MinistrySafe account;
  - e) Satisfy the training requirements of event leadership.
- 2) In order to be eligible to serve as a Volunteer, a person must:
- a) be at least 13 years old;
  - b) be a member in good standing of an RPCNA congregation; and
  - c) must remain under Staff supervision.

### **B. Maintenance of Records**

Staff and Volunteer applications, disclosure statements, and up-to-date background checks are to be stored in the Presbytery's MinistrySafe Account.

### **C. Supervision and Visibility**

- 1) Wherever possible, a ratio of 1 Staff or Volunteer to every 12 students should be maintained during any presbytery youth programming. For children five and younger, Leadership should make every reasonable effort to achieve a ratio of approximately 1 adult for every 8 children.
- 2) Regardless of group size, Leadership must assign at least one approved adult who must be present with any group of youth at all times.
- 3) Where there are only two Staff or Volunteers in a group, they must be from different households.
- 4) Some youth classes or small groups may have only one approved adult in attendance during the class session. In this case, there should be no fewer than three students with the adult teacher. In addition, designated personnel should be on call to provide supervision and assistance as needed.
- 5) Clear visibility should be maintained at all times, and doors left unlocked while rooms are in use.
- 6) Personnel should avoid being alone with a child in a room.
- 7) Two or more personnel designated by Leadership may speak with a single child when appropriate (e.g., for counseling or discipline) as long as clear visibility is maintained and any doors left open or unlocked.

8) Staff and Volunteers should engage in active supervision while youth are under their care.

#### **D) Restroom Guidelines**

1) *Children five years of age and younger* should use a classroom bathroom if one is available. If a classroom bathroom is not available, personnel should escort children in a group, never taking a child to the bathroom alone. Personnel should check the bathroom first to make sure that it is empty, and then allow the children inside. Personnel should then remain outside the bathroom door and escort the children back to the classroom.

2) If a child is taking longer than seems necessary or calls for help, Staff should assist, but leave doors open.

3) *For youth over the age of five*, when possible, at least one male Staff or Volunteer should take two or more boys to the restroom and at least one female Staff or Volunteer should take two or more girls. The worker should then remain outside the bathroom door and escort the youth back to the classroom when the youth are done.

#### **E) Check-in and Check-out**

Presbytery Youth Leadership will create a process for children fifth grade and younger to be signed in and out only by a child's parents/guardians, or individuals approved by them who are at least 13 years of age or older.

#### **F) Discipline**

1) Correction should be calm, respectful, and discrete; it should not be harsh or belittling.

2) Staff will not administer physical discipline and will only restrain a child if judged necessary to prevent physical injury.

3) Parents should be contacted for any serious or persistent discipline issues.

4) Staff may restrict participation in particular activities. Decisions about suspension or expulsion from a program will be made by Leadership.

#### **G) Transportation of Children**

1) It is the responsibility of parents, not Staff or Leadership, to secure transportation to and from events.

2) During an event, if transportation is required, before a Youth may ride in a staff member's personal vehicle, the driver must be approved by Leadership and the parents must give consent. Staff must also possess adequate liability insurance.

3) When youth are transported during events for presbytery youth activities, they shall be transported in groups of three or more youth, with at least one Approved Adult in each vehicle.

#### **H) Overnight Trips**

Boys and girls should be lodged separately, with at least two male Staff for the boys and two female Staff for the girls.

#### **I) Sick Children**

It is our desire to provide a healthy and safe environment for all involved in presbytery youth programs. To that end, parents will be encouraged to be considerate and not to have their children participate if they have common symptoms of a contagious illness (e.g., fever, vomiting, diarrhea).

Youth who are observed by Staff to be ill will be separated to the extent possible and their parent or guardian will be asked to pick the child up.

#### **J) Medications**

1) Except in a medical emergency, Staff will not administer either prescription or non-prescription medications to the children under their care absent a plan that includes prior written consent. Nor may children administer any medications to themselves or others absent a plan that includes prior written consent. In no case may one child share a medication with another child.

2) Families participating in a youth program will be required to complete a Medical Release Form. Leadership or Staff will work with families to have a medical action plan on file for youth with a known condition that may require treatment during an event (e.g., need for an inhaler or epi-pen).

#### **K) Accidental Injury**

In the event that a child is injured while under our care, the following steps should be followed:

a) For minor injuries, scrapes, and bruises, Volunteers will provide basic first aid (Band-Aids, etc.) as appropriate and will notify the child's parent or guardian of the injury at the time the child is picked up from our care.

b) For injuries requiring medical treatment beyond simple First Aid, the parent(s) and/or guardian will immediately be summoned by Staff in



addition to Leadership (or designee). If Staff or Leadership judge necessary, an ambulance will be called.

c) For injuries requiring treatment by a medical profession, Leadership will ensure relevant personnel complete an incident report.

#### **L) Training**

Leadership must review the child protection policy with Staff.

#### **M) Communicating the Presbytery Child Protection Policy**

This Policy is to be made available to anyone attending a GLGP youth program.

### **IV. REPORTING SUSPECTED ABUSE**

- A) Anyone suspecting abuse or neglect must report that suspected abuse or neglect to the relevant authorities as required under applicable law.
- B) Anyone suspecting that abuse has occurred during a presbytery youth program and involving a participant should immediately notify Leadership so that the matter may be responded to in a timely manner and reasonable precautions be taken.
- C) Leadership will promptly seek to ascertain the basic facts.
- D) Unless there is clear and immediate indication that the accusation is without merit, then Leadership will relieve the suspected offender of all responsibilities involving contact with youth, pending further review. Leadership will implement measures to separate the alleged offender from the alleged victim for the duration of the presbytery event, as well as to prevent unsupervised contact by the accused with other youth.
- E) Once leadership has conducted its initial inquiry and taken initial steps to safeguard potential victims, leadership will promptly notify the parents or guardians of any youth involved, whether an alleged abuser or an alleged victim.
- F) Leadership will notify the chairman of the Ad Interim Commission (AIC) of the Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery (GLGP), which will ensure that the GLGP's insurance carrier is notified, as well as the moderators of the sessions of the parties to the allegations.
- G) Any other initial steps taken in response to an allegation of child abuse or neglect will be directed by the AIC (e.g., designating a media spokesperson), consistent with its authority and the *Constitution of the RPCNA*.
- H) All steps taken by presbytery leadership will be documented and will be taken without undue delay.

- I) All communications related to any alleged child abuse or neglect shall attempt to protect the dignity and privacy of those involved, including the alleged child victim and the person suspected of child abuse, while at the same time ensuring that those responsible for addressing the situation, including civil authorities, remain fully informed. The identities of minors will be withheld and protected.
  
- J) Presbytery will seek forgiveness and reconciliation in Christ between all parties involved in an investigation or trial, and the restoration of the penitent to communicant membership in the Church, in accord with the *Constitution of the RPCNA*.

## **V. APPENDIX A: STATE REQUIREMENTS FOR REPORTING ABUSE**

*Below are online resources from each state's (under the jurisdiction of the Great Lake Gulf Presbytery) government outlining mandatory reporting requirements and giving points of contact for each state for reporting at the time of this writing; links and information may be updated and should be checked for the most up-to-date information. Furthermore, [www.childwelfare.gov](http://www.childwelfare.gov) provides a centralized library for state laws and handbooks.*

### **Alabama**

<https://dhr.alabama.gov/child-protective-services/written-report-of-suspected-child-abuse-neglect-for-mandated-reporters/>

### **Florida**

<https://www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/abuse-hotline/>

### **Georgia**

<https://cps.dhs.ga.gov/Main/Default.aspx>

### **Illinois**

<https://www2.illinois.gov/dcfs/safekids/reporting/Pages/index.aspx>

### **Indiana**

<https://www.in.gov/dcs/contact-us/child-abuse-and-neglect-hotline/>

### **Kentucky**

<https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dCBS/dpp/cpb/Pages/default.aspx>

### **Michigan**

[https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-73971\\_7119\\_50648\\_44443-157836--,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-73971_7119_50648_44443-157836--,00.html)

### **North Carolina**

<https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/social-services/child-welfare-services/child-protective-services/about-child-abuse-and-child-neglect>

### **Ohio**

<https://jfs.ohio.gov/ocf/reportchildabuseandneglect.stm>

### **South Carolina**

<https://dss.sc.gov/child-well-being/report-child-abuse-and-neglect/>

### **Tennessee**

<https://www.tn.gov/dcs/program-areas/child-safety/reporting/faqs.html>

**VI. APPENDIX B: FORMS**  
**YOUTH MINISTRY STAFF APPLICATION FORM**  
**GREAT LAKES – GULF PRESBYTERY (RPCNA)**

*All information on this application will be kept confidential. If you have any questions about the application, please call or email the Presbytery Youth Leadership overseeing the event.*

**I. Basic Information**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_ SSN: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

How many years have you been a communicant member of the RPCNA? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you currently a communicant member of the RPCNA in good standing? \_\_\_\_\_

Current Congregation: \_\_\_\_\_

**II. Experience**

Describe any relevant experience working with youth.

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List any involvement you have had in youth programs in the last 5 years.

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Program</i>	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Contact (email/phone)</i>
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

**III. Character References**

Applicants must include a letter of recommendation from a member of their session.

In addition, list two individuals who can attest to your character and, if possible, have observed your interactions with children and youth. References must be 18 or older and may not be members of your household.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Relationship</i>	<i>Phone</i>	<i>Email</i>

**IV. History**

Have you ever been: *(circle one)*

- Arrested for any reason? Yes / No
- Convicted of, or pleaded no contest to, any crime involving minors? Yes / No
- Convicted of, or pleaded no contest to, a moving violation in the last 3 years? Yes / No

Is there any reason why you should not work with minors? Yes / No

\*If the answer to any of these questions is “Yes,” please explain on a separate sheet of paper.

**V. Affirmations**

Place your initials on each line.

\_\_\_\_\_ I have carefully read the GLGP Child Protection Policy.

\_\_\_\_\_ I recognize that the GLGP is relying upon the accuracy of the information contained herein. Accordingly, I attest and affirm that all the information that I have provided is completely true and correct, to the best of my knowledge.

\_\_\_\_\_ I authorize GLGP to contact any person or entity listed in this application and I further authorize any such person or entity to provide GLGP with information, opinions, and impressions relating to my background or qualifications.

\_\_\_\_\_ I further authorize GLGP to conduct a criminal background investigation and/or child abuse investigation if further investigation is deemed necessary.

\_\_\_\_\_ I voluntarily release GLGP and any such organization or entity listed herein by me from liability involving the communication of information relating to my background or qualifications.

**VI. Attachments**

Please remember to include the following with this application form:

1. A copy of your driver's license.
2. *(If necessary)* Explanation of answers.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Applicant Signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Parent/Guardian Signature (if applicant is under 18)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

*For Administrative Use Only*

Date Submitted and Received: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Background Check Submitted: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Background Check Results Received: \_\_\_\_\_

Application Approved \_\_\_\_\_                      Application Denied \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Application Approval or Denial \_\_\_\_\_

**MEDICAL RELEASE FORM**  
**GREAT LAKES – GULF PRESBYTERY (RPCNA)**  
*THIS INFORMATION WILL BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery Youth Program

\_\_\_\_\_  
Child's Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Birth

M F  
Sex

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's/Guardian's Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's/Guardian's Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's/Guardian's Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's/Guardian's Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

**Alternative Emergency Contacts**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Primary Emergency Contact

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secondary Emergency Contact

\_\_\_\_\_  
Primary Contact Phone Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secondary Contact Phone Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Primary Contact Street Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secondary Contact Street Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Primary Contact City, State, Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secondary Contact City, State, Zip

**Medical Information**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Hospital/Clinic Preference

\_\_\_\_\_  
Physician's Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Physician's Phone Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Insurance Company

\_\_\_\_\_  
Policy Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Allergies/Special Health Considerations

I authorize all medical and surgical treatment, X-ray, laboratory, anesthesia, and other medical and/or hospital procedures as may be performed or prescribed by the attending physician and/or paramedics for my child and waive my right to informed consent of treatment. This waiver applies only in the event that neither parent/guardian can be reached in the case of an emergency.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's/Guardian's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

I give permission for my child to attend the youth program of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery. I release the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery and individuals from liability in case of accident during activities related to the youth program as long as normal safety procedures have been taken.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's/Guardian's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

*For Administrative Use Only*

Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_