

The Great Lakes-Gulf
Presbytery (RPCNA)
Official Meeting Minutes

CLERK

Rev. Adam Kuehner
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ASST. CLERK

Elder Dale Koons
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(317)228-9522

TIME & PLACE

Time: Friday May 11 from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Place: R.P.C. of Southside Indianapolis
6969 S. Meridian St. Indianapolis, IN 46217

Phone: (317) 787-1211

SCHEDULE

Business Session 1A (12:00 - 2:30p)

Mid-Aft. Break (2:30 - 2:45p)

Business Session 1B (2:45 - 5:00p)

Extension if Necessary (5:00 - 6:00p)

BUSINESS ITEMS

The Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery met on May 11, 2018 at 12:00 p.m. to conduct Mr. Joel Hart's ordination exams along with various other business items.

1. CALL TO ORDER / PRAYER OF CONSTITUTION

- Mr. Knodel called the court to order at 12:09 p.m. and constituted the court in prayer.
- It was moved, seconded, and passed to appoint Mr. Knodel moderator *pro tem* until the arrival of the moderator.
- The moderator, Mr. Anderson, arrived almost immediately after the prayer and took the chair as moderator.

2. ROLL CALL

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

3. CLERK'S REPORT

- The clerk, Mr. Kuehner, issued a call for papers, as well as any remaining Session or TGB Minute books for review.
- The Southfield minutes were submitted for review by two delegates to appointed by the moderator.
- The proposed agenda for the meeting was adopted by common consent.
- It was moved, seconded, and passed to receive the clerk's report.

4. AD INTERIM COMMISSION REPORT

- Mr. Kuehner presented an oral report from the Ad Interim Commission, bringing the lone recommendation from its 3/28/18 minutes.
- The recommendation¹ passed.
- It was moved, seconded, and passed to receive the report.

5. SELMA COMMITTEE REPORT

- Mr. Blankenship presented an oral report on behalf of the Selma Committee.
- It was moved, seconded, and passed **to enter executive session.**
- It was moved, seconded, and passed **(1)** That this presbytery thank the Selma Session for their gracious understanding of the difficulties surrounding the recent floor exams of Andre Pickens, and for the loving candor with which they have helped us to recognize points where we failed to guard against sin in the midst of those exams. **(2)** That this presbytery express our love to Andre and Katherine Pickens, our desire for the Lord's best in their lives, and our deep sorrow that we allowed certain inappropriate questions to be posed during Andre's recent presbytery floor examination; that we pray for our Lord to forgive us and that we ask Andre also to forgive us.
- Mr. Olivetti called upon God's name in prayer, on behalf of the court, asking for His forgiveness.

¹ That a committee of three, appointed by the moderator, consider how the language in our DCG respecting the departure of a teaching elder (D-22) might be improved so as to clarify its application to congregations with more than one teaching elder, and report back with a recommendation to the Spring 2019 meeting.

- It was moved, seconded, and passed **to leave executive session.**
- It was moved, seconded, and passed to receive the report.

6. CANDIDATES AND CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT

- Mr. Olivetti presented the Candidates and Credentials Committee Report.
- Recommendation 1 passed.²

A. PERSONAL GODLINESS EXAM — Mr. Jay Dharan

- Mr. Olivetti invited Mr. Dharan forward to receive his personal godliness exam from Mr. David Hanson, after which comments on the exam were received from the floor.
- The exam was unanimously sustained by a roll call vote.

B. ORDINATION SERMON EXAM — Mr. Joel Hart

- Mr. Olivetti invited Mr. Hart forward to preach his ordination sermon from Romans 9 on God's Mercy in Election, after which Psalm 4B was sung to the praise of God, and comments were received from the floor.
- The exam was unanimously sustained by a roll call vote.

C. PERSONAL GODLINESS & SOUNDNESS IN THE FAITH EXAM — Mr. Joel Hart

- Mr. Olivetti invited Mr. Hart forward to answer examination questions from the floor concerning (1) Personal Godliness and (2) Soundness in the Faith and Commitment to the Reformed Presbyterian Testimony.
- Both exams were unanimously sustained by a roll call vote.

D. ORDINATION VOTE & EDICT — Mr. Joel Hart

- Mr. Hart's ordination was unanimously sustained by a roll call vote.
- It was moved, seconded, and passed that Mr. Hart's ordination be held at Second RPC on Monday, June 25 at 7:00 p.m., according to the official edict of ordination and installation.³

BREAK: The court recessed for its mid-afternoon break at 2:18 p.m., and reconvened at 2:36 p.m.

APPOINTMENT: Mr. Platt was appointed to serve as parliamentarian along with Mr. Pockras.

E. EXPOSITORY SERMON 1 EXAM — Mr. Zach Smith

- Mr. Olivetti invited Mr. Smith forward to preach his Expository 1 sermon from Isaiah 42:1-4 on the saving mercy of King Jesus, after which Psalm 22E was sung to the praise of God, and comments were received from the floor.
- The exam was sustained by a roll call vote.

F. SYSTEMATICS & DISTINCTIVES 1 EXAM — Mr. Andrew Battiato

- Mr. Olivetti invited Mr. Battiato forward to receive his Systematics & Distinctives 1 exam from Mr. Andy McCracken, after which questions were answered from the floor, comments were received.
- The exam was sustained by a roll call vote.

G. LICENSURE TO PREACH THE GOSPEL — Mr. Andrew Battiato

- Mr. Battiato affirmed the licensure queries, after which it was moved, seconded, and passed to entertain a time of discussion on the floor regarding Mr. Battiato's licensure to preach the gospel.
- Mr. Battiato's licensure to preach the gospel was unanimously sustained by a roll call vote.
- Mr. Faris called upon God's name in prayer, licensing Mr. Battiato to preach the gospel in the name and by the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ, Zion's only King and Head.
- Mr. Faris issued a charge to Mr. Battiato regarding the privileges and responsibilities of licensure.

H. SYSTEMATICS & DISTINCTIVES 1 EXAM — Mr. Zach Smith

² That the student exams at this meeting of presbytery be conducted according to the schedule above.

³ **EDICT:** The Great Lakes–Gulf Presbytery has received a call made by the Second Reformed Presbyterian Church upon Joel Hart to be their associate pastor, and has sustained it as a regular gospel call. Mr. Hart has accepted the call. Notice is hereby given that Monday, the 25th day of June in the year 2018 has been fixed as the time for his ordination and installation, with certification that the Presbytery will proceed in the same, unless some valid objections be offered to the Presbytery. The meeting for the ordination and installation will be held at 7 p.m., at Second Reformed Presbyterian Church, 4800 N. Michigan Rd., Indianapolis, Indiana, 46228. Given this 11th day of May in the year 2018, by order of the Presbytery.

- Mr. Olivetti invited Mr. Smith forward to receive his Systematics & Distinctives 1 exam from Mr. Roberts, after which questions were answered from the floor, and comments were received.
- The exam was unanimously sustained by a roll call vote.

MOTION TO EXTEND: It was moved, seconded, and passed to extend the time to complete the remaining student exams.

I. EXPOSITORY SERMON 1 EXAM — Mr. Gary McNamee

- Mr. Olivetti invited Mr. McNamee forward to preach his Expository 1 sermon from Luke 11:1-13 on God's promise to hear and answer the prayers of His children, after which comments were received from the floor.
- The exam was unanimously sustained by a roll call vote.

J. CHURCH HISTORY PAPER — Mr. Gary McNamee

- Mr. Olivetti invited Mr. Gregory forward to summarize the findings of the committee to review Mr. McNamee's church history paper, after which comments were received from the floor.
- The paper was sustained by a voice vote.

K. LICENSURE TO PREACH THE GOSPEL — Mr. Gary McNamee

- Following his affirmation of the licensure queries, Mr. McNamee's licensure to preach the gospel was unanimously sustained by a roll call vote, after which he signed the queries.
- Mr. Gregory called upon God's name in prayer, licensing Mr. McNamee to preach the gospel in the name and by the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ, Zion's only King and Head.
- Mr Gregory issued a charge to Mr. McNamee regarding the privileges and responsibilities of licensure.

L. CONCLUSION OF REPORT — Mr. Olivetti

- Mr. Olivetti updated the court on the Midwest Presbytery's response to the recent letter sent to them by this presbytery regarding Mr. Brian Schwertley.
- It was moved, seconded, and passed to receive the Candidates and Credentials Committee Report.

7. MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

- Mr. Rao addressed the court regarding the ongoing work of the gospel at the RP mission church in Bangalore, India.
- Mr. Pockras exhorted the court to prepare diligently for this year's Synod in Marion, Indiana.

8. ADJOURNMENT

- It was moved, seconded, and passed to adjourn the meeting.
- Mr. Kuehner read the minutes, after which it was moved, seconded, and passed to approve them as amended.
- Mr. Anderson adjourned the court in prayer at 6:02 p.m.

Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery
Special Meeting
May 11, 2018
South Side Reformed Presbyterian
Indianapolis, Indiana

			ATTENDANCE D-Delegate ND- Not Delegate	Jay Dharan Personal Godliness Exam
Church	KEY	First Last Name		
Atlanta Presbyterian Fellowship	TE	Frank J. Smith	PRESENT, D	Sustain
Bell Center RPC	TE	Phillip Pockras	PRESENT, D	Sustain
Bloomington RPC	TE	Richard Holdeman	PRESENT, D	Sustain
Christ Church RP	TE	Michael LeFebvre	PRESENT, D	Sustain
Christ Church RP	RE	Duane Judd	PRESENT, D	Sustain
Christ Church RP	RE	Dale Koons	PRESENT, D	Sustain
Columbus RPC	TE	Andrew McCracken	PRESENT, D	Sustain
Columbus RPC	RE	Gary McNamee	PRESENT, D	Sustain
Grand Rapids First RPC	RE	Craig Scott	PRESENT, D	Sustain
Indianapolis Second RPC	TE	James Faris	PRESENT, D	Sustain
Indianapolis Second RPC	RE	Richard Blankenship	PRESENT, D	Sustain
Indianapolis Second RPC	RE	Dennis Prutow	PRESENT, D	Sustain
Indianapolis Second RPC	RE	Ram Rao	PRESENT, ND	
Indianapolis Second RPC	RE	Russ Pulliam	PRESENT, D	Sustain
Indianapolis Southside RPC	TE	David Hanson	PRESENT, D	Sustain
Indianapolis Southside RPC	TE	John Hanson	PRESENT, D	Sustain
Indianapolis Southside RPC	RE	Jerry Porter	PRESENT, D	Sustain
Kokomo-Sycamore RPC	TE	Shawn Anderson	PRESENT, D	Sustain
Marion RPC	TE	Jason Camery	PRESENT, D	Sustain
Mason-Southwest Ohio RPC	TE	Dick Knodel, Jr.	PRESENT, D	Sustain
Mason-Southwest Ohio RPC	RE	Gregory Scott Damerow	PRESENT, D	Sustain
Mason-Southwest Ohio RPC	RE	Steven Work	PRESENT, D	Sustain
Southfield RPC	TE	Adam Kuehner	PRESENT, D	Sustain
Terre Haute Mission Church	TE	Bill Roberts	PRESENT, D	Sustain
West Lafayette-Immanuel RPC	TE	Jared Olivetti	PRESENT, D	Sustain
MINISTERS WITHOUT PASTORATE	TE	George Gregory	PRESENT, D	Sustain
MINISTERS WITHOUT PASTORATE	TE	Keith Magill	PRESENT, D	Sustain
RETIRED	TE	Richard Johnston	PRESENT, ND	
RETIRED	TE	Gordon Keddie	PRESENT, ND	
RETIRED	TE	James McMahon	PRESENT, D	Sustain
Total Delegates			27	Sustain 27
Total Non-Delegates			3	Not Sustain 0
				Abstain 0
				Absent 0

Zach Smith Systematics & Distinctives 1 Exam	Gary McNamee Expository Sermon 1 Exam	Gary McNamee Licensure to Preach the Gospel
Sustain	Sustain	Sustain
Sustain	Sustain	Sustain
Absent	Absent	Absent
Sustain	Sustain	Absent
Sustain	Sustain	Sustain
Sustain	Sustain	Sustain
Sustain	Sustain	Sustain
Sustain	Abstain	Abstain
Sustain	Sustain	Sustain
Sustain	Sustain	Sustain
Sustain	Sustain	Sustain
Sustain	Sustain	Sustain
Absent	Absent	Absent
Absent	Absent	Absent
Sustain	Sustain	Sustain
Sustain	Sustain	Sustain
Sustain	Sustain	Sustain
Sustain	Sustain	Sustain
Sustain	Sustain	Sustain
Sustain	Sustain	Sustain
Sustain	Sustain	Sustain
Sustain	Sustain	Sustain
Sustain	Sustain	Sustain
Sustain	Sustain	Sustain
Sustain	Sustain	Sustain
Sustain	Sustain	Sustain
Sustain	Sustain	Sustain
Sustain	Sustain	Sustain
Sustain	Absent	Absent
Sustain	Sustain	Sustain
Sustain	Sustain	Sustain
Sustain	Absent	Absent
Sustain	Sustain	Absent
Sustain 24	Sustain 21	Sustain 19
Not Sustain 0	Not Sustain 0	Not Sustain 0
Abstain 0	Abstain 1	Abstain 1
Absent 3	Absent 5	Absent 7

GL/G Presbytery
May 11, 2018 Meeting

Candidates & Credentials Report

Fathers & Brothers,

At this meeting of presbytery, we are hoping to bring the following exams to the floor of presbytery.

Student	Exam	Time*	Examiner
Andrew Battiato	Systematic Theology & Distinctive Principles 1	20/10/5	Andy McCracken
	Licensure to Preach		
Jay Dharan	Personal Godliness	20/10/5	David Hanson
Zach Smith	Expository Sermon 1 - Isaiah 42:1-4	25/-/5	
	Systematic Theology & Distinctive Principles 1	20/10/5	Bill Roberts
Gary McNamee	Expository Sermon 1 - Luke 11:5-13		
	History Paper		Keith Evans, George Gregory
	Licensure to Preach		
Joel Hart	Sermon - Romans 9:14-24	25/-/5	
	Theology / Ministry / Godliness*	5/10/5	Jared Olivetti
	Vote to Ordain		

*For Joel's ordination exams on theology and godliness, we anticipate (1) asking him if he has changed any of his convictions since his previous exams and (2) opening questions to the floor. This exam style (similar to what we did with Venkatesh) allows us more efficiency for a busy meeting while still achieving the purpose of ordination exams of a man we know well.

Recommendation - That the student exams at this meeting of presbytery be conducted according to the schedule above.

In Christ's service,
The Candidates & Credentials Committee