

The Great Lakes-Gulf
Presbytery (RPCNA)
Official Meeting Minutes
November 29, 2018

CLERK

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

ASST. CLERK

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

TIME & PLACE

Time: Friday November 9 from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Place: Bloomington Reformed Presbyterian Church
302 E. First St. Indianapolis, IN 47401

Phone: 812-339-1922

SCHEDULE

Business Session 1 (9:00 - 12:30p)

Mid-AM Break (10:30 - 10:45a)

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

Dinner Break (5:00 - 6:15p)

Installation Service (7:00 - 9:00p)

By official edict of its Ad Interim Commission, the Great Lakes/Gulf Presbytery met at the Bloomington Reformed Presbyterian Church on Friday November 9, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. to conduct business and to solemnly install Rev. Philip McCollum as pastor in the Bloomington congregation.

1. CALL TO ORDER / PRAYER OF CONSTITUTION

The Moderator, Mr. Anderson, called the court to order at 9:00 a.m., after which Psalm 65A was sung to the praise of God, and the moderator called upon God's name in prayer, thereby constituting the court in the name and by the authority of Jesus Christ, the only King and Head of His Church.

2. ATTENDANCE (ROLL CALL)

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

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Holdeman addressed the court with various announcements and directives on behalf of the host congregation.

4. CLERK'S REPORT

The clerk, Mr. Kuehner, addressed the court regarding the importance of submitting reports two weeks in advance of a presbytery meeting

- It was moved, seconded, and passed to appoint Mr. Frank Smith and Mr. Pockras as parliamentarians for this meeting.
- It was moved, seconded, and passed to adopt the proposed agenda as amended to include a sensitive item from Second RPC which may require the court to enter executive session.
- It was moved, seconded, and passed to receive the oral report.

5. INTRODUCTION OF FIRST-TIME DELEGATES

The moderator invited first-time delegates and special guests forward to be introduced to the court.

- Mr. John Hanson introduced Mr. Ross Cerbus and Mr. David Kleyn, ruling elders from Southside RPC.
- Mr. Holdeman introduced Mr. Stephen Shipp, ruling elder from Bloomington RPC, and Rev. Philip McCollum, pastor-elect in the Bloomington congregation.
- Mr. Magill reintroduced Mr. Joshua Hall, a PCA Teaching Elder, who is laboring part-time in the Sparta congregation.
- Mr. Olivetti introduced Mr. Andrew Robison, who is interning at Immanuel RPC in West Lafayette, Indiana.

6. AD INTERIM COMMISSION REPORT

Mr. Kuehner, as moderator of the AIC, offered to answer any questions regarding the commission's recent decisions, after which no questions were received from the floor, and it was moved, seconded, and passed to receive the oral report.

7. ATLANTA COMMISSION REPORT

Mr. Niess assumed the moderator's chair as Mr. Anderson presented the report of the Atlanta Oversight Commission and answered questions from the floor.

- Mr. Frank Smith briefly addressed a question from the floor concerning the work in Atlanta.
- It was moved, seconded, and passed to receive the report, after which Mr. Anderson resumed the moderator's chair.

8. LAFAYETTE VISITATION REPORT

Mr. Roberts presented the Lafayette visitation report and received a comment from the floor, after which it was moved, seconded, and passed to receive the report.

9. CANDIDATES AND CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Olivetti addressed the court regarding the ongoing work of the Candidates and Credentials Committee, as well as the exams scheduled for this meeting, as noted in the written report.

- Recommendation 1¹ passed.
- Recommendation 2² passed, after which Mr. Joe Smith shared his testimony of God's grace and calling in his life, answered questions from Mr. Olivetti, and received a comment from the floor.
- Recommendation 3³ passed.

EXPOSITORY SERMON I EXAM — Mr. Jay Dharan

Mr. Olivetti invited Mr. Dharan forward to preach his Expository Sermon I, which is to be broadcast over the internet to the fathers and brethren in India.

- Mr. Dharan called upon God's name in prayer, read Luke 14:25-35, and preached a sermon from the text on "The Cost of Discipleship", after which comments were received from the floor, and the exam was unanimously sustained.

SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY I EXAM— Mr. Jay Dharan (Mr. Work)

Mr. Olivetti invited Mr. Dharan to receive his Systematic Theology I exam from Mr. Work, after which Mr. Dharan answered questions from Mr. Work, then answered questions from the floor, at which time, comments were received from the floor, and the exam was unanimously sustained.

10. MID-MORNING BREAK

Mr. Anderson dismissed the court for its mid-morning break at 10:52 a.m.

- The court resumed its business at 11:17 a.m. with the singing of Psalm 119M.

11. CANDIDATES AND CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT (CONTINUED)

PASTORAL & EVANGELISTIC GIFTS EXAM — Mr. Gary McNamee (Mr. Mann)

Mr. Olivetti invited Mr. McNamee forward to receive his Pastoral & Evangelistic Gifts exam from Mr. Mann, after which he answered questions from Mr. Mann (with no questions coming from the floor), at which time, comments were received from the floor — including a word of endorsement from his local pastor — and the exam was unanimously sustained, with one abstention.

ENGLISH BIBLE EXAM — Mr. Zach Smith

Mr. Olivetti informed the court that Mr. Zach Smith has passed his (written) English Bible Exam, after which the exam was unanimously sustained by a voice vote.

CHURCH HISTORY PAPER — Mr. Zach Smith

Mr. Andy McCracken reported on behalf of the committee to review Mr. Zach Smith's church history paper on "Calvin on the Experience and Affections of Worship", after which the exam was unanimously sustained by a voice vote.

LICENSURE TO PREACH THE GOSPEL — Mr. Zach Smith

Mr. Faris administered the queries of licensure to Mr. Zach Smith, who affirmed them, after which the presbytery unanimously sustained his licensure to preach the gospel by a roll call vote.

- Mr. Smith signed the queries of licensure in the presbytery minute book, and Mr. Faris called upon God's name in prayer, licensing Mr. Smith to preach the gospel in the name and by the authority of Jesus Christ, after which Mr. Faris presented a charge to Mr. Smith from Isaiah 50:4-7.

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

² That Joe Smith be allowed up to ten minutes to share his testimony and sense of calling with presbytery.

³ That Joe Smith be taken under care as a student of theology.

12. DAYTON OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. McNamee presented the Dayton Oversight Committee Report, describing the condition and mindset of the two families which remain in the Dayton work, which was downgraded to a preaching station in March.

- A discussion followed regarding Recommendation 1⁴, after which it passed.
- Recommendation 2⁵ was brought before the court, after which it was moved and seconded to entertain a substitute motion: That presbytery counsel the Dayton Oversight Committee to shepherd the remaining families into membership in local congregations.

13. MOTION TO EXTEND THE TIME

It was moved, seconded, and passed to extend the time to vote on the entertaining of the substitute motion and, if necessary, to vote on the substitute motion itself.

14. DAYTON OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE REPORT (CONTINUED)

The motion to entertain the substitute motion (see above) passed by a vote of 15-10.

- The substitute motion itself came before the court and was discussed, after which it passed.
- Three delegates registered their dissent from the above action (Mr. Frank Smith, Mr. Pockras, and Mr. Knodel), thereby reserving their right to declare their reasons, which were afterward submitted and are as follows:

We hereby dissent from the action of Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery in adopting a motion which counsels the Dayton Oversight Committee “to shepherd the remaining families [at the Dayton preaching station] into membership in local congregations.”

While good men may disagree on matters such as the establishment of a congregation or the perpetuation of a preaching station — such things are judgment calls — there is nonetheless a responsibility to care pastorally for the souls involved. Such care must be rooted in theology, not sociology. And any group to which we might refer those souls must exercise pastoral care on the basis of a solid and genuine commitment to the Reformed faith.

It is one thing to have ecclesiastical relations on a denominational basis. That ecumenicity can be a valid expression of the unity of the catholic church. But it is quite another thing to shepherd people to be subject to the oversight of men who are not committed, in practice or in theory, to the Westminster Standards as historically understood. Presbytery’s action, with the best of intentions, could create a situation in which either these souls could be forced to violate their conscience or be perpetually grieved.

This conclusion is manifest by two factors: 1. the fact that there is presently no congregation in the Dayton that is practicing purity of worship; 2. the fact that the affected families have affirmed that they, for reasons of conscience, will not join any existing congregation in the area.

Of course, we do not know what the future will hold. Perhaps in the next four months revival and reformation will break out and a local congregation will repent of its sins against God with respect to worship. Or, perhaps a new congregation will arise, not affiliated with Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery, which will maintain God’s worship pure and entire. But since we cannot predict the future, we dare not base our actions on what may or may not happen, but only on the situation as it currently exists. Therefore, the action by the Presbytery is not only unwise but also unwarranted.

Beyond that, this action threatens to bring the Presbytery into disrepute, as the action will be regarded by many as being cruel, especially given the various needs of the affected families as documented in the Committee’s report. Moreover, this action will communicate to any group looking for an ecclesiastical home that the RPCNA may not be very welcoming. We would also note that Presbytery’s action violates, at least in spirit, our Constitution, which, with respect to members of a disorganized congregation, prescribes the following: “Diligent effort should be made to retain members in the Reformed Presbyterian Church” (DCG 1-14).

⁴ [That] The Presbytery approve the continued meeting of the Dayton Preaching Station until at least the spring meeting of the GLGP.

⁵ [That] The Presbytery approve the hiring of Michael Hutchinson as an “evangelistic field laborer” for the Dayton Preaching Station conditioned upon the following terms [See Report].

The lack of sensitivity to the needs and consciences of the saints in Dayton; the implicit attitude that "fellowship" trumps doctrine and truth; and the lack of will to continue flying King Jesus' blood-stained banner in Tennessee, are among the factors that have led us to issue this dissent. We are hopeful that this statement may serve to assist us in not despising the day of small things, and to be reminded of Jesus' words, that He is present even when only two or three are gathered in His name.

Respectfully submitted,
Frank J. Smith
Phil Pockras
R. E. Knodel, Jr.

It was moved, seconded, and passed to receive the report of the Dayton Oversight Committee.

15. SPECIAL REQUEST

Mr. Pockras requested a group photo of the presbytery on behalf of Synod's church history committee.

16. PRAYER & LUNCH BREAK

Mr. Scott recessed the court in prayer, interceding for the families in Dayton and giving thanks to God for the food He has provided for our lunch.

- The court took its lunch break at 12:45 p.m., after which Mr. Anderson resumed the meeting at 2:03 p.m. with the singing of Psalm 22E, and Mr. Hart called upon God's name in prayer.

17. SENSITIVE MATTER FROM SECOND RPC (Executive Session)

It was moved, seconded, and passed to enter executive session to discuss the agenda item proposed by Second RPC, after which Mr. Pockras, as parliamentarian, advised the court of the sensitive nature of executive session.

- It was moved, seconded, and passed that presbytery create a three-man committee, appointed by the moderator, to conduct an independent ethics review of the Second RPC session's actions to resolve the matter in question, including, if necessary, contacting any parties directly involved.
- It was moved, seconded, and passed to leave executive session.

18. CANDIDATES AND CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT (CONTINUED)

EXPOSITORY SERMON I EXAM — Mr. Andrew Battiato

Mr. Olivetti invited Mr. Battiato forward to preach his Expository Sermon on an Assigned Topic, after which Mr. Battiato called upon God's name in prayer, read Hebrews 12:1-4, preached a sermon from the text on "Perseverance in the Race of Faith", and received feedback from the floor, after which the exam was unanimously sustained, with two abstentions.

PASTORAL & EVANGELISTIC GIFTS EXAM — Mr. Zach Smith (Mr. Olivetti)

Mr. Zach Smith was invited forward to receive his Pastoral & Evangelistic Gifts exam from Mr. Olivetti, after which he answered questions from Mr. Olivetti and from the floor, at which time, comments were received from the floor and the exam was unanimously sustained, with one abstention.

19. COMMUNICATION FROM COLUMBUS SESSION REGARDING LOUISVILLE

Mr. Andy McCracken addressed the court concerning the communication from the Columbus session regarding church planting in Louisville, Kentucky.

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

20. CANDIDATES AND CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT (CONTINUED)

Mr. Olivetti resumed his presentation of the Candidates and Credentials Committee Report.

- Recommendation 4⁶ passed, after which Mr. McCollum addressed the court concerning his testimony of God's grace and call to the gospel ministry.

⁶ That Philip McCollum be allowed up to ten minutes to share his testimony and additional time to answer any questions presbytery might have prior to receiving his credentials.

- Recommendation 5⁷ passed, thereby receiving Mr. McCollum's credentials into the presbytery.

21. PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Mr. Kuehner shared a point of personal privilege, inviting delegates to sign a copy of Iain Murray's *Lloyd-Jones: Messenger of Grace*, to be given as a gift to Mr. McCollum in honor of his installation in the Bloomington congregation.

22. CANDIDATES AND CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT (CONTINUED)

EXPOSITORY SERMON ON AN ASSIGNED TOPIC EXAM — Mr. Gary McNamee

Mr. Olivetti invited Mr. McNamee forward to preach his Expository Sermon on an Assigned Topic, after which Mr. McNamee called upon God's name in prayer, read Luke 22:31-34; 54-62, and preached a sermon from the text on the subject of "Perseverance By the Grace of Christ", at which time the exam was unanimously sustained.

PASTORAL & EVANGELISTIC GIFTS EXAM — Mr. Andrew Battiato (Mr. Keith Evans)

Mr. Olivetti invited Mr. Battiato forward to receive his Pastoral and Evangelistic Gifts exam from Mr. Keith Evans, after which Mr. Battiato answered questions from Mr. Evans and from the floor, at which time no comments were received from the floor, and the exam was unanimously sustained, with one abstention.

23. MOTION TO EXTEND THE TIME

It was moved, seconded, and passed to extend the time in order to complete the agenda.

24. CANDIDATES AND CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT (CONTINUED)

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

25. SELMA COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Niess presented an oral report of the Selma Committee, briefly updating the court regarding some ongoing developments in the relationship between the Selma congregation and Mr. Andre Pickens, who recently relocated back to the Detroit area.

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

26. READING OF THE MINUTES

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

27. PRAYER & RECESS FOR DINNER

It was moved, seconded, and passed to adjourn the meeting at 5:12 p.m., after which Mr. Pockras called upon God's name in prayer, thanking God for His rich provision of food and recessing the court in the name and by the authority of Jesus Christ, the only King and Head of His Church.

28. CALL TO ORDER / PRAYER TO RECONSTITUTE (Pastoral Installation Service)

The Great Lakes/Gulf Presbytery resumed its meeting at the Bloomington Reformed Presbyterian Church for the pastoral installation of Rev. Philip McCollum.

- Mr. Anderson called the court to order at 7:00 p.m., calling upon God's name in prayer to reconstitute the court in the name and by the authority of Jesus Christ, Zion's only King and Head.

29. ATTENDANCE (ROLL CALL)

Mr. Kuehner called the roll, indicating that a quorum was present.

30. MOTION TO GRANT FLOOR PRIVILEGES

It was moved, seconded, and passed that all RP elders present be accorded the privileges of the floor.

31. NARRATION, EDICT, and ADHERENCE

Mr. Cosens read the narration of steps; Mr. Koons issued the final reading of the edict; the congregation indicated its adherence to the call by a rising vote; and Mr. McCollum audibly affirmed his adherence to the call.

32. PRAISE, PRAYER, & PREACHING

Mr. Anderson called the congregation to worship, after which Psalm 24A (St. 1-3) was sung to the praise of God.

- Mr. Anderson called upon God's name in prayer, after which Psalm 119M was sung to the praise of God.

⁷ That Philip McCollum's credentials be received by presbytery.

- Mr. Holdeman then entered the pulpit, read Hebrews 11:8, and preached a sermon from the text entitled, “He Went Out”, after which Psalm 84B was sung to the praise of God.

33. QUERIES OF INSTALLATION

Mr. Archer read the queries of installation to Mr. McCollum, who affirmed them and signed the queries in the presbytery minute book.

34. PASTORAL INSTALLATION

Mr. Anderson invited members of the court, all RPCNA elders, and elders within fraternal denominations, to come forward, surrounding Mr. McCollum.

- Mr. Davis called upon God’s name in prayer, solemnly installing Mr. McCollum as pastor in the Bloomington Reformed Presbyterian Church in the name and by the authority of Jesus Christ, the Head and King of His Church, after which Mr. McCollum received the right hand of fellowship from his fellow elders.
- Mr. Anderson presented Mr. McCollum with a copy of Iain Murray’s *Lloyd-Jones: Messenger of Grace*, personally signed by members of presbytery, as a token of their gratitude to God for his arrival and installation.

35. CHARGE TO THE PASTOR

Mr. Niess issued a charge to Mr. McCollum from 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12 on the nature of Paul’s genuine, gentle, and godly ministry to the Thessalonian church.

36. CHARGE TO THE CONGREGATION

Mr. Shipp issued a charge to the Bloomington congregation from 1 Thessalonians 5:12-15 on its duty to honor and appreciate Mr. McCollum’s ministry, after which he called upon God’s name in prayer.

37. PRAISE & BENEDICTION

Psalm 47A (St. 1-3) was sung to the praise of God, after which Mr. McCollum pronounced the benediction.

38. READING OF THE MINUTES

Mr. Kuehner read the minutes, after which it was moved, seconded, and passed to approve the minutes as amended.

39. PRAYER OF ADJOURNMENT

It was moved, seconded, and passed to adjourn the court, after which Mr. Anderson called upon God’s name in prayer, adjourning the court at 8:27 p.m.

The Atlanta Commission Report

Great Lakes-Gulf Fall Presbytery November 9, 2018

Fathers and Brothers,

Thank you for the privilege, as your commission, to serve you in overseeing the work of Atlanta Presbyterian Fellowship (APF hereafter) since August 2014. We would like to provide an update on APF based on our visit on October 13-14, 2018.

On Saturday, APF had a booth at the annual Festival of Lights in English Avenue. The Atlanta Commission (AC hereafter) was able to both observe the enthusiastic outreach of the fellowship as well as talk to a number of neighbors and friends of APF. Later that day, the AC was able to meet with a number of adherents including, Tawana Franklin, Harriet Moton, Mike ??, Fernando Kulaif, and Andrew Jubera.

The Presbytery's goals for the APF have included:

1. Concentrating on the gathering of core adult members who live locally, attend three or more services a month, and are committed to joining the work.
2. Evidence of Church Life, including 1 to 1 discipleship, evangelism and fellowship among the core group and their friends.
3. Some leadership living locally in the area.
4. Measurable growth in local financial contributions as a manifestation of financial accountability and stewardship.

Amid the multitude of strengths and gifts in APF, to quote our Spring report, "The Commission believes that the most significant challenges to the above goals are life in the 'Bluff', need for additional leadership... and lack of a morning worship service.

After our meeting with Dr. Smith, and adherents of APF, and seeing the Lord's work there over the last 8 years, the AC plans to come to the Spring 2019 meeting of Presbytery to recommend APF be made into a Mission Church. We believe it wise to let you know of our plans at this time to give you the opportunity to bring your questions, comments, and feedback to us in preparation for our meeting.

We think that we are ready to move forward due to the Lord's answer to prayer and the development of the above challenges.

- 1) Life in the Bluff remains just that. And it is because the Lord Jesus Christ is able to reconcile sinners and renew a people unto Himself from any people, tribe, tongue, or nation, we know that the only hope the people of English Avenue and Vine City can truly have is a Gospel hope in our God, His salvation, and His glory. It is clear that the Church is being gathered and is needed in the Bluff.
- 2) Dr. Smith has been very busy with his teaching schedule which has led to his decreased presence in the neighborhood during the week. At first, this was concerning for some of us, wondering how it would affect the Fellowship. The Lord has concurrently given others opportunity to serve and love in and among the Fellowship. For example, Amy Work meets with two teenage girls once a month for discipleship and fellowship. This has led to wonderful conversations about faith and life before the Lord. Robert Lebus lives part time in the building that APF meets in for worship. He is known for having an active ministry and being deeply connected in the community. He demonstrates many diaconal qualities and gifts.
- 3) Morning services started in February 2018. From July to October 2018 attendance numbers include: 15 in the AM service, 23 in the PM service. They also had 42 at their VBS in July. Without looking up the exact figure, the APF has approximately \$11,000 in the General Fund and another \$11,000 in the Building Fund.

We do remind you that Dr. Smith has asked for advice from members of this court on “how to encourage those who currently want to be baptized and celebrate the Lord’s Supper at APF.” Though we hope that the Presbytery can show support fundamentally in deciding to make APF a mission church next Spring.

While not everyone that we met with would be eligible at this time to become members, the AC knows of at least nine individuals who are willing and able to be received into communicant membership at this time: Sean and Anne McPherson, Miyoshi Robinson, Frank and Penny Smith, Amy Work, Andrew Jubera, Robert Lebus, and Harriet Moton. There are others that are desirous to be members but need to work through various pastoral issues prior to being received.

Thank you for the blessed opportunity to serve Christ and His Bride,
Shawn Anderson (Moderator)
G. Scott Damerow
Jason Camery
John Hanson
Jon Hughes (Clerk)

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE TO VISIT LAFAYETTE RP CHURCH

“so that by God’s will I may come to you with joy and be refreshed in your company.” -- Romans 15:32(a)

Dear Fathers and Brothers,

Your committee would respectfully report that it visited the Lafayette congregation on September 29 and 30, 2018. After meeting together in the late afternoon of the 29th for prayer and planning, we met for dinner with the session at Teays River Brewing & Public House for dinner. After finishing the meal, we began discussing the various aspects of the congregation’s life and ministry. About 8:00 pm we adjourned to the home of Elder Jeff Kessler for dessert and continued discussion until about 10:00 pm. The following morning we attended the morning worship, adult SS class, and enjoyed a fellowship meal with the congregation. Our chairman stayed for the evening service as well. In the afternoon, we met for several hours discussing our observations and planning our report. We did find it refreshing to be in their company.

The committee notes that in the last couple of years the congregation has faced a very significant transition in its pastoral leadership in the death of Dave Long and the moving of Keith Evans to teach at RPTS. During this time of transition there has been a slight loss in membership, worship attendance, and giving. In addition, a husband in the congregation murdered his wife, also a member of the congregation, which was a very traumatic event for the congregation and specific members. Despite these events, The Lord has sustained the congregation through these challenges and had given them a new vitality and desire for ministry. There are a number of significant encouragements that were obvious to the committee.

The first and foremost encouragement was the installation of Adam Niess as the pastor of the congregation. His ministry has been very well received by the congregation. He labors diligently in the preaching ministry and the pastoral ministry. Another strength of the congregation is its strong and active session. Other encouragements are a well-organizing and ongoing jail ministry, an influx recently of visitors to the congregational worship, more college students becoming involved in the congregation, and cooperation with the Immanuel RPC. This is especially true in the Youth Group, which is another source of encouragement.

Due to some recent losses to the deacon board, it has been reduced to two members. At times the session members have taken on some deacon responsibilities as a result. The session recognizes this and has sought to add more deacons unsuccessfully. We encourage the session to persevere in trying to add more deacons to alleviate the load on all. We have also made one suggestion to the session for their consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Camery
Fikre Menbere
Bill Roberts

Candidates & Credentials Committee
Report to November 9, 2018 meeting of the Great Lakes / Gulf Presbytery
Bloomington, Indiana

Fathers & Brothers,

As we continue to pray for Christ to supply laborers for the harvest, we are glad for this additional meeting of presbytery giving us more opportunity to shepherd the men under our care.

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

Recommendation 2 - That Joe Smith be allowed up to ten minutes to share his testimony and sense of calling with presbytery.

Recommendation 3 - That Joe Smith be taken under care as a student of theology.

Recommendation 4 - That Philip McCollum be allowed up to ten minutes to share his testimony and additional time to answer any questions presbytery might have prior to receiving his credentials.

Recommendation 5 - That Philip McCollum's credentials be received by presbytery.

Sincerely,

The Candidates & Credentials Committee

Student	Exam	Examiner	Time
Gary McNamee	Pastoral & Evangelistic Gifts	Wade Mann	20/10/5 ¹
	Expository Sermon on Assigned Topic: Luke 22:31-34 "Perseverance"	--	25/-/5
Andrew Battiato	Expository Sermon on Assigned Topic: Hebrews 12:1-4, "Perseverance"	--	25/-/5
	Pastoral & Evangelistic Gifts	Keith Evans	20/10/5
Zach Smith	English Bible	(previously proctored)	--
	History Paper: "Calvin on the Experience and Emotions of Worship"	Sean Bird & Andy McCracken	--
	Pastoral & Evangelistic Gifts	Jared Olivetti	20/10/5
	Licensure to preach	--	--
Jay Dharan	Systematics & Distinctives 1	Steven Work	
	Expository Sermon 1: Luke 14:25-35, "The Cost of Discipleship" ²	--	25/-/5

¹ Duration - The first number is minutes for questions from the examiner. The second is minutes for questions from presbyters. The third is minutes for comments on the exam from presbyters.

² The Global Missions Board, on whose behalf we are conducting Jay's exams, has asked us to bypass his first sermon (the "evidence of progress" sermon).

For Zachary Smith's "John Calvin on the Experience and Affections of Worship" History paper.

Recommendation & Critique

We recommend to sustain the paper. Regarding critiques, if not for a typo in the second to last paragraph there wouldn't be much to say. Mr. Smith wrote, "poured out upon all who worship in in spirit anExaminers' Review (by Sean Bird and Andy McCracken) d in truth." Perhaps it was meant to say worship Him in spirit and truth.

Observations [Bird's comments]

The history paper was quite enjoyable to read. My youngest daughter read part of it with me and learned several things. The topic afforded an excellent opportunity to contrast the worship of today with what Reformed worship ought to be characterized by, a mind and heart devoted to God. The use of original sources, the writing of Calvin himself, as well as the comments of others like Carson, Gamble, Prutow, etc. were well done. The paper was well researched.

What I most valued was the application of this history paper to encourage Reformed believers in their singing of the Psalms while stretching them to fully express emotions in worship. It also challenged much of the "variety of so-called worship" that is justified by their "good intentions" (pg 2).

Another observation came from page 3, where Calvin's Forward to the Psalter explains the three elements of corporate worship and preaching, prayer, and sacraments. Both men and women participate in vocalizing corporately prayers through the singing of Psalms. Then on page 6, it is explained that relationships in worship are to be remembered. We are to sing to God and sing to our neighbor.

I pray that this paper will continue to encourage the church toward true worship that includes deep and profound affection of heart and mind.

[Andy's Comments]

I am fully in agreement that this paper satisfies the requirements set forth in the handbook. Zach uses a great collection of both primary and secondary sources and organizes his thoughts into a thesis very relevant to our modern day. Indeed, prior to reading the paper, that very day, I was mentally preparing to answer a gentlemen's questions with regard to the issue of what was appropriate in public worship regarding expressions of that worship. I found Zach's paper very helpful and the insights from the copious quotations from Calvin to be very applicable to the question presented. He seemingly handles the rigor of a scholarly paper with skill and thoughtfulness, not merely as an exercise but with a pastoral intent. I heartily recommend we sustain.

-Andy McCracken.

Oversight Committee for the Dayton, TN Preaching Station
Report and Recommendation
11/5/18

Oversight Committee
Members-Phil Pockras, Andy McCracken
Chair-Gary S. McNamee

At the March 2018 GLGP meeting, Presbytery approved reducing the Dayton Mission Church to a Preaching Station. This preaching station was to be given at least 6 months to see if they could sustain and improve their situation. At the time of that Presbytery meeting, there were 3 families remaining at the work in Dayton. Immediately after that meeting, one family left. There are two families remaining, the Clauson's(4) and the Campbell's(4).

On 10/20/2018, Gary McNamee visited with both families of the Dayton Preaching Station. Both families want to keep meeting for worship as members of the RPCNA and have been attending worship faithfully. However, both families are carrying particular burdens right now.

The Clausons are now caring for Mr. Clauson's elderly and invalid mother in their home. They are seeking to advise her to move to an assisted living center, but she at this time is not inclined to do so. This additional care they are providing is bearing down on them as they also have an adult daughter who lives with them and has special needs as well. If they did not have the DPS, they don't think they would have any suitable place to worship without driving over an hour to get there. This long drive would also be problematic for them in regard to the previously mentioned family situation. They would like to see the DPS continue and hopefully grow. However, apart from attending worship, they are not able to give more time to the work. Kevin, as an ordained OP elder, does preach occasionally.

The Campbells also have burdens they are bearing at this time. Sarah Campbell is dealing with chronic illnesses that do not allow her to attend worship at all. Adam Campbell recently had a heart attack and is still recovering from that health issue. His heart has been damaged and it is slowing him down. After a day at work he is fairly exhausted. Their two sons, Noah, (16) and James (12) are both really encouraged by the preaching at the DPS. This family also is hoping to see the DPS continue and grow. They too do not see a place for them to worship if the DPS ceases to meet. However, due to their health problems they are not able to do much more than attend worship. Adam is serving as the Psalm Precentor and treasurer. Sarah is active in encouraging people through social media.

Since March of 2018, preaching has been provided for the most part by Michael Hutchinson of Hixon, TN. Michael is under care as a student of ministry in the PCA. He is seeking to be licensed to preach in the PCA. He also holds to Exclusive Psalmody and finds himself to be more in line with our convictions than the PCA. Michael and his wife Tricia have taken an interest in the Dayton Preaching Station. The members at the DPS have been very encouraged and blessed by his preaching. Michael is willing to continue to provide pulpit supply and do more work for the DPS if we are willing to have him do it. Michael has checked with his Session and they are willing to have him continue as pulpit supply and to do additional field work as he is able and willing.

With these facts in mind, the Oversight Committee recommends the following:

1. The Presbytery approve the continued meeting of the Dayton Preaching Station until at least the spring meeting of the GLGP.
2. The Presbytery approve the hiring of Michael Hutchinson as an "evangelistic field laborer" for the Dayton Preaching Station conditioned upon the following terms: (Michael has agreed to

these terms)

- a. He is to labor in Dayton for 8 hours per week in personal evangelism and leading and organizing the Dayton members to assist in such work as they can.
- b. He is to be paid from the DPS treasury at a rate of \$20 per hour
- c. He is to do this work up and until the spring meeting of the GLGP (as long as he is able and willing) at which time the DPS Oversight Committee will reevaluate the work to determine if there is the necessary growth to continue the work of the DPS.

Rationale for the above recommendation:

1. The families in the DPS desire to continue to meet for worship. The costs of meeting for worship and for hiring Michael Hutchinson as an evangelistic field worker will be paid for by the families who are meeting for worship. There is no financial cost to the Presbytery. The DPS has about \$7K in the bank. These funds were given by the families (present and previous) of the Dayton Mission Church and the DPS. It is these funds that will pay for the future pulpit supply and the evangelistic field labor. These families are currently suffering under some family and health hardships. These may or may not get better in this life. It would be an additional hardship on both families at this time to have to find another suitable place to worship.

For Your Consideration,
DPS Oversight Committee

[PLEASE NOTE: As of November 6th there have been sad developments that may revise this plan.]

CHURCH PLANTING PROPOSAL

Fathers & Brothers,

BACKGROUND

The Columbus Reformed Presbyterian Church rejoices in the providence of God that has allowed us to begin planting a church in Louisville, KY. Toward the end of 2016 four families from the Louisville area began traveling up to Columbus for worship and eventually all joined the church. In the summer of 2017 our congregation began implementing a new vision statement out of which grew a new ministry to boldly go out and proclaim the word. We then began (Nov. '17) holding Bible Studies in downtown Louisville at the public library on Thursday nights.

The families attending from Louisville were the David & Amanda Ladwig family with their two children, Sean (19) and Fiona (10), Louis & Melissa Dibiase, Eric Brown and Tre & Caitlyn Cranford with their daughter Abby (6). Remarkably all four families come into this ministry committed to the RP Confession & Testimony, Louis Dibiase as a former elder in the ARP, and David Ladwig as an ordained deacon (originally from the Rochester, NY RPC).

Tre Cranford, who was taken under care of Presbytery as a student of theology (at the 2018 Synod meeting of Presbytery) has had a thriving and fruitful ministry with a large number of men from a drug rehab facility in Louisville. Beginning in the summer of 2018 Tre began a second Bible Study with these men on Wednesday evenings, with sometimes 15-25 in attendance. It was soon decided to try to blend the two Bible Studies and Tre continued to teach the larger gathering.

On September 9, 2018 we began holding evening worship services at the Airport Comfort Inn & Suites. A group of about 5-10 members from Columbus travel down each week to support the work and these join on average the 15 or so from the Louisville area. A rotation of pastors from Columbus and from the Presbytery have provided the preaching. This past Lord's Day there were 38 in attendance at the worship service -- 20 from Columbus and 18 from Louisville. The largest group from Louisville we have had thus far is 23.

A PLAN

Again, in God's providence God raised up Gary McNamee, a ruling elder, who was also taken under care as a student of theology in 2017 and began an internship with the Columbus congregation through the 2018 year. He has provided the needed legwork and administrative tasks necessary to see this work get off the ground. But Gary's internship will end when he completes his seminary work and is licensed to receive a call perhaps in May 2019. He will need employment at that point to support his family and we are aware that vacant congregations are already "*knocking at his door.*" Should he need to accept one of these calls, we are concerned that the Louisville work would be in danger of grinding to a halt for want of a dedicated laborer.

In light of the SOCHEX committee's report last year regarding church planting in the south, the Columbus session would like to propose the following new model as our approach to this church plant. We would propose that the whole Presbytery focus its efforts in this strategic city for a period of three years by dedicating a portion of its congregational receipts to support the effort in Louisville as well as hiring Gary McNamee in a half-time position as church planter. The other portion of Gary's salary would be provided by the Columbus RPC who would hire him as an associate pastor. Half of Gary's time will be spent ministering in the Columbus church and community and half will be spent ministering in Louisville.

The idea is that during this three year period, a critical mass of families would be formed and disciplined in preparation for the group to receive "Mission Church" status and to be able to call a full-time organizing church

planter. The ministry would then come under the care of a commission of presbytery no longer needing financial support from the GLG Presbytery, but beginning to receive the 6-year reducing aid package from the HMB.

Until that time, the total anticipated budget for the Louisville work including Gary's salary package comes to a total of \$108,810 annually (see chart below).

STEPS SO FAR

The Columbus congregation met on October 28th and voted in a straw poll to support this effort, but recognized that it will be challenging to meet our budget without some cuts in other ministries. If the Lord were to bless by congregations giving a bit more than what we are proposing, it would relieve the necessity for this.

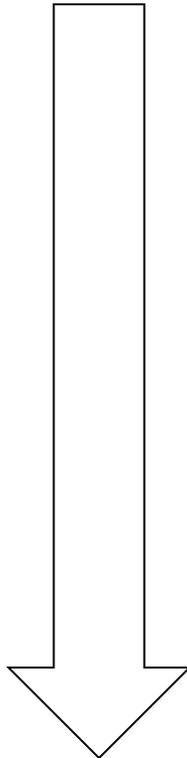
At the basic level, there are three separate components required:

1. Columbus congregation's annual support of \$30K,
2. The congregations of Presbytery providing a combined annual support of at least \$30K (we would request 1.2% of receipts,)
3. Receipt of a Resident in Training Grant (\$24K over two years) from the Home Mission Board

If any one of these three were to fall short, we would need to begin at square one again.

Should Presbytery approve this approach at this meeting Columbus will hold a congregational meeting in January 2019 to approve a budget which includes anticipating the hiring of Gary as a halftime Associate Pastor. A second congregational meeting would need to be called following Gary's passing his license-to-receive-a-call exams to call him as our associate for Outreach and Church Planting.

The spreadsheet on the next page reveals the anticipated income and outflow for this effort.



LOUISVILLE MINISTRY BUDGET

Category	2019 Jun-Dec	2020 H1	2020 H2	2021 H1	2021 H2	2022 H1	Category Tot.
AP Salary	\$ 31,500	\$ 27,760	\$ 27,760	\$ 28,540	\$ 28,540	\$ 29,340	\$ 173,440
Utilities increase	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 6,000
Health Premium	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,500	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,500	\$ 24,000
Health Deductible	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 10,000
Pension	\$ 2,975	\$ 2,600	\$ 2,600	\$ 2,650	\$ 2,650	\$ 2,700	\$ 16,175
Business Exp	\$ 1,050	\$ 950	\$ 950	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,050	\$ 6,000
Book Fund	\$ 75	\$ 75	\$ 75	\$ 75	\$ 75	\$ 75	\$ 450
Pastor Ref/Trng	\$ 467	\$ 400	\$ 400	\$ 400	\$ 400	\$ 400	\$ 2,467
AP Package	\$ 37,067	\$ 32,785	\$ 40,785	\$ 42,165	\$ 42,165	\$ 43,565	\$ 238,532
Pulpit Supply	\$ 5,800	\$ 5,750	\$ 5,750	\$ 5,750	\$ 5,750	\$ 5,800	\$ 34,600
Building	\$ 7,300	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,750	\$ 7,750	\$ 8,000	\$ 45,800
Ministries	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,250	\$ 1,250	\$ 1,500	\$ 7,500
Louisville Support	\$ 14,600	\$ 14,250	\$ 14,250	\$ 14,750	\$ 14,750	\$ 15,300	\$ 87,900
Total Expense	\$ 51,667	\$ 47,035	\$ 55,035	\$ 56,915	\$ 56,915	\$ 58,865	\$ 326,432
Louisville Offering	\$ 10,090	\$ 15,135	\$ 15,135	\$ 19,675	\$ 19,675	\$ 25,578	\$ 105,288
RIT Grant	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 24,000
Presbytery Contr.	\$ 17,500	\$ 15,400	\$ 15,400	\$ 15,800	\$ 15,800	\$ 16,200	\$ 96,100
Exploratory Grant	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,000
Outside Funds	\$ 43,590	\$ 36,535	\$ 36,535	\$ 41,475	\$ 35,475	\$ 41,778	\$ 235,388
Columbus RPC	\$ 16,550	\$ 14,580	\$ 14,580	\$ 14,990	\$ 14,990	\$ 15,410	\$ 91,100
Total Income	\$ 60,140	\$ 51,115	\$ 51,115	\$ 56,465	\$ 50,465	\$ 57,188	\$ 326,488
Surplus	\$ 8,473	\$ 4,080	\$ (3,920)	\$ (450)	\$ (6,450)	\$ (1,677)	\$ 56

Recommendation:

1. That presbytery support this 3-year approach to planting a church in Louisville, KY by requesting each of its congregations to contribute at least 1% of their annual receipts to the Louisville ministry overseen by the Columbus congregation beginning June 1st, 2019¹. These funds will support that portion of the Louisville ministry (including Gary McNamee’s salary package) that are not covered by Columbus’ half-time salary.

Should this recommendation pass, Columbus RPC will send out this communication to each congregation requesting they reply no later than January 15th with their expected contribution.

NOTE: Should the Louisville RP Fellowship progress more rapidly than three years, and be able to call an organizing pastor, these funds would no longer be necessary.

[PLEASE NOTE: As of November 6th there have been sad developments that may revise this plan.]

¹ This three-year period would begin June 2019 and end May 2022.