

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting
of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery
Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America
March 30 – 31, 2006**

Call to Order: The moderator, James Faris, called the Presbytery to order at 2:03 p.m. on Thursday, March 30, 2006, at the Sycamore Reformed Presbyterian Church, Kokomo, Indiana.

Worship: Presbytery sang Psalm 145A st. 1-4. The Moderator read Acts 16:11-40 and spoke of the former Syrian Mission work and of the hardships and persecution similar to that in Acts. He then led the Court in prayer. He preached God's Word from Acts 16 and the book of Philippians emphasizing the need for faithfulness even in the face of persecution.

Constitution of the Court: The Moderator closed his message with prayer and constituted the Court in prayer. Presbytery sang Psalm 111A.

Roll Call: The clerk called the roll, which showed that a quorum was present and is as follows:

<i>Congregations</i>	<i>Teaching Elders</i>	<i>Ruling Elders</i>
Belle Center	Philip Pockras eeee	Larry Bump eeee
Bloomington	William Roberts xxxx	Wendell McBurney xxxx
	Rich Holdeman -xxx	Kenneth deJong ---x
Columbus	Andrew McCracken xxxx	Robert Henning xxxx
Elkhart	Keith Magill xxxx	Fik Membere --xx
Hetherton	Milton Harrington xxxx	
Lafayette	David Long xxxx	Robert Bibby xxxx
	Jared Olivetti xxxx	
Oakdale	Raymond Morton xxxx	
Orlando	David Smith xxxx	
Second Indianapolis	Roy Blackwood xxxx	Donald Cassell --xx
	Richard Johnston xxxx	Ram Rao xxxx
	James Faris xxxx	Russ Pulliam (alt) x---
	Michael LeFebvre xxxx	Walt Zebrun (alt) ----
Selma		
Southfield		Jon Hughes xxxx
		Jim Curtis xxxx
Southside	Gordon Keddie xxxx	Steve Sturm xxxx
		Jim Bishop --xx
Sparta	Raymond Morton xxxx	Robert Morrow xxxx
Sycamore	Barry York xxxx	Robert McKissick --xx
		Greg Fisher xx--
Triangle	Ian Wise xxxx	Charles Saunders xxxx
	Greg Cumbee xxxx	
Westminster	Charles Brown xxxx	Jim Richhart --xx
Roger Adams		

Edwin Blackwood eeee
Paul Faris
Ralph Joseph xxxx
Garland Kincaid
Robert McCracken eeee
Marion McFarland
Frank Schutz --xx
Tom Reid xx-x

Organizational Motions:

It was moved, seconded, and passed, that elders without certificates who are representatives of their sessions be seated.

It was moved, seconded, and passed, that all elders present who are not delegates be made consultative members of the court.

Introduction of First Time Delegates

Dr. Michael LeFebvre was introduced as the Associate Pastor of Second Indianapolis.
Charles Saunders was introduced as elder from the Triangle Session.
Adam Kuehner was introduced by Greg Cumbee.
Brian Hasenkopf was introduced as the proposed church planter for Atlanta.

Call for Papers

Ralph Joseph, Assistant Clerk, introduced Paper 2006-4 "that Presbytery set as its meeting policy to allow a five-minute time limit for congregational and ministry reports".

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that Presbytery take up consideration of this request now.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that Presbytery accept the proposal of Paper 2006-4.

Paper 2006-4 is recorded in the Appendix.

Memorials for Pastors, Elders/elders wives

The memorial for Raymond Joseph was read by Jon Hughes and is included in the Appendix.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the memorial be received.

Pastor Roy Blackwood led in the memorial prayer thanking God for the life and work of Raymond Joseph.

Clerk's Report

**Report of the Clerk of Presbytery
to the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery
Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America
March 30 to April 1, 2006**

The clerk respectfully reports that he has carried out the assignments given to him, as far as he knows, and thanks the assistant clerk, Ralph Joseph, for his help in various ways. Ralph has prepared the rolls for this meeting, written a draft report of Presbytery to Synod, and compiled the statistical report for the stated clerk of Synod.

During the past year, I have responded to a number of communications hopefully in a helpful and worthwhile way. I have written the minutes for each meeting of Presbytery and these can be made available either in print or in electronic form. There is one exception and that is the March-April meeting of a year ago which is in draft form. All corrections or changes to the minutes should be communicated to me as soon as possible as I will soon be printing them into the permanent record of Presbytery.

I have prepared the agenda for this meeting. There are some student examinations at this meeting. These have been slotted in according to the availability of the students. The examinations for Brian Hasenkopf will need to be scheduled subject to other actions at this meeting.

Because Phil Pockras, the Inter Church Liaison, will not be able to be present because of Nathaniel's illness, and because there are two fraternal delegates, Larry Wilson and Peter Wallace, who plan to attend, I will be asking the Moderator to give them the opportunity to address the Court at suitable times.

The Visitation to the Columbus Congregation did not take place this year. I am recommending that this assignment be reassigned by the Nominating Committee. The Visitation to the Second Indianapolis Congregation is scheduled about a month from now and in the same recommendation I will recommend the continuance of that Visitation Committee.

For other congregational visitations I am recommending that the Nominating Committee make recommendations to the Presbytery.

There are at least two pastoral calls (maybe three) to come to this Presbytery. I am recommending that the Moderator appoint a committee of three to review these calls and recommend to the Presbytery their presentation.

I have received the Petition from the Second Indianapolis RP Church to form the Westside ministry into a Mission Church. This item has been placed on the Agenda.

There are three communications of a judicial nature.

1. David Faris has appealed the decision of the Presbytery regarding Paper 2005-F1 on the issue of open session meetings to the Synod. I am recommending that this go to the Judicial Committee.
2. Joel Finley has written to the Presbytery asking that his three papers (which were submitted in March 2003) be sent on to the Synod. I am recommending that this item go to the Judicial Committee.
3. A Mr. Waltho of the CRPC has written asking for background information concerning Brian Schwertley because the CRPC has charges against him. The request is for "papers of commission" to be released to them. I am recommending that this go to the Judicial Committee.
4. Item 4 of the "principal actions taken (by the Ad Interim Commission)" refers to an appeal from a member of the Triangle RPC, Mathew Bryan (his location is at the Lynchburg LRPF). The action of the Ad Interim Commission did not deal finally and directly with the Appeal. Further, the Appellant appealed the Ad Interim decision. Since the finalizing of the Ad Interim Commission Report there has been a further communication from the Triangle Session. This communication from the Triangle Session has dealt with the various

aspects of the original appeal by confession and restoration. The following is quoted from the letter of the Triangle Session,

“Greetings in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. This letter is formal notification from the Triangle Reformed Presbyterian Church Session of Elders, that in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, as a Court constituted by His authority, we hereby lift the censure against you, and restore your status as a communicant member in good standing.”

“We will be immediately notifying all parties to whom the previous act of discipline was made known.”

This decision of the Triangle Session has granted every substantive point in the appeal and leaves no need for Presbytery to take any further action. Thus the recommendation below reflects this conclusion.

I have enjoyed serving as Clerk of Presbytery and appreciate the trust you have placed in me. I pray the Lord will bless us in this meeting and that we may do all to the glory of the King and Head of the church.

Respectfully submitted,

Raymond E. Morton, Clerk

Recommendations:

1. That the parliamentarians for this meeting be Tom Reid and Jon Hughes.
2. That the Nominating Committee determine the congregations to be visited this year.
3. That the Columbus Visitation Committee be reassigned by the Nominating Committee
4. That the Second Indianapolis Visitation Committee be continued in order to complete its work.
5. That the proposed agenda for this meeting be accepted as corrected.
6. That the Moderator appoint a committee of three to review the calls on Rutledge Etheridge and recommend their presentation to the Presbytery.
7. That Communications 1,2, and 3 be referred to the Judicial Committee.
8. That because of the action of the Triangle Session on March 25, 2006, the appeal of Mathew Bryan be returned to him.

Recommendations 1 to 8 were approved.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Election of Officers

The Moderator called for nominations for moderator. Charles Brown was nominated.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that nominations cease.

Charles Brown was elected to serve as Moderator.

The new Moderator took the Chair.

The Moderator called for the nomination of the clerks. Raymond Morton and Ralph Joseph were nominated as Clerk and Assistant Clerk respectively.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that nominations cease.

Raymond Morton and Ralph Joseph were elected as the Clerks.

Recess and Reconvening

Presbytery took recess from 3:30 to 3:50 p.m.

Call for Session Minute Books

The Assistant Clerk called for the Session Minute Books of the Presbytery. These were presented of brought to the Assistant Clerk later.

Treasurer’s Report

William Roberts, Assistant Treasurer, presented the oral report.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Report of the Ad Interim Commission

Gordon Keddie, Moderator of the Ad Interim Commission, reported on the actions of the Commission for the last six months. (The Commission had report in November, 2005.)

The Report is as follows:

**REPORT OF THE AD INTERIM COMMISSION
OF GREAT LAKES-GULF PRESBYTERY,
meeting in Kokomo, Indiana on March 30 – April 1, 2006**

Fathers and Brethren

The Ad Interim Commission has met five times since the Fall meeting of Presbytery. The Minutes of these meetings are herewith attached. (1/10, 1/15, 2/15, 2/26, 3/14, 3/26).

The principal actions taken are:

1. Rev. Edwin Blackwood’s ministerial credentials were transferred to the Reformed Presbytery of Australia.
2. Men were appointed to minister at the ordination and installation of Michael LeFebvre.
3. Kokomo congregation was granted permission to hold an election for an Associate Pastor to begin church planting in Marion, IN.
4. An Appeal from a member of Triangle RPC against an action of Session was judged to be out of order (on February 26). It subsequently came to light that we had erred in that our decision was made on the basis of a now superceded version (1998 ed.) of the Book Of Discipline. The Commission accordingly rescinded the former action and decided to refer the Appeal, without comment, to the March 30 meeting of Presbytery. The Commission regrets its error and apologizes to all the parties for their oversight.
5. Rev. Charles Brown was appointed fraternal delegate to the Classes Central US of the United Reformed Churches, meeting in Waupun, Wisconsin.

The Commission would note that it received the Call of the Southfield RPC on Rutledge Etheridge to be their Pastor. Because of the imminence of the full meeting of Presbytery and circumstances that Mr. Etheridge is only to be examined for eligibility to receive a call at this Presbytery meeting, the Commission has taken no action but to refer the handling of the Call to the Presbytery.

Respectfully submitted:

James Bishop (Clerk)
John Hanson
Jerry Porter
Don Prichard
Ram Rao
Bill Sheldrake
George Shopp
Steve Sturm
Gordon Keddie (Moderator)

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that Presbytery adopt the full year's report of the Ad Interim Commission and that the Minutes of the Commission be spread on the Minutes of Presbytery. (The Minutes are in the Appendix.)

Inter Church Liaison

Raymond Morton reported concerning the Inter Church Liaison and the need for a new appointment.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the Nominating Committee appoint a new Inter Church Liaison.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Southern Church Extension Committee concerning Atlanta, GA

Ian Wise reported for this committee.

Report of Southern Church Extension Committee

Spring Meeting of Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery, March 30-April 1, 2006

Dear fathers and brothers,

The Southern Church Extension Committee met on January 14, 2006, by telephone conference call for business. At this meeting, it was unanimously agreed to recommend to Presbytery the calling of Brian Hasenkopf as church planter to Atlanta, Georgia.

After years of prayer and frustrated efforts, the committee believes that the time is right to earnestly pursue a work in Atlanta. At least four factors weighed into our decision:

1. The strategic importance and size of the city.
2. Growing local interest in having a Reformed Presbyterian congregation there.
3. The interest of a gifted man to go.
4. The availability of funds that makes such an endeavor possible.

In the following pages we will try to flesh out these factors. They lead us to the following recommendations to Presbytery:

1. That Brian Hasenkopf be heard for ten minutes about the Atlanta proposal.
2. That the Presbytery approve the Atlanta area for church planting, starting May 1.
3. That the Presbytery ask the Home Mission Board for aid for the Atlanta work, starting no later than September 1.
4. That the Presbytery approve a call to Brian Hasenkopf for service as church planter in the Atlanta area.

5. That the Presbytery erect an Atlanta Commission for the Atlanta project, consisting of four members of Presbytery. (Specific names will be submitted at the Presbytery meeting for the consideration of the Nominating Committee.)
6. That the Presbytery request the Board of Trustees of Synod to allocate the funds remaining after the disorganization of the Multiracial RPC of Pensacola, Florida, to the church planting effort in Atlanta, the money to be dispersed as needed to meet the current expenses after local, Presbytery, and HMB monies are expended.

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Cumbee
Tom Reid
Charles Saunders
Ian Wise, chmn

Recommendation 1 was approved.

In keeping with this recommendation Brian Hasenkopf addressed the Court.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that Recommendation 2 and the subsequent recommendations be laid on the table to be taken up on Friday morning.

Candidates and Credentials Committee

Rich Johnston presented the report.

The Recommendations are as follows:

1. That student examinations be conducted by Presbytery according to the chart in I.A. above.
2. That for student examinations instead of going directly to the roll call vote with each man's comments given during the vote, Presbyters have an open discussion for a definite period of time (10 minutes) immediately after the questioning is completed, and then take the roll call vote without comment and that this approach be tried for several student exams and then evaluated.
3. That Adam Kuehner be taken under care as a student of theology.
4. That student aid funds be allocated for Michael Weathers contingent upon entering RPTS starting this September. The amount shall be \$250 per month for 12 months a year, as long as the man remains a full time student of RPTS.
5. That the status of each of the other "Ordained Ministers Not in the Pastorate" be approved as given in the body of this report.
6. That Richard Johnston and Bob McCracken be reelected to the Committee for the Class of 2009.

Recommendations 1,2,4,5 were approved.

Recommendation 3 was postponed.

Recommendation 6 was sent to the Nominating Committee.

Recess

Presbytery recessed in prayer by Greg Fisher at 5:31 p.m.

Session 2, Thursday, March 30, 2006 at 7:02 p.m.

Call to Order and Reconvening

Presbytery reconvened at the call of the Moderator at 7:02 p.m. with the singing of Psalm 6A and being led in prayer by Michael LeFebvre.

Roll

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the Assistant Clerk take the Roll visually in this and all succeeding sessions of this meeting.
The Assistant Clerk took the Roll.

Minutes

The Clerk read the Minutes of the afternoon Session.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the Minutes be approved as read.

Appointments of Committees by the Moderator

The Moderator made the following appointment:

Nominating Committee: Gordon Keddie, Ch., David Smith, Ram Rao, Bob Henning

Time and Place Committee: Andy McCracken, Ch., Greg Cumbee, James Curtis

Resolution of Thanks Committee: Michael LeFebvre, Charles Saunders

Travel Agent: Tom Reid

Judicial Committee: Bill Roberts, Ch., Dave Long, Bob Bibby, Steve Sturm, Milton Harrington

Committee to Review Pastoral Calls: Keith Magill, Ch., Rich Holdeman, Jim Richhart

Committees to Review Session Minutes:

Bloomington: Greg Cumbee, Charles Saunders

Columbus: Bill Roberts, Rich Holdeman

Elkhart: Bob Henning, Jim Richhart

Lafayette: Keith Magill, Fik Membere

Oakdale: Jared Olivetti, Bob Bibby

Orlando: Tom Reid, Robert Morrow

Second Indianapolis: David Smith, Milton Harrington

Selma: James Faris, Ram Rao

Southfield: Michael LeFebvre, Wendell McBurney

Southside: James Curtis, Jon Hughes

Sparta: Gordon Keddie, Steve Sturm

Sycamore: Ian Wise, Roy Blackwood

Triangle: Barry York, Greg Fisher

The former Moderator, James Faris, took the chair.

Inter Church Liaison

Charles Brown reported on his visit to the United Reformed Church, Classis Central U.S.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

The Moderator resumed the Chair.

Congregational Reports

The **Bloomington** Congregational Report was given by Rich Holdeman.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

The **Columbus** Congregational Report was given by Andy McCracken.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Barry York led the Court in prayer for the Bloomington and Columbus congregations.

Report of the Home Mission Representative

The Report was given by the Presbytery representative, Ian Wise.

The recommendation of the Report that the representative serve for a three year term and that a new appointment was needed was referred to the Nominating Committee.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Rich Johnston led the Court in prayer for the Home Mission Work.

Petition of the Second Indianapolis Reformed Presbyterian Church concerning Westside Ministry

The Petition was presented by Rich Johnston and Michael LeFebvre. The Petition is as follows:

Petition to the GLG Presbytery by Second RPC to Form the Westside Ministry as a Mission Church

In 2002, Elder Jack Baumgardner and his family purchased a home in Avon, on the western outskirts of Indianapolis, with a vision to see God use them in outreach and evangelism in that community, and with the prayer that a new congregation might be established there. After a year of outreach through personal evangelism and Bible studies, led by the Baumgardners and supported by others, the Session engaged the services of Presbytery's Coordinator for Church Extension (Keith Magill) to advise the further development of the ministry on the westside. In November, 2003, Keith surveyed the members of 2RPC already living in the westside area regarding their interest in this new work, and a core circle of families began to form. Bible studies and outreach continued to develop through their efforts.

In the Spring of 2004, biweekly, Lord's Day evening services began on the westside. That summer, Rutledge Etheridge served an internship with the new work. In February, 2005, the congregation of 2RPC called Michael LeFebvre to become an associate pastor to lead the formation of a new congregation on the westside. Michael accepted that call in March, 2005, though completion of his PhD studies in Scotland would delay his arriving on site until the end of the year. Wayne Spear came in the autumn of 2005, at which time the evening worship services on the westside were increased to weekly observance. The LeFebvres arrived on site the last week of December, and Michael was ordained in January, 2006.

There are presently nine households involved in the work on the westside, with at least one more family intending to join that work in the near future. Oversight for this ministry has been provided by the 2RPC Session, with an Oversight Committee comprised of James Faris, Jack Baumgardner, Jim Long, and Keith Magill (*ex officio*/consultant), now joined by Michael LeFebvre. Assessing the development of the work, the Session has

projected for morning worship to begin on the westside in early May.
In light of these developments in the Westside ministry, and trusting in the ongoing blessing of the Lord, the Session of 2RPC recommends to Presbytery:

That the westside Indianapolis ministry of 2RPC be formed as a Mission Church, and that the 2RPC Session be appointed as Temporary Governing Body for that congregation.

The Session of Second RPC, Indianapolis
March, 2006

The Recommendation of the Petition was approved.
The Organizing Prayer for the Westside Mission Church was led by Jared Olivetti.

Church Extension Committee Reports

The Southern Church Extension Committee Report was given by Ian Wise.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

The Ohio-Indiana Church Extension Committee Report was given by David Long.
The Coordinator of Church Extension Keith Magill reported on his work in connection with Westside Indianapolis, West Lafayette, Atlanta, Southfield, and Naperville, IL.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

There was no report from the Michigan Church Extension Committee.
The Southern Illinois Church Extension Committee Report was given by Raymond Morton.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Further Committee assignments were given by the Moderator which are included in the list above.

Congregational Reports

The Hetherton Reformed Presbyterian Church Congregational Report was given by Milton Harrington.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

The Hetherton Oversight Committee report was given by Robert Henning.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

The Reformed Presbyterian Church of Lafayette Congregational Report was given by David Long.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

The Oakdale Reformed Presbyterian Church Congregational Report was given by Raymond Morton.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

The Orlando Reformed Presbyterian Church Congregational Report was given by David Smith. Because of the new rule the time was extended to hear of the encouraging news concerning James Wright and his progress in his growth in his faithfulness to the Lord.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

The Triangle Reformed Presbyterian Church Congregational Report was given by Ian Wise. He spoke of the encouragements in both Raleigh and in Lynchburg. Included in the written report was the following paragraph:

“The congregation has been excited at long last to find a building that would fit the needs for our weekly worship and service. (See appendix for further information) Just last Sunday, the congregation voted unanimously, save one abstention, to go forward with the purchase, provided Presbytery approves and the City of Durham has no surprises up her sleeve.”

Besides this paragraph Ian provided much other information, which appears in the Appendix, and introduced the following Recommendation: “That Presbytery approve the purchase of the Nelson Community Building, and TRPC’s subsequent move to that location for worship.”

The Recommendation was approved.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Tom Reid, Travel Agent, handed out the travel vouchers for this meeting.

Prayer time:

Presbytery engaged in a time of prayer:

- Robert Morrow led in prayer for the Hetherton congregation;
- David Smith for Lafayette;
- Jon Hughes for Oakdale;
- Rich Holdeman for Orlando;
- Steve Sturm for Triangle and the prayer of adjournment.

Presbytery adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

Session 3, Friday, March 31, 2006 at 8:35 a.m.

Call to Order

The Moderator called Presbytery to order 8:35 a.m. with the singing of Psalm 51E. He led in prayer and constituted the Court in prayer.

Candidates and Credentials Committee Report

The Moderator introduced Robert Jones who is assigned to preach a expository sermon on an assigned topic.

Robert Jones read Isaiah 53: 1-3 and Philippians 2:5-8 and led in prayer. He preached God’s Word on “The Example of Christ’s Humility”. Following his message Presbytery sang Psalm 57B.

Roll

The Assistant Clerk took the Roll visually.

Minutes

The Clerk read the Minutes of the evening Session.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the Minutes be approved as read.

Candidates and Credentials Committee Report

Presbyters made their comments on Robert Jones's sermon.

Roll Call Vote

The Assistant Clerk called the Roll and the examination was unanimously sustained.

Report of the James Wright Commission

Rich Holdeman, the Moderator, presented the Report. This was an interim Report and it showed that good progress was being made and that James Wright was responding positively to the Commission's counsel and to that of the Orlando Session and others.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Southern Church Extension Committee concerning proposed Atlanta work

Ian Wise continued to report. He presented the new Recommendations of the committee.

The Recommendations are as follows:

1. That Brian Hasenkopf be heard for ten minutes about the Atlanta proposal.
2. That the Presbytery approve moving towards planting a Reformed Presbyterian Church in the Atlanta area in the fall of 2006.
3. That the Presbytery erect an Atlanta Commission to direct the Atlanta project consisting of five members of Presbytery: Ian Wise, Chairman, Tom Reid, David Smith, Steve Sturm, and Averitte Woodson.
4. That the Presbytery approve spending some of the Presbytery's Atlanta Fund for at least one exploratory trip by Brian Hasenkopf to the Atlanta area, as well as for advertising expenses to publicize the proposed church planting project there under the direction of the Atlanta Commission.
5. That the Presbytery ask the Home Mission Board for aid for the Atlanta project at its April, 2006, meeting, starting no later than January 1, 2007.
6. That the Presbytery express its intention to call Brian Hasenkopf for service as a church planter in the Atlanta area, if the project is subsequently approved.
7. That the Presbytery instruct the Atlanta Commission to report to a meeting of Presbytery at the 2006 Synod on progress in the Atlanta project, especially in light of the expressed concerns of Presbytery at its current meeting.

Action on these Recommendations: (Recommendation 1 was approved earlier.)

Recommendations 2 and 3 were approved.

Recommendation 4 was amended and now reads "That the Presbytery approve spending some of the Presbytery's Atlanta Fund for exploratory work under the direction of the Atlanta Commission.

Recommendations 5, 6, and 7 were approved.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Congregational Reports

The Elkhart Reformed Presbyterian Church Congregational Report was given by Fik Menbere. After an encouraging report concerning the congregation he brought in two recommendations from the Session:

1. That Pastor Barry York be reappointed as a provisional elder for at least another year.
2. That the Presbytery grant \$2000 of New Works Aid to Elkhart in 2006,

Recommendation 1 was sent to the Nominating Committee.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that Presbytery approve the request of Recommendation 2 and refer to the Finance Committee, at the Fall meeting of Presbytery, the principle concerning extended financial payments from Presbytery.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Elkhart Visitation Committee

Keith Magill gave the Report of the Elkhart Visitation Committee.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the Committee be dismissed.

Recess and Reconvening

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that Presbytery take a one half hour recess. Presbytery took recess from 10:17 to 11:07 a.m.

Candidates and Credentials Committee Report

Rich Johnston continued to present the Report of the Candidates and Credentials Committee.

Frank Schutz introduced Paul Mathews who addressed the Court.

Adam Kuehner was introduced to the Court by Greg Cumbee. Adam is a member of the Triangle Reformed Presbyterian Church and comes to the Presbytery with the Recommendation of the Triangle Session.

Recommendation 4 was approved.

Greetings from the Fraternal Delegates

The Moderator introduced Rev. Peter Wallace of the Orthodox Presbytery of Michigan and Ontario who addressed the Court.

Gordon Keddie introduced Rev. Larry Wilson, Orthodox Presbyterian Church Planter in North East Indiana who addressed the Court.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report of the Inter Church Liaison be received.

Tom Reid announced that copies of the Selma Congregational Report was available.

Recess and Prayer Time:

Presbytery engaged in a time of prayer:

Barry York prayed for the Belle Center congregation,

Donald Cassell for Elkhart,
 Keith Magill for Paul Mathews,
 Gordon Keddie for the fraternal delegates and their churches,
 Robert McKissick for Adam Kuehner,
 Jim Richhart for Selma in their pastoral search,
 And Jared Olivetti for the updated good news about Nathanael Pockras and for the family and prayed for the Recess.
 Presbytery recessed at 12:10 p.m.

Session 4, Friday, March 31, 2006 at 2:00 p.m.

Call to Order

The Moderator called Presbytery to order 2:00 p.m. with the singing of Psalm 66A. Tom Reid led in prayer and reconvened the Court.

Roll

The Assistant Clerk took the Roll visually.

Minutes

The Clerk read the Minutes of the morning session

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the Minutes be approved as corrected.

Candidates and Credentials Committee Report

The Moderator introduced Robert Jones for his Systematic Theology II examination.

William Roberts conducted the examination.

Members of Presbytery asked questions and received answers and made their comments on the examination..

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the time be extended for five minutes.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the time be extended by five minutes.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the time be extended by two minutes.

Roll Call Vote

The Assistant Clerk called the Roll and the examination was not sustained.

Robert Jones and Barry York reported on Robert's planned time in Airdrie, Scotland, as an assistant to Rev. Andrew Quigley.

Covfamikoi Conference Report

Rich Johnston reported concerning the upcoming Conference and of the plans for it.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Nominating Committee Report

Gordon Keddie gave the report of the Nominating Committee.

The Report is on the next page.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be adopted.

Nominating Committee

Report

Ad Interim Commission

Gordon Keddie (Ch.)
 Southside Session
 Ram Rao

Church Extension Committees

Michigan

Jon Hughes (Ch.)
 Southfield Session

Southern Illinois

Ray Morton (Ch.)
 Bob Morrow
 Dale Mussehnan

Southern

Ian Wise (Ch.)
 Charles Saunders
 Greg Cumbee
 Tom Reid

Ohio-Illinois

Dave Long (Ch.)
 Karl Stoicheff
 Andy McCracken
 Rich Holdeman
 Barry York
 Phil Pockras

Committee for Church Extension and Training

Dave Long (Ch.)
 Jim Long
 Barry York
 Dan Webb
 Ian Wise, *ex officio*

Candidates & Credentials

Committee

Class of '06:
 Rich Johnston,
 Bob McCracken

Class of '07:

Keith Magill
 Jon Hughes
 Charles Brown

Class of '08:

Roy Blackwood (Ch.)
 Dean Filson
 Rick Gamble
 Jared Olivetti

Financial Officers

Treasurer – Laurence Curry
 Asst. – Bill Roberts

Visitation Committee

Second RP

Andy McCracken (Ch.)
 Dave Long
 Jim Richart

Columbus

David Hanson (Ch.)
 David Smith
 Jeff Kessler

Sycamore

Ed Blackwood (Ch.)
 Jared Olivetti
 Ed Schisler

Home Mission Board Rep.

Class of '06: Ian Wise

Committee to Oversee

Hetherton

Bob Henning
 Bill Roberts
 Jon Hughes

COVFAMIKOI Conference

Director: Jim Long
Manager: Shane Shoop

Interchurch Liaison

Phil Pockras

Youth Coordinators

Rich Johnston
 John Hanson (YMCS rep.)

Board of Corporators of Geneva College

Class of '06: Ralph Joseph

Elkhart Special Visitation Committee

Keith Magill (Ch.)
 Dave Long
 Barry York

Moderators of Vacant Congregations *

Southfield – Phil Pockras
 Hetherton – Milton Harrington
 Elkhart – Barry York
 Selma – Tom Reid

*Motion -- That these vacant congregations be granted the privileges of administration of the sacraments and the making out of calls.

Provisional Elders

Hetherton – Roger Adams

Wright Commission

Rich Holdeman (Ch.)
 Bob Bibby
 Wendell McBurney
 Ken G. Smith (Consultant)

Papers 05-1 & 05-2 Study Committee

Gordon Keddie (Ch.)
 Greg Cumbee
 Dan Webb
 Jim Richart
 Donald Cassell

Respectfully submitted:

Rich Holdeman (Ch.)
 David Hanson
 Jon Hughes

Granting of Privileges

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that vacant congregations be granted the privileges of administration of the sacraments and the making out of calls.

Recess

Presbytery took recess from 3:27 to 3:45 p.m.

Judicial Committee Report

The Report was given by William Roberts and is as follows:

Report of the Judicial Committee

March 31, 2006

The Judicial Committee was assigned three communications.

2006-1 is a four page paper from David Faris of Lafayette RPC requesting Synod's review of how the Lafayette Session conducts its Session meetings. Pastor Long and Elder Bibby were excused from the discussion regarding this communication since it addresses actions of the Lafayette Session.

Though the paper uses the word "appeal" in the first sentence, no specific grounds for an appeal as outlined in the Book of Discipline 4.10 are enumerated. The committee ruled the paper should be considered a complaint as described in the Book of Discipline 4.3.

Recommendation #1: That Presbytery transmit without endorsement paper 2006-1 to Synod along with all records and papers pertaining to the Complaint.

2006-2 is a request from Joel Finley of Sparta RPC that three papers, 2003-2, 2003-3, and 2003-4, originally submitted to Presbytery at its Spring 2003 meeting be transmitted to Synod.

Presbytery's first response at the Spring 2003 meeting was to appoint a committee to "counsel Mr. Finley, seeking to encourage him to take the Covenant of Church Membership as the church understands it rather than as he believes it should be interpreted." The Sparta congregational visitation committee appointed by Presbytery reinforced Presbytery's previous counsel to Mr. Finley during its visit in January 2005.

Recommendation #2: That although Presbytery disagrees with the substance of Mr. Finley's papers and has consistently counseled him to take the Covenant of Church Membership, we transmit the papers to Synod without endorsement.

2006-3 is a request from Mr. Waltho of the CRPC for "papers of commission" concerning Brian Swertley.

Recommendation #3: That we instruct our Clerk of Presbytery to respond to the email request by informing Mr. Waltho that Mr. Swertley was never charged with any offense or received any discipline in the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America and therefore we have no relevant documents to send.

Robert Bibby
Milton Harrington
David Long
William Roberts, chairman
Steve Sturm

Recommendations 1, 2, and 3 were approved.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Candidates and Credentials Committee Report

Barry York reported concerning Rutledge Ethridge's Exegesis Paper and recommended it be sustained.

On the vote the Paper was sustained.

Certification to Receive a Call

Pastor James Faris introduced Rutledge Ethridge as having met the requirements for being licensed to receive a call.

Pastor James Faris asked Rutledge the queries for licensure to receive a call. Rutledge Etheridge answered all the queries in the affirmative with no exceptions.

Roll Call Vote

The Assistant Clerk called the Roll and the Presbytery unanimously sustained his answers to the Queries for Licensure to Receive a Call.

Rutledge Etheridge signed in the Minute Book the Queries for Licensure to receive a call.

Pastor Roy Blackwood led Presbytery in the prayer of Certification to Receive a Call. Pastor Rich Johnston gave the words of counsel as to the duties and limitations of his licensure as per The Directory of Church Government, Chapter 3, II, C, 2, i.

Presbytery was informed that Rutledge had received calls from Sycamore, Southfield, Providence (South Pittsburgh) and possibly a forthcoming call from Geneva College.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report of the Candidates and Credentials Committee as a whole be received.

Report of the Committee to Review Calls

Keith Magill reported on behalf of the Committee. There are two calls, one from Sycamore and one from Southfield.

Recommendation 1 was approved, that Presbytery allow each congregation to speak to their calls on Rutledge Ethridge. In keeping with this Recommendation Barry York spoke concerning the Sycamore call, and Jon Hughes spoke concerning the Southfield call.

Recommendation 2 was approved that these calls are regular gospel calls and that Presbytery present these Calls to Rutledge Ethridge.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Assistant Clerk's Report on Sessional Records.

The Assistant Clerk reported as follows:

Report of the Assistant Clerk

The minute books of all the Sessions, including those of the former Multiracial Session, were presented for review with the exception of Elkhart and Westminster. There were a quite a few housekeeping items

all of which are noted in each of the respective minute books. The reviewers found only four items which might qualify as a deviation from the law and order of the church and are as follows:

1. The grounds for excommunication of two members in the Southfield congregation was not stated.
2. There were a significant number of minutes for which there is no record that they were approved in the Bloomington minutes.
3. The Triangle session took the following action which appears to be contrary to the law and order of the church. "It was agreed upon by common consent that this statement is to be communicated to the congregation: "the Constitution of the RPCNA gives the right to speak as well as to vote to each communicant member of our congregation, but those with covenantal convictions about the issue, should only have their heads of household speak. The resident elders of this Session hold to the covenantal view as being the view of Scripture, but the Constitution allows for all members to speak!" (Page 35, Minute 10). If the Session feels this strongly about this issue, the established procedure for change is to petition presbytery and through the presbytery the Synod to make the desired change rather than take the matter in their own hands.
4. Also from the records of the Triangle Session, three families were "released" from the membership but are not named (Page 53, Minute 7). It should be noted this terminology does not correlate to that used in the Constitution.

There have been several changes made in membership section of the statistical report draft. These are as follows:

1. Line 8-Baptized Members should be 74.
2. Line 15-Total Membership is 192 and Communicant Membership is 122.
3. Line 17-2003 Membership should be 78.
- 4, Line 37-Total Membership is 1599,
Total Communicant Membership is 1066 and Total Baptized Membership is 539.

Recommendations:

1. The session record books of the Belle Center and Westminster Sessions be presented at the fall meeting of the presbytery for review.
2. The presbytery appoint a special committee to address the issues raised by the Triangle Session regarding speaking (and perhaps voting) in congregational meetings. This committee to report at the fall meeting of the presbytery.
3. The presbytery authorize the Ad Interim Commission to consider the appointment of an assistant clerk-elect in order to provide for a time of training so there can be an orderly transfer of responsibilities for whenever the present assistant clerk leaves the presbytery.
4. Sessional moderators and clerks be reminded to take great care to maintain their records in an orderly manner.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ralph Joseph, Assistant Clerk

Recommendations 1 to 4 were approved.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Time and Place Committee Report

Andrew McCracken gave this Report with the following recommendations:

1. that the Fall meeting of Presbytery be November 16-18, 2006 at the Southfield Reformed Presbyterian Church.
2. that the Spring meeting of Presbytery be March 29-31, 2007.

The two recommendations were approved.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Presbytery's Report to the Synod

The Assistant Clerk presented the Report that would be sent on to the Synod.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be adopted.

Resolution of Thanks

Charles Saunders presented this report. The report expressed the extensive care the Presbytery has received from the Sycamore congregation.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Minutes

The Minutes were read and corrected.

It was announced that Representatives of the Youth Leadership Team would report at the dinner following the close of this meeting.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that Milton Harrington be made the Stated Supply of the Hetherton Reformed Presbyterian Church.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the Minutes be approved as read and corrected.

Adjournment

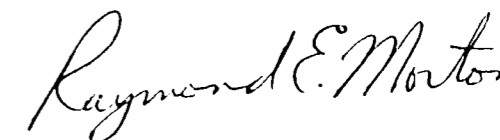
Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that Presbytery adjourn.

Presbytery sang Psalm 48B and the Moderator led in the prayer of adjournment.

Presbytery adjourned at 5:20 p.m.



Charles Brown, Moderator
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery



Raymond E. Morton, Clerk
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery

APPENDIX

Paper 2006-4

Motion:

That Presbytery set as its meeting policy to allow a five-minute time limit for congregational and ministry reports.

Rationale

1. Since the reports are written and supposed to be distributed prior to the meeting, five minutes seems to be sufficient time.
2. Often valuable time can be wasted on the floor of Presbytery discussing matters that individuals could ask at other times. Because there is currently no time limit, it makes it difficult to prevent this and can put the moderator in an awkward position.
3. The expanding size of our Presbytery, with new students and delegates, means we have more business and a need to conduct it with more precision.
4. If a congregation or ministry needs more time to report or to handle a matter, Presbytery still has the freedom to extend the time.

Signed by: Barry York, Ralph Joseph, Tom Reid, Robert Morrow, Andy McCracken, Ian Wise, Ram Rao, Charles Saunders, Jared Olivetti, Charles Brown, Greg Cumbee, Gordon Keddie, and four other members of the Court.

Memorial for Pastor Raymond P. Joseph

Raymond Patton Joseph was born June 2, 1927, in Monticello, Iowa, to Raymond Patterson and Alice Patton Joseph. The Josephs lived on a farm about two miles east of Hopkinton and were members of the congregation there. The late Dr. Frank E. Allen was his pastor during his growing up years. Ray had a rich family heritage of devotion to biblical principles, not only in his parents but also in his four grandparents. His Grandfather Patton was the late Rev. Thomas Patton who served the Lord in what is now the Coldenham-Newburgh congregation and his Grandfather Joseph was the late T.J. Joseph who was a ruling elder in the Hopkinton congregation. At an early age, he confessed his faith in Jesus Christ, as did his younger brother Tom.

Ray graduated from Hopkinton High School in 1945 and promptly enlisted in the Army Air Corps, hoping to learn how to fly but instead, he was assigned to duty as an IBM repairman in the Philippines. After returning home, he attended Geneva College where he graduated in 1951 with a B.S. in Composite Science. Following completion of his undergraduate work, he entered the University of Iowa School of Medicine where he studied for one year.

But Ray's life work was not yet clear. He did realize dream of flying by becoming part owner of a small airplane (for aviation enthusiasts, a Piper J3) and gained his pilot's license. He used his interest in flying to ferry his family and friends around in Iowa and would, on occasion, fly to the meetings of the Synod. The Lord so worked in his life that he became convinced the Lord was calling him to train for the gospel ministry and consequently he entered the Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary in 1953, graduating three years later.

It was while he was in seminary he fell in love with Alice Muriel Smith, daughter of the late Pastor and Mrs. Alvin Smith who at that time were living in Orlando, Fla., where he was the pastor. Ray and Alice were married Sept. 3, 1955. Following his seminary graduation, the couple moved to San Diego, Cal., where he became the organizing pastor of the congregation there, a mission work begun by the late J.D. Edgar. It was during this pastorate that four of their five children were born: the twins, Brenda (John) Davis and Brian (Kim), in 1956; Philip (Sharon) in 1958; Barbara (David) McCune in 1959. In 1962, he accepted the call of the Greeley, Colo., congregation where he served until 1967 when the Lord led him to a new work in Indiana.

After resigning the Greeley pastorate, Ray moved his family to West Lafayette, where he took up a Bible study begun by Roy Blackwood. The West Lafayette congregation, since renamed the Lafayette congregation, focused largely on a developing a ministry in and around Purdue University. The work was officially organized as a congregation in 1968. Interestingly enough, the congregation of which he was the organizing pastor, is at the present time seriously working to develop a daughter congregation in the community where the congregation had its beginnings.

Ray and Alice's fifth child, Rebecca (Jeff) Manring, was born in 1972, while the family was living in Lafayette, a few months after the passing of his mother into glory. In 1983, they moved to Pittsburgh, and then to Atlanta, where for two years he taught the love of psalmody to anyone who would listen in the Chalcedon Presbyterian Church, where they worshiped. He also taught in the Chalcedon Christian School.

The Southfield congregation called Ray to be their pastor in 1986 where he served until his retirement in December 2001. A scholarship fund was established in honor of Ray's commitment to national covenanting at RPTS. Ray and Alice continued to live in Southfield for a time following his retirement until moving to Alpharetta, Ga., to live next door to their son, Phil, and his family.

Throughout his life, Ray had many interests. He grew up playing piano and would often accompany his mother, an accomplished violinist at weddings (including the present writer's father's second marriage), social gatherings or whenever requested. While in college, he played for the Genevans and after his marriage often accompanied his wife, an accomplished vocalist. He was an avid photography buff, one of his first cameras being a Mercury single frame 35 mm. unit. He also enjoyed writing. During his college days he edited the student weekly, *The Cabinet*, and in his early West Lafayette days worked as a scriptwriter. Later he would become the editor of *The Christian Statesman* and more recently completed a compilation of essays on the Psalms which are housed with the denominational archives at RPTS.

During his seminary days, Ray became a close friend of the late LeRoy Eims of the Navigators; and, like many young Reformed Presbyterians of the time, Ray was greatly helped in learning how to disciple men for Jesus Christ, something that would be a hallmark of his ministry. Many men, now walking with the Lord, look back at that time in the ministry of Ray and Alice as being decisive in their lives.

Later, Ray became good friends with modern-day reformers R.J. Rushdoony, Gary North, and the late Greg Bahnsen and his commitment to seeing the nations serve their King Jesus grew. He served for a time on the Board of the National Reform Association and even appeared on public television with Bill Moyers. The Synod of 1992 honored Ray by electing him its moderator.

Without doubt Ray's fervent passion focused on his heritage as a descendent of the Covenanters of Scotland who suffered and died contending for Christ's crown and covenant—that Jesus Christ reigns as both King and Head of the Church and at the same time rules as King and Head over nations. It was this conviction that kept him constantly championing the cause of the National Reform Association to see Jesus Christ acknowledged in the United States Constitution. He never lost that vision and dream, and it marked his prayers!

Ray passed into the glory of his Lord whom he loved so dearly on Friday,

Feb. 17, 2006, after battling cancer for several years. He left his wife of 50 years (they celebrated their golden anniversary in the summer of 2005), five children and their spouses, and how could we forget, his 22 grandchildren, a brother, Thomas, and many nephews, nieces and cousins. The memorial service, which although not without tears, was a grand time of celebration as family members, members of congregations he served, and friends spoke of his life and ministry. The service, held on Feb. 28, was led by his brother-in-law, Kenneth G. Smith, with assistance from Alice's twin brother, Alvin, and his cousin, Ralph. His body was laid to rest in the Southfield church cemetery along side other faithful saints from the past 150 years.

Truly it can be said of Ray, "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on. Yes, says the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them" (Rev. 14:13).

Ralph Joseph

The material included in this memorial was, in part, written by Kenneth G. Smith and Thomas A. Joseph and read by Tom's son, Bill, at Ray's funeral. Additional material was provided by Jon Hughes, Becky Manring and Ralph Joseph

Information on the Nelson Community Building and Property (From Triangle Reformed Presbyterian Church)

Background: The Nelson Community Association is a non-profit organization, established in the 1970s to cultivate community life and to support local charities. The association is presently composed of approximately 25 members, virtually all of whom are of retirement age. One founding member is Chuck Leverett, also a member at TRPC. Because the members no longer feel up to the task of continuing in their labors, they are disbanding and selling their property. They are offering the building and grounds to us at the tax-assessed value.

Location:

- > 4700 Old Page Rd;
- > southeastern Durham, within Research Triangle Park;
- > property begins about 100 yards from Miami Blvd, a major north-south thoroughfare;
- > land is triangle- or pie-shaped: at front tip is a gas station (on corner of Miami and Old Page, along two long sides of property are office buildings, and on back side is a volunteer fire department (convenient!));
- > ½ mile south of Interstate 40;
- > less than a mile from our present location.

Size of lot: 1.5 acres

Size of building: 40' x 60'

Building material: steel

Date of construction: 1979

Zoning: Churches allowed

Vicinity: Mostly office buildings and hotels

Inside: kitchen, meeting room, two bathrooms, small room on back that could be used for a nursery.

Asking price: \$259,154

Donation from Nelson Community Association to TRPC upon purchase: \$25,000

Estimated value on open market:

- >\$300,000 per acre (\$450,000 total);
- >To build a new building like this one: \$250,000 (quotes from Dillon Construction).

Foreseen improvements:

- >Paint job;
- >New exit lighting;
- >Enlarge bathrooms to make handicapped-accessible;
- >New door hardware;
- >Improve rear exit to make handicapped-accessible;
- >Grading of area around front door;
- >Pave handicapped parking spaces.

Congregational Information:

- >The vote was 23 in favor, none opposed, and one abstaining. Four active members not present for the vote also expressed their support;
- >Present rent per week: \$275;
- >Current assets in Merrill Lynch portfolio: \$951,604 (as of February 28, 2006)
- >Twenty-six acres owned by church is under contract, and could be sold as early as this summer. Estimated value: \$5-600,000.

Ad Interim Commission Minutes

Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery Minutes of the Ad Interim Commission

April 12, 2005
6969 S. Meridian Street
Indianapolis, IN 46217

A meeting of the Ad Interim Commission was held. Those present were: Gordon Keddie, Moderator and Elders Jim Bishop, John Hanson, Jerry Porter, Don Prichard, Bill Sheldrake, George Shopp and Steve Sturm. Those absent: Ram Rao. Ram was contacted by the Moderator prior to the meeting to make him aware of the meeting and the meeting content. Ram was in agreement that Ian Wise should be appointed interim moderator of the Triangle session.

Constitution of the Court

The Court was constituted in prayer at 9:44 p.m.

Ad Interim Commission Business

Gordon Keddie is the Presbytery appointed moderator and by common consent of the Commission, Jim Bishop will serve as clerk.

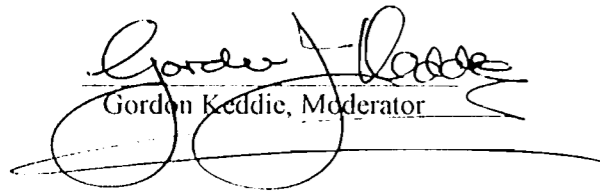
John Tweed is leaving Triangle to return home on April 12, 2005 and Ian Wise will arrive at Triangle on the same day.

Motion approved: That Ian Wise be appointed Interim Moderator of the Triangle Session effective April 12, 2005.

Future Ad Interim Commission meetings will be convened by the Moderator as the need arises.

Adjournment

The Court was adjourned in prayer at 9:48 p.m.


Gordon Keddie, Moderator

James B. Bishop, Clerk

**Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery
Minutes of the Ad Interim Commission**

May 22, 2005
6969 S. Meridian Street
Indianapolis, IN 46217

A meeting of the Ad Interim Commission was held. Those present were: Gordon Keddie, Moderator and Elders Jim Bishop, John Hanson, Jerry Porter, Don Prichard, Ram Rao, Bill Sheldrake and Steve Sturm.

Constitution of the Court

The Court was constituted in prayer at 5:00 p.m.

Minutes

The minutes of the April 12 were approved as distributed.

Pastoral Call from the Elkhart Congregation

Motion approved: That this Call be passed on to Keith Magill.

Triangle Congregation Presbytery Meeting

The Ad Interim Commission ratified the appointment of Gordon Keddie to give the sermon; Bob McCracken, the charge to the pastors and Phil Pockras, the charge to the congregation at the May 20th meeting of the Presbytery.

Columbus Visitation Committee

Because David Hanson is moving to State College, PA, it will be necessary to appoint a new chairman of the Columbus Visitation Committee. It was decided to defer this to the next Ad Interim Commission meeting.

Assistant Presbytery Clerk

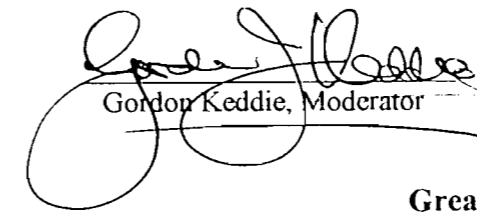
Because Ralph Joseph is retiring on July 17th, it is necessary to appoint an assistant Presbytery clerk to replace him. After some discussion it was decided that Gordon would contact Tom Reid, Jared Olivetti and Ken DeJong looking for someone who was eager to fill this vacancy.

Declaration of Vacancy in Selma

Form 17 in the Constitution will be filled out and sent to Selma. Tom Reid is to be the Interim Moderator.

Adjournment

The Court was adjourned in prayer at 5:34 p.m.


Gordon Keddie, Moderator

James B. Bishop, Clerk

**Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery
Minutes of the Ad Interim Commission**

June 5, 2005
6969 S. Meridian Street
Indianapolis, IN 46217

A meeting of the Ad Interim Commission was held. Those present were: Gordon Keddie, Moderator and Elders Jim Bishop, John Hanson, Jerry Porter, Don Prichard, Bill Sheldrake and Steve Sturm.

Constitution of the Court

The Court was constituted in prayer at 11:00 a.m.

Pastoral Call from the State College, PA congregation

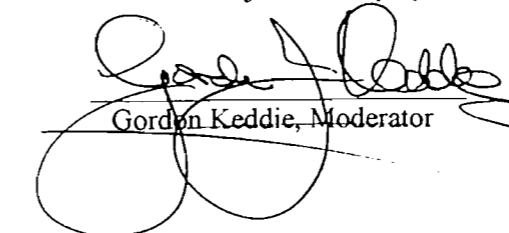
It is noted that this Call did not have the list of communicant members or the minutes of the congregational meeting when the Call was made attached. State College will be requested to send those documents.

Motion Approved: To approve the Call as a gospel Call and forward it on to David Hanson.

The Commission notes that David Hanson's pastoral relationship with the Bloomington congregation is dissolved as of June 19th. By common consent, the Commission requests that the Candidates and Credentials committee transmit David Hanson's credentials to the Presbytery of the Alleghenies.

Adjournment of the Court

The Court was adjourned in prayer at 11:10 a.m.


Gordon Keddie, Moderator

James B. Bishop, Clerk

Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery
Minutes of the Ad Interim Commission

July 23, 2005
6969 S. Meridian Street
Indianapolis, IN 46217

A meeting of the Ad Interim Commission was held. Those present were: Gordon Keddie, Moderator and Elders Jim Bishop, John Hanson, Jerry Porter, Don Prichard, Bill Sheldrake, George Shopp and Steve Sturm. Those absent: Ram Rao. Ram was contacted by the Moderator prior to the meeting to make him aware of the meeting and to supply him a copy of the requests from the Elkhart congregation. Ram was in agreement with the requests being made.

Constitution of the Court

The Court was constituted in prayer at 10:18 a.m.

Ad interim Commission Business

The Commission received a letter from Barry York, who is the provisional moderator for the Elkhart congregation. This letter made three requests upon which the Commission acted.

By common consent: That Keith Magill be appointed as Moderator starting September 1. This will coincide with Keith's acceptance of the call from Elkhart and beginning as Pastor on September 1.

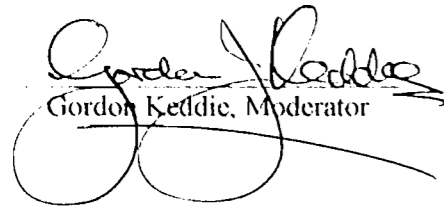
By common consent: That the installation of Keith Magill be by the Presbytery on either September 16 or October 14 (the dates requested).

The third request was that David Long and Barry York be appointed to share the position of a provisional Elder on the Elkhart Session. After a lengthy discussion the Commission agreed by common consent: That both David Long and Barry York be appointed as provisional Elders on the Elkhart Session. Their terms will last until the fall meeting of Presbytery, at which time the Presbytery will be asked to review their policy concerning provisional Session members.

The Commission sees no provision in our Constitution for having a 'shared' provisional Elder. The appointment appears to be of a man, rather than a position. Furthermore, there is no absolute need to appoint any provisional Elders, as Keith and the ruling Elder in Elkhart are enough to keep the congregation's organization. There is concern that the Session will now have three Pastors on it, two of which are not in close contact with the congregation. It is for these reasons that the Commission would like the Presbytery to review the situation. The Commission agreed to these short term appointments to strengthen and encourage Keith Magill as he begins his work as Pastor in Elkhart.

Adjournment

The Court was adjourned in prayer at 11:19 a.m.


Gordon Keddie, Moderator

James B. Bishop, Clerk

Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery
Minutes of the Ad Interim Commission

August 16, 2005
6969 S. Meridian Street
Indianapolis, IN 46217

A meeting of the Ad Interim Commission was held. Those present were: Gordon Keddie, Moderator and Elders Jim Bishop, John Hanson, Don Prichard, Bill Sheldrake, George Shopp and Steve Sturm. Those absent: Jerry Porter and Ram Rao.

Constitution of the Court

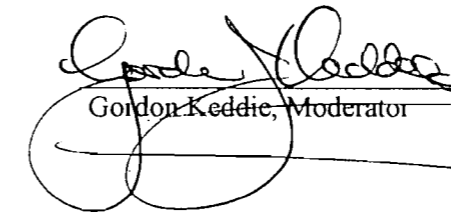
The Court was constituted in prayer at 10:17 p.m.

Ad Interim Commission Business

Motion: Record that Ralph Joseph retired from the gospel ministry at the Selma RPC on July 17th and approved his request for reimbursement of moving expenses from the Trustees of Synod. Motion passed.

Adjournment

The Court was adjourned in prayer at 10:19 p.m.


Gordon Keddie, Moderator

James B. Bishop, Clerk

Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery
Minutes of the Ad Interim Commission

August 28, 2005
6969 S. Meridian Street
Indianapolis, IN 46217

A meeting of the Ad Interim Commission was held. Those present were: Gordon Keddie, Moderator and Elders Jim Bishop, John Hanson, Jerry Porter, Don Prichard, George Shopp and Steve Sturm. Those absent: Bill Sheldrake and Ram Rao.

Constitution of the Court

The Court was constituted in prayer at 12:31 p.m.

Ad Interim Business

Motion: That a commission consisting of Dr. Roy Blackwood, James Faris, David Long, Barry York and Fik Menbere be appointed to act for Presbytery for the installation of Keith Magill at the Elkhart RPC. Motion passed.

Adjournment

The Court was adjourned in prayer at 12:34 p.m.

Gordon Keddie, Moderator

James B. Bishop, Clerk

**Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery
Minutes of the Ad Interim Commission**

September 13, 2005
6969 S. Meridian Street
Indianapolis, IN 46217

A meeting of the Ad Interim Commission was held. Those present were: Gordon Keddie, Moderator and Elders Jim Bishop, John Hanson, Jerry Porter, Don Prichard, George Shopp and Steve Sturm. The Moderator regrets that he neglected to notify Ram Rao of this meeting.

Constitution of the Court

The Court was constituted in prayer at 10:25 p.m.

Minutes

The minutes of the May 22, June 5, July 23, August 16 and August 28 meetings were approved as submitted.

Report to the Presbytery

Gordon Keddie presented a report of the Ad Interim Commission to the Presbytery for the November 10-12 meeting, which outlined all major actions taken by the Commission since the last Presbytery meeting.

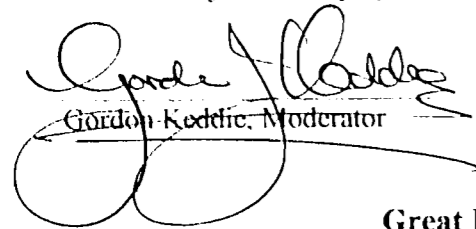
Motion Passed The report is approved and will be presented to the Presbytery.

Minutes

The minutes of this meeting (September 13) were read and approved.

Adjournment

The Court was adjourned in prayer at 10:38 p.m.


Gordon Keddie, Moderator

James B. Bishop, Clerk

**Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery
Minutes of the Ad Interim Commission**

January 10, 2006
6969 S. Meridian Street
Indianapolis, IN 46217

A meeting of the Ad Interim Commission was held. Those present were: Gordon Keddie, Moderator and Elders Jim Bishop, Ram Rao, Don Prichard, George Shopp and Steve Sturm. Those absent were Bill Sheldrake, Jerry Porter and John Hanson.

Constitution of the Court

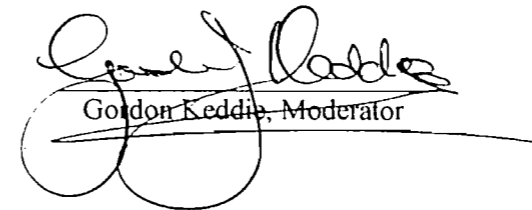
The Court was constituted in prayer at 7:38 p.m.

Ed Blackwood

Motion approved: That Ed Blackwood's credentials be transferred to the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Australia.

Adjournment

The Court was adjourned in prayer at 7:50 p.m.


Gordon Keddie, Moderator

James B. Bishop, Clerk

**Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery
Minutes of the Ad Interim Commission**

January 15, 2006
6969 S. Meridian Street
Indianapolis, IN 46217

A meeting of the Ad Interim Commission was held. Those present were: Gordon Keddie, Moderator and Elders Jim Bishop, John Hanson, Jerry Porter, Don Prichard, George Shopp and Steve Sturm. Those absent were Bill Sheldrake and Ram Rao.

Constitution of the Court

The Court was constituted in prayer at 7:00 p.m.

Ordination and Installation of Michael LeFebvre

Motion approved: Approve and appoint the following to participate in the ordination and installation service for Michael LeFebvre.

Sermon: Roy Blackwood

Reading of Queries: Moderator

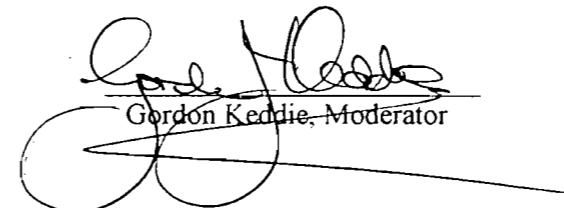
Prayer of Ordination and Installation: Rich Johnston

Charge to Michael LeFebvre: Keith Magill

Charge to Congregation: Dave Long

Adjournment

The Court was adjourned in prayer at 7:02 p.m.


Gordon Keddie, Moderator

James B. Bishop, Clerk

**Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery
Minutes of the Ad Interim Commission**

February 15, 2006
6969 S. Meridian Street
Indianapolis, IN 46217

A meeting of the Ad Interim Commission was held. Those present were: Gordon Keddie, Moderator and Elders Jim Bishop, John Hanson, Jerry Porter, Don Prichard, Bill Sheldrake, George Shopp and Steve Sturm. Those absent were Ram Rao.

Constitution of the Court

The Court was constituted in prayer at 10:18 p.m.

Minutes

Minutes of January 10 and January 15 meetings approved as distributed.

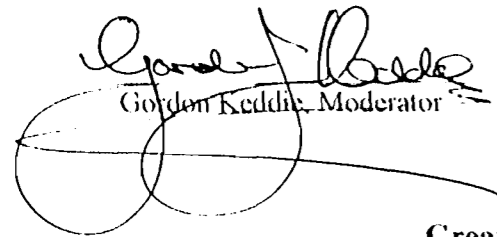
Associate Pastor Call from Kokomo

Kokomo wants to issue a call of associate pastor to Rutledge Etheridge and is asking the Ad Interim to approve their holding an election.

Motion Passed: That Kokomo be granted permission to hold an election for associate pastor.

Adjournment

The Court was adjourned in prayer at 10:38 p.m.



Gordon Keddie, Moderator

James B. Bishop, Clerk

**Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery
Minutes of the Ad Interim Commission**

February 26, 2006
6969 S. Meridian Street
Indianapolis, IN 46217

A meeting of the Ad Interim Commission was held. Those present were: Gordon Keddie, Moderator and Elders Jim Bishop, John Hanson, Jerry Porter, Don Prichard, Bill Sheldrake, George Shopp and Steve Sturm. Those absent were Ram Rao.

Constitution of the Court

The Court was constituted in prayer at 4:36 p.m.

Minutes

The minutes of the February 15 meeting was approved as distributed.

Appeal of Matthew A. Bryan against the action of the Session of the Triangle RPC

Motion approved: To approve the attached action. See attachment.

Appeal of Matthew A. Bryan against the action of the Session of the Triangle RPC

The Appeal is dated February 8, 2006. The appellant records that he received notice of the judgment of the Triangle Session on November 20, 2005. He was not present at the Session meeting at which charges were read and the judgment rendered, but received the notice by registered mail a day or two after that meeting (i.e. on November 20, 2005).

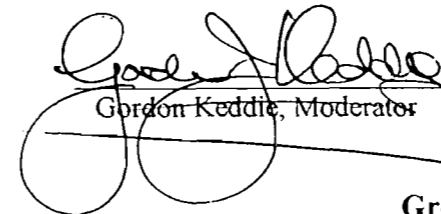
The Book of Discipline 6:13 (Constitution p E-12) states that notice of an appeal "must be given at the time the decision is rendered if the appellant is present, or as soon as he is informed of the action." For this condition to be met, the Notice of Appeal would need to have been filed by December 4, 2005, ~i.e. within the two weeks specified in BD 6:13.

The Ad Interim Commission accordingly finds the Appeal out of order and returns it to the author. The Commission notes however that the Appellant alleges a number of irregularities on the part of the Triangle Session which, if true, might call for an admonition that the Session take greater care with the procedure for exercising formal discipline. The Ad Interim Commission enjoins the Triangle Session to review its proceedings in the case against Matthew Bryan to ensure consistency with the Word of God and the RP Constitution and take whatever steps may be necessary to identify and correct any instances of irregularity.

The Ad Interim Commission notes that Mr. Bryan may appeal this decision to the next regular meeting of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery, meeting in Kokomo, Indiana, on March 30, 2006, provided he lodges it with the Clerk within two weeks of receiving notice of this action, and advises him accordingly.

Adjournment of the Court

The Court was adjourned in prayer at 5:14 p.m.



Gordon Keddie, Moderator

James B. Bishop, Clerk

**Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery
Minutes of the Ad Interim Commission**

March 14, 2006
6969 S. Meridian Street
Indianapolis, IN 46217

A meeting of the Ad Interim Commission was held. Those present were: Gordon Keddie, Moderator and Elders Jim Bishop, Don Prichard, Bill Sheldrake, George Shopp and Steve Sturm. Those absent were John Hanson, Jerry Porter and Ram Rao.

Constitution of the Court

The Court was constituted in prayer at 9:55 p.m.

Minutes

The Minutes of the February 26 meeting were approved as presented.

Report to the Presbytery

The report of the Ad Interim Commission to the Presbytery meeting in Kokomo, Indiana on March 30 - April 1, 2006 was approved as presented.

Appointment of Delegate to United Reformed Churches

Motion approved: That Rev. Charles Brown be appointed as our fraternal delegate to the Classes Central US of the United Reformed Churches, meeting in Waupun, Wisconsin.

Southfield RPC Call on Rutledge Etheridge

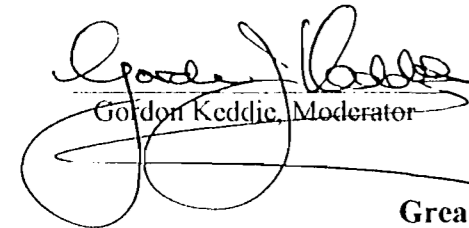
Because of the imminence of the full Presbytery meeting, this call will be referred to the Presbytery at Kokomo from March 30 - April 1.

Minutes

The minutes of the March 14 meeting were approved as read.

Adjournment of the Court

The Court was adjourned in prayer at 10:04 p.m.


Gordon Keddie, Moderator

James B. Bishop, Clerk

**Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery
Minutes of the Ad Interim Commission**

March 26, 2006
6969 S. Meridian Street
Indianapolis, IN 46217

A meeting of the Ad Interim Commission was held. Those present were: Gordon Keddie, Moderator and Elders Jim Bishop, Jerry Porter, Don Prichard and Steve Sturm. Those absent were John Hanson, Bill Sheldrake, George Shopp and Ram Rao.

Constitution of the Court

The Court was constituted in prayer at 1:24 p.m.

Appeal of Matthew A. Bryan against the action of Session of the Triangle RPC

Motion approved: That the action taken at the February 26 meeting that ruled this appeal to be out of order be rescinded and that this appeal be referred to the March 30 meeting of the Presbytery without comment.

This action was taken because the Commission erred by making a decision based on an earlier version of the Book of Discipline. The Commission regrets its error and apologizes to all parties for their oversight.

Report to the Presbytery

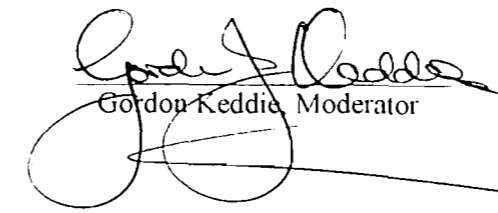
The report of the Ad Interim Commission to the Presbytery meeting in Kokomo, Indiana on March 30 - April 1, 2006 was approved as amended.

Minutes

The minutes of the March 26 meeting were approved as read.

Adjournment of the Court

The Court was adjourned in prayer at 1:39 p.m.


Gordon Keddie, Moderator

James B. Bishop, Clerk

**Minutes of the Synod Meeting
of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery
Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America
June 27, 2006**

Call to Order: The Moderator, Charles Brown called the Presbytery to order at 3:25 p.m. on Tuesday, June 27, 2006, in Room 22 of the Science and Engineering Building on the grounds of Geneva College, Beaver Falls, PA.

Constitution of the Court: The Moderator constituted the court in prayer.

Agenda: The Clerk outlined the Agenda for the afternoon which was approved.

Roll Call: The clerk called the roll, which showed that a quorum was present and is as follows:

<i>Congregations</i>	<i>Teaching Elders</i>	<i>Ruling Elders</i>
Belle Center	Philip Pockras x	
Bloomington	William Roberts e Richard Holdeman x	
Columbus	Andrew McCracken x	
Elkhart	Keith Magill x	
Hetherton		
Lafayette	David Long x Jared Olivetti x	
Oakdale	Raymond Morton x	
Orlando	David Smith x	
Second Indianapolis	Roy Blackwood x Richard Johnston x James Faris x Michael LeFebvre x	Dean Filson x Jack Baumgardner x
Selma		
Southfield		Jon Hughes x James Curtis x
Southside	Gordon Keddie x	
Sparta	Raymond Morton x	
Sycamore	Barry York x	
Triangle	Ian Wise x Greg Cumbee x	
Westminster	Charles Brown x	
Roger Adams		
Paul Faris		
Rick Gamble x		
Milton Harrington		
Garland Kincaid		
Robert McCracken x		

Marion McFarland
Tom Reid x

Travel Agent: Rev. Tom Reid was appointed Travel Agent.

Report of the Atlanta Commission

Pastor Ian Wise, Moderator of the Commission, presented the Report. The Report is attached in the Appendix.

Recommendations:

RECOMMENDATION #1: That Presbytery encourage Brian Hasenkopf to move to Atlanta as church planter in the fall in an essentially-tentmaking capacity, under the direction of the Atlanta Commission.

RECOMMENDATION #2: That Presbytery approve paying Mr Hasenkopf's moving and ministry expenses as outlined in the Report and in the spring 2006 proposal.

RECOMMENDATION #3: That Presbytery pay travel and all registration fees for the Hasenkopfs to attend 2006 COVFAMIKOI from the Atlanta Fund.

Recommendations 1 and 2 were approved; Recommendation 3 was amended and approved as it appears above.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the Report be received. Pastor Ian Wise led the Court in prayer for Brian and his family and for the new work in Atlanta.

Transfer of Credentials of Rick Gamble

The Clerk read a letter from Dr. Rick Gamble requesting that his ministerial credentials be moved to the Presbytery of the Alleghenies.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that this request be approved.

Decision concerning payment of Room and Board for this Synod Meeting

The Clerk introduced a recommendation that was approved by Synod and is as follows: "Recommendation: that presbyteries be encouraged to consider how to provide payment of room and board expenses at Synod for their teaching elders who are not in a settled pastorate and who they certify to Synod."

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that Presbytery cover the expenses for room and board of James Pennington and other ministers not in the pastorate and certified by this Presbytery for this Synod (2006).

Pastor Phil Pockras gave an update of the situation and needs in the Belle Center congregation, asking for the prayers of the Presbytery. Pastor Barry York gave an update and prayer request for Robert Jones and his family who go to the Airdrie, Scotland, congregation in a week's time to minister there for a year.

Minutes

The Clerk read the Minutes of this meeting.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the Minutes be approved as corrected.

Adjournment

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed, that Presbytery adjourn.

The Moderator prayer for business and needs recorded above and adjourned the Presbytery at 5:10 p.m.



Charles Brown, Moderator
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery



Raymond E. Morton, Clerk
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery

APPENDIX
Report of Atlanta Commission
to
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery meeting
June 27, 2006

Dear fathers and brothers,

Since the spring meeting of Presbytery, Brian Hasenkopf has made an additional trip to Atlanta. These trips have proven beneficial in terms of understanding the lay of the land, developing a relationship with another Psalm-singing body in the greater Atlanta area, and better discerning the individuals who will make up the initial core group. Of particular interest to Presbytery will be the stance of the Phil Joseph family toward the new initiative there. Phil continues to be encouraging, in that he is excited about there being a Reformed Presbyterian presence in Atlanta, and is praying for this endeavor. But he has not changed his position: at this point he does not envision his family's being a part of the work because of their deep involvement in their present church. In Brian's interactions with Alice Joseph, she expressed her deep love for the Covenanter church, but also her intent to continue attending Little River Church with her family.

Over the past few months, Brian has spearheaded advertising placements in the *Witness* and in *World* magazine. Two contacts have been made via these. One is a former RP family from Rochester, NY, and the other is from a Reformed background. These two live some distance from each other, and from the Barry Hasenkopfs. It is yet to be determined whether either contact would be a part of the nucleus of a new work. At this point, the core group would consist of the two Hasenkopf households, Carolyn Leverett, and David Agnew.

The Commission has been encouraged by the persistence and buoyancy that Brian has exhibited through these months, in spite of minimal response thus far. The direction that Providence has

taken us leads us to seek something less than a full-time gospel call at this time. That is why the Commission voted last week to *ask Presbytery to encourage Brian Hasenkopf to move to Atlanta in the fall in an essentially-tentmaking capacity.* (See Recommendation #1)

We say *essentially* because it is our recommendation that he be considered 80% self-supporting at this time, with Presbytery paying him \$10,000 annually (social security included), to be paid in monthly installments; and that his moving and various ministry expenses be financed along the lines iterated in the budget presented last spring: (See Recommendation #2)

Moving Expenses (self-move)	\$3000
Ministry Expenses	3000
Meeting Place	9000
Supplies	1500
Telephone/Website	2000
Miscellaneous	1500

If Presbytery approves the Recommendations, the Commission will urge the Hasenkopfs to join a congregation within Presbytery, and will encourage Brian to transfer his licensure from Presbytery of the Alleghenies to Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery. It is the desire of the Commission that the core group move toward a weekly worship service and such other activities, especially evangelistic, that seem most helpful. It is our goal to be able to issue Brian a formal call at the spring 2007 meeting, and at that time to seek Home Mission Board financial support. In the meantime, we want the Hasenkopfs to get to know the people of our presbytery better, so we are hoping they will be able to attend this summer's COVFAMIKOI. (See Recommendation #3)

RECOMMENDATION #1: That Presbytery encourage Brian Hasenkopf to move to Atlanta as church planter in the fall in an essentially-tentmaking capacity, under the direction of the Atlanta Commission.

RECOMMENDATION #2: That Presbytery approve paying Mr Hasenkopf's moving and ministry expenses as outlined above and in the spring 2006 proposal.

RECOMMENDATION #3: That Presbytery pay travel and all registration fees for the Hasenkopfs to attend 2006 COVFAMIKOI from the Atlanta fund.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Reid
David Smith
Steve Sturm
Ian Wise, moderator
Averette Woodson

**Minutes of the
Special Meeting
of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery
Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America
October 27, 2006**

1. **Constitution of the Court:** The Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery met in special session at 7:06 p.m. on Friday, October 27, 2006, at Light and Life Free Methodist Church of Avon, Indiana, for the purpose of organizing the Westside Indianapolis Reformed Presbyterian (Mission) Church

The moderator, Charles Brown constituted the court in prayer.

2. **Roll:** The clerk called the roll and declared a quorum of Presbytery was present. Each elder stood as he answered the roll call.

<i>Congregation</i>	<i>Teaching Elder</i>	<i>Ruling Elder</i>
Belle Center	Phil Pockras x	
Bloomington	Bill Roberts x	Ken deJong x
Columbus	Andrew McCracken-x	
Elkhart.	Keith Magill x	
Hetherton	-	
Lafayette	David Long x	David Carr x
	Jared Olivetti x	
Oakdale	Raymond Morton x	
Orlando		
Second Indianapolis	Roy Blackwood x	Ram Rao x
	Richard Johnston x	Donald Cassell x
	James Faris x	
	Michael LeFebvre x	
Selma		
Southfield		Jon Hughes x
Southside Indianapolis		
Sparta	Raymond Morton x	Robert Morrow x
Sycamore	Barry York x	Tom Dinkledine x
		Greg Fisher(alt)
Triangle		
Westminster	Charles Brown x	
Ministers without Pastorates:	Roger Adams --	
	Paul Faris -	
	Garland Kincaid --	
	Paul Mathews --	
	Robert McCracken x	
	Marion McFarland -	

Thomas Reid e
Frank Schutz

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that elder delegates without certificates be seated, that all Reformed Presbyterian ruling and teaching elders present who are not delegates be made consultative members of the court, and that all elders in good standing in denominations with which we have fraternal relations be invited to participate in the laying on of hands.

3. **Worship:** The Moderator called the congregation present to worship by reading Psalm 100. Following the singing of Psalm 122B, Roy Blackwood led in prayer. James Faris reviewed the history of the congregation of Westside Indianapolis leading up to the organization. He went on to introduce Pastor Richard Ganz who opened the Word from Luke 20:20-26, on the subject of "Are You Ready To Render" and closed his message by leading in prayer. Afterwards Psalm 57B was sung.

4. **Organization:** The names of the charter members of the congregation were read by Jim Long. As the names were read, they stood and remained standing. The roll included thirty seven communicant members and twenty two baptized members not yet communicant plus another nine children. Each of the communicant members publicly renewed their profession of faith in Christ and acknowledged their acceptance of the Covenant of Church Membership, plus the additional pledge from the *Directory of Church Government*: "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 godly life, seek to promote the purity, peace, and prosperity of the church as a whole?" Jim Long presented a copy of the Covenant of Church Membership which all the members had signed. Keith Magill offered prayer officially constituting the Christ Church Reformed Presbyterian Congregation, after which the moderator declared the Congregation to be officially organized. The congregation then sang Psalm 87.

5. **Election of Ruling Elders:** The Temporary Governing Body placed the names of Jack Baumgardner and Duane Judd in nomination as ruling elders. Both men had been examined by the Temporary Governing Body and found suitable to serve in the office of ruling elder if elected by this congregation. No others were nominated from the floor.

Tellers: It was moved, seconded, and passed, that Dean Filson, an elder on the Temporary Governing Body, be appointed to call the roll of Christ Church and that Elders Robert Morrow and Ken deJong be appointed to count the ballots for ruling elder. Ballots were distributed, the Moderator led in prayer, the Roll was called and the ballots collected and counted. While the ballots were being counted the assembled congregation sang Psalm 48B. Jack Baumgardner and Duane Judd were elected by more than two-thirds vote.

6. **Ordination and Installation of Ruling Elders:** Since both men elected as ruling elders had been previously examined by the Temporary Governing Body, the moderator proceeded to ask each if they were willing to serve and both answered affirmatively. It was moved,

seconded, and passed, that the issuing of the edict and the eight-day notice requirement before proceeding to ordination and/or installation be waived. The elders-elect were asked the ordination queries by Ram Rao and responded affirmatively to the queries. Each elder-elect signed the queries in the Session Minute Book. William Roberts offered prayer, ordaining and installing Duane Judd and installing Jack Baumgardner as ruling elders, as the Presbytery laid hands on Mr. Judd. Following the prayer, the members of Presbytery extended the right hand of fellowship to both elders.

7. **Election of a Pastor:** The members of the Christ Church Congregation were asked if they were ready to elect a pastor, which they answered affirmatively. It was moved, seconded, and passed, that Christ Church be granted the privilege of calling a pastor and that the issuing of the edict and eight-day notice requirement before proceeding to the election be waived. The Temporary Governing Body placed the name of Michael LeFebvre in nomination as pastor. No others were nominated from the floor. Following prayer Mr. LeFebvre's election was carried out in the same manner as that of the ruling elders. The election resulted in the unanimous election of Mr. LeFebvre as pastor.

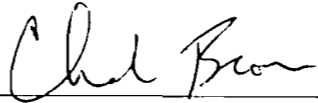
8. **Call to the Pastor:** It was moved, seconded, and passed, that the terms of the call upon Mr. LeFebvre to be our pastor be approved by the congregation. While the ballots were being counted the assembled congregation sang Psalm 84A. The Moderator announced that the congregation has unanimously elected Mr. LeFebvre to be their pastor. It was moved, seconded, and passed that since the call by Christ Church Reformed Presbyterian on the Rev. Dr. Michael LeFebvre is in accordance with the law and order of the church and since the Presbytery wholeheartedly endorses this call, that the call be sustained as a regular gospel call and be presented immediately to Rev. LeFebvre. The Pastor-elect came forward and received the call. Mr. LeFebvre indicated his acceptance of the call.

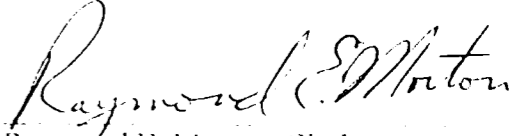
9. **Installation of the Pastor:** It was moved, seconded, and passed, that the issuing of the edict and eight-day notice requirement be waived. Mr. LeFebvre came forward and Pastor David Long asked him the installation vows which Mr. LeFebvre answered in the affirmative. Mr. LeFebvre signed the Presbytery Minute Book. All Presbyters, consultative members of the Court, and all elders in good standing in denominations with which we have fraternal relations came forward for the Prayer of Installation. The prayer of installation was offered by Pastor Rich Johnston. The Presbyters extended the right hand of fellowship to Mr. LeFebvre. The Moderator asked the Session of Christ Church R.P. to add Pastor LeFebvre to the roll of the congregation. Pastor Keith Magill addressed the Congregation, the new ruling elders, and the new pastor, regarding their duties and responsibilities in their respective ministries.

10. **Greetings:** Greetings to the new Congregation came from Dr. Wayne and Mrs. Mary Spear. Pastor LeFebvre expressed the thanks of the new congregation to the Second Indianapolis Congregation and presented Pastors Roy Blackwood and Rich Johnston with a plaque with the words of Psalm 72C stanza 12 written thereon.

11. **Minutes:** it was moved, seconded, and passed that Presbytery approve the Minutes of this meeting at the Fall meeting of Presbytery on November 16, 2006.

10. **Adjournment:** Psalm 148 was sung and Pastor Roy Blackwood adjourned the court with prayer and Pastor LeFebvre pronounced the benediction. Psalm 72C stanza 12 was sung. Presbytery adjourned at 9:28 p.m.


Charles Brown, Moderator


Raymond E. Morton, Clerk

**Minutes of the Fall Meeting
Of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery
November 16-17, 2006**

Session 1, Thursday, November 16, 2006, at 2:10 p.m.

Call to Order

The Presbytery was called to order by the Moderator, Charles Brown at 2:10 p.m. on Thursday, November 16, 2006, at the Southfield Reformed Presbyterian Church, Southfield, MI.

Devotions

Presbytery sang Psalm 90C.
The Moderator read I Corinthians 12:12-26.

Constitution

The Moderator constituted the Court in prayer.

Roll

The Clerk called the roll, which is as follows.

<i>Congregations</i>	<i>Teaching Elders</i>	<i>Ruling Elders</i>
Belle Center	Philip Pockras xxxxx	Larry Bump xxxxx
Bloomington	William Roberts xxxxx	
Christ Church	Michael LeFebvre xxxxx	Jack Baumgardner xxxxx
Columbus	Andrew McCracken xxxxx	
Elkhart	Keith Magill -xxxx	
Hetherton	Milton Harrington xxxxx	
Lafayette	David Long xxxxx Jared Olivetti xxxxx	
Oakdale	Raymond Morton xxxxx	
Orlando	David Smith xxxxx	Jonathan Schaefer xxxxx
Second Indianapolis	Roy Blackwood xxxxx Richard Johnston xxxxx James Faris xxxx-	Donald Cassell --xxx Russ Pulliam --xxx Dean Filson(alt) xxxxx
Selma		
Southfield	James Faris ----x	Jon Hughes xxxxx James Curtis xxxxx
Southside	Gordon Keddie ----	John Hanson ---xx
Sparta	Raymond Morton xxxxx	Robert Morrow xxxxx
Sycamore	Barry York xxxxx	
Triangle	Ian Wise xxxxx Greg Cumbee xxxxx	Charles Saunders xxxxx
Westminster	Charles Brown xxxxx	

Ministers under appointment by the Presbytery/Synod:

Tom Reid xxxxx

Ministers without Pastorates

Roger Adams
Robert McCracken eeeee
Marion McFarland
Paul Faris
Garland Kincaid
Frank Schutz
Robert Henning

Other Ministers

Paul Mathews (inactive)
James Wright (Judicial Censure)

The Clerk declared that a quorum was present.

Motion: It was moved, seconded, and passed, that elders without certificates who are representatives of their sessions be seated.

Motion: It was moved, seconded, and passed, that all elders present who are not delegates be made consultative members of the court.

Introductions

David Smith introduced Jonathan Schaefer, elder delegate from Orland for the first time.

Clerk's Report

The clerk, Raymond Morton, presented his report, which is as follows:

**Report of the Clerk
To the Meeting of Presbytery on November, 16-18, 2006**

The Clerk would respectfully report that he has done his best to carry out the assignments given to him as far as he knows. I have received several items of correspondence, some by e-mail, to which I have, mostly, replied by the same route; also some correspondence came by hard copy. I am introducing the items below. I have consulted with the Ad Interim Commission Moderator on one or two items which I thought needed wider consideration.

Eight congregational reports are coming before this meeting. If you need a congregational report let the Clerk know, if possible, before the time of consideration of the report so copies can be made.

I have prepared the Proposed Agenda for this meeting which is printed and available separately from this report.

Communications: (These were circulated by e-mail)

1. 2006-F1 Question to Presbytery from the Westminster Congregation.
2. 2006-F2 A Petition to Organize Immanuel Reformed Presbyterian Church.

3. 2006-F3 A Petition from the Hetherton Reformed Presbyterian Church.
4. Thus far no assistant clerk has been appointed. There is a recommendation for this meeting about that.
5. Recommendation 2 from the Business of Synod Committee:
Recommendation #2 (from the Business of Synod Committee): that presbyteries be encouraged to consider how to provide payment of room and board expenses at Synod for their teaching elders who are not in a settled pastorate and who they certify to Synod
6. Motion from the Presbytery's Assistant Clerk's Report, Recommendation 2.
The presbytery appoint a special committee to address the issues raised by the Triangle Session regarding speaking (and perhaps voting) in congregational meetings. This committee to report at the fall meeting of the presbytery.

For information: From the Report of the Presbyterian and Reformed Joint Commission on Chaplains:

"The commission asked that the Executive Director write a letter to our PRJC presbyteries, to be sent through the respective PRJC denominational representatives for the OPC, PCA and RPCNA, to educate our presbyteries on the ministry needs of our country's military reserves with the intent that those presbyteries (1) more intentionally support presbytery churches of deployed chaplains, and (2) seek to mitigate session reluctance to allow teaching elders to participate in the reserve chaplaincy, and (3) invite representatives of the PRJC to speak to presbyteries about their chaplaincy ministry."

I thank you for the opportunity of serving as your Clerk and trust the Lord will bless us in this meeting of Presbytery.

Recommendations:

1. That the Parliamentarians for this meeting of Presbytery be Phil Pockras and Barry York.
2. That the Proposed Agenda for this meeting be accepted.
3. That the Moderator appoint a Nominating Committee for this meeting of Presbytery.
4. That Paper 2006-F1 "A Question to Presbytery from the Westminster Congregation" be referred to the Judicial Committee.
5. That Paper 2006-F2 "A Petition to Organize Immanuel Reformed Presbyterian Church" be referred to the Judicial Committee.
6. That Paper 2006-F3 "A Petition from the Hetherton Reformed Presbyterian Church" be referred to the Judicial Committee.
7. That the Presbytery appoint Tom Reid to be the Assistant Clerk for this meeting of Presbytery.
8. That Recommendation 2 from the Business of Synod Committee be referred to the Finance Committee.
9. That Recommendation 2 of the Presbytery's Assistant Clerk's Report be referred to the Nominating Committee for appointment.
10. That the Moderator appoint committees to review the Belle Center and Westminster Session Minute Books.
11. That the Report of Judicial Committee of Synod concerning Joel Finley's papers be recorded in the appendix of these Minutes for information.

12. That the Clerk's Report be received.

Respectfully submitted,
Raymond E. Morton, Clerk

Recommendations:

Recommendations 1 to 12 were approved.
The Report as a whole was approved.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the Minutes of the October 27, 2006 meeting be approved as presented.

Report of the Ad Interim Commission

The Report of the Ad Interim Commission was presented by Pastor William Roberts.
The Report is as follows:

Ad Interim Commission Report to Presbytery
November 16, 2007 at Southfield, MI

Since the Spring meeting of Presbytery we have dealt with the following matters:

- Forwarded the call to Rutledge Etheridge from the Providence RP Church in Pittsburgh, PA
- Approved the moving of Ralph Joseph's credentials from the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery to the Presbytery of the Alleghenies.
- Forwarded the call to Thomas Gray from Selma RP Church in Selma, AL.
- Approved the petition from the Westside Oversight Committee of the Second Indianapolis Reformed Presbyterian Church to organize the Westside work into a regular congregation.
- Forwarded the call to James Faris from the Southfield RP Church in Southfield, MI
- Approved the installation service for James Faris at Southfield, MI

Respectfully submitted,
Kenneth deJung
Robert Henning
Richard Holdeman
Wendell McBurney
William Roberts (Moderator)

Motion: It was moved, seconded and passed that the Report of the Ad Interim Commission as a whole be approved.

Travel Agent

Pastor William Roberts was appointed as the Travel Agent for this meeting of Presbytery.

Report of the Interchurch Liaison

Pastor Charles Brown reported orally that he had attended the meeting of the Midwest Presbytery of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the Moderator appoint a Time and Place Committee to arrange for the Spring meeting of Presbytery.

Candidates and Credentials Committee

Pastor Rich Johnston introduced the Report of the Candidates and Credentials Committee. The Recommendations of the Committee are:

1. That David Whitla be taken under care.
2. That student examinations be conducted by Presbytery according to the chart in I.B. above.

Recess and Reconvening

Presbytery took recess at 3:32 with Phil Pockras leading in prayer. Presbytery resumed at 3:48 p.m.

Presbytery continued with the Candidates and Credentials Committee Report.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that after student examinations, Presbytery have up to a ten-minute discussion of the exam followed by a roll call vote with no comments.

Congregational Reports

The Selma Reformed Presbyterian Church Congregational Report was given by Tom Reid.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

The Southfield Reformed Presbyterian Church Congregational Report was given by Jon Hughes.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

The Sparta Reformed Presbyterian Church Congregational Report was given by Robert Morrow.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Committee Assignments by the Moderator

The Moderator made the following assignments:

Nominating Committee: Andrew McCracken, David Long, Barry York

Judicial Committee: James Faris, Jack Baumgardner, Larry Bump, Jonathan Schaefer

Finance Committee: William Roberts, David Smith, James Curtis

Committee to Review the Session Records of:

Belle Center: Jared Olivetti, Ian Wise

Westminster: Milton Harrington, Dean Filson

Time and Place and Committee: Michale LeFebvre

Resolution of Thanks Committee: Robert Morrow.

Congregational Reports

The former Moderator, James Faris took the Chair.

The Westminster Reformed Presbyterian Church Congregational Report was given by Charles Brown.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.
The Moderator resumed the Chair.

Covfamikoi Family Conference Report

The Covfamikoi Conference Report was given by Rich Johnston.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Report of the Atlanta Commission

Ian Wise presented the Report which is as follows:

Dear Fathers and Brothers,

In the clear providence of God, very little has happened toward a church plant in Atlanta since our meeting of Presbytery this past summer.

Issues involving Brian Hasenkopf's extended family continue to be a major distracting factor in his preparing for a move to Atlanta.

We have no choice but to put our plans on hold for the foreseeable future.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Reid

David Smith

Steve Sturm

Averitte Woodson

Ian Wise, Moderator

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

C.Y.P.U. Activities Committee Report

The Report of the C.Y.P.U. was given by Rich Johnston and James Faris.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Prayer

Presbytery had a time of prayer:

Barry York prayed for the Selma congregation.

Ian Wise prayed for the Southfield congregation.

Milton Harrington prayed for the Sparta congregation

David Long prayed for the Westminster congregation and for recess.

Recess

Presbytery recessed at 5:20 p.m.

Session 2, Thursday, November 16, 2006 at 7:02 p.m.**Call to Order**

Presbytery reconvened at the call of the Moderator at 7:02 p.m. with the singing of Psalm 18A, was led in prayer by the Moderator.

Roll

Motion: It was moved, seconded and passed that the Assistant Clerk take the Roll visually in this and all succeeding sessions of this meeting.

The Roll was taken visually by the Assistant Clerk.

Minutes

The Minutes of the Thursday afternoon Session were read, amended, and declared approved by the Moderator.

Report of Presbytery's Representative on Geneva College's Board of Corporators

The representative, Andrew McCracken, reported concerning the College.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Congregational Reports

The Sycamore Reformed Presbyterian Church Congregational Report was given by Barry York.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report was given by William Roberts.

The Recommendations are as follows:

1. that the 2007 Budget be adopted.
2. that the congregations in the Presbytery are directed to designate an amount for the housing allowance greater than the anticipated housing expense for their pastor(s).
3. that the housing expense at Synod of retired pastors on the Roll of Presbytery be routinely paid by the Presbytery. Others may be paid at the Candidates and Credentials Committee's recommendation.
4. that an additional \$2,500 be given to Covfamikoi for scholarships.
5. that the monthly stipend to students at Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary be raised to \$300 per month beginning January , 2007.

Recommendations 1 to 5 were approved.

Presbytery expressed its gratitude to William Roberts for his work as Assistant Treasurer.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Candidates and Credentials Committee Report

Rich Johnston spoke to the Court about men who are making inquiries and/or application to be taken under care of Presbytery. Nathan Eshelman is one of these who is studying at the Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary.

Adjournment

Jack Baumgardner led in prayer for the Sycamore congregation, for the serious flooding in Owega County, NY, and adjourned the Court at 9:04 p.m.

Session 3, Friday, November 17, 2006 at 8:31 a.m.**Call to Order**

Presbytery reconvened at the call of the Moderator at 8:31 a.m.

Presbytery sang Psalm 66A.

Constitution and Devotions

The Moderator led in prayer and constituted the Court in prayer after which he read Titus 1:5-9.

Roll Call

The Assistant Clerk took the Roll visually.

Minutes

The Minutes of the Thursday evening session were read.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the Minutes be approved.

Nominating Committee Report

Andrew McCracken proposed the Committee arising from the Clerk's Report, Recommendation 9, "that Recommendation 2 of the Presbytery's Assistant Clerk's Report be referred to the Nominating Committee for appointment." The members of this committee are to be Jared Olivetti, Phil Pockras, Michael Lefebvre. The Recommendation of the Nominating Committee was approved.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Candidates and Credentials Committee Report

Rich Johnston introduced David Whittle as a student to be taken under care of the Presbytery.

David Whittle spoke of his conversion and Christian commitment and commitment to the reformed faith. Members of Presbytery asked questions and received answers.

Recommendation 1 of the Candidates and Credentials Committee was approved.

Report of the Coordinator of Church Extension

Keith Magill, the Coordinator, presented his report.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Candidates and Credentials Committee Report

Rich Johnston continued the Report of the Candidates and Credentials Committee

Louis Fisher was presented as a candidate to be taken under care of Presbytery. He comes before Presbytery with the Triangle Session recommendation. He spoke of his background and testimony and his commitment to the reformed faith. Members of Presbytery asked questions and received answers.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that Louis Fisher be taken under care by the Presbytery.

Because of unforeseen circumstances David Whitla will not take his Evidence of Progress Sermon at this time.

David Whitla was introduced for his Personal Godliness examination. The examination was conducted by David Long.

Members of Presbytery asked questions and received answers. There were no comments from the presbyters.

Roll Call Vote

The Assistant Clerk called the Roll and the examination was unanimously sustained.

Rich Johnston reported on David Whitla's English Bible Examination with the recommendation that it be sustained.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that examination be sustained.

Roy Blackwood and Phil Pockras reported on David Whitla's written Church History Paper and recommended that the examination be sustained.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the examination be sustained.

This completed the Report of the Candidates and Credentials Committee

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Prayer

Robert Morrow, William Roberts and Charles Saunders led the Court in prayer.

Recess

Presbytery took recess at 10:31 and reconvened at 11:04 a.m. with the singing of Psalm 124B.

Ralph Joseph gave a report on the Church planting work of the Presbytery of the Alleghenies at Pureeville, VA and the probable move to Harper's Ferry, VA.

Assistant Clerk's Report

Tom Reid, the Assistant Clerk, presented his report which is as follows:

The Belle Center and Westminster Sessions presented their Minute books for review. Nothing was found contrary to the law and order of the church, except that the minutes of one meeting were missing from the Westminster Minute Book, one minute was not signed by the Clerk, and one minute was mis-dated.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Congregational Reports

The Second Indianapolis Reformed Presbyterian Church Congregational Report was given by Russ Pulliam.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

The Visitation Committee Report for the Second Indianapolis RP Church was given by Andrew McCracken.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received and the Committee be dismissed.

Recess

The Moderator led the Court in prayer and recessed the Court at 11:58 a.m.

Session 4, Friday, November 17, 2006 at 2:03 p.m.

Call to Order

The Moderator called Presbytery to order at 2:03 p.m.

Psalm 116A was sung in praise and the Moderator led in prayer reconvening the Court.

Roll:

The Roll was taken visually by the Assistant Clerk.

Minutes

The Minutes of the Friday morning Session were read.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the Minutes be approved as read.

Judicial Committee Report

The Report was presented by James Faris and is as follows:

Presbytery Judicial Committee 11-17-2006

Taking up the matter of the paper designated F'06-1, Request from Westminster regarding Communions

Recommendation #1

In regard to the question asked we find nothing in the Law and Order of the Church that would hinder the request as stated. As the request regards ministers in denominations with which we have fraternal relations (DFW Ch. 3, para 2), we find that these men have already been recognized as ministers in the church of Christ (DFW Ch. 3, para 2) (WCF Ch. 29, para. 3), and we would recommend that this be approved with the following conditions, A) that the man has been previously examined and approved by the Session, and B) that there is at least one RP ruling elder present for the sacrament.

Actions on the Recommendation:

Concerning Paper 2006-F1 an amendment was proposed to refer the matter to the Synod. This amendment lost and Roy Blackwood and Tom Reid dissented from this decision with reasons that this is a matter that could affect the whole denomination.

Ian Wise, former moderator, took the Chair.

The Recommendation on this Paper was approved.

The following dissented: Roy Blackwood, Raymond Morton, Phil Pockras, Tom Reid, Milton Harrington and Greg Cumbee.

The Moderator resumed the Chair.

Taking up the matter of paper designated F06-2, The Request from the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Lafayette for Organization of Immanuel Reformed Presbyterian Church

Recommendation #1

With great gratitude for the Lord's blessing and provision of leadership to this group, that Presbytery approve the request to be organized as a congregation.

Recommendation #2

That Presbytery appoint the Lafayette session as a commission of Presbytery to provide transitional leadership in this matter until the organization of the congregation.

Recommendation #3

That the date suggested in the paper be approved by Presbytery.

Action on the Recommendations:

Concerning Paper 2006-F2 Recommendations 1, and 2 were approved.

Recommendation 3 was amended and now reads that the date of the Organizational Service be February 2, 2007.

Taking up the matter of the paper designated F06-3, Request from Hetherton for a Missionary Pastor.

Recommendation #1

We find this paper to be in order, and recommend that this paper be referred to the Hetherton Committee.

Action on the Recommendations:

Concerning Paper 2006-3 the Recommendation was amended and now reads, "that this Paper be referred to a special Hetherton Committee which consists of Keith Magill, Jon Hughes, and Jim Curtis which Committee is to report to the Spring meeting of Presbytery.

Chairman, James Faris
Secretary, Larry Bump
Jonathon Schaefer
Jack Baumgartner

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that a committee of three to report to the Spring Meeting of Presbytery be erected. This committee is to investigate the matter of pastors from denominations with whom we have fraternal relations presiding over a communion service to see if Synod has made any determination in the matter. This committee is to consist of Ian Wise, Chairman, Bill Roberts, and Barry York.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the Report of the Judicial Committee as a whole be approved.

Congregational Reports

The Southside Reformed Presbyterian Church Congregational Report was given by John Hanson.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Belle Center Building Committee Report

The Belle Center Building Report was presented by John Mauser.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the matter of the Belle Center building be referred to the Ad Interim Commission for the Commission to appoint a Committee to help Belle Center congregation with the needs concerning their church building.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Time and Place Report

Michael LeFebvre gave the Report.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the Spring meeting of Presbytery be held at the Columbus Reformed Presbyterian Church, Columbus, IN on March 29-31, 2007.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that Presbytery make the Fall 2007 Meeting of Presbytery optional and that for the Spring meeting the Clerks in consultation with the Ad Interim Commission work out the agenda for the Spring meeting.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Nominating Committee Report

The Report was given by David Long.

The Committee recommend the appointment of Keith Magill as the Chairman of the Columbus Visitation Committee.

The Recommendation was approved.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

The Report of the Committee concerning an Item of the Assistant Clerk's Report of 2005

The Report was given by Phil Pockras and is as follows:

November 17, 2006

This committee was appointed to examine the following from the 2005 Assistant Clerk's Report regarding Triangle RPC's session minutes:

The Triangle session took the following action which appears to be contrary to the law and order of the church. "It was agreed upon by common consent that this statement is to be communicated to the congregation: "the Constitution of the RPCNA gives the right to speak as well as to vote to each communicant member of our congregation, but those with covenantal convictions about the issue, should only have their heads of household speak. The resident elders of this Session hold the covenantal view as being the view of Scripture, but the Constitution allows for all members to speak" (Page 35, Minute 10.). If the Session feels this strongly about this issue, the establish procedure for change is to petition presbytery and through the presbytery the Synod to make the desired change rather than take the matter in their own hands.

The committee respectfully reports the following findings:

- in this circumstance, the session of Triangle RPC was dealing pastorally with a family that held strongly to the conviction that only heads of households should vote. The session was responding to their request for permission to hold their convictions by allowing communicant family members to abstain from voting and speaking.

- We found therefore, there is no violation of the law and order of the church in the action taken by the session. However, because of the way it was recorded in the minutes, confusion and misunderstanding were likely to result. The presbytery should know that the session of Triangle RPC has already made a change in their manner of recording their minutes.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael LeFebvre
Jared Olivetti
Phil Pockras, chairman

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Resolution of Thanks

Robert Morrow presented the Report.

As the Apostle Paul says in Colossians 1:3-4, 'We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you. Because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all the saints...'

You, the Southfield congregation, have shown how these comments are so true. The Presbytery has prayed for you as you sought a pastor. Now we rejoice with you in answer to that prayer.

You have also shown your love to us delegates as you have cared for us by providing transportation, housing, food, and fellowship.

We go home blessed by our God as we have spent this Presbytery time in your midst.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Morrow for the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Minutes

The Minutes were read and corrected.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the Minutes be approved as corrected.

Recess

Presbytery recessed in prayer at 5:20 p.m. being led by Jared Olivetti for the Southside congregation, Belle Center congregation especially concerning their building, and the installation service this evening.

Session 5, Friday, November 17, 2006 at 7:01 p.m.

Installation of James Faris To the Southfield Reformed Presbyterian Church

Call to Order

The Moderator called the Presbytery and the assembled congregation to order at 7:01 p.m. at the Southfield Reformed Presbyterian Church.

Psalm 72A was sung.

The Moderator led in prayer and reconvened the Presbytery.

Roll: The Assistant Clerk called the Roll and each member of Presbytery was recognized.

Narrative of the Steps: Jon Hughes, Clerk of the Southfield Session narrated the steps leading up to this service.

Reading of the Edict: For the last time, the Clerk read the Edict for the Installation of James Faris to the Southfield Reformed Presbyterian Church.

Adherence to the Call: Both the Southfield congregation and the pastor-elect signified their adherence to the call by standing.

Queries for Installation: Jon Hughes asked James Faris the Queries for Installation, and James replied in the affirmative to all of them. James Faris signed the Queries in the Presbytery Minute Book.

Worship: Pastor Ian Wise, (Pastor of the Triangle R.P. Church in Raleigh, NC and the former pastor of Southfield) read Revelation 1:1-20 and preached God's Word on the theme, "Heavenly Perspective on Earthly Reality" which was followed by prayer and the singing of Psalm 68E.

Installation Prayer: Presbyters gathered for the prayer of installation which was given by Phil Pockras installing James Faris as pastor of the Southfield Reformed Presbyterian Church. The members of Presbytery then extended to him the right hand of fellowship.

Charge to the Pastor: The charge to the Pastor was given by Rich Johnston and based on the words from I Peter 2:18-22.

Charge to the Congregation: Ralph Joseph gave the charge to the congregation from I Thessalonians 5:12-13.

Introductions and Greetings: Jon Hughes read greetings from several of the supply preachers and James Faris introduced several people who had had a significant influence on his life.

It is noted here that James Faris started his service in the Southfield Reformed Presbyterian Church on November 6, 2006.

Praise:

Psalm 72B was sung in praise to God.

Minutes: The Minutes of this Session of the Presbytery meeting were read.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the Minutes be approved as read.

Adjournment: It was moved, seconded, and passed, to adjourn. The Presbytery was adjourned at 9:02 p.m. in prayer by the moderator and James Faris, the new pastor, pronounced the benediction.

The meeting was closed by the singing of Psalm 72C.

APPENDIX

The two recommendations of the committee were adopted. The report is as follows:

Report of the Judicial Committee of Synod Communication 2006-07

This communication was passed along to Synod at the request of the petitioner, Mr. Joel Finley, a baptized non-communicant member of the Sparta, IL Reformed Presbyterian Church. The history of this communication goes back to April, 2003 when Mr. Finley wrote three papers (Presbytery Communications 2003-2, -3, -4.) addressed to the Synod and presented to the Great Lakes - Gulf Presbytery. The committee has read the three original communications of Mr. Finley. The committee has also read the history of these communications by the Sparta Session and the Great Lakes - Gulf Presbytery from April 2003 to April 1, 2006. The Judicial Committee finds no specific statement of the nature and ground of an appeal.

While the committee believes that the absence of an appeal constitutes the ground for returning the communications to the author, the Committee sought to discern the intent of the petitioner. Mr. Finley does ask in Communication 2003-2 "that Synod would carefully consider this matter in the light of Scripture, and realizing the urgency of the matter, would make it a high priority" and, in Communication 2003-4 "that Synod consider church membership carefully, not taking my word, or what the Confession's (sic) says, or even what these men that I quoted here have said.....I ask that Synod would study and determine what the Bible requires for church membership." The latest communication from Mr. Finley is dated March 25, 2006, in which he writes: "I submitted three papers to Synod in 2003. All three papers were forwarded by the Sparta Session to Presbytery in time for the spring meeting. None of the papers ever made it to Synod and I have never received anything from presbytery to let me know when my papers will be sent

on. These issues are still very important to me and I would appreciate it if presbytery would send on my papers without further delay." The action of Presbytery to this letter (March 30 - April 1) is as follows: "That although Presbytery disagrees with the substance of Mr. Finley's papers and has consistently counseled him to take the Covenant of Church Membership, we transmit the papers to Synod without endorsement." (emphasis added) The apparent desire of Mr. Finley is for a study committee of Synod to consider "what the Bible requires for church membership." It would further appear that Mr. Finley desired from the beginning that the Synod become the court of first action rather than the local session and the presbytery. If indeed the intent of Mr. Finley was for a study committee, the Judicial Committee rejects such a request on the following grounds: 1. The Synod has already engaged in extensive studies to determine the basis for church membership vows; 2. The necessity for a new study is not demonstrated; and 3. The committee denies that the present membership vows go beyond the requirement of Scripture.

Recommendations: 1. That Synod reject the request made in these communications from Mr. Finley and that we expect no further communication on this subject by Mr. Finley.

2. The committee would also add a pastoral note. From the history presented to the Committee, it is apparent that faithful oversight has been exercised by the Sparta session and the Great Lakes - Gulf Presbytery to respond to the questions of Mr. Finley and the history indicates that Mr. Finley has rejected the advice and counsel of the session and the Presbytery. We call upon Mr. Finley to submit to the counsel of his elders, testify to his own faith as exemplified in the Covenant of Church Membership and become an active communicant member of the Sparta congregation.

Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." 1 Peter 5:5 (ESV)

Respectfully submitted,
James D. Carson, Chair
Gordon J. Keddie
Walter W. Swartz
Ronald V. Good
Anthony T. Selvaggio

Paper F06-1

August 25, 2006

Dear Brothers of the Great Lakes—Gulf Presbytery,

In accordance with *Confession of Faith* 21.5 ("the due administration and worthy receiving of the sacraments instituted by Christ are all parts of the ordinary religious worship of God") and *Larger Catechism* 177 ("the Lord's Supper is to be administered often"), the Westminster congregation began in February 2005 to observe the Lord's Supper on a weekly basis. It is our desire to partake of this holy meal every Lord's Day when we are gathered for corporate worship, even on weeks when our pastor is absent. However, it is usually not feasible for us to find another RPCNA minister to fill our pulpit when our pastor is away. Currently, the Westminster congregation does not observe the Lord's Supper on those weeks when a Reformed Presbyterian minister is not present for the worship service.

Thus, the Westminster session seeks the presbytery's judgment concerning the following question:

Are ordained ministers from NAPARC (North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council) denominations allowed to administer the Lord's Supper in our churches with approval from the local session?

Our *Directory for Worship* states that the sacraments "are to be administered according to Christ's appointment, and only by ordained ministers of the church or by others authorized by the church to meet extraordinary circumstances" (3.2). The Westminster session is asking the presbytery to authorize ordained NAPARC ministers to administer the sacrament of the Lord's Supper in our congregations when it is infeasible for a Reformed Presbyterian minister to do so.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

In Christ's service,

TE Charles A. Brown, moderator of session
RE Ronald C. Hodge, clerk of session
RE Robert C. Koch

Paper F06-2

**History and Request for Organization
Immanuel Reformed Presbyterian Church
West Lafayette, Indiana
Great Lakes/Gulf Presbytery, RPCNA
November, 2006**

History

The Reformed Presbyterian Church of Lafayette, being herself a young church planted in the RPCNA, has had from her beginning a love for seeing new churches established through her work. Under the leadership of Pastor David Long – and building on the work of Pastor Ray Joseph – God has allowed us to daughter one congregation in Kokomo and to be involved in several church plants in varying degrees, including work with the Westminster, Evansville and Elkhart churches. Through these various experiences, we have learned significant lessons, the most significant being growing confidence in Christ's ability to keep the promise to build His church.

As the congregation in Lafayette continued to experience spiritual and numerical growth over the past decade, a vision for another local Reformed Presbyterian church began to grow. Contributing to this vision is the clear need that the Lafayette area has for more confessedly reformed churches. During that same time, God raised up from the congregation's ministry three new pastors (James Faris, David Hanson and Jared Olivetti) – both in outward circumstances and in the desires of her heart, God was providentially preparing the congregation for the work ahead.

In the spring of 2004, the Lafayette congregation called Jared Olivetti to be her associate pastor, with the expressed ideal of Pastor Olivetti eventually participating in a local church planting work. Behind this pastoral call were many hours of praying and seeking the will of God for the congregation. To make this call possible, the congregation availed herself of the Home Mission Board's financial assistance for associate pastors working alongside other pastors with church planting experience.

Beyond praying for it, Pastor Olivetti was asked by the Lafayette session to not pursue church planting his first year in the pastorate, instead giving himself to learning and growing into the role of an undershepherd, under the discipling of Pastor Long. After Pastor Olivetti's first year, the session began to plan and pray more fervently for local church planting.

In September of 2005, Pastor Keith Magill led the whole congregation in a workshop regarding what entailed being a seed family of a church plant. After the workshop, the entire congregation participated in a survey to aid the session in knowing the mind of the congregation. This was instrumental in determining what families were interested in being part of the core group as well as the eventual location.

After much prayer and consideration of other possibilities the session decided to focus the church planting effort in West Lafayette, the original location of the Lafayette church. Several factors contributed to this decision, including the number of church families already there and willing to consider being a part of a new church, the lack of a clear witness for the doctrines of grace "across the river", and the myriad of opportunities that Purdue University provides to seek the kingdom of God on earth as it is in heaven.

Following this, Pastor Olivetti met with each of the families considering being a part of church planting in West Lafayette. Several families declined, but many believed God was leading them to directly participate in this adventure.

Beginning in January, 2006, this core group of families began meeting every Wednesday night at the home of Sean McDeavitt and his family. Several of the families had already been meeting there for a Bible study led by intern Graeme Hart (from Geelong, Australia). They met through the end of May.

Pastor Olivetti and Graeme Hart led the core group weekly through concerted prayer, Bible studies concerning the church, training in evangelism and brainstorming/planning times. Average attendance at the core group was between 50 and 60. During this time, God began to tie the hearts of the core group together and build among them a common vision for how Christ might build His kingdom in West Lafayette.

The newly named Immanuel Reformed Presbyterian Church (plant) began meeting for evening worship every other week in September of 2006. For September and October they met at the Merou Grotto, a banquet facility in West Lafayette. In November, they began meeting for weekly evening worship at the West Lafayette Seventh-day Adventist Church. September also saw the beginning of three new small groups in West Lafayette, led by Eric Bibby, Ben Larson and Jared Olivetti. Our plan is to begin weekly morning worship services in January.

God has put together a group of around 13 families, a few singles and many, many kids; average attendance at worship is in the mid-sixties. The session believes there are several men taking the office of elder, including elder David Carr (there are also two current Lafayette deacons within the core group, contributing to the leadership potential of the group). Because of the strength of this new work, the session is asking presbytery to forego the "mission church" stage and organize IRPC as a particular congregation on January 26, 2007.

Petition

We, the undersigned, confident in Christ's promises to build His church and convinced by His providence that such a work is begun among us, petition the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery to formally organize Immanuel Reformed Presbyterian Church as a particular congregation of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America on January 26, 2007. We believe that God has provided men capable of constituting a session and acting as Christ's undershepherds for us.

We seek this privilege from the Presbytery with full reliance on God's grace and not ourselves. Signed by 30 Communicant members, 11 Baptized members, and 3 Adherents.

Paper F06-3

HETHERTON REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
 PETITION TO GREAT LAKES-GULF PRESBYTERY
 NOVEMBER 2006

It was not easy to start a Reformed Presbyterian Congregation at Hetherton, in northern Michigan and it has not been easy to maintain it. The small group of families from Fairgrove, MI that moved north with the growth of the lumber industry and other and other Covenanter families that were invited to join them (See history of the Hetherton Reformed Presbyterian Church) had two objectives in mind. First, they wanted to establish a congregation of Covenanter families for worship and fellowship. Second, they wanted to have a plan to evangelize the lumber camps in the area.

Years have come and gone, lumber camps have disappeared and farming communities replaced them.

Some small villages have grown into towns with businesses and service industries. Many people have escaped from the crowded cities and built homes in northern Michigan, but one thing has not changed. The need for the preaching of the Gospel still exists. The Hetherton Session continues to believe that the area around the church is a mission field. Jesus said to the disciples, "Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest." John 4:35. Even though it has not been easy, the Hetherton Congregation, by the grace of God and the vigilance of faithful people, has continued to serve the local community and the denomination at large for over 100 years. There were times when the Session had to wait for a minister to come to moderate the Session and conduct communion, and our need was supplied by the denomination.

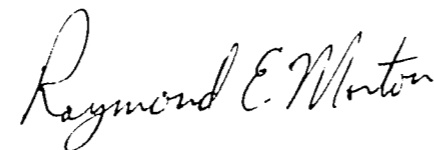
Throughout the history of the RPCNA, the church has had mission fields. They have been classified as Foreign Missions and Home Missions. A good example of how God, through His church sends missionaries into the harvest fields is the way the church at Antioch sent Barnabas and Saul, Acts 13:2&3.

We, the Hetherton Session, believing that God still has souls in the Hetherton area needing to hear the Gospel from the reformed perspective, and realizing that we do not have the personnel needed, petition the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery to send us a Missionary-Pastor. There are some real advantages in being a missionary in the Hetherton area. One does not have to cross the ocean, even though we are surrounded by water. One does not have to learn a new language and culture, except as is influenced by the rural setting. One does not have to look for a place to worship or a place to live, because there is a beautiful country church and a parsonage ready to be occupied. The congregation is well respected in the community and is free of debt.

Respectfully Submitted,
 The Hetherton Session
 Milton L. Harrington, Moderator
 Roger D. Adams, Clerk



Charles Brown, Moderator
 Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery



Raymond E. Morton, Clerk
 Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery

**Minutes of the
 Special Meeting
 of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery
 Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America
 February 2, 2007**

1. **Constitution of the Court:** The Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery met in special session at 7:01 p.m. on Friday, February 2, 2007, at the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Lafayette, Indiana, for the purpose of organizing the Immanuel Reformed Presbyterian (Mission) Church

The moderator pro-tem, James Faris constituted the court in prayer.

2. **Roll:** The clerk called the roll and declared a quorum of Presbytery was present. Each elder stood as he answered the roll call.

<i>Congregation</i>	<i>Teaching Elder</i>	<i>Ruling Elder</i>
Belle Center Bloomington	Phil Pockras e Bill Roberts x Rich Holdeman x	Ken deJong x
Christ Church Columbus Elkhart Hetherton Lafayette	Michael LeFebvre x Andrew McCracken-x Keith Magill x Milton Harrington e- David Long x Jared Olivetti x Raymond Morton x	Duane Judd x Jeff Jones x Robert Bibby x Dan Webb x
Oakdale Orlando Second Indianapolis	Roy Blackwood x Richard Johnston x	Jim Long x Dean Filson x
Selma Southfield Southside Indianapolis	James Faris x Gordon Keddie x	Jon Hughes x Jerry Porter x John Hanson x Robert Morrow x Tom Dinkledine x
Sparta Sycamore Triangle Westminster	Raymond Morton x Barry York x Ian Wise x Charles Brown e	

Ministers without Pastorates: Roger Adams –
 Paul Faris –
 Garland Kincaid –
 Paul Mathews –
 Robert McCracken
 Marion McFarland –

Thomas Reid e
Frank Schutz

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that elder delegates without certificates be seated, that all Reformed Presbyterian ruling and teaching elders present who are not delegates be made consultative members of the court, and that all elders in good standing in denominations with which we have fraternal relations be invited to participate in the laying on of hands.

3. **Worship:** The Moderator introduced Roy Blackwood who called the congregation present to worship by reading verses from Psalm 45. Following the singing of Psalm 45A&B st. 1-7, Roy Blackwood led in prayer. Dan Webb reviewed the history of the congregation of Immanuel Reformed Presbyterian Church leading up to the organization. He went on to introduce Pastor Barry York who opened the Word from Psalm 45:10-17, on the subject of "When a Daughter Breaks your Heart" and closed his message by leading in prayer. Afterwards Psalm 45C was sung.

4. **Organization:** The names of the charter members of the congregation were read by Dan Webb. As the names were read, they stood and remained standing. [The roll included thirty seven communicant members and twenty two baptized members not yet communicant plus another nine children.] Each of the communicant members publicly renewed their profession of faith in Christ and acknowledged their acceptance of the Covenant of Church Membership, plus the additional pledge from the *Directory of Church Government*: "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 godly life, seek to promote the purity, peace, and prosperity of the church as a whole?" Jim Long presented a copy of the Covenant of Church Membership which all the members had signed. James Faris offered prayer officially constituting the Immanuel Reformed Presbyterian Congregation, after which the moderator declared the Congregation to be officially organized. The congregation then sang Psalm 68A.

5. **Election of Ruling Elders:** The Commission placed the names of Eric Bibby, David Carr, Ben Larson, and Nate Pfeiffer in nomination as ruling elders. All men had been examined by the Commission and found suitable to serve in the office of ruling elder if elected by this congregation. No others were nominated from the floor.

Tellers: It was moved, seconded, and passed, that Jack Rhoda, Greg Crow, Les Walker, and Andy McCracken be appointed as tellers to distribute and collect the ballots, and count the votes. Dan Webb, an elder on the Commission, was appointed to call the roll of Immanuel Reformed Presbyterian Church. Ballots were distributed, the Moderator led in prayer, the Roll was called and the ballots collected and counted. While the ballots were being counted the assembled congregation sang Psalms 46C; 148:1-5; 119X; and 150B. Ben Larson and David Carr were elected by more than two-thirds vote. Since three men were to be elected a runoff ballot was held for Nate Pfeiffer and Eric Bibby. Ballots were distributed, prayer was offered, the roll was called and the ballots collected and counted. While the ballots were

being counted the assembled congregation sang Psalm 67A and 119Q. Neither of these two men were elected on this ballot.

6. **Ordination and Installation of Ruling Elders:** Since two men elected as ruling elders had been previously examined by the Commission, the Moderator proceeded to ask each if they were willing to serve and both answered affirmatively. It was moved, seconded, and passed, that the issuing of the edict and the eight-day notice requirement before proceeding to ordination and/or installation be waived. The elders-elect were asked the ordination and/or installation queries by Michael LeFebvre and they responded affirmatively to the queries. Each elder-elect signed the queries in the Session Minute Book. Robert Bibby offered prayer, ordaining and installing Ben Larson and installing David Carr as ruling elders, as the Presbytery laid hands on them. Following the prayer, the members of Presbytery extended the right hand of fellowship to both elders.

7. **Election of a Pastor:** The members of the Immanuel Congregation were asked if they were ready to elect a pastor, which they answered affirmatively. It was moved, seconded, and passed, that Immanuel Reformed Presbyterian Church be granted the privilege of calling a pastor and that the issuing of the edict and eight-day notice requirement before proceeding to the election be waived. The Commission placed the name of Jared Olivetti in nomination as pastor. No others were nominated from the floor. Following prayer Pastor Olivetti's election was carried out in the same manner as that of the ruling elders.

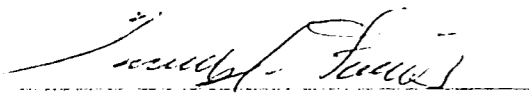
8. **Call to the Pastor:** It was moved, seconded, and passed, that the terms of the call upon Pastor Olivetti to be pastor was approved by the congregation. While the ballots were being counted the assembled congregation sang Psalm 125. The Moderator announced that the congregation has unanimously elected Pastor Olivetti to be their pastor. It was moved, seconded, and passed that since the call by Immanuel Reformed Presbyterian Church to Pastor Olivetti to be her pastor is in accordance with the law and order of the church and since the Presbytery wholeheartedly endorses this call, that the call be sustained as a regular gospel call and be presented immediately to Pastor Olivetti. The Pastor-elect came forward and received the call. Pastor Olivetti indicated his acceptance of the call.

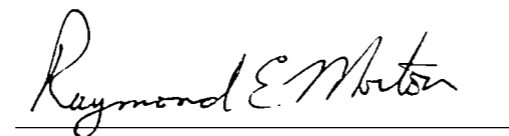
9. **Installation of the Pastor:** It was moved, seconded, and passed, that the issuing of the edict and eight-day notice requirement be waived. Pastor Olivetti came forward and Elder Jeff Kessler asked him the installation vows which Pastor Olivetti answered in the affirmative. Pastor Olivetti signed the Presbytery Minute Book. All Presbyters, consultative members of the Court, and all elders in good standing in denominations with which we have fraternal relations came forward for the Prayer of Installation. The prayer of installation was offered by Pastor Keith Magill. The Presbyters extended the right hand of fellowship to Pastor Olivetti. Pastor David Long addressed the Congregation, the "mother" congregation, the new ruling elders, and the new pastor, regarding their duties and responsibilities in their respective ministries.

10. **Greetings:** Pastor Olivetti expressed the thanks of the new congregation to the "mother", R.P. Church of Lafayette, for all their help in many, many ways and especially for this evening with the provision of dinner and refreshments. He introduced Treasurer, Nina

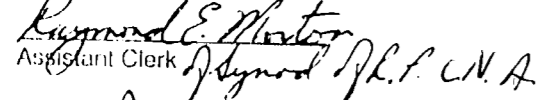
Walker and thanked her for her help, and then he introduced his parents whom he was glad were present.

- 11. **Minutes:** it was moved, seconded, and passed that the Minutes of this meeting be approved as corrected.
- 10. **Adjournment:** Psalm 20B was sung and the Moderator adjourned the court with prayer and Pastor Olivetti pronounced the benediction. Psalm 22I stanza 14 was sung. Presbytery adjourned at 9:38 p.m.


 James Faris, Moderator pro-tem
 Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery


 Raymond E. Morton, Clerk
 Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery

Minutes examined and nothing found
 contrary to the law and order of the
 church unless noted below.


 Assistant Clerk
 June 28, 2007

Minutes of the Annual Meeting
 Of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery
 March 29-31, 2007 at
 Columbus Reformed Presbyterian Church,
 Columbus, IN

Session 1, Thursday, March 29, 2007, at 9:03 a.m.

Constitution of the Court

The Presbytery was called to order by the Moderator, Charles Brown, at 9:03 a.m. on Thursday, March 29, 2007, at the Columbus Reformed Presbyterian Church in Columbus, Indiana. The Moderator led the Court in devotions.

Devotions

The Presbytery sang Psalm 124B and the Moderator read James 3:1-18. The Moderator led in prayer and constituted the Court in prayer.

Roll

The Assistant Clerk, Robert Morrow, called the roll, which is as follows and shows that a quorum was present.

<i>Congregations</i>	<i>Teaching Elders</i>	<i>Ruling Elders</i>
Belle Center	Philip Pockras xxxxxxxx	Larry Bump xxxxxxxx
Bloomington	William Roberts xxxxxxxx	Wendell McBurney ---xx--
	Rich Holdeman --xxxx-	Kenneth deJung ---xx--
Christ Church	Michael LeFebvre xxxxxxxx	Duane Judd -----
Columbus	Andrew McCracken xxxxxxxx	Ed Schisler xxxxxxxx
Elkhart	Keith Magill xxxxxxxx	Fik Menbere
Hetherton	Milton Harrington eeeeeee	
Immanuel	Jared Olivetti xxexxxx	David Carr xxxxxxxx
Lafayette	David Long xxxxxxxx	Robert Bibby xxxxxxxx
Oakdale	Raymond Morton xxxxxxxx	
Orlando	David Smith xxxxxxxx	Jonathan Schaefer xxxxxxxx
Second Indianapolis	Roy Blackwood xxxxxxxx	Terry Magnuson xxxxxxxx
	Richard Johnston xxxxxxxx	Ram Rao xxxxxxxx
		Dean Filson (alt) x
Selma	Tom Gray xxxxxxxx	
Southfield	James Faris xxxxxxxx	John Hughes xxexxxx
Southside	Gordon Keddie xxxxxxxx	Jim Bishop xxxxxxxx
		Don Pritchard xxxxxxxx
Sparta	Raymond Morton xxxxxxxx	Robert Morrow xxxxxxxx
Sycamore	Barry York xxxxxxxx	Tom Dinkledine (alt)
		Robert McKissick -xxxxxx
Triangle	Ian Wise xxexxxx	Charles Saunders xxxxxxxx

Westminster Greg Cumbee xxxxxxxx
 Charles Brown xxexxxe Robert Koch ----xx-

Roger Adams
 Paul Faris
 Godfrey Franklin
 Robert Henning
 Garland Kincaid
 Robert McCracken
 Marion McFarland
 Tom Reid ceecece
 Frank Schutz eee-xxx
 James Wright ---xxee
 The Assistant Clerk declared that a quorum was present.

Motion: It was moved, seconded, and passed, that elders without certificates who are representatives of their sessions be seated.

Motion: It was moved, seconded, and passed, that all elders present who are not delegates be made consultative members of the court.

Introductions

Michael LeFebvre introduced Duane Judd, elder at Christ Church.
 Jared Olivetti introduced Tom Gray, Pastor of Selma Reformed Presbyterian Church.
 Rev. Ray Lanning, Elder Sikma, and theological student Nathan Eschleman, all of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church of Grand Rapids were introduced.

Memorial

Pastor James Faris read the memorial for Elder Ralph Shell of the Southfield Reformed Presbyterian Church who passed away on September 6, 2006. The Memorial is recorded in the Appendix to these Minutes.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the memorial be received.

Clerk's Report

The clerk, Raymond Morton, presented his report, which is as follows.

**Report of the Clerk of Presbytery
 to the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery
 Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America
 March 29 - 31, 2007**

The clerk respectfully reports that he has carried out the assignments given to him, as far as he knows, and thanks the present assistant clerk, Robert Morrow, for standing in since it has proved impossible to get an assistant clerk thus far. My hope is that there will be an appointment at this meeting of Presbytery. I have asked you to bring a name for nomination.

During the past year, I have responded to a number of communications hopefully in a helpful and worthwhile way. Writing the Minutes this year has proved difficult and extremely frustrating. After getting most of the Spring 2006 and the Fall 2006 Minutes written they 'disappeared' from my computer. I have done file and text searches on both my desktop and my laptop and the memory sticks that I use to transfer between the computers all to no avail except that I found a week ago some of the Fall meeting Minutes. I have my paper minutes and can get the Minutes written again but time has been a big factor. I have the Minutes for the shorter meetings done and I hope to have the longer minutes done soon. I will circulate these and you can send corrections to me.

I have prepared the agenda for this meeting. Because of the longer agenda it has been more of a challenge in getting it together. I hope it is complete but there is opportunity for additions or corrections when the agenda is getting approved.

I am expecting one or two papers to come before the Presbytery but I have not received them at the time I am writing this report. A recommendation will place them on the agenda at an appropriate time.

I have one other communication and that is from Tom Reid who cannot be here at this meeting. This is a note concerning Godfrey Franklin's recent marriage and the letter is appended to my report.

I have enjoyed serving as Clerk of Presbytery and appreciate the trust you have placed in me. I pray the Lord will bless us in this meeting and that we may do all to the glory of the King and Head of the church.

Respectfully submitted,

Raymond E. Morton, Clerk

Recommendations:

1. That the parliamentarians for this meeting be Phil Pockras and Jon Hughes.
2. That the Nominating Committee determine the congregations to be visited this year.
3. That the proposed agenda for this meeting be accepted.
4. That the Clerk's Report be received.

Recommendations 1 and 2 were moved, seconded, and passed.

Recommendation 3 was moved, seconded, and passed as amended.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Letter from Tom Reid:

Dear Brothers in the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery,

Dr. Godfrey Franklin married Barbara Towns on Saturday, March 17, 2007, in Pensacola, Florida. Both of Godfrey's children were present, Jared and his wife and daughter from Harlingen, Texas, and Irena from Tallahassee, Florida.

The couple plan to honeymoon in Oxford, England, in July, when Godfrey has a meeting to attend. They may also go on to visit Godfrey's native Ghana, where his mother is still living.

Barbara is a retired social work professor who was introduced to Godfrey by Ken Epps; she was divorced about twenty years ago. She is a professing Christian.

Godfrey and Barbara are making their home in Pensacola, at the house Godfrey has lived in since the mid-1980s. Barbara is keeping her house in Tallahassee for the time being. Godfrey has at most two more years of teaching at the University of West Florida before retiring.

I encourage members of the Presbytery to send their greetings to Godfrey at this happy time in his life. His contact information is in the Minutes of Synod. (Godfrey will be in Athens, Georgia, from March 28 to April 1, so those dates are not good ones to call.)

Sincerely in Christ,
Tom Reid

PS. I will not be present at the Presbytery meeting later this week and was encouraged to make this information available to you by the Clerk.

Election of Officers of the Court

Pastor David Smith was nominated to be moderator. It was moved, seconded, and passed, that nominations be closed. Pastor David Smith was elected moderator. Pastor David Smith took the Chair.

Pastor Raymond Morton was nominated to be Clerk. It was moved, seconded, and passed, that nominations be closed. Pastor Raymond Morton was elected Clerk.

Rev. Robert Morrow was nominated as Assistant Clerk. It was moved, seconded and passed that nominations be closed. Rev. Robert Morrow was elected Assistant Clerk

Call for Papers:

Communication 2007-1 was presented to the Court. The Paper comes from the Second Indianapolis Session and concerns the administration of discipline in a case that has come before the Session. The request is for guidance.

Motion: It was moved, seconded and passed that Communication 2007-1 be referred to the Judicial Committee.

Call for Session Minute Books

The Assistant Clerk asked that Session Minute Books be submitted for examination. The Assistant Clerk circulated a sheet of statistics concerning the Presbytery and congregations.

Candidates and Credentials Committee Report

Jared Olivetti presented the Candidates and Credentials Committee Report.

The Recommendations of the Report are:

1. That student examinations be conducted by Presbytery according to the chart in I.A on page 1.
2. That the examination of Ruling Elder Larry Bump to qualify for "more regular occasional preaching" be conducted according to the chart in I.A. above.

3. That Adam Niess be taken under care as a Student of Theology.
4. That Ben Larson be removed from being under the care of Presbytery as a Student of Theology
5. That student aid funds be continued for Michael Weathers as a student of RPTS this fall. The amount shall be \$250 per month for 12 months a year, as long as he remains a full time student at RPTS or another Presbytery approved academic institution.
6. That student aid funds be granted to David Whittle as he enters RPTS this fall as a student. The amount shall be \$250 per month for 12 months a year, as long as he remains a full time student at RPTS or another Presbytery approved academic institution.
7. That the status of each of the other "Ordained Ministers Not in the Pastorate" be approved as given in the body of the report.
8. That we hear from Dr. Frank Smith, pastor of the Covenant Reformed Presbyterian Church in Sheboygan, WI and also representing a second CRPC congregation in Janesville, WI for 10 minutes.
9. We recommend Presbytery direct the clerk to transfer Rutledge's credentials to the Alleghenies Presbytery.
10. That Jon Hughes be reelected to the Committee for the Class of 2010.

Recommendations 1, 2 and 9 were approved.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that Scott McCulough's licensure be extended for five years.

Recommendation 4 was approved.

Inter Church Liaison, Charles Brown introduced Rev. David McKay, Senior Pastor of Grace PCA in Indianapolis, of the Ohio Valley Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church in America as their fraternal delegate. He was welcomed by the Court.

Recess

Presbytery took recess at 10:28 a.m.

Presbytery arose from recess at 10:46 a.m. and sang Psalm 84B followed by prayer by the Moderator.

Report of the Assistant Treasurer on Presbytery's Finances

The report on Presbytery's finances was given by Pastor William Roberts.

Motion: it was moved, seconded and passed that the Charlotte Mission Funds be transferred to the Southern Church Extension Committee for the Committee's use.

The Assistant Treasurer intimated that the Treasurer, Laurence Curry would be retiring next year. The matter of a new treasurer was referred to the Nominating Committee.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Report of the Ad Interim Commission

The Report of the Ad Interim Commission was presented by Pastor William Roberts.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received and the Minutes of the Ad Interim Commission be spread on the Minutes of Presbytery.

Congregational Reports

The Sycamore Reformed Presbyterian Church Congregational Report was given by Pastor Barry York. The Recommendations of the Report are as follows:

- 1) That Jason Camery could participate in the student aid program available from Presbytery upon his enrollment full-time in seminary this fall.
- 2) That the Sycamore Session be permitted to distribute to Presbytery a report on Robert Jones regarding his Airdrie internship and current status.

Recommendation 1 was referred by motion to the Candidates and Credentials Committee.

Recommendation 2 was approved by motion.

The Report on Robert Jones was distributed to the members of the Court.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that Presbytery move into executive session.

Presbytery went into executive session.

Pastor Barry York presented the Report of the Sycamore Session concerning Robert Jones.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that Presbytery arise from executive session.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the Presbytery refer the Sycamore Session Report on Robert Jones to the Candidates and Credentials Committee.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report of the Sycamore Reformed Presbyterian Church as a whole be received.

Prayer: Jon Hughes led the Court in prayer for the Sycamore congregation and Roy Blackwood led in prayer for Robert Jones.

Inter Church Liaison, Charles Brown introduced Rev. Mark Vander Hart, Classis Central US of the United Reformed Churches in North America as their fraternal delegate. He was welcomed by the Court.

Recess: the Moderator recessed the Court in prayer at 12:22 p.m.

Session 2, Thursday, March 29, 2007 at 2:01 p.m.**Call to Order and Reconvening**

Presbytery reconvened at the call of the Moderator at 2:01 p.m. being led in prayer by Jared Olivetti

Roll:

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the Assistant Clerk take the Roll visually in this and all remaining sessions of this meeting.

The Roll was taken visually by the Assistant Clerk

Minutes

The Clerk read the Minutes of the previous session and the Moderator declared the Minutes approved as read.

Appointment of Committees

The Moderator announced the appointment of Committees for this meeting of Presbytery and the Review Committees of Session Minute books. They are as follows:

Committee Appointments: (first named is to be Chairman)

Nominating Committee: Keith Magill, James Faris, Ram Rao, Ed Scheisler, Jonathan Schaefer

Finance Committee: Bill Roberts

Time and Place Committee: Charles Brown, Andrew McCracken

Resolution of Thanks Committee: James Faris, Jared Olivetti

Travel Agent: Greg Cumbee

Judicial Committee: Gordon Keddie, Ian Wise, Jon Hughes, Duane Judd

Committees to inspect Session Records:**CONGREGATION**

Belle Center

Bloomington

Christ Church

Columbus

Elkhart

Hetherton

Immanuel

LaFayette

Oakdale

Orlando

Second Indianapolis

Selma

Southfield

Southside Indianapolis

Sparta

Sycamore

Triangle

Westminster

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Bill Roberts, Rich Holdeman

Phil Pockras, Larry Bump

Ian Wise, Charles Saunders

Michael LeFebvre, Duane Judd

Jared Olivetti, David Carr

Roy Blackwood, Rich Johnston

Andy McCracken, Ed Scheisler

Terry Magnuson, Ram Rao

Dean Filson, Tom Gray

James Faris, Jon Hughes

Gordon Keddie, Jim Bishop

Don Pritchard, Barry York

Bob Bibby, Ken deJung

Ian Wise, Charles Saunders

Greg Cumbee, Charles Brown

Dave Long, Bob McKissick

Terry Magnuson, Ram Rao

Report of the Committee concerning the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church of Grand Rapids Application to the Presbytery

Pastor Keith Magill presented this Report of the Grand Rapids Committee which is as follows:

Grand Rapids Committee**Report to Presbytery**

March 29-31, 2007 - Columbus, Indiana

On January 25, 2007 the Ad Interim Commission appointed a committee to respond to a request from the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church of Grand Rapids, MI. The original request is

attached to this report. The session of that congregation, after listening to Nathan Eshelman's report of our Fall 2006 Presbytery meeting, authorized their pastor, Reverend Raymond Lanning, "to initiate contact with your presbytery in the hope that you would send brethren to meet with our congregation and make a more formal and complete presentation of the faith, order and mission of the RPCNA."

As you can see from their initial letter, they feel quite geographically isolated from their other ARP brethren. This, in addition to their practice of only singing psalms a cappella in their worship services, caused them to want to explore affiliation with our denomination.

The Ad Interim Commission originally appointed a committee of Keith Magill, chairman, Roy Blackwood, Jim Curtis and Gordon Keddie. However, Mr. Keddie asked to be replaced so the Commission appointed elder Bob Bibby.

We arranged to visit the congregation on Wednesday, February 28. We invited Pastor James Faris and Elder Jon Hughes from Southfield to join the Committee for that visit since there has already been a joint psalm sing and other contacts between the Southfield RPC and the Grand Rapids ARP congregations.

The committee, absent Elder Bibby who was in Europe on business, along with Pastor Faris and Elder Hughes, met with the ARP of GR Session and their wives for dinner and then with the congregation on Wednesday evening, February 28 at the Puritan Reformed Seminary. The session now consists of Pastor Lanning, moderator, and Elders Douglas Sikma and Richard Bonner.

The presentation to the congregation consisted of a summary of the theological underpinnings of our denomination, a brief overview of our congregations and locations in North America and Japan, a listing of the various agencies and ministries of the denomination and then an invitation to get to know us better by attending upcoming events such as the Presbytery Men's Retreat, this meeting of Presbytery and the Covfamikoï Family Conference.

Before going to Grand Rapids, the committee had received a list of questions from the congregation. After our formal presentation by Dr. Blackwood and Pastor Magill, we answered those questions and fielded more from those in attendance. There were about 25 people from the congregation there along with Paul and Janet Mathews (members of the Elkhart RPC who live in Grand Rapids)

Pastor Lanning provided us with a written history of the Grand Rapids ARP work. We would urge presbyters to obtain a copy and become familiar with what the Lord has done in and through these fellow believers. Copies are available at this meeting or from Pastor Magill.

Here are a few facts that will help acquaint you with the people.

The Associate Reformed Church of Grand Rapids began her life as the ARP Fellowship of Grand Rapids in February 2000. On May 24, 2000, Northeast Presbytery organized them as a congregation of the ARPC. At that time there were signs that encouraged them to believe that in due course there would be other ARP congregations in Michigan, but nothing came of those hopes. They found themselves in a rather isolated position, making any real participation in the life and work of their presbytery and synod difficult if not impossible.

The ARC of GR is a small congregation, numbering some 42 communicant members and 12 baptized members. They have a session consisting of two ruling elders, Richard Bonner and Douglas Sikma, and one non-voting member "ex officio," their congregational treasurer and sole

deacon, Jeff Wykstra. They adhere without reservation to the Westminster Standards as received in the ARPC. They follow the regulative principle of worship, practicing exclusive Psalmody and non-instrumentality.

They have been financially self-sustaining from the beginning, and meet in rented quarters, using the chapel of Puritan Reformed Seminary for their Sabbath-day services. They use "The Psalter" (UPCNA, 1912) as their book of praise, and endorse the KJV of the Holy Bible for use in public worship and instruction.

Pastor Lanning is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and Westminster Theological Seminary, Philadelphia, and was ordained to the ministry in 1977. Since that time he has served congregations in the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, the Presbyterian Church in America, and the Christian Reformed Church. He is the founding pastor of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church of Grand Rapids, MI. He and his wife have four children, one of whom is married.

The main issues which concern the congregation at his point include:

1. Whether or not they would need to adopt our Psalter as their only book of praise for public worship in order to join our Presbytery?
2. What financial costs they would be obligated to meet as a congregation in the RPCNA?
3. What real advantages would there be to the non-ordained members of the congregation in joining a different denomination?

The main points which we made to them included:

1. We would investigate further the necessity of their changing Psalters immediately. We did tell them that being able to sing from the same Psalter would enhance our fellowship as they become part of the Presbytery.
2. After listening to many of their other concerns (e.g. 3 office versus 2 office view of the ordained officers and the ordination of women deacons), our initial response was that we believe these issues can be resolved satisfactorily such that they would be welcomed into the RPCNA.
3. Since there is not a particular urgency to their decision to petition us to receive them, it would be very important for them to know us on a personal basis through such things as attending Presbytery and the family conference this summer before the congregation makes their decision.

In response, Pastor Lanning and Elder Sikma along with seminary student Nathan Eshelman are coming to the Presbytery meeting this week. Our committee anticipates further conversations with them during and after our meeting in Columbus.

One other thing should be mentioned at this point. There were several comments to us about how much interest we were showing them, especially demonstrated by people coming who were not official members of this Committee. That 5 of us would come, along with the Mathews, seemed to be a significant encouragement to them.

Regarding the next steps, if the elders and congregation desire to pursue a relationship with us:

1. Our committee would follow through with answering any of their concerns and provide whatever further information they may desire.

2. We will encourage them to formally contact their ARP Presbytery to tell them of the congregation's considerations and encourage them to seek the formal counsel of their ARP brethren. At the appropriate time our Committee would also intend to establish direct conversations with the ARP Presbytery.
3. When a formal petition is received by our Presbytery, our Committee would conduct a more formal congregational visitation along the lines of a regular Presbytery congregational visitation.
4. After these things are accomplished and the congregation, along with the Committee, is convinced the Lord is in this change of denominations and, hopefully, with the ARP Presbytery giving its blessing to the change, the Committee would bring to the Presbytery a formal recommendation that the congregation be received in accordance with the Directory for Church Government Chapter 2 Paragraph 10 (This paragraph is reproduced at the end of our report.)
5. Upon approval of the Presbytery, the other steps required would be accomplished by the Committee, which might possibly need to be made a Commission, to prepare for the service of reception. This might include Pastor Lanning being interviewed by the Candidates and Credentials Committee.
6. A service of reception would then be conducted by the Presbytery.

Recommendations:

6. That Pastor Lanning be given 20 minutes to further introduce himself, his elders and the Grand Rapids ARP congregation to the Presbytery and that he be encouraged to put before the Presbytery questions and concerns they may have about becoming members of the RPCNA.
6. That Presbytery encourage other congregations to send elders and members to visit the congregation in Grand Rapids over the next few months to facilitate our getting to know one another.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Bibby
James Curtis
Roy Blackwood
Keith Magill, Chairman

Recommendation 1 was approved.

In keeping with this Recommendation Pastor Lanning spoke to the Court.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that since the 20 minute time limit has arrived that the Moderator and Clerk set another time later in Presbytery's agenda to continue this Report. (The time was set for the evening Session.)

Inter Church Liaison Report

Pastor Charles Brown reported on his contacts with churches with whom we have fraternal relations in the area of our Presbytery.

Charles Brown introduced Rev. David McKay and invited him to speak to the Court.

Rev. McKay addressed the Court.

Charles Brown introduced Rev. Mark Vander Hart and invited him to speak to the Court.

Rev. Vander Hart addressed the Court.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Congregational Reports

The Belle Center Reformed Presbyterian Church Congregational Report was given by Phil Pockras.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received. Jared Olivetti led the Court in prayer for the Belle Center Congregation.

The Bloomington Reformed Presbyterian Church Congregational Report was given by William Roberts.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received. Bob Bibby led the Court in prayer for the Bloomington Congregation.

Recess: Presbytery took recess from 3:32 p.m. to 3:49 p.m.

Candidates and Credentials Committee Report

Larry Bump was introduced for his examination in Systematic Theology I and Distinctive Principles. The examination was conducted by James Faris.

Members of Presbytery asked questions and received answers.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the time be extended to hear the rest of the comments on this examination.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that Presbytery proceed to the Roll Call Vote.

Roll Call Vote

The Assistant Clerk called the Roll and the examination was not sustained.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the whole matter of requirements for the examinations for more regular occasional preaching be referred to the Candidates and Credentials Committee.

Congregational Reports

The Columbus Reformed Presbyterian Church Congregational Report was given by Andrew McCracken.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received. Barry York led the Court in prayer for the Columbus Congregation.

The Elkhart Reformed Presbyterian Church Congregational Report was given by Keith Magill.

The Recommendation of the Report requesting a provisional elder for the Congregation was referred to the Nominating Committee.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received. Charles Brown led the Court in prayer for the Elkhart Congregation.

The Reformed Presbyterian Church of Lafayette Congregational Report was given by Bob Bibby. The Presbyters were asked to pray for Pastor and Mrs. Long's daughter Katie who experiences great pain particularly in her spine.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the time be extended for prayer, announcements, and recess.

Charles Brown and Ed Scheisler led the Court in prayer for the Lafayette Congregation and for the Longs.

Recess

Following announcements Presbytery took recess at 5:43 p.m. being led in prayer by the Moderator.

Session 3, Thursday, March 29, 2007 at 7:05 p.m.

Call to Order and Reconvening

Presbytery reconvened at the call of the Moderator at 7:05 p.m. being led in prayer by the Raymond Morton.

Roll:

The Roll was taken visually by the Assistant Clerk

Minutes

The Clerk read the Minutes of the previous session.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the Minutes be approved as read.

Grand Rapids Committee

Keith Magill continued to present the Report of the Grand Rapids Committee.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that Presbytery resolves that it accepts, in principle, that the exclusive present practice of Psalmody in the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church of Grand Rapids is consistent with the standards of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America (DW 2.1).

Recommendation 2 was approved

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Keith Magill led the Court in prayer for the work of this Committee and the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church of Grand Rapids.

Report of the Home Mission Board Representative

Ian Wise, Presbytery's representative reported on the work of the Home Mission Board.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Report of the Representative of the Presbyterian and Reformed Joint Commission on Chaplains and Military Personnel-an informational report

Don Pritchard reported about this work and also showed a video on chaplaincy services in the military and other government departments. He answered questions from members of the Court.

Don Pritchard then led the Court in prayer for the chaplains, some of whom are Reformed Presbyterians.

Church Extension Committees Reports

There was no report from the Southern, Ohio-Indiana, and Michigan Committees.

Raymond Morton reported verbally for the Southern Illinois Committee concerning a Bible study recently started in the St. Louis area.

Congregational Reports

The Oakdale Reformed Presbyterian Church Congregational Report was given by Raymond Morton.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

The Orlando Reformed Presbyterian Church Congregational Report was given by Jonathan Schaefer.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Prayer and Adjournment

James Faris led the Court in prayer for the Oakdale congregation and Gordon Keddie led in prayer for the Orlando congregation and adjourned the Court in prayer at 9:03 p.m.

Session 4, Friday, March 30, 2007 at 8:36 a.m.

Call to Order

The Moderator David Smith called Presbytery to order at 8:36 a.m.

Presbytery sang Psalm 33A st. 1-4 and the Moderator constituted the Court in prayer.

Candidates and Credentials Committee Report Jared Olivetti introduced Michael Weathers who will present his Expository Sermon.

Michael Weathers read I John 2:26-27 and preached God's Word on "The Spirit of Truth". He closed his message with prayer.

Roll: the Roll was taken visually by the Assistant Clerk.

Minutes

The Minutes of the Thursday evening Session were read by the Clerk and the Moderator declared the Minutes approved as read.

Candidates and Credentials Committee Report

Jared Olivetti presented the report from the Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary on Michael Weathers.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.
Comments on Michael Weathers Expository Sermons were expressed by members of Presbytery.

Roll Call Vote

The Assistant Clerk called the Roll and the Expository Sermon of Michael Weathers was not sustained.

Congregational Reports

The Second Indianapolis Reformed Presbyterian Church report was given by Ram Rao.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Larry Bump led the Court in prayer for Second Indianapolis Reformed Presbyterian Church.

The Selma Reformed Presbyterian Church report was given by Tom Gray.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Greg Cumbee led the Court in prayer for Selma Reformed Presbyterian Church.

Selma Installation Commission

The Selma Installation Commission Report was presented by Raymond Morton and is as follows:

Report of the Selma Commission concerning the Installation of Tom Gray to the Selma Congregation February 10, 2007

The Selma Commission was appointed by the Ad Interim Commission on . The Commission consists of Tom Reid, Moderator, Raymond Morton, Clerk, Robert Morrow and Barry York.

The Commission met by phone and e-mail communication previous to the Installation Service in Selma. The decisions made in these communications were ratified at the first part of the Commission meeting in Selma. In conference with the Selma Session the date for the installation was set as January 19, 2007. The Commission upheld the action of issuing the Edict and the appointment of officers and the designation of who participated and what they did in the Installation Service. Pastor Bruce Backensto, Tom Gray's pastor participated in the Installation Service. The participants are as follows:

Leader of the service: Robert Morrow

Scripture Reading: James A. Martin, Selma, AL

Sermon: Barry York

Charge to Pastor: Bruce Backensto

Charge to Congregation: Raymond Morton

Reading of queries: Averette Woodson

Prayer of Installation: Raymond Morton

Narration of steps: George Evans, Selma Clerk of Session.

Tom Reid, Moderator, was at the last moment unable to attend the Installation Service because of his wife's illness. Barry York was appointed the Moderator, Pro-tem.

The Installation Service was conducted on January 19, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. in the Selma Reformed Presbyterian Church. There were about 75 congregants at the service. The appointed participants each did their part in the service as outlined above and recorded in the Minutes of the Commission.

The Commission expresses its thanks to Pastor and Mrs. Gray and the Selma elders and people for the warm and gracious welcome they received while in Selma for this Installation Service. It is our prayer that the Lord would bless pastor and people and encourage them as they seek to minister and build His kingdom in Selma, AL. We would also ask the whole Presbytery to do the same.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Reid, Moderator,

Barry York, Moderator, pro-tem

Raymond Morton, Clerk,

Robert Morrow

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the Report be received and the Minutes of the Selma Installation Commission be spread on the Minutes of Presbytery.

The Southfield Reformed Presbyterian Church report was given by Jon Hughes.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Jon Schaefer led the Court in prayer for Southfield Reformed Presbyterian Church.

Candidates and Credentials Committee Report

Jared Olivetti continued to present the report of the Candidates and Credentials Committee.

The Amended Recommendations of the Committee are:

1. That student examinations be conducted by Presbytery according to the chart in I.A on page 1.
2. That the examination of Ruling Elder Larry Bump to qualify for "more regular occasional preaching" be conducted according to the chart in I.A. above.
3. That Adam Niess be taken under care as a Student of Theology.
4. That Ben Larson be removed from being under the care of Presbytery as a Student of Theology
5. That student aid funds be continued for Michael Weathers as a student of RPTS this fall.
6. That student aid funds be granted to David Whitla as he enters RPTS this fall as a student.
7. That the status of each of the other "Ordained Ministers Not in the Pastorate" be approved as given in the body of the report.
8. That we hear from Dr. Frank Smith, pastor of the Covenant Reformed Presbyterian Church in Sheboygan, WI and also representing a second CRPC congregation in Janesville, WI for 10 minutes.

9. We recommend Presbytery direct the clerk to transfer Rutledge's credentials to the Alleghenies Presbytery.

10. That Jon Hughes be reelected to the Committee for the Class of 2010 along with one other member.

Actions on the Recommendations

Recommendation 10 was referred to the Nominating Committee.

Recommendations 5 and 6 were amended and then referred to the Finance Committee.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that Jason Camrey be included in students under care and therefore eligible to receive student aid funds.

Recess and Reconvening

Presbytery took recess at 10:26 a.m. and reconvened at 10:48 with the singing of Psalm 221.

Wright Commission Report

The Wright Commission Report was presented by Rich Holdeman.

Recommendation 1 was approved.

In keeping with Recommendation 1 James Wright addressed the Court. He read a prepared letter to the Court which is recorded with the Commission Report.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that we, as a Presbytery grant, with wholehearted gratefulness, forgiveness to James Wright and restore him to the office of teaching elder. Rich Holdeman led the Court in prayer.

Recommendation 2 was approved as amended and the whole Recommendation now reads, "that this Commission be dismissed with the Presbytery's heartfelt thanks for the work of the Commission, and that, in the light of the Commission's work, the Presbytery spread only a summary of its Minutes on the Minutes of Presbytery". (This summary is the "Chronological Meeting Summary" in the middle of the Report. James Wright's letter is also in the Appendix.)

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received. Presbytery sang Psalm 3613 in praise to God.

Candidates and Credentials Committee Report

Jared Olivetti continued to present the Report.

Recommendation 7 was approved.

Report of the Coordinator on Church Extensionu

Keith Magill reported on his work as the Coordinator. His full Report is in the Appendix.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Report of the Committee concerning Communications 2005-1 and 2005-2

The Chairman, Greg Cumbee, reported verbally for the Committee.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the Committee bring a report to the meeting of Presbytery at Synod in June 2007.

Report of the Committee on Communication F06-1 concerning NAPARC Ministers Administering the Sacraments in RPCNA Congregations

Ian Wise presented the Report which is as follows:

Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery

March 29-31, 2007

Committee on NAPARC Ministers

Administering the Sacraments in RPCNA Congregations

At our fall meeting in Southfield, the Westminster Session brought a request to Presbytery asking that they be given clearance to have ministers ordained in NAPARC denominations administer communion in the absence of their pastor. This matter was referred to the Judicial Committee, which came back with the following recommendations that were approved by Presbytery:

"In regard to the question asked we find nothing in the Law and Order of the Church that would hinder the request as stated. As the request regards ministers in denominations with which we have fraternal relations (Directory of Worship, Ch. 3, Paragraph 2), we find that these men have already been recognized as ministers in the church of Christ (Directory of Worship, Ch. 3, Paragraph 2; Ch. 29, Paragraph 3), and we would recommend that this be approved with the following conditions: A) that the man has been previously examined and approved by the Session, and B) that there is at least one RP ruling elder present for the sacrament."

Following the passing of these motions and the discussion that ensued, another motion was made to appoint this committee to review the history of this practice and specifically if Synod has already addressed this matter.

We would share the following findings:

1. A quick review of the past twenty-five years of Synod's minutes revealed that this particular issue has not been addressed.
2. Though the "Comity Agreement" of NAPARC addresses many matters concerning the mutual cooperation among member churches, the extending of privileges to administer the sacraments across denominational lines is not among them.
3. Two men with extensive experience in representing the RPCNA in interchurch work, Dr. Bruce Stewart and Pastor Gordon Keddie, related that they were not aware of a specific decision regarding the allowance of NAPARC pastors to administer communion in our churches.
4. The only place where our standards appear to speak to this issue is in the Directory of Worship, where it is stated, "The sacraments are to be administered according to Christ's appointment, and only by ordained ministers of the church or by others authorized by the church in extraordinary circumstances" (Paragraph 3-2, italics ours).

Given the lack of precedent for this practice in our history; knowing our history of closed communion and now session-controlled communion has limited the administering of the

sacrament to RPCNA ministers; our committee's belief that the Westminster situation does not appear to qualify as an extraordinary circumstance; and that this issue appears to be a matter that should be addressed in interchurch work at the Synod level, we would then recommend the following:

1. that Presbytery's fall decision along with the Westminster Paper and this Committee's Report be sent to Synod for review.
2. that Presbytery hold the decision made last fall in abeyance until Synod has reviewed this matter.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bill Roberts
Ian Wise, Chairman
Barry York

Recommendation 1 was amended and approved so that the Recommendation now reads: "that Presbytery's fall decision of whether NAPARC ministers may occasionally administer sacraments in RPCNA congregations, along with the Westminster Paper and this Committee's Report be sent to Synod for review."

Recommendation 2 lost on the vote of 13 for and 20 against. The following recorded their dissent from this action: Phil Pockras, Greg Cumbee, Robert McKissick and Raymond Morton.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Congregational Reports

The Southside Reformed Presbyterian Church Congregational Report was given by Gordon Keddie.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Roy Blackwood introduced Dr. Frank and Mrs. Penelope Smith to the Court. Dr. Smith is the pastor of the Covenant Reformed Presbyterian Church in Sheboygan, WI.

Prayer and Recess

Ian Wise led the Court in prayer for the Southside congregation, for the meal and fellowship to follow, and recessed the Court at 12:37 p.m.

Session 5, Friday, March 30, 2007 at 2:01 p.m.

Call to Order and Reconvening

Presbytery reconvened at the call of the Moderator at 2:01 p.m. with the singing of Psalm 84A and being led in prayer by the Moderator.

Candidates and Credentials Committee Report

Jared Olivetti called on Rich Holdeman to introduce Adam Neiss. Rich Holdeman introduced Adam Neiss who is coming to be taken under care by the Presbytery as a student of theology. He comes with the approval of the Bloomington Session.

Adam Neiss spoke to the Court concerning his conversion and his desire and call to the gospel ministry. Members of Presbytery asked questions and received answers. Recommendation 3 was approved.

Roy Blackwood introduced Dr. Frank Smith
Recommendation 8 was approved.

In keeping with this Recommendation the Presbytery Dr. Frank Smith, pastor of the Covenant Reformed Presbyterian Church in Sheboygan, WI and also representing a second CRPC congregation in Janesville, WI, spoke to the Court. Following his report Presbytery sang Psalm 126A.

Roll:

The Roll was taken visually by the Assistant Clerk

Minutes

The Clerk read the Minutes of the previous session.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the Minutes be approved as corrected.

Thank you from the Associate Reformed Church of Grand Rapids

To the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery,
Friday, March 30, 2007

Fathers and brethren,

As we take our leave of you today, we thank you for your warm and open-handed hospitality, and for a most encouraging and edifying experience, sitting with you in the Sessions of Christ's Court. We also thank you for your kind and faithful dealings with us in connection with our book of praise. We hope in the Lord to see you all again, and we invite you to visit us in Grand Rapids as you may have opportunity.

Yours sincerely,

Rev, Ray B. Lanning
Ruling Elders, Doug Sikma, and, Student Nathan Eshelman,
Associate Reformed Church of Grand Rapids, MI (ARPC)

Congregational Reports

The Sparta Reformed Presbyterian Church Congregational Report was given by Robert Morrow.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Charles Saunders led the Court in prayer for the Sparta congregation.

The Triangle Reformed Presbyterian Church Congregational Report was presented by Ian Wise.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the time until recess be extended to finish this report.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Recess and Reconvening

Presbytery took recess at 3:43 p.m. and reconvened at 4:00 p.m. with the singing of Psalm 57B followed by prayer by the Moderator.

Belle Center Building Committee Report

The Report was presented by John Mauser and is as follows:

Committee for the Belle Center Property

This committee was appointed at the Fall 2006 Presbytery meeting in response to a paper from the Southside Session which comprised technical reports on the state of the now abandoned church building in Belle Center, Ohio. The committee was charged with making some proposals with respect to the property needs of the Belle Center congregation.

The Present Situation

Because of the physical deterioration of their 1877 building, which they believe to be unusable and too expensive to repair, the congregation now meets for worship in the Presbyterian Church in Belle Center. (Those who are not aware of the detailed condition of the property are referred to reports submitted last Fall.) Just over 30 meet for worship at 1pm and 6:30pm. They are content with this location in the meantime, but do desire to have a church home of their own as soon as is practicable.

The Presbytery Visitation of November 2004 reported on some positive developments in the congregation, which included new people and good support for a budget that had been overstretched year after year. Within the last year, movements in the membership have increased that strain, but on the plus side, a legacy of \$100,000, designated for the repair or development of the property, has been received from the estate of their late elder, Mel Rutherford,. New efforts are being made to reach out and make the congregation's ministry more widely known, most recently making sermons available on sermonaudio.com. As the only RP congregation in Ohio and one of the few Reformed churches in west central part of the state (they are 60 miles from Columbus in a village of 800 souls), they feel they can be a lighthouse for a wide area of small towns not served by Reformed ministry.

The general conviction of the elders and congregation is, as has been stated, that the 1877 building is beyond *cost-effective* renovation. Virtually every surface external and internal requires repair of some kind. Mold from below and bat droppings from above have rendered it unhealthful for the worshipers, especially those with allergies. There is neither off-street parking nor space for creating it. The Committee concurs that replacement on a new site is likely to be more cost-effective. We also believe this to be an opportunity for a fresh start in the ministry in the Belle Center area. Consequently, our recommendations arise from the assumption that the disposal of the present property and the development of a new property in a new location – together with a new direction for the ministry – is both necessary and desirable.

The committee would note that the lack of adequate maintenance of the present Belle Center property raises serious questions, not only for the future of any new property in Belle Center, but also for the way all of our congregations look after their buildings and order their finances. This is all the more pertinent where congregations are seriously under-funded, as has been the case perennially in Belle Center.

We would note that in her struggle to support a full-time pastorate, and maintain both a church and a parsonage, both old buildings, the Belle Center congregation has been unable to meet all of these needs adequately from her small numbers and strained budget. However, we would note that while their building was being allowed to fall into its current state of dilapidation around them, and while they are arguably under-supporting their pastor, they were still sending substantial sums each year (for perfectly praiseworthy causes) outside of the congregation. Our point is that when a congregation is barely able, or perhaps even unable, to sustain its pastor and buildings, it ought not to be sending money to other works, however praiseworthy and needy. There has been very little money for the building in Belle Center since the centenary renovation in 1977, and likewise for the maintenance of the parsonage and the pastor's salary. But in these 30 years (as reference to Synod's Minutes will confirm) the congregation has consistently contributed 10-15% of its congregational contributions to central RP missions and ministry. This has no doubt been motivated by a desire to be faithful in spreading the gospel through the wider ministry of the RPCNA. It has certainly been sacrificial. We would suggest, however, that such faithfulness is not to be won at the expense of neglecting the basic irreducible necessities of the ministry and witness at home. The witness of the RPC in Belle Center cannot have been enhanced in the community by a building that preaches its story of chronic lack of maintenance from a very visible corner on the main highway through town. How much difference over the last 20 years \$4-5K per annum spent locally rather than being sent to RPM&M would have made is open to debate. What we do know is that the building is now lost altogether for ministry use, all for want of essential repairs.

Presbytery and Synod also bear their own shares of responsibility for this situation. Part of the genius of Presbyterianism is that the strong are supposed to help the weak. This has emphatically not happened in relation to Belle Center. The state of their church building was commented on at the 2004 Presbytery visitation, but we remained bystanders until Pastor Pockras made a plea for help in 2006, and we will remain bystanders until we do something practical to help – something more than words and fond hopes. Our buildings are the first things the public see of our corporate witness as congregations and as a denomination. Scripture says that a man who cannot manage his own family cannot be given the management of the house of God (1 Tim. 3:5). What then does the mismanagement of the house of God say to the world we are seeking to win for Christ? Why should the children of Adam not conclude with some justification that they are indeed wiser than the children of light? (Luke 16:8). We believe this to be a cause for humbling before the Lord and for a new attention to the witness of our local churches by all of the other congregations of the church.

The Recommendations

Recommendation 1. The Presbytery recommends to the Belle Center congregation that the Belle Center church be demolished and the site disposed of, with the proviso that the roof shingles first be tested for asbestos, and that all costs of demolition be sought from the undesignated Rutherford funds held by Synod's Trustees.

Comment: While the shell of the present building is in poor condition and could be renovated at great cost, it is the unanimous opinion of the committee that such renovation would not provide

the facilities that even a small congregation requires today in order to conduct an effective ministry. We believe that the 1877 building has simply had its day.

Recommendation 2. The Presbytery recommends that the Belle Center congregation proceed to the purchase of a suitable piece of land for their future home, utilizing the Rutherford funds recently left to the congregation.

Comment: We believe strongly that any land purchased should be strategically located to maximize the future visibility, accessibility and witness of the church. This should certainly have easy access to main highways, and perhaps be in or near a larger town. The transition should be conceived as a new start, eventually involving a change of name appropriate and necessary to the new location and focus of ministry. Consideration needs to be given as to where is the best place for the congregation to minister for the rest of the 21st Century.

Recommendation 3. That Presbytery appoint a committee of men to consult with the Belle Center elders and deacons in a new focus in the ministry.

Comment: The willingness of two qualified men to assess the condition of the Belle Center building in June 2006 - John Mauser and Don Prichard - has been crucial to both the Congregation and the Presbytery to the place where practical help can be contemplated. There is expertise in the Presbytery which can be utilized to refine the needs of the Belle Center church for future ministry, advising on the type of construction, materials to be used and perhaps roughing out a suitable footprint plan.

Recommendation 4. That Presbytery request Synod's Trustees to reserve \$200,000 from undesignated Rutherford funds for three years for use toward the provision of a new building for the Belle Center congregation and an additional \$50,000 to a new and revitalized ministry in Belle Center.

Comment: We believe that this is altogether appropriate in view of Mr. Rutherford's long-term connection with Belle Center and comports with the intention of his specific gift of \$100,000 to the congregation for repairs he clearly did not realize at the time would be significantly more pervasive and costly. We understand that his daughter has expressed her support for an action of this kind. Even with such funds being made available, the challenge to the congregation will be larger than they can handle right now. We see the immediate future, while the Belle Center church meets in temporary accommodation, as a time for reevaluation and rededication of the worship, life and ministry of the fellowship.

Recommendation 5. That the Belle Center Session actively consider ways to involve others in the Presbytery in these rebuilding efforts.

Comment: We envisage the possibility of teams going to work on specific projects (painting, landscaping, evangelizing, etc..) when the time comes for fitting out a new building. We hope that the Presbytery and her congregations will take an active practical interest in the settlement of the Belle Center congregation in a new location, new property and renewed ministry.

Recommendation 6. That this Report be forwarded to the Belle Center Session and the Trustees of Synod for appropriate consultation and action.

Recommendation 7. That the present committee be dismissed and that the Presbytery appoint a committee of three to a new Belle Center Committee.

Respectfully submitted

John Mauser
Joe Moore
Don Prichard
Bill Roberts
Gordon Keddie (Chm)

Action on the Recommendations

Recommendations 1 and 2 were approved.

Recommendations 3 and 4 were amended and approved and are now as printed above.

Recommendations 5 and 6 were approved.

Recommendation 7 was approved and referred to the Nominating Committee.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Recess

Following announcements the Moderator led in prayer for the Belle Center needs and recessed the Court at 5:24 p.m.

Session 6, Friday, March 30, 2007 at 7:11 p.m.

Call to Order and Reconvening

Presbytery reconvened at the call of the Moderator at 7:11 p.m. with the singing of Psalm 84B and being led in prayer by the Moderator.

Roll:

The Roll was taken visually by the Assistant Clerk

Minutes

The Clerk read the Minutes of the previous session.

The Minutes were declared approved as corrected.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that a committee of three go to Sheboygan, WI, to visit the Covenant Reformed Presbyterian Church there and that this committee be appointed by the Nominating Committee.

Youth Leadership Team Report

Rich Johnston presented the Report. Several of the youth spoke to the Court.

Kathryn Held introduced the Team members and spoke generally about the Team's work.

Joel Hart reported on the Fall Ministry Project.

Becca Long spoke about the Winter Youth Conference and Gethsemane Challenge.

Mandy Shoop spoke about the Sunrise Party.

Grace Hanson spoke about the Echo Ministry Trip and the Covi-Connection Newsletter.

Lindsey York spoke about the youth program at the Covfamiko Conference.

Luke Long, the C.Y.P.U. Treasurer, reported on the financial situation and the need for continuing funds from the Presbytery.
Overall, a need was expressed for pastors to identify youth who could serve on the Youth Leadership Team.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Covfamikoi Conference Report

The report was presented by Shane Shoop. He spoke of the scholarship fund and of the regulations concerning "surrogate parents". He also requested the Presbytery provide \$2500 for scholarships.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Congregational Reports

The Westminster Reformed Presbyterian Church Congregational Report was presented by Robert Koch.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

David Carr led the Court in prayer for the Westminster congregation.

Candidates and Credentials Committee Report

Jared Olivetti introduced David Whitla for his examination in Systematic Theology I and Distinctive Principles.

Ian Wise conducted the examination.

Members of Presbytery asked questions and received answers.

The members of Presbytery went on to make the comments on the examination.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the time be extended to complete this examination and adjourn the Court.

Roll Call Vote

The Assistant Clerk called the Roll and the examination was unanimously sustained.

Adjournment

Roy Blackwood led the Court in prayer and adjourned the Court at 9:03 p.m.

Session 7, Saturday, March 31, 2007 at 8:40 a.m.

Call to Order

The Moderator David Smith called Presbytery to order at 8:40 a.m.

Presbytery sang Psalm 3 st. 1-5 and Gordon Keddie constituted the Court in prayer.

Candidates and Credentials Committee Report

Jared Olivetti introduced David Whitlaw who will present his Expository Sermon. David Whitlaw read I Peter 4:12-19, led in prayer and preached God's Word on "Rules for Christian Sufferers" and following his message he led in prayer.

Presbytery sang Psalm 71D st. 13-16.

Roll: the Roll was taken visually by the Assistant Clerk.

Minutes

The Minutes of the Friday evening Session were read by the Clerk and the Moderator declared the Minutes approved as corrected.

Candidates and Credentials Committee Report

Comments on David Whitlaw's Expository Sermons were expressed by members of Presbytery.

Roll Call Vote

The Assistant Clerk called the Roll and the Expository Sermon of David Whitlaw was unanimously sustained.

Pastor Jared Olivetti announced that David Whitlaw had completed all the necessary work in order for him to be certified to preach by the Presbytery.

Certification to Preach

Pastor Gordon Keddie asked David the queries for certification to preach.

David Whitlaw answered all the queries in the affirmative with no exceptions.

David Whitlaw signed in the Minute Book the Queries for Certification to ~~receive a call~~.

Pastor Jared Olivetti gave the words of counsel as to the duties and limitations of his licensure as per The Directory of Church Government, Chapter 3, II, C, 2, i.

Pastor Gordon Keddie led Presbytery in prayer for David's progress thus far and for his further preparation for gospel ministry.

Roll Call Vote

The Assistant Clerk called the Roll and the Presbytery unanimously sustained his answers to the Queries for Certification to Preach.

Pastor Jared Olivetti led in prayer for David's Certification to Preach and his future exposition of God's Word.

This completed the Report of the Candidates and Credentials Committee.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report of the Candidates and Credentials Committee as a whole be received.

Congregational Reports

The Christ Church Reformed Presbyterian Church Report was given by Michael LeFebvre.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Pastor Keith Magill led in prayer for Christ Church.

The Immanuel Reformed Presbyterian Church report was given by David Carr.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.
Pastor Michael LeFebvre led in prayer for Immanuel RPC.

Finance Committee Report

Pastor William Roberts reported for the Committee. He presented the present financial report and the budget for the coming year.

Recommendations:

1. that the 2008 budget be adopted.
2. that the congregations in the Presbytery are directed to designate an amount for the housing allowance greater than the anticipated housing expense for their pastor(s).
3. that the cut off in rates for the New Works Assessment be raise from \$60,000 to \$75,000.

Recommendations 1-3 were approved.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Recess

Presbytery took recess from 10:38 to 10: 47 a.m. and returned to business singing Psalm 117B and being led in prayer by the Moderator.

Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee Report was given by Pastor Keith Magill and is as follows:
(see next page)

Great Lakes – Gulf Presbytery Nominating Committee Report – Spring 2007

As adopted 3/31/07

Ad Interim Commission

Lafayette Session
David Carr

Church Extension Committees

Michigan

Jon Hughes (Ch.)
Southfield Session

Southern Illinois

Ray Morton (Ch.)
Bob Morrow
Dale Musselman

Southern

Ian Wise (Ch.)
Charles Saunders
Greg Cumbee
Tom Reid
David Smith

Ohio-Indiana

Dave Long (Ch.)
Andy McCracken
Barry York
Phil Pockras

Candidates & Credentials Committee

Class of '08

Roy Blackwood
Dean Filson
Jared Olivetti

Class of '09

Rich Holdeman (replacing
Rich Johnston)
Bob McCracken

Class of '10

Jon Hughes
Michael LeFebvre (Ch.)

Financial Officers

Treasurer -- Laurence Curry
Asst. - Jim Bishop

Visitation Committees

Columbus

Ian Wise (Ch.)
David Smith
David Carr

Southside Indianapolis

Phil Pockras (Ch.)
James Faris
Butch Shoop

Home Mission Board Rep.

Class of '09

Ian Wise

Committee to Oversee Hetherton

(Committee dismissed-see
below)
Bob Henning
Bill Roberts
Jon Hughes

Committee to Aid Hetherton

Keith Magill (Ch.)
Jim Curtis
Jon Hughes

COVFAMIKOI Conference

Director: Jeff Kessler
Manager: Shane Shoop

Interchurch Liaison

Charles Brown

Youth Coordinators

Rich Johnston
John Hanson

Representative to the Youth Ministries Committee of Synod

John Hanson

Board of Corporators of Geneva College

Class of '10

Andy McCracken

Belle Center Committee

Three members from the
Southside Indianapolis
Session to be selected by that
Session and reported to the
Ad Interim Commission by
May 15, 2007.

Committee to visit Sheboygan, WI

Roy Blackwood
Keith Magill
Michael LeFebvre

Moderators of Vacant Congregations

Hetherton -- Milton
Harrington

Provisional Elders

Hetherton -- Roger Adams
Elkhart -- Dave Long

Papers 05-1 & 05-2 Study Committee (Subscription questions)

Greg Cumbee (Ch.)
Dan Webb
Donald Cassell
Barry York

Grand Rapids Committee

Keith Magill (Ch.)
Roy Blackwood
Jim Curtis
Bob Bibby

Recommendations:

1. That Hetherton RPC be granted the privileges of administration of the sacraments and the making out of calls.
2. That the (older) Hetherton Oversight Committee (Henning, Roberts, Hughes) be dismissed.

Respectfully submitted:

Keith Magill (Ch.)
Jonathan Schaefer, Ram Rao
James Faris, Ed Schisler

Recommendations 1 and 2 were approved.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed to adopt the Report as a whole.

Judicial Committee Report

The Judicial Committee Report was given by Jon Hughes and is as follows:

Report of the Judicial Committee
Presbytery, March 29-31, 2007

*In controversy they shall stand as judges, and judge it according to My judgments
Ezekiel 44:20*

Paper 2007-1 came from the Session of the Second Reformed Presbyterian Church. In it they requested a ruling regarding a question in a discipline case. In the case the man has been rebuked by the session and remains unrepentant. Their question is that, in the event that the Session should proceed to a trial, "may the testimony of his children against him... given in the presence of three elders (I Timothy 5:19) be used against him in a trial, or must his children be required to be called as witnesses against him, as the Book of Discipline describes (chapter 3 item 5)?"

The *Book of Discipline*, Section II, Chapter 3, Paragraph 5 states, "**If necessary to proceed with trial, the witnesses of the prosecution shall be called, then those of the defense. Each party shall have the right to cross-examine the witnesses of the other party. The witnesses shall be examined in the presence of the accused, unless he has failed to appear. After all the original testimony has been heard, rebuttal testimony may be introduced by either party...**" The Judicial Committee has determined that if Second Reformed Presbyterian Church conducts a "formal trial" in this case, then the calling of witnesses must be done as stated.

But, based on our examination of supporting documents, including the minutes of the Second Reformed Presbyterian Church Session, the Committee is persuaded that the *Book of Discipline*, Section I, Chapter 3, Paragraph 4 (which states, "**If the sinner acknowledges the truthfulness of the accusation but refuses to repent, the court may proceed to the imposition of any formal censure in hope of repentance**") allows proceeding to "any formal censure in the hope of repentance" in this case. We noted that the accused signed a confession of his sin as charged, and has already been subject to the censure of rebuke. In our judgment, no "formal trial" requiring witnesses as in BD II, 3,

5, is necessary in this case.

Respectfully submitted,
Gordon Keddie, Chairman
Jon Hughes
Duane Judd
Ian Wise

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the Judicial Committee Report be adopted.

Atlanta Commission Report

The Atlanta Commission Report was given by Pastor Ian Wise and is as follows:

Report from Atlanta Commission
Great Lakes – Gulf Presbytery
March 29-31, 2007

Dear fathers and brothers,

Circumstances in Atlanta have taken an encouraging turn since we reported to you in the fall.

On March 11, three households and a single lady got together on the Lord's Day afternoon to pray, sing and fellowship. During that time, the families each expressed an eagerness to begin a Reformed Presbyterian work. These are the Donaths (2), the Felsos (7), the Barry Hasenkopfs (5), and Carolyn Leverett.

It was agreed to begin meeting on Sabbath mornings at 11:00 for worship. For now, they are meeting in homes, but they want to begin meeting in a public place as soon as possible. Brian Hasenkopf is preaching twice for them in April. They will also be listening to taped sermons; and Brian has agreed to schedule other men to go down regularly to preach.

The group is an eager and self-starting bunch. They've already been in contact with several other interested families. Brian mentioned their strong desire to be a RPCNA body, not simply a Reformed work in search of a denomination; and Barry noted that a number of the folks were singing some selections from our Book of Psalms from memory.

The Commission has been wondering about where Brian is in his thinking about Atlanta. His mother-in-law has been diagnosed with a motor-neuron disease. There is no cure. The only question seems to be how quickly her demise will occur. Brian's wife Tonya is the only child nearby. She has been quite involved in her mother's day-to-day life. Brian and Tonya are trying to balance their responsibilities for a parent with their calling to minister in the Church. The commission, too, is trying to strike a balance between sensitivity to the Hasenkopfs' situation, while recognizing the need to move forward. As you will see in the minutes (attached), the commission has voted to decide by Synod meeting of Presbytery whether to offer a formal call to Brian, or to investigate other options.

Please join us in praying for Brian and Tonya's decision, and for their present ministry to Stella Deater, who does not yet know Christ.

Recommendation: That the Atlanta Commission be continued.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Reid, *clerk*
David Smith
Steve Sturm

Averitte Woodson
Ian Wise, *moderator*

The recommendation of the Report was approved.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received and the Minutes of the Atlanta Commission be spread on the Minutes of Presbytery. (See the Appendix)
Ian Wise led the Court in prayer for the work in Atlanta.

Presbytery's Representative on the Board of Corporators of Geneva College

Pastor Andrew McCracken, Presbytery's Representative, gave the report.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Presbytery Report to the Synod of 2007

Robert Morrow, Assistant Clerk reported and made the following motion:

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the Assistant Clerk circulate a draft Report to the members of Presbytery by e-mail and that any changes to this be sent to the Assistant Clerk by April 15; following this the Assistant Clerk will revise the Report and then submit it by April 30 to the Ad Interim Commission for approval and forwarding to the Clerk of Synod.

Time and Place Committee Report

Andrew McCracken reported for the Time and Place Committee. The Committee recommends that the Presbytery meet at the Orlando Reformed Presbyterian Church in Orlando, FL, February 28 to March 1, 2008.

The Recommendation was approved.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that there be a cap of \$250.00 per delegate for travel to the Orlando meeting of Presbytery.

Assistant Clerk's Report

The Assistant Clerk reported as follows:

ASSISTANT CLERK'S REPORT

Sixteen Session Minute Books were handed in and have been read and examined and nothing has been found contrary to the law and order of the church. Some minor notes were given and they are sent back with the Minute Book for the Session to take care of them. I wish to thank those who read each Session Book and for the timely way they were done.

Two Session Books were not turned in this year, and they are Hetherton and Selma. These Session Minute books are to be brought to the Synod Meeting of Presbytery for reading.

I thank Ralph Joseph for providing the forms on the computer for the present Assistant Clerk to use. I presently have over one half of the congregational statistics done. These statistics have to go to the denominational treasurer in Pittsburgh. These include membership and financial statistics and have to be submitted by the end of April.

Respectively submitted,

Robert Morrow, Assistant Clerk.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Resolution of Thanks Committee Report

Jared Olivetti gave the Report of the Resolution of Thanks Committee.

Report of the Resolution of Thanks Committee March 2007 Meeting of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery

RECOMMENDATION: That the following resolution of thanks be adopted and communicated to the Columbus Reformed Presbyterian Church.

Respectfully submitted,

James Fans
Jared Olivetti

Short version:

Columbus is a very nice city
Though compared to the other quite bitty
For the love of these brothers
We prefer this to the other
And held presbytery with love and felicity

Expanded version:

To the saints of Columbus Reformed Presbyterian Church,

We know God loves hospitality because God's version of Christianity has hospitality at its heart, not on the periphery of what He expects from the church. Hospitality is one of the requirements for leaders of the church, one of the marks setting the church apart from the world and is part of Paul's great charge of faith to the Romans (Rom. 12:13). Because God loves hospitality, we love hospitality.

In your care for us, you have set yourself apart from the world and given cause for Christ to be sanctified in our hearts. And as we thank you, we trust our gratitude will honor our God whose Spirit has enabled you to this work. Thank you for your goodness and kindness to us. You have made our work easier and have greatly aided our fellowship. In welcoming and providing for presbytery's guests, you have gone beyond the normal duties of hosting.

We believe you have followed Peter's instructions well: ¹ Peter 4:8-10 ⁸ Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. ⁹ Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰ As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's... grace.

With love and thanks,
The Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery of the RPCNA

The Recommendation of the Report was approved,

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Presbytery gave standing ovations to Rich Johnston for his work on the Candidates and Credentials Committee Report, and to the Clerks for their work.

Minutes

The Minutes of the Session were read and declared by the Moderator.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the Presbytery adjourn.

Presbytery adjourned with the Moderator leading in prayer and the singing of Psalm 133A at 12:10 p.m.

Richard B. Holdeman, Moderator *Raymond E. Morton, Clerk*

Ad Interim Commission of the
Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery

Thursday, April 20, 2006
4:00 pm

MINUTES

Present: Kenneth de Jong, Robert Henning (by phone), Richard Holdeman, William Roberts

Absent: Wendell McBurney

Constitution of the Court by Prayer: Roberts constituted the court by prayer at 4:00 pm.

Election of Clerk: Holdeman was elected clerk of the commission by a unanimous vote.

Evaluation of call to Rutledge Etheridge: The call to Rutledge Etheridge from Providence RP Church in Pittsburgh, PA was discussed. Finding it to be in order, the Commission voted to approve passing it on to Mr. Etheridge as a regular gospel call coming from the Presbytery of the Alleghenies of the RPCNA.

Adjournment by Prayer: Henning adjourned the meeting by prayer at 4:15 pm.

William L. Roberts
William L. Roberts, moderator

Richard B. Holdeman, clerk

Ad Interim Commission
of the Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery

Thursday, May 11, 2006
2:30 pm

MINUTES

Present: Kenneth de Jong, Richard Holdeman, Wendell McBurney William Roberts
Absent: Robert Henning

Constitution of the Court by Prayer: Roberts constituted the court by prayer at 2:30 pm.

Moving Ralph Joseph's Credentials: Motion to forward Ralph Joseph's ministerial credentials from the Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery to the Presbytery of the Alleghenies was approved.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of April 20 and May 11 were read and approved.

Adjournment by Prayer: McBurney adjourned the meeting by prayer at 2:45 pm.

William L. Roberts
William L. Roberts, moderator

Richard B. Holdeman, clerk

Ad Interim Commission of the
Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery

Tuesday, July 17, 2006
1:00 pm

MINUTES

Present: Kenneth de Jong, Richard Holdeman, Wendell McBurney, William Roberts

Constitution of the Court by Prayer: de Jong constituted the court by prayer at 1:00 pm.

Evaluation of call to Thomas Gray: The call to Thomas Gray from Selma RP Church in Selma, AL was discussed. It was noted that the minutes of the meeting in which congregation elected Mr. Gray as well as the roster of the congregation were omitted from the materials sent to the Commission. Finding the call itself to be in order, the Commission voted to approve passing it on to Mr. Gray as a regular gospel call coming from the Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery of the RPCNA contingent upon the Commission's receipt of the additional information from the Selma congregation.

Adjournment by Prayer: Holdeman adjourned the meeting by prayer at 1:15 pm.

William L. Roberts
William L. Roberts, moderator

Richard B. Holdeman, clerk

Ad Interim Commission of the
Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery

Tuesday, August 21, 2006
2:20 pm

MINUTES

Present: Kenneth de Jong, Robert Henning (by phone), Richard Holdeman, William Roberts

Constitution of the Court by Prayer: Holdeman constituted the court by prayer at 2:20 pm.

Evaluation of petition from the Westside Oversight Committee: A petition from the Westside Oversight Committee of Second Indianapolis Reformed Presbyterian Church to organize the Westside work into a regular congregation was reviewed. The Ad Interim Commission approved the petition and voted to encourage the Westside Oversight Committee to proceed with plans to organize the congregation.

Date for organization: It was decided that an organization service for the Westside work would be held either on Friday October 27, 2006 or on Friday November 17, 2006 with the specific date to be worked out between the moderator of the Ad Interim Commission, the Westside Oversight Committee, and the Southfield RP session, who is currently scheduled to host the fall presbytery meeting.

Adjournment by Prayer: de Jong adjourned the meeting by prayer at 2:30 pm.

William L. Roberts
William L. Roberts, moderator

Richard B. Holdeman, clerk

Ad Interim Commission of the
Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery

Monday, October 2, 2006
9:05 pm

MINUTES

Present: Wendell McBurney, Robert Henning, Richard Holdeman, William Roberts (by conference call)

Constitution of the Court by Prayer: McBurney constituted the court by prayer.

Westside Indianapolis RP Church organization:

A motion was approved to call the Presbytery to meet on Friday, October 27, 2006 at 7:00 pm at Light and Life Free Methodist Church in Avon, Indiana for the purpose of organizing the Westside Indianapolis congregation.

A motion was passed to approve the following list of participants in the organization service:

- Invocation: Roy Blackwood
- History of the Work: James Faris
- Sermon: Richard Ganz
- Prayer Constituting the Congregation: Keith Magill
- Prayer to Ordain and Install Elders (forming the Session): William Roberts
- Prayer to Install the Pastor: Rich Johnston
- Charges: Keith Magill
- Adjourning Prayer: Roy Blackwood
- Benediction: Michael LeFebvre

A motion was approved to issue an edict for the election of a pastor and elders contingent upon the organization of the congregation.

Evaluation of call to James Faris:

The call to James Faris from Southfield RP Church in Southfield, MI was discussed. Finding it to be in order, the Commission voted to approve passing it on to Mr. Faris as a regular gospel call.

In the event that Mr. Faris accepts the call, the Moderator of the Ad Interim Commission and the Clerk of Presbytery will work out the details of the installation service to be held at the Southfield Church during the fall meeting of Presbytery on November 17, 2006.

Adjournment by Prayer: Henning adjourned the meeting by prayer at 9:25 pm.

William L. Roberts

 William L. Roberts, moderator

Richard B. Holdeman, clerk

Ad Interim Commission of the
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery

Wednesday, November 1, 2006
9:05 pm

MINUTES

Present: Kenneth deJong, Wendell McBurney, Robert Henning, Richard Holdeman, William Roberts (by conference call)

Constitution of the Court by Prayer: McBurney constituted the court by prayer.

Installation of James Faris at Southfield:

A motion was approved to issue an edict to install James Faris as the pastor of the Southfield, MI Reformed Presbyterian Church on Friday, November 17, 2006 at 7:00 pm Southfield Reformed Presbyterian Church.

A motion was passed to approve the following list of participants in the installation service:

- Sermon - Ian Wise
- Address to the Congregation - Ralph Joseph
- Address to Pastor - Rich Johnston
- Queries - Jon Hughes
- Prayer of Installation -- Phil Pockras

Adjournment by Prayer: Henning adjourned the meeting by prayer at 9:10 pm.

William L. Roberts

 William L. Roberts, moderator

Richard B. Holdeman, clerk

Ad Interim Commission of the
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery

Tuesday, December 5, 2006
10:05 pm

MINUTES

Present: Kenneth deJong, Robert Henning, Richard Holdeman, William Roberts (by conference call)

Constitution of the Court by Prayer: Holdeman constituted the court by prayer.

Tom Gray's credentials:

A motion was approved to receive the credentials of Teaching Elder Tom Gray from the Alleghenies Presbytery by the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery.

Installation of Tom Gray at Selma:

A motion was approved to appoint a special commission of the presbytery to install Tom Gray as Pastor of the Selma congregation.

A motion was approved to appoint the following men to the Selma Commission:

Tom Reid (moderator)
 Bob Morrow
 Ray Morton
 Barry York
 Bob McCracken (alternate)

The Selma Commission will determine the date, time, location, and assignments for the installation service and will notify the presbytery accordingly.

Committee to advise Belle Center:

A motion was approved to nominate a special committee of the presbytery to advise the Belle Center, OH congregation regarding its building situation. The committee's responsibilities are two-fold: 1) to help assess and to make recommendations regarding the current needs of the congregation as relating to its building and 2) to research and advise the congregation regarding the financial issues arising from responsibility #1.

The Committee members are as follows:

Gordon Keddie (chair)
 John Mauser
 Joe Moore (of Bloomington, IN)
 Don Pritchard
 Bill Roberts

Adjournment by Prayer: deJong adjourned the meeting by prayer 10:35 pm.

William L. Roberts

William L. Roberts, moderator

Richard B. Holdeman, clerk

Ad Interim Commission of the
 Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery

Thursday, January 25, 2007
 9:30 pm

MINUTES

Present: Wendell McBurney, Robert Henning, Richard Holdeman, William Roberts (by conference call)

Constitution of the Court by Prayer: McBurney constituted the court by prayer.

Creation of a Committee to respond to an inquiry to The Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery

A motion was approved to appoint the following men as a committee to respond to a letter of inquiry from the ARP Church of Grand Rapids, MI:

Roy Blackwood
 Jim Curtis
 Gordon Keddie
 Keith Magill (chair)

A motion was approved to give the Committee the following charge:

1. The Committee is to contact and, if needed, visit the ARP Church of Grand Rapids in response to their request.
2. The Committee should seek written confirmation that the ARP Church of Grand Rapids has communicated their intent with the Northeast Presbytery of the ARP before proceeding with any formal dialogue with the congregation.
3. If formal dialogue begins and the congregation is expressing interest in joining the RPCNA, the Committee should contact the NE Presbytery of the ARP to assess the past and present relationship of the ARP Church of Grand Rapids, its members, and its leaders with the Presbytery.

Adjournment by Prayer: Henning adjourned the meeting by prayer at 10:40 pm.

William L. Roberts

William L. Roberts, moderator

Richard B. Holdeman, clerk

Ad Interim Commission of the
 Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery

Monday, February 12, 2007
 9:45 pm

MINUTES

Present: Ken deJong, Wendell McBurney, Robert Henning, Richard Holdeman, William Roberts (by conference call)

Constitution of the Court by Prayer: Roberts constituted the court by prayer.

Committee Replacement

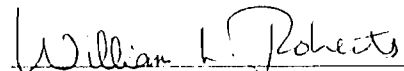
Gordon Keddie having declined to serve on the committee, a motion was approved to appoint Bob Bibby to serve on the Committee to Respond to a Letter of Inquiry from the ARP Church of Grand Rapids, MI. The full committee is now:

- Bob Bibby
- Roy Blackwood
- Jim Curtis
- Keith Magill (chair)

Approval of Minutes

A motion was passed to approve the minutes of Ad Interim Commission meetings from July 17, 2006; August 21, 2006; October 2, 2006; November 1, 2006; December 5, 2006; and January 25, 2007, as written, and to approve the minutes of February 12, 2007, as read.

Adjournment by Prayer: Holdeman adjourned the meeting by prayer at 10:00 pm.



 William L. Roberts, moderator

 Richard B. Holdeman, clerk

Ad Interim Commission of the
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery

Thursday, March 1, 2007
8:35 pm

MINUTES

Present: Ken deJong, Wendell McBurney, Robert Henning, Richard Holdeman, William Roberts (by conference call)

Constitution of the Court by Prayer: Henning constituted the court by prayer.

Triangle Building Purchase:

A motion to approve Triangle RP Church's request for permission to purchase a church building in Durham, NC was passed

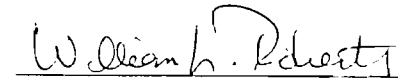
Assistant Clerk of Presbytery:

A motion was passed to appoint Dean Filson as the assistant clerk of presbytery. In the event that Dean cannot serve, we have appointed Bob Morrow. In the event that Bob cannot serve, we have appointed Greg Cumbee.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was passed to approve the minutes of this meeting, as read.

Adjournment by Prayer: Roberts adjourned the meeting by prayer at 8:55 pm.



 William L. Roberts, moderator

 Richard B. Holdeman, clerk

Ad Interim Commission of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery

Report to Presbytery
March, 29, 2007
Columbus, IN

Since the fall meeting of the Presbytery we have dealt with the following matters:

- Appointed a special commission of the presbytery to install Tom Gray as Pastor of the Selma congregation.
- Appointed a special committee of the presbytery to advise the Belle Center, OI congregation regarding its building situation.
- Appointed a committee to respond to a letter of inquiry from the ARP Church of Grand Rapids, MI.
- Approved the request of the Triangle RP Church for permission to purchase a church property in Durham, NC.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kenneth deJong
 Robert Henning
 Richard Holdeman
 Wendell McBurney
 William L. Roberts (moderator)

**COMMISSION TO INSTALL THOMAS GRAY
January 19, 2007 at 12:15 and 7:02 p.m.**

MINUTES

Members present: Raymond Morton, Clerk, Barry York, Robert Morrow.

Also present, Bruce Backensto, Co-Pastor of the First R.P. Church, Beaver Falls, PA.

Constitution of the Court: The court was constituted in prayer by Barry York at the request of the Clerk in the absence of the moderator at 12:15 p.m. The Moderator, Tom Reid, was unable to attend because of the urgent health needs of his wife.

Motion carried to sustain the Clerk in the call of this meeting.

Election of a Moderator and Clerk: **Motion carried** to elect Barry York, Moderator, pro tem, and Raymond Morton clerk of the commission.

Edict: **Motion Carried** to uphold the issuing of the edict for the Installation of Tom Gray as Pastor of the Selma Reformed Presbyterian Church. The installation will take on Friday, January 19, at 7:00 p.m. at the Selma RPC building.

Responsibilities: The responsibilities for the installation service are as follows:

Leader of the service: Robert Morrow

Sermon: Barry York

Charge to Pastor: Bruce Backensto


Charge to Congregation: Ray Morton

Reading of queries: Averette Woodson

Prayer of Installation: Raymond Morton

Narration of steps: George Evans, Selma Clerk of Session

Recess: The court was recessed in prayer at 12:32 p.m. by Barry York.


Barry York, Moderator


Raymond Morton, clerk

**COMMISSION TO INSTALL THOMAS GRAY
Installation Service – Selma Reformed Presbyterian Church
January 19, 2007 – 7:00 p.m.**

MINUTES

Members present: Barry York, Moderator, pro tem, Raymond Morton, Clerk, and Robert Morrow.

Reconvening of the Court: The court was called to order by Robert Morrow at 7:02 p.m., followed by the singing of Psalm 91B. Robert Morrow led in prayer and reconvened the Commission.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that all elders present and visiting pastors be invited to participate in the prayer of installation of Pastor elect Thomas Gray.

Narration of Steps: George Evans, Clerk of the Selma Session narrated the steps. He also recognized the ministers present who had helped during the vacancy.

Final Reading of Edict: George Evans, Clerk of the Session, read the edict for the third and final time.

Adherence to the Call: Both the Selma congregation and the pastor-elect signified their adherence to the call by a standing vote.

Queries: Elder Averette Woodson asked the pastor-elect the queries for installation. After answering the queries in the affirmation, the pastor-elect signed the queries.

Preaching: Following the singing of Psalm 16B, James A. Martin read from Genesis 22:1-14 and Barry York preached on the theme, "Demonstrate and Prove Your Faith" and led in prayer, which was followed by the singing of Psalm 127A.

Prayer of Installation: The prayer of installation was given by Raymond Morton installing Thomas Kevin Gray as pastor of the Selma Reformed Presbyterian Church, Selma, Alabama. The members of the Commission and other elders and ministers present then extended to him the right hand of fellowship.

Charges: The charge to the pastor was given by Bruce Backensto while the charge to the congregation was given by Raymond Morton.

Greetings: Raymond Morton read greetings from the Moderator of Presbytery, Ralph Joseph, Bob and Cheryl Hemphill, and Tom and Genevieve Reid.

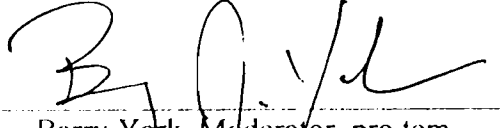
Recess in Prayer: Following the singing of Psalm 101, the court was recessed in prayer by Robert Morrow at 8:44 p.m., which was then followed by the giving of the benediction by Tom Gray.

The congregation then hosted a reception in the fellowship hall.

Reconvening: The court was reconvened in prayer by Barry York at 10:02 on Saturday, January 20, 2007.

Minutes: The minutes were approved as read and corrected.

Adjournment: The court was adjourned in prayer by Robert Morrow at 10:11 a.m.


Barry York, Moderator, pro tem


Raymond Morton, clerk

Atlanta Commission Minutes (2)

Atlanta Commission
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery
Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America

Minutes of the Meeting of June 19, 2006

The Commission met by telephone conference call at 9:06 p.m. (EDT) on Monday, June 19, 2006, at the call of the moderator.

Members present were: Ian Wise, moderator; Tom Reid; David Smith; and Steve Sturm. Averette Woodson was absent. Also present was Brian Hasenkopf.

The moderator prayed to constitute the court.

Tom was appointed clerk of the Commission.

Brian reported on his mother's declining health; the doctor does not expect her to live more than a few more weeks.

Brian had reported by e-mail to the Commission on the second investigative trip he had made to Atlanta. Brian had received one inquiry from the *World* magazine ad that we had placed for four weeks.

Ian had reported by e-mail to the Commission and later the Presbytery on the encouragement that the Atlanta work had received from the Home Mission Board, including some financial support over the next year before full support commences.

It was moved, seconded, and passed, that the Commission ask Presbytery at its meeting next week to encourage Brian Hasenkopf to move to Atlanta in the fall in an essentially-tentmaking capacity, under the direction of the Atlanta Commission.

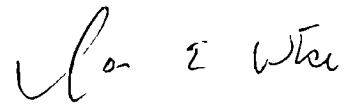
The Commission agreed to the following:

1. that the Hasenkopfs be encouraged to join a congregation within the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery.
2. that Brian Hasenkopf be encouraged to transfer his licensure from the Presbytery of the Alleghenies to the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery.
3. that Brian be considered as self-supporting for 80% of his time at first.
4. that Brian be paid \$10,000 annually in monthly installments (this figure includes employer's social security).
5. that the Presbytery pay for the (self-)moving expenses of the Hasenkopfs.
6. that the Presbytery pay for the ministry expenses of the work, according to the budget submitted to the spring meeting of Presbytery.
7. that the Commission aims to ask Presbytery to issue a formal call to Brian at the spring 2007 meeting of Presbytery, with regular Home Mission Board financial support commencing sometime after that date.

- 8. that the nucleus move towards holding a weekly worship service on the Lord's Day and such other activities, especially evangelistic, that seem most strategic.
- 9. that the Hasenkopfs be encouraged to attend the 2006 Covfamikoi Conference, with the Presbytery paying travel and one-half of the registration fees for them.

Ian agreed to prepare our report to Presbytery and circulate it to the members of the Commission by the end of this week.

The Commission adjourned in prayer by David at 10:17 p.m. (EDT).



Ian Wise, Moderator

Tom Reid, Clerk

**Atlanta Commission
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery
Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America**

Minutes of the Meeting of March 23, 2007

The Commission met by telephone conference call at 1:03 p.m. (EDT) on Friday, March 23, 2007, at the call of the moderator.

Members present were: Ian Wise, moderator; Tom Reid, clerk; David Smith; and Steve Sturm. Averette Woodson was absent. Also present was Brian Hasenkopf.

The moderator prayed to constitute the court.

Brian reported on the recent positive developments in Atlanta. The first worship service will be held on March 25. Brian plans to preach on April 15 and 29 in Atlanta, probably twice each time.

The Commission discussed various aspects of the work.

It was moved, seconded, and approved, that the Moderator prepare the Commission's report to the Presbytery meeting next week, with the recommendation that the Commission be continued.

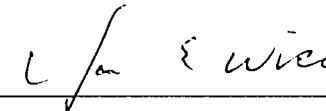
It was moved, seconded, and approved, that Brian provide, at the end of April, a written report on the situation in Atlanta, based on his visits there.

It was moved, seconded, and approved, that the Commission decide by the Synod meeting of Presbytery whether to offer Brian a formal call to Atlanta or proceed to seek out other candidates for ministry there.

The minutes of this meeting were read and approved.

The Commission adjourned in prayer by David at 1:59 p.m. (EDT).

Respectfully submitted,



Ian Wise, Moderator

Tom Reid, Clerk

APPENDIX

Memorial for Elder Ralph Shell

Clarence Ralph Shell was born June 4, 1918 to James and Rhoda Shell of Alpena, Michigan. The Shells were members of Congregational church. Ralph moved to the Detroit area and worked for General Motors and later for the Ford Tractor division as a specifications writer in the Advanced Engineering Department, where fellow-elder Raymond Stevenson was also employed.

On June 27, 1953, Ralph married Jessie Bowes, daughter of J. Albert and Maude Bowes, in the Southfield Reformed Presbyterian Church building. Their's was apparently the last wedding in the building before it was moved back from Evergreen Road and placed on its basement. The Lord gave Ralph and Jessie over fifty-three years of marriage together and blessed them with four children David, John, Ruth, and Gary, and now eleven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Ralph sat under the preaching of the word regularly and came to faith in the years after he was married, though it is not clear exactly when that heart change took place. Then, he had a difficult time embracing reformed doctrine, especially that of predestination, until Pastor John O. Edgar was used of God to explain the doctrines of grace to him clearly, which he embraced. He joined the Southfield Reformed Presbyterian Church at the same time his eldest son became a communicant member in the early 1970s.

On February 17, 1974 he was ordained to be an elder in the Southfield Reformed Presbyterian Church. Elder Ralph Shell is remembered as a kind, gracious and grateful servant of the Lord who led others and who continued to grow in the Lord even in his later years. He demonstrated a deep commitment to serve Christ and his church as elder all his days. He served in this capacity until the Lord took Ralph to be with himself on September 6, 2006. His body was laid to rest in the Southfield church cemetery beside other faithful saints from the last 150 years.

Prepared by the Southfield Session

Final Report of the Wright Commission To the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery

March 30, 2007

Introduction

We, the members of the Wright Commission, accepted our assignment to help our brother, Jim Wright, both as an ecclesiastical challenge and even as personal challenges. We began and ended each meeting by praying for direction and wisdom. We prayed also for Jim and Judy, and for their family, their session and their congregation. We give God the glory for making our occasionally difficult yet rewarding journey one that has given each of us the opportunity to experience God's grace and faithful provision as we carried out our Presbytery assignment. Our two years of working closely with Jim have allowed us to observe the personal changes and spiritual growth in his life. It has reinforced our confidence that we have been well guided, and that Jim's appeal for reinstatement is founded upon a genuine conviction of contrition, repentance and spiritual renewal.

Summary of The Commission's Work

We were given our assignment at the April 2, 2005, Presbytery meeting. We began by conducting a careful and comprehensive collection of all relevant data. This included a review of the *RPCNA Constitution*, and solicitation of pertinent information from relevant sources. These included the Presbytery record, the Orlando Session minutes, Jim and Judy Wright and other individuals. This was accomplished by means of written responses to questions submitted by the Commission, personal meetings, telephone interviews and the review of documents. We met directly with the Orlando Session and with Jim and Judy as a part of this process.

Our review of Jim's alcohol use soon led us to realize that there were other significant underlying issues requiring attention. These included matters of spiritual life, personal failures, deceit and self-esteem. While maintaining our focus on our primary Presbytery assignment, we determined that it was essential that we direct our attention to these expanded but intimately related foundational issues. We addressed matters related to idolatry (alcohol replacing Christ in Jim's life), the strengthening of a marriage and family life that had been disrupted by alcohol; also the topic of discipline as exercised by the Session.

A *Plan for the Restoration of Jim Wright* was then prepared and shared in draft form with the Orlando Session and with Jim. The *Plan* included eleven time-sensitive and progressive objectives, and two optional recommendations, all of which were to have been accomplished by Jim prior to December 31, 2006. The *Plan* also included two recommendations for Judy Wright, and two recommendations for the Orlando Session. The final *Plan* was reviewed, agreed to and consummated by all parties at a meeting of the Commission held in Orlando on December 17, 2005, at which the Orlando Session and Jim and Judy were present. It was agreed that the *Plan* would not be distributed beyond this group given the personal nature of some of its contents.

A small team of very dedicated people were intimately involved with Jim as he worked through the *Plan*. The team included Commission members, Dr. Kenneth G. Smith, consultant to the Commission (appointed by the Presbytery), the Orlando Session, a physician and a Christian counselor. The contributions of each member were significant. Ken Smith conducted a seminar (*Discipleship and Discipline In The Church*) with the Session, and provided personal counsel to Jim and Judy; Jim's personal physician performed periodic chemical tests and counsel; and his pastor, elders and others held personal Bible studies with Jim and Judy.

While carrying out our assignment, the Commission met sixteen times in constituted court. These meetings were supplemented by numerous e-mail, telephone and personal conversations. Through its Chairman and its individual members, regular contacts were maintained with the various team members, and with the Wrights. Our continuous dialogue allowed us to monitor and assess the various aspects of the *Plan's* implementation. A Commission meeting summary follows.

Chronological Meeting Summary

June 28, 2005*: Counsel was provided to the Orlando Session regarding its letter of rebuke; initial plans for data collection and Commission action were developed; Jim and Judy Wright were requested to meet with the Commission on a future date in Indiana.

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Chronological Meeting Summary

June 28, 2005*: Counsel was provided to the Orlando Session regarding its letter of rebuke; initial plans for data collection and Commission action were developed; Jim and Judy Wright were requested to meet with the Commission on a future date in Indiana.

July 23, 2005*: Dates were set for meeting with the Wrights; a conference call was held with the Orlando Session clarifying written responses to previously submitted Commission questions; the Session was asked to send additional comments that might be helpful.

August 15, 2005*: Plans were made for meeting with the Wrights; the RPCNA position on alcohol use by ordained officers and implications for carrying out the Commission's assignment were clarified.

August 25 and 26, 2007: The meeting with the Wrights was held in Indiana; additional factual information was gathered; Commission member assignments were made.

September 14, 2005*: Reports of previous Commission member assignments were presented; additional assignments were made.

October 05, 2005*: Communications with the Orlando Pastor and the Wrights' counselor were reported; future Commission action was outlined; new Commission member assignments were made.

October 19, 2005*: The proposed *Plan* for Jim Wright's restoration was reviewed; communication was received from Jim Wright's physician; a decision was made to distribute the draft *Plan* to the Orlando Session, Ken Smith and Jim Wright for comment; plans for meeting with the Orlando Session and the Wrights in Orlando were discussed; future meeting dates were set.

November 16, 2005*: Reports were received from the Orlando Pastor and Jim Wright's physician; travel arrangements were finalized.

December 06, 2005*: The draft *Plan* was refined; future meeting plans and dates were set.

December 17, 2005: A meeting was held in Orlando with the Orlando Session and Wrights; the restoration *Plan* was signed by the Wrights, the Orlando Session Moderator and the Commission Chairman; a summary statement was prepared for the Orlando congregation.

June 21, 2006*: Ken Smith joined the Commission meeting; he reviewed the seminar he held with the Orlando Session; positive participant responses had been received; a review and assessment of Commission activities to date was conducted.

August 30, 2006*: Counsel was given, as requested, to the Orlando Session regarding a request for Jim Wright's assistance in Bible study teaching; a letter was sent to Jim Wright clarifying related issues; a decision was made to hold future meetings with the Orlando Session and Jim Wright.

January 10, 2007*: Arrangements were made for a January, 2007 meeting in Orlando; Jim Wright joined the Commission meeting; he reported significant progress; he was ready to be reinstated.

February 03, 2007: A meeting was held in Orlando with the Orlando Session and Jim and Judy Wright; assessment of Jim Wright's progress to date was the focus.

February 07, 2007*: The decision to restore Jim to the office of Teaching Elder was unanimous; draft report to Presbytery was discussed.

March 19, 2007*: Unanimous approval of unconditionally restoring Jim Wright to the office of Teaching Elder was finalized; approval of all minutes (June 28, 2005 - March 19, 2007); the final report to the Presbytery was approved.

* Conference call meetings

In Conclusion

As we carried out our assignment, the Commission experienced the total cooperation and candor of every person involved. Jim and Judy Wright were particularly helpful to the Commission, even during difficult moments. They were always open to the Commission's requests, providing all information requested, even volunteering personal and intimate insights. They worked closely with us toward our common goal.

Evidence of progress toward this end became increasingly clear as time passed. All members of the team were in agreement that the objectives of our original *Plan* had been achieved. During our February, 2007 meeting held with the Orlando Session and the Wrights, the Session recommended that Jim be "*restored to the office of Teaching Elder as soon as possible.*" Jim requested that he be reinstated.

Jim has provided abundant evidence of contrition, a revitalized and redirected spiritual life and dedication to addressing matters of deceitfulness and self-esteem. He has successfully completed the Commission's *Plan for The Restoration of Jim Wright*. These factors, and the recommendations of the Session and other members of the team, have led the Commission to unconditionally restore Jim Wright to the office of Teaching Elder.

Recommendations:

We recommend that:

1. Jim Wright be provided ten minutes to address the Presbytery and that the letter he will read to the Court be appended to this report; and
2. that this Commission be dismissed.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Brewster Holdeman, Chairman
Robert W. Bibby
Wendell Faris McBurney

APPENDIX (to the Wright Commission Report)

February 26, 2007

Dear Fathers and Brothers
Of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery
Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America:

I write this letter to you with thankfulness for the Lord Jesus Christ's mercy and grace to me. These past two years have been most difficult, on the one hand, and yet the most blessed, on the other. I continue to realize each day the incredible forgiveness, the love, and the acceptance of my gracious Savior and Lord Jesus Christ.

The Lord has given me a wonderful loving family – wife Judy, son Brian, and daughter Stephanie, along with their spouses and children – that I cherish more now than I ever did. I praise Him for giving me a wonderful church family whose forgiveness, love and support are deeply felt and appreciated. Words are inadequate for me to express my deep respect, love and admiration for the men of this presbytery-appointed commission who dealt with my rehabilitation – spiritual, physical and emotional. The many hours they spent together as a commission and with Judy and me in shepherding me in my disciplinary process "...with reverence, prayer, gentleness, carefulness, love, fairness, humility and perseverance..." as described in our constitution, is overwhelming. The time, energy and expense to them is beyond measure. I am thankful for you men of this presbytery as you expressed your love, your prayers and your support by visits, calls, and letters over these past years. I thank God for a godly session, a faithful pastor and for others of His choosing that have provided me and still provide me times of personal accountability in my endeavoring to be obedient to God's directives.

The time in God's Word, both personal and with Judy, continue to be rich times. Every morning and evening we pray for the filling of God's Spirit and that we would be conscious of God's presence every moment of the day. He continues to graciously grant these requests. I have been given a freedom in Christ, a freedom to obey Him that I have never before experienced.

After much soul-searching, counsel and prayer, I am no longer pursuing the Doctor of Ministry Degree. My motivation in getting the degree was self-promotion, not bringing honor and glory to God. I am now in a Clinical Pastoral Education program that is preparing me for the hospital chaplaincy. It began on February 20, 2007, and will conclude August 3, 2007. I have a great love and passion to serve Christ in this capacity. The Lord has swung the doors wide open for me to pursue this calling, and I am experiencing his affirmation.

My fathers and brothers, I confess my sinful behavior of not having my focus on the Lord but on accomplishments, being disillusioned by my failures as a pastor, and turning to alcohol to dull my pain. I have both quenched (1 Thessalonians 5:19) and grieved (Ephesians 4:30) the Holy Spirit. I am thankful that the Lord in His love and mercy exposed my sinful behavior and caused me to see the exceeding sinfulness of sin (Romans 7:13). I humbly ask you to forgive me and I assure you that I have repented of this sin. I further ask you to pray for me as I seek to be open and honest in all my relationships. I ask you to grant my request to be restored to the office of teaching elder.

I close with a Scripture passage that the Lord has confirmed and given me as a reminder of His grace and mercy to me, a sinner saved by grace. "Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness" Lamentations 3:22-23.

With love in Christ and in covenant bonds,

James M. Wright

Coordinator for Church Extension

Report to Presbytery

March 29-31, 2007

Dear Fathers and Brothers,

Since I last reported in November 2006, there have been two principle initiatives with which I have been involved.

Ministry

Grand Rapids - the Ad Interim Commission asked me to chair the committee assigned to respond to a letter of inquiry from the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church of Grand Rapids, Michigan. This responsibility has been undertaken and a full report will be given during this meeting of Presbytery.

Northeast Georgia – This past weekend I accompanied Dr. Blackwood on a visit to a group of people meeting and ministering in the multi-county region northeast of Athens, Georgia. There may be much opportunity for Kingdom building work among the people we met and, through them, to a rapidly expanding network of similar groups across the United States. On behalf of Dr. Blackwood and me, let me explain a little of what we found.

About two years ago Dr. Blackwood received a telephone call from a Rev. Joe Dooley who lives near Corner, Georgia. Joe had read of Dr. Blackwood's church based discipling ministry in Leroy Eims' book, "The Lost Art of Discipling" and tracked him down. Dr. Blackwood began a ministry of teaching and encouragement with Joe over the telephone as he planted a new ministry. In four years, the congregation had grown enough that they decided to send out a daughter group. They invited Dr. Blackwood and Mr. Scott Brown, Director of the "National Center for Family Integrated Churches", to come for a teaching and sending weekend.

On Saturday evening Dr. Blackwood presented the basics of "Christ's Mediatorial Kingdom As It Applies to the Building of His Church", which includes discipling, to about 75 people and on the Lord's Day morning he preached to the congregation and especially to the group who were being sent out to form the new congregation. There were over 100 in attendance. These included a world renowned toxicologist who is on the faculty of the University of Georgia, a state senator and former candidate for the US Congress, a heating and air-conditioning contractor, an electrical contractor, a retired school teacher, a graduate student at U of Georgia and dozens of children.

On the Lord's Day evening we met for about 3 hours with about 30 fathers and sons to answer their questions about discipling, kingdom theology and issues in church and family life.

We also learned much about a growing national network of people who are searching for a better way of doing ministry than the programmatic centered, family splintering ways they have been experiencing in many churches today. Their national network claims over 500 churches/groups have registered on their web site in the last 4 years.

We also learned that their theological statements have many things in common with reformed theology and that their most solid congregations tend to be led by people of reformed background and persuasion.

It is clear that this network of people could greatly benefit from the Theology, Testimony and life of the Reformed Presbyterian Church. We offered to meet with their leaders to present more of

the doctrine and practice that Dr. Blackwood introduced at this local congregation.

Where this will lead, only the Lord knows. But I am reminded of Jesus' statement in Mark 9:35 when he said, "... If anyone wants to be first, he shall be..servant of all."

Other Ministry

You appointed me to chair a committee to work with Hetherton to evaluate their current situation and help them search for a missionary pastor. Jon Hughes, Jim Curtis and I have not yet been able to initiate this work but hope to do so in the very near future.

Church Extension Committee

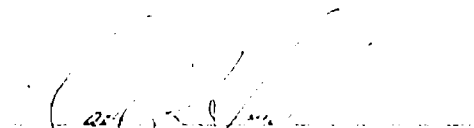
As a result of my work in Elkhart, the Ohio-Indiana Church Extension Committee has yet to meet since it was "re-activated" at the fall 2005 Presbytery meeting.

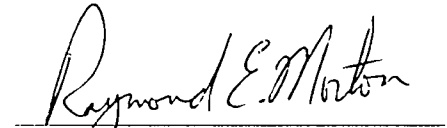
Finances

In 2006, I was reimbursed only for expenses. At my request, I asked that any income earned in 2006 be paid in 2007.

As far as we can tell, the Home Mission Board stopped supporting the Coordinator for Church Extension/Regional Home Missionary position as of September 1, 2006. At the same time, we have not requested further funding since the level of my availability has been unknown and because there were adequate funds in the account to cover anticipated expenses for the time being. It may be that the Presbytery will want to seek Mission Board support again in the future. The balance in the Fund is about \$7,700.

Keith Magill, Coordinator


David Smith, Moderator
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery


Raymond E. Morton, Clerk
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery

Minutes of the Synod Meeting
Of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery
June 26, 2007

Tuesday, June 26, 2007, at 3:21 p.m.

Call to Order

The Moderator, David Smith, called Presbytery to Order at 3:21 p.m. in Room 317 of the Science and Engineering Building on the campus of Geneva College, Beaver Falls, PA.

Constitution of the Court

Presbytery sang Psalm 86B after which the Moderator led in prayer and constituted the Court in prayer. The Moderator read I Corinthians 2:1-5.

Roll:

The Clerk called the Roll and declared that a quorum was present. The Roll is as follows:

<i>Congregations</i>	<i>Teaching Elders</i>	<i>Ruling Elders</i>
Belle Center	Philip Pockras x	
Bloomington	William Roberts x	Wendell McBurney x
	Rich Holdeman x	
Christ Church	Michael LeFebvre x	Duane Judd x
Columbus	Andrew McCracken x	Ed Schisler x
Elkhart	Keith Magill x	
Hetherton	Milton Harrington e	
Immanuel	Jared Olivetti x	David Carr x
Lafayette	David Long x	Robert Bibby x
Oakdale	Raymond Morton x	
Orlando	David Smith x	Jonathan Schaefer e
Second Indianapolis	Roy Blackwood x	Russ Pulliam x
	Richard Johnston x	Dean Filson x
Selma	Tom Gray	
Southfield	James Faris x	Jim Curtis x
Southside	Gordon Keddie x	George Shopp x
Sparta	Raymond Morton x	Robert Morrow x
Sycamore	Barry York x	
Triangle	Ian Wise x	
	Greg Cumbee x	
Westminster	Charles Brown x	
Roger Adams		
Paul Faris		
Godfrey Franklin		
Robert Henning		
Garland Kincaid		
Robert McCracken x		

Marion McFarland
Tom Reid e
Frank Schutz
James Wright

Jack Baumgardner was appointed Travel Agent for this meeting of Presbytery.

Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported verbally and introduced the Agenda for this meeting.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the Agenda as amended be adopted.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Ad Interim Commission

David Long presented the Report of the Ad Interim Commission. The Commission has had two meetings since the last meeting of the Presbytery.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Candidates and Credentials Committee Report

Michael LeFebvre introduced the Candidates and Credentials Committee Report. He introduced David Whitla for his examination in Pastoral and Evangelic Gifts.

James Faris conducted the examination. Members of Presbytery asked questions and received answers. Presbyters then made comments on the examination.

Roll Call Vote

The Clerk called the Roll and the examination was unanimously sustained.

Dr. Dan Bartel introduced to the Presbytery

Michael LeFebvre introduced Dan Bartel to the Court. He comes with the recommendation of the Triangle Session.

Recommendation 1 that Presbytery give 10 minutes to hear Dan Bartel was approved.

Dan Bartel told of his family and spiritual and theological history.

Recommendation 2 that (pursuant to the Dir. Ch. Gov. II.E.4.q and II.E.3.b) Presbytery

task the Candidates and Credentials Committee to set up the following examinations for the Rev. Dan Bartel, to be completed at the next Presbytery meeting, for receiving Rev.

Bartel's PCA ministerial credentials into the RPCNA: (1) a sermon preached on an assigned portion of Scripture; (2) Personal Godliness; (3) Soundness in the faith and commitment to the Testimony of the Reformed Presbyterian Church was approved.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report as a whole be received.

Study Committee concerning the Bloomington Papers, 2005-1 and 2005-2

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that this report be recommitted to the Committee, taking into account the discussion of this meeting.

Inter Church Liaison

Charles Brown reported on visits to other Reformed Churches:

1. James Faris attended the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, Presbytery of Michigan and Ontario;
2. Charles Brown attended the Central Classis of the United Reformed Churches of North America.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Report of the Atlanta Commission

Ian Wise gave an oral report of the Commission saying that there are weekly preaching services arranged by Brian Hasenkoph but that he is not yet ready to pursue the work in Atlanta.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Report of the Committee concerning the Application of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church of Grand Rapids.

Keith Magill presented the report which is as follows:

GREAT LAKES - GULF PRESBYTERY

Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America

Grand Rapids Committee

Report to Presbytery

June 26, 2007 - Synod at Geneva College

Dear Fathers and Brothers,

Things have progressed slowly but steadily since our meeting of Presbytery in March. The ARPC of Grand Rapids Session and congregation voted to proceed with seeking membership in the RPCNA. The session then petitioned the Northeast Presbytery of the ARP to be transferred to our Presbytery.

This morning I received the following e-mail from Rev. Lanning:

June 26, 2007

Good morning, Keith!

Just today I received the electronic minutes from the adjourned meeting of NE Presbytery which met at Bonclarken during the recent General Synod. Here are the relevant portions for your committee:

REQUESTS FROM ARP CHURCH OF GRAND RAPIDS AND REV. LANNING
The Clerk distributed copies of E-Mail correspondence received from the Session of the ARP Church of Grand Rapids and from Rev. Ray Lanning, Pastor of the congregation (see Appendix H). The correspondence requests Northeast Presbytery to transfer the

ARP Church of Grand Rapids to the Great Lakes/Gulf Coast Presbytery of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America (RPCNA) and to transfer the ministerial membership of Rev. Lanning to the same Presbytery, and to provide for Rev. Lanning to unite as a congregant member with the ARP Church of Grand Rapids.

Upon discussion of the correspondence, and lacking hard copies with original signatures, the following motions were M/S/C:

Upon the reception of hard copies of the electronic correspondence, with original signatures, the Clerk is authorized to:

- A. Provide a letter of standing to the Rev. Ray Lanning that he may present to the Great Lakes/Gulf Coast Presbytery of the RPCNA; and,
- B. Provide a letter to the Session of the ARP Church of Grand Rapids granting permission to the Session to initiate discussion with the Great Lakes/Gulf Coast Presbytery of the RPCNA with the intent to be transferred from the Northeast Presbytery, ARPC to the Great Lakes/Gulf Coast Presbytery. A copy of this letter will also be sent to the Clerk of the Great Lakes/Gulf Coast Presbytery.

I hope this will be of help to you as the map is drawn for "where we go from here."

Warmly as ever,

Rev. Ray Lanning

Earlier Ray had written the following to me

June 21, 2007

Dear Keith:

At long last I heard just minutes ago by phone from the Principal Clerk of NE Presbytery, reporting to me that they "have given their blessing" to our congregation and to me to approach GL/G Presbytery with a view to being received into your jurisdiction. There were no objections or complaints about the proceedings thus far. Rev. Ray Lanning

It looks like we are ready to move forward with the full consideration of their request to be transferred to our Presbytery. You may recall that we outlined the following procedure in our report to Presbytery last March.

Regarding the next steps, if the elders and congregation desire to pursue a relationship with us:

- 1. Our committee would follow through with answering any of their concerns and provide whatever further information they may desire.
- 2. We will encourage them to formally contact their ARP Presbytery to tell them of the congregation's considerations and encourage them to seek the

formal counsel of their ARP brethren. At the appropriate time our Committee would also intend to establish direct conversations with the ARP Presbytery.

- 3. When a formal petition is received by our Presbytery, our Committee would conduct a more formal congregational visitation along the lines of a regular Presbytery congregational visitation.
- 4. After these things are accomplished and the congregation, along with the Committee, is convinced the Lord is in this change of denominations and, hopefully, with the ARP Presbytery giving its blessing to the change, the Committee would bring to the Presbytery a formal recommendation that the congregation be received in accordance with the Directory for Church Government Chapter 2 Paragraph 10 (This paragraph is reproduced at the end of our report.)
- 5. Upon approval of the Presbytery, the other steps required would be accomplished by the Committee, which might possibly need to be made a Commission, to prepare for the service of reception. This might include Pastor Lanning being interviewed by the Candidates and Credentials Committee.
- 6. A service of reception would then be conducted by the Presbytery.

The first two steps have now been accomplished. We believe we should proceed with the next four steps, noting that the ARP Presbytery has already given its blessing to the transfer.

In order to accomplish the steps in a timely fashion we believe that it might be wise for the Presbytery to appoint a Grand Rapids Commission whose responsibility it would be to accomplish the steps necessary for the Presbytery to receive the Grand Rapids congregation and its pastor into our Presbytery.

In order to examine and receive Pastor Lanning, as well as to accomplish other examinations of students under care, and to receive the new congregation, we project asking for a meeting of the Presbytery early this fall. We believe Pastor Lanning should be examined by the entire Presbytery and that we should find ways to introduce the Presbytery and the Grand Rapids congregation to each other.

Recommendations:

- 1. That a Grand Rapids Commission be appointed to accomplish the steps necessary for the Presbytery to receive the Grand Rapids congregation and its pastor into our Presbytery, suggested members of the commission are: Robert Bibby, Jim Curtis, James Faris, Roy Blackwood and Keith Magill.
- 2. That the Presbytery call a pro ra nata meeting of Presbytery for the early fall to examine students, to examine Rev. Ray Lanning and to act upon the transfer of the ARP congregation of Grand Rapids into our Presbytery, the exact date and place to be determined by the Ad Interim Commission.

- 3. That Presbytery encourage other congregations to send elders and members to visit the congregation in Grand Rapids over the next few months to facilitate our getting to know one another.

Respectfully submitted,
 Robert Bibby, James Curtis
 Roy Blackwood,
 Keith Magill, Chairman

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DIRECTORY FOR CHURCH GOVERNMENT Chapter 2

10. An independent congregation or a congregation from another denomination desiring to unite with the Reformed Presbyterian Church shall make formal application to the presbytery nearest its location. Presbytery shall make full investigation of the situation of the petitioning congregation, and shall satisfy itself that the motives and procedures involved will promote the purity and peace of Christ's Church, both for the Reformed Presbyterian branch and that branch from which the congregation is coming. Under normal circumstances, such union should not be hurried, and proper ecclesiastical order must be adhered to closely. The presbytery shall arrange for appropriate discussions and examinations of all the communicant members of the church on the basis of the Covenant of Church Membership, and the ordained officers also on the basis of the vows related to their respective offices.

A service of reception shall be planned and conducted by the presbytery, with due notice being given to the congregations/sessions within its bounds. The appointed Moderator shall call the meeting to order, and the court shall be constituted in prayer. The roll shall be made up, and consultative members seated. Letters of welcome may be read. A sermon shall be preached by a presbyter, and the previous steps are to be narrated. The Covenant of Church Membership will then be presented for acceptance to the members of the congregation. The appropriate vows will then be presented to the congregation's officers for acceptance, and the vows shall be signed. A member of the presbytery will lead in a prayer of reception of the congregation in the name of Christ, the Church's King and Head. An address to the newly-received congregation shall be presented by a presbyter, and the court will be adjourned in prayer. The congregation's pastor may be asked to pronounce the benediction. Following a congregation's reception, a presbytery shall give particular attention to the settling and absorbing of the new group into the life and fellowship of the denomination.

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q. A teaching elder ordained in another true branch of the visible church may be received into the Reformed Presbyterian Church when he has met our denomination's conditions for a teaching elder. He shall be examined by the presbytery or a commission. A member of the presbytery shall lead in prayer on his behalf, and he shall sign the Queries for Ordination. Members of the presbytery shall be given the opportunity to extend the right hand of fellowship.

Recommendation 1 was approved.

Recommendation 2 was amended to read, "that the Presbytery call a pro re nata meeting of Presbytery for the early fall to examine students, to examine Rev. Bartel, to examine Rev. Ray Lanning and to act upon the transfer of the ARPC congregation of Grand Rapids into our Presbytery, the exact date and place and any additional business to be determined by the Ad

Interim Commission" and approved.

Recommendation 3 was approved.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Pastor Ed Blackwood brought the greetings of the Reformed Presbytery of Australia to our Court.

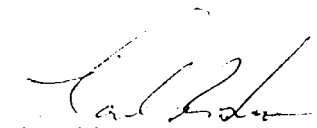
Pastor Ian Wise reported on the proposed purchase of a church building for Triangle Reformed Presbyterian Church and that the work in Lynchburg will be closing.

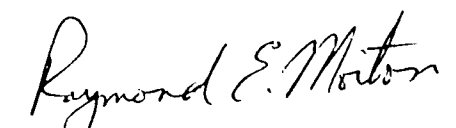
Minutes

The minutes of this meeting were read and the Moderator declared the Minutes approved as corrected.

Adjournment

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that Presbytery adjourn. The Moderator led in prayer and adjourned the Court at 5:30 p.m.


 David Smith, Moderator
 Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery


 Raymond E. Morton, Clerk,
 Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery

**Minutes of the Pro-Re-Nata Meeting
Of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery
October 26-27, 2007**

Session 1, Friday, October 26, 2007, at 9:08 a.m.

Call to Order

The Presbytery was called to order by the Moderator, David Smith at 9:08 a.m. on Friday, October 26, 2007, at the Free Reformed Church, 950 Ball Ave. NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503.

Constitution

The Moderator constituted the Court in prayer.

Devotions

Keith Magill, Moderator of the Grand Rapids Commission, introduced Ray Lanning for his Expository Sermon.
Pastor Lanning read Psalm 68:16-20 and Ephesians 4:1-10 and preached God's Word on Psalm 68:19. Following his message he led the Court in prayer.
Presbytery sang a portion of Psalm 68 from The Psalter (1912), #183.

Roll

The Assistant Clerk called the roll, which is as follows.

Congregations	Teaching Elders	Ruling Elders
Belle Center	Philip Pockras e	
Bloomington	William Roberts e Rich Holdeman e	
Christ Church	Michael LeFebvre xxxx	Jack Baumgardner xxxx
Columbus	Andrew McCracken xxxx	
Elkhart	Keith Magill xxxx	
Hetherton	Milton Harrington	
Immanuel	Jared Olivetti xxxx	Ben Larson xxxx
Lafayette	David Long e	Robert Bibby xxxx
Oakdale	Raymond Morton xxxx	
Orlando	David Smith xxxx	
Second Indianapolis	Roy Blackwood xxxx Richard Johnston xxxx	Dean Filson xxxx
Selma	Tom Gray xxxx	
Southfield	James Faris xxxx	James Curtis xxxx
Southside	Gordon Keddie xxxx	
Sparta	Raymond Morton xxxx	
Sycamore	Barry York e	Robert McKissick --xx
Triangle	Ian Wise xxxx Greg Cumbee xxxx	
Westminster	Charles Brown xxxx	

First RPC Grand Rapids Ray Lanning ---x

Ministers under appointment by the Presbytery/Synod:

Tom Reid xxxx

Ministers without Pastorates

Roger Adams
Robert McCracken xxxx
Marion McFarland
Paul Faris
Garland Kincaid
Frank Schutz
Robert Henning

Other Ministers

Paul Mathews (inactive)
James Wright (Judicial Censure)

The Assistant Clerk declared that a quorum was present.

Motion: It was moved, seconded, and passed, that elders without certificates who are representatives of their sessions be seated.

Motion: It was moved, seconded, and passed, that all elders present who are not delegates be made consultative members of the court.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that elders of the ARP Church of Grand Rapids and elders of congregations in denominations with whom we have fraternal relations be made consultative members of the Court.

Clerk's Report

Raymond Morton, Clerk introduced the report which is as follows:

**Report of the Clerk of Presbytery
to the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery
Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America
October 26-27, 2007**

This meeting is called by the action of Presbytery at the Synod meeting by the following recommendation which was approved"

“that the Presbytery call a pro re nata meeting of Presbytery for the early fall to examine students, to examine Rev. Bartel, to examine Rev. Ray Lanning and to act upon the transfer of the ARPC congregation of Grand Rapids into our Presbytery, the exact date and place and any additional business to be determined by the Ad Interim Commission” and approved.”

The Ad Interim Commission set the date of October 26 and 27, 2007, and has given over to me the setting of the agenda within the terms of the above recommendation.

I have prepared an agenda for this meeting which takes into account the following items:

1. examine Ray Lanning
2. act upon the transfer of the ARPC congregation of Grand Rapids into our Presbytery
3. examine Rev. Bartel
4. examine students
5. consider the renewed petition from the Hetherton Session
6. make an appointment of an Assistant Clerk.

The list of students to be examined has been circulated in the Candidates and Credentials Committee Report. This Committee has scheduled the examinations as needed.

Let us pray that this will be a very uplifting and worthwhile meeting for the glory of God and the advancement of the Church of Jesus Christ.

Recommendations:

1. That the agenda as presented be accepted as the agenda for this meeting.
2. That Presbytery appoint Gordon Keddie as Assistant Clerk until the Spring meeting when the regular appointments are made.
3. That the Moderator appoint a Resolution of Thanks Committee.

Respectfully submitted,
Raymond E. Morton, Clerk

Action on the Recommendations:

Recommendations 1, 2, and 3 were approved.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that Tom Reid and James Faris be parliamentarians for this meeting.

The Clerk's Report as a whole was received.

Roll Call Vote on Ray Lanning's Sermon

The Assistant Clerk called the Roll and Pastor Lanning's sermon was sustained.

Report of the Grand Rapids Commission

Keith Magill presented the Report which is as follows:

Grand Rapids Commission

Report to Presbytery

October 26-27, 2007 -- at Grand Rapids

Dear Fathers and Brothers,

You appointed our commission last June with the following mandate:

To accomplish the steps necessary for the Presbytery to receive the Grand Rapids congregation and its pastor into our Presbytery.

We have had the following paragraphs from the Directory for Church Government to guide our work.

DIRECTORY FOR CHURCH GOVERNMENT Chapter 2 Paragraph 10

10. An independent congregation or a congregation from another denomination desiring to unite with the Reformed Presbyterian Church shall make formal application to the presbytery nearest its location. Presbytery shall make full investigation of the situation of the petitioning congregation, and shall satisfy itself that the motives and procedures involved will promote the purity and peace of Christ's Church, both for the Reformed Presbyterian branch and that branch from which the congregation is coming. Under normal circumstances, such union should not be hurried, and proper ecclesiastical order must be adhered to closely. The presbytery shall arrange for appropriate discussions and examinations of all the communicant members of the church on the basis of the Covenant of Church Membership, and the ordained officers also on the basis of the vows related to their respective offices.

A service of reception shall be planned and conducted by the presbytery, with due notice being given to the congregations/sessions within its bounds. The appointed Moderator shall call the meeting to order, and the court shall be constituted in prayer. The roll shall be made up, and consultative members seated. Letters of welcome may be read. A sermon shall be preached by a presbyter, and the previous steps are to be narrated. The Covenant of Church Membership will then be presented for acceptance to the members of the congregation. The appropriate vows will then be presented to the congregation's officers for acceptance, and the vows shall be signed. A member of the presbytery will lead in a prayer of reception of the congregation in the name of Christ, the Church's King and Head. An address to the newly-received congregation shall be presented by a presbyter, and the court will be adjourned in prayer. The congregation's pastor may be asked to pronounce the benediction. Following a congregation's reception, a presbytery shall give particular attention to the settling and absorbing of the new group into the life and fellowship of the denomination.

DIRECTORY FOR CHURCH GOVERNMENT Chapter 2 Section II Paragraph E.4.q

q. A teaching elder ordained in another true branch of the visible church may be received into the Reformed Presbyterian Church when he has met our denomination's conditions for a teaching elder. He shall be examined by the presbytery or a commission. A member of the presbytery shall lead in prayer on his behalf, and he shall sign the Queries for Ordination. Members of the presbytery shall be given the opportunity to extend the right hand of fellowship.

Our activities since we were appointed

1. On July 1, 2007 we, along with Ray Morton, Clerk of our Presbytery, received official notification from the Northeast Presbytery of the ARP that they had given their permission for their Grand Rapids congregation to pursue transferring into our Presbytery.
2. We have been in direct communication with their clerk. We sent a report to their Presbytery which met on October 11-12, 2007. (Attachment # 1)
3. On October 12, 2007, Northeast Presbytery approved the transfer of the Grand Rapids ARP congregation to our Presbytery. (See Attachment # 3)

4. On July 10 at Covfamikoi, the Candidates and Credentials Committee, along with our Commission, conducted an extensive interview of Rev. Ray Lanning. Interviewers included most of the members of both groups.
5. On September 7-9, our Commission conducted a visitation to the Grand Rapids congregation. During that visitation we examined the ruling elders, Mr. Doug Sikma and Mr. Richard Bonner, we examined the deacon, Mr. Jeff Wykstra, we had a personal interview with almost all of the families and individuals of the congregation, we had extensive discussions with the session about how to proceed, we worshipped with the congregation on the Lord's Day morning, each of the commission members gave his testimony during the morning class hour, we enjoyed a fellowship lunch and afternoon worship and we had an extensive interview with one of the members of the congregation who is struggling with some particular issues. During the weekend we were presented with a notebook that contained the written testimonies of almost everyone in the congregation. We also received financial reports for the past three years.
6. We approved Rev. Lanning's sermon series "REFORMED PRESBYTERIANISM - Distinctives of the Reformed Presbyterian Church: Why Are They Called Covenanters?" and his plans to teach the congregation about our vows for ordination as well as the Covenant of Church Membership. These were carried out during this summer.
7. Needless to say, over these months we have had extensive correspondence and interactions on various issues and concerns, supplying information, offering counsel and other help to the Session and congregation as they have worked through the things needed to bring us to this point.
8. We have done extensive preparations for this meeting of Presbytery, coordinating closely with the Grand Rapids congregation.

Examination of Rev. Ray Lanning

Rev. Ray Lanning has requested that his credentials be transferred to our Presbytery. Since the Candidates and Credentials Committee is charged with examining ordained men who are seeking membership in our Presbytery, we invited Rev. Lanning to come to Covfamikoi to be examined by the Candidates and Credentials Committee as well as by the Grand Rapids Commission. We also wanted him to experience more of the life of our Presbytery. He gladly accepted our invitation. We conducted about four hours of oral examination.

As the Candidates and Credentials Committee reflected on the exam and the circumstances, they recommended to our Commission that we not ask the Presbytery to repeat this extensive examination before the whole Presbytery but that we give a written report, highlighting particular issues that came to light during the examination, and that we propose to the Presbytery that they accept this report in lieu of an extensive examination before the whole Presbytery and that the Presbytery be given 30 minutes to complete Ray's examination process.

Attachment # 4 is the plan for the examination of Rev. Lanning carried out at Covfamikoi on July 10, 2007.

Following is the report on the examinations. For further information see the Candidates and Credentials Committee report.

An extensive slate of exams was conducted to inquire into Rev Lanning's personal godliness, his theology and understanding of RP distinctives, his pastoral and evangelistic gifts, and his handling of church history.

Overall, we found Rev Lanning to demonstrate great skill, a depth of knowledge in every field, personal integrity, and both clear and gracious communication. We have every confidence, as a Committee, in Rev Lanning's ministerial qualifications. The fact that he has a long history of excellent service in Christ's Church, and that his credentials are currently maintained in good standing with the ARP, further assures us of his qualification.

In respect to RP distinctives, we note that Rev Lanning's exposure to the doctrine of covenanting seems to be limited; nevertheless, his views on RP distinctives overall seem to be in every way in keeping with the testimony of the RPCNA. We were interested to find out about Rev Lanning's understanding of RP worship distinctives, and were satisfied that his answers show a grasp of, and agreement with, the RP Testimony on worship.

One of Rev Lanning's strengths, which came through quite clearly throughout the exam, is his high regard for the ministry of preaching. Rev Lanning is a man with a great passion for preaching and, by his clear and gracious communication skills demonstrated in the course of our interview, we have every expectation that he exercises his passion for preaching with great skill. Rev Lanning readily acknowledges that preaching is his primary emphasis in ministry, and as long as he continues to exercise his particular area of strength with a balanced attention to pastoral care, evangelism, and other aspects of ministry, we expect his ministry to continue to bear fruit for Christ. Rev Lanning also teaches homiletics for Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary, so perhaps he will become a valuable resource for homiletics instruction within the G.L.G Presbytery Seminary Level Courses as well, at some point.

Rev Lanning's understanding that only men should serve as deacons and that there are three-offices of ordained leadership instead of the two that we hold to, are the only areas of exception to RP doctrine which emerged in the course of the exam. We explored these matters more closely during the exam. Rev. Lanning also uses the 1912 Psalter in worship. Based on Rev Lanning's answers, and his track-record in other branches of the church, we are satisfied that Rev Lanning is capable of, and committed to, holding his exceptions to the denomination's confession without pursuing any divisive or schismatic courses. That is, we are satisfied that Rev Lanning will not sow discord in the Presbytery, nor endeavor to "soapbox" these issues at Presbytery. At the same time, Rev Lanning did indicate that he expects to continue to maintain a men-only deaconate, three-office view of church officers and use of the 1912 Psalter within the context of the Grand Rapids congregation. The immediate ramifications of these positions are probably relatively minor -- at least in comparison, for instance, to a minister holding and exercising an exception to the RP Testimony on musical instruments or baptismal regeneration. Furthermore, the long term ramifications of these exceptions may be limited as well: whenever Rev Lanning retires from the ministry, the ultimate direction of the Grand Rapids congregation in regard to these issues of deacons and elders will be shaped by the RP pastor who is called at that time. In other words, if these three issues are the only issues which will have to be worked out over time as this congregation integrates into the RPCNA, then the process of integrating the congregation and their minister should be

able to unfold fairly smoothly. We do not see these matters as any reason to hesitate at receiving Rev Lanning's credentials into the Presbytery.

To summarize the results of our pre-examination of Rev Lanning, the fact that the aforementioned matters (deaconate; three office view; 1912 Psalter) are the only matters requiring discussion is itself an attestation to Rev Lanning's sterling qualifications. In all regards, after our extensive examination, Rev Lanning demonstrated a thoroughly reformed, orthodox, and sound understanding of the faith. We believe his positions are harmonious with the Testimony of the RPCNA. Indeed, his grasp of church doctrine and history, and his passion for preaching, are nothing short of impressive. We look forward to his contribution within the Presbytery.

Exceptions the officers wish to take

All the ordained officers take exception to the Testimony's position on women serving as deacons. They intend to approve only men for the office of deacon in their congregation.

Questions Concerning Ownership of Church Property

Because of concerns raised by the Grand Rapids congregation about the paragraph below from the Directory for Church Government, we are offering the following recommendation as an addendum to our report.

DIRECTORY FOR CHURCH GOVERNMENT Chapter 2 Paragraph 16

16. The congregation, or its boards, holds the property of the congregation in trust for the Synod and cannot divert it from the use to which it was originally intended. The property is in law a trust which the civil courts will protect. If a congregation wishes to change the location of its place of worship, it shall first secure the approval of presbytery both as to removal and as to the new location. A particular congregation shall not sell or mortgage property without the written permission of the presbytery transmitted through the session of the congregation. When a presbytery determines that a congregation is disorganized, title to all properties held by or for the congregation shall immediately be transferred to Synod's Board of Trustees who shall determine with the counsel of the appropriate presbytery the disposition of such properties and/or proceeds of the same. Distribution of assets or expenditures beyond the normal course of operation may not be made in anticipation of disorganization without prior approval of the presbytery and the Trustees of Synod.

Recommendation #9

In the event that the First RPC of Grand Rapids, in an orderly way, obtains the consent of Presbytery to be released from its jurisdiction, the congregation would be allowed to retain ownership of any property purchased with congregational funds, except that the congregation would be required immediately to repay to the denomination any and all grants and loans it received for its property.

In the unlikely event that the congregation was to be disorganized at any time, the full provisions of the DIRECTORY FOR CHURCH GOVERNMENT Chapter 2 Paragraph 16 would be applied.

Why is this an issue for the congregation?

The denominational experience for many in the congregation has been one of battling with liberalism and problems, sometimes becoming so difficult that withdrawing from their denomination seemed like the only way to resolve things. Property battles have often ensued.

Several denominations, such as the PCA, OPC and ARP, do not have requirements for denominational ownership of congregational property.

Some believe that denominational ownership of property paid for by a local congregation may be a violation of the Eighth Commandment.

Explaining our recommendation

Our Constitution clearly addresses the issue of what to do when a congregation is disorganized. It seems to many of us that the Constitution does not have in view a whole congregation transferring to another denomination or leaving the denomination similar to what is happening right now to the Grand Rapids congregation. They are being peaceably transferred from the ARP to the RPCNA.

Our recommendation addresses the situation of a congregation withdrawing from our denomination after due process. This may have never happened in the last 50 or more years so we are facing a new situation.

If the Presbytery approves this recommendation, we intend to pursue inserting an additional paragraph in the Directory for Church Government.

Roll of the congregation

The roll of the congregation has been established and is listed in Attachment # 4. All of these members were personally interviewed by the Commission, accompanied by one of the congregation's elders, with the exception of – Shawn and Tammy Anderson, Steve and Janna Birn, Ted Klaver, the Nadeau family, the Pickering family, Benjamin Sikma and the Urban family. Those not present at the service of reception on October 26, 2007 will be administered the Covenant of Church Membership by the Session before the end of 2007.

Name of the Congregation

The name decided on by a majority of the congregation is "First Reformed Presbyterian Church" of Grand Rapids.

Plan for the Service of Reception

The plan for the service of Reception on October 26, 2007 is in Attachment # 5. Please note that the Directory calls for the sermon to be given by a presbyter. Rev. Lanning suggested that the Rev. Dr. David Murray be asked to preach. Dr. Murray is the new Professor of Old Testament and Practical Theology at Puritan Reformed Seminary and is a member of the Free Church of Scotland Continuing. The Commission accepted this suggestion and secured Dr. Murray for the Service.

Recommendations:

1. That the ARP Church of Grand Rapids, Michigan be received by transfer from the Northeast Presbytery of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.
2. That the written report of Rev. Ray Lanning's examination by the Candidates and Credentials Committee and the Grand Rapids Commission be received by the Presbytery, that Rev. Lanning preach before the Presbytery, that Presbytery allot 30 minutes for further questioning of Rev. Lanning and then that Presbytery proceed to vote on receiving him as a teaching elder by transfer from the ARP.

3. That Rev. Ray Lanning be received as a teaching elder by transfer from the Northeast Presbytery of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church contingent on his taking the vows of ordination during the public service of reception.
4. That a service of reception be held on Friday, October 26, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. at the Free Reformed Church of Grand Rapids at which time the congregation would be publicly received, members would accept the Covenant of Church Membership and officers would take the appropriate vows of ordination.
5. That the order of the service of reception and the participants as planned by this Commission be affirmed.
6. That the Grand Rapids Commission be continued at least until the Spring 2008 meeting of Presbytery in order to "give particular attention to the settling and absorbing of the new group into the life and fellowship of the denomination."
7. That Presbytery pay all the expenses of this meeting which would normally have been paid by a congregation hosting a meeting of Presbytery.
8. That the minutes of the Commission be spread on the minutes of Presbytery.
9. In the event that the First RPC of Grand Rapids, in an orderly way, obtains the consent of Presbytery to be released from its jurisdiction, the congregation would be allowed to retain ownership of any property purchased with congregational funds, except that the congregation would be required immediately to repay to the denomination any and all grants and loans it received for its property.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Bibby
 Roy Blackwood
 James Curtis
 James Faris
 Keith Magill, Moderator

Actions on the Recommendations:
Recommendation 2 was approved.

Recess

Presbytery took recess from 10:34 to 10:54 a.m.

Presbytery resumed consideration of the Grand Rapids Commission Report.
Recommendations 9, 5, 4, 6, 7, and 1 were approved.

Candidates and Credentials Committee Report

Michael LeFebvre continued the Report of the Candidates and Credentials Committee.

Recommendations

1. That student examinations be conducted by Presbytery according to the schedule (A) given on page 1, (and as followed below).
2. That Tom Sawyer be removed from being under care of Presbytery as a Student of Theology.

3. That Dean Filson be removed from being under care of Presbytery as a Student of Theology.
4. That a service of reception be held on Friday, October 26, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. at the Free Reformed Church of Grand Rapids at which time the congregation would be publicly received, members would accept the Covenant of Church Membership and officers would take the appropriate vows of ordination.
5. After Dr. Bartel completes his exams and takes the queries --- That Dr. Dan Bartel's PCA credentials as a Teaching Elder be received into the RPCNA Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery.
6. After Nathan is introduced by the Grand Rapids Session and CCC - That Nathan Eshelman be taken under care as a Student of Theology.

Michael LeFebvre introduced Ray Lanning for his Theology and Distinctive Principle exam.

The examination was conducted by Keith Magill.

Members of Presbytery asked questions and received answers and there followed a time of discussion

Roll Call Vote

Ray Lanning's examination was unanimously sustained.

Recommendation 4 was approved.

Michael LeFebvre introduced Dr. David Bartel for his Personal Godliness exam.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the time be extended to complete this examination.

The former Moderator, Charles Brown, took the Chair.

The examination was conducted by David Smith.

Members of Presbytery asked questions and received answers and discussion followed.

Roll Call Vote

The examination was unanimously sustained.

InterChurch Liaison

Charles Brown, InterChurch Liaison, introduced Dr. Norman DeJong, representative of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, Presbytery of Michigan and Ontario.

Recess

Presbytery took recess at 12:51 p.m. being led in prayer by Tom Reid.

Session 2, October 26, 2007 at 2:04 p.m.

Call to Order

The Moderator called Presbytery to order at 2:08 p.m.
Presbytery sang a portion of Psalm 87 from The Psalter (1912)# 238.
The Moderator led the Court in prayer.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the Assistant Clerk take the Roll visually in this and all remaining sessions of this meeting.

Roll

The Assistant Clerk took the Roll visually.

Minutes

The Clerk read the Minutes of the morning session.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the Minutes be approved as read.

Candidates and Credentials Committee Report

Michael LeFebvre introduced David Whitla for his Church History examination.
Greg Cumbec conducted the examination.
Members of Presbytery asked questions and received answers followed by the discussion time.

Roll Call Vote

The Assistant Clerk called the Roll and the examination was unanimously sustained.

Michael LeFebvre introduced David Bartel for his examination in Theology and Distinctive Principles.
Gordon Keddie conducted the examination.
Members of Presbytery asked questions and received answers followed by the discussion time.

Roll Call Vote

The Assistant Clerk called the Roll and the examination was unanimously sustained.

Michael LeFebvre introduced Pastor James Martin who has come into the church through the Selma congregation.
Pastor Martin addressed the Court and was thanked by the Moderator.

Recess

Presbytery took recess from 3:34 to 3:54 p.m.

Presbytery resumed with the singing of Psalm 122 from The Psalter (1912) #348.
The Moderator led the Court in prayer.

Candidates and Credentials Committee Report

Michael LeFebvre introduced Nathan Eshelman for his Personal Godliness examination with the following motion:

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that Nathan Eshelman be allowed to take his Personal Godliness exam this afternoon in anticipation of his transferring into the R.P.C.N.A. this evening and coming under Presbytery's care tomorrow.

The examination was conducted by Robert Bibby.
Members of Presbytery asked questions and received answers followed by the discussion time.

Roll Call Vote

The Assistant Clerk called the Roll and the examination was sustained.

Michael LeFebvre introduced Michael Weathers for his examination in Pastoral and Evangelistic Gifts.
Andrew McCracken conducted the examination.
Members of Presbytery asked questions and received answers followed by the discussion time.

Roll Call Vote

The Assistant Clerk called the Roll and the examination was sustained.

Michael LeFebvre introduced David Whitla for his examination in Theology II.
Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the time be extended to 5:45 p.m. in order to complete the examination.
The examination was conducted by Gordon Keddie.
Members of Presbytery asked questions and received answers followed by the discussion time.

Roll Call Vote

The Assistant Clerk called the Roll and the examination was sustained.

Michael LeFebvre reported on Michael Weathers written English Bible Examination.
Michael Weathers did not pass this examination and as is the practice he has six months before a re-sit of the examination.

Recess

Michael LeFebvre led the Court in the prayer of recess. Presbytery recessed at 5:44 p.m.

Session 3, October 26, 2007 at 7:30 p.m.

Call to Order and Welcome

Presbytery met at the call of the Moderator at 7:30 p.m. at the Free Reformed Church, 950 Ball Ave. NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503.

The Moderator announced Psalm 122 from The Psalter #348, vs. 1,2,4

Keith Magill, Moderator of the Grand Rapids Commission, welcomed the congregation and explained the purpose of the meeting and actions leading to this meeting.

Moderator, David Smith, welcomed the assembled body and asked that the Roll be called.

The Assistant Clerk called the Roll and each elder stood when his name was called.

Worship

The Moderator called the congregation to Worship.

The assembled congregation sang Psalm 87 from The Psalter (1912) #238.

Pastor Ray Lanning introduced Rev. Dr. David P Murray who had been asked to preach God's Word this evening.

Pastor Ray Lanning read God's Word from Mark 1:1-28 and then led in prayer.

Dr. Murray then preached on, "How to Astonish the World" from Mark 1:22.. Following his message Dr. Murray led in prayer.

The assembled congregation sang Psalm 98 from The Psalter (1912) #264.

Reception of the Associate Reformed Church of Grand Rapids

James Curtis recounted the Lord's leading in bringing the Associate Reformed Church of Grand Rapids to this service to be received as a congregation into the R.P.C.N.A.

Keith Magill introduced Ray Lanning, Bob Bibby introduced Doug Sikma, Dick Bonner, and Jeff Wykstra, and Ray Lanning introduced the members of the ARP congregation.

James Faris read the vows of the Covenant of Communicate Membership and those making application responded in the affirmative. James Faris then declared them to be communicant members in good standing in the First Reformed Presbyterian Church of Grand Rapids.

James Faris declared to the covenant children that they are received as baptized members of the First Reformed Presbyterian Church along with their believing parents. And then to the parents that their children are received as baptized members of the First Reformed Presbyterian Church "

Keith Magill and Robert Bibby administered the vows to the officers, the elders and deacon. Each answered in the affirmative to all the vows.

James Faris asked the congregation the following question:

"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."

All answered in the affirmative. Keith Magill led in the prayer of reception. Presbytery then joined together to sing Psalm 133.

Keith Magill introduced Roy Blackwood who gave the charge to the congregation and its officers from 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13. The Moderator thanked Dr. Murray and Dr. Blackwood for their messages.

Psalm 67 from The Psalter (1912) #176 was sung in praise to God.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that Presbytery adjourn. The Moderator led in prayer adjourning the Presbytery and Pastor Ray Lanning pronounced the Benediction. The Doxology from Psalm 72 in The Psalter (1912) #197 as sung. Presbytery adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

Session 4, Saturday, October 27, 2007

Call to Order

The Moderator called Presbytery to order at 8:42 a.m.

Psalm 89E was sung in praise.

The Moderator led in prayer and constituted the Court in prayer

Roll

The Assistant Clerk took the Roll visually.

Candidates and Credentials Committee Report

Michael LeFebvre introduced Dr. Bartel for his Expository Sermon.

Dr. Bartel read Galatians 2: 15-21 and led in prayer. He preached God's Word on the subject of "Living the Crucified Life". He closed his message by inviting Presbytery to sing Psalm 40C. Presbytery sang this Psalm selection.

Presbytery took up discussion of Dr. Bartel's sermon.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the time be extend to complete the discussion.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that Presbytery defer judgment on this sermon until the Presbytery has opportunity to hear Dr. Bartel a second time.

The Moderator appointed Jared Olivetti and Ben Larson as the Resolution of Thanks Committee.

Grand Rapids Commission

Keith Magill introduced the new member of the Court, Pastor Ray Lanning. He also introduced Doug Sikma and Dick Bonnar and Presbytery seated them as consultative members of the Court.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the Presbytery give a gift to every family of the First Reformed Presbyterian Church of Grand Rapids of a one year subscription to the Reformed Presbyterian Witness.

Pastor Ray Lanning expressed the thanks of the members of the congregation for the gift from the Presbytery, for the work of the Candidates and Credentials Committee, and the Grand Rapids Commission. He invited anyone who happened to be in the Grand Rapids area to worship with them and if given notice they would try to provide accommodation.

The Presbytery thanks Keith Magill for all his work as Moderator of the Grand Rapids Commission.

The Report as a whole was received.

Recess

Presbytery took recess from 10:16 to 10:35 a.m.
Presbytery resumed by singing Psalm 68C.

Minutes

The Minutes of the Friday afternoon session were read by the Clerk.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the Minutes be approved as read.

The Minutes of the Friday evening receiving service were read by the Clerk.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the Minutes be approved as read.

Report of the Hetherton Committee

Keith Magill gave a verbal report of the Hetherton situation and encouraged any Presbyters to communicate to the Committee any ideas they might have and to pray for Hetherton.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Candidates and Credentials Committee Report

Michael LeFebvre introduced Nathan Eshleman to be taken under care by the Presbytery as a student of theology.

Pastor Ray Lanning reported on behalf of the First Reformed Presbyterian Church Session of their recommendation concerning Nathan Eshelman.

Recommendation 6 was approved.

Michael LeFebvre introduced Michael Weathers for his Theology I examination.

James Faris conducted the examination.

Members of Presbytery asked questions and received answers followed by discussion.

Roll Call Vote

The Assistant Clerk called the Roll and the examination was unanimously sustained.

Michael LeFebvre introduced Nathan Eshelman for his Theology I examination.
Charles Brown conducted the examination.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the time be extended to complete the Agenda.

Members of Presbytery asked questions and received answers followed by discussion.

Roll Call Vote

The Assistant Clerk called the Roll and the examination was sustained

This completes the Candidates and Credentials Committee Report.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the Report be received.

Resolution of Thanks Committee

Ben Larson read the report which is as follows:

*Behold how good a thing it is, and how becoming well
When those that brethren are delight, in unity to dwell.*

*Like Herman's dew upon the hills of Zion that descends,
The LORD commands His blessing there, even life that never ends. (Psa 133:1,3)*

True Christian fellowship through Jesus' Spirit is indeed a very good thing. These words we sang from Psalm 133 are a perfect expression of the joy this weekend has brought to our hearts, a weekend which has glorified the great goodness and blessing of God. We, the members of the Great-Lakes Gulf Presbytery, give praise and thanks to God for the unity in faith that we have seen so clearly exhibited in the First Reformed Presbyterian Church of Grand Rapids. Your steadfast faith, sincere love, and warm hospitality are powerful testimonies to the grace of God at work in you. Thank you for opening your homes, providing for all our needs and especially for opening your hearts to us.

We rejoice to see God's work in you, and promise to remember you in our prayers and continue to develop our growing love for you, even as the apostle Paul wrote to the Philippians:

I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy, for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now; being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.. (Phil 1:3-6)

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the Report be received

Minutes

The Clerk read the Minutes of the final session of this meeting.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the Minutes be approved.

Adjournment

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that Presbytery adjourn.

Gordon Keddie led the Court in the prayer of adjournment.

Presbytery sang Psalm 133A.

Presbytery adjourned at 12:18 p.m.

Paul H. Long, Moderator *Raymond E. Morton, Clerk*

Minutes examined and nothing found
contrary to the law and order of the
church unless noted below.

Raymond E. Morton
Assistant Clerk of Synod
June 26, 2008

Minutes of the Synod Meeting
Of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery
June 24 - 25, 2008

Tuesday, June 24 and 25, 2008, at 3:23 p.m.

Call to Order

The Moderator, Jared Olivetti, called Presbytery to Order at 3:23 p.m. in Room 112 of Northwood Hall, on the campus of Geneva College, Beaver Falls, PA.

Constitution of the Court

The Moderator read from Acts 20, and Presbytery sang Psalm 22 from the Psalmody Committee Report to Synod and the Moderator led in prayer and constituted the Court in prayer.

Roll Call

The Assistant Clerk, Gordon Keddie, called the Roll and announced that a quorum was present. The Roll is as follows:

<i>Congregations</i>	<i>Teaching Elders</i>	<i>Ruling Elders</i>
Belle Center	Philip Pockras xx	
Bloomington	William Roberts xx	
	Rich Holdeman ee	
Christ Church	Michael LeFebvre xx	
Columbus	Andrew McCracken xx	Ed Schisler xx
Elkhart	Keith Magill xx	
First Grand Rapids	Ray Lanning xx	
Hetherton	Milton Harrington --	
Immanuel, W. Lafayette	Jared Olivetti xx	Ben Larson xx
Lafayette	David Long xx	
Oakdale	Raymond Morton xx	
Orlando	David Smith xx	
Second Indianapolis	Richard Johnston xx	Dean Filson xx Donald Cassell x-
Selma	Tom Gray ee	
Southfield	James Faris xx	Jon Hughes xx
Southside	Gordon Keddie xx	Jim Bishop xx
Sparta	Raymond Morton xx	Robert Morrow ex
Sycamore	Barry York xe	Greg Fisher xx
Durham, First	Ian Wise xx	Erich Baum xx
	Greg Cumbee xe	
Westminster	Charles Brown xx	

Roger Adams
Roy Blackwood ee
Paul Faris

Godfrey Franklin
Robert Henning
Garland Kincaid
Robert McCracken xx
Marion McFarland ee
Robert Morrow
James Pennington xe
Tom Reid ee
Frank Schutz
James Wright

Motion: It was moved, seconded, and passed, that elders without certificates who are representatives of their sessions be seated.

Motion: It was moved, seconded, and passed, that all elders present who are not delegates be made consultative members of the court.

Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported verbally and introduced the business for this meeting. His Report is as follows:

Clerk's Report
To the Synod Meeting of Presbytery
June 24, 2008

The Clerk would respectfully report that he has done his best to carry out the assignments given to him as far as he knows. A number of items have been dealt with since the meeting in February-March, mainly by e-mail and mostly concerning this meeting and/or answering various questions.

The Agenda for this meeting has the following items:

- Report of the Clerk
- Committee Appointments by the Moderator
 - For Reading of Session Minute Books
- Presentation of Session Minute Books
- Report of the Ad Interim Commission
- Report of the Treasurer
- Report of the Candidates and Credentials Committee
 - Exams: Nathan Eschelman Expository Sermon
 - Nathan Eschelman Theology and Distinctive Principles II
 - Jason Camery Pastoral and Evangelistic Gifts
- Report of the Grand Rapids Commission
- Appointment of a member to Synod's Finance Committee
- Transfer of Credentials for James Pennington
- Report of the Assistant Clerk re. Session Records

Respectfully submitted,

Raymond E. Morton, Clerk

Recommendations:

1. That the Agenda be approved.
2. That the Clerk's Report be received.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the business as outlined and amended be adopted.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Introductions of Delegates

Erich Baum was introduced as the elder from the First Reformed Presbyterian Church of Durham.

Peter Holt was introduced from the Canadian Reformed Church.

James Pennington was introduced as a retired pastor.

Transfer of James Pennington's credentials.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that Presbytery receive James Pennington by transfer and request his credentials from the Japan Presbytery.

Candidates and Credentials Committee Report

Michael LeFebvre introduced Nathan Eschelman for his Expository Sermon on a Topic. Nathan preached God's Word from Job 19:25-29 in the topic, "Preaching Christ through Suffering". He read the text, led in prayer, and then preached on the topic. He closed his message with prayer.

Members of Presbytery made comments on the sermon.

Roll Call Vote

The Assistant Clerk called the Roll and the sermon was unanimously sustained.

Michael LeFebvre introduced Jason Camery for his Pastoral and Evangelical Gifts examination.

Keith Magill conducted the examination.

Members of Presbytery asked questions and received answers followed by discussion.

Roll Call Vote

The Assistant Clerk called the Roll and the examination was unanimously sustained.

Moderator Appointments

Session Records

Belle Center – James Faris, Barry York

Bloomington – David Smith, Ben Larson

First Reformed Presbyterian Church of Grand Rapids - David Long, Jon Hughes

Dean Filson was appointed Travel Agent.

Ad Interim Commission Report

Andy McCracken reported for the Ad interim Commission.

Recommendation: that the call from the Rose Point Congregation to Charles Brown be presented to him as a regular gospel call.

The recommendation was approved.

Actions of the Ad Interim Commission of the Great Lakes - Gulf Presbytery

April - June 2008

Ad Interim Commission Meeting 08-1 Minutes

April 20, 2008

- "It was moved, seconded and approved to pass on the call from Sterling Reformed Presbyterian Church to David Whitla as a regular gospel call."

Ad Interim Commission Meeting 08-2 Minutes

May 28, 2008

- It was moved, seconded and approved to add Nathan Eshelman to the list of presbytery students to receive the presbytery stipend.
- It was moved, seconded and approved to send on the presbytery statistics to Bruce Martin for publication in the Minutes of Synod.
- It was moved, seconded and approved to table the request of the Oakdale RPC regarding the sale of the church property.

Ad Interim Commission Meeting 08-3 Minutes

June 17, 2008

- It was moved, seconded and passed to approve Oakdale RPC's sale of property and to instruct them to keep the Synod trustees informed.
- It was moved, seconded and approved to pass along to David Long the call from the Westminster, CO congregation as a regular gospel call.
- It was moved, seconded and approved to send the call to Charles Brown back to the Alleghenies Presbytery with instructions to add specific amounts in items 1, 4, 6, 10 and 11. Item six should be clarified since Charles will not be a homeowner. The amount of the insurance should be specified, e.g. replacement cost on personal contents. The congregation may feel free to contact Charles to work out the details.
- It was moved, seconded and approved to set the date for David Whitla's ordination and installation and the dedication of the Southside Indianapolis' new facility for the evening of August 22nd, 2008.

The Ad Interim Commission Report was received.

Presbytery arranged to meet on Wednesday at 4:10 p.m.

Adjournment

Presbytery adjourned being led in prayer by Phil Pockras at 5:18 p.m.

Session 2 Wednesday, June 25, 2008 at 4:15 p.m.

The Moderator called Presbytery to order at 4:15 p.m.

Roll:

The Assistant Clerk took the Roll visually.

Candidates and Credentials Committee Report

Michael LeFebvre continued with the Candidates and Credentials Committee Report.

Recommendation 2 was approved and is as follows:

that Presbytery cover the room-and-board expenses for Nathan Eshelman, who is attending the full Synod meeting as a student under care of this Presbytery, and that Presbytery cover Jason Camery's expenses for this Synod meeting if Synod does not do this.

Further detail: Presbytery automatically covers one night lodging (\$50) plus travel expenses for students taking Presbytery exams at Synod; the expense for the full week is \$170 (plus travel)

Recommendation 3 was approved and is as follows:

That, having noted Nathan Eshelman's stated exceptions to the *RP Testimony* at the Spring 2008 Presbytery Meeting, Presbytery now minute Nathan's retraction of the first of those exceptions (i.e., concerning the Civil Magistrate) on the grounds that, on further examination of this matter with the Candidates and Credentials Committee, it was found that Nathan's position is not in fact contrary to the *Testimony*.

Michael LeFebvre introduced Nathan Eshelman for his Theology and Distinctive Principles II Examination.

Andy McCracken conducted the examination.

Members of Presbytery asked questions and received answers followed by discussion.

Roll Call Vote

The Assistant Clerk called the Roll and the examination was unanimously sustained.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that Nathan Eshelman be introduced to the Synod at an appropriate time by Ray Lanning

Candidates and Credentials Committee Report

The Report of Candidates and Credentials Committee was received.

Treasurer's Report

Jim Bishop reported orally as Treasurer.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the mileage rate for Presbytery be increased to \$40. The Treasurer's Report was received.

Ray Lanning introduced Dr. John Carson of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church to the Court.

Grand Rapids Commission Report

Keith Magill reported for the Commission. The Report is as follows:

**Grand Rapids Commission
Report to Presbytery**

June 24, 2008 -- at Synod

Dear Fathers and Brothers,

You appointed our Commission in June 2007 with the following mandate:

To accomplish the steps necessary for the Presbytery to receive the Grand Rapids congregation and its pastor into our Presbytery.

We would thankfully report that God has lead and blessed our efforts such that our mission has been accomplished. First Reformed Presbyterian Church located in Grand Rapids, Michigan was organized by the Presbytery on October 26, 2007. Since then we have been endeavored to be of help to the new congregation in any way possible.

We would call to your attention again, as we did at the organizational meeting last October in Grand Rapids, the Directory for Church Government where it encourages the Presbytery to:

"...give particular attention to the settling and absorbing of the new group into the life and fellowship of the denomination."

We would also note that we have included in our minutes, the Presbytery's actions regarding property ownership for the First RPC of Grand Rapids. We have done this to make it easier to find this action in the records of Presbytery if it were needed for reference in the future.

Having completed our official assignment, we ask that the Commission be dismissed. We expect that the policy of spreading our minutes on the minutes of Presbytery will be carried out by the Clerk.

Recommendations:

1. That we all look for ways to assimilate the new congregation in Grand Rapids into the life of the church and encourage them in their ministry in any way possible.
2. That we again give special praise to God for bringing the new congregation in Grand Rapids into our Presbytery.
3. That the Commission be dismissed.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Bibby
Roy Blackwood
James Curtis
James Faris, Clerk
Keith Magill, Moderator

Recommendations 1 and 2 were approved.
Recommendation 3 was approved with the sincere thanks of the Presbytery.

The Report of the Grand Rapids Commission was received.

Appointment of Synod Finance Committee Member

William Roberts was nominated and elected as Presbytery's member on the Finance Committee of Synod.

Report of the Assistant Clerk on Presbytery Records

The records of the Sessions of Belle Center, Bloomington, and First Grand Rapids have been examined and nothing was found contrary to the law and order of the church.

Respectfully submitted,

Gordon J Keddie, Assistant Clerk,
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery

In response to a question from the Clerk it was decided that the written papers in regard to Paper 2007-1 be sent to the Second Indianapolis Reformed Presbyterian Church for safe keeping.

Reading of Minutes

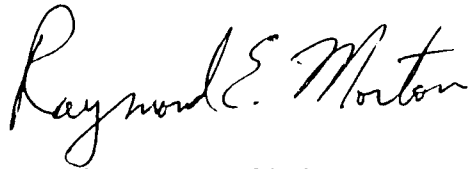
The Clerk read the Minutes of both Sessions of this meeting.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the Minutes be approved as read.

Adjournment

James Faris led in the prayer of Adjournment. Presbytery adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Jared Olivetti, Moderator
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery


Raymond E. Morton, Clerk
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery

**Minutes of the Special Meeting
of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery
Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America
August 22, 2008**

Call to Order: The moderator, Jared Olivetti, called the Presbytery to order at 1:08 p.m. on Friday, August 22, 2008, at the Southside Reformed Presbyterian Church, Indianapolis, Indiana, for the purpose as stated in the following edict:

Notice of a Presbytery Meeting to Ordain and Install David Whitla, and to Dedicate the building at Southside RP in Indianapolis
The Presbytery having decided to conduct an ordination & installation service, as well as a dedication of the Southside Indianapolis building and to conduct any necessary business, the Presbytery is hereby called to meet on the 22nd day of August in the year 2008, at 1 p.m., at the Southside RP Church, 6969 South Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN.

Praise and Constitution

Presbytery sang Psalm 48B and the Moderator led in prayer and constituted the Court in prayer.

Candidates and Credentials Committee

Michael LeFebvre, Chairman of the Committee, introduced David Whitla for his ordination examinations, the first of these being his Expository Sermon. David Whitla read Matthew 12:1-21 and preached God's Word on the subject of "God's Servant". David concluded his message with prayer and Presbytery sang Psalm 85B.

Roll Call

The Assistant Clerk, Gordon Keddie, called the Roll and announced that a quorum was present. The Roll is as follows:

<i>Congregations</i>	<i>Teaching Elders</i>	<i>Ruling Elders</i>
Belle Center	Philip Pockras ee	
Bloomington	William Roberts xx Rich Holdeman xx	Wendell McBurney xe
Christ Church	Michael LeFebvre xx	Duane Judd xx
Columbus	Andrew McCracken xx	Robert Henning x-
Elkhart	Keith Magill xx	Fik Menbere -x
First Grand Rapids	Ray Lanning xe	
Hetherton	Milton Harrington --	
Immanuel, W. Lafayette	Jared Olivetti xx	Ben Larson xx
Lafayette	David Long xx	Robert Bibby xx
Oakdale	Raymond Morton xx	
Orlando	David Smith --	
Second Indianapolis	Richard Johnston xx	Russ Pulliam xe

Selma Tom Gray xx
Southfield James Faris ee

Southside Gordon Keddie xx

Sparta Raymond Morton xx
Sycamore Barry York xx
Durham, First Ian Wise xx
Westminster

Roger Adams
Roy Blackwood xx
Paul Faris
Godfrey Franklin
Robert Henning
Garland Kincaid
Robert McCracken xx
Marion McFarland
Robert Morrow
Tom Reid xx
Frank Schutz
James Wright

Ram Rao -x
Jim Long (alt)

John Hughes xx
James Curtis xx
John Hanson xx
Don Pritchard xx

Greg Fisher xx
Robert Koch xe

Motion: It was moved, seconded, and passed, that elders without certificates who are representatives of their sessions be seated.

Motion: It was moved, seconded, and passed, that all elders present who are not delegates be made consultative members of the court.

Candidates and Credentials Committee

Presbytery took up discussion of David Whitla's sermon.

Roll Call Vote

The Assistant Clerk called the Roll and the examination was unanimously sustained.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that Presbytery conduct the examinations as in the Candidates and Credentials Committee Report, Recommendation, "that student examinations be conducted at this meeting of Presbytery according to the attached schedule."

Michael LeFebvre introduced Nathan Eshelman for his Church History examination. The examination was conducted by Barry York. Members of Presbytery asked questions and received answers followed by the comments of the Presbyters.

Roll Call Vote

The Assistant Clerk called the Roll and the examination was unanimously sustained.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the Agenda, as prepared by the Clerk be adopted.

Candidates and Credentials Committee

Michael LeFebvre introduced the Church History Paper as prepared by Jason Camery and called on the examiners to give their report.

Roy Blackwood presented the review of the Paper.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that Presbytery adopt the recommendation of the examiners, to wit, that Presbytery not sustain this Paper, but that it be returned to Jason Camery for further research and writing.

Michael LeFebvre introduced David Whitla for his Theology II examination. The examination was conducted by William Roberts.

Members of Presbytery asked questions and received answers followed by the comments of the Presbyters.

Roll Call Vote

The Assistant Clerk called the Roll and the examination was unanimously sustained.

The Moderator made the following appointments:
Robert Bibby to draft a Resolution of Thanks;
John Hanson to act as Travel Agent for this meeting.

Recess

Presbytery took recess from 3:00 to 3:20 p.m.

Presbytery returned from recess by singing Psalm 101 and the Moderator led the Court in prayer.

Candidates and Credentials Committee

Michael LeFebvre introduced Nathan Eshelman's Exegesis Paper and called upon the examiners to report.

The former Moderator, Ian Wise, took the Chair.

Jared Olivetti reported for the examiners. Member of Presbytery asked questions and received answers.

On the voice vote, the examination was sustained.

The Moderator, Jared Olivetti, resumed the Chair.

Michael LeFebvre intimated that Nathan Eshelman's examinations for Licensure to receive a call were complete.

Nathan Eshelman was asked the Queries for Licensure to Receive a Call by Roy Blackwood. Nathan answered the Queries affirmatively.

Presbytery discussed Nathan's eligibility to be licensed to receive a Call.

Roll Call Vote

The Assistant Clerk called the Roll and Nathan's eligibility to receive a Call was sustained.

Nathan Eshelman signed the Queries for Licensure to Receive a Call in the Minute Book. Roy Blackwood led in prayer licensing Nathan Eshelman to receive a Call.

Pastor Roy Blackwood gave the words of counsel from II Timothy 4:1-2 and spoke of his duties and limitations of his licensure as per The Directory of Church Government, Chapter 3, II, C, 2, i.

Michael LeFebvre introduced David Whitla for his Personal Godliness examination. The examination was conducted by Rich Johnston.

Members of Presbytery asked questions and received answers followed by the comments of the Presbyters.

Roll Call Vote

The Assistant Clerk called the Roll and the examination was unanimously sustained.

Michael LeFebvre intimated that David Whitla had completed all his ordination examination.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the Report of the Candidates and Credentials Committee be received.

Rev. and Mrs. Norman Whitla from Ballyclare, Northern Ireland, David's parents, were introduced and welcomed to the Court.

Resolution of Thanks

Robert Bibby presented the Resolution of Thanks as follows:

"The Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery gives thanks to our merciful God for the gracious and hospital way the Southside Reformed Presbyterian Church has hosted this meeting of Presbytery.

"We greatly appreciate their making their newly remodeled facility available to us. May the Lord continue to bless the Session and Congregation here to His honor and glory for the furtherance of His kingdom and the building up of His saints."

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the Resolution of Thanks be received.

The Minutes of the afternoon Session were read.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that these Minutes be adopted.

Recess: Presbytery took recess at 4:40 p.m. with Don Pritchard leading the Court in prayer.

Session 2, Friday, August 22, 2008

Call to Order

The Moderator, Jared Olivetti, called the Presbytery and the assembled congregation to order at 7:04 p.m. on August 22, 2008, at the Southside Reformed Presbyterian Church. The Moderator led in prayer resuming the Presbytery meeting.

Roll Call: the Assistant Clerk called the Roll and each Presbytery stood when his name was called. (This attendance is recorded in the Roll above.)

The Moderator announced that other elders present with whom the Reformed Presbyterian Church has fraternal relations are invited to participate in this meeting.

Call to Worship

The Moderator read Hebrews 12:1-2 as the Call to Worship.
Psalm 148 was sung in praise to God and the Moderator led in prayer.
Sermon: Pastor Gordon Keddie read Nehemiah 6:1-14 and preached God's Word from v. 3, "Why Should the Work Stop?" He concluded by leading in prayer.
Psalm 119X st. 1-4 was sung in praise to God.

Pastor Keddie introduced Elder Steve Sturm who spoke of the building work which provided the new sanctuary along with other improvements. He reviewed various projects since the first one in 1982. He also introduced key persons who had contributed to the building work: Chris Grant of Architectural Concepts; Indianapolis Roe Construction represented by Mark Roe and Ross Peabody; Brad Burney, and presented to them a plaque of appreciation for their work.
Steve Sturm led the assembled congregation in the prayer of dedication for the new building.
Psalm 122A st. 1-3 was sung in praise.

Ordination and Installation of David Whitla

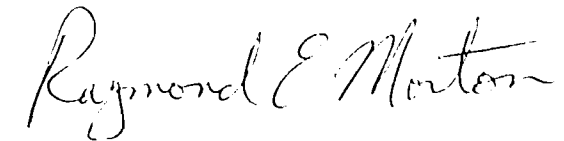
Jim Bishop narrated the steps leading to this evening's service.
The Clerk read the edict for the last time to which the congregation and the pastor-elect renewed their assent.
Pastor Barry York read the Queries for Ordination and Installation to David Whitla.
David Whitla answered affirmatively to all the Queries.
David Whitla signed the Queries in the Presbytery Minute Book.
Ian Wise led in the Prayer of Ordination and Installation as members of Presbytery and other elders present laid their hands on David. Following prayer each one extended the right hand of fellowship to David Whitla.
Pastor Andrew McCracken gave the charge to the new pastor based on Titus 3:8.
Pastor Michael LeFebvre gave the Charge to the congregation based on Mark 6:53-56 and 1 Thes. 5:12-13.

The Clerk read the minutes of this session of the Presbytery meeting. The Minutes were approved as read.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that Presbytery adjourn.

Psalm 65A st. 1-3 was sung in praise followed by the Moderator leading in prayer and David Whitla, the new pastor, pronouncing the Benediction.
Psalm 72C st. 11-12 was sung as the Doxology. Presbytery was adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

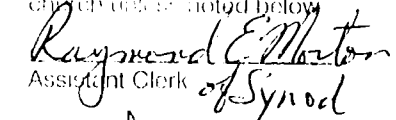
Note: David Whitla began his work in the Southside congregation on July 1, 2008.



Jared Olivetti, Moderator
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery

Raymond E. Morton, Clerk
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery

Minutes examined and nothing found
contrary to the law and order of the
church and is noted below



Assistant Clerk of Synod

June 29, 2009

**Minutes of the Synod Meeting
Of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery
June 23 - 24, 2009**

Tuesday, June 23, 2009, at 3:13 p.m.

Session 1, Tuesday, June 23, 2009

Call to Order

The Moderator, Greg Cumbee, called Presbytery to Order at 3:13 p.m. in Room 317, of the Science and Engineering Building on the campus of Geneva College, Beaver Falls, PA.

Constitution of the Court

Presbytery sang Psalm 93:1-3 and the Moderator led in prayer and constituted the Court in prayer.

Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported and introduced the business for this meeting. His Report is as follows:

Clerk's Report
To the Synod Meeting of Presbytery
June 22, 2009

The Clerk would respectfully report that he has done his best to carry out the assignments given to him as far as he knows. A number of items have been dealt with since the meeting in February, mainly by e-mail and mostly concerning this meeting and/or answering various questions.

The Agenda for this meeting has the following items:

- Report of the Clerk
- Travel Agent
- Committee Appointments by the Moderator
- Presentation of Session Minute Books
- Report of the Ad Interim Commission
- Report of the Treasurer
- Report of the Candidates and Credentials Committee
- Exams:
- Report of the Selma Visitation Committee
- Report on the Oakdale Congregation
- Report of the Assistant Clerk
- Other business:
- Session Minute Books

Respectfully submitted,

Raymond E. Morton, Clerk

Recommendations:

1. That the Agenda be approved.
2. That the Clerk's Report be received.

Motion: it was moved, seconded and passed that Presbytery meet Wednesday afternoon 10 minutes after the close of Synod.

The two recommendations were approved.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Roll Call

The Assistant Clerk, Gordon Keddie, called the Roll and announced that a quorum was present. The Roll is as follows:

<i>Congregations</i>	<i>Teaching Elders</i>	<i>Ruling Elders</i>
Belle Center	Philip Pockras xxxxx	Wendell McBurney xxxxx
Bloomington	William Roberts xxxxx Rich Holdeman x---	
Christ Church Columbus	Michael LeFebvre xxxxx Andrew McCracken xx-xx	Ed Schisler xx—x Robert McCracken x-xxx
Elkhart	Keith Magill xxxx-	
First Grand Rapids	Ray Lanning x-x---	Doug Sikma xxxxx
Hetherton	Milton Harrington	
Immanuel, W. Lafayette	Jared Olivetti xxxxx	David Carr xx-xx
Lafayette	David Long excused	Jack Rhoda xxxxx
Oakdale	Raymond Morton xxxxx	
Orlando	David Smith xxxxx	
Second Indianapolis	Richard Johnston xxxxx	Dean Filson xxxxx Terry Magnusson xxxxx
Selma	Tom Gray -x-xx	
Southfield	James Faris xxxxx	Jon Hughes xxxxx
Southside	Gordon Keddie xxxxx	Jerry Porter xxxxx
Sparta	Raymond Morton xxxxx	Robert Morrow xxxxx
Sycamore	Barry York xxxxx	Robert McKissick xxxxx
Durham, First	Ian Wise xxxxx Greg Cumbee xxxxx	Eric Baum xxxxx
Westminster		
Roger Adams		
Roy Blackwood xxxxx		
Paul Faris		
Godfrey Franklin		
Robert Henning		

Garland Kincaid
Marion McFarland eeeee
James Pennington
Tom Reid xxxxx
Frank Schutz
James Wright

Motion: It was moved, seconded, and passed, that elders without certificates who are representatives of their sessions be seated.

Motion: It was moved, seconded, and passed, that all elders present who are not delegates be made consultative members of the court.

Candidates and Credentials Committee Report

Michael LeFebvre introduced Jason Camery for his Expository Sermon on a Topic. Jason preached God's Word on the topic, "The Keys to Real Mercy Ministry". He read a text, led in prayer, and then preached on the topic. He closed his message with prayer. Members of Presbytery made comments on the sermon.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the time be extended for any further questions.

Roll Call Vote

The Assistant Clerk called the Roll and the sermon was unanimously sustained.

Dean Filson was appointed Travel Agent.

Candidates and Credentials Committee Report

Michael LeFebvre introduced the business in the Candidates and Credentials Committee for this meeting of Presbytery.

The Recommendations of the Committee are as follows:

1. That examinations be conducted at this meeting of presbytery according to the schedule outlined below.

The recommendations were approved.

(Recommendation 2 was stricken, see decision below.)

Outline of Examinations:

Examinee	Exam	Duration*	Examiner
<i>STUDENTS OF THEOLOGY UNDER CARE OF PRESBYTERY</i>			
Jason Camery	English Bible Exam		Robert Byrle
	Queries on the prayer of licensure to preach		James Faris
	Church History Paper <i>(text: 19th century - present; 1st and 2nd halves)</i>	10-15	Ray Blackwood, Jim Wise
	Exegesis Paper <i>(text: Psalm 11)</i>	10-15	James Dineen, David Smith
	Theology & Distinctive Principles II	20-30	Andy McCracken
	Church History Exam	20-30	Ph. Beckwith
	Sermon on a Topic <i>(text: 19th century - present; Mt 23:1-12)</i>	10-15	
	Queries on the prayer of licensure to preach		Keith Magill
	<i>If Recommendation 2 is passed:</i> Personal God - text from	20-30	Garry York
Michael Weathers	Sermon on a Text <i>(text: Mark 1:9)</i>	10-15	
<i>MINISTER PRESENTING CREDENTIALS FOR RECEPTION</i>			
Frank Smith	"Introduction Report" <i>(text: questions from the floor on Frank's personal history; history, see written report supplied in text)</i>	30 min	
<small>*Duration - The first number indicates the length of time (in minutes) allotted for the examinee's questions; the second number indicates the length of time for the full Presbytery's questions; the third number indicates the length of time for Presbytery's session of the exam prior to an "up or down" roll call vote. (E.g., 20/10/5 = 20 minutes for the examinee, 10 minutes for the Presbytery questions, and 5 minutes for the session.)</small>			

Michael Lefebvre introduced the report on Jason Camery's English Bible Exam. The recommendation of the examiners was to sustain the exam. On the vote the examination was sustained.

Michael Lefebvre introduced the report on Jason Camery's Church History Paper Exam. The recommendation of the examiners was to sustain the exam. On the vote the examination was sustained.

Michael Lefebvre reported that this completes all the requirements for Jason Camery to be licensed to preach. James Faris read the Queries to be Licensed to Preach and Jason Camery answered all of them in the affirmative.

Roll Call Vote

The Assistant Clerk called the Roll and the Presbytery certified Jason Camery as a candidate to preach. James Faris led the Presbytery in the prayer of Certification to Preach. James Faris then instructed Jason Camery on the prohibitions as in the Book of Church Government, chapter II, C. 2.i. (page D-15).

Candidates and Credentials Committee Report

Dr. Frank Smith was presented to the Court as a pastor seeking transfer into the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America. He is member and pastor of the Reformed Presbytery of the Midwest. He has been serving as the pastor of the Sheboygan, WI congregation.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that Presbytery move into executive session.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed to extend the time for this interview until 5:30 p.m.

5:30 p.m. arrived and the Presbytery recessed being led in prayer by Robert McCracken.

Session 2, Wednesday, June 24, 2009

Presbytery was call to order by the Moderator at 4:10 p.m. in Room 317, of the Science and Engineering Building on the campus of Geneva College, Beaver Falls, PA.

The Moderator read Psalm 68:1,2 and led the Court in prayer constituting the Court.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that Presbytery rise from executive session.

Minutes: the minutes of the previous session were read and approved.

Rev. Robert Morrow spoke of the need to hear from the Committee to meet with Robert Ulrich, and to take up the Report from the Sparta congregation concerning the funding of a sabbatical for their pastor, Raymond Morton.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that these reports become the order of the day.

The report of the committee to meet with Robert Ulrich was given by Robert Morrow. Robert Morrow read the report and introduced the recommendations. The report is as follows:

Report of the Committee to Meet with Robert Ulrich

Your committee reports that we have investigated the background of Robert Ulrich's case in our Presbytery. We remind the older men, and inform the younger, that Mr Ulrich was the minister of the Belle Center congregation in the late 1970s. He was deposed from the ministry after rebaptizing himself and others, and for refusing to heed the courts of the church.

Since leaving the ministry, Belle Center, and the RP Church, Mr. Ulrich has been a member of the Evangelical Free Church and the Evangelical Covenant Church. He is now living in Hutchinson, KS, and is attending evening worship in the Sterling RPC while acting in a pastoral role for a small evangelical independent church on Sabbath mornings. He is considering seeking membership in the Sterling congregation.

After many years and change in views back to what he professed at the time of his

ordination, he is very eager to confess his sins of the past committed against this Presbytery, and to receive forgiveness. He is with us at this meeting of Presbytery.

Your committee has the following recommendations:

1. That Robert Ulrich's letter of confession, seeking forgiveness from this Presbytery, be received.
2. That Mr. Ulrich be given up to ten minutes to speak to Presbytery.
3. That this Presbytery officially grant forgiveness to Mr. Ulrich for his sins.
4. That the Moderator lead this Court in a prayer of thanksgiving for this happy occasion, and for God's working through His ordinance of Church Discipline.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Morrow, chairman
Philip Pockras
William Roberts

Robert Morrow read a letter of confession and repentance which for the Presbytery's forgiveness for Robert Ulrich.

June 24, 2009

Robert E. Ulrich
122 W. 13th Ave.
Hutchinson, KS 67501

To the Great Lakes- Gulf Presbytery

Dear brothers in Christ,

Over thirty years ago I adopted a false view of infant baptism. I sinned by submitting to re baptism. I further sinned by rebaptising others. My attitudes and actions at that time were gross violations of ordination vow #9. The presbytery was fully justified to depose me at that time from the office of teaching elder. Having confessed these sins to God, confident of His forgiveness, I know come before you.

I have come in the interval to believe that the view of baptism expressed in the Westminster Confession of Faith is agreeable unto and founded upon the Scriptures. Therefore, I recognize my first baptism, based on my mother's profession of faith, was and is valid. I have both taught and practiced infant baptism. My youngest daughter, born years after my deposition, was baptized based on my profession of faith.

What I seek most of all is to be reconciled to you. Christ instructs me in Matthew 5: 23, 24 that if I remember that my brother has something against me, I am to go and be reconciled to my brother. I wish to extend a sincere apology to anyone I have offended or harmed in any way by my attitude or actions. I am willing to make direct amends wherever it might be helpful. Put simply, I am asking for your forgiveness. Please let me know what further action is necessary on my part to complete our reconciliation.

Your brother in Christ,

Robert E. Ulrich

Robert E. Ulrich

Recommendation 1 was approved.

Recommendation 2 was approved.

In keeping with this recommendation Mr. Ulrich addressed the Court.

Recommendation 3 was approved and the Court asked that it be recorded as a unanimous Vote.

In keeping with Recommendation 4 the Moderator led the Court in the prayer of thanksgiving to God and for the blessing of restored fellowship.

Members of Presbytery extended the right hand of fellowship to Mr. Ulrich.

Presbytery agreed that this event be communicated to the Synod. (This was done at the evening session of Synod.)

Presbytery agreed that this event should also be communicated by letter to the Midwest Presbytery, where Mr. Ulrich resides.

The report of the Committee as a whole was taken up.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Sparta Request for Financial Help for Pastor Morton's Sabbatical

Robert Morrow presented this request. The request needed Presbytery's action as required by the Synod Revitalization Committee. The request had 3 points as follows:

1. approval of \$3000.00 as a grant to the Sparta Congregation for the pastor's 3-month sabbatical. Presbytery is asked to fund \$1000.00 with the Synod through the Revitalization Committee supplying the other \$2000.00
2. that during the sabbatical that the supply pastor be the Interim Elder and Moderator of the Session.
3. that up to two elders be asked to serve as provisional elders. (Possibly Dale Musselman and/or Todd Patton.)

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that recommendations 1 and 2 be approved. It was determined that recommendation 3 was not needed as Sparta Session may ask for appointments to be made by the Ad Interim Commission.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Candidates and Credentials Committee Report

Michael LeFebvre introduced Jason Camery for his Systematic Theology and Distinctive Principles examination.

The exam was conducted by Andy McCracken.

Jason expressed reservations concerning women serving as deacons.

Time for recess arrived.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that Presbytery recess to meet again at 9:10 p.m.

Doug Sikma led in prayer recessing the Court at 5:40 p.m.

Session 3, Wednesday June 24, 2009

Presbytery was called to order by the Moderator at 9:19 p.m. in Room 317. of the Science and Engineering Building on the campus of Geneva College. Beaver Falls, PA.

The Moderator led the Court in prayer reconvening the Court.

Minutes of the previous session were read, corrected and approved

Presbytery resumed consideration of Jason Camery's Systematic Theology and Distinctive Principles examination.

Roll Call Vote: on the vote the examination was unanimously sustained.

Michael LeFebvre introduced Jason Camery for his examination in Church History. The examination was conducted by Phil Pockras.

Members asked questions and received answers followed by discussion.

Roll Call Vote: on the vote the examination was sustained.

Motion: it was moved, seconded and passed that Presbytery adjourn.

Roy Blackwood led in the prayer of adjournment.

Presbytery adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

Session 4: Thursday June 25, 2009

The Moderator called Presbytery to order at 4:17 p.m.

The Moderator read Phil. 2:5-11

Tom Reid led in prayer and constituted the Court in prayer.

Candidates and Credentials Committee continued

Michael LeFebvre called on the Church History reviewers for their report. Jared Olivetti reported that the exam was good and the reviewers recommended that the exam be sustained.

On the vote the examination was sustained.

Roll Call Vote: the vote for Jason Camery to be Licensed to receive a call was unanimously approved.

Keith Magill read the Queries to Jason Camery. Jason answered all the Queries in the affirmative.

Keith instructed him on the prohibitions as in the Book of Church Government, chapter II. 3. i. (page D-16) but also encouraged him that there were many things that he could do.

Keith Magill led in the Prayer of Licensure to receive a call

Recommendation 2 of the Candidates and Credentials Committee was stricken.

Presbytery moved into Executive Session to continue to consider the transfer of Frank Smith into the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America and become a pastor in the Presbytery.

Presbytery arose from Executive session and the actions taken in Executive session are recorded below.

The following actions were taken in Executive session and confirmed here.

Barry York introduced a paper he had prepared to help with the way forward.

Following our meeting yesterday with Dr. Frank Smith and subsequent conversations primarily with him, the chairman of the Candidates & Credentials Committee, and the moderator of the Atlanta Commission, I would like to suggest a course of action with the following motions:

- 1) To extend the interview with Dr. Smith for a further half hour this week to allow presbytery more time to get to know him.
- 2) To ask the Atlanta Commission to provide further references and witnesses of Dr. Smith's life and testimony for Presbytery.
- 3) To encourage the Atlanta Commission to schedule more regular visitation by themselves and others to Atlanta in the foreseeable future.
- 4) To expand the Atlanta Commission to six men.
- 5) To have the Atlanta Commission report on its findings and Dr. Smith's progress at the fall meeting of Presbytery and that the Presbytery, if satisfied, proceed with Dr. Smith's exams.

Motions 1 to 3 were passed.

Motion 4 was amended with the appointment of Barry York and Jared Olivetti and passed.

Motion 5 was passed.

Motion: it was moved, seconded and passed that the report on Frank Smith's transfer be received.

Ad Interim Commission Report

The Ad Interim Commission Report was taken up. James Paris reported for the commission.

Motion: it was moved, seconded and passed that the Report be received.

The call mentioned in the Ad Interim Commission Report was presented to Jason Camery. Jason indicated his acceptance of the call.

Motion: it was moved, seconded and passed that that Presbytery recess

David Smith led in the pray of recess. Presbytery recessed at 5:34 p.m.

Session 5: Thursday June 25, 2009

The Moderator called Presbytery to order at 9:30 p.m.
Jon Hughes in prayer and reconvened the Court in prayer.

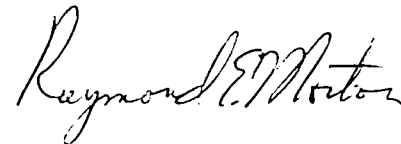
The Assistant Clerk took the Roll.

The Minutes of the previous session were read and approved.
The interview of Frank Smith was taken up for the period of time mentioned above.

The Minutes of this session were read and approved.

Motion: it was moved, seconded and passed that Presbytery adjourn.

Presbytery adjourned at 10:20 p.m. being led in prayer by the Moderator.



Raymond E. Morton, Clerk
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery

Greg Cumbee, Moderator
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery

**THE MINUTES OF GREAT LAKES – GULF PRESBYTERY
of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America
meeting at Lafayette, Indiana on November 5-7, 2009.**

FIRST BUSINESS SESSION (Nov. 5, 2009)

Presbytery met pursuant to adjournment at the Lafayette RP Church, on November 5, 2009. The Moderator, Greg Cumbee, called the Presbytery to order at 2:10 pm and conducted the devotional exercises. He read Matthew 22:1-14 and preached from the passage with an emphasis on the Marriage Supper of the Lamb.

Psalm 110B was sung in praise to God.

The Court was constituted in prayer by the Moderator.

The Roll was called by the Assistant Clerk.

It was moved, seconded and carried that elders without Certificates who are representatives of their Sessions be seated.

It was moved, seconded and carried that all elders present who are not delegates be made consultative members of the Court.

First-time delegates were introduced:

James Faris introduced John Kim, the elder-delegate from Southfield RPC.

Harold Jones, the elder-delegate of the Columbus RPC, introduced himself, in the absence of his pastor, who was unavoidably prevented from being present in time.

The Report of the Clerk was presented and the following recommendations were adopted:

1. That the Parliamentarians for this meeting be Phil Pockras and Tom Reid.
2. That the Proposed Agenda for this meeting be adopted.
3. That Paper #1 (Appeal of Debby Long against and action of the Second RP Session) be referred to the Judicial Committee.
4. That the Communication from Messrs. Long, LeFebvre, Faris and Magill (re the handling of Paper #1) be referred to the Judicial Committee.
5. That Paper #2 (from Southfield Session re the The Book of Psalms for Worship) be referred to a Special Committee to be appointed by the Moderator and to report back to this meeting of Presbytery.
6. That Paper #3 (from Grand Rapids Session re homosexuality) be referred to the Judicial Committee.
7. That the request of Second R.P. Session for the appointment of John H. Tweed as Moderator of the Session, in the absence of Rich Johnston during his sabbatical period be granted and that, accordingly, John Tweed be appointed to serve as such in the months of January to March 2010.
8. That the Assistant Clerk for this meeting of Presbytery be Steve Sturm.
9. That the Report of the Clerk be approved.

The Report of the Ad Interim Commission was presented by James Faris. The Report was approved.

Assistant Clerk Steve Sturm was appointed **Travel Agent** for this meeting of Presbytery.

The Report of the Candidates and Credentials Committee was presented by Michael Lefebvre.

1. **Recommendation 1** - that the examinations of Jason Camery be conducted at this meeting of Presbytery – was carried.
2. Jason Camery was examined in **Personal Godliness** by Barry York. After this portion of the examination, it was moved, seconded and carried that the examination be arrested. The Order of the Day having arrived, the roll call vote was left until after the Break.

Recess was taken at 3:30pm with prayer by James Faris.

The Court rose from Recess at 3:50pm with prayer by Barry York.

The Clerk called for the Minute Books of those Sessions which had not submitted them for review in 2009.

The Moderator announced the membership of the following Committees:

1. Committee to Review Session Minutes: Bloomington – Jack Rhoda, David Whitla.
2. Judicial Committee: Ian Wise, Tom Reid, Joe Worsham.
3. Special Committee to review Paper #2: Erich Baum, Gordon Keddie. [Note: this was subsequently modified to consist of Jared Olivetti, Dean Filson and Gordon Keddie.]

The Report of the Candidates and Credentials Committee was again taken up.

3. The Roll Call vote on Jason Camery's **Personal Godliness** examination was sustained.
4. Jason Camery was examined in **Soundness in the Faith** by Keith Magill.
5. The Roll Call vote on Jason Camery's **Soundness in the Faith** examination was sustained.
6. **Shawn Anderson** was introduced to the Court as a prospective Student of Theology under Care.
7. **Recommendation 3** was approved and Mr. Anderson addressed the Court, speaking of his life and his aspirations to serve the Lord in the Gospel ministry. An extension of the time was moved, seconded and carried to allow completion of the interview.
8. **Recommendation 4** – “that Shawn Anderson be received as a Student of Theology under Care” – was approved.
9. **Recommendation 5** – “that Presbytery begin to provide Student Aid to Shawn Anderson immediately” – was approved..

The Report of the Atlanta Commission was presented by Ian Wise.

Recommendation 1 – “That Frank Smith address the Court” - was approved. Dr Smith addressed the Presbytery.

Recommendation 2 – “That Presbytery proceed with the examinations of Frank Smith, and, upon their successful completion, receive him and his ministerial credentials into the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery.” – was approved..

Recommendation 3 was laid on the table until the terms of Recommendation 2 have been implemented.

The Moderator announced the membership of the Judicial Committee, which is as follows: Andy McCracken (Ch), Bill Roberts, Joe Worsham.

On a point of personal privilege, **David Whitla** expressed his thanks to the Presbytery for their prayers in behalf of his family in their recent trials and gave thanks to God for his grace in the safe arrival of their twins and their continued progress.

Recess was taken at 5:30pm with prayer by David Whitla.

SECOND BUSINESS SESSION (Nov. 5, 2009)

Presbytery reconvened in prayer by Barry York at 7:10pm.

Pastor Ed Blackwood of Frankston RPC in Australia was invited to address the Court for 10 minutes, in order to bring greetings from the Australian Reformed Presbyterian Church.

The Roll was taken by the Assistant Clerk. It was moved, seconded and carried that the Assistant Clerk take the Roll visually in this and all remaining sessions.

The Minutes of the First Session were read and approved as corrected.

The Moderator appointed David Whitla and Don Prichard to prepare the Resolution of Thanks.

The Report of the Candidates and Credentials Committee was taken up.

10. Frank Smith was examined in **Personal Godliness** by Ian Wise.
11. The Roll Call vote on Frank Smith's **Personal Godliness** examination was sustained.
12. After the singing of Psalm 19B, Jason Camery preached an **Expository Sermon on a Text** (1 Cor. 15:50-58). Presbytery then praised God in singing Psalm 49B.
13. The Roll Call vote on Jason Camery's **Sermon** was sustained.

The time for adjournment having come, it was moved, seconded and carried to extend the time to complete the Roll Call vote on Jason Camery's Ordination and to hear the Covfamikoi Conference Report.

14. The Roll Call vote for the **Ordination** of Jason Camery was unanimously sustained.

The Covfamikoi Conference Report was presented by Jeff Kessler and was approved.

The Presbytery was adjourned in prayer at 9:15 pm by Ian Wise.

THE MINUTES OF GREAT LAKES – GULF PRESBYTERY
of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America
meeting at Lafayette, Indiana on November 6, 2009.

THIRD BUSINESS SESSION (Nov. 6, 2009)

The Moderator called the Presbytery to order at 8:45 am and the Presbytery praised God in the singing of Psalm 72F.

Devotional Exercises were conducted by Dr Frank Smith at the request of the Candidates and Credentials Committee.

15. After the singing of Psalm 106A, Dr. Smith preached an **Expository Sermon on a Text** (Eph. 3:14-21). Presbytery then praised God in singing Psalm 72C.

Presbytery was constituted in prayer by the Moderator.

The Roll was taken by the Assistant Clerk.

The Minutes of the Second Session were read and approved.

The Report of the Candidates and Credentials Committee was taken up.

16. The Roll Call vote on Frank Smith's **Expository Sermon** was sustained.

The CYPU Activities Report was presented by Rich Johnston. Seven events are planned throughout the year. Each of these ministries not only draws in many young people, but involves many adults who sponsor these events and give many hours to the work. Bill Roberts rose on a point of personal privilege to report on his son Steven, who is in China for a year. He coveted the prayers of the Presbytery for Steven and remarked on how he had profited from the CYPU program in his formative years. The Report was received.

The Report of the Candidates and Credentials Committee was again taken up.

17. Frank Smith was examined on **Theology and Distinctive Principles** by Barry York.

The Presbytery took Recess at 10:35 am with prayer by Jared Olivetti.

Presbytery reconvened at 10:55 am with prayer by Robert Morrow.

The Report of the Candidates and Credentials Committee was again taken up.

18. The Roll Call vote on Frank Smith's examination on **Theology and Distinctive Principles** was sustained.
19. Frank Smith was examined in **Pastoral and Evangelistic Gifts** by James Faris.
20. The Roll Call vote on Frank Smith's examination in **Pastoral and Evangelistic Gifts** was sustained.
21. The Roll Call vote to **Receive the Credentials** of Dr. Frank Smith was sustained.
22. The **Queries for Ordination** were put to Dr. Smith by Tom Reid. Dr. Smith affirmed the Queries and signed them in the Presbytery Minute Book and was received as a minister of the Reformed Presbyterian Church with prayer by Tom Reid. The Presbytery welcomed Dr. Smith and extended to him the right hand of fellowship.
23. The Report of the Candidates and Credentials Committee as a whole was approved.

Presbytery was recessed in prayer at 12 noon by Jared Olivetti.

FOURTH BUSINESS SESSION (Nov. 6, 2009)

The Moderator called the Presbytery to order and the Court was reconvened at 2:10 pm.

The Roll was taken by the Assistant Clerk.

The Minutes of the Third Session were read and approved as amended.

The Report of the Committee to visit the Selma Congregation was presented by Joe Worsham. It was moved, seconded and carried that the Committee be dismissed. The Report as whole was received.

The Report of the Atlanta Commission was taken up and presented by Ian Wise.

Recommendation 3 – “That since Dr Frank J. Smith has been received as a minister of the RPCNA, he be added to the membership of the Atlanta Commission.” – was approved.

Recommendation 4 – “That Presbytery grant \$2,000 to the Atlanta Mission Church from its funds during 2010.” – was approved.

Recommendation 5 – “That the Presbytery support the Atlanta Mission Church's application for declining aid from the Home Mission Board, to commence no later than January 1, 2011.” was approved.

Recommendation 6 – “That Presbytery receive David Smith's resignation and thanks him for his faithful service on the Commission” – was approved.

The Report as a whole was approved.

A Special Resolution was presented by Phil Pockras. Presbytery voted to entertain the Resolution. The Resolution was adopted and is as follows:

“Whereas Elder Larry Bump has been a useful member of this court a number of times, and Whereas Mr. Bump's health has kept him from attending meetings of Presbytery for several years, and

Whereas many members of this court have privately expressed their concern for his health and their love for him,

Be it resolved that the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America express its love and prayers for healing to Elder Larry Bump of the Belle Center congregation, as well as its hope for his ability soon to return to attendance at Presbytery.”

The Report of the Westminster Congregation, Chicago was presented by Keith Mapill who also introduced Rev. Steve Rhoda to the Court.

Recommendation 1 – “That Presbytery sustain the action of the Westminster session in hiring Rev. Rhoda as their interim pastor.” – was approved.

Recommendation 2 – “That Rev Rhoda be permitted to administer the sacraments at Westminster RPC under the oversight of the Westminster session and when at least one Reformed Presbyterian ruling elder is present.” – was approved.

Recommendation 3 – “That, as long as he is the interim pastor /stated supply at Westminster RPC, Rev Rhoda be invited to the meetings of Presbytery, be granted the privileges of the floor of Presbytery and be included in the Presbytery Travel Fund.” – was approved.

The Report as a whole was received.

The Report of the Hetherton Commission was presented by Keith Magill.

Recommendation 1 – “That Presbytery allow 15 minutes for discussion of this report and for giving suggestions to the Commission.” – was approved.

Recommendation 2 – “That the Presbytery endorse the Hetherton Commission reducing the Hetherton congregation to a Preaching Station.” – was approved..

Recommendation 3 – “With gratitude for Mr. Harrington’s many years of service and in light of the fact that God has not yet provided a church planter, that Presbytery take up the question of closing Hetherton at the Spring 2010 meeting.” – was approved.

The Report as a whole was received.

Presbytery voted to extend the time until 4:00 pm

The Report of the Judicial Committee was presented by Andy McCracken. Two papers were referred to the Committee.

1. GLG '09-3 comes from Grand Rapids Session re Homosexuality.

Recommendation 1 – “That Presbytery affirm the Committee’s response (line 15-35) to the FRPC’s first question.” – was approved.

Recommendation 2 – “That Presbytery affirm the Committee’s response (lines 47-53) to the FRPC’s second question.” – was approved.

It was moved, seconded and carried to extend the time to complete Recommendation 3.

Recommendation 3 was approved – “That Presbytery affirm the following ...

a. that homosexuality is a perversion of God’s good design for sexual expression between one man and one woman in marriage and therefore homosexual thoughts and actions are sinful, as are any other perversions of God’s design.

b. that those who struggle with temptation toward homosexuality are no less accountable to God for their thoughts and actions simply because they are influenced by factors of nurture and nature.

c. that the church must minister to those struggling with homosexuality in a spirit of compassion and humility, welcoming into membership those who profess Christ and seek to submit to the Lordship of Christ, as they would any others who are able in good conscience to take the vows.”

Presbytery took recess at 4:05 pm with prayer by Andy McCracken.

FIFTH BUSINESS SESSION (Nov. 6, 2009) – Meeting at Sycamore RP Church, Kokomo, Indiana for the purpose of ordaining Mr. Jason Camery as Associate Pastor.

Moderator Greg Cumbee called the Presbytery to order and welcomed the assembled congregation.

Psalm 100B was sung in praise to God.

The Moderator reconvened the Court in prayer at 7:03 pm.

The Roll was taken by the Assistant Clerk.

Elder Bob McKissick recounted the Narration of Steps.

Elder Tom Dinkledine gave the Final Reading of the Edict.

The Congregation signified its Adherence to the Call by a rising vote.

Pastor-elect Jason Camery indicated his Acceptance of the Call.

Elder Greg Fisher put the Queries of Ordination to Pastor-elect Camery, who duly assented to them.

Pastor Barry York preached the Ordination Sermon on “Ministers of Compassion” from Luke 10:25-37.

Psalm 145B was sung in praise to the Lord.

Pastor Michael LeFebvre gave the Prayer of Ordination and with the laying on of hands of the Presbytery Jason Camery was set apart to the Gospel Ministry. Pastor Ed Blackwood of the Australian RP Church was associated with the Presbytery in the ordination.

Pastor Gordon Keddie gave the Charge to the Pastor.

Pastor Ian Wise gave the Charge to the Sycamore Congregation.

Pastor Barry York introduced Jason and Jenny Camery and their family and other friends of Jason from near and far.

The Minutes of this Session were approved as read.

Psalm 72C (stanzas 9-10) was sung in praise to God.

Presbytery was adjourned in prayer by the Moderator at 8:27 pm.

Pastor Jason Camery pronounced the Benediction.

Psalm 72C (stanzas 11-12) was sung in praise to God.

**THE MINUTES OF GREAT LAKES – GULF PRESBYTERY
of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America
meeting at Lafayette, Indiana on November 7, 2009.**

SIXTH BUSINESS SESSION (Nov. 7, 2009)

The Moderator called the Presbytery to order at 8:40 am and the Presbytery praised God in the singing of Psalm 118E.

Presbytery was constituted in prayer by the Moderator.

The Roll was taken by the Assistant Clerk.

The Report of the Judicial Committee was taken up.

2. GLG '09-1 is an Appeal of Debby Long against an action of Second RPC.

Recommendation 1 – “That Presbytery appoint a four member judicial commission, with one additional female consultative member, consisting of, Barry York (IE) Moderator, Dave Long (IE), Bob Bibby (RI), Ed Schisler (RI), and Rachel Roberts (Consultative), (1) to rule on Mrs Long’s appeal of the disciplinary actions by the Session of Second RP Church, and, (2) to come alongside the local Session in their efforts to address the pastoral and theological issues involving the Longs.” – was approved.

Recommendation 3 – It was moved, seconded and carried that Recommendation 3 be amended. The amendment passed. Recommendation 3 as amended was approved - “That in the midst of these proceedings all members of the Second RP congregation be reminded to refrain from gossip and needless speculation and to continue to respect the Session God has placed over them.”

3. It was moved and seconded and carried that the action on GLG '09-3 be reconsidered.

It was moved, seconded and carried that GLG '09-3 be referred to a committee of three members to be appointed by the Moderator to study the matter and report to the Spring meeting of Presbytery.

The report as a whole was received.

The Report of the Special Committee on Paper #2 (from Southfield RPC re The Book of Psalms for Worship) was presented by Jared Olivetti.

Recommendation 1 – “That through the Moderator, presbytery appoint a committee to study and elaborate on the Southfield Session’s paper and bring the report to the Spring meeting of Presbytery - was approved.”

The report of the committee was approved.

Orlando RPC situation. It was moved, seconded and carried that Joe Worsham be invited to make a report on the situation in Orlando RPC. Mr. Worsham spoke on the recent severance of the pastoral relationship of Pastor David Smith to the congregation.

The Moderator asked Keith Magill to pray for the Orlando congregation and people and the Smith family.

Godfrey Franklin. Tom Reid rose on a point of personal privilege to report on the retirement of Godfrey Franklin from his university professorship and convey Dr Franklin’s desire to be available for ministry in support of the work of the Church.

The Moderator announced the appointment of James Faris, Gordon Keddie and Ben Larson to study the GLG '09-2 (re The Book of Psalms for Worship).

The Report of the Assistant Clerk was presented by Steve Sturm, who noted that the Minutes of the Bloomington Session were reviewed and nothing found contrary to the law and order of the church. The Session Minutes for the Hetherton, Selma and Westminster congregations have not been reviewed in 2009 and, accordingly, should be brought to the Spring 2010 meeting of Presbytery. The Report was adopted.

The Report of the Committee on Resolution of Thanks was presented by David Whita. The Report was adopted.

The Moderator announced an amendment to the Committee on GLG '09-2. It will now consist of Jared Olivetti, Gordon Keddie and Ben Larson.

The Moderator announced the Committee to study GLG '09-3 (Grand Rapids/Homosexuality): James Faris, Keith Magill and Michael Lefebvre.

Robert Morrow rose on a point of personal privilege to ask prayer for the Mortons as they return from a sabbatical period and particularly for Heather Morton’s health.

Ray Lanning rose on a point of personal privilege to comment on the need of the RP Global Missions program for financial support in the light of the large projected deficit for 2010. He also drew attention to the tragic mass murder yesterday at Fort Hood as a matter for prayer.

The Minutes of the Fourth and Sixth Sessions were read and approved.

Presbytery adjourned in prayer by Moderator Greg Cumbee at 10:28 am and Psalm 103C was sung in praise to God.

Next Meeting: March 4-6, 2010 at Bloomington.

Gordon Keddie
Clerk pro tem

Minutes examined and nothing found
contrary to the law and order of the
church unless noted below.

Raymond E. Morton
Assistant Clerk of Synod

June 25, 2010

Minutes of the Annual Meeting
Of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery
March 4-6, 2010 at
Bloomington Reformed Presbyterian Church,
Bloomington, IN.

Session 1, Thursday, March 4, 2010, at 2:04 p.m.

Constitution of the Court

The Presbytery was called to order by the Moderator, Greg Cumbee, at 2:04 p.m. on Thursday, March 4, 2010, at the Bloomington Reformed Presbyterian Church in Bloomington, Indiana.

Devotions

The Moderator read Ephesians 6:10-20 and preached on the passage.
Praise: Psalm 140A st. 1-6.
The Moderator led in prayer and constituted the Court in prayer.

Roll

The Assistant Clerk called the roll, which is as follows and shows that a quorum was present.

CONGREGATION	DELEGATE	1	2	3	4	5	6	Sermon
Belle Center	Phil Pockras		Y	Y	Y	Y		
	no elder							
Bloomington	Bill Roberts	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
	Rich Holdeman	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
	Wes Archer	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
	Ken DeJong	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
Chrst Church Indy	Michael Lefebvre	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
	Duane Judd							
Columbus	Andy McCracken	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
	Harold Jones	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
	Bob McCracken	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
Elkhart	Keith Magill	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
	no elder							
First RP Durham	Ian Wise	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
	Greg Cumbee	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
	Lench Baun	Y	Y	Y		Y		
First RP Grand Rapids	Ray Lanning	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
	Kent Van Timmeren	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
Hetherton	Milton Harrington (st sup)	Y		Y	Y	Y		
	no elder							
Immanuel W. Lafayette	Jared Olivetti	Y	F	F	F	F		
	Ben Larson	Y	F	Y	Y	Y		
Lafayette	Dave Long	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
	Bob Bibb	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
	Jack Rhoda	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		

Oakdale(Ray Morton)	no elder							
Orlando	vacant							
	Jonathan Schaffer	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
Second RP, Indianapolis	Rich Johnston	F	F	F	F	F		
	Terry Magnuson		Y					
	Russ Pullham	Y	Y	Y				
Selma	Tom Gray			Y	Y	Y		
Southfield	James Farns	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
	Jon Hughes	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
Southside Indianapolis	Gordon Keddle	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
	David Whirl	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
	John Hanson	F	F	Y	Y	Y		
	Jerry Porter	Y	Y	Y		Y		
Sparta	Ray Morton	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
	Bob Morrow	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
Sycamore	Barry York	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
	Jason Camery	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
	no elder							
Westminster	vacant							
	Bob Koch				Y	Y		
Atlanta Mission Church	Frank J. Smith (st sup)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
RPTIS	Tom Reid	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
Retired	Paul Farns							
	Bob Henning							
	(Bob McCracken - RE Colu)							
	(Bob Morrow - RE Sparta)							
	Marion McFarland	F	F	F	F	F	F	
	Jim Pennington							
Min w/o Pastorates	Roger Adams							
	Dan Barid		Y	Y	Y	Y		
	Roy Blackwood	Y	Y					
	Godfrey Franklin							
	Garland Kincaid							
	Frank Schutz	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
	David Smith							
	Jim Wright	F	F	F	F	F	F	
Inactive	Paul Mathews							

The Assistant Clerk declared that a quorum was present.

Motion: It was moved, seconded, and passed, that elders without certificates who are representatives of their sessions be seated.

Motion: It was moved, seconded, and passed, that all elders present who are elders of Reformed Presbyterian Churches and those with whom we have fraternal relations who are not delegates be made consultative members of the court.

Introductions

It was announced that Scot McCullough was present for today so that people could speak to him.

Barry York introduced Jason Camery as the Associate Pastor of Sycamore Reformed Presbyterian Church.

Erie Baum was recognized as an elder of the First Reformed Presbyterian Church of

Durham, in North Carolina.

Memorial

There were no memorials presented.

Clerk's Report

The clerk, Raymond Morton, presented his report, which is as follows.

**Report of the Clerk of Presbytery
to the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery
Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America
March 4-6, 2010**

The clerk respectfully reports that he has carried out the assignments given to him, as far as he knows. I am thankful that Gordon Keddle served as Clerk, pro tem, for the November, 2009, meeting. Unfortunately, because of health issues, he will not be attending this meeting and an Assistant Clerk will need to be appointed. (Gordon Keddle was able to be at the meeting.)

During the past year, I have responded to a number of communications (telephone, e-mails and snail mail) hopefully in a helpful and worthwhile way. This has been a larger task this year than some other years, responding to some requests that takes time and research.

I have prepared the agenda for this meeting. I hope it is complete but there is opportunity for additions or corrections when the agenda is being approved.

I do have some communications at this time. However, there will be opportunity for Presbyters or session(s) to present papers on Thursday and up until the break on Friday morning.

There have been many communications from the First R.P. Church Durham Session and Jose Gonzales and others of the congregation received. I have a recommendation concerning this.

There are a few items that I mention here:

The Oakdale Session Minute Book is not here and there is a recommendation about that. When you see the report from Oakdale, I think that you will understand.

I have enjoyed serving as Clerk of Presbytery and appreciate the trust you have placed in me. Over the past six months or so Heather's health has required that I spend more time with her, both in hospital and at home. She is here in Bloomington as she (and I) doesn't want to be far away should anything happen. That is a reality that we have to live with. She is doing better at present and we certainly thank you for all your prayers. We know the Lord has definitely answered for we have many evidences of His action.

I pray the Lord will bless us in this meeting and that we may do all to the glory of the King and Head of the church.

Respectfully submitted,

Raymond E. Morton, Clerk

Recommendations:

1. That the parliamentarians for this meeting be Tom Reid and Jon Hughes.
2. That the Nominating Committee determine the congregations to be visited this year.
3. That the proposed agenda for this meeting be accepted.

4. That the Oakdale Minute Book be presented to the Meeting of Presbytery at Synod.
5. That all the communications from the First RP Church Durham be referred to the Judicial Committee.
6. That the Clerk's Report be received.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the Clerk's Report be received.

Election of Officers of the Court

Pastor Rich Holdeman was nominated to be moderator. It was moved, seconded, and passed, that nominations be closed. Pastor Rich Holdeman was elected moderator. Pastor Rich Holdeman took the Chair.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that Pastor Raymond Morton and Pastor Gordon Keddie be retained as Clerk and Assistant Clerk, respectively.

Call for Session Minute Books

The Assistant Clerk asked that Session Minute Books be submitted for examination.

Report of the Ad Interim Commission

The Report of the Ad Interim Commission was presented by Pastor James Faris.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be adopted and the Minutes of the Ad Interim Commission be spread on the Minutes of Presbytery.

Report of the Ad Interim Commission to Presbytery March 4-6, 2010

The Ad Interim Commission of the Great Lakes – Gulf Presbytery would respectfully report that we have taken the following actions since appointed last spring:

1. Granted permission to the Sycamore RP church to call an Associate Pastor.
2. Granted permission to Immanuel RP Church to purchase a church building.
3. Appointed Pastor James Faris as interim moderator of the First RP Church Session during Pastor Ray Lanning's leave of absence.
4. Approved a request from the Candidates and Credentials Committee, that Presbytery recommend David Smith (Pastor at Orlando RP Church) to participate in Synod's Graduate Study Fund (for his graduate work at Reformed Theological Seminary, Orlando), to the Graduate Study Fund Committee.
5. Approved the Candidates and Credential Committee's recommended slate of exams for Dr. Frank Smith.
6. Approved the Assistant Clerk's report to Synod.
7. Sustained a call from Sycamore RP Church on Jason Camery to be Associate Pastor as a regular gospel call.

8. Set the date, time and schedule for the meeting of Presbytery for the ordination and installation of Jason Camery as Associate Pastor of the Sycamore Reformed Presbyterian Church.

9. Dissolved the relationship between David Smith as pastor and the Orlando congregation and declared the pulpit vacant. Appointed Jim Pennington as interim moderator of the Orlando Session and granted privileges of the Sacraments and permission to call a pastor to the congregation.

10. At their request, granted permission to the Belle Center congregation to dispose of its building (by demolition or sale).

11. Appointed a committee of two (Gordon Keddie and Ray Lanning) to investigate a petition from a member of First RP of Durham regarding the status of Elder-elect Charles Saunders. The committee requested that they wait until this meeting of Presbytery to see what the Presbytery as a whole desired to do in this matter.

12. At the request of the Session of Second Reformed Presbyterian Church (and with counsel from the Candidates and Credentials Committee) removed Michael Weathers as a student of theology under the care of Presbytery.

James Faris, Moderator, Jon Hughes, Clerk Jim Curtis Greg Fisher John Kim

(The Minutes of the Ad Interim Commission are included in the Addendum to these Minutes.)

Report of Presbytery's Liaison for Fraternal Relations

Frank Schutz gave a verbal report.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Candidates and Credentials Committee Report

Jared Olivetti presented the Candidates and Credentials Committee Report.

The Recommendations of the Report are:

1. That student examinations be conducted by Presbytery according to the chart in I.A on page 1.

Examinee	Exam	Duration*	Examiner
STUDENTS OF THEOLOGY UNDER CARE OF PRESBYTERY			
Shawn Anderson	Personal Godliness Exam	20/10/5	David Whitla
Scott McCullough	Church History Exam	20/10/5	Jon Hughes
Adam Niess	Evidence of Progress Sermon <i>(text: 2 Chronicles 20:1-34)</i>	c.25/—/5	
	Personal Godliness Exam	20/10/5	James Faris
<p>*Duration — The first number indicates the length of time (in minutes) allotted for the examiner's questions; the second number indicates the length of time for the full Presbytery's questions; the third number indicates the length of time for Presbytery discussion of the exam prior to an "up or down" roll call vote. (E.g., 20/10/5 = 20 min. examiner q's/10 min. Presbytery q's/5 min. discussion.)</p>			

2. That Roger Adam's status be changed from "Active" to "Inactive".
3. That David Smith's status be designated as "Minister without Pastorate – "Active".
4. That Frank Smith's status be designated as "Minister without Pastorate – "Active".
5. That Jon Hughes and Michael Lefebvre (Class of 2010) be re-appointed to the Candidates and Credentials Committee for another three-year term with Michael being re-appointed as Chairman).
6. That student aid funds be continued for Shawn Anderson and Adam Niess as full-time seminary students under care of Presbytery.
7. That student aid funds be provided for Steven McCarthy once he begins full-time study at RPTS, this autumn.
8. That Presbytery renew Robert Jones's licensure to preach.

Recommendations 1-4 were approved.

Recommendation 5 was sent to the Nominating Committee.

Recommendations 6 and 7 were sent to the Finance Committee.

Recommendation 8 was approved.

Michael Lefebvre introduced Scott McCullough for his Church History exam.

The examination was conducted by Jon Hughes.

Members of Presbytery asked questions and received answers followed by comments.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the time before the break be extended to finish the examination.

Roll Call Vote

The Assistant Clerk called the Roll and the examination was sustained

Recess

Presbytery took recess at 3:45 p.m. with James Faris leading in prayer.

Presbytery arose from recess at 4:10 p.m.

Travel Agent

Jerry Porter was appointed Travel Agent for this meeting.

Congregational Reports

Bloomington Reformed Presbyterian Church congregational report was given by Ken De Jong

The Recommendations:

Recommendation 1: That the presbytery establish the work in Terre Haute as a mission station of the RPCNA.

This recommendation was approved.

Recommendation 2: That a temporary governing body consisting of Eric Cosens, Richard Holdeman, Kenneth de Jong, and two other members of presbytery from outside of the Bloomington session be established as the Terra Haute Commission.

(Referred to the Nominating Committee for appointment.)

Recommendation 3: That the presbytery dissolve the relationship between Pastor Roberts and the Bloomington congregation effective July 1, 2010.

(Referred to the Nominating Committee to appoint someone from the Presbytery to go to Bloomington to dissolve the pastoral relationship.)

Recommendation 4: That Richard Holdeman be appointed as moderator of the Bloomington session, effective May 1, 2010.

This recommendation was approved.

Recommendation 5: That new works funding of \$1000.00 in 2010 and \$2000.00 in 2011 for the Terra Haute Mission Church be approved

Referred to the Finance Committee.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Christ Church Reformed Presbyterian Church report was given by Michael Lefebvre. The report was received.

The Columbus Reformed Presbyterian Church report was given by Andrew McCracken. The report was received.

The Elkhart Reformed Presbyterian Church was given by Keith Magill. The report was received.

First Reformed Presbyterian Church of Durham was given by Pastor Ian Wise. The report was received.

First Reformed Presbyterian Church of Grand Rapids Report was given by Kent Van Timmeren. The report was received.

(The Immanuel Reformed Presbyterian Church and Hetherton Reformed Presbyterian

Church reports will be taken up later.)

Reformed Presbyterian Church of Lafayette Report was given by Jack Rhoda.

Motion: it was moved, seconded and passed that Presbytery grant the Lafayette congregation permission to call an associate pastor.

The report was received.

Motion: it was moved, seconded and passed that the time be extended for the Prayer Time and to recess the Court.

The following led in prayer:

Ian Wise prayed for Bloomington ,
Eric Baum prayed for Christ Church,
Jon Hughes prayed for Columbus,
Barry York prayed for Elkhart,
Robert McCracken prayed for First R.P. Church of Durham.
Ken De Jong prayed for the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Lafayette and for God's blessing on the meal and the Recess.

Recess

Presbytery took recess at 5:44 p.m.

Session 2, Thursday, March 4, 2010 at 7:01 p.m.

Call to Order and Reconvening

Presbytery reconvened at the call of the Moderator at 7:01 p.m. with the singing of Psalm 84B and being led in prayer by the Moderator.

Roll:

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the Assistant Clerk take the Roll visually in this and all remaining sessions of this meeting.

The Roll was taken visually by the Assistant Clerk

Minutes

The Clerk read the Minutes of the previous session and the Moderator declared the Minutes approved as read.

Appointment of Committees

The Moderator announced the appointment of Committees for this meeting of Presbytery and the Review Committees of Session Minute books. They are as follows:

Committee Appointments: (first named is to be Chairman)

NOMINATING: Ian Wise, Russ Pulliam, Barry York, David Whitla

FINANCE: Keith Magill, Eric Baum, Bob Bibby

JUDICIAL: James Faris, David Long, Andy McCracken, Jonathan Schaeffer

TIME AND PLACE: Greg Cumbee, Jack Rhoda

RESOLUTION OF THANKS: Kent Van Timmeren, Jason Camery

TRAVEL AGENT: Jerry Porter

REVIEW SESSION MINUTES:

Belle Center: Jerry Porter, Russ Pulliam

Bloomington: Michael LeFebvre, Gordon Keddie

Christ Church: Keith Magill, Ian Wise

Columbus: Greg Cumbee, Ray Lanning

Elkhart: Jack Rhoda, Rich Johnston

First Durham: Kent Van Timmeren, Bob Bibby

First Grand Rapids: Wes Archer, Phil Pockras

Immanuel: Bill Roberts, Terry Magnusson

Lafayette: Jon Hughes, Jason Camery

Orlando: Tom Reid, David Whitla

Second Ind: Schutz, Andy McCracken

Southfield: Frank Smith, Robert McCracken

Southside Ind.: Barry York, Ken De Jong

Sparta: John Hanson, James Faris

Sycamore: Russ Pulliam, David Long

Westminster: Eric Baum, Jonathan Schaeffer

Congregational Reports

The Orlando Reformed Presbyterian Church Congregational Report was given by Jonathan Schaeffer.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

The Second Indianapolis Reformed Presbyterian Church Congregational Report was given by Russ Pulliam.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

The Southside Indianapolis Reformed Presbyterian Church Congregational Reports was given by Gordon Keddie.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Candidates and Credentials Committee Report

Michael LeFebvre introduced Shawn Anderson for his examination in Personal Godliness.

The examination was conducted by David Whitla.

Members of Presbytery asked questions and received answers followed by discussion.

Roll Call Vote

The Assistant Clerk called the Roll and the examination was unanimously sustained.

Report of the Home Mission Board Representative

The Report was given by Ian Wise.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the Finance Committee look into the possibility of providing the matching aid grant for the Sparta congregation for its work in St. Louis.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Report of Presbytery's Representative on Geneva College's Board of Corporators

The Report was given by Andy McCracken,

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Prayer Time and Adjournment

Presbytery entered into a time of prayer:

- David Long prayed for the special need in Immanuel;
- Frank Schutz prayed for First Grand Rapids;
- Wes Archer prayed for Orlando;
- Robert Morrow prayed for Second Indianapolis;
- Tom Reid prayed for Southfield;
- Barry York prayed for Southside Indianapolis;
- David Whittle prayed for Geneva College and adjourned the Court.

Adjournment

Presbytery adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

Session 3, Friday, March 5, 2010 at 8:30 a.m.

Call to Order

The Moderator called Presbytery to order at 8:30 a.m.
Presbytery sang Psalm 100B.
Bob Bibby led in prayer and constituted the Court in prayer.

Candidates and Credentials Committee Report

Michael LeFebvre introduced Adam Niess for his Evidence of Progress Sermon.

Adam Niess read II Chron. 20:1-4, 12-24 and he preached God's Word from these verses.
He closed his message with prayer.
Presbytery sang Psalm 136A.

Roll:

The Roll was taken visually by the Assistant Clerk

Minutes

The Clerk read the Minutes of the previous session.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the Minutes be approved as read.

Prayer and Adjournment

James Faris led the Court in prayer for the Oakdale congregation and Gordon Keddie led

RM.

in prayer for the Orlando congregation and adjourned the Court in prayer at 9:03 p.m.

Session 4, Friday, March 30, 2007 at 8:36 a.m.

Call to Order

The Moderator David Smith called Presbytery to order at 8:36 a.m.

Presbytery sang Psalm 33A st. 1-4 and the Moderator constituted the Court in prayer.

Candidates and Credentials Committee Report

Jared Olivetti introduced Michael Weathers who will present his Expository Sermon.
Michael Weathers read I John 2:26-27 and preached God's Word on "The Spirit of Truth". He closed his message with prayer.

Roll: the Roll was taken visually by the Assistant Clerk.

Minutes

The Minutes of the Thursday evening Session were read by the Clerk and the Moderator declared the Minutes approved as read.

Candidates and Credentials Committee Report

Members of Presbytery made comments on Adam Njess's sermon.

Roll Call Vote

The Assistant Clerk called the Roll and the examination was unanimously sustained.

Atlanta Commission Report

The Report was given by Ian Wise.
The Commission submits the following recommendations to this meeting of Presbytery.

- 1) That Dr. Smith be granted five minutes to speak about the ministry in Atlanta.
- 2) That, should the Mission Church vote by a large majority on February 28th to be organized as a congregation, the Presbytery encourage the Commission to do so.
- 3) That the Presbytery continue the Atlanta Commission.

In keeping with Recommendation 1 Frank Smith addressed the Court.
Recommendations 2 and 3 were approved.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the Report as a whole be received and that the Minutes of the Commission be spread on the Minutes of Presbytery.

Reports of the Church Extension Committees

Southern Church Extension Report was given verbally by Ian Wise.
Ohio-Indiana Church Extension Report was given by David Long.
Oversight for the Co-ordinator of Church Extension, Keith Magill, is part of the work of

RM.

this Committee.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that Keith Magill report on his work as Co-ordinator of Church Extension.

In keeping with this motion Keith Magill spoke to the Court.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the remaining Church Extension Funds be kept should any need for such funds arise in the future.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that that Presbytery thank Keith Magill for his work as Co-ordinator.

Presbytery responded by a rising vote of thanks for the work Keith did in the position.

David Long led the Court in a prayer of thanksgiving for Keith and his efforts in church planting.

There was no report from the Southern Illinois and Michigan Church Extension Committees.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the chairmen of the four Church Extension Committees meet to discuss the need for continuing the position of the co-ordinator of church extension; Ian Wise is to be Chairman and Keith Magill is to be included in this discussion.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the reports be received.

Congregational Reports

The Sycamore Reformed Presbyterian Church Congregational Report was given by Jason Camery.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

The Belle Center Reformed Presbyterian Church Congregational Report was given by Phil Pockras.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Recess and Reconvening

Keith Magill led the Court in prayer for the Sycamore congregation, Steve Sturm for the Belle Center congregation, Ian Wise for the Atlanta Commission and work, and for the time of the break.

Presbytery took recess at 10:24 a.m. and reconvened at 10:45 with the singing of Psalm 72A and the Moderator leading in prayer.

Report of the Second Reformed Presbyterian Church Judicial Commission

The Report was presented by Barry York.

The recommendations are as follows:

Recommendation 1: That the Second RPC Judicial Commission remain intact until the Synod meeting of Presbytery at which time it will report.

Recommendation 2: That the Second RPC Judicial Commission's report and minutes be spread in the minutes of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery.

Recommendations 1 and 2 were approved.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received with the thanks of the Presbytery to the men of the Commission and their work.

Bill Roberts led the Court in prayer.

Congregational Reports

The Hetherton Reformed Presbyterian Church Congregational Report was given by Milt Harrington.

Hetherton Commission Report

This Report was given by Keith Magill.

The Recommendation of the Report that, "the Commission be dismissed with thanks" was approved.

Motion: it was moved, and seconded that Dave Drost be appointed as Stated Supply for the Hetherton Congregation.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that this appointment be referenced to the Nominating Committee.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the Hetherton Congregational report be received.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report of the Hetherton Commission be received and its Report and its Minutes be spread on the records of Presbytery.

The Selma Reformed Presbyterian Church Congregational Report was given by Tom Gray.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

The Immanuel Reformed Presbyterian Church Congregational Report was given by Ben Larson.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

The Oakdale Reformed Presbyterian Church Congregational Report was given by Raymond Morton.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

The Sparta Reformed Presbyterian Church Congregational Report was given by Robert Morrow.

Prayer and Recess

Greg Cumbee prayed for the Hetherton congregation;

Frank Smith for the Selma congregation;

Michael LeFebvre for the Immanuel congregation;

Dan Bartel for the Oakdale and Sparta congregations;

And, Tom Reid for Heather Morton, for the fellowship and the provided food, and for the time of recess.

Presbytery recessed at 12:33 p.m.

Session 4, Friday, March 5, 2010 at 2:00 p.m.

Call to Order and Reconvening

Presbytery reconvened at the call of the Moderator at 2:00 p.m. with the singing of Psalm 44A and being led in prayer by John Hanson.

Roll:

The Roll was taken visually by the Assistant Clerk

Minutes

The Clerk read the Minutes of the previous session.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the Minutes be approved.

Candidates and Credentials Committee Report

Michael Lefebvre introduced Adam Niess for his Personal Godliness exam.

The exam was conducted by James Faris.

Members of Presbytery asked questions and received answers follow by comments.

Roll Call Vote

The Assistant Clerk called the Roll and the examination was unanimously sustained.

The Candidates and Credentials Committee Report as a whole was taken up.

Motion: it was moved, and seconded that the status of Godfrey Franklin be changed from "inactive" to "active".

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that this motion be referred to the Candidates and Credentials Committee.

The Candidates and Credentials Committee Report as a whole was received.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Jim Bishop.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Report of the Committee to Review Paper 09-3

This report concerns a paper that came from the Session of First Reformed Presbyterian Church in Grand Rapids, requesting help to resolve some questions about homosexuality which have been stirring unrest in that congregation.

James Faris presented the report.

Presbytery took recess from 3:32 to 3:55 p.m. and then continued with this report.

The Recommendations are as follows:

Recommendation 1: That presbytery answer the first question from the FRPC Session

(Paper 09-03) in the negative—that Rev. Lanning's teachings in the submitted Sabbath School lessons, as identified in this report, are not within bounds of sound biblical, reformed teaching and the guidelines of the *Reformed Presbyterian Testimony*.

Recommendation 2: That presbytery approve these words of counsel to Rev. Lanning.

Recommendation 3: That Presbytery would charge Rev. Lanning to carefully re-examine his interpretations of the Catechism and Scriptures on this subject, and to report back to Presbytery, through this Committee, at the 2010 Synod-time meeting concerning his views.

Recommendation 4: That presbytery approve these words of counsel to the Grand Rapids Session.

Recommendation 5: That the FRPC Session would report the essence of this paper and Presbytery's actions to the congregation, to whatever extent and in whatever manner they deem most suitable for restoring peace to the congregation.

Recommendation 6: That presbytery ask synod to take up one of the most important cultural issues of the day and provide the church with a biblical testimony on the question of *homosexual orientation* and pastoral guidance for ministry to those who are being told they have a homosexual identity; and that this Committee's paper, "Contemporary Perspectives on Sexual Orientation: A Theological and Pastoral Analysis," be forwarded with this recommendation as a resource in that undertaking.

Recommendation 7: That this Committee be continued to provide counsel and support to Rev. Lanning, and the Grand Rapids Session, as needed.

Recommendations 1 through 7 were approved.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Prayer: Robert McCracken led the Court in prayer for Ray Lanning and for the First Grand Rapids Reformed Presbyterian Church,

Report of the Judicial Committee

James Faris presented the report.

Report of the 2010 Judicial Committee

Your committee received the complaints and appeals from First RPC of Durham.

Recommendation 1: That presbytery appoint a commission consisting of Gordon Keddie (moderator), Andy McCracken, Jonathan Schaefer, and Bob Bibby to adjudicate complaints and to bring counsel to the Session and congregation of First Durham RPC on how to deal with related pastoral issues.

Respectfully Submitted,

James Faris, chairman
Dave Long
Andy McCracken
Jonathan Schaefer

The recommendation of the report was approved.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report as a whole be received.

Report of the Committee to Review Southfield's Psalter Revision Paper

The report was presented by Ben Larson.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the paper be recommitted to the Committee.

Recess

Tom Gray led the Court in prayer bringing before the Lord the items of this afternoon's business, thanking God for the food soon to be eaten, and for His blessing on the time of recess.

The Court took recess at 5:32 p.m.

Session 5, Friday, March 5, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

Call to Order and Reconvening

Presbytery reconvened at the call of the Moderator at 7:00 p.m. with the singing of Psalm 78A and being led in prayer by Eric Cosens.

Roll:

The Roll was taken visually by the Assistant Clerk

Minutes

The Clerk read the Minutes of the previous session.

The Minutes were declared approved as amended.

Youth Leadership Team Report

Rich Johnston presented the Report. Several of the youth spoke to the Court: Patrick Mangan, President; Caleb McCracken, Vice President; Nicole Bright, Corresponding Secretary; Orlena Faris, Registration Director. They spoke of several of the youth activities. Overall, a need was expressed for pastors to identify youth who could serve on the Youth Leadership Team.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Covfamikoi Conference Report

The report was presented by Rich Johnston.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Presbytery Report to Synod

The Assistant Clerk read the relevant passage from the Report of the Assistant Clerk that will be presented in due course.

Congregational Reports

The Sparta Reformed Presbyterian Church Congregational Report was continued. Robert Morrow reported concerning the church planting work in St. Louis.

He presented the following recommendations:

1. that the Presbytery appoint two men to along with the Sparta Session to be a temporary governing body for the St. Louis Church Planting work.
2. that the Presbytery grant \$4000.00 (matching the Home Mission Board's exploratory grant - (ACTION – The Board approved an Exploratory Grant of \$4000 payable immediately for outreach in St. Louis under the oversight of the Sparta RPC, with an encouragement for the GLG Presbytery to join in this work financially.)
3. that the church planting work remain in the prayers of the Presbytery and its members.

Concerning Recommendation 1,

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed to recommit this recommendation back to the Sparta Session.

Recommendation 2 was referred to the Finance Committee.

In keeping with recommendation 3 Gordon Keddie led the Court in prayer at the time of adjournment.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report of the Sparta congregation as a whole be received.

The Westminster Reformed Presbyterian Church Congregational Report was presented by Robert Koch.

Recommendation 1 That Presbytery appoints Jim Ritchhart as provisional elder for Westminster for as long as he is temporarily living in the Chicago area.

The recommendation was approved.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Nominating Committee Report

The Report was presented by Ian Wise.

Presbytery approved the appointment of Robert McCracken to the Terre Haute Commission as Moderator.

The Report is as follows:

**Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery
Nominating Committee Report
March 5, 2010**

**Ad Interim
Commission**

Immanuel Session
Russ Pulliam
Jack Rhoda

Financial Officer

Treasurer – Jim Bishop
Asst. Treas. – George Shopp

**Board of Corporators of
Geneva College**

Andy McCracken ('13)

**Church Extension
Committees**

Michigan

Jon Hughes (Ch.)
Southfield Session

Visitation Committees

Southside Indianapolis

Phil Pockras (Ch.)
James Faris
Butch Shoop

**Moderators of Vacant
Congregations**

Hetherton – Milton Harrington
Westminster – Keith Magill
Orlando – Jim Pennington

Southern Illinois

Ray Morton (Ch.)
Bob Morrow

Elkhart

Bob McCracken (Ch.)
David Carr
Jack Rhoda

Provisional Elders

Hetherton – Ed Roby
Westminster – Dave Long

Southern

Ian Wise (Ch.)
Greg Cumbee
Tom Reid

**Home Mission Board
Rep.**

Ian Wise ('12)

**Hetherton Stated
Supply**

Lic. Dan Drost

Ohio-Indiana

Dave Long (Ch.)
Andy McCracken
Barry York
Phil Pockras

**COVFAMIKOI
Conference**

Director: Jeff Kessler
Manager: Shane Shoop

Atlanta Commission

Ian Wise (Ch.)
Tom Reid
Steve Sturm
Jared Olivetti
Frank Smith
Barry York

**Candidates &
Credentials Committee**

Class of '11

Roy Blackwood
Jared Olivetti

Interchurch Liaison

Frank Schutz

Joint Church Extension
Cmtc

Ian Wise (Ch.)
Jon Hughes
Dave Long
Keith Magill
Ray Morton

Class of '12

Dean Filson
Rich Holdeman

Youth Coordinators

Rich Johnston

**Prayer of Dissolution at
Bloomington**

Andy McCracken

Andy McCracken

John Hanson

Class of '13

Jon Hughes
Michael Lefebvre (Ch.)

**Representative to the
Youth Ministries**

Committee of Synod
Ben Larson

Recommendation: That Hetherton, Orlando and Westminster RPCs be granted the privileges of filling the pulpit, the administration of the sacraments, and the making out of calls.

Respectfully submitted:

Ian Wise (Ch.), Russ Pulliam,
David Whitla, Barry York

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Time and Place Committee Report

The Report was given by Greg Cumbee.

The recommendation that Presbytery meet at the Southside Reformed Presbyterian Church on March 3-5 was approved.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Assistant Clerk's Report

The Assistant Clerk, Gordon Keddie, read the report.

**REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT CLERK
to the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery of the RPCNA
meeting in Bloomington, IN, March 4-6, 2010**

1. Session Minute Books were assigned to committees and nothing found contrary to the law and order of the church. Minor irregularities have been noted for Sessions to correct as and when they can.
2. The following Sessions did not present their Minute Books for review at the meeting. These are instructed to present their books to the Synod meeting of Presbytery. They are as follows:
Oakdale
Selma
Sparta
3. Congregational statistical returns for 2009 are now due and should be mailed to me (at Southside church) as soon as possible.
4. Any information you particularly desire to see incorporated in the Presbytery Report to Synod may be sent to me by mail or e-mail. A draft of the Report will be circulated before the end of March. The final Report will be transmitted to the Ad Interim Commission for approval and subsequent submission to the Clerk of Synod by the end of April.

Respectfully submitted,

Gordon J. Keddie (Assistant Clerk)
March 6, 2010

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Resolution of Thanks

The Report was read by Kent Van Timmeren.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the time be extended to finish the business of this meeting.

Finance Committee Report.

Keith Magill presented the Report.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the budget be approved.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Minutes

The Clerk read the Minutes of the session.

The Moderator declared the Minutes approved as amended.

Adjournment

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that Presbytery adjourn.

Jerry Porter led in prayer for the Westminster congregation, Gordon Keddie for the outreach work in St. Louis, and then adjourned the Court in prayer.

Presbytery sang Psalm 133A

Presbytery adjourned at 9:19 p.m.

Raymond E. Mouton, Clerk

**Great Lakes – Gulf Presbytery
Report of the *Ad Interim* Commission to Presbytery**

March 4-6, 2010

The *Ad Interim* Commission of the Great Lakes – Gulf Presbytery would respectfully report that we have taken the following actions since appointed last spring:

1. Granted permission to the Sycamore RP church to call an Associate Pastor.
2. Granted permission to Immanuel RP Church to purchase a church building.
3. Appointed Pastor James Faris as interim moderator of the First RP Church Session during Pastor Ray Lanning's leave of absence.
4. Approved a request from the Candidates and Credentials Committee, that Presbytery recommend David Smith (Pastor at Orlando RP Church) to participate in Synod's Graduate Study Fund (for his graduate work at Reformed Theological Seminary, Orlando), to the Graduate Study Fund Committee.
5. Approved the Candidates and Credential Committee's recommended slate of exams for Dr. Frank Smith.
6. Approved the Assistant Clerk's report to Synod.
7. Sustained a call from Sycamore RP Church on Jason Camery to be Associate Pastor as a regular gospel call.
8. Set the date, time and schedule for the meeting of Presbytery for the ordination and installation of Jason Camery as Associate Pastor of the Sycamore Reformed Presbyterian Church.
9. Dissolved the relationship between David Smith as pastor and the Orlando congregation and declared the pulpit vacant. Appointed Jim Pennington as interim moderator of the Orlando Session and granted privileges of the Sacraments and permission to call a pastor to the congregation.
10. At their request, granted permission to the Belle Center congregation to dispose of its building (by demolition or sale).
11. Appointed a committee of two (Gordon Keddie and Ray Lanning) to investigate a petition from a member of First RP of Durham regarding the status of Elder-elect Charles Saunders. The committee requested that they wait until this meeting of Presbytery to see what the Presbytery as a whole desired to do in this matter.
12. At the request of the Session of Second Reformed Presbyterian Church (and with counsel from the Candidates and Credentials Committee) removed Michael Weathers as a student of theology under the care of Presbytery.

James Faris, Moderator
Jon Hughes, Clerk
Jim Curtis
Greg Fisher
John Kim

**Great Lakes – Gulf Presbytery
Minutes of the Ad Interim Commission
Minutes for 2009 - 2010**

**Great Lakes – Gulf Presbytery
Minutes of the Ad Interim Commission**

April 24, 2009

1. The *Ad Interim* Commission of the Great Lakes – Gulf Presbytery met on Friday, April 24, 2009 at 8:15 p.m. at the home of Pastor James Faris and by phone.
2. The Moderator, James Faris, constituted the court in prayer.
3. Elders present were James Faris, Jon Hughes, Jim Curtis and John Kim (all from Southfield RP Church, Southfield, MI) and Greg Fisher (from Sycamore RP Church, Kokomo, IN).
4. It was moved, seconded and passed that Jon Hughes be appointed Clerk.
5. A request from the Sycamore RP Church (Kokomo, IN) for permission to call an Associate Pastor was taken up. It was moved, seconded and passed that the Sycamore RP church be granted permission to call an Associate Pastor.
6. A request from Immanuel RP Church (West Lafayette, IN) to be granted permission to purchase a church building (along with accompanying financial information) was taken up. It was moved seconded and passed that Immanuel RP Church be granted permission to purchase a church building.
7. The Session of First RP Church of Grand Rapids desires to give Pastor Ray Lanning a 4 month sabbatical (during which he will finish a book he has been working on and will visit other RP congregations). They requested an interim moderator be appointed by Presbytery. Pastor Faris attended their previous Session meeting. It was moved seconded and passed that James Faris be appointed interim moderator of the First RP Church Session during this time.
8. The Candidates and Credentials Committee has presented a request that Presbytery recommend David Smith (Pastor at Orlando RP Church) to participate in Synod's Graduate Study Fund (for his graduate work at Reformed Theological Seminary, Orlando) and that this recommendation be forward to the Graduate Study Fund Committee at their next meeting. It was moved seconded and passed to approve this request.
9. Regarding Dr. Frank Smith's desire to have his credentials recognized by this Presbytery, the Candidates and Credentials Committee has asked for approval of the following recommendation so that Dr. Smith can prepare for the items in the recommendation for the Synod meeting of Presbytery:
10. **This Committee recommends that the following slate of exams be adopted for Frank Smith's examination toward the reception of his credentials as a minister of the Gospel within the RPCNA: (1) Completion of the written, "introduction report" attached to this report; (2) A sermon for presbytery on an assigned text; (3) An extended (45-min.)**

oral exam on theology and distinctive principles; (4) An oral personal godliness exam; (5) An oral exam in pastoral and evangelistic gifts; and, (6) A final, roll-call vote on the reception of Frank's credentials as a minister of the Gospel in the RPCNA.

11. It was suggested that additional time on the floor of Presbytery for discussion of this whole matter could have been included in the recommendation. It was moved seconded and passed to approve the recommended slate of exams for Dr. Smith.
12. The date of the next meeting was set for May 29, 2009.
13. The minutes were read and approved as corrected.
14. It was moved seconded and passed to adjourn.
15. The Moderator adjourned the court in prayer at 8:50 p.m.

James Faris, Moderator

Jon Hughes, Clerk

**Great Lakes – Gulf Presbytery
Minutes of the Ad Interim Commission**

May 29, 2009

1. The *Ad Interim* Commission of the Great Lakes – Gulf Presbytery met on Friday, May 29, 2009 at 8:25 p.m. at the home of Pastor James Faris and by phone.
2. The Moderator, James Faris, constituted the court in prayer.
3. Elders present were James Faris, Jon Hughes, Jim Curtis and John Kim (all from Southfield RP Church, Southfield, MI) and Greg Fisher (from Sycamore RP Church, Kokomo, IN).
4. The Assistant Clerk has sent out for review his report to Synod. It was moved second and passed that we approve the Assistant Clerk's report to Synod as amended.
5. A call was received from Sycamore RP Church on Jason Camery to be Associate Pastor. Having reviewed the terms of the call it was moved seconded and passed that the call be sustained as a regular gospel call. The call will be available at the next meeting of Presbytery (during Synod, June 22-26) when Jason is scheduled to be examined.
6. The clerk will prepare a summary report of our actions for presentation to Presbytery.
7. The minutes were read and approved.
8. It was moved seconded and passed to adjourn.
9. Jon Hughes adjourned the court in prayer at 8:35 p.m.

James Faris, Moderator

Jon Hughes, Clerk

**Great Lakes – Gulf Presbytery
Minutes of the *Ad Interim* Commission**

October 7, 2009

1. The *Ad Interim* Commission of the Great Lakes – Gulf Presbytery met on Wednesday, October 7, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. at the Southfield Reformed Presbyterian Church, Southfield, MI.
2. Elders present were James Faris, Jon Hughes, Jim Curtis and John Kim (all from Southfield RP Church, Southfield, MI). Greg Fisher of Sycamore RP Church was absent but consented verbally to the proposed motions.
3. The Moderator, James Faris, constituted the court in prayer.
4. It was moved seconded and passed that the Presbytery be assembled in Kokomo, IN at the Sycamore Reformed Presbyterian Church building on Friday November 6, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. for the ordination and installation of Jason Camery as Associate Pastor of the Sycamore Reformed Presbyterian Church and that we appoint the following men to speak in the service:

Narration of Steps: Bob McKissick
Final Reading of Edict: Tom Dinkledine
Ordination Queries: Greg Fisher
Sermon: Barry York
Ordination Prayer: Michael LeFebvre
Charge to Jason: Gordon Keddie
Charge to Sycamore: Ian Wise
5. Regarding Orlando RP Church and the resignation of David Smith as pastor:
6. It was moved seconded and passed that the relationship between David Smith as pastor and the Orlando congregation be dissolved and the pulpit be declared vacant.
7. It was moved seconded and passed that Jim Pennington be appointed as interim moderator of the Orlando Session.
8. It was moved seconded and passed that we grant privileges of the Sacraments and permission to call a pastor to the Orlando RP Church.
9. The minutes were read and approved.
10. It was moved seconded and passed to adjourn.
11. Jim Curtis adjourned the court in prayer at 5:50 p.m.

James Faris, Moderator

Jon Hughes, Clerk

**Great Lakes – Gulf Presbytery
Minutes of the *Ad Interim* Commission**

January 3, 2010

1. The *Ad Interim* Commission of the Great Lakes – Gulf Presbytery met on the Lord's Day, January 3, 2010 at 1:55 p.m. at the Southfield Reformed Presbyterian Church, Southfield, MI.
2. Elders present were James Faris, Jon Hughes, Jim Curtis and John Kim (all from Southfield RP Church, Southfield, MI). Greg Fisher of Sycamore RP Church was absent.
3. Elder John Kim, constituted the court in prayer.
4. It was moved seconded and passed that, at their request, the Belle Center congregation be granted permission to dispose of its building (by demolition or sale). Greg Fisher consented to the proposed motion in an email sent to the Clerk Saturday, January 2, 2010 at 9:56 p.m.
5. A petition from a member of First RP of Durham was received regarding the status of Elder-elect Charles Saunders. It was moved seconded and passed that we appoint a committee of two (Gordon Keddie and Ray Lanning) to investigate the matter and report back to us as soon as possible.
6. The minutes were read and approved.
7. It was moved seconded and passed to adjourn.
8. Jim Curtis adjourned the court in prayer at 2:20 p.m.

James Faris, Moderator

Jon Hughes, Clerk

**Great Lakes – Gulf Presbytery
Minutes of the Ad Interim Commission**

January 28, 2010

1. The *Ad Interim* Commission of the Great Lakes – Gulf Presbytery met on the Thursday, January 28, 2010 at 10:40 p.m. at the home of Pastor James Faris.
2. Elders present were James Faris, Jon Hughes, Jim Curtis and John Kim (all from Southfield RP Church). Greg Fisher of Sycamore RP Church was absent.
3. James Faris, constituted the court in prayer.
4. It was moved seconded and passed that, at the request of the Session of Second Reformed Presbyterian Church (and at the counsel of the Candidates and Credentials Committee), Michael Weathers be removed as a student of theology under the care of Presbytery. Greg Fisher recorded his approval by email.
5. The minutes were read and approved as corrected.
6. It was moved seconded and passed to adjourn.
7. James Faris adjourned the court in prayer at 10:48 p.m.

James Faris, Moderator

Jon Hughes, Clerk

GREAT LAKES - GULF PRESBYTERY

Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America

Minutes of the Hetherton Commission - Page 1 of 3

February 27, 2009 – Meeting #1

Second RPC - Indianapolis, IN

Members Present: Keith Magill, Moderator, Jon Hughes, Clerk, James Curtis, Ray Lanning
Guests Present: Milton Harrington

1. Prayer and Constitution of the Court

Keith Magill led in prayer and constituted the Commission at 1:50 PM.

2. Report from Milton Harrington

- (1) Milt brought us up to date on the situation in Hetherton. He expressed his great commitment to passing on the church, which he received from his forefathers, to the next generation. In particular, he expressed a great commitment to the preservation and improvement of the church property so that it would be ready for future ministry.
- (2) The congregation has been able to raise substantial funds for maintaining and improving the church building and parsonage.
- (3) We also discussed with Milt his responsibilities to his extended family and how fulfilling them is being impacted by his continuing ministry in Hetherton. The Commission urged him to put his family responsibilities ahead of the ministry in Hetherton.

3. Identifying potential candidates for pastor

- (1) The commission and Pastor Harrington then reviewed the list of potential candidates for pastor. There are no obvious candidates that surfaced.
- (2) Pastor Harrington reminded us that any pastor coming to Hetherton must see himself as a missionary because that is what is needed for the Hetherton work.
- (3) It was decided that Keith will contact John Monger and Jim McMahon to see if they have an interest in pursuing a call or some other arrangement to minister in Hetherton.
- (4) It was decided that Pastor Harrington would write another article for the RP witness.

4. Outreach

Ray Lanning volunteered to take responsibility for developing an Internet presence for the Hetherton congregation. He will do this through some of the young men in the Grand Rapids congregation.

5. Adjournment

- (1) There was a season of prayer.
- (2) Jim Curtis adjourned the Commission at 2:10 PM.

Keith R. Magill, Moderator

Jon Hughes, Clerk

GREAT LAKES - GULF PRESBYTERY

Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America

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November 6, 2009 – Meeting #2

Immanuel RPC – W. Lafayette, IN

Members Present: Keith Magill, Moderator, Jon Hughes, Clerk, Ray Lanning. Jon Hughes joined by telephone.

1. Prayer and Constitution of the Court

Keith Magill led in prayer and constituted the Commission at about 1:30 PM.

2. Report to Presbytery

Keith had circulated a draft report to the Commission members within the last few days.

Motion carried to approve the report to be submitted to this Fall 2009 meeting of Presbytery.

3. Adjournment

Keith Magill adjourned the Commission at 1:45 PM.

Keith R. Magill, Moderator

Jon Hughes, Clerk

March 5, 2010 – Meeting #3

Bloomington RPC – Bloomington, IN

Members Present: Keith Magill, Moderator, Jon Hughes, Clerk, Ray Lanning.

1. Prayer and Constitution of the Court

Keith Magill led in prayer and constituted the Commission at 10:30 AM.

2. Report to Presbytery

Keith had circulated a draft report to the Commission members within the last few days. The report notes that Hetherton has hired a seminary graduate as pulpit supply without consulting this Commission. Because Hetherton seems to be in a position to move forward on its own at this point and because of the particular challenges to this Commission being of much support to the congregation, we will recommend to Presbytery that the Commission be dismissed.

Motion carried to approve the report to be submitted to this Spring 2010 meeting of Presbytery.

GREAT LAKES - GULF PRESBYTERY

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3. Minutes

Motion carried to approve the minutes of February 27, 2009, November 6, 2009 and March 5, 2010.

4. Adjournment

Jon Hughes adjourned the Commission at 10:40 AM.

Keith R. Magill, Moderator

Jon Hughes, Clerk



GREAT LAKES - GULF PRESBYTERY
Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America

Hetherton Commission

Report to Presbytery

March 4-6, 2010 -- at Bloomington, Indiana

Dear Fathers and Brothers,

The Hetherton Commission was appointed at the Spring 2008 Presbytery meeting and charged with overseeing the work in Hetherton.

At the Fall 2009 Presbytery meeting the following recommendations were approved by the Presbytery.

- Recommendation 1** -- "That Presbytery allow 15 minutes for discussion of this report and for giving suggestions to the Commission." -- was approved.
- Recommendation 2** -- "That the Presbytery endorse the Hetherton Commission reducing the Hetherton congregation to a Preaching Station." -- was approved..
- Recommendation 3** -- "With gratitude for Mr. Harrington's many years of service and in light of the fact that God has not yet provided a church planter, that Presbytery take up the question of closing Hetherton at the Spring 2010 meeting." -- was approved.

The Hetherton Commission was not able to act quickly after the Fall meeting to follow through with Recommendation 2. A few weeks after the Fall meeting we heard a rumor that Hetherton was bringing a recent graduate of RPTS and his family to minister there. We also understood that it was one of the young men that we had already interviewed twice and had contacted the seminary twice about his suitability for Hetherton.

To date, the Hetherton session has not communicated with us about their action to bring this man to Hetherton.

It must be admitted that the Commission, and particularly its moderator, has not been sufficiently aggressive in communicating with the Hetherton session over the past 2 years. But, as you can see from our report to the Fall meeting, we had been involved in searching for a potential minister for them.

Now that Hetherton has found someone to minister there, without the involvement of the Commission, and has found a way to finance this commitment on their own, we no longer see a need for the Commission at this time, unless the Hetherton Session requested it. We trust that the Lord will prosper their ministry.

We saw in the Hetherton congregation's report to this meeting that they called a "stated supply". We would note that a stated supply is appointed by presbytery not called by a congregation. It might be more appropriate to consider Mr. Drost as a "pastoral intern" or "pulpit supply." (See Directory for Church Government Chapter 4 Paragraph 3). Presbytery could act to appoint Licentiate Drost as stated supply if it so desired.

Given these factors, it seems to us that the following recommendation is in order.

Recommendation:

1. That the Hetherton Commission be dismissed.

Respectfully submitted,
Keith Magill, Moderator, Ray Lanning, James Curtis, Jon Hughes.

Second Reformed Presbyterian Church Judicial Commission

**Report to the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery
Bloomington, Indiana
March 4-6, 2010**

On December 20, 2009, the Second RPC Judicial Commission sent members Ed Schisler and Barry York to deliver the following public statement (italicized) to the congregation following its evening service. As it aptly summarizes our work through December of last year and was carefully worded in cooperation with the Second RPC Session for public reading, we reprint it here in its entirety as a significant portion of our report back to Presbytery.

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**Second RPC Commission  
Initial Public Statement  
December 20, 2009**

*On November 6, 2009, at the fall meeting of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery in Lafayette, Indiana, a letter of appeal from Debby Long was received against the disciplines of both admonition and rebuke by the Session of the Second Reformed Presbyterian Church of Indianapolis (Second RPC) given on November 30, 2008, and July 12, 2009, respectively. These disciplines were enacted following the revelation of sexual sin by her husband and former elder of the congregation, Jim Long.*

*The Presbytery appointed a special judicial commission consisting of Bob Bibby, Dave Long, Rachel Roberts (consultative member), Ed Schisler and Barry York. This commission was given a two-fold assignment:*

- To rule on Mrs. Long's appeal of the disciplinary actions by the Session of Second RPC.*
- To come alongside the local Session in their efforts to address the pastoral and theological issues involving the Longs.*

*The Judicial Commission organized and reviewed the materials submitted to it; communicated further with, and collected additional testimony from, the parties involved; and through two meetings on November 16 and 28 outlined the process for handling the appeal, defined the crucial matters to be addressed and called for a hearing on December 16, 2009. Present at the hearing were the Second RPC Session, Debby Long, her brother Paul Harrington, Michael LeFebvre and Jim Long.*

*The commission commends each of the parties for their cooperation and willing participation through this process. Though it has been and continues to be exceedingly difficult and painful, we have witnessed the Spirit of God at work even as we acknowledge much work yet remains to be done. Because of the great love*

and concern throughout the church for Jim and Debby Long and their children, the tremendous heartache this situation has caused for many, the complexity of issues that have arisen, and the exhortation the presbytery gave at the time of the establishing of this commission to "refrain from gossip and needless speculation," the commission believes that this initial public statement about the hearing needed to be communicated.

The decisions of the commission, focused on two major issues, were unanimous and whole-hearted. They are, to the best of our limited, human abilities, what we believe, as we stand as representatives of the presbytery before the Lord of the church, to be what the revealed Scriptures, the standards of the church, and the light of nature and providence would direct us to decide.

The two decisions were as follows:

First, we sustained Debby's appeal, thus agreeing with her that the Second RPC Session's disciplines against her were unwarranted. This case is complex, and having rendered this decision just days ago with no opportunity for follow-up discussion to take place because of time constraints, we are still in the process of coming alongside the session and helping them to see why we arrived at this conclusion. The commission has the highest degree of respect for the elders the Lord has set over the Second RPC congregation, and we would urge that unnecessary speculation as to why we arrived at this conclusion be set aside while the session has had time to discuss and process this information. The elders of Second RPC have stated they want to come to embrace our decision and accept this correction if they can be helped further to see its merits. We have also reminded them they have the right to have our decision reviewed by the full presbytery if they think we are in error. Please pray for all of us, be patient with all of us, and seek the peace of the church as you do.

The commission believes the Lord is calling this congregation, one who has abounded in love through the years, to abound even more in it in ways you have perhaps never experienced before. On Debby's behalf, we would also urge an even greater compassion for her especially. As you will now hear, Debby has borne more pain than perhaps many of you realize.

Our second decision was to rule that Debby Long has grounds for a Biblical divorce. From Jim Long's own testimony, his transgressions are of a far more serious nature than you may realize. We will make one statement to that effect at this time. The extent of Jim's sexual sins and involvement with pornography over many years was adulterous in nature. Consequently, these actions of sexual immorality have demonstrated the hardness of heart the Lord cites as the reason divorce is permissible. At the hearing, Jim himself stated that he believes the long-term nature of his sin gives his wife grounds for a just divorce. We sadly concurred. The commission would also urge you to continue to love Jim, as he again expressed his great shame for what he has done and continues to submit himself to the elders and their counsel.

In rendering this decision, we also stated that though permissible, divorce is not mandatory. We have encouraged Debby to remember again all of her history with her husband and his work at reconciliation, and to seek counsel from many including this commission before taking future steps. Please at this time seek to simply love her and Jim, and please continue to pray for the Long Family.

If because of your closeness to those involved in this case you need additional help in handling the struggles of it, please speak to your elders and feel free to contact us.

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Further Notes Regarding Our Work

One further note to Presbytery we would add regarding our pre-hearing work is that, nine days before the hearing (December 7, 2009), three members of the commission went to Indianapolis to prepare each of the parties for the hearing. We met for approximately an hour each with the Second RPC Session, Deb Long and her brother Paul Harrington, and Jim Long, respectively. We gave each of them a manual containing a four-page description of how the hearing would be conducted that also contained tabbed documents of the official records and minutes as prescribed in the *RPCNA Book of Discipline*, and answered the questions that they raised.

At the hearing itself, we dismissed everyone and deliberated privately for an additional 75 minutes to draw final conclusions and document the justification for our actions. We then called everyone back in and gave them our decisions and rationale. Two days later we provided to those who had been present at the hearing a seven-page document that sought to explain more fully why we had reached our conclusions.

Since the hearing the commission has met twice with the Second RPC Session for follow-up counsel, first on January 9, 2010, and then February 18, 2010, to answer questions about our decisions and to counsel them in the handling of the Long Family. The members of the Second RPC Session have honestly admitted the natural struggle any church court would have in having its decisions overturned, yet we are seeing progress as they work toward submitting to our conclusions.

In addition to our meetings with the session, different commission members have met privately with Jim Long, Debby Long, the Long children, and Pastor Rich Johnston and his wife. Also, numerous e-mails and phone correspondence have taken place as well with them and other members of the session and congregation.

As Presbytery may be aware, Pastor Johnston began a three-month sabbatical at the end of December right after the hearing and meeting with the congregation. Obviously this has made it more difficult for everyone involved. We are thankful that in the past few weeks Pastor Johnston has made himself available to us and attended the February 18th meeting.

In Pastor Johnston's absence, Pastor John Tweed has been serving as interim moderator. The Second RPC Judicial Commission wants to publicly express its tremendous gratitude for the work of Pastor Tweed. He has cooperated fully with the commission and has given extraordinary amounts of time in visiting and counseling with members of the Long Family. He is being used of the Lord to help the Second RPC Session. We praise God for the wisdom combined with pastoral love and care that John has exhibited through this time.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Obviously this situation is exceedingly difficult and extremely sensitive in nature. We, with the encouragement of the Second RPC Session and the request of Pastor Tweed, believe that the commission should continue until at least the summer to be available for counsel regarding various issues related to this case. This then is the reason for our first recommendation:

Recommendation 1: That the Second RPC Judicial Commission remain intact until the Synod meeting of Presbytery at which time it will report.

Because this case involves a well-known elder of the church and this report contains the approved public statement, we believe it would be wise to spread it along with the commission's minutes in the minutes of Presbytery in case there is a need for future reference.

Recommendation 2: That the Second RPC Judicial Commission's report and minutes be spread in the minutes of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert Bibby
David Long, Clerk
Ed Schisler
Barry York, Moderator

Second RP Church Judicial Commission Minutes

November 16, 2009

Present: Barry York, Moderator; Bob Bibby, Dave Long and Ed Schisler. Rachel Roberts as a consultative member of the Court. The meeting was conducted via phone conference.

Barry York read I Kings 3:16-28, led in prayer and constituted the Court.

Dave Long was appointed clerk of the Commission.

The Commission reviewed the information that has been made available and discussed how to proceed with the work assigned by the Presbytery.

Motion carried to proceed with considering the appeal of Debby Long as having sufficient reasons to be considered by the higher court. (BOD Sect. I, ch 5; pg E7)

Motion carried to request the Second RP Session and Debby Long to send us any further documentation that has been used in determinations of this case so far. For example . . . the minutes of Session on September 20, 2008 refer to a written confession by Jim Long as well as his letter of resignation from the Session. We would like these documents and anything else of a similar nature. We would like these documents by November 24th.

Following the review of the requested materials, the Commission will meet in Indianapolis. On that date, the Commission will meet with each of the parties to set the guidelines for a hearing which will immediately follow. We will then meet with the affected parties as a whole group for the hearing.

The next Commission meeting was set for Saturday, November 28th at 2:00 p.m.

Motion carried to adjourn. The Court was adjourned in prayer by Bob Bibby.

Barry York, Moderator

David Long, Clerk

Second RP Church Judicial Commission Minutes

November 28, 2009

Present: Barry York, Moderator; Bob Bibby, Dave Long and Ed Schisler. Rachel Roberts as a consultative member of the Court. The meeting was conducted via phone conference.

Barry York read James 3:13-18. Ed Schisler led in prayer and constituted the Court.

Motion carried to approve the minutes of November 16, 2009 as amended.

The Commission identified three focal points that impact our task as assigned by Presbytery.

1. Does Debby have grounds for her appeal and complaint against the Session?
 - a. Were there severe restrictions against Debby?
 - b. Was the Session prejudice against Debby?
 - c. Were her two disciplines just?
2. Are there grounds for a biblical divorce?
3. Has there been a proper flow of information to all the members of the Session to allow them to make fully informed decisions in this case?

The Commission discussed each of these areas in preparation for the upcoming hearing.

Motion carried to have Barry summarize the facts of the case as they have been presented to us by all the parties. These will be distributed in person by members of the Commission to all of the parties involved before the hearing. This document will provide the outline for the hearing.

Motion carried to set the hearing for Wednesday, December 16 at 7:00 p.m.

Motion carried to adjourn. The Court was adjourned in prayer by Dave Long.

Barry York, Moderator

David Long, Clerk

Second RP Church Judicial Commission Minutes

Judicial Hearing

December 16, 2009

Second RPC Building

Indianapolis, Indiana

Present:

Judicial Commission Members;

Barry York, Moderator

David Long, Clerk

Bob Bibby,

Ed Schisler.

Rachel Roberts, consultative member of the Court.

Appellant & Counsel

Debby Long

Paul Harrington; Debby's brother

Michael LeFebvre

Second RP Session

Rich Johnston, Pastor

Donald Cassell

Dean Filson

Terry Magnuson

Russ Pulliam

Ram Rao

Witness

Jim Long

Barry York read from God's Word imploring all to have a gentle spirit (II Timothy 2:24-26), a listening ear (Proverbs 18:12-19) and a loving and righteous heart (Psalm 36:5-10).

Ed Schisler constituted the court in prayer.

Dave Long read the appealed sentence.

Motion carried to waive the reading of the appellant's letter to Presbytery, the records and papers received by the Commission, and the Session's letter of response to the Presbytery. (These were presented to all the parties involved 10 days before the hearing.)

Appellant Debby Long read her opening statement dealing with focal points 1 and 2.

The Session then responded to Debby's statement.

The Session requested that Jim be given an opportunity to speak.
Jim made a brief statement.

The Commission asked various questions of the Session and Debby. A number of issues and points of contention were addressed back and forth.

Following a short break, the Commission dismissed the parties and took up deliberation of the points of the appeal.

After discussion and review of the testimony of the hearing, the Commission voted on the points of the appeal as follows:

Focal Point 1

Does Debby have grounds for her appeal and complaint against the Session?

- Vote 4-0 to sustain her appeal.
 - a. Were there severe restrictions against Debby?

- Vote 4-0 to sustain her appeal.
- b. Was the Session prejudiced against Debby?
 - Vote 4-0 to sustain her appeal.
- c. Were her two disciplines unjust?
 - Vote 4-0 to sustain her appeal.

Focal Point 2

Has there been a proper flow of information to all the members of the Session to allow them to make fully informed decisions in this case?

- The Commission ruled that there was not a sufficient flow of information for the Session to deal fully and justly with the case.

Focal Point 3

Are there grounds for a biblical divorce?

- By a vote of 4-0 the Commission ruled there are biblical grounds for divorce.

The Commission invited the parties to return. The judgments of the Commission were communicated.

Motion carried to adjourn. The Court was adjourned in prayer by Bob Bibby.

Barry York, Moderator

David Long, Clerk

Second RP Church Judicial Commission Minutes

December 21, 2009

Present: Barry York, Moderator; Bob Bibby, Dave Long and Ed Schisler. Rachel Roberts was also present as a consultative member of the Court. The meeting was conducted via phone conference.

Barry began the meeting by reading Hebrews 5:1-3 reminding us of the compassion and gentleness of Jesus our high priest and encouraging us to deal with God's people in a like manner. Dave Long led in prayer and constituted the Court.

Ed and Barry reported on their meeting with the Long children yesterday afternoon followed by their meeting with the Second RP congregation last evening.

The Commission asked Barry to call John Tweed who will be filling in for Pastor Johnston while he is on Sabbatical. Barry will invite John to attend the upcoming meeting between the Commission and the Session and communicate to him the work of the Commission.

A tentative meeting date for the Commission to meet with the Session was set for January 9th. The Commission will begin to put together a list thing to discuss with the Session at that meeting.

The Commission asked Dave Long to represent the Commission in offering future counsel to Debby Long along with Michael LeFebvre who is the pastor of the church Debby is attending.

Barry York and Dave Long will make arrangements to meet with Jim Long to give him counsel.

Motion carried to approve the minutes of November 28, 2009, December 16, 2009, and tonight's meeting, December 21, 2009.

Motion carried to adjourn. The Court was adjourned in prayer by Bob Bibby.

Barry York, Moderator

David Long, Clerk

Second RP Church Judicial Commission Minutes

February 18, 2010

Present: Commission members, Barry York, Moderator; Bob Bibby, Dave Long and Ed Schisler.

Second RP Session Members: Dean Filson, Russ Pulliam, Donald Cassell, Ram Rao, Terry Magnuson and Rich Johnston. Also John Tweed who is serving at 2nd RP during Pastor Johnston's sabbatical.

[Note: The Commission had an informal meeting with the 2nd RP Session on January 9th, 2010 to discuss the session's initial response to the Judicial Commission's rulings from December. Pastor Johnston was not at that meeting due to his sabbatical. There are no minutes from that meeting.]

Barry began the meeting by reading from Colossians 3:12-15 and directed our thoughts toward the compassion of Christ which we are to put on because we have been chosen of God. Barry led in prayer and constituted the court.

Barry asked the session for any updates they wanted to share since our last meeting. They reported on various communications, conversations and confessions they have had and made to Debby.

The Session is working on writing an official apology to Debby.

The Session gave an update on their ministry and work with Jim Long. The Commission gave counsel to the Session on how they can give further accountability to Jim. We also responded to their question about whether they should depose Jim from the office of ruling elder.

The Session will discuss among themselves whether or not they think they will be able to counsel Debby through the divorce (in the likely event that she pursues one.) If they feel they cannot offer her that help because they disagree with her decision to divorce, then they will inform us so that we can try and find her counsel from another source.

The Commission asked the Session if they would like the Commission to continue working with them following the Great Lakes/Gulf Presbytery meeting next month. The Session met

for a few minutes alone and reported that they would request us to keep working with them in the months to come.

The minutes from tonight's meeting were read and approved.

Motion carried to adjourn. The Court was adjourned in prayer by Ed Schisler.

Barry York, Moderator

David Long, Clerk

GLGP Committee to Respond to Paper 09-03

February 23, 2010

Dear Fathers and Brothers,

This Committee was appointed at the Autumn 2009 GLG Presbytery meeting to consider Paper 09-03. That paper came from the Session of First Reformed Presbyterian Church in Grand Rapids, requesting help to resolve some questions about homosexuality which have been stirring unrest in that congregation.

History

Questions emerged in the context of a Sabbath School series through the *Westminster Larger Catechism* taught by Rev. Lanning. On the Sunday dealing with *WLC* 137-139 (being passages on the Seventh Commandment), Rev. Lanning made statements about homosexuality which aroused interest among class participants. In response to the questions raised, Rev. Lanning set aside two additional Sabbaths to address the topic. Unfortunately, these further sessions raised concerns. These classes took place over two years ago—on October 14, 21, and 28, 2007; yet, the concerns have continued and have been a point of discouragement for Rev. Lanning, also, who never intended to rouse controversy.

Despite efforts by the Session to bring resolution to the issue, in the words of the Session's paper to presbytery last October, "since that time this issue has continued to be troublesome within the FRPC membership and Session. So that peace might be restored and troubled consciences calmed we are asking that Presbytery review the Sabbath school lesson material presented by Rev. Lanning on October 14, 21, and 28 [2007]¹ and advise this Session in two main points: "1. Does the lesson material fall within the bounds of sound biblical, reformed teaching and the guidelines of the Reformed Presbyterian Testimony? "2. In light of Presbytery's assessment of question 1, please advise what action, if any, Session should pursue."

Approach of this Committee

After examining the relevant materials, it quickly became evident to your Committee that the scope of the material touched on by Rev. Lanning's lessons was extremely vast and complex. His lessons present carefully nuanced interpretations of at least ten Scripture texts, three Catechism questions, five Greek or Hebrew terms, they introduce modern scientific claims, and call for a

¹ See the copies of these Sabbath School lesson notes, along with initial follow-up statements from the Session and from Rev. Lanning, attached at the end of this paper.

“re-examin[ation of] the exegesis and conclusions the Reformed churches inherited from medieval Roman Catholicism regarding homosexuality” (notes for 10/28/07). It would seem (and we believe all parties agree) that one of the reasons unrest was raised by these classes was the simple fact that they were overly ambitious in the scope of the controversial material which was introduced in such a cursory manner, without adequate treatment to ground the conclusions presented.

To determine, therefore, whether “the lesson material fall[s] within the bounds of sound biblical, reformed teaching and the guidelines of the Reformed Presbyterian Testimony” is a significant task. To answer that question requires completing the in-depth treatment which was not provided by Rev. Lanning when he introduced these issues. Your Committee therefore undertook such an examination of the Scripture texts, confessional statements, and scientific matters raised in the classes and prepared a 40-page paper for the benefit of Rev. Lanning and the Grand Rapids Session. This paper (entitled, “Contemporary Perspectives on Sexual Orientation”) is attached for your information.

The present report is the culmination of this study and our many meetings with Rev. Lanning and the Session members, and it offers the main features of our findings along with our recommendations in response to the Grand Rapids Session’s two questions.

Question 1 — On the Orthodoxy of the Sabbath School Material

The primary focus of Rev. Lanning’s lesson was *WLC* 139, which states in part: “The sins forbidden in the seventh commandment, besides the neglect of the duties required, are adultery, fornication, rape, incest, sodomy, and all unnatural lusts...” In his Oct. 14 lesson, Rev. Lanning introduced the following question and answer about this confessional statement:

“4. Does the catechism address homosexuality? *Answer:* Not directly, for like the Bible, the catechism was written long before the late 19th century, when this word and its counterpart, heterosexuality, were coined to describe same-sex or opposite-sex attraction or orientation as a fixed aspect of individual human personality and psychology.”

As our paper, “On Sexual Orientation,” explains at length, Rev. Lanning is here referring to the fact that the term *homosexuality* was coined in the 19th-century. It was created to describe a modern, clinical understanding of the modern notion that same-sex attraction has a physiological basis. The biblical writers and the Westminster divines would not have been aware of such a concept in their day. As a result, Rev. Lanning interprets this Catechism question as not saying enough to address the modern debate over homosexuality. We do not believe this is a correct handling of the Catechism question, as we will note shortly. But this detail which Rev. Lanning raises about changes in terminology would not be so concerning on its own, except that he makes similar detailed distinctions in the way he handles related Scripture texts.

For instance, Rev. Lanning’s interpretation of *WLC* 139 as addressing “sodomy” (but not “homosexuality”) was followed by a “clarification” of the Sodom account (in Gen. 19). Rev.

Lanning explained that the sins for which Sodom was judged included pride and greed *but not* homosexuality (a conclusion he bases on a nuanced handling of Ezek. 16:49-50, notably without referencing Jude 7, and based on the modern concept of homosexuality as distinct from sodomy).² All this is very complicated, but the result is that, like *WLC* 139, so also the Sodom and Gomorrah account in Scripture really has little to say about the modern subject of homosexuality. In a similar manner, Rev. Lanning’s handling of other texts of Scripture systematically show why, in his view, they really do not address the topic of homosexuality. We can see why the congregation was troubled since the teaching essentially ruled out the relevance of any Scripture to the subject of homosexuality.

Obviously, Rev. Lanning was opening up very complicated subjects with the congregation. In particular, he was leaning on the claims of modern science that some individuals are born with a *biological orientation* toward same-sex attractions (which is what the term *homosexual* represents). As we explain more fully in our other paper (“On Sexual Orientation”), the current theory among most neurobiologists is that, just as some people are born with a genetic orientation toward using their left hand while others are genetically oriented toward using their right hand, sexual attraction toward one sex or the other is held to be a matter of *biological orientation*.

Rev. Lanning has been careful to teach that Scripture gives no allowance for anyone with such an orientation to act on the resulting same-sex desires. He agrees that sexual activity is only permissible in marriage between a man and a woman (based on the seventh commandment); therefore, since gays cannot marry one another, they may not engage in sexual activity together. As Rev. Lanning explained in his further clarifications to this Committee, a person “biologically oriented” toward the same sex (i.e., a “homosexual”) would need to live in celibacy to be faithful to Christ. Rev. Lanning was clearly *not* promoting active homosexuality in his teaching. Nevertheless, he taught that the homosexual orientation is legitimate, that the biblical and confessional texts on same-sex matters are “not directly” relevant to the subject of homosexuality, and that a homosexual who comes to Christ should continue to regard him or herself as a homosexual (albeit remaining celibate).

There are a lot of controversial and complex ideas here to be setting in front of the congregation. In examining Rev. Lanning’s teachings, we concur, of course, that the biblical and confessional writers were not using the clinical distinctions created by modern science. However, in our view, it is dealing unfairly with the Catechism for Rev. Lanning to press its choice of words into these modern categories. Modern scientists make a strong distinction between the “gay” individual’s *conscious* thoughts (i.e., “desire/lust”) on the one hand, and his deeper, *subconscious* leanings (i.e., “orientation”), on the other hand. But it is dealing anachronistically with the Catechism to read its paired phrase “sodomy, and all unnatural lusts” as addressing external actions (i.e., “sodomy”), on the one hand, and only the *conscious* level of inner lusts (i.e., “unnatural lusts”), on the other—further concluding that the absence of explicit reference to a deeper layer of

² Sodom does not illustrate the sin of “homosexuality” in Rev. Lanning’s teaching. As he further explained to this Committee, he sees the men of Sodom as having been “heterosexual” men who violated their own heterosexual nature by seeking to humiliate Lot’s guests through sexual domination.

“orientation” means the Catechism left that aspect of man’s inner nature unaddressed. Instead, we believe that the phrase “all unnatural lusts” in the Catechism is a 17th-century effort to address *the entire inner life* of the individual—including both conscious thoughts *and* unconscious leanings/affections. (Note the next string of phrases after “all unnatural lusts” in *WLC* 139: “all unclean imaginations, thoughts, purposes, and affections...”) Even though the Westminster divines did not have the precise understanding of man’s inner psychology which modern science is able to explore, they nonetheless did intend to address the whole scope of man’s inner desires and leanings in that expression (see the diagram on p36 of, “On Sexual Orientation”). They were not naive concerning the total depravity of man’s complete inner life by the corruption of sin.

In fact, *WCF* 6:2–3 explicitly states the divines’ conviction that,

“By [Adam’s] sin, [our first parents] fell from their original righteousness and communion with God, and so became dead in sin, and *wholly defiled in all the parts and faculties of soul and body...*”

Without the clarity of modern neuroscience, the divines nonetheless expressly recognized that human brokenness extends to “all the parts and faculties of soul and body”—including conscious desires *and* subconscious tendencies, and physiological factors as well. It is out of these variously disordered “parts and faculties of soul and body” that there arise the variety of unnatural lusts and sins which afflict the human race, such as the sexual sins listed in *WLC* 139.

All this is simply to affirm that, while the Confessional Standards do not speak to *homosexuality* with the precision of modern science, *WLC* 139 does nonetheless *directly address* the phenomena of sexual disorders at all levels—conscious and subconscious—in whatever dimensions they may exist. It does not require the kind of extended examination here provided to see this. We believe that most readers, on a casual perusal of *WLC* 139, will recognize its clear intent to address sexual disorder at all levels of human experience. However, it seems that Rev. Lanning’s alertness to contemporary terminology has led him to read modern distinctions into the Catechism, resulting in his conclusion that the Catechism does not give us guidance about homosexuality.

As uneasy as we are with Rev. Lanning’s handling of the Catechism, we are especially concerned with his handling of various biblical texts in these lessons. For instance, the proof text which the Catechism cites in connection with its phrase, “unnatural lusts,” is Romans 1:24, 27:

“Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves... For this reason, God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men...” (Rom. 1:24–27)

In his Sabbath School lesson for Oct. 21, 2007, Rev. Lanning stated concerning this passage, “The word ‘nature’ in Romans 1 refers to the innate or ‘inborn’ givens of human identity, not to the so-called ‘laws of nature’ or ‘Mother Nature’.” That is, Rev. Lanning taught that the sin in

this passage was people violating their *own, inborn* sexual orientation (*their* “nature”); they were not being charged with violating *God’s* nature (“the law of nature”/“Mother Nature”) by their sexual activity. Romans 1, as Rev. Lanning introduced it, expects individuals to express their sexuality in a manner consistent with their *own, individual* orientation (which could be heterosexual or homosexual), but this passage does not teach the existence of an overarching, universal sexual orientation expected of all men and women. We understand that Rev. Lanning did not spend long unpacking this passage in his class; but that is part of the problem. He introduced radical conclusions from texts like this, with little to no exegetical grounding. Regarding his representation of the verses in Romans 1, his interpretation fails to take into account the fact that the whole list of sins in Romans 1 is set against the backdrop of God’s creation order for mankind (see vv19–20).

The example of a man and woman uniting sexually in marriage, introduced in Genesis 2:20–24, is quoted throughout the New Testament as providing the divine order for human marriage and sexuality (cf., Matt. 19:4–12; Mk. 10:6–8; 1Cor. 7:2; 11:8–10; Eph. 5:22–32). Orthodox commentators have consistently understood Romans 1 to use the expression, “dishonorable passions... exchang[ing] natural relations for those that are unnatural,” to refer to affections which violate this Creation order for human sexuality (i.e., “laws of nature”).³ Rev. Lanning’s interpretation of this verse as referring to one’s *personal* sexual nature (or, orientation) is outside the bounds of the church’s historic understanding of the text.

And Romans 1 is not the only passage Rev. Lanning handles in such a manner. We are concerned to find that in each of the Scripture passages on same-sex issues cited in Rev. Lanning’s materials, he consistently adopts obscure and narrow interpretations, each of which effectively minimize or remove the relevance of that passage for the current homosexuality debate. For instance, he points out that Canaanite societies included male-prostitution in their temples (which is true enough), but he then concludes from that fact that a number of biblical texts condemning same-sex intercourse are only, narrowly addressing *that* issue of cultic prostitution. As a result, the passages which Rev. Lanning lists as condemning *cultic* prostitution really provide no substantial guidance for the issue of homosexuality (see his list of these texts in the lesson notes for 10/21/07). In addition to his, in our view, unorthodox interpretation of “nature” in Romans 1, he treats the whole list of sins in Romans 1 as actually describing “the antediluvian idolaters” (10/21/07 notes). He notes that a sense of “loving luxury” could be included in one of the Greek terms used in 1 Corinthians 6:9, and from this subtle nuance in the word he concludes that such indulgence in luxury is *all* that the term there entails—and thus same-sex indulgence is not addressed in that passage as traditionally understood (10/21/07 notes). And so on. Any one of these interpretive decisions on its own might be worth reflection; but the presence of such a consistent set of hermeneutical decisions which break from the church’s traditional understanding of these texts, and which, in a systematic manner, remove from Scripture virtually any relevant guidance for the contemporary discourse on homosexuality, is very troubling. (More extended treatment of these and other Scripture passages cited by Rev. Lanning in his lessons,

³ Cf., John Calvin’s commentary on Romans 1:26; Robert Haldane on 1:25–27; John Murray on 1:27; James Montgomery Boice on 1:24–28.

along with additional interaction with relevant Secondary Standards, is provided in the “On Sexual Orientation” paper.)

Of course, in a *semper reformanda* spirit, there should be room for Rev. Lanning to raise questions about the validity of the church’s usual interpretation of texts on this subject within the courts of the church. However, Rev. Lanning has varied from the church’s historic understanding of these texts on virtually every point where they address same-sex topics; furthermore, he has presented these controversial teachings to his congregation (not for consideration by church courts); and, it is not clear that Rev. Lanning adequately explained to the congregation that the interpretations he presented were his own and not those held generally among reformed churches.

We are grieved to conclude that, in our view, Rev. Lanning’s teachings in the Sabbath School lessons provided to us by the Grand Rapids Session are *not* “within the bounds of sound, biblical, reformed teaching and the guidelines of the Reformed Presbyterian Testimony.”

There are two major concerns which we believe arise from Rev. Lanning’s teaching on this subject. First, the result of Rev. Lanning’s teaching is that he affirms the homosexual orientation is a “fixed aspect of individual human personality” (10/14/07 notes) and part of the “true self” of some Christians which the church ought not seek to see “cured” (10/28/07 notes). We believe that this perspective fails to identify *all* same-sex desires—down to the deepest level of a person—with the old nature which is to be renounced by the believer when he “puts off the old self” and “puts on the new” after the likeness of Christ (Eph. 4:17–23). Many aspects of the old nature continue to be a struggle for Christians, but it is crucially important that believers are helped to understand what belongs to the old nature and what belongs to the new. Rev. Lanning’s teaching identifies the homosexual orientation as part of what a Christian is to embrace as his or her “true self,” which we see as a dangerous confusion of the Christian’s identity in Christ—and a teaching which ultimately leaves men and women without hope of renewal in this area of struggle. Secondly, although Rev. Lanning himself denies the propriety of any same-sex *activity* (calling on Christian “homosexuals” to remain celibate), we note that the hermeneutical decisions which Rev. Lanning’s lessons present are the same interpretations upon which some contemporary churchmen are building their case for permitting same-sex marriages (as described in the “On Sexual Orientation” paper). Rev. Lanning denies any interest in the agendas of such men; but the harmony of his interpretations and theirs on these matters is troubling. We are concerned that Rev. Lanning’s teaching, if unaddressed, could open the door to more than Rev. Lanning himself intends.

With heavy hearts and much prayer for our brother, we therefore recommend —

Recommendation 1: That presbytery answer the first question from the FRPC Session (Paper 09–03) in the negative—that Rev. Lanning’s teachings in the submitted Sabbath School lessons, as identified in this report, are not within bounds of sound biblical, reformed teaching and the guidelines of the *Reformed Presbyterian Testimony*.

Question 2 — Session’s request for counsel

We have spent many hours in direct conversations with Rev. Lanning—as individuals and as a Committee; through email, on the phone, and in person—to make every effort to be sure, as far as possible, that we understand him correctly and to provide guidance to him directly on these matters, in hopes that he might heed our appeals and reasonings. We have also talked at length with the Grand Rapids Session. As the culmination of our interactions, we offer the following words of counsel to Rev. Lanning and to the Session, respectively (with the recommendation that presbytery approve these words of counsel).

WORDS OF COUNSEL TO REV. LANNING

1. You agree that same-sex acts and lusts are sinful and must be forsaken by believers.

We are thankful that you agree with the *Confession* and the church that homosexual acts and lusts are sinful and must be repented of. We are thankful that you are clear that Christians who experience same-sex attraction have a duty to discipline their thoughts and emotions and bring them into captivity to the obedience of Christ.

2. You need a stronger foundation for this conviction in the Scripture. You have made it clear to us that the only clear scriptural basis you see for calling homosexual lusts sinful is the seventh commandment (which limits sex to marriage). Every other Scripture you cite on this subject, you cite as *not* prohibiting homosexual sex. Instead, as you see it, those Scriptures speak of same-sex practices before the flood, by temple prostitutes in idolatrous worship, by men attempting to have sex with angels, by heterosexuals who act against their heterosexual nature by getting involved in homosexual sex, and so on. Such teaching could easily result in some believing that you might actually be open to allowing homosexual actions in certain situation. The only place in the Sabbath School notes where you clearly indicate homosexual acts are prohibited is point #5 on Oct. 14—and even there, this prohibition is obscured. Apparently those who heard you in the classes were not clear about your conviction because you had to clarify it in your subsequent apology letter. You need to more clearly ground your stated conviction against same-sex activities and thoughts.

If, however, you do actually believe that, in some circumstances, same-sex behavior might actually be permissible, you should declare that to the Presbytery.

3. You need to re-examine your exegesis of the critical passages, with Gen. 1–2 as the foundation for your understanding of sexuality. We would urge you to re-examine the pertinent scriptural texts in light of the study provided in our paper “On Sexual Orientation,” and in consultation with many other reformed commentators. You also should ground your views on sexuality where Jesus grounds the subject: in the Creation account (Mk. 10:6–9; cf., Rom. 1:20). If you properly understood Genesis 1–2, we believe your understanding of the various biblical texts on same-sex issues would change. You would see that, in those texts on same-sex matters, God is addressing various ways men have perverted the Creation order for human sexuality, including his ordaining that sex take

place, not only exclusively within marriage, but also exclusively between a man and a woman. Furthermore, with a proper understanding of Genesis 1–2, you would see that God created humans to be male (including physical, sexual, *and* gender maleness) and female (including physical, sexual, *and* gender femaleness) without third genders or cross-genders or other such confusions of the two sexes/genders being part of God’s created natural order; any such sexual or gender confusion would have to be recognized as a disorder, perverting or violating God’s design as clearly established in Genesis 1–2.

4. You must be very clear that, regardless of how people acquire erotic same-sex attraction, it is still sin. You have made a strong distinction between homosexual acts and homosexual orientation. We do *not* deny the fact that some people, for whatever reasons, have a strong same-sex sexual attraction. We also do *not* deny the possibility that this may have come about through factors other than the person’s own volitional decisions. But, regardless of how same-sex attraction comes about, it is still sin. We counsel you to be very clear about this in your own mind, and then in your communication with others. This may involve your thinking more carefully about the doctrine of original sin and the effects of the fall on all aspects of human nature (cf., our discussion of *WCF* 6:2–3 in the paper “On Sexual Orientation.”)

5. You must re-examine your view that some people should maintain a homosexual identity after conversion. We believe it is wrong (and pastorally unhelpful) to counsel “gay” men and women who become Christians to continue to identify themselves as homosexuals (or “gays,” or “lesbians,” or “bisexuals,” or “transgenders,” etc.) God created only two genders: male and female; there is no legitimate third gender. Those with same-sex attractions who come to Christ should (in an appropriate time and way) seek appropriate help. The church should be sensitive and welcoming to new believers who struggle with same-sex attraction (1 Heb. 12:1). Nevertheless, new Christians should find their new identity in Christ as those being renewed sexually along with every other facet of their lives. They are not “gay Christians;” they are Christians who struggle with same-sex attraction.

6. You need to reconsider your objections to separating personality traits from sexual issues. By refusing to make this distinction, you create a false dilemma for yourself. You *can* encourage men and women with traits which are wholesome, but “gender non-typical,” to bring those gifts into service for Christ, while *also* counseling them to “put off their old (homosexual) nature.” By insisting on regarding these two aspects of a person as part of one “sexual orientation,” you hinder yourself from a biblical view of either. We urge you to carefully study the section about personality traits (§III) in the “On Sexual Orientation” paper. Whatever is legitimate before God in the way a new Christian lived before their conversion, certainly can be carried into their new life in Christ. But their identity should no longer be based on their sexual activities or lusts (2Cor. 5:17; 6:17-18).

7. You must be careful not to let the fact that many misuse Scripture to attack homosexuals, lead you to misinterpret Scripture to defend them. You are right to note,

for example, that the judgment of Sodom in Genesis 19 is about much more than same-sex lust. Often Christians forget that Sodom was already condemned before the angels ever arrived in the city, and the cross-reference in Ezekiel 16:49–50 does give particular stress to the lack of charity involved in their condemnation. The “hellfire and brimstone” judgment on Sodom has often been misused to justify horrible attacks on homosexuals. But such misuse of Scripture by some Christians against homosexuals does not justify misinterpreting the same texts in the opposite extreme. We must strive to “present ourselves to God as ... those rightly handling the word of truth” (2Tim. 2:15). This includes upholding the clear scriptural teaching that same-sex acts and lusts are sinful in the sight of God, rather than using obscure possible meanings to undermine what is clear.

8. Continue encouraging the church to minister to people who struggle with same-sex attraction. You obviously have a heart to communicate kindness and acceptance to those who struggle with same-sex attraction. This is admirable. Your criticism of the church’s blanket condemnation of homosexuals, at times blaming them for the world’s ills (as especially seen in the West), is well taken. Your desire to see the church embrace those who are believers struggling with same-sex attraction and to help them find victory in Christ and live a pure life is admirable. Your desire to help the church know how to bring the Gospel to homosexual people should be encouraged. Please do not take our counsel as in any way discouraging this important (and needed!) burden God has placed on your heart; but receive our counsel as a plea that you would more biblically aim this aspect of your ministry for greater blessing to others and the great glory of God.

9. If you agree with the conclusions presented in our paper, then you need to communicate your revised positions to the Session and, under the direction of the Session, to the congregation.

Recommendation 2: That presbytery approve these words of counsel to Rev. Lanning.

Recommendation 3: That Presbytery would charge Rev. Lanning to carefully re-examine his interpretations of the Catechism and Scriptures on this subject, and to report back to Presbytery, through this Committee, at the 2010 Synod-time meeting concerning his views.

WORDS OF COUNSEL TO THE GRAND RAPIDS SESSION

1. You need to listen to your pastor’s exegesis on this subject after he has worked through his conclusions to our counsel to him. You need to hear his responses, and then you need to decide to what extent you can support him. (It may be advisable to have this conversation

with representatives of this Committee present, to help moderate.) There are issues of such weight that a pastor and session cannot carry on together, but not every difference warrants separation. In many church contexts, there will be disagreements (even significant ones) between a pastor, elders, and congregants. We are called, in most cases, to labor together despite differences, in our common submission to Christ. It remains up to you to discern whether or not Rev. Lanning's viewpoint on this matter is a difference you can allow while continuing to work together for the nurture of the flock.

2. The church (including FRPC) does need to better understand homosexual unbelievers so that, given the opportunity, we can bring the Gospel to them effectively. Whatever the outcome of Rev. Lanning's response to our counsel, God has in his providence used him to bring this issue to the special attention of this session. You need to learn from Rev. Lanning, who has studied the struggles of those with same-sex attraction; nevertheless, to do so with a commitment to extend to everyone the hope of Gospel renewal in the whole man (1Cor. 6:11).

3. If presbytery approves the measures proposed by this Committee, you will receive a sort of "vindication" of your views in this longstanding controversy you've had with your pastor. You will need to receive that affirmation with grace toward Rev. Lanning. You will also need to model to the congregation a godly manner of resolving difficult disagreements among brothers in Christ as you take steps to move beyond this controversy.

Recommendation 4: That presbytery approve these words of counsel to the Grand Rapids Session.

Recommendation 5: That the FRPC Session would report the essence of this paper and Presbytery's actions to the congregation, to whatever extent and in whatever manner they deem most suitable for restoring peace to the congregation.

Disposition of the Committee's work

The topic of *homosexuality* is obviously a very important subject in our day. It is the hope of this Committee that Rev. Lanning, having shown a concern to better understand how to minister to homosexuals, will change his views on the subject—yet without losing his commitment to help the church foster a greater concern to minister the Gospel to this prominent segment of society.

In view of the rapid changes presently taking place in our culture with respect to homosexuality issues, we also believe that it would be important for this denomination to find its voice in articulating a biblical word of challenge and hope on this subject. We were amazed, in the course of our work, at the near absence of serious attention given to the *sexual orientation* question by reformed and presbyterian churches. We therefore would further recommend —

Recommendation 6: That presbytery ask synod to take up one of the most important cultural issues of the day and provide the church with a biblical testimony on the question of *homosexual orientation* and pastoral guidance for ministry to those who are being told they have a homosexual identity; and that this Committee's paper, "Contemporary Perspectives on Sexual Orientation: A Theological and Pastoral Analysis," be forwarded with this recommendation as a resource in that undertaking.

If presbytery adopts Recommendations 2, 3, and 4, it would be prudent to continue this Committee for the purpose of continued support to the Grand Rapids Session in implementing this counsel, and to be available for any further support to Rev. Lanning as he undertakes a reexamination of his views on this subject. We therefore recommend —

Recommendation 7: That this Committee be continued to provide counsel and support to Rev. Lanning, and the Grand Rapids Session, as needed.

Respectfully submitted,

James Faris (chairman)
Michael LeFebvre
Keith Magill

Attachments: Sabbath School Lessons (Oct. 14, 21, 28, 2007)
Session Statement (Nov. 1, 2007)

Lesson for Sabbath, October 14, 2007
The Seventh Commandment

(Larger Catechism, QQ. 137-139)

1. What is the basis of the Seventh Commandment?

Answer: The seventh commandment is based on the divine institution of human marriage, and the marriage covenant, a reflection of the great mystery of the bond and union between God and His people, and between Christ and the church; hence the commandment primarily concerns fidelity, or keeping faith with one's marriage partner.

2. But does not the catechism seem to speak rather about chastity and temperance?

Answer: Indeed the catechism does speak chiefly about chastity, watchfulness, temperance, and even addresses peer group pressures and dressing modestly; and in so doing it reminds us of the habits and behaviors which support faithfulness to one's marriage covenant; but by this failure to identify this foremost requirement of the commandment, the catechism falls short of answering its own question (Q. 138).

3. Does the catechism promote or require marriage for all persons?

Answer: No, the catechism does not promote universal marriage, at least not among Christians; rather, following the line of the apostle Paul, it speaks of marriage as a concession to the human weakness of "those who have not the gift of continency," or the ability to abstain from sexual intercourse; yet the catechism does not fall into the opposite error of requiring or exalting the celibate or single life as a norm for Christians.

4. Does the catechism address homosexuality?

Answer: Not directly, for like the Bible, the catechism was written long before the late 19th century, when this word and its counterpart, heterosexuality, were coined to describe same-sex or opposite-sex attraction or orientation as a fixed aspect of individual human personality and psychology.

5. Yet does not the catechism does forbid sodomy?

Answer: The catechism does indeed forbid sodomy, but the term has been used very widely in Christian history, and may be intended to include all forms of sexual intercourse deemed unlawful among Christians.

6. What was the sin of Sodom?

Answer: According to Ezekiel 16:49 & 50, the sin or iniquity of Sodom was "pride, fullness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy. And they were haughty, and committed abomination before me: therefore I took them away as I saw good.

Lesson for Sabbath, October 21, 2007

The Seventh Commandment & Homosexuality

(Larger Catechism, QQ. 137-139)

The subject of homosexuality is complex and merits careful examination. Christians have been guilty of simplistic thinking about homosexuality. There has been a lack of careful definition of terms, a failure to make important distinctions, and a surprising reluctance to re-examine the exegesis and conclusions the Reformed churches inherited from medieval Roman Catholicism regarding homosexuality.

It would be impossible in the brief time we have today to address this subject thoroughly. At best, we can only look at the chief points of controversy, in an attempt to contribute to a better understanding of current research and debate, and to come to a clearer understanding of what the Bible teaches.

1. Is homosexuality an orientation, that is, a feature or component of personal psychology and identity? Or is it only a practice or lifestyle into which anyone may lapse or be introduced, under favorable conditions?
2. Is all homosexuality the same? Is there a difference between those who claim to be homosexual by orientation, that is, sexually attracted only to persons of the same sex, and those whose homosexuality appears to be only situational or "experimental" (Romans 1)?
3. If homosexuality is an orientation, is it (a) natural or innate, (b) imposed by faulty nurture, or (c) acquired by choice?
4. If it is natural or innate, is it something defective or pathological, requiring treatment or correction, or simply a variation in the human species, subject to regulation by the law of God just as heterosexuality is?
5. If it is imposed by faulty nurture, who is responsible for the wrong or fault involved? Should the onus of responsibility fall on the victims of this faulty nurture?
6. If it is acquired by choice, is it another form of addictive behavior, for which a course of reparative therapy may be prescribed? Is there any difference between addictive behaviors, for which one should seek rehabilitation, and sins from which one must repent?
7. What specific forms of homosexual practice does the Bible condemn?

Answer: The relatively few references to homosexual practice in the Bible fall into two categories: cases involving male prostitution, often connected with fertility cults (Lev. 18:11 & 20:13, Deut. 23:17, 1 Ki. 14:24; 1 Cor. 6:9, 1 Ti. 1:9), and cases involving situational or "experimental" homosexual practice, such as that of the antediluvian idolaters described by Paul in Romans 1. The Hebrew word translated "sodomite" is really *qadesh*, meaning "consecrated." The word "nature" in Romans 1 refers to the innate or "inborn" givens of human identity, not to the so-called "laws of nature" or "Mother Nature." The word "effeminate" (1 Cor. 6:9) could also be translated "lovers of luxury," or "self-indulgent ones." Jude 7 refers to human beings seeking sex with embodied angels ("other flesh").

Lesson for Sabbath, October 28, 2007

The Seventh Commandment & Homosexuality

(Larger Catechism, QQ. 137-139)

The subject of homosexuality is complex and merits careful examination. Christians have been guilty of simplistic thinking about homosexuality. There has been a lack of careful definition of terms, a failure to make important distinctions, and a surprising reluctance to re-examine the exegesis and conclusions the Reformed churches inherited from medieval Roman Catholicism regarding homosexuality. From what has been said so far, the following conclusions may be drawn:

1. We as Christians lack knowledge and understanding of homosexuality, as we do in regard to many other facets of human psychology and behavior. We need to be better informed, and we need to encourage further research and reflection on this subject. There are many questions being asked, but comparatively few good answers at present.
2. In particular, we must look carefully at what the Bible does say about homosexuality. It appears that many translations of the Bible suffer from a bias in translating that imposes on the Bible ideas not in the Hebrew or Greek itself. Examples: "Sodomites" in Deut. 23:17 (KJV) and other places; various usages of "homosexual" in 1 Cor. 6:9 (See NIV, NEB, Living Bible, TEV). It is bearing false witness to represent God's Word as saying things it does not in fact say.
3. We need to remember that as Reformed Christians we confess the sufficiency of Scripture in terms of "all things necessary for God's own glory, man's salvation, faith and life." We should not be surprised that there are many things about our world and ourselves that are not addressed, or not exhaustively addressed, in the Bible. Man's dominion over the earth implies the need to inquire into the nature of things, to seek understanding, and to live wisely. The Christian faith has nothing to fear from the fruits of genuinely scientific research and philosophical reflection.
4. We also need to acknowledge that the Christian church has often turned a blind eye, or even taken a part in, the many injustices done to homosexual persons, allowing them to be deprived of or denied their dignity as human beings, their rights as citizens, and the claims they have on us as our neighbors, under the terms of the Golden Rule.
5. In particular, we must repent of the sin of using homosexual persons as "scapegoats," blaming a rather small part of the general population for the many ills of society at large. Prominent Christian leaders have been guilty of this sin, and prominent conservative politicians have freely and cynically exploited it for their own purposes, to whip up emotion and get out the evangelical vote on election days.
6. Finally, we need to ask what the gospel means for homosexual persons, at least for those who wish to break with what is known as the "homosexual lifestyle," and who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and wish to follow Him, walking in a new and godly life. Is there no place for them in the church? Must they hide their true selves and pretend to be something they are not? Must they seek to be "cured," and claim to be "cured," of homosexuality, when in fact they are not? Is the gospel promise of forgiveness and reconciliation to God only for "straight" people?

First Reformed Presbyterian Church

Grand Rapids, Michigan

November 1, 2007

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

The session of First Reformed Presbyterian Church has been contacted by a number of church members and adherents expressing concern about what was taught to our Adult Sabbath School Class in the three most recent lessons (Oct. 14, 21, & 28), on the subject of the Larger Catechism, the Seventh Commandment, and homosexuality. At a called meeting of session on Wednesday, Oct. 31, the content of these lessons, and the concerns expressed by members and adherents, were reviewed and discussed. It was agreed to issue a statement in the name of the session affirming the teaching and practice of our church as stated in *The Constitution of the RPCNA*, and to allow Rev. Lanning to add his own statement of apology for any confusion, misunderstanding, or distress he may have caused.

The session calls your attention to the following statements from our Standards. Our minister, ruling elders, and deacon all affirm, "in the plain and common sense of the words, without equivocation, or mental reservation" (Confession of Faith, 22:6), these statements as "agreeable to, and founded upon, the Scriptures" (Queries for Ordination, No. 3).

1. CONCERNING SEXUAL PRACTICES WHICH VIOLATE GOD'S LAW:

Premarital sex relations or promiscuous sex practices as well as homosexuality and other perversions of the natural order are violations of God's law and purpose. All should strive to discipline their sexual desires, maintain purity of thought and practice, and avoid situations which lead to sexual temptation. (Reformed Presbyterian Testimony, 24:2)

2. CONCERNING THE UNIQUE AUTHORITY OF GOD'S WORD:

We reject any suggestion that God uses human reason on a level with Scripture to reveal His truth. (Reformed Presbyterian Testimony, 1:17)

3. CONCERNING THE RECEIVING OF COMMUNICANT MEMBERS:

Candidates for communicant membership shall be examined by the session in constituted court. The examination shall seek to bring out the degree of the candidate's knowledge of Divine truth, his personal sense of sin and need of salvation and his knowledge of and willing acceptance of the Covenant of Church Membership including the distinctive principles of the Reformed Presbyterian Church . . . No one should be admitted who is ignorant of the plan of salvation, or who gives no credible evidence of having been born again, or who assumes an attitude antagonistic to the principles set forth in the standards of the Church. (Directory for Church Government, 1.4)

4. CONCERNING THE TERMS OF COMMUNICANT MEMBERSHIP:

Do you repent of your sin; confess your guilt and helplessness as a sinner against God; profess Jesus Christ, Son of God, as your Saviour and Lord; and dedicate yourself to His service: Do you promise that you will endeavor to forsake all sin, and to conform your life to His teaching and example? (Covenant of Communicant Membership, Vow No. 3)

From these statements it follows that:

1. Homosexual practice is sin, that is, a "want of conformity unto, or transgression of, the law of God" (Shorter Catechism, Q. 14).
2. However much we may value the insights of philosophy, science, or medicine, we must not place these insights on a par with the Scriptures, nor may we set aside the teachings and commandments of God's Word in favor of the insights of human reason.
3. Because every person applying for communicant membership in our church must sustain examination as to his or her "personal sense of sin and need of salvation," and no one may be admitted who takes an "attitude antagonistic" to the standards of our denomination, it would not be right for our session to admit an unrepentant homosexual person to communicant membership in our church.
4. The terms of communicant membership are the same for all persons, regardless of their past history, or present struggles with indwelling sin. Every communicant member vows to forsake all sin, and to conform his or her life to Christ's teaching and example.

By order of the church session,

Doug Sikma, Clerk

STATEMENT FROM REV. RAY B. LANNING

Fathers, brethren, and fellow church members:

I write to you with sorrow of heart and a desire to make amends. It was not my intention to disturb the peace of our church. I hope that everyone will find great help and comfort in the affirmations presented by our church session in the name of all our officers, myself included.

First, I apologize for saying anything that implied or seemed to imply an endorsement of the beliefs, models, or conclusions of Dr. Alfred Kinsey in regard to his research into human sexuality. I meant only to say that there is much more to understand about human sexuality, and further research should be done, under the control and guidance of God's Word and the Holy Spirit.

Second, I apologize for saying anything that implied or seemed to imply that God's Word does not identify homosexual fornication as sin. I only meant to say that our human understanding of God's Word is fallible, and we must subject our interpretations to careful review, and if necessary, correction and restatement, as circumstances may dictate.

Third, I apologize for saying anything that implied or seemed to imply that members of our congregation are guilty of simplistic thinking about homosexuality. That is not true, so far as I know. I meant only to say that in general, and in the past especially, Christians have been guilty of such simplistic thinking. I myself have often been guilty of simplistic thinking about many things, including homosexuality.

Fourth, I apologize for saying anything that implied or seemed to imply that Christians who experience same-sex attraction have no duty to discipline their thoughts and emotions, and bring them into captivity to the obedience of Christ. I believe that the pursuit of holiness in thought, word and deed, is the calling of every Christian. The requirements of Christian discipleship, including self-denial, are the same for all persons.

Finally, I affirm my faith in the gospel as "the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth" (Rom. 1:16). The gospel holds forth God's sure promise of the forgiveness of sins, and the promise of personal transformation through the renewing of our minds (Rom. 12:2). I thank God for the blood of Christ which cleanses from all sin (I John 1:7). I confess with the apostle Paul that "in me (that is, in my flesh) dwelleth no good thing" (Rom. 7:18), but with all my fellow Christians, I look for the coming of our Savior from heaven to "change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself" (Phil. 3:21).

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Ray B. Lanning

Raymond E. Morton, Clerk

Minutes examined and nothing found contrary to the law and order of the church.

*Raymond E. Morton
Assistant Clerk of R.P.C.N.A.*

June 30, 2011

Minutes of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery
Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE GREAT LAKES-GULF PRESBYTERY

Time: Thursday, March 3rd at 2:00 p.m. to Saturday, March 5th at 12:00 noon, 2011

Place: Bloomington Reformed Presbyterian Church, 302 East First Street,
Bloomington, IN 47401 Tel: 812-339-1922

Session 1

Thursday 1:30 - 5:30 p.m. (Break at 3:30 - 3:45 p.m.)

The Moderator, Rich Holdeman called Presbytery to order at 2:00 p.m.

Presbytery sang Psalm 37C and the Moderator led in Prayer

The Moderator read Eccles. 4: 7-16 and preached from this passage.

Constitution

Following the preaching, the Moderator led in prayer and constituted the Court in prayer.

Presbytery sang Psalm 133B.

Roll

The Assistant Clerk, Gordon Keddie, called the Roll which is as follows:

CONGREGATION	DELEGATE	1	2	3	4	5	6
Belle Center	Phil Pockras no RE	X	X	X	X	X	X
Bloomington	Rich Holdeman Wendell McBurney Ken DeJong Wes Archer ALT (Thurs)	X	X	X	X	X	X
Christ Church (Indy)	Michael Lefebvre Duane Judd	X	X	X	X	X	X
Columbus	Andy McCracken Bob McCracken	X	X	X	X	X	X
Elkhart	Keith Magill no RE	X	X	X	X	X	X
First RP Durham	Ian Wise Charles Saunders	X	X	X	X	X	X
First RP Grand Rapids	(no TE) Kent Van Timmeren	X	X	X	X	X	X
Hetherton	Milton Harrington	X	X	X	X	X	X
Immanuel, W. Lafayette	Jared Olivetti David Carr Ben Larson ALT	X	X	X	X	X	X
Lafayette	Dave Long Dan Webb Jack Rhoda	X	X	X	X	X	X
Northminster	Frank J. Smith Bob Shapiro	X	X	X	X	X	X
Orlando	(no TE) Jonathan Schaeffer	E	E	E	E	E	E
Second, Indianapolis	Rich Johnston Donald Cassell Dean Filson	E	E	E	E	E	X
		X	X	X	X	X	X

	Russ Pulliam ALT		X	X	X	X	X
Selma	Tom Gray (no RE)		X	X	X	X	X
Southfield	James Paris	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Jon Hughes	X	X	X	X	X	X
Southside Indianapolis	Gordon Keddie	X	X	X	X	X	X
	David Whitla	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Jerry Porter	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Don Prichard	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Steve Sturm ALT						
	John Hanson ALT						
Sparta	Ray Morton	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Bob Morrow	X	X	X	X	X	X
Sycamore	Barry York	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Jason Camery	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Robert McKissick	X	X	X	X	X	X
Westminster	(no RE)						
	Bob Koch						
CONGREGATION	DELEGATE	1	2	3	4	5	6
Terre Haute Miss Ch	Bill Roberts	X	X	X	X	X	X
RPTS	Tom Reid	E	E	E	E	E	E
Retired	Bob Henning						
	(Bob McCracken - RE Colu)						
	(Bob Morrow - RE Sparta)						
	Marion McFarland						
	Jim Pennington	E	E	E	E	E	E
Min w/o Pastorates	Roger Adams						
	Roy Blackwood	E	E	E	E	E	E
	Greg Cumbee			X	X	X	X
	Godfrey Franklin	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Ray Lanning			X	X	X	X
	Frank Schutz						
	Jim Wright						
	Dick Knodel (after reception)			X	X	X	X
Inactive	Paul Mathews	E	E	E	E	E	E

It was declared that a quorum was present.

The following two motions were passed

Motion:that Elders without Certificates who are representatives of their Sessions be seated.

Motion:that all Elders present who are not delegates be made consultative members of the Court.

Introduction of first-time delegates:

Dick Knodel of south-west Ohio as the leader of the preaching station there.

Chris Mangle of First Reformed Presbyterian Church of Durham, NC and the proposed work at Pageland, SC was introduced as a guest to the Court

Memorials for pastors, elders/elders wives were read.

A Memorial was read for Garland Kincaid. It is attached to these Minutes.

Memorial Prayers were led: for Garland Kincaid by Donald Cassell. Laura McMahan by Bill

Roberts, Judy Wright and Rich Johnston's mother by Phil Poekras.

Clerk's Report

The Clerk reviewed his report referring to his general work, presented the Proposed Agenda and the Paper brought to the Presbytery by Ray Lanning. He moved the following recommendations: Recommendations:

1. That the parliamentarians for this meeting be Jon Hughes and Phil Poekras. The motion passed.
2. That the Nominating Committee determine the congregations to be visited this year. The motion passed.
3. That the proposed agenda for this meeting be accepted. The motion passed.
4. That the letter from Ray Lanning be distributed during this Session and that the Letter and Report of the Committee concerning Paper 09-03 be the order of the day on Friday morning after the break. The motion passed.
5. That the Clerk's Report be received. The motion passed.

Election of Officers of the Court

Moderator – Dave Long was elected and assumed the chair;

Clerk, Ray Morton was elected;

Assistant Clerk – Gordon Keddie was elected and will serve until the new appointment is decided by the passing of the Nominating Committee Report.

Call for Papers (Assistant Clerk) -

Last call for papers will be Friday morning after the break

Call for Session Minute Books

The Assistant Clerk called for the Session Minute Books to be brought to the Clerks' table.

Ad Interim Commission Report

Jared Olivetti, Moderator, presented the Report and reviewed its Minutes.

Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery

Spring 2011

Ad Interim Commission Report

Fathers and brothers,

It has been a busy year for the work of presbytery. Following are the major actions taken by the Ad Interim Commission (AIC), with some explanation and recommendations for presbytery.

Credentials & Licensure

- Scott McCullough was licensed to receive a call, with the administration of the queries and the prayer of licensure done by Pastor David Long.
- The call to Pastor Frank Smith from the Northminster RPC (Atlanta) was approved.
- Pastor David Smith's credentials were transferred to the Midwest Presbytery.

FRPC, Durham

- Roger Cornejo of the 1st Durham congregation brought an appeal of his discipline by the session; we sent this appeal to be adjudicated by the Durham Commission.
- Roger later filed a complaint against our decision to send his appeal to the Durham Commission, so both his complaint (against AIC) and the contingent appeal (against FRPC session) come to this presbytery.

Selma RPC

- After hearing of some discouragements and challenges being faced by the Selma congregation, we formed a visitation team to consist of Bob McCracken, Barry York and Jerry O'Neill.
- Bob, Jerry and his wife Ann visited on October 22-25 and prepared a report for presbytery. This report will be taken up as a separate agenda item by presbytery.

Reformation Presbytery of the Midwest

- Taking up the request for fraternal relations from the Reformation Presbytery of the Midwest, we decided to postpone action on the request until the meeting of presbytery, believing there may be some variance of opinion on the request.
- To begin the process, the AIC would like to make the following recommendations to presbytery:
 - o That presbytery deny the request for fraternal relations with the RPM
 - o That the Off-IN CFC of presbytery be instructed to contact these brothers in WI to investigate the viability of planting an RPCNA congregation there.
 - o That the interested brothers in WI be informally counseled to get to know the RPCNA through worship and possibly membership at the Westminster congregation or other churches in our presbytery.
 - o Rationale: Given the complicated, problematic ecclesiology of micro-presbyterianism, it seems the wisest and safest course would be to engage with the people, rather than with the presbytery or congregation. Also, given the current challenges facing the congregation involved (geographically distant from each other, few in number), it also seems that the proper understanding of the situation is one of church planting rather than transferring. Westminster RPC in Chicago would be a natural place for these brothers and sisters to join and learn more about the culture and church-planting of our denomination.

Northminster RPC (Atlanta)

- A request to invite three presbyters to attend the meeting of organization and for presbytery to pay for the expenses was approved.
- Motion carried to strongly encourage Atlanta Commission to invite presbytery to attend the organizational meeting and GLG presbytery general fund to pay travel expenses to Atlanta, according to the funds set aside at Spring Meeting of presbytery.

1st RPC, Grand Rapids

- Having received a letter of resignation from Pastor Ray Lanning, the AIC took the following actions: After interviewing Pastor Lanning and Pastor James Faris and considering several communications from the congregation, the motion was passed and enacted to dissolve the pastoral relationship between Pastor Lanning and the First Grand Rapids congregation in prayer.
- Bill Roberts was asked by the AIC to serve Pastor Lanning with informal counsel and encouragement.
- James Faris was appointed interim moderator of session.
- At the request of the Grand Rapids Committee, over the course of several meetings, the AIC examined the pertinent documents and passed the following motion: to approve the assignment to Ray Lanning by the GR Committee dated 12/21/10 as appropriate fulfillment of Presbytery motion of June 21, 2010. The purpose of this motion was to double-check the work of the committee and put the imprimatur of presbytery on the assignment.

Other business

- Jonathan Schaeffer was appointed as the new Covfamikoi director. It was also noted that Covfamikoi has been moved to Campbellsville University.
- Bob McCracken was appointed to serve as the GL-G representative to the Synod Finance Committee.
- Upon request from the Midwest Presbytery, the following motion was passed: to absolve Robert Ulrich of this discipline with the following language: You, Robert Ulrich, having been deposed because of sinful conduct, and having now given very evident proofs of sincere repentance, the Ad Interim Commission of the Great Lakes/Gulf Presbytery (RPCNA) in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, as a Court constituted by His authority, hereby absolves from the censure of deposition given against you.
- Pastor Frank Smith was appointed to the Southern Church Extension Committee.
- Jason Camery was appointed moderator Pro Tem of the Sycamore RPC session for any necessary trial to excommunicate Jamey York, son of Pastor Barry and Miriam York.
- The RPC of Lafayette was granted permission to elect an associate pastor.
- Greg Cumbee's resignation from the Southern Church Extension committee was received.
- It was noted that Gordon Keddie has asked to be replaced as our presbytery's assistant clerk.
- Second RPC of Indianapolis was granted permission to call a pastor.

Recommendations

(The recommendations are recorded below the signatures.)

For Christ's Crown & Covenant,
 David Carr, clerk
 Ben Larson
 Jared Olivetti, moderator
 Russ Pulliam
 Jack Rhoda

Presbytery has its afternoon break at 3:30 p.m. to 3:49 p.m. and returned to business singing Psalm 108A.

Recommendations:

- 1 that the Minutes of the Ad Interim Commission be spread on the Minutes of Presbytery
 2. that Presbytery deny the request for fraternal relations with the Reformed Presbytery of the Midwest.
 3. that the IN-OH Church Extension Committee of Presbytery be instructed to contact these brothers in Wisconsin in order to investigate the viability of re-establishing a Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America presence there.
 4. That the interested brothers in Wisconsin be informally counseled to get to know the RPCNA through worship and possibly membership at the Westminster congregation or other churches in our Presbytery.
 5. that the complaint and the appeal of Roger Cornejo be referred to the Judicial Committee of the day.
- Recommendations 1, 2, 4 were approved. Recommendation 3 was approved as amended. Recommendation 5 was approved.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Candidates and Credentials Committee Report, Michael LeFebvre, Chairman

Michael LeFebvre presented the Report along with the following recommendations:

Dear Fathers and Brothers:

The following pages include updates on nearly 30 different men: ministers who are retired, ministers currently without pulpits, licentiates without calls, and students preparing for the ministry. Your Candidates and Credentials Committee exists to keep the needs and care of these men before you, and to facilitate your oversight of them. There

are a number of specific items, along with a series of recommendations, that this Committee is presenting for your attention in this report. But we hope you will give particular attention to the various updates also included, and be in prayer for each of these men.

Following are the items of business being presented your attention at this meeting of presbytery:

1. **Examinations** — This Committee has prepared the following slate of exams which we are recommending for this meeting of presbytery (see **Recommendation 1**):

Examinee	Exam	Duration*	Examiner
Shawn Anderson	Evidence of Progress Sermon: (text: Joshua 7)	c.25/—/5	
	Theology and Distinctive Principles I	20/10/5	Jared Olivetti
Steven McCarthy	Personal Godliness	20/10/5	Bob McCracken
Adam Niess	Expository Sermon I (Assigned Text) (text: 1 John 3:4-8)	c.25/—/5	
	Theology and Distinctive Principles I	20/10/5	Ian Wise
	Church History Paper: <i>The development of the lay eldership in the Reformation</i>	—/10/5	Phil Pockras, Dave Long
	Role call vote to license to preach		
	License to Preach: (Queries, Instructions, Prayer)		Rich Holdeman
*Duration --- The first number indicates the length of time (in minutes) allotted for the examiner's questions; the second number indicates the length of time for the full Presbytery's questions; the third number indicates the length of time for Presbytery discussion of the exam prior to an "up or down" roll call vote. (E.g., 20/10/5 = 20 min. examiner q's/10 min. Presbytery q's/5 min. discussion.)			

2. **Dick Knodel** — On July 30, 2010, the clerk of presbytery received a petition from Dr. Dick Knodel regarding a group of families in southwest Ohio who desire to become an RP mission work, and also requesting that his own credentials as a minister in the RP Church of Scotland be received into this presbytery of the RPCNA. The Church Extension Committee is reviewing Dick's request regarding the southwest Ohio core group, and the Candidates and Credentials Committee undertook to meet with Dick and his wife Susan about his desire to transfer his credentials into this presbytery.

We met with Dick and Susan, as a Committee, on Sept. 29, 2010. We also spoke with Rev. Andrew Quigley, with whom Dick ministered in the Airdrie RPC congregation for nearly five years prior to his relocation to Ohio. Finding all things to be in order and receiving a letter of Dick's credentials and transfer from the RPC Scotland, we are recommending that presbytery receive Dick's credentials as a teaching elder in the RPCNA.

In order to introduce Dick to the presbytery, we are also recommending that Dick be granted 15 minutes to speak and introduce himself to the presbytery, and that Dick also be invited to

preach for us during this meeting of presbytery. (See **Recommendations 2, 3, and 4**.) Dick's resume and his letter of transfer from the RP Church of Scotland are both attached (see attachments G and H).

Dick Knodel	Introduction to presbytery	15 min.	
	Role call vote to receive		
	Queries and Prayer		Phil Pockras; Michael
	Sermon		

3. **Godfrey Franklin** — With his recent retirement from the University of West Florida, Godfrey is more free to serve in pastoral work again. He plans to attend this meeting of presbytery, and he desires to make himself available for preaching and pulpit supply. Because this is the first time Godfrey has been able to attend a presbytery meeting for many years, we would like to recommend that presbytery give up to 15 minutes for Godfrey to update presbytery on his situation and his vision for this next season of ministry in his life. (See **Recommendation 5**.)

4. **Donald Cassell** — Donald's license to receive a call expires this year (on June 21, 2011). The Candidates and Credentials Committee is recommending that presbytery give Donald 15 minutes to update presbytery on his vision for Liberia and his sense of calling to the pastorate, and to answer questions from presbyters about his ministry and his vision. We hope this will provide an opportunity for presbyters to get updated on Donald's plans and how to be in prayer for him. After hearing from Donald, we are further recommending that presbytery renew Donald's license to receive a call for another five years. (See **Recommendations 6 and 7**.)

5. **Scholar in Residence fund** — The Spring 2010 meeting of presbytery moved "that suggestions for the disposition of the Scholar in Residence Fund be brought to the Finance Committee by the Candidates and Credentials Committee by Spring 2011 Presbytery Meeting."

While investigating the history of the Scholar in Residence fund in response to this instruction, the CCC found that presbytery had already acted on the disposition of these funds at its Nov., 2005, meeting. At that time, presbytery moved "that, upon discontinuing of the Scholar-in-Residence program, \$10,000 be returned to the Second Indianapolis RP Church, and the remainder be used to establish a scholarship fund." That program was discontinued at that same meeting with about \$3,000 remaining for use in the scholarship fund created by that action. The intent of that action was that the CCC would administer a special scholarship fund for students under care studying for the ministry, but not enrolled in full-time seminary courses (and thus not able to participate in the normal Student Aid scholarships).

As of Dec. 31, 2010, there were \$3,209.45 in that account. There are presently no students under care studying primarily through the GLGP seminary-level classes, and we do not

presently have any plan for resuming seminary-level classes (although it is certainly our hope to do so). Therefore, the CCC is recommending that these funds be used for the Student Aid line of the budget, supporting students under care who are enrolled full-time in seminary. (See **Recommendation 8.**)

5. **Student aid** — Presbytery is currently providing \$300/month in student aid, at \$100 per student for three full-time seminarians. We project this aid will continue, as follows:
 - a. **Shawn Anderson** — Nov. 2009 through Feb. 2013
 - b. **Adam Niess** — Sept. 2009 through May 2012
 - c. **Steven McCarthy** — Sept. 2010 through May 2013
6. **Term renewals** — The terms of service for Roy Blackwood and Jared Olivetti expire this year. Both are willing to continue service, if that is presbytery's desire, and the Committee is recommending that they be re-appointed for another term. (See **Recommendation 9.**)
7. **Coordinating paper standards** — As we mentioned in our Spring, 2010, report, we have been revising the standards for the history and exegesis papers submitted by students for presbytery exams. In particular, we have found in recent years that the standards given to students by the seminary for papers are sometimes significantly different from those set by presbytery, resulting in extra work for students to bring their papers into compliance with both sets of guidelines. After extended discussions with seminary faculty, we developed the revised guidelines now included in the *GLGP Student Handbook*. We are distributing a 2010 revision of that handbook along with this report. There are other points of refinement that we hope to pursue in the future, but we want you to have this most recent revision (from early 2010) of the *Handbook*. Pages 25–26 and 30–31 contain the new guidelines for history and exegesis papers. (See attachment I.) As always, we welcome your comments and critiques.
8. **Seminary-level courses** — One of the responsibilities of this Committee is to oversee presbytery's seminary-level classes. It has been some time since we have conducted such classes, and we do not see how we could resume such classes at present. Thus, we have nothing to report on this front at this time. However, we wanted to include a paragraph on this subject simply to indicate it is still a ministry "on our radar screen," and we hope one day to be able to provide more seminary-level courses.

Included in the remainder of this report is our annual update on each of the students under care, licentiates without a call, and the varied ministries of those ministers who are without pastorates. We would encourage you to take time to read each of these updates carefully, and to praise God for all of the ministry which is taking place through these men and to be in prayer for them in their needs and future labors.

Respectfully submitted,

Roy Blackwood (Class of 2011) Michael LeFebvre, Chairman (Class of 2013)
 Dean Filson (Class of 2012) Andy McCracken (Class of 2012)
 Jon Hughes (Class of 2013) Jared Olivetti (Class of 2011)

Rich Holdeman (Class of 2012)

Recommendations:

1. That examinations be conducted at this meeting of presbytery according to the schedule outlined on p1, above.
2. That Dick Knodel be given up to 15 minutes to introduce himself to the presbytery and to answer questions from presbyters.
3. That presbytery would receive Dick Knodel's credentials as a teaching elder in the GLG Presbytery of the RPCNA. (*This action requires a role call vote.*)
4. That presbytery invite Dick Knodel to preach for one of the devotional exercises of this meeting of presbytery.
5. That Godfrey Franklin be given up to 15 minutes to update presbytery on his situation and his vision for ministry.
6. That Donald Cassell be given up to 15 minutes to update presbytery on his current work, his prayers for Liberia, and his own sense of calling to the ministry; and to answer questions from presbyters.
7. That Donald Cassell's license to receive a call (to expire June 21, 2011) be extended for another five year term (to expire June 21, 2016).
8. That the Scholar in Residence fund be transferred to the Student Aid line of the 2011 presbytery budget.
9. That Roy Blackwood and Jared Olivetti (Class of 2011) be re-appointed to the Candidates and Credentials Committee for another three-year term.
10. That Scott McCullough be allowed up to 15 minutes to speak about his present situation and his possible return to the Middle East.

Recommendations:

- #8 – referred to the Finance Committee;
 #9 – referred to the Nominating Committee;
 #1,4 – were approved;
 #6 – was approved and Donald Cassell spoke to the Court of opportunities in Liberia.
 #7 – was approved;
 #10 – was approved and in keeping with this recommendation Scott McCullough spoke to the Court.

Congregational Reports

The Belle Center congregational report was given by Phil Pockras.

The Bloomington congregational report was given by Rich Holdeman.

The Christ Church congregational report was given by Michael LeFebvre.

The Columbus congregational report was given by Andy McCracken.
 Both of the recommendations of the report were approved.

The recommendations are:

1. That Presbytery grant the Columbus Reformed Presbyterian Church permission to call an Associate Pastor.
2. That the Columbus congregation be authorized by Presbytery to apply for the Resident-in-Training grant from the Home Mission Board as they pursue hiring an Associate Pastor this year.

Committee Appointments by the Moderator

Nominating Committee

Andy McCracken, Chair
 Jon Hughes
 Phil Pockras
 Jack Rhoda

Finance Committee

Keith Magill, Chair
 Dean Filson
 Kent Van Timmeren
 Dan Webb

Time and Place Committee

Bob McCracken
 Bob Morrow

Resolution of Thanks Committee

Jason Camery
 Bob Shapiro

Travel Agent

David Whitla

Judicial Committee

Barry York, Chair
 Wendell McBurney
 Bill Roberts

Committee to Review Minutes

Belle Center
 Jared Olivetti
 Don Prichard
 Bloomington
 Gordon Keddie

Bob Shapiro
 Christ Church (Indy)
 Rich Holdeman
 Kent Van Timmeren
 Columbus
 Jason Camery
 Jerry Porter
 Elkhart
 Bob McCracken
 Charles Saunders
 First RP Durham
 Barry York
 Russ Pulliam
 First RP Grand Rapids
 David Whitla
 Jason Camery
 Hetherton
 Jared Olivetti
 David Carr
 Immanuel, West Lafayette
 Bob Morrow
 Jack Rhoda
 Lafayette
 James Faris
 Charles Saunders
 Northminster
 Phil Pockras
 David Carr
 Orlando
 Keith Magill
 Jon Hughes
 Second, Indianapolis
 Ian Wise
 Ken DeJong
 Selma
 Bob Morrow
 Jack Rhoda

Southfield
 Michael Lefebvre
 Dick Bonner
 Southside Indianapolis
 Frank Smith
 Bob McKissick
 Sparta
 Bill Roberts

Dan Webb
 Sycamore
 David Whitla
 Dean Filson
 Westminster
 Milt Harrington
 Wendell McBurney

Presbytery entered into a time of prayer:

Don Pritchard prayed for the Belle Center congregation
 David Whitla prayed for the Bloomington congregation.
 David Carr prayed for Christ Church congregation..
 Jack Rhoda prayed for the Columbus congregation and included praying for the recess of Presbytery thanking God for the food and asking His blessing on the food and fellowship.

Presbytery recessed at 5:35 pm.

Session 2, Thursday, March 3, 2011, at 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Call to Order

The Moderator called Presbytery to order at 7:02 p.m.
 Presbytery sang Psalm 96D and Andy McCracken reconvened the Court with prayer.

Roll:

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the Assistant Clerk take the Roll visually in this and all remaining sessions.
 The Assistant Clerk took the Roll.

Reading of the Minutes of the Afternoon Session

The Clerk read the Minutes of the afternoon session. The Minutes were approved as corrected.

Candidates and Credentials Committee

Michael LeFebvre introduced Adam Niess for his Theology I examination.
 The exam was conducted by Ian Wise.
 Members of presbytery asked questions and received answers followed by comments from the presbyters.

Roll Call Vote

The examination was unanimously sustained.

Michael LeFebvre called for the Report on Adam Niess's Church History paper. Phil Pockras spoke of the paper and he along with Dave Long recommended Presbytery sustain the examination. On the voice vote, the examination was sustained.

Introductions:

Kent Van Timmeren introduced Dick Bonnen an elder in First Grand Rapids Reformed Presbyterian Church and Kyle Borg a student of Puritan Reformed Seminary who preaches for First Grand Rapids Reformed Presbyterian Church.

Congregational Reports

Elkhart congregational report was given by Keith Magill.

The Elkhart Visitation Committee Report was given by Bob McCracken.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the reports of Belle Center, Bloomington, Christ Church, Columbus and Elkhart be received.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report of the Elkhart Visitation Committee be received.

First Durham congregational report was given by Ian Wise.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

First Grand Rapids congregational report was given by Kent VanTimmerin.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

The Hetherton congregational report was given by Milton Harrington.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Presbytery had a time of prayer:

Bob McCracken led in prayer for the Elkhart Congregation;
John Hanson led in prayer for the First RP Durham Congregation;
Jason Camrey led in prayer for the First RP Grand Rapids Congregation;
Jared Olivetti led in prayer for the Hetherton Congregation and adjourned the Court with prayer.

Adjournment

Presbytery adjourned by motion at 9:09 p.m.

Session 3, March 4, 2011, Friday Morning, 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (break at 10:30 10:45)

Call to Order by the Moderator at 8:35 a.m.

Presbytery sang Psalm 5A and James Faris constituted the Court in prayer.

Bill Roberts rose to announce the death of Louvenia Brown, wife of the former Pastor C. Claude Brown of the Selma congregation.

Devotions

Dick Knodel preached God's Word from Genesis 17:15-21

Roll (taken visually by the Assistant Clerk)

Reading of the Minutes of the Thursday evening Session

The Minutes were read and approved.

Candidates and Credentials Committee Report (continued)

Recommendation 2 was approved.

Recommendation 3 was approved and Dick Knodel was received as a teaching elder in the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery.

Recommendation 5 was approved and in keeping with this recommendation Godfrey Franklin addressed the Court.

Congregational Reports

The Second Indianapolis Reformed Presbyterian Church report was given by Russ Pulliam.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

The Immanuel Reformed Presbyterian Church of West Lafayette was given by Jared Olivetti.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

The Reformed Presbyterian Church of Lafayette report was given by Jack Rhoda.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Presbytery had a time of prayer:

Jerry Porter prayed for the Second Indianapolis Reformed Presbyterian Church;
Bob Morrow prayed for the Immanuel Reformed Presbyterian Church;
And, Keith Magill prayed for the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Lafayette and asked God's blessing for the time of recess.

Recess

Presbytery had a recess from 10:25 to 10:48 a.m. and returned to business singing Psalm 51A and being led in prayer by Ian Wise.

Order of the Day

The letter from Ray Lanning and the Report of the Committee concerning Paper 09-03 were introduced by James Faris.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that Presbytery enter executive session.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the Presbytery lay on the table the Recommendation of Paper 09-03 and take up the letter from Ray Lanning with the recommendation of the last two paragraphs of his letter.

In keeping with this Ray Lanning spoke to the Court.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed to lay on the table Recommendation 1 to entertain a substitute motion.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the time be extended to 12:45 p.m. for the recess of this session.

The Moderator led in prayer.

Presbytery arose from executive session and records the following motion:

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the Presbytery return the Report of the Committee concerning Paper 09-03 and the Committee on this Paper either bring formal charges or otherwise bring this matter to a conclusion.

Prayer and Recess at 12:42 p.m.

The Moderator recessed the Court by prayer at 12:42 p.m.

Session 4, Friday Afternoon, March 4, 2011, - 2:00 - 5:30 p.m.

Call to Order at 2:01 p.m.

Reconvening in Praise and Prayer

Psalms 122A and prayer by Robert Schapiro

Roll (taken visually by the Assistant Clerk).

Reading of the Minutes for the Friday morning Session

Minutes of the morning session were read and approved.

Candidates and Credentials Committee (examination)

Jared Olivetti introduced Shawn Anderson for his Evidence of Progress Sermon. Shawn read Joshua 7:1-26 and led in prayer.

He preached God's Word on "Israel's Curse and Joshua's Mediation".

He closed with prayer and Presbytery sang Psalm 51D.

Following the preaching members of Presbytery made comments on the sermon.

Roll Call Vote: the examination was unanimously sustained.

Treasurer's Report was presented by Jim Bishop

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Terre Haute Commission Report

Terre Haute Commission Report was given by Jerry Porter.

Recommendation 1: that Bill Roberts be heard for 10 minutes was approved.

Bill Roberts spoke to the Court.

Recommendation 2. that the Minutes of the Commission be spread on the Minutes of Presbytery was approved.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Congregational Reports

Northminster RP congregational report was given by Frank Smith.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Prayer: Ken deJong prayer for the work in Terre Haute.

Phil Pockras prayed for Northminster and for the recess.

Recess: Presbytery took recess from 3:31 to 3:45 p.m.

Presbytery resumed singing Psalm 119Q and Raymond Morton led in prayer.

Jerry Porter distributed a survey from the Business of Synod Committee and asked that it be filled in and returned to him for the Business of Synod Committee.

Candidates and Credentials Committee Report

Jared Olivetti introduced Steven McCarthy for his exam in Personal Godliness.

Bob McCracken conducted the exam.

Members of Presbytery asked questions and received answers followed by comments.

Roll Call vote: The examination was unanimously sustained.

Candidates and Credentials Committee Report

Jared Olivetti introduced Shawn Anderson for his Theology I Examination.

Jared Olivetti conducted the examination.

Members of Presbytery asked questions and received answers followed by comments.

Roll Call vote: The examination was unanimously sustained.

Congregational Reports

(The Orlando Congregational Report is to be brought to the Synod meeting.)

The Selma congregational report was given by Tom Gray.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

(Selma Committee Report to be taken up later.)

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that Steve Rhoda speak to the Court concerning Westminster congregation.

Steve Rhoda addressed the Court concerning Westminster Reformed Presbyterian Church

Prayer and Recess at 5:33 p.m.

Jon Hughes prayed for Selma and Westminster and recessed the Court at 5:33 p.m..

Fifth Session, March 4, 2011, Friday Evening 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Call to Order at 7:00 p.m.

Presbytery sang Psalm 110D and was led in prayer by Charles Saunders to reconvene the Court.

Roll (taken visually by the Assistant Clerk)

Reading of the Minutes

The minutes of the Friday afternoon Session were read and approved as read.

Youth Leadership Team Report

The Youth Leadership Team Report was introduced by John Hanson. Some of the Youth Leadership Members spoke to the Court: Caleb McCracken, Melanie Sturm, Noah Elder, Nathan Marcisz.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Home Mission Board Representative Ian Wise reported to the Presbytery.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Representative on Geneva College's Board of Corporators, Andy McCracken reported to the Presbytery.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Church Extension Committees Reports

Southern Church Extension Committee The report was given by Ian Wise.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Rich Holdeman, the previous Moderator took the Chair.

Indiana-Ohio Church Extension Committee The Report was given by David Long.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Dave Long resumed the Chair.

Michigan Church Extension Committee The Report was given by Jon Hughes.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Southern Illinois Church Extension Committee The report was given by Raymond Morton.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

The Committee to Respond to Paper 09-03

James Faris presented the updated Report

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed, that Presbytery moved into Executive Session.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed, that Presbytery arise from Executive Session.

The recommendations presented in the Report, Recommendations 1, 2, 3, were approved. The Committee retired to bring a new written document suitable for signing.

Selma Visitation Committee Report

Selma Visitation Committee Report was given by Barry York.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

The Sparta Congregational Report was given by Robert Morrow.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed, that the time be extended until the Report of the Committee on Paper 09-03 be completed.

The Southfield congregational report was given by Jon Hughes.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Report of the Committee on Paper 09-03

The Report on this Paper 09-03 continued.

James Faris presented the Report.

Ray Lanning signed the document as presented.

Recommendation 4 was approved.

In keeping with this recommendation David Long led the Court in prayer.

Recommendation 5, that the document as signed be communicated to the First Grand Rapids Reformed Presbyterian Church and other relevant parties.

Recommendation 6, that the Committee be continued until Recommendation 5 was complete.

Recommendations 5 and 6 were approved.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report as a whole be received.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed, that Presbytery adjourn.

Prayer time:

Bill Roberts prayed for Sparta Reformed Presbyterian Church.

Jared Olivetti prayed for Southfield Reformed Presbytery Church and adjourned the Court.

Adjournment

Presbytery adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Saturday Morning 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 (noon) (Break 10:15 - 10:30)

Call to Order

The Moderator called Presbytery to order at 8:33 a.m.

Devotions

Presbytery sang Psalm 100A and Gordon Keddie led in prayer and constituted the Court.

Candidates and Credentials Committee Report

Michael LeFebvre introduced Adam Niess for his Expository Sermon I. Adam Niess read I John 3:4-24 and preached on the verses 4-8. He closed his message with prayer and Presbytery sang Psalm 103A.

Roll The Roll was taken visually by the Assistant Clerk

Reading of the Minutes

The Clerk read the Minutes of the Friday evening session. The Minutes were approved as corrected.

Candidates and Credentials Committee Report

Members of Presbytery made comments on Adam Niess's sermon

Roll Call Vote

The Assistant Clerk called the Roll and the examination was unanimously sustained.

Certification to Preach for Adam Niess

Rich Holdeman read the Queries to Adam Niess. Adam answered all the Queries in the affirmative.

Roll Call Vote for Certification

The Assistant Clerk called the Roll and the Certification to Preach was unanimously sustained.

Adam Niess signed the Queries in the Presbytery Minute Book.

Rich Holdeman led in the prayer of Certification to Preach.

Rich Holdeman addressed words of counsel to Adam Niess from II Timothy 4:1-2 and reminded him of the limitations on his duties as recorded in the Book of Church Government, Chapter 3; II; C; 2; i, page D-15

Michael LeFebvre intimated that this completes the Report of the Candidates and Credentials Committee Report

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Congregational Reports

The Southside Indianapolis Congregational Report was presented by Don Pritchard.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that Presbytery take up the Judicial Committee Report as the Order of the Day following the completion of the Congregational Reports.

Southside Reformed Presbyterian Church Visitation Committee Report

The Report was presented by Phil Pockras.

Recommendations:

- 1 That the Committee be continued until the Presbytery meeting at Synod.
 2. That the membership of the Committee be referred to the Nominating Committee.
- The two recommendations were approved.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

The Westminster Congregational Report was given by Keith Magill.

The Recommendations of the Report were:

1. That Presbytery reappoint Keith Magill as Provisional Moderator.
 2. That Presbytery reappoint Jim Ritchhart as Provisional Elder.
- These two Recommendations were referred to the Nominating Committee.
3. That the Presbytery approve the Westminster congregation's request to the Trustees of Synod for a loan for proposed building projects and the Officers of the Court sign this request.

Recommendation 3 was approved by motion.

(The Westminster Congregational Report and the loan for proposed building projects are in the Appendix.)

Order of the Day

Judicial Committee Report

The Judicial Committee Report was presented by Barry York and is as follows:

Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery
Southside Indianapolis, IN
March 3-5, 2011

Judicial Committee Report

Dear Fathers and Brethren,

The Judicial Committee was assigned two related matters:

- 1) Roger Cornejo of the First RPC Durham congregation sent an appeal (dated August 4th, 2010 with a March 1, 2011, addendum) of his discipline of rebuke by the session to the Ad Interim Commission (AIC).
- 2) Mr. Cornejo subsequently filed another appeal (dated September 28, 2010) against the AIC for sending this appeal to the Durham Commission.

In order to process these requests, the following body of material was gathered and

reviewed:

- AIC's Report and Relevant Minutes
- Roger Cornejo's Complaint against AIC's action
- Roger Cornejo's Appeal against Durham Session's Rebuke
- Roger Cornejo's Resignation Letter
- First RPC Durham Session's Relevant Minutes
- First RPC Durham Session's Justification of Rebuke

Our recommended course of action and rationale are as follows, with us addressing Mr. Cornejo's latter concern, then his former one.

Cornejo Appeal against the Referral Action of the AIC

In one sense, Mr. Cornejo's appeal against the AIC is premature and could be dismissed out of hand. The AIC's action was not a ruling but a disposition of how to handle his case. "An appeal is the removal to a higher court of a case already decided by a lower court" (Book of Church Government (BOCG), Sec. II, Ch. 4, Par.10).

Furthermore, given that 1) the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery had established and maintained the existence of the Durham Commission to deal further with any matters arising in the congregation, 2) the AIC provided ample and reasonable rationale as to why the Durham Commission was best suited to handle this matter, and 3) Mr. Cornejo's lengthy responses to this rationale were unconvincing to us and mainly dealing with the substance of his first appeal rather than its adjudication. The Judicial Committee finds no wrong doing by the AIC in pursuing this route in adjudicating this matter by referring it to the Durham Commission.

Recommendation 1: That the Cornejo Appeal against the Referral Action of the AIC be denied and the paper be returned to its author.

Cornejo Appeal against the Rebuke of the First RPC Durham Session

Given the above action, the appeal against the rebuke of Mr. Cornejo by the First RPC Durham Session could be sent to the Durham Commission at this time for their judgment. However, given the referral of this matter to this committee, the light a greater body can shed on a matter, and the desire to see peace for both the First RPC Durham congregation and Mr. Cornejo, we believe it would be wise for the Presbytery to rule on this appeal.

Recommendation 2: That the Cornejo Appeal against the Rebuke of the First RPC Durham Session be taken up by the full Presbytery at this time.

At the heart of both the rebuke following Mr. Cornejo's resignation in July of 2010 and his appeal was his public divulgence of the financial status of newly elected elder Charles Saunders in a resignation letter he sent out via e-mail to the entire congregation. We understand the First RPC Durham Session issued this rebuke believing this information had already been properly processed by both the Session and Durham Commission, and Mr. Cornejo's appeals of last summer to both Presbytery and Synod had already

addressed concerns regarding Mr. Saunders. Also, in their opinion the manner in which Mr. Cornejo's letter was written was vindictive.

Mr. Cornejo's appeal, in its original form along with his most recent addendum, lists injustices he believes he has faced and accusations he believes the Session made against him. Some of these would include such things as the session not recusing itself because of its bias, following improper procedure, or the Session making inferences about Mr. Cornejo. In going through these one by one, the Judicial Committee believes the official records show that reasonable measures were taken and proper procedure was followed.

Recommendation 3: That the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery decline to act on the Cornejo appeal against the rebuke of the First Reformed Presbyterian Church Durham Session. (BOD, chap. 5, section 1.)

In conclusion, we would like to remind all the brothers of this precious truth, "A man's discretion makes him slow to anger, and it is his glory to overlook a transgression" (Proverbs 19:11). May God grant us more of this glory.

Respectfully Submitted,

Wendell McBurney
Bill Roberts
Barry York, Chairman

Recommendations 1 and 2 were approved.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the time to 10:30 a.m. and the break.

Recess

Presbytery took recess at 10:30 to 10:49 a.m.

Presbytery returned to the Judicial Committee Report singing Psalm 42D and prayer by the Moderator.

Recommendation 3 was approved.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the Durham Commission Report be taken off the table.

Durham Commission Report

The recommendation that the Commission be dismissed was approved with the Presbytery expressing its thanks for the work of the Commission.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report as a whole be received.

Sycamore Congregational Report

Jason Camery for the congregation. And introduced the application to the Home Mission

Board for partial funding for the work in Marion, IN.

Recommendation: that the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery approve the Sycamore congregation's application to the Home Mission Board to apply for one-half of their decreasing aid fund to help with the funding of the Marion Church Plant, and that the Presbytery grant one-half their normal support to this work.

The recommendation was approved.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report as a whole be received.

Presbytery entered into a time of prayer

Robert McKissick prayed for the Southside congregation;
James Paris for the Sycamore Congregation;
Russ Pulliam for the Westminster congregation.

Nominating Committee Report

Andrew McCracken presented the Nominating Committee Report.

Recommendation: that the Atlanta Commission be dissolved with thanks was approved.

Granting of Privileges (This recommendation comes from the Nominating Committee.)
That the Hetherton, Orlando, Westminster and First Grand Rapids Reformed Presbyterian Churches be granted the privileges of administration of the sacraments, the filling of the pulpit and the making out of calls.

This recommendation was approved.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be adopted.

Great Lakes – Gulf Presbytery Nominating Committee Report – Spring 2011 As adopted 3/5/11

Ad Interim Commission

Lafayette Session
Jason Camery

Church Extension Committees

Michigan

Jon Hughes (Ch.)
Southfield Session

Southern Illinois

Ray Morton
Bob Morrow

Southern

Ian Wise (Ch.)
Charles Saunders
Tom Reid
Frank Smith

Ohio-Indiana

Barry York
Andy McCracken
Phil Poekras
Jared Olivetti (Ch.)
Jason Camery

Candidates & Credentials Committee

Class of '12

Dean Eilson
Andy McCracken
Rich Holdeman

Class of '13

Michael LeFebvre, Chairman
Jon Hughes

Class of '14

Roy Blackwood
Jared Olivetti

Financial Officers

Treasurer – Jim Bishop

Visitation Committees

Southside

Phil Poekras (Ch.)
James Paris
Russ Pulliam

Southfield

Bill Roberts (Ch.)
Bob Bibby
Andy McCracken

Hetherton

Bob McCracken (ch.)
Jack Rhoda
Kent VanTimmeren

Home Mission Board Rep.

Class of '12 Ian Wise

COVAMIKOI Conference

Director: Jonathan Schacter
Manager: Share Shoop

Interchurch Liaison

Frank Smith

Youth Coordinators

Rich Johnston
John Hanson

Representative to the Youth Ministries Committee of Synod

Ben & Anna Larson

Board of Corporators of Geneva College

Class of '13 Andy McCracken

Moderators of Vacant Congregations

Hetherton – Milton Harrington
Westminster – Keith Magill
Grand Rapids – James Paris
Orlando – Jim Pennington

Provisional Elders

• Durham – Jon Haybe
David Carr
• Hetherton – Ed Roby
• Westminster – Jim Ritchhart

Committee for Paper '09-03

James Paris
Michael LeFebvre
Keith Magill

Selma Committee

Bob McCracken
Barry York

Hetherton Stated Supply

Eric Dan Drost

Assistant Clerk

Jack Rhoda

Terra Haute Commission

Bob McCracken (ch.)
Rich Holdeman
Ken DeJong
Eric Cousins
Jerry Porter

Respectfully submitted:

Jon Hughes
Andy McCracken (Ch.)
Phil Poekras
Jack Rhoda

Time and Place Committee Report

The Report was presented by Robert McCracken.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the Report be referred back to the Committee to bring a report to the Synod meeting of Presbytery.

Finance Committee Report

Keith Magill presented the report of the Finance Committee.

The recommendations are as follows:

1. That the balance of the "Scholar in Residence" Fund be transferred to the General Fund.
2. That the balance of the "Church Extension and Training" Fund be transferred to the General Fund.
3. That the Mar-11 2011 Revised Budget and the Mar-11 2012 Budget be adopted.
4. That it be the policy of Presbytery that the mileage reimbursement rate will be the standard IRS rate in effect on the date the reimbursable mileage was incurred. (For 2011 it is 0.51). That the meal allowance be raised to \$6/meal.
5. That it be the policy of Presbytery that normally the congregation pays the expenses of its provisional moderators and elders.

Recommendations 1, 2, 4, and 5 were approved.

Recommendation 3 was adopted.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Presbytery's Report to Synod

Material for the Presbytery Report to Synod should be sent to the Assistant Clerk according to his report, item 4, which is as follows.

"Any information you particularly desire to see incorporated in the Presbytery Report to Synod may be sent to me by mail or e-mail 100-150 words will be helpful. A draft of the Report will be circulated before the end of March. The final Report will be transmitted to the Ad Interim Commission for approval and subsequent submission to the Clerk of Synod by the end of April."

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Assistant Clerk's Report

**REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT CLERK
to the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery of the RPCNA
meeting in Bloomington, IN, March 3-5, 2011**

1. Session Minute Books were assigned to committees and nothing found contrary to the law and order of the church. Minor irregularities have been noted for Sessions to correct as and when they can.
2. Sessions that did not present their Minute Books for review at this meeting are instructed to present their books to the Synod meeting of Presbytery.

3. Congregational statistical returns for 2010 are now due and should be mailed to me (at Southside church) as soon as possible.

4. Any information you particularly desire to see incorporated in the Presbytery Report to Synod may be sent to me by mail or e-mail 100-150 words will be helpful. A draft of the Report will be circulated before the end of March. The final Report will be transmitted to the Ad Interim Commission for approval and subsequent submission to the Clerk of Synod by the end of April.

Respectfully submitted,

Gordon J. Keddie (Assistant Clerk)

March 5, 2011

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Resolution of Thanks Committee Report

The Resolution of Thanks as presented was read by Jason Camery and is as follows:

Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery Resolution of Thanks Committee

The Word of God instructs us to praise our God and thank Him for the goodness He has given us. Ps 35:18 states that *"I will give You thanks in the great congregation; I will praise You among a mighty throng."*

The Southside RP church has demonstrated congregational hospitality by cheerfully providing food for our work. For this we are extremely thankful and thank the Lord for all the volunteers who have worked so hard behind the scenes. Not only has Southside RP church provided meals for our labor but they have opened up their homes to us! Thank you for this expression of Jesus' love and generosity.

Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ has allowed this body to enjoy our time together by blessing us with the encouraging reports from the various churches. We have tasted a little part of heaven by singing of the Psalms and participating in worshiping our Savior. We have had difficult deliberations and times of debate but through it all we have looked to our Lord for his guidance.

We give thanks to God for the work He has laid before our churches. Further, we heard of such things as developing new works, and the promise of students being trained for future ministry. These are truly good gifts He has given to us. The Old Hundredth helps us as we give words to our praise by saying *"Enter His gates with*

thanksgiving, and His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him, bless His name. "

Finally we give thanks to God for our parliamentarians, for Clerk Ray Morton and Assistant Clerk Gordon Keddie, and especially our youngish Moderator David Long, who guided us with experience well beyond his years! Each time we met, we could say with Paul, "that I may be encouraged together with you while among you, each of us by the other's faith, both yours and mine." (Rom. 1:12) For these things we thank you and for all your service to Christ and his church.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Camery and Robert Shapiro

Minutes of this Session

The Clerk read the Minutes which were approved as corrected.

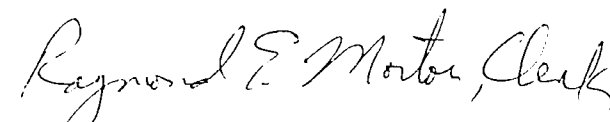
Motion to Adjourn and Closing Devotions

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that Presbytery adjourn.

The Moderator led in prayer adjourning the Court following which Presbytery sang

Psalm 133A.

Presbytery adjourned at 12:12 p.m.



Addendum

Memorial for Garland Kincaid

Garland was born Nov. 6, 1935, at Lebanon, IN to Fred and Charlotte Kincaid. They lived in Lizton, IN. He became a communicate member of the Christian church in Lizton and became a baptized member of the Baptist church in 1963.

He attended grade school and high school at Lizton, IN. He attended Indiana University 1953-57 with B.S. in Education. He was a teacher in the Indianapolis school system. 1957-58.

He married Uree M. Fox, August 30, 1958. They have two children: Mark E. born 1963 and Denise E. born 1964.

Garland attended Temple Theological Seminary (Chattanooga, TN) 1958-61 and graduated with a B.D; Biola School of Mission Medicine 1961-1962; Wycliffe Summer Institute of Linguistics, University of Washington, 1962; and dental training Tijuana, Mexico, 1962-63. He engaged in church planting and was a dental missionary to Mexico,

1963-1975.

Garland was a teacher at Northwest Hendricks Schools 1975-77; Pulpit Supply, Columbus, IN.. 1978-79; received into Ohio-Illinois Presbytery Nov. 9, 1979; Interim Pastor at Columbus IN, 1979-81 and Southside, Indianapolis, IN, 1980-81. Served as Stated Supply for Covenant Fellowship of Indianapolis, IN, 1981-April 26, 1992, and until it was disorganized.

Ephesians 4:11 "It was He who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers.

Knowing Garland I would say his strongest gift was a true evangelist. He shared the gospel wherever he went whether in Mexico or in the States. Garland published a tract dated Sept. 12, 2009, entitled, "How I Came to Know I Have Eternal Life." He shares very well how he came to faith in Christ and he was looking forward to eternal life with His Lord. He died June 25, 2010. It is told that on his last stay in the hospital he led a nurse to the Lord Jesus Christ.

I was a member of the Presbytery when Garland was received into the RPCNA. He was already an ordained minister with his credentials, and he was examined well before he was received. He appeared very down to earth and I sensed his gift for missionary work as an evangelist. 1

I was the Moderator of the Presbytery Ad Interim Commission when Covenant Fellowship was established. It was not approved by all, yet I saw Garland doing his best to bridge the gap. They had pulled elders and members from Second Indianapolis Congregation. When they were disorganized Garland and his family were involved with Second Indianapolis. This shows me the real character of the man. I understand that all the elders were called from Second Indianapolis Session to pray with him at his last illness. Garland was asking that God would be gracious to him and not let him suffer long. God granted him his request.

Respectfully written by Rev. Robert W. Morrow

Ad Interim Commission Minutes 2010 - 2011

Ad Interim Commission

Great Lakes – Gulf Presbytery, RPCNA

Meeting time: March 30, 2010, 8:35 - 9:36 PM
Meeting place: Telephone conference call
Attending: Jared Olivetti, (Moderator); David Carr, (Clerk); Ben Larson, Russ Pulliam, and Jack Rhoda

1. Constitution of the Court
 - a. Jared Olivetti prayed to constitute the Court.
2. Synod Finance Committee representative

- a. Motion carried to appoint Bob McCracken as GLG representative to Synod's Finance Committee. Should he decline, we will ask Gordon Keddie and Ed Schisler, in that order, to take that job.
- 3. Atlanta Commission
 - a. Motion carried to approve the Atlanta Commission requests to invite three presbyters to attend the organizational meeting of the Atlanta congregation and that the appropriate travel expenses of all members of the Commission and the three additional presbyters will be paid from the general fund of Presbytery.
 - b. Motion carried to strongly encourage Atlanta Commission to invite presbytery to attend the organizational meeting and GLG presbytery general fund to pay travel expenses to Atlanta, according to the funds set aside at Spring Meeting of presbytery.
- 4. Adjournment
 - a. Motion carried to adjourn
 - b. Russ Pulliam adjourned the court in prayer.

Jared P. Olivetti, Moderator

David J. Carr, Clerk

* * *

**Ad Interim Commission
Great Lakes – Gulf Presbytery, RPCNA**

Meeting time: April 22, 2010, 8:30 - 9:35 PM
 Meeting place: Telephone conference call
 Attending: Jared Olivetti, (Moderator and Clerk Pro-tem); Ben Larson, Russ Pulliam, and Jack Rhoda

1. Constitution of the Court
 - a. Jared Olivetti prayed to constitute the Court.
2. Pastoral Call to Frank Smith
 - a. Atlanta Commission requests approval of the call to Pastor Frank Smith.
 - b. Motion carried to approve the call from the Northminster RPC to Pastor Frank Smith as a regular gospel call in accordance with the law and order of the RPCNA Constitution.
3. Recommendations from Gordon Keddie, Assistant Clerk
 - a. Note: Gordon's replacement could/should wait until summer meeting of presbytery. Need to alert presbytery
 - b. We recommend that these motions be part of this summer's clerk report.
 - c. Jared will communicate this to Gordon
4. Request from Midwest Presbytery
 - a. Motion carried to absolve Robert Ulrich of the discipline of deposition with the following language: You, Robert Ulrich, having been deposed because of sinful conduct, and having now given very evident proofs of sincere repentance, the Ad Interim Commission of the Great Lakes/Gulf Presbytery

- (RPCNA) in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, as a Court constituted by His authority, hereby absolves from the censure of deposition given against you.
- b. To communicate informally along with our decision: Per Pastor Graham's letter, this action was taken without a view to re-ordination, reinstatement or membership in the RPCNA at this time.
- 5. Adjournment
 - a. Motion carried to adjourn.
 - b. Jack Rhoda adjourned the court in prayer.

Jared P. Olivetti, Moderator

David J. Carr, Clerk

* * *

**Ad Interim Commission
Great Lakes – Gulf Presbytery, RPCNA**

Meeting time: May 10, 2010, 8:35 – 9:00 PM
 Meeting place: Telephone conference call
 Attending: Jared Olivetti, (Moderator); David Carr, (Clerk); Ben Larson, Russ Pulliam, and Jack Rhoda

1. Constitution of the Court
 - a. Jared Olivetti prayed to constitute the Court.
2. Approval of minutes
 - a. Minutes of April 22, 2010 were approved.
3. Southern Church Extension Committee Request
 - a. Motion carried to add Pastor Frank Smith to the Southern Church Extension Committee.
4. Sycamore RPC Request
 - a. Sycamore session requested the following motion.
 - b. Motion carried to appoint Jason Camery as Moderator Pro Tem of the session of Sycamore RPC for any necessary trial of excommunication regarding Jamey York, son of Barry and Miriam York.
5. Presbytery Report to Synod
 - a. Motion carried to approve the presbytery report as amended, with thanks to Pastor Keddie for his excellent journalistic skills.
6. Lafayette RPC Request
 - a. Motion carried to grant permission to Lafayette RPC to elect an associate pastor.
7. Adjournment
 - a. Motion carried to adjourn
 - b. Ben Larson adjourned the court in prayer.

Jared P. Olivetti, Moderator

David J. Carr, Clerk

* * *

Ad Interim Commission
Great Lakes – Gulf Presbytery, RPCNA

Meeting time: August 26, 2010, 7:00 – 9:15 PM
Meeting place: Lafayette RPC, 1723 South Ninth Street, Lafayette IN
Attending: Jared Olivetti, (Moderator); David Carr, (Clerk); Ben Larson, and Jack Rhoda
Also present: Pastor David Long, Scott and Anna McCullough

1. Devotions Jared Olivetti read Titus 1
2. Constitution of the Court
 - a. Jared Olivetti prayed to constitute the Court.
3. Scott McCullough: Licensure to receive a Call
 - a. Licensure examinations: overall evaluation
 - i. Licensure exams were unanimously sustained by a roll call vote
 - b. Administration of Queries for Certification to receive a Call
 - i. All queries were affirmed
 - ii. Scott's one exception to the queries is to the definite article in reference to Antichrist: the Pope is not THE Antichrist
 - c. Certification as a Candidate to Receive a Call:
 - i. Roll call vote carried unanimously
 - d. Prayer of licensure by Pastor David Long
 - e. Pastor Long counseled Scott on his duties and limitations as a licentiate
4. First Durham: Roger Cornejo appeal of session's rebuke
 - a. Motion carried that the appeal by Roger Cornejo be assigned to the Durham Commission.
 - b. David Carr abstained from voting
 - c. Grounds for transmittal to Durham Commission include the scope and depth of the Commission's assignment and work to date, the timeliness of the Commission's ability to respond, and the overwhelming approval of Synod of the Commission's work to date.
5. Request from Reformation Presbytery of the Midwest (RPM)
 - a. Motion carried that the request of RPM for fraternal relations be transmitted to Presbytery.
 - b. Motion carried that Ad Interim Commission recommends that the Great Lakes - Gulf Presbytery deny the request for fraternal relations with RPM and should this group of believers want to join with RPCNA that they should dissolve themselves and approach our Presbytery to begin the process of church planting.
6. Selma Visitation
 - a. Motion carried to establish a visitation committee to Selma congregation consisting of Barry York, Bob McCracken (alternate: Jared Olivetti) plus consultative members Jerry O'Neill and another member of the committee's choice.
7. Adjournment
 - a. Motion carried to adjourn
 - b. Ben Larson adjourned the court in prayer.

Jared P. Olivetti, Moderator

David J. Carr, Clerk

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Ad Interim Commission
Great Lakes – Gulf Presbytery, RPCNA

Meeting time: October 19, 2010 8:00 – 10:25 PM
Meeting place: Telephone conference call
Attending: Jared Olivetti, (Moderator); David Carr, (Clerk); Ben Larson, Russ Pulliam, and Jack Rhoda

Interviewed by the court via telephone: Pastor Ray Lanning, Pastor James Faris

1. Devotions: Jared Olivetti read Proverbs 10:17-21
2. Constitution of the Court
 - a. Jared Olivetti prayed to constitute the Court.
3. First Durham
 - a. Roger Cornejo appealed Ad Interim Commission (AIC) decision to send his previous appeal to the Durham Commission
 - i. Parliamentarians Phil Pockras and Tom Reid said that the appeal is a proper action, though it is really a complaint
 - b. Motion carried: AIC acknowledges receipt of a complaint from Roger Cornejo and will present the original appeal (of the rebuke by Durham Session) and complaint (re: AIC assigning the appeal to Durham Commission) to spring Presbytery meeting for further adjudication.
 - c. In light of Roger's request for commission-appointed counsel, the motion carried to encourage Roger Cornejo to continue to get counsel from Frank Smith and Tom Reid.
4. First RPC of Grand Rapids
 - a. Interview with Ray Lanning (8:34 – 8:59 PM)
 - i. Ray recounted the history of his interaction with congregation, session and GR Committee, esp. regarding the theological issue under discussion.
 - ii. When the situation became unworkable, Ray tendered his resignation September 30, 2010.
 - iii. He said that he has cooperated all along, as best as he knew how. Now he wonders how to move forward because he belongs to GR RPC and would like to attend worship there.
 - iv. Ray requests a counselor / mentor / friend to help him in his current situation.
 - b. Interview with James Faris (9:00 – 9:45 PM)
 - i. James summarized Ray's history and reputation in the Reformed community in Grand Rapids. He also recounted Ray's interaction with the congregation, session and committee regarding Ray's teaching about homosexuality.
 - ii. James talked about the current state of the congregation and prospects and conditions for its growth and development.

- iii. GR Committee will meet tomorrow to discuss how to counsel presbytery to respond to Ray Lanning.
- c. The three communications received from members of the congregation were considered during our deliberations.
- d. Motion carried to accept Pastor Lanning's resignation and to dissolve the pastoral relationship with First RPC of Grand Rapids.
 - i. Jared Olivetti prayed to dissolve the pastoral relationship.
- e. Vacant pulpit follow-up
 - i. The pulpit will be officially declared vacant using Form 17.
 - ii. Jared will prepare a letter to the session.
 - iii. Motion carried to appoint James Faris as temporary moderator of session
 - iv. Motion carried to ask Bill Roberts to come alongside Ray Lanning to give him encouragement and counsel in the coming months.
- 5. Covfamikoi
 - a. Motion carried to appoint Jonathan Schaeffer as the conference director.
 - b. New conference location: Campbellsville University in Campbellsville, KY
- 6. Selma Visitation Committee
 - a. Bob McCracken will be accompanied by Jerry and Ann O'Neill
 - b. Dates for the visit are October 22 – 25, 2010.
- 7. Elkhart Visitation Committee
 - a. Date for visit is November 12 – 14
 - b. Team consists of Bob McCracken, Jack Rhoda, and David Carr
- 8. Communication between AIC and presbytery
 - a. Jared will write a summary of AIC actions for distribution throughout our presbytery.
- 9. Adjournment
 - a. Motion carried to adjourn
 - b. Jack Rhoda adjourned the court with prayer.

Jared P. Olivetti, Moderator

David J. Carr, Clerk

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Ad Interim Commission

Great Lakes – Gulf Presbytery, RPCNA

Meeting time: November 16, 2010 8:00 – 9:55 PM
 Meeting place: Telephone conference call
 Attending: Jared Olivetti, (Moderator); David Carr, (Clerk); Ben Larson, Russ Pulliam, and Jack Rhoda

- 1. Constitution of the Court
 - a. Jared Olivetti prayed to constitute the Court.
- 2. Review Grand Rapids Committee work
 - a. AIC reviewed assignments that GR Committee gave to Ray Lanning

- i. Is what Ray has done enough to satisfy Presbytery
- ii. If not, are Committee assignments fair and reasonable
- b. AIC reviewed Pastor Lanning's comments at last AIC meeting
 - i. GR Committee assignment workload is unreasonable
 - ii. Work already completed should suffice
- c. Jared summarized the whole GR situation
 - i. Teaching on homosexuality at GR was unpopular and was not resolved in GR Session
 - ii. Ray Lanning wrote two papers at Committee request
 - iii. Charges were drawn up by GR Committee
 - iv. Letters were written by Ray Lanning
 - v. Presbytery passed action requesting more writing by Pastor Lanning
 - vi. Ray Lanning wrote more but GR Committee was not satisfied
- 3. Discussion of Response to Committee June 2010 Report to Presbytery
 - a. AIC not satisfied with any of the 3 points
 - b. Motion carried that the documents provided from Ray Lanning have not satisfactorily answered Presbytery's recommendation at Synod 2010.
 - c. Assignments were discussed at length
 - d. Jared will communicate summary of AIC discussion to GR Committee, including the following concerns
 - i. GR Committee should read Ray Lanning letters more graciously
 - ii. GR Committee goal for assignment should be toned down
 - iii. Ray Lanning should do more work
 - iv. Assignments are reasonable
 - v. Assignments should be reworded to allow Ray Lanning freedom of conscience
- 4. Approval of minutes
 - a. Minutes were read and amended
 - b. Motion carried to approve minutes as amended
- 5. Adjournment
 - a. Motion carried to adjourn
 - b. Russ Pulliam adjourned the court with prayer

Jared P. Olivetti, Moderator

David J. Carr, Clerk

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Ad Interim Commission

Great Lakes – Gulf Presbytery, RPCNA

Meeting time: January 18, 2011 8:05 – 9:25 PM
 Meeting place: Telephone conference call
 Attending: Jared Olivetti, (Moderator); David Carr, (Clerk); Ben Larson, Russ Pulliam, and Jack Rhoda, Bill Roberts consultative member

- 1. Devotions and Constitution of the Court

- a. Jared read Galatians 6: 1-10
- b. Jared Olivetti prayed to constitute the Court.
- 2. Request from Grand Rapids Committee
 - a. Review of past actions and goal of GR Committee work and assignment
 - b. Motion carried to approve the assignment to Ray Lanning by the GR Committee dated 12/21/10 as appropriate fulfillment of Presbytery motion of June 21, 2010.
 - c. .
- 3. Southern Church Extension Committee
 - a. Greg Cumbee has moved to Michigan where he is a graduate student in theology
 - b. Motion carried to accept with thanks the resignation of Greg Cumbee from the Southern CEC.
- 4. Candidates & Credentials Committee
 - a. CCC requests AIC to transfer Pastor David Smith's credentials to Midwest Presbytery
 - b. Motion carried to transfer David Smith's ministerial credentials to Midwest Presbytery
- 5. Selma Visitation Committee
 - a. Motion carried to receive the report of the Selma Visitation Committee.
- 6. Adjournment
 - a. Motion carried to adjourn
 - b. Ben Larson adjourned the court with prayer

Jared P. Olivetti, Moderator

David J. Carr, Clerk

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**Ad Interim Commission
Great Lakes – Gulf Presbytery, RPCNA**

Meeting time: February 8, 2011 8:06 -- 9:15 PM
 Meeting place: Telephone conference call
 Attending: Jared Olivetti, (Moderator); David Carr, (Clerk); Ben Larson, Russ Pulliam and Jack Rhoda

1. Constitution of the Court

- a. Jared Olivetti prayed to constitute the Court.
- 2. Request from Second RPC of Indianapolis
 - a. Motion carried to grant permission to Second RPC of Indianapolis to call a pastor.
- 3. Request from Reformation Presbytery of the Midwest (RPM)
 - a. Motion carried to replace the recommendation of 8/26/10 with the following recommendations:
 - i. The Great Lakes – Gulf Presbytery deny the RPM request for fraternal relations.
 - ii. The Ohio-Illinois Church Extension Committee be instructed to contact the brethren to investigate the viability of planting a RPCNA congregation in Wisconsin.
 - iii. The brethren in Wisconsin be informally counseled to become familiar with RPCNA by worshiping in and possibly joining Westminster RPC or other churches in GLG Presbytery.
 - b. Jared will inform Jim Brown and Fred Fleming of Ad Interim Commission recommendations and the time and place of Presbytery meeting.
- 4. Approval of minutes
 - a. Motion carried to approve minutes of 3/30/10, 4/22/10, 5/10/10, 8/26/10, 10/19/10, 11/16/10, 1/18/11 and 2/8/11 as amended.
- 5. Adjournment
 - a. Motion carried to adjourn.
 - b. David Carr adjourned the court with prayer

Jared P. Olivetti, Moderator

David J. Carr, Clerk

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**Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery
March 3-5, 2011
Southside Indianapolis RPC**

Selma Committee Report
(First written in November 2010)

In September the Ad Interim Commission formed a Selma Committee in response to a request for help from Pastor Tom Gray regarding several pastoral and family issues he was facing. Members of the committee are Bob McCracken, Jerry O'Neill (who is a longtime acquaintance to the Grays and had wed them) and Barry York. Many lengthy telephone conferences and e-mail exchanges took place with Pastor Gray, Elders George Evans and Greg Woodson, and in committee. It was then decided that Bob and Jerry, along with his wife Ann, would form a visitation team and visit Selma on the weekend of October 22-25, 2010. This report summarizes the visitation team's schedule, our committee's observations of the ministry, and the actions steps we would counsel the pastor, the session, and our committee to take.

Schedule of Visit

After arriving Friday night, the visitation team met at the Gray's home at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday

p.m. when they broke for lunch. They then continued the conversation into the afternoon until about 5:00 p.m. At this point the visitation team met with Essie Woodson, the wife of Averett Woodson, who sadly no longer attends the church. About 6:45 p.m. the team dismissed and went to their motel for dinner and bed.

On Sabbath morning, October 24th, at 9:30 a.m. the team attended Sabbath School where Ruth Brooks led the Adult Class, then at 11:00 a.m. to Morning Worship where Jerry O'Neill baptized Thomas Andrew Gray and Bob McCracken preached. Following the service George Evans and his wife provided lunch for everyone and a cake to celebrate the baptism, and the congregation enjoyed a good time of fellowship. Following the fellowship time, Elders George Evans and Greg Woodson met with Bob and Jerry in the Pastor's Study for about an hour. They expressed their concerns and outlined their perspectives. Bob and Jerry then returned to the Gray's home to share some of the elders' thoughts with Tom and his wife. One of the Gray's close friends, named Tamika Burns and her three lovely children, were there, and she was invited to share her reflections on the past year that she had been attending the congregation. When she left, the team talked further with Tom and Caramel and shared some of their observations and advice. They then went to visit Mrs. Lovinia Brown (Claude Brown's wife) and her daughter Lynn in their home before returning to the motel.

The committee would like to publicly thank Ann O'Neill, who gave tremendous help in overseeing the children and offering fellowship to Caramel as Bob and Jerry met with these various parties.

Overall Observations and Impressions

- 1) The Selma congregation has strong traditions, but has lost a number of members and therefore is weak in personnel with about 25-30 in Morning Worship. Encouragement has come in two new families that have shown interest who have been attending fairly regularly, and there is hope that they will become an active part of the work. A need for new leadership to be raised up and trained in preparation for the future was expressed.
- 2) Tension exists between some in the congregation and the pastor. Factors such as poor communication, confrontation of sin, financial and custodial pressures on the Gray Family (the Grays have been involved in a months-long custodial battle over the two oldest sons with Caramel's former husband), etc. have all contributed to these tensions. The visitation team emphasized that trust needs to be enhanced on all sides with all persons, and love among the brethren increased.
- 3) The session stated that they have been sporadic in their meetings. This has sometimes caused the making of decisions by the pastor to be without discussion or consent, resulting in a lack of coordination in the session's work.
- 4) The session members stated that they do not see the presence of a white pastor in a black church to be a problem or difficulty, and this was pleasing to note. However, the visitation team did note certain ideological differences exist, especially between the pastor and congregation, that need the hard labor of working through reconciliation in order for peace to ensue.
- 4) Finances are a struggle with a big family. The pastor's church salary is supplemented in a small way by some work at a local radio station (Moody Radio South) as a public affairs representative.
- 5) Pastor Gray has been active and involved with the Community. He knows and is known by most of the pastors in town and is respected among them. He also has established an identity through his work on the radio.

congregations. We all need to be more interested and diligent in our prayers for the work in Selma, praying that God would show Himself strong, and that He would restrain and destroy the work of Satan, and build up a flock of God who will love Him, and serve Him, and hold up the light of Truth in that area.

Action Steps

Following the team's visit to Selma, the committee would offer the following counsel as positive actions for the pastor, session, committee and presbytery to take.

- 1) As the session has acknowledged its own need to meet more regularly, and as this would enhance the unity, coordination, and communication between elders, we encourage them to commit to scheduled, monthly session meetings. Honest assessment of their work and frank but gentle communication regarding their working relationship needs to be high on their agenda at this time if this pastoral arrangement is to continue. As it was a repeated matter of concern, the pastor and session should work out what is a reasonable and agreed upon weekly work schedule for the pastor. This schedule should honor his need to give full attention to his ministry at appropriate times but also show sensitivity to his large family demands and the financial need to work another job. *(Note: We are happy to report that since the Team's visit, good progress has been seen in response to this recommendation, and regular meetings are being held.)*
- 2) As the session has asked the pastor to visit with each of the families, preferably without children accompanying him this year because of potentially confidential matters to be discussed, and as Pastor Gray has begun this work, we believe he should make it a pastoral priority to continue to pursue meeting with each family to express his love for them, to listen to their concerns, and to work through any barriers that exist between them.
- 3) Given the need of the pastor to be further encouraged and mentored, we request that Pastor Gray establish a monthly phone meeting with Bob McCracken for counsel and prayer. In the same manner, as Caramel with her tremendous family responsibilities needs the encouragement of an older woman, we would like to ask her to identify a woman or two she might enjoy talking and praying with (one possibility might be Ann O'Neill), and then have us approach this woman with the request to talk and pray at least monthly with her.
- 4) Because the congregation can feel isolated from the presbytery, we would ask Pastor Gray to send out a short, carefully-worded, monthly prayer update with specific congregational and family petitions.
- 5) As the Grays believe the harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few, and the care for their own children is of great importance to them, we think a co-laborer who could help with childcare would be of huge benefit to them. We would counsel them to ask God to send to them a helper (Matthew 9:37-38), and to approach the RP Short-term Missions with a request to advertise this need and see if such a person might be willing to relocate to Selma to serve in this way for a season.
- 6) The financial situation of the Grays has surfaced several times in our interactions. We believe that though the pressures they have felt are real, the Lord has provided in ordinary and also extraordinary ways in His care for the Grays. We would counsel Tom and Caramel to maintain a highly disciplined budget so as to live on what the Lord is providing, and to communicate to the session and this committee if they find they are not able to do so. We would also urge Tom and the session to review if the congregation is able to sustain their current budget including the pastoral salary without draining their savings and, if not, to begin making exigency plans.

the early spring to see the progress in these actions steps and offer other counsel that might be beneficial. (Note: Before any return trip, we want to consult with the Selma Session and also would appreciate counsel from the Presbytery.)

Respectfully Submitted,

Bob McCracken
Jerry O'Neill
Barry York, Chairman

Westminster Reformed Presbyterian Church
Prairie View, Illinois

Report to Presbytery
March 2011

Dear Brothers in Christ,

Westminster Reformed Presbyterian Church continues to carry out an active, hopeful and joyful ministry in the north suburbs of Chicago. The RPCNA has maintained a witness to the Chicago area for over a century, and we trust that God will continue to use us to proclaim Christ and uphold the Reformed faith in this region.

Worship

We continue to meet each Lord's Day for corporate worship, proclaiming the Word of God and sitting together (monthly) at the Table of our Lord. The ministry of God's Word is expository, and application is made to the life of the church and the individual lives of God's people. In the past year, we have concluded a series on the book of Philippians and have completed preaching series on 1 Peter and Ezra as well. Our services are dialogical, Christ-centered, and Gospel-focused, following God's prescription for worship in His Word and seeking to encourage the saints in their Reformed faith.

Ordained Leadership

We are blessed to have a Session of three elders, including Rev. Keith Magill who serves as our provisional moderator by appointment of Presbytery. Bob Koch continues to serve as elder, providing leadership in worship and clerking for Session. Jim Ritchhart serves as a provisional elder appointed by Presbytery as he works in the area while remaining a member and elder at Springs RPC in Colorado Springs. Jim is currently teaching the adult class on Sunday mornings, leading a study of the theme of "temple" and God's dwelling with His people. Session meets regularly on the first or second Saturday morning each month.

The congregation and Session are very thankful to God for the service of Rev. Stephen Rhoda as our interim pastor. With ordination in the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, Rev. Rhoda is now in his second year with us, providing faithful preaching and pastoral ministries, also administering the Lord's Supper. Session has just extended our agreement with Rev. Rhoda to continue at least until August of 2012. He, with his wife Mary and their three children, live in and work out of the parsonage. His position is part-time as he also serves as Director of Ministry for Ephphatha Reformation Ministries, Inc.

Fellowship

Recognizing the church as the "communion of the saints," we give a significant emphasis to fellowship. Beyond our Lord's Day worship, we sit down twice each month for meals. On the first Sunday of each month we have our monthly carry-in dinners, which are organized by Mary Rhoda and other ladies in the church. On the third Sunday, we also plan to eat together, yet with a "brown bag" approach with each individual/family bringing food for themselves. On other Sundays, meals are often eaten impromptu, largely due to the distance several families travel to church and their need to eat before heading home. Thus, on average we are together each Lord's Day from 9:30 am to 2:30 pm.

A weekly email newsletter is prepared to give the congregation a sense of unity throughout the week as well. Short articles are offered to encourage personal and family worship at home, including Bible reading and prayer. Regular columns include: "Where in the Word are You?" - "Who Do You Say that Christ Is?" - "Verse of the Week" - "Big Words" and "Prayer Prompt." Also provided are short articles for "Sermon Review" and "Service/Sermon Preview." If you would like to receive these emails, please request that Rev. Rhoda add you to the email list.

The women have recently begun meeting monthly for a “Women’s Fellowship” ministry, where they benefit from a Bible lesson and time of singing, before enjoying a craft project and fellowship over dessert. We have also recently redesigned and updated our church directory to keep members in touch with each other, and a new church brochure encourages and allows each member to introduce Westminster to others who might be drawn in to Christ and fellowship with us His church.

Education

Our educational ministries continue to thrive. We currently have three classes that meet each Lord’s Day morning: an adult class, a Catechism class for 7th-12th graders studying the Westminster Confession, and a class for younger children using Great Commission’s material. In addition, we have recently launched a new ministry called “2nd Assembly” that meets on the 1st and 3rd Sundays following our organized meals. This is serving as a “second service,” though not designed as a full worship service, and also as a “new members class,” with several of our young people currently participating who are looking toward a profession of faith later this year. The content of “2nd Assembly” is a survey course, covering the foundational teachings of Christianity and the Reformed faith, including the distinctives of the RPCNA.

Outreach

In the area of outreach, we continue to seek points of contact with our community. In the past year, we employed an advertising campaign using the regional distribution network of the Chicago Tribune, but with limited finances, we have lately looked for less expensive and perhaps even more effective approaches. Last May we began a White Horse Inn Discussion Group that meets monthly to listen to and discuss a White Horse Inn program from the previous month. Several have attended church as a result of first coming to this discussion group; one is currently in the process of becoming a member. The winter weather has taken its toll on our numbers, but we are determined to persevere through to spring, continuing to pray that this ministry will put us in contact with more and more people. In addition, we employ an attractive website, a very active Facebook Page, and weekly uploads to SermonAudio.com, to put our name before people and invite them to come participate in our fellowship and ministry.

Ecumenicity

We have enjoyed fellowship with at least one other local congregation and with several Christian organizations. Hope OPC is located a half hour north of us in Grayslake, Illinois, and we regularly exchange ministry information with them, helping to publicize their conference efforts, for example, and enjoying the same help from them for ours. Trinity College (Deerfield) and Trinity Evangelical Divinity School are located just 10 minutes to the east of us, and we have participated in their “Church Fair” and hear regularly of their conference and seminar offerings. Rev. Jay Basler, a retired minister in the PCUSA, worships with us somewhat regularly along with his wife Glo. They both have RPCNA and PCA connections in the past, she even having grown up in the Midwest Presbytery of the RP. We have also enjoyed regular visits from Wesley Loisch, a Moody Bible Institute student with RP connections in Kokomo, Indiana, and have recently supported him in his work with Child Evangelism Fellowship.

Property and Facilities

We are extremely thankful to God for the property we enjoy in Prairie View, Illinois. Two large lots and a historic church building and parsonage provide us with a significant presence within the community. Both structures are sound and attractive, though not without maintenance challenges. For two years we have been blessed by the Presbytery Youth Ministry’s “Fall Ministry Project”. The young people who have come up to help us have completed various maintenance projects in exchange for housing and as much Chicago pizza as they can eat. Yet, we deal somewhat regularly with an aging septic system, our bell tower is in need of paint

and at least two painters with strong nerves, and the parsonage basement walls need extensive refurbishing to ensure the stability of the house in the future.

Challenges

Like all local congregations, we are not without our challenges, by which God keeps us humble, prayerful, and conscious of our utter dependence upon Him. These challenges are listed and briefly described here that our sister churches within Presbytery might pray for us and our needs:

1. Membership

We are a small congregation with a membership that remains somewhat in flux. Potential job transfers loom at times to keep us uncertain of future numbers, and even a slight majority of our families drive 45 minutes to an hour to reach church each Lord’s Day. Thus the distance and occasional poor weather lessen our numerical fellowship, and the distance alone prevents a more active fellowship and ministry throughout the week.

2. Busy Members

Though not unique to our congregation, we would yet identify the “rat race” pace of our culture as a significant challenge that we face. It’s not that our members don’t acknowledge the church and the work of Christ to gather them in faith and fellowship, but careers, family life, and simple fatigue often reduce the involvement of members in church ministries.

3. Finances

Westminster remains in a position in which they are unable to call a full-time pastor by way of regular call, but our giving has increased and we are more consistently meeting budget each month and thus drawing less on our reserve funds. Without these reserves, it’s possible that we would not now be reporting as an active congregation, and as these reserves are gradually used, our future existence remains uncertain. However, we trust that God will supply our needs well into the future by way of the congregation’s continued faithfulness. We have recently submitted an application to the Trustees of Synod for refinancing our mortgage with the hope of acquiring additional funds for one or more of our larger maintenance projects.

4. Property Maintenance

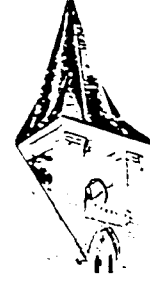
Of our current maintenance issues, our septic system is probably the most urgent. One system serves both church and parsonage, and we regularly have Sundays on which the bathroom facilities at the church function poorly or not at all. This requires that we send people over to the house to use the bathrooms there, which, somewhat mysteriously, have never failed. We have explored the possibility of hooking into a municipal sewage system, ironically just 200-250 feet away, but at this point we have determined that staying with a septic system will be more practical and cost efficient.

Conclusion

These are our major challenges, but this report began with a reference to Westminster as an active, hopeful and joyful ministry, and that certainly bears repeating. Our witness to Christ is clear, our fellowship is deep, and our expectation for the blessing of God is high. We face uncertainties but know that Christ is King and Head of His church and that He bears all power and authority. We pray that He will stir us by His Spirit, prosper us in His grace, and use us in a mighty way for His kingdom and glory. Please support and pray for us to this end. Thank you!

Recommendations

1. That Presbytery reappoint Keith Magill as Provisional Moderator.
2. That Presbytery reappoint Jim Ritchhart as Provisional Elder.



Westminster Reformed Presbyterian Church
 16670 Easton Avenue Prairie
 View, IL 60061

Keith Magill, Provisional Moderator 4 574-206-6394 4
 Robert L. Koch, RE 4 201-417-1372 4

Westminster RPC					
FINANCIAL REPORT - DECEMBER 31, 2010					
2011 BUDGET					
	2010	2010	2010	2011	Change from
	Budget	Actual	Budget vs	Budget	2010 Actual
			Actual		
INCOME					
101 Tithes & Offerings	30,000.00	41,832.84	11,832.84	48,000.00	6,167.16
102 Interest	0.00	1,169.38			1,169.38
107 Other	0.00				0.00
TOTAL INCOME	30,000.00	43,002.22	13,002.22	48,000.00	4,997.78
EXPENSES					
PASTORAL SUPPORT					
201 Pastor's Salary	21,600.00	21,600.00	0.00	24,000.00	2,400.00
<i>Pastoral Support Sub-total</i>	<i>21,600.00</i>	<i>21,600.00</i>	<i>0.00</i>	<i>24,000.00</i>	<i>2,400.00</i>
CHURCH MINISTRIES					
301 Christian Education	100.00	447.68	(347.68)	500.00	52.32
302 Fellowship Activities	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
303 Pastor's Ministry Expenses	1,200.00	0.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00
304 Guest Ministry	1,000.00	1,525.00	(525.00)	1,000.00	(525.00)
305 Mercy Ministry		2,700.00	(2,700.00)	500.00	(2,200.00)
306 Advertising	2,000.00	1,012.59	987.41	500.00	(512.59)
<i>Church Ministries Sub-total</i>	<i>4,400.00</i>	<i>5,685.27</i>	<i>(1,285.27)</i>	<i>3,800.00</i>	<i>(1,885.27)</i>
CHURCH EXPENSES					
401 Church Office	250.00	0.00	250.00	250.00	250.00
402 Bank Charges		116.00	(116.00)		(116.00)
404 Provisional Moderator				1,000.00	1,000.00
<i>Church Expenses Sub-total</i>	<i>250.00</i>	<i>116.00</i>	<i>134.00</i>	<i>1,250.00</i>	<i>1,134.00</i>
DENOMINATION					
501 Presbytery Assessments	580.00	580.22	(0.22)	560.00	(20.22)
502 Synod Assessments	1,080.00	1,080.00	0.00	920.00	(160.00)
503 Synod & Presby Delegate				250.00	250.00
504 RP Missions/Ministry					0.00
<i>Denomination Sub-total</i>	<i>1,660.00</i>	<i>1,660.22</i>	<i>(0.22)</i>	<i>1,730.00</i>	<i>69.78</i>
BUILDING					
601 Mortgage	16,822.00	6,920.00	9,902.00	6,000.00	(9,200.00)
602 Insurance	3,000.00	2,943.00	57.00	3,000.00	57.00
603 Cleaning	1,000.00	470.00	530.00	500.00	30.00
604 Maintenance		2,432.46	(2,432.46)	750.00	(1,682.46)
605 Security/Fire Alarm	1,100.00	957.00	143.00	1,000.00	43.00
607 Utilities	7,300.00	5,387.25	1,912.75	5,550.00	162.75
608 Improvements	1,000.00		1,000.00	500.00	500.00
609 Other	1,500.00	95.62	1,404.38		
<i>Building Sub-total</i>	<i>31,722.00</i>	<i>19,205.33</i>	<i>12,516.67</i>	<i>17,300.00</i>	<i>(13,905.33)</i>
PARSONAGE					
704 Maintenance				750.00	750.00
706 Internet-TV		1,411.77	(1,411.77)	1,450.00	38.23
707 Utilities		4,519.78	(4,519.78)	4,800.00	280.22
708 Improvements				500.00	500.00
<i>Parsonage Sub-total</i>	<i>0.00</i>	<i>5,931.55</i>	<i>(5,931.55)</i>	<i>7,500.00</i>	<i>1,568.45</i>
TOTAL EXPENSES	59,632.00	54,198.37	5,433.63	55,580.00	1,381.63
YTD NET			18,435.85		
FUNDS					
000 General Fund					
Beginning Balance Jan 1	40,214.94	40,214.94		29,018.79	
Net from This Year	(29,633.00)	(21,106.75)		(7,885.33)	
Balance =	10,582.94	29,018.79		21,438.79	
Assets as of Year-end					
	Actual				
	12/31/2009				
Checking Account	5,023.80	9,827.19			
Savings Account	5,191.14	2,691.60			
CD #1	10,000.00				
CD #2	10,000.00				
CD #3	10,000.00	10,000.00			
Loan		6,500.00			
Total Assets	40,214.94	29,018.79			

March 14, 2011

Trustees of Synod
 7408 Penn Avenue
 Pittsburgh, PA 15208

Dear Trustees of Synod,

We are writing to request a new loan arrangement with the Trustees.

Westminster RP Church owns both a church building and a two-story, four bedroom parsonage which is directly adjacent to the church building. The property is located in an unincorporated area known as Prairie View, Illinois, in the far northwest suburbs of Chicago. The property was purchased by the congregation in late 1992. The church building and the parsonage are approximately 100 years old. Two mortgages from the Trustees were used to purchase the property – one from the Building Loan Fund and one from General Investment funds.



We are applying to the Trustees

for: A line of credit of up to \$75,000 at 5%

Proposed repayment schedule – \$500 a month with extra payments whenever possible. Maximum repayment period would be 20 years.

Use of the funds

1. Retiring our two existing mortgages
2. Repairs to the church building and parsonage which will preserve the value of the buildings for the congregation's use or for sale by the Trustees if the congregation were to be disorganized.

Why a line of credit rather than a fixed amount loan

Because at this time we are not sure of the cost and timing of all of the needed repairs but we need to begin some of the repairs immediately. Also, the congregation does not have the capacity to plan and supervise all of the repairs at the same time. We hope to complete them over approximately 1 year.

Draws from the line of credit

The first draw will be used to pay off our present General Investment and Building Loan Fund mortgages.

Present mortgage balances are approximately:

\$8,572.03 at 6.75% (General Investment Mortgage)
\$18,102.29 at 4.50% (Building Loan Fund Mortgage)

Subsequent draws will be for the repairs and upgrades to the buildings.

The repairs needed

1. Resolve sewer problems -- estimate is unknown at this time

Presently, the church and parsonage are on a common well and common septic. Although we have upgraded the well and water treatment equipment, we continue to have major problems with the septic system, especially in the church building.

We are still investigating our options. Our properties are located in an unincorporated enclave which does not have public utilities. We have met with officials (Village Engineer, Village Manager, Deputy Village Manager, Village Planner) of the Village of Buffalo Grove (Population 45,000) about connecting to their sanitary sewer system. At this point that option appears to be very expensive, would require the cooperation of several neighbors, and would take a very large effort on our part. Currently, we are doing further research to determine with greater confidence what the real problem is with our septic system. We are hopeful that some much less expensive repairs and upgrades to our present system can make it useable for a few more years until Prairie View becomes annexed by Buffalo Grove making a public sanitary sewer more readily available. The estimate we have been given for replacing the whole septic system is \$20-30,000.

Currently, we are having to pump the septic tank every few weeks costing about \$250 each time. We have already spent nearly \$1,000 in the first 2 months of 2011 pumping the tank. This makes resolving the septic problem a very high priority.

2. Repairs to the tower and front gable of the church building -- current estimate is about \$5,000

The lower part of the church building has been covered with vinyl siding. But the tower and front gable still have wood siding. This wood is rapidly deteriorating and either needs to be scraped and painted or covered with vinyl. We are still gathering estimates and deciding what approach to take for this repair. See the picture on the next page.

3. Major repairs to the foundation of the parsonage - current estimate is about \$18,000

The basement walls of the parsonage are deteriorating significantly. Moisture penetration from outside must be stopped and the walls must be reconstructed. Mr. Tim Montgomery, an elder in the Cambridge RPC congregation and a structural engineer specializing in concrete repairs, has done a thorough study of the walls and has proposed solutions. His report is Appendix A Pages 7-12. We are waiting for the line of credit approval before getting firm estimates on this project.



4. Replace the furnace and install central air conditioning in the parsonage -- current estimate is \$6,500

Because of the moisture in the basement of the parsonage from the deteriorating walls and poor basement drainage and because of its age (19 years), the furnace will need to be replaced after the basement wall repairs are completed. It only makes sense to replace the inefficient and cumbersome window air conditioners that are presently used in the parsonage with central air conditioning.

In summary

All of these repairs and upgrades contribute directly to the value and salability of the property. If the church should be disorganized, we believe that the value of the property will far exceed any loan balance at the time. If these repairs and upgrades are not made, it may very well be that the buildings would have no value and the only remaining value would be the land. If God blesses the work and the congregation prospers again, then the loan will be easily repayable.

Possible timeline for drawing funds

April 1, 2011 -- retire the two current mortgages -- \$27,000

May 1, 2011 -- begin upgrades to the septic system -- \$??

August 1, 2011 -- complete the church tower repairs -- \$5,000

August 1, 2011 -- begin the basement wall repairs in the parsonage -- \$18,000

October 1, 2011 -- begin the furnace and air conditioning upgrade in the parsonage -- \$6,500

Emergency repair and upgrade projects already completed in the last year.

1. Installed a water treatment system that serves both the church building and the parsonage - \$6,000
2. Replaced the well pump -- \$2,000
3. Did a Tera-Lift procedure on the septic field - \$1,200

History and current status of the congregation

The church began as a new ministry arising out of the remnants of the Chicago Reformed Presbyterian Church which had been decimated by its leadership who were tried by the presbytery and disciplined in 1975. Church planter Harry Metzger arrived in 1985. God blessed the work and Lord's Day attendance peaked at over 100 by 1996. The area is highly transient and so there have been many ups and downs over the years. However, the congregation has been in a general decline since the Metzgers left for North Hills RPC in 2000.

For the past several years Westminster has been going through an especially difficult time. They have experienced a significant loss of membership, attendees and income. Their last pastor, Charles Brown, resigned in August 2008.

The congregation's former treasurer has employment which takes him out of the United States for long periods of time. This has meant that our mortgage payments and sometimes other payments have not been submitted in a timely fashion. In addition, there has only been one ruling elder on-site and two different provisional moderators since Pastor Brown left.

In August, 2009 the congregation was able to secure the part-time pastoral services of Rev. Stephen Rhoda. Rev. Rhoda is an ordained teaching elder in the OPC who is considering coming into the RPCNA. Rev. Rhoda and his family are living in the parsonage. God has greatly used him to stabilize the ministry and to see it begin to grow again.

More recently, God has blessed us with provisional elder Jim Ritchhart. Jim is on the Session at Springs Reformed Church but he has employment in the Chicago area enabling him to return temporarily to Westminster RPC where he was an elder before he moved to Colorado.

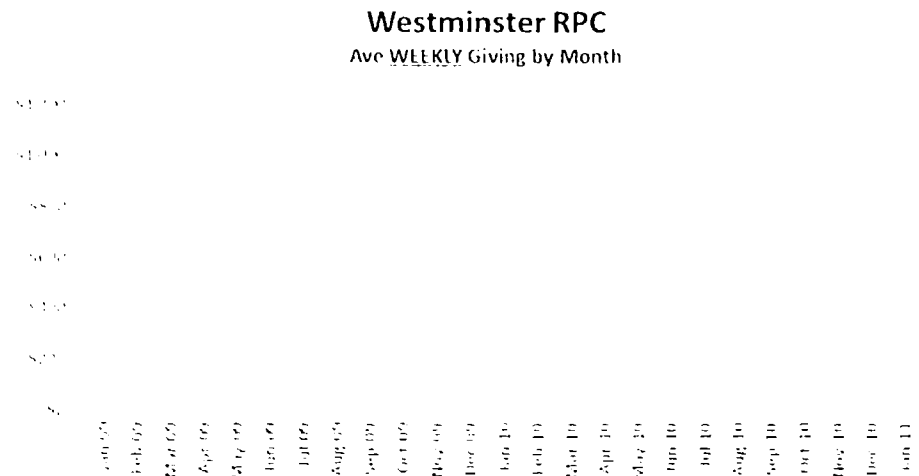
With the ministry of Pastor Rhoda and Elder Ritchhart assisting Elder Bob Koch, we are more hopeful about a revitalization of Westminster RPC's ministry. Many new initiatives are being taken in the ministry.

Attendance

Average attendance has doubled - from the high teens in August 2009 to mid-30's in February 2011.

Current financial report

The following shows giving trends in the congregation.



Westminster RPC			
FINANCIAL REPORT - DECEMBER 31, 2010			
2011 BUDGET			
	2010	2010	2011
	Budget	Actual	Budget
INCOME			
101 Tithes & Offerings	30,000.00	41,832.84	48,000.00
102 Interest	0.00	1,169.38	
107 Other	0.00		
TOTAL INCOME	30,000.00	43,002.22	48,000.00
EXPENSES			
PASTORAL SUPPORT			
201 Pastor's Salary	21,600.00	21,600.00	24,000.00
<i>Pastoral Support Sub-total</i>	<i>21,600.00</i>	<i>21,600.00</i>	<i>24,000.00</i>
CHURCH MINISTRIES			
301 Christian Education	100.00	447.68	500.00
302 Fellowship Activities	100.00	0.00	100.00
303 Pastor's Ministry Expenses	1,200.00	0.00	1,200.00
304 Guest Ministry	1,000.00	1,525.00	1,000.00
305 Mercy Ministry		2,700.00	500.00
306 Advertising	2,000.00	1,012.59	500.00
<i>Church Ministries Sub-total</i>	<i>4,400.00</i>	<i>5,685.27</i>	<i>3,800.00</i>
CHURCH EXPENSES			
401 Church Office	250.00	0.00	250.00
402 Bank Charges		116.00	
404 Provisional Moderator			1,000.00
<i>Church Expenses Sub-total</i>	<i>250.00</i>	<i>116.00</i>	<i>1,250.00</i>
DENOMINATION			
501 Presbytery Assessments	580.00	580.22	560.00
502 Synod Assessments	1,080.00	1,080.00	920.00
503 Synod & Presby Delegate			250.00
504 RP Missions/Ministry			
<i>Denomination Sub-total</i>	<i>1,660.00</i>	<i>1,660.22</i>	<i>1,730.00</i>
BUILDING			
601 Mortgage	16,822.00	6,920.00	6,000.00
602 Insurance	3,000.00	2,943.00	3,000.00
603 Cleaning	1,000.00	470.00	500.00
604 Maintenance		2,432.46	750.00
605 Security/Fire Alarm	1,100.00	957.00	1,000.00
607 Utilities	7,300.00	5,387.25	5,550.00
608 Improvements	1,000.00		500.00
609 Other	1,500.00	95.62	
<i>Building Sub-total</i>	<i>31,722.00</i>	<i>19,205.33</i>	<i>17,300.00</i>
PARSONAGE			
704 Maintenance			750.00
706 Internet-TV		1,411.77	1,450.00
707 Utilities		4,519.78	4,800.00
708 Improvements			500.00
<i>Parsonage Sub-total</i>	<i>0.00</i>	<i>5,931.55</i>	<i>7,500.00</i>
TOTAL EXPENSES =	59,632.00	54,198.37	55,580.00
YTD NET =	(29,632.00)	(11,196.15)	(7,580.00)
FUNDS			
900 General Fund			
Beginning Balance Jan 1	40,214.94	40,214.94	29,018.79
Net from This Year			
Balance =	10,582.94	29,018.79	21,438.79
Assets as of Year-end			
	Actual		
	12/31/2009		
Checking Account	5,023.80	9,827.19	
Savings Account	5,191.14	2,691.60	
CD #1	10,000.00		
CD #2	10,000.00		
CD #3	10,000.00	10,000.00	
Loan		6,500.00	
Total Assets =	40,214.94	29,018.79	

In conclusion, our request for this line of credit will enable us to update and preserve our buildings for use by our congregation OR, if the congregation should be disorganized, it will have kept our property in a salable condition.

If these projects are not completed, our ministry will be severely compromised (especially by the septic problems) and the value of the buildings could be severely diminished.

Thank you for considering our request.

Yours in Him,

Westminster RPC Session
Keith Magill, Provisional Moderator
Robert Koch, Elder
James Ritchhart, Provisional Elder

Appendix A - Tim Montgomery's analysis of the Parsonage basement problems with pictures

13 December 2010

Reverend Stephen Rhoda
Westminster Reformed Presbyterian
Church 16670 Easton Avenue Prairie
View, IL 60069

Re: Deteriorated Concrete Basement Walls in Parsonage, Prairie View,

Illinois Dear Mr. Rhoda:

At your request, I visited the parsonage of Westminster Reformed Presbyterian Church on 17 December 2009 to visually inspect the condition of the concrete foundation walls in the basement. I also used a hammer to sound the interior and exterior surfaces of the walls to locate internal voids or delaminations that may not be visible at the surface. I documented my findings with field notes and photographs. This brief report summarizes my field observations, conclusions, and recommendations for repair.

FIELD OBSERVATIONS

I made the following observations while at the parsonage:

1. The basement walls are approximately 10 in. thick as measured at a doorway through the wall. The wall is about 7 ft. tall measured from the top of the floor to the underside of the floor joists.
2. Soil is present on the exterior side of the walls for about the lower half of the wall height.
3. Nearly the entire interior wall face has large delaminations over the lower 3 to 4 ft. These areas sounded hollow when sounded with a hammer.
4. In some areas, large pieces of concrete are "flaking" off of the lower 3 to 4 ft. (Photo 1). These pieces disintegrated in my hand when I picked them up.
5. In one area of flaking concrete, I scraped away as much loose material as possible, and determined that the depth of deterioration is as much as 3.5 in. (Photo 2).
6. No steel reinforcing is present at any of the deeper spalls.
7. The entire exterior surface of the wall is delaminated at the upper 2 to 3 ft. Again, I identified these areas by sounding the exterior surface of the house. No deep spalls were present on the exterior surface, but it looked as though repairs had been made in some areas. The exterior surfaces of the walls are painted white.
8. I dug down about 6 in. below the top of the soil on the outside of the wall. The soil was frozen but could be removed. I found no evidence of below-grade waterproofing on the wall.
9. Despite their deteriorated surfaces, the basement walls of the parsonage are not noticeably bowed or out of plumb

CONCLUSIONS

The parsonage basement walls exhibit severe deterioration due to the freeze-thaw action of water. Water has been able to access the exterior surface of the walls due to the lack of below-grade waterproofing on the exterior face of the walls. Over time, this water has permeated the concrete, filling all of the pores contained within the concrete matrix. As the water freezes and becomes ice, it occupies 9% more volume than when it is water. If there is no pore space in the concrete to accommodate this volume expansion during freezing, then the concrete will crack to relieve the internal stress. With multiple cycles of freezing and thawing the concrete becomes more and more deteriorated. Since the parsonage is an older house (the exact date of construction is unknown), it has presumably endured numerous cycles of freezing and thawing over the many years of exposure to the Illinois winters.

Certain types of modern concrete contain a special admixture, known as an air-entrainment, to resist freeze-thaw deterioration. Air-entrained concrete contains many small bubbles which allow the water to expand when it freezes without putting undue stress on the concrete. Since the parsonage basement walls were built long before air-entrained concrete was available, they possess no means of resistance to the freeze-thaw action.

As viewed from the inside, only the lower half of the basement walls exhibit deterioration because only the lower half is in contact with the soil, which is the source of water causing the freeze-thaw action. The top portion of the walls on the exterior face also exhibits freeze-thaw deterioration, but not to the same degree. This can be explained by the occurrence of drifting snow, which occasionally will saturate the concrete at the top of the wall, but only when a large snowfall happens. Since this portion of the wall is exposed to fewer cycles of freezing and thawing, it is not deteriorated as severely.

The bottom portion of the walls contains delaminations as deep as 3.5 in. These delaminations compromise the ability of the walls to support the loads applied to the top of the wall from the floor joists and exterior stud walls. Since the walls are not bowing outwards or rotating about their base, they do not appear to be unstable, and a sudden collapse of the walls would be unexpected.

While the walls have satisfactorily supported the floor and wall loads up until the present, they should be repaired in the near term to provide adequate support for the future. Doing no repairs will only allow the freeze-thaw deterioration to continue to weaken the walls, and may lead to settlement of the floor joists or exterior walls should the top of the wall experience a local failure.

REPAIR RECOMMENDATIONS

Considering the extent of the damage present in the basement walls in the parsonage, I propose that you consider one of the two repair options outlined below. Note that I do not recommend that you simply patch the walls where spalls have occurred. There is too much deterioration to warrant the use of case-by-case repair patches.

1. Basement Wall Replacement: The house will first need to be shored around its perimeter to unload the basement walls. Then the existing deteriorated walls can be demolished, a trench excavated around the outside of the house, and a new reinforced concrete wall and footing installed. The new concrete walls should contain an air-entraining admixture, and below-grade waterproofing should be installed on the exterior surface of the walls.
2. Install Push Piers: Galvanized steel pipes will be hydraulically driven down to a load-bearing strata of soil. These piers will be placed directly adjacent to the existing

deteriorated foundation walls and will be connected to the structure above (floor joists and exterior stud walls) by support brackets and fastening plates. The existing basement walls will be abandoned, and the new steel piers will be designed to support all of the loads from above.

I also recommend that you contact a local foundation repair Contractor to give you estimates on the two options outlined above. Other repair options may be less expensive than these two options, but may not be as effective. Option 1 will probably be more expensive than Option 2, due to the considerable labor associated with the excavation and the cost of placing a new formed concrete wall. Option 1 would also require you to dwell elsewhere for at least a week (or perhaps more) while the work is done. While Option 2 is likely less expensive, the existing deteriorated walls will continue to crumble and will be unsightly.

I am thankful to be able to serve you by providing this report, and I would be glad to provide further support in the future, if needed. I would be glad to review estimates or bids from Contractors to ensure they have a suitable and safe repair plan in place.

Sincerely yours,

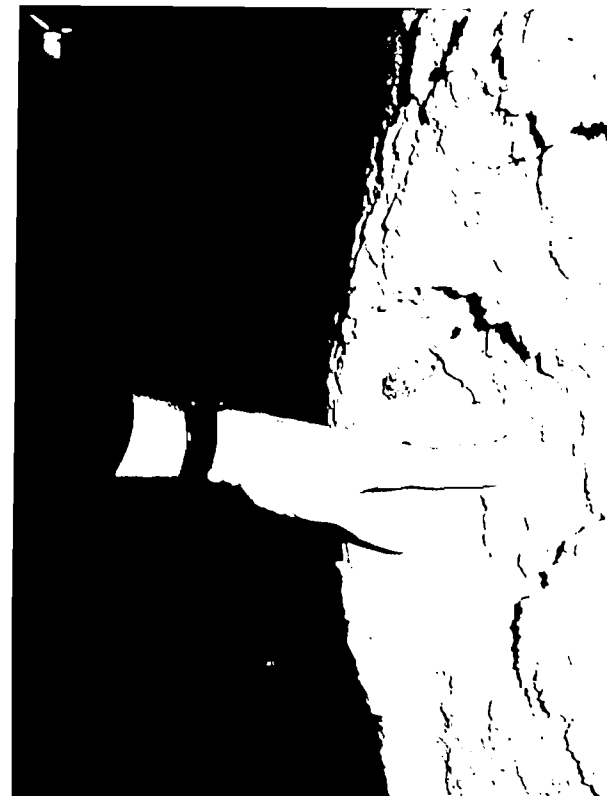
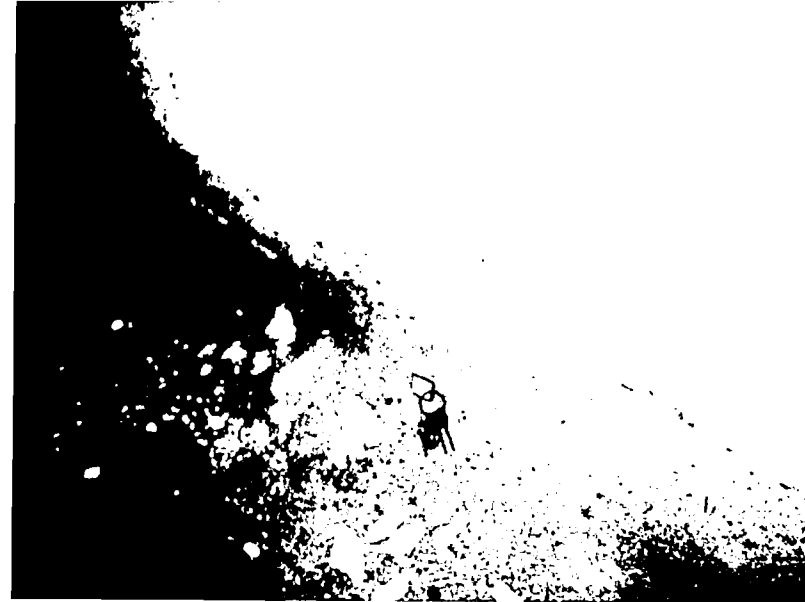
Timothy M. Montgomery, P.E. (Massachusetts)

Photo 1

Area of flaking concrete at the bottom of the wall near the bottom of the stairs. Note car keys are present for scale.

Photo 2

Area where loose concrete was scraped away, revealing a 3.5 in. depth of deterioration



Further information from Tim Montgomery

From: Keith Magill [
Sent: Tuesday, December 14, 2010 8:00 AM
To: Montgomery, Tim
Subject: RE: Report on Prairie View Parsonage Basement Walls... finally

Tim,

Thank you very much for this report. It is exactly what we needed. This is indeed a very sobering analysis. Two questions:

1. Would it be correct to conclude that this house would be difficult to sell with the basement walls in this condition? Is it possible that the kind of house inspection done at the time of a sale would conclude that the house was uninhabitable or at least ought not to be purchased unless the kind of repairs you recommend are done?
2. From your experience in Massachusetts or Indiana or elsewhere, what general cost range should we be thinking about for doing these repairs?

Thank you for taking the time to come over to see the parsonage, do this analysis and write this report for us. It is so encouraging when men use their God-given skills to so directly serve His Church. Exodus 31:1-6.

Do you have more work at Notre Dame on your schedule?

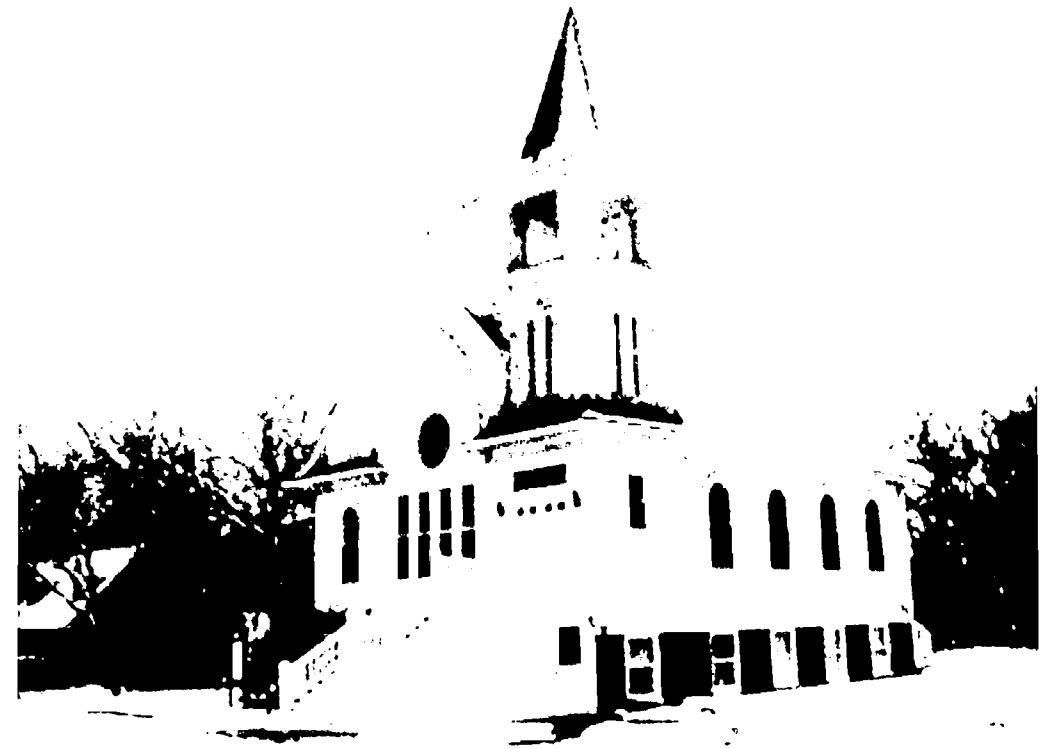
In Him,

Keith

Pastor Keith Magill

From: Timothy M. Montgomery [
Sent: Wednesday, December 15, 2010 1:18 AM
To: ; Montgomery, Tim
Subject: RE: Report on Prairie View Parsonage Basement Walls... finally

Other pictures:





**Trustees of the Synod of the
Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America
7408 Penn Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15208
(412)731-1177
MORTGAGE LOAN APPLICATION**

Applicant:

Name **Westminster Reformed Presbyterian Church** Date **March 14, 2011**

Address **16670 Easton Ave** Phone **(847) 634-3333**

Prairie View, IL 60069

Before completing this application, please read pages 5 through 11 titled "*Policies and Procedures for Loans and Grants Through Synod's Board of Trustees' Building Loan and Grant Committee*" and the article written by Ray Bowman.

Please check all of the following that you are requesting:

General Investment Mortgage Building Loan Mortgage Grant

Purpose of the Loan Request: (Check both A and B)

A. Purchase ___	B. Church Building X
Construct ___	Parsonage X
Remodel X	Property _____
Repair X	Home _____

If "Purchase" is checked, attach a written appraisal of the property prepared by a qualified real estate appraiser (a real estate listing of a property for sale is not sufficient). Also include a survey of the property.

C. On a separate sheet, please describe in some detail the cost, need, and other pertinent factors of the project for which this loan is being requested. Please demonstrate in your response how this plan satisfies the requirements in section IV. D. of the "Policies and Procedures" below. If a grant is being requested, please specifically respond to items IV.C., IV.D.9., and IV.E. below in demonstrating the need for a grant.

See preceding letter

Additional Information:

A. Do you currently own property (building and / or land)? Yes **X** No ___

B. Value of present property and buildings, if any: \$670,000 See Appendix B - Page 19

C. In whose name is the title to the property? The Westminster Christian Fellowship

D. Are there any restrictions to this title? No

E. What mortgages or other liens are on the above titled property: and by whom are they held? Trustees of Synod have 2 mortgages on this property

F. Is this requested loan to apply to any property on which there is already any mortgage or other outstanding lien? Yes X No

If yes, please give details: See E. immediately above

The following additional requirements apply to a congregational request for a loan:

- 1. Attach a report of the current year's total congregational budget and a copy of the previous year's total financial report (income statement). Also include all assets and liabilities of the congregation (balance sheet). See preceding letter.
2. Attach a copy of next year's budget (or proposed budget), which shows all expenses of the above proposed project, including payments on this mortgage loan. See preceding letter.
3. In light of the work of the Board to Address Disability Concerns, we recommend that: "in all new construction, additions, or renovations, consideration be given to including accessibility to persons with disabilities."

Financing Arrangements:

Table with 2 columns: Description and Amount. Row 1: Total proposed cost of project (1) up to \$75,000. Row 2: Available cash on hand (2) \$0. Row 3: Additional amount to be raised by borrower (3) \$0. Row 4: Additional amount to come from a Grant or other sources (4) \$0. Row 5: Total of (2), (3), and (4) (5) \$0. Row 6: Amount requested: (1) less (5) (6) up to \$75,000.

Please give details of (3) and (4):

B. Repayment Schedule:

Please note: The loan period shall not exceed twenty (20) years for all General Mortgage loans and ten (10) years for Building Loan Mortgages to individuals. The more rapidly funds are repaid, the more quickly others can be helped with loans. Payments on individual loans will be due monthly and payments on other loans will be due quarterly unless otherwise arranged.

- 1. Please give details on the loan period you are requesting, and the payment frequency. Up to 20 years, monthly payments of \$500.
2. The Trustees of Synod hold funds for approved loans available for a maximum of 90 days. This limit has been set so funds will not be held inactive for an undue length of time. If the loan is approved, how soon would you plan to use the funds? Some of the line of credit would be used immediately

C. Requirements For Closing:

- 1. As security for the Church's investment, the Trustees of Synod require that they be issued a standard commitment for title insurance and given a recorded mortgage for the amount of the loan. These will be the responsibility of the borrower, according to item IV. K. of the "Policies and Procedures" below.
2. Adequate property and casualty insurance is required with a mortgagee clause included according to item IV. L. of the "Policies and Procedures". A certificate of insurance to confirm the coverage should be sent to the Trustees of Synod.

Authorization:

Signature of Applicant _____ Date _____

For loans to congregations, please provide signatures of all elders.

Signature _____ Signature _____

Signature _____ Signature _____

Loans to individuals require the approval of the congregation or employing agency. Loans to congregations require the approval of the Presbytery or Ad Interim Commission based on their evaluation and counsel according to item IV. G. of the "Policies and Procedures" below.

Name of Approving Organization _____

Officers: Signature _____ Title _____

Signature _____ Title

Date of Receipt of Application _____ Date of Reply _____

BUILDING LOAN MORTGAGE

GENERAL INVESTMENT MORTGAGE

Amount Requested \$ _____	Amount Requested \$ _____
Amount Approved \$ _____	Amount Approved \$ _____
Time Period of Loan _____ Years	Time Period of Loan _____ Years
Annual Interest Rate _____ %	Annual Interest Rate _____ %
Payments \$ _____ per _____ (Includes Interest & Principal)	Payments \$ _____ per _____ (Includes Interest & Principal)
FUNDS GRANTED \$	

Appendix B - Realtor's appraisal of the property

Mary In Mittlyn Reacc.

The Pegg OAHF TeRra 3513W.
1.1Edf Day Rd_ Buffalo t
love,IL. 61.1)FN Phone: 0-
17)465.3565 FR25.: (0-17) 93P-
5556 e Mail

FEMEDIALURMEEBAGE

February 11, 2011

Stephen Rhoda
16648 Easton Ave.
Prairie View, IL, 60069

RE: 16648/16670 Easton Ave., Prairie View, IL, 60069

Dear Pa_51.or Rhoda,

It was a pleasure for both Robert Lindemann and I to meet with you G.neer the past two clays and we're boll happy that you have entrusted us, as well as Caldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in your Rea| Estate neeth.

Per our discussions, we are providing you with an overall estimate on both the land as well as building value for NI property.

The Informatign provided is based on recent area sales and broken down by land and building square footage:

Lot Square Footage 11,520 sqft Per lot totaling 23,040 Lot Lbe both properties. The land value based on comparable land value is \$60,000 per lot totaling a wtal land kuaue of \$120,001).

late approximate building square footage for 16648 Easton Avenue is 2500 mill and far 16671) Avenue is 4000 sqft for a combined total of 6500 sqft. Based on recent closin2,q within a reaionable proximity to the subject properties, the average price per square fool is conseniarivuly estimated at \$85 per square FOOR. This Wt:Fla bring the total value of both buildings to approximately \$550,01)0.

Based on our findings the total value for both land :ine..1 buildings combined - \$6,0,00.

Respectfully,

Malvin "Micky" Cobrin

Raymond E. Martin, Clerk

**Minutes of the Special Meeting
of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery
Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America
June 10, 2011**

Call to Order: The moderator, David Long, called the Presbytery to order at 1:09 p.m. on Friday, June 10, 2011, at the Second Reformed Presbyterian Church, Indianapolis, Indiana, for the purpose as stated in the following edict:

The Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery has received a call made by the Second Reformed Presbyterian Church of Indianapolis upon James Faris to be another pastor in their congregation, and has sustained it as a regular gospel call. Mr. Faris has accepted the call. Notice is hereby given that Friday, the 10th day of June in the year 2011 has been fixed as the time for his installation, with certification that the Presbytery will proceed in the same, unless some valid objections be offered to the Ad Interim Commission. The meeting for the installation will be held at 7:00 p.m., at Second RP Church, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Additionally, the Presbytery is called to meet at 1:00 in the afternoon of June 10 for the purpose of examining Keith Evans for his ordination; to examine other students under care of Presbytery; and to conduct any general business as prepared by the Clerk of Presbytery or the Ad Interim Commission.

By order of the Presbytery this 12th day of May in the year 2011.

David W. Long, Moderator of the Ad Interim Commission
Jack Rhoda, Clerk of the Ad Interim Commission

Praise and Constitution

Presbytery sang Psalm 48C and the Moderator led in prayer and constituted the Court in prayer.

Candidates and Credentials Committee

Michael LeFebvre, Chairman of the Committee, introduced Steven McCarthy for his evidence of progress exam. Steven MCCarthy read God's Word from Romans 6:1-16 and preached from the verses 15-16. Steven concluded his message with prayer.

Roll Call

The Assistant Clerk, Jack Rhoda, called the Roll and announced that a quorum was present. The Roll is as follows:

<i>Congregations</i>	<i>Teaching Elders</i>	<i>Ruling Elders</i>
Belle Center	Philip Pockras xx	
Bloomington	Rich Holdeman xx	
Christ Church	Michael LeFebvre xx	
Columbus	Andrew McCracken xx	Robert McCracken
Elkhart	Keith Magill xx	
Immanuel, W. Lafayette	Jared Olivetti ee	

Lafayette	David Long xx	Dan Webb xx
		Jack Rhoda xx
Northminster	Frank Smith ee	Robert Shapiro ee
Second Indianapolis	Richard Johnston xx	Donald Cassell xx
	James Faris -x	Dean Filson xx
Southfield		John Hughes xx
Southside	Gordon Keddie ee	Jerry Porter xx
	David Whitla xx	John Hanson xx
Sparta	Raymond Morton xx	Robert Morrow ee
Sycamore	Barry York xx	
	Jason Camery xx	

Roger Adams
 Roy Blackwood xx
 Greg Cumbee xx
 James Faris x (in transition)
 Godfrey Franklin
 Robert Henning
 Garland Kincaid
 Dick Knodel xx
 Ray Lanning
 Paul Mathews
 Robert McCracken RE-Columbus
 Marion McFarland
 Robert Morrow RE-Sparta
 James Pennington
 Tom Reid xx
 Frank Schutz
 James Wright

Motion: It was moved, seconded, and passed, that elders without certificates who are representatives of their sessions be seated.

Motion: It was moved, seconded, and passed, that all elders present who are not delegates be made consultative members of the court.

Candidates and Credentials Committee

Presbytery took up discussion of Steven McCarthy's sermon.

Roll Call Vote

The Assistant Clerk called the Roll and the examination was unanimously sustained.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that Presbytery conduct the examinations as in the Candidates and Credentials Committee Report, Recommendation, "that student examinations be conducted at this meeting of Presbytery according to the attached schedule."

Examinee	Exam	Duration*	Examiner
Keith Evans	Ordination Sermon exam <i>(text: Ezekiel 3:16-21)</i>	c.25/-/5	
	Ordination Personal Godliness exam	20/10/5	Jason Camery
	Ordination exam on Soundness of the Faith and Commitment to the RP Testimony	20/10/5	Tom Reid
Steven McCarthy	Evidence of Progress Sermon <i>(text: Romans 6:15-16)</i>	c.25/-/5	

*Duration — The first number indicates the length of time (in minutes) allotted for the examiner's questions; the second number indicates the length of time for the full Presbytery's questions; the third number indicates the length of time for Presbytery discussion of the exam prior to an "up or down" roll call vote. (E.g., 20/10/5 = 20 min. examiner q's/10 min. Presbytery q's/5 min. discussion.)

Michael LeFebvre introduced Keith Evans for his ordination Personal Godliness examination.

The examination was conducted by Jason Camery
 Members of Presbytery asked questions and received answers followed by the comments of the Presbyters.

Roll Call Vote

The Assistant Clerk called the Roll and the examination was unanimously sustained.

Michael LeFebvre introduced Keith Evans for his ordination sermon.

Presbytery sang Psalm 19B.

Keith Evans read Ezekiel 3:16-21 and led in prayer.

He preached God's Word from the passage and closed his message with prayer.

Presbytery sang Psalm 130A.

Members of Presbytery commented on the sermon.

Roll Call Vote

On the vote the examination on his sermon was unanimously sustained.

Recess

Presbytery took recess from 3:05 p.m. to 3:22, returning to business singing Psalm 84B.

Pageland Commission RFeport

The Pageland Commission Report was given by Tom Reid.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the time for this report be extended for a further 15 minutes.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the Report of the Pageland Commission be laid on the table until the Synod meeting of Presbytery.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the time be extended 5 minutes.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the moderator appoint a 3 man committee to:

1. Review the call from the Pageland Commission to Ian Wise
2. Counsel with Ian Wise about his interest in the call and the wisdom of his leaving Durham at this time
3. Review the Pageland situation to help Presbytery determine if this is the appropriate time to move forward with calling a pastor
4. Review the proposed sources of long-term financing for the Pageland ministry
5. Coordinate the presentation of this material to the Presbytery at its Synod meeting

Suggested members of the Committee:

1. One member from the Ad Interim Commission
2. One member from the former Durham Commission
3. One other elder

The Moderator appointed: James Faris, Barry York, Andy McCracken, Chairman.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Candidates and Credentials Committee Report

Michael LeFebvre introduced Keith Evans for his ordination Systematic Theology and Distinctive Principles exam.

Tom Reid conducted the examamination.

Members of Presbytery asked questions and received answers followed by comments from the Presbyters.

Roll Call Vote

The Assistant Clerk called the Roll and the exam was unanimously sustained.

This concluded the Candidates and Credentials Committee Report.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report as a whole be received.

Provisional Moderator for the Southfield Session

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the Provisional Moderator be Phil Poekras.

Minutes

The Clerk read the Minutes of this session and they were approved as corrected.

Prayer and Recess

William Roberts led the Court in prayer including the recess of the Presbytery. Presbytery recessed at 5:04 p.m.

Session 2, June 10, 2011, at 7:01 p.m.

The Moderator welcomed the assembled congregation to the Installation Service for James Faris at the Second Reformed Presbyterian Church 4800 N. Michigan Road, Indianapolis.

Psalm 96A was sung.

The prayer of invocation and the reconvening of the Court was led by the Moderator.

Roll Call

The Assistant Clerk called the Roll and each member of Presbytery stood when his name was called.

The narrative of events leading to this service was read by the Clerk.

The Clerk read the edict for the last time.

The congregation indicated their adherence to the Call on James Faris.

James Faris indicated his adherence to the Call.

The Moderator read the Queries for installation to James Faris. Pastor Faris answered all the queries in the affirmative.

Psalm 40A was sung.

Rich Holdeman read Luke 15:11-32 and preached God's Word from this text with the title "Lost and Found" and concluded his message with prayer.

Psalm 57B was sung.

James Faris signed the Queries for Installation in the Presbytery Minute Book.

Dr. Roy Blackwood led the installation prayer.

The elders present extended the right hand of fellowship to James Faris expressing their desire for God's blessing for this new part of his ministry to the Lord.

Keith Magill gave the charge to the newly installed pastor and the congregation based on I Cor. 3:9-17.

Reading of the Minutes

The clerk read the minutes of this session which were approved.

Adjournment

James Faris led in the prayer of adjournment and pronounced the Benediction.

Presbytery adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Raymond E. Morton, Clerk

Minutes of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery
Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America

SYNOD MEETING OF THE GREAT LAKES-GULF PRESBYTERY

Time: Tuesday, June 28, 2011 at 3:22 p.m. to Thursday, June 30, 2011 at 5:58 p.m.

Place: Room 116, of the Noggle Hall, on the campus of
Indiana Wesleyan University, Marion, IN

Session 1

Tuesday, June 28, at 3:22 - 5:15 p.m.

The Moderator, Dave Long called Presbytery to order at 3:22 p.m.

Constitution

The Moderator led in prayer and constituted the Court in prayer.

Candidates and Credentials Committee Report

Michael LeFebvre introduced Shawn Anderson for his Expository Sermon 1 with the text of Matthew 2:23.

Shawn Anderson read the text and preached with the title, "Why is Jesus Called the Nazarene?" He closed his message with prayer.

Roll Call

The Assistant Clerk, Jack Rhoda, called the Roll and announced that a quorum was present. The Roll is as follows:

CONGREGATION	DELEGATE	1	2	3
Belle Center	Phil Pockras	X	X	X
Bloomington	Rich Holdeman	X	X	X
	Wendell McBurney	X	X	X
Christ Church (Indy)	Michael Lefebvre	X		X
	Duane Judd			
Columbus	Andy McCracken	X	X	X
	Bob McCracken	X	X	X
Elkhart	Keith Magill	X	X	X
First RP Durham	Ian Wise	X	X	X
First RP Grand Rapids	(no TE)			
	Dick Bonner	X		
Hetherton	Milton Harrington			
Immanuel, W. Lafayette	Jared Olivetti	X	X	X
	Ben Larson	X	X	
Lafayette	Dave Long	X	X	X
	Dan Webb	X	X	X
	Jack Rhoda	X	X	X

Northminster	Frank J. Smith	X	X	X
	Bob Shapiro		X	
Orlando	(no TE)			
	Jonathan Schaeffer			
Second, Indianapolis	Rich Johnston	X		X
	Ram Rao	X	X	X
	James Faris	X	X	X
Selma	Russ Pulliam	X		
	Tom Gray	X		
	(no TE)			
Southfield	John Kim	X	X	X
	Jon Hughes	X	X	X
	Gordon Keddie			
Southside Indianapolis	Jim Bishop	X	X	X
	David Whittle	X	X	X
	George Shopp	X	X	X
Sparta	Ray Morton	X	X	X
	Bob Morrow	X	X	X
Sycamore	Barry York		X	X
	Jason Camery	X	X	
	Robert McKissick	X	X	X
Westminster	(no TE)			
Terre Haute Miss Ch	Bill Roberts	X	X	X
RPTS	Tom Reid	X	X	X
Retired	Bob Henning			
	Marion McFarland			
	Jim Pennington		X	X
Min w/o Pastorates	Roger Adams			
	Roy Blackwood			
	Greg Cumbee	X	X	X
	Godfrey Franklin			
	Ray Lanning	X		
	Frank Schutz			
	Jim Wright			
	Dick Knodel (after reception)	E	X	X
Inactive	Paul Mathews			

Motion: It was moved, seconded, and passed, that elders without certificates who are representatives of their sessions be seated.

Motion: It was moved, seconded, and passed, that all elders present who are not delegates be made consultative members of the court.

Candidates and Credentials Committee

Presbytery took up discussion of Shawn Anderson's sermon.

Roll Call Vote

The Assistant Clerk called the Roll and the examination was unanimously sustained.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that Presbytery conduct the examinations as in the Candidates and Credentials Committee Report, Recommendation, "that student examinations be conducted at this meeting of Presbytery according to the attached schedule."

Examinee	Exam	Duration*	Examiner
Shawn Anderson	Expository Sermon I (text: Matthew 2:23)	c.25/—/5	
	Church history paper (topic: The doctrine of biblical inerrancy in the Reformation)	—/—/5	Ian Wise, Jon Hughes
	English Bible exam	—/—/—	(reported by CCC)
	Licensure to preach (role call vote to license, queries, prayer, and words of counsel)	—	
Steven McCarthy	Church history paper (topic: Martin Luther and the epistle of James)	—/—/5	Gordon Keddie, David Whittle

*Duration — The first number indicates the length of time (in minutes) allotted for the examiner's questions; the second number indicates the length of time for the full Presbytery's questions; the third number indicates the length of time for Presbytery discussion of the exam prior to an "up or down" roll call vote. (E.g., 20/10/5 = 20 min. examiner q's/10 min. Presbytery q's/5 min. discussion.)

Michael LeFebvre called for the report on Shawn Anderson's Church History Paper. Jon Hughes reported for the examiners and recommended that the Paper be sustained. On the voice vote the examination was sustained.

Michael LeFebvre reported on behalf of the Candidates and Credentials Committee concerning Shawn Anderson's English Bible Exam and recommended that the exam be sustained.

On the voice vote the examination was sustained.

License to Preach

Michael LeFebvre reported that Shawn Anderson had now met the requirements for License to Preach.

Roll Call Vote

The Assistant Clerk called the Roll and the License to Preach was unanimously sustained.

Queries

Ray Lanning asked Shawn Anderson the Queries for License to Preach. Shawn answered all the Queries in the affirmative with no reservations.

Shawn Anderson signed the Queries in the Presbytery Minute Book.

Ray Lanning led in the prayer of License to Preach for Shawn Anderson.

Ray Lanning addressed words of counsel to Shawn Anderson from John 3:16-17 and reminded him of the limitations on his duties as recorded in the Book of Church Government, Chapter 3; II; C; 2; i, page D-15

Michael Lefebvre called for the report on Steven McCarthy's Church History Paper. David Whittle reported on behalf of the examiners and recommended that the examination be sustained.

On the voice vote the examination was sustained.

Michael Lefebvre reported that Kyle Borg, a student at Puritan Reformed Seminary, be interviewed with a view that he be taken under care as a student for the ministry. The First Grand Rapids Session had recommended him and the Candidates and Credentials Committee recommended that the Presbytery take ten minutes to interview Kyle. Kyle spoke of his background and conversion and answered questions from the presbyters, Recommendation that Kyle Borg be taken under care as a student for the ministry.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that Presbytery provide the normal stipend to Kyle while he attends Puritan Reformed Seminary,

This completed the Candidates and Credentials Committee Report.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Ad Interim Commission Report

Rich Holdeman took the chair while the Moderator, Dave Long, reported for the Ad Interim Commission.

The Report is as follows:

AD INTERIM COMMISSION REPORT *to the June 2011 Meeting of the Great Lakes - Gulf Presbytery, RPCNA*

The Ad Interim Commission met four times since the Spring meeting of Presbytery. Commission members are: Dave Long (chairman), Jack Rhoda (clerk), Bob Bibby, Jeff Kessler, and Dan Webb (all from Lafayette RPC), and Jason Camry of Sycamore RPC.

Below is a summary of the items that have come before the Commission and the actions taken on each. Please refer to the previously distributed Commission Minutes for details.

ITEM 1 (from the Lafayette congregation) A call from the Lafayette congregation to Keith Evans to be their associate pastor.

ACTION: Call was approved and passed to the Presbytery of the Alleghenies.

ITEM 2 (from Second Reformed Presbyterian Church of Indianapolis): A call from the Second RP congregation to James Faris to be a second pastor.

ACTION: Call was approved and passed on to Mr. Faris.

ITEM 3 (from Steven and Janna Birms; First RP in Grand Rapids) A complaint against the Session for denying their request to have Rev. Ray Lanning baptize their child, asking Presbytery to overrule the Session and require a public apology.

ACTION: The complaint (written as an appeal) was denied.

ITEM 4 Date, time and edict for Presbytery to meet for the installation of James Faris and the examination of Keith Evans and other students.

ACTION: An edict was prepared for Presbytery to meet on June 10th to conduct student and ordination exams, conduct other Presbytery business, and to install James Faris.

ITEM 5 (from First RP Grand Rapids and Ray Lanning): A request from Rev. Lanning and a letter of transfer of his church membership from the Session to the Presbytery.

ACTION: The membership of Rev. Lanning was received.

ITEM 6 (from Roger Comejo): An appeal to Synod from Mr. Comejo of the actions for the Great Lakes/Gulf Presbytery at the Spring 2011 meeting refusing to receive his appeal of Session action.

ACTION: Mr., Comejo subsequently withdrew his appeal. His withdrawal was received.

ITEM 7 (from the Southern Church Extension Committee): Request for the appointment of a Commission to oversee the developing work in Pageland

ACTION: A four man Commission was appointed consisting of Frank Smith, Moderator; Tom Reid, Clerk; Ian Wise; and Steve Sturm (or Ben Larson alternate).

Respectfully submitted,
Dave Long, Moderator, Ad Interim Commission

Phil Pockras reported that there wasn't yet a report from the Southside, Indianapolis, Visitation Committee but that a report would come later.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that since the Southside Session is writing a paper on the matter of Presbytery Visitations that the visitation be postponed for one year.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the Report of the Ad Interim Commission be received.

Dave Long resumed the Chair.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the date for the Ordination and Installation of Keith Evans to the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Lafayette be August 26, 2011, meeting for the business of Presbytery at 1:00 p.m. with the Ordination and Installation Service at 7:00 p.m.

Request from the Northminster Reformed Presbyterian Church for Change of Location

Frank Smith, Pastor, presented the request.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the change of location for the Northminster Reformed Presbyterian Church of Atlanta, GA be approved.

Presbytery Liaison

Frank Smith, Presbytery Liaison, reported on his contacts with other church bodies with whom the RPCNA has fraternal relations.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Report on the Belle Center Property

Phil Pockras presented the Report which is as follows:

Petition from Belle Center Session

The Session of the Belle Center, OH, Reformed Presbyterian Church respectfully petitions the Great Lakes –Gulf Presbytery of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America to allow the Belle Center RPC to purchase a building for its use. We hope soon to do so for the following reasons:

1. We believe we will better be able to serve Jesus as a congregation with our own meeting place. It is inconvenient to the local Presbyterian Church to allow use other than on Sabbath afternoons. Such limitation is extremely limiting to us.
2. With recent actions on the General Assembly level of the PC(USA), we wish to avoid the appearance of intimate linking with that professed denomination.
3. We believe that we can pay cash for a building that we have in mind.
4. We believe that the particular building we are looking at is centrally placed and a fine location for growth in an area that has no Reformed and Presbyterian churches within sixty miles in any direction. We are already drawing some families from upwards of eighty miles distance.
5. We believe that this building will have an ongoing visible witness in the literal heart of Belle Center.

Adopted by Session this 22nd day of June, 2011.

Philip H. Pockras, Moderator

Larry M. Bump, Clerk

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the Presbytery grant the Belle Center Reformed Presbyterian Church permission to purchase the property as described in the Session's Report and request.

Indiana-Ohio Church Extension Report

The report was presented by Jared Olivetti.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed to set the time for adjournment at 5:15 p.m.

Jared asked Andy McCracken to bring in the Report of the South West Ohio Reformed Presbyterian Fellowship (SWORPF). That report is as follows:

Fathers and brothers,

Below is a report from a recent visit to the work in southwestern Ohio. Following the report are two recommendations from our committee.

On May 19th Pastors Phil Pockras and Andy McCracken traveled to West Chester, OH,

just north of Cincinnati, in order to conduct an evaluation of the situation concerning the Southwestern Ohio Reformed Presbyterian Fellowship [SWORPF] and their desires, under the leadership of Dr. Dick Knodel, to establish a Reformed Presbyterian Mission Church. Pastors Pockras, McCracken, and Knodel met with the retired pastor of The King's Chapel, (a Reformed Baptist church), Tom Wells, and the Associate Pastor of the Northern Cincinnati Community Church (PCA), Marc Champagne, to discuss their perspectives on a new Reformed and Presbyterian work beginning in that area. We gathered local demographic information and prepared some words of counsel for our time with the group as a whole. From 7 - 9 PM we met with:

- o Pastor & Mrs. Dick (Susan) Knodel
- o Chris & Lisa Knodel, Dick's son and daughter-in-law,
- o Wes & Martha Damerow and their two grown children, Scott and Emily,
- o Tim Vincze

The following is a report of that time.

TIME WITH LOCAL REFORMED CHURCH PASTORS

We were encouraged that both retired pastor Wells and current Associate Pastor Champagne believed that the West Chester area was a good place to church plant. Pastor Wells said, "If I were a younger man, I'd do it!" Neither man believed there were any concerns with regard to territorial competition, even though both are within a ten minute drive of the current site where SWORPF is meeting. Pastor Champagne shared with us a very helpful recent Cincinnati Enquirer article describing the various surrounding counties and their demographic/nationality makeup. 1:5 individuals in the target county are from either a Korean, South-Asian or Arabic background. 80% of the region's population growth is from African-American, Hispanic or Asian minorities. The senior pastor of the North Cincinnati Community Church (PCA) has been very active in church planting over many years and should prove to be a great resource for pastor Knodel as things move ahead.

TIME WITH PASTOR KNODEL

Dr. Knodel has been quite preoccupied with the need to find employment to sustain his tent-making ministry. He has been substitute teaching in the schools as well as working at a local golf course in close proximity to his home. This, as well as preparing two worship services for the Lord's Day have taken up the bulk of his time since the group began meeting in October 2010 at the Wingate Inn & Conference Center. Dick and Susan have looked at buying a home closer to West Chester, OH but for financial reasons are living in Springboro, OH, with their son Chris, just south of Dayton (about 25 minutes away).

TIME WITH THE WHOLE GROUP

We met at 7 PM in the Board Room at the Wingate Conference Center in West Chester and spent time explaining to the group how church plants "typically" progress. We asked each family to share their expectations for the work as well as any encouragements or discouragements they have felt as things have progressed. We discussed our interactions with the pastors of the early afternoon, some significant barriers they currently face, and some areas in which to labor in both prayer and action to move to the next stage. We shared what kinds of things Presbytery would be looking for in order to take this under

our wing as an official RP mission work and how we would be reporting to the Extension Committee who would then give counsel to the Presbytery as a whole.

OBSERVATIONS

The following are observations made concerning the work . . .

OBSTACLES TO OVERCOME:

1 Chief among the obstacles currently facing this group is the distance all but one individual live from their target area. The pastor and his wife live about 25 minutes north. The Damerow family live about 50 minutes southeast. Chris & Lisa Knodel's contacts are all from North Dayton, about 45-50 minutes away. Tim Vincze is the only one who lives in West Chester. When asked about their contacts each might be likely to try to introduce to a church plant, only Tim was able to say that he had such contacts. For the others, the great distance made introducing local friends in their various towns impractical. The whole group senses the need for a central community. Wes Damerow has considered moving, but the farther north he goes, the farther his daughter Emily (still living at home) must drive to work. Certainly Dick is willing to move when he can do so financially.

2. The second largest hurdle expressed by many in the group is the difficulty in advertising the work, since they are not officially a sanctioned RP ministry. Indeed, we discovered they are doing no advertising, save the website and a sign within the building of the Wingate Inn, in which they meet for worship each Lord's Day. Our impression is that they are waiting for some decisive declaration from Presbytery before they can advertise. This is clearly a Catch-22 since Presbytery may well be waiting for more growth before making such a declaration.

3. Dick's need to work during the day to sustain his household limits the amount of time he is able to give to church planting efforts. He and Susan are living with their son and daughter-in-law, but Lisa (d-in-law) is pregnant with their second child and the household is inevitably "growing smaller."

POSITIVE FACTORS:

1. Each of the nine individuals associated with the work are excited and committed to see God establish this ministry.

2. Obviously it is a huge benefit to have a man (Dr. Knodel) willing to be the church planter, who has a heart for outreach and is basically already on site.

3. There are some strategic gifts among the group. Chris Knodel is gifted in web-design. Lisa Knodel is obviously sharp and worked for several years as a reporter and writer for a large newspaper and is familiar with the editor of the West Chester Weekly Pulse Journal, a community paper.

4. Though Emily Damerow lives 50 minutes from the work, she has investigated how she could record and broadcast Dr. Knodel's sermons on Sermon Audio and thus promote the work from a distance. Emily is also a gifted musician and likely is helpful in a cappella singing. Further, Tim Vincze has musical gifts and has served elsewhere as a precentor.

5. The city of West Chester was recently voted the #1 city in Ohio in which to live. It is a growing and thriving town with an increasingly diverse population. There is also a Muslim mosque in the area.

6. There seems to be a common vision among the whole group to be a congregation not merely of disgruntled church members fleeing other congregations, but to be a community-based, convert-winning ministry.

7. Though this is less than ideal, still, there is a long-established PCA church (Church of the Covenant in NW Cincinnati) that is having significant troubles, having removed their pastor, struggled with contemporary worship issues, etc... Both the Chris Damerows and Tim Vincze currently have their membership there and have contacts with others who have considered leaving. There is at least the potential for some (non-trouble-makers) to come and join with this group.

SOME WORDS OF COUNSEL GIVEN:

- Don't wait for the Presbytery to declare you official before you attempt to reach new people. The Presbytery will need to see a larger core group before they are confident enough to declare you a mission church, provide a TGB, and recommend something like the HMS's reducing aid program.

- With Presbytery's approval, seek to get the HMB's one-time "exploratory" grant to help Dick dedicate more time to contacting new people.

- Consider the whole group transferring their membership to a Reformed Presbyterian Church such as Belle Center or Columbus so that you can identify yourselves clearly as a "Reformed Presbyterian" ministry even though it is not officially supported by the Presbytery yet.

- Advertise!! Let people who are looking for you, know you are there!

- Consider moving closer to the hub and making your home a center for outreach Bible Study.

- Labor to keep the balance between advertising to a niche group (i.e. highlighting the distinctives) and promoting yourselves as a ministry of Jesus Christ, seeking to uphold His Word, His worship and His kingdom vision. When in doubt, emphasize the latter!

- Open more "side-doors" to your ministry beyond coming to the worship services. Particularly develop ways to build relationships in the home so that the worship is not their first experience of your small group.

- Consider developing an "Introductory Packet" for visitors or those you are trying to invite. The Springs RPC has a great example of this which includes a DVD message from the pastor explaining the vision for the ministry, sermons, an example of a cappella Psalm singing and answers to frequently asked questions.

- Consider being flexible with the second service hour on the Lord's Day, perhaps using that time for more intimate Bible Study in a home or something of that nature. This would free up at least some time for Dick, rather than his preparing a second sermon for that hour, to do more contact-development.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE OH-IN CEC

Recommendation #1—That presbytery petition the Columbus session to take under its oversight the SWORP Fellowship and to encourage those involved to transfer their membership to Columbus

Recommendation #2—That presbytery encourage the Columbus RPC to apply to the HMB for the exploratory funds to progress the work.

Recommendation 1 was approved.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that Recommendation 2 be laid on the table

until the August 26, 2011, meeting of Presbytery.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Selma Committee

Barry York, Chairman, made a verbal report. He, as well as the Clerk, had had a phone call from the Mountainview Presbyterian Church of America, near Vancouver, BC, Canada, seeking information and asking about procedures for making a call as they were in contact with Tom Gray and had an interest in calling him. There is nothing specific to report at this time.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Time and Place Committee Report

The Committee Report is as follows:

TIME AND PLACE COMMITTEE

Great Lakes/Gulf Presbytery

Although we received a gracious invitation from the Durham Reformed Presbyterian Church to hold our Spring Presbytery meeting with them in their church building, it would cause a considerable strain on travel expenses to go that distance, and so we think we should decline their invitation.

We have asked the Sycamore congregation in Kokomo, IN if they would be willing to host the Presbytery in the Spring, and they have said yes.

So Presbytery is called to meet at the Sycamore Reformed Presbyterian Church in Kokomo, IN, on March 1-3, 2012.

Bob McCracken, Ch.

Bob Morrow

The recommendation was approved.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that Presbytery meet at 4:15 p.m. on Wednesday, June 29, 2011.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that Presbytery adjourn.
Rich Holdeman led in prayer and adjourned the Presbytery at 5:15 p.m.

Session 2: Wednesday, June 29, at 4:15 - 5:45 p.m.

The Moderator, Dave Long called Presbytery to order at 4:20 p.m.

Constitution

Robert McCracken led in prayer and constituted the Court in prayer.

Roll

The Roll was taken visually by the Assistant Clerk, Jack Rhoda.

Report of the Committee for Paper 2009-2

This Paper concerns Psalter Revision, and since this matter is now in the hands of Synod the work of this Committee has ended.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the Committee concerning Paper 2009-2 be dismissed.

Pageland Committee and Commission Reports

Andy McCracken reported for the Pageland Committee and Frank Smith for the Pageland Commission.

The Presbytery agreed to take up the recommendations of the Pageland Committee. The recommendations are: (The Reports of the Committee and Commission are included in the Appendix to these Minutes.)

1. That the Pageland Commission be given 15 minutes to report to the Presbytery which may include a presentation from a local representative from the work (see Pageland Commission Recommendation #1).
2. That the Pageland Commission's approval of the call to Ian Wise be ruled out of order and that the call itself be brought back to Presbytery for its review.
3. That the GLG Presbytery deny the request from the Pageland Commission for the Pensacola Funds to be used in Pageland to be reserved for a more strategic site (see PCR #2).
4. That the GLG Presbytery counsel the Pageland Commission not to request IIMB aid at this time and the Pageland Commission not to base a call on the expectation of receiving such funding (see PCR #3).
5. That we return the call to the Pageland commission to be reformulated in light of Presbytery's actions and counsel (see PCR #4 which would be withdrawn at this time if this recommendation passes).
6. That the request forwarded to the AIC by the Pageland Commission to "ask the Presbytery to appoint two more members to the Commission, one being ruling elder Bob Shapiro of Northminster Church, and the other ruling elder Jeff Jones from the Columbus Church," with our addition "making it a five-person commission," be granted. (see PCR #5).
7. That this committee be dismissed.

Recommendation 1 was approved.

Recommendation 2 was amended and now is, "That the Pageland Commission's approval of the call to Ian Wise be rescinded and that the call itself be brought back to Presbytery for its review" was approved.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the Presbytery will meet on Thursday afternoon, June 30, 2011, 15 minutes after the close of the Synod's afternoon Session.

Adjournment

Presbytery was adjourned in prayer by the Moderator at 5:44 p.m.

Session 3: Thursday, June 30, at 5:15 - 6:58 p.m.

Call to Order

The Moderator, Dave Long, called Presbytery to order at 5:15 p.m.
The Moderator led in prayer and constituted the Court in prayer.

Pageland Committee and Commission

Presbytery returned to these Reports.

Recommendation 4 was taken up and approved as follows:

“That the GLG Presbytery counsel the Pageland Commission not to request HMB reducing aid at this time and the Pageland Commission not to base a call on the expectation of receiving such funding (see PCR #3).

Recommendation 3 was amended to read, “That the GLG Presbytery deny the request from the Pageland Commission for the Pensacola Funds to be used in Pageland at this time.” (see PCR #2).

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that Recommendation 3 be laid on the table to take up Recommendation 5.

Recommendation 5 was being discussed when there was a motion to move to the previous question.

On the vote Recommendation 5 was approved.

Raymond Morton recorded his dissent that since the Committee had no person to person meeting with the Commission, the Committee had misjudged the passion and the firm belief that the Lord was calling Ian Wise to go to Pageland.

Recommendation 6 and 7 were approved.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that Barry York communicate with the Durham Congregation the actions of this meeting.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report as a whole be received.

Minutes

The Clerk read the Minucts of all the sessions. The Minutes were approved as corrected.

Adjournment

William Roberts adjourned the Court with prayer at 6:58 p.m.

APPENDIX *Raymond E. Morton, Clerk*

PAGELAND REVIEW COMMITTEE

Report to the Synod Meeting of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery

At the Presbytery meeting of June 10th, our appointed committee was given the following tasks:

1. Review the call from the Pageland Commission to Ian Wise
2. Counsel with Ian Wise about his interest in the call and the wisdom of his leaving Durham at this time
3. Review the Pageland situation to help Presbytery determine if this is the appropriate time to move forward with calling a pastor
4. Review the proposed sources of long-term financing for the Pageland ministry
5. Coordinate the presentation of this material to the Presbytery at its Synod meeting

Your committee met in phone conferences, communicated via e-mail and telephone with one another and the Commission members, did some demographics work, and reviewed the ministry and budget reports as well as the minutes of the Commission.

[See Recommendation # 1.]

Reviewing the Call

Our committee notes that commissions are usually given a specific task and oversight over a limited sphere. The Pageland Commission was appointed by the Ad Interim Commission (AIC) to act on behalf of presbytery only in overseeing the Pageland work.

In this capacity, they function as the session over this work. As such, they were within their rights to make out a call. What they may not do, however, is to function also as the body which approves the call they have just made. That right belongs to a separate body. Every call of a session or local overseeing body must be approved by presbytery.

We also noted that at the time of the making out and voting on the call, the four member commission, as appointed by the AIC, consisted of only two men, Ian having recused himself and the other position still remaining vacant. This raises the question of whether a quorum consisting of not less than 2/3^{rds} was present (DOCG Ch. 6 Par. 16).

[See Recommendation # 2.]

Review of the Pageland Work & Counsel to Ian

There are several issues the Committee took up: the readiness of the developing Pageland work to call a church planter, the long-term financial prospects, the demographics of the area, and so on. Our committee notes the following to help Presbytery evaluate the opportunities availing themselves in Pageland and its role in overseeing this potential work.

Demographics

Pageland is a town of just over 2,500 people. The nearest city of size is Monroe, 30 minutes north across the North Carolina border, with over 26,000 people. The large city of Charlotte, NC is 43 miles northwest beyond Monroe. Pageland is surrounded by only small towns and villages to the west, east and south.

The median income for a household in the town was \$29,046, and the **median income for a family** was \$33,214. About 21.5% of families and 24.1% of the population were below the poverty line, including 37.2% of those under age 18 and 25.4% of those age 65 or over.

Ministry Strength

The Pageland ministry currently consists of:

- 2 RPCNA member families, (6 communicants, 10 baptized) The men in these two families are biological brothers.
- 2 regular adherent families, and 2 or 3 other good possibilities for membership.

Current attendance at worship = the low 20s (10 of which are baptized members).

Financial Expectations

It appears to this committee, and is confirmed by the commission's report, that the call to Ian Wise of \$54,156 was based upon the following financial expectations:

- a) One time Durham gift of \$25,000,
- b) One time receipt of Pensacola funds = ~\$17,000
- c) Receipt of HMB grant.
- d) Local growth in financial giving, which currently amounts to <\$1,000/month.

Our committee believes that the Lord can plant a Reformed Presbyterian church in Pageland but that at this time it has not demonstrated itself to be a strategic place in which to invest both Presbytery and Synod funds – funds which have typically been set aside to target larger, metropolitan areas. Having said this, there is no reason works in more rural areas such as Pageland cannot be established with nurture, care, patience, and support from more local sources, much like the models of Brownsburg, Terre Haute and Marion which have developed organically over significant time. Indeed, in the case of Pageland, should God keep blessing the work, we believe a more realistic plan is to move ahead in a measured way based on the support of either a mother congregation (like Durham), a tent-making ministry, the growing support of the local congregation as it expands, or a combination of these three.

[See recommendations #3-7]

Recommendations:

1. That the Pageland Commission be given 15 minutes to report to the Presbytery which may include a presentation from a local representative from the work (see Pageland Commission Recommendation #1).
2. That the Pageland Commission's approval of the call to Ian Wise be ruled out of order and that the call itself be brought back to Presbytery for its review.
3. That the GLG Presbytery deny the request from the Pageland Commission for the Pensacola Funds to be used in Pageland to be reserved for a more strategic site (see PCR #2).
4. That the GLG Presbytery counsel the Pageland Commission not to request HMB aid at this time and the Pageland Commission not to base a call on the expectation of receiving such funding (see PCR #3).
5. That we return the call to the Pageland commission to be reformulated in light of Presbytery's actions and counsel (see PCR #4 which would be withdrawn at this time if this recommendation passes).

6. That the request forwarded to the AIC by the Pageland Commission to "ask the Presbytery to appoint two more members to the Commission, one being ruling elder Bob Shapiro of Northminster Church, and the other ruling elder Jeff Jones from the Columbus Church," with our addition "making it a five-person commission," be granted. (see PCR #5).

7. That this committee be dismissed.

Respectfully Submitted,

James Faris
Andy McCracken, chairman
Barry York

**PAGELAND COMMISSION
GREAT LAKES-GULF PRESBYTERY**

Report to the Synod 2011 Meeting of Presbytery

At the special meeting of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery on June 10, 2011, numerous questions were asked relative to decisions made by the Pageland Commission since its recent establishment by the Ad Interim Commission of the Presbytery. It was, therefore, obvious to the members of the Pageland Commission that we needed to provide a much fuller report to the Presbytery than we had before the meeting of June 10th. The following is our replacement report for that earlier one, laid on the table.

The concerns expressed can be grouped into the following four main questions, with information then provided to address those concerns.

First, is the Pageland Commission not moving forward too quickly?

Here is the timeline of the work in Pageland so far. Much of this information has already been reported to the Presbytery, in the Southern Church Extension Committee (SOCHEX) reports to the Synod meeting of Presbytery in June 2010, and to the spring meeting of Presbytery in March 2011, in the Pageland Commission report to the special meeting of Presbytery on June 10, 2011, or in Ad Interim Commission minutes distributed by e-mail around the Presbytery. But there are many details that have not hitherto been communicated to the Presbytery.

Early April 2010	The Chris and Joe Mangum families, living near Pageland, South Carolina, contacted Frank Smith about the possibility of establishing an RPCNA congregation in that area. They were members of the Presbyterian Reformed Church in Charlotte, North Carolina, now over one hour away from where they have moved. The Mangums have relatives who are part of the Trinity RPCNA in Maryland and so are familiar with the denomination.
April 24	The Mangum families attended the organization of the Northminster RPC in Alpharetta, Georgia, and met with the

members of the Presbytery present. It was agreed that their interest in helping to form an RPCNA congregation in their community was the responsibility of SOCHEX (then current membership: Ian Wise, chairman; Tom Reid, secretary, Frank Smith; and Greg Cumbee).

April 28-29 Ian Wise and Tom Reid of SOCHEX met, by telephone conference call, with the Mangums' pastor, Tim Worrell, and, separately, with one of their two ruling elders (Ron Posvar, a former RPCNA ruling elder). The Mangums' ecclesiastical situation seemed in all respects to be normal; Chris was working with Pastor Worrell in preparation for becoming a teaching elder; Joe was considered a future deacon. Ian and Tom prepared a written report on these discussions to SOCHEX.

May 19, 2010 SOCHEX met for one hour 26 minutes; most of its business concerned Pageland.

May 26 141 informative letters were sent to the mailing list of Crown and Covenant in the area within one hour of Pageland (zip codes beginning with 280, 281, 282, 290, 291, 292, and 297). To date, no adherents to the work in Pageland have resulted from this effort.

June 6-7 Frank Smith and Ian Wise visited Pageland together, in order to evaluate the situation for SOCHEX; Ian submitted a written report to SOCHEX for our information.

June 12 SOCHEX met for one hour six minutes; discussed the report of Ian and Frank about Pageland; encouraged the Mangum families to join the Durham RPCNA; encouraged the Mangum families to start a Sabbath evening fellowship time; and aimed to start worship services in Pageland in the fall.

June The Lafayette RPC donated used *Book of Psalms for Singing* to the work in Pageland.

July 30 Weekly Bible studies led by Chris Mangum, a former seminary student at Reformed Theological Seminary (Charlotte) and Greenville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, began being held in Joe Mangum's home on Friday evenings.

September 10 Chris and Tammy Mangum and Joe and Becky Mangum were accepted as communicant members of the First Durham RPC, and their twelve covenant children were received as baptized members, by transfer from the Presbyterian Reformed Church (their letters still have not been received by the Durham session). Chris Jr. and Vincent Mangum, the oldest child in each family, were accepted as communicant members in Durham on December 12.

October 19 SOCHEX met for one hour, thirty-two minutes; appointed Ian to schedule preachers in Pageland; chose the name "Pageland Reformed Presbyterian Church" (start where you want to get!); authorized the setting up of a website for Pageland, with Chris and Joe to do the work; named Joe as treasurer and authorized him to open a church bank account; decided it was premature to ask the

Ad Interim Commission to create a commission to oversee the work.

October 30 Joe Mangum opened a "non-profit checking" account for the Pageland RPC in the Wachovia Bank; Ian Wise became the second signer for checks.

November 2 The *Pageland Progressive Journal* newspaper announced that the Reformed Presbyterians in their area would be meeting in the Guest Lodge Motel in Pageland beginning November 7.

November 7 The Bible studies moved to Sabbath nights, with preaching provided by RPCNA teaching elders on the first Lord's Day of each month. The four teaching elders then on SOCHEX all ministered the Word at least once in Pageland over the next six months.

November 30, 2010 Joe Mangum began to provide monthly, written financial reports to SOCHEX.

December 21 The Pageland group's website was up and running: www.PagelandRPC.com.

December 31 Chris Mangum began to provide monthly, written reports on the work in Pageland to SOCHEX.

January 5, 2011 Greg Cumbee resigned from SOCHEX; he was not replaced until after the spring meeting of Presbytery by Charles Saunders, ruling elder in the Durham Church.

January 6 SOCHEX met for one hour, forty eight minutes; set \$100 for the preaching honorarium (plus travel expenses); decided to prepare a proposal to seek exploratory funds from the HMB for Pageland and chose one licentiate (Jason Ryce) as the focus of our efforts (he later declined); authorized Chris Mangum to "preach/exhort" once per month "when a preacher is otherwise not available".

February 1 SOCHEX met for one hour, seven minutes; Chris and Joe Mangum began meeting with the Committee, with privileges of the floor (which they have not abused); extended a contract to licentiate Jay Strunk to work for a renewable period of six months (he declined); it was reported that several family units could now be considered adherents.

February 22 \$25,000 was deposited in the Pageland bank account, from an anonymous donor within the Durham congregation.

February 28 The annual report of SOCHEX was distributed electronically around the Presbytery by the clerk of Presbytery. This report focused mostly on the work in Pageland.

March 4 Presbytery reviewed the report on Pageland in the SOCHEX report to Presbytery.

March 24 SOCHEX met for one hour, thirty-one minutes; Charles Saunders joined the Committee by appointment of Presbytery; morning worship was authorized beginning April 10, as the Church which was using the motel meeting room in the mornings had now found a permanent home; it was agreed to approach Jay Strunk (again)

and John Tweed, but neither was available to help us out for the desired period of three to six months;

March 31 Joe and Chris Mangum purchased two publicity signs for display outside our meeting place.

April 3 Last regular Sabbath evening meeting in Pageland; average attendance since November 7, 2010: 18.

April 9 Chris and Joe Mangum prepared an introductory flyer for distribution around Pageland.

April 10 Morning worship services, with weekly preaching, began to be held in the same location in Pageland. At least once a month, a preacher from the RPCNA was present; so far, Ian Wise, Adam Kuehner (licentiate of the Presbytery of the Alleghenies seeking a call), Tom Reid, and Steve Bradley have preached there. Chris Mangum preaches/exhorts once per month, and students from Greenville Presbyterian Theological Seminary have done much of the rest.

April 24, 2011 Average attendance at morning worship in April: 24.

May 11 SOCHEx met for fifty-two minutes; it determined that the creation of a Pageland Commission would be helpful at this time; asked Ian Wise to hold a secret ballot on May 29, after preaching in Pageland, to ascertain if the group had an interest in having a call issued, and, if so, to whom; asked Tom Reid to contact the denominational treasurer to see if the residual Pensacola funds could be used in Pageland as a bridge until HMB support kicked in; approved hiring adherent Vicki Carberry to distribute flyers.

May 12 Tom Reid e-mailed and called Dave Long, Chairman of the Ad Interim Commission, about the request for a Pageland Commission.
Ad Interim Commission met and formed a Pageland Commission, consisting of Frank Smith, moderator; Tom Reid, clerk; Ian Wise; Steve Sturm (who served for several years on the former Atlanta Commission with the previous three elders); and Ben Larson (who had expressed an interest in helping in the development of RPCNA congregations in the South), alternate. These five names were the ones suggested by SOCHEx to the Ad Interim Commission. Both Steve and Ben subsequently indicated that they could not serve on the Pageland Commission.

May 16 Tom Reid talked with Jim McFarland, denominational treasurer, about the residual Pensacola funds, which Jim confirmed had never been used; Jim promised to investigate the matter and respond to the Commission.

May Adherent Vicki Carberry (who is under-employed) distributed several hundred flyers around the Pageland area.

May 13 The minutes of the Ad Interim Commission describing the creation of the Pageland Commission were distributed around the Presbytery.

May 29 The Pageland group held a discussion and secret ballot election. Ian Wise was unanimously chosen by the communicant members and adult adherents present on the first ballot.

May 31 The Pageland Commission met and determined to organize a mission church when there are four families who are members of the RPCNA, which was likely in the near future; called Ian Wise to be the pastor in Pageland; approved the terms of the call to Ian (Ian recused himself from the last two votes); sought Presbytery approval for receiving the residual funds left when the Pensacola, Florida, congregation was closed, which were reserved for new church development in the South by request of the Pensacola congregation and approval of the Synod; informed Presbytery that the Commission will ask Presbytery, should Ian accept the call, to permit us to request declining aid from the Home Mission Board at its fall meeting, to start January 1, 2012; chose three ruling elders around the Presbytery to contact to see if they would be willing to serve on the Commission.
The Pageland work has about \$25,000 in the bank; i.e., they have met all expenses so far from local funds.

May 29, 2011 Average attendance at morning worship May 1st through 29th: 24.

June 8 A report to the special meeting of Presbytery on June 10 was distributed. This report asked for Presbytery approval to seek the residual Pensacola funds for the work in Pageland.

June 10 The clerk of the Pageland Commission presented the Commission's report to the Presbytery, which report was tabled until the Synod meeting of Presbytery.

June 14 RPCNA Treasurer Jim McFarland confirmed that the Presbytery should ask for the residual Pensacola funds; until we do so, neither the Finance Committee nor the Trustees of Synod will take any action about those funds.
The Pageland Commission met for one hour and thirty-nine minutes, in order to formulate a response to the Presbytery, per its instruction. The Commission's moderator invited the Presbytery committee appointed by Presbytery's moderator Dave Long to review our work (Andrew McCracken, chairman; James Faris; and Barry York) to meet with the Commission, but the invitation was declined, with our approbation. Adopted a budget for the work in Pageland, should Ian accept the call; approved a substitute report to the Presbytery; recommended ruling elder Bob Shapiro of Northminster to the Presbytery for appointment to the Commission, along with a fifth member, a ruling elder from Indiana; identified further names of ruling elders to serve on the Commission.

June 17 The Commission met for about thirty-five minutes with the Durham session, as per the instruction of the Presbytery on June 10.

June 21 The Commission was informed that Jeff Jones, ruling elder in Columbus, Indiana, was willing to serve on the Commission and his name was added to our recommendation to Presbytery concerning additional men serving with us.

Second, is it wise for Ian Wise to accept a call to Pageland?

The members and adherents in Pageland are unanimous in their desire to see Ian become their first pastor. Several families on the periphery of the work know Ian and are much more likely to join if he becomes pastor.

Ian Wise has spent over three years as pastor of the RPCNA congregation in Southfield, Michigan, and over six years as pastor of the RPCNA congregation in Durham, North Carolina. He would thus bring a decade's wealth of pastoral experience to Pageland.

Ian and his wife Deanna both grew up a little over an hour away in upstate South Carolina. They understand the culture in that region much better than any other RPCNA teaching elder and his wife.

Deanna and their four children (ages 12 to 6) are positive about such a move, should the Lord lead Ian to accept the call to Pageland.

Before issuing the call to Ian Wise, members of the Pageland Commission had been assured by both Ian Wise, the Presbytery's representative on the Home Mission Board (HMB), and by another member of the HMB, that adequate funds are available for two new works beginning January 1, 2012. Furthermore, the HMB is fully aware of the work in Pageland, and would give serious consideration to funding it, if: 1) the Pageland work continues to develop; 2) Presbytery approves a request for aid; and 3) our proposal for declining aid is considered adequate by the HMB. We are working on the proposal to the Home Mission Board for presentation to the Presbytery for its preliminary approval at the Synod meeting of Presbytery. (See Recommendation 3 below.)

Also before issuing the call, Joe Mangum prepared an outline budget of income and expenditures for the Commission, from which he concluded that, with the various forms of aid available, even without an increase in the level of local giving, there will be enough financial resources to continue Ian's ministry through January of 2013. And the Commission does not expect giving to remain at current levels!

Over a period of more than a year, Ian has received counsel from several ministers, both inside and outside the RPCNA, including within Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery (although not from anyone on the Pageland Commission or SOCHEX), that he should consider seeking another pastorate.

In the early 1960s, Roy Blackwood moved his family to Indianapolis to begin an RPCNA congregation with no promise or even likelihood of outside financial support, and "the rest", as they say, "is history".

Third, is it wise for the Durham RPCNA to lose its pastor at the present time?

The recent years of Ian's pastorate in Durham have been characterized by turbulence, leading to Presbytery and even Synod involvement in various controversies. However, the past year has been one of calm and healing, making this point a propitious time for Ian to move on to another pastorate.

Since April, the Durham congregation has been without pending legal action in the church courts for the first time in several years. (Frank Smith and Tom Reid, but particularly Frank, worked for most of the past year behind the scenes to mediate between the Durham session and Roger Cornejo. When these efforts ended in an impasse, we strongly – and, in the end, successfully – prevailed upon Roger to drop his appeal/complaint to Synod.)

The Durham congregation has one resident ruling elder (Charles Saunders) and, for the past year, two appointed elders from Presbytery (David Carr from West Lafayette and Jon Hughes from Southfield), who have thus had time to settle into their work and even visit Durham several times. The Durham session believes that there is one man in the congregation who is a likely future ruling elder, and Charles Leverett, with his wife Debbie, have recently rejoined the congregation. The Durham session is planning for the election of at least one ruling elder this summer, so it is likely that the Durham Church will have more resident ruling elders in the near future.

At the end of 2010, the Durham congregation had a balance in savings of \$506,638, less an operating deficit of \$156,751, for a total balance of \$349,887. Among all RPCNA congregations, only North Hills, Second Indianapolis, Ridgely Park, and Trinity (Maryland) had more assets as of that date (and Trinity has purchased a building and is currently using its savings to significantly renovate it).

Durham would have much more money at present if it had not purchased its own facility in August, 2007, at a cost of about \$600,000, not counting the subsequent upgrades.

As the Presbytery must be careful about the needs of the Durham congregation, it must not forget the needs of the brethren (six communicant members, ten baptized members, members in Durham, and seven adherents) who are part of us and desire the services of a resident pastor. A budding work such as in Pageland is in even greater need of a settled pastor than an established congregation with its own building like the Durham Church. In this regard, finding a new pastor for Durham should be relatively easy in comparison to finding a different minister to serve in Pageland.

Fourth, is Pageland, South Carolina, the best place to start a new RPCNA?

Pageland, South Carolina, would probably not be near the top of the list for where to begin an RPCNA congregation, particularly given the fact that there are numerous, large, metropolitan areas where there are no RPCNA congregations. For example, consider the

following list of fourteen large metropolitan areas which are in the geographical area that can be considered the responsibility of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery:

Tampa-St. Petersburg, Florida	2,906,000
St. Louis, Missouri/Illinois	2,883,000
Miami, Florida	2,530,000
Cincinnati, Ohio/Kentucky	2,137,000
Fort Lauderdale, Florida	1,963,000
Columbus, Ohio	1,820,000
Nashville, Tennessee	1,535,000
Milwaukee, Wisconsin	1,534,000
West Palm Beach, Florida	1,434,000
Memphis, Tennessee	1,319,000
Jacksonville, Florida	1,304,000
Charlotte, North Carolina	1,296,000
Louisville, Kentucky/Indiana	1,262,000
Birmingham, Alabama	1,132,000

(In addition to these areas, there are fifteen metropolitan areas with between 500,000 and 1,000,000 inhabitants in our service area, and an additional seventy-two metropolitan areas with between 100,000 and 500,000 in population. Virginia is not included in any of these figures)

On the other hand, "while man proposes, God disposes". It would be imprudent not to take full advantage of the opportunities which Providence gives us, such as dealing with quality people in the Mangum families. Moreover, the selection of Pageland is not an unreasonable or irrational choice. Though having a population of only 2,500, Pageland is located at the intersection of major north-south and east-west routes, with all the usual amenities found in a much larger community except for a hospital. The road north towards Charlotte has recently been expanded from two to four lanes, to accommodate the large number of people moving into the area to live a more rural lifestyle while being able to commute into Charlotte for work (as both Chris and Joe Mangum do). The area is quickly filling up with new homes built for these commuters, as the booming Charlotte area is moving inexorably towards the southeast, toward Pageland (and not much in any other direction).

The population of Chesterfield County, South Carolina, where Pageland is located, is about 44,000, not that much less than Grant County, Indiana (68,000), where Marion is located. But, unlike Grant County and eastern Chesterfield County, Pageland is in the western part of Chesterfield County, which is showing steady, impressive growth. In addition, only five miles north of Pageland is Union County, North Carolina, population 202,000, part of the official Charlotte metropolitan area, and eight miles to the west is Lancaster County, South Carolina, population 63,000. Almost all of the Charlotte area is within one hour driving distance of Pageland and most is within forty-five minutes. So, Pageland is situated on the very edge of one of those large metropolitan areas for which the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery has responsibility.

Moreover, Pageland is located strategically between our current centers for ministry in

Durham, North Carolina (160 miles to the northeast) and Atlanta, Georgia (230 miles to the southwest). Further, Pageland is within the following distances of metropolitan areas of more than 200,000, from which it could be an anchor for the development of new RPCNA congregations (distances are to the city center).

Charlotte, NC	42 miles	1,296,000	Banking center; RTS
Rock Hill, SC	42 miles	215,000	
Florence, SC	56 miles	204,000	
Columbia, SC	64 miles	735,000	State capitol; University
Gastonia, NC	70 miles	200,000	
Spartanburg, SC	95 miles	281,000	
Myrtle Beach, SC	111 miles	252,000	Popular resort
Greenville, SC	120 miles	623,000	Greenville Seminary
Charleston, SC	140 miles	642,000	Port
Asheville, NC	158 miles	417,000	Gateway to the Smokies

(Note: the above list does not include certain other metropolitan areas which are located closer to Durham or Atlanta than to Pageland, but are found within these kinds of mileages from Pageland, like Fayetteville, North Carolina.)

It needs to be noted that it is much more difficult to work at great distances to start an RPCNA congregation without a resident pastor. For instance, within 160 miles of Marion, Indiana, there are thirteen serving RPCNA pastors, and within 160 miles of Terre Haute, Indiana, there are twelve serving RPCNA pastors. In both cases, many RPCNA pastors live within an hour of the new works and they can relatively easily join with others in helping the group become an established and growing congregation.

The Pageland area is devoid of Reformed churches at present, although there are two PCUSA congregations in Pageland, one white, one black. The nearest NAPARC churches are twenty miles to the north (PCA), twenty-four miles to the west (ARPC), thirty-one miles to the east (PCA), and, apparently, forty-two miles to the south (PCA). Ian was in contact with the nearest ARPC pastor, Kyle Sims in Lancaster, an old friend of Ian's, at the very beginning of our work with the Mangums, and Pastor Sims gave us every encouragement to proceed, including offering a room in his Church's building if we wanted to commence work farther to the west of Pageland.

The bottom line is this: RPCNA congregations are started in communities where several families band together and begin ministering to others. After a period of development, anywhere from one year to several years, a pastor is sent to help them in their witness, and a congregation is organized. This pattern is being followed in Pageland, South Carolina, as elsewhere, and the Commission urges the Presbytery to give the brethren in Pageland support and encouragement.

Recommendations:

1. That Chris or Joe Mangum be permitted to address Presbytery for ten minutes about the work in Pageland and the call to Ian Wise.
2. That the Presbytery approve, if Ian Wise accepts the call to Pageland, the Pageland Commission requesting the Trustees of Synod and the Finance Committee of Synod to allocate the funds left after the closing of the Pensacola Church to the work in Pageland.
3. That the Presbytery grant authority to the Ad Interim Commission, if Ian Wise accepts the call to Pageland, to approve the request to the Home Mission Board for reducing aid for Pageland when the Pageland Commission has finalized that report in light of the input of the Presbytery and any developments in the work over the next few months.
4. That the Presbytery agree, if Ian Wise accepts the call to Pageland, to contribute \$2,000 to the work in Pageland each year during the period of declining aid, as has been done for other new works.
5. That the Presbytery appoint Jeffrey Jones (Columbus) and Robert Shapiro (Northminster) as members of the Pageland Commission.

Respectfully submitted,
 Frank Smith, Moderator _____
 Thomas Reid, Clerk _____
 Ian Wise

**Minutes of the Special Meeting
 of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery
 Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America
 August 26, 2011**

Call to Order: The moderator, David Long, called the Presbytery to order at 1:08 p.m. on Friday, August 26, 2011, at the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Lafayette, Lafayette, IN, for the purpose as stated in the following edict:

EDICT FOR THE ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF A TEACHING ELDER

The Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery has received a call made by the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Lafayette upon Keith Evans to be the Associate Pastor of their congregation, and has sustained it as a regular gospel call. Mr. Evans has accepted the call. Notice is hereby given that Friday, the 26th day of August in the year 2011 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 Ad Interim Commission. The meeting for the installation will be held at 7:00 p.m. at the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Lafayette, Lafayette, Indiana.

Additionally, the Presbytery is called to meet at 1:00 in the afternoon of August 26 for the purpose of other business of Presbytery as prepared by the Clerk of Presbytery and the Ad Interim Commission.

By order of the Presbytery this 29th day of July in the year 2011.

David W. Long, Moderator of the Ad Interim Commission
 Jack Rhoda, Clerk of the Ad Interim Commission

Constitution

The Moderator led in prayer and constituted the Court in prayer.
 Presbytery sang Psalm 145A.

Roll

The Assistant Clerk, Jack Rhoda called the Roll which is as follows"

CONGREGATION	DELEGATE	1	2	3
Belle Center	Phil Pockras	X	X	
Bloomington	Rich Holdeman	X	X	
Christ Church (Indy)	Michael Lefebvre	X	X	
Columbus	Andy McCracken	X	X	
	Bob McCracken	X	X	
Elkhart	Keith Magill			
First RP Durham	Ian Wise	X	X	
First RP Grand Rapids	(no TE)			
	Kent Van Timmeren	X	X	

Hetherton	Milton Harrington			
Immanuel, W. Lafayette	Jared Olivetti	X	X	
	Ben Larson	X	X	
Lafayette	Dave Long	X	X	
	Jack Rhoda	X	X	
	Robert Bibby	X	X	
Northminster	Frank J. Smith	X	X	
	Bob Shapiro	X	X	
Orlando	(no TE)			
Second, Indianapolis	Rich Johnston	X	X	
	James Faris	X	X	
	Dean Filson	X	X	
	Russ Pulliam	X		
Selma	Tom Gray			
Southfield	(no TE)			
Southside Indianapolis	Gordon Keddie			
	David Whitla	X	X	
	George Shoppe	X	X	
Sparta	Ray Morton	X	X	
	Bob Morrow			
Sycamore	Barry York	X	X	
	Jason Camery			
Westminster	(no TE)			
Terre Haute Miss Ch	Bill Roberts	X	X	
RPTS	Tom Reid	X	X	
Retired	Bob Henning			
	Marion McFarland			
	Jim Pennington			
Min w/o Pastorates	Roger Adams			
	Roy Blackwood			
	Greg Cumbee			
	Godfrey Franklin			
	Ray Lanning			
	Frank Schutz			
	Jim Wright			
	Dick Knodel	X	X	
Inactive	Paul Mathews			

The Assistant Clerk declared a quorum was present.

Motion: It was moved, seconded, and passed, that elders without certificates who are representatives of their sessions be seated.

Motion: It was moved, seconded, and passed, that all elders present who are not delegates be made consultative members of the court.

Clerk's Report

The Clerk presented his report that he was doing what was assigned to him. He presented the agenda for the afternoon meeting and the agenda for this evening was according to the order of the service for ordination and installation. The agenda is:

Call to Order by the Moderator and Constitution

Devotions: Candidates and Credentials Committee Report

Expository Sermon 1 – Steven McCarthy

Roll Call

Motions re: delegates

Approval of Agenda

Discussion and Roll Call Vote on Sermon

Pageland Commission Report

Candidates and Credentials Committee Report (continued)

(as in their report)

Hetherton Committee Report

South-West Ohio Fellowship

Appointment to Geneva's Board of Corporators

Update on Selma

Recess at 3:00 p.m.

Recess at 5:00 p.m. (until the evening service)

Travel vouchers are available from Jerry Porter can be returned to him at the meeting.

He also had received a letter from Gordon Keddie which he read to the Court. It was agreed that he would respond to the letter.

The agenda as presented was adopted.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Candidates and Credentials Committee

Michael LeFebvre introduced Steven McCarthy for his Expository Sermon I on the passage Psalm 16:1-11.

Steven read Psalm 16 and then led in prayer.

He preached from the passage and closed his message with prayer.

Presbytery sang Psalm 16D.

Presbytery took up discussion of Steven McCarthy's sermon.

Roll Call Vote

The Assistant Clerk called the Roll and the examination was unanimously sustained.

Pageland Commission

Frank Smith presented the report.

Recommendations 1 to 4 were approved.

In keeping with Recommendation 4, the Moderator presented the Pastoral Call to Ian Wise. Ian accepted the Call to the Pageland church plant.

Prayer: Frank Smith led the Court in prayer for Ian Wise for the Pageland church planting effort.

The Report of the Pageland Commission is as follows:

PAGELAND COMMISSION
GREAT LAKES-GULF PRESBYTERY

REPORT TO PRESBYTERY
FOR THE AUGUST 26, 2011, SPECIAL MEETING

Since the meeting of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery at Synod, the Pageland Commission officially met twice (on July 2 and July 28) and plans to meet again on August 22; in addition, those members of the Commission present at Synod met several times over meals to discuss our work. Ruling elders Jeffrey Jones (Columbus) and Robert Shapiro (Northminster, Georgia), appointed to the Commission by the Presbytery at its Synod meeting, have joined with us and enhanced our work already.

The Commission thanks the Presbytery for the almost three hours you devoted in June to reviewing our work, for "iron sharpens iron" (Proverbs 27:17). Your discussions, we believe, have improved our direction of the growing ministry in the outer suburbs of Charlotte. And Presbytery's careful consideration of the report of the Pageland Review Committee brought about a good measure of agreement throughout the Presbytery despite initial disagreements.

In its report to Presbytery in June, the Pageland Review Committee provided some statistics concerning the median income figures in the Pageland area. Since that time, it has come to our attention that those figures are from 2000, so they are eleven years old. The most up-to-date figures we have subsequently found are for 2009 median per capita income of \$16,500 in Pageland itself and \$17,582 in Chesterfield County, with a median family size in both cases of about 2.5 persons, giving a median family income of between \$41,000 and \$44,000. Therefore, the median family in the Pageland area has income not more than ten percent below the national figure of about \$46,000.

As you instructed us at the Synod meeting of Presbytery, the Commission has reworked the call to Ian Wise for service in Pageland, and that call is attached to our report. We are recommending that the Presbytery approve the call and present it to Ian at the Presbytery's meeting on August 26th. See Recommendation 4.

The decision of the Presbytery not to permit us to seek reducing aid for Pageland from the Home Mission Board created a real challenge to the Commission as we crunched the numbers in our budgeting over the next three years or so. Attached to this report is our new budget through 2014, as well as an updated financial report for Pageland through July, 2011. We expect now that the earliest that Ian could begin ministering in the Pageland area is October 1, 2011, so we have begun the budget at that point. The Commission encouraged Chris and Joe Mangum to begin giving their whole tithe to Pageland, beginning in July, as they had previously been dividing it

between Pageland and Durham, where their family's memberships are held. At the end of July, the balance in the Pageland banking account is \$26,162.94, so they have met all their expenses up to this point without touching the \$25,000 gift from an anonymous donor in the Durham Church.

The Commission came to the conclusion that, in order to produce a workable budget for the first years of a pastoral ministry in Pageland, we still need to ask for the \$19,000 remaining from the former Pensacola congregation, for distribution in 2012. See Recommendation 1.

After the end of Synod, Ian spoke with two of the other five members of the Home Mission Board about our situation. (Of course, he had already spoken to the whole Board about the developing ministry there.) John Edgar, HMB President, and Bruce Parnell, HMB Secretary (and longest-serving member of the Board at the present time), suggested to Ian that we ask for \$10,000 from the Board in Exploratory Funds in both 2012 and 2013, with a high likelihood of the request being approved and of the Board having the funds to give to Pageland. Therefore, if Presbytery permits, we are planning to make this request to the September, 2011, meeting of the Board. See Recommendation 2. The Commission has modified the reducing aid form we prepared for the last meeting of Presbytery in order to justify our request to the Board, and that form is attached to this report as well.

In order to expect the Home Mission Board to provide such a substantial grant to the work in Pageland, the Presbytery must signal to the Board that it supports the work. Therefore, we respectfully request that Presbytery grant \$2,000 per annum, beginning in 2012, for up to seven years – as it does for works receiving reducing aid – to the work in Pageland. See Recommendation 3.

God willing, the three teaching elders on the Commission will be present at the August 26 meeting in order to present this report and interact with the presbyters about the ministry in Pageland. It has seemed that, in recent weeks, the work has been at a plateau, but even new churches need such times of consolidation before moving ahead once again.

Recommendation 1: That Presbytery request the remaining funds of the former Pensacola Church from the Trustees of Synod for the work in Pageland, to be distributed in 2012, even if the date for dispersal of those funds for new works in the South is past.

Recommendation 2: That Presbytery approve the Pageland Commission requesting \$10,000 in Exploratory Funds for the work in Pageland in both 2012 and 2013 from the Home Mission Board, meeting in September 2011.

Recommendation 3: That Presbytery approve granting \$2,000 each year for up to seven years to the work in Pageland, beginning in 2012.

Recommendation 4: That Presbytery approve the attached call to Ian Wise for service in Pageland, South Carolina, and present it to him at this special meeting of the Presbytery.

Respectfully submitted,
Frank Smith, Moderator
Thomas Reid, Clerk
Jeffrey Jones
Robert Shapiro
Ian Wise

Attached: 1) Call to Ian Wise; 2) Pageland Budget; 3) Pageland Financial Report; and 4) Request for Exploratory Funds.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Recess

Presbytery took recess from 3:03 to 3:22 p.m.

Candidates and Credentials Committee Report

Michael LeFebvre introduced Steven McCarthy for his Systematic Theology Exam ! William Roberts conducted the exam.]

Members of Presbytery asked questions and received answers followed by comments.

Roll Call Vote

The Assistant Clerk called the Roll and the examination was unanimously sustained.

The Report of the Candidates and Credentials Committee is as follows:

Dear Fathers and Brothers:

Praise God for the occasion for this presbytery meeting: the ordination and installation of a new minister in our midst! As we continue to pray for more laborers and to oversee the training of theological students, your Committee has a series of exams and other recommendations for your consideration.

1. **Exams** — First, we are recommending the following exams to be conducted at this meeting (see recommendation 1, below):

Examinee	Exam	Duration*	Examiner
Kyle Borg	Church history paper (topic: doctrine of Christ's natures at Chalcedon)	—/—/5	James Faris, Phil
Steven McCarthy	Expository Sermon I (text: Psalm 16)	c.25/—/5	
	Systematic Theology I	20/10/5	Bill Roberts
	English Bible exam	—/—/—	(reported by CCC)
	Licensure to preach (role call vote to license, queries, prayer, and words of counsel)	—	Dave Long

*Duration — The first number indicates the length of time (in minutes) allotted for the examiner's questions; the second number indicates the length of time for the full Presbytery's questions; the third number indicates the length of time for Presbytery discussion of the exam prior to an "up or down" roll call vote. (E.g., 20/10/5 = 20 min. examiner q's/10 min. Presbytery q's/5 min. discussion.)

2. **Kyle Borg** — We also have a series of recommendations in connection with Kyle Borg's oversight as our most recently received student under care. Kyle started his study

for the ministry under the oversight of the Michigan–Ontario Presbytery of the OPC. He (and his wife) transferred membership into the GLGP this summer, and Kyle was taken under care at the recent Synod meeting of presbytery.

At that time, your Committee informed presbytery that we would review Kyle's progress with the OPC to bring recommendations on how that work might transfer to the GLGP. Kyle completed and passed the OPC's English Bible Exam, both a written theology exam and an oral theology exam, and he preached a sermon which was sustained by the OPC Michigan–Ontario Presbytery. (Further details on these exams are recorded on Kyle's Student Chart, on p4 of this report.)

We are recommending that the GLGP receive Kyle's English Bible Exam results from the OPC as satisfying the English Bible Exam requirement of this presbytery (see recommendation 2, below). We are also recommending that Kyle's sermon exam results be received as satisfying this presbytery's Evidence of Progress Sermon requirement (see recommendation 3, below). We further considered recommendations in relation to Kyle's theological exams already sustained (and those, unanimously) by the Michigan–Ontario Presbytery; however, we believe it would be important for this presbytery to re-conduct that exam as we get to know Kyle and his doctrinal commitments.

Additionally, Kyle was granted a formal "commendation" to preach by his OPC presbytery on January 21, 2011. The OPC does not have a "licensure to preach" status like we do. However, when First RPC Grand Rapids approached Kyle about doing regular preaching, the Michigan–Ontario Presbytery conducted the aforementioned theology exams and voted to provide their formal endorsement for Kyle to begin preaching for First RPC. That action by the OPC was as follows:

COMMENDATION. On motion the Presbytery of Michigan and Ontario commends Mr. Kyle Borg to First Reformed Presbyterian Church (RPCNA) for consideration as interim pulpit supply under the joint oversight of the session of Harvest OPC and the RPCNA local presbytery. Mr. James led in prayer for the committee. (Note 36; Minutes of the Michigan–Ontario Presbytery for Jan. 21, 2011)

Due to the extraordinary circumstance that Kyle is already preaching weekly as stated supply for an RP congregation, and that he began this position under the OPC's "commendation" to preach; and that, while now a member of the RPCNA, he has not yet completed the exams required for an RP license to preach: we are recommending that presbytery formally recognize the action of the Michigan–Ontario Presbytery commending Kyle to preach, and that presbytery authorize Kyle to continue preaching under that commendation until such time as this presbytery is able to conduct his exams for an RP licensure to preach (see recommendation 4, below). We anticipate presbytery conducting those exams at the Spring, 2012, meeting.

Recommendations

1. That examinations be conducted at this meeting of presbytery according to the schedule outlined on page 1 of this report.
2. That the result "Passed" granted to Kyle Borg by the Michigan-Ontario Presbytery of the OPC on Dec. 21, 2010, for his English Bible Exam conducted by that presbytery, be received as satisfying this presbytery's English Bible Exam requirement.
3. That the result "Sustained" granted to Kyle Borg by the Michigan-Ontario Presbytery of the OPC on Jan. 21, 2011, for his Sermon Exam for that presbytery, be received by this presbytery as satisfying this presbytery's Evidence of Progress Sermon requirement.
4. That presbytery acknowledges the Michigan-Ontario Presbytery (OPC) action on Jan. 21, 2011, commending Kyle Borg to preach, and that this presbytery authorizes Kyle to continue preaching under that commendation until such time as this presbytery completes its examinations of Kyle prerequisite to his receiving an RP license to preach.

Recommendation 1 was approved.
Presbytery continued dealing with these recommendations.

Michael LeFebvre reported on Steven McCarthy's English Bible Exam and recommended that it be sustained.
On the voice vote the examination was sustained.

Licensure to Preach

Dave Long asked Steven McCarthy the Queries for Licensure to Preach.
Steven McCarthy answered all the Queries in the affirmative with no reservations.

Roll Call Vote

The Assistant Clerk called the Roll and the Certification to Preach was unanimously sustained.
 Steven McCarthy signed the Queries in the Presbytery Minute Book.
 Dave Long led in the prayer of Certification to Preach.
 Dave Long addressed words of counsel to Steven McCarthy and reminded him of the limitations on his duties as recorded in the Book of Church Government, Chapter 3; II; C; 2; i, page D-15
 Steven McCarthy was welcomed by the Court on the completion of his Licensure to Preach.
 It was reported that Kyle Borg was not present because of the birth of a child in his family on Wednesday, August 24th.
 Michael LeFebvre called on Phil Pockras to report for the reviewers on Kyle Borg's Church History Paper.
 Phil Pockras reported and recommended that the Paper be sustained.
 On the voice vote the examination was sustained.

Recommendations 2, 3, and 4 were approved.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report of the Candidates and Credentials Committee Report as a whole be received.

Hetherton Visitation Committee Report

Robert McCracken reported for he Committee. The Report is as follows:

Committee to Visit Hetherton

Your committee traveled to Hetherton on July 9th 2011, and were graciously hosted for supper that evening with the Drost family. On Sabbath, July 10th we joined with the congregation for S.S. and Worship, a lunch at the church, a meeting with the congregation, and then a meeting with the elders separately, returning home on Monday, July 11. One member of the committee also visited with Paul and Janet Mathews in their Gaylord, MI home on Sabbath evening.

We would like to say first of all, that due to the grace of God, and the faithful work of the Supply Pastor, Dan Drost, a new spark of life has come to the Hetherton congregation! A new young family with two children, and also two other adults are now coming every Sabbath to worship, and these new adherents have a remarkable enthusiasm concerning the future of the church. They are eager for the church to continue its ministry in this rural community. They were contacted through the door-to-door visits of Pastor Drost in the homes within a five miles radius of the church. Because this young couple, Kirby and April Sides have two children close to the ages of the Pastor's children, they are a source of fellowship and encouragement to the Drosts, and bring a refreshing new spirit to the life and work of the congregation.

It has been obvious that what was needed to further the work of this rural congregation was a leader and Pastor, and God has supplied that need in the Drost family. They have been on site for 1 1/2 years, are happy and contented in this situation, and seem willing to continue to Pastor even with a reduction in salary. (since his contract with the congregation has ended due to lack of funds), and even if this might involve finding part-time "tent-making" work to supplement their income. Abigail, Dan's wife and very capable help-mate, has employment with a Medical Data Entry company, which, using a computer, can be done anywhere. Dan, being fresh out of Seminary, has made some miss-judgments but is learning and developing well and seems to be a good fit for this community. He has a quiet and gentle personality, but in the pulpit preaches God's Word with increasing confidence and authority, and did so ably and with power on the Lord's Day of our visit.

There has been talk within the Presbytery of disorganizing the Hetherton congregation, but your committee believes that there has been a significant change in the overall situation there, and that the flicker of flame that we see appearing should be nurtured and "fanned into a fire" that would continue to shine the light of God's love and grace in that area.

Kirby, husband and father of the new family that is coming, is a business man. He owns

his own business and thinks like a business man. So when the discussion turns to the subject of how to grow the Hetherton congregation, he is full of ideas and even proposed to put up \$1,000, if others would match it, to publicize and get the message out as to what we have to offer in the Reformed Presbyterian Church there. The other adults that are coming also are behind the continuation of the church, and have a great interest in the "historic" aspects of the church in that location. The new adherent named Stacy Jo Schiller (who couldn't attend our meeting of the congregation) wrote a significant letter of support which is attached.

In light of what is happening, our Committee asked Dan and the Session (with Kirby's help) to propose a "plan of action" to be forwarded to us for review, and we said that we would approach Presbytery and perhaps the Vital Churches Committee of Synod (formerly Revitalization Committee) to see if some funds could be found to encourage this small group. We feel a little like the Vinedresser in Jesus' parable, (Luke 13:6-9), who, when the man with the fig tree that had borne no fruit, was going to cut it down, said: *"Leave it alone for one more year....I'll dig around it and fertilize it. If it bears fruit, fine, If not, then cut it down."*

We would like to see the provision of help of at least \$4,000 a year for two years to help implement the "plan" which they will propose, and to help with Dan's support. This would be merely a token of support, but would indicate that Presbytery does recognize what God is doing in Hetherton, and desires to see it prosper. This would be a limited commitment, (two years), but would give time to see if God's blessing will continue and expand. Another Scripture that has bearing here is Matthew 12:20 -- where it says of Jesus: *"A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out, till he leads justice to victory. In his name the nations will put their hope."* The Hetherton congregation in their recent years of decline has been a "smoldering wick", but with God's help the new flickering flame brings hope of new life which we need to encourage.

Recommendation:

1. That Presbytery seek from the Vital Churches Committee of Synod, a grant of \$3,000 a year for two years to the Hetherton congregation to support their new initiatives, and that Presbytery commit \$1,000 a year for two years to match their gift.

Jack Rhoda
Kent Van Timmeren
Bob McCracken, Ch.

July 7, 2011

To whom it may concern,

I regretfully am not at church this Sunday due to a prior out of town commitment, but have asked my business partner, Barton Briley to deliver this note to you.

My understanding is your visit to our lovely community is to assess the future of our church. With this in mind I would like to share with you my experience this past year since I have returned to regular services.

Pastor Dan knocked on my door one day, introduced himself and asked me if I believed in the Gospels. I thought, "Now here is a young brave man, walking this talk with passion and conviction." I immediately admired him and wanted to support his efforts. This community is a hard nut to crack! I had no intentions of attending church services on a regular basis, but wanted to show my support by visiting and shaking his hand, meeting his family and welcoming him to our community. How better to accomplish this task than to visit this young minister's church service. So I asked Barton to join me and we went. We found him and his family to be warm and inviting.

I sat with Ed Roby and knew he too appreciated my visit. So I went again. Since then, I have tried to attend every Sunday unless I am out of town or have an event I am unable to leave. Dan has posted the program on line, which I am faithful to read and do a little "homework" before I go. Sonya gifted me a Psalter which I dearly love. I check the Psalms we will be singing as an additional preparation for the service.

We started inviting the public to Friday night Psalm Sing events which has been delightful. People have attended that have not been to this church since childhood and some who have never been before. I believe some will be back and will eventually begin to attend services. These things take time, nurture and prayer as you well know.

There is also a historical value to be considered. Being an avid historian, I am thrilled each and every time I enter the church. The ancestors before me have a presence I can not explain. In fact I live in the home of one of the original families on Roby Road. To have the honor to state that the same denomination has been holding services in this church since 1901 is a statement I hold dear and am very proud to announce to others.

Yes our numbers are small and elderly, BUT...we now have a few new folks (with little ones) attending regularly. I am not without hope. Of course, whatever is decided will be honored and respected. I just want you to know my heart regarding the church and Pastor Dan.

Respectfully,
Stacy Jo Schiller 1865 Roby Road, Johannesburg, Michigan

The Recommendation of the Report was approved.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report as a whole be received.

Ohio-Indiana Church Extension Committee

The South West Ohio Reformed Presbyterian Fellowship Report was taken up. Andrew McCracken reported that 9 people were taken into membership of the Columbus Reformed Presbyterian Church.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that Recommendation 2 of the SWORPF

Report to the Synod Meeting of Presbytery be taken from the table.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that Recommendation 2 be approved. The Recommendation 2 reads: "That presbytery encourage the Columbus RPC to apply to the IIMB for the exploratory funds to progress the work".

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Selma Committee Report

Barry York spoke about the situation in Selma. Tom Gray had accepted the call to the Mountainview Presbyterian Church of America near Vancouver, B.C., Canada. Thus the pulpit is vacant and there is a need for a moderator of the Session.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the Ad Interim Commission communicate with the elders in Selma and then appoint a Moderator of the Session.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the pulpit of the Selma congregation be declared vacant.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the matters concerning Tom Gray's status and call, and the Selma situation be referred to the Ad Interim Commission

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that that the Selma Committee be dismissed.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the minutes of the evening session of this Presbytery be read after the Benediction.

Minutes

The Clerk read the Minutes for this session.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that that the Minutes be approved as read.

Recess and Prayer Time

Kent Van Timmeren prayed for Adam Bonar;

Robert McCracken prayed for Christian Adjemian;

And Robert Morrow prayed for Lisa Knodel who had gone into labor three months early, and also prayed for the recess of Presbytery.

Presbytery took recess at 5:12 p.m.

Session 2, Friday, August, 26, 2011 at 7:06 p.m.

*Service of Ordination and Installation of Keith Evans
To the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Lafayette*

Call to Order and Welcome

The Moderator, Dave Long, called the Presbytery to order and welcomed all those present.

For the Call to Worship he read Psalm 108: 1-3.

Praise, Prayer and Reconvening

The congregation sang Psalm 108A and the Moderator led in prayer and reconvened the

Court.

Roll

The Assistant Clerk called the Roll and each Presbyter was recognized as his name was called.

The narrative of events leading to this service was read by Dan Webb..

The Clerk read the edict for the last time.

The congregation indicated their adherence to the Call on Keith Evans.

Keith Evans indicated his adherence to the Call.

Jerry O'Neill read the Queries for ordination and installation to Keith Evans.

Pastor-elect Keith Evans answered all the queries in the affirmative.

Keith Evans signed the Queries in the Presbytery Minute Book.

Psalm 112A was sung.

Pastor Martin Blocki read Titus 1:10-16, led in prayer, and preached God's Word from this text and concluded his message with prayer.

Psalm 40B was sung.

Ordination and Installation

Keith Evans came forward and kneeled; members of Presbytery, other RPCNA elders, and elders of other churches with whom the RPCNA has fraternal relations, gathered round and laid hands on Keith Evans as Dave Long led in the prayer of ordination to the gospel ministry and installation to the congregation of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Lafayette.

The elders present extended the right hand of fellowship to Keith Evans expressing their desire for God's blessing for his ministry to the Lord.

The Moderator asked that Keith Evan's name be added to the Roll of Presbytery.

David Whitla gave the charge to the newly ordained and installed pastor basing his remarks on Jonah 3:1-3.

Jared Olivetti gave the charge to the congregation.

The congregation sang Psalm 22E.

Benediction was pronounced by Pastor Keith Evans.

Reading of the Minutes

The clerk read the minutes of this session which were approved.

Adjournment

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that Presbytery adjourn.

Dave Long led in the prayer of adjournment and pronounced the Benediction.

The congregation sang Psalm 72G.

Presbytery adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

There are two items of correspondence that have come to me and three papers.

Letters:

From the Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Toronto, Canada
From the Reformed Presbytery of the Midwest.

Papers:

Paper re Multiple Pastors, Paper 2012-1
Paper re Presbytery Roll, Paper 2012-2
Paper re Congregational Visitations, 2012-3

I have a recommendation for these.

I have an agenda prepared. If there are additions they should be brought up at the time of the recommendation.

It is my prayer that this meeting will receive the Lord's blessing and that the work of His church may proceed.

Respectfully submitted,
Raymond Morton, Clerk

Recommendations:

1. That the parliamentarians for the year be Tom Reid and Phil Pockras.
2. That the Nominating Committee determine the congregations to be visited this year.
3. That the request of the request of the Free Church of Scotland in Toronto, Ontario, Canada be assigned to a committee to determine the merits of the request and to take any action needed.
4. That the three papers presented be referred to the Judicial Committee.
5. That the Agenda be approved as amended.

Recommendations 1 to 5 were moved, seconded, and passed by the Presbytery.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Election of Officers of the Court

The following were elected as officers of the Court:

Moderator: David Whittle;
Clerk: Raymond Morton;
Assistant Clerk: Jack Rhoda.

The following two motions were passed

Motion: that Elders without Certificates who are representatives of their Sessions be seated.

Motion: that all Elders present who are not delegates be made consultative members of the Court.

Call for Papers (Assistant Clerk) -

Last call for papers will be Friday morning after the break

Call for Session Minute Books

The Assistant Clerk called for the Session Minute Books to be brought to the Clerks' table.

Ad Interim Commission Report

David Long, Moderator, presented the Report and reviewed its Minutes.

AD INTERIM COMMISSION REPORT to the March 2012 Meeting of the Great Lakes - Gulf Presbytery, RPCNA

The Ad Interim Commission met seven times since the summer meeting of Presbytery. Commission members are: Dave Long (chairman), Jack Rhoda (clerk), Bob Bibby, Keith Evans, Jeff Kessler, and Dan Webb (all from Lafayette RPC), and Jason Camry of Sycamore RPC.

Below is a summary of the items that have come before the Commission and the actions taken on each. Please refer to the previously distributed Commission Minutes for details.

ITEM 1 (from the Lafayette congregation) An edict for the ordination and installation of teaching elder, Keith Evans, was received.

ACTION: The edict was approved.

ITEM 2 (from Rev. Greg Cumbee): A request was made to receive reimbursement for his food expenses incurred while at the 2011 RPCNA Synod.

ACTION: The request was approved.

ITEM 3 (from Southfield RP Church) A request was made to grant permission to the congregation to call a pastor and appoint Rev. Phil Pockras to moderate the election.

ACTION: The request was approved.

ITEM 4 (Regarding First RPC Durham) The dissolution of the relationship between Rev. Ian Wise and the congregation was necessary.

ACTION: The relationship was dissolved, effective Sept. 11, 2011, and Rev. Barry York was appointed provisional moderator of the session.

ITEM 5 (Regarding Selma RP Church) The dissolution of the relationship between Rev. Tom Gray and the congregation was necessary.

ACTION: The relationship was dissolved, effective Aug. 16, 2011, and Dr. Jerry O'Neill was appointed provisional moderator of the session.

ITEM 6 (from Orlando RP Church): A call from the Orlando congregation to H.P. McCracken was received.

ACTION: The call was approved and passed to the Presbytery of the Alleghenies.

ITEM 7 (from the Presbytery of the Alleghenies): Daniel Drost's credentials were forwarded to the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery.

ACTION: The credentials were not received and were returned to the Presbytery of the Alleghenies due to Daniel Drost not receiving a call from Hetherton.

ITEM 8 (from Southfield RP Church): A call from the Southfield congregation to Adam Kuehner was received.

ACTION: The call was approved, highlighting to the Southfield congregation an error regarding the updated Pension Fund amount, and passed the call to the Presbytery of the Alleghenies.

ITEM 9 (from Terre Haute Church Plant): A request was made to approve the purchase of a building.

ACTION: The request was approved.

ITEM 10 (from College Hill RP Church, Beaver Falls, PA): A call from the College Hill congregation to Rev. Barry York was received.

ACTION: The call was approved, and passed along to Barry York.

ITEM 11 (Regarding Second RP Church (Indianapolis)): During Rev. Rich Johnston's time in India, Rev. James Faris was to be appointed moderator for the period.

ACTION: James Faris was appointed moderator for the duration of Rich's absence.

ITEM 12 (from Westminster RP Church): A request was made from the Westminster congregation to install Jim Ritchhart as a ruling elder on the same day he was elected.

ACTION: The request was approved upon the grounds for making such a request.

Respectfully submitted,

David Long, Moderator

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Candidates and Credentials Committee Report, Michael LeFebvre, Chairman

Michael LeFebvre presented the Report along with the following recommendations:

Dear Fathers and Brothers:

Following are the items of business being presented for your attention at this meeting of presbytery:

1. **Examinations** — This Committee has prepared the following slate of exams which we are recommending [Recommendation 1] for this meeting of presbytery:

Examinee	Exam	Duration*	Examiner
Kyle Borg	Personal Godliness	20/10/5	Bill Roberts
	Theology and Distinctive	20/10/5	Frank Smith
	Expository Sermon 1 (Assigned Text) (text: 1 Cor. 2:2)	c.25/— /5	
	License to Preach: (Queries, Instructions, Prayer)		James Faris
H. P. McCracken	Ordination/Personal Godliness	20/10/5	Rich Johnston
	Ordination/Soundness in the Faith	20/10/5	Dave Long
	Ordination/Expository Sermon (text: John 14:12-14)	c.25/— /5	
	Queries, roll call vote to ordain		
Adam Kuehner	Ordination/Personal Godliness	20/10/5	Andy McCracken
	Ordination/Soundness in the Faith	20/10/5	David Whitla
	Ordination/Expository Sermon (text: 1 Cor. 15:1-11)	c.25/— /5	
	Queries, roll call vote to ordain		

*Duration — The first number indicates the length of time (in minutes) allotted for the examiner's questions; the second number indicates the length of time for the full Presbytery's questions; the third number indicates the length of time for Presbytery discussion of the exam prior to an "up or down" roll call vote. (E.g., 20/10/5 = 20 min. examiner q's/10 min. Presbytery q's/5 min. discussion.)

- Upcoming ordinations** — Adam Kuehner and H. P. McCracken have recently been elected by the Southfield and Orlando congregations, respectively. In keeping with presbytery policy, a special meeting of presbytery should have been held in December or January to administer their ordination exams prior to their relocating. We regret this did not happen, and for our oversight in this matter please accept our apology. In discussion with the Ad Interim Commission, it was decided to present these men for ordination exams at this meeting. It is our understanding that the Southfield congregation hopes to host a presbytery service on or around April 6 to ordain and install Adam; and the Orlando congregation is looking toward a service in May to ordain and install H. P.
- Projected exams** — Three students under care are hoping to graduate from seminary next Spring. Therefore, we hope to complete their exams for licensure before that time. That means, not including the exams appointed for this meeting, we have 14 student exams (roughly 7 hours of examinations) to administer in other meetings through 2012:

Examinee	Exam	Estimated time
Shawn Anderson	1 Pastoral and Evangelistic Gifts	35 min.
	2 Oral Church History	35 min.
	3 Theology and Distinctive Principles 2	35 min.
	4 Exegesis Paper	10 min.
	5 Expository Sermon (Assigned topic)	35 min.
	License to receive a call (queries, prayer)	10 min.
		c. 21/2 hrs.

Steven McCarthy	6 Pastoral and Evangelistic Gifts	35 min.
	7 Oral Church History	35 min.
	8 Theology and Distinctive Principles 2	35 min.
	9 Exegesis Paper	10 min.
	10 Expository Sermon (Assigned topic) License to receive a call	35 min. 10 min.
		c. 21/2 hrs.

Adam Niess	11 Pastoral and Evangelistic	35 min.
	12 Gifts Oral Church History	35 min.
	13 Theology and Distinctive	35
	14 Principles 2 Exegesis Paper	min.
	15 Expository Sermon (Assigned topic) License to receive a call	10 min.

To accomplish these exams, we are recommending [Recommendation 2] that presbytery meet on the afternoon prior to the Southfield ordination service (anticipated in early April) to complete exams for Adam Niess (exams 11–15, on the table above). We are further asking that exams for Shawn Anderson and Steven McCarthy be included in the presbytery agenda for subsequent meetings this year. These exams could be conducted at an Orlando meeting tied to H. P.'s ordination (anticipated in May); exams could be conducted at the synodtime meeting this summer (although it would require extra presbytery sessions during synod); or an autumn meeting of presbytery could be held this year. We would like to know the mind of presbytery on which of these venues would be the preferred arrangement for conducting these further five hours of examinations. We therefore intend to ask for discussion on the floor about 2012 presbytery meeting plans around this recommendation.

4. **Robert Jones** — In the CCC Report last year (Spring, 2011), we reported the following concerning Robert Jones: *“Robert believes he has found his calling, serving the Lord in mercy ministry ... [and] no longer believes the Lord is calling him to pursue ordination as a teaching elder... However, Robert has developed a preaching ministry at the [Kokomo] Rescue Mission as part of his mercy ministry. This preaching was providentially undertaken with the ‘license to preach’ granted to him as a student of theology by this presbytery...”* Not wanting to disrupt the work taking place through Robert, we delayed recommending any action regarding Robert's status as a “student under care” until we had further time to see how Robert's ministry developed in Kokomo.

Over the past year, Robert's deaconal ministry has continued to be marked by God's blessings, and we believe it is a cause for praise that God is using Robert in this important ministry of mercy. We are therefore recommending [Recommendation 3] that Robert be removed from the status, student of theology under care of presbytery. Because this will, in effect, remove the license to preach which is part of pastoral training, we encourage the Kokomo Session to review Robert's ministry to determine whether his handling of the Word is consistent with the office of a deacon or if the ministry gifts Christ is developing in Robert may lead to his being considered for ordination as a ruling elder.

5. **Student aid** — Presbytery is currently providing \$300/month in student aid, at \$100 per student for four full-time seminarians. We project this aid will continue, as follows:
- Shawn Anderson** — Nov. 2009 through Feb. 2013;
 - Kyle Borg** — July 2011 through May 2013;
 - Adam Niess** — Sept. 2009 through May 2012;
 - Steven McCarthy** — Sept. 2010 through May 2013.

In addition to these students currently receiving financial aid, the Grand Rapids Session is presenting for your attention (through this Committee) a request for financial aid for Greg Cumbee (see Attachment F). More specifically, the request is for (a) presbytery financial assistance and (b) presbytery endorsement of Greg's application to the synod Graduate Study Fund.* We are encouraged to hear of Greg's excellent progress in his research. We are uncertain how to assess this request, however, since we have not had oversight of Greg's current studies. We are therefore forwarding this request for your attention without specific recommendations.

*See GSF policy online at <http://reformedpresbyterian.org/images/documents/grad_policy_revised_2011.pdf>

6. **New students** — It is exciting to see the students under care approaching the end of their seminary studies and final presbytery exams. Please be in prayer for God to continue to bless this presbytery of his church with further students to be equipped for pastoral ministry.
7. **Ministers without pastorates** — The Great Lakes–Gulf Presbytery has fifteen Teaching Elders on its roll who are not presently pastors of congregations. Of these, six are retired, three are inactive and the remaining six are active. (See ¶9, below, for two recommended status changes.) Again this year, we sent out the annual questionnaire to ministers without pastorates along with a copy of Synod's position paper on “The Status of Ministers Without Pastorates.” Summaries of the responses from these men are provided for your encouragement and prayers under §C.3, below.
8. **Frank Schutz** — In the course of last year's survey of ministers without pastorates, it became apparent that there was some confusion about the location of Frank Schutz's membership. After several months of research (with help from the GLGP clerk, the Alleghenies presbytery clerk, and the clerk of the North Hills RPC), we have come to the following discoveries concerning Frank's membership:
- January 26, 1994** — Memberships for Frank Schutz and his family were transferred from the Allegheny RP Church to the North Hills RP Church.
 - August 26, 1997** — Frank Schutz's membership remained with North Hills RPC while memberships for the rest of his family were transferred to Grace OPC in Columbus, Ohio.
 - February 6, 2001** — Minutes of the Presbytery of the Alleghenies reports, “Motion passed that, at his request, the pastoral credentials of Rev. Frank Schutz be transferred to the Presbytery of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery of the RPCNA.”
 - According to Bill Weir (clerk of North Hills RPC), “Following this action [by the POA], the membership of Frank Schutz at North Hills RPCNA was also transferred to the Great Lakes–Gulf Presbytery.”
 - November 2, 2002** — Minutes of the GLGP note approval of the recommendation, “That Frank Schutz be received as a teaching elder into the Great Lakes–Gulf Presbytery.”
- It appears that Frank's ministerial credentials were received into the presbytery, but it is unclear what the status of his membership has been for the past ten years. We are unable to find any record of the Great Lakes–Gulf Presbytery having received or acted on a letter of membership for Frank, although his credentials were duly received into the presbytery. Frank himself has been unclear whether his membership was with Second RPC or with the presbytery, but Second RPC has no record of having received a letter of transfer. It appears to this Committee that, for the past ten years, Frank's membership has been under the full care and concern of our Lord but not properly looked after by any particular session or court of his undershepherds.
- It is our sense that Frank should pursue membership in one of the congregations in the presbytery, and we are encouraging him to do so. We also wanted to bring this matter to your attention. We are mindful that there is a paper (prepared by Barry York) coming before this meeting of presbytery addressing the matter of ministerial memberships held by presbytery. This situation surrounding Frank's membership might be relevant for that discussion.

9. **Status changes** — Based on the guidance provided in the synod paper, "The Status of Ministers without Pastorates" (1987 Minutes of Synod, pp102–6), we are recommending [Recommendations 4–5] that Bob McCracken's status be changed from "retired" to "active," and that Jim Pennington's status be likewise changed from "retired" to "active."
10. **Term renewals** — The terms of service for Dean Filson, Rich Holdeman, and Andy McCracken expire this year. Each are willing to continue service, if that is presbytery's desire, and the Committee is recommending [Recommendation 6] that they be re-appointed for another term.
11. **Seminary-level courses** — One of the responsibilities of this Committee is to oversee presbytery's seminary-level classes. It has been some time since we have conducted such classes, and we believe there may be warrant to resume some classes in the next few years. However, we have nothing to report on this frontier at present.

Included in the remainder of this report is our annual update on each of the students under care, licentiates without a call, and the varied ministries of those ministers who are without pastorates. We would encourage you to take time to read each of these updates carefully, and to praise God for all of the ministry which is taking place through these men and to be in prayer for them in their needs and future labors.

Respectfully submitted,

Roy Blackwood (Class of 2014)
 Dean Filson (Class of 2012)
 Jon Hughes (Class of 2013)
 Rich Holdeman (Class of 2012)
 Michael LeFebvre, chairman (Class of 2013)
 Andy McCracken (Class of 2012)
 Jared Olivetti (Class of 2014)

A . R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S

1. That examinations be conducted at this meeting of presbytery according to the schedule outlined on p1, above.
2. That presbytery meet on the afternoon ahead of the Southfield ordination/installation service in order to conduct student exams.
3. That Robert Jones be removed from the list of students of theology under care of presbytery.
4. That Bob McCracken's status be changed from "retired" to "active."
5. That Jim Pennington's status be changed from "retired" to "active."
6. That Dean Filson, Rich Holdeman, and Andy McCracken (Class of 2012) be re-appointed to the Candidates and Credentials Committee for another three-year term.

Dear Fathers and Brothers:

Please note the following addenda to the previously distributed Candidates and Credentials

ommittee Spring Report:

1. **Ryan Chaplin** — Ryan Chaplin is a member of the Terre Haute Mission Church and has been prayerfully considering whether the Lord is calling him to the ministry with help from Bill Roberts. The Terre Haute Commission has also gotten to know Ryan, and on July 26, 2011, passed a recommendation to presbytery that Ryan would be taken under care as a student of theology. Ryan attended the August 26, 2011, meeting of presbytery in Lafayette (for ordaining and installing Keith Evans) and, at that time, sat down with this Committee to talk about his sense of call to the ministry. A copy of Ryan's resume is attached (attachment G).

We are adding the following two recommendations concerning Ryan to the CCC Report for this meeting of presbytery:

7. That presbytery grant up to ten minutes for Ryan Chaplin to introduce himself to presbytery.
8. That presbytery takes Ryan Chaplin under care as a student of theology.

Respectfully submitted,

Roy Blackwood (Class of 2014)
 Dean Filson (Class of 2012)
 Jon Hughes (Class of 2013)
 Rich Holdeman (Class of 2012)
 Michael LeFebvre, chairman (Class of 2013)
 Andy McCracken (Class of 2012)
 Jared Olivetti (Class of 2014)

Actions on the recommendations:

Recommendation 1 was approved.

Recess and Reconvening:

Presbytery took recess from 3:30 to 3:48 p.m. starting with prayer by the Moderator and returning with Psalm 119Q and prayer by the Moderator.

Recommendation 3. was approved

Recommendation 6 was sent to the Nominating Committee.

Candidates and Credentials Committee

Michael LeFebvre introduced H. P. McCracken for his Personal Godliness exam.

The exam was conducted by Rich Johnston.

Members of Presbytery asked questions and received answers followed by comments.

Roll Call Vote

On the vote the exam was unanimously sustained.

Congregational Reports

The Belle Center Reformed Presbyterian Church report was given by Phil Pockras.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

The Bloomington Reformed Presbyterian Church report was given by Rich Holdeman.

Recommendation: that Bloomington Reformed Presbyterian Church be given permission to call Adam Niess as an associate pastor.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the recommendation be approved.

It was noted that a tree was purchased as a gift to Lawrence Curry for his service as treasurer to the Presbytery.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

The Christ Church Reformed Presbyterian Church report was given by Michael Lefebvre.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

The Columbus Reformed Presbyterian Church report was given by Andrew McCracken.

George Gregory has been called by the congregation although he has ordination exams yet to be taken.

Recommendation: that Richard Knodel report concerning the mission work in southwest Ohio.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the recommendation be approved.

Richard Knodel spoke to the Court.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Prayer Time and Recess:

Presbytery entered into a time of prayer:

Rich Holdeman prayed for the Belle Center congregation;

Charles Leverett for Bloomington;

Frank Smith for Christ Church and the Olivetti family;

Donald Cassell for Columbus and recess.

Presbytery recessed at 5:30 p.m.

Session 2 Thursday, March 1, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

Call to Order

The Moderator called Presbytery to order at 7:03 p.m.

Presbytery sang Psalm 16D and the Moderator led in prayer.

Roll:

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the Assistant Clerk take the Roll visually in this and all remaining sessions of this meeting.

The Assistant Clerk took the Roll.

Minutes

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that that the minutes be approved as read.

Introductions:

Barry York introduced two new elders of Sycamore Congregation: Joe Marcise and Scott Hunt.

Dave Long introduced Keith Evans as attending a regular meeting of Presbytery for the first time as the Associate Pastor for the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Lafayette.

Committee announcements by the Moderator. (First named is the Chairman)

Nominating Committee:

Dave Long, David Carr, Rich Holdeman, Steve Sturm

Judicial Committee:

Phil Pockras, Andrew McCracken, Jonathan Schaeffer.

Resolution of Thanks Committee:

Keith Evans, Richard Blankenship.

Time and Place Committee:

James Faris, Jon Kim

Travel Agent:

Dick Knodel

Committee to Evaluate the Hetherton Situation:

Robert McCracken, James Faris, David Carr.

Session Minute Books:

Belle Center: Barry York, Tom Reid

Bloomington: Robert Morrow, Steve Sturm

Christ Church: Tom Reid, Jason Camrey

Columbus: John Kim, Keith Magill

Elkhart: Richard Bonar, Frank Smith

First Reformed Presbyterian Church Durham: Robert McKissick, Bill Roberts

First Reformed Presbyterian Church Grand Rapids: Milton Harrington, Scott Hunt

Hetherton: Richard Bonar, Dave Long

Immanuel Reformed Presbyterian Church: Robert McCracken Frank Smith

Lafayette Reformed Presbyterian Church: Richard Knodel, John Kim

Northminster Reformed Presbyterian Church: Robert McKissick, Bill Roberts

Orlando Reformed Presbyterian Church: Robert Morrow, Rich Johnston

Second Reformed Presbyterian Church: Steve Sturm, Andrew McCracken

Selma Reformed Presbyterian Church: (next meeting)

Southfield Reformed Presbyterian Church: Jason Camrey, Greg Cumbee

Southside Reformed Presbyterian Church: Richard Blankenship, Michael Lefebvre

Sparta Reformed Presbyterian Church: Dan Webb, Keith Evans

Sycamore Reformed Presbyterian Church: David Carr, Phil Pockras

Westminster Reformed Presbyterian Church: Robert McCracken Charlie Leverett.

Candidates and Credentials Committee Report

Michael LeFebvre introduced Adam Kuehner for his Personal Godliness exam.

Andrew McCracken conducted the exam.

Members of Presbytery asked questions and received answer followed by comments.

Roll Call Vote

The examination was unanimously sustained.

Congregational Reports

The Elkhart Reformed Presbyterian Church report was given by Keith Magill.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

The First Reformed Presbyterian Church Durham was given by Charles Leverett.

Recommendation: that the call on Kent Butterfield be approved.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the call be processed in the usual manner with the Moderator appointing a three man committee to review the Call and report back to this meeting.

The Committee reviewing the Minute Book will evaluate the call.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

The First Reformed Presbyterian Church of Grand Rapids was given by Richard Bonner and James Faris.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

The Hetherton Reformed Presbyterian Church was given by Milton Harrington.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that a committee of three be appointed by the Moderator to evaluate the Hetherton situation and report back to this meeting of Presbytery.

The Committee appointments are listed with the list of Moderator appointments.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Prayer Time and Adjournment

Presbytery entered into a time of prayer:

Duane Judd prayed for Elkhart,

Robert McKissick for First Reformed Presbyterian Church Durham,

Rich Johnston for First Reformed Presbyterian Church Grand Rapids,

Scott hunt for Hetherton,

And the Moderator led the prayer of adjournment.

Presbytery adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Session 3, Friday, March 2, 2012, at 8:35 a.m.

Call to Order

The Moderator called Presbytery to order at 8:35 a.m.

Presbytery sang Psalm 67C.

The Moderator led in prayer and constituted the Court.

Candidates and Credentials Committee Report

Michael LeFebvre introduced H.P. McCracken for his ordination sermon exam.

H. P. McCracken read John 14:12-14, led in prayer and preached from the text.

Presbytery sang Psalm 22E.

Minutes

The Clerk read the Minutes of the previous session.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the Minutes be approved as read.

Roll

The Assistant Clerk took the Roll visually.

Comments on the sermon

Opportunity was made for comments from members of Presbytery.

Roll Call Vote

The sermon was unanimously sustained.

Moderator's Committee Appointments

Committee to review the call to Kent Butterfield from First Durham Reformed Presbyterian Church.

Committee to review the Hetherton situation.

Please see under Committee Appointments on pages 11 and 12.

Terre Haute Commission

Bill Roberts reported for the Commission.

Recommendation 1 that Bill Roberts be heard for 10 minutes.

Bill Roberts spoke concerning the mission efforts in Terre Haute.

He also brought greetings from the Central Presbytery of East Asia.

Recommendation 2 that the Minutes of the Commission be spread on the Minutes of Presbytery.

The recommendations were approved.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report as a whole be received.

Candidates and Credentials Committee Report

Michael LeFebvre introduced Kyle Borg for his personal godliness exam.

The exam was conducted by Bill Roberts.

Members of Presbytery asked questions and received answer followed by comments.

Roll Call Vote

The examination was unanimously sustained.

Michael LeFebvre introduced Adam Kuehner for his commitment to the Reformed Presbyterian Testimony and his soundness in the faith.

The exam was conducted by David Whitla.

The former Moderator, Dave Long, took the Chair.

Members of Presbytery asked questions and received answer followed by comments.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the time before the break be extended by five minutes to continue with the comments.

Roll Call Vote

The examination was sustained.

Moderator David Whitla resumed the Chair.

Recess and Reconvening

Dave Long prayed as Presbytery took recess from 10:35 to 10:55 a.m.

Presbytery's Interchurch Liaison Report

Frank Smith, Presbytery's Liaison reported.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Report to Presbytery from a representative on Geneva College's Board of Corporators

Andrew McCracken reported on behalf of the Board of Corporators.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Church Extension Committees Reports

Southern Church Extension Report.

The Report was given by Frank Smith.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Southern Illinois Church Extension Report

Raymond Morton gave an oral report.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

There was no report from the Michigan Church Extension Committee.

Ohio-Indiana Church Extension Report

Jason Camery reported for the Committee.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Pageland Commission

Frank Smith reported for the Commission which is as follows.

PAGELAND COMMISSION
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery
Report to the Presbytery
Meeting in Kokomo, Indiana, on March 1-3, 2012

The Pageland Commission has met three times by telephone conference call and once in Pageland, South Carolina, since the special meeting of Presbytery last August to which we last reported. Jeffrey Jones has not always been able to meet with us because of international travel for his work, but we desire that he remain a member of the Commission. (See Recommendation 2.) Chris Mangum and Joe Mangum, and more recently, Dennis Penny, from Pageland, have been joining us in the meetings of the Commission.

At the Commission's meeting on May 31, 2011, as reported to the June 10, 2011, Presbytery meeting, we determined that, once a fourth family were received into membership in the Pageland Fellowship, we would proceed to organize a mission church in Pageland. At our meeting of September 15, 2011, a fourth family was, in fact, received. Therefore, the Pageland Commission organized the Pageland Mission Church on October 8, 2011, and installed Ian Wise as its pastor on the same day. (See Recommendation 1.) Almost fifty people attended the organizational meeting and worship service. We had invited all the NAPARC denominations represented in the region, but only the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church was present. (Not represented were the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, the Presbyterian Church in America, and the Presbyterian Reformed Church.) The clerk prepared a report on this significant occasion which was published, with two accompanying photographs, in the *Reformed Presbyterian Witness*.

Five families were received as founding members, with one adherent family. Eleven communicant and eighteen baptized members were placed on the roll, for a total of twenty-nine. No additional members have joined since the organization, although three babies are currently expected by couples within the Mission Church. Several Christian brethren have been interviewed by the Commission before participating in the Lord's Supper; this sacrament is being observed on the first Sabbath of the odd-numbered months; the first observance was January 1, 2012.

Weekly morning worship services continue in the Guest Lodge Motel on the main street in Pageland, with sermons on the Epistle to the Romans and an average attendance of twenty-nine. In November, the Mission Church began weekly prayer meetings in the Wise home on Wednesday evenings. All reports are that the members and adherents of the Mission Church are deepening the bonds of Christian fellowship between themselves, for which we give praise to God.

Ian has been engaging in a systematic door-to-door campaign in Pageland, including all the businesses in the surprisingly-thriving downtown area. At times, Ian has been joined by others in these efforts, which have already led to one family attending worship. Ian is writing a monthly column for the weekly *Pageland Progressive Journal*. Ian and Deanna have become active in the local basketball league as coaches. All of these activities are producing good contacts in the community.

Sabbath school classes began on February 5, 2012. Chris Mangum is leading the older children and adults in a study of the Westminster Confession of Faith. Ian Wise is teaching the younger children in a Bible survey, with appropriate work in the Westminster Shorter Catechism.

Ian has been providing the Commission with monthly reports, as well as a detailed log of activities; most of us had become accustomed to the latter while working on the Atlanta Commission with Pastor Frank Smith and appreciate the way such a document keeps us in very close contact with the missionary. Joe Mangum serves as the treasurer and keeps us up-to-date with the financial situation of the Mission Church. At the end of January, the balance of funds was \$28,924. Bob Shapiro has just been appointed to audit the financial records for the year 2011. The Mission Church has already been privileged to provide diaconal help to a single mother in the community.

With Presbytery's approval, the Commission approached the Home Mission Board to ask for \$10,000 in exploratory funds for both 2012 and 2013, and this request was granted at the Board's fall meeting.

However, over the period of a few days in January, the Commission and the Mission Church received two unexpected blows. The Board of Trustees of Synod, in a divided vote, turned down our request for the \$19,000 in funds remaining from the former Pensacola Church and encouraged us to return to the Home Mission Board for additional aid. (See Recommendation 3.) The reasoning behind the decision of the Trustees means that the Presbytery will not benefit from these funds for church planting in the South. At a subsequent meeting of the Commission, we discussed asking the Trustees to reconsider their decision, but we came to no conclusion. Then, three days after the decision of the Trustees was made, both Chris Mangum and Joe Mangum lost their jobs as electrical designers in a lay-off of thirty workers at their firm. The Mangums have been actively seeking other positions and have already had interviews for work.

The loss of the \$19,000 means that Ian Wise will have to find more extensive employment in the Pageland area than we had planned. He had already applied for substitute teaching opportunities, but his application has been lost in the government bureaucracy. The Wise family has still not sold their home in Raleigh, North Carolina, despite lowering the price two times. They have been living in a home in the country eight miles south of Pageland, provided for free by Christian friends of the Mission Church until the end of December and then at a reasonable rent beginning January 1.

The minutes of the Commission are ready to be spread on the minutes of Presbytery. The financial report for 2011 and the (original) budget for 2012 are attached to this report.

Recommendation 1: That Ian Wise be given up to ten minutes to report on the work in Pageland at the time the Commission's report is presented.

Recommendation 2: That the same five members be re-appointed to the Pageland Commission for the coming year.

Recommendation 3: That the Commission be encouraged to return to the Home Mission Board to seek further support for the work in Pageland.

Respectfully submitted,
Frank J. Smith, Chairman
Thomas Reid, Clerk
Jeffrey Jones
Robert Shapiro
Ian Wise

In keeping with recommendation 1 Ian Wise spoke to the Court.

Recommendation 2 was sent to the nominating Committee.

Recommendation 3 was deemed unnecessary.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Congregational Reports

The Immanuel Reformed Presbyterian Church report was presented by David Carr.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

The Reformed Presbyterian Church of Lafayette report was presented by Dan Webb.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

The Northminster Reformed Presbyterian Church Report was presented by Frank Smith.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Prayer Time and Recess

Presbytery entered into a time of prayer:

Doug Nadeau prayed for Immanuel,
Jonathan Schaeffer for Lafayette,
Michael LeFebvre for Northminster and recess.

Presbytery recessed at 12:28 p.m..

Session 4, Friday, March 2, 2012, at 2:03 p.m.

Call to Order

The Moderator called Presbytery to order at 2:03 p.m.

Presbytery sang Psalm 2A.

The moderator led in prayer reconvening the Court.

Candidates and Credentials Committee Report

Michael LeFebvre introduced Kyle Borg for Expository Sermon on an assigned text.
Kyle Borg read the text, I Corinthians 2:1-5, led in prayer, then preached from the text.
Presbytery sang Psalm 113B.

Minutes

The Clerk read the Minutes of the morning session which were approved as amended.

Roll

The Assistant Clerk took the Roll visually.

Presbyters made comments on Kyle Borg's sermon.

Roll Call Vote

On the vote the sermon was sustained.

An announcement was made concerning travel slips and payment of travel fees.

Time and Place Committee Report (Preliminary Report)

James Faris presented this initial Report.

March 30, 2012, Southfield, MI, at 2:00 p.m. for student exams and in the evening ordination and installation of Adam Kuehner.

May 11, 2012, Orlando, FL for the ordination and installation of H.P. McCracken by a commission.

June 1, 2012, at Terre Haute, IN for student exams.

At the Synod meeting, for one hour.

October 2, 2012 for licensure exams.

February 28 to March 2, 2013 at Immanuel Reformed Presbyterian Church for Presbytery's annual meeting.

Various comments were made and the Committee will bring back a full report later.

Candidates and Credentials Committee Report

Michael LeFebvre introduced the Recommendation in the Addendum concerning Ryan Chaplin.

The recommendation was approved.

Ryan Chaplin spoke to the Court.

Recommendation 8 was approved.

Congregational Reports

The Orlando Reformed Presbyterian Church Report was given by Jonathan Schaeffer.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

The Selma Reformed Presbyterian Church Report was given by the Interim Moderator, Jerry O'Neill.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

The Southfield Reformed Presbyterian Church was given by John Kim.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Prayer Time and Recess

David Carr prayed for Orlando and Selma churches.

Keith Evans for the Southfield church and the recess.

Presbytery took recess from 3:31 to 3:52 p.m.

Presbytery resumed its meeting with the singing of Psalm 95B and prayer by the Moderator.

Candidates and Credentials Committee Report

Michael LeFebvre introduced H. P. McCracken for his soundness in the faith exam.

The exam was conducted by Dave Long.

Members of Presbytery asked questions and received answers followed by comments.

Note from H. P. McCracken regarding "the Presbytery understands the Directory of Church Government Chapter II, Section E, paragraph 3.c. to require a 2/3 vote of the Presbytery after all three areas of examination of a pastor-elect have been sustained." Pastor McCracken does not agree with Presbytery's understanding.

Roll Call Vote

The exam was unanimously sustained.

Jonathan Schaeffer led in prayer for H. P. McCracken.

Michael LeFebvre introduced Kyle Borg for his Systematic Theology II exam.

The exam was conducted by Frank Smith.

Members of Presbytery asked questions and received answers followed by comments.

Roll Call Vote

On the vote the examination was unanimously sustained.

Certification to Preach

Roll Call Vote for Certification to Preach

H. P. McCracken on the vote was unanimously sustained.

James Faris asked H. P. McCracken the Queries for Licensure to Preach.

H. P. McCracken answered all the Queries in the affirmative.

H. P. McCracken signed the queries in Presbytery's Minute Book.

James Faris led in the prayer of "license to preach" for H.P. McCracken.

James Faris instructed H. P. McCracken according to Directory of Church Government, Chapter 3.II.2.i. (Page D-15).

Robert McKissick introduced a motion concerning setting up an internet committee.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the time be extended for five minutes.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that Presbytery set up an internet exploratory committee for the following purposes:

Develop and maintain a website that would: be a repository of the current presbytery policies, be a calendar of presbytery activities, be a place for annual reports, and, "other" (whatever the committee deemed appropriate.

The appointment for this committee was sent to the Nominating Committee.

Prayer Time and Recess

Phil Pockras led in prayer and recessed the Court at 5:41 p.m.

Session 5, Friday, March 2, 2012 at 7:05 p.m.

Call to Order

The Moderator called Presbytery to order at 7:05 p.m.

Presbytery sang Psalm 78B and the moderator led in prayer.

Minutes

The Clerk read the Minutes of the afternoon session.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the Minutes be approved as corrected.

Roll

The Assistant Clerk took the Roll.

C.Y.P.U Youth Leadership Team Reports

Rich Johnston introduced this report and each team members present was recognized:

President	Elizabeth Magill	Elkhart
Vice President	Laura Mangan	Second, Indianapolis
Recording Secretary	Caleb McCracken	Columbus
Corresponding Sec'y	Lindsey McCracken	Columbus
Treasurer	Tommy Mangan	Second Indianapolis
Advertizing Director	Adam Dinkledine	Sycamore
Data Manager	Bethany Cerbus	Southside Indianapolis
Sports Director	Nathan Marcisiz	Sycamore

Also, Registration Director Jared Enas Sycamore

Along with these reports from the team members, a Certificate of Appreciation was present to Elizabeth Magill for her years of service.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Durham Committee to review the Call on Kent Butterfield

James Faris report that the Committee found the Call to be in order and could be processed as a regular gospel call.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Committee to Evaluate the Hetherton Situation

This Committee was appointed following the Hetherton Committee.

Robert McCracken reported for the Committee about the new life in the congregation with several new adults and some children coming to worship.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Pageland Commission Report

The Pageland Commission Report was presented by Frank Smith.

The Minutes of the Pageland Commission are in the Addendum to these Minutes.

The recommendations of the Report are as follows:

Recommendation 1: That Ian Wise be given up to ten minutes to report on the work in Pageland at the time the Commission's report is presented.

Recommendation 2: That the same five members be re-appointed to the Pageland Commission for the coming year.

Recommendation 3: That Presbytery encourage the Pageland Commission to make direct appeal to the churches of the Presbytery for support, both prayer and financial, of Ian Wise as he ministers in Pageland.

Recommendation 1 was approved.

In keeping with this recommendation Ian Wise spoke to the Court.

Recommendation 2 was approved.

A substitute motion for Recommendation 3 was moved, seconded, and passed. Thus Recommendation 3 is as above.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Report of the Visitation Committee to Southfield Reformed Presbyterian Church

Bill Roberts reported on the Committee's visit to Southfield Reformed Presbyterian Church.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Congregational Reports

The Second Reformed Presbyterian Church Report was given by Russ Pulliam.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

The Southside Reformed Presbyterian Church Report was given by Steve Sturm.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

The Selma Reformed Presbyterian Church Report came via letter from Tom Reid.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Prayer Time and Adjournment

Presbytery entered into a time of prayer.

Jack Rhoda prayed for the Second Reformed Presbyterian Church;

Jason Camery for the Southfield Reformed Presbyterian Church, and,

Ken deJong for the Selma Reformed Presbyterian Church.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that Presbytery adjourn. The Moderator led in the prayer of adjournment.

Presbytery adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

Session 6: Saturday, March 2, 2012 at 8:32 a.m.

Call to Order

The Moderator called Presbytery to order at 8:32 a.m.

Presbytery sang Psalm 130B and the Moderator led in prayer constituting the Court in prayer.

Candidates and Credentials Committee Report

Michael LeFebvre introduced Adam Kuehner for his ordination sermon.

Adam Kuehner read the text, I Corinthians 15:1-11, then preached from the text.

He closed his message with prayer.

Minutes

The Clerk read the Minutes of the previous session which were approved as corrected.

Roll

The Assistant Clerk took the Roll visually.

Presbyters made comments on Adam Kuehner's sermon.

Roll Call Vote

On the vote the sermon was sustained.

Roll Call Vote

The Assistant Clerk called the Roll for Adam Kuehner's ordination which was sustained.

Candidates and Credentials Committee Report

Recommendation 2 was approved.

Recommendations 4 and 5 were withdrawn.

Presbytery was led in a prayer of thanksgiving for the work of the Candidates and Credentials Committee.

Request concerning Greg Cumbee

From the Candidates and Credentials Committee Report:

The Grand Rapids Session is presenting for your attention (through this Committee) a request for financial aid for Greg Cumbee (see Attachment F). More specifically, the request is for (a) presbytery financial assistance and (b) presbytery endorsement of Greg's application to the synod Graduate Study Fund.* We are encouraged to hear of Greg's excellent progress in his research. We are uncertain how to assess this request, however, since we have not had oversight of Greg's current studies. We are therefore forwarding this request for your attention without specific recommendations.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the Presbytery endorse the request of Greg Cumbee to participate in the Graduate Study Fund, which came to the Presbytery with the endorsement of his Session, First Reformed Presbyterian Church of Grand Rapids, MI.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report of the Candidates and Credentials Committee as a whole be received.

Time and Place Committee Report

James Faris reported on behalf of the Committee. The report is as follows:

March 30, 2012**, Southfield, MI, at 2:00 p.m. for student exams and in the evening ordination and installation of Adam Kuehner.

April 26, 2012, installation of Kent Butterfield to the First Reformed Presbyterian Church of Durham, NC by a Commission of Presbytery.

May 11, 2012**, Orlando, FL for the ordination and installation of H.P. McCracken.

** Presbyters should attend either the ordination in Southfield or Orlando for the sake of cost.

Presbytery will cover transportation to one meeting per member. Travel cost will be covered for the first 10 to Orlando. Those travelling to Orlando must communicate intention to the Ad Interim Commission.

June 1, 2012, at Terre Haute, IN for student exams.

At the Synod meeting, for one hour for a Report from Selma, AL.

July 12 and 13, 2012 for the ordination and installation of Adam Niess to Bloomington and George Gregory to Columbus. Student exams and other necessary business included.

February 28 to March 2, 2013 at Immanuel Reformed Presbyterian Church for Presbytery's annual meeting.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Congregational Reports

The Sparta Reformed Presbyterian Church report was given by Robert Morrow.

Recommendation from the Sparta Session: that the Presbytery grant the Sparta congregation permission to sell the property at 512 N. Maple Street, Sparta, IL.

The recommendation was approved.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

The Sycamore Reformed Presbyterian Church, Kokomo, IN, report was presented by Robert McKissick.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the time be extended to complete Presbytery's business for this meeting.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

The Westminster Reformed Presbyterian Church, Vernon Hills, IL was presented by Keith Magill.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the privileges of the floor be extended to Steve Rhoda for the rest of this meeting.

Steve Rhoda, interim pastor, spoke to the Court.

Recommendation: That Presbytery reappoint Keith Magill as Provisional Moderator.

The recommendation was sent to the Nominating Committee.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Prayer Time and Recess

Presbytery entered a time of prayer:

Robert McCracken prayed for the Sparta congregation;

Steve Rhoda for the Sycamore congregation;

Barry York for the Westminster congregation and the recess.

Presbytery took recess from 10:32 to 10:50 a.m.

Presbytery returned to business singing Psalm 89B.

Judicial Committee Report

The Report was presented by the Chairman, James Faris.

Dave Long took the Chair as David Whitla had interests in the Papers presented.

The Report is as follows:

The Judicial Committee Report was presented by James Faris. The Committee considered three papers which had been brought to the Presbytery.

Paper 12-1 concerns SENIOR, ASSOCIATE AND ASSISTANT PASTORS and the Recommendation of the Report is:

Recommendation: that Presbytery request Synod to appoint a Committee to take up the matter of multiple pastors in congregations and propose amendments to the Directory of Church Government to regulate our practice with respect to calling of Senior, Associate and Assistant Pastors.

Recommendation of the Judicial Committee:

With Paper 12-1, that their recommendation to request Synod to appoint a committee to take up the matter of multiple pastors be approved.

Presbytery's recommendation:

Recommendation 1 was amended and was approved as follows:

That the Presbytery endorse the request that Synod appoint a committee to take up the matter of multiple pastors in the same congregation and propose amendments to the Directory of Church Government to regulate our practice with respect to the calling of Senior, Associate and Assistant Pastors.

Paper 12-2 concerns Presbytery Membership Roll and the Recommendations of the Report are:

WHEREAS it has come to the attention of several of us in the Great Lakes -Gulf Presbytery that there has been long-term membership on the roll of Presbytery by some of our brothers in Christ;

And WHEREAS recent events have shown that this roll has not been clearly known or maintained by Presbytery;

And WHEREAS we desire that all things be done decently and in order (I Corinthians 14:40), for the peace and harmony of the church (Psalm 122:6);

And WHEREAS the roll of Presbytery is to be of temporary duration and pastors and others placed upon it are to become members in the churches where they serve or reside (*Directory of Church Government (DOCG)* Chapter 1, Paragraph 14, p. D-4 and *DOCG* Chapter 3, Section II, Paragraph E, Part 4, Step 1, p. D-21);

And WHEREAS "a teaching elder who has moved into the jurisdiction of another presbytery shall have

his credentials transferred to that presbytery and his communicant membership changed to the local congregation" (DOCG, Chapter 3, Section II, Paragraph E, Part 5, Step h, p. D-22);

And WHEREAS the general rule of thumb seen in the DOCG is for membership transfer not to be delayed beyond a year of time (DOCG Chapter 1, Paragraph 10, p. D-3; Chapter 1, Paragraph 14, p. D-4),

Then let it be resolved that the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery:

- 1) Instruct the clerk to present at our next meeting an updated roll of Presbytery membership.
- 2) That the clerk incorporate into his annual report the roll of Presbytery for clarity and maintenance;
- 3) And that the Presbytery at its Spring 2013 meeting, and each meeting henceforth, follow the guidelines as outlined above in wisely shepherding and encouraging those on its roll to transfer their membership to a local congregation.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jason Camery	Rich Holdeman	Gordon Keddie	Jared Olivetti
James Faris	Michael LeFebvre	Dave Long	Barry York

The Judicial Committee's recommendation is:

With Paper 12-2, that recommendations 1 and 2 be approved. Since this is a problem with several presbyteries, we recommend that number 3 be referred to Synod for its action before we take action on our own.

Presbytery's recommendations

Recommendation 1, was amended and then approved as follows, to instruct the Clerk to, if possible, find out and contact those currently on the Roll, and to present at our next meeting an updated roll of Presbytery membership.

Recommendation 2 was approved.

Recommendation 3 was defeated.

Paper 12-3 concerns Presbyterian Visitations and the Recommendations of the Report are:

1. That Presbytery discontinue the present practice as outlined in the *Guidelines and Procedures*.
2. That Presbytery appoint a Committee to formulate a regular pattern for presbyterial visitation along the lines suggested in this Paper.
3. That Presbytery instruct Visitation Committees, in the meantime, to visit congregations over a normal Lord's Day and meet only with the Sessions, pending adoption of a regular procedure.

The Recommendation of the Judicial Committee is

With Paper 12-3, we do not believe that referring this to a study committee would be a good use of Presbytery's resources. We recommend that Presbytery take up the recommendations of this paper at this meeting, to decide whether they believe Southside Session's proposed visitation format, or the current format, to be that which Presbytery wishes to follow.

Presbytery's recommendations

Motion: it was moved, seconded, that this Paper be referred to a Study Committee to be announced by the Moderator.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that this motion be laid on the table to entertain a substitute.

Substitute Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the Ad Interim Commission of Presbytery appoint a committee to formulate a regular pattern for presbyterial visitation taking into account the

contents of this Paper.

Recommendations 1 and 3 of the Paper were deleted.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report of the Judicial Committee be received.

Nominating Committee Report

The Report was presented by Dave Long and is as follows:

Great Lakes – Gulf Presbytery

Nominating Committee Report – Spring 2012

Ad Interim Commission

James Faris (Moderator)
Richard Blankenship
Russ Pulliam
Walt Zebrun
John Kim

Church Extension Committees

Michigan

Jon Hughes (Ch.)
Southfield Session

Southern Illinois

Ray Morton
Bob Morrow

Southern

Jan Wise (Ch.)
Charles Saunders
Tom Reid
Frank Smith

Ohio-Indiana

Barry York
Andy McCracken
Phil Pockras
Jared Olivetti (Ch.)
Jason Camery

Candidates & Credentials Committee

Class of '13
Michael LeFebvre, Chairman
Jon Hughes

Class of '14

Roy Blackwood
Jared Olivetti

Class of '15

Dean Filson
Andy McCracken
Rich Holdeman

Financial Officers

Treasurer – Jim Bishop

Visitation Committees

Southside

Phil Pockras (Ch.)
Keith Evans
Russ Pulliam

Sparta

Rich Johnston
Jared Olivetti (Ch.)
Wendell McBurney

Home Mission Board Rep.

Class of '15 *Andy McCracken*

COVFAMIKOI Conference

Director: Jonathan Schaefer
Manager: Shane Shoop

Interchurch Liaison

Donald Cassell

Youth Coordinators

Rich Johnston
John Hanson

Representative to the Youth Ministries Committee of Synod

Ben & Anna Larson

Board of Corporators of Geneva College – Nominee to Synod

Phil Pockras

Moderators of Vacant Congregations

First Durham – Barry York
Grand Rapids – James Faris
Hetherton – Milton Harrington
Orlando – Jim Pennington
Selma – Jerry O'Neill
Southfield – Phil Pockras
Westminster – Keith Magill

Provisional Elders

Durham – David Carr
Hetherton – Ed Roby

Terre Haute Commission

Bob McCracken (Ch.)
Rich Holdeman
Ken DeJong
Eric Cosens
Jerry Porter

Pageland Commission

Frank Smith (Moderator)
Bob Shapiro
Tom Reid
Jeff Jones
Ian Wise

Toronto Committee

James Faris (Ch.)
Bill Roberts
Steve Sturm

Internet Exploratory Committee

Keith Evans (Ch.)
Frank Schutz

Respectfully submitted:

David Carr
Rich Holdeman
Dave Long (Ch.)
Steve Sturm

Recommendation: That the vacant congregations be granted the privileges of administration of the sacraments and the making out of calls.

The Recommendation was approved.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Treasurer's Report and Finance Committee Report.

The treasurer spoke concerning the Presbytery's finances. A copy is in the Addendum.

Keith Magill, Chairman of the Finance Committee gave this Report.

Recommendations:

1. That the March 12, 2012 Revised Budget and the March 12, 2013 Budget be adopted.
2. That considering the fact that for many years our Clerk has used his own computer equipment for his work, \$300 be granted to the Clerk for the purchase of computer equipment.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Report of the Assistant Clerk

The Assistant Clerk, Jack Rhoda, presented his report on the records of the sessions of the Presbytery. It is as follows:

Assistant Clerk's Report

Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery

Spring Meeting - March 1-3, 2012

1. Session Minutes Books were assigned to committees of two men and nothing was found to be contrary to the Law and Order of the church. Minor irregularities have been noted for Sessions to correct as and when they can.
2. Sessions that did not present their minutes books for review are instructed to present their books for review to the 2012 Presbytery meeting at Synod.
3. Any information you particularly desire to see incorporated into the Presbytery Report to Synod may be sent to me by e-mail - 100-150 words will be helpful.

A draft of the report will be circulated before the end of March. The final report will be transmitted to the Ad Interim Commission for approval and then sent to the Clerk of Synod by the end of April.

4. Churches' Statistical Reports, under the new procedure, are to be sent directly to Jim McFarland.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Rhoda, Assistant Clerk

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Resolution of Thanks

Keith Evans presented the Presbytery's Resolution of Thanks which is as follows:

Resolution of Thanks

Whereas we came as needy and dependent servants of the Living and True God, and of His Church; Whereas every good and perfect gift is from God, our Father above; Whereas wisdom and truth and ability are in Him and come only from Him; Whereas The Lord is able to do and has done far more abundantly than all that we have asked or thought;

Whereas the Lord has opened His ear to us and heard our prayers and opened His hand and satisfied both our needs and desires; and,

Whereas the people of Sycamore Reformed Presbyterian Church in Kokomo, Indiana have been faithful, generous, gracious, caring hosts to us, contributing to our needs, and showering hospitality that left us without need and that blessed our hearts most abundantly, and whose food delighted our taste buds and nourished our bodies bountifully;

Whereas our young, vibrant, energetic new Moderator, led us well and navigated us faithfully through the business at hand, as he did so with accented leadership;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Great-Lakes Gulf Presbytery does thank and praise our God for His grace, mercy, wisdom, care, and blessing upon us during our meetings; We praise and thank the Lord our God for the unity He has provided among us; And further, we extend our thanks to Sycamore Reformed Presbyterian Church for the planning, the preparation, the facility, the provisions, the hospitality, and the care for us all; and ask God for His blessing upon all who have served us so richly.

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard Blankenship

Keith Evans

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the resolution be adopted.

A copy was given to the Kokomo Reformed Presbyterian Church congregation.

Reading of the Minutes of this session

The Clerk read the Minutes.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the Minutes be approved as corrected.

Adjournment

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that that Presbytery adjourn.

Presbytery sang Psalm 133A. The Moderator adjourned the Court with prayer.

Presbytery adjourned at 12:30 p.m.



David Whitla,
Moderator, Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery



Raymond E. Morton,
Clerk, Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery

Addendum

Ad Interim Commission Minutes:

Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery
Ad Interim Commission Minutes
April 10, 2011

Present: Pastor Dave Long (Moderator), Robert Bibby, Jason Camery (by phone),
Jeff Kessler, Jack Rhoda, Dan Webb

- I. Pastor Long prayed to constitute the court.
- II. Motion made and carried to approve the call of Pastor James Faris to the Second Reformed Presbyterian Church as a regular gospel call.
- III. Motion made and carried to approve the minutes of this meeting of April 10, 2011..
- IV. Pastor Jason Camery adjourned the court with prayer.

David W. Long, Moderator

Jack Rhoda, Clerk

Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery -RPCNA
Ad Interim Commission Minutes
Monday, April 25, 2011, 7:00 p.m.

Meeting Place: Telephone conference call

Present: Pastor Dave Long (Moderator), Robert Bibby, Jason Camery,
Jeff Kessler, Jack Rhoda, Dan Webb

- V. Constitution of the Court
 - A. Pastor David Long read scripture from Psalm 119:121-128 and prayed to constitute the court.
- VI. Roger Cornejo
 - A. We received from Roger Cornejo his appeal to Synod regarding the action of the Presbytery at the spring meeting of 2011. The AIC is now awaiting Roger Cornejo's written communication to us of his withdrawal of this appeal to Synod.
- VII. Ray Lanning
 - A. Moderator David Long has communicated to the session of the First Reformed Presbyterian Church of Grand Rapids, Michigan and to Pastor

Ray Lanning that the session must make a formal request to Presbytery requesting that the Presbytery receive Pastor Ray Lanning's transfer of church membership. Action will be taken when that request of transfer is received.

VIII. Steven and Jana Birn

A. Motion was made and carried that:

- 1. the AIC deny the Birn's request that Presbytery order the session of the First Reformed Presbyterian Church of Grand Rapids, Michigan to allow Pastor Ray Lanning to baptize their infant son at a worship service in their church.
- 2. the AIC deny the Birn's request that Presbytery direct the session to publicly apologize to them (the Birns), to Pastor Ray Lanning, and to the congregation for the session's actions dealing with their request regarding the baptism of their son.

IX. Minutes

A. Motion was made and carried to approve the minutes of this meeting, held April 25, 2011, via telephone conference.

X. Adjournment

A. Jack Rhoda prayed for the matters discussed and acted upon during the meeting and adjourned the Court in the name of Jesus Christ, the King and Head of the church.

David W. Long, Moderator

Jack Rhoda, Clerk

Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery -RPCNA
Ad Interim Commission Minutes
Thursday, May 12, 2011, 7:00 p.m.

Meeting Place: Reformed Presbyterian Church of Lafayette, Indiana

Present: Pastor Dave Long (Moderator), Robert Bibby, Pastor Jason Camery
(by phone), Jeff Kessler, Jack Rhoda, Dan Webb

XI. Constitution of the Court

A. Jack Rhoda prayed to constitute the Court.

XII. Pastor James Faris' Installation Service

A. Motion was made and passed to set the installation service for Pastor James Faris on Friday, June 10, 2011, at 7:00 p.m. and to call the Presbytery to meet at 1:00 p.m. for the purpose of examination of Keith Evans and other students and other general business.

EDICT FOR THE INSTALLATION OF A TEACHING ELDER

The Great Lakes–Gulf Presbytery has received a call made by the Second Reformed Presbyterian Church of Indianapolis upon James Faris to be another pastor in their congregation, and has sustained it as a regular gospel call. Mr. Faris has accepted the call. Notice is hereby given that Friday, the 10th day of June in the year 2011 has been fixed as the time for his installation, with certification that the Presbytery will proceed in the same, unless some valid objections be offered to the Ad Interim Commission. The meeting for the installation will be held at 7:00 p.m., at Second RP Church, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Additionally, the Presbytery is called to meet at 1:00 in the afternoon of June 10 for the purpose of examining Keith Evans for his ordination; to examine other students under care of Presbytery; and to conduct any general business as prepared by the Clerk of Presbytery or the Ad Interim Commission.

By order of the Presbytery this 12th day of May in the year 2011.

David W. Long, Moderator of the Ad Interim Commission
Jack Rhoda, Clerk of the Ad Interim Commission

B. Motion was made and passed to appoint Pastor David Long to work with the Second Reformed Presbyterian Church in planning the installation service .

XIII. Pastor Ray Lanning's Membership Transfer
A. Motion was made and passed to receive the church membership of Pastor Ray Lanning into the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery from the First Reformed Presbyterian Church of Grand Rapids, Michigan.

XIV. Roger Cornejo's appeal to Synod
A. Motion was made and passed to accept Roger Cornejo's letter withdrawing his appeal to Synod.

XV. Pageland, North Carolina
A. Motion was made and passed to create a Pageland Commission to oversee the developing work in Pageland, North Carolina:
Pastor Frank Smith, Moderator
Thomas Reid, Clerk
Pastor Ian Wise
Steve Sturm
Ben Larson, Alternate

XVI. Minutes
A. Motion was made and passed to approve the minutes of this meeting held Thursday, May 12, 2011.

XVII. Adjournment
A. Robert Bibby prayed for the matters discussed and acted upon, and adjourned the Court in the name of Jesus Christ, the King and Head of the Church.

Pastor, David W. Long, Moderator

Jack Rhoda, Clerk

Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery -RPCNA
Ad Interim Commission Minutes
Friday, July 29, 2011, 9 p.m.

Meeting Place: Home of Elder Robert Bibby
Present: Pastor Dave Long (Moderator), Robert Bibby, Jeff Kessler, Jack Rhoda, Dan Webb (Pastor Jason Camery, Absent)

XVIII. Constitution of the Court
A. Dan Webb prayed to constitute the Court.

XIX. Keith Evans' Ordination and Installation
A. Motion was made and carried that we approve the "Edict for the Ordination and Installation of a Teaching Elder."

EDICT FOR THE ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF A TEACHING ELDER

The Great Lakes–Gulf Presbytery has received a call made by the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Lafayette upon Keith Evans to be the Associate Pastor of their congregation, and has sustained it as a regular gospel call. Mr. Evans has accepted the call. Notice is hereby given that Friday, the 26th day of August in the year 2011 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 Ad Interim Commission. The meeting for the installation will be held at 7:00 p.m. at the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Lafayette, Lafayette, Indiana.

Additionally, the Presbytery is called to meet at 1:00 in the afternoon of August 26 for the purpose of other business of Presbytery as prepared by the Clerk of Presbytery and the Ad Interim Commission.

By order of the Presbytery this 29th day of July in the year 2011.

David W. Long, Moderator of the Ad Interim Commission
Jack Rhoda, Clerk of the Ad Interim Commission

- XX. Greg Cumbee's request for reimbursement
A. Motion was made and carried to pay food expenses for Pastor Greg Cumbee that he incurred while attending the RPCNA's Synod of 2011 at the Indiana Wesleyan College in Marion, Indiana. Pastor Cumbee will be encouraged to present this type of reimbursement request to the full Presbytery in the future.
- XXI. Minutes
A. Motion was made and carried to approve the minutes of this meeting held, Friday, July 29, 2011.
- XXII. Adjournment
A. Robert Bibby prayed to adjourn the Court in the name of Jesus Christ, the King and Head of the Church.

Pastor, David W. Long, Moderator

Jack Rhoda, Clerk

Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery - RPCNA
Ad Interim Commission Minutes
Saturday, January 7, 2012

Meeting Place: Reformed Presbyterian Church of Lafayette

Present: Pastor Dave Long (Moderator), Pastor Jason Camery (by phone), Pastor Keith Evans, Bob Bibby, Jeff Kessler, Jack Rhoda, Dan Webb

- I. Constitution of the Court
B. Pastor Dave Long prayed to constitute the Commission.

XXIII. Terre Haute Church Plant

- A. Motion was made and passed to approve the Terre Haute Church Plant's request to purchase a building in which to meet as they minister there in Terre Haute, Indiana.

III. Minutes

- A. Minutes were approved.

VI. Adjournment

- A. Pastor Keith Evans prayed to adjourn the Commission in the name of Jesus Christ, the King and Head of the Church.

David W. Long, Moderator

Jack Rhoda, Clerk

Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery - RPCNA
Ad Interim Commission Minutes
Thursday, February 2, 2012

Meeting Place: Reformed Presbyterian Church of Lafayette

Present: Pastor Dave Long (Moderator), Pastor Jason Camery (by phone), Pastor Keith Evans, Bob Bibby, Jeff Kessler, Jack Rhoda, Dan Webb

I. Constitution of the Court

- B. Pastor Keith Evans prayed to constitute the Commission.

XXIV. College Hill Church's call

- A. Motion was made and passed to approve the call of Pastor Barry York as a regular gospel call to the College Hill Reformed Presbyterian Church.

III. Second Reformed Presbyterian Church appointment

- A. Motion was made and passed to appoint Pastor James Faris as moderator for the Second Reformed Presbyterian Church of Indianapolis starting March 7 through March 28, 2012, as Pastor Rich Johnston will be in India during this period.

IV. Minutes

- B. Motion was made and passed to approve the minutes for this meeting held February 2, 2012.

V. Adjournment

- A. Bob Bibby prayed to adjourn the Commission in the name of Jesus Christ, the King and Head of the Church.

David W. Long, Moderator

Jack Rhoda, Clerk

Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery – RPCNA
Ad Interim Commission Minutes
Sunday, February 5, 2012

Meeting Place: Reformed Presbyterian Church of Lafayette

Present: Pastor Dave Long (Moderator), Pastor Jason Camery (by phone),
Pastor Keith Evans, Bob Bibby, Jeff Kessler, Jack Rhoda, Dan Webb

- I. Constitution of the Court
 - A. Pastor Jason Camery prayer to constitute the Commission.
- II. Westminster Reformed Presbyterian Church of Prairie View, Illinois, request
 - A. Motion was made and passed to approve the Westminster Reformed Presbyterian Church's request to install Jim Ritchhart as a ruling elder on the same day he is elected.
 - B. Grounds for request:

Dear Brothers,

Westminster RPC Prairie View is seeking your counsel about procedures regarding the election and installation of Jim Ritchhart as ruling elder. Jim and his family have returned to Chicago from Colorado Springs. The moderator of the Ad Interim Commission (Dave Long) suggested we try our plan on several of you before officially submitting it to the AI for approval. What we want to do is install Jim at the same congregational meeting at which he is elected.

1. First, and most important, Jim is already an ordained ruling elder in good standing presently serving on 2 Sessions - Springs (elected) & WRPC (provisional).
2. Many years ago Jim was elected by the Westminster congregation as a ruling elder and served several years before moving to Colorado Springs.
3. Most of the people presently members of WRPC drive a long distance to the church. It would be very difficult to get enough of them there for a quorum on a weeknight.
4. We could have the installation a few weeks after the election on a Sunday afternoon but it would mean that I would have to take another Sunday off from Elkhart to do that. As it is, I am taking off the Sunday of the election to be there in time for the election. It is hard for me to preach in Elkhart and then get to Westminster on Sunday afternoon at a reasonable time.

If we had permission to install Jim – if he is elected – at the same congregational meeting immediately after the election, all these hurdles could be overcome.

Normal procedure:

1. 8 days notice to congregation
2. Election
3. Within 2 weeks the elder-elect notifies the Session of his willingness to serve

4. Session examination. Date set for installation
5. Presbytery is notified of his installation
6. 8 days notice to congregation
7. Installation service

Altered procedure:

1. Pre-election examination of Jim Ritchhart by the Session -- Feb 11 Session meeting. Jim has already notified us of his willingness to serve if elected.
2. Feb 11 – Modified edict sent to the Presbytery
3. Feb 12 & 19 – modified edict read to congregation
4. Feb 26 – Election
5. Feb 26 – Installation

Please remember that we “pre-examine” elder candidates regularly when we are organizing a new congregation.

Proposed edict to the congregation and to the Presbytery:

**Notice of a Congregational Meeting
To Elect and Install an Ordained Officer**

The Session having decided to conduct an election for a ruling elder, the congregation is called to meet on the 26th day of February in the year 2012, at 1 p.m., at the Westminster Reformed Presbyterian Church in Prairie View, IL. The Session intends to nominate Elder Jim Ritchhart. Members unable to be present may send absentee votes to the meeting enclosed in a sealed envelope, or given or mailed to the Clerk of Session. The envelope shall bear the name of the communicant member, and shall be addressed to the session.

If Elder Ritchhart is elected by the congregation then the Session will, in this same meeting of the congregation, immediately install Elder-elect Ritchhart.

Notice is given that Jim Ritchhart was pre-examined by the Westminster Session on February 11, 2012 and judged qualified to serve if elected. Valid objections to Elder Ritchhart's nomination may be offered to the Session which is appointed to meet on February 18 in the year 2012 at 9:30 AM at the church building. Given this 11th day of February in the year 2012, by order of the Session.

Clerk of the Session

Moderator of the Session

Please let me know if this modified procedure is acceptable or if you have suggestions to improve it. We will submit it to the Ad Interim Commission next week (Week of Feb 6).

Thanks for your help.

In Him,
Keith

Pastor Keith Magill
Elkhart Reformed Presbyterian Church
2323 17th Street
Elkhart, IN 46517
574-293-1772
KeithMagill@ElkhartRPC.org

- II. Minutes
 - A. Motion was made and passed to approve the minutes for this meeting held February 5, 2012.
- III. Adjournment
 - A. Jeff Kessler prayed to adjourn the court in the name of Jesus Christ, the King and Head of the Church.

David W. Long Moderator

Jack Rhoda, Clerk

Papers to Presbytery

Paper 12-1

RE: SENIOR, ASSOCIATE AND ASSISTANT PASTORS

Reformed Presbyterian congregations have until recent years been served by a solo pastor. As the work of many of our churches has expanded, there has been a marked increase in the practice of calling Associate or Assistant pastors. This has not, however, been matched by the establishment of any protocols for the handling of these relationships, particularly to the matter of the moderation of the Session and, more importantly, the question of the replacement of a Senior Pastor, upon his retirement or translation to another congregation charge. Is it in the gift of the Session, with or without a Congregational Meeting, to appoint an Associate to fill the vacancy created by the departure of the Senior Pastor? Or should there be a procedure in which the vacancy is treated as "regular" vacancies are, with Presbytery and Congregational involvement, including the familiar measures of declaring the pulpit vacant, according the right of making out a new call, hearing candidates and holding meetings of the Congregation for the purpose of securing a new (Senior) Pastor? We do not have a clear and uniform code of practice in these things and it is the request of this paper that Presbytery take up the matter with a view to requesting that Synod appoint a Committee to propose appropriate additions to our *Directory for Church Government*.

It may be helpful for us to note that our sister-church, the Presbyterian Church of America has adopted procedures governing Associate and Assistant Pastors. The relevant provisions from their Book of Church Order are presented here for information and are as follows:

"PCA BOOK OF CHURCH ORDER...

CHAPTER 12: *The Church Session*

12-4. Associate or assistant pastors may substitute for the pastor as moderator of the Session at the discretion of the pastor and Session.

CHAPTER 22: *The Pastoral Relations*

- 22-1. The various pastoral relations are pastor, associate pastor, and assistant pastor.
- 22-2. The pastor and associate pastor are elected by the congregation using the form of call in BCO
- 20-6. Being elected by the congregation, they become members of the Session.

22-3. An assistant pastor is called by the Session, by the permission and approval of Presbytery, under the provisions of BCO 20-1 and 13-2, with Presbytery membership being governed by the same provisions that apply to pastors. He is not a member of the Session, but may be appointed on special occasions to moderate the Session under the provisions of BCO 12-4.

22-4. The relationship of the associate pastor to the church is determined by the congregation. The relationship of the assistant pastor to the church is determined by the Session. The dissolution of the relationship of both is governed by the provision of BCO 23.

CHAPTER 23: *The Dissolution of the Pastoral Relation and The Procedure for Honorable Retirement*

23-1. When any minister shall tender the resignation of his pastoral charge to his Presbytery, the Presbytery shall cite the church to appear by its commissioners, to show cause why the Presbytery should or should not accept the resignation. If the church fails to appear, or if its reasons for retaining its pastor be deemed insufficient, his resignation shall be accepted and the pastoral relation dissolved.

If any church desires to be relieved of its pastor, a similar procedure shall be observed. But whether the minister or the church initiates proceedings for a dissolution of the relation, there shall always be a meeting of the congregation called and conducted in the same manner as the call of the pastor. In any case, the minister must not physically leave the field until the Presbytery or its commission empowered to handle uncontested requests for dissolution has dissolved the relation.

The associate or assistant pastors may continue to serve a congregation when the pastoral relation of the senior pastor is dissolved, but they may not normally succeed the senior pastor without an intervening term of service in a different field of labor. However a congregation by a secret ballot with four-fifths (4/5) majority vote may petition Presbytery for an exception which by a three fourths (3/4) majority vote Presbytery may grant.

Presbytery needs to determine if the dissolution of the pastoral relationship with the senior pastor was brought about in Christian love and good order on the part of the parties concerned."

Recommendation: that Presbytery request Synod to appoint a Committee to take up the matter of multiple pastors in congregations and propose amendments to the Directory of Church Government to regulate our practice with respect to calling of Senior, Associate and Assistant Pastors.

Respectfully submitted
For Southside Session

(signed) Jim Bishop

Clerk

(signed) Gordon J. Keddie

Moderator

Paper 12-2

Paper on Presbytery Membership Roll

WHEREAS it has come to the attention of several of us in the Great Lakes --Gulf Presbytery that there has been long-term membership on the roll of Presbytery by some

of our brothers in Christ;

And WHEREAS recent events have shown that this roll has not been clearly known or maintained by Presbytery;

And WHEREAS we desire that all things be done decently and in order (I Corinthians 14:40), for the peace and harmony of the church (Psalm 122:6);

And WHEREAS the roll of Presbytery is to be of temporary duration and pastors and others placed upon it are to become members in the churches where they serve or reside (*Directory of Church Government (DOCG)* Chapter 1, Paragraph 14, p. D-4 and *DOCG* Chapter 3, Section II, Paragraph E, Part 4, Step 1, p. D-21);

And WHEREAS "a teaching elder who has moved into the jurisdiction of another presbytery shall have his credentials transferred to that presbytery and his communicant membership changed to the local congregation" (*DOCG*, Chapter 3, Section II, Paragraph E, Part 5, Step h, p. D-22);

And WHEREAS the general rule of thumb seen in the *DOCG* is for membership transfer not to be delayed beyond a year of time (*DOCG* Chapter 1, Paragraph 10, p. D-3; Chapter 1, Paragraph 14, p. D-4),

Then let it be resolved that the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery:

1) Instruct the clerk to present at our next meeting an updated roll of Presbytery membership;

2) That the clerk incorporate into his annual report the roll of Presbytery for clarity and maintenance;

3) And that the Presbytery at its Spring 2013 meeting, and each meeting henceforth, follow the guidelines as outlined above in wisely shepherding and encouraging those on its roll to transfer their membership to a local congregation.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jason Camery	Rich Holdeman	Gordon Keddie	Jared Olivetti
James Faris	Michael Lefebvre	Dave Long	Barry York

Paper 12-3

To: Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery, RPCNA
From: Southside Indianapolis RPC

PRESBYTERY VISITATION

Fathers and Brethren:

As we all know, the Presbytery has a duty to "maintain a faithful supervision of all the congregations within its bounds", and to that end is charged to provide for "presbyterial visitation." The specific purpose of such visitation is twofold. It is "to guard against any teaching contrary to sound doctrine" and also to guard against "any corruption of the worship of God." This is supported by the further provision that Presbytery "institute presbyterial discipline when necessary." (*Directory for Church Government*, Chapter 6, section 10, pp. D33-34).

No one will dispute that Presbyterian polity requires a certain measure of accountability and oversight of congregations. The events in the fifteenth chapter of Acts exemplify, albeit in an undeveloped way, the Presbyterian principle, in that there is clear warrant for an appeal from a lower to a higher or broader "court" on a matter that is troubling the church. In that case it was a matter central to the Gospel itself. The Jerusalem assembly heard the case and rendered a decision, which was then transmitted to the churches (Acts 15:1-30).

Less clear is whether the subsequent visits of Paul and Barnabas to the churches to which they had earlier ministered (Acts 15:36) may be taken as a ground for "presbyterial visitation" as we know it. There is no evidence that such visitations were appointed by a "higher" body. There appears to be only a simple *apostolic* decision to retrace past ministerial steps out of a desire to "see how they are doing" and the prospect of "strengthening the churches" (Acts 15:36,41). These goals seem to have been secured by the self-same ministry of the Word of God that had been fruitful in the past. Of actual "presbyterial visitation" we have neither an injunction nor any record in the text of the New Testament.

Why is the current form of presbyterial visitation problematic?

Why do congregations resist these visitations? Why do these visitations often take years to schedule? We do not believe it is due to either to a lack of understanding of the Presbyterian form of government (i.e., not accepting accountability to the higher "courts."), or to wrong priorities on the part of congregations. We would suggest that this resistance is the result of the negative experience and unhappy results of previous presbyterial visitations. There is little evidence that such visitations have actually benefitted the congregations visited. The Session is often left with new or rekindled interpersonal relational problems to resolve. The result is controversy, disharmony and new problems for a busy Session.

We believe that the reason for this is that we have failed to understand the stated objectives for a presbyterial visitation. As already noted, we have only two objectives stated in the *Directory for Church Government*: 1.) "to guard against any teaching contrary to sound doctrine", and 2.) to guard against any "corruption of the worship of God". That is it! – wrong doctrine and wrong worship! If these are found, the presbytery may "institute presbyterial discipline." We believe that problems occur when visitations do not focus on these two objectives and also focus on the wrong audience.

The examination should not be of the members' perception of the leadership. We are asking the sheep about the behavior of the shepherds. Presbytery's responsibility is for the leadership of the congregation, not the members and adherents. The examination should be of the Session. Are the elders guarding against false doctrine? Are the elders ensuring that the public worship is true and acceptable to God? Are the elders fulfilling their vows to God? It seems to us that all other questions are not relevant to the proper purposes of presbyterial visitation. We do not believe that the current methods and "forms" are achieving the intended purposes of visitations and are in fact subverting the proper presbyterial order and producing unintended consequences that hinder rather than help the ministry of the church.

It is not obvious that the pattern of visitation developed in our Presbytery is demonstrably derivable from either the appellate model of Acts 15:2 or the strengthening model of Acts 15:36,41 – where you will note that the focus is upon "teaching and preaching the word of the Lord" (Acts 15:35). In contrast to this, our present pattern is one of soliciting information by means of questionnaires and public and private meetings directed, in one way or another, at every member and even covenant children and adherents. The raw data is then assessed and recommendations are duly presented to the various parties. The rationale for this in Presbytery's *Guidelines and Procedures* makes no attempt to expound what the apostles actually did to strengthen the churches, or explain how "teaching and preaching the word of the Lord" can be rendered into the investigative polling that we practice. It just seems to be assumed that our chosen methodology is somehow equivalent to and consistent with the apostolic example.

How should presbyterial visitations be conducted?

At the heart of this matter is our Lord's instruction about dealing with problems in the church in Matthew 18:15-20, together with Paul's exhortation in 1 Timothy 5:19. The Presbytery's *Guidelines and Procedures* rightly emphasizes that the visitation teams "must be careful to follow the instruction" of these passages. The method adopted, however, *ipso facto* sidesteps the teaching of these Scriptures.

1. By their very nature, *questionnaires* seek evaluations of other people and in particular of those who are active in the chain of responsibility in the church's life. These responses are frequently criticisms, often amounting to charges of serious sin, and are all expressed in a medium and format where the Matthew 18 pattern cannot but be violated.

The recent Southfield Visitation Report, for example cites a "critical spirit ... by some" as a problem in the body. Were the "some" who exhibited this allegedly critical spirit previously approached as per Matthew 18, first one on one, then with a witness, and then to the elders?

The same thing surfaced in the Second RP Visitation Report in 2006. The problem of "a critical and judgmental spirit within the congregation" was "raised most frequently in the response forms." If the Visitation Committee was "careful to follow" Matthew 18 – for this is an accusation of serious sin that needs to be dealt with – then we might ask:

"who is accusing whom", "what court examined these witnesses, sifted the evidence and rendered a judgment?" (The Committee clearly accepted these complaints at face value and knows who made them).

We say we are looking to strengthen and encourage and no doubt we will be happy if everybody is happy. We all know, however, that the visitation program is designed to discover problems with the intention of resolving them. Look at the sample questions suggested in the *Guidelines*. It takes no intensive analysis of the questions to discern a decidedly inquisitorial tendency. These questions are tools that overwhelmingly invite complaint about others rather than reflective self-criticism. They are tailor-made for the critics and complainers who would rather see someone from outside the congregation deal with their concerns than have to do it themselves by the Lord's own prescription in Matthew 18. In the "Members Information Form", for example, there is not the slightest hint of any question directed to the members about their own faithfulness as members and their practice of accountability to their leaders. Rather, it looks more like a referendum on the leadership (behind their backs). Fishing for problems was neither the declared intention, nor the actual practice of the Apostle Paul. The consequence of this – wholly unintended from the Presbytery's side – is that it effectively encourages that this complaining (i.e. accusation of sin) be done behind the backs of those who are the targets of the complaints, and so undermines its own goal of encouraging and strengthening the unity of the body of Christ.

2. The invitation to individual members to *private meetings* with the Visitation Team is even more problematic than the questionnaires that trawl for latent discontent. Meetings in private, by their very nature *and intent*, provide opportunity for things to be said about others that would not otherwise be said in public. It goes without saying that people rarely ask for a private meeting in order exclusively to say good things about the church, her membership and leadership. Such meetings are *ipso facto* violations of the Matthew 18 principle. We believe it is a grave mistake to encourage such meetings in the context of an ordinary visitation, which is, after all, not a discipline case over some public scandal, where private interviews would be appropriate and necessary. Furthermore, it is certain that those members who desire private meetings cannot have exhausted the regular means of handling concerns and problems in the church. They are, in effect, being aided and abetted in their failure to do so by the very body that should insist upon Biblical problem-solving. If the reply is that the Visitation Team is going to observe carefully the teaching of Jesus in Matthew 18, the answer is that it is too late by this time, because with both private meetings and forms soliciting critical evaluations, the genie is *already* "out of the bottle." This does not offer much promise of the happy resolution of whatever the difficulties may be. Any making public of privately offered criticism can only undermine existing relationships between the parties and render reconciliation more difficult than it would have been with simple Biblical openness and honesty from the start.

3. How should presbyterial visitations be conducted? Aside from abolishing the practices of canvassing every member with questionnaires and meeting privately with individual members, what positive measures will satisfy the teaching of Scripture and the provision

in DCG.6.10?

We would suggest the following principles and procedures.

1. Presbyterian visitation should visit the congregation to observe the way in which teaching and worship are ordinarily conducted. This involves attending Lord's Day activities and, if possible, also midweek events. The aim should be to sample the ordinary life of the congregation. Preaching can also be sampled through downloads from SermonAudio/Reformed Voice, if available. The point is that we should regard it as essential for Visitation Committees to attend public worship, in the Pauline fashion, to "see how they are doing."

2. Presbyterian visitation should involve meeting with the Session, but not with the membership under their supervision. The current practice, as we have noted, undermines the elders exercise of leadership when it invites communication from the members that by-passes the elders, who have original jurisdiction in the oversight of those who elected them to lead them.

3. Presbyterian visitation should deal specifically with the matters relating to teaching and worship. They should be provided with details regarding worship services, preaching, sacraments Sabbath school curriculum, diaconate, outreach, youth work, discipline, finances, property, general spiritual condition and relationships (see attached sample from an OPC Presbytery).

4. Presbyterian visitation should ordinarily be every five years.

We recommend:

1. That Presbytery discontinue the present practice as outlined in the *Guidelines and Procedures*.

2. That Presbytery appoint a Committee to formulate a regular pattern for presbyterial visitation along the lines suggested in this Paper.

3. That Presbytery instruct Visitation Committees, in the meantime, to visit congregations over a normal Lord's Day and meet only with the Sessions, pending adoption of a regular procedure.

Respectfully submitted

By action of the Southside Indianapolis Session this February 14, 2012

Gordon J Keddie, Moderator

John Hanson, Clerk *pro tem*

[Note: This form is used by the OPC Presbytery of the Ohio and was furnished by Rev.

Doug Snyder, Johnstown, P.A. Congregations are visited annually.]

Church Visitation and Sessional Records Committee

Church Interview Form

Preliminary Information :

Date:

Place:

Time convened and adjourned:

Committee represented by:

Session members present:

Session members absent:

1. Services: (time and form of service)

Sun, AM:

Sunday School:

Sun. PM:

Midweek:

Others:

2. Preaching:

Content of morning sermons:

Content of evening sermons:

Pulpit supply:

Attitude of the congregation to the preaching ministry:

3. Sunday School:

Curriculum for youth:

Curriculum for adults:

Catechetical Instruction:

4. Youth work:

When:

Leaders:

Activities:

Style of ministry:

5. Sacraments:

Baptisms: (how many this year? process and form?)

The Lord's Supper: (frequency? fencing of table?)

6. Discipline:

Administrative: (cases and how they were handled)

Judicial:

7. Outreach:

Present:
Results:
Plans/ideas:

8. Diaconate:

Deacons:
Special activities:

9. Financial:

Budget being met?
Pastor's needs being met?
Is the work of the GA being supported?
Is the work of the Presbytery being supported?
Any other particular ministries being supported?

10. Physical plant:

Condition:
Projects recently completed:
Projects in process:
Projects being planned:

11. Relationships:

Congregation to the denomination:
Congregation to the presbytery:
Among the session:
Session and pastor
Session and congregation:
Among congregation:
With other OP congregations:
With other local congregations:

12. Other questions, problems, or issues to be brought to the Presbytery?

13. Minutes:

Date last reviewed:

Any Notations and/or Exceptions found on current review:

Great Lakes - Gulf Presbytery Financial Report

Updated 3/3/2012

	2011 Actual	Mar-11 2012 Budget	Mar-12 2012 Budget	Mar-12 2013 Budget
INCOME				
100 - Assessments				
101 - General Fund	37,587.20	36,000.00	36,000.00	42,000.00
102 - Prev Years	1,743.00			
<i>Total Assessments =</i>	39,330.20	36,000.00	36,000.00	42,000.00
120 - From HMB				
122 - Residents in Training	24,000.00		12,000.00	0.00
123 - Reducing Aid	73,428.00	55,280.00	75,280.00	0.00
124 - Grants			10,000.00	10,000.00
<i>Sub-total HMB Aid =</i>	97,428.00	55,280.00	97,280.00	10,000.00
140 - Interest	1.94			
150 - Other Income	3,617.35			
<i>TOTAL INCOME =</i>	140,377.49	91,280.00	133,280.00	52,000.00
EXPENSES				
General Expenses				
200 - Presbytery Meetings		3,000.00		4,000.00
201 - Annual Meeting	6,773.08	10,000.00	6,000.00	7,000.00
208 - Second RP-Faris Installation 6/10/11	2,085.30			
209 - Lafayette-Evans Ord/Instal 8/26/11	3,183.18			
210 - Pageland-Organizational Mtg 10/8/11	657.38			
211 - Southfield-Kuehner Ord/Inst 3/30/12			3,000.00	
212 - Orlando-McCracken Ord/Inst 5/11 /12			3,000.00	
213 - Special-Exams Indy 6/1/12			1,500.00	
214 - Neiss & Gregory Ord/Inst & exams 9/6-7/12			2,000.00	
215 -				
216 -				
<i>Sub-total Presbytery Mtgs =</i>	12,698.94	13,000.00	15,500.00	11,000.00
260 - Officer's Expenses				
261 - Clerk Honorarium	2,000.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
262 - Ass't Clerk Honorarium		500.00	500.00	500.00
265 - Officer's Expenses	179.95	200.00	100.00	100.00
<i>Sub-total Officer's Expenses =</i>	2,179.95	2,200.00	2,100.00	2,100.00
270 - Standing Committees & Commissions		250.00		
271 - Ad Interim Commission				
272 - Candidates & Credentials				
273 - Southern Ch Ext Committee	473.45	1,000.00	500.00	500.00
274 - Indiana-Ohio Ch Ext Committee	157.62	1,000.00	500.00	500.00
<i>Sub-total Standing Cmtte's & Comm's =</i>	631.07	2,250.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
290 - Other General Expenses		200.00	200.00	200.00
<i>Sub-total General Expenses =</i>	15,509.96	17,650.00	18,800.00	14,300.00

	2011 Actual	Mar-11 2012 Budget	Mar-12 2012 Budget	Mar-12 2013 Budget
300 - Congregational Visitations		1,500.00		1,000.00
308 - Hetherton Visitation	563.64			
314 - Southfield Visitation	290.18			
315 - Southside Indpls Visitation			500.00	
316 - Sparta Visitation			500.00	
<i>Sub-total Congregational Visitation =</i>	853.82	1,500.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
400 - New Works				
402 - Atlanta Mission	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
403 - Terre Haute	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
405 - Marion			1,200.00	1,000.00
406 - Pageland			2,000.00	2,000.00
<i>Sub-total New Works =</i>	4,000.00	4,000.00	7,200.00	7,000.00
500 - Seminary Student Aid	12,600.00	12,300.00	13,500.00	8,400.00
520 - Coyfamikoï Family Conference	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00
540 - Youth Work	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
550 - College Ministry			500.00	500.00
560 - Fraternal Delegates			500.00	500.00
600 - Coordinator for Church Extension				
700 - HMB Aid Distribution				
702 - Residents in Training	24,000.00		12,000.00	0.00
703 - Reducing Aid	73,428.00	55,280.00	75,280.00	0.00
704 - Grants			10,000.00	10,000.00
<i>Sub-total HMB Aid Distribution =</i>	97,428.00	55,280.00	97,280.00	10,000.00
800 - Special Committees & Commissions		3,000.00	300.00	1,000.00
803 - Durham Commission	305.40			
804 - Terre Haute Commission	84.15		200.00	200.00
807 - Pageland Commission				
808 - Durham Installation Commission / /			1,500.00	
<i>Sub-total Special Cmtte's & Comm's =</i>	389.55	3,000.00	2,000.00	1,200.00
900 - Miscellaneous				
901 - Other	196.71	200.00	550.00	250.00
902 - Retired Pastor's Synod Expense		500.00	250.00	500.00
<i>Sub-total Miscellaneous =</i>	196.71	700.00	800.00	750.00
TOTAL EXPENSES =	133,478.04	96,930.00	142,080.00	46,150.00
ANNUAL NET =	6,899.45	(5,650.00)	(8,800.00)	5,850.00
Balance Jan 1	2,832.58	7,599.93	9,732.03	932.03
Balance Dec 31	9,732.03	1,949.93	932.03	6,782.03

Reminders 2012

- 1 That it is the policy of Presbytery that the mileage reimbursement rate is the standard IRS rate in effect on the date the reimbursable mileage was incurred (2012 = \$.555).
- 2 That the meal allowance is \$6/meal.
- 3 That it is the policy of Presbytery that normally the congregation pays the expenses of its provisional moderators and elders.

Recommendations 2012

- 1 That the Mar-12 2012 Revised Budget and the Mar-12 2013 Budget be adopted.
- 2 That, considering the fact that for many years our clerk has used his own computer equipment for his work, \$300 be granted to the Clerk for the purchase of computer equipment

**Minutes of the Special Meeting
of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery
Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America
March 30, 2012
Meeting at Southfield Reformed Presbyterian Church**

Call to Order: The moderator, David Long, called the Presbytery to order at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, March 30, 2012, at the Southfield Reformed Presbyterian Church, Southfield, Michigan, for the purpose of the following edict:

The purpose of this meeting is mainly to conduct student exams and the Ordination and Installation of Adam Kuehner although other business is permissible.

The edict for the Ordination and Installation is as follows:

The Great Lakes/Gulf Presbytery has received a call made by the Southfield Reformed Presbyterian Church (26550 Evergreen Road, Southfield, MI 48076) upon Adam Michael Kuehner to be their pastor, and has sustained it as a regular gospel call. He has signified his intention to accept the call. Notice is hereby given that the 30th day of March in the year 2012 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, which is to meet at the Southfield Reformed Presbyterian Church on the 30th day of March in the year 2012.

Praise: Presbytery sang Psalm 67C.

Prayer and Constitution

The Moderator led in prayer and constituted the Court in prayer.

Roll Call

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that Keith Evans be appointed Assistant Clerk pro tem for this meeting of Presbytery.

CONGREGATION	DELEGATE	1	2	3
Belle Center	Phil Pockras	X	X	
Bloomington	Rich Holdeman	E	E	
	Wendell McBurney	X	X	
Christ Church	Michael Lefebvre	E	E	
Columbus	Andy McCracken	X	X	
	Bob McCracken (ret TE)	X	X	
Elkhart	Keith Magill	X	X	
First RP Grand Rapids	Kent Van Timmeren	X	X	
	Doug Nadeau	X	X	
Hetherton	Milton Harrington			
Immanuel, W. Lafayette	Jared Olivetti	X	X	
Lafayette	Dave Long	X	X	

	Keith Evans	X	X
Northminster	Frank J. Smith	E	E
	Bob Shapiro		
Orlando			
Second, Indianapolis	Rich Johnston	E	E
	James Faris	X	X
	Donald Cassell	X	X
	Richard Blankenship	X	X
Selma			
Southfield	Adam Kuehner		
	Jon Hughes	X	X
	John Kim	X	X
Southside Indianapolis	Gordon Keddie	E	E
	David Whitla	E	E
Sparta	Ray Morton	X	X
	Bob Morrow (ret TE)	E	E
Sycamore	Barry York	X	X
	Jason Camery	E	E
Westminster	(no TE)		
	Bob Koch		
	Jim Ritchhart		
Terre Haute Miss Ch	Bill Roberts		
RPTS	Tom Reid		
Retired	Bob Henning		
	Marion McFarland		
Min w/o Pastorates	Roger Adams		
	Ray Lanning		X

The Assistant Clerk pro tem announced that a quorum was present.

Candidates and Credentials Committee Report

Andrew McCracken introduced the Report of Candidates and Credentials Committee

Examinee	Exam	Duration*	Examiner
Adam Niess	Pastoral and Evangelistic Gifts	20/10/5	Keith Magill
	Oral Church History	20/10/5	Phil Pockras
	Theology and Distinctive Principles 2	20/10/5	Jared Olivetti
	Exegesis Paper (Text: 1 Pet. 1:3-12)		Barry York and James Faris
	Expository Sermon 2 (Assigned Topic) (text: Heb. 3:1-19; topic: perseverance)	c.25/-/5	
	License to Receive a Call (Queries, Roll call vote, Instructions, Prayer)		Wendell McBurney
*Duration — The first number indicates the length of time (in minutes) allotted for the examiner's questions; the second number indicates the length of time for the full Presbytery's questions; the third number indicates the length of time for Presbytery discussion of the exam prior to an "up or down" roll call vote. (E.g., 20/10/5 = 20 min. examiner q's/10 min. Presbytery q's/5 min. discussion.)			

Recommendation 1, to conduct exams according to the chart above was approved.

Adam Niess for his expository sermon.

He read Hebrews 3:1-19, led in prayer, and preached God's Word on the topic of "Perseverance". He closed his message with prayer.

Presbytery sang Psalm 95C.

Motion: It was moved, seconded, and passed, that elders without certificates who are representatives of their sessions be seated.

Motion: It was moved, seconded, and passed, that all elders present who are elders of Reformed Presbyterian Churches be made consultative members of the court.

Motion: It was moved, seconded, and passed, that elders present who are members of churches with whom the Reformed Presbyterian Church has fraternal relations be given privileges of the floor and permission to participate in the laying on of hands.

Introduction

James Faris introduced Jeff Platt as the elder from Second Reformed Presbyterian Church, Indianapolis.

Travel Agent

Jon Hughes was appointed as the travel agent for this meeting.

Candidates and Credentials Committee Report

Members of Presbytery made comments on the sermon.

Roll Call Vote

The assistant Clerk called the Roll and the exam was unanimously sustained.

Andrew McCracken introduced Adam Niess for his Pastoral and Evangelistic Exam.
Keith Magill conducted the exam.
Members of Presbytery asked questions and received answer followed by comments.

Roll Call Vote

The examination was unanimously sustained.

Recess and Reconvening

Presbytery took a break from 3:30 to 3:50 p.m.

Candidates and Credentials Committee Report-continued

Andrew McCracken introduced Adam Niess for his Theology II and Distinctive Principles exam.

Jared Olivetti conducted the exam.

Members of Presbytery asked questions and received answer followed by comments.

Roll Call Vote

The examination was unanimously sustained.

Andrew McCracken called on James Faris to report on Adam Niess' Exegesis Paper.
James Faris reported for the committee and its recommendation that the exam be sustained.
On the vote the exam was sustained.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report of the Candidates and Credentials Committee be received.

Ad Interim Commission

James Faris, Moderator, reported for the Commission which had met two times since the last Presbytery Meeting.

AD INTERM COMMISSION REPORT
TO THE MARCH 2012 MEETING OF THE GREAT LAKES – GULF PRESBYTERY, RPCNA

The Ad Interim Commission met two times since the Spring (March 1-3, 2012) meeting of Presbytery in Kokomo, Indiana. Commission members are: James Faris (Moderator), Richard Blankenship (Clerk), Russ Pulliam and Walt Zebrun, all of Second Reformed Presbyterian Church, Indianapolis, IN and John Kim of Southfield Reformed Presbyterian Church, Southfield, MI.

Below is a summary of the items that have come before the Commission and the actions taken.

ITEM 1 (From the Presbytery regarding the Southfield, MI congregation): An edict was issued for the ordination and installation of Adam Kuehner as Teaching Elder on March 30, 2012.
ACTION: The edict was approved.

ITEM 2 (From the Presbytery regarding the Orlando, FL congregation): An edict was issued for the ordination and installation of H.P. McCracken as Teaching Elder on May 11, 2012.
ACTION: The edict was approved.

ITEM 3 (From the Durham, NC congregation): A request was received for the appointment of a commission to install Kent Butterfield as Teaching Elder.
ACTION: The request was approved with the appointment of Tom Reid (as Moderator), Phil Pockras, Godfrey Franklin and John Hughes to the Commission. (The Ad Interim Commission anticipates adding Bob Bibby to the Durham Commission at its next meeting).

ITEM 4 (From the Durham, NC congregation): An edict was issued for the installation of Kent Butterfield as Teaching Elder on April 13, 2012.

ACTION: The edict was approved.

ITEM 5 (From the Orlando, FL congregation): A request was received to approve the travel expenses of ten (10) named individuals to attend the ordination and installation of H. P. McCracken as Teaching Elder on May 11, 2012.

ACTION: The request was approved.

ITEM 6 (From the Columbus, IN congregation): Request was made to approve and forward to the Presbytery of the Alleghenies the call of George Gregory as Associate Pastor.

ACTION: The request was approved.

Respectfully submitted,

James Faris, Moderator

James Faris introduced the Pastoral Call from the Hetherton Congregation on Dan Drost. He asked for comments from members of Presbytery.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be approved.

Resolution of Thanks

The Moderator spoke on behalf of the Presbytery thanking the Southfield Congregation for their hosting this meeting of Presbytery, for their meals and overnight accommodations, for their fellowship and sharing in ordination and installation service.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be adopted.

Minutes of this Session

The Clerk read the minutes and the Moderator declared that the Minutes stand approved as corrected.

Recess

Presbytery recessed at 5:30 p.m.

Session 2: March 30, 2012, 7:00 p.m. at Southfield Reformed Presbyterian Church

Welcome and Call to Order

The Moderator welcomed the assembled congregation and called Presbytery to order at 7:00 p.m. He led in prayer reconvening the Court.

Roll Call

The Assistant Clerk pro tem, Keith Evans, called the Roll and each elder stood and was recognized.

Narration of Steps

Jon Hughes, Clerk of Session, recounted the steps that have led to this Ordination and Installation Service.

It is noted that Adam Kuehner started his work here in Southfield Reformed Presbyterian Church on January 30, 2012.

Reading of the Edict

Jon Hughes read the edict for the last time.
The members of the congregation indicated their adherence to the call.
The Pastor-elect, Adam Kuehner, indicated his acceptance of the Call.

Worship

Pastor Jeff Stivason, of Grace (Gibsonia) Reformed Presbyterian Church, Pittsburgh was introduced and conducted worship.

Call to Worship: Psalm 47;1-4.

Praise: Psalm 40B

Prayer

Praise: Psalm 19B

Scripture Reading: Matthew 12:38-41

He preached from this text and closed his message with prayer.

Praise: Psalm 145A

Ordination and Installation

The Queries were read by John Kim.

Adam Kuehner each one in the affirmative.

Adam Kuehner signed the Queries in the Presbytery Minute book.

Members of Presbytery and other elders present came forward, gathered around Adam and laid hands on him, while Phil Pockras led in the Ordination and Installation prayer.

The elders extended to Adam the right hand of fellowship.

The Charge to the new Pastor was given by James Faris.

The Charge to the congregation was given by Ray Lanning.

Praise: Psalm 116D

Benediction by Adam Kuehner.

Reading of the Minutes of this session

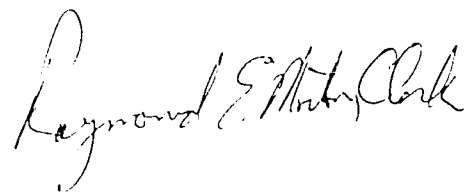
The Clerk read the Minutes of this Session which were approved as read.

Adjournment and prayer

The Moderator led in prayer adjourning the Court.

Praise: Psalm 72C.

Presbytery adjourned at 9:00 p.m.



Minutes of the Special Meeting
of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery
Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America
May 11, 2012

Minutes of the Meeting of Presbytery on May 11, 2012, held in Orlando, FL by the following edict:

The Great Lakes/Gulf Presbytery has received a call made by the Orlando Reformed Presbyterian Church (324 E. Livingston Street, Orlando, FL 32801) upon Herbert Paul McCracken to be their pastor, and has sustained it as a regular gospel call. He has signified his intention to accept the call. Notice is hereby given that the 11th day of May in the year 2012 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, which is to meet at the Orlando Reformed Presbyterian Church on the 11th day of May in the year 2012.

Call to Order

The meeting of the Presbytery at Orlando Reformed Presbyterian Church on May 11, 2012, was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by the Moderator, David Whittle and he welcomed the congregation to this ordination and installation service.

The Moderator led in prayer and constituted the Court in prayer.

Motion: It was moved, seconded, and passed that Keith Evans be the Assistant Clerk pro tem for this meeting.

Motion: It was moved, seconded, and passed, that elders without certificates who are representatives of their sessions be seated.

Motion: It was moved, seconded, and passed, that all elders present who are elders of Reformed Presbyterian Churches be made consultative members of the court.

Motion: It was moved, seconded, and passed, that elders present who are members of churches with whom the Reformed Presbyterian Church has fraternal relations be given privileges of the floor and permission to participate in the laying on of hands.

Roll

The Assistant Clerk, pro tem, called the Roll. As each member's name was called, that member stood to be recognized.

CONGREGATION	DELEGATE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Bloomington	Wendell McBurney	X							
Columbus	Bob McCracken (ret TE)	X							
Immanuel, W. Lafayette	Jared Olivetti	X							

Lafayette	Keith Evans	X																		
	Bob Bibby	X																		
Northminster	Bob Shapiro	X																		
Orlando	H. P. McCracken																			
	Joe Worsham	X																		
	Jonathan Schaeffer	X																		
	Jim Pennington (ret TE)	X																		
	Ed Forrest, RE Emeritus	X																		
Southside Indianapolis	David Whitla	X																		
Sparta	Ray Morton	X																		
Sycamore	Jason Camery	X																		

The Assistant Clerk, pro tem, announced that a quorum was present.

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION SERVICE

NARRATION OF STEPS was read by Jonathan Schaefer.

It was announced that H. P. McCracken began his service in the Orlando congregation on January 4, 2012.

At the request of the Orlando Session Ed Forest, Elder Emeritus, was seated as a member of the Court.

FINAL READING OF THE EDICT was done by Joe Worsham.

The congregation indicated their adherence by standing.
H.P. McCracken acknowledged his adherence to the Call.

CALL TO WORSHIP by the Moderator
The Moderator read Psalm 132: 7-9.

PRAISE Psalm 100A was sung in praise to God following which the Moderator led in prayer.

SCRIPTURE READING

Robert McCracken read II Corinthians 4: 1-7 and Revelation 1:10 - 2:7.
Following this he preached God's Word on "The Glowing Lampstand".
He closed his message with prayer.

Queries

H.P. McCracken answered all the queries in the affirmative.

H.P. McCracken signed the Queries in the Presbytery Minute Book.

PRAYER OF ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION

Wendell McBurney led the Presbytery in the prayer of Ordination and Installation as the elders present laid hands on H.P. McCracken.

Members of Presbytery then extended to H.P. McCracken the right hand of fellowship.

The CHARGE TO THE PASTOR was given by Titus Martin.

The CHARGE TO THE CONGREGATION was given by Jim Pennington.

PRAISE Psalm 134A was sung to God.

BENEDICTION was pronounced by Pastor H.P. McCracken.

READING OF THE MINUTES

The Clerk of Presbytery read the Minutes.

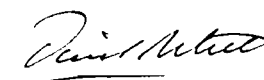
The Moderator pronounced the Minutes approved as read.

MOTION, It was moved, seconded, and passed that the meeting adjourn.

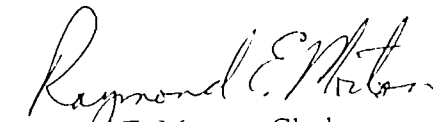
ADJOURNMENT OF THE COURT

The Moderator led in prayer and adjourned the Court.

Presbytery adjourned at 8:17 P.m.



David Whitla, Moderator,
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery



Raymond E. Morton, Clerk,
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery

**Minutes of the Special Meeting
of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery
Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America
June 1, 2012**

Call to Order: The moderator, David Whitla, called the Presbytery to order at 1:07 p.m. on Friday, June 1, 2012, at the Terre Haute Reformed Presbyterian Church, Terre Haute, Indiana, for the main purpose of student exams in preparation for taking up pastoral ministry.

Praise: Presbytery sang Psalm 146A.

Prayer and Constitution

The Moderator led in prayer and constituted the Court in prayer.

Candidates and Credentials Committee Report

Michael LeFebvre introduced George Gregory for his expository sermon. He read Acts 4:21-37 and preached God's Word from this text. He closed his message with prayer. Presbytery sang Psalm 56B.

Roll Call

The Assistant Clerk, Jack Rhoda, called the Roll which is as follows"

CONGREGATION	DELEGATE	
Belle Center	Phil Pockras	X
	no RE	
Bloomington	Rich Holdeman	X
	Wendell McBurney	
	Ken DeJong	X
	Wes Archer	
Christ Church	Michael Lefebvre	X
	Duane Judd	
	Sean Bird	X
Columbus	Andy McCracken	X
	Bob McCracken (ret TE)	
Elkhart	Keith Magill	X
	Fikre Menbere	
First RP Durham	Kent Butterfield	
	Charles Saunders	
	Charles Leverett	E
First RP Grand Rapids	(no TE)	
	Kent Van Timmeren	
	Richard Bonner	

	Doug Nadeau	
Hetherton	Milton Harrington	
Immanuel, W. Lafayette	Jared Olivetti	X
	David Carr	X
	Ben Larson	
Lafayette	Dave Long	X
	Keith Evans	X
	Dan Webb	
	Jack Rhoda	X
	Bob Bibby	
Northminster	Frank J. Smith	E
	Bob Shapiro	
Orlando	H. P. McCracken	E
	Joe Worsham	
	Jonathan Schaeffer	
	Jim Pennington (ret TE)	E
	Ed Forrest, RE Emeritus	
Second, Indianapolis	Rich Johnston	X
	James Faris	X
	Donald Cassell	
	Dean Filson	X
	Russ Pulliam	
	Richard Blankenship	
Selma	(no TE)	
	(no RE)	
Southfield	Adam Kuelmer	
	Jon Hughes	
	John Kim	
Southside Indianapolis	Gordon Keddie	E
	David Whittle	X
	Jerry Porter	X
	Don Prichard	
	Steve Sturm	
	John Hanson	
	George Shopp	
	James Bishop	X
Sparta	Ray Morton	X

	Bob Morrow (ret TE)	X
Sycamore	Barry York	E
	Jason Camery	X
	Robert McKissick	
	Scott Hunt	
Westminster	(no TE)	
	Bob Koch	
	Jim Ritchhart	
CONGREGATION	DELEGATE	1
Terre Haute Miss Ch	Bill Roberts	X
RPTS	Tom Reid	
Retired	Bob Henning	
	Marion McFarland	
Min w/o Pastorates	Roger Adams	
	Roy Blackwood	E
	Greg Cumbee	
	Godfrey Franklin	
	Ray Lanning	
	Frank Schutz	
	Jim Wright	
	Dick Knodel	E
Inactive	Paul Mathews	

He announced that a quorum was present.

Motion: It was moved, seconded, and passed, that elders without certificates who are representatives of their sessions be seated.

Motion: It was moved, seconded, and passed, that all elders present who are not delegates be made consultative members of the court.

Candidates and Credentials Committee Report

Members of Presbytery made comments on George Gregory's sermon.

Roll Call Vote

The Assistant Clerk called the Roll and the exam was unanimously sustained.

The Clerk introduced the business of the afternoon.

The Columbus Session Minute Book was not read at the spring meeting. The men appointed by

the Moderator will receive copies of the minutes to read before the Synod meeting of Presbytery. They will bring their comments to that meeting, the Minute Book will be presented and if appropriate the Assistant Clerk will sign the Minute Book.

Shawn Bird, elder in Christ Church, was introduced and welcomed to the Court.

Ad Interim Commission Report

James Faris presented the report. The Report was approved, and is as follows: *(see minutes)*

Candidates and Credentials Committee Report

The recommendation of the report was approved.

Michael LeFebvre introduced George Gregory for his Personal Godliness exam. This exam was extended for 15 minutes because he is new to our Presbytery, The exam was conducted by Keith Magill. Members of Presbytery asked questions and received answers followed by comments.

Roll Call Vote

The Assistant Clerk called the Roll, the exam was unanimously sustained.

Motion: moved, seconded, and passed that the time be extended to allow the conduction of the next exam.

Candidates and Credentials Committee Report

Michael LeFebvre introduced Adam Niess for his Personal Godliness exam. The exam was conducted by Jason Camery conducted the exam. Members of Presbytery asked questions and received answers followed by comments.

Roll Call Vote

The Assistant Clerk called the Roll and the exam was unanimously sustained.

Recess

Presbytery took recess from 3:06 to 3:24 p.m. The Moderator led in the prayer for recess. Presbytery returned with the singing of Psalm 119A and the Moderator led in prayer.

It was announced that travel vouchers were available and could be filled out and given to Jim Bishop, Treasurer, for payment.

Candidates and Credentials Committee Report

Michael LeFebvre introduced Adam Niess for his expository sermon. Adam Niess read Ezekiel 11: 14-25, led in prayer, and preached from this text, emphasizing v. 22-25. He closed his message with prayer. Members of Presbytery made comments on the sermon.

Roll Call Vote

Adam Niess's sermon was unanimously sustained.

Michael LeFebvre introduced George Gregory for his Soundness in the Faith exam. Rich Holdeman conducted the examination. Members of Presbytery asked questions and received answers followed by comments.

Roll Call Vote

The Assistant Clerk called the Roll and the exam was unanimously sustained.

Roll Call Vote for George Gregory's Ordination

The Assistant Clerk called the Roll and George Gregory was unanimously sustained for his ordination.

Andy McCracken led in prayer for George's work in the kingdom of God.

Michael LeFebvre introduced Adam Niess for his Soundness in the Faith exam. Andy McCracken conducted the exam.

Members of Presbytery asked questions and received answers followed by comments.

Roll Call Vote

The Assistant Clerk called the Roll and the exam was unanimously sustained

Roll Call Vote for Adam Niess's Ordination

The Assistant Clerk called the Roll and Adam Niess was unanimously sustained for his ordination.

Rich Holdeman led in prayer for Adam Niess's future work in the kingdom of God.

Motion: moved, seconded, and passed that the time for this meeting be extended to complete the business of this meeting.

Candidates and Credentials Committee Report

Michael LeFebvre introduced Shawn Anderson for his oral Church History Exam. Keith Evans conducted the exam. Members of Presbytery asked questions and received answers followed by comments.

Roll Call Vote

The Assistant Clerk called the Roll and the exam was unanimously sustained.

The report of the Candidates and Credentials Committee was received by motion.

James Faris introduced the scheduling of the next meeting of Presbytery.

Motion: moved, seconded, and passed that Presbytery meet on July 12th and 13th at Bloomington Reformed Presbyterian Church and Columbus Reformed Presbyterian Church respectively, starting in Bloomington at 7:00 p.m. on the 12th and at Columbus at 8:30 a.m. on the 13th. The ordination and installation services will be included in these services.

Toronto Committee Report

James Faris presented the report which is as follows:

Report of the Toronto Committee
Of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery
June 1, 2012

The Toronto Committee was charged at the spring 2012 meeting with the responsibility of reviewing the petition of the Toronto Free Church of Scotland to join the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery. In talking with the elders, we were very encouraged and believe that the congregation would be a very good fit in the RPCNA.

However, the congregation is naturally within bounds of the St. Lawrence Presbytery. As we talked with the elders in Toronto, we heard of former difficulties certain individuals in Toronto have had with some members of the St. Lawrence Presbytery. Though these matters were long ago resolved formally, the men in Toronto had reason to believe that it would be best to seek membership in the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery as the best way to avoid any unnecessary tension.

So, this committee, with the Toronto church's full knowledge, contacted the St. Lawrence Presbytery about how best to proceed. The make-up of that body has changed substantially over the last twenty years, and they would be eager to have another Canadian congregation in their midst, if at all possible. Their ad interim commission, with email input from the rest of their Presbytery, has suggested a joint commission with the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery to see if it would be possible to bring the congregation into the St. Lawrence Presbytery. Our sense is that a joint commission would be unwieldy, and so we propose a single commission with ex officio members from this Presbytery. We are optimistic that this is a helpful way forward, and the brothers in Toronto are also agreeable.

If the commission is formed as we recommend, and its members deem it best for Toronto to unite with the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery we have expressed a willingness to receive them. However, we think it best to see them join with the St. Lawrence Presbytery.

Recommendation: That the petition of the Toronto Free Church of Scotland congregation to join the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery be redirected to the St. Lawrence Presbytery with the request that the St. Lawrence Presbytery appoint to its commission that will consider the petition two members of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery as ex officio members to aid the transition process.

At the time of the writing of this report, the committee is still working to name two specific men in the recommendation to serve as ex officio members. We hope to come to the meeting with nominees.

Respectfully submitted,
James Faris (ch.)
Bill Roberts
Steve Sturm

The recommendation of the report was approved.
Motion: moved, seconded, and passed that the Report be received.

William Roberts presented information about the East Asia Commission of Synod concerning the appointed of elders to work more closely with the East Asia situation.

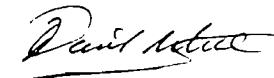
Resolution of Thanks

The Resolution of Thanks was prepared by Dean Filson. It was read by the Clerk.
Motion: moved, seconded, and passed that the Resolution of Thanks be adopted.

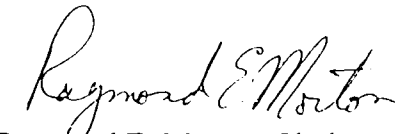
Minutes

The Clerk read the Minutes of this meeting.
Motion: moved, seconded, and passed that the Minutes be approved as read.

Motion: moved, seconded, and passed that the meeting adjourn.
The Moderator led in prayer adjourning the Court. The meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.



David Whitla, Moderator,
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery



Raymond E. Morton, Clerk,
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery

Synod Meeting of the Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery
Of the Reformed Presbyterian Church
June 28, 2012

Call to Order

The Moderator, David Whitla, called Presbytery to order in Room 013, Northwood Hall, on the campus of Geneva College, Beaver Falls, PA, at 2:20 p.m.

Praise: Psalm 100D.

Prayer and Constitution

The Moderator led in prayer and constituted the Court.

Roll Call

The Assistant Clerk, Jack Rhoda, took the Roll visually.

Agenda

The Moderator announced that the agenda for this Synod meeting is concerning the Selma Reformed Presbyterian Church and a report by Jerry O'Neill who was appointed by Presbytery to help the Presbytery concerning the Selma congregation.

Jerry O'Neill had been appointed as the Interim Moderator of the Selma Session and he made a verbal report on the church in Selma. After describing the situation in Selma, the floor was opened for questions from the presbyters.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that

1. Jerry O'Neill ask the Session to encourage Rev. Winston Williams to be pulpit supply for the time being, and
2. That the Candidates and Credentials Committee be in contact with Albert Jackson to determine his interest of being a minister in the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the Presbytery will pay for at least one trip for the Interim Moderator to visit Selma.

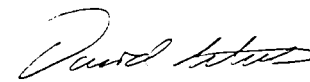
Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the Ad Interim Commission appoint two presbyters to work with Jerry O'Neill to encourage the Selma Session.

Reading of the Minutes

The Clerk read the minutes of this meeting which were approved as corrected.

Adjournment

The Moderator adjourned the Court with prayer at 3:26 p.m.



David Whitla, Moderator,
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery



Raymond E. Morton, Clerk,
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery

**Minutes of the Special Meeting
of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery
Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America
July 12-13, 2012**

Session 1, 7:00 p.m., at Bloomington Reformed Presbyterian Church

Call to Order

The moderator, David Whitla, called the Presbytery to order at 7:05 p.m. on Thursday, July 12, 2012, at the Bloomington Reformed Presbyterian Church, Bloomington, IN

Prayer and Constitution

The Moderator led in prayer and constituted the Court in prayer.

Roll Call by the Assistant Clerk

The Assistant Clerk called the Roll and he declared that a quorum was present. The Roll is as follows:

CONGREGATION	DELEGATE	1	P	2	2	2	3	4	5
Belle Center	Phil Pockras	P	P	P	P				
	no RE								
Bloomington	Rich Holdeman	P	P	P	P				
	Adam Niess	P	P	P	P				
	Eric Cosens	P							
	Wendell McBurney								
	Ken DeJong	P	P	P	P				
	Wes Archer								
Christ Church	Michael Lefebvre	P	P	P	P				
	Sean Bird								
	Duane Judd								
	Dale Koons		P	P	P				
Columbus	Andy McCracken	P	P	P	P				
	Bob McCracken (ret TE)	P	P	P	P				
Elkhart	Keith Magill								
	Fikre Menbere								
First RP Durham	Kent Butterfield								
	Charles Saunders								
	Charles Leverett								
First RP Grand Rapids	(no TE)								
	Kent Van Timmeren								
	Richard Bonner		P	P	P				

	Doug Nadeau	P	P	P	P
Hetherton	Milton Harrington				
Immanuel, W. Lafayette	Jared Olivetti	P	P	P	P
	David Carr				
	Ben Larson				
Lafayette	Dave Long				
	Keith Evans	P	P	P	P
	Dan Webb				
	Jack Rhoda	P	P	P	P
	Bob Bibby				
Northminster	Frank J. Smith	E	E	E	E
	Bob Shapiro	E	E	E	E
Orlando	H. P. McCracken				
	Joe Worsham				
	Jonathan Schaeffer				
	Jim Pennington (ret TE)				
	Ed Forrest, RE Emeritus				
Second, Indianapolis	Rich Johnston	P	P	P	P
	James Faris	P	P	P	P
	Donald Cassell				
	Dean Filson		P	P	P
	Terry Magnuson	P	P	P	P
	Jeff Platt	P	P	P	P
	Russ Pulliam				
	Ram Rao				
	Richard Blankenship				
Selma	(no TE)				
	(no RE)				
Southfield	Adam Kuehner				
	Jon Hughes				
	John Kim				
Southside Indianapolis	Gordon Keddle	E	E	E	E
	David Whitla	P	P	P	P
	Rick Ahlgrim				
	James Bishop	P	P	P	P
	Jerry Porter	P			
	Don Prichard				

	Steve Sturm				
	John Hanson				
	George Shopp				
Sparta	Ray Morton	P	P	P	P
	Bob Morrow (ret TE)				
Sycamore	Barry York	E	E	E	E
	Jason Camery				
	Robert McKissick				
	Scott Hunt				
Westminster	(no TE)				
	Bob Koch				
	Jim Ritchhart				
Terre Haute Miss Ch	Bill Roberts	P	P	P	P
RPTS	Tom Reid	P	P	P	P
Retired	Bob Henning				
	Marion McFarland				
Min w/o Pastorates	Roger Adams				
	Roy Blackwood				
	Greg Cumbee				
	Godfrey Franklin				
	Ray Lanning				
	Frank Schutz				
	Jim Wright				
	Dick Knodel				
Inactive	Paul Mathews				

Narration of the Steps: was read by Eric Cosens.

Final reading of the Edict.

Ken deJong read the Edict and the Moderator asked the congregation and then the minister-elect to give their assent to the call on Adam Niess.

Adherence to the Call

First the congregation, and then Adam Niess gave their assent to the Call.

Praise: Psalm 96B sung in praise.

Invocation by the Moderator

The Moderator, David Whitla, led the assembled congregation in prayer.

Scripture Reading:

The Moderator read Acts 26:1-23

Message:

“The Making of a Minister

David Whitla preached especially from v. 16 “I have appeared to make you a minister”.

The Moderator concluded the message with prayer.

Praise: Psalm 99A

Queries

The Queries were read by Wendell McBurney. Adam Niess answered all in the affirmative. Adam Niess signed the Queries in the Presbytery Minute Book.

Prayer of Ordination and Installation

The Moderator led the Prayer of Ordination and Installation setting apart Adam to the gospel ministry while members of Presbytery and other elders present gathered around and laid hands on Adam.

Members of Presbytery and other Elders present extended to Adam the right hand of fellowship.

Charges to the new Pastor and the Congregation

The Charge to the Pastor was given by Andrew McCracken and was based on Ezekiel 34:11-16..

The Charge to the Congregation was given by Rich Holdeman based on I Thessalonians 5:12-22.

Praise: Psalm 72C was sung.

Benediction: Pastor Adam Niess pronounced the benediction.

Reading of the Minutes

The Clerk read the Minutes and the Moderator declared the Minutes approved as corrected.

Adjournment

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that Presbytery adjourn.

The Moderator led in the prayer of adjournment.

Presbytery adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Pastor Adam Niess began his work in Bloomington on June 1, 2012.

Session 2, Columbus Reformed Presbyterian Church, July 13, at 8:35 a.m.

Call to Order: The moderator, David Whitla, called the Presbytery to order at 8:35 a.m. on Friday, July 13, 2012, at the Columbus Reformed Presbyterian Church, Columbus, Indiana

Prayer and Constitution

The Moderator led in prayer and constituted the Court in prayer.

Candidates and Credentials Committee Report

Michael LeFebvre introduced Kyle Borg for his expository sermon on a topic. He read Revelation 22:1-5 and preached God’s Word on the topic of “Heaven”.. He closed his message with prayer. Presbytery sang Psalm 45C.

Roll Call

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the Assistant Clerk take the Roll visually at this and subsequent sessions of this meeting.

The Assistant Clerk, Jack Rhoda, took the Roll. There was a quorum present.

Motion: moved, seconded, and passed that the parliamentarians for this meeting be Tom Reid and Phil Pockras.

Clerk’s Report

The clerk made the announcement that the order of the business, mainly, is arranged by the Candidates and Credentials Committee.

If there is time there will be updates of some Committees’ work. Travel vouchers are available and can be given to the Treasurer.

Candidates and Credentials Committee Report

Members of Presbytery made comments on Kyle Borg’s sermon.

Roll Call Vote

The Assistant Clerk called the Roll and the exam/sermon was unanimously sustained.

Candidates and Credentials Committee Report

Michael LeFebvre introduced Steven McCarthy for his Theology II exam.

The exam was conducted by Tom Reid.

Members of Presbytery asked questions and received answers followed by comments.

Roll Call Vote

The Assistant Clerk called the Roll, the exam was unanimously sustained.

Candidates and Credentials Committee Report

Michael LeFebvre introduced Shawn Anderson for his Pastoral and Evangelistic Gifts exam.

The exam was conducted by Raymond Morton.

Members of Presbytery asked questions and received answers followed by comments.

Roll Call Vote

The Assistant Clerk called the Roll and the exam was unanimously sustained.

Candidates and Credentials Committee Report

Michael LeFebvre introduced Andrew McCracken to report on Kyle Borg’s Exegesis

Paper on the text of 2 John 1-13. He along with H.P. McCracken recommended sustaining the exam.

On the voice vote the examination was sustained.

Candidates and Credentials Committee Report

Michael LeFebvre introduced Jared Olivetti to report on Steven McCarthy's Exegesis Paper on the text of II Corinthians 3:1-18. He along with James Faris recommended sustaining the exam.

On the voice vote the examination was sustained.

Recess

Presbytery took recess from 10:24 a.m. The Moderator led in the prayer for recess. Presbytery returned at 10:52. Presbytery sang Psalm 36B.

Candidates and Credentials Committee Report

Michael LeFebvre introduced Steven McCarthy for his expository sermon on a topic. He read John 15:1-17 and preached God's Word on the topic of "Christ the Vine". He closed his message with prayer.

Presbytery sang Psalm 80.

Members of Presbytery made comments on the sermon.

Roll Call Vote

The Assistant Clerk called the Roll, the exam was unanimously sustained.

Candidates and Credentials Committee Report

Michael LeFebvre introduced Shawn Anderson for his Theology II exam. The exam was conducted by William Roberts.

Members of Presbytery asked questions and received answers followed by comments.

Roll Call Vote

The Assistant Clerk called the Roll, the exam was unanimously sustained.

Candidates and Credentials Committee Report

Michael LeFebvre introduces Kyle Borg for his Pastoral and Evangelistic Gifts exam. Robert McCracken conducted the examination.

Members of Presbytery asked questions and received answers followed by comments.

Roll Call Vote

The Assistant Clerk called the Roll, the examination was unanimously sustained.

James Faris reported that the Ad Interim Commission had not met since their last report.

Toronto Committee

James Faris reported orally for the committee.

Motion: moved, seconded, and passed that the Committee be dismissed with thanks

recognizing that their assignment as of June 1 was complete since the matter was now in the hands of the St. Lawrence Presbytery. James Faris and Gordon Keddie, as ex officio members, continue in contact with the St. Lawrence Presbytery.

Recess

Presbytery recessed at 12:58 p.m. being led in prayer by Jared Olivetti.

Session 3, Friday, July 13, at 2:00 p.m.

Call to Order

The Moderator called Presbytery to order at 2:03 p.m. with singing of Psalm 1A and leading the Court in prayer.

Roll

The Assistant Clerk took the Roll visually.

Candidates and Credentials Committee Report

Michael LeFebvre introduced Shawn Anderson for his Expository Sermon from I Corinthians 10:23-11:1 on the topic "Christian Liberty".

He read the Biblical text, led in prayer, and preached on the text.

He closed his message with prayer.

Presbytery sang Psalm 24C.

Members of Presbytery made comments on the sermon.

Roll Call Vote

The Assistant Clerk called the Roll and the examination was unanimously sustained.

Candidates and Credentials Committee

Michael LeFebvre introduced Kyle Borg for his Theology II exam.

The examination was conducted by Jared Olivetti.

Members of Presbytery asked questions and received answers followed by comments.

Roll Call Vote

The Assistant Clerk called the Roll and the examination was unanimously sustained.

Motion: moved, seconded, and passed, that the Report of the Candidates and Credentials Committee as a whole be received.

Pageland Commission

Tom Reid reported orally concerning the church planting efforts in Pageland, SC.

Motion: moved, seconded, and passed to extend the time to finish the business of this session.

Motion: moved, seconded, and passed, that the name "Pageland Commission" be changed to "Pageland Temporary Governing Body".

Tom Reid, Raymond Morton, and Phil Pockras registered their dissent to this motion.

Tom Reid: I dissent from this decision because:

1. it is unnecessary;
2. it is not consistent with the Directory of Church Government, where a Temporary Governing Body is a session appointed by the Presbytery (5.12.6) or a committee of Presbytery (5.12.6);
3. it is part of a pattern of the majority of this Presbytery micromanaging the work in Pageland.

Raymond Morton: I dissent from this decision because:

1. this decision was taken without the full Presbytery being represented, especially the fact that Presbyters from the southern portion of Presbytery are not here;
2. that this should have come before the Presbytery at its regular meeting so Presbyters could give it proper consideration;
3. it does not encourage but hampers the efforts in Pageland.

Phil Pockras: I respectfully dissent from taking up the entire Pageland Commission Report because it was not admitted by a 2/3 vote as required by the Directory of Church Government 6.4.

Motion: moved, seconded, and passed, that the report be received.

Resolution of Thanks

The Presbytery thanks the congregations of Bloomington and Columbus for their hosting this meeting of Presbytery. We have been well provided for in food, places to stay overnight, and comfortable places to meet. Thus we thank them for their services to us.

Motion: moved, seconded, and passed that the Resolution of Thanks be adopted.

Reading of the Minutes

The Clerk read the Minutes for today's sessions. These Minutes were approved as amended.

Recess

Presbytery took recess with singing of Psalm 110C and the Moderator leading in prayer. Presbytery recessed at 3:55 p.m.

Session 4, 7:00 p.m., July 13, 2012

Call to Order

The Moderator called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and welcomed the congregation present.

He led in prayer to reconvene the Court.

Roll:

The Assistant Clerk called the pastors' name and they introduced their elders. He completed the Roll visually

Narration of Steps was read by Andrew McCracken.

Final reading of the Edict.

Jeff Jones read the Edict and the Moderator asked the congregation and then the minister-elect to give their assent.

Call to Worship Psalm 47:1-2 read by the Moderator.

Praise: Psalm 47A sung in praise.

Invocation by the Moderator.

Scripture: Psalm 126:1-6

Message "Those who sow in tears shall reap with joy."

Bruce Parnell read the Scripture and preached on "Those who sow in tears shall reap with joy" He concluded his message with prayer

Praise: Psalm 126B

Ordination and Installation

The **Queries** were read by James Faris. George Gregory answered all in the affirmative. George Gregory signed the Queries in the Presbytery Minute Book.

The Moderator led the **Prayer of Ordination and Installation** setting apart George Gregory to the ministry of the gospel.

Right Hand of Fellowship

Members of Presbytery and other Elders present extended to George the right hand of fellowship.

The **Charge to the Pastor** was given by Tom Reid based on I Timothy 4:12.

The **Charge to the Congregation** was given by Keith Evans based on Acts 10:1-6, 24-26.

Praise: Psalm 57B sung.

Benediction Pastor George Gregory

Reading of the Minutes

The Clerk read the Minutes of this session. The Moderator declared the Minutes correct as read.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that Presbytery adjourn.

Prayer of adjournment was led by the Moderator

Presbytery adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

George Gregory began his work in Columbus on

Columbus	Andy McCracken	x x	xxx	x	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
	George Gregory	x x	xxx	x	ABS	S	NS	S	S	S	S	S	S
Elkhart	Keith Merrill	x x	xxx	x	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
First RP Durham	(no FF)	x x	xxx	x	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
	Charles Leverett	x x	xxx	x	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
First RP Grand Rapids	(no FF)												
	Kent Van Timmeren	x x	xxx	x	S	S	S	AB	S	S	S	S	S
Hetherton	Milton Harrington												
Immanuel, W. Lafayette	Jared Olivetti	x x	xxx	x	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
	David Carr	x x	xxx	x	S	S	S	NS	S	S	S	S	S
	Ben Larson	x x	xxx	x	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Lafayette	Dave Long	x x	xxx	x	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
	Leuth Van	x x	xxx	x	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
	Dan Webb	x x	xxx	x	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
	Jack Rhoda	xx	xxx	x	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
	Bob Bibby	x x	xxx	x	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Northminster	Frank J. Smith	x x	xxx	x	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
	Bob Shapiro	x x	xxx	x	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Orlando	(no FF)	x x	xxx		S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
	Jim Pennington (ret FF)	x x	xxx	x	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Second, Indianapolis	Rich Johnston	x x	xxx	x	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
	James Carr	x x	xxx		S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
	Donald Cassell	x x	x x	-	-	-	-	S	S	S	S	AB	-
	Ram Rau	x x	xxx	x	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Selma	(no FF)												
Southfield	Adam L. Fox	x x	xxx	x	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
	Jon Hughes	x x	xxx	x	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Southside Indianapolis	Gordon Keddie	x x	xxx	x	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
	David Whitla	x x	xxx	x	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
	John Hanson	x x	xxx	x	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
	James Bishop	x x	xxx	x	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Sparta	Ray Morton	x x	xxx	x	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
	Bob Morrow (ret FF)	x x	xxx	x	NS	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S

CONGREGATION	DELEGATE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Sycamore	Barry York	x x	xxx	x	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
	Jason Camery	x x	xxx	x	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
	Scott Hunt	- -	xxx	x	S	S	S	-	-	-	-	S	S
	Tom Dinkledine	x x	---	-	-	-	-	S	S	S	S	-	-
Westminster	(no FF)												
	Bob Koch	- -	--x	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Terre Haute Miss Ch	Bill Roberts	x x	xxx	-	NS	S	NS	S	S	S	S	S	S
Pageland Miss Ch	Ian Wise	x x	xxx	x	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
RPTS	Tom Reid	x x	xxx	x	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
	Roy Blackwood	x x	xxx	x	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
	Ray Lanning	- -	xxx	x	S	S	S	-	-	-	-	-	S
	Frank Schutz	- -	xxx	x	-	S	ABS	-	-	-	-	-	S

He declared that a quorum was present.

- Motion:** it was moved, seconded, and passed that Elders without Certificates who are representatives of their Sessions be seated.
- Motion:** it was moved, seconded, and passed that all Elders present who are not delegates be made consultative members of the Court.

Introduction of first-time delegates

Dick Sears from the Pageland Mission Church was introduced to the Court.

Clerk's Report

Clerk's Report to the February 28, 2013 meeting

The Clerk reports that he has carried out his duties as far as he knows. He circulated a list of items coming to this meeting and then prepared an agenda for the meeting. If there are other matters not currently in the agenda please bring those items up so they can be included.

The Clerk introduced two Papers that have come to this Presbytery meeting so far.

Paper 13-01 from the Sycamore Session concerning election of Officers

Paper 13-02 from Southside concerning Visitations of Presbytery

- Motion:** it was moved, seconded, and passed that the parliamentarians for this meeting be Tom Reid and Jon Hughes.
- Motion:** it was moved, seconded, and passed that Paper 13-01 be referred to the Judicial Committee.
- Motion:** it was moved, seconded, and passed that Paper 13-02 be referred to the Nominating Committee.

- 4. **Motion:** it was moved, seconded, and passed that the Agenda, as corrected be adopted.
- 5. **Motion:** it was moved, seconded, and passed that the Clerk's Report be received.

Election of Officers of the Court

The following officers were elected
 Moderator: Keith Evans
 Clerk: Raymond Morton
 Assistant Clerk: Jack Rhoda

Call for Papers (Assistant Clerk)

Last call for papers will be Friday morning after the break
 Paper 13-03 was introduced concerning a study for health care plans. This was referred to the Nominating Committee to appoint a Study Committee

Call for Session Minute Books (Assistant Clerk)

The Sessions books were brought to the Assistant Clerk.

Treasurer's Report

Jim Bishop gave an initial Treasurer's Report. (The written report is in the Appendix.)
Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Ad Interim Commission Report and review of its Minutes

James Faris presented the Report.

AD INTERM COMMISSION REPORT
 TO THE GREAT LAKES - GULF PRESBYTERY, RPCNA

The Ad Interim Commission met eleven times since the Spring (March 1-3, 2012) meeting of Presbytery in Kokomo, Indiana. Commission members: James Faris (Moderator), Richard Blankenship (Clerk), Russ Pulliam, Walt Zebrun (resigned effective May 18, 2012), and Dr. Jeff Platt (replacement for Walt Zebrun effective May 20, 2012) all of Second Reformed Presbyterian Church, Indianapolis, IN and John Kim of Southfield Reformed Presbyterian Church, Southfield, MI.

Below is a summary of the items that have come before the Commission and the actions taken on each.

ITEM 1 (From the Southfield, MI congregation): An edict for the ordination and installation of teaching elder, Adam Kuchner, on March 30, 2012 was received.
ACTION: The edict was approved.
 Date: March 11, 2012

ITEM 2 (From the Orlando, FL congregation): An edict for the ordination and installation of teaching elder, H.P. McCracken, on May 11, 2012 was received.

ACTION: The edict was approved.
 Date: March 11, 2012

ITEM 3 (From the Durham, NC congregation): A request for that appointment of a Commission to install Kent Butterfield as Pastor, was received.

ACTION: The request was approved with a Commission consisting of Tom Reid (Moderator), Phil Pockras, Godfrey Franklin and Jon Hughes appointed. (The Ad Interim Commission anticipated and did add Bob Bibby to the Commission at its next meeting).
 Date: March 18, 2012

ITEM 4 (From the Durham, NC congregation): An edict for the installation of teaching elder, Kent Butterfield, on April 13, 2012 was received.

ACTION: The edict was approved.
 Date: March 18, 2012

ITEM 5 (From the Orlando, FL congregation): A request to approve the travel expenses of ten (10) named individuals to attend the May 11, 2012 ordination and installation of H. P. McCracken as Pastor was received.

ACTION: The request was approved.
 Date: March 18, 2012

ITEM 6 (From the Columbus, IN congregation): A request to approve and forward to the Presbytery of the Alleghenies the call of George Gregory as Associate Pastor was received. **ACTION:** The request was approved.
 Date: March 18, 2012

ITEM 7 (From Tom Reid): A request to transfer Tom Reid's communicant membership from the roll of the Presbytery to the roll of Pageland Reformed Presbyterian Mission Church was received.
ACTION: The request was approved.
 Date: April 1, 2012

ITEM 8 (From First Reformed Presbyterian Church of Durham): A request to approve Bob Bibby's appointment as the 5th member to the Commission to install Kent Butterfield as Pastor of the First Reformed Presbyterian Church of Durham was received.
ACTION: The request was approved.
 Date: April 1, 2013

ITEM 9 (From Hetherton Reformed Presbyterian Church): A request to approve the Call of Daniel William Drost as Pastor.

ACTION: A motion was made and passed to hold the Call in order to allow the Hetherton Session the opportunity to address a number of issues in the Call and thereafter to approve the call contingent upon the addressing of said issues."

Date: April 1, 2012

ITEM 10 (In regard to various requests): Request received to call a meeting of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery to meet Friday, June 1, 2012 at 1:00 PM at Terre Haute Reformed Presbyterian Church with the business to be considered at that meeting of Presbytery to be the following:

- Administer ordination exams to George Gregory
- Discussion, at the request of Bill Roberts, of an ordination issue related to the East Asia Commission
- Allow time for anticipated ordination exams for Adam Niess
- Report of the Toronto Committee
- Work with the Candidates and

Credentials Committee for other student exams as time allowed. ACTION: The request was approved.

- Date: May 20, 2012

ITEM 11 (From Dr. Jerry O'Neill, Moderator of Selma Reformed Presbyterian Church): Two requests were received, (i) one being to make the Selma situation the Order of the Day for the upcoming Synod meeting of Presbytery and (ii) the other being to direct the Candidates and Credentials Committee to work with Dr. Jerry O'Neill, prior to and in preparation for the upcoming Synod meeting of Presbytery in regard to possible candidates for the Selma Reformed Presbyterian Church who are outside the RPCNA.

ACTION: The requests were approved.

Date: May 20, 2012

ITEM 12 (From Walt Zebrun, Member of Ad Interim Commission): A request for acceptance of resignation from membership of the Ad Interim Commission was received. ACTION: The request was approved.

Date: May 20, 2012

ITEM 13 Change in membership of the Ad Interim Commission: Request was made to approve the appointment of Dr. Jeff Platt of Second Reformed

Presbyterian Church as a member of the Ad Interim Commission, replacing Walt Zebrun.

ACTION: The request was approved.

Date: May 20, 2013

ITEM 14 (From Sycamore Reformed Presbyterian Church, Kokomo, IN): Request was made to approve the appointment of Jason Camery as temporary Moderator of Session from June 1, 2012 through July 15, 2012 while Barry York is away on an approved leave of absence and scheduled vacation.

ACTION: The request was approved.

Date: May 27, 2012

ITEM 15 (From Bloomington Reformed Presbyterian Church, Bloomington, IN): Request was made to sustain as a regular gospel call and forward to Adam Niess a call as second pastor of the Bloomington Reformed Presbyterian Church.

ACTION: The request was approved.

Date: May 27, 2012

ITEM 16 (From Bloomington Reformed Presbyterian Church, Bloomington, IN): An edict for the July 12, 2012 ordination and installation of Adam Niess as teaching elder was received.

ACTION: The edict was approved.

Date: June 10, 2012

ITEM 17 (From Columbus Reformed Presbyterian Church, Columbus, IN): An edict for the July 13, 2012 ordination and installation of George Gregory as teaching elder and Associate Pastor was received.

ACTION: The edict was approved.

Date: June 10, 2012

ITEM 18 (From Bill Roberts and the EAC): Response to communications from Bill Roberts and the EAC regarding the ordination of a certain ruling elder.

ACTION: Communication is to be made that the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery believes that the most prudent action in regard to the ordination and installation of a certain individual as a ruling elder is for the EAC to ordain and install that individual as a ruling elder and for the EAC to hold his credentials as a ruling elder.

Date: June 10, 2012

ITEM 19 (From those preparing to lead discussions at the Presbytery meeting to be held at Synod regarding the Selma Reformed Presbyterian Church): Request was

made in light of the care of the Selma Reformed Presbyterian Church being the order of the day at the upcoming Presbytery meeting at Synod that the Selma RPC Session send a delegate to the upcoming Presbytery meeting at Synod.

ACTION: The request was approved.
Date: June 10, 2012

ITEM 20 (From the Pageland Temporary Governing Body): Request made (i) to add Richard ("Dick") Sears as a member of the TGB and (ii) to review a change in the compensation offered to Ian Wise in his call as Pastor of the Pageland congregation.

ACTION: The request to add Richard Sears to the TGB was approved.
Date: August 26, 2012

Note: Dick Sears was earlier ordained as a RPCNA elder and is now retiring to the Pageland area after most recently serving as an elder in an OPC church in Minnesota.

ITEM 21 (From Pageland TGB) See detail of request (ii) in Item 20 above.

ACTION: Communication was made that the AIC had no issues with the proposed changes in compensation and was encouraged by the care and action taken by the TGB in light of the change in circumstances.
Date: August 26, 2012

ITEM 22 Administrative Meeting of November 11, 2012

ACTION: Minutes of meeting of August 26th, 2012 were approved. Date: November 11, 2012

ITEM 23 (From Jeff and Becky Manring and the Southfield Reformed Presbyterian Church): A complaint was filed against the Session of the Southfield Reformed Presbyterian Church by Jeff and Becky Manring regarding actions taken by the Session.

ACTION: The Southfield Judicial Commission was appointed consisting of Pastor Keith Magill, Moderator and Elders Scott Hunt and Duane Judd as members. Date: November 25, 2012

ACTION: The Charge to the Southfield Judicial Commission was adopted in regard to addressing the complaint filed against the Session by the Mannings,

which charge consists of the following: (i) rule on Jeff and Becky Manring's complaint against the Southfield session, (ii) make any needed recommendations to the Southfield session concerning their ongoing pastoral care of the Mannings and (iii) make any needed recommendations to the Mannings arising from this situation.

Date: November 25, 2012

ITEM 24 (From Pageland Mission Church, Pageland, South Carolina): Request to be organized as a congregation of the RPCNA.

The AIC was encouraged by and rejoiced in the work the Lord is doing in the Pageland Mission Church.

ACTION: The request was deferred by the AIC for action by the full Presbytery and is being forwarded to Presbytery for consideration and action at the next official meeting of Presbytery. The AIC indicates its support of approval of the request and encourages members of Presbytery to prepare for action on the request by (i) forwarding any questions and issues related to the request in the interim to the AIC Moderator, James Paris, and (ii) to come to Presbytery prepared to discuss and take action on the request at the upcoming Presbytery meeting in February/March 2013.

Date: December 2, 2012

ITEM 25 (From Sparta Reformed Presbyterian Church, Sparta, IL): Resignation of Raymond E. Morton as Pastor, effective December 31, 2012.

ACTIONS: Resignation of Raymond E. Morton as Pastor effective December 31, 2012 accepted.

Pulpit declared vacant as of December 31, 2012.

Pastoral relationship dissolved effective December 31, 2012.

Jared Olivetti (Immanuel RPC, West Lafayette, IN) appointed as Interim Moderator and James Bishop (Southside RPC, Indianapolis, IN) appointed as Provisional Elder.

Permission granted to call a pastor, administer the Sacraments and to address pulpit supply.

A prayer of thanksgiving for Ray Morton's service, request of the Lord's ongoing blessing upon Ray and the congregation and dissolution of the pastoral relationship as of December 31, 2012 was made.

Date: December 2, 2012

ITEM 26 (From Second Reformed Presbyterian Church, Indianapolis, IN) Request for permission to call and additional Pastor

ACTION: The request was approved. Date: December 2, 2012

ITEM 27 (From Sycamore Reformed Presbyterian Church, Kokomo, IN) Request for permission to call an additional Pastor

ACTION: The request was approved.

Date: January 10, 2013

Respectfully submitted, James Faris, Moderator

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be adopted and the Minutes of the Ad Interim Commission be spread on the Minutes of Presbytery. (The Minutes of the Ad Interim Commission are in the Appendix.)

Presbytery's Interchurch Liaison—

Frank Smith, the Presbytery's Liaison reported on communications and requested that another Liaison be appointed. This was referred to the Nominating Committee.

Candidates and Credentials Committee Report

Michael Lefebvre, Chairman, spoke to the various parts of the Report.

Dear Fathers and Brothers:

Following are the items of business being presented for your attention at this meeting of presbytery.

1. *Examinations* This Committee has prepared the following slate of exams which we are recommending for this meeting of presbytery (see Recommendation 1):

Examinee	Exam	Duration*	Examiner
Shawn Anderson	Exegesis Paper (text: Psalm 8)	—	Gordon Keddie Michael LeFebvre
	License to Receive a Call: (Queries, Instructions, Prayer)		Jared Olivetti
Kyle Borg	Oral Church History exam	20/10/5	Phil Pockras
	License to Receive a Call: (Queries, Instructions, Prayer)		James Faris
Steven McCarthy	Pastoral and Evangelistic Gifts exam	20/10/5	Jared Olivetti
	Oral Church History exam	20/10/5	Frank Smith
	License to Receive a Call: (Queries, Instructions, Prayer)		Dave Long
Stan McKenzie (If taken under care; see item 2, below.)	Personal Godliness exam	20/10/5	H.P. McCracken
	Evidence of Progress Sermon (text: Hosea 2:14)	c.25/—/5	
	Theology 1 exam	20/10/5	David Whitla
*Duration — The first number indicates the length of time (in minutes) allotted for the examiner's questions; the second number indicates the length of time for the full Presbytery's questions; the third number indicates the length of time for Presbytery discussion of the exam prior to an "up or down" roll call vote. (E.g., 20/10/5 = 20 min. examiner q's/10 min. Presbytery q's/5 min. discussion.)			

2. *Stan McKenzie* — Stan McKenzie is a theological student finishing his middler year at Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary in Grand Rapids. Until recently, Stan and his wife Juliet were members of an OP Church in Washington State, and Stan had been studying as a student under care of the OPC. However, the McKenzies have become persuaded of RP distinctives and have tied into the RP Church communion through their worship at First RP in Grand Rapids and their fellowship with other RP ministers and congregations. They requested to transfer their membership to the RPCNA, and on Feb. 4, 2013, Stan and Juliet were received into membership at First RP in Grand Rapids. Being well-known to the First RP congregation already, the Session also passed a recommendation to presbytery on that date that Stan be taken under care as a student of theology. That recommendation of the First RP session was forwarded to this committee, as follows:

Having examined Mr. Stan McKenzie on February 4, 2013 and finding nothing that would disqualify him from the Ministry of the Gospel, the Session of First Reformed Presbyterian Church Grand Rapids, MI would like to recommend to the Candidates and Credentials Committee that Stan McKenzie be taken under care of the Great Lakes and Gulf Presbytery as a seminary student candidate pursuing ordination.

Kent Van Timmeren
Clerk of Session

The Candidates and Credentials Committee anticipates presenting that recommendation, with our endorsement, at this meeting of presbytery (see **Recommendations 2 and 3**).

Because Stan plans to graduate in the Spring of 2014, we have prepared several exams to conduct at this meeting of presbytery (see item 1, above) should presbytery act to take him under care. We would anticipate completing Stan's presbytery exams at other meetings of presbytery this year and next Spring, as projected below:

- a. **Synodtime 2013 meeting (or other 2013 meetings)** — Report English Bible written exam; report Church History Paper; report Exegesis Paper; Expository Sermon 1; Licensure to preach.
- b. **Spring 2014 meeting** — Pastoral and Evangelistic Gifts exam; Theology 2 exam; Church History oral exam; Expository Sermon 2; Licensure to receive a call.

3. *Student aid* --- Presbytery has been providing \$300/month (at \$100 per student) for the following full-time seminarians. This assistance is scheduled to end in Feb. and May of this year, as indicated:

- a. **Shawn Anderson** --- Nov. 2009 through Feb. 2013;
- b. **Kyle Borg** --- July 2011 through May 2013;
- c. **Steven McCarthy** --- Sept. 2010 through May 2013.

If presbytery approves recommendation 3 to take **Stan McKenzie** under care, as a full-time student at PRIS he would qualify for presbytery's student aid fund. Conditional on his coming under care at this meeting, we recommend that he be approved for this support from Feb. 2013 (the date he came into the RPCNA) until his projected graduation in May, 2014. (See **Recommendations 4.**)

4. *Ministerial statuses* — Last year, presbytery instructed this committee to revisit the synod definitions for the three status categories for ministers without pulpits. These definitions are given in the *1987 Synod Minutes* (pp102 -6; see attachment H). The instruction to revisit these definitions was prompted by some confusion concerning the appropriateness of the status designations currently assigned to some of the ministers without pastorates on presbytery's rolls. In particular, the meaning of the category "retired" as we have been using it requires clarification.

The three designations assigned by synod (in the *1987 Synod Minutes* mentioned above), with a summary of their definitions and privileges as we understand them, are as follow:

- a. **Active** — A teaching elder who is employed in a ministerial office "functionally equivalent with the call of a minister of the gospel." This would include service as a professor at the seminary, service in a full-time mission work, or some similar full-time occupation that is ministerial in nature but does not involve regular pulpit preaching and congregational care.

"Active" ministers without pulpits are to report regularly to presbytery for oversight of their extraordinary pastoral ministry, are to attend presbytery annually, and they have the privileges of the floor, voting, and travel fund reimbursements. Presbytery is to include updates on the ministry of these men in their annual reports to synod, demonstrating that their work is consistent with that of a minister of the gospel.

b. **Retired** — A teaching elder who, "compelled by age or infirmity," is no longer employed in a ministerial office, but who is nonetheless continuing in the active exercise of his ordination to the extent possible. This would include occasional preaching, teaching, counseling, and other pastoral activities exercised to the extent of ones ability within the confines of health.

"Retired" ministers without pulpits "retain the honor and title of a minister of the gospel and [are to] be granted the full privileges thereof." Such ministers have the privileges of the floor, voting, and travel fund reimbursement.

c. **Inactive** — A teaching elder who has been out of the active pastorate (or a "functionally equivalent" office) for five years or more, either due to his own pursuit of another occupation or due to the lack of a call by a congregation.

"Inactive" ministers do not have the privileges of the floor, voting, or travel fund reimbursement (unless they are serving as ruling elder delegates from their home congregation). They must receive special permission from presbytery to preach, to administer the sacraments, or to perform weddings. When moving out of "inactive" status to accept a call to the regular ministry, "an inactive teaching elder [must] have his gifts and calling re-evaluated by presbytery before a pastoral call is officially presented to him."

As the definitions summarized above make clear, the "retired" status is intended to distinguish those who, despite being retired from a pastoral office continue in pastoral work—that is, they continue to fulfill their ordination vows to the extent permitted by health. The "retired" minister has retired from a certain position, *but he has not retired from his ordination*. We believe this is an important distinction; but it is one that the unqualified term "retired" does not capture well.

The *Merriam-Webster Dictionary* defines the word *retire* as meaning, "to withdraw from one's position or occupation: conclude one's working or professional career." Based on the dictionary definition of the term, the designation "retired" could sound like a form of inactivity. That is, the synod designation list seems to include only one active status ("active") and two forms of inactive status ("retired" and "inactive"). However, the designations are actually intended to identify two kinds of active fulfillment of one's ordination ("active" and "retired") and only one inactive category.

Based on this clarification, it would be necessary to revisit several of the classifications of ministers without pulpits currently on the rolls of presbytery. Because of the pastoral nature of this matter, we do not propose any status changes to be adopted at this meeting. However, if

presbytery is satisfied that the above clarification is correct, we intend over the coming months to speak with our ministers without pastorates to clarify with them what each ones proper status ought to be and how we can best support them in that status.

Additionally, in order to guard against future confusion that “retired” is a variation on the inactive status rather than a form of active ministry, it seems appropriate to petition synod to revisit these designations. Perhaps synod should consider a new title for the “retired” status— maybe a term like “emeritus” would better capture the intended meaning of one who is no longer in a pastoral office, but is *still active* as a senior resource and participant in work of the ministry. (See **Recommendation 5.**)

5. *Memberships with presbytery* — This past year, one of our ministers whose membership had been on the roll of presbytery transferred to the membership roll of a local congregation (Tom Reid to the Pageland RP mission; see §C.3.7). It is our understanding that there are now three ministers who have their memberships with presbytery. We would like to see that number kept to a minimum, or even reduced to zero if possible. We understand there are reasons why it is necessary, at times, for a minister’s membership to be held by presbytery. But we do not believe this committee (or presbytery as a whole) is capable of providing pastoral care the way a local session can—and even pastors need pastoral care.

Therefore, we want to continue to urge presbytery to treat membership on presbytery’s roll as a temporary step and not something to be maintained for extended periods. Unless presbytery would instruct us differently, we have been and will continue to work as a committee to help men currently on presbytery’s membership roll to transfer into a congregation wherever possible, so a session can provide them with the kind of oversight and care that we all need. It is our understanding that the following men currently have their memberships with presbytery (if we are overlooking someone, please let us know):

- a. Godfrey Franklin
- b. Ray Lanning
- c. Frank Schutz — As noted in our Spring 2012 report, Frank’s membership was technically never received by presbytery. But for all practical purposes, he falls into this category until we are able to successfully establish his membership in a congregation.

6. *Ray Morton* — We praise God for the faithful service of Ray Morton in Sparta over many years. As of Dec. 31, 2012, Ray has retired from the pastorate in Sparta, and thus is added to the roll of “ministers without a pulpit” in this presbytery. However, even though Ray is not installed in a congregation and will not be seeking a new call, he has already accepted a request to serve as stated supply for Hetherton for the foreseeable future (see §C.3.6). It is our sense that serving in a stated supply capacity qualifies as a situation “functionally equivalent with the call of a minister of the Gospel,” so it is our recommendation that Ray be designated as “active” (**Recommendation 6**).

7. *Ministers without pastorates* — The Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery has seventeen Teaching

Elders on its roll who are not presently pastors of congregations. Of these, six are retired, three are inactive, seven are active, and one (Ray Morton) is being recommended at this meeting for “active” status (see item 6, above). Again this year, we sent out the annual questionnaire to ministers without pastorates. Summaries of the responses from these men are provided for your encouragement and prayers under §C.3, below.

7. *Ryan Chaplin* — Ryan Chaplin has requested to be removed from care of presbytery as a student of theology. As a member of the Terre Haute RP congregation, Ryan was taken under care at the Spring 2012 meeting of presbytery upon the recommendation of the Terre Haute Commission with the endorsement of this committee.

Since that time, Ryan interned with Bill Roberts and began to express doubts about various distinctives of reformed theology, the limiting of elder ordination to men, RP distinctives on worship, and other doctrinal matters. On January 28, 2013, Ryan emailed this committee stating, “I am writing you to ask to be dismissed as a student of theology. I believe we have irreconcilable theological differences.” It is our understanding that Ryan intends to pursue theological education at Fuller Seminary and ordination with a branch of the church more in line with his convictions. With sadness at this separation, but with prayer the Spirit will equip Ryan for fruitful ministry, we recommend that his withdrawal from oversight by this presbytery be accepted. (See **Recommendation 7.**)

8. *New students* — We thank God for the joy of seeing five pastors added to this presbytery last year (see §B.2, below). We also praise God for the prospect of licensing three men to receive a call at this meeting of presbytery. However, our intake of new students is low. We thank the Lord for granting us the privilege of carrying on the care for Stan McKenzie in completing his theological education; but we need to pray for the Lord to raise up even more men for the ministry.

We would urge presbyters to take the need for more students to heart, both as a matter of prayer and as you consider the gifts of men in your congregations. There are many vocations all of which are valuable contributions to the work of the kingdom; we would caution presbyters from pushing men forward for the ministry whose gifting is for other frontiers of service. Nevertheless, please watch for those in your congregations who ought to be encouraged to test their gifts to see whether the Lord is calling them to pastoral service. A number of resources are becoming available to help men develop and consider their theological gifts. You might encourage them to attend a seminary-level course in Indianapolis (see item 9, below), or to enroll in a distance education theological course through RPTS (see <http://www.rpts.edu/courses.php>), in addition to local mentorship whereby a local Session can help examine gifts and recommend a man to presbytery as a student of theology. Please continue to pray and labor for the raising up of more ministerial students within the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery.

9. *Seminary-level courses* — After a hiatus of several years, we are grateful for the leadership of the Second RPC Session, in consultation with this Committee, re-inaugurating seminary level courses hosted in Indianapolis. The first course in this renewed effort is “The Ministry of Worship,” being taught by Barry York, pastor of the Kokomo RPC and professor-elect of Pastoral Theology at RPTS. We are squeezing as much as we can out of Barry before we let him

move to Pittsburgh, and we appreciate his willingness to undertake the course. The course is running on ten Wednesday evenings, from Feb. 20 to Apr. 24, at Second RPC. We hope to have further courses of this nature to follow. Please pray for God's blessing on this ministry, and for students of theology, ruling elders, and laymen to be blessed by their participation.

10. **Term renewals** --- The terms of service for Jon Hughes and Michael LeFebvre expire this year. Each are willing to continue service, if that is presbytery's desire. The Committee is recommending that they be re-appointed for another term. (See **Recommendation 8.**)

Included in the remainder of this report is our annual update on each of the students under care, licentiates without a call, and the varied ministries of those ministers who are without pastorates. We would encourage you to take time to read each of these updates carefully, and to praise God for all of the ministry which is taking place through these men and to be in prayer for them in their needs and future labors.

Respectfully submitted,

Roy Blackwood (Class of 2014)
Dean Filson (Class of 2015)
Jon Hughes (Class of 2013)
Rich Holdeman (Class of 2015)

Michael LeFebvre, chairman (Class of 2013)
Andy McCracken (Class of 2015)
Jared Olivetti (Class of 2014)

Addendum to Candidates and Credentials Committee Report

Dear Fathers and Brothers:

Three students are scheduled for licensure at this meeting of presbytery. If each of them sustain their final exams, the queries will be administered followed by a roll call vote to license.

Some of the students to be presented for licensure at this meeting hold exceptions to the *RP Testimony* that you will want to hear and, concerning which, you will want to interact with the student. Therefore, we are adding the following recommendation to the slate of exams being presented at this meeting of presbytery:

Recommendation 1b --- That, after each of the following floor exams, presbytery appoint up to ten minutes for the student to indicate any exceptions he holds to the *RP Testimony* and for presbytery to interact with him about those exceptions:

- Shawn Anderson --- Report on Exegesis Paper
- Kyle Borg --- Oral Church History exam

Additionally, when presbytery discusses the CCC report as a whole, we would welcome any counsel presbytery may have concerning how exceptions to the *RP Testimony* should be addressed in the course of student oversight. This is a matter we are currently discussing as a committee in order to find ways to be more helpful to students and to presbytery when exceptions emerge.

Respectfully submitted,

Roy Blackwood (Class of 2014)
Dean Filson (Class of 2015)
Jon Hughes (Class of 2013)
Rich Holdeman (Class of 2015)

Michael LeFebvre, chairman (Class of 2013)
Andy McCracken (Class of 2015)
Jared Olivetti (Class of 2014)

RECOMMENDATIONS

1a. That examinations be conducted at this meeting of presbytery according to the schedule outlined on p1, above.

1b. --- That, after each of the following floor exams, presbytery appoint up to ten minutes for the student to indicate any exceptions he holds to the *RP Testimony* and for presbytery to interact with him about those exceptions:

- Shawn Anderson --- Report on Exegesis Paper
- Kyle Borg --- Oral Church History exam

2. That Stan McKenzie be granted up to 10 minutes to introduce himself to presbytery.
3. That the recommendation of the First RP (Grand Rapids) Session, that Stan McKenzie be taken under care as a student of theology, be approved.
4. That presbytery provide the normal student aid (\$300/month) to Stan McKenzie, from February 2013 until May 2014, so long as he continues as a full-time seminary student and under care of this presbytery.
5. That presbytery forward to synod item 4 from this report with a recommendation that synod reconsider the terms used for designating the statuses of ministers without pulpits.
6. That Ray Morton, as a minister without a pulpit, be designated "active."
7. That Ryan Chaplin, at his request, be removed from presbytery's care as a student of theology.
8. That Jon Hughes and Michael LeFebvre (Class of 2013) be re-appointed to the Candidates and Credentials Committee for another three-year term.

Actions taken on the recommendations:

Recommendations 1a and 1b were approved.

Recommendation 4 was referred to the Finance Committee.

Recommendation 8 was referred to the Nominating Committee.

Recommendation 2 was approved.

In keeping with this recommendation Stan spoke to the Court.

Recommendation 3 was approved.

Recess

Following announcements, Presbytery took recess at 3:30 to 3:45 p.m. being led in prayer by Keith Evans.

Presbytery returned to its business singing Psalm 24A.

Candidates and Credentials Committee Report

Michael LeFebvre introduced Steven McCarthy for his Pastoral and Evangelistic Gifts Exam. The exam was conducted by Jared Olivetti.

Members of Presbytery asked questions and received answers followed by comments.

Roll Call Vote

The Assistant Clerk called the Roll and the exam was sustained.

Michael LeFebvre introduced Stan McKenzie for his Personal Godliness exam. The exam was conducted by H. P. McCracken. Members of Presbytery asked questions and received answers followed by comments.

Roll Call Vote

The Assistant Clerk called the Roll and the exam was unanimously sustained.

Committee Appointments

The Moderator made the following appointments:

Nominating Committee: Jared Olivetti, Robert Bibby,
Barry York, Adam Niess.

Judicial Committee: David Whitla, Dan Webb, David Carr

Finance Committee: Keith Magill,

Resolution of Thanks Committee: H. P. McCracken, George Gregory

Time and Place Committee: Ian Wise, Jason Camery

Travel Agent: Jim Bishop

Reviewing of Pastoral Call(s) Committee: Dave Long

Readers of Session Minute Books:

The Minutes Books of the Sessions of the Presbytery were assigned to be read. The Assistant Clerk has the results in his report concerning this.

At 5:00 p.m. Laura Graham, of the Reformed Presbyterian Home will speak about Home Care in Indiana.

Prayer and Recess

Andy McCracken led in prayer for the Orlando congregation, Adam Niess for Pageland Mission Church, and for God's blessing on the recess. Presbytery recessed at 5:28 p.m.

Session 2: Thursday, February 27, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Call to Order

The Moderator called Presbytery to order at 7:00 p.m. Presbytery sang Psalm 78B. The Moderator led in prayer.

Roll:

Motion: that the Assistant Clerk take the Roll visually in this and all remaining sessions. (Assistant Clerk)

Reading of the Minutes of the Afternoon Session

The Clerk read the minutes of the afternoon session.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the minutes be approved as read.

Congregational Reports

The Bloomington congregational Report was given by Adam Niess.

Recommendation: That Pastor Adam Niess be granted the responsibility of moderating the Bloomington Session during the period of Pastor Rich Holdeman's partial sabbatical leave, May 13, 2013 through August 19, 2013, and on occasions thereafter when Pastor Holdeman may be unable to perform this duty due to absence or illness.

The recommendation was approved.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

The Christ Church congregational report was given by Michael LeFebvre.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

The Columbus congregational report and the Southwest Ohio Reformed Presbyterian Fellowship, were given by And McCracken.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

The Elkhart congregational report was given by Keith Magill.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Candidates and Credentials Committee

Michael LeFebvre continued this report. He introduced Steven McCarthy for his church history exam. The exam was given by Frank Smith. Members of Presbytery asked questions and received answers followed by comments.

Roll Call Vote

The Assistant Clerk called the Roll and the examination was unanimously sustained.

Certification to Preach

Dave Long asked Steven McCarthy the queries for Certification to Preach. Steven McCarthy answered the queries with no exceptions.

Roll Call Vote

The Assistant Clerk called the Roll and the certification was unanimously sustained.

Dave Long led in the prayer for certification.

Words of counsel were given by Dave Long including the limitations given in Book of Church Government, II; C; 2; 1, page D-15.

Bloomington Paper regarding Vaccinations

The Paper was introduced by Rich Holdeman.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the Paper be returned to the Bloomington Session for reconsideration and possible future consideration by the Presbytery.

Prayer Time and Adjournment

Presbytery had a time of prayer led by:

Tom Reid for the Bloomington congregation;

Bob Bibby for the Christ Church congregation;
Adam Kuehner for the Columbus congregation and SWORPF;
Barry York for the Elkhart congregation and the adjournment of Presbytery.
Presbytery adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

Friday Morning, March 1, 2013, 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (break at 10:30-10:45)

Call to Order

The Moderator, Keith Evans, called Presbytery to order at 8:30 a.m.

Constitution of the Court in Prayer and Praise

Presbytery sang Psalm 63A and the Moderator constituted the Court in Prayer.

Devotions: Candidates and Credentials Committee Report

Michael LeFebvre introduced Stan McKenzie Evidence of progress sermon

Stan McKenzie read Hosea 2:6-20 and preached on the assigned text of v. 14 with the title, "The All-alluring God".
He closed his message with prayer.
Presbytery sang Psalm 103B.

Roll

The Roll was taken visually by the Assistant Clerk)

Reading of the Minutes of the Thursday evening Session

The Clerk read the minutes for the preceding session.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the minutes be approved as read.

Introductions

Dan Deason from Terre Haute Mission Church.
Nathan Shaver who is being considered by the Candidates and Credentials Committee.

Comments and Roll Call Vote on Stan McKenzie's Sermon

Presbyters made comments on Stan McKenzie's sermon.

Roll Call Vote

The Assistant Clerk called the Roll and the sermon was unanimously sustained.

Report of the Pageland Temporary Governing Body

The report was presented by Frank Smith.

PAGELAND TEMPORARY GOVERNING BODY

**Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery
Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America**

Report to Presbytery, Meeting February 28 – March 2, 2013

The Pageland Temporary Governing Body has met ten times since the spring meeting of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery last year, always by telephone conference call. We welcomed Jeff Jones back from his four month stint of work in China, during which time it was impractical for him to participate in our meetings. At our request, the Ad Interim Commission added ruling elder Richard Sears to our membership in the fall.

The TGB is happy to report that the work in Pageland continues to progress, to the point that all members of the Mission Church formally requested that they be organized into a particular congregation in a petition late last fall. The TGB, divided about the wisdom of moving towards organization during the summer, quickly became united in believing that the time was right to proceed to organize a congregation in Pageland. Therefore, the TGB prepared a fairly-extensive report to the Ad Interim Commission, asking that the Commission approve this organization; this petition was dated December 1, 2012, and contains a great deal of information which would otherwise be included in this report, but is not to avoid repetition. Although all members of the Ad Interim Commission were favorable to the request of the Pageland Mission Church and the TGB – as their report to this meeting of Presbytery states – the members of the AIC thought it better for the whole Presbytery to consider the matter at the regular spring meeting, which was to be held, God willing, about three months later. The request and report were circulated around the Presbytery by action of the Ad Interim Commission, and the TGB has not so far received any comments or queries about them. The December 1, 2012, report is submitted with this report.

The Pageland TGB is returning to the Presbytery with the same recommendation found in the report of December 1, 2012; it is recommendation number 1 below.

Submitted with this report is the 2012 Financial Statement prepared by Joe Mangum, treasurer, which shows a balance of \$20,028 at the end of the year, and average giving of a very encouraging \$4,397.54 per month in the last four months of the year, which would lead to annual giving of \$52,770. Also submitted with this report is the Pageland budget for 2013, prepared by Joe and approved at a meeting of the Mission Church on February 17, 2013.

We want to draw particular attention to the facts that, first, Ron and Judy Posvar, former members (and he a ruling elder) of the RPCNA, have joined the Pageland Mission Church; and second, the request for financial aid sent out in August, 2012, to the congregations of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery at the encouragement of Presbytery has not produced any response so far.

In anticipation of a positive response to our first recommendation, we have added four other recommendations below in order to aid Presbytery in implementing it.

1. That the Presbytery approve the organization of the Pageland Mission Church as a congregation.
2. That the Presbytery appoint the Pageland TGB as a commission to organize the Pageland Church and oversee the election of a minister, ruling elder(s), and deacon(s).
3. That the Presbytery authorize the TGB to add up to two other ruling or teaching elders from within the Presbytery to assist the Pageland Commission for the organizational meeting.

4. That the Presbytery permit the Pageland TGB to specify the time and location for the organizational service.
5. That, once the Pageland Church is organized, the Presbytery continue the Pageland Commission as the Pageland Committee until the spring, 2014, meeting of Presbytery, in order to provide help to the new session and congregation.

Respectfully submitted,
Frank J. Smith, moderator
Thomas Reid, clerk
Jeffrey Jones
Richard Sears
Robert Shapiro
Ian Wise

Recommendation 1: That the Presbytery approve the organization of the Pageland Mission Church as a congregation was discussed.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that Presbytery vote on the question.

On the vote recommendation 1 was lost.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed (by 2/3 vote) that the Presbytery entertain a substitute motion.

Substitute Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that Presbytery appoint a committee of three, of the day, to consult and advise the Temporary Governing Body and the Presbytery about the proposal of Recommendation 1.

The Moderator appointed Rich Holdeman, Michael LeFebvre, and Gordon Keddie.

Congregational Reports

The Durham congregational report was given by Kent Butterfield.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

The First Grand Rapids congregational report was given by Kent Van Timmeren.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

The Immanuel congregational report was given by Ben Larson.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Recess

The Moderator led in prayer for the recess.

Presbytery took recess from 10:31 to 10:45 a.m., and returned to business singing Psalm 16D.

Report of the Southfield Judicial Commission

The Southfield Judicial Commission Report was given by the Moderator, Keith Magill.

Recommendation: that the progress report be received and the Commission be continued.

The recommendation was approved.

Congregational Reports

The Hetherton congregational report was given by Raymond Morton.

The Hetherton Session "moves and approves that the Hetherton Session request the GL-G Presbytery to petition Rev. Ray Morton to come to the Hetherton congregation to serve as our Stated Supply minister and outreach pastor".

The petition was approved and the appointment sent to the Nominating Committee.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

The Northminster congregational report was given by Frank Smith.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

The Atlanta Presbyterian Fellowship report was presented by Frank Smith.
A motion to establish the Atlanta Commission failed.

The Lafayette congregation report was given by Dan Webb.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Prayer and Recess

Presbytery had a time of prayer before recess:

Robert Morrow prayed for R. P. First R P Church, Durham;

Ian Wise for Hetherton;

David Whitla for First R P church Grand Rapids;

James Faris for Immanuel;

Jon Hughes for Northminster and Atlanta;

And, George Gregory for Lafayette and recess.

Presbytery rose for recess at 12:29 p.m.

Friday Afternoon, March 1, - 2:00 - 5:30 p.m. (Break at 3:30 - 3:45)

Call to Order

The Moderator called Presbytery to order at 2:00 p.m.

Presbytery sang Psalm 143B and the Moderator led in prayer.

Roll

The **Roll** was taken visually by the Assistant Clerk.

Reading of the Minutes for the Friday morning Session

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the minutes of the morning session be approved as corrected.

Report on Pastoral Calls

Dave Long gave the report.

Second Indianapolis Reformed Presbyterian Church call on Kyle Borg. After review the Committee recommends that Presbytery sustain it as a regular gospel call.

The recommendation was approved.

Kokomo Reformed Presbyterian Church call on Shawn Anderson. After review the committee recommends that in the call the amount for housing/salary be split 50/50 following which the Committee recommends that the Presbytery sustain it as a regular gospel call.

The recommendation was approved.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Candidates and Credentials Committee

Gordon Keddie reported on Shawn Anderson's exegesis paper on Psalm 8 and reported that the committee recommends that the Paper be sustained.

On the voice vote the Paper was sustained.

Recommendation 1B was taken up concerning exceptions to the law and order of the church. Shawn spoke of his exceptions but that these had been mostly resolved and the Candidates and Credentials Committee has recommended that Shawn Anderson be certified to receive a call.

Licensure to Receive a Call

Jared Olivetti read the Queries for licensure to receive a call.

Shawn Anderson answered all in the affirmative.

Roll Call Vote

The Assistant Clerk called the Roll and Shawn Anderson was sustained for licensure to receive a call.

Jared Olivetti led in the prayer for licensure to receive a call.

Shawn Anderson signed the Queries in the Presbytery Minute Book.

Jared Olivetti gave words of counsel to Shawn from Psalm 34:7 and spoke to him of the exceptions as given in the Book of Church Government, Chap. 3; II; C; 3; i. Page D-16.

The Moderator presented the call from the Sycamore Reformed Presbyterian Church to Shawn Anderson. He indicated that he was accepting the call.

Candidates and Credentials Committee Report

Michael LeFebvre introduced Stan McKenzie for his Theology 1 exam.

The exam was conducted by David Whitla.

Members of Presbytery asked questions and received answers followed by comments.

Roll Call Vote

The Assistant Clerk called the Roll and the examination was unanimously sustained.

Congregational Reports

The Orlando congregational report was given by H. P. McCracken.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Recess

Presbytery took recess 3:27 to 3:44 p.m.

Presbytery returned to business singing Psalm 84B.

Report of the Committee to advise the Pageland Temporary Governing Body

Rich Holdeman presented the report which is as follows:

After reviewing recent emails between members of the Pageland Mission Church and the TGB and after meeting with the members of the TGB, this committee makes the following recommendations:

- 1) That presbytery encourage the TGB to continue its supervision of the Pageland work and to exercise its authority as the provisional session of that work with the goal of seeing the congregation organized when it reaches an appropriate strength.
- 2) That the TGB communicate the decision of the presbytery not to organize the Pageland work at this time to the members and adherents of the Pageland work.
- 3) That the TGB attempt to address questions to its own authority and the manner in which they were raised with the relevant members of the Pageland work.
- 4) That, if needed, the TGB pursue formal discipline against members of the Pageland work.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gordon Keddie

Richard Holdeman

Michael Lefebvre

Recommendations 1 to 4 were approved.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Pageland Mission Church Report

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Candidates and Credentials Committee Report

Michael LeFebvre introduced Kyle Borg for his oral History Exam.

Phil Pockras conducted the exam.

Members of Presbytery asked questions and received answers followed by comments.

Roll Call Vote

The Assistant Clerk called the Roll and the examination was unanimously sustained.

Recommendation 1b.

Kyle Borg indicated that he was not in favor of ordaining women deacons.

Following discussion Presbytery proceeded to license Kyle to receive a call.

Licensure to Receive a Call

James Faris asked Kyle Borg the Queries for Licensure to receive a call.

Kyle Borg answered all the Queries affirmatively.

Roll Call Vote

The Assistant Clerk called the Roll and the certification for licensure was sustained.

Kyle Borg signed the Queries in the Presbytery minute book.

James Faris led the prayer for Licensure to Receive a Call.

James Faris gave words of counsel based on Proverbs 21:31 and on the limitations as in the Book

of Church Government, Chap. 3; II; C; 3; i. Page D-16.

Internet Exploratory Study Committee

The Report was presented by Keith Evans.

The recommendations from the report are:

Recommendations

1. That Presbytery approve Google Groups as the official means of distributing presbytery documents.
2. That Presbytery approve the use of "glgpresbytery.org" as the official website of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery for the organization of Presbytery documents in one convenient location.
3. That Presbytery appoint one delegate to maintain glgpresbytery.org and the Presbytery's Google Group email distribution list.
4. That this committee be dissolved.

Respectfully submitted,
Keith Evans, Chair
and Frank Schutz

Recommendations 1 to 4 were approved
The full report is in the Appendix.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Prayer and Recess

Andy McCracken led in prayer for the Orlando congregation;
Adam Niess for Pageland and for the recess.
Presbytery took recess at 5:28 p.m.

Friday Evening, March 1, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Call to Order

The Moderator called Presbytery to order at 7:00 p.m.
Presbytery sang Psalm 135A and led in prayer for the resumption of business.

Roll

The Roll was taken visually by the Assistant Clerk.

Reading of the Minutes for the Friday afternoon Session

The Clerk read the minutes of the Friday afternoon session.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that that the minutes be approved as read.

Youth Leadership Team Report

Rich Johnston presented the report.

Recommendation 1 That the CYPY Presbytery Youth Report be the order of the day for the evening session Friday, March 1, giving opportunity for our youth to give their

verbal reports.

The recommendation was approved. In keeping with this recommendation.

Rich introduced Adam Dinkledine, President of the Youth Leadership Team. He in turn introduced other members of the Team who also spoke concerning projects for the youth: Service project in October, Winter Conference in the last week of December, Theological Foundations Conference in February, the Sunrise Party in April, and the Treasurer reported on the finances.

The officers of the Leadership are:

- | | |
|--|---|
| President: <i>Adam Dinkledine</i> | Advertising Director: <i>Noah Goble</i> |
| Vice President: <i>Bethany Cerbus</i> | Photo Collector: <i>Ben Erney</i> |
| Recording Secretary: <i>Anastasia Sturm</i> | Registration Director: <i>Jared Etnas</i> |
| Corresponding Secretary: <i>Ariel Cosens</i> | Food and Set up Coordinator: <i>Lindsey McCracken</i> |
| Treasurer: <i>Tommy Mangan</i> | Sports Director: <i>Nathan Marcisz</i> |

Rich Johnston reported on the ECHO trips.

Recommendations:

2. That presbytery grants \$1,500 to the CYPY for presbytery youth activities. Please also grant \$500, as you did last year, to the CORPS Winter Conference, college ministry, to aid in their annual conference (this year it was January 18-21, 2013).

3. That Keith Evans and Richard Johnston be appointed presbytery youth co-secretaries for 2013-14.

Recommendation 2 was referred to the Finance Committee.

Recommendation 3 was referred to the Nominating Committee.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Covfamikoi Conference Report

Rich Johnston and Andy McCracken presented the report.

The request for \$200.00 was referred to the Finance Committee.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Church Extension Committees Report

Ohio-Indiana Church Extension Committee

Jared Olivetti reported for this committee. (The full report is in the Appendix.)

Recommendations:

Recommendation #1-That presbytery appoint a replacement for Barry York.

Reason: Although Pastor York is remaining in our presbytery, his relocation to Pennsylvania this summer will make his work on our committee less effective *than* someone more local. *We are grateful* for his teamwork and counsel.

Recommendation 2-That presbytery cover travel expenses for Jim Brown.

Recommendation 1 was referred to the Nominating Committee.

Recommendation 2 was referred to the Finance Committee.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Southern Illinois Church Extension Committee

Raymond Morton gave a verbal report.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the Southern Illinois Church Extension Committee become part of the Ohio- Indiana Church Extension Committee.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Southern Church Extension Committee

The Southern Church Extension Committee Report was given by Ian Wise.

The report is as follows:

For several decades, the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery has dreamed about the day when it can hive off a southern presbytery, as indicated in the very name of our Presbytery. Some progress has been made in that direction, with four new churches started – Pensacola, Florida; Durham, North Carolina; suburban Atlanta, Georgia; and Pageland, South Carolina, although Pensacola has closed, and Pageland is not yet organized as a congregation. At least we now have a foothold in three additional southern states! Those which still lack any Reformed Presbyterian Churches include Virginia (which could possibly, especially in its northern section, be considered part of the Presbytery of the Alleghenies), Tennessee, and Mississippi.

Church extension work in the South has been the responsibility of a Southern Church Extension Committee (SOCHEX, for short), like its counterparts further north, for many years. We have been stretched very thin in several ways: 1) large distances separate the congregations; 2) financial limitations have forced the pastors in Atlanta and Pageland to seek work outside the pastorate to support themselves and their families; and 3) the sessions of the southern churches are relatively small (one ruling elder in Atlanta, two in Durham, three in Orlando, two in Selma, but potentially three to five in Pageland).

Since Dr. Frank Smith was called to pastor the Atlanta congregation four years ago, he has become our de facto regional home missionary, due to several factors: 1) his location at the geographic and transportation center of the southeastern United States; 2) his many contacts from years serving in the PCA and living in the Atlanta area; and 3) his own personal predilection for such work. SOCHEX believes that it is time to formally recognize the role he plays in church extension work and encourage him to continue and even expand that role. See recommendation 1 below.

SOCHEX would like Frank (and others, who are perhaps closer geographically to a particular contact) to have the financial resources to travel on behalf of SOCHEX to visit our contacts, lead Bible studies or even worship services, and try to gather together individuals, couples, and families into mission churches. SOCHEX also needs financial support to create a database for following the developing leads we have about people interested in the Reformed Presbyterian Church and for advertising (*World Magazine*, *Aquila Report*, local newspapers or websites, etc.) to get out the word that we have good contacts in a particular city or area looking for like-minded believers. And we would like to develop a website for the southern region of the Presbytery. With the Home Mission Board strapped for funds (as indicated in the report by the Presbytery's representative to the HMB to this meeting of Presbytery), we are approaching the Presbytery, not the HMB. See recommendation 2 below.

Recommendation 1: That Presbytery appoint Frank Smith as regional home missionary for the southern states served by the Presbytery, for a period of one year, renewable at the spring

meeting of Presbytery.

Recommendation 2: That for 2013, the Presbytery budget for the following expenses for church extension in the southern states served by the Presbytery each year (prorated for ten months), anticipating that similar requests will come in the years to come.

Honorarium for Dr. Smith	\$1,200	
Expenses for travel	\$2,400	
Expenses for publicity	\$1,200	
Expenses for a website	\$1,000	
Total		\$5,800
(Total for 2013		\$4,833)

Recommendation 3: That SOCHEX be responsible for approving expenses under this budget and reporting to Presbytery about these expenses at least at every spring meeting of Presbytery.

Respectfully submitted,
Frank Smith, chairman
Thomas Reid
Charles Saunders
Ian Wise

Recommendation 1 was lost.

Recommendation 2 was referred to the Finance Committee.

Recommendation 3 was approved.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Report of Presbytery's Representative on Geneva's Board of Corporators

Phil Pockras reported as the Presbytery's representative.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Presbytery Realignment Committee

Frank Smith reported for the Presbytery Realignment Committee.

The Report is as follows:

Dear Fathers and Brethren:

In 2012, our Synod established a Presbytery Realignment Committee, with representation from the six North American presbyteries. I have only recently been made a member of this Committee, and the first time I attended a meeting was on February 20, 2013.

The Committee has been busy at work since its inception. It has met diligently and has solicited and received feedback from the presbyteries. However, because our Presbytery has not met since last summer, we have not been able formally to discuss the matter of realignment.

At the Committee meeting on February 20, 2013, it was suggested that I should pose some

questions to our Presbytery, particularly with regard to Great Lakes-Gulf, but also with regard to the entire notion of realignment (see Recommendation 1 below).

Recommendations

1. That the Presbytery set aside a fifteen minute period to discuss and to vote on whether and when the Presbytery should be realigned, and to discuss the whole matter of the realignment of presbyteries,
2. That this report be received and spread on the minutes.

Respectfully submitted,
Frank J. Smith

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that recommendation 1 be approved.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery remain aligned as it is at this time.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that recommendation 2 be approved.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Congregational Reports

The Belle Center congregational report was given by Phil Pockras.

He introduced the recommendation:

That the Belle Center, OH, RP Church be authorized to solicit funds from other Reformed Presbyterian Churches for the remodeling and furnishing of its new building.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the recommendation be approved.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

The Second Indianapolis Congregational Report was given by Ram Rao.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the time for this report be extended up to 3 minutes.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Prayer and Adjournment

Presbytery had a time of prayer:

Kent Butterfield prayed for Belle Center;

H. P. McCracken prayed for Second Indianapolis and adjourned the Court.

Presbytery adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

Saturday Morning, March 2, 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 (noon) (Break 10:15 - 10:30)

Call to Order

The Moderator called Presbytery to order at 8:30 a.m.

Constitution of the Court in Prayer and Praise

Presbytery sang Psalm 87A and the Moderator constituted the Court in prayer.

Roll

The Roll was taken visually by the Assistant Clerk.

Reading of the Minutes for the Friday evening session

The Clerk read the minutes for the Friday evening session

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the minutes be approved as read.

Pastoral Health Insurance Study Committee Report

The report was given by Ben Larson. The whole report is in the Appendix and the recommendation is as follows:

Fathers and Brothers,

Caring for our pastors and their families is a substantial concern for our churches, and especially our ruling elders and deacons. Recent changes in healthcare legislation in the US and other market dynamics have resulted in steep increases for health insurance in the recent past. For the congregations reporting healthcare costs in their reports to this meeting of presbytery, the average cost is more than \$12,000 and total costs across the presbytery well exceed \$200,000 annually. Additionally 2013 congregational budgets reflect an average of 10% increase vs. 2012 budgets for healthcare.

Most pastors are self-insured and purchasing health insurance at a significant cost disadvantage to companies who have the leverage to negotiate group coverage rates. Additionally there are several non-traditional healthcare programs (eg. Samaritan Ministries, MediShare, etc.) which potentially greatly reduce the costs of healthcare, but have limitations on coverage and liability.

We would like to request a study committee to investigate the opportunities to provide optional group insurance for pastors within our presbytery. Specifically we hope this committee would survey all pastors in the presbytery in terms of what health insurance concerns and needs they have, what their current coverage entails and what the costs of their coverage have been over the past 3 years. The committee would then survey insurance and healthcare programs to determine the viability of offering group health insurance to pastors in the presbytery on an optional basis (ie pastors / congregations can elect to keep their current insurance or switch, but are not forced to do either).

If we are able to reduce health insurance costs by even 10% this would represent nearly \$30,000 of additional funds for kingdom ministry which could be otherwise invested in our presbytery.

This recommendation is recognized to be different from a denomination-wide approach in that a regional plan has to cover less state-to-state differences (the Midwest is more aligned that other areas of the country), and that the goal is to provide an option rather than a required plan.

Recommendation: that the presbytery refer this paper to a study committee and that the committee report at Synod meeting of presbytery such that if this is feasible the changes could be made for 2014.

Respectfully submitted,
The Immanuel RP Session

The recommendation was approved and referred to the Nominating Committee for appointment.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee report was given by Jared Olivetti.

The full report is in the Appendix.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Candidates and Credentials Committee Report

Michael Lefebvre continued the report.

Recommendations 5, 6, and 7 were approved.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report as a whole be received.

Home Mission Board Representative Report

The Presbytery's representative, Andy McCracken, gave the report.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery Report to Synod

Jack Rhoda gave a verbal report and an explanation of how this is handled is recorded in the Assistant Clerk's report.

Congregational Reports

The Selma Congregational Report was given by Jared Olivetti. He referenced the Selma Report from Dr. Jerry O'Neill.

Report to Great Lakes --- Gulf Presbytery
Selma

Written by Jerry O'Neill, Moderator of Session

For the Selma congregation, this has been a year of maintaining the weekly worship services and Sabbath school class, conducting a midweek Bible study under the leadership of Rev. Winston Williams, and encouraging the saints in their lives in Christ.

Three men continue to fill the pulpit for us: Rev. James Martin, Rev. Winston Williams, and Rev. Albert Jackson. The congregation is pleased with each of these three men, and the Session asked the Moderator to talk to each of these men about their availability and suitability for a pastoral call. In these interviews, it became obvious to the Moderator that Rev. Jackson should be considered a serious candidate. Rev. Jackson was ordained in a Baptist Church, but after studying at Birmingham Theological Seminary (M.Div degree from BTS) and in conversations with some of us in the Reformed Presbyterian Church, he has come to understand and appreciate Reformed, covenantal theology with Biblically-regulated worship.

The elders met with the congregation, and they are eager to proceed with a call to Rev. Jackson, if Presbytery sustains his exams. They are eager for a pastor who has some understanding of the South and experience in an African-American church. The plan is for Rev. Jackson and his wife, Willa, to spend two weeks (and three weekends) in Indiana, meeting with the Candidates and Credentials Committee and hopefully attending worship services in six congregations during their time there.

If all goes well in Indiana, we would like to request that he be examined at the Synod meetings of Presbytery. In fact, to save costs, perhaps the 2 1/4 week trip to Indiana could be immediately prior to Synod in Marion, IN. If they could also stay for Synod, it would give them a great introduction to the RPC.

Personally, the writer of this report believes that if Rev. Jackson can satisfy the Presbyter^s as to his theological readiness, I would strongly recommend his as a solid candidate. We did slow down the process earlier this year when Rev. Jackson asked to delay his scheduled trip to Indiana to give him time to work on a family issue that arose. My sense is that this was a good sign, indicating how seriously he perceives this potential call to be, and that *from* all indication, we are now ready (and eager) to proceed.

Again, a personal reflection: I think it is very likely that Rev. Jackson will be able to affirm the vows for ordination. He has not yet read anything with which he strongly disagrees-- including infant baptism and the a cappella singing of Psalms in worship. However, his education at BTS has had some big holes in it, and I would not expect him to strongly and thoroughly defend all our positions. But he is teachable, has a high view of God's sovereignty in all things, and a love for the Selma church.

If at all possible, we would hope not to have to wait several months for the Presbytery to determine Rev. Jackson's acceptability to serve as our next pastor. In a sense, "all of our eggs are in this one basket" and if Presbytery deems that he is not qualified to serve, we would like to know that as soon as possible.

The Selma congregation does not have much income at the present time, and I am sure that the salary package would not meet what we would normally expect. But my understanding is that this would not be a stumbling block for Rev. Jackson. He understands the situation of the Selma congregation.

Respectfully submitted

Jerry O'Neill, Moderator

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the Candidates and Credentials Committee be appointed to begin examining Albert Jackson and bring a plan for the remaining exams to the Synod meeting of Presbytery.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

The Southfield Congregational Report was given by Adam Kuehner.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

The Southside, Indianapolis Congregational Report was given by Gordon Keddie.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Presbytery sang Psalm 34A.

Recess

Presbytery took recess from 10:14 to 10:30 and returned to business singing Psalm 125.

Congregational Reports (continued)

The Sparta Congregational Report was given by Robert Morrow.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Sparta Visitation Team Report

The report was given by Jared Olivetti and is included in the Appendix.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

The Sycamore Congregational Report was given by Jason Camery

Recommendation: that Presbytery appoint Jason Camery as Moderator of the Sycamore Session.

The recommendation was approved.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

The Terre Haute report was given by Adam Niess.

Recommendation 1. "That Presbytery allow 10 minutes to hear from Pastor Bill Roberts regarding the work in Terre Haute." (See page 2 of this Report)

Recommendation 2. "That Presbytery would set Tuesday, March 19th to be a special day of prayer and fasting for growth and encouragement of the Terre Haute Church Plant.

Recommendation 3. "That the minutes of the Commission be spread on the Minutes of Presbytery."

Recommendations 1 to 3 were approved.

In keeping with recommendation 1, Bill Roberts spoke to the Court.

The Report and the minutes are in the appendix.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

The Westminster Congregational Report was given by Keith Magill.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Judicial Committee Report

Judicial Committee Report

The Judicial Committee was charged with responding to **Paper 2013-1**, received from the Sycamore session ("Paper Regarding Questions about the Election Process for Officers of the Church"). The Paper deals with the interpretation of the directions for the election of teaching elders in the *Directory of Church Government (DOCG)*, and requests clarification for the following matters, which we will address in turn:

1. If a two-thirds majority is not reached on the first ballot, is a second and/or third ballot mandatory?

It is our judgment that if a two-thirds majority is not reached on the first ballot, a second and/or third ballot is not mandatory. We find no statement in the DOCG that would indicate an *obligation* to proceed with multiple ballots, but rather, less precise statements that would allow either option. For example, the DOCG, Ch. 3, Sec. 11.D.4. k (page D-18) reads, "If a two-thirds majority vote has not been reached after three ballots, the moderator, in consultation with the session, may postpone the election." The word "may" certainly precludes any obligation to proceed to beyond three rounds; however, neither do we find in this language any compulsion to proceed beyond the first ballot, if that is deemed wise in the circumstances.

2. If the answer to the first question is "No" (second and/or third ballots are not mandatory), who decides whether to proceed to the second or third ballot?

It is our judgment that this decision resides with the session. The DOCG states that in any congregational meeting to elect a teaching elder, the session is seated in a constituted capacity as a court of the Lord's House: "The session shall be constituted by the moderator or the presbytery's appointee" (Ch. 3, Sec. 11.D.3. ¶ d; page D-17). This implies that the meeting is conducted by the moderator of the session (or *ad interim* moderator in the case of a vacant congregation), and that the decision to proceed to multiple ballots therefore lies with the session. The Committee sees no subliminal "intent" here to free the elders from charges of "unduly controlling" the process, but on the contrary encouraging them to duly lead it, by wisely discerning when an inconclusive ballot or ballots should be taken as a good place to halt the proceedings.

3. To clarify, are absentee ballots only to be used in the first ballot?

As the Paper reminds us, "DOCG, Ch.3, Sec. 11.D.4,

¶ i. (page D-18) states, "The use of a nominating ballot is not encouraged; if it used, absentee votes only on the first electing ballot. Nowhere else (except in the parallel language of ruling elder and deacon elections) do we find the DOCG addressing the use of absentee ballots." We concur. *It is therefore our judgment that absentee ballots are not to be used in the first ballot in the limited situation where a nominating ballot has been used* (something that is "not encouraged" by the DOCG).

Therefore, we concur also with the opinion stated in the Paper that "if a nominating ballot is not used, then the absentee ballots would be used in subsequent rounds."

The paper further asks, "Why is the use of absentee ballots stated in this way?" The DOCG's rationale is by no means clear, but our suggested answer is in part derived from our understanding of the term "nominating ballot." In contrast with the Sycamore paper, we believe this refers to a new nomination received at the meeting, not announced hitherto. Such would affect the absentee member's vote — since they are not present at the meeting, they have no way of responding to this new data, so their votes must be honored,

but may be used only once. We offer the following illustration:

A congregation has a meeting to vote for pastor Candidate A, whose name is placed on the ballot. Several absent members write in their vote to call Candidate A, but unbeknownst to them, on the night of the election, someone "uses a nominating ballot", i.e. introduces new Candidate B to the ballot.

All votes (present and absentee) are cast, and the vote is inconclusive. The session judges a second ballot wise, but *in this limited circumstance only* the absentee ballots are excluded, because those casting them could not be present to consider the new candidate and potentially alter their vote. Including their votes for Candidate A might be considered prejudicial against new Candidate B, since their vote for Candidate A cannot be changed.

Roberts' Rules on absentee voting state: "*In a strictly deliberative assembly no member can vote who is not present when the question is completely put*" (Article VIII.46). Since the absentee voter was "*not present when the question was completely put*" (i.e. when a second ballot including new Candidate B was called for), in our order, his absentee ballot must be honored in the first round, but excluded in the second.

Our conclusion may be summarized in the positions offered in the Paper, that "*a second and third round [is] optional ... and the elders are charged with considering whether, given the number of absentee voters, potential for divisiveness, etc., further voting would be wise,*" and further, that "*if a nominating ballot is not used, then the absentee ballots would be used in subsequent rounds.*"

Respectfully Submitted,

David Carr
Dan Webb
David Whitla (chairman)

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the Paper (2013-1) be returned to its authors and the work of the Judicial Committee be referred to a special committee appointed by the Ad Interim Commission which committee will report to the Synod meeting of Presbytery.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Nominating Committee

Jared Olivetti presented the report.
The report is included in the Appendix.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be adopted.

Granting of Privileges

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the vacant congregations be granted the privileges of administration of the sacraments and the making out of calls

Finance Committee Report

The finance committee report was given by Keith Magill and is printed in the Appendix.

Recommendations:

Recommendation 1, that the March -13 2013 Revised Budget and the March-13 2014 Budget be adopted.

Recommendation 2, that congregations with the Budget item "in lieu of Social Security" consider simply including this amount in their pastor's salary and no longer using this category.

Recommendation 3, that congregations remit not less than one fourth of their assessment each and every quarter. If needed, the Presbytery Treasurer is authorized to send reminders quarterly to congregations.

Recommendation 4, That up to \$750 be offered to congregations which host the annual of meeting of Presbytery to help with their hospitality expenses.

Recommendation 5, that the travel expenses to this meeting of Presbytery for Mr. Jim Brown be paid.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that all five recommendations be approved.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that this report be adopted.

Time and Place Committee Report

Recommendation: that the next annual meeting of Presbytery be held February 27 to March 1, 2014, at the Second Indianapolis Reformed Presbyterian Church, starting at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday the 27th and ending on Saturday the 1st at noon.

The recommendation was approved.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Assistant Clerk's Report

The Assistant Clerk, Jack Rhoda, reported as follows:

Assistant Clerk's Report
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery
Spring Meeting – February 28 - March 2, 2013

13. Session Minutes Books were assigned to committees of two men and nothing was found to be contrary to the Law and Order of the church. Minor irregularities have been noted for Sessions to correct as and when they can.

2. Sessions that did not present their minutes books for review are instructed to present their books for review to the 2013 Presbytery meeting at Synod.

3. Any information you particularly desire to see incorporated into the Presbytery Report to Synod may be sent to me by e-mail - 100-150 words will be helpful.

A draft of the report will be circulated before the end of March. The final report will be transmitted to the Ad Interim Commission for approval and then sent to the Clerk of Synod by the end of April.

4. Churches' Statistical Reports, under the new procedure, are to be sent directly to Jim McFarland.

Respectfully submitted,
Jack Rhoda, Assistant Clerk

Resolution of Thanks Committee Report

Resolution of Thanks Committee

As we desire to in everything give thanks, knowing that this is the will of God for us in Christ Jesus, we offer thanksgiving to our most gracious God:

- for the care and hospitality of the Immanuel Reformed Presbyterian Church, who provided a pleasant environment for the Presbytery to conduct its business; for the willing and cheerful spirits of those who served; and for the excellent meals to strengthen the Presbytery to its task;
- for His delightful providence, that He in His good pleasure, would see that we convene this Presbytery meeting on the 375th anniversary of the Scottish National Covenant;
- for His blessed provision in the raising up of faithful men to whom the oracles of God may be entrusted, evidenced by their successful exams and licensures;
- for His tender compassion displayed in the work and ministry of the Reformed Presbyterian Home;
- for His blessing and the outpouring of His Spirit in the churches of our Presbytery, and for His enduring faithfulness to each congregation;
- for His transforming words spoken to us as His Word was preached;
- for the work of His Spirit in the hearts of the youth of our Presbytery, and for His work in and through the efforts of the CYPUP team;
- and finally for His gracious provision of wisdom, guidance, and strength given to the Presbytery to make decisions and take actions to the end that we may build the house for the sanctuary of the Lord.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pastor H.P. McCracken
Pastor George R. Gregory, chairman

Minutes of this Session

The Clerk read the minutes for the final session of this meeting.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the minutes be approved as read.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the time be extended for the prayer time and adjournment.

Prayer and Adjournment

Presbytery had a time of prayer:

Adam Kuehner prayed for the Selma congregation;

Robert Shapiro for Southfield;
Dan Webb for Southside Indianapolis;
David Carr for Sparta;
Jim Pennington for Westminster, Vernon Hills;
Frank Smith for Terre Haute;
and, Phil Pockras for Sycamore.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that Presbytery adjourn.
Presbytery sang Psalm 133B.
The Moderator, Keith Evans, adjourned Presbytery in prayer.
Presbytery adjourned at 12:21 p.m.

Raymond E. Norton
Clerk of G.L.G. Presbytery

APPENDIX

Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery — RPCNA
Ad Interim Commission Minutes
Sunday, March 11, 2012

Meeting Place: Second Reformed Presbyterian Church, Indianapolis, IN
Time: 7:23 PM

Present: Pastor James Faris (Moderator), Russ Pulliam, Walt Zebrun, Richard Blankenship
Absent: John Kim (Pastor Faris had spoken with him earlier via telephone and he concurred with the action taken below.)

Constitution of the Court

Pastor James Faris prayed to constitute the Court.

With the consent of the members, the moderator appointed Richard Blankenship as Clerk.
Southfield Reformed Presbyterian Church

A. Motion made and passed to approve the Edict for the Ordination and Installation of Adam Kuchner on March 30, 2012 as Pastor of the Southfield Reformed Presbyterian Church, Orlando Reformed Presbyterian Church

A Motion made and passed to approve the Edict for the Ordination and Installation of Herbert Paul McCracken on May 11, 2012 as Pastor of the Orlando Reformed Presbyterian Church.

Minutes: None presented for review or approval.

Adjournment

A. Walt Zebrun prayed to adjourn the Court in the name of Jesus Christ, the King and Head of the Church.

James Faris, Moderator.
Ad Interim Commission
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery

Richard Blankenship, Clerk,
Ad Interim Commission
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery

Edict for Ordination and Installation of a Teaching Elder

The Great Lakes/Gulf Presbytery has received a call made by the Southfield Reformed Presbyterian Church (26550 Evergreen Road, Southfield, MI 48076) upon Adam Michael Kuchner to be their pastor, and has sustained it as a regular gospel call. He has signified his intention to accept the call. Notice is hereby given that the 30th day of March in the year 2012 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, which is to meet at the Southfield Reformed Presbyterian Church on the 30th day of March in the year 2012.

The meeting for ordination and installation will be held at 7 p.m. at the Southfield Reformed Presbyterian Church.

James Faris, Moderator.
Ad Interim Commission
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery

Richard Blankenship, Clerk,
Ad Interim Commission
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery

By order of the Presbytery this 12th day of March in the year 2012.

Edict for Ordination and Installation of a Teaching Elder

The Great Lakes/Gulf Presbytery has received a call made by the Orlando Reformed Presbyterian Church (324 E. Livingston Street, Orlando, FL 32801) upon Herbert Paul McCracken to be their pastor, and has sustained it as a regular gospel call. He has signified his intention to accept the call. Notice is hereby given that the 11th day of May in the year 2012 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, which is to meet at the Orlando Reformed Presbyterian Church on the 11th day of May in the year 2012.

James Faris, Moderator.
Ad Interim Commission
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery

Richard Blankenship, Clerk,
Ad Interim Commission
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery

By order of the Presbytery this 12th day of March in the year 2012.

Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery — RPCNA
Ad Interim Commission Minutes
Sunday, March 18, 2012

Meeting Place: Second Reformed Presbyterian Church Indianapolis, IN
Time: 7:49 PM / Adjourned: 8:22PM

Present: Pastor James Faris (Moderator), Russ Pulliam, Walt Zebrun, Richard Blankenship John Kim (participated by telephone)

Constitution of the Court

Pastor James Faris prayed to constitute the Court.

Minutes: Motion was made and passed to approve the Minutes for the Commission meeting of March 11, 2012.

First Reformed Presbyterian Church of Durham

Motion made and passed to approve the appointment of a Commission to install Kent Butterfield as Pastor of First Reformed Presbyterian Church of Durham with the Commission to be made of the following individuals:

Tom Reid (Moderator) Jon Hughes
Godfrey Franklin Phil Pockras

The Clerk of the Commission is to be appointed by the consent of the Commission members.

Motion made and passed to approve the Edict for the Installation of Kent Butterfield on April 13, 2012 as Pastor of the First Reformed Presbyterian Church of Durham.

Orlando Reformed Presbyterian Church.

Motion made and passed to approve travel expenses of the following the (10) individuals for the Ordination and Installation of H. P. McCracken as Pastor of the Orlando Reformed Presbyterian Church on May 11, 2012

David Whittle (Moderator) Ray Morton (Clerk)
Titus Martin (Special Guest) Jared Olivetti
Bob McCracken Frank Smith
Wendell McBurney Keith Evans
Jason Camery Bob Bibby

Reformed Presbyterian Church of Columbus, Indiana

Motion made and passed to approve and to forward to the Presbytery of the Alleghenies the Call of George Gregory as Associate Pastor of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Columbus. In granting the approval the Commission exhorts the Session of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Columbus, per counsel of Synod, to address continuing education expenses for the Associate Pastor Elect in future years.

Adjournment: Motion made and passed to adjourn the Court.
John Kim prayed to adjourn the Court in the name of Jesus Christ, the King and Head of the Church.

James Faris, Moderator.
Ad Interim Commission
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery

Richard Blankenship, Clerk,
Ad Interim Commission
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery

Edict for Installation of a Teaching Elder

The Great Lakes - Gulf Presbytery has received a call made by the First Reformed Presbyterian Church of Durham, 1316 Watts Street, Durham, North Carolina upon Kent Butterfield to be their pastor, and has sustained it as a regular gospel call. He has signified his intention to accept the call. Notice is hereby given that the 13th day of April in the year 2012, has been fixed as the time for his installation with certification that the Presbytery will proceed in the same, unless some valid objections be offered to the Presbytery, which is to meet at the First Reformed Presbyterian Church of Durham, 1316 Watts Street, Durham, North Carolina on the 13th day of April in the year 2012.

The meeting for the installation will be held at 7:00 p.m. at the First Reformed Presbyterian Church of Durham.

James Faris, Moderator.
Ad Interim Commission
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery

Richard Blankenship, Clerk,
Ad Interim Commission
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery

By order of the Presbytery this 18th day of March in the year 2012.

REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA
GREAT LAKES-GULF PRESBYTERY
2012-2013 AD INTERIM COMMISSION

This call made by the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Columbus, Indiana upon George Gregory on the 4th day of December in the year 2011, was made in accordance with the law and order of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America, and has by the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery been sustained as a regular gospel call. It is hereby transferred to the Presbytery of the Alleghenies, of which George Gregory is a member, for presentation.

By order of the Presbytery this 18th day of March in the year 2012.

James Faris, Moderator,
Ad Interim Commission
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery

Richard Blankenship, Clerk,
Ad Interim Commission
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery

Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery— RPCNA
Ad Interim Commission Minutes
Sunday, April 1, 2012

Meeting Place: Second Reformed Presbyterian Church Indianapolis, IN
Time: 5:20 PM / Adjourned: 5:58 PM

Present: Pastor James Faris (Moderator), Russ Pulliam, Walt Zebrun, Richard Blankenship
and
John Kim (participated by telephone).

Constitution of the Court

Richard Blankenship prayed to constitute the Court.

Actions Taken:

1. Minutes

Motion was made and passed to approve the Minutes for the Commission meeting of March 18, 2012.

2. Tom Reid / Pageland Reformed Presbyterian Mission Church

Motion made and passed to approve the request of Tom Reid to transfer his communicant membership from the roll of the Presbytery to the roll of Pageland Reformed Presbyterian Mission Church.

3. First Reformed Presbyterian Church of Durham

Motion made and passed to approve Bob Bibby's appointment as the 5th member to the Commission to install Kent Butterfield as Pastor of the First Reformed Presbyterian Church of Durham

4. Hetherton Reformed Presbyterian Church

Motion was made and passed to hold the Call of Hetherton Reformed Presbyterian Church to Daniel William Drost as Pastor in order to allow the HRC Session the opportunity to address provision of the following issues as part of the Call: (i) time off for vacation, (ii) time off for conferences related to ministry, (iii) health insurance, (iv) retirement funds and (v) continuing education, when, at which time they are addressed, the Call would be further considered. The addressing of the issues could be done by presenting a signed statement to the Ad Interim Commission indicating which issues are being addressed and of those being addressed which would be addressed immediately and which would be addressed in the future as the Church is financially so able to provide.

5. Adjournment

Motion made and passed to adjourn the Court. Russ Pulliam prayed to adjourn the Court.

James Faris, Moderator,
Ad Interim Commission
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery

Richard Blankenship, Clerk,
Ad Interim Commission
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery

REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA
GREAT LAKES-GULF PRESBYTERY 2012-2013
AD INTERIM COMMISSION

April 3, 2012

To the Clerk of the Pageland RPC Session, **Certificate of Transfer of Membership.**

This is to certify that Thomas Reid is a member of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery, and is at his own request, hereby dismissed to unite with the Pageland, South Carolina Reformed Presbyterian Church.

Given this first day of April in the year 2012, by order of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery.

James Faris, Moderator,
Ad Interim Commission
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery

Richard Blankenship, Clerk,
Ad Interim Commission
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery

REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA
GREAT LAKES-GULF PRESBYTERY 2012-2013
AD INTERIM COMMISSION

This call made by the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Hetherton, Michigan upon Daniel William Drost on the 18th day of March in the year 2012, was made in accordance with the law and order of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America, and has by the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery been sustained as a regular gospel call. It is hereby transferred to the Presbytery of the Alleghenies, of which Daniel Drost is a member, for presentation.

By order of the Presbytery this 1st day of April in the year 2012.

James Faris, Moderator,
Ad Interim Commission
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery

Richard Blankenship, Clerk,
Ad Interim Commission
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery

E-mail to Ray Morton et al:
AIC Call for Presbytery Meeting June 1, 2012 in Terre Haute, IN

Fred Blankenship to: revmorton, revmorton
Cc: jas.faris, russell.pulliam, jkim50, wallerizebrun, jplatt2

May 20, 2012

Ray,

The Ad Interim Commission did not have a quorum present in regard to the meeting held May 13, 2012 and met tonight, May 20, 2012 to readdress, among other things, a call for a meeting of the GL-G Presbytery to meet on June 1, 2012 in Terre Haute, Indiana.

Details of that meeting and the business to be conducted are as follows:

Call for a meeting of the Great Lakes Presbytery

Date: Friday, June 1, 2012

Time: 1:00 PM (Eastern)

Location: Terre Haute Reformed Presbyterian Church.

Business to be considered at that meeting of Presbytery will be the following:

- Administer ordination exams to George Gregory
Discussion, at the request of Bill Roberts, of an ordination issue related to the East Asia Commission
Allow time for anticipated ordination exams for Adam Niess
Report of the Toronto Committee
Work with the Candidates and Credentials Committee for other student exams as time allows.

This is the same meeting date, place and time as was addressed in the May 13, 2012 meeting of the Ad Interim Commission. There has been an item added to the agenda in regard to the business to be considered, that being a report of the Toronto Committee. Minutes of the May 20, 2012 Ad Interim Commission meeting are attached below.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact James Faris or me.
Thanks, Richard

Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery— RPCNA
Ad Interim Commission Minutes
Sunday, May 13, 2012

Meeting Place: Second Reformed Presbyterian Church Indianapolis, IN
Time: 5:17 PM / Adjourned: 5:57 PM

Present: Pastor James Faris (Moderator), Richard Blankenship and
John Kim (participated by telephone).

Since there was not a quorum present the meeting could not be held. It was held on May 20, 2012.

Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery - RPCNA
Ad Interim Commission Minutes
Sunday, May 20, 2012

Meeting Place: Second Reformed Presbyterian Church Indianapolis, IN
Time: 7:35 PM / Adjourned: 7:46 PM

Present: Pastor James Faris (Moderator), Russ Pulliam, Richard Blankenship and
John Kim (participated by telephone).

Constitution of the Court

James Faris prayed to constitute the Court.

Actions Taken

1. Minutes

Motion was made and passed to approve the Minutes for the Commission meeting of April 1, 2012, as amended.

2. Change in the Ad Interim Commission Membership

Motion was made and passed to accept the resignation effective May 18, 2012 of Walt Zebrun from the Ad Interim Commission and to replace Walt Zebrun with Dr. Jeff Platt of Second Reformed Presbyterian Church of Indianapolis effective May 20, 2012.

3. Presbytery Meeting June 1, 2012

Motion made and passed to call a meeting of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery to meet Friday, June 1, 2012 at 1:00 PM at Terre Haute Reformed Presbyterian Church.

Business to be considered at that meeting of Presbytery will be the following:

- Administer ordination exams to George Gregory
- Discussion, at the request of Bill Roberts, of an ordination issue related to the East Asia Commission
- Allow time for anticipated ordination exams for Adam Niess
- Report of the Toronto Committee
- Work with the Candidates and Credentials Committee for other student exams as time allows.

4. Selma Reformed Presbyterian Church

Motion made and passed to approve Dr. Jerry O'Neill's request to make the Selma situation the Order of the Day for the upcoming Synod meeting of Presbytery.

4. Selma Reformed Presbyterian Church (continued)

Motion made and passed directing the Candidates and Credentials Committee to work with Dr. Jerry O'Neill, prior to and in preparation for the upcoming Synod meeting of Presbytery, and have discussions with him regarding possible candidates for the Selma Reformed Presbyterian Church who are outside the RPCNA.

5. Adjournment

Motion made and passed to adjourn the Court.
Russ Pulliam prayed to adjourn the Court.

James Faris, Moderator,
Ad Interim Commission
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery

Richard Blankenship, Clerk,
Ad Interim Commission
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery

Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery-- RPCNA
Ad Interim Commission Minutes
Sunday, May 27, 2012

Meeting Place: Second Reformed Presbyterian Church Indianapolis, IN

Time: 5:43 PM / Adjourned: 5:53 PM

Present: Pastor James Faris (Moderator) Richard Blankenship, Jeff Platt,
John Kim (participated by telephone).

Constitution of the Court

James Faris prayed to constitute the Court.

Actions Taken

1. Minutes

Motion made and passed to approve the Minutes for the Commission meeting of May 20, 2012.

2. Appointment of Jason Camery as temporary Moderator of Sycamore Reformed Presbyterian Church, Kokomo, IN

Motion made and passed to appoint Jason Camery as temporary Moderator of the Sycamore Session from June 1, 2012 through July 15, 2012 during Barry York's Session approved leave of absence and his scheduled vacation.

3. Call of Adam Niess as Second Pastor of Bloomington Reformed Presbyterian Church

Motion made and passed to sustain as a regular gospel call the Pastoral Call of the Bloomington Reformed Presbyterian Church to call Adam Niess as a second pastor and to forward the call to Adam Niess. The details of the call are attached to and made a part of these minutes.

4. Adjournment

Motion made and passed to adjourn the Court.

Jeff Platt prayed to adjourn the Court.

James Faris, Moderator,
Ad Interim Commission
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery

Richard Blankenship, Clerk,
Ad Interim Commission
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery

Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery-- RPCNA
Ad Interim Commission Minutes
Sunday, June 10, 2012

Meeting Place: Second Reformed Presbyterian Church Indianapolis, IN

Time: 7:48 PM / Adjourned: 8:25 PM

Present: Pastor James Faris (Moderator) Richard Blankenship, Jeff Platt, Russ Pulliam,
John Kim (participated by telephone).

Constitution of the Court

James Faris prayed to constitute the Court.

Actions Taken

1. Minutes

Motion made and passed to approve the Minutes for the Commission meeting of May 27, 2012.

2. Bloomington Reformed Presbyterian Church — Ordination and Installation of Adam Niess as Pastor
Motion made and passed to approve the Edict for Ordination and Installation of Adam Niess on July 12, 2012 as Pastor of the Bloomington Reformed Presbyterian Church.
3. Columbus Reformed Presbyterian Church — Ordination and Installation of George Gregory as Associate Pastor
Motion made and passed to approve the Edict for Ordination and Installation of George Gregory on July 13, 2012 as Associate Pastor of the Columbus Reformed Presbyterian Church.
4. Communication to EAC / Ordination of Ruling Elder
Motion made and passed to communicate to the EAC that the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery ("GLGP") believes that the most prudent action in regard to B-3 (a member of a GLGP congregation) is for the EAC to ordain B-3 as a Ruling Elder, install him as a Ruling Elder of the EAC and hold his credentials as a Ruling Elder as those of a member of the EAC.
5. Selma Reformed Presbyterian Church
Motion made and passed to request the Session of the Selma Reformed Presbyterian Church ("Selma RPC") send, if at all possible, a delegate to the upcoming Presbytery meeting at Synod in light of the care of the Selma RPC being the order of the day at the Presbytery meeting being held at the upcoming Synod meeting.
6. Adjournment
Motion made and passed to adjourn the Court. Russ Pulliam prayed to adjourn the Court.

James Faris, Moderator,
Ad Interim Commission
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery

Richard Blankenship, Clerk,
Ad Interim Commission
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery

Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery— RPCNA
Ad Interim Commission Minutes
Sunday, August 26, 2012

Meeting Place: Second Reformed Presbyterian Church Indianapolis, IN
Time: 7:37 PM / Adjourned: 7:49 PM

Present: Pastor James Faris (Moderator) Richard Blankenship, Jeff Platt, Russ Pulliam.

Constitution of the Court

James Faris prayed to constitute the Court.

Actions Taken

1. Minutes

Motion made and passed to approve the Minutes for the Commission meeting of June 10, 2012.

2. Pageland Reformed Presbyterian Church — Request for the addition of Richard ("Dick") Sears as a member of the Pageland Temporary Governing Body ("Pageland TGB").

Motion made and passed to approve the addition of Richard Sears as a member of the Pageland TGB.

3. Pageland Reformed Presbyterian Church — Modification of the terms of the compensation of the call to Ian Wise as Pastor.

Motion made and passed:

- (i) to acknowledge receipt of the proposed revised terms of the call to Ian Wise as Pastor in regard to compensation due to present circumstances,
- (ii) to indicate that the AIC is encouraged by the care given to the matter of Pastor Wise's compensation and appreciates being informed of the developments and
- (iii) to inform the Pageland TGB that the AIC has no issues in regard to the recommended changes.

4. Adjournment

Motion made and passed to adjourn the Court.
Russ Pulliam prayed to adjourn the Court.

James Faris, Moderator.
Ad Interim Commission
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery

Richard Blankenship, Clerk,
Ad Interim Commission
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery

Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery—RPCNA
Ad Interim Commission Minutes
Sunday, November 11, 2012

Meeting Place: Second Reformed Presbyterian Church Indianapolis, IN
Time: 5:11 PM / Adjourned: 6:04 PM

Present: Pastor James Faris (Moderator) Richard Blankenship, Jeff Platt, Russ Pulliam,
Note: John Kim was not present and has recused himself from involvement in the Southfield matter listed below in Items Discussed Upon Which No Action Was Taken.

Constitution of the Court

James Faris prayed to constitute the Court.

Actions Taken

1. Minutes

Motion made and passed to approve the Minutes for the Commission meeting of August 26, 2012.

2. Items Discussed Upon Which No Action Was Taken

Pageland Reformed Presbyterian Church

- Petition to organize as a congregation of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America. Input will be solicited from Presbytery before considering action.

Southfield Reformed Presbyterian Church

- Complaint against the Session of Southfield Reformed Presbyterian Church from Jeff and Becky Manring. *Complaint was discussed and is under considered to determine appropriate action to be taken.*

3. Adjournment

Motion made and passed to adjourn the Court.
Jeff Platt prayed to adjourn the Court.

James Faris, Moderator,
Ad Interim Commission
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery

Richard Blankenship, Clerk,
Ad Interim Commission
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery

Ad Interim Commission Minutes
Sunday, November 25, 2012

Meeting Place: Second Reformed Presbyterian Church Indianapolis, IN
Time: 5:22 PM / Adjourned: 5:59 PM

Present: Pastor James Faris (Moderator) Richard Blankenship, Jeff Platt, Russ Pulliam,

Note: John Kim was not present and has recused himself from involvement in the Southfield matter listed below in Items Discussed Upon Which No Action Was Taken.

Constitution of the Court

Russ Pulliam prayed to constitute the Court.

Actions Taken

1. Minutes

Motion made and passed to approve the Minutes for the Commission meeting of November 11, 2012.

2. Southfield Reformed Presbyterian Church

Complaint against the Session of Southfield Reformed Presbyterian Church from Jeff and Becky Manring.

Motion made and passed to appoint the Southfield Judicial Commission to consisting of the following individuals: Pastor Keith Magill, Moderator; Elders Scott Hunt and Duane Judd, members.

Motion made and passed to approve the attached Charge to the Southfield Judicial Commission in regard to addressing the complaint against the Southfield Session by the Manrings and to provide that Charge to the Commission

(see attachment: Southfield Judicial Commission Appointment)

3. Adjournment

Motion made and passed to adjourn the Court.

Jeff Platt prayed to adjourn the Court.

James Faris, Moderator,
Ad Interim Commission
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery

Richard Blankenship, Clerk,
Ad Interim Commission
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery

Southfield Judicial Commission Appointment
November 28, 2012

The Ad Interim Commission of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery has received a complaint against the Session of Southfield Reformed Presbyterian Church from Jeff and Becky Manring. After a lengthy period of discussion with the Session regarding the Manring's business venture, Jeff resigned as a deacon. The Manrings object to the Session's public declaration at the time of Jeff's resignation that the Manrings are involved in a business that is "not a lawful Christian vocation." The complainants assert that: "The Session has damaged our reputation by publicly calling our business sinful when they said, 'this business is not a lawful Christian vocation.'"

The Manrings desire to continue to worship as members of the Southfield congregation but claim that the Session has made public comment that has harmed them. The Session feels that only the facts of the matter were presented to a congregation that needed to know why they were losing a deacon. There appears to be an impasse in the ability of the Session and the Manrings to work through this issue any further. Both the Southfield Session and the Manrings desire that the Great Lakes Presbytery provide support by providing men who would listen to all involved, as in the manner of 3 John 14.

The AIC hereby establishes a judicial commission, comprised of Keith Magill (Moderator), Scott Hunt, and Duane Judd, to come alongside the Southfield Session and these members in order that God's will in this could be more clearly discerned. The commission is charged to:

1. Rule on Jeff and Becky Manring's complaint against the Southfield session.
2. Make any needed recommendations to the Southfield session concerning their ongoing pastoral care of the Manrings.
3. Make any needed recommendations to the Manrings arising from this situation.

The Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery Ad Interim Commission,

James Faris, Moderator, Richard Blankenship, Clerk,
Jeff Platt, Russ Pulliam
(John Kim recused himself.)

November 4, 2012

We who are under your care greet you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We want to thank you for your shepherding and prayers over these past months. The Lord has worked through your prayers, and has dealt bountifully with us.

We are writing to formally petition you to organize us as a duly fledged congregation of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America.

It is clear to us that God has brought us to the point that we are ready for this important step. We are a fellowship of 16 communicant and 15 non-communicant members, making up 9 households. Weekly worship is vibrant, averaging around 30, with regular visitors. Over 20 gather during the week for study, prayer and singing. Fellowship and service within the body are strong. Ministry to the community is finding expression through work in the town's Christian school, involvement at a local nursing home, as well as help to several needy families. These are in addition to spontaneous ministry and witness carried on by members from week to week. There is a sense among the people that God is blessing. 'Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to Your name be glory,' has become something of a theme verse with us, and we praise Him for the good that is happening here.

Several months ago our Pageland Temporary Governing Body set several goals for us to be praying for and pursuing as we sought organization:

1. Addition of one or two families to membership.
2. Growing financial stability.
3. Training men and members in biblical church government.
4. Developing denominational loyalty.

We are encouraged to see the Lord remembering us in these things. (1) Since that time 3 individuals (all men) have joined the congregation. Mother family, the Posvars, have indicated that they plan to transfer to us and move to Pageland. And the Wallaces, formerly of the Durham Church, are making arrangements to move to the Charlotte area. (2) Meanwhile, giving has increased so that our monthly income is meeting our regular expenses. (3) A class on many aspects of church office and government is ongoing during the Sunday School hour. That being said, we're grateful to have one RP elder as a member (Dick Sears), one former ARP elder and deacon as a member (Gary Wise), one RP elder soon to join (Ron Posvar), and one member who has taken 60 hours of seminary training (Chris Mangum), in addition to two other men who have strong backgrounds in Reformed churches (Harry Cooksey and Joe Mangum). (4) Denominational ties have been strengthened through regular times of prayer for our missions, ministries and missionaries, and a visit from New Song last summer.

Truly the risen Christ has been at work here! We ask that you give your attention to our petition, and grant it. As helpful as our TGB has been, we long to see the day when we may recognize that King Jesus has indeed raised up elders and deacons in our very own midst, for the daily upbuilding and care of this growing flock

With Christian love and respect,
Pastor Ian Wise, and Pageland (SC) Reformed Presbyterian Mission Church

**Pageland Commission
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery
Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America
December 1, 2012**

Ad Interim Commission
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery

Dear Brothers,

The Ad Interim Commission has before it a petition from every member of the Pageland Mission Church, requesting that they be organized as a congregation, along with the unanimous concurrence of the six members of the Pageland Commission (PageComm), listed below, voted at its meeting of November 10, 2012.

Some questions have been raised about this request, which PageComm is happy to seek to answer. We are also happy that Ian Wise, pastor in Pageland, is able and willing to meet with the Ad Interim Commission as it considers this petition at its meeting on December 2, 2012.

First, the Pageland Mission Church has become financially stable over the past four months, able to meet all of its current obligations, while maintaining a balance of about \$15,000 in the bank, and we anticipate that this happy situation will continue. See the attached files.

Second, the Pageland Mission Church has seen its local membership increase to thirty-one, in eight family units, and has seen attendance at its morning worship service keep pace with that growth, averaging around thirty from August through November. Attendance at the midweek Prayer Meeting has averaged about twenty-two during the same months.

Third, the Pageland Mission Church is extraordinarily blessed with men willing and gifted to serve as elders and deacons. The Commission anticipates being able to present to the organizational meeting of the Pageland RPC no fewer than five men for election to office, probably four as ruling elders and one as deacon. These men are as follows, listed by declining age.

Dick Sears, 74, widowed, with grown children (one of them in the Charlotte area), is retired and has served as a ruling elder in both the RPCNA (Geneva Church, Beaver Falls, PA) and the Orthodox Presbyterian Church. Dick is moving to Pageland for the express purpose of helping the work while remaining close to one of his children.

Ron Posvar, 65, married to Judy, with grown children (two of them in the Charlotte area), is recently retired and has served as a ruling elder in the San Diego RPCNA congregation. Ron and Judy live in Indian Land, SC, not far from Pageland. They attended Sycamore RPC in Kokomo, Indiana, for a few years in the 1990s.

Gary Wise, 60, married to Patrice, with four grown children (the oldest of them Ian), has served as both a ruling elder and a deacon in the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. Gary and Patrice travel an hour each way to be part of the Pageland work.

Chris Mangum, 35, married to Tammy, seven children, working as an electrical designer near Charlotte, was one of the two foundational families of the work in Pageland. Chris attended RTS Charlotte for some courses, completed almost all the courses in the Ruling Elder program of Greenville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, received training toward the ministry from the pastor of the Charlotte Presbyterian Reformed Church, and been instructed by Ian Wise towards become a ruling elder in Pageland. Chris and his family live in the country near Pageland.

Joe Mangum (Chris's younger brother), 33, married to Becky, seven children, working as an electrical designer near Charlotte, was one of the foundational families of the work in Pageland. Joe served as a deacon in the Grace Bible Church of Seabrook, Maryland, and has been instructed by Ian Wise toward become a ruling elder in Pageland. Joe and his family live in the country near Pageland.

During a lengthy period of disenchantment by an adherent family (who have since left and moved to Pennsylvania), Chris Mangum and Joe Mangum essentially functioned as ruling elders with Ian in dealing with that family. They have also been regular in attending meetings of the Pageland Commission. Chris and Joe have been towers of strength from the beginning of the work in Pageland.

Overall, the Pageland Commission rejoices in the steady progress in the work in Pageland, from the initial contacts by Chris and Joe Mangum in the spring of 2010 to the present. Weekly Bible studies began in a home in July, 2010, and weekly public worship services in November, 2010. Pastor Ian Wise and his family arrived in October, 2011, when the Pageland Mission Church was organized with eleven local communicant members and fourteen baptized members, in five families.

The last five or six months have been particularly encouraging, as we have seen God bless in the four areas in which we had desired to see progress before requesting organization of a congregation in Pageland, as mentioned in the petition. PageComm particularly underscores the following encouraging facts about the situation in Pageland.

Ian Wise was able to secure employment teaching in a local Christian school, easing the financial burden on both the Wises and the Mission Church. The Wises purchased a home in the country near Pageland, signaling their firm commitment to the ministry.

Dick Sears decided to move to Pageland from Minnesota) to encourage the work and was elected to the Pageland Commission by the AIC. Ron and Judy Posvar transferred from Redeemer OPC in Charlotte. These two family units add a lot of RPCNA experience to the group.

The first local member, David Linder, joined, as did a transfer from the Presbyterian Reformed Church in Charlotte, Harry Cooksey. Local membership has increased to sixteen communicant members and fifteen baptized members, representing eight families. Attendance at worship is stable around thirty and the number of visitors has increased, including African-Americans from the community. The Pageland Mission Church is now larger in membership and attendance than at least ten percent of RPCNA congregations and only slightly smaller than at least another ten percent as well.

If four ruling elders are elected, Pageland would have more ruling elders than forty-eight (or sixty percent) of RPCNA congregations, including the majority of congregations in the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery.

Beginning Balance (Founders Bank)	\$20,779.09	\$28,924.60	\$25,383.11	\$22,594.49	\$22,184.66	\$18,837.50	
INCOME RECEIVED:							
Offerings	1,897.11	1,801.64	1,275.12	2,445.16	2,967.11	2,240.13	12,646.27
Dividends (Founders Bank)	1.08	\$1.76	178	1.69	1.64	1.45	9.40
Home Mission Board	10,000.00						10,000.00
Presbytery							0.00
Available Funds	\$32,677.28	\$30,728.00	\$26,660.01	\$25,041.34	\$25,173.41	\$21,079.08	
EXPENSES PAID:							
Building Rent	300.00	300.00	300.00	375.00	300.00	300.00	1,875.00
Pulpit supply							0.00
Fellowship Meal							0.00
Pastor's Salary	2,307.68	2,307.68	3,461.52	2,307.68	2,307.68	2,884.60	15,576.84
Pastors pay in lieu of Social Security	896.00				1,147.50		
Pastor's Pension		975.00				2,000.00	2,975.00
Pastors Reimbursement (Medical)		1,248.56		2,125.71			3,374.27
Pastors Reimbursement (Outreach)		111.49					111.49
Pastors Reimbursement (Professional)		220.66			198.06		418.72
Pastors Reimbursement (Diaconal)					256.96		
Paalters		181.50					181.50
Deaconal (rent for local family #1)	250.00						250.00
Deaconal (electric bills for local family #2)			304.00	174.00			478.00
Banking fees (checks)							0.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$3,762.88	\$5,344.89	\$4,065.52	\$2,856.68	\$6,335.91	\$5,184.60	27,540.28
End of Month Balance (Founders Bank)	28,924.60	25,383.11	22,594.49	22,184.66	18,637.50	15,894.48	

	31-Jul	31-Aug	30-Sep	31-Oct	30-Nov	31-Dec	TOTALS
Beginning Balance (Founders Bank)	\$15,894.48	\$11,793.50	\$11,749.97	\$12,458.96			
INCOME RECEIVED:							
Offerings	2,325.00	3,415.00	4,265.00	4,920.00			14,925.00
Dividends (Founders Bank)	1.30	1.07	0.53	0.52			3.50
Home Mission Board							0.00
Presbytery							0.00
Available Funds	\$18,220.80	\$15,209.57	\$16,015.50	\$17,379.48			
EXPENSES PAID:							
Building Rent	1,100.00	575.00	585.00	520.00			2,790.00
Pulpit supply							0.00
Fellowship Meal							0.00
Pastor's Salary	2,307.68	2,884.60	1,961.54	1,648.16			8,999.98
Pastors pay in lieu of Social Security							0.00
Pastors Pension			1,000.00				1,000.00
Pastors Reimbursement (Medical)	2,061.42						2,061.42
Pastors Reimbursement (Outreach)	130.97						130.97
Pastors Reimbursement (Professional)	284.30						284.30
Pastors Reimbursement (Diaconal)	542.99						542.99
Food purchase (mistakenly used the church card)				7.79			7.79
Deaconal (wheelchair batteries)							0.00
Banking fees (checks)							0.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$6,427.36	\$3,459.60	\$3,556.54	\$2,373.95			15,817.45
End of Month Balance (Founders Bank)	\$11,793.60	\$11,749.97	\$12,458.96	\$16,005.53			

Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery — RPCNA
Ad Interim Commission Minutes
Sunday, December 2, 2012

Meeting Place: Second Reformed Presbyterian
Church Indianapolis, IN
Time: 5:26 PM / Adjourned: 5:58 PM

Present: Pastor James Faris (Moderator)
Richard Blankenship
John Kim (attended via telephone)
Russ Pulliam (attended via telephone)

Also present for a portion of the meeting, participating via telephone conference call in discussion of the Pageland Mission Church matter were Ian Wise (Pastor), Chris Mangum and Joe Mangum, all of the Pageland Mission Church.

Constitution of the Court

James Faris prayed to constitute the Court.

Actions Taken

1. Minutes

Motion made and passed to approve the Minutes for the Commission meeting of November 25, 2012.

2. Pageland Mission Church

Petition to be organized as a congregation of the RPCNA.

The AIC was encouraged by and rejoiced in the work the Lord is doing in the Pageland Mission Church.

Motion made and passed to defer and forward the request to be organized as a congregation of the RPCNA to the GL-G Presbytery for consideration and action at the next official meeting of Presbytery. The AIC indicates its support of approval of the request and encourages members of Presbytery to prepare for action on the request by (i) forwarding any questions and issues related to the request in the interim to the AIC Moderator, James Faris, and (ii) to come to Presbytery prepared to discuss and take action on the request at the upcoming Presbytery meeting in March 2013.

3. Sparta Reformed Presbyterian Church Retirement of
Pastor Raymond E. Morton

Motion made and passed to

- (i) Accept the resignation of Raymond E. Morton as Pastor, effective December 31, 2012,
- (ii) Declare the pulpit vacant as to December 31, 2012,
- (iii) Dissolve the pastoral relationship effective December 31, 2012,
- (iv) Appoint Jared Olivetti (Immanuel RPC, West Lafayette, IN) as interim Moderator
- (v) Appoint James Bishop (Southside RPC, Indianapolis, IN) as Provisional Elder
- (vi) Grant permission to call a pastor, administer the Sacraments and to address pulpit supply

A prayer of thanksgiving for Ray Morton's service, request of the Lord's ongoing blessing upon Ray and the congregation and dissolution of the pastoral relationship as of December 31, 2012 was made by James Faris.

4. Second Reformed Presbyterian Church, Indianapolis, IN Request of
permission to call an additional pastor.

Motion made and passed granting permission to call an additional pastor.

3. Adjournment

Motion made and passed to adjourn the Court. Russ Pulliam prayed to adjourn the Court.

James Faris, Moderator.
Ad Interim Commission
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery

Richard Blankenship, Clerk,
Ad Interim Commission
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery

Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery— RPCNA
Ad Interim Commission Minutes
Thursday, January 10, 2013

Meeting Place: Second Reformed Presbyterian Church Indianapolis,

IN

Time: 7:05 PM / Adjourned: 7:10 PM

Present: Pastor James Faris (Moderator) Richard Blankenship, Jeff Platt, Russ Pulliam

Note: John Kim was not present for the meeting but by email had given advance approval and consent to the actions that were taken.

Constitution of the Court

James Faris prayed to constitute the Court.

Actions Taken

1. Minutes of December 2, 2012

Motion made and passed to approve the Minutes for the Commission meeting of December 2, 2012.

2. Sycamore Reformed Presbyterian Church, Kokomo, Indiana

Request of Session of Sycamore RPC to call an additional pastor to replace Barry York

Motion made and passed to give permission to Sycamore RPC to call an additional pastor.

3. Minutes of January 10, 2013

Motion made and passed to approve the Minutes for the Commission meeting of January 10, 2013.

4. Adjournment

Motion made and passed to adjourn the Court. Richard Blankenship prayed to adjourn the Court.

James Faris, Moderator.
Ad Interim Commission
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery

Richard Blankenship, Clerk,
Ad Interim Commission
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery

AD INTERIM COMMISSION OF THE GREAT LAKES - GULF PRESBYTERY
Second Reformed Presbyterian Church
4800 North Michigan Road
Indianapolis, Indiana 46228
317-255-7557

December 2, 2012

To the Congregation of Sparta Reformed Presbyterian Church:
(To be read to the congregation at the next scheduled worship service)

Declaration of Vacant Pulpit Effective December 31, 2012

The Pastor of this congregation, Raymond E. Morton presented his resignation to the Presbytery at the meeting of the Ad Interim Commission of the Great Lakes - Gulf Presbytery in Indianapolis, Indiana on the 2nd day of December in the year 2012.

The resignation was accepted, to take effect on the 31st day of December in the year 2012, and the pastoral relationship is dissolved effective that date. May the Lord guide the congregation to the choice of another under-shepherd.

Effective the 31st day of December in the year 2012, Jared Olivetti of Immanuel Reformed Presbyterian Church of West Lafayette, Indiana is appointed Interim Moderator and James Bishop of Southside Reformed Presbyterian Church of Indianapolis, Indiana is appointed Provisional Elder.

Permission is granted by the Ad Interim Commission to call a replacement pastor, to address pulpit supply needs and to administer the Sacraments.

James Paris, Moderator,
Ad Interim Commission
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery

Richard Blankenship, Clerk,
Ad Interim Commission
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery

Internet Exploratory Study Committee Report
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery
to report at the:
2013 Spring Meetings of Presbytery

Dear Fathers and Brothers,

The Internet Exploratory Study Committee was appointed during the 2012 Spring Meeting of Presbytery, and was to report back to the 2013 Spring Meeting, regarding the simplification and organization of distributing Presbytery documents. Essentially, our committee was to determine if there was a simplified way to electronically distribute all of the necessary Presbytery reports, without burdening an individual with the task of manually forwarding all of the documents through an email list (this responsibility currently falls upon the Clerk's shoulders, and the hope was to free the Clerk from this added duty). Secondly, our committee was tasked with researching a free, or cost effective solution for hosting and maintaining a GL-G Presbytery website where all of the yearly documents could be organized in one convenient location (for digital access prior to and during Presbytery meetings), and where Presbytery policies or other documents which are not limited to a single year's meetings, could be stored for ongoing access. In response to these tasks, our committee is suggesting the following solutions:

Email Distribution: Google Groups

Instead of individual delegates emailing the clerk, and then the clerk having to personally forward the Presbytery document to all of the delegates, the method could be simplified by removing the manual middle step. Therefore, if individual delegates could email a Google Group Email Distribution List (e.g. delegates@glgpresbytery.org) which would then automatically disburse the email to every delegate; so long as the email list was maintained and up-to-date, the process would alleviate the Clerk of the extra step. Each delegate, and only delegates, would have permissions to email the list, and the email list would be maintained by a Presbytery-appointed individual.

Presbytery Website: Google Apps for Non-Profits/Google Sites

For the Presbytery to have its own free website, we need to have both a domain name and a hosting company free of charge. Google Sites offers free hosting (up to 100 MBs of free storage), but that is much too little storage space to host a site containing our Presbytery documents. Therefore, as a non-profit organization, the GL -G Presbytery was approved by Google for a free Google Apps for Non-Profits account, affording us free hosting up to 100 GBs of storage space; plenty of space to accomplish our desired goals. Additionally, through Frank Schurz, we were able to obtain a free domain name (www.glgpresbytery.org) in conjunction with, but separate from, his personal website. Through this arrangement the Presbytery is able to have their own website entirely free of charge. If this suggested solution is approved, Presbytery will simply have to appoint one individual to maintain the website, which should not be much work except immediately prior to each Presbytery meeting when reports would need to be uploaded to the site.

Possible Objections/Concerns

It is not lost on this committee that there are privacy concerns with both of these solutions, considering they both utilize Google (The committee will not presently expound on Google's questionable privacy policies), and the website, for accessibility purposes and the sake of ease, will not be password protected. However, it must be acknowledged that if any Presbyter has a Google email address (Gmail), that the same concerns for privacy are present. Additionally, while Google may not be the most responsible with their users' data, it is the Committee's belief that no concern for security is

Meeting of Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery, February 28 to March 2, 2013 Page 66 of 81
warranted, and while Google may use certain data for marketing purposes, contents and details of reports will in no way be made public. Finally, only people with the specific web address (www.glgpresbytery.org) will be able to find the webpage, and there is at least some security in the obscurity.

In light of the above, the following are the recommendations of the Internet Study Committee.

Recommendations

1. That Presbytery approve Google Groups as the official means of distributing presbytery documents.
2. That Presbytery approve the use of "glgpresbytery.org" as the official website of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery for the organization of Presbytery documents in one convenient location.
3. That Presbytery appoint one delegate to maintain glgpresbytery.org and the Presbytery's Google Group email distribution list.
4. That this committee be dissolved.

Respectfully submitted,

Keith Evans, Chair
and Frank Schutz

Ohio-Indiana Church Extension Committee Report

Great Lakes/Gulf Presbytery Spring 2013

Fathers and brothers,

The following are matters under our current consideration.

Milwaukee & Jim Brown

We are thankful to Steve Rhoda, who has taken the initiative to build a friendship with Jim Brown, who continues his ministries in inner-city Milwaukee. Jim also has faithfully kept many of us abreast of his work through regular emails.

As we consider how to encourage Jim's evangelistic ministry and seek the Lord's leading on possible church planting in Milwaukee, we have (1) invited Jim as our guest to this meeting of presbytery. Please take time to greet him and hear of his heart for the lost. (2) We are encouraging Jim to consider joining the Westminster congregation and, subsequently, asking the Westminster session to take a more direct ministry of oversight for Jim's ministry.

NB: It is our understanding that the group meeting in New London has closed and that the Reformation Presbytery of the Midwest will soon be officially ended. Jim and his wife are currently attending and are involved in a non-denominational, reformed church near their home.

SWORP

We have received updates from Andy McCracken about the ongoing work in Southwest Ohio. The Columbus RPC report will contain more details.

Ft. Wayne

Meeting of Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery, February 28 to March 2, 2013 Page 67 of 81
We are hoping to send Jason Camery and Jared Olivetti on an exploratory trip to Ft. Wayne this summer. If you know of any possible leads or contacts in the Ft. Wayne area, please pass those onto us.

Recommendation #1-That presbytery appoint a replacement for Barry York.
Reason: Although Pastor York is remaining in our presbytery, his relocation to Pennsylvania this summer will make his work on our committee less effective *than* someone more local. *We are grateful* for his teamwork and counsel.

Recommendation #2-That presbytery cover travel expenses for Jim Brown

For Christ's Crown and Covenant,
Jason Camery, Andy McCracken
Jared Olivetti, Phil Pockras, Barry York

Pastoral Health Insurance proposal

Fathers and Brothers,

Caring for our pastors and their families is a substantial concern for our churches, and especially our ruling elders and deacons. Recent changes in healthcare legislation in the US and other market dynamics have resulted in steep increases for health insurance in the recent past. For the congregations reporting healthcare costs in their reports to this meeting of presbytery, the average cost is more than \$12,000 and total costs across the presbytery well exceed \$200,000 annually. Additionally 2013 congregational budgets reflect an average of 10% increase vs. 2012 budgets for healthcare.

Most pastors are self-insured and purchasing health insurance at a significant cost disadvantage to companies who have the leverage to negotiate group coverage rates. Additionally there are several non-traditional healthcare programs (eg. Samaritan Ministries, MediShare, etc.) which potentially greatly reduce the costs of healthcare, but have limitations on coverage and liability.

We would like to request a study committee to investigate the opportunities to provide optional group insurance for pastors within our presbytery. Specifically we hope this committee would survey all pastors in the presbytery in terms of what health insurance concerns and needs they have, what their current coverage entails and what the costs of their coverage have been over the past 3 years. The committee would then survey insurance and healthcare programs to determine the viability of offering group health insurance to pastors in the presbytery on an optional basis (ie pastors / congregations can elect to keep their current insurance or switch, but are not forced to do either).

If we are able to reduce health insurance costs by even 10% this would represent nearly \$30,000 of additional funds for kingdom ministry which could be otherwise invested in

This recommendation is recognized to be different from a denomination-wide approach in that a regional plan has to cover less state-to-state differences (the Midwest is more aligned than other areas of the country), and that the goal is to provide an option rather than a required plan.

Recommendation: that the presbytery refer this paper to a study committee and that the committee report at Synod meeting of presbytery such that if this is feasible the changes could be made for 2014.

Respectfully submitted,
The Immanuel RP Session

Report to Great Lakes — Gulf Presbytery
Selma

Written by Jerry O'Neill, Moderator of Session

For the Selma congregation, this has been a year of maintaining the weekly worship services and Sabbath school class, conducting a midweek Bible study under the leadership of Rev. Winston Williams, and encouraging the saints in their lives in Christ.

Three men continue to fill the pulpit for us: Rev. James Martin, Rev. Winston Williams, and Rev. Albert Jackson. The congregation is pleased with each of these three men, and the Session asked the Moderator to talk to each of these men about their availability and suitability for a pastoral call. In these interviews, it became obvious to the Moderator that Rev. Jackson should be considered a serious candidate. Rev. Jackson was ordained in a Baptist Church, but after studying at Birmingham Theological Seminary (M.Div. degree from BTS) and in conversations with some of us in the Reformed Presbyterian Church, he has come to understand and appreciate Reformed, covenantal theology with Biblically-regulated worship.

The elders met with the congregation, and they are eager to proceed with a call to Rev. Jackson, if Presbytery sustains his exams. They are eager for a pastor who has some understanding of the South and experience in an African-American church. The plan is for Rev. Jackson and his wife, Willa, to spend two weeks (and three weekends) in Indiana, meeting with the Candidates and Credentials Committee and hopefully attending worship services in six congregations during their time there.

If all goes well in Indiana, we would like to request that he be examined at the Synod meetings of Presbytery. In fact, to save costs, perhaps the 2 ¼ week trip to Indiana could be immediately prior to Synod in Marion, IN. If they could also stay for Synod, it would give them a great introduction to the RPC.

Personally, the writer of this report believes that if Rev. Jackson can satisfy the Presbyter^y as to his theological readiness, I would strongly recommend his as a solid candidate. We did slow down the process earlier this year when Rev. Jackson asked to delay his scheduled trip to Indiana to give him time to work on a family issue that arose. My sense is that this was a good sign, indicating how seriously he

Again, a personal reflection: I think it is very likely that Rev. Jackson will be able to affirm the vows for ordination. He has not yet read anything with which he strongly disagrees — including infant baptism and the a cappella singing of Psalms in worship. However, his education at BTS has had some big holes in it, and I would not expect him to strongly and thoroughly defend all our positions. But he is teachable, has a high view of God's sovereignty in all things, and a love for the Selma church.

If at all possible, we would hope not to have to wait several months for the Presbytery to determine Rev. Jackson's acceptability to serve as our next pastor. In a sense, "all of our eggs are in this one basket" and if Presbytery deems that he is not qualified to serve, we would like to know that as soon as possible.

The Selma congregation does not have much income at the present time, and I am sure that the salary package would not meet what we would normally expect. But my understanding is that this would not be a stumbling block for Rev. Jackson. He understands the situation of the Selma congregation.

Respectfully submitted
Jerry O'Neill, Moderator

Great Lakes/Gulf Presbytery Nominating Committee Report

1/1/12 - 12/31/12

Ad Interim Commission

Adam Ness (moderator)
Bloomington Session
Andy McCracken

Church Extension

Committees

Michigan
Jon Hughes (ch)
Counfield session
Kent VanTimmeren

Southern

Ian Wise (ch)
H.P. McCracken
Tom Reed
Frank Smith

Indiana-Ohio

Andy McCracken
Phil Pockras
Jason Carney
Jared Overt (ch)
David Long

Candidates & Credentials Committee

Class of '14
Roy Blackwood
Jared Overt

Class of '15

Dean Eilon
Andy McCracken
Rich Holdeman

Class of '16

Michael Lebbvre
Jon Hughes

Visitation Committees

Southside
Phil Pockras (ch)
Keith Evans
Russ Putnam

Christ Church (Avon)

Jason Carney (ch)
George Gregory
Dan Webb

Home Mission Board Rep

Andy McCracken (class of '15)

Covfamiko+ Conference

Dr. Jonathan Schaeffer
Mgr. Chana Cheep

Interchurch Liason

Dona & Cassell

Youth Coordinators

Rich Johnston (sec)
Keith Evans (asst sec)

Reps to the Youth Ministries Committee of Synod

Ben & Anna Larson

Geneva Board of Corp.

(Nomination to Synod)
Phil Pockras

Moderators of Vacancies

Grand Rapids - James Fara
Hetherton - Milton Herrington
Sema - Jerry O'Neil
Sparta - Jared Overt
Westminster - Keith Magill

Provisional Elders

Hetherton - Ed Roby
Sparta - Jim Bishop

Stated Supply

Hetherton - Ray Morton
Westminster - Steve Rhoads

Terre Haute Commission

Bob McCracken (ch)
Rich Holdeman

Ken DeJong
Eric Cobens
Jerry Porter

Pageland TGB

Frank Smith (mod)
Bob Shapiro
Tom Reed
Jeff Jones
Ian Wise
Dick Sears

Committee to Study

Health Insurance
Ben Larson
Jerry Porter (mod)
Bill Roberts
Bob McCracken

Internet Maintenance

Keith Evans

Treasurer

Jim Bishop

Names in italics are new appointments or re-elections.
Respectfully submitted: Jared Overt, Bob Bibby, Barry York, Adam Ness

GREAT LAKES-GULF PRESBYTERY

BANK ACCOUNT BALANCES

1/1/12 Through 12/31/12

CHECKING ACCOUNT

Deposits	\$ 147,200.87
Withdrawals	\$ (152,127.15)
Interest	\$ 1.24
Bank Charges	\$ (0.03)

OVERALL TOTAL \$ (4,925.07)

Balance Jan 1, 2012 \$ 8,696.92
Balance December 31, 2012 **\$ 3,771.85**

SAVINGS ACCOUNT

Interest	\$ 0.50
Federal Interest Withheld	\$ (0.11)
Transfer to Checking Account	\$ (1,035.50)
OVERALL TOTAL	\$ (1,035.11)

Balance Jan 1, 2012 \$ 1,035.11
Balance December 31, 2012 **\$ -**

TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDS

Balance Jan 1, 2012 \$ 9,732.03
Balance December 31, 2012 **\$ 3,771.85**

GREAT LAKES-GULF PRESBYTERY

1/1/12 Through 12/31/12

INCOME		2012 Actual
100 - Assessments		
101	2012 Assessments	\$ 36,061.31
102	2011 Assessments	\$ 527.93
120 - From HMB		
122	H.M.B. Supplements - Residents-in-Training	\$ 18,000.00
123	H.M.B. Supplements - Reducing Aid	\$ 77,973.00
124	H.M.B. Supplements - Grant	\$ 10,000.00
130 - Other		
131	Maxine Clark Estate	\$ 3,603.13
140	Bank Interest	\$ 1.74
TOTAL INCOME		\$ 146,167.11
EXPENSES		
200 - Presbytery Meetings		
201	Annual Meeting	\$ 5,355.71
208	Other - Lafayette-Evans Ord/Inst 8/26/11	\$ 310.08
211	Other - Southfield-Kuehner Ord/Inst 3/30/12	\$ 2,203.05
212	Other - Orlando-McCracken Ord/Inst 5/11/12	\$ 3,293.35
213	Other - Special Exams Indy 6/1/12	\$ 1,556.53
214	Other - Neiss & Gregory Ord/Inst & exams 9/6-7/12	\$ 2,768.21
260 - Officer's Expenses		
261	Clerk Honorarium	\$ 1,500.00
262	Assistant Clerk Honorarium	\$ 500.00
265	General Expense - Treasurer (Stamps)	\$ 45.00
270 - Standing Committees & Commissions		
290	Other General Expenses - Bank Charges	\$ 0.14
300 - Congregational Visitations		
316	Sparta Visitation	\$ 849.29
400 - New Works		
402	Atlanta	\$ 2,000.00
403	Terre Haute	\$ 2,000.00
405	Marion	\$ 1,200.00
406	Pageland	\$ 2,000.00
500 - Seminary Student Aid		
520	Loviamikor Family Conference	\$ 13,200.00
540 - Youth Work		
550	College Ministry	\$ 500.00
700 - HMB Aid Distribution		
720	Resident-In-Training	\$ 18,000.00
730	Reducing Aid Supplement	\$ 77,973.00
740	Grant	\$ 10,000.00
800 - Special Committees & Commissions		
804	Terre Haute Commission	\$ 78.14
808	Durham Installation Commission	\$ 1,842.50
809	Selma Committee	\$ 497.67
900 - Miscellaneous		
901	Maxine Clark Estate	\$ 3,603.13
902	Assessment Refund	\$ 61.49
903	Clerk Computer	\$ 300.00
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$ 152,127.29
ANNUAL NET		\$ (5,960.18)
Balance Jan 1, 2012		\$ 9,732.03
Balance December 31, 2012		\$ 3,771.85

Great Lakes - Gulf Presbytery Financial Report

Updated 3/1/2013

INCOME	2010		2011		Mar-12		Mar-13	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	2012 Actual	2012 Budget	2013 Actual	2013 Budget
100 - Assessments								
101 - General Fund	34,258.50		37,587.20		36,000.00	36,061.31	40,964.00	38,000.00
102 - Prev Years	2,175.85		1,743.00			527.93		
103 - New Works								
Total Assessments =	36,434.35		39,330.20		36,000.00	36,589.24	40,964.00	38,000.00
120 - From HMB								
121 - Exploratory Grants					10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	
122 - Residents in Training	40,000.00		24,000.00		12,000.00	18,000.00	12,000.00	5,000.00
123 - Reducing Aid	8,478.00		73,428.00		75,280.00	77,973.00	80,019.00	
124 - Grants								
Sub-total HMB Aid =	48,478.00		97,428.00		87,280.00	105,973.00	82,019.00	5,000.00
140 - Interest	29.23		1.94			1.74		
150 - Other Income	257.43		3,617.35			3,603.13		
TOTAL INCOME =	85,199.01		140,377.49		133,280.00	146,167.11	122,983.00	43,000.00
EXPENSES								
General Expenses								
200 - Presbytery Meetings								
201 - Annual Meeting	6,058.75		6,773.08		6,000.00	5,355.71	7,000.00	7,000.00
207 - Atlanta Organization 4/24/10	3,566.54							
208 - Second RP Fair Installation 6/10/11			3,095.20					
209 - Lafayette-Evans Ord/Install 8/26/11			3,183.18			310.08		
210 - Pageland-Organizational Mtg 10/8/11			657.38					
211 - Southfield-Kuehner Ord/Install 3/30/12					3,000.00	2,203.05		
212 - Orlando-McCracken Ord/Install 5/11/12					3,000.00	3,293.35		
213 - Special-Exams Terre Haute 6/1/12					1,500.00	1,556.53		
214 - Neiss & Gregory Ord/Inst & exams 7/12-13/12					2,000.00	2,768.21		
215 - Ordination exams Mtg							1,500.00	
216 - Ord/install Mtg							2,500.00	
Sub-total Presbytery Mtgs =	9,625.29		12,698.94		15,500.00	15,486.93	11,000.00	11,000.00
260 - Officer's Expenses								
261 - Clerk Honorarium	2,000.00		2,000.00		1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
262 - Ass't Clerk Honorarium					500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
265 - Officer's Expenses	115.98		179.95		100.00	45.00	100.00	100.00
Sub-total Officer's Expenses =	2,115.98		2,179.95		2,100.00	2,045.00	2,100.00	2,100.00
270 - Standing Committees & Commissions								
271 - Ad Interim Commission								
272 - Candidates & Credentials	102.00							
273 - Southern Ch Ext Committee	818.30		473.45		500.00		500.00	500.00
274 - Indiana-Ohio Ch Ext Committee	191.40		157.62		500.00		500.00	500.00
Sub-total Standing Cmte's & Comm's =	1,111.70		631.07		1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
290 - Other General Expenses								
Sub-total General Expenses =	12,881.12		15,509.96		18,800.00	17,532.07	14,300.00	14,300.00
300 - Congregational Visitations								
305 - Elkhart Visitation	384.47							
308 - Hetherton Visitation			563.64					
314 - Southfield Visitation			290.18					
315 - Southside Indpls Visitation					500.00			
316 - Sparta Visitation					500.00	849.29	1,000.00	1,000.00
Sub-total Congregational Visitation =	384.47		853.82		1,000.00	849.29	1,000.00	1,000.00
400 - New Works								
402 - Atlanta Mission - Northminster	2,000.00		2,000.00		2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
403 - Terre Haute	1,000.00		2,000.00		2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
405 - Marion					1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00
406 - Pageland					2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Sub-total New Works =	3,000.00		4,000.00		7,200.00	7,200.00	7,200.00	7,200.00

	2010	2011	Mar 12	Mar 13	Mar 13	Mar 13
	Actual	Actual	2012	2012	2013	2014
			Budget	Actual	Budget	Budget
J - Seminary Student Aid	8,400.00	12,600.00	13,500.00	13,200.00	8,100.00	6,300.00
J - Covfarrick Family Conference	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
J - Youth Work	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
J - College Ministry			500.00	500.00	1,500.00	500.00
J - Fraternal Delegates			500.00		100.00	100.00
0 - Coordinator for Church Extension	1,500.00					
0 - HMB Aid Distribution						
701 - Exploratory Grants			10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	0.00
702 - Residents in Training	40,000.00	24,000.00	12,000.00	19,000.00	12,000.00	5,000.00
703 - Reducing Aid	8,478.00	73,428.00	75,280.00	77,973.00	60,019.00	0.00
Sub-total HMB Aid Distribution	48,478.00	97,428.00	97,280.00	105,973.00	82,019.00	5,000.00
0 - Special Committees & Commissions			300.00		1,000.00	1,000.00
802 - Paper 09-03 (Grand Rapids Cmte)	2,109.42					
803 - Durham Commission	2,929.29	305.40				
804 - Terre Haute Commission	83.16	84.15	400.00	78.14	200.00	200.00
805 - Selma Special Committee	1,807.53					
806 - 2nd RP Judicial Commission	1,022.12					
807 - Pageland Commission						
808 - Durham Installation Commission 4/13/12			1,500.00	1,842.50		
809 - Selma Committee				487.67		
810 - Southfield Judicial Commission					750.00	
Sub-total Special Cmte's & Comm's	7,951.52	389.55	2,000.00	2,408.31	1,950.00	1,200.00
00 - Miscellaneous						
901 - Other	257.43	196.71	550.00	3,964.62	250.00	250.00
902 - Retired Pastor's Synod Expense			250.00		500.00	500.00
Sub-total Miscellaneous	257.43	196.71	800.00	3,964.62	750.00	750.00
TOTAL EXPENSES =	85,352.54	133,478.04	142,080.00	152,127.29	119,419.00	39,850.00
ANNUAL NET =	(153.53)	6,899.45	(8,800.00)	(5,960.18)	3,564.00	3,150.00
Balance Jan 1 =	2,986.11	2,832.58	9,732.03	9,732.03	3,771.85	7,335.85
Balance Dec 31 =	2,832.58	9,732.03	9,932.03	3,771.85	7,335.85	10,485.85

Presbytery Policy Reminders

- The policy of the Presbytery is that the mileage reimbursement rate is the standard IRS rate in effect on the date the reimbursable mileage was incurred (2013 - \$.565)
- The meal allowance is \$6/meal for travel to/from Presbytery meetings
- The policy of the Presbytery is that normally the congregation pays the expenses of its provisional moderators and elders.
- Congregations are to remit not less than one fourth of their assessment each and every quarter. If needed, the Presbytery treasurer is authorized to send reminders quarterly to congregations

Recommendations 2013

- That the Mar 13 2013 Revised Budget and the Mar 13 2014 Budget be adopted.
- That congregations with the budget item "In lieu of Social Security" consider simply including this amount in their pastor's salary and no longer using this category
- That congregations remit not less than one fourth of their assessment each and every quarter. If needed, the Presbytery treasurer is authorized to send reminders quarterly to congregations.
- That up to \$750 be offered to congregations which host the annual meeting of Presbytery to help with their hospitality expenses.
- That the travel expenses to this meeting of Presbytery for Mr. Jim Brown be paid.

Sparta Visitation Report

February 21, 2013
Great Lakes/Gulf Presbytery

Preparation & Visit

Before our arrival in Sparta, the visitation committee had phone meetings with both Ray Morton and Bob Morrow. Additionally, we received back several of the presbytery questionnaires.

After our arrival on Saturday, our committee first met with Pastor Morton, then with both Ray and Bob over lunch. During the afternoon and evening, we met with the Morrrows, Odoms and Bob Finley. After worshiping together on Sunday, we enjoyed a fellowship meal with the congregation, followed by a preliminary report from our committee. We are very appreciative for the warmth and welcome of the congregation.

Following are what we feel are the most encouraging or important matters for the session, congregation and presbytery to consider.

Transitional Matters

It was due in part to Pastor Morton's impending retirement that our committee was established. Both the session and the congregation have shown a great love for Pastor Morton and appreciation for his work as well as a realization that the current transition is very important. (Pastor Morton was given use of the parsonage through the March. The congregation is planning a goodbye dinner for him.)

In the weeks following our visit and based upon our recommendation, the *ad interim* commission appointed a provisional moderator (Jared Olivetti) and ruling elder (Jim Bishop) to work alongside Bob Morrow. The new session has been established and is meeting twice monthly by phone and once in person. We are thankful that Jim and Jared responded quickly to this call to service.

As the congregations looks prayerfully to the future, our committee recommends seeing this as an opportunity for more purposeful and extended planning: What kind of congregation are we? What kind of congregation do we want to be? How will we get there? This type of self-awareness and planning will help the congregation and session proceed purposefully toward the calling of a pastor. If the session chooses to take up this kind of extended planning, we might recommend looking for outside help.

Internal Matters

It is clear to everyone that this time of transition is one of a certain urgency for the congregation. Despite the urgency, there were several encouraging factors that stood out to us: the love and care that the congregation has for each other is evident. Additionally, there seems to be a deep commitment to the priority of prayer. We can only encourage the church family to pursue these things even more!

Following is our counsel about the internal life of the congregation:

- *Communication*-It was our observation that the communication within the congregation could be improved, especially between the session and the members. Moving forward, we would encourage

Meeting of Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery, February 28 to March 2, 2013 Page 76 of 81
the session to find new ways to regularly communicate with the members (perhaps through a weekly newsletter) and for the congregation to be regularly bringing their joys and concerns to the session. A commitment to talking openly, listening lovingly and responding thoughtfully will pay for itself many times over.

- *Leadership*-We believe the congregation will be aided by seeking the election of another elder to come alongside Bob Morrow.

Growth Matters

The Sparta congregation is few in number and truly needs and desires to see God's gracious work of expansion. As the congregation continues to mourn the death of two members, including Heather Morton, they also say goodbye to Pastor Morton himself. Thus far, God has not seen fit to bring them into a season of growth. Toward that end, we would offer the following encouragements to the congregation:

- *Pray!*-Remember that God alone is the architect and construction crew of His church. He has every ability to do more than we could even dream to ask. Keep asking Him for kingdom growth in your midst; make this a matter of prayer at every worship service, every prayer meeting, and every time of fellowship.
- *Evangelize*-Certainly prayers for growth must be accompanied by a desire and commitment to bringing the gospel with us through our weeks.
- *Evaluate*- "What would make visitors feel more welcome in our midst?" Being a very established congregation, the sheer history of the congregation may make it hard for newcomers to feel truly a part of the community. The session might reconsider the practice of having communion at a table in the front as it often serves to highlight those who are separate. While the gospel will be offensive to unbelievers, we should work to remove any other obstacles we can.
- *Publicize*-While this may have a worldly tint in some people's minds, we simply mean to encourage the congregation to do what they can to make themselves known and available to their town. This may include revamping the website (which has already begun), participating in community events, regularly changing the signage, etc.
- *Re-connect*-It came to our attention that there are some who previously attended Sparta RPC but currently have stopped. To whatever extent possible, the session and congregation should seek ways to reconnect with these former adherents and members.

Final Thoughts

We were blessed by our time visiting the congregation in Sparta! Like every church family does at times, they are experiencing a time of great challenge—but such times are when the glory of Christ's gospel and power often are the most real to us. We hope the congregation can prayerfully combine their sense of urgency with a sense of gospel opportunity. And we hope that the presbyters will take possible opportunities to come alongside this church family whose distance tempts toward a sense of isolation.

For Christ's Crown, Rich Johnston

Wendell McBurney Jared Olivetti

Report of the Terre Haute Commission

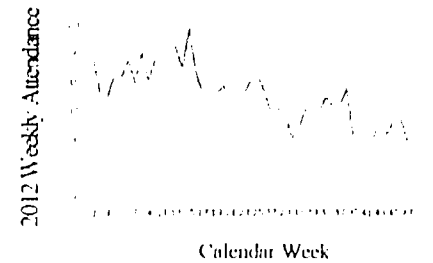
In March of this year the Terre Haute Reformed Presbyterian Church Plant moved into a new location. The Church purchased a building at 1407 North 25th Street, Terre Haute, In 47803. We are thankful for God's provision.

Worship services are held each morning with worship and prayer meetings being held each Lord's Day evening. Pastor Roberts completed a preaching series on the "Basics of the Christian Life" and from the book of II Timothy. The congregation's adult Sabbath School classes have been studying through the book of Ephesians, and a series on "Finding Christ in the Old Testament." The college age class is studying the book of Ezra and the book on "The Pursuit of Holiness". The evening meetings have been studying the book "Planting, Watering, Growing: Planting Confessionally Reformed Churches in the 21st Century" and a video series "The Truth Project" at the Robert's home. The sacrament of the Lord's Supper was observed quarterly, March, June, September, and December.

Outreach activities continue with door-to-door canvassing in the neighborhood of the church building with 8-12 people participating in this activity, Church Briefs in the local newspaper; [Sermonaudio.com](http://sermonaudio.com); the church's web site (<http://terrehautechurch.org/>); mercy ministries in the community (Light House Mission, Salvation Army, Crisis Pregnancy Center); Bill Roberts continues to minister to those in the Federal prison. (Monthly visits to a man on death row.)

In September Peter Struck was offered an internship. Peter participates in Pastor Roberts's Discipleship Group which has been studying Greek and the books, Pilgrims Progress and Abolition of May by C.S Lewis. Peter also leads the young adult Sabbath School classes. Over the past year Dan Deason has attended worship and also preached a number of times at the Sparta congregation in the hope that Sparta would make a call to him as a pastor. Dan will be meeting with the Candidates and Credentials Committee during the spring meeting of Presbytery. Last year Ryan Chaplin was taken under care by the Candidates and Credentials Committee of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery. Ryan Chaplin has asked the Candidates and Credentials Committee to be released from his Student Under Care standing. Ryan has moved from the area and no longer attends worship.

The Keegan O'Bannon family moved to Pennsylvania in September. The Commission has issued a Certificate of Transfer of Membership for Keegan and Emily O'Bannon, members and their baptized children to the Covenant Reformed Presbyterian Church, Meadville, PA Church attendance and finances has seen a substantial decrease over the past year. This was due primarily to members and adherents moving out of the area. This has been a discouragement to the congregation and to Pastor Roberts.



Recommendation 1. "That Presbytery allow 10 minutes to hear from Pastor Bill Roberts regarding the work in Terre Haute." (See page 2 of this Report)

Recommendation 2. "That Presbytery would set Tuesday, March 19th to be a special day of prayer and fasting for growth and encouragement of the Terre Haute Church Plant.

Recommendation 3. "That the minutes of the Commission be spread on the Minutes of Presbytery."

Respectfully submitted,
Bob McCracken (Moderator),
Eric Cosens,

Ken De Jong,
Rich Holdeman,
Jerry Porter (Clerk)

TERRE HAUTE CHURCH PLANTER'S REPORT

Dear Fathers and Brothers,

Last year's report to presbytery came at an especially encouraging time in the life of the mission church. God had enabled us, with the help of Trustees of Synod, to buy a church building that was a bountiful provision for our needs. We had just begun worshipping in our new location. In addition, we had seen an influx of people so that our worship attendance for the first three months of 2012 was 45. Likewise, the financial shape of the congregation was very good with receipts being well above what had budgeted.

Since that time the congregation has had some very serious set-backs. Two families moved from the area including the key O'Bannon family, one of the original seed families. Our attendance has plummeted so that for the last three months the worship attendance averaged just 20. For the year, S. S. attendance was 21.4 while the morning worship attendance averaged 34.5. The finances have likewise suffered but not to the same extent, although we are now being forced to take money from savings. **We ask for your fervent prayers and visits to join us for worship.**

Despite all that has happened, we continue to seek to minister and to reach out into the Terre Haute community and campuses. Ryan Chaplin, who was taken under care of presbytery last year, interned with THRPC for the first nine months. Unfortunately, the situation did not work out as we might have hoped and the internship needed to end due to some changes in Ryan's theology. I suspect that the Candidates and Credentials Committee will have a recommendation concerning Ryan. Another young man, Peter Struck, has begun an internship with us. He is planning on staying in Terre Haute until at least the fall of 2014 and then hopes to go to Seminary. Dan Deason, an ordained pastor who is a member of the congregation, has preached several times in Terre Haute and Sparta. He has submitted his resume to the Candidates and Credentials Committee for their consideration.

We continue to emphasize the worship of God, outreach, and discipleship. In addition to the sermons being on sermonaudio, slightly abbreviated messages are being aired Sunday mornings on 4 area Christian radio stations. In the fall, roughly one-half of the core members went out visiting in the neighborhood of the church building seeking to contact our neighbors. A newspaper article appears in the Saturday paper each week. Letters were sent to Reformed churches in the state seeking the names of any students who would be at the nearby universities. In addition to the SS classes, there is a weekly men's discipleship group and a THAT Group, a group for young adults, that meets twice a month for discussion and study on various issues. Ryan and Peter have been studying beginning Greek with me.

Respectfully submitted,
Pastor Bill Roberts

FINANCIAL REPORT

	2012 Actual	2012 Actual	2013 Budget
Income:			
Local Contributions	\$60,000	\$60,850	\$50,400
Home Mission Board support	\$28,000	\$28,260	\$22,000
Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery support	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
Loan -- Trustees of Synod	\$0	\$125,00	\$0
Building Fund	\$0	\$1,614	\$0
Outside Support - Intern	\$3,600	\$2,000	\$1,200
Mercy	\$0	\$1,172	\$0
Missions (local, global)	\$0	\$1,025	\$0
Book Sales	\$0	\$1,042	\$0
Gifts - Presbytery Churches	\$1,200	\$2,897	\$5,600
Total Income	\$94,800	\$225,86	\$81,200
Expenses			
Pastoral Compensation			
Salary	\$49,200	\$21,610	\$43,200
Housing Allowance	\$18,000	\$18,000	\$18,000
Medical	\$0	\$18,362	\$0
Taxes Withheld - Federal, State,	\$0	\$9,228	\$0
Pension (a)	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,100
<i>Total Pastoral Compensation</i>	<i>\$71,200</i>	<i>\$71,200</i>	<i>\$65,300</i>
Advertising	\$459	\$459	\$1,000
Books	\$1,016	\$1,016	\$0
Educational Materials - Church	\$1,063	\$1,063	\$1,200
Synod - Denominational	\$984	\$984	\$1,250
Denominational Giving - RP M&M	\$100	\$100	\$400
<i>Building Expenses</i>			
Equipment / Furniture	\$2,000	\$4,273	\$500
Rent / Building Expenses	\$15,000	\$1,750	\$0
Building Purchase	\$0	\$128,57	\$0
Mortgage (c)	\$0	\$6,750	\$9,000
Utilities (d)	\$0	\$2,385	\$1,700
Phone (e)	\$0	\$252	\$200
Property Taxes (f)	\$0	\$3,951	\$0
Upkeep	\$0	\$0	\$1,500
Fellowship Activities / Gifts	\$200	\$127	\$150
Literature - Give-Away	\$250	\$35	\$100
Guest speakers	\$700	\$950	\$800
Insurance (g)	\$520	\$917	\$575
Interns	\$3,600	\$2,000	\$1,200
Mercy Fund	\$0	\$617	\$300
Missions (local, global)	\$0	\$1,025	\$0
Office Supplies	\$900	\$849	\$900
Pastor's expenses	\$2,400	\$1,420	\$1,800
Sabbath School Materials	\$750	\$387	\$300
Synod Delegate Expense	\$200	\$200	\$200
Miscellaneous Expense	\$100	\$11	\$100
Total Expenses	\$173,06	\$231,29	\$88,475
Balance to come from Savings	-\$7,060	-\$5,435	-\$7,275

Minimum pension contribution for 2013 is \$4000. The 2013 assessment is 2% of the 2012 non-designated receipts. The amount of the outstanding mortgage is \$120,585. After the initial startup costs, the utilities have been \$130-140 per month. The phone has been included.

February 20, 2013

Conference Call

9:00pm

A meeting of the Terre Haute Commission was held. Those present were: Bob McCracken, Moderator, Elders, Eric Cosens, Ken DeJong, Rich Holdeman, Bill Roberts, and Jerry Porter, Clerk.

1. Constitution of the Court

The Court was constituted in prayer by Bob McCracken at 9:00 a.m.

2. Approval of Minutes The minutes of November 14, 2012 and September 1, 2012 were read. ☐

Motion: That both sets of minutes be approved.

3. Old Business:

- a. In the September 1st minutes a Motion was made that a Commission member would begin attending the Terre Haute Steering Committee meetings. Attendance would be in an alphabetical rotation to begin with Eric Cosens. It was agreed that the Commission members would reinstituted this practice. The next Steering Committee would be attended by Ken DeJong.
- b. In the November 14th minutes, Pastor Roberts had requested that a special day of prayer and fasting by the Presbytery, however no action was taken.

☐ Motion: That Presbytery would set Tuesday, March 19th to be a special day of prayer and fasting for growth and encouragement of the Terre Haute Church Plant.

This Motion will be one of the Commission's Recommendations in our report to the Spring meeting of the Presbytery and the Clerk of the Commission is to follow up with a reminder to all the Pastors within the Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery.

4. New Business:

- a. Revised 2013 Budget: On December 1st the Commission members received an e-mail from Pastor Robert's expressing his concern about the declining financial situation in the Terre Haute church. Although he appreciated the pastor's salary in the budget for 2013. He was concerned for how it would be viewed by the congregation. Bill suggested that the salary be decreased by \$500 per month so that the reserves are not used up so quickly.

☐ Motion: that the 2013 budget approved on November 14th be revise to reflect a reduction of \$6,000.00 in salary expense. (see attachment "A")

- b. The O'Bannon family: In September Keegan and Emily O'Bannon and their family moved to Pennsylvania and have been worshipping with the Covenant Reformed Presbyterian Church. They have requested membership in that congregation and that a letter of transfer be issued.

☐ Motion: that a certificate of Transfer of Membership for Keegan and Emily O'Bannon, members and their baptized children; Geneva, Mathias, Presley, and Eleanor be issued.

The Moderator and Clerk will prepare and send the transfer to the Clerk of the Covenant Reformed Presbyterian Church, Meadville, PA. .

Terre Haute Commission Minutes

4. New Business: Cont.

- c. Report to Presbytery: The Commission's report to Presbytery will include a summary of the year's actions: Pastor Roberts Report, and the revised 2013 budget. The following three recommendations will be included: 1.) That the Presbytery to allow 10 minutes to hear from Pastor Bill Roberts regarding the work in Terre Haute. 2.) That Presbytery would set Tuesday, March 19th to be a special day of prayer and fasting for growth and encouragement of the Terre Haute Church Plant. 3.) That the minutes of the Commission be spread on the Minutes of Presbytery.

☐ The Clerk will prepare the report and after review and approved by the Commission will be sent to the Clerk of Presbytery.

5. Report from Pastor Roberts:

Pastor Roberts reported that there has been some small encouragement in the work. A new student has started to attend and Bill has been able to record two sermons for broadcast on the local radio station. The Sermonaudio continues and door-to-door neighborhood visitation will resume in April. Visitation from members of area churches needs to be encouraged as this is a great encouragement to the congregation and to Bill and Rachel.

Dan Deason has recently been attending, but unaccompanied by his wife, Carolyn, to worship. Dan will be meeting with the Candidates and Credentials Committee during the spring meeting of Presbytery. Peter Struck, intern, continues to study Greek with Bill and leading the young adult Sabbath School classes. Ryan Chaplin has asked the Candidates and Credentials Committee to be released from his Student Under Care standing. Ryan has moved to French Lick, IN and no longer attends worship.

Bruce Forthun, member of the Local Steering Committee, has recently voiced uncertainties about the future of the church. Bill however feels others remain positive about the church's future despite the low attendance and decline in giving. (see Bill's January Report)

The discussion focused on how the Commission could do to encourage Bill in this matter. It was agreed that Commission members need to develop visitation teams and meet with key members of the church. Visitations for the following: Jim Berry; Dan Deason; Bruce & Karen Forthun; Bill & Rachel Roberts; Ruth Roberts; Ron & Donna Smith; Peter Struck; and Janelle Weir.

☐ Bob McCracken will be preaching on March 17th and would be available to meet with people. Bill will place an announcement in the bulletin of the opportunity for members to meet with Bob on that Sabbath.

☐ A plan will be developed for visitation teams of the Commission to meet with the others.

6. Date and Time of Next Commission Meeting

The next meeting of the Commission will be a face-to-face meeting in May to be at the call of the Moderator.

7. Adjournment of the Court

The Court was adjourned in prayer by Rich Holdeman at 10:05 p.m

Bob McCracken, Moderator

Jerry Porter, Clerk

**Minutes of the Special Meeting
of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery
Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America
May 3, 2013**

Call to Order: The moderator, Keith Evans, called the Presbytery to order at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, May 3, 2013 at Southside Reformed Presbyterian Church, Indianapolis, Indiana, for the main purpose of student exams in preparation for taking up pastoral ministry.

Roll Call

The Assistant Clerk, Jack Rhoda, called the Roll which is as follows”

CONGREGATION	DELEGATE	I			
			Immanuel, W. Lafayette	Jared Olivetti	X
				David Carr	
				Ben Larson	
Belle Center	Phil Pockras	E	Lafayette	Dave Long	X
	no RE				X
Bloomington	Rich Holdeman			Dan Webb	
	Adam Niess	X		Jack Rhoda	X
	Wendell McBurney	X		Bob Bibby	
	Eric Cosens	X	Northminster	Frank J. Smith	X
	Ken DeJong			Bob Shapiro	X
	Wes Archer		Orlando		
Christ Church	Michael LeFebvre	X		Joe Worsham	
	Duane Judd			Jonathan Schaeffer	
	Shawn Bird	X		Jim Pennington (ret TE)	
Columbus	Andy McCracken	X		Ed Forrest, RE Emeritus	
	George Gregory	X	Second, Indianapolis	Rich Johnston	X
	Bob McCracken (ret TE)	X			X
Elkhart	Keith Magill	X		Donald Cassell	
	Fikre Menbere			Dean Filson	X
First RP Durham		E		Russ Pulliam	
	Charles Saunders			Richard Blankenship	
	Charles Leverett			Ram Rau	X
First RP Grand Rapids	(no RE)		Selma		
	Kent Van Timmeren			(no RE)	
	Richard Bonner		Southfield		X
	Doug Nadeau			Jon Hughes	
Hetherton	Milton Harrington			John Kim	

Southside Indianapolis	Gordon Keddie	X	Westminster	(no RE)	
	David Whittle	X		Bob Koch	
	Jerry Porter	X		Jim Ritchhart	
	Don Prichard		Terre Haute Miss Ch	Bill Roberts	
	Steve Sturm				
	John Hanson		Pageland Miss Ch	Ian Wise	
	James Bishop	X	RPTS	Tom Reid	
	George Shopp		Retired	Bob Henning	
Sparta	Ray Morton	X		Marton McLarland	
	Bob Morrow (ret TE)		Min w/o Pastorates	Roger Adams	
Sycamore	Barry York	X		Row Blackwood	X
	Jason Camery	X		Godfrey Franklin	
	Robert McKissick			Ray Lanning	X
	Scott Hunt				
	Tom Dinkledine				

He declared that a quorum was present.

Praise: Presbytery sang Psalm 145A.

Prayer and Constitution

The Moderator led in prayer and constituted the Court in prayer.

Motion: It was moved, seconded, and passed, that elders without certificates who are representatives of their sessions be seated.

Motion: It was moved, seconded, and passed, that all elders present who are not delegates be made consultative members of the court.

Candidates and Credentials Committee Report

Michael LeFebvre presented the Candidates and Credentials Committee Report.

Recommendation 1: that the examinations be conducted at this meeting of Presbytery according to the schedule in the Report.

The recommendation was approved.

Michael LeFebvre introduced Shawn Anderson for his expository sermon on a text.

Shawn Anderson preached God’s Word from the text, 1 Timothy 1:15.

He closed his message with prayer.

Presbytery sang Psalm 32A.

Members of Presbytery made comments on Shawn Anderson’s sermon.

Roll Call Vote

The Assistant Clerk called the Roll and the examination was unanimously sustained.

Clerk's Report

The Clerk introduced the business of the afternoon.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Introductions to the Court

Ram Rao introduced Venkatesh Gopalakrishnan (a.k.a. Venky) and Sarmishta (a.k.a. Shammi).

Candidates and Credentials Committee Report

Michael LeFebvre reported on behalf of the Review Committee (Kent Butterfield and Jon Hughes) on Stan McKenzie's Church History paper, titled "Rhetorical Study of Luther's Preaching".

The Committee recommended that the Paper be sustained.

On the vote the paper was sustained.

Michael LeFebvre introduced Shawn Anderson for his Personal Godliness exam.

The exam was conducted by Keith Magill.

Members of Presbytery asked questions and received answers followed by comments.

Roll Call Vote

The Assistant Clerk called the Roll, the exam was unanimously sustained.

Recess

Presbytery took recess from 3:27 to 3:42 p.m.

Presbytery returned with the singing of Psalm 103B.

Candidates and Credentials Committee Report

Michael LeFebvre introduced Stan McKenzie for his expository sermon.

Stan McKenzie preached from the assigned text of John 12:1-9.

He closed his message with prayer.

Presbytery sang Psalm 73C,

Members of Presbytery made comments on the sermon.

Roll Call Vote

The Assistant Clerk called the Roll and the examination was unanimously sustained.

Licensure to Receive a Call for Stan McKenzie

Michael LeFebvre reported that Stan McKenzie had now completed his examinations for the Licensure to Receive a Call.

Michael LeFebvre asked Stan McKenzie the Queries for his Licensure to Receive a Call.

Stan McKenzie answered all the Queries affirmatively with no exceptions.

Roll Call Vote for Stan McKenzie's Licensure to Receive a Call

The Assistant Clerk called the Roll and Stan McKenzie was unanimously sustained for his Licensure to Receive a Call.

Stan McKenzie signed the Queries for the Licensure to Receive a Call in the Presbytery Minute

Book.

Michael LeFebvre led in prayer for Stan McKenzie's future work in the kingdom of God. Michael LeFebvre gave the words of counsel based on Luke 10:2 and from the Constitution, Directory of Church Government, Chapter II.c.3.i.

Motion: moved, seconded, and passed that the time for this meeting be extended to complete the business of this meeting.

Candidates and Credentials Committee Report

Michael LeFebvre introduced Shawn Anderson for his Soundness in the Faith and Commitment to the R P Testimony exam.

Andrew McCracken conducted the exam.

Members of Presbytery asked questions and received answers followed by comments.

Roll Call Vote

The Assistant Clerk called the Roll and the exam was unanimously sustained.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report of the Candidates and Credentials Committee be received.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed by a 2/3 majority that a motion be allowed for the change of the time and place of the meeting right after the Synod finished its meeting.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the Presbytery meet on June 28 at 2:00 p.m. at the Kokomo Reformed Presbyterian Church for conducting its business and at 7:00 p.m. for the ordination and installation of Shawn Anderson to the Kokomo Reformed Presbyterian Church.

Resolution of Thanks

The Presbytery expressed its thanks to the Southside congregation for their hosting and suitably meeting the needs of Presbytery at this meeting.

Minutes

The Clerk read the Minutes of this meeting.

Motion: moved, seconded, and passed that the Minutes be approved as corrected.

Motion: moved, seconded, and passed that the meeting adjourn.

The Moderator led in prayer adjourning the Court.

Presbytery sang Psalm 133A.

The meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Keith Evans, Moderator
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery

Raymond E. Morton
Raymond E. Morton, Clerk
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery

Minutes of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery
Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America

SYNOD MEETING OF THE GREAT LAKES-GULF PRESBYTERY

Time: Tuesday, June 25, 2013 at 10:56 a.m.

Place: Room 114, of the Noggle Hall, on the campus of
Indiana Wesleyan University, Marion, IN

Call to Order

The Moderator, Keith Evans, called Presbytery to order at 10:56 a.m.
Presbytery sang Psalm 72C and the Moderator constituted the Court in prayer.
The agenda for this meeting is mainly the consideration of the Candidates and Credentials Committee Report.

Roll:

The Assistant Clerk, Jack Rhoda, called the Roll as follows:

CONGREGATION	DELEGATE	I
Belle Center	Phil Pockras	X
	no RE	
Bloomington	Rich Holdeman	
	Adam Niess	X
	Wendell McBurney	X
	Eric Cosens	
	Ken DeJong	
	Wes Archer	
Christ Church	Michael Lefebvre	
	Duane Judd	
	Shawn Bird	
Columbus	Andy McCracken	X
	George Gregory	X
	Bob McCracken (ret TE)	X
Elkhart	Keith Maell	X
	Fikre Menbere	
First RP Durham		X
	Charles Saunders	
	Charles Everett	
First RP Grand Rapids	(no list)	
	Kent Van Timmeren	

	Richard Bonner	X
	Doug Nadeau	
Hetherton	Milton Harrington	
Immanuel, W. Lafayette	Jared Olivetti	X
	David Carr	X
	Ben Larson	
Lafayette	Dave Long	X
		X
	Dan Webb	X
	Jack Rhoda	X
	Bob Bibby	
Northminster	Frank J. Smith	X
	Bob Shapiro	X
Orlando		X
	Joe Worsham	
	Jonathan Schaeffer	
	Jim Pennington (ret TE)	X
	Ed Forrest, RE Emeritus	
Second, Indianapolis	Rich Johnston	X
		X
	Donald Cassell	
	Dean Filson	
	Russ Pulliam	
	Richard Blankenship	X
	Ram Rau	
	Jeff Platt	X
Selma		
	(no RE)	
Southfield		E
	Jon Hughes	
	John Kim	
Southside Indianapolis	Gordon Keddie	X
	David Whittle	X
	Jerry Porter	
	Don Prichard	
	Steve Sturm	X

	John Hanson	
	James Bishop	X
	George Shopp	
	Bob Burchfield	X
Sparta	Rev. Morton	X
	Bob Morrow (retired)	
Sycamore	Shawn Anderson	
	Jason Camery	
	Robert McKissick	
	Scott Hunt	
	Tom Dinkledine	
Westminster	(no list)	
	Bob Koch	
	Jim Ritchhart	
Terre Haute Miss Ch	Bill Roberts	X
Pageland Miss Ch	Ian Wise	
RPTS	Tom Reid	
Retired	Bob Henning	
	Marion McFarland	
Min w/o Pastorates	Roger Adams	
	Roy Blackwood	
	Greg Cumbee	
	Godfrey Franklin	
	Ray Lanning	
	Frank Schutz	
	Jim Wright	
	Dick Knodel	
Inactive	Paul Mathews	

The Assistant Clerk declared that a quorum was present.

Motion: It was moved, seconded, and passed, that elders without certificates who are representatives of their sessions be seated.

Motion: It was moved, seconded, and passed, that all elders present who are not delegates be made consultative members of the court.

Candidates and Credentials Committee Report

Jared Olivetti introduced the Report of the Candidates and Credentials Committee. Recommendation 1 that examinations be conducted according to the Chart on Page 1 of the Report.

Jared introduced Stan McKenzie for his Pastoral and Evangelistic Gifts Exam. The exam was conducted by David Whitla. Members of Presbytery asked questions and received answers followed by comments.

Roll Call Vote

The Assistant Clerk called the Roll and the exam was unanimously sustained.

Jared Olivetti asked George Gregory to report for the committee to review Stan Mackenzie's Exegesis Paper on "Exodus 27:1-8". Recommendation of the examiners was to sustain the paper. On the vote the paper was sustained.

Kent Butterfield was appointed Travel Agent for the Presbytery and travel vouchers were passed out.

Jared Olivetti introduced Albert and Willa Jackson from the Selma, AL congregation for an informal interview.

Recommendation: that Albert Jackson be invited to share his testimony at this meeting. The recommendation was approved. Albert spoke to the Court.

Recommendation 3 that the Candidates and Credentials Committee be authorized to use Presbytery funds for Albert's continuing training. The recommendation was approved.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the remainder of the Candidates and Credentials Committee Report be laid on the table until the Friday meeting of Presbytery.

Minutes

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the minutes be approved as corrected.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that Presbytery adjourn. The Moderator led in prayer and Presbytery sang Psalm 22E. Presbytery adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Keith Evans,
Moderator of Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery

Raymond E. Morton,
Clerk of Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery

Minutes of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery
Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE GREAT LAKES-GULF PRESBYTERY

Time: Friday, June 28, 2013 at 2:04 p.m.

Place: Kokomo Reformed Presbyterian Church,
300 E. Mulberry St., Kokomo, IN 46901

Call to Order

The Moderator pro tem, Dave Long, called Presbytery to order at 2:04 p.m.
The Moderator read II Corinthians 4: 1-18,
Presbytery sang Psalm 49C and the Moderator constituted the Court in prayer.
The Moderator welcomed the delegates and all others present.

Roll:

The Assistant Clerk, Jack Rhoda, called the Roll as follows:

CONGREGATION	DELEGATE	1	2	3
Belle Center	Phil Pockras		X	
Bloomington	Rich Holdeman			
	Adam Niess	X	X	
	Wendell McBurney			
	Eric Cosens			
	Ken DeJong			
	Wes Archer			
Christ Church	Michael Lefebvre			
	Duane Judd			
	Shawn Bird			
	Dale Kroons		X	
Columbus	Andy McCracken	X	X	
	George Gregory	X	X	
	Bob McCracken (ret TE)			
Elkhart	Keith Magill	X	X	
	Fikre Menbere			
First RP Durham	Kent Butterfield			
	Charles Saunders			
	Charles Leverett			
First RP Grand Rapids	(no TE)			
	Kent Van Timmeren		X	
	Richard Bonner			

	Doug Nadeau			
Hetherton	Milton Harrington			
Immanuel, W. Lafayette	Jared Olivetti	X	X	
	David Carr	X	X	
	Ben Larson	X	X	
Lafayette	Dave Long	X	X	
	Keith Evans			
	Dan Webb			
	Jack Rhoda	X	X	
	Bob Bibby			
Northminster	Frank J. Smith	X	X	
	Bob Shapiro	X	X	
Orlando	H. P. McCracken			
	Joe Worsham			
	Jonathan Schaeffer			
	Jim Pennington (ret TE)			
	Ed Forrest, RE Emeritus			
Second, Indianapolis	Rich Johnston			
	James Faris	X	X	
	Donald Cassell			
	Dean Filson			
	Russ Pulliam			
	Richard Blankenship	X	X	
	Ram Rau		X	
	Jeff Platt	X	X	
Selma	(no TE)			
	(no RE)			
Southfield	Adam Kuehner	X	X	
	Jon Hughes			
	John Kim			
Southside Indianapolis	Gordon Keddie	X	E	
	David Whitla			
	Jerry Porter			
	Don Prichard			
	Steve Sturm	X	E	
	John Hanson			
	James Bishop			

	George Shopp			
	Bob Burchfield			
Sparta	Ray Morton	X	X	
	Bob Morrow (ret TE)			
Sycamore	Shawn Anderson		X	
	Jason Camery	X	X	
	Robert McKissick	X	X	
	Scott Hunt		X	
	Tom Dinkledine		X	
	Greg Fisher	X	X	
	Joe Marcisz		X	
Westminster	(no TE)			
	Bob Koch			
	Jim Ritchhart			
CONGREGATION	DELEGATE	1	2	3
Terre Haute Miss Ch	Bill Roberts	X	X	
Pageland Miss Ch	Ian Wise			
RPTS	Tom Reid			
Retired	Bob Henning			
	Marion McFarland			
Min w/o Pastorates	Roger Adams			
	Roy Blackwood			
	Greg Cumbee			
	Godfrey Franklin			
	Ray Lanning		X	
	Frank Schutz			
	Jim Wright			
	Dick Knodel	X	ab	
Inactive	Paul Mathews			

The Assistant Clerk declared that a quorum was present.

Motion: It was moved, seconded, and passed, that elders without certificates who are representatives of their sessions be seated.

Motion: It was moved, seconded, and passed, that all elders present who are not delegates be made consultative members of the court.

Motion: It was moved, seconded, and passed, that elders present who are members of churches with whom the Reformed Presbyterian Church has fraternal relations be given privileges of the floor and permission to participate in the laying on of hands.

Ad Interim Commission Report

The oral Report was given by the Moderator of the Commission, Adam Niess.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.

Candidates and Credentials Committee Report

Jared Olivetti continued with the Report from the meeting at Synod.

The remaining recommendation are:

Recommendation 2: That Venky be given up to ten minutes to share his testimony of Christ's call to faith and his sense of Christ's call to the ministry.

Recommendation 3: That presbytery take Venkatesh Gopalakrishnan under care as a student of theology.

Recommendation 2 was approved.

In keeping with this recommendation Venky spoke to the Court.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the time for Venky to speak be extended by five minutes

Recommendation 3 was approved.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report as a whole be received.

Southern Church Extension Committee Report

The Report was presented by Frank Smith. The Report is as follows:

**SOUTHERN CHURCH EXTENSION COMMITTEE
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery
Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America**

Meeting of May 19, 2013

The Committee met at the call of its chairman by telephone conference call on Sabbath, May 19, 2013, at 8:48 p.m. (EDT).

All members were present: Ian Wise, chairman; H. P. McCracken; Thomas Reid; and Frank Smith.

Ian prayed to open the meeting.

It was agreed that Tom Reid serve as secretary of SOCHEX.

Frank reported on developments in Dayton, Tennessee, following up on numerous e-mails and some telephone calls of the past ten days among committee members, Dr. Dick Knodel, and Dr. Kevin Clawson in Dayton, and a presentation that Frank Smith made in Dayton on Friday, May 17, concerning the RPCNA. Penny Smith came on the line for a few minutes to add to Frank's report.

It was moved, seconded, and passed, that the Committee recognize Immanuel Chapel in Dayton, Tennessee, as a preaching station of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery of the RPCNA.

It was moved, seconded, and passed, to ask Frank Smith to contact Rev. Lacey Andrews (regional home missionary of the OPC for Tennessee) and Rev. James Ganzevoort (pastor of Sandy Springs OPC, Maryville, Tennessee) about this matter.

It was moved, seconded, and passed, to appoint a two man local steering committee of Dr. Kevin Clawson and Mr. Christopher Henderson.

It was moved, seconded, and passed, to permit the local steering committee to choose two people to open a bank account for Immanuel Chapel.

It was moved, seconded, and passed, to accept the remaining funds of Immanuel Chapel OPC once a bank account has been established.

It was moved, seconded, and passed, to request the Presbytery to create a Dayton Commission.

It was moved, seconded, and passed, that the following elders be suggested to the Presbytery as members of the Dayton Commission: James Bishop; Richard Knodel; Raymond Lanning; Charles Leverett; Frank Schutz; and Frank Smith.

It was moved, seconded, and passed, to have Frank Smith arrange pulpit supply until the Dayton Commission is formed.

The meeting was dismissed with prayer by H. P. at 9:46 p.m. (EDT).

Respectfully submitted, Thomas G. Reid Jr.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed by a two-thirds vote that the Presbytery allow the introduction of a special resolution.

Recess: The Moderator asked Bill Roberts to lead in prayer including prayer for Jared Olivetti for his going to East Asia on Monday, July 1, and for his ministry there. Bill Roberts led in prayer and presbytery took recess from 3:46 to 4:02 p.m. Presbytery returned from recess singing Psalm 119M and David Carr led in prayer.

Presbytery continued consideration of the Special Resolution.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the Southern Church Extension Committee be dissolved and that its task be folded into the remit of the Ohio-Indiana Church Extension Committee remit.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report of the Southern Church Extension Committee be received.

Resignation of Frank Smith from Northminster Reformed Presbyterian Church
Frank Smith presented his letter as follows:

May 25, 2013

Dear Members and Friends of Northminster:

This letter is to announce my resignation as Pastor of Northminster Reformed Presbyterian Church. As many of you are aware, at a congregational meeting on March 10, 2013, a straw poll indicated a highly split congregation with respect to my continuing as pastor. As a result of that meeting, I announced at a Session meeting on March 17, 2013 that I would be seeking counsel from fellow ministers with regard to my preaching ability, since objection had been raised to my public ministry. I also announced at that time that, unless there was a dramatic change in the circumstances over the next couple of months, my intention, out of concern for all the members of the congregation, was to tender my resignation.

Per the recommendation of a number of members of the congregation, and at my request, three members of Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery (one of them a professor of preaching) did listen to several of my sermons online. All of these presbyters were strongly affirming of my pulpit skills. Nevertheless, continuing to minister in this situation, in which a significant percentage of the congregation desires a change in ministry, is not tenable. My intention to resign was confirmed by the two advisors who were appointed by the Session: Pastor Dave Long, Senior Minister of the Lafayette (Ind.) Reformed Presbyterian Church and present Moderator of the Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America (RPCNA), and Ruling Elder John Hanson of the Southside Reformed Presbyterian Church of Indianapolis.

The question of the dissolution of the pastoral relationship, including any terms of dissolution, will be considered by the Presbytery at its meeting about a month from now. The current thinking is that the pastoral relationship would be dissolved effective either August 31st or September 30th; with the using up of accumulated vacation time, my last time in the pulpit would be several weeks prior to the date of dissolution. The Presbytery will be responsible to appoint one or more presbyters to the Session, and to counsel the congregation regarding pulpit supply and the call of another pastor.

Today is the thirty-third anniversary of my ordination to the gospel ministry, and the fortieth anniversary of my being taken under care of presbytery as a ministerial student—indeed, as the first ministerial candidate of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA). My resignation from the pulpit of Northminster—the first RPCNA congregation in the state of Georgia, of which I have been the first pastor—also marks a significant milestone in my ministry. And so, to coin a phrase—and with the use of MacArthuresque language—“Old preachers never die, they just move on to the next assignment.” In the meantime, let me thank you for your love for and patience with me. And please be assured of Penny’s and my ongoing prayers for the blossoming and prosperity of this congregation.

Very truly yours,
Frank J. Smith, Ph.D., D.D.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that Frank Smith’s Resignation Letter be accepted, and that the pastoral relationship with Northminster Reformed Presbyterian Church be dissolved, effective on August 31, 2013.

Andrew McCracken led in prayer to dissolve the pastoral relationship.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that David Long and John Hanson be appointed as provisional elders effective July 1, 2013 with David Long appointed to succeed Frank Smith as Moderator of Session on August 31, 2013.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that Presbytery approve the permission to call a pastor and administration of the sacraments.

Southfield Judicial Commission Report

The Report was presented by Keith Magill.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the Commission prepare a summary of their findings concerning this business for possible dissemination and bring it to the Spring 2014 Meeting of Presbytery.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the report be received.
The Report is as follows:

GREAT LAKES-GULF PRESBYTERY – SOUTHFIELD JUDICIAL COMMISSION (MANRING)
Report of the Commission
June 28, 2013

Proceedings of the Commission since the Annual Meeting of Presbytery

The Great Lakes – Gulf Presbytery’s Ad Interim Commission established the Southfield Judicial Commission (“Commission”), comprised of Keith Magill as moderator, Duane Judd, and Scott Hunt on November 28, 2012. The Commission was charged to do the following:

1. Rule on Jeff and Becky Manring’s (“Manrings”) complaint against the Southfield Session (“Session”).
2. Make any needed recommendations to the Southfield Session concerning their ongoing pastoral care of the Manrings.
3. Make any needed recommendations to the Manrings arising from this situation.

The complaint the Commission was charged to rule upon was submitted by the Manrings to the Ad Interim Commission on September 25, 2012. After review and consideration of the Manrings’ complaint, the Commission determined there were two main issues raised in the complaint, which are stated as follows:

1. The propriety of the timing and content of the announcement regarding Jeff Manring’s resignation from the deaconate, read to the Southfield Reformed Presbyterian Church on September 16, 2012.
2. Whether the Session’s assessment, advice and condemnation of the Manrings’ “business” was appropriate.

We reported to the Presbytery at our annual meeting on March 1 that we believed the issues surrounding Jeff’s resignation from active service as a Deacon and the statement read to the Southfield congregation announcing his resignation, had been resolved.

In the weeks after the Presbytery meeting, we began a more intense research into the business in which the Manrings are involved. We wrote up our evaluation, received input from the Session, and then met with Jeff and Becky Manring on June 15 to review our findings with

them. Due to scheduling conflicts Duane Judd and Jon Hughes were not able to participate in this face-to-face meeting in Southfield. After about four hours with the Manrings, we met with the Session and the Manrings together for another couple hours. We concluded our Southfield visit by meeting with the Session alone.

Our findings concerning the TEAM/LIFE business in which the Manrings are involved follows, (in the Appendix to these Minutes). Very importantly, in addition, the Session has written a letter of response to accompany our paper. Their letter is included in what follows. The Session’s letter further clarifies their realizing some of the consequences of how they handled things leading up to and including Jeff’s resignation as an active Deacon and the Session’s announcement to the congregation.

At the conclusion of our meeting with the Manrings on June 15, they agreed to respond to our counsel by July 15. Our counsel is that they should leave their business. We also said we would receive a written response to our findings if they wanted to submit one to the commission.

We have yet to make formal recommendations to the Southfield Session concerning their ongoing pastoral care of the Manrings. However we have had extensive informal discussions with the Session about what their next steps could be, depending on how the Manrings respond to the Commission’s counsel.

We will bring a further report whenever the Presbytery meets again.

Respectfully submitted
Keith Magill, Moderator
Scott Hunt
Duane Judd

Prayer: The Moderator asked Keith Magill to pray for the Southfield Session and Congregation, for the Manrings, and for the Commission and its work.
Keith Magill led the Court in prayer.

Minutes: The Clerk read the Minutes of this session.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the Minutes be approved as corrected.

It was announced that Travel Vouchers should be mailed to Jim Bishop, Treasurer.

Recess: James Faris led in prayer recessing the Court at 5:36 p.m.

Ordination and Installation Service

Call to Order: The Moderator, David Long, called the Presbytery and the assembled congregation to order at 7:00 p.m.

He welcomed all present and made a few announcements about the service.

Call to Worship

The Moderator read Psalm 100 as the call to worship.
Praise: Psalm 2A was sung in praise to God.
The Moderator led in prayer along with reconvening the Court.

Roll:

The Assistant Clerk, Jack Rhoda, called the Roll and each delegate stood and was recognized.

Narration of the Steps: was read by Greg Fisher.

Final reading of the Edict.

Ray Morton read the Edict and the Moderator asked the congregation and then the minister-elect to give their assent to the call on Shawn Anderson.

Adherence to the Call

First the congregation, and then Shawn Anderson gave their assent to the Call.

Queries

The Queries were read by Jason Camery. Shawn Anderson answered all in the affirmative
Shawn Anderson signed the Queries in the Presbytery Minute Book.

Praise: Psalm 8A sung in praise.

The Moderator, introduced Nathan Eshelman, who read the Scripture and preached.

Scripture Reading:

Nathan Eshelman read Ecclesiastes 11: 1-10 and led in prayers.

Message:

“Cultivating the Kingdom in Kokomo”, with the text of Ecclesiastes 11:1.
Nathan Eshelman concluded the message with prayer.

Praise: Psalm 15A.

Prayer of Ordination and Installation

Jared Olivetti led the Prayer of Ordination and Installation setting apart Shawn to the gospel ministry while members of Presbytery and other elders present gathered around and laid hands on Shawn.
Members of Presbytery and other Elders present extended to Shawn the right hand of fellowship.

Charges to the new Pastor and the Congregation

The Charge to the Pastor was given by Ray Lanning and was based on Psalm 23:1-6.
The Charge to the Congregation was given by Jerry O’Neill based on I Timothy 5: 17-18.

Praise: Psalm 24A was sung.

Benediction: Pastor Shawn Anderson pronounced the benediction.

Reading of the Minutes

The Clerk read the Minutes.

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that the Minutes be approved.

Adjournment

Motion: it was moved, seconded, and passed that Presbytery adjourn.

The Moderator led in the prayer of adjournment.

Presbytery adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Pastor Shawn Anderson began his work in Kokomo on June 1, 2013.

David Long, pro-tem,

Raymond E. Morton,

Moderator of Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery

Clerk of Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery

APPENDIX

(The Appendix follows on the next page of these Minutes.)

Southfield Judicial Commission (Manring) – June 15,
2013 – Final Version Page 1 of 12

1 Dear Jeff and Becky Manring,

2

3 The Presbytery Judicial Commission, which was appointed to deal with your appeal to Presbytery, has

4 decided to take a different approach to evaluating the TEAM/LIFE business than what the Southfield

5 Session did in their official communications to you.

6

7 We realize that when the Southfield session said the TEAM/LIFE business is “not a lawful Christian
8 vocation” they made a sweeping and broad conclusion that had some unintended consequences. For
9 example, it may have sounded like they were charging any and all multilevel marketing businesses with

10 being “unlawful Christian vocations.” (They were not.) There apparently has been some confusion about

11 what they meant by “unlawful.” (God’s law not the law of Michigan.) There may even have been some

12 misunderstanding of the term “Christian vocation.” (Employment acceptable to God.)

13

14 What follows is our conclusions about the TEAM/LIFE business and your involvement with it. We hope

15 this will be more accurate and more helpful than what the Session has officially communicated to you.

16

17 First, based on all the information you have supplied to us and information we have gathered from

other
 18 sources, it is our counsel that you ought not to be involved in the TEAM/LIFE business. It is this
 19 particular business that is our focus. We have no interest in evaluating other multilevel (network)
 20 marketing businesses unless a particular business affects people under our jurisdiction.
 21
 22 Second, we reiterate that your involvement with this particular business is not compatible with your
 being
 23 a deacon in the Southfield RPC. For the present, you retain your ordination to the office of Deacon
 but
 24 your offering your resignation from active service as a deacon at Southfield RPC and their
 accepting your
 25 offer stands at least until these current issues are resolved.
 26
 27 Third, we also reiterate our counsel to you that you not attempt to bring TEAM/LIFE into the
 Southfield
 28 RPC congregation in any way nor attempt to recruit anyone to your business with whom that
 29 congregation is having ministry. If you do, the Session will likely oppose those efforts more openly.
 30
 31 Following are some of our reasons for reaching this conclusion. They fall into three main
 categories: (1)
 32 The overall message communicated by TEAM/LIFE. (2) Other related concerns, (3) The sales
 methods
 33 used by TEAM/LIFE.
 34

35 1. Overall message communicated by TEAM/LIFE

36 In a March 3, 2013 blog post Orrin Woodward said, "I love our motto, Have Fun, Make Money,
 and
 37 Make a Difference." This seems to express quite well the overall message of TEAM/LIFE that
 comes
 38 through its promotional material. Watching the first two promotional videos at [http://www.the-
 life_
 39 business.com/en-us/aboutus.aspx#prettyphoto/0/](http://www.the-life-business.com/en-us/aboutus.aspx#prettyphoto/0/) yields these quotations:
 40

41 From LIFE Business: "Something Right"

- 42 > What if you could live the life you always wanted to live.
- 1 > This is your opportunity to make your dreams come true.
- 2 > We were stuck in the rut of day to day living.
- 3 > We focus on leveraging information that will help people live better, prosper and be
 happier
 4 along the way.
- 5 > This information has demonstrated the ability to change lives again and again and
 again.
- 6 > I had low self-esteem and I was afraid to talk to people.

- 7 > It's all about community. People need each other. We have a yearning to be connected
 in
 8 meaningful ways.
- 9 > I struggled with relationships while I struggled with confidence.
- 10 > We teach people to build communities where they can leverage life-changing
 information to
 11 others. Help people get what they want and you'll be rewarded with what you want.
- 12 > With little or no credibility, we were not considered leaders in any part of our life.
- 13 > I was introduced to this life information and it changed everything in my family. I don't
 14 know where I would be honestly.
- 15 > Because of the materials and the mentors that I met in this business I learned how to
 be a
 16 successful dad. I learned how to be a successful husband.
- 17 > If you want it all you can have it all. It's the life.
- 18 > We were going backwards in our marriage and in our careers. But then we were
 introduced
 19 to LIFE.
- 20 > There is something right about an unlimited income potential. There is something right
 21 about a business you can build with other like-minded people in a common direction.
- 22 > LIFE is about changing society and making a difference we can be proud of whether
 23 stabilizing a marriage or getting somebody financially free or any of the eight F's.
- 24 From "Mental Fitness Challenge"
- 25 > One of the best parts for me was how I grew in my marriage. It's just amazing how
 effective
 26 these principles are.
- 27 > You design your future the way you want it to be.
- 28 > The financial aspect was the best blessing I got from this material.
- 29 > Everyone holds an ideal of the kind of life they would like to live. The question is what
 does
 30 that look like for you. That's what the Mental Fitness Challenge is all about. Living the
 life
 31 you've always wanted to live.
- 32 > The good information pulled out of the noise that is out there. We're talking about
 33 transformational change.
- 34 > You can start living the life you have always wanted to live. Creating financial freedom,
 35 having time to do the things you want to do with those you want to spend time with.
- 36 > You'll be involving others as accountability partners to help keep you on track and
 cheer you
 37 along to success.

1 > It's not about willpower. It's about community power.

2 > I don't know where we would be today without this information.

3 > You can challenge yourself to live the life you have always wanted to live.

4 From the promotional material for EDGE

5 That's what the EDGE series is all about! Designed especially for those on the younger side of life, it

6 is a hard-core, no frills approach to learning the things that will make for a successful life. You will

7 laugh, you will cry, you will totally have fun. Featuring successful businessmen and women, authors,

8 entrepreneurs, and even professional athletes who deliver true stories of success, the EDGE series

9 will give anyone a head start on living a happy, fulfilling, successful, and meaningful life.

10

11 Also, from the introductory web page <http://www.the-life-business.com/en-us/aboutus.aspx>

12 **Our Point of View:** You can live the life you've always wanted. We believe it requires correct

13 information, applied with discipline, consistency, and purpose, over time, and with the support

14 and encouragement of a community of people aligned in common purpose.

15

16 **Our Purpose:** LIFE seeks to provide the information, encouragement, opportunity, and community necessary to individuals who are hungry to live a life that counts!

17 There are several underlying assumptions in these statements that make it impossible for a

18 Christian to promote this material and way of life.

19

20

21 Assumption # 1. - The life people always wanted to live is a life which is a good life. But, the life

22 people always wanted to live is not a life pleasing to God - which means it is not a "good" life.

23 LIFE appeals to people's desire to have fun and make money and do something meaningful in this

24 world. The Scripture says that we are inherently self-centered and do not, by nature, want to live a

25 life pleasing to God. A Christian cannot call other people to live the life they always wanted to live

26 because that would be calling them to live a life that is self-centered, materialistic and humanistic.

27 That is a life that will bring them under the condemnation of God. We would be encouraging them to

28 reinforce and pursue what God condemns.

29 As it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All

30 have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one."

31 Romans 3:10-12

32 Rather, Jesus calls us to:

33 And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross

34 daily and follow me. Luke 9:23

35 Assumption # 2. The information from LIFE has the ability to change people's lives? Yes, it might

36 change life's circumstances for some. But is it changing their lives to make them more pleasing to

37 God, a life that has Jesus Christ at its center so that Christ more and more controls everything that

38 they do? If this is in the LIFE material, it is well hidden.

1

2 Assumption # 3. Building self-esteem is a desirable goal. But the message of the gospel is that we

3 must first recognize how far short of the glory of God we fall, how much we have sinned against God

4 and the terrible consequences sin has brought into our life. Are Christians called to help other people

5 build their self-esteem, to help them become rich and prosperous so that they can do the things they

6 want to do? No. Christians are called to bring the gospel as Jesus did when He said, "Repent, for the

7 Kingdom of God is at hand."

8

9 Assumption # 4. Information, assimilated into our life with the help of a community of people, will

10 help us become what we've always wanted to be. But the Bible's view is quite different. It is not

11 information alone that transforms our life. Rather it is the Spirit of God who gives us a new heart and

12 the ability to trust and believe in Jesus. The first Biblical call which Christians should make to others

13 from the Bible is not "learn more" but "repent and believe."

14

15 Further, life is not about becoming what I have always wanted to be. Life is not about me. Life is

16 about pleasing God. Life is about becoming what God wants me to be.

17

18 Assumption # 5 - Involvement in a LIFE community will help you achieve your goals. In fact
19 community is an important part of human life. But if you are in a community which is re-
enforcing
20 temporal goals - e.g. happiness, materialism, humanism - then that community could actually
be very
21 dangerous for you and for your eternal well-being.
22

23 Assumption # 6. - Faith is only one part of a "successful" life. Faith is only mentioned in the
smallest
24 way in these promotional materials. At best, it is just one eighth - one of the eight F's - that
LIFE
25 will help you develop. Faith, Family, Finances, Fitness, Following, Freedom, Friends, Fun
26 (according to Jeff, the order was determined by alphabet not priority). Faith may be the first
one in
27 the list of F's on their shopping menu but it does not come through at all in their advertising as
being
28 a priority. It is not in their motto. Fun and finances seem to occupy first place. Jesus says:
29 ..."If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.
For
30 whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's
31 will save it. For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? For
what
32 can a man give in return for his soul? Mark 8:34-38

33 When it comes to faith, the message of TEAM/LIFE seems to be that faith is just one of many
things
34 that will enable a person to have a happy and successful life. At best, this is communicating a
false
35 gospel to people. You are giving people false hope. You, as a believer in Jesus, are telling them
that
36 they can save their marriage and fulfill their dreams apart from Christ.
37

38 These are just a few of the many assumptions which could be evaluated and found to be
lacking.
39 The overall message of these promotional videos is highly self-centered, humanistic and
materialistic.
41 These are all things which the Bible condemns. The LIFE message is that you can make
yourself

1 better - if you will work at it. But what will be the outcome? Will it be what Jesus said to the
church
2 in Laodicea?

3 For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you
are wretched,
4 pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. Revelation 3:17

5 A true believer ought not to be involved in communicating such a convoluted and, actually,

false
6 message. This is not a message which can be tweaked and improved. Rather, at its core, this is
a
7 false gospel.
8

9 **2. Other concerns**

10 a. Many of the activities of TEAM/LIFE resemble church yet it is not church. Building
a
11 LIFE Community involves weekly meetings, quarterly leadership conventions which
12 include a Sunday morning worship service (From Jeff - "In Orrin Woodward's
sermon
13 Christ Centered, preached during a Sunday morning worship service at the Summer
LIFE
14 Leadership Convention (July 2012) in Milwaukee..."), preaching and teaching, other
15 conferences, leaders being responsible to oversee (work with) their people. There are
16 outreaches (evangelistic events) to which you invite people. There are materials
published
17 monthly for youth. A "sermon preached by a life founder" is advertised in the No
Regrets
18 brochure. It has the appearance, if not the reality, of being a new kind of church. Yet
it is
19 not a true church. There are no sacraments. There is no clear statement of biblical
doctrine
20 upon which it is based. There is no true church discipline. TEAM/LIFE claims not to
be a
21 church even though it is behaving in many ways like a church. Your involvement in
22 building a LIFE Community is contributing to the building of a false church.
23

24 b. TEAM/LIFE mixes money and spirituality in such a way that money is used to motivate
25 spirituality. TEAM/LIFE is a business. You refer to it that way repeatedly. Jeff says,
26 "Some may look at LIFE as a parachurch organization, as I have at times, but it
really is a
27 *business* that fulfills the *purpose* of its founders and expanding community." LIFE's
28 material stresses that it is a business. Money and profit-making are at its core. There
is
29 nothing inherently wrong with money and profit-making. In fact it is an essential
part of
30 existing. But Jesus says:

31 No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other,
or he will be
32 devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.
Matthew 6:24

33 And the apostle Paul says:

34 For we are not, like so many, peddlers of God's word, but as men of sincerity, as

commissioned
 35 by God, in the sight of God we speak in Christ. II Corinthians 2:17

36 You are not just supplying people with products to help them have cleaner houses
 37 or clothes. You are not just supplying people with nutritional supplements to help
 38 them be healthier. You are not just supplying them with containers to safely and
 39 healthily store all their stuff. You are not just selling good books or Christian

1 books. Your stated purpose is to lead them into a whole new way of life – a way to
 2 live their entire life – Faith, Family, Finances, Fitness, Following, Freedom,
 3 Friends, Fun. And in that way of life Christ is portrayed as just another option to
 4 make life even better. The christ you are selling is not the One who is THE way,
 5 THE truth and THE life. This christ is not the One who is the only way to have a
 6 relationship with God the Father. This christ TEAM/LIFE is promoting is just an
 7 optional component that might make all the other things better.

8 Sell them financial advice. Sell them cleaning products. Sell them storage
 9 containers. Sell them management advice. Sell them Christian books. But don't
 10 mix in the Gospel as part of your selling. Do not peddle the word of God. You are
 11 selling A gospel but not THE gospel.

12 But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice
 cunning or to
 13 tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would
 commend ourselves
 14 to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. II Corinthians 4:2

15 c. TEAM/LIFE has won the loyalty of at least some who have been faithful, loyal,
 committed
 16 church members. When any group -- parachurch, business or whatever – encourages
 its
 17 participants to be more loyal to its ministries/work/business rather than the church's
 it is
 18 suspect. From many reports, TEAM/LIFE can, and often does, absorb tremendous
 amounts
 19 of people's time and money so that they have little left for anything or anyone else
 that is
 20 not related in some way to developing their business - including the church. It is
 only the
 21 Church that Jesus promised to build. Many of these groups say they support the
 church and
 22 say they encourage their people to be involved in the church. But often the group's
 actions
 23 are not consistent with what they say.

24 Clearly, Jeff and Becky, you have transferred your allegiance and loyalty to this
 25 business. At this point you have decided to follow what TEAM/LIFE leaders are

26 telling you rather than your Session and now your Presbytery. We believe you are
 27 sincere when you say that you think TEAM/LIFE has the answers to our culture's
 28 decline and to people's happiness. You say that "the goal of this business is to
 29 change the American and Canadian cultures back to God-fearing principles."
 30 However, the real answers are found in Jesus, not in this business.

31 d. TEAM/LIFE has an unbiblical strategy. Jeff says, "We know that a large segment of
 the
 32 population is not looking for biblical teaching. They are turned off by the church.
 When
 33 we meet a need for truth in one area (like finances, marriage or parenting), they will
 likely
 34 be more open to the biblical truth about Jesus: The Way, The Truth and The Life!
 This is
 35 an example seen in Christ and his disciples: meet a physical need and then share the
 36 gospel... Most missionaries lead with providing physical needs before addressing
 spiritual
 37 needs...Missionaries do this in Third World countries all the time." This is not at all
Jesus'
 38 strategy. Rather, it is the classic "bait and switch" strategy. Jesus didn't hook people
 by
 39 giving them food or healing their diseases, get them involved in his business with a
 promise
 40 of fulfilling their own dreams and then hope for an opportunity to preach the gospel
 to

1 them. He did feed the multitudes occasionally and He certainly healed their diseases
 many
 2 times. But he never used that as a hook to get people involved in his business with a
 3 promise of fulfilling their own dreams! And he never charged people money. In fact
 Jesus
 4 said:

5 And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take
 up his cross
 6 daily and follow me. Luke 9:23

7 Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking me, not because
 you saw signs,
 8 but because you ate your fill of the loaves. John 6:26

9 Jesus tells them that they cannot fulfill their own dreams but must give them up to
 10 follow Him.

11 As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you
 wherever you go."
 12 And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the
 Son of Man has
 13 nowhere to lay his head." To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, let

me first go and
 14 bury my father." And Jesus said to him, "Leave the dead to bury their own dead.
 But as for you,
 15 go and proclaim the kingdom of God." Yet another said, "I will follow you, Lord,
 but let me first
 16 say farewell to those at my home." Jesus said to him, "No one who puts his hand
 to the plow
 17 and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God." Luke 9:57-62

18 Further, Jeff says, "The church is and should be the ultimate community on earth.
 19 But what happens to people who are not in the church, are turned off by
 20 "churchianity," or have no interest in the things of the Lord? Should we leave
 21 them to wallow in their emptiness?" The answer is – bring them the gospel
 22 unencumbered by other things. But, through LIFE community, TEAM/LIFE gives
 23 these people a false religion to try to ease their conscience.

24 c. It appears that Orrin Woodward and Chris Brady have all the important answers to
 life's
 25 issues. They appear to be setting up themselves – at least in your minds – as the ones
 to
 26 follow. Many people tend to follow earthly leaders. Eventually these earthly leaders
 can
 27 become more powerful in their lives than Christ. People can even place their hope in
 these
 28 leaders rather than in Christ.

29 For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as
 your servants
 30 for Jesus' sake. II Corinthians 4:5

31 For there are many who are insubordinate, empty talkers and deceivers, especially
 those of the
 32 circumcision party. They must be silenced, since they are upsetting whole families
 by teaching
 33 for shameful gain what they ought not to teach. Titus 1:10-11

34 **3. Sales methods used by TEAM/LIFE**

35 a. Throughout the TEAM/LIFE materials there is a strong appeal to greed as a motivation for
 36 being involved in this business. The constant appeal to "you can have the life that you
 always
 37 dreamed of" certainly is a strong appeal to most people's sense of materialism. This part
 of
 38 their sales methods has been reviewed by the commission and is readily available. It was
 well
 39 documented by the Session and by Pastor Kuehner's personal attendance at a TEAM
 recruiting

1 event. For the true believer the issue is not money but the love of money. Appealing to
 greed

2 is to nurture the love of money in someone else.
 3 Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he
 has said, "I
 4 will never leave you nor forsake you." Hebrews 13:5

5 b. Throughout the TEAM/LIFE materials and presentations there is a clear
 representation that
 6 if you follow the methods and do the work you will get a large financial return.
 However,
 7 this may not be true at all. The fact that people are not allowed to tell what they are
 earning
 8 from their business makes one wonder if there is something to hide. The business
 may not
 9 be as financially lucrative as it is represented to be.
 10 Bread gained by deceit is sweet to a man, but afterward his mouth will be full of
 gravel.
 11 Proverbs 20:17

12 c. Sales methods such as "sling, squeeze and side action" are taught, defended and
 used.
 13 These are clearly unethical methods of getting people to purchase a membership in
 14 TEAM/LIFE.

15 **4. Conclusions**

16 a. In the name of TEAM/LIFE you are selling a false gospel. You are misleading
 people.
 17 You are like a false prophet who deceives them.

18 What then is my reward? That in my preaching I may present the gospel free of
charge, so as not
 19 to make full use of my right in the gospel. I Corinthians 9:18

20 I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace
 of Christ and
 21 are turning to a different gospel-- not that there is another one, but there are
 some who trouble
 22 you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from
 heaven should
 23 preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be
 accursed.
 24 Galatians 1:6-8

25 God became man to turn creatures into sons:
 26 not simply to produce better men of the old kind
 27 but to produce a new kind of man. CS Lewis in *Mere Christianity*

28 b. The very most we can say about TEAM/LIFE is they are presenting a very mixed and
 29 actually convoluted message to people. It may be that true believers like yourselves
 can

30 adjust the message that you personally give to people to make it a little bit better.
 But,
 31 knowing people's inclination to greed and fulfilling their own desires apart from
 God, most
 32 of the people you work with are unlikely to discern the truth when it is presented in
 such a
 33 misleading way. We need to give people a certain sound. We must be very careful to
 bring
 34 people the truth presented as clearly and unencumbered as possible.

35 And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the
 testimony of God with
 36 lofty speech or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus
 Christ and him
 37 crucified. And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, and my
 speech and
 38 my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the
 Spirit and of

1 power, that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of
 God. I
 2 Corinthians 2:1-5

3 Now there is great gain in godliness with contentment, for we brought nothing
 into the world,
 4 and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing,
 with these we
 5 will be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare,
 into many
 6 senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For
 the love of
 7 money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have
 wandered away
 8 from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs. But as for you, O man of
 God, flee
 9 these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness,
 gentleness. Fight the
 10 good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and
 about which
 11 you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. I Timothy 6:6-
 12

12 c. There may, in fact, be true believers in TEAM/LIFE. But they too – along with you
 - are
 13 misleading others. This is not to say that all of the materials and even some of the
 methods
 14 that TEAM/LIFE uses are wrong. We have seen several examples of good material
 which
 15 it promotes.

16 d. But, why not give yourselves to proclaiming Christ alone as the only way to being
 right

17 with God and the only way to be truly blessed in this world and in the next.

18 And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven
 given among men
 19 by which we must be saved. Acts 4:12

20 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I [Jesus] came that they may
 have life and have
 21 it abundantly. John 10:10

22 e. We are very concerned for your spiritual well-being. We fear that you have been
 caught up
 23 with something that will compromise your witness for Christ, bring heartache to
 your lives,
 24 and draw you away from Christ and His church. Remember, deceptions are just that
 - they
 25 look very much like the real thing. They seem so good, so true, so right on. Yet,
 given
 26 time and deeper investigation, they prove to be just that - deceptions and not the
 truth.

27 f. For these reasons, the Presbytery Judicial Commission counsels you to sever your
 ties with
 28 TEAM/LIFE and return to the church, outside of which there is normally no
 salvation.
 29

30 g. Having urged this upon you, we are not asserting that everything is just fine at
 SRPC. The
 31 Session and the congregation have issues and problems and short-comings. But we
 urge
 32 you to go back to SRPC and be part of the solution.
 33

34 h. Lastly, we remind you of what you promised your Lord many years ago.

35 In case you should need correction in doctrine or life, do you promise to respect
 the authority
 36 and discipline of the church?

37 Do you purpose to seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness in all the
 relationships of
 38 life, faithfully to perform your whole duty as a true servant of Jesus Christ, and
 seek to win others
 39 to Him? (Matthew 6:33)

1 Hear the urgings of the Psalmist

2 Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak peace to his people,
to his saints; but let them not turn back to folly. Psalm 85:8

4

5 Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America

6 Great-Lakes Gulf Presbytery

7 Southfield Judicial Commission

8 Keith Magill, Moderator

9 Scott Hunt

10 Duane Judd

June 20, 2013

To our beloved Fathers and Brethren within the Great Lakes and Gulf Presbytery:

We, the Session of the Southfield Reformed Presbyterian Church, would like to thank the Southfield Commission for its diligent excellence in handling the complaint submitted to our presbytery by Jeff and Becky Manning. We consider the Commission's independent assessment¹ of the TEAM/LIFE business to be biblical, factual, balanced, and pastoral. It emphasizes many theological and ecclesiastical considerations which we had communicated to the Mannings privately, but had not included in our formal, Decalogue-based assessment. In this sense, the Commission should be commended for its wisdom in highlighting the "weightier matters" at stake in this crucial discussion. In addition, we would like to personally thank the Commission for patiently persuading us to admit the following:

1. We should have met personally with Jeff immediately prior to reading the announcement of his resignation. Simply emailing him the prospective announcement several days in advance did not give him sufficient time to respond. During our initial meeting with the Commission in January of this year, we asked and obtained Jeff and Becky's forgiveness for this costly mistake on our part.
2. We should have worded our public announcement² of Jeff's resignation differently.
 - a. By referring to "his involvement in a *certain* multi-level marketing business" and then stating that "*this* business is not a lawful Christian vocation" (emphasis ours), some understood us to be condemning *all* multi-level marketing businesses. We should have prevented such an interpretation by using less ambiguous language.
 - b. In addition, the phrase "not a lawful Christian vocation," was originally intended (1) To reflect Jeff's repeated claim that TEAM/LIFE is his God-given calling, career, and ministry; and (2) To reflect our belief that TEAM/LIFE is in "violation of the moral law" revealed in the Bible (Cf. BD 1.6, page E-3). However, as the Commission has wisely observed, the phrase "unlawful Christian vocation" has created more confusion than clarity. As the Commission has suggested to us, we should have used a more appropriate word, such as "unbiblical."

Finally, by informing the congregation that we advised Jeff of the unbiblical nature of his business, we unintentionally gave one adherent the initial impression that Jeff was under formal discipline. On the one hand, a more direct route might have been to proceed with a formal censure *prior* to addressing Jeff's diaconal status. On the other hand, our resignation announcement could have been amended so as to indicate that Jeff is *not* under formal discipline, or so as to remove all reference to his business as unbiblical. Regardless of which alternative would have been best, we acknowledge that our chosen course of action resulted in unintended confusion for which we take full responsibility.

¹ We submitted our research to the Commission, but had no part in the authorship of its assessment.

² **Our Announcement:** "For the past two years, the session has been working with Jeff Manning to evaluate the appropriateness of his involvement in a certain multi-level marketing business. After a thorough investigation and dialogue, the session recently concluded that this business is not a lawful Christian vocation and that it stands opposed to his office as a deacon at SRPC. Subsequent to our sharing this decision with Jeff, he (of his own volition and without any specific request on our part) chose to resign his office. We are continuing to counsel him regarding this matter and would ask that any questions relating to it be directed to members of the session."

Once again, we would like to thank the Southfield Commission for its faithful work. May the Lord use it to build up His Church according to the wisdom that is from above, which is first pure, then peaceable.

Sincerely,

The Session of the Southfield Reformed Presbyterian Church

Jon Hughes
(clerk) John Kim
Adam Kuehner (moderator)