

SYCAMORE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH REPORT
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery Mar 5-7, 2020 (Elkhart, IN)

"Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen." Jude 1:24-25

The under-shepherds of this congregation are dependent on the Spirit of the Lord and His revealed wisdom to feed, guide, oversee, and persuade His church to trust and serve the Chief Shepherd of our souls, the Lord Jesus Christ, in whom we have reconciliation with God (1Pet. 5:1-5; Rom 5:10-11).

2019 Congregational Stats:	
2018 Total Members: 32C/20B	52
2019 Total Members: 35C/30B	65
Ave Attendance AM Worship:	57
Ave Attendance PM Worship:	37
Baptized Members Professing:	0
New Members by Profession:	1
Net Change in Total Membership: (-3/+16)	

This last year our session read and discussed Tim Keller’s “Walking with God in Pain and Suffering” which has been beneficial in many ways. We want to be better prepared to comfort and encourage the flock of God as we face various trials individually and corporately. Our hope is to be able to endure trials to the point of rejoicing (Rom. 5:3-4).

Statistically speaking, the session constituted as a court 14 times in 2019 and met informally many other times for counsel and discussion. Sycamore RPC currently has 35 communicant members and 30 baptized members. We witnessed 11 baptisms (L. Anderson; 5 Rudds; G. Estok, N. Stodgell, 3 Kilpatrick). We dismissed Ben Visser from membership as he plans to relocate to Beaver Falls to work. Sadly, we also excommunicated Andy and Sarah Joseph. May the Lord be merciful and restore these lost sheep to Himself. We witnessed the Lord add the Desautels, Howard, Rudd, Stodgell, and Wachs households into membership! We saw attendance averages of 57 people in the morning service, and 37 in the evening teaching service (52 and 31 in 2019). We also rejoice for 3 new deacons (Brian Anderson, Patrick Blue, and Brentt VanSickle) joining our lone deacon, Sam Morrow on our Deacon Board.

Regarding our preaching & teaching ministry, we have seen the glory and experienced the grace of our Triune God as we have walked through Romans 6-8. We also considered Church Membership and a number of one-off sermons. Guest preachers included Chris Myers, Jason Camery, Rich Johnston, Steven Work, HP McCracken, Bill Robert, Aaron Murray, Kyle Borg, and Barry York. We celebrated the Lord’s Supper 6 times, twice participating in Communion Weekends (Three Divine Sisters: Faith, Hope, and Love; Doxology of Jude). In our evening teaching service, we considered the “I AM” Sayings of Jesus (Ligonier), The Life of Elijah, and The Church of Ephesus (Rev 2.1-7). We sang consecutively through Psalms 96D to 109B.

We also kept a teaching schedule during the week, including Bible Survey then Knowing Scripture (Mon); Romans then Psalms for women (Thur); and Calvin’s ‘Little Book on the Christian Life’, Ligonier’s ‘Doctrines of Grace in John’, then Ferguson’s ‘Maturity’ for men (Thurs); Knowing Scripture

(Thurs PM). Apart from weekly Biblical counseling, I have been involved in tutoring the ‘8th grade’ community for Classical Conversations each Wednesday.

Within the church, we enjoyed many times of fellowship, including a 4th of July Backyard Fellowship (McKissicks), an Airshow & Fall Party (Blues), an open house at the Desautels, and a Chili Cook-off at the VanSickles. (Congrats Aaron!). We celebrated the Lord’s Supper 6 times, twice making use of Communion Weekends on the 3 Virtues: Faith, Hope, and Love (Feb, Pastor Anderson) then on the Doxology in Jude (Oct, Pastor Kyle Borg). Most significantly, in November we enjoyed our 25th Anniversary Weekend Memorial with Dr. Barry York. The session is very thankful for the Hospitality Committee as they often served in these events. We made some progress in family visitation, meeting with over half of our households.

Within the Presbytery, we hosted the CORPS Winter conference, we got together for the RP night at Victory Field (Indy), some of us attended Covfamikoï presbytery conference, the presbytery women’s retreat, and we joined the northern RP churches for our annual Thanksgiving Psalm sing.

We continue to pray for and support the Pregnancy Resource Center where Suzanne Jones serves as assistant director now in Kokomo. We enjoyed their annual “Walk for Life” and “Banquet for Life”. We are thankful that Robert Jones can incorporate our building to our community as a service to Lifeline Family Services and their clients. Shawn continues to host Bible studies with folks in the community looking for Biblical counseling.

Our hope and prayer is that the Lord would continue to bless us with Himself in 2020, as well as His benediction of His love, grace, and fellowship so that we would continue to “know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose” which is “to be conformed to the image of His Son” (Rom 8.28-29).

In love and service to Christ and His Church,
Shawn Anderson (moderator), Tom Dinkledine, Robert McKissick (clerk)

SYCAMORE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 2017-18 FINANCIALS

	2019 Budget	2019 Actual	2020 Proposal
100 Income			
101 Interest	\$0.00	\$1.05	\$0.00
102 Tithes and Offerings	\$95,000.00	\$107,222.49	\$100,000.00
103 Flow-In (Anonymous & RP Witness)	\$0.00	\$604.99	
104 Building Emergency Fund	\$0.00	\$0.00	
105 Compassion International	\$0.00	\$41.09	
107 Other Income	\$0.00	\$0.00	
108 Building Improvements	\$0.00	\$7,000.00	
110 Building Cleaning	\$0.00	\$1,950.00	
111 Special Gifts (Roof Fund)	\$7,300.00	\$2,675.00	
Subtotal	\$102,300.00	\$116,939.63	\$100,000.00
200 Administration			
201 Administration	\$3,600.00	\$2,630.78	\$3,000.00
202 Christian Education	\$1,200.00	\$847.69	\$1,200.00
203 Library Education	\$100.00	\$234.25	\$250.00
205 Anderson Ministry Expense	\$2,000.00	\$1,887.35	\$2,000.00
206 Miscellaneous	\$100.00	\$86.86	\$100.00
207 Gift	\$0.00	\$51.43	\$750.00
208 Speakers	\$500.00	\$1,295.12	\$1,500.00
Subtotal	\$7,500.00	\$7,033.48	\$8,800.00
300 Congregation			
301 Fellowship & Hospitality	\$750.00	\$1,042.00	\$1,000.00
303 Mercy	\$1,000.00	\$1,150.85	\$1,500.00
304 Memorials	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
305 Outreach & Evangelism	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
306 Compassion International	\$456.00	\$456.00	\$456.00
310 Sermon Audio	\$360.00	\$359.40	\$360.00
311 Pastoral Continuing Education	\$500.00	\$325.55	\$500.00
323 Conference and Missions	\$500.00	\$740.00	\$800.00
Subtotal	\$3,766.00	\$4,073.80	\$4,816.00
400 Denomination & Missions			
403 Presbytery Assessments	\$1,663.00	\$1,662.48	\$781.00
405 RPM&M	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00
407 Synod Assessments	\$1,971.00	\$1,969.00	\$2,359.00
410 Synod	\$400.00	\$428.00	\$400.00
Subtotal	\$5,234.00	\$5,259.48	\$4,740.00

500 Pastor			
501 Health	\$8,000.00	\$7,999.92	\$8,000.00
502 Housing	\$19,000.00	\$18,999.96	\$19,000.00
503 Salary	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.16	\$23,132.00
504 Pension	\$5,200.00	\$5,200.00	\$5,200.00
Subtotal	\$52,200.00	\$52,200.04	\$55,332.00
600 Building			
602 Domestic Supplies	\$1,000.00	\$524.00	\$1,000.00
603 Maintenance	\$2,000.00	\$2,402.54	\$3,500.00
604 Building Emergency Fund	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,030.00
605 Insurance	\$5,000.00	\$3,529.09	\$3,782.00
607 Utilities	\$6,600.00	\$7,691.33	\$8,000.00
608 Building Improvements Fund	\$19,000.00	\$24,500.01	\$6,000.00
610 Building Cleaning	\$0.00	\$1,950.00	\$0.00
703 Flow Out (Anonym. & RP Witness)	\$0.00	\$604.99	\$0.00
Subtotal	\$33,600.00	\$38,646.97	\$26,312.00
TOTAL	\$102,300.00	\$107,213.77	\$100,000.00
Over/Under Budget:	\$0.00	\$9,725.86	\$0.00
Bank Account Balance	\$18,451.15	\$28,177.01	