

The Clerk's Report

2020 Spring Meeting — Elkhart, IN
March 5-7, 2020

Dear Fathers & Brethren,

Since my last report (Spring 2019), my labor as clerk of this presbytery has included the following tasks:

- Promptly signed and mailed several “Letters of Standing” at the request of ministers in this presbytery.
- Promptly signed and mailed membership transfer letters in accordance with the work of the Shepherding Committee and the approval of the Ad Interim Commission.
- Promptly forwarded various communications from the Clerk of Synod to the GLG delegates email list.
- Recorded, distributed, and submitted presbytery minutes in accordance with the law and order of the church, as confirmed by synod’s minute-book review process.
- Worked with Dale Koons and others to help coordinate presbytery meetings throughout the year.
- Prepared the agenda for this meeting and emailed various reminders and documents to the delegates.¹
- Forwarded numerous “Delegates List” change requests to Keith Evans for processing.²

Communications

The last call for papers will be Friday 3/6 after the mid-AM break. So far, we’ve received the following:

1. **Communication 20-01**: A letter from Dr. Michael LeFebvre regarding his recent writings.
2. **Paper 20-02**: A paper from the Southfield RPC session regarding Dr. LeFebvre’s recent writings.
3. **Communication 20-03**: A testimony from Gordon Keddie bearing upon Dr. LeFebvre’s recent writings.
4. **Communication 20-04**: A review of Dr. LeFebvre’s recent book forwarded by Dr. Barry York.³

Recommendations

1. That presbytery appoint Phil Pockras and Jon Hughes as parliamentarians for this meeting, with Steve Rhoda and Keith Evans serving as alternates.
2. That presbytery instruct the nominating committee to (a) determine the congregations to be visited this year, and (b) identify one or two potential nominees to replace Bill Roberts (now in MWP) as a GLG representative on the Trustees of Synod.⁴
3. That presbytery refer Communication 20-01 to the Judicial Committee (of the Day).⁵
4. That presbytery refer Paper 20-02 and Communication 20-03 to the 19-5 Committee.⁶
5. That presbytery refer Communication 20-04 to the 19-5 Committee pending its recommendation (to be presented and voted on later in this meeting) for/against distributing the document to the delegates.
6. That presbytery adopt the proposed agenda for this meeting.
7. That presbytery grant all RPCNA elders present, including all non-certified delegates from this presbytery, the privilege of the floor during the remainder of this meeting.⁷

Respectfully Submitted ~ Adam Kuehner, Clerk

¹ Please accept my sincere apology for initially classifying the recent communication from St. Lawrence Presbytery as Communication 19-4 rather than 19-5. Thankfully, this careless mistake was identified and fixed in time for this meeting.

² Please note that the clerk is unable to make these changes and, therefore, **cordially recommends** that all such requests be sent directly to Keith Evans: kevans@rpts.edu.

³ This book review, which also includes references to Dr. LeFebvre’s article “Adam Reigns in Eden”, is co-authored by RPTS professors Jeff Stivason, CJ Williams, and Barry York. For the sake of maximum clarity and transparency, allow me to provide a brief “narration of steps”. On 2/4/20 (or thereabouts), the Marion and Durham sessions petitioned the AIC to request this paper from the seminary so that it could be immediately distributed to the GLG delegates *before* the spring presbytery meeting. On 2/9/20, the AIC responded by empowering the 19-5 Committee to make this request. In an email addressed to the 19-5 Committee (cc: the clerk) on 2/10/20, Dr. York very respectfully shared that although he fully intended to forward the paper in time for our spring meeting, “I cannot honor your request to send it at this time.” On 3/3/20, in keeping with his promise, Dr. York forwarded the paper, along with a newly drafted cover letter, to the clerk and moderator. He also expressed his understanding that the paper would only be distributed to the GLG delegates upon presbytery’s request. Having discussed the matter at length, the clerk, the moderator, and the 19-5 chairman agreed that it would be best for the 19-5 Committee to hold the paper for now and then bring a recommendation regarding its distribution before the court during its scheduled report on Friday afternoon. We recognize that the 19-5 Committee is technically empowered to call for the immediate distribution of the paper. However, given some of the recent controversy regarding this matter, we all agreed that it would be best to let the presbytery as a whole make the final decision.

⁴ In an email to the clerk, Bill Roberts requested that we pass along “a suggestion or two” to the Trustees of Synod to replace him on the board.

⁵ This recommendation (previously a referral to the 19-5 Committee) has been changed at Dr. LeFebvre’s request in order to reflect greater sensitivity to the intended purpose of his letter.

⁶ Essentially, this means that any comments or deliberation related to these three communications would occur in connection with the Report of the 19-5 Committee on Friday afternoon (Item #40), with the committee itself weighing in on how to dispose of each communication along with its questions/recommendations. If someone has a better idea, now is the time to speak up!

⁷ Note: Recommendation #4 does **not** grant *voting* privileges to GLG elders lacking written session certification.