

Reformed Presbyterian Church of Southside Indianapolis

Report to Great Lakes/Gulf Presbytery – Spring 2024

Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

Ephesians 2:19-22

Fathers and Brethren,

It is good to remember what the Lord has done among the “*saints and members of household of God*” here at Southside Indianapolis. Session met in constituted court twenty-five times during the year. In addition to eleven monthly stated meetings, four meetings with the congregation were held to elect, ordain, and install three new ruling elders. Ten special meetings were held for communicant membership interviews or matters needing timely attention. In three meetings, session set aside time to meet jointly with the deacon board to review and discuss progress on ministry initiatives.

Public Services

Our congregation profits from the doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness found as our pastors open God’s word each week. Pastor Hanson preached through 2 Timothy, Philemon, Song of Songs, and 2 John. He preached occasionally from Psalms and began a series from Isaiah at the close of the year. Pastor Wise completed preaching through Micah and then preached through Nahum, and Habakkuk. He began a series in Ephesians. He also completed a communion series ‘Seven Words from the Cross’ and preached a ‘Kingdom Parables’ series. In the summer months, Pastors Hanson and Wise took turns preaching from selected passages in Exodus. In addition to the preaching ministry of our own teaching elders, the congregation also heard from these guest preachers: Dr. Dale Ralph Davis, Pastor Joel Hart, Pastor Kyle Sims, and seminary student Jonathan Sturm.

The sacrament of the Lord’s Supper was observed twelve times on the second Lord’s Day of the month throughout the year, in the morning service once per quarter and in the evening service the other months. The sacrament of baptism was administered to Felix Ney, Mabel Hart, and Rosalie Wilson. In addition to corporate prayer in the worship services, a mid-week prayer meeting led by the pastors was held throughout the year.

Pastoral Care

At the end of 2023, the total membership of the congregation stood at 285. The communicant membership was two hundred twelve, a decrease of seven, and the baptized roll numbered 73, a decrease of eight, from 2022.

The following twelve individuals united with Southside RPC as communicant members: Daniela Burch; Patricia Cevallos; David Erney; Evelyn Frederick; John M. Hanson; Katya Ledbetter by transfer from College Park Church, Indianapolis IN; Derick Mbizuh; Salome Nkwa; Caleb Rich by transfer from Reformation Presbyterian Church, Olympia WA; Seth Schilz; Tori Sturm by transfer from Covenant Fellowship RPC, Wilkinsburg PA; and Ed Tschabold. In addition to the three baptized children mentioned above, Arielle Burch was also added to the baptized roll.

Each at their own request, Bob and Sandy Burchfield were transferred to Christ Community Church, Carmel IN; Jane Keddie was transferred to Hope Presbyterian Church, Lawrenceville NJ; Kenneth Martinez was transferred to Covenant Reformed Orthodox Presbyterian Church, Fort Pierce FL; Jonathan and Elsa Sturm along with their daughters Jane and Marianne were transferred to Lafayette RPC, Lafayette IN where Jon was called to serve as their associate pastor; Elizabeth Van Reenen was transferred to Southfield RPC, Southfield MI; and John and Tarrah Westercamp were transferred to

LifePoint Church, Indianapolis IN. Phoebe Cavanaugh was transferred to the baptized roll of Second RPC, Indianapolis IN. Eric Burriss; Joe Cavanaugh; Samantha Dudley; Tony and Tamarah Entingh along with their daughters Eden and Elenai; Lannie and Patty Hamilton; Aaron Scott; and Ethan Wise were dismissed from the roll. On May 19 our beloved former pastor, Gordon Keddie, found fullness of joy in the presence of his Master whom he so faithfully preached.

There were four births during the year: Rosalie Elizabeth Wilson (2/11), Mabel JoAnn Hart (5/26), Felix Oslo Ney (9/3), and Othniel Ntuosoh Mbizuh (11/20). There were four weddings last year: Caleb Rich to Rachel Holloway (1/13), Jonathan Van Reenen to Elizabeth Manring (7/1), Michael Sturm to Tori Mann (8/25), and Luke Hart to Julie Decker (10/21).

Participation in the Higher Courts and Wider Church Ministry

Presbytery – Our ruling elder delegates to the Spring meeting of Presbytery held here at Southside RPC were Ross Cerbus and David Kleyn. They also served as our delegates to the Fall meeting at Sycamore RPC, Kokomo IN. Pastor Hanson served on the Hetherton RPC Visitation Committee and served as a COVFAMIKOI conference advisor, Pastor Wise serves on the Candidates and Credentials Committee. Jim Bishop retired as Presbytery Treasurer at the end of the year. Mark Hart now serves as the Presbytery Treasurer. Ross Cerbus served on the Nominating Committee and serves as the COVFAMIKOI Conference manager. In June, for the last time, John Hanson organized and led a team of Presbytery youth to serve at the ECHO (Educational Concerns for Hunger Organization) farm in Ft. Myers, Florida. He also organized multiple “Seniors ECHO” trips. Jerry Porter served on the Ad-Interim Commission. Pastor Wise and John Hanson served on Jonathan Sturm’s Ordination Exam Commission. Jonathan Sturm received and accepted a call to serve as Associate Pastor at Lafayette RPC. He was ordained and installed on June 23.

Synod – Our ruling elder delegate to the RPCNA Synod meeting held at Indiana Wesleyan was Steve Sturm. John Cavanaugh serves on the Central America and South America Committee and the Latin America Commission, Mark Hart serves on the Finance Committee, and Steve Sturm served on the Olivetti Restoration Commission.

Initiatives

Session is encouraged to see the outcomes of initiatives introduced last year. A new Safe Church Policy was adopted early in the year along with a Safe Church Committee appointed to see to its implementation. The Site Improvements Project was completed in advance of the INDOT Meridian-Southport intersection modifications we anticipate this year. Mike Lotz, Chris Eddy, and Dan Sturm have been welcome additions as new ruling elders on the session.

With Jesus Christ as our chief cornerstone, may we in 2024 be “*fitted together*” and “*built together*” as a place where God in the Spirit is pleased to dwell.

Respectfully submitted,
Southside Indianapolis RPC Session

Reformed Presbyterian Church of Southside Indianapolis
Proposed Budget for 2024 - General Fund

	Actual 2022	Budget 2023	Actual 2023	Budget 2024	% Chg-24 Budget vs. 23 Budget
RECEIPTS					
Total contributions	\$652,306	\$645,000	\$671,626	\$645,000	0.0%
Other income	56	2,000	7,182	-	-100.0%
Total receipts	652,362	647,000	678,808	645,000	
EXPENDITURES					
CONGREGATION					
101.0 Pastor's Salary	133,296	143,160	143,160	145,097	1.4%
102.0 Parsonage Allowance	65,204	69,769	69,769	72,908	4.5%
104.0 Pastor's Pension	20,000	20,400	20,400	25,600	25.5%
105.0 Secretarial Services	10,880	17,000	13,166	13,800	-18.8%
106.0 Worker's Compensation	1,672	1,723	1,483	1,528	-11.3%
107.0 Ministry Expenses	4,244	8,450	7,147	8,450	0.0%
108.0 Church Office	8,856	9,130	8,337	8,680	-4.9%
109.0 Benevolence	1,011	1,000	992	1,000	0.0%
110.0 Pastoral Intern	-	10,000	-	10,000	0.0%
111.0 Audit/Compilation fees	1,000	1,100	1,100	1,200	9.1%
112.0 Traffic/Security Officer	5,537	10,125	7,719	10,125	0.0%
113.0 Safe Church Policy	6,596	1,625	1,250	1,625	0.0%
Sub-total	258,296	293,482	274,523	300,013	2.2%
EDUCATION					
201.0 Sabbath School	2,222	3,750	5,486	5,500	46.7%
203.0 Youth Group	1,416	1,500	194	1,500	0.0%
204.0 Conferences & Guest Ministry	1,718	4,000	4,492	2,500	-37.5%
205.0 Fellowship Activities	5,532	7,300	6,775	9,550	30.8%
206.0 Library	209	450	213	450	0.0%
207.0 Seminary Student Assistance	5,845	3,425	3,425	-	-100.0%
208.0 Ruling Elder Training	-	3,000	-	-	-100.0%
209.0 Family Camp Scholarship	2,735	5,000	2,175	5,000	0.0%
Sub-total	19,677	28,425	22,760	24,500	-13.8%
MISSIONS					
301.0 Local Evangelism	1,092	3,000	2,508	3,000	0.0%
302.0 Missionary Support	78,000	70,000	82,976	64,500	-7.9%
304.0 Ministry of Mercy	3,093	6,000	3,989	6,000	0.0%
305.0 Special Missions Projects	850	1,500	450	1,500	0.0%
307.0 Local Ministries	6,150	6,550	6,550	5,900	-9.9%
Sub-total	89,185	87,050	96,473	80,900	-7.1%
DENOMINATION					
401.0 Presbytery Assessment	6,657	8,837	8,836	9,283	5.0%
403.0 Synod Assessment	13,441	14,351	14,336	14,776	3.0%
405.0 Synod/Presby. Expenses	578	1,500	2,710	1,500	0.0%
407.0 R.P. Missions/Ministry	40,000	35,000	41,988	32,250	-7.9%
Sub-total	60,676	59,688	67,870	57,809	-3.1%
PROPERTY					
503.0 Maintenance & Supplies	41,529	42,175	38,950	43,990	4.3%
504.0 Capital Purchases	1,614	25,000	24,017	30,000	20.0%
505.0 Utilities	21,235	22,740	23,854	24,820	9.1%
506.0 Insurance	10,491	11,020	11,568	12,150	10.3%
510.0 Debt Service	-	-	-	-	0.0%
Sub-total	74,869	100,935	98,389	110,960	9.9%
Total expenditures	502,703	569,580	560,015	574,181	0.8%
Net increase/(dec.) in General Fund Assets	149,659	77,420	118,793	70,819	-8.5%
Other receipts	3,750	-	232,735	-	
Other expenses	(112,663)	-	(588,970)	-	
Total increase/(dec.) in Net Assets	\$40,746	\$77,420	\$(237,442)	\$70,819	-8.5%