

**Report of the Ad Interim Commission
for the Great Lakes–Gulf Presbytery (RPCNA)
February 29-March 2, 2024, at Second RPC (Indianapolis, IN)**

1 Fathers and Brothers,

2 The Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery (GLGP) *Ad Interim Commission (AIC)* for 2023/24 was
3 appointed at the March 2023 annual spring meeting and consists of the following members:

- 4 Shawn Anderson, Moderator (TE, Sycamore RPC – Kokomo, IN)
5 G. Scott Damerow (RE, South-West Ohio RPC – Mason, OH)
6 Aaron Hartzler, Clerk (RE, RPC of Lafayette – Lafayette, IN)
7 Jerry Porter (RE, RPC of Southside Indianapolis – Indianapolis, IN)
8 Alejandro Ramirez (RE, Orlando RPC – Orlando, FL)

9 Your AIC met in constituted court 9 times, 5 times since our report to you at Synod 2023.¹ We
10 have distributed the final approved minutes from each of those meetings to the delegates list.

11 Beyond Presbytery’s assignments, AIC has processed eighteen documents (between 23-14 and 23-
12 37).

GLG 23-14	Complaint to Synod: Kuehner v. GLGP	Transmitted: Synod (2023.04.22)
GLG 23-15	Complaint to Synod: Allison v. GLGP	Returned: Out of Order
GLG 23-16	Complaint to GLGP: Allison v. Southfield	Rec GLGP Hearing 6/23
GLG 23-17	Complaint to GLGP: Allison v. Southfield	Rec GLGP Hearing 6/23
GLG 23-18	Comm. to AIC: Southfield Re: GLG 23-16/17	Transmitted: GLGP (2023.)
GLG 23-19	Petition to GLGP: J. Hart ~ standing Finance Comte	Transmitted: GLGP (2023.)
GLG 23-20	Petition to GLGP: B. Dage ~ Hetherton Visitation Comte	Appointed Comte
GLG 23-21	Petition to Synod: Orlando ~ RPWA lawsuit	Transmitted: Synod (2023.05.15)
GLG 23-22	Complaint to Synod: Allison v. GLGP	Transmitted: Synod (2023.06.05)
GLG 23-23	Complaint to Synod: Allison v. GLGP	Transmitted: Synod (2023.06.05)
GLG 23-24	Complaint to Synod: Enas v. GLGP	Transmitted: Synod (2023.06.05)
GLG 23-25	<i>Clerk/GLGP processed</i>	
GLG 23-26	Appeal to GLGP: Manring v. Southside ~ Notice & Appeal	Transmitted: GLGP
GLG 23-27	Complaint to GLGP: Manring v. Southside	Transmitted: GLGP
GLG 23-28	<i>Clerk/GLGP processed</i>	
GLG 23-29	<i>Duplicate of 23-20</i>	
GLG 23-30	Recommended distribution of First RPC (Grand Rapids) funds. (J. Schwartz + S. Rhoda)	Approved Recommendations and Transferred to Synod Trustees (2023.09.04)
GLG 23-31	<i>Clerk/GLGP processed</i>	
GLG 23-32	<i>Clerk/GLGP processed</i>	
GLG 23-33	<i>Clerk/GLGP processed</i>	
GLG 23-34	Complaint to GLGP: Odom v. WRPC	Transmitted: GLGP (2023.12.09)
GLG 23-35	Petition to GLGP from R. Fearing ~ Sparta Shepherd Comte	Appointed Comte
GLG 23-36	Appeal to Synod: Manring v. GLGP re: Appeal 23-26	Transmitted: Synod (2024.02.13)
GLG 23-37	Appeal to Synod: Manring v. GLGP re: Complaint 23-27	Transmitted: Synod (2024.02.13)

¹ 2023: March 27, April 24, May 15, June 5, July 31, September 4, & November 20; 2024: January 15, & February 13.

1 **Forgiveness Evaluation Committee (See Recommendation #1)**

2 We had an AIC item from Spring 2023 Presbytery (item 76) that “*It was moved and seconded that a*
3 *three-man AIC-appointed committee evaluate the differences between the forgiveness granted at this*
4 *meeting to Mr. Borg and the response to requests for forgiveness made at previous meetings (this motion*
5 *carried).*”

6 On April 24, the AIC appointed three men with two alternates. By June only one of the men was
7 able to serve. He asked for some clarification from the Presbytery on the remit, asking for the
8 AIC to touch base with Mr. Hart, who made the original motion. Mr. Anderson did briefly talk
9 with Mr. Hart in June but failed to follow through with communication. He apologizes to the
10 court and Mr. Hart for this oversight. This negligence was unintentional, yet he takes
11 responsibility for not keeping up on this item.

12 **Appeal: Mr. Allison Versus Southfield RPC Session (See Recommendation #2)**

13 On May 6, 2023, the AIC received notice from Mr. Gary Allison of intent to appeal the Southfield
14 RPC session’s decision post-trial. On August 11, 2023, the AIC appointed Mr. Ross Fearing as Mr.
15 Allison’s counsel. Mr. Allison was also informed that he would be able to prosecute his appeal at
16 the one-day Presbytery meeting on October 6, from 2-8 pm at Sycamore RP Church (300 E.
17 Mulberry St., Kokomo, IN 49601).

18 Since Mr. Allison was to be given 60 days to prepare and transmit his appeal and submit it 30
19 days prior to the hearing (providing the deadline for submitting his appeal Tuesday, September 5,
20 2023 at 11:59 pm), it was also written to him that, “*if the appeal is transmitted later than Tuesday,*
21 *September 5, 2023, then the appeal will be heard at the 2024 spring meeting of Presbytery.*” Mr. Allison
22 has failed to submit an appeal for the last two designated meetings of the Presbytery.

23 The Book of Discipline states,

24 *13. An appeal shall be prosecuted by the appellant in person, unless, for reasons satisfactory to*
25 *the court, he cannot be present. In this case he may request his advisor to act on his behalf. **If an***
26 ***appellant fails to prosecute his appeal at the next meeting of the higher court, or at such***
27 ***time as the court may designate, the decision of the lower court shall stand.** He may,*
28 *however, appear at a later meeting, due notice having been given to the court from which he*
29 *appealed, and present proof that his failure to appear was due to unavoidable circumstances. If*
30 *the court is satisfied, it may proceed at once to hear the appeal, or appoint a later date for the*
31 *hearing. (BOD, E-18)*

32 Due to this direction in our BoD, and since Mr. Allison has not transmitted his appeal for the last
33 two designated meetings of Presbytery (Oct, ’23 and Feb, ’24), the AIC recommends that the
34 Presbytery determine that the decision of the Southfield RPC session stand.

1 **Recommendations:**

- 2 1. That the nominating committee nominate a three-man forgiveness evaluation committee
3 to evaluate the differences between the forgiveness granted to Mr. Borg in Spring 2023
4 and the response to requests for forgiveness made at previous meetings.
- 5 2. That the GLG Presbytery determine that the decision of the Southfield RPC session
6 against Mr. Gary Allison stand.
- 7 3. That the GLG Presbytery adopt the AIC minutes of 7/31/23, 9/4/23, 11/20/23, 01/15/24,
8 2/13/24, and spread all AIC Minutes on the Minutes of Presbytery.

9 Respectfully submitted,

10 Shawn Anderson, Moderator (TE, Sycamore RPC – Kokomo, IN)
11 G. Scott Damerow (RE, South-West Ohio RPC – Mason, OH)
12 Aaron Hartzler, Clerk (RE, RPC of Lafayette – Lafayette, IN)
13 Jerry Porter (RE, RPC of Southside Indianapolis – Indianapolis, IN)
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