

Great Lakes–Gulf Presbytery Ad Interim Commission Minutes
March 27, 2023

The Ad Interim Commission of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery met by video conference call.

Those present included Shawn Anderson (moderator, Sycamore RPC-Kokomo, IN), G. Scott Damerow (SW Ohio RPC), Aaron Hartzler (RPC of Lafayette, IN), Jerry Porter (Southside RPC, Indianapolis, IN), and Alejandro Ramirez (Orlando RPC).

Shawn Anderson opened the meeting and constituted the court in prayer in the name and by the authority of Jesus Christ, King and Head of the Church at 7:04 pm.

By common consent the agenda was adopted.

Agenda Item 1: Appoint a clerk.

Action Taken: Aaron Hartzler volunteered. By common consent, Aaron Hartzler was appointed clerk.

Agenda Item 2: *(From Presbytery, March 2-4, 2023)* 10. (Rec 7) That presbytery instruct the incoming AIC to determine and disseminate the time and place for the fall meeting by 7/31/23.

Action Taken: Jerry Porter will check with Bloomington RPC if they can host in October 2023.

Agenda Item 3: *(From Presbytery, March 2-4, 2023)* 47. “That presbytery, in response to Mr. Faris’ request ‘for his credentials to be sent to Zionsville Fellowship Church’ (ZFC), send a letter of ministerial standing, and instruct the AIC to dismiss James Faris from the roll of GLGP TEs upon confirmation of the ZFC clerk’s receipt and acceptance of that letter.”

Action Taken: Shawn Anderson will check to see if there are any pending judicial actions taken against Mr. Faris. He will also look into what official action(s) are included in “dismissal from the roll” of Presbytery.

Agenda Item 4: *(From Presbytery, March 2-4, 2023)* 76. It was moved and seconded that a three-man AIC-appointed committee evaluate the differences between the forgiveness granted at this meeting to Mr. Borg and the response to requests for forgiveness made at previous meetings (this motion carried).

Action Taken: By common consent, Shawn Anderson and Jerry Porter will come up with names of men to serve on this study committee.

1 **Agenda Item 5:** *(From Presbytery, March 2-4, 2023)* 80. (Rec 2) That presbytery appoint a
2 provisional elder for Sparta RPC.

3 **Action Taken:** A Ruling Elder was suggested. Shawn will check his availability prior to
4 appointment.

5 **Agenda Item 6:** *(From the Presbytery of the Alleghenies)* Approve and forward a call from Trinity
6 RPC to Jonathan Sturm.

7 **Action Taken:** It was moved, seconded, and carried unanimously to approve the Trinity RPC
8 pastoral call to Jonathan Sturm as a regular gospel call, to be forwarded to Mr.
9 Sturm. The congregational meeting minutes, roll of communicant members, and
10 pastor's call with financial agreement are attached to and made part of these
11 Minutes.

12 **Agenda Item 7:** *(From Adam Kuehner/IRPC Resolution Comte)* Appoint someone to replace Mr.
13 Kuehner on the IRPC Resolution Committee.

14 **Action Taken:** Shawn Anderson will ask the present committee for their input regarding (1) the
15 need for, and (2) possible suggestions for a replacement for Mr. Kuehner.

16 **Agenda Item 8:** *(From the Southfield RPC session)* Forward GLG 23-14 Complaint (Kuehner v.
17 GLG Presbytery) to synod with session endorsement.

18 **Action Taken:** It was moved, seconded, and carried unanimously to forward GLG 23-14 Complaint
19 (Kuehner v. GLG Presbytery) to synod.

20 **Agenda Item 9:** *(From the Lafayette RPC session)* Request to (1) appoint a commission to conduct
21 Jon's ordination exams for some time in the month of May, and (2) appoint Friday,
22 June 23, to hold Jon's ordination and installation service in Lafayette.

23 *[This would be the evening of the last day of Synod when elders would already be*
24 *in the vicinity, which would save mileage for the Presbytery. If housing is needed*
25 *for members of the GLGP that night, we could provide it for them.]*

26 **Action Taken:** Regarding (1) By common consent, the following Jonathan Sturm Ordination Exam
27 Commission was appointed, consisting of seven men, to conduct the ordination
28 exams for Jonathan Sturm:

- 29 1. Shawn Anderson (Clerk)
30 2. Bob McKissick
31 3. Jerry Foltz
32 4. Dean Filson
33 5. Ian Wise (Moderator)
34 6. John Hanson

1 7. Wade Mann

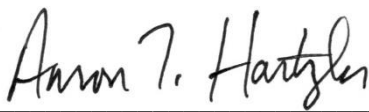
2 The following are appointed as alternates to the Commission, in the order listed, in
3 the event any of the above men are unable to serve.

- 4 8. Josh Smith
- 5 9. Joel Hart
- 6 10. Aaron Murray

7 Regarding (2) It was moved, seconded and carried unanimously, pending Mr. Sturm
8 sustaining his ordination exams, that Mr. Sturm’s ordination and installation service
9 be held on Friday, June 23.

10 The minutes of March 27, 2023, were reviewed and approved by common consent.

11 Jerry Porter prayed for the Trinity RP Church and adjourned the court in prayer in the name and by the
12 authority of Jesus Christ, Head and King of the Church at 8:44 p.m.



13 _____
14 Aaron Hartzler,
15 Clerk of the Ad Interim Commission
16



17 _____
18 Shawn Anderson,
19 Moderator of the Ad Interim Commission

17 **Great Lakes–Gulf Presbytery Ad Interim Commission Minutes**
18 **April 24, 2023**

19 The Ad Interim Commission of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery met by video conference call.

20 Those present included Shawn Anderson (moderator, Sycamore RPC-Kokomo, IN), G. Scott Damerow
21 (SW Ohio RPC), Aaron Hartzler (RPC of Lafayette, IN), and Jerry Porter (Southside RPC,
22 Indianapolis, IN). Alejandro Ramirez (Orlando RPC, Orlando, FL) was absent due to eldership
23 responsibilities.

24 Shawn Anderson opened the meeting and constituted the court in prayer in the name and by the
25 authority of Jesus Christ, King and Head of the Church, at 7:04 pm.

26 **Agenda Item:** Approve minutes from March 23, 2023, meeting.

27 **Action Taken:** It was moved, seconded, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the
28 March 23, 2023, meeting.

- 1 **Agenda Item 7:** *(From Adam Kuehner/IRPC Resolution Comte)* Appoint someone to replace Mr.
2 Kuehner on the IRPC Resolution Committee.
- 3 **Action Taken:** The current IRPC Resolution Committee members were consulted. No additional
4 member was appointed.
- 5 **Agenda Item 2:** *(From Presbytery, March 2-4, 2023)* 10. (Rec 7) That presbytery instruct the
6 incoming AIC to determine and disseminate the time and place for the fall meeting
7 by July 31, 2023.
- 8 **Action Taken:** Feedback was provided that a fall meeting was perhaps not necessary.
9 Bloomington RPC is willing to host a meeting, from October 5-7, 2023. A vote to
10 meet in the fall will be taken during the presbytery meeting at synod on June 22,
11 2023. Mr. Anderson will consult with the GLGP clerk to determine if we need to
12 have an earlier start time for the June presbytery meeting.
- 13 **Agenda Item 5:** *(From Presbytery, March 2-4, 2023)* 80. (Rec 2) That presbytery appoint a
14 provisional elder for Sparta RPC.
- 15 **Action Taken:** Sparta had an elder election since the last meeting, and a provisional elder is no
16 longer needed.
- 17 **Agenda Item 3:** *(From Presbytery, March 2-4, 2023)* 47. “That presbytery, in response to Mr. Faris’
18 request ‘for his credentials to be sent to Zionsville Fellowship Church’ (ZFC), send
19 a letter of ministerial standing, and instruct the AIC to dismiss James Faris from
20 the roll of GLGP TEs upon confirmation of the ZFC clerk’s receipt and acceptance
21 of that letter.”
- 22 **Action Taken:** Having received confirmation from Zionsville Fellowship Church regarding Mr.
23 Faris’ letter of standing, it was moved, seconded, and carried unanimously that he
24 be removed from the roll of Teaching Elders of the Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery.
- 25 **Agenda Item 4:** *(From Presbytery, March 2-4, 2023)* 76. It was moved and seconded that a three-
26 man AIC-appointed committee evaluate the differences between the forgiveness
27 granted at this meeting to Mr. Borg and the response to requests for forgiveness
28 made at previous meetings (this motion carried).
- 29 **Action Taken:** It was moved, seconded, and carried that the following men serve as a study
30 committee “to evaluate the differences between the forgiveness granted at this
31 [Spring 2023 presbytery] meeting to Mr. Borg and the response to requests for
32 forgiveness made at previous meetings” and report at the 2024 Spring meeting of
33 presbytery:
34

- 1 1. Aaron Murray
- 2 2. David Mauser
- 3 3. Frank Smith (moderator)

4
5 The following are appointed as alternates to the Commission, in the order listed, in
6 the event any of the above men are unable to serve:

- 7
- 8 4. Jeff Brotherton (alt)
- 9 5. Ross Fearing (alt)

10 **Agenda Item 10:** *(From Gary Allison via Southfield RPC, April 11, 2023)* request to forward
11 complaint (GLG 23-15 Allison v. GLGP) to synod.

12 **Action Taken:** It was moved, seconded, and carried that Mr. Allison’s complaint and appeal be
13 returned to him with the following rationale as to why it is out of order:

14 1. Book of Discipline II.4.11 (E-17), “Written notice of an intent to appeal and a
15 summary statement of the reasons must be filed with the clerk of the court
16 appealed from within thirty (30) days after the accused is informed of the
17 action...”

18 2. Book of Discipline II.4.3 (E-15), “A complaint is a written statement made to
19 a higher court by one or more persons aggrieved by an action of a lower
20 court...The complainant shall give notice to the lower court within 30 days.”

21
22 Therefore, GLG 23-15 is out of order for the following reasons:

23
24 1. The thirty-day deadline for filing the appeal (both intent & summary) expired
25 on April 2, 2023, but Mr. Allison submitted this appeal on April 9, 2023.

26 2. No prior notice of an intent to file an appeal or intent to file a complaint was
27 communicated to the GLGP clerk.

28 3. The GLGP moderator (Mr. Nathan Eshelman occupying the chair) instructed
29 Mr. Allison on the floor of the presbytery meeting on March 3, 2023,
30 concerning the thirty-day window for taking such action.

31 **Agenda Item 11:** *(From Gary Allison via Southfield RPC, April 22, 2023)* request to forward GLG
32 23-16 (Allison v. Southfield RPC) and 23-17 (Allison v. Southfield RPC) (AIC
33 item #11) to presbytery.

34 **Action Taken:** It was moved, seconded, and carried to forward the complaints to presbytery.

35 **Agenda Item 12:** GLG 23-18 (Southfield RPC response)

1 **Action Taken:** It was moved, seconded, and carried to forward the complaint to presbytery. Item
2 closed.

3 The minutes of April 24, 2023 were reviewed and approved by common consent.

4 Scott Damerow prayed for the Church and Allison the adjourned the court in prayer in the name and
5 by the authority of Jesus Christ, Head and King of the Church at 9:21 PM.

6 These minutes of April 24, 2023, were read and approved by common consent.

7 



8 Aaron Hartzler,
9 Clerk of the Ad Interim Commission

Shawn Anderson,
Moderator of the Ad Interim Commission

11 April 26, 2023

12 Dear Mr. Allison,

13 We want to update you of the actions taken by the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery's Ad Interim
14 Commission in our meeting on April 24, 2023.

15 **Regarding GLG 23-15 (Allison v. Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery)**

16 We regret to inform you that this complaint/appeal is out of order based on:

- 17 1. Book of Discipline II.4.11 (E-17), "Written notice of an intent to appeal and a summary
18 statement of the reasons must be filed with the clerk of the court appealed from within
19 thirty (30) days after the accused is informed of the action..."
- 20 2. Book of Discipline II.4.3 (E-15), "A complaint is a written statement made to a higher
21 court by one or more persons aggrieved by an action of a lower court...The
22 complainant shall give notice to the lower court within 30 days."

23 Therefore, GLG 23-15 is out of order for the following reasons:

- 24 (1) The thirty-day deadline for filing the appeal (both intent & summary) expired on
25 4/2/23, but you submitted this appeal on 4/9/23.
- 26 (2) No prior notice of an intent to file an appeal or intent to file a complaint was
27 communicated to the GLGP clerk.
- 28 (3) The GLGP moderator (*Mr. Nathan Eshelman occupying the chair*) instructed you on
29 the floor of the presbytery on 3/3/23 concerning the thirty-day window for taking such
30 action.

31 A further point of information, appeals and complaints are two different types of actions which
32 must be filed with the clerk *separately*, not combined within the same communication.

1 **Regarding GLG 23-16 (Allison v. Southfield) & GLG 23-17 (Allison v. Southfield)**

2 These have been forwarded to the GLG Presbytery and will be taken up at our next meeting
3 during the week of the RPCNA Synod, June 20-23, 2023.

4 Further, we will also be forwarding to the Presbytery the Southfield RPC Session's response to
5 these complaints.

6 Finally, Mr. Allison, we understand that you are under the impression that these complaints will
7 arrest or postpone your trial with the Southfield Session. This is not our understanding. The
8 Presbytery has already heard your complaint and returned it to you. The court has told the Session
9 that they may proceed with the trial. It was also explained to you that you may appeal the trial
10 results. The Book of Discipline II.10-15 lays out the appeal process, pages E-17-19.

11
12 Sincerely,

13 The Ad Interim Commission of the Great Lakes- Gulf Presbytery

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15 **Great Lakes–Gulf Presbytery Ad Interim Commission Minutes**
16 **May 15, 2023**

17 The Ad Interim Commission of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery met by video conference call.

18 Those present included Shawn Anderson (moderator, Sycamore RPC-Kokomo, IN), G. Scott Damerow
19 (SW Ohio RPC), Jerry Porter (Southside RPC, Indianapolis, IN) and Alejandro Ramirez (Orlando
20 RPC, Orlando, FL). Aaron Hartzler (RPC of Lafayette, IN) was absent.

21 Shawn Anderson opened the meeting and constituted the court in prayer in the name and by the
22 authority of Jesus Christ, King and Head of the Church, at 7:21 pm.

23 **Agenda Item 2:** *(From Presbytery, March 2-4, 2023)* 10. (Rec 7) That presbytery instruct the
24 incoming AIC to determine and disseminate the time and place for the fall meeting
25 by July 31, 2023.

26 **Action Taken:** A Fall meeting is penciled in from October 5-7, 2023, at Bloomington RPC. Having
27 consulted with the clerk of presbytery, several things that could potentially be on
28 the Fall meeting agenda. After AIC gives its report at the Presbytery meeting at
29 Synod and sharing such agenda items, it will come with the following
30 recommendation:

31 **Recommendation 1:** That the GLG presbytery authorizes the AIC to assess
32 the number and significance of agenda items and determine the necessity of a
33 fall meeting no later than August 1, 2023.

1 **Agenda Item 13:** *(From the Synod the RPCNA)* That at-large teaching elders be certified for Synod
2 in Marion, IN at Indiana Wesleyan University (IWU) from June 20-23, 2023.

3 **Action Taken:** By common consent, the following at-large teaching elders are certified as
4 delegates to the meeting of Synod on June 20-23, 2023, at IWU (Marion, IN):

5 Andrew B.
6 Jack Baumgardner
7 Bryan Dage
8 Rich Johnston
9 Gordon Keddie
10 Ray Lanning
11 R. Paul Matthews
12 Glenn McFarland
13 Jim McMahan
14 James Pennington
15 Dennis Prutow
16 Thomas Reid
17 Bill Roberts
18 Frank Schutz
19 Zachary Smith
20 David Whitla
21 Steven Work
22 James Wright

23
24 The certification will be prepared by the AIC clerk and forward it to the clerk of
25 Synod and to the clerk and assistant clerk of the GLG presbytery. The certification
26 will be attached to and made a part of these minutes.

27 In the event of any oversight to the above list of at-large teaching elders, the AIC
28 moderator and clerk are authorized to certify those elders.

29 **Agenda Item 14:** *(From Candidates and Credentials Committee, May 11, 2023)* That Presbytery
30 meet after synod on Friday June 23 at RPC of Lafayette to conduct student exams.

31 **Action Taken:** By common consent, the GLG Presbytery will meet from 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm on
32 Friday June 23 at RPC of Lafayette.

33 **Agenda Item 15:** *(From Orlando RPC, April 25, 2023)* request to forward a communication (GLG
34 23-21) from the Orlando RPC Session to Synod.

35 **Action Taken:** It was moved, seconded, and carried to forward ORPC's communication to Synod
36 without endorsement.

37 **Agenda Item 16:** *(From Bryan Dage & Jason LaPointe, May 3, 2023)* request (GLG 23-20) for a
38 visitation committee of Presbytery for Hetherton RP Church.

1 **Action Taken:** By common consent the following Hetherton RPC Visitation Committee was
2 appointed to visit and report back to Presbytery at its next meeting following their
3 visit.

4 Committee: Joshua Smith, Scott Hunt, David Hanson (chair)

5 Alternates: Bob Bibby, Jason Camery

6 **Agenda Item 17:** (*From Joel Hart via Columbus RPC session [endorsed], May 6, 2023*) request for
7 the AIC to specify if/when/how Petition GLG 23-19 comes before the court.

8 **Action Taken:** It was moved, seconded, and carried to 1) distribute the Petition GLG 23-19 to the
9 presbytery asap, 2) come to Presbytery at Synod with a recommendation to erect a
10 standing Finance Committee, and 3) provide nominations for the Presbytery to vote
11 on at said meeting (*similar to receiving a report from a Nominations Committee*).

12 These minutes of May 15, 2023, were read and approved by common consent.

13 Alejandro Ramirez prayed for the Church and adjourned the court in prayer in the name and by the
14 authority of Jesus Christ, Head and King of the Church at 7:54 pm.

15 

16 G. Scott Damerow,
17 Pro Tem Clerk of the Ad Interim Commission

15 

16 Shawn Anderson,
17 Moderator of the Ad Interim Commission

18

19 **Great Lakes–Gulf Presbytery Ad Interim Commission Minutes**
20 **June 5, 2023**

21 The Ad Interim Commission of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery met by video conference call.

22 Those present included Shawn Anderson (moderator, Sycamore RPC-Kokomo, IN), G. Scott Damerow
23 (SW Ohio RPC), Aaron Hartzler (clerk, RPC of Lafayette, IN), Jerry Porter (Southside RPC,
24 Indianapolis, IN) and Alejandro Ramirez (Orlando RPC, Orlando, FL).

25 Shawn Anderson opened the meeting and constituted the court in prayer in the name and by the
26 authority of Jesus Christ, King and Head of the Church, at 7:07 pm.

27 **Agenda Item 17:** (*From Joel Hart via Columbus RPC session [endorsed], May 6, 2023*) request for
28 the AIC to specify if/when/how Petition GLG 23-19 comes before the court.

1 **Action Taken:** By common consent, the AIC nominations so far include Joel Hart (3 years) and
2 Ross Cerbus (1 year).

3 **Agenda Item 18:** (*From Gary Allison via Southfield RPC, April 25, 2023*) request to forward a
4 complaint [GLG 23-22] and an appeal [GLG 23-23] to Synod against the GLGP
5 AIC decision to return his complaint [GLG 23-15] because it was ruled out of order.
6 Pertinent documents to be forwarded include: GLG 23-15; AIC Minutes (4/24/23);
7 AIC letter to Mr. Allison (4/24/23)

8 **Action Taken:** It was moved, seconded, and carried to forward GLG 23-22 and GLG 23-23 to
9 Synod with the following explanation:

10 *“The complaint and the appeal are the same in substance. Previously he filed a*
11 *communication which he called an appeal and complaint. It appears that he has*
12 *filed the same document with two different titles to avoid his previous mistake. We*
13 *are forwarding both with this explanation to shed light on the possible confusion.”*

14 **Agenda Item 19:** (*From Nathan Enas and Kevin Swan, June 5, 2023*) request to forward a complaint
15 [GLG 23-24] to Synod against the GLGP decision to remove Rev. James Faris
16 from the roll of Teaching Elders of the GLGP.

17 **Action Taken:** It was moved, seconded, and carried to forward GLG 23-24 to Synod without
18 endorsement.

19 Pertinent documents to be forwarded include: Rev. Faris request for dismissal;
20 Minutes of GLG Presbytery (March 2-4, 2023); Letter of Standing of Rev. Faris;
21 AIC Minutes (3/27/23 & 4/24/23)

22 **Agenda Item 20:** Since (1) the Book of Discipline II.4.4 stipulates that if there is a complaint against
23 a court then, “...The lower court is the defendant in the case, and shall be
24 represented by one or more of its members or other persons appointed for this
25 purpose...” and (2) there are several complaints against the GLGP, therefore the
26 following representative appointments are made for the 2023 Synod.

27 **Action Taken:** By common consent, here are representative appointments for Synod 2023
28 23-01 [GLG 22-16 Enas, et al vs. GLG & Faris] A. Kuehner / N. Eshelman
29 23-02 [GLG 22-23 Enas vs. GLG & CCRP Comm.] A. Kuehner / N. Eshelman
30 23-03 [GLG 22-22 Enas & Swan vs. GLG Recording] A. Kuehner / N. Eshelman
31 23-06 [GLG 23-14 Kuehner vs. GLGP] J. Hughes / N. Eshelman
32 23-XX [GLG 23-24 Enas/Swan vs. GLGP] R. Holdeman / S. Rhoda

1 **Agenda Item 21:** *(From Ben Manring, June 3, 2023)* notice of appeal and request to instruct the
2 SSRPC session to withdraw their announcement of rebuke, per BOD II.4.12.

3 **Action Taken:** It was moved, seconded, and carried that in accord with Book of Discipline II.4.11
4 (E-17) the AIC will inform Mr. Manring that when they receive his notice of appeal
5 formally from the clerk of Southside RPC session, Mr. Sturm, then the AIC will be
6 able to act on his notice.

7 Mr. Jerry Porter recused himself from voting on this motion.

8 **Agenda Item 22:** *(From Adam Kuehner, June 5, 2023)* request to fill GLGP’s interchurch liaison due
9 to Dick Knodel’s resignation.

10 **Action Taken:** By common consent Shawn Anderson was appointed as GLGP’s interchurch
11 liaison.

12 **Agenda Item 23:** AIC suggests taking up Mr. Allison’s complaints [GLG 23-16 – *summoning Mr.*
13 *Allison to trial* and GLG 23-17 – *proceeding with Mr. Allison’s trial*] as a single
14 complaint.

15 **Action Taken:** It was moved, seconded, and carried to that the following procedure be adopted
16 and slated for the GLGP’s upcoming meeting on Friday, June 23 from 3:30-5:30
17 pm at the RP Church of Lafayette (1723 S 9th St, Lafayette, IN 47905).

- 18 1. COMPLAINT HEARING — GLG 23-16, 23-17 (Combined) 50 mins [5:25]
 - 19 A. Complainant (10 mins) [4:45]
 - 20 B. Defendant (10 mins) [4:55]
 - 21 C. Floor Discussion (20 mins) [5:15]
 - 22 D. Vote on GLG 23-16 5 mins [5:20]
 - 23 E. Vote on GLG 23-17 5 mins [5:25]
- 24 2. The AIC will inform Mr. Allison of this date and schedule with the plan for
25 combining the complaints.
- 26 3. We will place this recommendation before the Presbytery at Synod for their
27 approval of this procedure.

28 **Recommendation:** *That the GLG Presbytery approve of the procedure and*
29 *schedule to take up Mr. Allison’s combined complaints (GLG 23-16, GLG 23-*
30 *17) at the Presbytery meeting on June 23, 2023 at the RPC of Lafayette.*

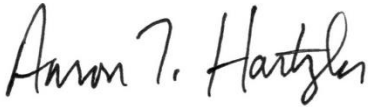
31 **Agenda Item 24:** *(From the Membership Committee, June 5, 2023)* request to transfer the Boudreau
32 family (Brenden*, Elizabeth*, George, Genevieve, Walter), former members of the

1 First RPC of Grand Rapids congregation, from the membership roll of the GLGP
2 to Little Farms Chapel OPC in Coopersville, Michigan, at their request, effective
3 June 5, 2023. (*Communicant)

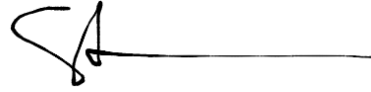
4 **Action Taken:** It was moved, seconded, and carried to transfer the Boudreau family (Brenden &
5 Elizabeth Boudreau are communicant members, and George, Genevieve, and
6 Walter are baptized members) from the membership roll of the Great Lakes-Gulf
7 Presbytery to Little Farms Chapel OPC (Coopersville, MI).

8 These minutes of June 5, 2023, were read and approved by common consent.

9 Aaron Hartzler prayed for the Church and adjourned the court in prayer in the name and by the authority
10 of Jesus Christ, Head and King of the Church at 8:20 pm.

11 

12 Aaron Hartzler,
13 Clerk of the Ad Interim Commission



Shawn Anderson,
Moderator of the Ad Interim Commission

14 June 5, 2023

15 Little Farms Chapel OPC
16 Attn: Session Clerk Hank Veldman
17 2518 Arthur St E
18 Coopersville, MI 49404
19 Email Address: hankveldman@yahoo.com, office@lfcopc.org

20 Re: Certificate of Transfer for the Boudreau Family

21 Dear Mr. Veldman,

22 The *Ad Interim Commission (AIC)* of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery has received from Brenden
23 and Elizabeth Boudreau, former members of the now dissolved First Reformed Presbyterian
24 Church of Grand Rapids and who are now on the membership roll of our Presbytery, a request to
25 transfer their membership to Little Farms Chapel (OPC). The AIC has considered and approved
26 their request.

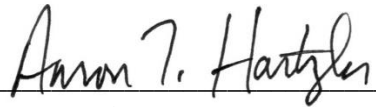
27 The following Certificate of Transfer is submitted for your records. If you have any questions or
28 need anything further, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your shepherding care
29 of this dear family. May the Lord bless your church family with the addition of this family, their
30 faith and service.

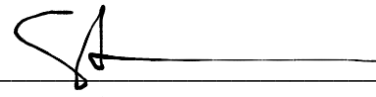
31 Sincerely,
32 Shawn Anderson, Moderator of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery AIC

1 **Certificate of Transfer of Membership**

2 This is to certify that Brenden and Elizabeth Boudreau, communicant members in good standing
3 on the roll of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery (RPCNA) along with their baptized children,
4 George, Genevieve, and Walter, are at their request hereby dismissed to unite with Little Farms
5 Chapel—OPC (2518 Arthur Street, Coopersville, MI 49404).

6 Given this fifth day of June in the year of 2023, by order of the The *Ad Interim Commission* of the
7 Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery of the RPCNA.

8 
9 _____
10 Aaron Hartzler,
11 Clerk of the Ad Interim Commission



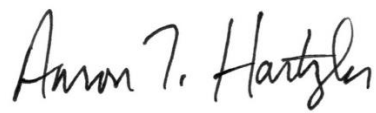
Shawn Anderson,
Moderator of the Ad Interim Commission

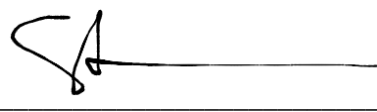
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13 **Edict for the Ordination and Installation**

14 **of Jonathan Sturm**

15 **in the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Lafayette**

16 The Great Lakes/Gulf Presbytery has received a call made by the Reformed Presbyterian Church
17 of Lafayette upon Jonathan Sturm to be their associate pastor and has sustained it as a regular gospel
18 call. He has accepted the call. Notice is hereby given that the 23rd day of June in the year 2023,
19 has been fixed as the time for his ordination and installation, with certification that the Presbytery
20 will proceed in the same unless some valid objections be offered to the Presbytery which is to meet
21 at the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Lafayette (1723 S 9th St, Lafayette, IN 47905) on the 23rd
22 day of June in the year 2023 for the ordination and installation. The meeting for the ordination and
23 installation will be held at 7:00 p.m.

24 
25 _____
26 Aaron Hartzler,
27 Clerk of the Ad Interim Commission



Shawn Anderson,
Moderator of the Ad Interim Commission

28 The Directory for Church Government 3.II.E.2.a (D-19) states "The commission or presbytery shall
29 issue an edict and direct that it be read to the congregation on the two preceding Lord's Days." The
30 Ad Interim Commission (AIC) of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery set the date for this ordination,
31 pending Mr. Sturm sustaining his ordination exams, which he did on May 25, 2023. However, the

1 AIC failed to issue this edict 2 preceding Lord's Days of the scheduled ordination and installation.
2 Let it be noted that this edict is issued irregularly.

3 By order of the Ad Interim Commission of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery this 14th day of June
4 in the year 2023.

5
6 **Great Lakes–Gulf Presbytery Ad Interim Commission Minutes**
7 **July 31, 2023**

8 The Ad Interim Commission of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery met by video conference call.

9 Those present included Shawn Anderson (moderator, Sycamore RPC-Kokomo, IN), G. Scott Damerow
10 (SW Ohio RPC), Jerry Porter (Southside RPC, Indianapolis, IN) and Alejandro Ramirez (Orlando
11 RPC, Orlando, FL). Aaron Hartzler (RPC of Lafayette, IN) was absent, attending a session meeting.

12 Shawn Anderson opened the meeting and constituted the court in prayer in the name and by the
13 authority of Jesus Christ, King and Head of the Church, at 7:06 pm.

14 **Agenda Item 25:** *(From GLG Presbytery, June 20, 2023)* Recommendation carried from GLG 23-
15 19, for the AIC to appoint the initial membership of the standing finance committee
16 before fall 2023, so that this committee can be ready for presentations at any fall
17 2023 presbytery meeting or spring 2024 presbytery meeting.

18 **Action Taken:** It was moved, seconded, and carried to appoint Ross Cerbus (1 year), Ken Nelson
19 (2 years), and Joel Hart (3 years) to the Finance Committee. The presbytery
20 treasurer and assistant treasurer are ex officio, non-voting members of the
21 committee as well.

22 **Agenda Item 26:** *(From GLG Presbytery, June 20, 2023)* That the GLG Presbytery authorize the
23 AIC to assess the number and significance of agenda items and determine the
24 necessity of a fall meeting no later than August 1, 2023.

25 **Action Taken:** After some discussion, the only pressing items for the Presbytery to address before
26 the 2024 spring meeting are two appeals. By common consent the AIC will
27 distribute a straw poll to the Presbytery, seeking the court's will to handle the
28 appeals. Mr. Porter recused himself from making decisions or consenting on this
29 matter.

30 **Option A:** Mr. Manring's appeal (GLG 23-26) and complaint (GLG 23-27) would
31 be sent to an AIC-appointed judicial commission to hear and decide the matter.

32 This Judicial Commission would consist of: Ross Fearing (TE *Convener*), Phil
33 Pockras (TE), Jerry Foltz (TE), Jonathan Schaefer (RE), and Greg Fisher (RE).

1 The JC appoints its moderator & clerk. Steven Work (TE), Joshua Smith (TE),
2 and Robert McKissick (RE) will serve as alternates.

3 Mr. Allison has also provided a notice to appeal, but the appeal has not yet been
4 received. When received, his appeal would be sent to an AIC-appointed judicial
5 commission to hear and decide the matter.

6 This Judicial Commission would consist of: Adam Niess (TE *Convener*),
7 Aaron Murray (TE), Joel Hart (TE), Jeffrey Brotherton (RE), Brentt VanSickle
8 (RE). The JC appoints its moderator & clerk. Nathan Eshelman (TE), Philip
9 McCollum (TE), and James Odom (RE) will serve as alternates.

10 **Option B:** The appeals and complaint would be heard and decided by the whole
11 presbytery at a one-day meeting from 2pm to 8pm. This would require minimal
12 hosting and one meal from the host congregation. Each appeal could be heard
13 and determined within a two-hour block.

14 The straw poll will be available until Friday, August 4, at noon.

15 **Agenda Item 27:** *(From Ben Manring, June 3, 2023)* Mr. Manring sent a notice of appeal to the
16 GLGP.

17 **Action Taken:** According to BOD II.4.11 (E-17) “...the clerk shall transmit the same, with the
18 necessary records and papers, to the clerk of the higher court.” The AIC clerk will
19 reach out to Mr. Sturm to make sure all necessary records have been transmitted.

20 According to BOD II.4.11 (E-17) “The higher court, upon receiving notice of the
21 intent to appeal, shall make available an appropriate advisor from among the
22 members of the court for the appellant.” The AIC has appointed **Stephen Rhoda**
23 to advise Mr. Manring in his appeal.

24 According to BOD II.4.11 (E-17) “At least sixty (60) days shall be given for
25 preparing the appeal and transmitting it to the clerk of the higher court, along with
26 a full statement of reasons for the appeal and all relevant documents.” The AIC
27 determines that an advisor was appointed by the AIC on July 31, 2023. Therefore,
28 the appellant may have until **September 29, 2023**, to prepare his appeal.

29 According to BOD II.4.11 (E-17) “In order for members of the higher court to have
30 time to read and process the appeal, a period of at least thirty (30) days must elapse
31 between the court's receiving the appeal and the meeting where it is to be
32 adjudicated.” The appeal has not yet been shared with the court. Once shared, the
33 appeal would have to be heard after at least 30 days.

34 **Agenda Item 28:** *(From Gary Allison, July 13, 2023)* Mr. Allison sent a notice of appeal to the
35 GLGP.

36 **Action Taken:** According to BOD II.4.11 (E-17) “...the clerk shall transmit the same, with the
37 necessary records and papers, to the clerk of the higher court.” The AIC clerk will
38 reach out to Mr. Hughes to make sure all necessary records have been transmitted.

1 According to BOD II.4.11 (E-17) “The higher court, upon receiving notice of the
2 intent to appeal, shall make available an appropriate advisor from among the
3 members of the court for the appellant.” The AIC has appointed **Wade Mann** to
4 advise Mr. Allison in his appeal.

5 According to BOD II.4.11 (E-17) “At least sixty (60) days shall be given for
6 preparing the appeal and transmitting it to the clerk of the higher court, along with
7 a full statement of reasons for the appeal and all relevant documents.” The AIC
8 determines that an advisor was appointed by the AIC on July 31, 2023. Therefore,
9 the appellant may have until **September 29, 2023**, to prepare his appeal.

10 According to BOD II.4.11 (E-17) “In order for members of the higher court to have
11 time to read and process the appeal, a period of at least thirty (30) days must elapse
12 between the court's receiving the appeal and the meeting where it is to be
13 adjudicated.” The appeal has not yet been shared with the court. Once shared, the
14 appeal would have to be heard after at least 30 days.

15 Shawn Anderson prayed for the Church and adjourned the court in prayer in the name and by the
16 authority of Jesus Christ, Head and King of the Church at 8:30 pm.

17 These minutes of July 31, 2023, were read and approved by common consent.

18 

18 

19 G. Scott Damerow,
20 Pro Tem Clerk of the Ad Interim Commission

19 Shawn Anderson,
20 Moderator of the Ad Interim Commission

22 **Great Lakes–Gulf Presbytery Ad Interim Commission Minutes**
23 **September 4, 2023**

24 The Ad Interim Commission of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery met by video conference call.

25 Those present included Shawn Anderson (moderator, Sycamore RPC-Kokomo, IN), G. Scott Damerow
26 (SW Ohio RPC), Aaron Hartzler (clerk, RPC of Lafayette, IN), Jerry Porter (Southside RPC,
27 Indianapolis, IN) and Alejandro Ramirez (Orlando RPC, Orlando, FL).

28 Shawn Anderson opened the meeting and constituted the court in prayer in the name and by the
29 authority of Jesus Christ, King and Head of the Church, at 7:10 pm.

30 **Agenda Item 29:** Appoint a Clerk Pro Tem for the May 15, 2023 and July 31, 2023 AIC meeting.

31 **Action Taken:** It was moved, seconded, and carried to appoint G. Scott Damerow as the AIC Clerk
32 Pro Tem for the AIC meetings in May and July, 2023. Scott will sign these AIC
33 Minutes.

1 **Agenda Item 30:** Officially designate the time and place for the one-day Fall GLG Presbytery
2 meeting.

3 **Action Taken:** By common consent the Fall GLG Presbytery meeting will be held on Friday
4 October 6, 2023, at the Sycamore Reformed Presbyterian Church (300 E. Mulberry
5 St., Kokomo, IN 46901). The business of this meeting is to hear the complaint and
6 appeal of Mr. Ben Manring and complaint of Mr. Gary Allison, pending reception
7 of appeals by September 5, 2023.

8 The court will also take up the transfer of credentials of Mr. Colin Samul and
9 receive under care as a theological student, Mr. Nathan Shaver. The Hetherton RP
10 Church Committee may also have a report to give. The CYPUB board requests for
11 officers will come before the court for approval.

12 **Agenda Item 31:** (*Communication from assistant clerk, Nathan Eshelman*) Request to cover Mr.
13 Colin Samul's travel expenses to Presbytery (October 6, 2023).

14 **Action Taken:** By common consent, Mr. Samul's travel expenses will be covered according to the
15 present Presbytery GLG reimbursement policy.

16 **Agenda Item 32:** (*From Jake Schwartz and Steve Rhoda, June 29, 2023*) The remaining elders from
17 First RPC (Grand Rapids) session sent a letter to the AIC with requests for
18 Presbytery's approval for the disbursement of remaining funds by the RPCNA
19 Trustees of Synod.

20 **Action Taken:** By common consent, the AIC, on behalf of the GLG Presbytery approves the
21 recommendations for the disbursement of the First RPC (Grand Rapids) remaining
22 funds. The AIC will communicate this to the RPCNA Trustees of Synod.

23 **Agenda Item 33:** (*From GLG Clerk, Adam Kuehner, July 31, 2023*) request to transfer Tara Wykstra,
24 former communicant member in good standing of First RPC of Grand Rapids, from
25 the membership roll of the GLGP to Bethany URC in Wyoming, MI, at her request.

26 **Action Taken:** It was moved, seconded, and carried to transfer Tara Wykstra from the membership
27 roll of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery to Bethany URC (5401 Byron Center Ave.,
28 Wyoming, MI 49519).

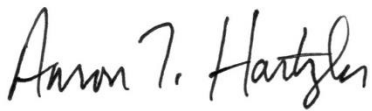
29 **Agenda Item 34:** Finalize a procedure to recommend at our Fall October 6 meeting for dealing with
30 appeals.

31 **Action Taken:** It was moved, seconded, and carried to approve the "AIC Recommendations for a
32 GLG Presbytery Appeals Process on October 6, 2023". Jerry Porter recused
33 himself from the vote.

1 **Agenda Item 35:** Appoint advisors for appellants, Mr. Manring, and Mr. Allison.
2 **Action Taken:** By common consent on August 11, 2023, the following advisors were appointed
3 and contacted along with their respective appellants:
4 Mr. Gary Allison – Mr. Ross Fearing
5 Mr. Ben Manring – Mr. Nathan Eshelman

6 These minutes of September 4, 2023, were read and approved by common consent.

7 Aaron Hartzler prayed for the Church and adjourned the court in prayer in the name and by the authority
8 of Jesus Christ, Head and King of the Church at 8:30 pm.

9 

10 Aaron Hartzler,
11 Clerk of the Ad Interim Commission



Shawn Anderson,
Moderator of the Ad Interim Commission

13

September 4, 2023

14 Dear Trustees of Synod,

15 The Great Lakes-Gulf (GLG) Presbytery *Ad Interim Commission (AIC)* met on September 4,
16 2023. Our agenda included a request to approve several recommendations sent to you regarding
17 the disbursement of the remaining finds of the First RPC of Grand Rapids.

18 We note in our minutes that “*by common consent, the AIC, on behalf of the GLG Presbytery*
19 *approves the recommendations for the disbursement of the First RPC (Grand Rapids) remaining*
20 *funds. The AIC will communicate this to the RPCNA Trustees of Synod.*”

21 Thank you for your service to Christ and His Bride,

22 

23 Aaron Hartzler,
24 Clerk of the Ad Interim Commission



Shawn Anderson,
Moderator of the Ad Interim Commission

September 4, 2023

Bethany URC
Attn: Consistory Clerk Larry Koetje
5401 Byron Center Ave.,
Wyoming, MI 49519
Email Address: clerk@bethanyurc.com

Re: Certificate of Transfer for Tara Wykstra

Dear Mr. Koetje,

The *Ad Interim Commission (AIC)* of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery has received from Tara Wykstra, former communicant member of the now dissolved First Reformed Presbyterian Church of Grand Rapids and who is on the membership roll of our Presbytery, a request to transfer her membership to Bethany URC. The AIC has considered and approved her request.

The following Certificate of Transfer is submitted for your records. If you have any questions or need anything further, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your shepherding care of this dear saint. May the Lord bless your church family with the addition of Tara, her faith, witness, and service.

Sincerely,
Shawn Anderson, Moderator of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery AIC

Certificate of Transfer of Membership

This is to certify that Tara Wykstra, communicant member in good standing on the roll of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery (RPCNA) is at her request hereby dismissed to unite with Bethany URC (5401 Byron Center Ave., Wyoming, MI 49519).

Given this fourth day of September in the year of 2023, by order of the *Ad Interim Commission* of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery of the RPCNA.



Aaron Hartzler, Clerk of AIC



Shawn Anderson, Moderator of AIC

Great Lakes–Gulf Presbytery Ad Interim Commission Minutes
November 20, 2023

The Ad Interim Commission of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery met by video conference call.

Those present included Shawn Anderson (moderator, Sycamore RPC-Kokomo, IN), G. Scott Damerow (SW Ohio RPC), Aaron Hartzler (RPC of Lafayette, IN), and Jerry Porter (Southside RPC, Indianapolis, IN), and Alejandro Ramirez (Orlando RPC, Orlando, FL).

Shawn Anderson opened the meeting and constituted the court in prayer in the name and by the authority of Jesus Christ, King and Head of the Church, at 7:06 PM.

Agenda Item 32: (From GLG Clerk, Adam Kuehner, October 19, 2023) request to transfer Les Wilwerding, former member of the First RPC of Grand Rapids congregation, from the membership roll of the GLGP to Redeemer Presbyterian Church PCA in Holland, Michigan, at his request, effective November 20, 2023.

Action Taken: It was moved, seconded, and carried to transfer Les Wilwerding from the membership role of the GLGP to Redeemer Presbyterian Church PCA in Holland, Michigan.

Agenda Item 33: (From the Membership Committee, November 14, 2023) request to transfer the Clauson family (Kevin*, Marcia*, Lori, Rachel), former members of the Dayton RPC congregation, from the membership roll of the GLGP to Grace OPC in Lynchburg, Virginia, at their request, effective November 20, 2023. (*Communicant)

Action Taken: It was moved, seconded, and carried to transfer the Clauson family (Kevin and Marcia Clauson are communicant members, Lori and Rachel are baptized members) from the membership roll of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery to Grace OPC in Lynchburg, Virginia.

Agenda Item 34: (From Ben Manring, October 9, 2023) request to forward an appeal [GLG 23-26] and complaint [GLG 23-27] to Synod against the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Southside Indianapolis.

Action Taken: It was moved, seconded, and carried to forward GLG 23-26 and GLG 23-27 to Synod.

Agenda Item 35: (From Rationale Committee, November 9, 2023) to receive and adopt the GLGP rationale for the October 6, 2023, Manring Appeal decision.

1 **Action Taken:** It was moved, seconded, and carried (Jerry Porter abstained) to table this item
2 until the next AIC meeting.

3 **Agenda Item 36:** (From Jim Bishop via Hetherton Reformed Presbyterian Church, November 13,
4 2023) Hetherton Reformed Presbyterian Church 2023 GLGP dues.

5 **Action Taken:** It was moved, seconded, and carried to waive the Hetherton RPC 2023 GLGP
6 dues.

7 **Agenda Item 37:** (From James Odom, November 10, 2023) James Odom complaint against the
8 Westminster Reformed Presbyterian Church.

9 **Action Taken:** It was moved, seconded, and carried to forward Mr. Odom's complaint against
10 Westminster RPC and attached Admonition which are only to be shared with
11 presbyters within the GLG Presbytery.


12 **Agenda Item 38:** (From Ross Fearing, November 20, 2023) Sparta Reformed Presbyterian Church
13 request for a shepherding committee.


14 **Action Taken:** It was moved, seconded, and carried to create a Shepherding Committee.

15
16 Committee: Shawn Anderson (chair), Russ Pulliam, Jonathan Sturm
17

18 These minutes of November 20, 2023, were read and approved by common consent.

19 Jerry Porter prayed for the Church and adjourned the court in prayer in the name and by the
20 authority of Jesus Christ, Head and King of the Church at 8:15 PM.

21 
22 _____
23 Aaron Hartzler,
Clerk of the Ad Interim Commission



Shawn Anderson,
Moderator of the Ad Interim Commission

November 20, 2023

1
2
3 Redeemer Presbyterian Church PCA
4 Attn: Chip Byrd
5 556 Butternut Drive, Holland, MI 49424
6 Email Address: sermonbyrd@sbcglobal.net
7

8 Re: Certificate of Transfer for Les Wilwerding
9

10 Dear Mr. Byrd,
11

12 The Ad Interim Commission (AIC) of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery has received from
13 Les Wilwerding, former communicant member of the now dissolved First Reformed
14 Presbyterian Church of Grand Rapids, Michigan, and who is on the membership roll of our
15 Presbytery, a request to transfer his membership to Redeemer Presbyterian Church PCA.
16 The AIC has considered and approved his request.

17 The following Certificate of Transfer is submitted for your records. If you have any
18 questions or need anything further, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your
19 shepherding care of this dear saint. May the Lord bless your church family with the addition
20 of Les, his faith, witness, and service.

21 Sincerely,
22 Shawn Anderson, Moderator of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery AIC
23

24 **Certificate of Transfer of Membership**

25 This is to certify that Les Wilwerding, communicant member in good standing on the roll
26 of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery (RPCNA) is at his request hereby dismissed to unite
27 with Redeemer Presbyterian Church PCA (556 Butternut Drive, Holland, MI 49424).

28 Given this twentieth day of November in the year of 2023, by order of the Ad Interim
29 Commission of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery of the RPCNA.

30 
31
32

33 Aaron Hartzler,

34 Clerk of the Ad Interim Commission


31
32

33 Shawn Anderson,

34 Moderator of the Ad Interim Commission

November 20, 2023

Grace Orthodox Presbyterian Church
Attn: Scott Shallenberger
3300 Carroll Ave, Lynchburg, VA 24501
Email Address: foresterscott83@gmail.com

Re: Certificate of Transfer for the Kevin and Marcia Clauson family

Dear Mr. Shallenberger,

The Ad Interim Commission (AIC) of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery has received from Kevin and Marcia Clauson, former communicant members of the now dissolved Reformed Presbyterian Church of Dayon, Tennessee, and who are on the membership roll of our Presbytery, a request to transfer their membership to Grace Orthodox Presbyterian Church. The AIC has considered and approved their request.

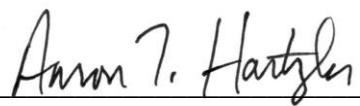
The following Certificate of Transfer is submitted for your records. If you have any questions or need anything further, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your shepherding care of these dear saints. May the Lord bless your church family with the addition of this family, their faith, witness, and service.

Sincerely,
Shawn Anderson, Moderator of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery AIC


Certificate of Transfer of Membership

This is to certify that Kevin and Marcia Clauson, communicant members in good standing on the roll of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery (RPCNA) along with their baptized children, Lori and Rachel, are at their request hereby dismissed to unite with Grace Orthodox Presbyterian Church (3300 Carroll Ave, Lynchburg, VA 24501).

Given this twentieth day of November in the year of 2023, by order of the Ad Interim Commission of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery of the RPCNA.



Aaron Hartzler,
Clerk of the Ad Interim Commission



Shawn Anderson,
Moderator of the Ad Interim Commission

Great Lakes–Gulf Presbytery Ad Interim Commission Minutes
January 15, 2024

The Ad Interim Commission of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery met by video conference call.

Those present included Shawn Anderson (moderator, Sycamore RPC-Kokomo, IN), G. Scott Damerow (SW Ohio RPC), Aaron Hartzler (RPC of Lafayette, IN), and Jerry Porter (Southside RPC, Indianapolis, IN). Alejandro Ramirez (Orlando RPC, Orlando, FL) was absent due to a session meeting.

Shawn Anderson opened the meeting and constituted the court in prayer in the name and by the authority of Jesus Christ, King and Head of the Church, at 7:06 PM.

Agenda Item 35: (From Rationale Committee, November 9, 2023) to receive and adopt the GLGP rationale for the October 6, 2023, Manring Appeal decision.

Action Taken: It was moved, seconded, and carried (Jerry Porter abstained) to adopt the GLGP rationale for the October 6, 2023, Manning Appeal decision.

Agenda Item 39: (From Joshua Ip via GLG Clerk, Adam Kuehner, January 15, 2024) Joshua Ip, former member of Grand Rapids RP Church requests that his membership be removed from the membership roll of the GLG Presbytery.

Action Taken: It was moved, seconded, and carried to dismiss Joshua Ip from the membership roll of the GLG Presbytery at his request from June 7, 2023 (See Certificate of Dismissal).

These minutes of January 15, 2024, were read and approved by common consent.

Scott Damerow prayed for the Church and adjourned the court in prayer in the name and by the authority of Jesus Christ, Head and King of the Church at 7:20 PM.



Aaron Hartzler,
Clerk of the Ad Interim Commission



Shawn Anderson,
Moderator of the Ad Interim Commission

1 **Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery (RPCNA)**

2 **The rationale for the October 6, 2023, Manring Appeal decision**

3 *The Ad Interim Commission of the GLG Presbytery adopted the following rationale on January 15,*
4 *2024.*

5 The appellant, Mr. Ben Manring, was rebuked by the Southside RPC Session for
6 uncharitable and divisive speech in an email sent to approximately 60% of the communicant
7 membership of the Southside congregation prior to an elder election.

8 Mr. Manring was not disciplined merely for sharing public information about an elder
9 candidate. His email suggested that, in signing a 2021 synod complaint, the current chairman of the
10 SSRPC deacon board does not adhere to Presbyterianism and is therefore disqualified from the
11 eldership. This would amount to a deposable offense for a deacon, based on Ordination Query 5.
12 Mr. Manring’s email also draws attention to the fact that SSRPC’s senior pastor registered his
13 dissent when the synod complaint was defeated. This clearly implies that the senior pastor no
14 longer adheres to Presbyterianism and is unfit for the eldership. Once again, this would be a
15 deposable offense.

16 Rather than respectfully filing charges against these existing church officers, or seeking
17 counsel from his session or presbytery, Mr. Manring made his case before the court of public
18 opinion with sweeping and censorious judgments, some of which had no direct bearing on the elder
19 election itself. This is neither the way of charity, nor the way of peace and order, as demonstrated
20 by the session’s various citations from Scripture and the Larger Catechism.

21 The SSRPC session has been scrutinized for not granting Mr. Manring’s request for an
22 informal meeting prior to receiving his censure, and for the level of censure. According to the
23 session, their actions in this case occurred within the broader shepherding context of their prior
24 interactions with Mr. Manring during his nearly six years as a member of the congregation.

25 During the hearing, Mr. Manring’s presentation seemed to confirm the session’s outlook.
26 In his speeches, he accused the session of “manipulation,” “retaliation,” “suppressing information,”
27 “gerrymandering” the election, and other sharply worded speculations for which no adequate
28 evidence was provided. At one point, without provocation, Mr. Manring disrupted the hearing by
29 shouting at the defense counsel, by name, from the pews. This outburst continued until he nearly
30 had to be removed from the courtroom. Such behavior served to reinforce, rather than to refute, the
31 session’s rationale for its actions in this case, and may help to explain why the appeal was defeated.

32 In conclusion, our presbytery’s decision ultimately reflects the fact that Mr. Manring, when
33 given the opportunity to present his appeal, failed to prove his case against the SSRPC session to
34 the satisfaction of a majority of the court.

35 

36 

37 _____
38 Aaron Hartzler,
39 Clerk of the Ad Interim Commission

37 _____
38 Shawn Anderson,
39 Moderator of the Ad Interim Commission

January 15, 2024

Email Address: grjoshua.ip@yahoo.com

Re: Certificate of Dismissal for Joshua Ip

Dear Mr. Ip,

The Ad Interim Commission (AIC) of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery has received your request to have your membership removed from the roll of the Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery so that “you may join a church with biblical ordinance that asserts, maintains, and defends the faith which was once delivered unto the saints in due course.”

The following Certificate of Dismissal is submitted for your records. We are deeply saddened that you have separated yourself from the visible church, outside of which there is no ordinary possibility of salvation. If you have any questions or further needs, please contact our Presbytery via our Clerks, Mr. Adam Kuehner (ak@streetsermon.org) or Mr. Nathan Eshelman (n.p.eshelman@gmail.com).

Sincerely,

Shawn Anderson, Moderator of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery AIC

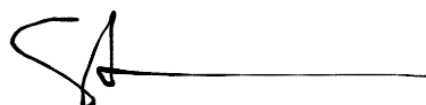
Certificate of Dismissal

This is to certify that you, Joshua Ip, a former member of the now-dissolved First Reformed Presbyterian Church of Grand Rapids, are hereby removed from the membership roll of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery at your own request. We are deeply saddened that you have thereby separated yourself from the visible church, outside of which there is no ordinary possibility of salvation.

Given this fifteenth day of January in the year 2024, by order of the Ad Interim Commission of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery of the RPCNA.



Aaron Hartzler,
Clerk of the Ad Interim Commission



Shawn Anderson,
Moderator of the Ad Interim Commission

Great Lakes–Gulf Presbytery Ad Interim Commission Minutes
February 13, 2024

The Ad Interim Commission of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery met by video conference call.

Those present included Shawn Anderson (moderator, Sycamore RPC-Kokomo, IN), G. Scott Damerow (SW Ohio RPC), Aaron Hartzler (RPC of Lafayette, IN), and Alejandro Ramirez (Orlando RPC, Orlando, FL). Jerry Porter (Southside RPC, Indianapolis, IN) was absent due to eldership responsibilities.

Shawn Anderson opened the meeting and constituted the court in prayer in the name and by the authority of Jesus Christ, King and Head of the Church, at 7:05 PM.

Agenda Item 40: To approve the proposed AIC report to Presbytery.

Action Taken: The report was approved by common consent.

Agenda Item 41: Respond to Mr. Ben Manring about an email sent to the GLGP delegates.

Action Taken: It was moved, seconded, and carried that the AIC inform Mr. Manring, through Mr. Anderson, that communications to higher courts must be transmitted through the local session, and that accusations of sin against other church members or officers must follow the biblical process of church discipline outlined in the RPCNA Book of Discipline.


The minutes of the actions taken, along with assignments, were reviewed.

Alejandro Ramirez prayed for the Church and adjourned the court in prayer in the name and by the authority of Jesus Christ, Head and King of the Church at 8:11 PM.

These minutes of February 13, 2024, were read and approved by common consent.



Aaron Hartzler,
Clerk of the Ad Interim Commission



Shawn Anderson,
Moderator of the Ad Interim Commission