

Report of the Bloomington Congregation To the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery 2024

Concerning the Year 2023

“Witnessing for Christ in Bloomington Since 1821”

*“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”*

- Romans 15:13

Membership:

Communicant: 165 (+11)

Baptized: 53 (+2)

Total: 218 (+13)

Changes:

Transfers in: 13

Professions of faith: 11

Covenant baptisms: 3

Transfers out: 12

Transfers to glory: 0

Removal: 2

Excommunication: 0

Attendance:

AM: 189 (+17)

PM: 119 (+0)

The session has met 17 times, monthly meetings, and 5 additional meetings for particular purposes, such as communion interviews.

The primary work of these meetings is that of praying for the congregation, working together on difficulties that individuals are facing, and giving counsel to the pastors concerning their ongoing work, including coordinating the content of preaching series. We also serve in the Lord’s Supper together six times per year, and the elders all rotate through the session in addressing the congregation in this context. In terms of specific business, this year has in addition included interviews for new members, and for people interested in communing with the congregation. Related to this is the logistical work of thinking through and planning for facilities to support the larger congregation. We are so thankful for the encouragement of so many people coming together week-by-week and others being attracted by and through the ministry of the Word. We can honestly say that this year has continued to humble us in light of the Lord’s inexplicable work among us.

Concerning the membership and attendance changes from this last year, we note the following for calendar year 2023.

The average in-person morning worship service attendance was 189, an increase of 17 over 2022.

The average in-person evening worship service attendance was 119, the same as 2022.

The average SS class attendance was 111 an increase of 9 from 2022.

The total communicant (165) and baptized (53) membership on December 31, 2023, was 218, a net increase of 13 over 2022. We have, since the new year, interviewed nine additional individuals for membership.

Twenty-two new communicant members were added in 2023: 6 transferred as members from other non-RP congregations, 11 added by profession, and 4 made professions of faith as baptized members and one was baptized upon profession.

Along with these new communicant members, 4 more joined the congregation as baptized members, 2 more were baptized with their parents becoming members, and one baptized as an infant.

Twelve members were transferred to other churches upon their request, having moved away, and two were removed from the rolls, having joined another congregation in Bloomington.

Communicant membership at the end of 2022 was at 154 and rose to 165 at the end of 2023. The number of baptized non-communicant members at the end of 2022 was 51 and rose to 53 by the end of 2023.

To put these last few years in a larger perspective, the membership in the congregation held consistently from 1940 at around 120 individuals through the 1950's and 1960's, but beginning in 1970, the membership declined to a low of 65 members in 1987. At that time, the congregation came together to ask the Lord to open up a new chapter in the congregation's work for Him, and through their sacrificial giving to support a second pastor and their new focus on serving Him and one another, the trajectory changed by the Lord's grace. Here, some 30 years later, we have grown to more than triple that size in the late 1980s, necessitating some careful thought for our next steps.

In the annual congregational meeting in January, we had a plan for facilities expansion on our current site presented to the congregation. This plan has been worked out via interactions with a logistical and architectural planning company over the last two years, and it represents our current best estimate for a facility that would serve us into a path forward over the next years. From this plan, we are currently collecting feedback from the congregation on the larger questions surrounding it, and also are retaining a consultant to lay the groundwork and, potentially, to execute a capital campaign to help bring together interested former members alongside the congregation. This process should allow the session to evaluate the construction plan, and then to call the congregation together with a more detailed plan including financial estimates, hopefully sometime in the fall of 2024.

We are thankful to the Lord for the provision of our pastors, as they are far more crucial for the life and health of the congregation than any facilities expansion could be. We are thankful for their obviously strong work ethic, their complementary skills, and their mutual support and strong regard for one another. In addition, we are thankful for their clear-minded and practical theological acumen, and their assiduous study and presentation of the scriptures. As gifts of the Lord to our congregation, we take seriously our responsibility to support them and ensure their

continued ability to serve in our context and to prosper along with their families in so doing. Having one pastor who also has a beneficial professional arrangement with the university has been a great blessing to the congregation and to his ministry. As part of our ongoing oversight of the church, we are cognizant of this and other parameters surrounding their work here. We have been in the practice of considering internship and other extension opportunities, though at this time we are not proposing any position for the coming year. We are thankful for the 'pre-internship' work of John Punt this last year, coming out of his work alongside the pastors in 2022, especially his gifts and abilities in opening the word for us on several occasions. In addition, we are thankful to the congregation for their continued support for our former interns as they go out from us.

Considering the pastoral staffing and the facilities expansion together raises the larger question of financial modeling. While financial management is properly a function of the deacon board, the session works alongside the deacon board especially in the matter of pastoral support and compensation, since we work closely with the pastors, we review their work, and we monitor their personal needs as they arise. In addition, large efforts, such as required for an expansion of the facilities, shape the overall focus of the congregation's ministries and hence may have a large impact on the overall spiritual state of the congregation. We anticipate collaborating closely with the deacon board to put all of the financial pieces together in the coming year.

More generally, we are concerned to help our members and members to grow in grace and in the ability to lead aspects of the church's ministry. Towards this end, we have two additional foci for the coming year. The first concerns developing, and then identifying additional official leadership for our congregation. The first part of this will be working with various individuals to explain and consider more broadly the calling of official leadership in the congregation. Following and beyond this, we are working out steps towards adding to the session by means of a congregational election during the upcoming year, as the Lord leads.

We are also working out a logistical plan to make opportunities to meet with everyone as families or individually in the coming year. We have been intending to do this for several years now, but have generally failed to systematically do so across the congregation. So, while we have been dedicated to keeping up with the members of the congregation as needs arise, we would like to become more proactive and systematic in this. To this end, we are planning out a pattern of visiting where we arrange a time for each household to meet with a pair of elders to catch up, discuss issues of spiritual importance in your lives, and think through ways of helping each one grow spiritually and in their ability to serve the Lord in the coming year.

Other matters we have discussed together over the last year are as follows.

We continue to have people taking distance-learning classes from RPTS for various purposes related to equipping them for service in the church. We wish to continue supporting this as people express interest.

We still have a positive relationship with the Bloomington Chinese Christian Church and are glad to see continued growth in their ministry as they recover from the social disasters of the last few years. We continue to consider ways in which we can support this ministry in the large Mandarin-speaking community here in town and are thankful for their work alongside us in this matter. We are committed to supporting their work toward eventual independence, and part of this is their continued use of our building for worship for the coming year.

Our involvement in the presbytery youth program has continued this year, including our additional sponsorship of the TFW, Theological Foundations Weekend. Thanks to the vigorous support of a family in the congregation (who ended up housing much of the TFW program), we were able to pick it up with the help of others around the presbytery. We also note that we again had a good contingent of labor-force high schoolers go down to Florida to work in the ECHO farm, and also that two rising seniors were able to be part of TFY this last summer. We anticipate a similar engagement of others of our students again this coming year.

We continue to seek to support our sister-churches, both in the presbytery and nationally. The congregation through the work of Pastor McCollum sent a ministry team to Covenant Fellowship in Pittsburgh to help with their work in the urban community on the southeast side of the city. The pastors are working out a similar ministry team plan for work in Northern Ireland in the coming summer. In addition, we have been actively working to encourage and deepen our relationship with the congregations neighboring us. Though it is something of a logistical puzzle, the annual joint thanksgiving service in the evening after the Thanksgiving holiday is one, tangible expression of this commitment. As part of our relationship to the denominational ministries, we anticipate again hosting the Genevans in concert this coming spring (March 2). We look forward to this event as an outreach into the community and also invite you all down for the event.

Finally, we want to request your gracious prayers for us as we work together. We are constantly thankful (though probably not as thankful as we should be!) for the strong working relationship we have within the session and the wonderful encouragement and support for our work from the congregation. Your prayers and small tokens of encouragement throughout the year, add richly to the joy of serving our gracious God together.

Respectfully submitted by the Session of the Bloomington Congregation

Wes Archer, Eric Cosens, CJ Davis, Ken de Jong, Rich Holdeman, Philip McCollum, & Stephen Shipp

Bloomington Reformed Presbyterian Church Budget Summary - January 27, 2024

<u>Income</u>	<u>2023 Budget</u>	<u>2023 Actuals</u>	<u>2024 Budget</u>
External Income			
Book Table Income		2,569.85	
Contributions - Offerings	488,000.00	594,294.57	523,000.00
Designated Income	500.00	6,740.49	500.00
Diaconal Ministry - Vol. Fund		50.00	
Facilities Capital Income		2,000.00	
Facilities: 619 S. Lincoln Income	10,000.00	4,031.95	16,000.00
Interest - Capital Investments & Savings	400.00	1,117.54	22,400.00
Miscellaneous Income	75.00	81.00	76.00
Offerings & Donations	-	4,167.38	-
Total External Income	498,975.00	615,052.78	561,976.00
Designated Income from Savings Revolving Funds	5,105.88	819.72	5,891.16
Total Income	504,080.88	615,872.50	567,867.16
<u>Expense</u>			
External Expenses			
Book Table Expense	588.62	2,639.57	518.90
Facilities Capital Expense	45,000.00	14,730.00	60,000.00
Facilities: 619 S. Lincoln St.	7,600.00	6,444.88	8,100.00
Facilities - Operating	52,000.00	35,337.15	63,850.00
Finance Committee	14,330.00	12,992.87	14,896.50
Ministry: Diaconal	3,000.00	1,205.26	3,000.00
Educational	15,517.26	13,661.20	19,322.26
Fellowship	3,860.00	4,484.73	3,860.00
Library	1,000.00	960.28	1,000.00
Nursery	1,000.00	517.80	1,000.00
Outreach	8,480.00	8,412.86	8,480.00
Session	1,500.00	2,898.57	5,500.00
Student	1,400.00	448.28	1,400.00
Technology	6,275.00	3,910.19	4,200.00
Youth	1,200.00	959.97	1,200.00
Missions	30,000.00	30,957.82	38,750.00
Offerings - Disbursements		2,800.00	
Office Expense	22,800.00	20,204.96	23,900.00
Pastoral Compensation - Holdeman	113,826.00	114,076.00	119,357.30
Pastoral Compensation - McCollum	93,508.00	93,758.00	99,039.30
Pastoral Internship			-
Pastoral Expenses	7,000.00	2,406.51	7,000.00
Presbytery	6,319.61	6,319.61	7,015.07
RPCNA Works	17,413.82	17,123.82	20,000.00
Special Funds			-
Total External Expenses	453,618.31	397,250.33	511,389.33
Designated Disbursements - to Savings Revolving Funds			
Benevolence		-	
Book Table			
Camp Fundraiser		855.00	
Facilities Capital	50,000.00	52,000.00	50,000.00
Ministry Hedge	4,000.00	4,000.00	4,000.00
Total Disbursements to Savings Revolving Funds	54,000.00	56,855.00	54,000.00
Total Expense	507,618.31	454,105.33	565,389.33
Net Income	(3,537.43)	161,767.17	2,477.83

Bloomington RP Church
Balance Sheet
As of December 31, 2023

	<u>Dec 31, 22</u>	<u>Inflows</u>	<u>Outflows</u>	<u>Dec 31, 23</u>
ASSETS				
Current Assets				
Checking/Savings				
IU Credit Union				
Certificate				
13-Month - Maturity 12/16/2024	0.00	200,000.00		200,000.00
Total Certificate	0.00			200,000.00
Membership Savings	0.00	5.00		5.00
Total IU Credit Union	0.00			200,005.00
Old National				
Certificate of Deposit				
7-Month - maturity 1/27/24	0.00	200,000.00		200,000.00
Total Certificate of Deposit	0.00			200,000.00
Checking	13,584.38	613,935.24	615,255.33	12,264.29
Non-Profit Market Monitor Acct	0.00	161,718.20		161,718.20
Savings				
6 Year Plan - Ministry Hedge	31,878.12	4,000.00		35,878.12
Benevolence	8,416.05		750.00	7,666.05
Book Table	588.62	2,569.85	2,639.57	518.90
Facilities Capital	70,000.00	52,000.00		122,000.00
Facilities Renovation Reserve	7,218.00			7,218.00
Fundraiser-Camp Assistance	4,517.26	5,105.00	4,250.00	5,372.26
General Savings	368,239.94	170,038.91	407,674.85	130,604.00
Security Deposit	500.00			500.00
Total Savings	491,357.99			309,757.33
Total Old National	504,942.37			683,739.82
Total Checking/Savings	504,942.37			883,744.82
Total Current Assets	504,942.37			883,744.82
TOTAL ASSETS	504,942.37			883,744.82
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	0.00			0.00

The Finance Committee is grateful to God for His provisions over the last years and is looking to wisely invest these gifts so they might further His kingdom as the church looks to expand its facilities. With this in mind, we are currently diversifying funds in different banks and investing in Certificates of Deposit and Money Market accounts. The \$400,000 for the CDs came out of General Savings. In addition, \$161,000 from our RPCNA Pooled Investments account was deposited into a Market Monitor account at ONB. These are not all new monies but just invested differently. Thus we show a \$217,802.45 increase across all our bank accounts in 2023, out of which \$56,000 is budgeted savings. After considering the designated inflows/outflows of various savings accounts, we are left with a net increase of \$161,767.17.