

Pastor's Report

Year after year, we serve the Lord Jesus Christ together at Columbus RP. We experience His presence, pardon, and promise now. We wait on His return; and we will do this as long as the Lord gives us strength to serve.

I want to reflect in this report on

- (1) Our life in the Word and worship in 2023
- (2) Congregational life together
- (3) A few personal, pastoral reflections
- (4) Session updates and thoughts
- (5) A few looks forward to 2024

1: Our life in the Word and worship in 2023.

Worship is the center of our life together as a church. Our philosophy and labor of ministry as elders focuses us on encountering God in weekly worship and fellowship together.

As pastor, I'm particularly thankful as pastor for the work of our ruling elders in the presiding efforts.

This year's preaching largely consisted of the book of Genesis. We've learned in Abraham's life of the hope of promises yet unseen. In Jacob's life, we've seen the transformation of the gospel for deceitful sinners, led to limp as the Son shines upon us. In Joseph, we see the presence of the Spirit for those in exile, and the surprising Christ-like transformation of Judah.

I look forward to concluding Genesis in early 2024. After a possible brief topical series, I will move to 1 Timothy, where we will learn much of the practical life of the church together.

Evening fellowship carries on. Some may wonder about the question of Sunday School. In a real sense, evening fellowship is our Sunday school time – we study God's Word, pray, and sing together. Topics in 2023 included the Westminster Confession, the gospel, forgiveness, and the life of prayer in the church. We're learning at the end of 2023 the importance of being a church at prayer in the Spirit.

If you have topics for preaching of evening fellowship that you'd like us to consider, let us know. We want to hear what interests you, and we will consider.

2: Congregational life together

The highlight of congregational activities in 2023 was certainly the retirement celebration for Ed Schisler after 44 years of ministry among us as a ruling elder. We are so thankful for that time of remembrance and gratitude. Another great highlight was the fall retreat again this year. Many were particularly blessed by Drew Hutner's talks on friendship.

Highlighting other areas of congregational life centers on great gratitude for the service of our deacons, our committees, and so many others engaged in service to Christ in His church. We are a church in fellowship together in Christ, and we thank each of you for your contributions to that life this year.

A major experience of our congregational life in 2023 was the addition of babies and young families to our midst. God is raising up the next generation (a topic we considered in preaching at length in the life of Abraham/Isaac!).

In congregational life, I want to add particular thanks to Lisa Shoop for her continued service as a secretary. Jenny Erney also contributed many valuable hours of service in the office on a great deal of projects. As she steps away from that role in 2024, we want her to know her work is appreciated.

Encouragements in other ministry areas fill the rest of our meeting booklet.

3: A few personal, pastoral reflections

Orlena and I continue to be thankful to be living among you here at Columbus RP. Thanks for your care for our children. As pastor, life largely consisted of morning preaching, evening teaching, midweek Bible study prep, intermixed with discipleship and counseling with people across the church. Denominational life continued to present many challenges, but the Lord has sustained.

I want to share particular thanks for a gracious book budget and pastoral refreshment budget the church has provided me. This proves vital for my continual refreshment in Christ.

4: Session updates

Session met monthly for times of prayer and planning together. We meet the first Tuesday of every month, and once a quarter we meet with the deacons. If you have questions or matters you'd like us to consider in meetings, let us know.

Communicant membership now stands at 96, with baptized membership at 30, with a total of 126 members. This is a drop of 11 total members in 2023. Note, though, that attendance rose by about 10 in 2023, so it seems our membership numbers are coming closer to the actual attendance we have on Lord's Days.

5: Where we see things headed in 2024

In 2024, we are prayerfully trusting God for His grace to sustain us. We expect our weekly patterns to stay similar. The addition of a youth Sunday School in the evenings excites us. We hope as well to have an elder election. We look prayerfully to how we might use our resources for His glory.

Most of all, we pray for His Spirit to revive and strengthen us in the service of Christ by His Word. We long for people to come to Christ, families to be built up, and for us together to know Jesus Christ and Him Crucified.

Join us in hopeful prayer.

Joel, for the session

Columbus Reformed Presbyterian Church								
	1Q23	2Q23	3Q23	4Q23	Total	2023	Spend	2024
						Budget	vs Bud	
Giving Income								
General Giving - Columbus	78,670.87	94,131.01	84,874.29	131,141.82	388,817.99			
Designated Giving - Columbus	1,736.49	2,003.33	1,941.62	2,006.28	7,687.72			
Other (Grants, Fees)	200.00	6,550.00		1,377.00	8,127.00			
Interest Income (Bank)	18.76	4.12	4.17	4.17	31.22			
Total Giving/ Income	80,626.12	102,688.46	86,820.08	134,529.27	404,663.93			
Net Income	16,509.55	13,070.27	19,449.66	60,396.62	109,426.10			
Net Balance of Funds/Securities								
Bank Operating Fund (<i>Checking</i>)	42,304.95	54,822.93	74,448.07	92,312.67				
Bank Savings	55,073.82	55,096.70	55,100.87	55,105.04				
Securities (CDs, Money Market)	300,090.18	301,794.99	304,625.02	347,738.86				
Total Overall Cash Fund/Securities	397,468.95	411,714.62	434,173.96	495,156.57				
Net Funds/Securities Less Restricted Funds								
Seminary/Bible Training Scholarship Fund - <i>Reserved</i>	15,266.01	16,766.01	18,266.01	19,697.13				
Higher Education Scholarship Fund - <i>Reserved</i>	6,000.00	6,000.00						6,000.00
Roof Repair Fund - <i>Reserved</i>	85,000.00	85,000.00	85,000.00	85,000.00				50,000.00
Building Fund <i>Reserved</i>	175,000.00	175,000.00	175,000.00	175,000.00				250,000.00
Total Restricted Funds	281,266.01	282,766.01	278,266.01	279,697.13				
Total Non-Restricted Funds/Securities	116,202.94	128,948.61	155,907.95	215,459.44				
Expense								
Ministries								
Christian Education (incl. WBS)	18.00	667.42	193.18		878.60	1,000.00	87.9%	1,000.00
Church Listings	520.00				520.00	550.00	94.5%	550.00
Youth For Christ					0.00	1,000.00	0.0%	
Digital Ministry	249.85	421.04	159.85	496.54	1,327.28	3,000.00	44.2%	2,000.00
Evangelism/Outreach	5.00		3,625.00	4,277.13	7,907.13	5,000.00	158.1%	7,000.00
Benevolence/Gifts	61.58		311.81	65.35	438.74	500.00	87.7%	500.00
Fall Seminar	625.00		770.76	2,145.37	3,541.13	4,000.00	88.5%	4,000.00
Fellowship	61.16	35.67	112.80	320.03	529.66	3,000.00	17.7%	2,000.00
Pulpit	250.00	445.00	510.00		1,205.00	2,000.00	60.3%	2,000.00
Higher Education Fund Scholarship Expense			6,000.00		6,000.00	6,000.00	100.0%	6,000.00
Mercy	1,371.94	7,087.00	723.88	740.35	9,923.17	15,000.00	66.2%	15,000.00
Clarity	1,200.00			1,800.00	3,000.00	6,000.00	50.0%	3,000.00
New Song			4,000.00		4,000.00	4,000.00	100.0%	5,000.00
RP Global Missions				3,000.00				3,000.00

RP Missions & Ministries	6,500.00	6,500.00	6,500.00	6,500.00	26,000.00	26,000.00	100.0%	26,000.00
RP Witness Subscription				1,200.00	1,200.00	1,300.00	92.3%	1,500.00
Biblical Training Scholarship Expense	997.33			68.88	1,066.21	3,000.00	35.5%	3,000.00
Session Ministries	610.00	2,641.77	756.00	123.77	4,131.54	2,500.00	165.3%	3,000.00
Vacation Bible School		1,393.28			1,393.28	2,500.00	55.7%	2,000.00
Youth Memory Work Scholarship	29.40		522.95		552.35	1,200.00	46.0%	1,200.00
Youth Ministry/College & Career	7.58	166.92	97.28	1,164.56	1,436.34	2,000.00	71.8%	2,000.00
Youth TFY/Echo/Short Term Missions					0.00	2,750.00	0.0%	2,500.00
Total Ministries	12,506.84	19,358.10	24,283.51	21,901.98	78,050.43	92,300.00	84.6%	92,250.00
Synod & Presbytery								
Presbytery Assessment		4,556.86			4,556.86	4,600.00	99.1%	4,600.00
Synod Housing		315.00			315.00	1,000.00	31.5%	1,000.00
Synod's Assessment		7,540.00			7,540.00	7,100.00	106.2%	7,600.00
Total Synod & Presbytery	0.00	12,411.86	0.00	0.00	12,411.86	12,700.00	97.7%	13,200.00

Columbus Reformed Presbyterian Church							Spend	
Senior Pastor							vs. Bud	
Salary	11,527.50	15,300.00	7,852.50	16,441.25	51,121.25	46,305.00	110.4%	48,400.00
Housing Allowance	11,392.50	15,435.00	7,717.50	11,576.25	46,121.25	46,305.00	99.6%	48,400.00
Total Pastor Compensation	22,920.00	30,735.00	15,570.00	28,017.50	97,242.50	92,610.00	105.0%	96,800.00
Pastor Benefits								
Book Fund	182.20	179.10	281.94	229.57	872.81	1,000.00	87.3%	1,000.00
Business Expense	198.85	113.73	613.97	354.56	1,281.11	2,500.00	51.2%	2,500.00
Pension Contribution	1,750.00	2,000.00	1,750.00	1,750.00	7,250.00	7,000.00	103.6%	7,500.00
Refreshment/Continuing Education			651.83	187.20	839.03	500.00	167.8%	1,000.00
Church Family Conference					0.00	1,500.00	0.0%	3,000.00
Total Pastor Benefits	2,131.05	2,292.83	3,297.74	2,521.33	10,242.95	12,500.00	81.9%	15,000.00
Church Labor & Fees								
Administrative Labor - Secretary	2,345.00	3,010.00	1,385.00	2,535.00	9,275.00	8,500.00	109.1%	13,000.00
Administrative Labor - Admin.Asst.	757.44	880.00	288.00		1,925.44	2,500.00	77.0%	
Custodial Labor	1,224.00	1,784.00	608.00	992.00	4,608.00	5,000.00	92.2%	5,000.00
Employer Taxes	330.96	434.05	174.52	269.80	1,209.33	1,000.00	120.9%	1,000.00
Payroll Service Fee	175.54	168.64	101.29	125.16	570.63	1,000.00	57.1%	1,000.00
Electronic Giving Fee	2.45	18.50	3.20	9.90	34.05	100.00	34.1%	100.00

Background Checks		150.00	456.00	8.00				1,000.00
Total Labor & Fees	4,835.39	6,445.19	3,016.01	3,939.86	18,236.45	18,100.00	100.8%	21,100.00
Property								
Church Capital Expenditures	8,272.06	3,913.19	6,181.02	630.21	18,996.48	10,000.00	190.0%	65,000.00
Church Repairs	2,440.74		4,556.85	10,545.30	17,542.89	3,000.00	584.8%	5,000.00
Church Utilities (incl Phone/Internet)	5,146.01	2,974.86	2,673.08	2,675.55	13,469.50	13,500.00	99.8%	15,000.00
Grounds Upkeep	3,129.42	5,449.22	5,705.30	2,340.62	16,624.56	15,000.00	110.8%	15,000.00
House Capital Expenditures					0.00	2,000.00	0.0%	2,000.00
House Repairs					0.00	2,000.00	0.0%	2,000.00
House Utilities	372.04	334.44	413.73	131.94	1,252.15	2,000.00	62.6%	2,000.00
Insurance/CPR License Fees		4,073.00			4,073.00	4,000.00	101.8%	4,500.00
Equipment/Displays/Décor				530.19				7,000.00
Playground/Landscape					0.00	2,000.00	0.0%	
Total Property	19,360.27	16,744.71	19,529.98	16,853.81	72,488.77	53,500.00	135.5%	117,500.00
Supplies								
Custodial	158.54	124.88	151.20	214.85	649.47	500.00	129.9%	750.00
Kitchen		271.54		169.74	441.28	500.00	88.3%	500.00
Library	39.25			29.95	69.20	200.00	34.6%	200.00
Nursery	200.39	208.56		159.96	568.91	500.00	113.8%	1,000.00
Office	1,964.84	965.57	1,521.98	259.62	4,712.01	4,500.00	104.7%	4,500.00
Worship (incl. Psalters/Bibles)		59.95		64.05	124.00	500.00	24.8%	500.00
Total Supplies	2,363.02	1,630.50	1,673.18	898.17	6,564.87	6,700.00	98.0%	7,450.00
Total Expense	64,116.57	89,618.19	67,370.42	74,132.65	295,237.83	288,410.00	102.4%	363,300.00