

Report of the Home Mission Board Representative to the Great Lakes – Gulf Presbytery

Spring 2024

The Home Mission Board met twice during the year of 2023, on March 9-10 and on October 17-18. I attended the Spring meeting remotely due to travel but attended the Fall meeting in person in Pittsburgh. The HMB discussed and approved funding for many church plants, including reducing aid, exploratory grants, and resident in training grants. It was also approved that the HMB increase the amount of aid given to church plants through the reducing aid program. Included in my duties as the HMB representative for our presbytery is to ensure that the needs to church planting efforts in our presbytery are being met. Rev. Tom Reid contacted the HMB asking for assistance in conducting outreach and evangelistic efforts in the Gainesville area. September 11-18, I went to Gainesville to assist in this. Rev. Nathan Eshelman as well as other members of the Orlando congregation assisted in outreach and evangelistic efforts on the campus of the University of Florida as well as in the neighborhoods near the meeting location of the plant. At the Fall meeting I was elected to the position of Vice President of the HMB. We also formed three committees of the HMB: an Evangelism Committee (which I was appointed to serve on alongside Rev. Doug Chamberlain), a Committee to Review HMB Constitution & Bylaws (consisting of Rev. John Edgar and Elder Bob Lyon), and a Support Committee (consisting of Rev. Kent Butterfield and Ms. Vickie Smith). We also agreed to pursue working in conjunction with the session of the Westminster RPC congregation in Prairie View, IL to host an evangelism conference in the fall of 2024. More information about this will be provided following the Spring meeting on April 23-24. There are currently 14 open pulpits within our denomination. Please pray that the Lord will raise up laborers for the harvest field and establish sound and faithful men as pastors within these congregations. Overall, there is much to rejoice over in regards to the church planting efforts of our denomination. May we ask Jehovah to continue to work through us in building the Church of Christ here in this nation.

Recommendation:

That Rev. Joshua Smith be appointed to continue serving as the GLG HMB representative for a full term beginning at the Spring 2024 presbytery meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joshua M. Smith