

Southwest Ohio Reformed Presbyterian Church 2023 Congregational Report to the Spring 2024 Presbytery Meeting

Session Meetings

SWORP session met three times this past year for our regularly scheduled meetings.

Presbytery and Denominational Work

In 2023, the elders represented the congregation at two scheduled presbytery meetings and one yearly Synod meeting. RE Damerow served on the Ad Interim Committee (AIC) of the Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery and completed his year-long term of service in early 2024. TE Steven Work continued his ministry of pulpit supply to RP churches in the region.

Preaching and Teaching

Pastor Knodel concluded his topical series in Genesis and then began a series of sermons on the history of the kings and prophets of Israel and Judah. Our sabbath school, using video lessons from Ligonier Ministries, continued with a series on the life and times of J. Gresham Machen and concluded in the latter part of 2023 with a video series on the life of Samson by Dr. W. Robert Godfrey led by Deacon Chris Knodel. We then began a series on the Puritans from Joel Beeke's, "To God's Glory: Lessons on Puritanism" led by Pastor Knodel.

Deacon

Deacon Chris Knodel exercised his gifts this year, through oversight of financial transactions and evaluating and distributing for needs within the congregation.

Atlanta Temporary Governing Body

Led by Steven Work, the members of the SWORP session also continued to serve as the Temporary Governing Body (TGB) of Atlanta Reformed Presbyterian Church along with their pastor, Dr. Frank Smith, meeting together remotely via Zoom almost every other month. Trevor J. Patillo (T.J.) continued as an elder on the TGB and has gone above and beyond the call when Dr. Frank Smith had unexpected quadruple bypass open heart surgery and a subsequent recovery in late November. T.J. has been filling the Atlanta pulpit many Lord's days and has continued the week-to-week work in Atlanta into 2024. The building, purchased previously, has undergone more renovation and more extensive modifications are planned. Pray for recovery of strength for Dr. Smith and T.J. Patillo's continued endurance as he continues his study at RPTS, oversees his family *and* carries on the work in Atlanta during Frank's recovery.

Membership Changes

Grant Linville joined our ranks in March by letter of transfer from the OPC. Captain William (Billy) Ferrel was interviewed and approved for membership at SWORP in April. We continue to appreciate the contributions of both men to our Sabbath School discussions and the overall life of the congregation. Continue to pray for the adding of more to our number through the growth of our current younger families, and also the formation of new covenant families in the future as we pray for the growth of SWORP and God's broader Kingdom.

Looking Ahead

Tim Vincze and his brothers continue in their direct care and oversight of their father John who is suffering from dementia. The Reufener family continues their labor to find institutional placement for Louie and a way to guide him toward a positive future. Please continue in your prayers for all those in the congregation who deal with family issues, physical ailments, (especially those who are older) and those of all ages who may be experiencing spiritual struggles. Our younger families continue in their God given labor of raising their children. Pray for them as they raise up the next generation even as we see the older children of the congregation begin to take their steps into adulthood and full membership in the congregation as they follow Christ.

With this new year we continue to depend on God and his Grace while we work for the spread of the Gospel of Christ and the building up of one another at SWORP as we go through times of physical and spiritual testing.

"Therefore strengthen the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees, and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be dislocated, but rather be healed.

Hebrews 12:12,13

On behalf of the SWORP Session,
RE G. Scott Damerow

SWORP Membership statistics for 2023

18 Adult Communicant Members

9 Baptized Children

1 Adherent

27 Total members

SWORP Budgeting 2024

	2023	2024
	Actual	Projected
Giving	\$64,171.89	\$65,387.03
General Fund	\$61,156.89	\$62,380.03
Diaconal	\$2,850.00	\$2,907.00
Special Designations	\$165.00	\$100.00
Expenses	\$60,151.17	\$62,038.73
Pastor's Salary	\$37,785.08	\$39,674.33
Pastor's Expense	\$1,860.00	\$1,860.00
Pastor's Insurance	\$5,286.60	\$5,286.60
Liability Insurance	\$387.00	\$387.00
Rent	\$3,825.00	\$3,825.00
Pulpit Supply	\$1,050.00	\$1,000.00
Synod Assessment	\$165.00	\$165.00
GLGP Assessment	\$850.00	\$850.00
Synod Registration	\$1,000.00	\$500.00
Sermon Audio	\$439.45	\$480.00
Zoom	\$185.19	\$204.36
Advertizing	\$0.00	\$500.00
Reimbursement	\$411.41	\$400.00
Other	\$6,906.44	\$6,906.44
Surplus/Deficit	\$4,020.72	\$3,348.29