

The Clerk's Report

2025 GLGP Spring Mtg ~ Bloomington, IN
March 6-8, 2025 @ Bloomington RPC

Dear Fathers and Brethren,

While it has been my great pleasure to serve as your clerk for the last decade, I very much look forward to rejoining you all in the pews. Without a doubt, we will be in good hands with Revs. Eshelman and Hart manning the clerks' table, a new moderator pounding the gavel,¹ and, as always, King Jesus wielding the scepter.

Intercessory Prayer. Prayer assignments are noted in the proposed agenda. Rather than praying for a cluster of items at the end of a business session, we will pray separately following each report. Wherever possible, I have assigned delegates to pray for congregations whose minutes they recently reviewed. (The moderator may change these assignments at will.) I've also included intercessory prayer in connection with board and committee reports. Please look for your name in the proposed agenda so that you are prepared to lead in prayer at the appointed time. If you are unable to do so, please inform the new moderator in advance, so that he can appoint someone else.

Session Reports. In recent years, due to rampant conflict, we've had to reduce (or even remove) the time slots for oral Session reports. This year, I've expanded them to ten minutes, along with five minutes of prayer. Presenters are encouraged to use up all of this time. Delegates are encouraged to ask follow-up questions. *Let's get reacquainted!*

Congregational Statistics. On 6/28/17, the GLGP adopted the following motion, mandating the inclusion of six categories congregational statistics within each Session's annual spring report to Presbytery.

That presbytery instruct its congregations to include the following 4 statistics in their annual reports to presbytery: (1) Total Membership: Communicant and Baptized (2) Average AM Worship Attendance (3) Average PM Worship Attendance (4) Baptized Members Professing (5) New Members by Profession (6) Net Change in Total Membership.

In keeping with the fifth commandment, each Session is expected to comply with this requirement. If your Session is not presently in compliance, please submit a brief report with this information in time for our June meeting at Synod, so that this information may be received and observed by the court. For an example of how to include this information in your report for next year, feel free to consult the Southfield and Bloomington reports.

Minute Book Review. The review of digital Session/TGB minutes is nearly complete.² As of 2/20/24, all minutes have been reviewed and found to be in lawful constitutional order, aside from the exceptions listed below. To avoid "minute review mission drift" I am recommending the formation of a committee which would report back in June with a list of proposed guidelines. ***Session clerks must still bring their physical minute books to the spring meeting to be stamped by the Assistant Clerk.***

1. The Selma Session did not meet this year, leaving us with no minutes to review.
2. The Sycamore Session minute reviewers flagged one action as contrary to the law and order of the church.³

¹ After ten years as clerk and two as assistant clerk, I plan to decline any nominations to serve as Presbytery moderator—or on any Presbytery commission, including the AIC—for one year, so that I can refocus on my family and local congregation during that time.

² Reviewers: Atlanta: Foltz, Cerbus. Belle Center: Whitla, Shipp. Bloomington: Fearing, Ramirez. Columbus: J. Smith, Doerr. Elkhart: Reid, Kim. Hetherton: F. Smith, Goerner. Lafayette: Murray, Decker. Marion: McCollum, Lodge. Orlando: Work, Stiegert. Second: Samul, Daniels. Selma: Pockras, Mender. Southfield: D. Hanson, VanSickle. Southside: J. Sturm, Hughes. SWORP: Wise, J. Hanson. Sparta: Mann, Hoover. Sycamore: S. Rhoda Pockras, D. Schisler. Terre Haute: Anderson, Mauser. Westminster: Holdeman, Bibby.

³ Sycamore Reviewers: "More seriously, and Presbytery should take note, is Minute #3 of the October 26 meeting, where several members of the Benjamin Manring family, formerly of the Southside Indianapolis RPC, adherents of the Sycamore RPC at the time of the Session meeting, were allowed to commune although confessedly not members of an evangelical church, as directed by the *Directory for Worship* 3.11."

Synod Verdict. The 2024 Synod sustained Appeal 24-01/02 (GLG 23-36/37), filed by Mr. Ben Manning, on one of five possible grounds (irregularity in the proceedings), resulting in the Southside Session’s public apology to Mr. Manning for the irregularity. However, Synod upheld the censure of rebuke issued to Mr. Manning by his Session.

Communications. Please note the following communications.

1. 24-8: Letter from Zeltenreich Reformed Church (URCNA) re: Mr. Nathan Enas (Ref’d to Enas Judicial Commission).
2. 25-1: A petition / appeal from Mr. Shaw, on behalf of Mr. Enas, copied to PJC Mod. and GLGP Clerk.⁴
3. 25-2: A communication from Mr. Shaw, on behalf of Mr. Enas, received 2/21/25, after the two-week deadline.⁵

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Presbytery appoint the following parliamentarians for this meeting: Frank Smith, Phil Pockras, Stephen Shipp (alt), Colin Samul (alt).
2. That Presbytery instruct the nominating committee to determine the congregations to be visited this year.
3. That Presbytery instruct the moderator to announce the following committee appointments by the start of Business Session #2 at the latest: Nominating (3), Resolution of Thanks (2), Time and Place (2).
4. That Presbytery refer GLG 25-1 to a three-man Judicial Committee (of the day) to review it alongside the PJC Report and report back later in this meeting with recommendations regarding how best to proceed.
5. That Presbytery appoint a three-man committee—Adam Kuehner, Nathan Eshelman, and Joel Hart—to report back at the June meeting with proposed guidelines to aid those assigned each year to review Session and TGB minutes.
6. That Presbytery reappoint Mr. Andrew Imeson as its Internet Maintenance Technician for 2025.
7. That Presbytery grant privileges of the floor to the CYPY Youth Leadership Team during its scheduled presentation.
8. That Presbytery adopt the proposed agenda for this meeting.
9. That Presbytery grant all RPCNA elders present the privilege of the floor during the remainder of this meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Adam Kuehner, Clerk

⁴ While only certified delegates may make *motions*, Mr. Shaw has indicated that, this “motion” is essentially a PETITION to vacate (or rescind) the commission’s admonition of Mr. Enas. This would be in keeping with DCG 6.15 (D-34), which allows Presbytery to “rescind the action of the commission.” If this petition is received by the court and placed in the agenda, it should be noted that Mr. Shaw is requesting thirty minutes to present it to the court, and is only available to do so on Friday March 7. In addition, according to Mr. Shaw, 25-1 contains an APPEAL of the censure, with Mr. Shaw (a communicant member of Southside RPC) serving as legal counsel. In terms of appeal protocol, 25-1 was submitted both to the PJC and to myself as Presbytery clerk. I received it in via certified mail on 2/13/25, which is within the 30-day deadline for *notice* of appeal. While 25-1 identifies itself as an *appeal*—not as a *notice* of appeal—surely both aspects are included by implication. According to BOD II.4.11 (E-17), if the court receives 25-1 as an orderly appeal (and notice of appeal), it must then appoint a member of the presbytery to serve as Mr. Enas’ advisor (not the same as legal counsel) and instruct the PJC clerk to forward all pertinent records to the Presbytery. The delegates must have at least 30 days to review the records before hearing the appeal. In other words, we are not permitted to hear the appeal at this meeting.

⁵ Since this communication was received after the two-week deadline of Thursday 2/20/25, it may not be received or taken up by the Presbytery at this meeting apart from a special resolution (2/3 majority). The communication itself appears to be informational.