

2025 Belle Center Session Report to Presbytery

Out of His grace, alone, Christ continues to fulfill His promise: "I will build my Church" (Matthew 16:18).

Blessings

1. We continue to rejoice in a full local Session. Both of our Ruling Elders have served well in the congregation and on Presbytery appointments. As well, we are blessed by an increasingly efficient Deacon board.
2. Our average attendance for 2024 was 54, a decrease of one from our 2023 figure of 55. We had membership increase from the following sources: one by baptism. We lost one member by excommunication. Total membership continues at 71; 51 communicant and 20 baptized. Since the beginning of 2025 we have had another baby baptized and we look forward to another one three weeks after our spring meeting this year. We anticipate that the family we received from Columbus last year will transfer to another denomination due to a move brought about by a new job. We currently have one church member under suspension. One former member is currently excommunicated.
3. Finances continue to be far better than a few years ago. Again, we noted that 2023 ended with financial surplus. God blessed with a continued surplus in 2024; this is four years in a row in the black. The appended financial report was presented to and approved by Session.
4. With growing membership and attendance, more folks are wondering how long we will be able to use our building. Thankfully, with the provision of chairs that we mentioned two years ago, there are many more chairs that we have in order to accommodate a larger attendance. The problem, currently, is sufficient room. We now have a little more with the building of a small shed in our back property to store the extra chairs.
5. There is a spirit of love, care, and delight in one another, shown by the fact that it is hard to get people out the door after worship services! People delight in sharing their lives with one another in prayer and concern. The special ladies' prayer group that continuously operates online and our young men's every-other-week Bible study that were begun in 2023 continue to present. Our pastor is very hopeful that Zion's King already has in place our congregation's future Session and Deacon Board. As a Session, we testify to the value of Synod's TFY program. Most of these young men are "alumni" of it. At least one of their wives is, too.
6. Several young people attended many of the presbytery CYPUs activities, as well as some Alleghenies Presbytery events, in the past year. Two of our teenagers are applying for spaces on this year's TFY. One of these has gone on trips to help ECHO and hopes to attend that this year, as well. A lady of our church is the leader for RP Missions' Cyprus team.
7. Our pastor continues his chaplain work at Mary Rutan Hospital in Bellefontaine, OH. Always, on the way to Bellefontaine from Belle Center, he prays that he will be a

41 blessing to patients, families, staff, and administration. He testifies that he certainly
42 knows that each visit to Mary Rutan brings blessing to him!
43 8. Our pastor is attempting to learn Portuguese. He has already preached twice to a group
44 of Presbyterians in and around Rio de Janeiro, over the internet, with interpreters. He is
45 also encouraging a young Presbyterian minister in Brasilia. The two of them converse
46 over the internet most weeks, with the young man seeking to improve his English and
47 Phil his Portuguese. Phil hopes to use this to make and cultivate contacts who might be
48 interested in the RPC. With them he has shared resources from RTF and keeps the Rev.
49 Edgar Ibarra of Synod's CASA Committee informed.

50 Challenges

- 51 1. We have continued health challenges, especially chronic ones. We have people with
52 lung and pulmonary problems, heart issues, arthritis, dementia, and diabetes.
- 53 2. Attendance at both the prayer meeting and the second worship service are relatively
54 poor. We are concerned that some of this is due to spiritual coolness. Some is due to
55 our next challenge:
- 56 3. A continuing challenge is the physically spread-out nature of our congregation. We have
57 families coming from the southwest travelling an hour and a half each way. From the
58 northwest, people must drive forty-five or so minutes. From the southeast, families
59 travel thirty to forty-five minutes to get to Belle Center. This makes fellowship, except
60 on Sabbath, difficult. It makes pastoral visitation difficult. But there may be a hidden
61 blessing to come! Each of these four population centers – Greenville, Ohio;
62 Lima/Bluffton, Ohio; Marysville/Dublin, Ohio, and the Belle Center/Bellefontaine, Ohio
63 center, could, in God's adorable providence, conceivably be kernels for daughter
64 congregations.

65 The session of the Belle Center, OH, Congregation met for 10 stated and 6 called meetings in
66 2024. The minutes of the session were submitted to Presbytery and approved without correction. Our
67 pastor attended Synod and 1 regular meeting of the Presbytery. Our ruling elders have been diligent to
68 attend higher courts. Our clerk served on Presbytery's *Ad Interim* Commission for this past year. Our
69 pastor is currently serving as the provisional Moderator of the Hetherton Session, on Presbytery's
70 Church Extension Committee, and on Synod's committees on vows, queries, and covenants; and the
71 committee studying issues with the property of departing congregations.

72 The congregation has not met since the last spring meeting of Presbytery. As of the time of the
73 writing of this report, the 2025 annual meeting has not yet occurred. We hope it will be characterized
74 by clarity, concord, and good spirits, as usual.

75 We meet each Lord's Day at Noon for worship. We have second services and, on the last
76 Sabbath of each month, fellowship meals. The Lord's Supper is celebrated on each fifth Sabbath in
77 months that have them. Our pastor has continued preaching through Luke's Gospel during the first
78 service. In the second service, he preached through the book of Job and is now early in Paul's Epistle to
79 the Ephesians. Following morning worship, we meet for Sabbath School. We have two classes, now:
80 our family class, taught by our minister, currently using G. I. Williams' *Shorter Catechism for Study*
81 *Classes*; and a class for ruling elder and deacon education through material produced by the RPTS,
82 taught by our ruling elders.

83 The congregation meets for prayer on Wednesday evenings at 7:30, with an average attendance
84 of four. We would like to see more participation from the congregation, but the physically scattered
85 nature of our congregation does not help.

86 We look forward to 2025 as a united congregation with a rather clear vision of where we want
87 to go, as we continue to advance a testimony for salvation by grace through faith in the saving Person
88 and Work of Jesus Christ, and the mediatorial kingship of Jesus in our area.

89

90 Respectfully submitted,

91

92 Phil Pockras, Moderator

93 Jeffery Brotherton, Clerk

Asset Breakdown & Designation

For the purposes of this report Asset Balances is the amount of money that is currently in the Bank. Of the money that is in the bank, some of it is allocated to specific causes, either by donation or by the deacon board. These categories are listed under funds. The remaining balance contains funds that the deacon board has allocated for specific or general purposes that will not be disclosed at this time. All dates are as of the first of January.

Asset Balances	January 2024	December 2024
Bank Checking	\$ 72,332.33	\$ 48,418.80
Bank Savings:	\$ 1,000.86	\$ 1,121.40
CDs	\$ -	\$ 46,546.01
Petty Cash:	\$ 2,088.00	\$ 2,000.00
Total:	\$ 75,421.19	\$ 98,086.21

Debt Balances	January 2024	December 2024
	\$ -	\$ -
Total:	\$ -	\$ -

Net Worth	January 2024	December 2024
Total:	\$ 75,421.19	\$ 98,086.21

Funds	January 2024	Income	Expense	January 2025
Summer Intern Fund:	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,000.00
New Building Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50,000.00
Total:	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 59,000.00

Remaining Balance	January 2024	January 2025
Total:	\$ 75,421.19	\$ 39,086.21

Income & Expenses / Budget

In this section of the report we will share the amount of income that the church received and the expenses of the church over the past year. The first and last column shows the previous years budget and the proposed budget for the new year. The middle column shows the actual income and actual expenses.

Income Summary	2024 Budget	Actual Income	2025 Budget
Tithes and Offerings:	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 116,462.57	\$ 100,000.00
Synod Dividend:	\$ 2,444.27	\$ 3,188.73	\$ 3,188.73
Designated Income:	\$ -	\$ 596.50	\$ -
Other Income:	\$ -	\$ 5.00	\$ -
Interest Income:	\$ 1,573.00	\$ 1,574.08	\$ 1,663.24
Total	\$ 104,017.27	\$ 121,826.88	\$ 104,851.97

Expense Summary	2024 Budget	Actual Expense	2025 Budget
Church Building:	\$ 11,249.00	\$ 11,584.37	\$ 5,507.00
Manse Building:	\$ 11,410.00	\$ 2,216.46	\$ 8,900.00
Utilities	\$ 3,723.00	\$ 5,052.94	\$ 4,545.00
Pastor Support:	\$ 63,769.00	\$ 65,619.00	\$ 66,320.00
Session Support:	\$ 2,440.00	\$ 784.00	\$ 1,340.00
Church Support:	\$ 5,560.00	\$ 7,026.24	\$ 6,340.00
Designated Giving:	\$ 2,250.00	\$ 3,246.50	\$ 3,250.00
Assessments:	\$ 2,944.11	\$ 3,620.49	\$ 4,152.18
Total	\$ 103,345.11	\$ 99,150.00	\$ 100,354.18

Expense and Budget Category Breakdown (1/2)

Church Building:	2024 Budget	Actual Expense	2025 Budget
Furniture & Fixtures:	\$ 6,835.00	\$ 5,980.03	\$ 1,000.00
Maintenance / Cleaning:	\$ 1,160.00	\$ 130.00	\$ 1,100.00
Office Supplies:	\$ 200.00	\$ 186.49	\$ 200.00
Medical / First Aid:	\$ 3,457.21	\$ 2,301.70	\$ 100.00
Technology:	\$ 300.00	\$ 221.15	\$ 200.00
Insurance (Inc. Manse):	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,761.00	\$ 2,900.00
Taxes:	\$ 154.00	\$ 4.00	\$ 7.00
Total:	\$ 14,606.21	\$ 11,584.37	\$ 5,507.00

Manse Building	2024 Budget	Actual Expense	2025 Budget
Maintenance / Repairs:	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 831.04	\$ 7,500.00
Taxes:	\$ 1,410.00	\$ 1,385.42	\$ 1,400.00
Total:	\$ 11,410.00	\$ 2,216.46	\$ 8,900.00

Expense and Budget Category Breakdown (2/2)

Utilities	2024 Budget	Actual Expense	2025 Budget
Electric:	\$ 760.00	\$ 1,208.57	\$ 1,300.00
Gas:	\$ 740.00	\$ 720.00	\$ 720.00
Internet:	\$ 1,243.00	\$ 2,137.28	\$ 1,500.00
Sewer / Water:	\$ 810.00	\$ 987.09	\$ 1,025.00
Capital Improvement:	\$ 170.00	\$ -	\$ -
Total:	\$ 3,723.00	\$ 5,052.94	\$ 4,545.00

Pastor Support	2024 Budget	Actual Expense	2025 Budget
Salary	\$ 38,419.00	\$ 43,419.00	\$ 45,720.00
Housing Allowance	\$ 6,600.00	\$ 6,600.00	\$ 6,600.00
Health Insurance	\$ 9,600.00	\$ 9,600.00	\$ 7,200.00
Med. Expense Reimb	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ -
Pension	\$ 5,250.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 5,250.00
Ministry Support	\$ 2,900.00	\$ -	\$ 800.00
Conference Expense	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ 750.00
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total:	\$ 63,769.00	\$ 65,619.00	\$ 66,320.00

*Ministry Support: This line item combines visitation mileage, office expenses, up to half the cost of home internet, hospitality and other eligible items that fall under a expense reimbursement plan.

Session Support	2024 Budget	Actual Expense	2025 Budget
Synod Expense	\$ 940.00	\$ 784.00	\$ 940.00
Presbytery Expenses	\$ 800.00	\$ -	\$ -
Visitation Mileage	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ 200.00
Training	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ 200.00
Total:	\$ 2,440.00	\$ 784.00	\$ 1,340.00

Church Support	2024 Budget	Actual Expense	2025 Budget
Pulpit Supply	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 766.24	\$ 1,000.00
Mercy Fund:	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,600.00	\$ 5,000.00
Sunday School:	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 660.00	\$ 340.00
Janitor	\$ 1,560.00	\$ -	\$ -
Total:	\$ 11,560.00	\$ 7,026.24	\$ 6,340.00

Assessments:	2024 Budget	Actual Expense	2025 Budget
Presbytery	\$ 1,241.49	\$ 1,241.49	\$ 1,590.00
Synod	\$ 1,702.62	\$ 2,379.00	\$ 2,562.18
Total:	\$ 2,944.11	\$ 3,620.49	\$ 4,152.18

Giving	2024 Budget	Income	Expense	2025 Budget
RP. M&M	\$ 2,250.00	\$ 596.50	\$ 2,846.50	\$ 2,250.00
Hetherton RP	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 400.00	\$ -
New Path Pregnancy Center	\$ -		\$ -	\$ 1,000.00
Total:	\$ 2,250.00	\$ 596.50	\$ 3,246.50	\$ 3,250.00

Notes on the Budget:

- 50% of the operating budget.
- Pastor's support figures for the coming year have been set with the Pockras family.
- Synod expenses takes into account three elders attending. Last year only two attended.
- Presbytery expenses are covered by the presbytery so no amount will be budgeted in the future.
- The janitor position was never created and will be removed from the budget.
- Intern is included under Church Staff targeting summer of 2025
- Salary includes the 5,000 bonus from the 2024 congregational meeting.
- Petty Cash will be reduced to \$500 for the coming year.

Deacons: Greg Probst and Jonathan De Jong