

Report of the Session of the Bloomington Congregation

Of the year 2024

“Witnessing for Christ in Bloomington since 1821”

For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

– 2 Corinthians 4:6

Membership:

Communicant: 179 (+14)

Baptized: 64 (+11)

Total: 243 (+25)

Changes:

Transfers in: 16

Professions of faith: 10

Covenant baptisms: 5

Transfers out: 6

Transfers to glory: 0

Removal: 0

Excommunication: 0

Attendance:

AM: 200 (+11)

PM: 116 (-3)

The session has met monthly throughout the year. The consistent work of our regular meetings is praying for the congregation, working together on difficulties that individuals are facing, and giving counsel to the pastors concerning their ongoing work, including outlining the content of preaching series. We have met five additional times briefly to converse with individuals interested in joining the congregation in communion, and then one additional time for a regular meeting with the sole purpose of interviewing new members. In addition, this last May we returned to our former practice of taking the better part of a day together just to review the overall picture of the congregation, think with more focus about the whole of the congregation, and make plans for the coming year. While there are many things that we have seen over the last year, our overwhelming impression is one of encouragement; the Lord is encouraging us to continue in His grace as he brings more of His people together to share the word and our lives.

Concerning the membership and attendance changes from this last year, we note the following for calendar year 2024.

The total membership on December 31, 2024, was 243, an increase of 25 over 2023.

The average in-person morning worship service attendance was 200, an increase of 11 over 2023.

The average in-person evening worship service attendance was 116, a decrease of 3 from 2023.

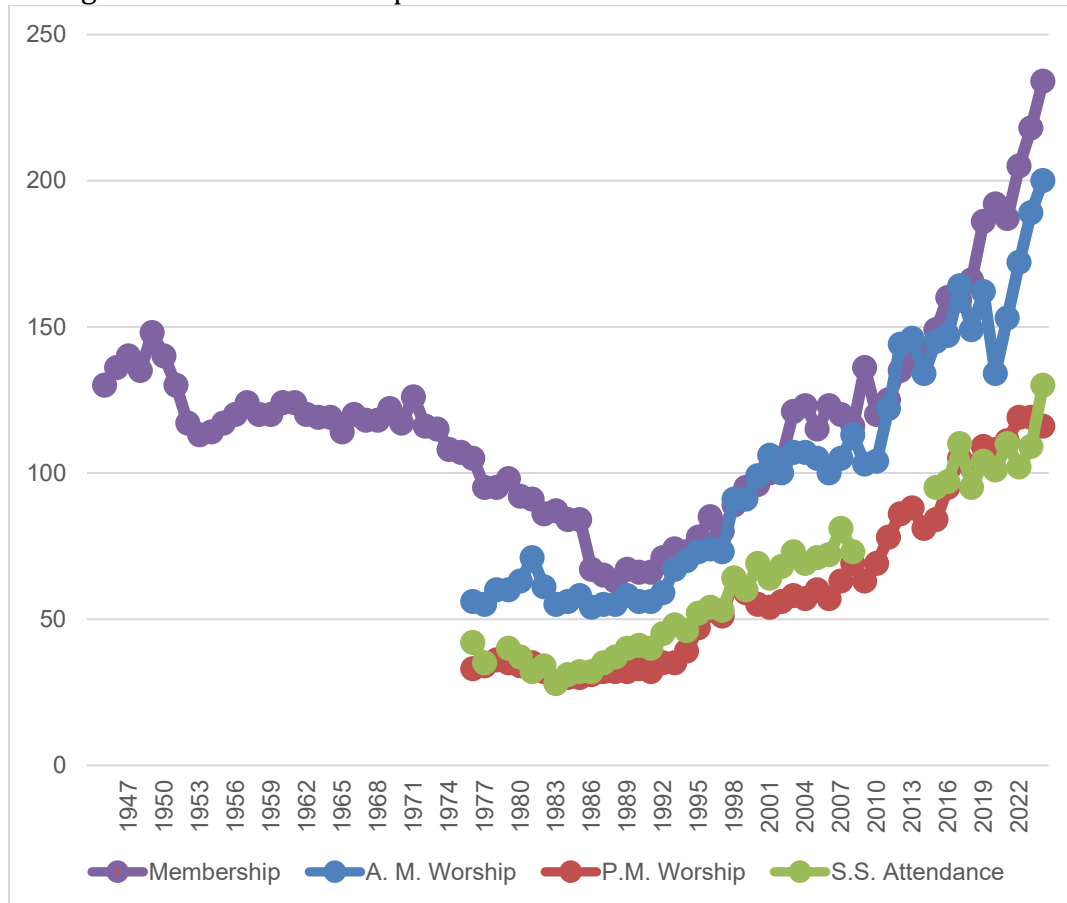
The average SS class attendance was 130, an increase of 19 from 2023.

Fifteen new communicant members were added: two were transferred from other RP churches, eight came to us from non-RP congregations, and five were received upon profession.

Eleven new baptized, non-communicant members were added: six joining us with their parents, and five were baptized having been born in the congregation.

Communicant membership at the end of 2023 was at 165 and rose to 179 at the end of 2024. The number of baptized non-communicant members at the end of 2023 was 53 and rose to 64 by the end of 2024.

To put these last few years in a larger perspective, we are including a figure below. These numbers have been gleaned from various annual records since approximately 1940. The membership in the congregation held consistently around 120 through the 1950's and 1960's, but beginning in 1970, the membership declined to a low of 65 members in 1987. At that time, the congregation came together to ask the Lord to open up a new chapter in the congregation's work for Him, and by His grace through their sacrificial giving to support a second pastor and a new focus on serving Him and one another, the trajectory changed. Here, some 30 years later, we have grown to more than triple that size in the late 1980s.



Membership counts for the BRPC since 1944, along with attendance rates since 1978.

An obvious focus for the session this last year, then, is how to support a larger congregation. There are two aspects of this that we have been focusing on.

The first is a larger framework of people serving in various capacities. The most obvious aspect of this is the leadership structure, and so the session has been sowing seeds in the hope of establishing a larger session and deacon board. This last summer, we taught a course focusing on the nature of leadership in the church with particular emphasis on the eldership. We were heartened to see a large number of people interested in thinking about the topic. We trust that the Lord will continue to use this time as a catalyst for congregational growth in the long run, since the seeds planted in this course were meant to be a longer-term investment in the future growth of leadership. In the shorter term, we came to set the date for a congregational meeting on the 5th of February, during which Colin Elliott, a faculty member at I.U. whose family has been part of the congregation for several years, was elected on the first ballot. We are thankful for God's provision in this process thus far, and we are heartened to anticipate more growth of leadership in the future years.

Concerning the leadership of the congregation, we are so thankful to the Lord for our pastors. We continue to be struck by their strong and positive relationship with one another, and how they complement one another. We are thankful for their clear-minded and practical theological acumen, and their assiduous study and presentation of the scriptures, and obvious gifts in leading us through them in worship.

It is hard to imagine, but the McCollums have been working here for almost six years! Since we have learned how important it is for us to encourage our pastors to grow in new ways with a period of renewal at this six-year point, we have worked with Philip McCollum to develop a plan for a sabbatical period in the upcoming year. The anticipated plan will focus on a ½-term sabbatical this summer, which is designed to re-engage the McCollums with their former home in Northern Ireland and to allow them to take in the ministry of the Irish churches. Given the logistics entailed by having a number of school-age children, we are working out a timeline through the summer, and as part of this have been engaging a reverse visit with James Blair of the Ballyclabber congregation.

We have been in the practice of considering internship and other extension opportunities each year, but did not propose any position for 2025. We continue to support John Punt's direction in developing his pastorally-related gifts, and anticipate a similar plan for this year. In addition, we are thankful to the congregation for your continued support for our former intern, Samuel Dong, in his work in international church-planting. We continue to have people taking distance-learning classes from our seminary for various purposes related to equipping them for service in the church. We wish to continue supporting this as people express interest.

Finally, one other aspect of growth is a need for additional clerical and secretarial help. We have been expecting the same level of secretarial help to support the work of the congregation for as long as any of us has been on the session, even though the

congregation is now more than double the size. There are various additional areas of support that we can see need for in the near future, so we are recruiting additional part-time staffing in support of this.

The second obvious set of issues with our growth concerns the building. Last year, we took time in the annual meeting to present a concept for expanded facilities on our current site, which had been worked out via interactions with a logistical and architectural planning company over the previous two years. We followed up during the summer with a financially-oriented survey of the congregation by a campaign consulting group, the Timothy Group, who surveyed the congregation with respect to our disposition towards the direction of the growing congregation and then to get a more tangible estimate of how much in financial resources are likely to be available for implementing the concept of an expanded facility. The survey was very encouraging with respect to the health of our body and the unity of our spiritual attitudes, and it also provided good information about a reasonable financial base. Last year, we were working towards having a detailed plan for the congregation by this last fall, but a combination of factors along with the results of the survey have shown us the need for some adjustment of the facilities concept, which is currently under way.

With this backdrop, it would be very ungrateful of us to neglect giving thanks to God for the way in which He has provided so richly with the financial support that our ministry has needed. The collections each year have not just met the needs of the pastors and enabled us to extend support to various other ministries, but have also provided funds which will be extremely helpful for negotiating the capital hill that will need to be climbed to address the facilities issue.

One other matter from last year's goals was the session's continuing efforts to visit with each of the families in the congregation so that we can learn more about their needs and challenges, and ways in which we might encourage them. We had tried to do this for several years, but are now glad to be able to say that we have actually been able to engage in visits as a regular pattern during the last year. We hope to continue this pattern into the coming years, with a reasonable goal of being able to get together with something approaching half of the congregation in the coming year. The real catalyst for making this happen has been the gracious help of a volunteer in getting this organized in an ongoing basis. We are so thankful for her help in this, and can attest to the great blessing these meetings are to us.

Reviewing the past year brings additional matters which we highlight for you.

This last summer, Rich Holdeman was able to oversee a major outreach-focused trip with members of the congregation and others to Colerain in Northern Ireland. This trip is the culmination of previous years where we were developing a pattern of having people engage in service and ministry in the context of other congregations, both within the U.S. and internationally. Additionally, this outreach in Ireland was supported by a countering trip by Robert McCollum to help support our ministry

here over the summer. We are organizing a similar trip to work with Covenant Fellowship in Wilkinsberg this coming summer.

Our relationship with the Bloomington Chinese Christian Church continues to be strong and healthy, with good relationships between the members of their congregation engaging in various ways in the ministry of our congregation. On occasion, our pastors preach in their services, which meet in our building for worship between the services on the Lord's Day. The Chinese congregation suffered some serious setbacks during the past four years, but it seems to be recovering.

We have met three times with representatives of the deacon board to focus on various aspects of the diaconal ministries. These involve aspects of mercy ministry and ongoing connections with diaconal agencies, such as the New Song Mission in Brown County and Twelve Stones Counseling, and members of the session were involved with helping organize a fall ministry group from the presbytery. The deacons also confer with the session with respect to the practical matters of finances and facilities. Thus, our December meeting involves the session reviewing the proposed budget with the deacons, so that we are in broad agreement on these matters.

We continue as a session to be involved in connecting our congregation to our sister RP congregations throughout the nation. Our children in the youth group have been involved in various of the presbytery-wide events, including being engaged as part of the CYPY leadership team, and having them engage in the TFY summer program. We believe this is a good indicator of the congregation's serious engagement in pursuing the Lord's call for their lives' direction. We also note that we again had a contingent of labor-force high schoolers go down to the balmy-summered state of Florida to work in the ECHO mission farm last year.

Finally, we want to again thank you all for your prayers for us as we work together, and for your persistently getting together to study God's word week by week. We note with grateful hearts how the Lord brings us all together in so many ways around His word. Your prayers and encouragements throughout the year, and add richly to the joy of serving our gracious God together.

Respectfully submitted by the Session of the Bloomington Congregation

Wes Archer, Eric Cosens, CJ Davis, Ken de Jong, Rich Holdeman, Philip McCollum, & Stephen Shipp

Bloomington Reformed Presbyterian Church Budget Summary - January 25, 2025

<u>Income</u>	<u>2024 Budget</u>	<u>2024 Actuals</u>	<u>2025 Budget</u>
External Income			
Book Table Income		3,185.87	
Contributions - Offerings	523,000.00	636,461.47	625,000.00
Designated Income	500.00	6,382.00	500.00
Facilities Capital Income		500.00	
Facilities: 619 S. Lincoln Income	16,000.00	13,378.85	7,500.00
Interest - Capital Investments & Savings	22,400.00	45,510.60	40,000.00
Miscellaneous Income	76.00	314.00	80.00
Offerings & Donations	-	9,590.13	-
Total External Income	561,976.00	715,322.92	673,080.00
Designated Income from Savings Revolving Funds	5,891.16	1,101.00	12,829.02
Total Income	567,867.16	716,423.92	685,909.02
<u>Expense</u>			
External Expenses			
Book Table Expense	518.90	2,722.01	982.76
Facilities Capital Expense	60,000.00	18,217.76	10,000.00
Facilities: 619 S. Lincoln St.	8,100.00	11,936.45	9,800.00
Facilities - Operating	63,850.00	52,280.84	143,226.00
Finance Committee	14,896.50	14,195.90	15,870.00
Ministry: Diaconal	3,000.00	3,018.07	3,500.00
Educational	19,322.26	18,959.87	21,471.26
Fellowship	3,860.00	4,526.47	5,000.00
Library	1,000.00	405.70	1,000.00
Nursery	1,000.00	959.45	1,000.00
Outreach	8,480.00	7,027.09	10,600.00
Session	5,500.00	2,337.02	4,725.00
Student	1,400.00	390.91	1,600.00
Technology	4,200.00	1,264.28	12,735.00
Youth	1,200.00	608.06	1,200.00
Missions	38,750.00	45,581.05	35,500.00
Offerings - Disbursements		2,340.00	
Office Expense	23,900.00	18,994.17	37,380.00
Pastoral Compensation - Holdeman	119,357.30	119,607.36	124,120.00
Pastoral Compensation - McCollum	99,039.30	99,289.36	103,840.00
Pastoral Internship			-
Pastoral Expenses	7,000.00	2,173.32	7,000.00
Presbytery	7,015.07	7,015.07	7,580.00
RPCNA Works	20,000.00	19,825.07	23,303.39
Special Funds		2,242.95	11,575.00
Total External Expenses	511,389.33	455,918.23	593,008.41
Designated Disbursements - to Savings Revolving Funds			
Benevolence		-	
Book Table		463.86	
Camp Fundraiser		-	
Facilities Capital	50,000.00	50,500.00	50,000.00
Ministry Hedge	4,000.00	1,757.05	-
Total Disbursements to Savings Revolving Funds	54,000.00	52,720.91	50,000.00
Total Expense	565,389.33	508,639.14	643,008.41
Net Income	2,477.83	207,784.78	42,900.61

Bloomington RP Church
Balance Sheet
As of December 31, 2024

	<u>Dec 31, 23</u>	<u>Inflows</u>	<u>Outflows</u>	<u>Dec 31, 24</u>
Savings				
Facilities Capital	122,000.00		122,000.00	0.00
			(Transferred to PSB)	
General Savings	130,604.00	24.17	128,000.00	2,628.17
		(78,000 to PSB & 50,000 to ONB MM)		
Total Savings	<u>252,604.00</u>			<u>2,628.17</u>
Total Old National	<u>683,739.82</u>			<u>379,573.44</u>
Total Checking/Savings	<u>883,744.82</u>			<u>1,143,149.51</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>883,744.82</u>			<u>1,143,149.51</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>883,744.82</u>			<u>1,143,149.51</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	0.00			0.00

The Finance Committee is grateful to God for His provisions over the last years and is looking to wisely invest these gifts so they might further His kingdom as the church looks to expand its facilities. With this in mind, we are currently diversifying funds in different banks and investing in Certificates of Deposit and Money Market accounts with higher yields. We currently have disbursed our funds between four banks and will be adding a fifth in the new year. The balance sheet shows the transfers between banks and the interest earned. Overall we show a \$259,404.69 increase across all our bank accounts in 2024, out of which \$54,000 was budgeted savings. After considering the designated inflows/outflows of various savings accounts, we are left with a net increase of \$207,784.78.

Balance Sheet – Other Assets - UPDATED
May 9, 2024

Deposits to Accounts: From December 1997 to December 2023

Capital Investments – RPCN	121,835.35
McClintock Endowment Fund	<u>10,000.00</u>
Total Deposits	131,835.35

Capital Investments Fund

Balance – 12/31/2022	155,479.06
2023 Withdrawals	(161,000.00)
2023 Dividend Reinvested	6,769.25
2023 Gain/(Loss)	<u>25,448.65</u>
Balance 12/31/2023	26,696.96 *

*(Note Changes Below - Balance transfer to Market Monitor Account)

McClintock Endowment Fund

Balance 12/31/22	12,171.03
2023 Dividend Reinvested	529.90
2023 Gain/(Loss)	<u>1,992.14</u>
Balance 12/31/2023	14,693.07

Note:

The Capital Investments fund is invested with the denomination's pooled investments. The pooled investments have generally increased in value over the years, while also paying out a dividend on the funds. The dividend this year has been reinvested in the fund. It is noted that the dividend payout is calculated as 4.0% of the previous 12 quarters' average market value. We will be notified of the Gains/Losses for 2024 in May of 2025.

The Thomas and Grace McClintock Memorial Fund was established by Ralph McClintock when he bequeathed \$10,000 to the church. At his request, the \$10,000 remains in the fund while the interest income may be used by the Bloomington Reformed Presbyterian Church.

* **NEW!** On November 25, 2023, the Finance Committee transferred \$161,000 from the Capital Investments Fund into a Market Monitor Account at Old National Bank. You will find this listed on the Bank Balance Sheet.

Bloomington Reformed Presbyterian Church
Committed to God, to Others, to Growth

302 East First St.
Bloomington, IN 47401

812-339-1922
812-339-3887

We have examined the 2024 financial records of the Bloomington Congregation and have found the following:

1. No problems or questions were noted.

2. The following error(s) or problem(s) were found and were resolved as follows:

Finding

Resolution

Date: 10 Feb 2025

Finance Committee Members:

Marvin K. Wicker
Barbara Savelle
Cynthia McGurney

Non-member reviewer: