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Agenda

Annual Congregational Meeting

January 28, 2025

Open with Praise, Prayer, & Scripture
Determination of a Quorum
Set Agenda for Business Meeting
Approval of 2024 Minutes
Election of Officers & Committees
Highlights from Reports
Building Fund ideas
New Business
Approval of 2025 Budget
Adjournment

Nominations for Officers and Committees

Position	Committee Nominees	Other Nominees*
Chairman	Dave Schisler	
Vice Chairman	Scott Decker	
Secretary	Lisa Shoop	
Treasurer	Mike Mellinger	
Assistant Treasurer	Laura Decker	
Fellowship Committee	Joy Ford, Luke & Julie Hart, Sharon Wasmuth	
Hospitality Committee	Laura Decker, Kelly Hoover, Denise Grayson	
Witness Correspondent	Kelly Hoover	

*Additional nominations can be accepted from the floor with prior consent of the nominee.

Minutes of the 2024 Annual Business Congregational Meeting

Reformed Presbyterian Church

January 30, 2024

Opening

- The meeting was opened by Jeff Jones.
- Psalm 48C was sung and 1 Corinthians 12:12 was read.
- Jeff Jones led in Prayer.

A **quorum** was determined for the Congregational Meeting.

The **agenda** for the 2023 Congregational Meeting was approved as printed.

Minutes of 2023 Congregational Meeting were approved as printed.

Election of Officers

- List of officers was read from the floor by Jeff Jones.
- There was an opportunity for more nominations. There were none.
- It was motioned, seconded, and approved to elect the following officers & committees.

Chairman: Scott Hoover

Vice Chairman: Dave Schisler

Secretary: Lisa Shoop

Treasurer: Mike Mellinger

Assistant Treasurer: Laura Decker

Fellowship Committee: Ellen & Sam Stearns, Sam Goble, Julie & Luke Hart and
Laurie Manasseh

Hospitality: Kelly Hoover, Amelia Jones and Lisa Shoop

Witness Correspondent: Kelly Hoover

Scott Hoover accepted the position of Chairman of the meeting.

Presentation and Discussion of Reports:

- Various reports were discussed.
- There was no New Business.
- Budget for 2024 was approved as printed.

Closing

- Scott Hoover closed the Congregational Meeting in prayer.
- Psalm 16D was sung.

Scott Hoover, Chairman

Lisa Shoop, Secretary

Columbus Reformed Presbyterian Church

Membership List

Updated January 4, 2025

Communicant Members

* Active Resident

1. * Beggs, Charlie
2. * Beggs, Diane
3. Brown, Anna Grace
4. Brown, Eric
5. * Carr, Daniel
6. * Carr, Alice
7. * Decker, Jaden
8. * Decker, Laura
9. * Decker, Scott
10. * Erney, Jenny
11. * Erney, Joshua
12. * Erney, Timothy
13. * Ford, Dan
14. * Ford, Joy
15. * Gaskins, Charles
16. * Gaskins, Diane
17. * Girard, Al
18. * Girard, Penny
19. Goble, Gary
20. Goble, Jill
21. Goble, Noah
22. * Goble, Sam
23. Gogel, Jessica
24. * Grayson, Denise
25. * Grayson, Roger
26. Harper, Allison
27. Herron, Caitlin
28. * Hart, Joel
29. * Hart, Julia
30. * Hart, Luke
31. * Hart, Orlena
32. * Holdeman, Diane
33. * Holdeman, Dick
34. * Hoover, Kelly
35. * Hoover, Scott
36. * Jesse, Luke
37. * Jones, Jeffrey
38. * Jones, Katherine
39. Lebrun, Ed
40. * Lopez, Carlos
41. * Manasseh, Laurie
42. Mathews, Ethan
43. Mathews, Karen
44. * Mathews, Sean
45. Mathews, Nathaniel
46. McDermott, Kevin
47. McDermott, Kristi
48. * McNeely, Phyllis
49. * McShirley, Erik
50. * Mellinger, Jane
51. * Mellinger, Michael
52. * Meng, Andrew
53. * Meng, Ben
54. * Meng, Denise
55. * Meng, Emily
56. * Meng, Ethan
57. * Meng, Joshua
58. * Meng, Noah
59. * Moe, Charlene
60. * Moe, Greg
61. Planalp, Abigail
62. * Planalp, Benjamin
63. * Planalp, Brenda
64. * Planalp, Bryan
65. * Planalp, Cora
66. Planalp, Lydia
67. Planalp, Rebecca
68. * Planalp, Stephen
69. * Planalp, Zachary
70. * Reynolds, Kristi

71. Reynolds, Matthew
72. * Reynolds, Scott
73. Rogers, Grace
74. * Salazar, Monica
75. * Schisler, David
76. * Schisler, Edmund
77. * Schisler, Jenelle
78. * Schisler, Julianna
79. Schisler, Katelyn
80. * Schisler, Lynette
81. * Schulz, Amanda
82. * Schulz, Logan
83. * Shoop, Lisa
84. Shoop, Nathaniel
85. * Shoop, Shane
86. Shoop, Stephanie
87. * Stearns, Ellen
88. * Stearns, Heather
89. * Stearns, Isaac
90. * Stearns, Regina
91. * Stearns, Sam
92. Van Devender, Bill
93. Van Devender, Virginia
94. * Wasmuth, Craig
95. * Wasmuth, Sharon
96. * Webb, Harry
97. Wells, Carl

15. Meng, Jonathan
16. Meng, Lydia
17. Meng, Seth
18. Planalp, Christopher
19. Schulz, Amelia
20. Schulz, Jackson
21. Schulz, Laura
22. Schulz, Madeline
23. VanDevender, Beth
24. VanDevender, Laura
25. VanDevender, Rose
26. VanDevender, Will

Active Resident Communicant Members in Good Standing = 72

Quorum for Officer Election/Ordination (50% of ARCMGS) = $72/2 = 36$

Quorum for Regular Business Meeting (25% of ARCMGS) = $72/4 = 18$

Baptized Members

1. Brown, Ambrose
2. Brown, Ezra
3. Brown, Judah
4. Brown, Roman
5. Carr, James
6. Cranford, Abby Jo
7. Erney, Bradley
8. Erney, Grant
9. Hart, Amy
10. Hart, David
11. Hart, Jenny
12. Hart, Elisha
13. Hart, Esther
14. Hart, Seth

Pastor's Report

*He was manifested in the flesh,
Vindicated by the Spirit
Seen by angels,
Proclaimed among the nations,
Believed on in the world
Taken up in glory*

1 Timothy 3:16

I loved the opportunity to preach 1 Timothy 3:16 this year. Isn't Jesus Christ glorious? As we (or I) talk about church life this year, we might somehow get our attention inward at ourselves or sideways toward or against others. But once we see Christ, we will go upward. We will gaze at the glory of Christ and hope and pray that our ministry flows from and to His glory.

I'll follow my usual outline for this report:

- 1. Our life in the Word and worship in 2024**
- 2. Congregational life together**
- 3. Personal and pastoral reflections**
- 4. Session updates and thoughts**
- 5. A few looks forward to 2025**

1: Our life in the Word and worship in 2024

Week after week, God meets with us in worship. Through His Word He invites, speaks, summons, offers, rebukes, challenges, and encourages, all through Christ by His Spirit. Isn't that amazing? This is the number one miracle of grace that has defined our church this year.

Our elders continue to labor faithfully in presiding and shepherding. As pastor, I am so thankful to receive their ministry of the Word before I preach.

In the preaching, we finished Genesis, completed all of 1 Timothy, and now we are marching through Micah. We also considered various theological foundations of the church, a pattern I plan to continue considering in between preaching series.

In Sunday evenings, we explored themes in personal ministry, the doctrine of Scripture, and the Westminster Confession. Let me invite you to join us this year for these times of prayer, singing, and study. We are excited about these seminars on various topics that the congregation expressed eagerness to discuss in 2025.

Thanks to the CE Committee and various teachers for their hard work in youth Sunday School this year. The startup of classes in the morning has been well-received. We pray the Lord to continue to bless the study of catechism, lives of missionaries, and more.

2: Congregational life together

This year we've seen the election and ordination of a new ruling elder (Scott Decker) and three new deacons (Luke Hart, Ben Meng, Sam Stearns). At the beginning of the year, we emphasized the need to pray for the Spirit to bring leaders to His church. Let's praise God for His provision.

Our fall retreat was a success again this year. David Hanson's teaching on anger was well-received. Thanks to Lisa for her hard work in coordinating.

Hosting the CYPW Winter Conference was a unique opportunity. What a blessing to serve our presbytery and to enjoy the fellowship of the youth.

Our church's sudden growth in babies in past years has led to this year's growth in crawling and toddling around us! We are thankful.

There's been a fairly extensive ministry in the church of caring for the suffering. It is a joy to suffer and live together as a body.

It seems it's largely been a year of the ordinary rhythms of church life carrying on as we grow up together in Christ. These ordinary rhythms, though, are God's means of raising up extraordinary fruit.

3: Personal and pastoral reflections

I am glad to pastor here at Columbus RP. A good chunk of my ministry you see as a church. If you'd like to know more, come and talk to me at Lucabe or give me a call. I'd be glad to talk.

Broader ministry has included serving as our Presbytery's moderator this year. Next year, I will take up the role of being assistant clerk of our Presbytery. I serve as chair of our Presbytery Finance Committee and on our Candidates and Credentials Committee. I am wrapping up my final year serving on our denominational Benefits Board.

The highlight of my broader ministry was teaching a two-week online class on Proverbs to about 80 students in a country closed to the gospel. What a blessing to see God's Word go out! Thanks to the church for supporting me in this.

Our family is glad to be here. My kids love being here with you all. Thanks for providing for us.

4: Session updates and thoughts

Session met monthly for times of prayer and planning together. We meet the first Tuesday of every month, and once a quarter we meet with the deacons. If you have questions or matters you'd like us to consider in meetings, let us know.

We are trying to be faithful in the often stop-and-start efforts of visitation. Our goal in visitation is for your encouragement, and to pray with you in your needs and joys. We'd love to talk with you more.

We've been glad to host various membership classes this year and to see gospel fruit from these times.

Our list of changes to membership are listed in the footnote below.¹ Communicant membership rose from 95 to 97; baptized membership dropped from 30 to 26. Average attendance rose from 86 in 2023 (and 78 in 2022) to 92 in 2024. These attendance numbers seem to reflect a general sense of growth among us, even as membership numbers remain more steady.

5: Looking forward to 2025

In 2025, we, by God's grace, will continue in the Word and prayer together. We anticipate the opportunity to welcome others into membership, and we are excited about that.

We also are anticipating more discussion of how to use the funds the Lord has provided us and how best to use our building. Two observations on this point:

1. The Lord has provided for this congregation abundantly. We believe that this provision should be invested meaningfully for His Kingdom. We long to be good stewards (1 Pet. 4:10).
2. While the building is not the essence of the church, it is a resource God would have us steward well. We ask the question, "How can we steward this to be a blessing to the community and to our members?" There are certain constraints we see on the building that are impacting our ability to fellowship together, sustain Paideia ministry, and so forth. Let's think and pray together about what the Lord may have us do.

In Christ,

Joel Hart (for the elders)

¹ Additions to communicant membership – Transferred in: Luke Hart, Sharon Wasmuth, and Luke Jesse; Baptized to communicant: Emily Meng; Baptized and received: Erik McShirley.

Subtractions to communicant membership – Excommunicated: Tre Cranford; Transferred out: Tony Roberts, Peter Paeng, Beth Crawford, Alida McCracken, and Amelia Jones; Dismissed from Baptized roll: Will, Jon and Sam Crawford.

Deacon Report

The Deacons are very thankful to our Lord for all the blessings that He has bestowed on our congregation this year. We have experienced another year of sustained financial growth; several projects were completed and additional deacons added to our team.

On the facilities front, we were able to get the entire roof replaced on the church building this year. We had been budgeting for this large expense over the past several years and had enough in reserves to cover the cost. There was also a new fence installed around the playground to protect our kids from the neighbor's dogs as well as keep the younger kids corralled from wandering off too far. In addition to the fence, we repaired the 9 square, built a new gaga ball pit, installed new lighting and cameras in the playground area. We did need to have some major work done on two of our furnace units, and all are in good working order again. Inside projects included getting all the carpets and pews in the building cleaned and the tile floor in the Fellowship Hall was stripped and waxed. The church office has a new copier, and the wheelchair has new wheels. One big improvement in the sound booth this year was the implementation of new headphones to improve hearing when there is need, which are being used almost every week. We also have a second set of headphones dedicated for Spanish translation and are very thankful for Monica taking on this responsibility.

The church house has continued to be used for mission and ministry opportunities. We were able to host a family from New Song Ministry in Brown County, which was a huge blessing to them as they were looking to transition to a new ministry. The house was also used for visiting Schisler/Spear family members for Kara and Xander's wedding, hosted the Patzan family when they needed temporary housing, and it was used during the CYPU Winter Conference.

We did add one new Reserved Category this year in the Congregational Budget...the Adoption Fund. This was created with a generous donation and supplemented with an amount that the Elders and Deacons felt appropriate. These funds are accessible by any eligible member from CRPC that is looking for aid in the adoption process. Please see Deacon Ben Meng if you have any questions.

You will also see we increased the amount in the Building Fund Reserve. We will share more information about this during the Congregational Meeting.

Finishing our 2024 year, we are pleased that three new deacons were elected and ordained, welcoming Ben Meng, Luke Hart and Sam Stearns. We look forward to serving together and continuing our work here at CRPC.

We are also very appreciative for the continued faithful service of Mike Mellinger as Treasurer and Laura Decker as Assistant Treasurer and are thankful that they will continue into 2025. Looking forward to 2025, several projects are already being discussed or planned. If you see any opportunities for the Deacon Board to make repairs, please let us know. We continue to look forward to working together with the congregation to further Christ's Kingdom in Columbus.

Shane Shoop for the Deacon Board

Child Protection Policy (CPP) Committee

During 2024, the CPP remained the same as 2023. Throughout the year, we processed 24 approved volunteers for both CRPC and Paideia. We appreciate the support and diligence of all volunteers and leaders who helped make 2024 a safe year for our volunteers and children.

There was one modification to the Approved Volunteer definition in the CPP as shown in bold below.

An Approved Volunteer is one who:

- 1) is an adult (18 years or older) communicant member in good standing of RPCNA and has been a communicant member for at least six months; [or for Paideia has been approved by Session.] **For non-teaching / supporting roles, can be a non-communicant individual who is a regular RPCNA attendee for at least 6 months and approved by the CRPC session.***
- 2) has submitted a completed Volunteer Application and,*
- 3) completed a criminal background check with favorable results. CRPC will provide funds for background checks through an independent third party (such as the local county sheriff, MinistrySafe, etc.) with the results of that report being then accessed by the Session Clerk or delegate of the Session. Background checks will be completed every three years as needed.*

We continue to look forward to the on-going partnership to ensure we provide a safe and enriching environment to teach the gospel message to our children.

Scott, for the CPP Committee

Christian Education Report

The Christian Education Committee consists of Bryan Planalp, Mandi Schulz, and Dave Schisler. This year, we focused on reinvigorating our children's Sabbath School program after the COVID epidemic. Thanks to God's blessing and the congregation's efforts, our children ages three through fifteen now have weekly classes where they learn about our glorious God. If you have questions or suggestions about Christian Education, please talk to us. We want to hear from you. Thank you to those who volunteered to serve, to those who cheerfully agreed to serve when asked, and to those who "stepped in the gap" even before being asked. Thanks, Security Team, for taking the initiative to arrange for a security member to provide an additional set of eyes and protection during this hour. Our teachers and helpers all served eagerly and with an obvious love for our children.

Jenelle Schisler taught the preschool and elementary age groups in the spring semester on the first eleven questions and answers of the children's version of the Westminster Shorter Catechism. Scott and Laura Decker kindly volunteered to teach for her in May, at the time of Kara's wedding. Bryan and Brenda Planalp, Luke and Julie Hart, Sam Goble, Denise Meng, and Amelia Jones all served as helpers during the spring semester. We also appreciate that several others volunteered to help if needed.

We took a break for the Summer to re-group and to find an existing curriculum to help teachers reduce the weekly preparation time required. In the Fall, we split the classes into an older group, taught by Lisa Shoop, and a younger group, taught by Sam Goble and Laurie Manasseh. Both classes continued in their study of God's word through the framework of the Westminster Shorter Catechism with age-appropriate material from Great Commission Publications. Denise Meng served as a substitute teacher. The Christian Education Committee appreciates the faithfulness of our teachers and helpers week by week.

Sam, Laurie, and Lisa all plan to continue to teach their classes in the Spring semester of this year, and Denise has volunteered to teach an upper elementary and junior high school class. Please pray for all of us in the congregation, and not just our children, that we might continue to grow in our knowledge and love of the Lord our God. The Session and Christian Education Committee are thinking of how best to expand Christian education offerings beyond the programs for the existing age groups. Stay tuned for more information on that. May we all live for His honor and glory.

Respectfully submitted,
Dave Schisler, for the Christian Education Committee

College and Career Ministry

In college-career, our primary ministry was monthly fireside chats after evening fellowship. Most times were spent singing and discussing Psalms. Thanks to some who've helped facilitate teaching or the logistics of food and cleanup (Sam Goble, Orlena Hart, Alice Carr, and Jenny Erney come to mind here).

Many from the congregation were drawn into these times. The ministry bridged from being defined as college-career age ministry to being a broader time for church fellowship.

As we look to 2025, we see that we may need to move on from college-career ministry as we've known it this church. The group dynamic and numbers have changed significantly, especially as group members move to a new stage of life. This is a blessing, but the Lord has us in a new stage now.

So, we may still have a few church-wide fireside chats in 2025. And we do have young people in the general age range of usual college-career ministry (18-25?). The session is actively discussing how to promote discipleship and growth in Christ for these people. Some of that ministry is actively ongoing.

If you have ideas toward this end, let me know! If you are interested in doing (or continuing) ministry in this area, let me know!

If you've enjoyed this ministry before (and maybe are in that new life-stage), let me encourage a few ideas:

- Join a ministry ongoing in the church. Men's prayer and women's Bible studies are wonderful times of fellowship.
- Find individuals to minister or build friendships with. If you are disappointed that fireside chats and all that end on Sunday night, go get Lucabe or exercise with a church member on Monday morning and encourage each other in Christ!
- Talk to an elder or pastor about ideas for church ministry that could be done or that you might be excited to do.

The Lord has blessed the college-career ministry of this church through the years. There will be eternal impact from the times of fellowship, prayer and study of God's Word.

Joel Hart

Fellowship Committee Report

The Fellowship committee hopes that we were able to play a small role in improving the fellowship within the congregation throughout 2024. We worked on a few different kinds of events:

- Chili Cookoff in March – thank you to all the contestants and judges!
- A game night or two at the church
- Several informal "Coffee & Cookies" fellowship times after morning worship
- Kara Schisler's Bridal Shower
- "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner," which, at the time of the writing of this report, is still in the future. But we trust, by the time we have the congregational meeting on the 28th, that it will have been a wonderful time of fellowship across various homes within the congregation!

If anyone has feedback on any of these events, please talk to a committee member about it!

The committee also invites members of the congregation to share with us ideas of activities that would give us opportunity for fellowship during the following year. If you'd like to be part of the team of people helping to pull it off, we'd be pleased to have you work with us!

Respectfully submitted,
Sam Stearns

Higher Education Gift Committee Report

The Higher Education Gift Committee facilitates the distribution of a scholarship fund available to church members enrolled full-time in college or post high school trade programs. Each year, funds are distributed by the Higher Education Gift Committee in accordance with guidelines established at its inception in 2008.

During the 2024-2025 school year, four students received scholarships. Applications for the 2025-2026 school year are due on or before February 1, 2025. Students will be notified of the gift amount on or before March 10, 2025. If students or parents have any questions, they may direct inquiries to committee members Scott Hoover, Jenelle Schisler, or Jane Mellinger.

The Lord has blessed many students and families through this fund, and we are thankful that He has sustained it all these years.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Mellinger

Hospitality Committee Report

As a committee, we have seen members demonstrate Christ's love and our care to church members and adherents throughout this year. We have seen biblical hospitality not as a duty but as a joyful practice and action.

We were blessed to see people eagerly step up to contribute when someone put forth a need. It was also encouraging to hear of those who contributed without even signing up! Thank you all. We could not have done this without your many hands of labor. When you take time from your busy schedules, remember that people may not remember exactly which meal you prepared for them, but they **WILL** remember how you made them feel- and that is priceless.

Our hospitality efforts this year were mainly focused on supplying meals for those in need. A quick count of our records shows that over 50 meals were provided to our loved ones. What a testament to your desire to help! As a Hospitality Committee, we also tried to send cards or flowers as appropriate. We hope that we didn't overlook anyone. Please continue to help us in 2025 by alerting us to other needs so we don't miss anyone!

"When God's people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality." Romans 12:13

Your Hospitality Committee,
Kelly Hoover
Amelia Jones (through August)
Lisa Shoop

The Columbus RPC Library

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” 2 Timothy 2:15

2024 brought about a change to the library crew. While Lisa Shoop remains as Assistant Librarian, Lynn Schisler stepped down and was replaced by Ben and Denise Meng as Master Librarians. It is our hope that you will visit the library in the coming days and find a good book that will bless you and build you up in the faith.

Several new books have been added to the collection over the past few months. For those interested in eschatology, you will find new commentaries from the Geneva Commentary series on Daniel and Revelation. You will also find several new biographies, works on church history, and Puritan paperbacks. The resource section has added some helpful studies on the Larger and Shorter Catechisms. Our selection of children’s books has also grown. We would encourage you to bring your kids to the library to find a good book.

“Give yourself to reading.’... You need to read. Renounce as much as you will all light literature, but study as much as possible sound theological works, especially the Puritanic writers, and expositions of the Bible.” Charles Spurgeon

Besides books, our selection of movies and documentaries has also grown. The table in the hallway has a selection of new DVDs related to church history. There are also some new documentaries in the library.

We have plans to reorganize the books on the shelves by category to make it easier to find the kind of book that you are looking for. If you have thoughts on this, or recommendations for future books to be added, we welcome your suggestions.

“I value books for the good they may do to men’s souls.” Charles Spurgeon

Respectfully submitted,
Ben and Denise Meng
Lisa Shoop

Outreach and Missions

In the preaching this year, we heard a constant refrain of the need for the gospel to go to the nations. We saw Joseph blessing the nation of Egypt. We heard Paul's reminder to Timothy that Christ must be proclaimed among the nations (1 Tim. 3:16). In Micah, we see that picture of nations flocking to the mountain of the Lord (Micah 4:1-5).

Outreach and missions are in the DNA of Christ's church!

Our church doesn't have many major outreach ministries. But, it seems we have a growth in evangelism, outreach, and missions. *God brings people here by His power, not always by our creative effort (though sometimes He uses our just inviting a friend to church). Some of these combine with opportunities to show tangible mercy.*

Let's keep pressing forward. Ponder personally: *who in my life could I share Christ with? OR: how can I partner in the church's opportunity to share Christ with others?*

We're encouraged also about developments in foreign missions. Julie Hart continues to serve well as our Global Missions Advocate, which fits well with her work for RP Global Missions. The missions day put on for kids was an encouraging success. We were glad to support Amelia Jones' RP Global Missions trip, as well as to welcome the Smith family to share with us here this summer.

We've started giving to RP Global Missions, which gives us as a more directed focus on supporting the gospel to the ends of the earth. RP Global Missions extends the hands of this church into the world in ways we never could reach.

We have a few that have or do participate in RP Global Missions training. If this interests you, let me (or Julie) know!

Our church's primary outreach spend is for our website. The revamped website has been well-received and has proven effective at connecting people to the church.

May we be a blessing to the nations.

Joel Hart

Paideia Christian Co-op

Paideia Christian is a unique Columbus RP church ministry. As elders, we've recently affirmed our shared vision with the Paideia board to see Paideia not as an outside ministry, but part of who we are as a church. We're thankful for the opportunity to see Paideia helping us be the "dew to the community" of Micah 5:7.

We see great fruit through the Paideia co-op. We have 75-80 students each week coming to be trained and build friendships together in the context of God and His Word. Our board (Jodi Landry, Kelly Taylor, Bonnie Boggs, Bryan Planalp, Joel Hart) works well together.

If you'd be interested in learning more, or even serving in some way, let Bryan or myself know.

Paideia is especially thankful to Shane Shoop and Mike Mellinger for their work on the 9-square this year and to Luke and Julie Hart for their great work on the gaga ball pit. The weekly games of 40-50 playing Gaga Ball is a great thrill for ~~your highly competitive pastor~~ the many kids from our church and community.



Respectfully submitted,
Joel Hart

Precentor Report

"The people of God are to sing thoughtfully, reverently, and enthusiastically, with grace in the heart. Careful attention should be paid to the music and to the leading of the precentor, that the praise might resound with a beauty reflective of the glory of God and His holiness. Those chosen to be precentors should have the marks of Christian maturity and the gifts to perform this function. They should lead the singing in a simple, orderly, and dignified manner.

- from the *Directory of Public Worship*

I trust we are all thankful for our precentors who have been mindful of this guidance from our *Directory of Public Worship* and have endeavored to competently lead our congregational singing to the glory of God. In 2024, we continued with our 3-person precentor rotation of Jenelle Schisler, Sam Stearns, and Tim Erney. We would like to thank Amelia Jones, who did a fair amount of precenting during evening fellowship in the earlier part of the year. We're also thankful for Daniel Carr's willingness to lead the congregational singing when the need arises.

Because we desire the praise of God to "resound with a beauty reflective of the glory of God and His holiness," the precentors welcome any constructive feedback from the congregation regarding our roles in this most important task. For the same reason, we also hope for opportunities to help the congregation grow in the exercise of collectively singing praises to God. Along these lines, we are thankful for the efforts of Noah Meng and others who have been involved with the Sunday morning Psalm singing & devotions before the worship service, which helps to familiarize the congregation with the Psalms being sung in worship.

If anyone in the congregation is interested in learning more about leading congregational singing, whether they want to be added to the precentor rotation or not, please talk with Jenelle, Sam, or Tim.

Respectfully submitted,
Sam Stearns

R.P. Witness Correspondent

The purpose of the Witness Correspondent is to inform the wider church family in our denomination about our congregation, so they may rejoice and pray with us. We had a quiet year of submissions in 2024. Erik McShirley's baptism was not submitted until 2025.

In July, we were given the opportunity to share prayer requests which were included in the September/October issue.

Respectfully,
Kelly Hoover

Vacation Bible School Report

Thanks to God, we are grateful to report that this summer, we hosted up to 45 kids throughout the week of VBS in June. During Jungle Jam, we also had one of the largest Love Chapel Donations to date. We have seen VBS grow each year, this is so exciting to see and an answer for prayer. We hope to see this continue to grow. Both in participation, and in volunteer support.

That being said, we had a multitude of volunteers and we could not have done it without any of them. We had some added challenges this year with some health issues coming up for some of our volunteers, but despite the challenges we faced, so many of our church family gave up their time at the last minute to make sure VBS went on. It was exciting to see our church family working together and using their gifts that God has given each of them.

Thank you so much to all of you who helped in various ways, it really meant a lot to us, and we hope we are able to continue growing VBS as an outreach and will provide more good memories in summer 2025.

We look forward to seeing what God will do.

Respectfully submitted by:
Jenny Erney and Mandi Schulz

GREENTREE MINISTRY

Through monthly Bible Study times, and other visitations at GreenTree, we have been able to establish relationships, and to minister to residents in 2024. This past year has been challenging as GreenTree has had three Activity Directors and new staff including Facility Director. Coordinating our study with resident trips/activities and schedules is a necessary part of planning. Also, we lost three of our consistent study attendees during the year and we are thankful to have known them and to have had the opportunity to minister to them over a number of years.

The big picture here is that we have come to know, and to visit with, many individuals at GreenTree this past year. Even if a resident does not routinely attend the Bible Study, a spiritual message is likely to be shared during a visit or study invitation. As for the study, we are not sure at this point if we will have the study monthly or on a different schedule. In any event, we will continue to make visits to GreenTree and to get to know residents and to provide spiritual comfort and insight as we can. Please pray for the residents and for our efforts to provide a caring spirit and the Lord's message to them.

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Mellinger

HOME FELLOWSHIP DINNER GROUP

The Home Fellowship Dinner Group met 5 times this year at the following homes:

Month	Host
February	Holdeman's
April	Mellingers'
June	Grayson's
August	Decker's
November	Beggs'

Our evenings consisted of dinner, fellowship, and a short Bible Study or devotion. This year the person in charge of the study chose their own material.

For the dinner, the host prepared the entree, and the guests provided the sides and desserts to complete the menu. We always enjoy a wonderful meal!

We usually meet on the second Tuesday of the month and had 14-20 participants at each meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynn Schisler

Acts 2:42a And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship...

Men's Prayer Meeting

The Men's Prayer group has met together almost continuously since 2013 and has attendance of 4-10 every Saturday morning at 6:30. In 2024, we met together in person at the church with some also attending on Zoom. At each meeting, we read and discuss one chapter from Scripture, share prayer requests, and then pray together. So far, we have read through more than 30 books of the Bible! In 2024, we read through 1 Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians, 1-2 Peter, 1-3 John, Jude, and most of Revelation. This time together to learn from God's word, sharpen each other, share our burdens, and pray for both local and worldwide prayer needs has been a great encouragement to all of us. We would be glad to have you join us! See Jeff for details.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeff Jones

Ladies' Bible Studies

Our two Ladies Bible studies have been busy studying God's Word during 2024.

The Morning Ladies Bible Study met in person on Wednesdays from January to May and September thru November. Throughout the morning, we enjoyed scripture study, prayer, and fellowship. Early in the year, we finished our study of Esther and Ruth. In the fall, we moved to a study of Ephesians. Both studies were from the Let's Study Series published by Banner of Truth.

The Evening Ladies Bible Study met over zoom on Thursday nights. From January to May, the group worked through a BSF study on the Kingdom Divided. In September, the evening study moved to the same Ephesians study the morning study was using.

Prayer plays a key role in both studies; sharing requests and praying together allows us to support each other before the Lord and get to know each other better.

We would love to welcome new ladies to the studies. If you would like to join us, contact Laura Decker for the morning study or Jane Mellinger and Laurie Manasseh for the evening study to get a book and join in. Both studies plan to finish the Ephesians study in January and move on to a study of James that will take us through the rest of the spring semester.

Thanks to the church for providing the study guidebooks.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Decker
Laurie Manasseh
Jane Mellinger

Prayer and Play

We started meeting this fall every other Wednesday at either the Erney or Hart households. The goal is to pray and encourage one another while the kids can also enjoy building friendships and having fun together. When there is time, we read through and discuss another section of Ephesians, but the main part of our time is spent sharing prayer requests and praying together. We have enjoyed having this opportunity to encourage one another.

Respectfully,
Jenny Erney

Youth Group

This year in Youth Group we did several activities in the spring including winter game night, Black-tie dinner, Love Chapel's mobile pantry, and Holiday World (maybe missing some!) In the spring semester Brian and Brenda Planalp served with us in leading us through a study of the Ten Commandments. After taking a break for the summer, we started back up in the fall with Noah Meng stepping in to help as we began and are currently working through a study of Ecclesiastes using Ligonier Connect – Themes from Ecclesiastes by R.C. Sproul. This switch led us to begin holding YG at the Erney household instead of the church.

We had the opportunity once again to pack boxes for Operation Christmas Child (OCC) as a Youth Group - packing and donating over 40 boxes to the organization to ship out to children in other parts of the world. We plan on making OCC a bigger deal in the future and of a greater scale with help from other church members. We have thoroughly enjoyed this opportunity to serve the youth in our church and to encourage Godly friendship and fellowship and we are excited for this new year with new opportunities to glorify God and encourage the youth to seek after Christ and His kingdom.

Respectfully,
Tim and Jenny Erney

Columbus Reformed Presbyterian Church								
	1Q24	2Q24	3Q24	4Q24	Total	2024	Spend	2025
						Budget	vs Bud	Budget
Giving Income								
General Giving - Columbus	108,510.89	89,798.97	85,266.19	67,358.89	350,934.94			
Designated Giving - Columbus	1,002.83	84.64	15,387.76	11,396.02	27,871.25	-		
Other (Grants, Fees)	8,000.00	250.00			8,250.00	-		
Interest Income (Bank)	4.11	4.11	3.02	2.65	13.89	-		
Total Giving Income	117,517.83	90,137.72	100,656.97	78,757.56	387,070.08			
Net Income	66,260.12	-28,453.69	26,200.23	-9,194.22	54,812.44			
Net Balance of Funds/Securities								
Bank Operating Fund (<i>Checking</i>)	142,412.56	29,939.55	49,940.02	45,122.86				
Bank Savings	55,109.15	55,113.26	35,116.28	35,119.00				
Securities (CDs, Money Market)	350,993.00	454,942.00	485,653.00	490,129.00				
Total Overall Cash Fund/Securities	548,514.71	539,994.81	570,709.30	570,370.86				
Net Funds/Securities Less Restricted Funds								
Adoption Fund	0.00	0.00	25,108.00	25,807.00				\$ 25,807.00
Seminary/Bible Training Scholarship Fund - <i>Reserved</i>	20,697.13	20,697.13	20,697.13	20,622.13				\$ 20,622.13
Higher Education Scholarship Fund - <i>Reserved</i>	8,000.00	8,000.00	0.00	0.00				\$ 6,000.00
Roof Repair Fund - <i>Reserved</i>	50,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00				
Building Fund <i>Reserved</i> (change to church house reserve?)	250,000.00	250,000.00	250,000.00	250,000.00				\$ 410,000.00
Total Restricted Funds	328,697.13	278,697.13	295,805.13	296,429.13				
Total Non-Restricted Funds/Securities	219,817.58	261,297.68	274,904.17	273,941.73				
Expense								
Ministries								
Christian Education (incl. WBS)			742.09	1,049.48	742.09	1,000.00	74.2%	1,000.00
Church Listings	520.00				520.00	550.00	94.5%	550.00
Digital Ministry (headphones not planned)	421.25	1,120.79	1,057.98	231.02	2,831.04	2,000.00	141.6%	2,000.00
Evangelism/Outreach	948.02	735.00	300.00	907.53	2,890.55	7,000.00	41.3%	5,000.00
Benevolence/Gifts	29.20	25.00		99.00	153.20	500.00	30.6%	500.00
Fall Seminar	535.00		673.05	2,285.23	3,493.28	4,000.00	87.3%	4,000.00
Fellowship	220.26	129.90	157.87	229.45	737.48	2,000.00	36.9%	2,000.00
Pulpit (increase base rate?)	270.00	750.00			1,020.00	2,000.00	51.0%	2,000.00
Higher Education Fund Scholarship Expense			8,000.00		8,000.00	6,000.00	133.3%	6,000.00
Mercy	371.98				371.98	15,000.00	2.5%	10,000.00
Clarity				3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	100.0%	5,000.00
New Song				5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	100.0%	5,000.00
RP Global Missions				3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	100.0%	5,000.00
RP Missions & Ministries	6,500.00	6,500.00	6,500.00	6,800.00	26,300.00	26,000.00	101.2%	35,000.00
RP Witness Subscription			1,080.00		1,080.00	1,500.00	72.0%	1,500.00
Biblical Training Scholarship Expense					0.00	3,000.00	0.0%	5,000.00
Session Ministries			531.41	180.96	712.37	3,000.00	23.7%	2,500.00
Vacation Bible School	467.14	970.72			1,437.86	2,000.00	71.9%	2,000.00
Youth Memory Work Scholarship			996.60		996.60	1,200.00	83.1%	1,200.00
Youth Ministry/College & Career	498.67	357.44	84.28	1,040.28	1,980.67	2,000.00	99.0%	2,000.00
Youth TFY/Echo/Short Term Missions		1,990.00			1,990.00	2,500.00	79.6%	2,500.00
Total Ministries	10,781.52	12,578.85	20,123.28	23,822.95	67,306.60	92,250.00	73.0%	99,750.00
Synod & Presbytery								
Presbytery Assessment		4,580.00			4,580.00	4,600.00	99.6%	5,000.00
Synod Housing		462.00			462.00	1,000.00	46.2%	1,000.00
Synod's Assessment		8,555.00			8,555.00	7,600.00	112.6%	9,000.00
Total Synod & Presbytery	0.00	13,597.00	0.00	0.00	13,597.00	13,200.00	103.0%	15,000.00
Columbus Reformed Presbyterian Church							Spend	

Audit Suggestions:

1. We suggest monthly MinistryWorks cover letters should be scanned and attached to each person's payroll entry on the ledger.
2. We suggest on church reports all account balances should be what is reported by the financial institution at the close of the last business day of the quarter.
3. We suggest accounts should be physically reconciled with each statement. This will help accomplish suggestion #2.
4. We were asked to look at investment income for reasonableness. We noticed ONB savings rate is .03%. Are there any other options at ONB? Should more be moved from checking to savings?
5. We were asked to consider the procedure for counting money.
 - * A question to ponder: Should non-elected adults count offering? Does this violate 'giving/tithing' privacy?
 - * We suggest Step #5 on the tithing sheet should be changed to read, "Treasurer or Assistant Treasurer".
6. We suggest that a formal policy/procedure be created about financial data backup. This should include how often data is backed up, whether it should be stored in multiple locations (thumb drive, Cloud, etc), who has access to these items (Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer only or other deacons, etc), and who has "read only" or "editing" access.
7. We suggest a formal scanning policy/procedure be created for supporting documents. This should include who can scan, how often it is done, what is the scope of the scanning duty (if documentation is noted to be lacking, ledger entry missing, etc).
8. We suggest the Deacons ask Jim McFarland for a 'Synod-approved' electronic Auditing Form.

2/25

Kathy Jones

Lisa Shoop

Missing Ledger Items:

1. Checks #5503, 5772 & 5769 need invoices scanned and attached (specifics on General Ledger)
2. E-pay Item document scanned, but no ledger entry (8/8/24, REMC, \$321.95, Doc. #2024-08-004)

Kathy Jones

Lisa Shoop

1/25

**REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SUGGESTED INTERNAL REVIEW GUIDELINES
FOR CONGREGATIONS AND MISSION CHURCHES
AS REQUIRED BY SYNOD**

Purpose: The purpose of an internal review is to ascertain the reliability and accuracy of financial statements prepared and records maintained by the congregational treasurer. It is also intended to provide constructive suggestions toward improvement of procedures, record keeping and reporting.

Who should perform the review: The congregation should appoint a review committee, preferably comprised of 2 to 3 independent people. These people should preferably be unrelated to the treasurer.

Frequency: A review should be performed annually and a copy of the committee report should be sent to the presbytery clerk.

Procedures:

- ✓ 1. All financial records for the year should be gathered. This should include bank statements, cancelled checks, deposit slips, paid bills and treasurer's books.
- LRS 158 2. Two months picked at random in the cash receipts and cash disbursements journals should be footed and cross-footed (added down and across). A few of these totals should then be traced into the general ledger (if one is maintained).
- LRS 158 3. Trace the ending bank balance of two different months to the appropriate bank reconciliation. The bank reconciliation should be footed and agree to the books.
- LRS 158 4. Select two checks from each month and trace to the source document (i.e. invoice, employment agreement, congregational minutes, deacon board minutes, etc.). Check the amount of the check to the source document and review for proper endorsement.
- LRS 158 5. Trace the amounts on the year-end financial statements to the general ledger or other workpapers summarizing the monthly activity.
- LRS 158 6. Determine that the cash balance at the beginning of the year plus receipts minus disbursements equals the ending reconciled cash balance.

LRS ~~KY~~ 7. Verify the existence of assets other than cash in checking (i.e. stock certificates, savings accounts, brokerage accounts, etc.). Review the earnings from investments to the amount of the assets for reasonableness.

8. Trace balances of notes payables and other liabilities to supporting documents. N/A

LRS ~~KY~~ 9. Compare the income and expenses of the current year to those of the prior year for any significant fluctuations.

LRS ~~KY~~ 10. Review procedures for counting and handling of funds. This should be done by someone other than the treasurer.

We have examined the financial records of the Columbus RP Congregation and have found the following:

_____ 1. No problems or questions were noted.

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

<u>Finding</u>	<u>Resolution</u>
please see attached	
Congregation <u>Columbus RP Church</u> Date <u>Feb. 12, 2025</u>	
Review Committee Members:	
<u>Lisa R. Shoop</u>	<u>Kathy Jones</u>

Please send two copies of this report to your Clerk of Session to be submitted to your presbytery clerk along with your congregational reports.