

**The Atlanta Commission/TGB for
Atlanta Reformed Presbyterian Church**
Report to Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery
March 6th-8th, 2025

The Atlanta Commission/TGB for Atlanta Reformed Presbyterian Church met eight times since the stated meeting of the Presbytery in March 2024.

Membership

In 2024, we gained one member (by profession of faith), and transferred one member to another RPCNA congregation. Our membership remains 14 (twelve communicants and two non-communicants), representing 10 families. Of the 14 members, almost two-thirds are male.

Contacts and Prospects

We come across a lot of people in our ministry, some of whom remain anonymous to us. However, we keep track of those whose names we are able to learn and for whom we are able to glean contact information for possible follow-up. In 2024, we made a total of 144 contacts. Some of these are not necessarily prospects for church membership (examples would include out-of-towners whom we might happen to meet); nevertheless, we try to place such people on the Penny's Pen email list. Others, though, can be considered potential recruits for Atlanta RPC.

Attendance and Visitors

In 2023, the average attendance was 16.53. In 2024, the average attendance was 12.33. If those joining via telephone were included, the average attendance would have been 18.91 and 14.79, respectively.

In 2023, there were no fewer than 66 first-time visitors in attendance at a worship service. In 2024, there were no fewer than 50 first-time visitors in attendance at a worship service.

Worship

Customarily, in the worship service, we sing five psalm selections (including one sung as a doxology after the benediction). In 2024, we observed the sacrament of communion three times. Our ongoing goal is to have the Lord's Supper on a quarterly basis.

In 2024, the pastor preached sermons from a variety of texts. He continued a series on the Law of God and the Ten Commandments, with sermons from the Fourth to the Seventh Commandments. In conjunction with this theme of the Decalogue, he preached on a variety of topics, including "Civil Disobedience", "Governmental Do's and Don'ts"; "Governmental Idolatry"; "Governmental Tyranny"; "Revolution"; and "When Is It OK to Kill Somebody?" Other sermons were based on II Kings 8-12; Psalm 36; and, as a communion message, Hebrews 9:13-14. The people have responded well to these pulpit messages, and are evidently growing in the grace and knowledge of the Lord.

The flock has also benefited by hearing sermons from others this past year: Elder T.J. Pattillo; Rev. Bruce Backensto; Rev. Paul Martin; Rev. Chris Myers; Elder Ben Stahl (OPC); and a couple of ARP ruling elders, Dr. Peter Loutzenheiser and Elder Jake Wasdin.

Sunday School

Because of ongoing building renovations in the latter half of 2024 and continuing into 2025, our Sunday School has been a combined class, taught by Elder T.J. Pattillo.

Church Life

Every Lord's Day, we experience warm and sincere fellowship. There is a genuine sense of *koinonia* amongst our people, and a real caring for one another. In numerous informal ways, folks maintain contact with each other during the week.

Pastoral Activity

In 2024, the pastor engaged in at least 283 counseling occasions. Sometimes this counseling might last only a few minutes; other times, it took hours. He has counseled many people in the congregation, but also has counseled others who do not attend ARPC, and still others from across the RPCNA and in other branches of the church on a wide variety of topics, including ecclesiastical matters.

In May 2024, he brought to completion a biography of his father entitled, *God's Man From Brooklyn: The Story of a Twentieth-Century Minister*. In October 2024, Reformation Heritage Books published a work from 1770, Archibald Hall's *Gospel-Worship*, a reprint which features a new Introduction penned by Dr. Smith.

He has recovered well from the open-heart surgery which he underwent in November 2023. In August 2024, he had another successful surgery, this one to reduce the size of his prostate.

Ministerial Intern

Since September 2019, Elder T.J. Pattillo has faithfully served as a ministerial intern. In addition to teaching adult Sunday School and helping to pick up people for church, he has shown a lot of initiative. He is presently a full-time student at Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary, and has started his licensure examinations. He filled the Atlanta pulpit a number of times this past year, especially during the first three months while the pastor was recovering from heart surgery. He also preaches about once a month for the Birmingham (Ala.) Reformed Presbyterian Church.

Staff Workers

We are blessed with a wonderful cadre of folks who help the church run, including Mrs. Michele Haag, Elder T.J. Pattillo, Mrs. Nancy Pattillo, and Mrs. Penny Smith. We remain grateful for the faithfulness of these servants.

Leadership Development

One of our goals for 2025 is the development of other leadership, not only for the meeting of present needs, but also in anticipation of eventual organization of the mission church as a congregation.

Outreach

The pastor's wife continues to write Penny's Pen, with a new article about two or three times per year. There are about 950 names on the email list.

The weekly pulpit messages are placed on SermonAudio.

We are still trying to find ways to establish an effective "presence" in our neighborhood. Among the ideas broached is setting up a prayer table in the park two blocks away.

Sextons

One of the ways that we hope to develop leadership while also engaging in outreach is through the use of sextons, who will live in the church building. Recruiting such individuals remains a matter of prayer.

Renovating the Building

Twice in 2024, volunteers from Covenant Presbyterian Church (OPC), Buford, Georgia, worked on the building. Meanwhile, after attempting for two years to have the leaks fixed, we were finally able to get the roof repaired and various holes plugged in order to stop the water intrusion. In order to redress the mildew problem, as well as to make several rooms more commodious, much demolition work was undertaken. An architect and a structural engineer have offered timely advice as we have been shoring up the roof in several places. The central heating and air system has been replaced by two mini-splits in the new sanctuary. The bathrooms have been refurbished; a new shower constructed; and the kitchen is being moved to the other side of the social hall. A new handicap ramp, funded largely by the RPWA Disabilities Committee, has been erected, and the front porch enlarged.

Finances

Cash assets at the end of 2023 totaled \$175,696.95. Despite the expenditure of \$68,221.21 for capital improvements throughout 2024, total cash assets at the end of 2024 were \$182,392.77—a gain of \$6,695.82. One of the key reasons for how well we did financially, even while making significant improvements to the building, was the success of the "25 by '25" campaign, launched in September 2024, which sought to raise at least \$25,000 by 2025. By the end of 2024, the campaign had garnered \$85,961.00—three and a half times the goal. (An additional \$5,000.00 was added to this fund in mid-January 2025, bringing the total to \$90,961.00.) We hope to pay off the 20-year mortgage this year—that is, fifteen years early. The financial statement for 2024 and the budget for 2025 are attached.

Mission Statement

The following mission statement, which was adopted by the Atlanta Commission on January 19, 2023, continues to guide our endeavors.

Atlanta Reformed Presbyterian Church aims to be a faithful church, in doctrine, worship, personal piety, church life, fellowship, outreach, and hospitality, with specific focus on downtown Atlanta, demonstrating the love of Jesus to all people, and seeking to impact the Atlanta metro area by modeling a covenantal Christ-like community and by the multiplying of other Reformed Presbyterian congregations.

Planning for the Future

Our goal is that Atlanta RPC be formally organized by the end of this year. The year 2025 will mark the fifteenth anniversary of the beginning of this ministry, and the sixth anniversary of it being established as a mission church. Starting in 2022, we began paying the Synod assessment (in our case, \$1,604 in 2022; \$1,462 in 2023; and \$1,360 in 2024)—a sign that we are beginning to shoulder our share of denominational responsibility. We are presenting a petition for organization at this stated meeting of Presbytery. We look forward to taking our place among the other organized congregations in the RPCNA constellation.

Prayer Requests

1. For the addition of several members this year.
2. For the raising up of leadership, so we can be prepared for formal organization.
3. For strength and stamina for the leadership, that they might not be discouraged or lose heart.
4. For courage and boldness in the gospel, so the church would be a faithful witness for King Jesus.
5. For the building renovation, so that the building might be not only attractive but also useful in presenting a visible witness of the kingdom.

Recommendations

1. That Pastor Frank J. Smith be given up to 15 minutes to present a report on Atlanta RPC.
2. That Presbytery grant \$4,000.00 for the work of Atlanta RPC for 2025.
3. That Presbytery provide \$1,000.00 for the expenses of the Atlanta Commission.
4. That the membership of the Atlanta Commission consist of the current members.
5. That the Presbytery approve the application for reducing aid through the Home Mission Board.
6. That the Presbytery approve the organization of Atlanta Reformed Presbyterian Church, with the Atlanta Commission being tasked with handling any details, including, if necessary, the appointment of alternates to serve on the Commission when it conducts the organizational service.
7. That the Atlanta Commission be authorized to appoint one or more presbyters to the Atlanta Session to assist that court in its early days.
8. That the report of the Atlanta Commission be approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank J. Smith

Frank J. Smith, Ph.D., D.D.
Pastor

2025 Budget for Atlanta Reformed Presbyterian Church

	2024	2025
<u>100 Facilities and Operation</u>		
101 Mortgage	\$ 9,982.80	\$ 9,982.80
102 Utilities	4,800.00	4,800.00
103 Building Insurance	3,500.00	5,300.00
107 Mileage	4,500.00	4,500.00
108 Building Supplies/Maintenance	1,000.00	1,500.00
109 Synod/Presbytery/Conference	500.00	500.00
110 Office Supplies	500.00	500.00
111 Other Supplies (paper goods, etc.)	400.00	400.00
112 Hospitality (coffee, snacks, food, etc.)	900.00	500.00
113 Administration	900.00	900.00
113 Administration—website maintenance	500.00	500.00
<u>200 Ministerial Compensation</u>		
201 Housing Allowance	19,500.00	19,500.00
202 Pension	4,800.00	5,000.00
<u>300 Expenses for Diaconal Workers</u>	100.00	100.00
<u>400 Pulpit Supply</u>	1,200.00	1,200.00
<u>500 Edification</u>		
501 Teaching Supplies	150.00	150.00
<u>600 Synod and Presbytery</u>		
601 Synod Assessment	1,500.00	1,500.00
<u>700 Mercy</u>		
701 Benevolences	1,000.00	1,000.00
<u>800 Intern</u>	10,000.00	10,000.00
<u>900 Miscellaneous and Contingency</u>		
901 Miscellaneous Travel	2,000.00	2,000.00
902 Miscellaneous General	1,267.20	1,167.20
Total	\$69,000.00	\$71,000.00

Rationale for Organization of Atlanta Reformed Presbyterian Church

When in the course of church events, it is expedient to organize a congregation, setting forth the reasons for undertaking said action is right and proper.

Brief History of Atlanta Reformed Presbyterian Church (ARPC)

April 11, 2010, ministry was begun in the English Avenue neighborhood of Atlanta, with a weekly Bible study being conducted outdoors on the steps of a derelict AME church building.

December 2012, weekly public worship was started, as a Muslim fellow allowed Atlanta Presbyterian Fellowship (APF) to use the backend of his corner grocery store for free.

July 2013, APF began renting space in the basement of a local church.

November 2013, the ministry moved to a one-room Southern Baptist congregation in the nearby Vine City area.

June 2015, one side of a duplex was rented, which allowed for weekday activities as well as Lord's Day worship.

May 10, 2019, APF became ARPC, as the ministry, per the action of Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery, became an RPCNA mission church.

October 2019, ARPC started leasing a church building—an historic structure that was originally a broom factory—with a view to purchasing it.

June 1, 2020, ARPC purchased its building for \$200,000, with a mortgage through the Trustees of Synod for \$150,000.

February 2023 and March 2024, notice was given to Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery, via the report of its Atlanta Commission, of the intention to petition Presbytery at its annual meeting in 2025 for organization of the mission church.

Why Organization?

Perhaps the answer to this question is obvious. Nevertheless, it is good to be reminded of why it is important for a mission church to be formally organized.

An organized congregation is able to enjoy local rule. Though it is almost always necessary in the mission church stage to be dependent on outside eldership, the Biblical ideal is for local elders to exercise authority. This principle is why the Apostle Paul ordained elders in every city (Acts 14:23).

Having local elders is not merely a principial issue, but is a practical one. Having elders at a distance, particularly when they constitute a majority of the temporary governing body, is awkward. This awkwardness is evident whenever a person is examined for church membership: trying to conduct said interview via Zoom is not conducive to the kind of relational experience which is desirable.

Another principle is that the flock is able to give formal approbation to its rulers by means of congregational vote. Though even in the mission church phase, the elders on the temporary governing body should enjoy the confidence and approval of the people, nevertheless, it is optimal for there to be a vote by the congregation, as seen in the selection of deacons in Acts 6.

The organizational service of a congregation is a solemn, and joyous, occasion—a time when the people realize even more deeply the significance of the institution to which they belong. Further, formal organization is a way by which the congregation can take greater ownership of the ministry.

And let us not forget that there is a benefit to the presbytery. There would no longer be a need for a commission, thereby not only freeing men from having to serve in that capacity, but also saving money that would otherwise be spent on commission expenses.

Why Organization Now?

There comes a point when a bird must be nudged out of the nest by the mother bird. Similarly, every child must leave the home and establish his own. Likewise, a mission church must be able to come to the time of maturity, rather than continuing indefinitely in an infantile state.

A teenager is allowed to have the keys to the car when he is able to demonstrate that he is a responsible driver. The prime criterion for when a mission church is ready to be on its own is the prospect of a plurality of elders who would, by definition, be mature and responsible. Already, there are two presbyters actively involved in the mission church, including serving on the Atlanta Commission. In point of fact, virtually all of the day-to-day administration of ministry has been turned over to them. In addition to these two men, there is at least one other who aspires to the office of overseer—a preacher's kid who has shown not only increasing understanding of and commitment to the Reformed faith but who also specializes in apologetics. Moreover, the laity are growing in their embrace of the Reformed Presbyterian faith. Therefore, Atlanta RPC is ready for organization.

The conclusion that now is the *kairos* for organizing the Atlanta mission church is strengthened by recognizing that the Presbytery has not objected to the intention, announced by the Atlanta Commission two years ago, and again last year, to propose organization by 2025. The court approved the report of its Commission, thereby indicating at least tacit approval. Indeed, no objection to this plan was recorded in Presbytery's minutes.

Why Atlanta?

The strategic importance of Atlanta has long been acknowledged. Indeed, it was a significant military target precisely because of its location and its railroad lines. After its fiery destruction and being gone with the wind, it rose, Phoenix-like, from the ashes to become an industrial and commercial powerhouse. It remains a transportation hub. Major Interstate highways crisscross and surround the city. And the old joke from the 1960s was that if you died and went to heaven, you had to fly through Atlanta first. Since that time, its airport's reputation has become even more enhanced, and the airport is today the world's busiest.

Population growth has been prodigious. The entire Atlanta metro area, with 6.2 million souls, is the seventh largest in the U.S. The state of Georgia has 11.2 million, making it the eighth largest state by population.

The populace itself is very ethnically diverse. Many nationalities are represented throughout the region, being attracted by the mild climate, job opportunities, and the ease of travel to and from their homelands.

Atlanta boasts several prestigious academic institutions, as well as numerous world-famous attractions.

In addition to being a major metropolis, Atlanta is the state capital. Being the leading city of the Southeast, it is, in an informal sense, the region's capital city.

The RPCNA's Commitment to Ministry in Atlanta

Going back several decades, there has been interest in the RPCNA to gather a church in the Atlanta area. In 2008, a mission church in the northern suburbs, North Atlanta RPC, was established. Two years later, it was organized as Northminster RPC.

Simultaneously, there was outreach in Atlanta proper. In 2010, these efforts began to focus on the current ministry area, informally called "the Bluff," but more formally referred to as the English Avenue and Vine City neighborhoods.

Thinking Strategically

If you go to 4 W. 43rd Street in downtown Manhattan, just off of 5th Avenue and only two blocks from the New York Public Library and three blocks from Grand Central Terminal, you will see a building. Extending from that building at 45 degree angles are two long flag poles, which are flying the American flag and the flag of the Unification Church. It is the U.S. headquarters of the Moonies. If you were to go, historically, to any not just major city but moderately sized American city, you would likely come across a Christian Science Reading Room.

Why would those groups spend money on such endeavors? Surely, there was less expensive real estate available!

The answer is that these cultists were thinking strategically. They were not concerned so much with calculating a cost-benefit analysis, but with establishing presence.

Thinking strategically and establishing presence are motifs that are found not only amongst synagogues of Satan, but also in the believing church, including the Reformed church.

Just after World War II, an Orthodox Presbyterian minister had the vision to purchase a building along the boardwalk in Wildwood, N.J. The Boardwalk Chapel eventually came under the auspices of the OPC Presbytery of New Jersey. Over the decades, many a missionary has cut his missions teeth interacting with vacationers soaking up the sun and enjoying Atlantic Ocean breezes. Many a Westminster Seminary student has honed his evangelism skills along that boardwalk. The strategic significance of ministering to tens of thousands of beachgoers every summer is coupled with providing opportunity for the cultivation of ministerial gifts and gospel fervor. The financial cost of having this seasonal ministry is not a crucial consideration.

Those of us who have been privileged to minister at Kobe Theological Hall have been able to appreciate the strategic importance of the Bookstore on a busy street in downtown Kobe. The building could obviously be sold at a premium price, and thousands of dollars saved every year by closing the book shop, but doing so would come at an incalculable loss. If our Japan Presbytery were ever to abandon downtown Kobe, it would never get that property back.

Strategizing in Atlanta

The RPCNA's Atlanta ministry is also in a very strategic location, in a variety of ways.

It is in the heart of a great city. It is in an area that is rapidly gentrifying.

It is located in close proximity to numerous landmarks and attractions: Georgia World Congress Center; Mercedes-Benz Stadium; Georgia Aquarium; World of Coca-Cola; Centennial Olympic Park; CNN Center; College Football Hall of Fame. Nearby are many institutions of higher learning: Georgia Institute of Technology; Georgia State University; and numerous HBCUs, including Morris Brown College; Interdenominational Theological Center; Clark Atlanta University; Morehouse College; and Spelman College.

Significantly, it is right at the intersection of the Haves and Have-nots, thereby giving opportunity to exemplify the unity of the body of Christ that transcends not only ethnicity but also socio-economic differences.

Finances

Over the past six years, local giving at Atlanta RPC has been about \$125,000.

Virtually all missions endeavors are dependent upon funding from outside sources. This reality is particularly the case when ministry is undertaken to impoverished areas, such as is found often in Third World countries, as well as neighborhoods domestically that resemble Third World countries. Atlanta RPC is no different from the norm.

However, what is unique is that the vast majority of outside funding has not come from the RPCNA. As a matter of fact, relatively little financial support can be attributed to denominational sources. At the same time, sources beyond the Reformed Presbyterian Church have given abundantly.

The last six years (that is, January 1, 2019, through December 31, 2024) demonstrate the financial facts. Almost \$700,000 was donated. From all RPCNA sources (other than those attending Atlanta RPC), a bit more than \$80,000 was contributed to the mission church. During that same time period, people and churches who were not part of the RPCNA have given more than \$500,000.

Those outside the RPCNA who have donated to Atlanta RPC have included folks from a wide variety of religious backgrounds, including Presbyterian Church in America, Orthodox Presbyterian Church, Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, Reformed Presbyterian Church General Assembly, Reformed Presbyterian Church—Hanover Presbytery, Presbyterian Reformed Church, Christ Reformed Presbyterian Church, Baptist, Reformed, United Methodist, Wesleyan, Episcopalian, Lutheran, independent megachurch, unaffiliated, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Roman Catholic, and atheist. The fact that so many folks have given to support a Psalm-singing ministry is absolutely delicious, and, as all Covenanters attest, represents a manifestation of the mediatorial kingship of Christ, who owns all the wealth of the world.

At the same time, it bears noting that none of this extensive support would have occurred apart from the existence of Atlanta RPC. Not one of these individuals from outside the RPCNA would be interested in giving money in general to our denomination, nor for the support of a bland, ordinary, run-of-the-mill church plant in suburbia. If the Atlanta mission had not existed, none of this money would have been donated.

From a relatively small investment from the RPCNA, there has been a tremendous reaping of funds from far afield. If we were to do a cost-benefit analysis, we would see that putting in \$80,000 has resulted in additional income of well over half a million dollars—an exceptional return on investment of about 600%. (Even adding the money that has gone for the expenses of the Atlanta TGB rather than directly to the mission church itself would still yield a high rate of return.) We would also note that there is further financial benefit for the RPCNA, in that the Atlanta ministry has consistently collected funds for RPM&M (more than \$1,281 to date), and has also been paying its fair share of Synod assessment (\$4,426 so far)—none of which would have come into the denominational coffers unless this church plant existed.

We anticipate that, over time, Atlanta RPC will increasingly contribute a larger share of the funds being donated to this ministry. However, in noting this hope and expectation, we certainly do not wish to imply that financial self-sufficiency is essential for congregational organization.

In the early church, the church at Jerusalem was not de-churched due to its not being able to pay its bills. The rest of the church did not regard the Jerusalem church in its impoverished state as being, at best, a disorganized mission, not worthy of organized status, but instead continued to treat her with respect; and more than that, generously and sacrificially supported her.

Conclusion

Over the course of a number of years of service in a challenging area, Atlanta Reformed Presbyterian Church has shown resilience, and continues to worship and minister faithfully.

She has spiritual strength, seen by a strong sense of one-anotherness, a seriousness about Christian commitment, and, strikingly, the fact that about two-thirds of the members are male.

She has been a loyal mission church, supporting and promoting the Reformed Presbyterian faith, as exemplified by her enthusiastic and vibrant Psalm singing.

She has been a training ground for others who have gone on to be ministers and elders in other venues; and she has also been able to encourage and minister to other RPCNA congregations.

She manifests the ability to have her own Session, as there is a sufficient number of local men who could serve as presbyters.

She has raised the flag of King Jesus over a major world-class city, occupying a key post in a significant location, the loss of which to the RPCNA could be catastrophic in terms of any serious Southern strategy.

She has demonstrated patience, not insisting on organization too soon, but giving opportunity for the Presbytery to embrace her.

And now, after fifteen years of ministry in Atlanta, including six years as a mission church, we believe that it is time to approve her petition to become a full-fledged congregation of the RPCNA.

Petition for Organization of Atlanta Reformed Presbyterian Church

To the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery, meeting on March 6-8, in the year of our Lord 2025, at Bloomington, Indiana.

We the Atlanta Reformed Presbyterian Church, a body of 14 members, plus numerous adherents, located in Atlanta, Georgia, confident in Christ's promises to build His church and convinced by His providence that such a work has begun among us, hereby petition this presbytery to grant the organization of this body into a congregation of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America under the oversight of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery. We believe God has provided men capable of constituting a session and acting as Christ's undershepherds for us. We seek this privilege from the Presbytery with full reliance on God's grace and not on ourselves.

Given this 9th day of February in the year of our Lord 2025 by request of the undersigned.

Atlanta Commissioners: *Strom Wood*, *D. Scott Daniels*, *Philip J. [unclear]*

Ruling Elder-elect: *James J. [unclear]*

Teaching elder-elect: *Frank J. Smith*

Communicant Members: *John [unclear]*, *James J. [unclear]*, *Felson Harden*, *Paul [unclear]*, *Paul [unclear]*, *Stacy [unclear]*, *[unclear]*, *[unclear]*

Adherents: *Mark P. [unclear]*, *Adrienne [unclear]*, *Bunker P. [unclear]*, *[unclear]*, *Hilary Dimas*

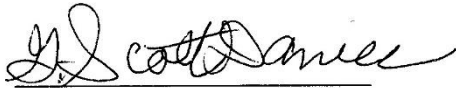
**Notice of a Congregational Meeting
to Elect Ordained Officers**

The Atlanta Commission, also known as the Atlanta Temporary Governing Body, having decided to conduct an election for a pastor and an elder, the Atlanta Reformed Presbyterian Church, a mission church, is called to meet on the 9 th day of February in the year of our Lord 2025 at 3:30 p.m., at 574 Western Avenue NW, Atlanta, Georgia.

Should the congregation be providentially hindered from meeting on the 9 th day of February, the congregation will gather according to this edict on the 16 th of the month.

Members unable to be present may send absentee votes to the meeting enclosed in a sealed envelope, or given or mailed to the Clerk of the Commission. The envelope shall bear the name of the communicant member, and shall be addressed to the Commission. Absentee votes are valid only on the first electing ballot.

Given this 23 rd day of January in the year of our Lord 2025, by order of the Atlanta Commission.



G. Scott Damerow
Clerk of the Atlanta Commission



Steven Work
Moderator of the Atlanta Commission

We, the Atlanta Reformed Presbyterian Church, under the care of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery, being satisfied of the spiritual oversight of us in the Lord you have already displayed; and satisfied that your spiritual attainments, intellectual abilities and soundness in the faith and the *Testimony of the Reformed Presbyterian Church* are fitted to our capacities, do now, with the concurrence of Presbytery, call you, Frank Joseph Smith, to undertake the office of pastor among us. Upon your accepting this call and performing the duties of your office as set forth by the Constitution, we promise you all due respect and support in the Lord. We hereby promise to pay you, in the event of your accepting this call, and performing the duties of a pastor among us—a direct compensation of \$19,500, payable in monthly installments of \$1,625 each. Of this compensation 100% is designated as a housing allowance as set forth by Section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code. We include the following in the compensation package: car mileage (per the allowance as set forth by Synod); four weeks of vacation per year (with said vacation time being able to accumulate, including previous years of service at the Atlanta ministry); a three-month paid sabbatical after seven years; and the minimal amount of pension payment as determined by Synod.

We promise to review annually with you the adequacy of this compensation prior to the adoption of the congregation's budget to take into account the cost of living increase (e.g., C.P.I.).

In witness thereof, we subscribe this call and financial agreement, the 9th day of February in the year of our Lord 2025 in the presence of these witnesses:

Elder: *T.J. Pattillo*

Communicant Members:

T.J. Pattillo *Reynolds Sosa*
[Signature] *Felson Harden*
[Signature] *Stacy Motter*
[Signature] *[Signature]*
Michele Haag *Ydilly Lugo-Dimas*

Adherents:

[Signature]
Adrienne Stewart
[Signature] *Mrs. Bobbie Jones*
[Signature] *[Signature]*

I hereby certify that this call and financial agreement were made out on the date therein specified in accord with the law and order of the church.

T.J. Pattillo
T.J. Pattillo, Moderator *pro tem*

Atlanta Communicant Membership Roll as of February 2025:

Michele Haag

Felson Harden

Stacy Moton

Nancy Pattillo

T. J. Pattillo

Miyoshi Robinson

Frank J. Smith

Penny A. Smith

Jimmie Snider

Jonathan Steele

Daiyaan Winston

John Wilson

170 **Minutes of the February 9, 2025 Meeting of the Atlanta Commission/Temporary Governing Body**
171 **Presiding Over the Congregational Meeting**
172 **of the**
173 **The Atlanta Reformed Presbyterian Church**

174

175 Teaching elder Frank Smith, previously voted by the TGB as moderator pro tem, convened the TGB
176 meeting at 3:37 PM and opened with prayer in the name of Christ, the King and Head of the Church.

177 **Attendance**

178 Ruling Elder and clerk G. Scott Damerow took attendance of the TGB and congregation. TGB members
179 Participating in Ohio via Zoom were: Teaching Elder Steven Work, Teaching Elder Richard Knodel, Ruling
180 Elder G. Scott Damerow and Ruling elder Timothy Vincze. TGB members participating in the meeting via
181 Zoom in Atlanta were Elder T. J. Pattillo and Teaching Elder Frank Smith who were physically present at
182 the Atlanta Reformed Presbyterian Church building.

183 Also present at the Atlanta Reformed Presbyterian Church building and remotely were the following
184 communicant members, non-communicant members and also adherents of the Atlanta Reformed
185 Presbyterian Church.

186 **At the building:**

187 **Communicant members:** Michele Haag, T.J. Pattillo, Nancy Pattillo, Frank Smith, Penelope Smith, John
188 Wilson, Daiyaan Winston

189 **Non-communicants:** Hannah Pattillo, Sawyer Pattillo

190 **Adherents:** Derrick David, Kietra Johnson, KJ Johnson, Karon Johnson, Bobbie Jones, Adrienne Steward,
191 Anthony Wooten.

192 **Visitor:** Rob Van Wey

193 **Joining remotely from the Atlanta area:** Miyoshi Robinson, Jimmie Snider.

194

195 **Quorum**

196 Quorum was declared among the TGB with 6 elders present.

197 Quorum was declared among the congregation with a majority present.

198 Moderator pro tem Frank Smith began the congregational meeting.

199 Moved and seconded: To proceed to begin the meeting. Adopted by vote of the congregation.

200 Edict was read once again to the congregation, having been read to the congregation twice on the
201 required previous Lord's Days.

202 Moved and seconded: To proceed to election of Elder and Pastor. Passed.

203 Worship service then began at 3:45pm

204 Call to worship from Psalm 122:1.

205 Psalm 50B was sung.

206 Ezekiel 13:1-16 was read by T. J. Pattillo.

207 Psalm 119R was sung.

208 Prayer by Frank Smith.

209 Psalm 49B was sung.

210 Sermon from Titus 1:5-14 by Frank Smith on the topic of the qualifications for eldership.

211 Prayer by Frank Smith.

212 Psalm 1A was sung.

213 Worship was closed with a benediction

214 Psalm 72C verses 11 & 12 were sung as a closing doxology.

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216 Nomination for T.J. Pattillo for elder was presented.

217 Ballots were distributed. John Wilson and Daiyaan Winston counted the ballots as tellers. Three cast

218 absentee ballots were included in the tally.

219 Ballot Results for T.J. Pattillo:

220 Yes:10

221 No: 0

222 Abstentions: 0

223 T. J. accepted the election.

224

225 T.J. was appointed as moderator pro tem during the nomination and election for Pastor

226 Nomination for Frank Smith for pastor was presented.

227 Ballots were distributed. John Wilson and Daiyaan Winston counted the ballots as tellers. Three cast

228 absentee ballots were included in the tally.

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231 Ballot Results:
232 Yes: 9
233 No: 0
234 Abstentions: 0
235 One ballot was not returned.
236 Frank Smith accepted the election.
237 Pastoral Call was read by T.J. Pattillo, and Frank Smith accepted the terms of the call.
238 Motion was made and seconded for the congregation to accept the call. Passed.
239 Pastoral Call was signed by the members and adherents of the congregation.
240 Petition for Organization was signed by the members and adherents of the congregation.
241 Frank Smith then resumed his duties as moderator pro tem and closed the meeting in prayer at 4:52 pm.

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G. Scott Damerow
Clerk of the Commission, RE G. Scott Damerow.

Steven Work
TE Steven Work, Moderator of the Commission.

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Minutes of the February 13, 2025 Meeting of the Temporary Governing Body

of

The Atlanta Reformed Presbyterian Church

(Via Zoom Video Conferencing)

Teaching Elder Dick Knodel opened the court with prayer at 6:32 pm with prayer and devotional from Psalm 78:9 and I.Chronicles 12:32.

Attendance

Ruling Elder and clerk G. Scott Damerow took attendance. Present were: Teaching Elder Steven Work, Teaching Elder Frank Smith, Teaching Elder Richard Knodel, Ruling Elder G. Scott Damerow and Elder T. J. Pattillo. Also present was Financial Secretary Mrs. Penelope Smith.

Agenda was approved by common consent.

Minutes of the previous meetings of January 23, 2025 and February 9, 2025 were approved as improved.

Examination and approval of Frank Smith as teaching elder and approval of his pastoral contract:

Motion and second to sustain the exam of Dr. Frank Smith for teaching elder concerning the Constitution of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America including the Westminster Confession/Testimony, Larger & Shorter Catechisms, Directory of Church Government, Book of Discipline, Directory for Worship, Queries/Vows, Forms. Unanimously passed.

Motion and second to sustain the exam of Mr. Trevor Pattillo (T.J.) for teaching elder concerning the Constitution of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America including the Westminster Confession/Testimony, Larger & Shorter Catechisms, Directory of Church Government, Book of Discipline, Directory for Worship, Queries/Vows, Forms. Unanimously passed.

Motion: To approve the pastoral contract for Dr. Frank Smith. Seconded and passed unanimously.

Arrangements for the next meeting

Next meeting was set for Thursday, March 20, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom, by common consent.

Minutes of this meeting were read and approved as improved by unanimous vote.

Meeting was closed in prayer at 8:20 PM by Teaching Elder Dick Knodel.

G. Scott Damerow
Clerk of the Commission, RE G. Scott Damerow.

Steven Work
TE Steven Work, Moderator of the Commission.