

Report of the Home Mission Board Representative to the Great Lakes – Gulf Presbytery

Spring 2025

The Home Mission Board met twice during the year of 2024, on April 23-24 at Las Vegas Reformed Presbyterian Church (this was in conjunction with their organization service) and on October 17-18 at Westminster Reformed Presbyterian Church in Prairie View, IL (this was in conjunction with the Westminster Conference on evangelism). The HMB discussed and approved funding for many church plants and planting efforts. The Columbia, MO congregation received their final three years of reducing aid, the Houston, TX congregation began their reducing aid, and two works in British Columbia as well as one in Oneonta, NY and one in Little Rock, AR received exploratory grants. An application for reducing aid made by the Atlanta Mission Church was received, but the Board saw fit for the application to be heard by the presbytery as a whole before acting on it. As mentioned already, Westminster RPC held a conference focused on evangelism in October, and the Home Mission Board was a sponsor of that conference. We were pleased to have people from three different denominations, five different congregations, and six different states in attendance, as well as some of the HMB members. The Board is hoping to be able to sponsor future conferences or encourage people towards well-established conferences such that more of the saints can be better equipped for the work of evangelism. The HMB has also begun a new method of compiling data to analyze for potential church planting efforts. We ask that if your congregation has a Sermon Audio page, please run a report for all of 2024 and provide me with your top five states and the number of plays in those states. Our hope is that this will give us an idea of where people are listening to Reformed Presbyterian preaching and hopefully provide us with an idea of a state that is listening but is without a congregation. In our presbytery, we have two exploratory works happening: one in Gainesville, FL and one in Celebration, FL. Our prayer is that the Lord would bless these works, and we would see them become fully organized congregations. There are currently 11 open pulpits within our denomination. Please pray that the Lord will raise up laborers for the harvest field and establish sound and faithful men as pastors within these congregations. Overall, there is much to rejoice over in regards to the church planting efforts of our denomination. May we ask Jehovah to continue to work through us in building the Church of Christ here in this nation.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joshua M. Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Joshua M. Smith