

Minutes of the thirty-third¹ Spring Meeting of the Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery (RPCNA) March 6-7, 2025

The Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery met at the Bloomington Reformed Presbyterian Church on **March 6, 2025**. The court was called to order at 2pm by our moderator, Rev. Joel Hart. The court proceeded to sing Psalm 23B.

The moderator called the court's attention to Micah 5:7-15 asking the court to answer the question, "Who are we under Jesus Christ our King?" We are "dew and lion." Mr. Hart said, "Jesus Christ the king needs to be the lord of change in us... he will do it."

The moderator prayed at 2:34pm constituting the court in the name of Jesus Christ, the king and head of the church. The court was then asked to rise and respond to the preaching of the Word with the singing of Psalm 110B.

The roll call was taken by the assistant clerk. The roll is as follows:

Congregation	Name	Thurs Mar 6 2 PM	Thurs Mar 6 645 PM	Fri Mar 7 8:30 AM	Fri Mar 7 6:45 PM
Atlanta Fellowship	Frank Smith TE	P	P	P	P
Belle Center	Phil Pockras TE	P	P	P	P
Belle Center	Bruce Bowers RE	P	P	P	P
Bloomington	Rich Holdeman TE	P	P	P	P
Bloomington	Ken deJong RE	P	P	P	E
Bloomington	CJ Davis RE	P	P	P	P
Bloomington	Philip McCollum TE	P	P	P	P
Columbus	Joel Hart TE	P	P	P	P
Columbus	Scott Decker RE	P	P	P	P
Columbus	Dave Schisler RE	P	P	P	E
Lafayette	Ken Nelson RE	P	P	P	P
Lafayette	Adam Niess TE	P	P	P	P
Lafayette	Chris Stockwell	P	P	P	P
Lafayette	Jonathan Sturm TE	P	P	P	P
Marion	Aaron Murray TE	P	P	P	P
Marion	Greg Fisher RE	P	P	P	P
Orlando	Nathan Eshelman TE	P	P	P	P
Orlando	Alejandro Ramirez RE	P	P	P	P
Second Indianapolis	Russ Pulliam RE	P	P	P	A
Second Indianapolis	Adam Doerr RE	A	A	P	P
Second Indianapolis	(ALT) Donald Cassell RE	P	A	A	A
Second Indianapolis	Jerry Foltz TE	P	P	P	P
Selma	Averette Woodson	P	P	P	A
Southfield	Jon Kim RE	P	P	P	P
Southfield	Adam Kuehner TE	P	P	P	P
Southside Indianapolis	Ross Cerbus RE	P	P	P	P
Southside Indianapolis	David Kley RE	P	P	P	A
Southside Indianapolis	Ian Wise TE	E	E	P	A
Southside Indianapolis	David Hanson TE	P	P	P	P
Sparta	Ross Fearing TE		P	P	P
SWORP	Timothy Vincze RE	P	P	P	P
SWORP	Richard Knodel TE	P	P	P	P
Sycamore	Shawn Anderson TE	P	P	P	P
Sycamore	Bob McKissick RE	P	P	P	P
Terre Haute	Josh Reshey RE	P	P	P	P
W/o charge	Ray B Lanning	P	P	A	E
W/o charge	David G Whitla	P	P	P	A
W/o charge	Colin Samul	P	P	P	P
Westminster	Joshua Smith TE	P	P	P	P
Westminster	Robert Koch RE	P	P	P	P

¹ The Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery was named on Monday June 3, 1991 by an act of synod. The first Spring meeting was held in 1992.

One first time delegate and several visitors were introduced to the court: Scott Decker from Columbus congregation was introduced as a first time delegate. Antonio Troutman, Matt Fernandez, and Trevor Skopczynski were introduced as young men from the Southfield congregation. Austin Middleton was introduced from Second Indianapolis. Kyle Abraham, grandson of Frank and Penny Smith was introduced as well as Calvin Eshelman, a member of the CYPU, and son of Nathan Eshelman.

Following introductions, it was acknowledged by the moderator that Dr. Denny Prutow went to be with the Lord on October 30, 2024.

The clerk's report was presented by Rev. Adam Kuehner. The body of the report was discussed and the clerk presented eight recommendations and the report is as follows:

Dear Fathers and Brethren,

While it has been my great pleasure to serve as your clerk for the last decade, I very much look forward to rejoining you all in the pews. Without a doubt, we will be in good hands with Revs. Eshelman and Hart manning the clerks' table, a new moderator pounding the gavel, and, as always, King Jesus wielding the scepter.

Intercessory Prayer. Prayer assignments are noted in the proposed agenda. Rather than praying for a cluster of items at the end of a business session, we will pray separately following each report. Wherever possible, I have assigned delegates to pray for congregations whose minutes they recently reviewed. (The moderator may change these assignments at will.) I've also included intercessory prayer in connection with board and committee reports. Please look for your name in the proposed agenda so that you are prepared to lead in prayer at the appointed time. If you are unable to do so, please inform the new moderator in advance, so that he can appoint someone else.

Session Reports. In recent years, due to rampant conflict, we've had to reduce (or even remove) the time slots for oral Session reports. This year, I've expanded them to ten minutes, along with five minutes of prayer. Presenters are encouraged to use up all of this time. Delegates are encouraged to ask follow-up questions. Let's get reacquainted!

Congregational Statistics. On 6/28/17, the GLGP adopted the following motion, mandating the inclusion of six categories congregational statistics within each Session's annual spring report to Presbytery. That presbytery instruct its congregations to include the following statistics in their annual reports to presbytery:

- (1) Total Membership: Communicant and Baptized
- (2) Average AM Worship Attendance
- (3) Average PM Worship Attendance
- (4) Baptized Members Professing
- (5) New Members by Profession
- (6) Net Change in Total Membership.

In keeping with the fifth commandment, each Session is expected to comply with this requirement. If your Session is not presently in compliance, please submit a brief report with this information in time for our June meeting at Synod, so that this information may be received and observed by the court. For an example of how to include this information in your report for next year, feel free to consult the Southfield

and Bloomington reports.

Minute Book Review. The review of digital Session/TGB minutes is nearly complete. As of 2/20/24, all minutes have been reviewed and found to be in lawful constitutional order, aside from the exceptions listed below. To avoid “minute review mission drift” I am recommending the formation of a committee which would report back in June with a list of proposed guidelines. Session clerks must still bring their physical minute books to the spring meeting to be stamped by the Assistant Clerk.

1. The Selma Session did not meet this year, leaving us with no minutes to review.
2. The Sycamore Session minute reviewers flagged one action as contrary to the law and order of the church.

Synod Verdict. The 2024 Synod sustained Appeal 24-01/02 (GLG 23-36/37), filed by Mr. Ben Manning, on one of five possible grounds (irregularity in the proceedings), resulting in the Southside Session’s public apology to Mr. Manning for the irregularity. However, Synod upheld the censure of rebuke issued to Mr. Manning by his Session.

Communications. Please note the following communications.

1. 24-8: Letter from Zeltenreich Reformed Church (URCNA) re: Mr. Nathan Enas (Ref’d to Enas Judicial Commission).
2. 25-1: A petition / appeal from Mr. Shaw, on behalf of Mr. Enas, copied to PJC Mod. and GLGP Clerk.
3. 25-2: A communication from Mr. Shaw, on behalf of Mr. Enas, received 2/21/25, after the two-week deadline.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Presbytery appoint the following parliamentarians for this meeting: Frank Smith, Phil Pockras, Stephen Shipp (alt), Colin Samul (alt).
2. That Presbytery instruct the nominating committee to determine the congregations to be visited this year.
3. That Presbytery instruct the moderator to announce the following committee appointments by the start of Business Session #2 at the latest: Nominating (3), Resolution of Thanks (2), Time and Place.
4. That Presbytery refer GLG 25-1 to a three-man Judicial Committee (of the day) to review it alongside the PJC Report

and report back later in this meeting with recommendations regarding how best to proceed.

5. That Presbytery appoint a three-man committee—Adam Kuehner, Nathan Eshelman, and Joel Hart—to report back at the June meeting with proposed guidelines to aid those assigned each year to review Session and TGB minutes.
6. That Presbytery reappoint Mr. Andrew Imeson as its Internet Maintenance Technician for 2025.

7. That Presbytery grant privileges of the floor to the CYPY Youth Leadership Team during its scheduled presentation.

8. That Presbytery adopt the proposed agenda for this meeting.

9. That Presbytery grant all RPCNA elders present the privilege of the floor during the remainder of this meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Adam Kuehner
Clerk

The court voted on the recommendations, all of which were appropriately seconded as the recommendation was brought before the court.

Recommendation 1: Carried.

Recommendation 2: Approved by common consent.

Recommendation 3: Carried.

Recommendation 4: Rev. Philip McCollum rose to provide a substitute motion, which was:

Directory for Church Government 1.14 says, In the case of disorganization, those placed on the rolls of presbytery should become members of another congregation within one year. And, whereas Mr. Enas has not been a member of an RPCNA congregation for over two years. And whereas Mr. Enas was not a member of an RPCNA congregation for over one year when we received communication from Indy Reformed URC that the actions of the PJC to admonish Mr. Enas be vacated due to issues of jurisdiction and expedience, and Mr. Enas be dismissed from the rolls of the presbytery and PJC be dismissed from its work.”

The motion was seconded and then moved to debate on whether to entertain the motion. Several then spoke against the substitute motion.

Rev. Joshua Smith asked the moderator to rule, with advice on the parliamentarians, on whether the motion was lawful.

The substitute motion was ruled out of order by the moderator.

Rev. David Hanson then asked for further clarification on the substitute motion’s constitutionality. Mr. Hanson then challenged the ruling. Portions of the *Directory for Church Government* were read to defend. In retrospect, the moderator agreed with Mr. Hanson.

The clerk then rescinded recommendation 4. The seconder agreed to rescind. The recommendation and the substitution motion were taken off the table.

Mr. McCollum then rose with the following motion:

DCG 1.14 says, In the case of disorganization, those placed on the rolls of presbytery should become members of another congregation within one year. And, whereas Mr. Enas has not been a member of an RPCNA congregation for over two years. And

whereas Mr. Enas was not a member of an RPCNA congregation for over one year when we received communication from Indy Reformed URC that the actions of the PJC to admonish Mr. Enas be vacated due to issues of jurisdiction and expedience, and Mr. Enas be dismissed from the rolls of the presbytery and PJC be dismissed from its work.

Mr. Frank Smith called for division. The division is as follows:

A: DCG 1.14 says, In the case of disorganization, those placed on the rolls of presbytery should become members of another congregation within one year. And, whereas Mr. Enas has not been a member of an RPCNA congregation for over two years. And whereas Mr. Enas was not a member of an RPCNA congregation for over one year when we received communication from Indy Reformed URC that the actions of the PJC to admonish Mr. Enas be vacated due to issues of jurisdiction and expedience.

and

B: Mr. Enas be dismissed from the rolls of the presbytery and PJC be dismissed from its work.

After some discussion Mr. McCollum withdrew the motions.

Recommendation 5: Carried.

Recommendation 6: Carried.

Recommendation 7: Carried.

Recommendation 8 was moved, seconded, and discussed. Rev. Aaron Murray asked that the court take up two communications that came in late related to Second RPC (25-3 and 25-4).

Adam Kuehner stood and made a substitute motion that a three man committee be formed to read the Second RP documents (25-3; 25-4) and report back to this meeting.
The motion carried.

Nathan Eshelman stood and made the following motion:

The Rhoda Shepherding committee report says, it “was informed of Pastor Rhoda’s struggle with excessive drinking and that his wife, Mary, had left the home.” It goes on to say that he was hospitalized for his drunkenness.

Due to his excessive drunkenness, hospitalization and marital problems:

The Moderator shall appoint a three-man Judicial Committee to investigate the severity of the circumstances surrounding Reverend Stephen Rhoda’s resignation, in accordance with the *Book of Discipline* 1.3.1: “If session or a higher court learns of a sinning member, it must not ignore the situation. The court may deal with the situation directly or by a judicial commission.”

The *Directory for Church Government*, 6.15 says: “The presbytery may facilitate its work by referring to committees various items of business for consideration and for report with recommendations.”

The Rhoda Committee shall report back at this meeting of Presbytery whether formal

charges should be brought against him and any recommendations regarding his ministerial standing in light of the qualifications from I Timothy 3:2-4: “A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behavior, given to hospitality, apt to teach; Not given to wine...” and Titus 1: 6-7, “...For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not self-willed, not soon angry, not given to wine...”

The motion was second, discussed, and carried.

Recommendation 8: Carried.

Recommendation 9: Carried.

The clerk’s report as a whole was approved.

The moderator called for officer elections, beginning with moderator. Rev. Kuehner stood with rationale and a nomination for Rev. Philip McCollum. Mr. McCollum was elected without vocal dissent. The court proceeded to give him a round of applause and our new moderator took the podium.

The nomination of Revs. Nathan Eshelman and Joel Hart as clerk and assistant clerk led to their elections.

Rev. Rich Holdeman called for thanks for Mr. Kuehner’s work over the last decade. Rev. Hanson stood to present Mr. Kuehner a first edition copy of William Symington’s *Messiah the Prince*.

The court proceeded to the *Ad Interim Commission* (AIC) report which was given by Rev. Jerry Foltz. The report is as follows:

The Great Lakes – Gulf Presbytery Ad Interim Commission for 2024/2025 was appointed at the Spring 2024 Annual Meeting of Presbytery and consists of the following five members:

Jerry Foltz, Moderator (TE, Second RPC, Indianapolis, Indiana)
Joshua Smith, Clerk (TE, Westminster RPC, Prairie View, Illinois)
Ken Nelson (RE, RPC of Lafayette, Indiana)
Stephen Shipp (RE, Bloomington, Indiana RPC)
Jeff Brotherton (RE, Belle Center, Ohio RPC)

The Commission met nine times between March 2024 and March 2025, on the following dates:

March 26, 2024 January 13, 2025
May 15, 2024 January 21, 2025
July 23, 2024 January 28, 2025
October 1, 2024 February 11, 2025
December 3, 2024

A copy of the draft minutes (pending approval) or the final approved minutes of each meeting was distributed to the delegates of the Presbytery following each meeting. Attached, as part of this report to Presbytery, is a Topical Summary of actions taken by the Ad Interim Commission, presented in a Topical Index to the Minutes. The original signed minutes of the meetings of the 2024/2025 Ad Interim Commission will be

delivered to the Clerk of Presbytery for retention and for spreading on the minutes of Presbytery at the Spring 2025 Presbytery Meeting.

Recommendations:

1. That Presbytery receive this report.
2. That the Minutes of this Ad Interim Commission be spread on the minutes of Presbytery.

Respectfully submitted,
Jerry Foltz, Moderator
Joshua Smith, Clerk
Ken Nelson
Stephen Shipp
Jeff Brotherton

Rev. Kuehner stood and made the following motion:

That Presbytery:

- (a) Rescind the AIC's action on 7/23/24 to replace the Enas Membership Committee with a Presbytery Judicial Commission, an action which reversed the clear direction set by the court on 6/11/24 without any stated explanation or rationale;
- (b) Dismiss Mr. Nathan Enas from the GLGP membership rolls, per BOD I.4.2a (E-6), due to the fact that he has not regularly attended an RPCNA congregation for nearly two years or more;
- (c) Conclude Mr. Enas' dismissal letter with a word of pastoral counsel, urging him to submit teachably in the Lord to God-ordained church leadership, to study and promote the peace of Christ's Church, and to beware of Federal Vision errors, in keeping with the faithful warnings he has received.
- (d) Dissolve the Enas Membership Committee with thanks.

After the motion was seconded, Mr. Kuehner spoke to the motion. Division was called by Rev. Frank Smith. The motion was divided by letter.

After some discussion, the motion to rescind the action (a) carried.

The motion concerning the dismissal of Mr. Enas (b) was discussed, especially around the term "interest in." The motion to dismiss Mr. Enas carried.

The third part of the division (c) was discussed and carried.

Part 4 (d) also was carried following discussion.

Rev. Joshua Smith, as AIC clerk commented, for information, that previously Tara Wykstra was to be removed from roll and the AIC took action on this twice.

Mr. Kuehner then stood to comment on the "inactive" list in relation to the ministers. Rev. Wade Mann was mislabeled as inactive by the AIC. Mr. Foltz responded to the comment.

Rev. Holdeman stood and commented on another matter related to HMB and Atlanta.

We then voted on the AIC recommendations:

Recommendation one: Carried.

Recommendation two: Carried.

Rev. Adam Niess presented the report of the Candidates and Credentials Committee report. The report is as follows:

Candidates & Credentials Committee Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery
Spring 2025 Report

Recommendations

1. That Nathan Shaver no longer be a student under care (per his request).
• Note: This request came to us on February 20 after receiving his update below and planning for his student exams.
2. That student exams be conducted according to the schedule outlined below.
3. That our report be received.

Serving for Christ,
Joel Hart (2026)
Rich Holdeman (2026)
Adam Kuehner (2026)
Adam Niess (2027)
Jonathan Schaefer (2027)
Ian Wise (2027)

Student	Exam	Time*	Examiner/Text
T.J. Pattillo	Church History Paper		Jon Sturm and Philip McCollum
	Theology 1	20/10/5	Rich Holdeman
	Expository Sermon 1	25/-/5	1 John 3:11-18
John Punt	Theology 1	20/10/5	Phil Pockras
	Expository Sermon 1	25/-/5	Psalm 120
	[Licensure to preach]		

*Duration - The first number is the allotted time for the examiner's question, the second is for questions from the presbytery and the third is for discussion by the presbytery about the exam prior to voting.

Student Aid: The following students are receiving aid from presbytery: T.J. Pattillo (began September 2022) • Nathan Shaver (began October 2023) • Note: Nathan's aid would cease upon the passing of Recommendation 1.

Seminary-Level Classes: In 2024, Andrew Gilhooley taught an elective course with Nathan Shaver on the minor prophets. This was well-received. In winter 2024-2025, Andrew taught a 1-credit course on the Psalms with about 10 students. The class was very well-received, with much edification on the knowledge of the shape of the Psalter and the way the Psalter points to Christ.

Credential and Status Changes in 2024: Students taken under care or removed from under care • Cody Work (transferred to POA, April 2024). Licensures, ordinations, and installations • None. Resignations, removals, and transfers • None. Deaths • Dennis Prutow (October 2024).

Men Under Care:

Joe Johnson: I am continually seeking to grow into ministry in an ordained capacity. I would love to work in the RPCNA and I'm open to taking more exams. I lament the existence and proliferation of liberal and godless clergymen in the United States while feeling stymied in my progress toward ordination. I have been blessed to preach in pulpits within NAPARC in the last half-year or so, including the RPCNA, PCA, OPC, and in non-particularized church-plants. One OPC, in particular, was interested in calling me as minister, understanding that I am not licensed to receive a call (but willing to work toward it with me). We spent time with their congregation in Michigan, and at the last it didn't work out. I have no greater desire than to love Christ and his church, and want to see to her flourishing and growth through whatever efforts I can muster. I pray for you all in your labors. My family life has been great. Our seven month old daughter, Evangeline Agnes, started to crawl this last week, so we have two kiddos on the move. We have been reading a chapter a day of the scripture as a family, then individually my wife and I are reading a commentary on that chapter so we can discuss it around the house, then also during our "check-ins", which we have weekly and monthly. You can read more about it from the Newsletter the Johnsons put out around Christmastime.

T.J. Pattillo: It has been a busy season at the Pattillo household over the past few months. My mother passed away in October very soon after being diagnosed with small-cell lung cancer. Now, my stepfather had a stroke earlier this month where he is having trouble speaking and cannot move the right side of his body. He is also being treated for COVID-19 which he caught at the rehabilitation center where he is currently staying. Though there is much sadness and concern, the circumstances have provided the opportunities to talk with family about the problem of pain and to remind them of Christ's suffering on the cross, the curse of sin, and the need to know and trust Christ. There have been opportunities to minister in several other ways this past year. I conducted my mother's funeral. I visited the sick in the hospital in Atlanta. I was able to preach through a series in Jude in Atlanta and am still preaching through Micah in Birmingham. I have also been teaching through the Westminster Confession of Faith for the adult Sabbath school in Atlanta. I also taught a class on the end portion of Zechariah titled The King of Change. There have been times to minister in my neighborhood as a family friend with dementia committed suicide last summer (Please don't mention his suicide in front of the kids as he and his wife are like grandparents to them). His wife is a Christian and there have been moments of prayer and comfort between us we mourn over this tragedy together. A brother and sister I have known since 1990 have been in contact with me as she nearly died from a fentanyl overdose and he has been dealing with anger issues. Seminary is progressing well. I am taking Hebrew II, Marriage and Family Counseling, and Doctrine of Civil Government this term. I am enrolled in Hebrew III, Gospels, Covenant Theology, and Pilgrim's Progress classes for the Spring term. I am planning to fulfill my last required week on campus at RPTS the week after presbytery. I also intend of being on-campus at least one more week before graduation. I talked with Dr. York and

I am still on track to graduate in May 2026.

John Punt: John has now completed his first full year (45+ credits) at RPTS through Distance Learning. Along with their three daughters, he and Elizabeth welcomed their son, Thomas Breckenridge, to the world in June. John continues teaching at Seven Oaks Classical School and serving as Master Teacher of Music for Hillsdale College's K-12 Education Office, where he published two volumes on music history and pedagogy and is developing two more for publication this year. In the last year, John has been blessed with increased preaching opportunities, particularly at Terre Haute and Second RP churches; getting to know more brothers and sisters in Christ has been a great blessing to him and his family, and he prays the ministry of the Word has been a blessing to them, as well. The Punts are prayerfully seeking God's wisdom regarding how and when to move to Pittsburgh to finish the M. Div. degree.

Nathan Shaver: I am grateful for the opportunity to continue my studies at RPTS and serve as an intern at Second Reformed Presbyterian. The Lord provided many ways to get better acquainted within our presbytery this year. I had the privilege to provide pulpit supply to many congregations and speak from Psalm 20 at the CYPYU Summer event. My family and I continue to thank God for the care, love, and support we have received from our brothers and sisters at Second and within the GLG.

Ministers Without Pastorates

Active:

Andrew B. - I took over a language institute in 2024, which provides us long-term access to the country and an avenue for other laborers to potentially work in or with the company. We have been praying for years for more laborers. We thank God for midterms joining recently, including a 77- year-old lady. The previous years without robust team have been hard for our marriage in particular. We have been receiving marriage counseling and also reached out to Venky & Shammi for mutual support. There is tremendous economic, relational, and spiritual poverty here, which means that opportunities to love neighbor in word and deed are never lacking. Pray for the many planted seeds to bear fruit of salvation, for help in running a business, for longevity and contentment, for grace in our marriage and family life, and for long-term laborers to join in the vast harvest fields in Central Asia.

Bryan Dage - I have been preaching every week at Hetherton since last January. We worked through the book of 1 Peter, had a series on the Servant Songs in Isaiah, the first half of Romans, and started the Gospel of Luke. In addition, Wade, Phil and I have been teaching a remote membership class for the LaPointe children who are not yet communicant members. Unfortunately, the congregation has not grown and the members are severely discouraged. Currently, we are planning to hold a congregational meeting on March 1 to discuss the possibility of closing the congregation which could come before the Presbytery's spring meeting.

Colin Samul - Over the past year I have had many opportunities to serve in the church. I provided pulpit supply between Southfield RPC and other churches once a month on average, for most of the year. From the first weekend of October to the end of December, I filled the pulpit every Sunday morning while Rev. Kuehner was on sabbatical. It was a great blessing to serve in this way, and it was also a good "refresher" for the prospect of reentering full time ministry in the future. In addition, I have also counseled members of the congregation through various issues upon Rev. Kuehner's referral. My family has been blessed by Rev. Kuehner's ministry and the leadership at

Southfield RPC, and we enjoy the fellowship of the Saints in Southfield. In the Fall of 2024 my alma mater, City Seminary of Sacramento (RCUS), asked me to continue teaching (for context, this is distance education performed through Google Classrooms). In the fall I taught AP 211 (Introduction to Apologetics), and this Winter I am teaching CH 111 (Ancient Church History). Going forward I believe that they will ask me to teach in most trimesters. Lord willing, I will be open to considering a call to full time ministry once again before our meeting in 2025.

David Whitla - It is my great privilege to serve as Professor of Church History at RPTS, where besides regular mentoring of students, I teach several pastoral theology and practical ministry courses in addition to the required and elective Church History classes. I continue to serve as director of the Theological Foundations for Youth program and chair the synodical Youth Ministries and Church History Committees. In the past year I have been privileged to regularly preach in several venues including congregations of the RPCNA, RPCI, OPC, PCA, and Reformed Baptists, RPTS and Geneva College chapel services, various day conferences, and have administered the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper on various occasions. Further afield, I continue to serve as a trustee of the Banner of Truth Trust and the steering committee of the "Puritan Theology in Post- Reformation Context" Study Group of the Evangelical Theological Society, where I presented a paper in the fall. In January, I taught another intensive two-week seminary course virtually for our brothers in EA. Current research and writing projects include archive research in Edinburgh and transcribing the original documents procured for forthcoming volumes of the Works of Samuel Rutherford (RHB).

Namsik Yang - Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. While I am saddened that I have not seen you since transferring my credentials to the Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery, I am grateful for the opportunity to provide an update on my life and ministry. I sincerely appreciate your prayers and support. As a PhD student at Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary, I am in the final phase of my program, working on my dissertation. In addition to my studies, I serve as a part-time assistant librarian at the seminary, which has been both a provision for my family and a valuable opportunity to gain experience. However, the greatest challenge my family and I have faced has been my son Minsol's prolonged medical journey. Last year, he was hospitalized for six months, most of that time in the ICU in a very critical condition. We are deeply thankful that the Lord sustained him and enabled us to bring him home. Yet, caring for him remains difficult, as he continues to require ventilator support and has other ongoing medical concerns. We pray continually for God's special intervention in his life. My family and I are members of Southfield RP Church, where we have been greatly blessed by the congregation's faithful support. Due to the distance, however, we have been worshiping at Reformation OPC under Pastor Dr. Noe. I had been preaching once a month until 2023 in various congregations, but last year, due to Minsol's condition, I was barely able to do so. Lord willing, I hope to resume preaching more frequently this spring, along with my translation and publication ministry, as long as Minsol's health allows. At this point, it is difficult to anticipate what the future holds for my ministry and our family. My wife and I are seeking opportunities to remain in the United States for Minsol's ongoing medical care, if the Lord wills. We would deeply appreciate your prayers regarding many matters — his health, our financial situation, my studies, ministry opportunities, employment, and immigration status. I am truly grateful for your prayers and the fellowship we share in the gospel. May the Lord continue to bless and guide our presbytery in the work of His kingdom.

Retired

Jack Baumgardner- My wife and I celebrated being married 50 years on June 15th of 2024. We are members of Second Reformed Presbyterian church. I preached at Second RP in December of 2024. I preached at Marion Reformed Presbyterian church August of 2024 and I preached at Terre Haute Preformed Presbyterian church on January, 19th of 2025. I am open to preaching at other Reformed Presbyterian churches. We live at 8380 E. C. R. 200 N. Avon IN 46123. My phone number is 317-502-8245 and my email address is jackb51462@gmail.com.

Rich Johnston - I appreciate the care and oversight of our Candidates and Credentials Committee during my retired years. I have performed little preaching during 2024 because I have dedicated myself to help care for my 99 year old mother-in-law, Betty Butler. Betty came to live with us four years ago but is declining. I have decided not to accept any preaching requests out of town. Betty is my priority because she is now in hospice care, still living in our home. Other ministries I continue in, because I am able to serve them via Zoom. I remain chairman of the RPWA Disabilities Ministry Committee. We accomplished much at the RP International Conference in Marion, Indiana conducting six workshops ministering to the needs of the disabled and their families. I spoke at some and directed others. Our committee also provided wheelchairs and campus-wide transportation needs. I continue active in leading Friendship Bible study, a weekly meeting of adults with disabilities in which we provide fellowship, I teach the Friendship Bible to about 20 adults with disabilities, and I lead a small group Bible study. I also continue on the Board of Directors of ULICAF, a ministry in Liberia. Donald Cassell is greatly used in his home country of Liberia. I partner with him in leading a campus ministry on the campus at LICC College. I continue in other local boards and committees. Thank you for your encouragement of our family in this most difficult time!

Ray Lanning - Rev. and Mrs. Ray B. Lanning continue to enjoy good health and their life in Grand Rapids. Mrs. Lanning is not yet fully retired, but she has cut back her work week from three days to two, as an RN at Catherine's Care Center, serving the uninsured and underinsured citizens of Grand Rapids. In August 2024, our complement of grandchildren suddenly increased from 9 to 14, when our son James married a lovely lady, Sarah Brown of Grand Rapids, and became stepfather to her 5 children. In God's providential kindness, it fell to me to solemnize this marriage. We have enjoyed getting to know and love all these new members of our family circle. On a sadder note, after more than 10 years, we Lannings are no longer attending services in the Free Reformed Church of Grand Rapids. We have cast in our lot with Providence Reformed Church, a Psalm-singing congregation with a very faithful and able Dutch minister, Rev. Johan Pronk; but we cannot join as members because the congregation is affiliated with the Reformed Church in America. So we must live as strangers and pilgrims on earth, even regarding our church connection. "For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come" (Heb. 13:14). We grieve over the present divided, compromised state of the church in our city and our nation, and can only pray, "If with love compassionate, we Thy servants mourn her state, wilt not Thou, O gracious Lord, help in Zion's need afford?" (Psalm 102, The Psalter, 1912, No. 272). Our comfort is the promise given in Psalm 125:3: "The rod of the wicked shall not rest upon the lot of the righteous; lest the righteous put forth their hands unto iniquity."

R. Paul Mathews - Paul & Janet reside in Gaylord, MI where they are near their family. No longer able to travel any distance due to age & infirmities, they livestream the Elkhart, IN RPC Sabbath morning worship (where they are non-resident communicant members). "How lovely is your dwelling, O Lord of Hosts! My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the LORD; my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God." "Blessed are those who dwell in your house, ever singing your praise. Selah." Psalm 84:1,2,4 (ESV) Paul

endeavors to maintain his habit of reading Biblical and Reformed literature, and a daily time of methodical intercessory prayer. Thank you for praying for us.

Glenn McFarland - Glen said that he would say the same thing this year as last. He joked, "Just tell them I am still alive." However, in all seriousness, Glenn has had some up and downs with his physical health in 2024, falling off his stationary bike, another fall and also some respiratory infections. He and Jean are faithful in attending morning worship traveling a significant distance to be there. They are faithful in prayer and often send messages of encouragement to members during the week. They continue to model well how to grow old in Christ with joy and diligence.

Jim McMahan - Jim continues to attend the Southside congregation most Lord's day mornings. He laments his declining energy, but he remains a cheerful and encouraging presence in our community, living a half-mile from the church and regularly finding folks in his daily orbit with whom to speak about our Savior. In addition, Jim often visits the pastors mid week to pray with and for them. He no longer does any preaching, but up until very recently was leading a Bible study at the senior residence where he lives.

Ray Morton - [We did not receive an update from him.]

Jim Pennington - During 2024, Jim administered a special communion service which was planned for to include senior members of ORPC unable to attend a regular morning Communion Service. Jim also preached a table address length sermon. Jim continues to keep busy "in retirement" keeping in touch with member and friends of the church family, especially fellow and sister seniors. This communication has been primarily via phone calls and emails, and sometimes in person preceding and following morning worship service. Jim is thankful to be able to participate in morning worship with his church family on most Sabbaths.

Tom Reid - I continue to serve the Gainesville Reformed Presbyterian Fellowship, a preaching station under the authority of the Orlando RPC, where my wife Geneviève and I are members. I have preached almost every week, finished a series on Genesis 1-11, and started a new series on the Epistle to the Hebrews, about half done now. Once a month, I am preaching through the Psalms, having covered Psalms 24 through 34 in the past year. I lead a Wednesday night Bible Study, which meets in our condo, in which we concluded 130 studies in the Westminster Confession and RPCNA Testimony, and have just started a study of Prayer, using the Westminster Shorter Catechism and the Heidelberg Catechism discussions of the Lord's Prayer. I administered the Lord's Supper in the Orlando RPC in May. I do a lot of counseling. We have had some encouragements this past year and are considering moving to a more public location. Because of various chronic health issues, I have been unable to attend presbytery or synod, but we did make it to RPIC.

Bill Roberts - During 2024, I was able to preach 7 times in 6 different congregations, all in Indiana. In one of those congregations I preached morning and evening. Although at times blocked by bureaucracy, I maintained contact with two inmates on the federal death row in Terre Haute. Both men were part of the 37 whose sentences were commuted by President Biden and who are also subject to an Executive Order by President Trump. It remains to be seen whether Bill will be able to continue to visit with them.

Frank Schutz- Over the past year I have published my first Novel entitled "The Traveler: Quest for the Twins." It is a fantasy novel which I believe the Lord wanted me to publish. It is the first in a planned trilogy. As a High Fantasy novel, it is not specifically intended

as a Christian book or an apologetic, but I have written from my view of the world and my hope is that it will cause some to think about spiritual things when they would not otherwise do so. It was published last June and has garnered high praise in professional reviews such as a Kirkus review. I might also mention that I just signed a contract to get the second book ("The Traveler: Quest for the Sword") Published perhaps around next fall. I have not preached or taught any Sabbath School classes for a long while, however, I did officiate the Lord's Supper at Grace OPC when one of their pastors suddenly fell sick. I have attended services at Belle Center about four times this past year where I truly enjoy worshiping and especially singing the Psalms. Otherwise, as I have done since my wife and I moved to Columbus, OH in 1995, I have worshiped at Grace OPC here in Columbus except when attending Belle Center, traveling or when I was sick or some other such reason for not being able to attend. I am hoping to begin teaching a set of courses meant particularly for teaching theology to regular Christians. By that I mean it is not meant to replace Seminary or even to prepare someone for going on for a theological education. It is meant rather to help any church member who wants to better understand the biblical teaching of the Reformed Churches. I tentatively plan to call the series of courses "A Taste of Theology: Theology for Everyone." I hope that I can begin teaching this some time in the next year or so. Grace OPC session has agreed that I can invite members of Grace to attend the courses. I also hope that I might be able to make these available on line in some way. Grace has also asked if I would be willing to fill the pulpit for local OPC Churches. This is due to the fact that, though they currently have three Teaching Elders, their work load is still very heavy and they often get requests to fill pulpits for other Churches in the area. I have agreed to do this and hope to have opportunities to do this in the coming year. I am still somewhat limited by my health (primarily my Asthma which is especially a problem in the cold weather). Nevertheless, I am relatively healthy and can expect to be able to begin doing more than I have been able to do in the past few years. I am also active in serving members of Grace Church in whatever ways I can.

Steven Work - In 2024, the Lord has allowed me to supply the pulpit 19 times in 5 congregations. Presbytery has continued my assignment as moderator of the Atlanta Temporary Governing Body (Atlanta, GA). I serve on the session of Southwest Ohio RP Church (Mason, OH) as a ruling elder. At our quarterly Lord's Suppers, I prepare and present a table address.

Jim Wright - Jim is now 84 and continues to be housed at the Lake Bennett Center for Rehabilitation and Healing. Jim continues to enjoy his friendships there and occasional visits from family (his daughter, Stephanie, and Steve Garrow (Deacon), Mason and Emily (grandson and granddaughter). The congregation has been regularly visiting with a small group of members to sing the Psalms together with him, and often some other residents, which he appreciates. He is experiencing continuing signs of dementia, some confusion and memory loss, but is still functional. He was able to attend and participate in the special communion service held in the Fall.

Appendices are on the electronic copy: [https://glgpsbytery.org/uploads/2025-spring/C&CC Report to Presbytery - Spring 2025.pdf](https://glgpsbytery.org/uploads/2025-spring/C&CC%20Report%20to%20Presbytery%20-%20Spring%202025.pdf)

The moderator announced recess until 4:25pm.

Rev. Rich Holdeman rose for a point of personal privilege explaining some of the amenities of the building and welcoming us to the Bloomington church.

The court was called back to order at 4:26pm. The moderator then announced the committees of the day. The committees are as follows:

The Pattillo Systematics 1 examination was not sustained. The roll call vote resulted in 23 yeses and 13 nos. The exam requires a 2/3 majority to be sustained.

The membership committee report was given by Rev. Philip McCollum. The assistant clerk—who served as the previous moderator—filled the moderator’s position. The report is as follows:

As a committee we have been interacting with members on the roll of Presbytery who were originally from Christ Church RPC and First RPC of Grand Rapids, both of which were dissolved in 2022. The remaining four members of the First RPC Grand Rapids have been transferred or removed from the membership roll. One family and one individual have been transferred from what was Christ Church RPC.

Those currently on the roll of Presbytery:

Enas: Nathan, Ginny, Lydia

Swan: Kevin, Rachelle, Solomon, Eden

Brown: Todd, Cindy

We have been in recent contact with each of these families and they regularly attending a church.

Your committee recommends the following:

1. That the Nominating Committee appoint one new member to our committee. Philip McCollum and Chris Stockwell plan to continue serving. Josh Smith is stepping down.
2. That this report be approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Philip McCollum
Josh Smith
Chris Stockwell

Motion by Rev. McCollum “to remove the remaining names on the presbytery roll: Enas, Ginny, Lydia, Swan, Kevin, Rachelle, Solomon, Eden Brown, Todd, Cindy.” The motion was seconded. Discussion ensued.

A qualifying amendment was made by Rev. Adam Kuehner: “To dismiss the above effective June 1, 2025.” The amendment was seconded then withdrawn.

Back to the original motion of removing the names from the roll: The motion carries. The names on the membership committee will be removed. The clerk will inform them of this decision.

It was noted that a replacement on the membership committee will be needed due to the potential need following the Hetheron report. By common consent the report was approved.

The moderator prayed for recess at 5:27pm in the name Christ, the king and head of the church.

The court was called back to order at 6:45pm with the singing of Psalm 102A from the *Book of Psalms for Worship*. Rev. Frank Smith prayed in name of Christ, the king and head of the church, for the evening work of the court.

Rev. Niess continued the C&CC report by introducing Mr. TJ Pattillo for his Expository Sermon I examination. Mr. Pattillo read from First John 3 with attention to verses 11-18. He preached his

examination sermon and then ended with an appropriate prayer.

The moderator called for questions from the floor. Following questions, the roll call vote was taken. The roll call vote is recorded above. The assistant clerk announced that it was a unanimous examination.

Mr. McCollum called for the Home Mission Board representative to present his report. Mr. Joshua Smith gave that report and the report is as follows:

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,

Joshua Smith

There were no recommendations. There were no questions. The report was approved. Elder John Kim stood to pray for the work of the Home Mission Board, the 11 open congregations, and works of church planting and evangelism in the RPCNA.

The moderator took a point of personal privilege. Mr. Joel Hart was thanked for his service and labors as moderator last year. The court gave a round of applause and presented him with a copy of Dr. Stephen Myers's book *God With Us: Covenant Theology in Scripture*.

Rev. Adam Niess introduced Jonathan Park, a pre-seminary student intern at Lafayette church. The court gave a round of applause in welcoming Mr. Park.

The Geneva College report was presented by Rev. Phil Pockras. The report is as follows:

Dear brothers:

I am reporting to you again as your nominee to Synod to serve on the Board of Corporators of Geneva College. I continue to serve with two other Corporators from our Presbytery, elected by Synod: Dr. Kenneth de Jong of our Bloomington congregation and Session, and Mr. Scott Reynolds, also of our Bloomington congregation. Both men also serve as Trustees. Dr. Richard Holdeman currently serves on the Trustees, as well. The current Chair of the Corporators' Board of Trustees is Mr. Joel Silverman of our Southside congregation. Dr. de Jong serves as the Chair of the Academic Affairs committee of the Trustees.

To refresh you, the Board of Corporators has twelve members, all elected by Synod. Each of the North American Presbyteries have nominees to Synod, with Synod's Nominating Committee nominating the others. All must be members in good standing in the RPCNA. We each serve four-year terms. The Corporators are the legal owners of the College. They are the members of the Corporation chartered by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The Corporators' main tasks, under the Bylaws it originates, are to govern the College through a Board of Trustees it has created and whose members it elects, to elect a President of the College, to steward the Bylaws, and maintain a strong connection to the Synod of the RPCNA. The Board does its governing through the Trustees, who operate the College on the Corporators' behalf. Half of the Corporators serve as Trustees, as well, maintaining liaison between the Boards and allowing Synod, in effect, to have direct placement of some Trustees. Dr. de Jong and Mr. Reynolds are examples.

To remind you, the website for the College is at www.geneva.edu. Much information is at that site on all sorts of matters pertaining to the College.

Previously, there was great concern about enrollments, which had, as in many institutions of higher learning around the country, been in decline for several years; however, the incoming class in fall of 2024 is nearly 100 students larger than the previous two classes, and this trend is continuing in projections for the class in fall of 2025. In addition, retention rates have been strong, which bodes well for the college. As with most institutions of higher education, Geneva's finances are heavily tuition-dependent. The enrollment challenge is due in part to the birthrate going down all over the country, including the main regions from which prospective Geneva College students come, partly because there is a seeming cultural change in seeing the desirability of higher education, and partly because of a strong tendency towards homogenization of students who are increasingly targeting large state universities. Nonetheless, due to prayer and fine work from the college's admissions department, we are thankful that the current freshman class and the new incoming class for next year have grown so much. Further, the growth in freshman enrollment is much better than the majority of both Christian and secular private schools are experiencing. As in any situation of this sort, a sudden surge in enrollment brings on "growing pains", but these are being worked through as they appear.

In Bible Department matters, the funding for preparing Rutledge Etheridge for work as a professor has come through, and he is nearly done with his doctoral studies at Westminster. The College secured the Rev. Zach Kail to be the new head of the Bible

Department. He has formerly been the minister of the Broomall congregation near Philadelphia, and more recently, a minister in the Greek Evangelical Church of Cyprus. We, as a Presbytery, need to continue praying for God to raise up men for this vital mission of our church. Relevant to this is the ongoing chapel program. It continues to go well. Sermons are now about 20 minutes and a testimony time is included each week. Both are appreciated by the students. Further, a Sabbath evening prayer and praise time has become popular. It is at 9 PM so as not to compete with local church evening services.

There are other faculty and staff positions open at the College that you can find at [geneva.edu/employment](https://www.geneva.edu/employment). Please pray for God's provision of these needed people.

Many of you may have heard about the valuable property along the banks of the Beaver River, contiguous with College property, that has been donated to Geneva. As the property includes a very large and almost new facility, amenable to many different uses, there is much optimism about the new property's usefulness to the College's mission.

Capital campaigns continue to do well, supporting the construction of a new facility to be used for supporting enrollment and admissions, as well as outreach to schools and churches with the concepts of Biblical education. The finances of the College are not dependent on the campaign, mainly due to the aforementioned enrollment situation, but the campaign is allowing for capital improvements on campus, as well as supporting initiatives in developing the college's focus on the integration of the Biblical faith into all areas of life, as well as increasing the strength of the endowment. In addition, there is no long-term debt, as long-term notes have been paid off several years ago. Giving is strong to the annual fund, and the campaign is progressing well.

One new development, announced to apply to students beginning this academic year, was the "Geneva Tuition Promise". The College launched the Geneva Tuition Promise: a continued commitment to the affordability and accessibility of quality independent Christian higher education. The Geneva Tuition Promise is a future commitment to students, beginning with the incoming freshman class of 2024, that all eligible Pennsylvania students from families with income less than \$70,000 annually will pay no undergraduate tuition at Geneva College. Specific details and eligibility requirements can be found on the Geneva Tuition Promise page. There is need for prayer for this initiative, as much depends on a prompt publishing of the new FAFSA forms. Without their publication by the federal government, this program cannot be implemented. The sooner that the new forms can be available, the sooner the risk of losing students to Grove City or to Hillsdale is reduced.

Another development mentioned last year is the Center for Faith and Life. You can learn further about it at <https://www.geneva.edu/cfl/>. To quote College Provost Dr. Melinda Stephens, "The Center for Faith and Life will allow us to strengthen and share the work that has long been a foundation of our academic program to prepare our students for vocations that honor God and neighbor." There are many professedly Christian colleges and universities that claim to integrate faith with their academic disciplines and campus life, but few truly do. Most, at best, have Christianity in conjunction with academia. Geneva seeks better and better actually to integrate a Biblical foundation to all the areas of teaching and scholarship, which makes it more and more unusual in the current mix of colleges and universities. The College is seeking special relationships with Christian schools that will benefit both these high school students as they seek a college or university education, and our college as well. The new Welcome Center, sited near the front entrance to the College, has had groundbreaking and is proceeding. There were concerns about building according to

original plans, since prices for labor and materials had jumped with inflation. With improved finances, work is now proceeding.

Finally, in the June meeting, the Board elected Trustees. This recent meeting took time to discuss possible candidates for new members of both Trustees and Corporators, as well as incumbents whose terms are about to expire – like me.

Synod reelected me to this Board two years ago, from your nomination, so that I have nearly three years left in this latest term. I have served our Presbytery, our Synod, and our College this way since 1998, and I thank Presbytery for its nominations. I again thank you for your confidence in me. I continue blessed in serving you in this way.

Respectfully submitted,
Philip H. Pockras (with help from Kenneth de Jong)

There were some comments and questions from the floor. The report was received.

Two men within the Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery serve as chaplains. Rev. Phil Pockras presented his report and it is as follows:

In addition to serving as pastor at the Belle Center, OH, RPC, I serve as a volunteer chaplain as part of the chaplain staff at the Mary Rutan Hospital, a regional hospital in Bellefontaine, Ohio. Currently there are five men so serving.

Duties: As part of the volunteer hospital chaplain staff, I provide religious and other support for all the hospital, not merely patients and families. This has been my primary responsibility. As the longest serving ordained chaplain, I have recruited one other chaplain and have been seeking to encourage the other chaplains to seek further education in their chaplain work. I normally spend one week per month as the on-call chaplain. I must be available around the clock beginning at 0000 on Sabbath until 2400 on the following Saturday. As well, I do rounds from Monday through Friday to see patients who request a visit. I frequently visit with nursing and other staff to see if they need my service.

Ministry Update: This last year I have continued to study medical and bioethics. I remain endorsed by the Presbyterian and Reformed Chaplain Commission, and I am seeking ways to be able to take units of Clinical Pastoral Education in order, eventually, to become board certified as a hospital chaplain. The PRCC wants its chaplains to keep their ministry oversight judicatories aware of their work, which is why I am submitting this report.

Blessings: My trip to Mary Rutan Hospital from home normally takes about 15 minutes. During that time I am often praying that I will be a blessing to all with whom I meet. I frequently receive blessing. In January, I was asked by a patient how to be right with God. I shared the gospel, of course. This was entirely new and overwhelming to him. As far as I know he came to Christ. Just this week, as I'm writing, I received a call from the hospital to come down, if I could, to visit with a patient who wanted to talk. This elderly man wanted to share with me the blessings God had given him in his 90+ years. My grade and high school French was yet useful, as I could converse a little with him in French, although his English was great. The man had lived in Algeria, in France, and in the USA. What obvious providential care his Father in Heaven had extended to him! The upshot of these stories is that often, as I'm walking over to my car, I'm praying gratefully for the blessing, unasked-for, that our Father gave to me.

Challenges: The only challenges, currently, are certain limitations on my visitation with patients. I am only allowed to visit patients when asked for. I misunderstood this early in my work and began visiting with family members in waiting rooms and in other places. I was gently instructed not to do this further.

Prayer Requests: Please pray with me that I would be a blessing to patients, families, staff, and even administration and board. Pray that, through me, the Light of the world would shine forth!

He also shared a couple of exciting stories about his work as a chaplain. The court gave a round of applause for the work that God is doing through the chaplain ministry.

Rev. Fearing presented an oral report on his work as a military chaplain. Mr. Fearing is endorsed by the The Presbyterian and Reformed Commission on Chaplains and Military Personnel (PRCC). Mr. Fearing asked for the court's prayers in relationship to bearing fruit in his labors.

The reports were received. Elder Woodson prayed for the work of the chaplains.

The Sparta Reports were next taken up. Rev. Pockras noted that the AIC de-committed the visitation committee. Rev. Anderson then gave the Shepherding Committee report. After several minutes of oral discussion questions were taken from the floor. The Shepherding Committee report is before you:

On November 20, 2023, the AIC appointed a Shepherding Committee for the Sparta RPC session "to provide counsel regarding the operations and relationships within the Sparta RPC session." On May 30, 2024, our committee reported on our progress by outlining both short term and long-term goals. We advised the Sparta session to reach out to the Vital Churches Committee for a strategic and actionable plan to enhance congregational vision, spiritual care, and development. Additionally, we aimed to address conflict resolution in critical areas of disagreement between Pastor Ross Fearing and Elder James Odom. Finally, we requested that the AIC appoint a provisional elder to strengthen the session.

In July, we identified their first major area of division: Sabbath Day responsibilities. Our discussion focused on:

1. What tasks need to be accomplished on the Lord's Day,
2. What each elder is responsible for performing, and
3. What steps should be followed if an elder cannot fulfill his duties.

After initial written communication on these questions, we met in August for a productive and unifying discussion. Following the meeting, we posed three follow-up questions, to which only Elder Bill Wilson responded right away:

1. What was helpful or unexpected in the meeting tonight?
2. What did you want us to talk about that we missed?
3. What topic would you like to discuss next? (With the understanding that we were not promising to take up every suggested topic.)

In September, Ross wrote a theological paper addressing one of the divisive issues between him and Mr. Odom. He submitted it to the session and requested approval for its submission to the Presbytery. However, Shawn reached out to Ross to discuss how this action bypassed the agreed-upon conflict resolution plan. Ross agreed. On

October 1, during our next joint meeting, Ross withdrew his paper. He then highlighted what he perceived as the larger issue within Sparta RPC: that several members (11 in total) had offenses against James Odom. He stated that he had encouraged these members to communicate with James and vice versa. However, he expressed that his main conflicts with James arose from addressing the offenses of these members. James objected to Ross reframing their dispute as a broader congregational issue rather than a personal conflict between the two of them. Elder Bill Wilson provided examples of James' public behavior, prompting James to become self-reflective and even apologize to Bill and Ross for a particular incident. We clarified that our scope was "to provide counsel regarding the operations and relationships within the Sparta RPC session." We were not authorized to investigate complaints within the congregation, but we endeavored to offer advice as brothers.

On October 4, we met again and outlined several potential paths forward for both James and Ross individually, as well as for the session as a whole. James and Ross mutually agreed that it would be beneficial to conduct a performance review within the congregation to see if any of the alleged offenses naturally emerged through that process. We provided a sample review for them to modify as they deemed appropriate. From James's perspective, the conflict remained a personal dispute between him and Ross, similar to the "sharp disagreement" seen between Paul and Barnabas in Acts 15:36-41. On October 22, James formally requested to be dismissed in order to unite with another true branch of the visible Church, Mustard Seed Church of Mascoutah, Illinois. The Sparta session informed our committee that they planned to discuss and decide on this request on Saturday, October 26. That day, they officially dismissed the Odoms as requested.

Conclusion: Our committee was tasked with providing counsel regarding the operations and relationships within the Sparta RPC session, and we sought to do so in a manner that was impartial, constructive, and faithful to our mandate. While the process revealed underlying tensions and differing perspectives on leadership and shepherding, it also facilitated important conversations and efforts toward resolution. Ultimately, the situation resulted in James Odom's decision to seek membership elsewhere, which the session honored. While this outcome was not the original goal of our work, it does mark a definitive resolution to a long-standing conflict. We pray for the continued health and unity of Sparta RPC, for Ross and Bill as they continue in leadership, and for James and his family as they transition to a new church home. May the Lord use these challenges to refine His church and bring about greater peace and faithfulness in all involved.

Recommendation: That our committee be dismissed.

Grace and Peace,
Shawn Anderson, Russ Pulliam, and Jon Sturm

The one recommendation carried. The moderator added, "with thanks."

Clerk's Note: As the meeting Minutes move into congregational reports, the full congregational reports are available on the Great Lakes Gulf website: <https://glgpresbytery.org/2025-spring-mtg-bloomington-rpc/>

Rev. Fearing gave the Sparta Congregational report. Prayer requests include needing more people in worship. The congregation is in need of increased finances. Several questions from the floor were asked and answered. Mr. Timothy Vincze rose to pray for the Sparta congregation.

The moderator asked to move to the Terre Haute reports. Rev. Whitla made the following motion: "Presbytery table the Rhoda Shepherding committee report to precede the Rhoda judicial report." The motion carried. The Terre Haute Reports will be heard at a later date.

The court then moved to hearing other congregational session reports:

Rev. Shawn Anderson gave the Kokomo report. He highlighted several areas in the life of the congregation. He also spoke of several of the challenges within the congregation. Mr. Schisler prayed for Kokomo. Rev. Jonathan Sturm asked for further explanation for the incident noted in the Clerk's Report: "More seriously, and Presbytery should take note, is Minute #3 of the October 26 meeting, where several members of the Benjamin Manring family, formerly of the Southside Indianapolis RPC, adherents of the Sycamore RPC at the time of the Session meeting, were allowed to commune although confessedly not members of an evangelical church, as directed by the Directory for Worship 3.11." Mr. Anderson gave rationale for the decision.

Rev. Dick Knodel gave the Mason, OH; Southwest, Ohio (SWORP) congregation report. He spoke about the life of the church as well as the beginning of a plan for their next pastor. The report was received. Rev. Jerry Foltz prayed for the work of SWORP Church.

The Southside report was given by Mr. Ross Cerbus. Mr. Cerbus noted the retirement of two elders and a deacon. He also highlighted several other areas of interest, including positive conversation around the preaching of the Word. Several other areas of discipleship and growth were also discussed. There were no questions from the floor. The report was received.

The moderator called for the singing of Psalm 121A. Mr. Jonathan Sturm prayed the prayer of recess at 8:57pm.

March 7, 2025

The court reconvened on March 7, 2025 at 8:29am with the singing of Psalm 120A from the *Book of the Psalms for Worship*. Mr. Timothy Vincze continues to serve as precentor. The moderator then prayed, constituting us in the name of Christ the king and head of the church.

Rev. Adam Niess continued the C&CC report with an introduction of Mr. John Punt. Mr. Punt approached the pulpit, commented on, and then read from the 120th Psalm. Mr. Punt prayed for illumination on the hearts of the hearers and then proceeded to preach as his Expository Sermon 1 examination. The court then stood to sing Psalm 84B.

Visual attendance was taken by the assistance clerk, noted in the roll at the beginning of these minutes.

The previous minutes were read and approved by the clerk.

A point of personal privilege was granted to Rev. Dick Knodel asking that Rev. Steven Work be excused from the meeting due to a family emergency. The moderator excused Mr. Work from the meeting.

The court then proceeded to comment on the preaching examination of Mr. Punt, according to our examination schedule. The assistant clerk called a roll call vote. The examination was sustained unanimously. Mr. Punt was congratulated.

Rev. Phil Pockras gave Mr. John Punt the Systematics Theology 1 examination. It is a 20/10/5 examination. Following the examination the court proceeded to further questions from the floor.

The roll call vote is recorded above. The examination was sustained.

The court took a break at 10:11am. At 10:28am the court was called back to order with the singing of Psalm 16D. The moderator prayed for the work of the meeting.

Mr. Adam Niess was welcomed back to the podium to continue the C&CC report. We moved to a roll call vote for Mr. Punt's licensure to preach. The roll call vote was taken and it was announced that the examination was sustained unanimously. Mr. Rich Holdeman proceeded to ask the queries for licensure to preach. Mr. Punt answered affirmatively and the query book was signed. Mr. Philip McCollum prayed for Mr. Punt.

A charge was given to Mr. Punt from 2 Timothy 3 by Rev. Adam Niess. It was noted by Mr. Niess that:

1. The Bible is God's Word.
2. The Bible is necessary for salvation.
3. The Bible is necessary for sanctification.
4. The Bible must be preached.

Mr. Niess informed Mr. Punt, according to the Directory of Church Government (D-14), was not allowed to pronounce the benediction, perform marriages, or administer the sacraments.

The Southfield report was given by Rev. Adam Kuehner. He highlighted the growth that Southfield has experienced. He also noted the ordination and installation of new deacons. Mr. Kuehner finished a book while on sabbatical: *Twenty-Five Questions for Roman Catholics* available through Berith Press. There were no questions and Mr. McKissick prayed in thanks for the work at Southfield Church.

The Selma session report was given by Mr. Averette Woodson. He highlighted the obstacles of rebuilding as well as the blessings of Cornerstone Presbyterian (EPC) in providing them with a chapel to worship in. The floor was opened for questions and clarifications. Several questions related to future viability were asked. It was also noted by Mr. Woodson that some of the historic archives and minutes of Selma Church are in possession of Rev. Tom Gray which were removed when he left Selma several years ago. The clerk will reach out to Mr. Gray to retrieve those items. The recommendation for Mr. Niess to continue as moderator carried. Mr. Pockras rose to pray for the work of the Selma congregation.

We moved to the Terre Haute reports. Rev. Jerry Foltz presented the Rhoda Shepherding Committee Report. There was a motion that the court go into executive session during the Terre Haute Reports. The motion carried.

Executive session began at 11:16am and we rose from executive session at 12:30pm.

The Terre Haute Shepherding Report is as follows:

On January 10, 2025, the Ad Interim Commission (AIC) received news that Reverend Stephen Rhoda had tendered his resignation to the Terre Haute Reformed Presbyterian Church. In response, the AIC met with the elders of Terre Haute RPC on January 13, 2025, to discuss the pastoral relationship. During this meeting, the AIC was informed of Pastor Rhoda's struggle with excessive drinking and that his wife, Mary, had left the

home. On January 15, 2025, Pastor Rhoda was admitted to the hospital, where he began detoxing. He was released on January 18th and has remained sober since that time. Recognizing the need for ongoing shepherding and support, the AIC established the Rhoda-Terre Haute Shepherding Committee on January 21st to minister to Reverend Rhoda, the Rhoda family, and the Terre Haute congregation. The shepherding committee met on January 27, 2025, to determine a path forward in supporting Steve and Mary Rhoda, as well as the congregation. The committee concluded that it would be beneficial for Steve to consider a 30-day in-patient treatment program and for both Steve and Mary to pursue personal and marital counseling. Financial support options were also explored in case they became necessary. On January 28, 2025, the AIC officially received Reverend Stephen Rhoda's resignation, dissolved the pastoral relationship with the Terra Haute RPC, and appointed an ad interim moderator for the session.

Current Updates

The committee is pleased to report that Steve has remained sober since his release from the hospital in January. He has expressed a strong determination to abstain from alcohol, stating that he has no desire to return to drinking. His progress has been encouraging, as he continues to regain physical and spiritual strength. David Hanson recently met with Steve and was greatly encouraged by his humility and willingness to take ownership of his sin. Ken De Jong, after meeting with Steve, similarly noted Steve's openness in acknowledging the harm he has caused and his determination to seek repentance. Pastor Rhoda now regrets having submitted his resignation to Terre Haute RPC and does not wish to resign his ordination. Instead, he desires to continue seeking the Lord's grace and restoration, trusting in God's timing for any future ministry opportunities. While Steve has opted not to enroll in an in-patient or out-patient treatment program, he has begun attending weekly counseling sessions at the Christian Counseling Center in Terre Haute. Additionally, he participates in Celebrate Recovery group meetings twice a week. The session of Terre Haute RPC has approved payment of Steve's outstanding ministry expenses and has also extended a financial gift equivalent to his full salary and housing allowance for the month of February. The session further reports that the congregation appears to be coping well with the transition. To assist with counseling costs, the Benefits Board has approved a \$750 grant.

Challenges and Needs

The Rhoda's are currently unemployed and seeking the Lord's guidance for future employment opportunities. As of the writing of this report, it remains uncertain whether Pastor Rhoda will qualify for severance benefits from the Benefits Board. While Steve appears to be making significant progress in his personal recovery, his marriage remains strained and there is work to be done. Continued prayer and support will be necessary as they navigate this difficult season.

Recommendations

We recommend that this committee remain in place to continue providing encouragement, counsel, and accountability to Reverend Stephen Rhoda. Ongoing shepherding is important as he continues in his recovery and seeks the Lord's direction for the future. Additionally, we propose providing a follow-up report on Steve's progress at the June meeting of Presbytery.

Conclusion

It is our earnest plea that the presbytery remain in fervent prayer for Steve and Mary Rhoda, as well as the Terre Haute congregation, during this challenging time. May the Lord grant wisdom, healing, and restoration according to His perfect will.

Respectfully submitted,
Jerry Foltz (Chair)
David Hanson
Kenneth De Jong
Josh Reshey

The recommendation to continue carried. The report was received.

We then considered the Rhoda Judicial Committee. The report was given by David Whitla and is as follows:

The Rhoda judicial committee of the day was charged with a twofold task of investigation and recommendation: (1) “to investigate the severity of the circumstances surrounding Reverend Stephen Rhoda’s resignation” in view of “his excessive drunkenness, hospitalization and marital problems” and (2) report back at this meeting of Presbytery whether formal charges should be brought against him and any recommendations regarding his ministerial standing in light of the qualifications from 1Tim.3:2-4 and Titus 1:6-7.” Our report is as follows:

Investigation:

The Severity of the Case: Conscious of the limitations of “investigating” such a complex and sensitive matter as a day committee, we interviewed representatives of the Rhoda-Terre Haute Shepherding Committee (Ken de Jong) and the Terre Haute RPC session (Josh Reshey) to acquaint us with “the severity of the circumstances” – but also with the positive subsequent developments. In the interests of ensuring a pastoral context for our judicial report, we requested that the court hear first the report of the Terre Haute shepherding committee. The gravity of Mr Rhoda’s sin having already been summarized in the Shepherding Committee report, and confirmed by our interviews with the counseling parties, we judge this case to be one of *fama clamosa*, i.e., “a public report ... that is widespread, persistent, commonly known, and has the appearance of credibility” (BD II.1.4 [E-9]). The “public report” of Mr. Rhoda’s sins and their consequences may be summarized as follows:

- A pattern of “immoderate use of drink” (WLC 136, (B-28)) leading to “enslavement to alcohol” (RPT 26.5 [A-92]) in breach of the sixth commandment, necessitating hospitalization and counseling.
- Consequent conflict with his family (though no abuse is reported), leading to the present separation from his wife.
- Though never obviously intoxicated in the course of his public ministry, the physical and mental impacts of his addiction were clearly manifest to the congregation on several occasions in the course of his public ministrations on the Lord’s Day.

Recommendation: Formal charges and ministerial standing:

A disciplinary step already initiated by the session is the request that he desist from preaching the Word. Mr. Rhoda has complied with this request, and his letter of resignation is included on page 32 of the AIC report. While at that time strongly expressing his desire to avoid any disciplinary actions (“hopefully without charges”), we are given to understand that this letter (dated January 10) is not a fair reflection of his current state of mind and repentance. Because the facts of the case are beyond dispute

and in view of the positive recent response to the shepherding care of the session and presbytery, we do not recommend the erection of a new judicial commission to pursue further investigative steps, which have been satisfactorily completed by the Shepherding Committee. Nevertheless, these sins – especially given their public and scandalous nature – are inconsistent with the Biblical requirement of I Timothy 3:2-4, 7 that, “A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behavior ... Not given to wine ... One that rules well his own house... Moreover he must have a good testimony among those who are outside, lest he fall under reproach and the snare of the devil,” and Titus 1:7, “For a bishop must be blameless, as a steward of God; not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine... sober-minded, self-controlled.”

The sad facts of Mr. Rhoda’s sins are not disputed by his session, his family, his congregation, or himself. While we give thanks for evidence of repentance and initial steps towards reconciliation with the aggrieved parties, we submit that Mr. Rhoda’s good standing as an ordained teaching elder of this presbytery has been grievously compromised and necessitates the disciplinary action of this court. “If the sinner confesses and repents, there must be forgiveness and reconciliation, and the matter shall be closed. You have won your brother. Such closure may include counsel or censure appropriate to the circumstances” (BD I.3.3 [E-4]). While positive steps towards “forgiveness and reconciliation” are currently underway, and “counsel ... appropriate to the circumstances” will continue under the oversight of the Shepherding Committee, we nevertheless believe that the grievous public nature of Mr. Rhoda’s sins as a minister of the Gospel are circumstances that call for the censure of suspension, delimited, per the Book of Discipline, to “the temporary exclusion ... from the exercise of ordained office... This becomes necessary when members are guilty of gross sin... ” (BD I.4.1.c [E-5]). (Due to Mr Rhoda’s sincere cooperation with his session and the Shepherding Committee, we do not recommend his suspension to include “the privileges of church membership, including participation in the sacraments.” Cf. Form 30, “Suspension of an Officer” [H-23]) We are reminded that the purposes of church discipline are manifold and redemptive: “primarily, to reclaim a sinning member; then to deter others from similar offenses; to maintain the honor of Christ and the purity and peace of His Church; to maintain the truth of the gospel; and to avoid the wrath of God coming upon the church” (BD I.1.3 [E-3]). To withhold discipline would thus deprive Mr. Rhoda of the proper grounds of his restoration, deprive Christ’s flock of its warning, peace, purity, and Gospel blessing, and deprive the Lord of His honor.

Our prayer for Mr. Rhoda is that his suspension would indeed prove “a temporary exclusion ... from the exercise of ordained office,” knowing that, “The lifting of suspension depends on evidence of repentance” (BD I.4.2.c [E-5]). We continue to pray that the Lord will bless the ongoing pastoral efforts of the Rhoda-Terre Haute Shepherding Committee” to that end.

Recommendations:

1. That presbytery enter executive session for the duration of deliberation on this report.
2. That presbytery issue the censure of suspension upon Mr. Steve Rhoda from the exercise of ordained office (BD I.4.1.c [E-5]). “This censure shall be pronounced by the moderator in constituted court, and in the name of Jesus Christ. The court shall also make the people under its oversight aware publicly of the fact of and reason for the suspension.” (BD I.4.1.c [E-5]).

3. That this committee be dismissed.

Respectfully submitted,
Bruce Bowers, Dave Schisler, David Whitla (chr)

Recommendation 1: The court was already in Executive Session during the duration of the meeting.

Recommendation 2: Motion carries.

The report was received and the committee of the day was dismissed.

The moderator stood in prayer and pronounced the suspension of Rev. Steve Rhoda. The pronouncement:

You, Rev. Steve Rhoda have been found guilty before this Court of the Church of Christ of the sin of a pattern of “immoderate use of drink” (WLC 136, [B-28]) leading to “enslavement to alcohol” (RPT 26.5 [A-92]) in breach of the sixth commandment, necessitating hospitalization and counseling. This Court, therefore, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, suspends you from the office of teaching elder, and forbids you to perform any of the duties belonging to it. This censure shall continue in effect until you have given satisfactory evidence of true repentance, and have been restored to good standing by this Court.

It was noted that this censure does not include a suspension from the sacraments. The moderator, upon recess, will call Mr. Rhoda on the phone to read the suspension and discuss the matter with him.

The court recessed for lunch at 12:35pm. The court reconvened at 1:48pm with the singing of Psalm 100A. Rev. Ross Fearing prayed for the work of the court. Rev. Joel Hart was granted a point of personal privilege concerning reimbursements and noted that the reimbursement form is on the website.

The court then began to discuss the Elkhart reports. Rev. Rich Holdeman gave the Elkhart visitation report:

On February 12th, 2025, the ERPC visitation committee was tasked by the AIC to “meet with [Mr. Mann] and the elders of Elkhart to provide counsel and bring recommendations to the Spring 2025 meeting of presbytery.” On Monday, February 17th, the Visitation Committee met, via Zoom, with Wade and Barb Mann to discuss Mr. Mann’s recent resignation from ERPC. After meeting with the Mann’s for an hour and a half, we met with the ERPC’s ruling elders (Mr. Fikre Menbere and Mr. Robert Daniels) for another hour. Our chairman met via phone call with Mr. Mann one additional time and with one of the session members (Mr. Menbere) two additional times. We note with thanks the clear love of the Mann’s for ERPC and the session, and the session’s love of, and support for the Mann’s. In fact, the session went out of its way to express its appreciation and gratitude for the self-sacrificial labors of the Mann’s while in Elkhart and their great service to the congregation.

Recommendations: Noting particularly (1) Mr. Mann’s discouragement and fatigue in ministry, (2) his desire to potentially serve his aging parents in Quinter, KS, and (3) his desire to address his ministerial fatigue via Christian counseling, we recommend the following:

1. That Mr. Mann be given five minutes to address the court.
2. That the GLG Presbytery accept Mr. Mann's resignation, with thanks to God for his years of faithful ministry there.
3. That ERPC provide the Mann's with at least 3 months of severance, with supplemental support from the GLG Presbytery and Synod, if necessary.
4. That Mr. Mann pursue Christian counseling with Twelve Stones Biblical Counseling (or another, qualified counseling program), particularly addressing his ministerial fatigue and potential future ministry. We encourage Mr. Mann to apply for the "Counseling and Care for Pastors" grant through the RP Synod's Benefits Board, and if, there is a need that goes beyond the grant, to make that need known to the members of this committee.

Respectfully,
Rich Holdeman, chair
John Kim
Jonathan Sturm

Rev. Wade Mann addressed the court speaking about I Peter 5:6-7 and what the Lord has been teaching him through these words:

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

Mr. Mann gave a rationale for his decision for resignation. Following Mr. Mann's speech, Mr. Holdeman continued with the report.

The second recommendation was to accept the resignation of Mr. Mann. Several comments from the floor were heard. The motion carried.

Recommendation three: Carries.

Recommendation four: Carries.

Mr. Holdeman reported there is not a recommendation to dismiss because the committee believes it may be useful to be available for the Mann's in the coming months. Mr. Smith, as the AIC clerk, rose to acknowledge that was the the AIC's intention.

Mr. Kuehner moved that presbytery classify Mr. Mann as "active without charge." (See Minutes of Synod, 1987 pages 102-106.) The motion was seconded and carried.

The report as a whole was received.

In accordance with *Directory of Church Government*, D-21 which reads, "Presbytery shall set the date upon which the pastoral relationship shall be dissolved and shall with prayer effect the dissolution," Moderator McCollum prayed the prayer of dissolution and dissolved the pastoral relationship between Mr. Mann and Elkhart effective immediately.

The clerk will write a letter to the clerk of session regarding these matters.

Mr. Fik Menbere presented the session report for Elkhart Church. He noted the sadness of their minister resigning, but at the same time spoke great support for him and his wife. Elder John Kim prayed for the work of Elkhart church.

The court turned attention to Second Indianapolis reports. Mr. David Hanson gave the report of the Committee of the Day to Address Papers 25-3 and 25-4:

Situation: The Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery received Paper 25-3 from five couples at 2nd Indianapolis and 25-4 from the 2nd Indianapolis session. Both papers petition the presbytery to assist in bringing resolution to a variety of disagreements that have arisen within the congregation primarily related to a petition requesting an elder election and subsequent events.

Methodology: As a committee of the day, we read both papers. Due to time limitations and the evident complexities of the situation we determined that it would be unwise and unhelpful for our committee to meet with any of the petitioners. Therefore, our report in no way constitutes an investigation into the facts, an affirmation of the details of these communications, or an analysis of the situation.

Encouragements: Both communications are in agreement on a number of crucial points. Everyone expresses the desire to live righteously, to see the congregation thrive, and to be reconciled to one another. There is also agreement with regard to the need for mediation from an outside party. Additionally, everyone agrees that even if other outside resources (like Peacemakers) are utilized that the presbytery has a crucial role in overseeing and participating in the process. Furthermore, both parties express respect, appreciation, and love for one another in the Lord.

Task Defined: All parties are agreed that a committee is needed to deal with issues of conflict, distrust, and hurt. Additional concerns have been raised regarding the session's use of authority and perceived irregularities.

The session has specifically requested: "The Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery to create a three-member Shepherding Committee for the following purposes: 1. Addressing conflict and broken relationships between Session and disaffected members of 2RP, 2. Addressing concerns raised by disaffected 2RP members in their communication to presbytery. 3. Addressing conflict and broken relationships between Session and Nathan Shaver 4. Overseeing mediation either through the committee or by engaging third-party mediator(s) trained in Christian reconciliation."

We are convinced that a shepherding committee is needed. Such a committee in the course of their work has discretion to determine which outside parties if any are necessary and helpful to the work of mediation.

Motion: That a three-member shepherding committee be appointed to address the issues raised in Papers 25-3 and 25-4 along with related issues.

The motion carries. The report was received.

Rev. Jerry Foltz gave the report of Second Indianapolis. Rev. Foltz spoke of highs and lows in the life of the congregation. A potential pastoral candidate was discussed. Questions from the floor were received and answered. The report was received and Rev. Colin Samul rose to pray for the work of the Second Indianapolis congregation.

The Marion reports were then taken up. Rev. David Hanson gave the Marion visitation report. Mr. Hanson reported that there was much to be encouraged by in the visitation. The report was received and is as follows:

September 14-15, 2024, the Marion Visitation committee made up of Bruce Bowers, David Mauser, and David Hanson was wonderfully hosted by the Marion RPC. Prior to our arrival, the session had completed the presbytery visitation form, providing all the necessary background information for our visit. Our visit began with an early dinner after which we gathered at the church building around 6 p.m. Following a tour of the facility, we met with the session for two and a half hours of encouraging and wide-ranging discussion of the history, ministry, and relationships of the Marion congregation. Overnight we were hosted in the elders' homes. Sunday, we attended the adult Sabbath School class and worshiped with the congregation before concluding our visit after lunch at Pastor Murray's home. There were many encouraging aspects of this visitation, but some key areas in which led us to give thanks to God were:

- An incredibly suitable facility with plenty of room for future growth.
- Removal of the work associated with leasing to the daycare and financial provision from God even as that income source was removed.
- A notable increase of children in the congregation since the arrival of the Murray family in 2022.
- Evident heart for the city and awareness of the surrounding community in the worship service and life of the congregation.
- Enthusiastic congregational participation in outreach activities.
- Abundant evidence of mutual respect and love amongst the elders. The elders clearly value their friendships with one another and work diligently to highlight the strengths and cover the weaknesses of their fellow elders.
- Careful eSort on the part of the elders to individually shepherd the members and households of the congregation.
- Frequent participation of the entire session, usually all 4 of them each Lord's Day, in leading aspects of worship on a rotational basis.
- A heart, vision, and active labor on the part of the elders to see additional elders and deacons raised up to expand the leadership of the congregation.
- Active discipleship and equipping of young men, and young men who are willing to sacrifice to be involved in receiving the additional training.
- Elders prioritizing church involvement and working to refresh one another even in the midst of weighty work pressures.

In the various times on Sunday before and after class and following worship, we were able to visit with many of the members of the congregation and received ample confirmation that the congregation's view of the session and the ministry aligned with what we heard in our visit with the session. In addition to these encouragements, we shared some additional observations with the Marion session. These observations were minor suggestions and considerations as the ministry continues forward.

Rev. Aaron Murray gave the session report for Marion. Rev. Murray spoke of the blessings of the tenant-daycare leaving, freeing space and utility costs. He also spoke about upcoming officer ordination and installation. They have also sought to visit all the houses within a mile of the church building. Mr. Murray spoke several baptisms and professions of faith that have occurred in the previous year. Mr. Murray asked for prayer for deacon interns; sickness; and some families from Washington State that may end up in Marion, IN. The moderator prayed for the work of the Marion congregation.

The Terre Haute session report was given by Mr. Josh Reshey. He began with offering thanks to God for sustaining the congregation over the past two months. He asked for continued love and support for the Rhodas. The Terre Haute congregation was prayed for by Mr. Bruce Bowers.

The Orlando Session report was presented by Mr. Alejandro Ramirez. He presented several highlights, including professions of faith, lots of fellowship, and other aspects of the life of the church. A comment from the floor noted that seven years ago in this building it was

determined that Orlando would host the next presbytery. A request for an Orlando visit was made. The report was received. Mr. Russ Pulliam prayed for the work in Orlando.

The Lafayette report was given by Mr. Ken Nelson. Mr. Nelson reported on the good work of their two ministers as well as several ministries that they are involved in. Elder Bob Bibby plans on resigning/retiring from his jail ministry that he's been involved in for over 40 years. Purdue students are also being ministered to. The report was received. Mr. Scott Decker prayed for the work of the Lafayette church.

The court took a break at 3:36pm. At 3:53pm the court returned from break. Mr. Joel Hart was granted a point of personal privilege concerning the "Counseling and Care Program for Pastors" by the RPCNA benefits board.

The Hetherton report was given by Rev. Phil Pockras. The Hetherton congregation is just under 125 years old. The court received a petition to dissolve the Hetherton congregation which is as follows:

Petition to Presbytery
March 1, 2025

We, the members of the Hetherton, MI RPC petition the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery of the RPCNA to dissolve our congregation and place our names on the roll of Presbytery. We have come to this sad decision due to the following reasons:

1. We see no path towards having more than one local ruling elder.
2. The congregation lacks the manpower to do more than subsist.
3. The church has had barely enough to cover heating and electric bills.
4. The stated supply needs to find other work.

David Skyles
Jason LaPointe, Deacon
Nicole LaPointe
Reese LaPointe
Ray Manton
Sara Manton
Logan LaPointe
Sonya Hoy
Brynn Dage
Helen Dage

The petition to dissolve the Hetherton congregation was discussed. The presbytery moved to vote in favor of granting the petition. Discussion occurred and the petition's request was granted by the presbytery. The current members will be added to the roll of presbytery under the membership committee.

The moderator prayed for the Hetherton congregation, dissolving them as a congregation. The Trustees will be informed by the clerk of the action of the court.

Mr. Pockras gave update on Ray Morton as well as others from the congregation.

Mr. David Hanson made a motion to request the Trustees of Synod to provide from the sale of the Hetherton manse up to \$5000 for Morton's moving expenses and a gift of thanks of \$10,000 to Mr. Dage for his labors. The motion was seconded and carried.

The report as a whole was received. The final report of Hetherton Church is as follows:

The session consisted of Wade Mann (chair, provisional), Phil Pockras (provisional) and Bryan Dage (clerk, stated supply). Session held stated meetings monthly online and also met for called meetings as needed. The provisional elders each traveled to Hetherton on several occasions as needed and for the communion services which were held in April and October. Sermon series included: the book of 1 Peter, the Servant Songs from Isaiah, the first part of the book of Romans. In November, session began a church information study for the three teenage children which is currently ongoing.

Membership & Attendance: In the past year, there were no changes to the roll. Communicant members: 11 Baptized members: 8 Total membership: 19 Average weekly attendance is about 14.

Finances: The end of year balance in the account was \$2371.45, which is \$727.51 lower than the previous year. See financial page for details.

Struggles & Future Outlook: The congregation has reached the point of questioning whether to continue. The factors include: 1. Over the past year, the congregation has realized that it does not have the necessary manpower to have a coordinated outreach program. 2. Despite lack of a coordinated outreach effort, there were several local visitors. However, none of these visitors chose to continue with the congregation. 3. Finances are in poor shape with not enough money to pay the stated supply, and he needs to find other work. 4. There is currently no visible path forward for ordination of local ruling elders. 5. Due to a combination of these factors, the congregation is discouraged to the point of wanting to close Hetherton RP. The congregation is planning to hold a meeting on March 2 to discuss asking Presbytery to dissolve the congregation. The session will likely be sending a communication to Spring Presbytery to that effect.

The Nominating Committee draft was presented by Mr. Ken Nelson. The draft was discussed and some comments were made.

A motion was made that Mr. Joel Hart be removed from the Second RP Shepherding Committee. The motion was seconded. There was discussion for and against the motion.

Following a speech from the floor concerning partiality and us not doing our work before men but but before God, the motion was withdrawn and the seconder agreed.

The Columbus report was given by Rev. Joel Hart. Mr. Hart said that there are six things to note: 1. Who they are. 2. The teaching and preaching of God's Word is at the heart of what we do. 3. Evangelistic efforts/fruit. 4. New officers. 5. A growing ministry to children. 6. Prayers. The court was opened for questions from the floor. The CYPUP director thanked Columbus church for hosting. Mr. Joshua Smith prayed for the work of the Columbus church.

Mr. Murray provided the CYPUP director's report. The youth leadership team has been given privileges of the floor at the beginning of these minutes (See Clerk's Report). Mr. Murray talked about a youth Psalm sing that has been organized by the students. He spoke of the benefits of that event, including the teaching of presenting.

Member of the youth servant leadership team each spoke on various aspects of the work of the youth.

Miss Sophia Law spoke on the Theological Foundations Weekends. Mr. Aaron Archer spoke on Summer Bash. Mr. Sam Faris, Vice President, spoke on the Fall Ministry Project, a way that the youth serve the presbytery rather than being served. Mr. Calvin Eshelman spoke on the 2024 Winter Youth conference. Mr. Joseph Shipp, the president of the CYPUP spoke on the structure of CYPUP and how meetings are organized. He also spoke about a number of CYPUP members that were not present.

Mr. Ken Nelson prayed for the youth of the presbytery.

Psalm 127A was then sung from the *Book of Psalms for Worship*.

There was discussion concerning funding for the youth which went to the Finance Committee and will be reported on in their report.

The C&CC report continued with Mr. Adam Niess presenting the first recommendation which was that Mr. Nathan Shaver be removed from being a student under care. The motion carried. The C&CC report as a whole was approved and is above.

Mr. Ross Cerbus presented the Finance Committee Report. He noted that the 2024 audits that are still outstanding ought to be completed before the Synod 2025 meeting:

Fathers and brothers,

Presented here is our proposed budget for 2025. A reminder of our process as a committee:

1. In the fall, we prepare a draft budget, with a primary goal of calculating the projected assessment total for the entire presbytery. This number must be calculated by year-end, so that assessments can be sent out to churches by the start of the year.
2. In the spring, we present the budget as a final budget, with the goal of only limited changes from the fall budget. You will see in the spreadsheet our proposed budget with explanations of changes. This is identical to the draft budget we presented to the AIC in the fall. In fall 2024, the AIC approved the \$43,000 assessment that we are still proposing in this meeting. The assessment is lower than the \$50,000 assessment in 2024. Our expenses are projected at \$51,025, which projects a net loss of \$8,025. Why would we project to run a negative balance for 2025?

1. In 2024, receipts exceeded expenses by \$7,648. A major reason for this was the cancellation of the fall meeting. This excess of receipts came in spite of \$3,461 of assessments either not coming in 2024 or coming in late (i.e. coming in early 2025).
2. The excess receipts for 2024 placed our cash balance at \$24,694, a balance that would rise to about \$28,000 after the late assessments came in.
3. We believe \$28,000 is too high of a balance for our presbytery to run. Our committee would target a goal of having about \$20,000 at year-end, which is about 5 months of expenses. So, we believe that we have the space to run a negative balance this year, and thus, in effect, put money back in our local churches, and move the presbytery toward a more reasonable cash balance. As another note, the term for Ross Cerbus on the committee is ending. This is the conclusion of his first term on the committee. Ross would be glad to serve for another three-year term.

Recommendation #1: That the budget be adopted as presented.

Recommendation #2: That Ross Cerbus be appointed to a 3-year term on the finance committee.

Respectfully submitted,
Ross Cerbus
Joel Hart (chair)
Ken Nelson

Recommendation 1: The budget was adopted.

Recommendation 2: Passed to the Nominating Committee.

The following congregations must have their audit completed by the June 2025 meeting of presbytery at synod:

Atlanta
Belle Center
Elkhart
Hetherton
Orlando
Selma
SWORP
Sparta
Sycamore
Terre Haute

The report as a whole was received. Mr. Greg Fisher prayed for the finances of the court. As a point of personal privilege in prayer: Mrs. Carolyn deJong (Elder Ken's wife) is currently in the hospital with pancreatitis, as well as recessed us for our dinner break.

The court regathered at 6:47pm with the singing of Psalm 111B. The moderator prayed for the work of the evening, reconvening in the name of Christ the king and head of the church.

The Atlanta Temporary Governing Body (TGB) report was presented by Rev. Frank Smith. He gave a slide presentation on the work of the mission church. The request and petition to be organized was put to the court for discussion. The whole report is as follows as there are many recommendations:

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.

The floor was open for questions. Several questions related to the congregation were asked and answered.

Recommendation 1: Carried.

Recommendation 2: Went to finance committee.

Recommendation 3: Went to the finance committee.

Recommendation 4: Went to the nominating committee.

Recommendation 5: Discussed. The vote was called by the moderator for the yeas. A call for division was called and it was 16-9 in favor. Recommendation carries.

Recommendation 6: Discussed. Division was called: 18 yea, and 11 no. The motion carries.

Recommendation 7: Motion carries.

Recommendation 8: The motion carries.

The report of the Westminster congregation was presented by Rev. Joshua Smith. Mr. Smith highlighted areas of encouragement in the life of the congregation and asked for the court to pray the Lord would add new families; increase the finances of congregation; and prayer for some health issues that Mr. Smith is having.

The Bloomington report was given by Rev. Rich Holdeman. He spoke of many blessings in the congregation including increased membership, men for the ministry, and other highlights.

The Belle Center report was given by Rev. Phil Pockras. Several highlights, including the value of TFY; several young men have a Bible study; women have a text-thread prayer group. Mr. Pockras spoke of his need to begin to think through a succession plan as he has served for 40 years.

The three session reports from Westminster, Bloomington, and Belle Center were received together. Rev. Shawn Anderson rose to pray for the work of these three churches.

The Covfamikoi report was given by Mr. Ken Nelson. He said that Rev. Daniel Howe will be speaking on "Christ Claims the Nations." Mr. Jonathan Park will lead the junior high school sessions. Several volunteers will be needed for counselors and staff at Covfamikoi. Many people are needed for support. Mr. Nelson noted that the Nelsons and the Cerbuses are seeking to be replaced as directors and managers.

Mr. Foltz rose to pray for the work of Covfamikoi as well as the work of the Atlanta mission church.

The time and place committee report was given by Rev. Joshua Smith. The recommendation is: March 5-7, 2026 at Orlando Reformed Presbyterian Church.

Rev. Eshelman spoke concerning the increased burn out and discouragement among our pastors and elders. He encouraged the court to consider sending delegates and wives early or to stay late for a time of respite. Motion carries.

Mr. Nelson presented the nominating committee report. The report is as follows:

- *
- *
- *
- *
- *

Nominating Committee Report GLG Presbtery 2025	Financial Officers Treasure-Mark Hart Assistant Treasurer-Ross Cerbus Membership Committee Philip McCollum-Chair Phil Pockras Chris Stockwell Interim Moderators of Congregation Selma-Adam Niess Terre Haute- Jack Baumgardner Elkhart--Jan Wise Provisional Elder Sparta--Josh Reshey Visitation Committees Bloomington David Hanson--Chair Jeff Jones Donald Cassell Sycamore Adam Niess-Chair Scott Hunt Colin Samul Intercurch Liason Dick Knodel Synod Finance Jon Hughes Geneva Board of Corporators Class of '27-Phil Pockras	Atlanta Commission Steven Work (Ch) Scott Damerow Frank Smith Dick Knodel Tim Vincze T.J. Patillo Covfamiko Conference Director: Ken Nelson Manager: Ross Cerbus Advisory: Schaefer, Eshelman, D. Hanson CYPU Board: Class of '26 Bryan Planalp-President Kevin Duffey Class of '27 Joy Whitt Class of '28 Jon Sturm Elsa Sturm CYPU Director/YMCS: Aaron Murray 2nd RP Shepherding Committee Bob Bibby-Chair Joel Hart Aaron Murray Mike Lotz (alt) Eric Cosens (alt)
Ad Interim Commission Jon Sturm-Moderator Scott Decker Mark Goerner Chris Eddy: (MUST REPLACE) David Whitla Candidates & Credentials Class of '26 Joel Hart Rich Holdeman Adam Kuehner Class of '27 Adam Niess (Ch) Jonathan Schaefer Ian Wise HMB Rep Class of '27--Josh Smith Church Extension Nathan Eshelman Greg Fisher Bryan Dage Finance Committee Class of '26-Ken Nelson Class of '27-Joel Hart-Chair Class of '28-Ross Cerbus	*Nominating Committee K.Nelson, R. Cerbus, R.Holdeman	

The report was approved.

Mr. Hanson asked the nominating committee to provide a couple of alternative names to Second Indianapolis shepherding committee. Eric Cosens and Mike Lotz were named and approved as alternates.

The resolution of thanks was read by Rev. Phil Pockras. The court adopted the resolution of thanks which is as follows:

We, the members of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery of the RPCNA, wish to express our thankfulness for the care and comfort we have received during our meeting on 6-8 March, 2025, at the Bloomington, Indiana, RPC.

We thank the member households who gave us overnight accommodations and delightful evening and morning fellowship. We thank the church sexton for his diligence in giving us a commodious and clean meeting place. We thank the kitchen crew for their kind, loving, and meticulous work and service for us. We thank all the congregation for their many kindnesses!

Ultimately, we give thanks to Him who is Zion's only King and Head. It is He who has loved us and given Himself for us. It is He who has worked in the hearts of Bloomington RPC members to love us, even as our Husband loves us all as His Bride.

Finally, we remind the Bloomington RPC that, as they have done all to us, they have done it all unto Jesus (Matthew 25:31-40). Well done, fellow servants of God!

Recommendations:

That this resolution be adopted by Presbytery and read aloud in the presence of all members of the Bloomington RPC who are in the building.

Before the minutes were read the new clerk gave a speech on his perspective concerning the different type of clerking: engineer clerking and narrative clerking. Mr. Kuehner was an engineer clerk and Mr. Eshelman is a narrative clerk. They are two different ways of accomplishing the same task.

The minutes were read and approved as amended.

The court rose to sing Psalm 67C.

The moderator prayed and adjourned the court at 9:05pm in the name of Jesus Christ the king and head of the church.

Moderator: Philip McCollum

Clerk: Nathan Eshelman

THE REMAINDER OF THIS PAGE IS INTENTIONALLY BLANK