

Sparta Reformed Presbyterian Church

Session Report to Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery

February 22, 2025

Overview

The Lord has graciously provided for us in the midst of nationwide shutdowns and ministerial transitions and we stand ready to continue and grow as a congregation of Christ Jesus and to work toward the growth of Christ's kingdom in Sparta and the surrounding region.

Pastor

Ross Fearing has completed his fourth year in ministry at Sparta RPC. His family recently welcomed Luthien Hope Fearing for whom they give thanks to God. He continues to serve as a Chaplain in the Army Reserve and recently transferred to the 76th Operational Response Command in Salt Lake City, UT. In addition, he began serving as a math and science teacher at Christ our Savior Lutheran High School in Evansville, IL.

Public Ministry

The congregation continued to worship morning and evening each Lord's Day, with Ross providing most of the preaching. Because Ross serves in the Army approximately fourteen Lord's Days each year, we thank Pastor Terry Dowds (OPC, formerly RPCNA at Shawnee, KS) for providing regular pulpit supply. In this year we finished preaching through the book of Deuteronomy and started considering 1 Samuel and in the New Testament finished Mark and preached through 1 & 2 Peter and have now started the gospel of John.

Session

The session consists of Moderator Ross Fearing, Clerk Bill Wilson, and Provisional Elder Josh Reshey. James Odom resigned from the eldership in October 2024. Sparta RPC has no deacons.

There are currently 10 communicant members and 7 baptized members on the role. Average worship attendance is about 20.

In the last year, one family transferred out and one family returned to the congregation.

Properties

There were no large changes to the property in the last year. The congregation has engaged in several improvement projects including removing one large tree from the property, cleaning the carpets, and reorganizing and decluttering the space.

Finances

As the attached financial report will show, the congregation spent about \$16,000 more than receipts this last year. We had anticipated a much more dramatic loss but a smaller drop in giving and smaller expenses than planned helped limit this loss.

Conclusion

As other reports to this presbytery show, this has not been an easy year for this congregation. We know ourselves to be weak in many ways and face an uphill climb to financial stability. At the same time, the members and adherents to this congregation are faithful and committed to the congregation. We are confident that God has preserved this congregation here for a purpose and we see a great need for the gospel of Christ Jesus in our community. Our desire and prayer is that God enables us to do good work for His kingdom in the coming year.

In Christ Jesus,

Sparta Reformed Presbyterian Church Session

Ross Fearing, Moderator

Bill Wilson, Clerk

Josh Reshey

Appendix 1: Financial Report

	2021 Budgeted	2021 Actual	2022 Budget
Receipts			
Offering	\$ 32,000.00	\$ 68,323.18	
Interest	\$ 75.00	\$ 41.84	
Other	\$ 66.00	\$ 66.00	
Total	\$ 32,141.00	\$ 68,431.02	\$ 58,000.00
Expenses			
<i>Congregation</i>			
Ministry and Education	\$ 660.00	\$ 424.00	
General Supplies	\$ 580.00	\$ 332.61	
Pastoral Supplies	\$ 1,020.00	\$ 687.07	
Misc	\$ 100.00	\$ 150.00	
Total	\$ 2,360.00	\$ 1,593.68	\$ 3,000.00
<i>Pastoral Support</i>			
Salary	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 38,341.00	
Pension	\$ 4,400.00	\$ 1,100.33	
Guest Ministry	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,775.00	
Guest Travel	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 1,849.00	
Total	\$ 49,200.00	\$ 44,065.33	\$ 46,000.00
<i>Outreach</i>			
Local (Anniversary)	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 861.10	
Mercy	\$ 240.00	\$ 400.00	
Total	\$ 1,240.00	\$ 1,261.10	\$ 2,000.00
<i>Denomination</i>			
Presbytery Assesment	\$ 355.00	\$ 353.18	
Synod Assesment	\$ 1,102.00	\$ 1,104.00	
Synod and Pres. Delegate	\$ 360.00	\$ 405.50	
RP Global Missions	\$ 2,125.00	\$ 1,130.00	
RP M&M	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 500.00	
Total	\$ 4,942.00	\$ 3,492.68	\$ 4,000.00
<i>Church Property</i>			
Water	\$ 1,130.00	\$ 594.75	
Gas/Electric	\$ 1,750.00	\$ 1,625.36	
Insurance	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,701.00	
Cleaning	\$ 1,040.00	\$ 960.00	
Grounds	\$ -	\$ 650.00	
Supplies	\$ 480.00	\$ 6.98	
Website	\$ -	\$ 289.00	
Total	\$ 6,900.00	\$ 6,827.09	\$ 6,800.00
<i>Ministry House</i>			
Insurance	\$ 240.00	\$ 261.62	
Supplies	\$ 240.00	\$ 90.77	
Trash	\$ -	\$ 234.00	
Water	\$ 700.00	\$ 502.99	
Gas/Electric	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 1,021.22	
Total	\$ 2,280.00	\$ 2,110.60	\$ 2,200.00
Total Expenses	\$ 66,922.00	\$ 59,350.48	\$ 64,000.00
Starting Account Balance		\$ 82,486.45	\$ 91,566.99
Total Receipts		\$ 68,431.02	\$ 58,000.00
Total Expenses		\$(59,350.48)	\$(64,000.00)
Net Change		\$ 9,080.54	\$ (6,000.00)
Ending Balance		\$ 91,566.99	\$ 85,566.99

	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	Comments
Receipts			
Offering	\$45,000.00	\$48,800.16	
Interest	\$50.00	\$131.09	
Other	\$66.00	\$1,096.00	
Total	\$45,116.00	\$50,027.25	
Expenses			
<i>Congregation</i>			
Ministry and Education	\$1,000.00	\$499.79	
Funerals		\$70.00	
General Supplies	\$200.00		
Conferences		\$291.30	
Pastoral Supplies	\$1,000.00		
Returned Checks		\$313.56	
Total	\$2,200.00	\$1,174.65	
<i>Pastoral Support</i>			
Salary and Housing	\$38,100.00	\$38,100.09	
Pension	\$4,850.00	\$4,620.00	
Guest Ministry	\$3,275.00	\$2,750.00	
Guest Travel	\$2,500.00	\$2,103.86	
Total	\$48,725.00	\$47,573.95	
<i>Outreach</i>			
Local	\$500.00		
Mercy	\$500.00	\$744.69	
Total	\$1,000.00	\$744.69	
<i>Denomination</i>			
Presbytery Assessment	\$597.17	\$455.22	
Synod Assesments	\$1,700.00	\$1,255.00	
Synod and Pres. Delegate	\$500.00	\$527.00	
RP Global Missions	\$1,000.00		
RP M&M	\$1,000.00		
Total	\$4,797.17	\$2,237.22	
<i>Church Property</i>			
Water	\$800.00	\$571.06	
Gas/Electric	\$1,850.00	\$2,042.06	
Insurance	\$3,250.00	\$3,765.00	
Cleaning	\$1,560.00	\$1,390.00	
Grounds	\$1,000.00	\$1,090.00	
Supplies	\$500.00	\$475.92	
Repairs			
Internet Ministry	\$800.00	\$1,020.01	
Total	\$9,760.00	\$10,354.05	
<i>Ministry House</i>			
Insurance	\$300.00	\$347.48	
Maintenance	\$300.00		
Trash	\$300.00	\$378.00	
Water	\$650.00	\$557.76	
Gas/Electric	\$1,200.00	\$1,337.49	

Total	\$2,750.00	\$2,620.73
<i>Grant</i>		
Website Update	\$1,000.00	
Web Advertising	\$1,500.00	
Recording and Streaming	\$1,000.00	
Additional Projects	\$3,984.83	\$1,800.00
Total	\$7,484.83	\$1,800.00
Total Expenses	\$76,717.00	\$66,505.29
Starting Account Balance	\$62,946.28	\$62,946.28
Total Receipts	\$45,116.00	\$50,027.25
Total Expenses	\$(76,717.00)	\$(66,505.29)
Net Difference	\$(31,601.00)	\$(16,478.04)
Ending Balance	\$31,345.28	\$46,468.24