

# **Rhoda-Terre Haute Shepherding Committee Report**

Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery  
February 2025

## **Introduction**

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