

Report of the Atlanta Organizing Commission to the Great Lakes – Gulf Presbytery
Spring 2026

The organization of Atlanta Reformed Presbyterian Church was something that many have been in prayer for many years. October 5, 2025 was a joyous and blessed day not simply because it was the Lord's Day but because it was the day of the organization service. Being surrounded by brothers and sisters in Christ, some already known, many others newly acquainted, was a foretaste of what awaits us in glory. By the grace of God, there were around eighty in attendance. This included the retired minister of the former congregation which had previously owned the building, ministers and elders from other local congregations, a city council member, and a representative from the mayor's office. They spoke of how amazed they were to see the work of Pastor Smith and the Atlanta RPC congregation in that area and how the congregation was impacting the community in ways that may not even be seen. While the area in which that ministry is taking place does seem to be changing over the years, the greatest need of the area remains the same. That is why Pastor Smith and the Atlanta congregation will, Lord willing, continue to see fruit from their labors and make an impact in the community, because they know that the community needs the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

As the service began on that Lord's Day, there was an overwhelming sense of the Holy Spirit amongst the congregation. The singing of Psalms was joyful and loud as the saints of God from several different states and multiple denominations all lifted up a shout of exaltation unto Jehovah for His goodness and mercy. Prayers were offered unto the Lord for His great provision throughout the years, for His great blessing in more recent times, and for His continued favor moving forward in seeking to see not only the community but the city of Atlanta, the state of Georgia, the United States of America, and all the nations of the earth won for Christ's crown and covenant. Rev. Colin Samul then preached an incredible sermon on unity within the congregation from Psalm 133, something which is essential if the congregation is to have lasting success. Afterwards, the administration and signing of the vows of communicant members were done. Then the administration and vows to install Rev. Dr. Frank Smith as pastor and Elder T.J. Patillo as church governor for the newly established congregation were done. The service then concluded with further time of praise and receiving of God's blessing.

After the service, there was a time of food and fellowship. This was an incredible opportunity to get to know some of the congregants of Atlanta and to hear of how they are personally engaging in the work of the ministry there. While my time with the Atlanta Reformed Presbyterian Church congregation was much too short, it was overwhelmingly sweet, and I thank the Lord for the opportunity to go there and be part of that historic occasion. It is my prayer that the Lord would continue to bless the saints there, to bless the work of Gospel ministry under the leadership of Pastor Smith and Elder Patillo, and that we would see that congregation grow into a mighty work for the cause of Christ.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joshua M. Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized 'J' at the beginning.

Joshua M. Smith (Moderator, Atlanta Organizing Commission)