

2026 Great Lakes/ Gulf Presbytery Meeting

Covfamikoi Report

2025 Conference

Covfamikoi 2025 was a blessed, but very challenging time. We had roughly 216 attendees, which is a bit lower than we had hoped or budgeted. Our new facility, Covenant College, was beautiful and very easy to work with. However, with any new facility comes learning along the way and logistical challenges. The most daunting challenge of 2025 Covfamikoi was that our main speaker, Daniel Howe, was hospitalized one week before the conference and could not attend. Finding a new speaker one week before the conference was extremely stressful. The Lord provided James Blair (Ballyclabber RP, Coleraine Northern Ireland) to speak for us on the attributes of God. James was in Bloomington for the summer on sabbatical. He did a wonderful job and the Lord was gracious to us.

2026 Conference:

As we look toward the 2026 conference we are heading back to Covenant College in Lookout Mountain Georgia. The dates for the conference are July 6-July 11. This will again be a Monday to Saturday schedule. The conference will start mid-afternoon on Monday and end Saturday morning.

The theme this year is *Christ and Culture: Biblical and Practical Theology* with Bryan Schneider (Sharon RP, Morning Sun IA) as our main speaker.

Covfamikoi has Facebook and Instagram pages to help market and generate excitement for the conference, please feel free to follow. Also please encourage your members to attend and help promote Covfamikoi.

Registration will open sometime in March. When registration is open we will send out a notification. We look forward to having many of you join us this summer!

Leadership/ Staffing:

Following the 2025 conference, as expected, Ross and Kaitlyn Cerbus stepped off from the roles of Conference Managers. (They worked alongside us since 2019 and were wonderful Managers. We enjoyed all our time working together). Thankfully, Ross agreed to stay on as Treasurer, which is a new leadership position. He will handle all things related to money and the contract with our facility. Previously these roles were a part of the Managers role. Yemi Aladajebi has agreed to come on board as our Conference Manager.

Tyler and Anastasia Kniess served as our Youth Program Directors for the last two years. Following the 2025 conference, they decided they would step off this role. Jonathan & Ashley Park have agreed to fill this role for the 2026 conference.

Due to the challenges of the 2025 conference, we also felt we needed to add more to our executive staff. The additional position was to be recreation director (this is a position that was previously filled, but due to the challenging financial implications with reduced attendance, we had removed it). Currently we have budgeted for this position but have not found someone to fill this role.

Regarding the Conference Director position, Christy and I have agreed to remain on for the 2026 conference, and we are running full steam ahead. Following the 2026 conference we will officially be stepping off as Conference Directors. We have been searching for new directors, but so far, we have not found anyone. Now that we are within 4 months of the next Covfamikoi we need to spend our time and energy on filling teacher and staff roles as well as planning everything for 2026. We are asking the Covfamikoi Advisory Committee to work with the Nominating Committee to identify the next directors to take over following the 2026 conference. Hopefully someone can be identified to take over this summer as the work for 2027 starts immediately.

Financials:

Costs to operate conferences continue to rise. While our new facility was wonderful to work with, they have raised our rates 15% compared to last year's conference. We have worked as diligently as possible to keep the costs as low as possible while still holding an enjoyable and enriching conference. We would continue to encourage local congregations to consider providing scholarships to help offset the costs for your members to attend Covfamikoi.

Please see the attached Covfamikoi financials.

In order to try to keep registration rates as low as possible, we have asked for \$8,000 support from the Presbytery. This increase from the 2025 support level of \$4,000-> \$8,000 support from the Presbytery is half of the rate increase that we are being charged from Covenant

Recommendations:

- 1.) That the Finance Committee allocates \$8,000 support for Covfamikoi in the 2026 budget.
- 2.) That the Nominating Committee creates a Treasurer position for Covfamikoi and appoint Ross Cerbus to this role
- 3.) That the Nominating Committee appoint Yemi Aladajebi as Conference Manager.
- 4.) That the Nominating Committee, working in conjunction with the Covfamikoi Advisory Committee, identify a new Conference Director following the 2026 Covfamikoi Conference. If no one is identified following this Presbytery, the role should show as "open."

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Nelson, Conference Director

Covfamikoi Family Conference
Statement of Financial Position
As of December 31, 2025

Assets

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

Petty Cash

PayPal

Regions Bank

Total Checking/Savings

\$ -

-

10,064.92

10,064.92

Total Current Assets

10,064.92

Total Assets

10,064.92

Liabilities & Equity

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Accrued Expenses

290.52

Total Current Liabilities

290.52

Total Liabilities

290.52

Equity

Retained Earnings

7,729.59

Net Income

2,044.81

Total Equity

9,774.40

Total Liabilities & Equity

\$ 10,064.92

Covfamikoi Family Conference
Statement of Activities
For the Twelve Months Ended December 31, 2025

Income

Conference & Registration Fees	\$ 59,880.00
Offering	1,132.26
Presbytery Contribution	4,000.00

Total Income

65,012.26

Expenses

Facilities	45,137.48
Main Speaker	3,974.89
JH Teacher	250.00
Staff scholarships	8,665.00
Preaching Honorariums	300.00
Liability Insurance	794.00
Youth Program (JH & SH)	311.66
Juniors (ages 9-11)	131.35
Elementary (ages 6-8)	290.52
Pre-school (ages 3-5)	117.55
Nursery (ages 0-2)	33.26
Office Supplies	96.33
Social Activities & Morning Breaks	686.45
Recreation	881.86
Golf Cart Rental	540.02
Miscellaneous expenses	269.66
PayPal Fee	164.49
IOS publishing fee	130.93
Web Hosting	192.00

Total Expenses

62,967.45

Net Income

\$ 2,044.81
