

Hetherton Property Committee Report (Spring 2026)

Dear Fathers and Brethren,

We greet you in Christ's name with a summary of recent events and developments concerning the property and assets of the former Hetherton RPC in Johannesburg, MI.

On March 7, 2025, the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery (GLGP) granted the request of the Hetherton RPC members to disorganize the congregation. In addition, a motion was adopted 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."

On April 21, 2025, the GLGP AIC acted to "Appoint a Hetherton property committee" to "(1) determine the assets and liabilities of the congregation, (2) provide a list of the assets and liabilities to the Synod's Board of Trustees, (3) submit recommendations regarding the disposal of the property, and (4) provide local assistance as needed to the Synod's Board of Trustees."

On June 17, 2025, our committee presented an extensive report with five recommendations, all of which were adopted. As a result, our proposal for disposing of the Hetherton assets was sent to the Trustees of Synod, along with Scott Haughton's bid of \$75,000 to purchase the church and manse.

Upon learning of the offer, the Trustees decided to cover the sizable cost to appraise the respective properties. While attempts to appraise the church building remain outstanding, the manse appraised for \$146,500, causing the Trustees to politely decline Mr. Haughton's offer. Since then, the Trustees have indicated their intention to list the properties through a local real estate agent with the help of RPCNA financial controller, Vida Brown, who owns a home nearby and has a superior grasp of the local situation.

Your committee believes it has fulfilled the first three aspects of its original remit (see above) and made ongoing progress on the fourth. All that remains, God willing, is for the members of this committee to maintain open communication with Vida Brown and the Trustees as the process moves toward a conclusion.

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With regard to committee composition, Pastor Kuehner and Elder Kim are unable to continue serving due to their increased shepherding workload more than three hours away in metro Detroit. In addition, Rev. Dage, who has been very busy working as an engineer and caring for his (literal) flock of sheep, has indicated his intention to join a local church, thus discontinuing his role in the GLGP. Hence, if this committee is to continue, the Nominating Committee would need to replace all three of its members.

On the other hand, Presbytery could determine that this committee is no longer necessary, given that its only remaining task is to assist Vida Brown and the Trustees as needed. Rather than assigning a committee to perform this task, perhaps it could be done by the *Ad Interim* Commission (AIC). In any case, this is merely a suggestion for the court to consider as a possible alternative to our more conventional recommendations, which are as follows.

Recommendations

1. That Presbytery instruct the Nominating Committee to replace all three members of the Hetherton Property Committee.
2. That Presbytery instruct the Committee to continue assisting the RPCNA Board of Trustees as needed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bryan Dage

John Kim

Adam Kuehner, Ch.