

## Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery Clerk's Report Spring 2026

Fathers and Brothers,

This has been my first year serving you as clerk of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve you all. This work would not be possible without the assistance of Revs. Joel Hart (assistant clerk) and Philip McCollum (current moderator). I am thankful for both of their service in seeing this court of Christ's Church function well.

As we prepare for the meeting, I put the following before the court:

Intercessory Prayer will follow each session report as well as appropriate times throughout the meeting. Prayer following session reports will be provided by an elder (teaching or ruling) from a sister congregation in this order:

Atlanta: Westminster  
Belle Center: Terre Haute  
Bloomington: Sycamore  
Columbus: Sparta  
Elkhart: SWORP  
Lafayette: Southside Indianapolis  
Marion: Southfield  
Orlando: Selma (Adam Niess)  
Second Indy: Orlando  
Selma: Second Indianapolis  
Southfield: Marion  
Southside Indy: Lafayette  
SWORP: Elkhart  
Sparta: Columbus  
Sycamore: Bloomington  
Terre Haute: Belle Center  
Westminster: Atlanta

Session Reports: We will essentially report backwards from W to A. As a reminder, each of the following (according to our June 2017 meeting) ought to be included in the *written* reports.

Total Membership: Communicant and Baptized  
Average AM Worship Attendance  
Average PM Worship Attendance  
Baptized Members Professing  
New Members by Profession  
Net Change in Total Membership.

The Minute Book Review Committees were announced over email. Make sure that each chair (first name) informs Assistant Clerk Joel Hart on whether the books are in order. He will report on the Minutes Book reviews at the end of this meeting.

Atlanta: Robert Koch; Jonathan Sturm  
Belle Center: Adam Kuhner; Jason Camery  
Bloomington: Jeff Brotherton; Mark Goerner

Columbus: Ken DeJong; Tom Reid  
Elkhart: Jeff Jones; Ross Cerbus  
Lafayette: Fikre Menbere; Bruce Bowers  
Marion: Ken Nelson; Ray Lanning  
Orlando: Scott Hunt; Bob McKissick  
Second Indy: Kevin Duffey; Robert Bibby  
Selma: Rich Holdeman; Joshua Smith  
Southfield: Averette Woodson; Ross Fearing  
Southside Indy: Jon Hughes; Steven Work  
SWORP: Steve Sturm; Ian Wise  
Sparta: Timothy Vincze; Namsik Yang  
Sycamore: Bill Wilson; Colin Samul  
Terre Haute: Brentt VanSickle; Mark Koller  
Westminster: Russell Lodge; Bryan Dage

### **Communications**

The communications that came for our Spring meeting have been reviewed by Philip McCollum, Joel Hart, and myself. We present the following motions for how to advance through our agenda:

Recommendation 1: Communications 25-6 and 25-7, along with the committee of the same name be placed as an order of the day on Friday, 12pm ( for 1.5 hours). The rationale is that the Z. Smiths will be present for a limited time and we need to leave enough time in the meeting related to whether certain motions are brought to the floor.

Recommendation 2: Communications 26-1 (withdrawn) and 26-2 be heard following Westminster report.

Recommendation 3: Communication 26-3 result in the appointment of a three man committee of the day chosen by moderator. This committee will meet with Rev. J. Smith and report back with recommendations at this meeting.

Recommendation 4: Allow Rev. Lanning ten minutes for presenting the request of 26-4 and take questions before a voice vote to determine whether to allow Mrs. Lanning to be on the rolls of presbytery along with her husband.

Recommendation 5: The presbytery hear Communication 26-5 following the Sparta report.

Recommendation 6: Allow Mr. Dinkledine thirty minutes to present his paper (communication 26-6) and to receive questions from the floor. Note: motions will need to come out of the presentation and discussion. Rationale: Since the paper insinuates failings on part of the moderator and clerks, along with the presbytery seated at last June's meeting, it is best for the whole court to hear the matter.

Recommendation 7: Communication 26-7 related to Westminster's relocation is to be committed to a three-man committee (appointed by moderator) which will meet with the Westminster Session and bring back a recommendation to this meeting.

Recommendation 8: Communication 26-8 will follow the Selma report.

### **Other Recommendations**

Recommendation 9: Presbytery reappoint Mr. Andrew Imeson as its Internet Maintenance Technician for 2026-2027, to be reviewed at the Spring 2027 meeting.

Recommendation 10: Presbytery grant privileges of the floor to the CYPY Youth Leadership Team member(s) during its scheduled presentation.

Recommendation 11: Presbytery adopt the proposed agenda (including late reports) for this meeting.<sup>1</sup>

Recommendation 12: Presbytery grant all present NAPARC elders the privilege of the floor during the remainder of this meeting.

## **Conclusion**

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your clerk. I have been praying for this meeting and trust the Lord Jesus Christ will be among us.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee.  
Peace be within thy walls, and prosperity within thy palaces.  
For my brethren and companions' sakes, I will now say, Peace be within thee.  
Because of the house of the Lord our God I will seek thy good.  
Psalm 122:6-9

Humbly Submitted,

Nathan Eshelman  
Clerk

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<sup>1</sup> The Candidates and Credentials Committee Report and the Selma Dissolution Request (26-8) were two days late due to providential hindrances. The Elkhart report came in later on February 24th. If we approve this motion, that would include these three reports. If the court chooses to divide the question, we would have to receive the C&CC report and Selma Dissolution Report by 2/3 majority vote. I leave this to the will of the presbytery.