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Agenda

Annual Congregational Meeting

January 27, 2026

Open with Praise, Prayer, & Scripture
Determination of a Quorum
Set Agenda for Business Meeting
Approval of 2025 Minutes
Election of Officers & Committees
Highlights of Reports
Building Fund Update
New Business
Approval of 2026 Budget
Adjournment

Nominations for Officers and Committees

Position	Committee Nominees	Other Nominees*
Chairman	Scott Decker	
Vice Chairman	Jeff Jones	
Secretary	Lisa Shoop	
Treasurer	Mike Mellinger	
Assistant Treasurer	Laura Decker	
Fellowship Committee	Dan & Joy Ford, Luke & Julie Hart, Jenelle Schisler, Sharon Wasmuth	
Hospitality Committee	Laura Decker, Denise Grayson, Diane Beggs	
Witness Correspondent	Kelly Hoover	

*Additional nominations can be accepted from the floor with the prior consent of the nominee.

Minutes of the 2025 Annual Business Congregational Meeting

Columbus Reformed Presbyterian Church

January 28, 2025

Opening

- Scott Hoover opened the meeting.
- Psalm 92 was read and sung.
- Scott Hoover led in Prayer.

A quorum was determined for the Congregational Meeting.

The agenda for the 2024 Congregational Meeting was approved as printed.

Minutes of the 2024 Congregational Meeting were approved as printed.

Election of Officers

- The list of officers was read from the floor by Scott Hoover.
- There was an opportunity for more nominations. Jenelle Schisler was added to the Fellowship Committee.
- It was motioned, seconded, and approved to elect the following officers & committees:

Chairman: Dave Schisler

Vice Chairman: Scott Decker

Secretary: Lisa Shoop

Treasurer: Mike Mellinger

Assistant Treasurer: Laura Decker

Fellowship Committee: Joy Ford, Julie & Luke Hart, Jenelle Schisler, and Sharon Wasmuth

Hospitality: Laura Decker, Kelly Hoover, Denise Grayson

Witness Correspondent: Kelly Hoover

Dave Schisler assumed the position of Chairman of the meeting.

Presentation and Discussion of Reports:

- Various reports were discussed.
- Scott Hoover & Shane Shoop presented some Building Fund Ideas.
- There was no New Business.
- The budget for 2025 was approved as printed.

Closing

- Dave Schisler closed the Congregational Meeting in prayer.
- Psalm 48C was sung.

Dave Schisler, Chairman

Lisa Shoop, Secretary

Columbus Reformed Presbyterian Church

Membership List

Updated January 7, 2026

Communicant Members

* Active Resident

1. * Beggs, Charlie
2. * Beggs, Diane
3. * Carr, Daniel
4. * Carr, Alice
5. * Decker, Jaden
6. * Decker, Laura
7. * Decker, Scott
8. * Erney, Jenny
9. * Erney, Joshua
10. * Erney, Timothy
11. * Ford, Dan
12. * Ford, Joy
13. * Gaillard, Robert
14. * Gaskins, Charles
15. * Gaskins, Diane
16. * Girard, Al
17. * Girard, Penny
18. * Goble, Sam
19. * Grayson, Denise
20. * Grayson, Roger
21. Harper, Allison
22. * Hart, Joel
23. * Hart, Julia
24. * Hart, Luke
25. * Hart, Orlena
26. * Higginbotham, Andy
27. * Higginbotham, Claire
28. * Holdeman, Diane
29. * Holdeman, Dick
30. * Hoover, Kelly
31. * Hoover, Scott
32. * Huff, Jonathon
33. * Jessie, Luke
34. * Jones, Jeffrey
35. * Jones, Katherine
36. LaCourt, Rebecca
37. Lebrun, Ed
38. * Lopez, Carlos
39. * Manasseh, Laurie

40. Mathews, Karen
41. * Mathews, Sean
42. McDermott, Kevin
43. McDermott, Kristi
44. * McNeely, Phyllis
45. * McShirley, Erik
46. * Mellinger, Jane
47. * Mellinger, Michael
48. * Meng, Andrew
49. * Meng, Ben
50. * Meng, Denise
51. * Meng, Emily
52. * Meng, Ethan
53. * Meng, Joshua
54. * Meng, Noah
55. * Moe, Charlene
56. * Moe, Greg
57. Planalp, Abigail
58. Planalp, Benjamin
59. * Planalp, Brenda
60. * Planalp, Bryan
61. * Planalp, Cora
62. Planalp, Lydia
63. * Planalp, Stephen
64. Planalp, Zachary
65. * Reynolds, Kristi
66. Reynolds, Matthew
67. * Reynolds, Scott
68. * Russell, Dan
69. Salazar, Monica
70. * Schisler, David
71. * Schisler, Edmund
72. * Schisler, Jenelle
73. * Schisler, Julianna
74. Schisler, Katelyn
75. * Schisler, Lynette
76. * Schulz, Amanda
77. * Schulz, Logan
78. * Shoop, Lisa
79. Shoop, Nathaniel
80. * Shoop, Shane

81. Shoop, Stephanie
82. * Stearns, Ellen
83. * Stearns, Heather
84. * Stearns, Isaac
85. * Stearns, Regina
86. * Stearns, Sam
87. * Wasmuth, Craig
88. * Wasmuth, Sharon
89. * Webb, Harry
90. Wells, Carl

Baptized Members

1. Carr, James
2. Carr, Oriana
3. Erney, Bradley
4. Erney, Grant
5. Erney, Millie
6. Hart, Amy
7. Hart, David
8. Hart, Elisha
9. Hart, Esther
10. Hart, Hope
11. Hart, Jenny
12. Hart, Moriah
13. Hart, Seth
14. Higginbotham, Leo
15. Higginbotham, Quintas
16. Higginbotham, Ty
17. Meng, Jonathan
18. Meng, Lydia
19. Meng, Seth
20. Planalp, Christopher
21. Schulz, Amelia
22. Schulz, Jackson
23. Schulz, Laura
24. Schulz, Madeline

Active Resident

Communicant Members in
Good Standing = 74

Quorum for Regular Business
Meeting (25% of ARCMGS) =
73x.25=19

Corporation Membership =73
(ARCMGS 18 yrs of age and
older)

Quorum for Officer
Election/Ordination (50% of
ARCMGS) 74x.5=37

Pastor's Report

(For and With the Session)

We proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ in all the Scriptures, enfold people into His church, build them up in Christ, worship the triune God, and seek His kingdom.

These words, which you'll find on our website and occasionally on our bulletin, summarize Reformed Presbyterian Testimony 25.2. As elders, we return to this paragraph in discussion often. They present to us the mission of Christ for His church.

It is always *Christ's* mission – we have the privilege of serving as recipients, ambassadors, servants, and laborers in this mission.

This is the goal of the pastoral ministry, the elders' ministry, and ultimately, the church. This report reflects our church's pursuit of this mission.

The usual outline will be followed for this report

1. **Our life in the Word and worship in 2025**
2. **Congregational life together**
3. **Personal and pastoral reflections**
4. **Session updates and thoughts**
5. **A few looks forward to 2026**

1: Our life in the Word and worship in 2025

If you ask, "What happened at Columbus RP in 2025?", the answer should quickly be, "We met with God and heard from our Savior." This is the center of our church's life.

We met for morning worship 50 times (two cancellations due to weather). Our elders continue to shepherd us well into worship through their presiding.

In the preaching, we finished Micah, did all of 1 John (in response to congregational request for teaching on assurance), and began our series on the life of Elisha.

On Sunday evenings, we did several 2-week series on requested teaching topics. After a summer video series, we began in the fall a study of 2 Corinthians, a wonderful book on life in Jesus Christ.

We're thankful for other ways the Word shapes our life as a church. As you read the congregational meeting packet, read it not just as a narrative of events and happenings. Read this as an expression of ways the Word of God is advancing through the church.

One thing to mention here – that may not be reported elsewhere in the packet – is our great thankfulness for the summer study hosted at the Planalp house. That has been a rich time of fellowship in Christ.

2: Congregational life together

The life of the church in 2025 continued with similar patterns to previous years in our church. As you read these reports, you'll find that our committees (VBS, hospitality, fellowship, Christian education, youth group, Paideia, etc.) all had unique opportunities to serve us in Christ in wonderful ways this year. We are so thankful for these ministries and for the servants that make them possible.

We had an excellent fall retreat with Adam Kuehner as our speaker. We are thankful for Lisa's hard work in coordinating this wonderful time of fellowship.¹

We saw many new babies come into the church – the additions and baptisms became a defining feature of our year.

3: Personal and pastoral reflections

I will always remember pastoring in Columbus in 2025! One lightning strike (and corresponding fire) changed our year entirely! Let me share again my abundant thankfulness to the church for their care for us through the season.

- The elders made extra time available for me to be with my family.
- The deacons made the church house available (with many corresponding updates to the house) on very short notice.
- Many in the congregation supported us through prayer, gifts, food, etc.

The Lord has taught our family about His sovereignty and love through this experience. And our experience isn't over yet. A decent chunk of 2026 will include completing the project of seeing our house and items restored and getting resettled in our home.

Much of my local church ministry is visible to the church. Always know that my desire is to be with people, talk to them about Jesus, and pray. Let me know how I can encourage you. One enjoyable feature of the year has been an increase in fellowship at my weekly Lucabe coffee time. Much good fellowship happens there!

¹ For those interested, we had 64 attendees at fall retreat this year, which is decently consistent with previous year's numbers. If you haven't attended before, we encourage you to consider this year, even if you just come for the talks and drive home! It is a blessing.

Broader ministry in the presbytery/synod has included:

- Completing my time as presbytery moderator and then taking up the role as presbytery assistant clerk.
- Serving on a committee of our presbytery to address conflicts at Second RP (Indianapolis). This has taken up much time and energy.
- Chairing our presbytery finance committee.
- Completing my two terms of service on the denominational Benefits Board.
- Serving on the presbytery Candidates and Credentials Committee.

Our family is glad to be here. My kids love being here with you all. Moriah, our 2025 addition, was born into a wonderful church family. Thanks for providing for us.

4: Session updates and thoughts

Your elders met monthly for times of prayer and planning together. We meet the first Tuesday of every month, and once a quarter we meet with the deacons. If you have questions or issues you'd like us to consider in meetings, let us know.

Scott Decker has acclimated into the life of the session – we are thankful. He has served well as clerk of our presbytery's Ad Interim Commission (a body that handles presbytery matters between meetings).

Jeff Jones served on a visitation committee to Bloomington RP.

Communicant membership dropped from 97 to 90.

Baptized membership dropped from 26 to 24.

Average attendance dropped from 92 to 89.

Our list of changes to membership is listed in the footnote below.²

We want to pray for our church to continue to grow. This change in membership is largely tied to work we've been doing in working through our membership rolls in transferring or removing members who no longer attend (and often live in different states now).

That said, we should acknowledge that we long for more people in Columbus to know Jesus Christ! The change in membership and attendance should compel us to long for more to come. Invite your friends. Encourage those who haven't been here as much to join us. Columbus needs the Lord!

²Additions to communicant members: Andy and Claire Higginbotham, Jonathon Huff, Robert Gaillard, and Dan Russell.

Additions to baptized members: Ty and Leo Higginbotham, Millie Erney, Moriah Hart, Oriana Carr, and Hope Hart. Subtractions to members: Eric and Anna Grace Brown (initial transfer in 2024; received by Bloomington RP in 2025) with children, Nate Mathews, Ethan Mathews, Gary & Jill Goble, Bill & Virginia VanDevender and children, Caitlin Herron, Abby Jo Cranford, Noah Goble, Grace Rogers.

5: Looking forward to 2026

As we look to 2026, we trust that God will carry us through His word and presence day by day.

We want to communicate here about some initiatives or goals that we are working on. While these are not necessarily the *most important* items in church life, they are active things on our mind we hope to communicate:

1. **Scripture memory:** You will see in the Scripture memory report that we are seeing a growth in Scripture memory among our youth. We want to fan this into flame – what a blessing to see children hiding God’s Word in their heart. Children reading this: keep going! Adults: be eager to have children cite verses to you. And take up some Scripture memory yourself!
2. **Greeters:** We see opportunity to only grow as a welcoming church. To that end, we plan to start having greeters at the door before worship. We plan to take some sign-ups during the congregational meeting.
3. **Building:** The congregation gave general initial approval for us to keep exploring this fellowship hall expansion idea. In 2026, we do hope to get more specifics about what an expansion would look like in terms of design and cost. The proposed increase in the building fund (from \$400,000 to \$500,000) reflects no new decisions, but simply a recognition of God’s provision for us and the desire to continue seeking out this possibility. The congregation will be invited to discuss and vote before any further steps.
4. **Covfamikoi:** We want to encourage Covfamikoi attendance! The annual church family conference is a great blessing to many. To that end, we are putting \$5,000 into the budget to provide support for any attending.³ The general plan is to provide \$150 to support registration for any attendee. The specifics of this program, as it relates to our Scripture memory awards, are still being worked out.
5. **Internship:** RPTS student John Punt (member: Bloomington RP) has agreed to come here for a summer internship. We look forward to his ministry among us – both as a blessing to us and an opportunity for us to bless him and his family in their preparations for future ministry. John and his wife Elizabeth have 5 children.

May the Lord bless us in the year to come.

In Christ,

Joel Hart (for the elders)

³ Note: The Harts’ Covfamikoi costs are already covered, so they are not included in this proposal.

Deacon Report

The Deacons are again very thankful to our Lord for all the blessings that He has bestowed on our congregation this year. We have experienced another year of sustained financial growth and several projects were completed throughout this past year.

We are very appreciative for the continued faithful service of Mike Mellinger as Treasurer and Laura Decker as Assistant Treasurer and are thankful that they will continue into 2026. In February, we completed an audit of our financial accounts. Here is the report out from this audit, completed by Lisa Shoop and Kathy Jones....

We were asked to audit the church's financial records using the guidelines provided by the denomination's treasurer, Jim McFarland. We worked on this task the week of February 10th. We both looked at an overview of the balances and accounts and took a deep dive into February 2023 and August 2024.

We found absolutely no evidence of fraud, mishandling, or any other possibly bad thing by either Mike Mellinger or Laura Decker. In fact, we found much evidence of their genuine desire to work for the welfare of the church. They do this with much hard work and thought, with no complaining or seeking accolades. They are also willing to dialogue with anyone who has questions or concerns. They deserve the church's and each member's sincere thanks. We are glad to be the first to say to each of them, "THANK YOU"!

The Deacons meet on the first Tuesday of each month. We begin in prayer for the needs of the congregation and community. We discuss topics ranging from Mercy needs to projects that need to be completed, and report on items that were completed. This year, we took another look at our Security and Emergency protocols and refreshed our procedure on Inclement Weather, including how and when to communicate any cancellations to the congregation.

On the facilities front, the biggest project this year was the painting in the high traffic areas of the building. This included the sanctuary, entry, hallways, nursery and the fellowship hall. Other work inside the building was the upgrade of the Wi-Fi signal and video capabilities for LiveStream, repair of broken items, carpet spot cleaning and pest control. We ask the congregation to continue to exercise care when consuming food and drink in the building, as this will help minimize the stains in the carpet and the pest issues that result from spills and food left behind. Outside projects included removing or trimming trees around the property, and a new sign at the parking lot entrance.

The church house has continued to be used for mission and ministry opportunities. This has been a great blessing to those who needed to use the house at various times throughout the year. We did spend more money on upgrades to the house in 2025. We replaced the deck behind the house, added a new roof, dishwasher, and garbage disposal.

Looking forward to 2026, several projects are already being discussed or planned for the church building, the house, and the property.

If you see any opportunities for the Deacon Board to make repairs, please let us know. Your Deacon Board is Roger Grayson, Luke Hart, Mike Mellinger, Ben Meng, Sam Stearns, and Shane Shoop.

We continue to look forward to working together with the congregation to further Christ's Kingdom in Columbus.

Respectfully submitted,
Shane Shoop for the Deacon Board

Child Protection Policy (CPP) Committee

During 2025, the CPP had a small update that was reviewed during last year's congregational meeting. Throughout the year, we processed 15 approved volunteers for CRPC and Paideia. We appreciate the support and diligence of all volunteers and leaders who helped make 2025 a safe year for our volunteers and children. For 2026, we will be reaching our 3-year renewal requirements, so many will receive requests to update their background checks throughout the year.

We continue to look forward to the ongoing partnership to ensure we provide a safe and enriching environment to teach the gospel message to our children.

Scott Hoover, for the CPP Committee

Christian Education Report

2025 Annual Summary

The Christian Education Committee — made up of **Bryan Planalp**, **Mandi Schulz**, and **me, Dave Schisler** — enjoyed a full and fruitful year in 2025. Our small team met regularly with a shared desire to help our congregation grow in the knowledge of God and His Word. Our meetings followed a familiar rhythm of devotions, discussion, decisions, and prayer, as we sought God's blessing on the ministry. Throughout the year, we reviewed curriculum options, gathered feedback from teachers and parents, discussed classroom needs, and prepared for seasonal transitions.

A Word of Gratitude

Personally, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to all our teachers and helpers who poured time, energy, and care into the Sunday School program for our congregation this year. Their preparation, flexibility, and steady presence modeled Christian service for children and adults alike. Week after week, they showed up ready to teach, encourage, and shepherd — and I am deeply thankful for their service.

Children's Sunday School Classes

We were blessed to offer **three children's Sunday School classes** throughout the year; each tailored to its age group:

- **Pre-School Class (Beginning Kid's Quest)** – Led by **Sam Goble**, this class served up to six energetic young learners. The curriculum introduced foundational truths through stories, songs, and hands-on activities.
- **Elementary Class (Elementary Kid's Quest)** – Taught by **Lisa Shoop**, this class welcomed around ten students each week. Using the Kid's Quest curriculum, students explored core doctrines in a way that was both engaging and accessible. Children are diligently learning the books of the Bible and invited Session members into their class individually to get to know their elders better.

- **Junior High Class (Digging Deeper)** – Led by **Denise Meng**, this group of up to eight students worked through deeper biblical themes and discussions. The "Digging Deeper" curriculum encouraged thoughtful engagement with Scripture and personal application.

Adult Sunday School: Global Missions

Beginning in the fall semester and continuing through December, **Bryan Planalp** re-initiated our adult Sunday School class by teaching on the topic of **global missions**, using material from **Reformed Presbyterian Global Missions (RPGM)**. This class helped our congregation better understand the biblical call to make disciples of all nations and the specific ways our denomination participates in that work.

The material Bryan used draws from the training and vision-casting resources developed by **Keith Mann**, who serves as the Coordinator of Short-Term Missions for RP Global Missions. Bryan guided the class through these themes, helping participants see how global missions fits into the life of our congregation and how each believer can play a role — whether by praying, giving, encouraging missionaries, or discerning a call to go.

As the class concluded, we were blessed to hear directly from **Hao Lu and his family**, who shared about their upcoming missionary journey to **Thailand**, scheduled to begin in **February 2026**. They walked us through their calling, their preparation, and the specific ways our congregation can support them — through prayer, encouragement, and partnership in the work the Lord has set before them. Their visit provided a fitting and inspiring conclusion to the semester, connecting the themes of the class with real people stepping out in faith.

Looking Ahead — and How You Can Help

As we move into a new year, we're excited about the continued growth of our Christian education ministry — and we'd love for more people to be part of it. There are several meaningful ways to contribute: serving as a **substitute teacher** when one of our regular teachers is unavailable, assisting as an **in-class helper**, or helping with **hallway monitoring** in the children's education wing during the Sunday School hour.

Another way to serve is by **joining the Christian Education Committee itself**. If you have a heart for teaching, discipleship, organization, or simply supporting the spiritual growth of our congregation, we would be glad to have you participate in the planning and direction of this ministry.

If you're interested in serving in any of these capacities, please see **me, Dave Schisler**. We'd be grateful to have you join us.

Dave Schisler for the Christian Education Committee

Fellowship Committee Report

"Behold how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity" -Psalm 133:1

We are very thankful to all of you who have participated in the fellowship events we hosted last year. It is truly a *pleasant thing* to enjoy the fellowship of our brothers and sisters in Christ here in Columbus.

This past year, we enjoyed events like "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner", a church-wide Birthday Party, two baby showers (Claire H. and me), graduation desserts at fellowship lunch for Joshua Meng, Emily Patzon, and Ben Planalp, a bridal shower for Rebecca Planalp, some "Food and Fellowship" times, and hosting the Thanksgiving Psalm Sing (which many of you helped with, so thank you!).

I personally am very thankful for the collaboration of the committee. Our committee consisted of Joy Ford, Luke & me, Jenelle Schisler, and Sharon Wasmuth. As Luke and I took a long 'maternity leave', Jenelle, Joy, and Sharon continued planning events.

We look forward to another year of enjoying each other's fellowship! If you have any ideas of fellowship ideas, please let me know! We would love to see you at fellowship events!

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Hart

Higher Education Gift Committee Report

The Higher Education Gift Committee facilitates the distribution of a scholarship fund available to church members enrolled full-time in college or post-high school trade programs. Each year, funds are distributed by the Higher Education Gift Committee in accordance with guidelines established at its inception in 2008.

During the 2025-2026 school year, five students received scholarships. Applications for the 2026-2027 school year are due on or before February 1, 2026. Students will be notified of the gift amount on or before March 10, 2026. If students or parents have any questions, they may direct inquiries to committee members Scott Hoover, Jenelle Schisler, or Jane Mellinger.

The Lord has blessed many students and families through this fund, and we are thankful that He has sustained it all these years.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Mellinger

Hospitality Committee Report

The Hospitality Committee communicates needs in the congregation and organizes the efforts, but it is the whole body that exercises hospitality and shows Christ's love through their acts of service. It is a blessing to see so many give abundantly and cheerfully as needs are made known. This year, over 40 meals were prepared and shared with families welcoming their babies back home, plus many more that were not part of a meal train. As a body, you served eight meals of fellowship to visiting pastors who filled our pulpit, along with snacks and breakfasts for the Lu family who stayed for two nights. Over the year, we sent flowers for four funerals, providing comfort and compassion to grieving families during their time of loss. As you see needs arise in our church family, please don't hesitate to reach out to the committee to help coordinate the efforts of showing hospitality to all who are in need.

Your Hospitality Committee,
Laura Decker, Denise Grayson, Kelly Hoover

The Columbus RPC Library

It has been encouraging to see more of you checking out books from the library this past year! We pray that the library will be a useful tool for the congregation in growing spiritually. Bible reading, of course, comes first as Pastor Hart has pointed out. If you are meditating on a particular book or passage of scripture and need some help in coming to a deeper understanding, the commentaries in the library may be useful to you. We welcome questions regarding the library, and if you don't see something in there that you think should be, please let us know.

Several books have been added to the library in 2025. Thank you to those who have donated books! Those added recently are as follows: *Family Worship*(Joel Beeke), *The Wonderful Works of God*(Herman Bavinck), *Systematic Theology*(Louis Berkhof), *Repentance: Turning from Sin to God*, *Crook in the Lot: Living with that Thorn in Your Side*, and *The Art of Man-Fishing: How to Reach the Lost*(Thomas Boston), *Anne Bradstreet*(Simonetta Carr), *Let's Study Ephesians*, *Let's Study James*(Sinclair Ferguson), *Triumphing Over Sinful Fear*(John Flavel), *The Christian Lover*(Michael A. G. Haykin), *When Faith Is Forbidden: 40 Days on the Frontlines with Persecuted Christians*(Todd Nettleton), *The Shadow of Christ in the Book of Lamentations*(C.J. Williams), *Pain and Providence: Chronic Pain and Illness*(Joni Eareckson Tada), *Not Ashamed*(DVD)(W. Robert Godfrey), *Holy Week: The Week That Changed the World*(R.C. Sproul), *Economy of the Covenants*(2 Volumes)(Herman Witsius)

"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen." – 2 Peter 3:18

Respectfully submitted,
Ben and Denise Meng
Lisa Shoop

Memory Work Ministry Report:

"I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you." — Psalm 119:11 (NIV)

Our History and Mission

Established in 1978, our Memory Work Program provides a systematic approach to planting God's Word in the hearts of our children. Designed for preschool through Grade 12, the program offers flexibility to meet each child's unique needs. Parents may adjust their child's memory level up or down one grade and may even substitute an alternative curriculum, if preferred.

A Year of Record-Breaking Success: We are celebrating a remarkable year for our youth!

- **75% Participation:** Three-quarters of our children (ages 3–17) actively participated.
- **420 Verses Memorized:** Because of our children's efforts, we "overspent" our budget for the first time in years—a joyful testament to their hard work.
- **Investment in the Future:** Students who complete the full year's curriculum earn a reward equal to the **2026 summer conference rate**, which can be applied toward
 - Conference fees
 - Christian books
 - Christian school tuition

How You Can Help: The success of this program relies on our church family. If a child approaches you with a brightly colored folder and a Bible, please take a moment to be a "Hearer."

Guidelines for Hearers:

- **Eligibility:** Any adult church member or adherent (18+) of our Columbus Church may listen to verses (excluding immediate family members).
- **Accuracy:** Verses should be recited word-perfect, within reason.
- **References:** The child should state the Bible reference before or after the verse.
- **Support:** You may provide up to **two hints** per passage.

For many of our younger or shy participants, speaking to an adult is a significant step of faith. Thank you for your patience and for making this a rewarding experience for them.

Respectfully submitted,
Jenny Erney and Lisa Shoop

Missions

We are thankful for our elders' consistent prayer for missions in Morning Worship. How good it is always to remember to pray for our brothers and sisters laboring in other countries and for those churches that are helping to disciple. We pray consistently for the RPGM mission fields and other fields and organizations that work to share the Gospel with those locally and abroad.

We are very thankful to Bryan Planalp for leading the Explore Church edition for Adult Sabbath School. We were a pilot group for that program, and I have heard through the grapevine that because of the extraordinary work of Bryan and some additional wisdom from Joel, many changes were made to that program to better fit churches. In this way, we at CRPC can bless our own denomination and other churches that are planning to use the curriculum.

Our Mission's Day this year focused on South Sudan. This was originally chosen simply because it was the easiest field for me to do, but God always has a bigger plan. The South Sudan field has undergone some significant challenges this year. They need continual prayer and people to go and serve there.

The last Sunday in December brought Hao Lu and his family to Columbus. He and his family along with a young woman named Leila are beginning to serve as missionaries in Thailand. So, this year's focus will be on Thailand.

As always, I get excited about foreign missions! However, it is not the only way that the Gospel gets shared. We must share in our community and spheres of influence.

Monica was on our team for missions here at the church and she was so good at inviting people to church and reaching out into our community. I would encourage each and everyone of you to do the same. Others on our team were Jaden Decker, Joel Hart, and Heather Stearns.

We would like to grow our missions and outreach here at church, so please help us! If you have ideas or want to join us, please let me know.

I am also aware that many of you are witnessing to those around you. We would love to come alongside you in prayer or other ways, so please let us know how we can assist and encourage you in your work.

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Hart

Evangelism and Outreach Report

As a church, we have a calling and a gift to seek to reach people for Christ. I hope we see it this way – that truly one of the best privileges we have is to shine the light for Christ (Matt. 5:16) in this world, and so see people brought to Him.

We pray (and often observe) that evangelism happens all the time in our church. It happens in *your* daily conversations, *your* inviting people to church, and *your* reaching people for Christ. We rejoice, because we see this happening!

Our church is not, in general, a church for evangelistic programs. (VBS probably comes the closest on this front – see their report for more details!). However, we can observe some of the ways we have been able to reach out (and hope to do more).

- We have a strong website (thanks to Toohill Consulting). This is a primary means for people finding our church. We are looking to invest a bit more in our digital outreach this coming year.
- This year, we have bolstered our connection to New Song Ministry, and we have plans to do more of that this year, to come alongside their outreach efforts.
- We have frequently had live translation of our sermons and/or sermons printed in another language, to aid attendees from other countries.

I want to use this space to observe that we do *budget* for many things in the realm of evangelism/outreach – and in general, we have not spent what we planned to spend! As one example, we budgeted \$2,500 for TFY/ECHO/Short Term Missions support – and only spent a few hundred here! We are very thankful that Luke Hart was able to go to ECHO and that Julianna Schisler was able to attend TFY.

But we want to say here that as a church, we *want* to support *you* in opportunities to go on missions trips or to creatively do evangelism and outreach. If you have an idea here, bring it up, and the church is eager to provide support to make it happen.

Are there other ways we could grow as an outreach-minded church? What ideas cross your mind?

- Going to the neighborhoods within a mile of the church and inviting people there to come?
- Hosting a block party at our church, and perhaps invite the Haitian church to the south of us to join?
- Having more tracts or evangelism pamphlets available at church and getting these to people in need?

Do you have an idea? Things that would excite you? Let me know – we want to be faithful in our calling and opportunity.

Joel Hart

Paideia Report

Through the years, most Paideia church reports have shared the perspective of a pastor or board member. If you want to know the basic facts about Paideia, read the footnote below!⁴ But this year, I decided to let us hear from students and parents who've been blessed by Paideia.

I asked specific questions to a few individuals. Below, I list the general questions I gave each individual and let them write the rest. I'm thankful for what was written.

What has Paideia meant to your family?

Testimony from the Taylor family (Rob – longtime teacher; Kelly – longtime board member ending her time this year; Malia – longtime student):

Paideia has been a wonderful blessing to our family. We have loved learning in a community that is focused on Christ. We are thankful for the many friends we have made and the ways we have been able to serve and grow in this group. The college prep classes have prepared Malia for the future. She said that college-level, dual-credit English was easy after literature classes with Diane Erney, Jenelle Schisler and Brenda Planalp. We are so grateful for our 9 years at Paideia and will miss this community when Malia graduates in the spring.

How has Paideia prepared you for college (academically, relationally, etc.)?

Testimony from Nora Landry (freshman at Purdue; studied at Paideia for many years):

Now that my first semester at Purdue is over, it's clear that the classes I took at Paideia prepared me to more readily succeed in college. I'm sure that my mom would have done a great job of teaching me to write, study, think critically, and meet deadlines by herself; but there's only so much you can do alone at home, and Paideia definitely sharpened my skills in those areas. Every Tuesday, I interacted with classmates, teachers, and ideas in a way reminiscent of college. And every Monday night, I had to face the reality of deadlines that would not budge, encouraging me to complete my significant amount of homework in a timely manner. There is also the obvious but helpful fact that the wide diversity of classes I completed in that group setting exposed me to many concepts and topics, some of which I wouldn't have had the opportunity to learn about if it wasn't for a mom or dad willing to lend their expertise in a certain area to a Paideia class. All in all, I am very thankful for the opportunity that Paideia provided to gain skills necessary to succeed in higher education and to broaden my horizons in general.

⁴ As a ministry of this church, about 75 youth meet here every Tuesday for classes on many subjects. There's much good study, great (and hard) classes, and Christian fellowship. All is taught from a Christian perspective. The co-op is run by a 6-person board (including Bryan Planalp and Joel Hart from the church). The board works on everything from schedules to discipline to academic standards. Parents carry the volunteering load. The board seeks to work with the church and be a blessing. The church is committed to oversight and a prayerful, active, and eager support of the co-op.

How has Paideia encouraged your family as you've joined the co-op?

Testimony from Diana Skuya (new to the co-op this year; 3 girls actively involved):

Paideia has been an answer to prayer! My girls needed this more than I thought. It has challenged them to get out of their comfort zones socially and academically. I have seen them get excited about school again! It truly is a blessing!

What's great about Paideia (for a younger student)?

Testimony from David Hart (6th grader in his 5th year of study at the co-op):

Paideia is an enjoyable way to spend a morning and early afternoon. The classes are intriguing and I believe that it is well balanced. Among my favorite classes offered PE and the Holling C. Holling books. I also presume that it would be alluring to provide a Greek language class. Without Paideia my Tuesdays would be much less appealing.

I'm so thankful for these testimonies. I invite you to join me in giving thanks. Thanks for praying for us. Thanks for supporting the service of Jesus in this ministry.

Joel Hart
(Paideia Board Member and Paideia Church Liaison)

Precentor Report

"The people of God are to sing thoughtfully, reverently, and enthusiastically, with grace in the heart. Careful attention should be paid to the music and to the leading of the precentor, that the praise might resound with a beauty reflective of the glory of God and His holiness. Those chosen to be precentors should have the marks of Christian maturity and the gifts to perform this function. They should lead the singing in a simple, orderly, and dignified manner."

- from the *Directory of Public Worship*

For the past few years, I've begun the Precentors' Report with this excerpt from the *Directory of Public Worship*. It serves to remind each of us of the importance of what we do every week as we gather for worship. It's a worthwhile exercise to read through this excerpt, phrase by phrase, and ask yourself, "How am I following these directives, and how could I improve my worship to God?"

I trust we are all thankful for our precentors who have been mindful of this guidance from our *Directory* to "lead the singing in a simple, orderly, and dignified manner," to the glory of God. Through November of 2025, we continued with our monthly 3-person precentor rotation of Tim Erney, Jenelle Schisler, and Sam Stearns. Beginning in December, we changed our rotation to weekly instead of monthly, and Daniel Carr joined the rotation. In addition to the weekly worship services, these four precentors worked well as a team to lead the singing at the Thanksgiving Psalm Sing on November 30th. Thanks to each of you who stepped up to help carry the load!

Because we desire the praise of God to "resound with a beauty reflective of the glory of God and His holiness," the precentors welcome any constructive feedback from the congregation regarding our roles in this most important task.

For the same reason, we appreciate any opportunity to help the congregation grow in the exercise of collectively singing praises to God, such that we find ourselves increasingly singing "thoughtfully, reverently, and enthusiastically, with grace in the heart." Along those lines, I want to use this space to encourage families and individuals to do what they can to familiarize themselves with the Psalm selections we'll be singing in each Lord's Day service of worship. One way to do that is to look ahead at the bulletin, which is sent out each week via email to help us prepare for worship. Looking up and spending some time with the Psalm selections beforehand is one concrete way to improve our collective singing. I'd like to express thanks to those who are already doing this, as well as to Lisa for doing the work of compiling the bulletin and sending it out every week.

If anyone in the congregation is interested in learning more about leading congregational singing, whether they want to be added to the precentor rotation or not, feel free to talk with Daniel, Tim, Jenelle, or Sam.

Respectfully submitted,
Sam Stearns

R.P. Witness Correspondent

The purpose of the Witness Correspondent is to inform the wider church family in our denomination about our congregation, so they may rejoice and pray with us. We had much to rejoice in and share this year.

We reported 2 graduations: Benjamin Planalp, Joshua Meng

With joy, we shared 6 births: Jonathan Ford, Millie Erney, Moriah Hart, Oriana Carr, Hope Hart, Quintus Higginbotham

We celebrated 8 baptisms: Erik McShirley (baptized at the end of 2024 and reported in 2025), Tiberius Higginbotham, Leonidas Higginbotham, Millie Erney, Moriah Hart, Oriana Carr, Hope Hart, Quintus Higginbotham

We were also allowed to share prayer requests. In January, we submitted prayer requests that were included in the March/April issue. In July, we submitted prayer requests that were included in the September/October issue.

Respectfully,
Kelly Hoover

Vacation Bible School Report

This year, Upward Bound was very successful. We saw strong engagement from members of our congregation, as well as from children both within our church and throughout the community.

It was a blessing to see how this event brought our church family together in service. From planning through cleanup, it was truly a team effort. By working alongside one another, many of us formed and deepened relationships that might not have happened otherwise.

Events like this don't just bless the children who attend; they also strengthen the bonds within our congregation and remind us of the joy found in shared ministry. It was especially meaningful to see children beginning to develop and foster these same connections with members of our church, just as many of us did when we attended VBS ourselves.

Not every year do we have a church baby born during the week of VBS, but this year we did - and we even had one of the youngest VBS attendees ever, joining us all week at just four weeks old! Don't worry! We will not be lowering the age requirement. Going into 2025, we knew there would be challenges with so many babies due over the summer, but God is faithful, and He provides. We are happy to report that we had the volunteers we needed each day, exactly when we needed them.

This year, we served roughly 50 children throughout the week. We hope to see this number continue to grow in the coming years. Notably, 58% of these children were not from our church, while we also had 100% participation from our church children.

As always, we had a multitude of volunteers, and we truly could not have done this without every one of them. Each day we worked to ensure we had enough help, and each day God provided. Many stepped up during the week itself, and we are incredibly grateful. We know many of you were exhausted by the end of the week, and we want to acknowledge that. First, thank you for giving of your time and strength. Second, because of you, these children were able to hear the Gospel and grow in their knowledge of our Lord and Savior.

Thank you so much to everyone who helped in any way. It meant a great deal to us, and we know the children enjoyed it as well.

As we look back with gratitude on how God led our children last summer, we are already preparing for the next place He will lead us - where green pastures stretch ahead, and every step is guided. If you have ideas for VBS, would like to serve on the leadership team, or are interested in a particular role during the VBS season, please reach out to one of us. We would love to hear your ideas and serve alongside you.

We look forward to seeing what God will do in 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenny Erney

Claire Higginbotham

Mandi Schulz

Home Fellowship Dinner Group

The Home Fellowship Dinner Group met 4 times this year at the following homes:

Month	Host
February	Schisler
June	Schisler
September	Decker
November	Beggs

Our evenings consisted of dinner, fellowship, and a short Bible Study or devotion. This year, the person in charge of the study chose their own material.

For the dinner, the host prepared the entree, and the guests provided the sides and desserts to complete the menu. We enjoyed the fellowship, a delicious dinner, and getting to know each other better in the comfort of a home.

We try to meet about 5-6 times a year, usually on the second Tuesday of the chosen month. We generally have 8-16 people attending. Please contact me if you are interested in participating and/or hosting.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynn Schisler

Acts 2:42a "And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship..."

Men's Prayer Meeting

The Men's Prayer group has met together almost continuously since 2013 and has attendance of 4-10 every Saturday morning at 6:30. In 2025, we met together in person at the church with some also attending on Zoom. At each meeting, we read and discuss one chapter from Scripture, share prayer requests, and then pray together. So far, we have read through more than 30 books of the Bible! In 2025, we finished Revelation and have been working our way through an edifying time in Genesis. This time together to learn from God's word, sharpen each other, share our burdens, and pray for both local and worldwide prayer needs has been a great encouragement to all of us. We would love to have you join us! See Jeff for details.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeff Jones

Ladies' Bible Studies

2025 saw both ladies' studies (morning in-person on Wednesdays and evening via Zoom on Thursday nights) exploring the book of James in the spring semester and starting the book of Mark during the fall semester. We plan to continue through our study of Mark during Spring 2026. All ladies are invited! If you would like to join us, contact Laura Decker for the morning study or Jane Mellinger and Laurie Manasseh for the evening study to get a book and join in.

Prayer plays a key role in both studies; sharing requests and praying together enables us to support one another before the Lord and get to know each other better.

Thanks to the church for providing the study guidebooks.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Decker
Jane Mellinger
Laurie Manasseh

Youth Group

We are very thankful to God for the opportunity to serve the youth. We have had a lot of fun together with new changes to both the leadership and to the youth attending in the year 2025.

In regard to leadership, Jenny and I continue to serve in various capacities. We were thankful that Sam Goble and Noah Meng volunteered their time and joined us this year as part of the team. Sam Goble has been doing a phenomenal job of leading a study on Galatians that is well prepared and points us all to Christ as the only way to eternal life. Noah Meng has served by bringing snacks and leading youth group games (no easy feat, if you are aware of the legend of youth group games).

We had two youth graduate out of YG and move onto their college journeys (honorably discharged) – Ben Planalp and Joshua Meng. We were excited to welcome 4 new participants this year - Lydia M., Auggie H., David H., and Emily McD. We have yet to officially “initiate” these members and are open to your suggestions.

Here are some highlights of this year:

- Biblical Studies: We revisited an old youth group study focused on “The Assurances of the Christian Faith” created and formatted by Andy McCracken. Following the summer break, we started a new study in Galatians, based on the Timothy Keller study of Galatians.
- With regard to group activities, we enjoyed having a food-cooking competition with random ingredients, pizza party, bowling, Operation Christmas Child, and broomball at the local ice hockey rink. We are excited as we plan the next season of events for our youth!

We would also like to thank those in the church who have personally encouraged us. “Random” acts of giving, kind words for encouragement in the ministry, and wisdom and counsel offered have been a blessing to us. Thank you to the youth. You guys are the next generation of the church, being raised up to serve the living and true God. We are **thankful** you want to be at youth group, **thankful** you have fun, **thankful** you eat all of our snacks, and **thankful** that God has put you in our lives. We are praying for you, “Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding, in all your ways acknowledge him and he will make your path straight. - Proverbs 3:5-6”.

On behalf of the Youth Group,
Tim and Jenny Erney, Sam Goble, and Noah Meng

Columbus Reformed Presbyterian Church								
	1Q25	2Q25	3Q25	4Q25	Total	2025	Spend	2026
						Budget	vs Bud	Budget
Giving Income								
General Giving - Columbus	103,329.15	94,449.36	72,680.58	104,287.23	374,746.32			
Designated Giving - Columbus	60.41	1,051.02	97.26	641.22	1,849.91			
Other (Grants, Fees)	0.00	700.00	10,750.00	0.00	11,450.00			
Interest Income (Bank)	2.60	2.63	2.66	2.66	10.55			
Total Giving Income	103,392.16	96,203.01	83,530.50	104,931.11	388,056.78			
Net Income	44,130.65	5,181.15	-6,140.51	460.62	43,631.91			
Net Balance of Funds/Securities								
Bank Operating Fund (<i>Checking</i>)	91,167.30	75,530.65	40,118.39	40,540.43				
Bank Savings	35,121.53	35,124.16	35,126.87	35,129.48				
Securities (CDs, Money Market)	506,135.25	516,303.55	571,699.61	576,833.83				
Total Overall Cash Fund/Securities	632,424.08	626,958.36	646,944.87	652,503.74				
Net Funds/Securities Less Restricted Funds								
Adoption Fund	26,083.10	26,354.57	26,715.45	26,971.33				
Seminary/Bible Training Scholarship Fund - <i>Reserved</i>	20,622.13	20,622.13	20,622.13	20,622.13				
Higher Education Scholarship Fund - <i>Reserved</i>	10,000.00	10,000.00	0.00	0.00				8,000.00
Building Fund <i>Reserved</i>	400,000.00	400,000.00	400,000.00	400,000.00				500,000.00
Total Restricted Funds	456,705.23	456,976.70	447,337.58	447,593.46				
Total Non-Restricted Funds/Securities	175,718.85	169,981.66	199,607.29	204,910.28				
Expense								
Ministries								
Christian Education (incl. WBS)	219.00	400.37	340.73	44.28	1,004.38	1,000.00	100.4%	1,000.00
Church Listings	540.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	540.00	550.00	98.2%	550.00
Covfamiko Family Conference	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		5,000.00
Digital Ministry	744.75	209.85	564.85	556.09	2,075.54	2,000.00	103.8%	2,000.00
Evangelism/Outreach	600.00	2,375.00	57.09	403.27	3,435.36	5,000.00	68.7%	5,000.00
Benevolence/Gifts	108.64	102.71	1,050.00	68.00	1,329.35	500.00	265.9%	500.00
Fall Seminar	700.00	0.00	1,000.00	2,478.62	4,178.62	4,000.00	104.5%	4,000.00
Fellowship	401.85	469.90	262.97	141.61	1,276.33	2,000.00	63.8%	2,000.00
Pulpit	0.00	620.00	310.00	1,160.00	2,090.00	2,000.00	104.5%	2,000.00
Higher Education Fund Scholarship Expense	0.00	0.00	10,000.00	0.00	10,000.00	6,000.00	166.7%	8,000.00
Mercy	1,295.00	289.28	834.85	6,633.83	9,052.96	10,000.00	90.5%	10,000.00
Clarity	0.00	5,000.00	0.00	0.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	100.0%	5,000.00
New Song	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	100.0%	5,000.00
RP Global Missions	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	100.0%	5,000.00
RP Missions & Ministries	8,750.00	9,060.00	8,750.00	8,950.00	35,510.00	35,000.00	101.5%	35,000.00
RP Witness Subscription	0.00	0.00	1,200.00	0.00	1,200.00	1,500.00	80.0%	1,500.00
Biblical Training Scholarship Expense	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,000.00	0.0%	5,000.00
Session Ministries	0.00	0.00	804.42	670.98	1,475.40	2,500.00	59.0%	2,500.00
Summer Intern	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9,500.00	0.0%	10,000.00
Vacation Bible School	0.00	632.43	0.00	0.00	632.43	2,000.00	31.6%	2,500.00
Youth Memory Work Scholarship	0.00	0.00	1,423.24	0.00	1,423.24	1,500.00	94.9%	1,500.00
Youth Ministry/College & Career	213.74	270.86	0.00	1,257.62	1,742.22	2,000.00	87.1%	2,500.00
Youth TFY/Echo/Short Term Missions	0.00	0.00	0.00	462.50	462.50	2,500.00	18.5%	2,000.00
Total Ministries	13,572.98	19,430.40	26,598.15	32,826.80	92,428.33	109,550.00	84.4%	117,550.00
Synod & Presbytery								
Presbytery Assessment	4,070.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,070.00	5,000.00	81.4%	5,000.00
Synod Housing/Fees	0.00	684.00	0.00	0.00	684.00	1,000.00	68.4%	1,000.00
Synod's Assessment	0.00	0.00	8,117.00	0.00	8,117.00	9,000.00	90.2%	9,000.00
Total Synod & Presbytery	4,070.00	684.00	8,117.00	0.00	12,871.00	15,000.00	85.8%	15,000.00

