

Pastor's 2025 SWORP Report to GLG Presbytery

By the Rev. Dr. Richard E. 'Dick' Knodel, Jr. (February 19, 2026)

Broad Overview: I believe that this year – A.D. 2026 – will be a pivotal year for SWORP. I enjoy the peace and mutual affection we seem to have for each other. But I believe we have to grow some to have long-term viability. The subject has appeared periodically, and it seems to be a part of our group consciousness. We've been praying for five new families this year, but without success so far. I know that my leadership capacity has weakened, and I think our progress is linked to finding a younger pastor & family. I have appealed to the congregation to be more vocal and promotional of SWORP. In my pastoral Report at our annual meeting I said, "Since this involves the mysteries of both faith and providence – should we not seek the Lord's mercy, and then do all we can to energize our own efforts? Unhappily, my energy as your pastor has flagged in the last two years. Susan's chronic hypothyroidism has taken away our capacity to be as hospital as in the past."

As Paul exhorts in 1st Corinthians, every member/adherent must do their part. Everyone must find new ways to contribute. As we know ourselves and our resources, and contribute to each other, will we not discover new group energies that will bless us? Each of us knows his own heart best. If our soul-yearnings are for growth, and we follow them with effort – will we not be in the best position to succeed -- by God's grace?

Review of our worship, preaching and church life:

In A.D.2025, I have tried to highlight our fundamental obligation to *worship* God. This is the RPCNA Church's greatest contribution to NAPARC and the visible church. Our pulpit focused on finishing a longer series on 2 Kings and then began a series on Matthew. These focus on God's Kingdom in two slightly different ways!

Our attendance this year averaged twenty people – based on our inclusive membership of 28 persons. Family sickness (especially of our larger families with children) has decreased our overall attendance significantly. Our Giving has increased almost \$10,000 from 2024 to a total of \$68,780.47 in 2025. (See our printed budget which is attached.) Our greatest strength has been our happiness and koinonia. Our people really seem to love each other. We added one new adult member and one adult adherent. We had the great joy, via our **TGB help in Atlanta** of bringing that work to fully organized status in October. Via our **FaceBook 'streaming' and Sermon Audio** broadcasts, 200-400 people visit us per month from across America and around the world. Via our **weekly Church History class** we've promoted the best aspects of Puritanism. **Steven Work** served as our TGB convener for Atlanta, and has contributed thru-out GLG with his help in other pulpits. **Our Session**, made up of **Tim Vincze, G. Scott Damerow, and TE's Dick Knodel & Steven Work** have ably led the church – with everyone contributing where he was able. **Chris Knodel** served well as our **Deacon**. Most of our men obtained **vocational advancements**, while one lost his job right at the end of the year. **Our women** have all made helpful contributions in terms of their service. While **Grant Linville**, moved to our Southfield church in Michigan, he got engaged to **Natasha Kavala** from India in October. They asked Pastor Knodel to do their trans-continental marriage counseling via WhatsApp, and look forward to a Fall 2026 wedding. **SWORP** erected a pulpit committee and is currently scheduling prospective candidates throughout this year. All prayer is appreciated – especially for **Susan** and her chronic hypothyroidism.

On the basis of this review of 2025, we look forward to 2026.

