

## **Rhoda–Terre Haute Shepherding Committee Report**

### **Great Lakes–Gulf Presbytery Spring Stated Meeting 2026**

At the direction of Presbytery, the Rhoda–Terre Haute Shepherding Committee has continued its work of providing encouragement, counsel, and accountability to Reverend Stephen Rhoda, in consultation with the session of the Terre Haute congregation. Over the past year, we have remained in regular contact with both Steve and his wife, Mary, and are thankful to report that we have seen continued signs of genuine progress.

We have witnessed in Steve encouraging evidence of repentance and renewed spiritual vitality. Lord willing, on January 15, 2026, Steve will celebrate one full year of sobriety. We give thanks to God for this milestone and for the commitment Steve has shown in seeking restoration. He continues to attend Celebrate Recovery meetings three times each week and has expressed a desire to walk in greater accountability and dependence upon the Lord. Over the past year, it has been encouraging to observe the Spirit's work in his life, marked by growing humility, gentleness, and a deeper appreciation for the forgiveness and grace that are his in Christ.

We are also grateful to report that, after a temporary separation, Mary returned to the home in May of 2025. Since then, Steve and Mary's marriage, by both of their estimates, has grown much stronger and vital, and both remain committed to nurturing that renewed unity. Their progress together has been steady and hopeful.

As a committee, we want to offer praise to God for the clear outpouring of His grace in the lives of Steve and Mary. The Lord has heard the prayers of His people, sustained them through a painful season, and brought real healing to their home. We are encouraged by the work He has done and continues to do, and we commend Steve and Mary to the ongoing care and prayers of the Church.

Although we recognize that this request is unusual, the committee respectfully asks that the Moderator of Presbytery, Pastor McCollum, consider calling a special meeting in January or February in Indianapolis for the purpose of lifting Pastor Rhoda's suspension. While we anticipate that Pastor Rhoda would be able to attend the Orlando meeting in person, it is unlikely that the rest of his family would be able to do so. In particular, including his wife, who has played a significant role in supporting him through repentance and recovery, would be an important pastoral consideration. In our judgment, this pastoral priority outweighs the benefit of having broader in-person representation at the meeting.

We anticipate that the lifting of Pastor Rhoda's suspension would be the sole item of business. We understand that the decision to call such a meeting rests entirely with the Moderator, and we believe that responses to this request being directed to him will assist in discerning whether Presbytery is sufficiently unified to warrant a special meeting. If held at Southside, the meeting could be privately livestreamed so that all presbyters may observe the proceedings. To meet quorum requirements, representation from nine congregations would be needed, which could be satisfied through representation from the Indiana and Ohio congregations.

## **Recommendations**

In light of the progress described above, the committee brings the following recommendations to Presbytery:

1. That the suspension of Reverend Stephen Rhoda from pastoral duties be lifted.
2. That the Rhoda–Terre Haute Shepherding Committee be dissolved, its work having been completed to the satisfaction of Presbytery.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerry Foltz (Chair)

David Hanson

Kenneth De Jong

Josh Reshey