

Southfield Reformed Presbyterian Church

“Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth.” Ps. 124:8 (NKJV)

Dear Fathers and Brethren,

We thank the Lord for His many mercies to our flock over the past year. Here are some of the highlights.

1. Our membership remained steady in 2025, with the arrival of the Cook and Schwartz families serving to offset the departure of the Manring and Van Reenen families. Our total membership is 106 (+3), including 67 communicant members (+1)¹ and 39 baptized members (+2). We received new members through paedobaptism (4), profession of faith (3), and transfer (6), with one covenant child professing her faith and two newborns awaiting baptism. We transferred the two aforementioned families (10) to another Reformed church, dismissed a brother to attend a Baptist church, and mourned the passing of Charlotte Adams, an SRPC member since 1956.
2. Average AM worship attendance inched higher to 88 (+2), while PM attendance climbed to 63 (+10). These numbers are still lower than we would like, but understandable given that the Yang family (6) worships in Grand Rapids, both the Samuls (6) and Lehrs (2) live an hour away, and we have many couples with multiple young children who livestream when one of them is sick. Our Sermon Audio webcast reaches 8-10 households per service, not including the Facebook stream, thus accounting for all of our homebound members on any given week.
3. In addition to weekly sermons from Pastor Kuehner (AM: [Romans](#); PM: Romans, [Titus](#)), elder-led Psalm meditations, and pulpit supply from Rev. Samul and Mr. Schwartz, we conducted sabbath school classes on Bible Survey (young children), Biblical Doctrine & Communicant Membership (older children), and Church History (adults). Mr. Schwartz assumed regular preaching duties on first and fifth sabbath evenings, giving us two services every single week.
4. With the relaunch of the Southfield Bible study, we once again have three midweek meetings (Novi, Southfield, Troy) with each group experiencing a notable increase in participation.

¹ As of 12/31/25, three of these communicant members are suspended from the privileges of communicant membership. One of these suspensions occurred in 2025 due to fornication. All three still worship with us and are working toward restoration.

5. Local outreach efforts included fifth sabbath evangelistic services, weekly member-led door-to-door evangelism, occasional witnessing at abortion clinics and college campuses, Japanese ESL, and a new bi-monthly Japanese Bible study led by Mr. Schwartz and hosted by the Kims.
6. Pastor Kuehner taught monthly theology classes on *Covenant Theology* (Spring 2025) and *Christology I* (Fall 2025), led a summer book study on Bonar's *Night of Weeping*, coordinated our men's purity program, oversaw Mr. Schwartz's internship, conducted marital counseling, took on a distinct shepherding group, and made progress in his writing project contrasting "Christian" ethno-nationalism with the historic consensus of Reformed political orthodoxy.
7. Rev. Colin Samul preached in the mornings as needed and occasionally attended Session meetings for consultation. In September he was appointed as a provisional elder to help with a sensitive shepherding matter and was a huge help to the Session. He later asked to be removed.
8. Elder Jake Schwartz, whose family transferred their membership to SRPC in the fall, served as our pastoral intern from September to January, provided evening pulpit supply, helped with local outreach, taught a men's class on sexual purity, led occasional midweek meetings, and conducted our new Japanese Bible study (he is rapidly learning Japanese), while working part-time as a freelance tax accountant. Following his graduation from RPTS in May, we plan to extend his internship for two more years, hopefully with the aid of the Home Mission Board's *Resident-in-Training* (RIT) grant. The application for this grant is attached to our report.
9. Under the oversight of the Session and Deacon Board, we conducted officer internships—one elder intern and three diaconal interns—in hopes that the Lord will raise up new officers.
10. Josiah Cook and his family moved to Detroit from Virginia in connection with his new job as a teacher of Bible, Greek, Latin, and Jiu-Jitsu at nearby Bloomfield Christian School. Josiah, who has two Bible degrees from Liberty University (B.A., M.A.T.S.), presently teaches our young children's sabbath school class, takes turns leading a midweek group, and desires to come under care of presbytery so that he can begin online studies at RPTS in the spring quarter.
11. Matt Fernandez completed his sophomore year of biblical studies at Tokyo Christian University and is presently reevaluating if/when to return. A.J. Troutman continues to ace online courses at Reformation Bible College (Orlando, FL) and hopes to pursue on-campus studies in 2027.
12. In March 2025, we hosted the CYPUR Theological Foundations Weekend (TFW) on the doctrine of the church, drawing a record attendance. We recently agreed to host TFW again in March 2026 and are very much looking forward to it.
13. Thanks to the congregation's abundant generosity, the Kuehners were able to purchase a spacious new home in Farmington Hills, just ten minutes from the church. By April, the Schwartz family hopes to begin renting our newly-renovated parsonage, which they will enjoy rent-free upon the commencement of Jake's two-year residency, God willing, in July.

14. Due to steady demand for occasional pastoral meetings with members and adherents, the Session was unable to conduct systematic visitation in 2025. Hopefully, with the addition of a pastoral intern and perhaps the election of new officers, this trend will soon be reversed.
15. On 1/6/26, we addressed two additional instances of sexual sin, adding a fourth name to our list of suspended members, each of whom still worships with us and is actively working through a plan of repentance. In hopes that 2026 may yet be the “year of restoration,” we have appointed a day of congregational prayer and fasting for Saturday 2/21/26.
16. We praise God for blessing us with yet another all-time high in total income for 2025 (\$240,474)—an increase of nearly 12% from 2024, and nearly 24% since 2023. We also received a grant of \$25,000 from the Synod for major renovations to our church auditorium.
17. We are thankful to God for His rich blessing over the past year, recognizing our great need to cultivate deeper trust and humility, as we seek to “fear the LORD and His goodness” in 2026.

Recommendations

- 1) That Presbytery receive Jake Schwartz as a student under care of the GLGP with recognition of his licensure to receive a call by the Presbytery of the Alleghenies (RPCNA).
- 2) That Presbytery approve our application for the RPCNA Home Mission Board’s *Resident-in-Training* (RIT) grant to fund Mr. Schwartz’s two-year pastoral internship (July 2026–July 2028) and promptly relay this decision to the HMB.
- 3) That Presbytery receive Josiah Cook as a student under care of the GLGP at this meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Session of the Southfield RP Church

Southfield Reformed Presbyterian Church
Treasurer's Report

BALANCE SHEET - AS OF 12/31/25

	YTD as of 12/31/2025	2025 Budget	% of Budget	2026 Budget Worksheet
1 BALANCE FORWARD	27,986.34	27,986.34		28,252.30
2 TOTAL INCOME:	240,429.80	212,000.00	113%	219,000.00
3 TOTAL EXPENSES:	240,163.84	210,483.00	114%	218,615.00
4 ENDING BALANCE	28,252.30	29,503.34		28,637.30

INCOME STATEMENT - December, 2025

5 INCOME:				
6 Tithes	233,425.03	208,000.00	112%	215,000.00
7 5th Sabbath Offerings	2,400.81			
8 Interest - Certificates of Deposit and Savings	4,603.96	4,000.00	115%	4,000.00
0 Other	0.00			
10 TOTAL INCOME:	240,429.80	212,000.00	113%	219,000.00
11 EXPENSES				
12 BUSINESS EXPENSES:				
13 RPCNA SYNOD & PRESBYTERY:				
14 Delegates to Synod	1,176.00	1,500.00	78%	1,500.00
15 Synod's Assm't (2.2% of receipts)	4,621.00	4,500.00	103%	5,000.00
16 Presbytery Assessment	2,190.00	2,190.00	100%	2,190.00
17 SOUTHFIELD:				
18 Worker's Comp. Insurance	428.00	410.00	104%	410.00
19 Church Business Expenses	1,761.20	615.00	286%	2,750.00
20 Ch. Bus. Exp. - Treasurer's Stipend	6,000.00	6,000.00	100%	0.00
21 Pastor's Expense Account	4,575.28	4,300.00	106%	4,500.00
22 Intern Pastor's Expense Account	121.85	0.00		0.00
23 TOTAL BUSINESS EXPENSES:	20,873.33	19,515.00	107%	16,350.00
24				
25 BUILDING EXPENSES:				
26 UTILITIES:				
27 Electric	2,872.55	2,400.00	120%	3,000.00
28 Natural Gas	1,421.36	1,500.00	95%	1,600.00
29 Internet	1,125.10	1,080.00	104%	1,080.00
30 City Water & Sewer	597.23	650.00	92%	650.00
31 City Trash Collection	263.00	275.00		275.00
32 PROPERTY INSURANCE:	9,451.00	8,000.00	118%	9,600.00
33 CONTRACTED SERVICES:				
34 Gutter Cleaning - Parsonage & Church	0.00	500.00		500.00
35 Janitorial Services & Supplies	5,259.59	5,250.00	100%	5,400.00
36 Lawnmowing Service	4,060.00	4,175.00	97%	4,175.00
37 Parking Lot & Drive Seal Coating	0.00	0.00		4,000.00
38 Snow Plowing	1,400.00	1,300.00	108%	1,500.00
39 MAINTENANCE & REPAIR:				
40 Building	11,185.07	4,000.00	280%	5,000.00
41 Equipment/Appliances/Furniture	3,671.95	4,000.00	92%	4,000.00
42 Materials/Supplies	195.90	300.00	65%	300.00
43 Groundskeeping/Landscaping	900.44	2,000.00	45%	2,000.00
44 IMPROVEMENT FUND: (add to Fund)	18,000.00	10,000.00	180%	0.00
45 TOTAL BUILDING EXPENSES:	60,403.19	45,430.00	133%	43,080.00

	YTD as of	2025	% of	2026	
	12/31/2025	Budget	Budget	Budget	
46	MINISTRY EXPENSES:				
47	SOUTHFIELD:				
48	Social Committee	4,949.22	2,750.00	180%	3,800.00
49	Education	127.20	500.00	25%	500.00
50	Library Expenses	63.33	150.00	42%	150.00
51	Guest Preaching	3,325.00	5,250.00	63%	5,250.00
52	Church Web-Site Expenses	986.23	1,500.00	66%	1,500.00
53	Outreach/Evangelism (add to Fund)	400.00	400.00	100%	400.00
54	RP Conference Expenses	1,312.50	1,000.00	131%	1,750.00
55	Publication Fund (add to Fund)	300.00	300.00	100%	300.00
56	REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN GIVING:				
57	RP Missions & Ministries	0.00	0.00		0.00
58	RP Home	0.00	0.00		0.00
59	RP Theological Seminary	5,950.00	5,200.00	114%	5,375.00
60	RP Global Missions	5,950.00	5,200.00	114%	5,375.00
61	Home Missions	5,950.00	5,200.00	114%	5,375.00
62	Geneva College	2,975.00	2,600.00	114%	2,687.50
63	Education & Publication Board	2,975.00	2,600.00	114%	2,687.50
64	Other (Includes desig. gifts)	0.00	0.00		0.00
65	FIFTH SABBATH OFFERINGS:	2,400.81			
66	NON-REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN GIVING:				
67	Reformation Translation Fellowship	500.00	500.00	100%	500.00
68	CEFF	500.00	500.00	100%	500.00
69	Care Net	500.00	500.00	100%	500.00
70	Other	0.00	0.00		0.00
71	MINISTRY OF MERCY(add to Mercy Fund)	200.00	200.00	100%	500.00
72	TOTAL MINISTRY EXPENSES:	39,364.29	34,350.00	115%	37,150.00
73	PASTORAL COMPENSATION EXPENSES:				
74	Pastor:				
75	Salary	40,970.08	61,455.00	67%	27,105.00
76	Housing Allowance	30,484.92	10,000.00	305%	63,600.00
77	Utilities	6,640.78	7,250.00	92%	0.00
78	Health Savings Account	8,550.00	8,550.00	100%	8,750.00
79	Pension Fund-Employer Cont.	5,000.00	5,000.00	100%	5,100.00
80	Conference Costs	1,645.00	3,000.00	55%	3,000.00
81	Bonus	5,000.00	0.00		0.00
82	In Lieu of Social Security	10,933.00	10,933.00	100%	13,880.00
83	Increased Health Ins/Dental Insurance	5,273.25	5,000.00	105%	600.00
84	Total: Pastor	114,497.03	111,188.00	103%	122,035.00
85	Pastoral Intern:				
86	Housing	5,026.00	0.00		
87	TOTAL PASTORAL COMPENSATION EXP:	119,523.03	111,188.00	107%	122,035.00
88	TOTAL EXPENSES:	240,163.84	210,483.00	114%	218,615.00
89	NET INCOME(LOSS)	265.96	1,517.00		385.00

OTHER FUNDS						
	<u>Cemetery</u>	<u>Mercy</u>	<u>Improvement Fund</u>	<u>Outreach/ Evang. Fund</u>	<u>Publication Fund</u>	
1	Balance 01/01/2025	12,719.77	0.00	93,618.17	136.81	479.01
2	+ Contrib. or Interest	561.96	2,044.00	46,110.00	0.00	0.00
3	+ From General Fund	0.00	200.00	18,000.00	400.00	300.00
4	- Expenditures	0.00	1,909.03	0.00	120.03	441.85
5	Balance 12/31/25	13,281.73	334.97	157,728.17	416.78	337.16

SUMMARY OF ASSETS							
Balance 12/31/25							
	<u>Bank</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Issue Date</u>	<u>Maturity</u>	<u>Interest Rate</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Designation</u>
6	Bk Of America	SV acct.	12/12/19	none	0.02	2,953.93	
7	Live Oak Bank	12 mth.	05/12/24	05/12/25	5.00	11,754.99	CD# 5946
8	Live Oak Bank	12 mth.	09/19/25	09/18/26	4.38	11,850.10	CD# 7115
9	Live Oak Bank	12 mth.	02/18/25	02/18/26	4.30	13,281.73	CD# 7764 *
10	Live Oak Bank	SV acct.	04/14/22	none	3.92	146,901.58	#0541
11	Southfield checking account balance as of 12/31/25					13,608.78	
12	TOTAL CASH BALANCES					200,351.11	
13	General Fund					28,252.30	
14	Cemetery Fund					13,281.73	CD# 7764
15	Mercy Fund					334.97	
16	Improvement Fund:					157,728.17	
17	Designated for parsonage kitchen				\$1,610.00		
18	Designated for pews, carpet, flooring				\$54,400.00		
19	Outreach/Evangelism Fund					416.78	
20	Publication Fund					337.16	
21	Payroll Tax Liability Account					0.00	
22	TOTAL FUNDS					200,351.11	

* Note: CD# 7764 is designated for Cemetery Funds

SUMMARY OF NOTES RECEIVABLE							
	<u>Type</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Check #</u>	<u>Date of Loan</u>	<u>Total Loan</u>	<u>Amt. Repaid</u>	<u>Bal. Due</u>
23	Loan			4/14/2024	\$2,475.25		\$2,475.25
24		5/13/2024				\$280.00	\$2,195.25
25		7/16/2024				\$200.00	\$1,995.25
26		8/5/2024				\$100.00	\$1,895.25
27		9/16/2024				\$300.00	\$1,595.25
28		12/16/2024				\$200.00	\$1,395.25
29		7/27/2025				\$100.00	\$1,295.25
30		8/18/2025				\$100.00	\$1,195.25
31		12/7/2025				\$44.00	\$1,151.25
32		12/21/2025				\$100.00	\$1,051.25

SUMMARY OF NOTES PAYABLE	
33	None at this time

- ✓ 7. Verify the existence of assets other than cash in checking (i.e. stock certificates, savings accounts, brokerage accounts, etc.). Review the earnings from investments to the amount of the assets for reasonableness.
- 8. Trace balances of notes payables and other liabilities to supporting documents.
- ✓ 9. Compare the income and expenses of the current year to those of the prior year for any significant fluctuations.
- ✓ 10. Review procedures for counting and handling of funds. This should be done by someone other than the treasurer.

We have examined the financial records of the Southfield Congregation and have found the following:

- ✓ 1. No problems or questions were noted.
- 2. The following error(s) or problem(s) were found and were resolved as follows:

Finding

Resolution

Congregation Southfield R.P. **Date** 2-13-25

Review Committee Members:

<u>Nicole Wang-Nedun</u>	<u>2/13/2025</u>
<u>Joel Tyfonda Joel Tyfonda</u>	<u>2/13/2025</u>

Please send two copies of this report to your Clerk of Session to be submitted to your presbytery clerk along with your congregational reports.

HMB Policies and Procedures
Section VII — Special Programs

Resident In Training Program
(Minutes 11-14-2001)

The Basic Idea

As representatives, serving you in our Presbyteries with Counsel, Education, Resources and Training, your Home Mission Board (hereinafter HMB) would like to invite applications for grant/match funding toward the placement of potential church planters as residents-in-training in existing congregations.

Qualifying churches would receive a \$12,000 grant, and matching funds up to \$12,000 more, for each of no more than 2 years. Available funds for a given year would follow the chart below.

HMB Grant	Congregation able to raise	HMB match	Total available
\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$36,000.00
\$12,000.00	\$11,000.00	\$11,000.00	\$34,000.00
\$12,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$32,000.00
\$12,000.00	\$9,000.00	\$9,000.00	\$30,000.00
\$12,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$28,000.00
\$12,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$26,000.00
\$12,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$24,000.00

The object of this approach is to season men and test their calling in the areas of discipleship, evangelism, and leadership development. Consider the following advantages of this approach:

- One of the best circumstances in which a man's calling for church planting can be identified and confirmed is in the context of a strong church, where tested and proven leaders train and encourage in close and constant contact.
- It may be the best stewardship of the precious human resource to make a man's first experience in full-time pastoring a residency rather than a church plant. While particular situations will be the exception, a pervading pattern of sending the inexperienced to solo on the outer edges of the field may, over time, leave many overcome and disillusioned.
- The demanding ministry required of one training for church planting can be pursued without the distracting pressures of impending financial insolvency.
- During this period, human and financial resources serve both the existing church and the necessary goal of planting.
- The "daughtering" model of church planting, a very healthy model especially suited to our denomination, is cultivated.

Enclosed are the policies, application forms and instructions you will need. See Form HMB-6.

HMB will not normally offer both the *full* Resident In Training Program and the *full* six-year decreasing aid program consecutively to the same site. (Minutes 4-9-2003)

Church Planter Resident-In-Training Program
Form HMB 6

[Please copy these questions to another document so that you can give full answers.]

Application for Home Mission Board Aid
to be filled out by a Presbytery or a Session approved by their Presbytery

Information

Name of Congregation: Southfield Reformed Presbyterian Church

Pastor: Adam Kuehner

Address: 26550 Evergreen Rd

City: Southfield State: Michigan Zip: 48076

Telephone: 248-356-3932 E-mail: srpc@southfield.city

Name of proposed resident: H. Jacob Schwartz

Address: 26580 Evergreen Rd

City: Southfield State: Michigan Zip: 48076

Telephone: 972-551-9532 E-mail: hjschwartz@gmail.com

Proposed beginning date for residency: July 2026

Amount of funding requested this year: $\$6,000$ grant + $\$6,000$ matching = $\underline{\$12,000}$.

Rationale: We are asking Mr. Schwartz to do a part-time internship (20 hrs/wk) so that he may continue to support his family as a freelance tax accountant. Hence, we are only asking for \$6,000/year up front along with another \$6,000 of matching funds, which is *half* the maximum funding amount.

1. What fruit of God's blessing shows the congregation to be spiritually healthy?

Since 2019, our membership has grown in a gradual and sustainable manner from 44 to around 105, and our annual giving from \$125,498 to \$230,792. The Lord has blessed our pastor with endurance (2012-Present), our Session with unity, and our congregation with comradery, spiritual growth, and a passion for both service and evangelism. We have attached our annual report to Presbytery for specific details of how the Lord is at work among us.

2. What is the evidence that the existing leadership in this congregation has been proven and equipped for guiding a potential church planter in a residency relationship?

"Who is sufficient for these things?" The Lord has shown Himself to be our sufficiency through many ups and downs over many years together. He has raised up a Japanese Mission Team under the leadership of Mr. Schwartz during his seminary internship among us. This team is presently ministering to a growing population of Japanese immigrants right here in our local area, under the oversight of our Session. This is a low risk, high reward enterprise and we are prayerfully optimistic that the Lord will raise up an increasingly formal Japanese mission with worship services in Japanese, once again under the oversight of our local Session. As a Session, we have nearly 70 years of combined experience as Reformed Presbyterian elders in Southeast Michigan. Elder Kim has served multiple terms on the RP Global Mission Board and hosts our bi-monthly Japanese Bible study. Mr. Hughes has decades of experience overseeing students on the GLGP Candidates and Credentials Committee

and has served on multiple church extension committees over the years. Pastor Kuehner currently serves on the GLGP Candidates and Credentials Committee and was able to oversee Mr. Schwartz's recent seminary internship in the fourth quarter of 2025, which was a great blessing to the congregation.

a. What is leadership's current vision for outreach and church planting?

Our outlook on church planting is to continue fostering a healthy local congregation dispensing the means of grace, equipping the saints, training up local officers, and keeping our eyes open for what the Lord is doing. We are not eager to overextend ourselves at the moment, as we have only three elders and over 100 members. However, we believe the Lord has opened a promising opportunity by raising up a local ESL ministry several years ago, led by three members of our congregation, and then sending Mr. Schwartz into our midst to help take it to the next level. In terms of structure, we very much appreciate the model employed by North Hills RPC in Pittsburgh, which hosts a distinct Chinese worship service each Lord's Day in Mandarin, yet maintains a unified membership roll. Tentatively speaking, we believe this would be the most effective way to see a congregation of Japanese worshippers raised up in SE Michigan.

b. What is the plan for involving the leadership in the RIT's training?

As in Mr. Schwartz's seminary internship, Pastor Kuehner will take the lead in terms of day-to-day oversight and bi-weekly mentoring. Mr. Schwartz will continue to attend Session meetings, provide updates to the other elders, and sit in on select counseling/visitation meetings.

3. Please provide a concise statement of the congregation's philosophy of church life and ministry in your situation.

Our philosophy of church life and ministry is to keep things as simple and straightforward as possible, remaining firmly rooted in the Bible-based doctrinal and spiritual priorities laid out in our Covenant of Communicant Membership.

In doctrine, we seek to proclaim and apply the whole counsel of God from the Scriptures, in accordance with our confessional standards, building especially upon the foundational doctrines, duties, and experiences which all true Christians share, along with the free offer of the gospel to all who are outside of Christ. In addition, we conduct sabbath school classes for children and adults, and elders present psalm meditations during evening worship.

In worship, we seek to observe the simple ordinances of Christ in reverence and sincere gratitude, desiring the Holy Spirit to fill us with all the fullness of God, unify us in the bond of peace, and sanctify us in the truth of God's word as it is sung, read, preached, and set before us visibly in the sacraments.

In discipline, we seek to be faithful, consistent, straightforward, prudent, loving, and transparent; aiming to educate new members on what to expect; pursuing the five purposes of church discipline as summarized in our Book of Discipline; avoiding the pitfalls of gnat-straining, judgmentalism, and perfectionism, yet resisting the temptation to sidestep scandalous sin merely to avoid conflict, awkwardness, or inconvenience.

In government, we seek to cultivate unity, cooperation, and division of labor among the entire Session by way of distinct shepherding groups, elder-led midweek meetings, regular updates to the congregation regarding Presbytery and Synod meetings, inclusion of the deacons in certain portions our Session meetings, transparent annual budget reports, oversight of officer-internships to help train future officebearers for service within the congregation and denomination, giving 10% of our tithes and offerings to RPCNA ministries, and actively participating in the higher courts of the church.

In fellowship and mutual service, we host numerous activities, including frequent food and fellowship on the Lord's Day, weekly outreach opportunities, seasonal work days, in-home midweek groups and hospitality, women's book study, men's theology group, summer book study, special gatherings for Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, and a variety of other things. Our congregation is very much united and enjoys spending time together.

a. In what way is your request related to the potential of daughtering a church from your own congregation or of planting a church in a new area?

We lean toward the “daughtering” approach to church-planting and are eager to see the Lord raise up new works in SE Michigan, which—population wise—could easily support its own presbytery. However, as noted above, we believe the North Hills model of cross-cultural church-planting (distinct worship, same congregation) would be most suitable to our circumstances. In addition, we believe that Mr. Schwartz’s presence would prove helpful to us in terms of managing our recent growth and putting us in a stronger position to consider possible church-planting opportunities in the future. Two-thirds of our *communicant* members are under the age of 40 (with most of these under 30), so there is much potential yet to be realized, moving forward, assuming we have adequate personnel to provide discipleship.

4. Please provide a detailed description of your goals for the resident in each of the following categories:

- Personal faith and holiness: Our desire is for Mr. Schwartz to continue growing in his personal relationship with Christ through vigorous prayer and Bible study, and to increasingly be able to say “Follow me as I follow Christ.”
- Discipleship: We desire Mr. Schwartz to be active in discipling the members of our congregation, especially our fairly large population of young adult men. He will lead our men’s purity/accountability class during the sabbath school, serve as an accountability partner with at least one of the attendees, participate actively in our monthly theology course (designed to raise up future officebearers), aid the Session in pastoral counseling and visitation, and invest heavily in the lives of the members of the Japanese Mission Team. We have several men considering future gospel ministry who will also benefit from rubbing shoulders with Mr. Schwartz.
- Outreach: Mr. Schwartz will lead the regular activities and events of the Japanese Mission Team and also help with our Saturday morning outreach team as he is able.
- Leadership development: Mr. Schwartz will meet regularly with Pastor Kuehner for leadership development, participate in Pastor Kuehner’s weekly meeting with men seeking the ministry, and will attend all Session meetings to watch Presbyterianism in action at the local level.

What is your plan to see these goals achieved over the 2-year residency? Be as specific as possible as to your plan for the resident both within the congregation and outside the congregation.

We believe that the faithful and steady pursuit of the items outlined above will, over time, help to prepare Mr. Schwartz for ordained pastoral ministry within the RPCNA.

5. Since the program is reserved strictly for potential church planters, describe why you believe that engaging this particular resident will serve the purpose of seeing him equipped for that work.

Mr. Schwartz has long felt a call to missionary work and spent time this past year exploring the possibility of laboring in Chile, Paraguay, and Spain, due to his fluency in Spanish. However, none of these opportunities provided a suitable situation for he and his family of six. Both Jake and Lydia are from Western Michigan with family nearby and the prospect of ministering cross-culturally in Metro Detroit to a largely unreached Japanese population seemed like the perfect fit for Jake, who has for many years desired to minister to the Japanese, to pursue his missionary calling in a setting which would be more suitable for his wife and family. This was the main reason we invited him to do his seminary internship among us, and things just really seemed to click. His family has since joined the congregation and we are hopeful that the RIT grant will grant us an additional runway to allow the Lord to continue blessing and building our congregation through Jake’s ministry.

6. Describe your view of the congregation’s relationship with this resident at the end of the residency.

Our understanding is that the RIT program neither requires nor forbids us from calling Jake as an assistant pastor at any point during or after the residency. Our intention is to proceed without a pastoral call—essentially extending his seminary internship—and simply to allow the Lord to guide us forward as He sees fit. Obviously, if we do not show interest in extending a call after the first year of the

internship, it would be logical for Jake to begin looking to candidate elsewhere. But we are not really wanting to get ahead of ourselves at this point, especially since we are the Session and it is the *congregation* who must ultimately vote to sustain a call. We have discussed all of this with Jake and he is at peace with it.

7. Is there anything about your financial position that the HMB should know? If the HMB does not fund this request, what will you do?

Our finances are fairly straightforward, as detailed in our attached spring presbytery report. Our request is for \$12,000 for the first year of the residency (2026-27) and we will likely request \$12,000 for the second year (2027-28). In terms of the first year, this would consist of a \$6,000 grant (up front) and \$6,000 in matching funds. In order to secure the matching funds, we will be reducing his rent at our church parsonage from \$1200/month to \$700/month. We will then use the \$12,000 grant from the HMB to reduce his housing costs by an additional \$1000/month (i.e., free rent + utilities). In this way, the RIT grant will enable us to give the Schwartz family free housing, so that Jake's part-time accounting business can pay for the rest of their expenses.

8. Besides the signed commitment reflecting the congregation's commitment to the matching portion of the funding, please attach the following:

- a. The congregation's balance sheet and income statement for the past fiscal year ended. Please include current membership and attendance data.**
- b. The congregation's income statement to date for the current fiscal year with a budget to actual comparison if possible. Please include current membership and attendance data.**
- c. The congregation's proposed budget for Year 1 with the RIT.**

All of this information is included in our attached report to Presbytery, except for Letter C, which we will provide as a further attachment.

Application completed by:

_____ Date _____

Please return this form to your Presbytery Representative.

Policy definitions:

Presbyteries or Sessions (with Presbytery approval) make the applications.

This program is strictly reserved for potential church planters. Grant/match funding will be considered on the basis of complete, approved applications only.

Candidates for funding through this program must be licensed to receive a call but, in accord with each Presbytery's oversight, need not be ordained and installed as assistant pastors.

Grant approvals can be part of the business of either meeting (Spring or Fall) of the HMB. Funding shall be for the calendar year and can begin in any month. Presbytery approved applications shall be received by the HMB (through the Presbytery representatives) by March 1st for consideration at Spring meetings or by September 1st for Fall.

HMB will not normally offer both the full Resident In Training Program and the full six-year decreasing aid program consecutively to the same site. (Minutes 4-9-2003)

HMB funding commitments shall be entered into in accord with reasonable projection of available funds, and are always subject to actual available funds.

Each calendar year's grant and match funding will be provided at the beginning in a single transfer, in accord with written match commitments submitted with the request. At the end of the calendar year, the congregation shall be responsible to return all unmatched portions. Each respective Presbytery, and/or the HMB, shall have authority to cease funding (in accord with all contractual obligations) at any time, if circumstances call for it.

Recipient Sessions shall provide yearly reports to their Presbyteries in accord with the forms provided (at whichever meeting is closest to having allowed 12 months to pass), and the Presbyteries, in turn, shall provide those reports to the HMB at its nearest meeting thereafter.

Church Planter
Resident-in-Training Program

Yearly Session Reports to Presbytery and the HMB

1. Please attach (separately):

- a detailed job description, itemizing the resident-in-training's responsibilities through the past year, and
- a detailed job and goals description for the coming year.

2. What fruit of God's blessing upon the resident and his work can be identified in each of the following categories:

Personal faith and holiness

Discipleship

Outreach

Leadership development

3. Please provide a statement from your resident concerning his current view toward considering further work in church planting.

4. What do you consider to be your resident's greatest strengths? In what areas does he need to grow?

5. Has your work with this resident through the year revealed any significant problems that would be a detriment to his work as a church planter?

Report completed by:

_____ Date _____

Please return this form to your Presbytery HMB Representative.

Church Planter
Resident-in-Training Program

Matching Commitment

In accord with the attached budget, we, the _____
congregation of the RPCNA commit to providing the amount of _____ toward
the costs of supporting a resident in the calendar year _____ through

(month/year)

It is understood that while the amount that matches this commitment will be provided by the HMB at the beginning of the related calendar year, the congregation will be responsible to refund any portion unmatched.

_____ Date _____
Clerk of Session

_____ Date _____
Chair of the Deacon Board