

Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery: Spring Meeting 2026
Orlando Reformed Presbyterian Church

The Great Lakes Gulf (GLG) Presbytery met at the Orlando Reformed Presbyterian Church on March 5, 2026. The meeting was called to order by the moderator, Rev. Philip McCollum. The moderator called the court's attention to First Peter 5:1-4. Following the reading of the Word, Rev. McCollum preached the Word from the same text, encouraging the elders in their duties under Christ.

Following the preaching of the Word, the court sang the 23rd Psalm, selection 23B from the Book of Psalms for Worship. Elder Brentt VanSickle served as precentor for the remainder of the meeting. Following the singing of the Word, the moderator constituted the court at 2:34pm, in the name of Jesus Christ, the king and head of the Church.

Assistant Clerk, Rev. Joel Hart, called the roll. A quorum was established. The roll is as follows:

Name	Thursday Noon	Thursday Evening	Friday Morning	Friday Afternoon	Friday Evening
David Leap	P	P	P	P	P
Frank Smith	Excused Absence				
Bruce Bowers	P	P	P	P	P
Phil Pockras	P	P	P	P	P
Colin Elliott	P	P	P	P	P
Rich Holdeman	A	P	P	P	P
Philip McCollum	P	P	P	P	P
Joel Hart	P	P	P	P	P
Jeff Jones	P	P	P	P	P
Dave Schisler	P	P	P	P	P
Robert Daniels	P	P	P	P	P
Bob Bibby	P	P	P	P	P
Adam Niess	P	P	P	P	P
Ken Nelson	P	P	P	P	P
Jon Sturm	Excused Absence				
Aaron Murray	P	P	P	P	P
Nathan Eshelman	P	P	P	P	P
Kevin Duffey	P	P	P	P	P
Mark Goerner	P	P	P	P	P
Jerry Foltz	P	P	P	P	P
Donald Cassell	P	P	P	P	P
Dean Filson	P	P	P	P	P
Adam Kuehner	P	P	P	P	P
Jon Hughes	P	P	P	P	P
Mike Lotz	P	P	P	P	P

Daniel Sturm	P	P	P	P	P
Ian Wise	P	P	P	P	P
David Hanson	P	P	P	P	P
Dick Knodel	P	P	P	P	P
Scott Damerow	P	P	P	P	P
Ross Fearing	Excused Absence				
Shawn Anderson	P	P	P	P	P
Brentt VanSickle	P	P	P	P	P
Josh Reshey	P	P	P	P	P
Bob Koch	P	P	P	P	P
Josh Smith	P	P	P	P	P
Colin Samul	P	P	P	P	P
Ray Lanning	Excused Absence				
Mark Koller	A	P	P	P	P
James Pennington	A	A	P	P	A
Glenn McFarland	A	A	P	P	A
David Whitla	Excused Absence				

Elder Mike Lotz was introduced by Rev. David Hanson as a first time delegate to the court. Rev. Aldo Leon and Intern Enmanuel Gonzalez from Pinelands Presbyterian in Miami, FL were then introduced by Rev. Joshua Smith.

Nathan Eshelman presented the memorial for Rev. James Wright. The memorial is as follows:

Psalm 116 says, “Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.”

On Sabbath morning, September 7, 2025, Rev. James “Jim” McLean Wright, of Ocoee, FL, entered his heavenly rest. He was born June 9, 1939.

Jim was a lifelong Reformed Presbyterian, baptized and raised in the old Kansas City congregation. He often shared missionary stories of his father, Dr. Paul Wright’s time in the China Mission.

Jim attended Geneva College and graduated from the University of Kansas with a BA degree, studying Anatomy and Physiology as well as English. Jim was preparing for the medical field and desiring to follow in his father’s footsteps. The Lord however called him into ministry and he graduated from The Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary (RPTS) in 1969. There Jim met his wife, Judy, and they married on May 17, 1969, in North Hills, Pittsburgh, PA.

Following seminary he served in Syracuse in the role of assistant pastor. Jim also was active in the “Summer Leadership Program” in Los Angeles, CA with Revs. Paul Robb and Ken Smith. At that time he participated as a high school counselor at Covfamiko (1969) where he was introduced to members of the Orlando congregation.

Rev. Wright then pastored the Orlando Congregation for 26 years (1970-1996). During this time, Jim served in a number of leadership roles within the RPCNA including time

as director of Covfamiko Family Conference and Program Director for the National Conference. After full-time pastoral ministry, Jim worked as a chaplain for Advent Health in Orlando.

Jim and his late-wife, Judy, and have two children, J. Brian Wright and Stephanie Garrow. Stephanie and her husband Steve are members of the Orlando congregation, along with two of his grandchildren, Mason and Emily.

Jim woke up that Sabbath morning, September 7, 2025, in the presence of his Savior, renewed and made whole, enjoying the first of many eternal Sabbaths before the face of God.

Rev. Joel Hart presented an oral report-memorial for Dr. Jerry O'Neill. Philippians 1:9-11 was read along with that which is on a plaque at the Columbus church, where Dr. O'Neill once served.

Rev. McCollum presented a memorial for Mr. Joe Moore, a deacon of the Bloomington congregation. His memorial is as follows:

On February 19, 2025, Joe Moore former deacon of the Bloomington Reformed Presbyterian Church, passed into glory from our congregation. Joe was born into a longstanding covenanter family of the Bloomington church in 1941 and grew up in the congregation. Unfortunately, as he grew up, he left the congregation and drifted through many trials of sin and judgement as a young man before the Lord convicted him and regenerated him through His Spirit, bringing him back to the congregation in the late 1970's. Since that time, he served the Lord in the context of the congregation so faithfully. He was a ubiquitous part of the core of the church through the very difficult years and then on into the period of growth that we've seen over the last 40 years. Early on, Joe served particularly in a diaconal capacity in keeping our facilities in order, along with his son, Andy. Throughout the more recent years, he was a faithful prayer warrior for the congregation, arising early in prayer and never missing our midweek or Sunday morning prayer meetings. Joe uniquely exhibited the powerful fruits of mentoring as he invested in the lives of many young men in our congregation. Over the years he led Bible studies with numerous groups of young men and also often hired some of them to work construction with him. Many of these young men have since become leaders in ours or in other congregations. In fact, at his memorial service, many godly men came to bear testimony to his powerful impact on their lives and families. Joe also had a special love for the children of our congregation, who knew him as the "candy man," due to his distribution of Starburst candies after every worship service. This practice grew from his concern that the children of the congregation not go through any period of their lives in which they would want to be apart from the congregation (as he had). Joe Moore was a largely unheralded, but crucial servant in the revitalization of the Bloomington congregation. We see so much of the fruits of his prayers and labors in our current congregation and want to publicly thank God for His gift to our people.

Rev. Phil Pockras read the obituary for Mrs. Janet Matthews, late-wife of R. Paul Matthews.

The clerks report was presented by Rev. Nathan Eshelman and is as follows:

Fathers and Brothers,

This has been my first year serving you as clerk of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve you all. This work would not be possible without

the assistance of Revs. Joel Hart (assistant clerk) and Philip McCollum (current moderator). I am thankful for both of their service in seeing this court of Christ's Church function well.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Atlanta: Robert Koch; Jonathan Sturm
Belle Center: Adam Kuehner; Jason Camery
Bloomington: Jeff Brotherton; Mark Goerner
Columbus: Ken DeJong; Tom Reid
Elkhart: Jeff Jones; Ross Cerbus
Lafayette: Fikre Menbere; Bruce Bowers
Marion: Ken Nelson; Ray Lanning
Orlando: Scott Hunt; Bob McKissick
Second Indy: Kevin Duffey; Robert Bibby
Selma: Rich Holdeman; Joshua Smith
Southfield: Averette Woodson; Ross Fearing

Southside Indy: Jon Hughes; Steven Work
SWORP: Steve Sturm; Ian Wise
Sparta: Timothy Vincze; Namsik Yang
Sycamore: Bill Wilson; Colin Samul
Terre Haute: Brentt VanSickle; Mark Koller
Westminster: Russell Lodge; Bryan Dage

Communications

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Other Recommendations

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

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

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

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

Conclusion

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

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

Humbly Submitted,

Nathan Eshelman
Clerk

All of the clerk's recommendations were seconded and discussed. Recommendation one carried. Two: carried. Three: carried. Four: carried. Five: carried. Six: carried. Seven: carried. Eight: carried. Nine: carried. Ten: carried. Eleven: carried. Twelve: carried.

A motion was made to have Phil Pockras and Jon Hughes serve as parliamentarians at this meeting, It was moved, seconded, and carried.

The floor was open for nominations of potential officers. Rev. Adam Kuehner was nominated to serve as moderator by Rev. Shawn Anderson. The motion was seconded; nominations were closed; and the motion carried. Rev. McCollum welcomed Rev. Keuhner as moderator of the Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery.

Mr. Kuehner began with some opening remarks related to a time when Rev. Hanson served as moderator. Keuhner noted some careless remarks related to Mr. Hanson and again apologized for those remarks.

The moderator then asked for nominations for the clerks. Mr. Josh Smith nominated a reappointment of the clerks—Rev. Nathan Eshelman as clerk and Rev. Joel Hart as assistant clerk. Motion was seconded. Motion carries.

The Ad Interim Commission (AIC) report was presented by Elder Mark Goerner. The report is as follows:

Fathers and Brothers,

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

The Great Lakes-Gulf (GLG) Ad Interim Commission (AIC) for 2025-26 was appointed at the Spring 2025 meeting of the GLG Presbytery. It consists of the following five members:

1. Eric Cosens (RE, Bloomington RPC – Bloomington, IN) 2. Scott Decker (RE, RPC of Columbus – Columbus, IN) 3. Mark Goerner (RE, Orlando RPC – Orlando, FL) 4. Jonathan Sturm (TE, RPC of Lafayette – Lafayette, IN) 5. David Whitla (TE, RPTS – Pittsburgh, PA)

Your commission met twelve times since being appointed:

March 20, 2025
April 21, 2025
May 8, 2025
June 11, 2025
July 24, 2025
August 28, 2025
September 18, 2025
October 10, 2025
November 6, 2025
December 18, 2025
January 15, 2026
February 17, 2026

A copy of the minutes of each meeting was distributed to the GLG delegates distribution list following the adjournment of each meeting.

Appended is a summary of actions taken by the AIC. The minutes of the AIC will be forwarded to the Clerk of Presbytery for approval by the whole court at the 2026 Spring Meeting.

Recommendations:

1. Should the presbytery approve the Sparta petition for disorganization, that the nominating committee appoint a three-man committee to assist the Sparta congregation and the trustees of Synod with the dispensation of the property, per 1972 Minutes of Synod, pp. 150-152.
2. That the minutes of this AIC be spread on the minutes of Presbytery.
3. That Presbytery receive this report.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jonathan Sturm, Moderator
Scott Decker, Clerk
Eric Cosens
Mark Goerner
David Whitla

Congregation / Body	Summary of Action	Minute Location (Date / Agenda #)
AIC	Appoint Eric Cosens as member of AIC	3.20.25 / 1
AIC	Appoint Scott Decker as clerk	3.20.25 / 2
AIC	Approve AIC Presbytery report	2.17.26 / 1
Atlanta Commission	Grant request to be allowed to recruit members for an organizing commission	8.28.25 / 3
Atlanta Commission	Move Mr. Moton to rolls of GLG Presbytery	10.10.25 / 1
GLG	Approve GLG report to Synod	5.8.25 / 1
GLG	Approve certification of at-large members to Synod	6.11.25 / 1
GLG	Approve June Presbytery minutes	7.24.25 / 1
GLG	Transfer Mr. Mann's credentials to MWP	8.28.25 / 1
GLG	Receive Mr. Koller's credentials from MWP	8.28.25 / 2
GLG	Transfer Ray and Susan Morton to Springs Reformed Church (Colorado Springs, CO)	9.18.25 / 1
GLG	Receive communication from Covfamiko directors re: alleged event	10.10.25 / 2
GLG	Direct AIC moderator to contact GLG insurance provider	10.10.25 / 2
GLG	Approve Finance committee assessment and forward draft budget	12.10.25 / 1
Hetherton	Appoint Hetherton Property committee	4.21.25 / 1
RPTS	Receive and forward communication from RPTS re: M.W.	7.24.25 / 2

Congregation / Body	Summary of Action	Minute Location (Date / Agenda #)
Second RPC Shepherding Cmt.	Appoint a shepherding committee to interact with Mr. Smith	1.15.26 / 4
Second RPC	Appoint member to 2RP Shepherding committee	3.20.25 / 3
Second RPC	Return request for 2RP commission	7.24.25 / 3
Second RPC	Forward 10/12/25 communication to Presbytery	11.6.25 / 1
Second RPC	Forward 2RP Schrock pastoral call to MWP	1.15.26 / 1
Smith, Zach	Forward 10/8/25 communication to Presbytery	11.6.25 / 1
Southfield RPC	Appoint Mr. Samul as a provisional elder	9.18.25 / 2
Southfield RPC	Remove Mr. Samul from appointment as provisional elder at Southfield RPC	1.15.26 / 2
Sycamore RPC	Return request for 2RP commission	7.24.25 / 2
Sycamore RPC	Notify Sycamore RPC visitation committee of situation	10.10.25 / 2
Sycamore RPC	Appoint advisory committee for Sycamore RPC	1.15.26 / 3

Recommendation 1: Tabled until after the Sparta report.

Recommendation 2: Carries.

Recommendation 3: Tabled until after the Sparta report.

Following the AIC report, the clerk asked for a point of personal privilege. The retiring moderator was presented with a copy of Dr. David C. Lachman's *The Marrow Controversy*, signed by the court in thanksgiving for Rev. McCollum's service to the church over this past year.

The Candidates and Credentials Report was presented by Rev. Adam Niess. The report is as follows:

Recommendations

1. That Josiah Cook, Jonathan Park, and Jared Rodriguez be given 10 minutes each to share their testimonies, answer questions from the floor, and be received as students under care.
2. That the ministerial credentials of Rich Johnston be transferred to the Midwest Presbytery, per his request.
3. That Joel Hart, Rich Holdeman, and Adam Kuehner be nominated to serve another term on the C&CC.
4. That a new member (preferably a ruling elder) be provided for the C&CC to serve as a replacement for Ian Wise, per his request.
5. That student exams be conducted according to the schedule outlined below.
Note: Christopher Schrock was examined and licensed to receive a call by the Midwest Presbytery (MWP). To alleviate any concerns regarding his past in the Communion of Reformed Evangelical Churches (CREC), we have shared three documents with you that he previously prepared for the MWP.
6. That, upon the approval of his exams at this meeting, presbytery decide whether or not to accept Christopher Schrock's ordination in the CREC.
Note: This recommendation is primarily due to the fact that he was ordained by a local session, not by a presbytery. If his ordination is accepted, then he will only need to be installed at 2RP. If not, then he will need to be ordained and installed at 2RP.
7. That our report be received.

Serving for Christ,

Joel Hart, 26
 Adam Kuehner, 26
 Jonathan Schaefer, 27
 Rich Holdeman, 26
 Adam Niess, 27
 Ian Wise, 27

*Duration - The first number is the allotted time for the examiner's question, the second is for questions from the presbytery and the third is for discussion by the presbytery about the exam prior to voting.

Student Aid

Students under care are eligible to receive a \$500 monthly stipend under these conditions:

They are full-time students at RPTS. They maintain a B average.

If you are aware of students seeking to come under care in future meetings, please let us know so that presbytery can begin to plan for this support.

The following students are currently receiving aid from presbytery:

T.J. Pattillo (began September 2022)
 John Punt (began September 2025)

Student	Exam	Time*	Examiner/Text
T.J. Pattillo	Theology 1 [Licensure to preach]	20/10/5	Adam Kuehner

John Punt	Expository Sermon 2	25/-/5	Matthew 4:12-17 (the mortification of sin)
	Exegesis Paper		Joel Hart and Aaron Murray
Christopher Schrock	Personal Godliness (for ordination/ installation)	20/10/5	Phil Pockras
	Expository Sermon (for ordination/ installation)	25/-/5	Proverbs 10:31-32
	Soundness in the Faith and Commitment to the RP Testimony (for ordination/ installation)	20/10/5	Rich Holdeman

We anticipate the following aid-plan for students coming under care at this meeting:

Josiah Cook - beginning full-time classes at RPTS this spring; will receive aid immediately.

Jonathan Park - beginning full-time classes at RPTS this fall; will receive aid.

Jared Rodriguez - does not anticipate taking full-time classes at RPTS before next presbytery meeting; will not receive aid this year.

Credential and Status Changes in 2025

Students taken under care or removed from under care:

Nathan Shaver (removed March 2025, per his request)

Licensures, ordinations, and installations

John Punt (licensed to preach, March 2025)

Frank Smith (installed at Atlanta RPC, October 2025)

Resignations, removals, and transfers:

Stephen Rhoda (resigned from Terre Haute RPC, January 2025)

Wade Mann (resigned from Elkhart RPC, March 2025; transferred credentials to MWP, August 2025)

Deaths:

Jim Wright (September 2025)

Men Under Care

Joe Johnson - "2025 was a year full of both difficult providences and cherished joys for the Johnsons. Early in the year we praised the Lord for the announcement of our baby Bonnie Victoria, which means Good, or Beautiful, Victory. But we had to, like Job, pray 'The Lord gives and the Lord takes away, blessed be the name of the Lord', for He took her, after a still birth, in late April. Our little Bonnie lies next to her cousin, Rowyn, in North Carolina. We praise the Lord in whom we have a beautiful victory.

Our family has much to be thankful for. It's been a year of banana pancakes, collectively learning a little Latin (*Salvete omnes!*), and life on the move, as we've traveled to St. Augustine, Charleston, Seattle, Salt Lake City, and Asheville, for family trips and in support of my search for a call. I was able to do a good amount of scattered preaching, here and there, and some last-minute pulpit supply for a church who lost their pastor due to misconduct.

Besides this, I became president of Eola Institute, a church-related non-profit that aims to change community, education, and culture, praying that God may use this for his glory. I hope Eola Institute will largely benefit NAPARC churches. We will work toward a 2026 release of a social networking application made for the church. Please pray for the Johnsons as we strive to serve our Lord.”

T.J. Pattillo - “It has been a year of change and opportunity for the Pattillo’s since the last meeting of Great Lakes-Gulf presbytery. We sold our house in Georgia and now live in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where I am attending class at the seminary on campus. I am still on track to graduate in May of this year. We are adherents at Providence while our letter remains at Atlanta. I have been blessed to have pulpit supply opportunities in Atlanta, Sparta, Coldenham-Newburgh, Providence, and Elkhart. I will also supply the pulpit at College Hill in March, Southwest Ohio in April, and State College in May. There have been challenges since we moved. There was a surprise snowstorm one evening and I couldn’t drive us home. We had to walk home after parking the car at the bottom of the hill we live on here in Squirrel Hill. There have been two deaths that have affected us. My stepfather, David Dilbeck, passed away in January. I was unable to return home and be with my siblings through David’s last days. Then, last week, a drummer I used to tour with passed away unexpectedly. His name was Brian Webber and he was 48 years old. I have known Brian for 35 years. We are still trying to settle in and get used to the change, but we are grateful to have made the move and are thankful for the way our Lord has blessed us and can get to know more of our brothers and sisters as God provides opportunities. We look forward to seeing you in Orlando.”

John Punt - John and Elizabeth and family moved to Pittsburgh this fall to attend classes full-time and in-person at RPTS. After a stacked fall quarter of 18 credits and the birth of their fifth child, John is taking 12 credits this winter and is on track for a more manageable credit load the entire duration of his program with an expected graduation date of Spring 2027. The Punts are very blessed by the seminary and North Hills RPC communities and are looking forward to an internship this summer at Columbus RP Church alongside an apprenticeship at Twelve Stones Counseling Ministries in Brown County, Indiana.

Ministers Without Pastorates

Active

Andrew B. - “My family (Laura and 3 kids) have now lived in Central Asia for around 4.5 years. In the last 2 or so years, I took over a language business as part of a door for long-term presence in the country. This has required learning another language on top of the first one we learned. It was an intense time with many demands on my time and energy. We took furlough time in the US in October 2025. However, in November 2025, an employee of the company died and another went into a coma due to a motorbike accident. As a result, I made an emergency trip back for a few weeks. It

was hard, but God sustained me and showed me experientially how desperately I needed Him to be my life, strength, and wisdom (John 15). I returned back with my family in the States in early December.

We are scheduled to return early February 2026, and a young couple and their newborn ("S" Family) plan to join us for a mid-term commitment (at least 1 year). I am learning more about team leadership and communication, and I have started a simple cohort for peer leadership encouragement with other RPGM team leaders. Dr. PB has continued with us, now approaching 2 years with us. She is 78 years old and has been a tremendous source of wisdom for us and a relational bridge to locals. In a society that respects the elderly, she breaks down walls of distrust and quickly puts people at ease. As such, she has met and then connected us with various individuals for follow up. Two of those contacts professed faith in 2025. One of them was a refugee from the western neighboring country and was attending our worship time each Lord's Day, but she is now in France. The other just expressed faith in December, and we are at the beginning steps of discipleship. Furthermore, a daughter from a family that we have known for years professed faith in recent months. Her mom is also reading the Scripture, and there is a general openness among the rest of her family. We give all glory and praise to God!

Pray for us: blessing on this upcoming season of team building and change; our marriage and family life; still more laborers; help in the business; continued seed sowing and training of new believers."

Bryan Dage - "I am working full time for an engineering company doing hydraulic modeling of drinking water systems. We continue to raise sheep and homeschool our three boys. Our desire is to stay in the area and see what opportunities there may be for a reformed church plant down the road. We are currently attending a reformed-ish bible church where we will likely seek membership soon."

Mark Koller - "Currently serving as the Executive Director of Reformation Translation Fellowship and local pulpit supply in Orlando. I work full time in a local laboratory and I also do some editing for RHB. Our family has been recovering from some recent trauma in 2023, so we moved to Orlando and we have been evaluating our future. I am currently retired from full-time service in the church and I might possibly return in the future. The Lord has been gracious to our family and we are doing well."

Steve Rhoda - "In January 2025 I stepped down from my position as pastor of Terre Haute RPC, and at the 2025 spring meeting of presbytery my credentials were suspended as a teaching elder for abuse of alcohol. Since then I have sought recovery, and last month in January I reached one year of sobriety. God has been gracious to me, granting me freedom from addiction, healed relationships, good medical care, and financial provision. My employment is stable, and I enjoy the work that I am doing. Mary and I split our time between Terre Haute and Lafayette, as Mary teaches school, first grade, at Lafayette Christian School. We became grandparents in September as a son was born to our son and daughter-in-law, Jacob and Regan, in Lafayette. Our son Philip also lives in Lafayette and works as a computer programmer. Our daughter Abigail teaches art at Crown Point Christian School in northwest Indiana. I am grateful for the Shepherding Committee assigned to my care and for their recommendation to presbytery that my suspension be lifted. I hope and pray that that will be the outcome at next month's meeting."

Colin Samul - "Fathers and brothers, it continues to be an honor to serve with you, even though I am not currently serving as an installed TE in the GLGP. This past year I

had the privilege to serve on the Sycamore Visitation Committee, and was later elected moderator of the Moultrie Session when they became a yoked congregation. We were warmly welcomed into the congregation and enjoyed our time there. In my present employment, I remain an adjunct professor of theology at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, though the future of that institution is uncertain. I continue to teach in their online program and to work as I am able. I also had occasion to write and speak this year in various venues.”

David Whitla - “It is a privilege to serve our denomination as Professor of Church History at RPTS. I continue to serve as director of the Theological Foundations for Youth program and chair the synodical Youth Ministries and Church History Committees. In the past year I have been privileged to regularly preach in several venues, including various congregations of the RPCNA and OPC, the Banner of Truth Youth Conference in the UK and West Coast Ministers Conference, the devotional service at the 50th anniversary of NAPARC at Geneva College, and our own Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery Winter Youth Conference. Further afield, I continue to serve as a trustee of the Banner of Truth Trust and the steering committees of the Puritan Theology and Scottish Theology study groups for the Evangelical Theological Society, where I presented a paper in the fall. In January, I taught another two-week intensive seminary course virtually for our brothers in EA. Recent projects include various magazine and journal articles, podcast interviews, Works of Samuel Rutherford (RHB, ongoing), and archive manuscript transcriptions for a new Intermediate Paleography elective at RPTS. In their seventh year of teaching, RPTS faculty are afforded a sabbatical, which I will be taking in this spring quarter, DV. I anticipate several weeks of rest at home and in Northern Ireland, and a season of travel to Asia and Europe for the purpose of teaching (China Reformed Theological Seminary in Taiwan, and Kobe Theological Hall in Japan), connecting with the global RP family, and pursuing educational opportunities in my field.”

Namsik Yang - “I am very grateful that in 2025 I had opportunities to bring God’s Word to various churches in West Michigan, as well as to Elkhart RPC. Over the year, I preached on thirteen Lord’s Days, presided at the Lord’s Supper three times, and led a conference attended by over one hundred Korean Americans in this region. Compared to the previous year, when much of my time was spent with my son, Minsol, during his hospitalization and rehabilitation, it has been both a joy and a humbling encouragement to continue my preaching calling. While my family and I are currently living some distance from our home congregation, Southfield RPC, we regularly worship with a local OPC congregation in Grand Rapids. At present, I am devoting more time to completing my doctoral degree and seeking the Lord’s guidance for the next step, while continuing to ask for God’s grace for Minsol’s ongoing recovery and good health.”

Inactive - None

Retired

Jack Baumgardner - “I am a member at 2nd RP, I am moderating Terre Haute RP, I preached twice at Columbus RP, three times at Terre Haute RP and six times at 2nd RP.”

Rich Johnston - Rich (along with his wife, Beckie, and son, Stephen) have moved to Topeka, KS, to be closer to family. They have transferred their membership to Topeka RPC and are enjoying life in their new home.

Ray Lanning - [We did not receive an update from him.]

R. Paul Mathews - 2025 brought a significant change to Paul and Janet's lives. Janet, after grappling with a brain tumor for over a year, was called by our Heavenly Father to her heavenly abode on September 29, 2025. Paul is residing in their home near Gaylord, MI, where he is near family. Their daughter, Diane Wiltse, is his care giver and faithfully visits him daily. Due to infirmities and age, he is largely homebound. He continues to enjoy the means of grace by reading Scripture, listening to sermons, and meditating on the Lord's goodness and Strength. To God be the glory for His watch-care and for family and friends who have faithfully prayed for him during these difficult days.

Glenn McFarland - Glenn and Jean continue to be in regular attendance and model well how to grow graciously in Christ in later seasons of life. Always present with a kind smile, listening ear, warm greeting, and hands ready to help, Glen and Jean remain active. Though they have occasional physical challenges, they continue to press on to the glory of God.

Jim McMahan - This past year, Jim took a fall and received an injury that necessitated he be moved to a facility that provides a greater level of care. Whereas before his injury he was attending worship services in person, he now participates via livestream. Jim loves his daily time of fellowship with the Lord, and is a blessing to his family, fellow residents, and those who visit him.

Ray Morton - [We did not receive an update from him.]

Jim Pennington - "Celebrated with gratitude to our Lord my 90th Birthday on December 25, 2025. Invested considerable time in pre-op prep for spinal surgery, which hopefully will be scheduled soon. Still semi-active as elder emeritus. Meet and greet visitors and members before and after morning worship. Communicate with senior members by phone and texts/emails regularly and pray with some on the phone. Participation in congregational meetings. No preaching/presiding during 2025. Thankful for reasonably good health for a 90 year old, and able to care for Ruth with her health concerns."

Tom Reid - "Since the spring 2024 Presbytery meeting, I have continued to preach, teach, and counsel among the small flock of the Gainesville Reformed Presbyterian Fellowship. I have made six written reports, on a bi-monthly basis, to the session of the Orlando RPC, our sending Church. I have preached: 1) ten sermons on worship; 2) on Psalms 34 through 41, monthly; and 3) on Hebrews, covering chapters 8:7 through 13:6. On Wednesday nights, I led studies on prayer from the Westminster Shorter Catechism and the Heidelberg Catechism, before returning, by popular demand, to a careful study of the Westminster Confession and the RPCNA Testimony, reaching the end of Chapter 6. I taught three times at the Kobe Theological Hall, on the Reformed Presbyterian Doctrine of the Church; How to Conduct Reformed Presbyterian Worship; and English through the Bible. I continue to be thankful for the Lord's preserving grace and for the fellowship of the saints."

Steven Work - "In 2025, the Lord has allowed me to supply the pulpit 18 times in 5 congregations. My assignment as moderator of the Atlanta Temporary Governing Body (Atlanta, GA) ended on October 5 when they became an organized congregation. I serve on the session of Southwest Ohio RP Church (Mason, OH) as a ruling elder. At our quarterly Lord's Suppers, I prepare and present a table address."

Appendix A: Student Evaluations

Student Evaluation

Presbytery/Church requesting review

Presbytery/Church requesting evaluation Great Lakes-Gulf	Review Recipient Name Adam Niess
Email of Recipient adamniess@gmail.com	

Student being reviewed

Student Being Reviewed	GPA	Credits Taken
Trevor Pattillo	3.77	119

Student Rating (scale: Strong, Acceptable, Concerning, Unknown, N/A)

How well does the student meet the academic standards of the seminary?

Strong

How consistent and disciplined is the student at fulfilling responsibilities in a timely manner (e.g., arriving to class, submitting assignments, paying tuition and other expenses, registering for classes, returning library books, completing work study responsibilities)?

Strong

Does the student fit in well with the campus environment, get along well with others, and show concern for them?

Strong

Does the student show appropriate respect for professors and students, both inside and outside of class?

Strong

Does the student conduct himself with wisdom, grace, and love toward others?

Strong

What is your assessment of the student's personal character and walk with God?

Strong

What is your assessment of the student's emotional stability

Strong

What is your assessment of the student's relationships with his closest family members?

Strong

What is your assessment of the student's gifts and calling to pastoral ministry?

Strong

Given his current progress, how would you rate the student's overall preparedness toward being an effective pastor?
Strong

Any Additional Comments?

It's wonderful to have TJ on campus this academic year! His presence here confirms the strong ratings above, as he is an eager and humble learner.

Faculty Sign-Off
Faculty Reviewer
Dr. Barry York

Student Evaluation
Student being reviewed

Student Being Reviewed	GPA	Credits Taken
John Punt	3.90	81

Student Rating (scale: Strong, Acceptable, Concerning, Unknown, N/A)

How well does the student meet the academic standards of the seminary?
Strong

How consistent and disciplined is the student at fulfilling responsibilities in a timely manner (e.g., arriving to class, submitting assignments, paying tuition and other expenses, registering for classes, returning library books, completing work study responsibilities)?
Strong

Does the student fit in well with the campus environment, get along well with others, and show concern for them?
Strong

Does the student show appropriate respect for professors and students, both inside and outside of class?
Strong

Does the student conduct himself with wisdom, grace, and love toward others?
Strong

What is your assessment of the student's personal character and walk with God?
Strong

What is your assessment of the student's emotional stability
Strong

What is your assessment of the student's relationships with his closest family members?
Acceptable

What is your assessment of the student's gifts and calling to pastoral ministry?

Strong

Given his current progress, how would you rate the student's overall preparedness toward being an effective pastor?

Strong

Any Additional Comments?

John is a most faithful and disciplined student who has integrated extremely well into the seminary community, among other things, serving as chapel precentor. He has managed his time and energies well despite the pressures of moving a large family and welcoming a new baby in the first couple of months of study. His work is consistently of very high quality (top 5%) and I look forward to seeing how the Lord will continue to develop his gifts for ministry in the years ahead.

If all other criteria are met, do you recommend the student advance to the next level of Under Care Financial Aid?

Yes

Faculty Sign-Off

Faculty Reviewer

Dr. David Whitla

Appendix B: Student Charts

GLG Presbytery Student Chart: T.J. Pattillo

C&CC representative: Ian Wise

	Date Completed	Examiner / Proctor	Comments
Taken under care	11/2021		
Seminary: begun	9/2022		
Evidence of progress sermon	3/2024	-----	Ephesians 2:1-10
Personal Godliness exam	3/2024	Joel Hart	
English Bible exam (written)	6/2025	Frank Smith	
Theology & distinctives 1 exam			
Expository sermon 1 (assigned text)	3/2024	-----	1 John 3:11-18
Church history paper	3/2025	Jon Sturm and Philip McCollum	
Licensure to preach		-----	
Pastoral & evangelistic gifts			

Theology & distinctives 2 exam			
Church history			
Expository sermon 2 (assigned topic)		-----	
Exegesis paper			
Licensure to receive a call		-----	
Seminary: MDiv awarded			
Internships	Atlanta RPC (began 9/2019)		
Ordination Exams			
Expository sermon (assigned text)		-----	
Personal Godliness exam			
Soundness in the faith & Testimony			

GLG Presbytery Student Chart: John Punt
C&CC representative: Rich Holdeman

	Date Completed	Examiner / Proctor	Comments
Taken under care	6/2023		
Seminary: begun	3/2022		
Evidence of progress sermon	3/2024	-----	Titus 3:8-15
Personal Godliness exam	3/2024	Aaron Murray	
English Bible exam (written)	3/2024	Rich Holdeman	
Theology & distinctives 1 exam	3/2025	Phil Pockras	
Expository sermon 1 (assigned text)		-----	
Church history paper	3/2024	Phil Pockras, Nathan Eshelman	
Licensure to preach	3/2025	-----	

Pastoral & evangelistic gifts			
Theology & distinctives 2 exam			
Church history			
Expository sermon 2 (assigned topic)		----	
Exegesis paper			
Licensure to receive a call		----	
Seminary: MDiv awarded			
Internships	Bloomington RPC (9-12/2022)		
Ordination Exams			
Expository sermon (assigned text)		----	
Personal Godliness exam			
Soundness in the faith & Testimony			

The first recommendation of the Candidates and Credentials Report carried: Mr. Josiah Cook of Southfield, MI spoke on the floor for ten minutes related to his conversion and sense of call to the ministry. A number of questions from the floor were then asked. Mr. Cook was received as a student under care following a voice vote.

Mr. Jonathan Park of Lafayette, IN was then given 10 minutes to present his testimony as well as his sense of calling to the ministry. Mr. Park was received as a student under care following a voice vote.

Mr. Jared Rodriguez of the Orlando congregation was then given 10 minutes to present his testimony as well as his sense of calling to the ministry. Several questions from the floor were answered. Mr. Rodriguez was taken under care of the presbytery by voice vote.

Rev. Aaron Murray was asked to come and pray for the three men taken under care.

Mr. McCollum presented the membership committee report. The report is as follows:

As a committee we have been interacting with members on the roll of Presbytery who were originally from Hetherton RPC. We informed them that we are tasked with encouraging them to find a new spiritual home within the next year. This has been a difficult task as there are few options in the area.

Ray & Susan Morton have been transferred to: Springs RPC, CO.

Those currently on the roll of Presbytery:

Bryan & Heidi Dage, Matthias, Daniel and Samuel (Baptized members) - attending Calvary Bible Church, Rogers City

Jason & Nicole LaPointe, Kenzie, Logan, Reese – attending Eastport Baptist Church
Dave Hagadorn – attending Johannesburg Community Church

Sonja Hoy – attending Johannesburg Community Church

We have been in contact with these families; they are regularly worshipping at church but have yet to become members of these churches.

Michele Reppuhn – does not wish to be contacted

Kirby & April Sides – no contact details provided.

Your committee recommends the following:

1. The families that are frequent attenders at their new churches but have yet to join them, we are recommending that since it has been a year, that they be dropped from the roll. This is according to D4 paragraph 14, that those placed on the roll should become members of another congregation within one year.
2. We recommend that Michele Reppuhn and Kirby & April Sides be removed from the roll.
3. We recommend that Bryan Dage's name continue to be on the candidates and credential's list of teaching elders in the presbytery and designated as inactive.
4. That this report be approved.

This committee is willing to serve for another year.
Respectfully submitted,

Philip McCollum
Phil Pockras
Chris Stockwell

Recommendation 1: Carries. Recommendation 2: Carries. Recommendation 3: Carried, Dage will be listed as inactive.

A fifteen minute break was called at 3:53pm. The court then reconvened at 4:11pm with the singing of Psalm 119Q.

Rev. Joshua Smith took the floor and moved to reconsider recommendation one of the Membership Committee Report. Mr. Pockras seconded the motion. The motion carries.

Recommendation 1 is back before the court. Mr. Smith moved to amend the recommendation to make an exception for the Dage family. This recommendation would strike the Dage family from the recommendation, thus leaving them on the membership roll.

The recommendation carries. The motion is now amended. The amended recommendation is before the court. The motion carries as amended. The Dage family will remain on the membership roll.

Recommendation three was withdrawn by the committee.

Recommendation four is before us, and the report as a whole was approved by common consent.

Communication 26-4 is before the court, which is a request from Rev. Lanning to receive Mrs. Lanning's communicant membership from the Free Reformed Church of Grand Rapids. The motion was seconded. There was discussion on the petition. The petition is as follows:

Great Lakes/Gulf Presbytery
Rev. Dr. Nathan Eshelman, Clerk

Dear Sir:

Mrs. Lanning joins me in presenting to our presbytery a request that Mrs. Lanning's church membership be received and held by the presbytery as mine now is.

For over a decade Mrs. Lanning has been a communicant member of the Free Reformed Church of Grand Rapids. For many reasons, one year ago we decided it was in our best interest spiritually to seek another church fellowship in Grand Rapids. Our search led us to Providence Reformed Church, located in the Creston neighborhood of Grand Rapids, not far from our home. Providence is a Psalm-singing congregation, blessed with the faithful ministry of Rev. Johan Pronk. We have been warmly welcomed by the congregation, and greatly edified by the means of grace as dispensed in this church.

However, Providence Church is a congregation of the Reformed Church in America, a denomination that has, for the same reasons, and to the same degree, as the Presbyterian Church (USA), fallen away from its historic Reformed confession of faith and practice. We Lannings cannot in good conscience unite with the RCA, just as we have no wish to belong to the PCUSA. Providence Church is one of a handful of RCA congregations that, by way of exception, hold tenaciously to the faith and order of Scripture and the Reformed Confessions. Mrs. Lanning is troubled by the fact that she no longer attends the church of which she is a confessing member. There is no Reformed Presbyterian congregation near enough to us that we could attend services regularly. In former days, Mrs. Lanning was a communicant member of First RP Church of Grand Rapids. If GL/G Presbytery would consent to receive a transfer of Mrs. Lanning's membership from the FRC of Grand Rapids, we would be grateful. It is not a perfect solution, but at least a workable one, in this imperfect world.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Ray B. Lanning
Mrs. Linda J. Lanning

A substitute motion was presented by Rev. Shawn Anderson: "The presbytery postpone this question until the meeting at synod and the membership committee follow up with the Lannings to gather information."

The motion was seconded. Mr. Anderson then spoke to his substitute motion. The vote to take up the substitute motion failed and we are back to the original motion.

The original motion failed. The clerk will communicate that to the Lannings.

Mr. Josh Smith presented the Home Mission Board Report. The report is as follows:

Report of the Home Mission Board Representative to the Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery
Spring 2026

The Home Mission Board met twice during the year of 2025, on April 16-17 at RPTS and on October 15-16 at Grace Reformed Church in Columbia, MO. The HMB discussed and approved funding for many church plants and ministries. The Beckwith, ON congregation was approved to begin receiving reducing aid. The Las Vegas congregation received their final three years of reducing aid. The Atlanta, GA congregation began their reducing aid. The work in Dallas, TX received an exploratory grant. We also approved funding for two years for Rev. Tim McCracken's work in the California prison system. The Board also approved the 2026 Church Planter's Retreat which is to be held this fall at Orlando RPC. In our presbytery, we have two exploratory works happening: one in Gainesville, FL and one in Celebration, FL. Our prayer is that the Lord would bless these works, and we would see them become fully organized congregations. There are currently 11 open pulpits within our denomination. Please pray that the Lord will raise up laborers for the harvest field and establish sound and faithful men as pastors within these congregations. Overall, there is much to rejoice over in regards to the church planting efforts of our denomination. May we ask Jehovah to continue to work through us in building the Church of Christ here in this nation.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joshua M. Smith

The Home Mission Board was approved by common consent.

Mr. Phil Pockras gave the Geneva College Board of Corporators Report. The report is as follows:

Dear brothers:

I am reporting to you again as your nominee to Synod to serve on the Board of Corporators of Geneva College. I continue to serve with two other Corporators from our Presbytery, elected by Synod: Dr. Kenneth de Jong of our Bloomington congregation and Session, and Mr. Scott Reynolds, also of our Bloomington congregation. Both men also serve as Trustees. Dr. Richard Holdeman currently serves on the Trustees, as well. Dr. de Jong serves as the Chair of the Academic Affairs committee of the Trustees.

As I remind Presbytery every year, the Board of Corporators has twelve members, all elected by Synod. Each of the North American Presbyteries have nominees to Synod, with Synod's Nominating Committee nominating the others. All must be members in good standing in the RPCNA. We each serve four-year terms. The Corporators are the legal owners of the College. They are the members of the Corporation chartered by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The Corporators' main tasks, under the Bylaws it originates, are to govern the College through a Board of Trustees it has created and whose members it elects, to elect a President of the College, to steward the Bylaws, and maintain a strong connection to the Synod of the RPCNA. The Board does its governing through the Trustees, who operate the College on the Corporators' behalf. Half of the Corporators serve as Trustees, as well, maintaining liaison between the Boards and allowing Synod, in effect, to have direct placement of some Trustees. Dr. de Jong and Mr. Reynolds are examples.

Further to remind you, the website for the College is at www.geneva.edu. Much information is at that site on all sorts of matters pertaining to the College.

Previously, there has been great concern about enrollments, which had, as in many institutions of higher learning around the country, been in decline for several years; however, the incoming class in fall of 2024 was nearly 100 students larger than the previous two classes, and this trend continued in 2025. In addition, retention rates have been strong, which bodes well for the college. As with most institutions of higher education, Geneva's finances are heavily tuition-dependent. The enrollment challenge is due in part to the birthrate going down all over the country, including the main regions from which prospective Geneva College students come; partly because there is a seeming cultural change in seeing the desirability of higher education; and partly because of a strong tendency towards homogenization of students who are increasingly targeting large state universities. Nonetheless, due to prayer and fine work from the college's admissions department under Dr. Willem De Ruiter, we are thankful that the current freshman class and the new incoming class for next year have grown so much. Further, the growth in freshman enrollment is much better than the majority of both Christian and secular private schools are experiencing. As in any situation of this sort, a sudden surge in enrollment brings on "growing pains", but these are being worked through as they appear.

In Bible Department matters, the funding for preparing Rutledge Etheridge for work as a professor has come through, and he is nearly done with his doctoral studies at Westminster. We, as a Presbytery, need to continue praying for God to raise up men for this vital mission of our church. There are other professed Christian colleges around, but none have our Scriptural worship in their chapel programs; none have the exaltation of Christ as the Mediatorial King of all. One that I can think of, often advertising on conservative talk radio, has a prominent OPC ruling elder teaching there whose views on church and state could be understood as being "radical two kingdoms". These distinctives of Geneva should be considered by every prospective RP student and their families. Relevant to this is the ongoing chapel program. It continues to go well. Sermons are now about 20 minutes and a testimony time is included each week. Both are appreciated by the students. Further, a Sabbath evening prayer and praise time has become popular. It is at 9 PM so as not to compete with local church evening services.

There are other faculty and staff positions open at the College that you can find at geneva.edu/employment. Please pray for God's provision of these needed people.

Many of you may have heard about the valuable property along the banks of the Beaver River, contiguous with College property, that has been donated to Geneva. As the property includes a very large and almost new facility, amenable to many different uses, there is much optimism about the new property's usefulness to the College's mission. Final decisions on its usage are not yet made, but progress is occurring.

Capital campaigns under the oversight of the Geneva Foundation Board continue to do well, supporting the construction of a new facility to be used for supporting enrollment and admissions, as well as outreach to schools and churches with the concepts of Biblical education. The finances of the College are not dependent on the campaign, mainly due to the aforementioned enrollment situation, but the campaign is allowing for capital improvements on campus, as well as supporting initiatives in developing the college's focus on the integration of the Biblical faith into all areas of life, as well as increasing the strength of the endowment. In addition, there is no long-term debt, as

long-term notes have been paid off several years ago. Giving is strong to the annual fund, and the campaign is progressing well.

A development mentioned last year is the Center for Faith and Life. You can learn further about it at <https://www.geneva.edu/cfl/>. To quote College Provost Dr. Melinda Stephens, "The Center for Faith and Life will allow us to strengthen and share the work that has long been a foundation of our academic program to prepare our students for vocations that honor God and neighbor." There are many professedly Christian colleges and universities that claim to integrate faith with their academic disciplines and campus life, but few truly do. Most, at best, have Christianity in conjunction with academia. Geneva seeks better and better actually to integrate a Biblical foundation to all the areas of teaching and scholarship, which makes it more and more unusual in the current mix of colleges and universities. The College is seeking special relationships with Christian schools that will benefit both these high school students as they seek a college or university education, and our College as well.

The new Welcome Center, sited near the front entrance to the College, has had groundbreaking and is proceeding. There were concerns about building according to original plans, since prices for labor and materials had jumped with inflation. With improved finances, work is now proceeding.

Finally, in the June meeting, the Board elected Trustees. This recent meeting took time to discuss possible candidates for new members of both Trustees and Corporators, as well as incumbents whose terms are about to expire.

Synod reelected me to this Board two years ago, from your nomination, so that I have this year and next in this latest term. I have served our Presbytery, our Synod, and our College this way since 1998, and I thank Presbytery for its nominations. Over these years, I have served as the Board's Secretary for a time, and I chaired the Bylaw Revision Committee that reorganized the College governance. I again thank you for your confidence in me. I continue blessed in serving you in this way. I am, however, thinking that it might be good for our Nominating Committee to be thinking about someone else to take this position. I'll not be able to do this forever! The nominee to this Board need not be an elder, or even a man. Shana Mann Milroy of Midwest Presbytery and Bonnie Spear Weir of Atlantic Presbytery have served a number of terms in valuable roles on the Board. One need not be an alumnus or alumna. I'm not. Someone who cares for the College and its mission, who is willing to devote much prayer for the College, and who may know of potential students and/or of potential supporters of the College would be perfect.

Here are some current prayer requests:

PRAYER REQUESTS—Please pray...

1. ...for continuing position searches.
2. ...for several members of our faculty and staff who are battling serious illness.
3. ...for the Lord to prosper our mid-cycle enrollment work to move prospective students to deposit for Fall 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip H. Pockras

After a time of questions and answers, the Geneva report was approved by common consent. The three prayer requests were prayed for by Mr. Brentt Van Sickle: "For continuing position

searches; for several members of our faculty and staff who are battling serious illness, and for the Lord to prosper our mid-cycle enrollment work to move prospective students to deposit for Fall 2026.”

Mr. Pockras then gave the chaplaincy report. Revs. Fearing and Pockras have written reports which are as follows:

Chaplain Ross Fearing: Annual Report: February 4, 2026

Overview

In addition to serving as pastor at Sparta RPC, I serve as a Chaplain in the US Army Reserve. Since my last report I have served as Deputy Command Chaplain in the 76th Operational Response Command and have begun serving as a Brigade Chaplain in the 139th Medical Brigade.

Duties

As a Brigade Chaplain, I am responsible for providing and supervising chaplain ministry to soldiers throughout the brigade. I supervise five unit ministry teams (normally a chaplain and a religious affairs specialist) and as a group we provide religious support to approximately 1,000 soldiers.

Ministry Update

I really enjoy supervising and developing other chaplains, so the move to the brigade role was exciting. I'm learning about how the Army provides religious support within a deployed medical environment. Due to government funding issues, although I've been assigned to the unit since September, I've only drilled twice. Because we have a large training exercise this summer, the unit is working on a tight schedule, and it has been challenging to integrate into the training rhythm.

I had chapel scheduled on Sunday, but it was a little difficult getting the time and place published. I had anticipated that I might not have anyone attending due to these challenges, but about 15 minutes after our start time, one soldier showed up, so we got started. We looked at John 11, when Jesus allowed Lazarus to die and explained his purpose in it. I was looking at some of the reasons that God causes us to suffer and focused on how God uses our suffering as an opportunity to show his glory to us and to increase our faith. As we worked through the text, it was clear that this soldier was going through some significant suffering at this time and also that she hadn't really thought about God's possible purposes in her suffering beyond correction and testing. I meet many professing believers whose Christian experience is dominated by their need to obey and God's testing of them. It is a great privilege to introduce these men and women to the amazing breadth and depth of God's promises and gifts to us in Christ Jesus. Speaking of our summer training event, our unit is scheduled to conduct a capstone training exercise this summer in the California desert. While the days are long and the weather hot during these kinds of exercises, because I spend that time living and working with Soldiers in hard work and discomfort, I get many opportunities to minister in natural ways. In these environments, chapel services are well attended, and I've got significant counseling load to believers and unbelievers. This year will be my in-the-zone promotion board for Lieutenant Colonel. This board will be important for my future in the Army. If I'm not selected for promotion, I will likely complete my service in 2030 after completing 20 years. If I am selected, my future assignments will be in support of divisions and commands. My focus will shift from paying attention to individual unit ministry teams to caring for the structure of religious support over a large,

distributed organization. In Army speak, I'll start looking more at the strategic aspect of ministry rather than the operational.

Prayer Requests

Pray for my ministry within the unit. There are a host of challenges my soldiers are facing that can give opportunity to bear witness of Jesus Christ. Pray for the upcoming promotion board, that God would guide the board's decisions and guide me where he would have me service. Pray for our summer exercise that he might give fruitful ministry in that time.

In Christ,
Ross Fearing Chaplain, USAR

Chaplain Phil Pockras

Annual Report to Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery, RPCNA
March 3, 2026

Overview

In addition to serving as pastor at the Belle Center, OH, RPC, I serve as a volunteer chaplain as part of the chaplain staff at the Mary Rutan Hospital, a regional hospital in Bellefontaine, Ohio. Currently there are seven men so serving. Much of my report is unchanged, since the duties and ministry remain similar to previous years. Attached is an evaluation letter from my "supervisor" at Mary Rutan Hospital.

Duties

As part of the volunteer hospital chaplain staff, I provide religious and other support to all in the hospital, not merely patients and families. This has been my primary responsibility. As the longest serving ordained chaplain, I have recruited one other chaplain and have been seeking to encourage the other chaplains to seek further education in their chaplain work. I normally spend one week per month as the on-call chaplain. I must be available around the clock beginning at 0000 on Sabbath until 2400 on the following Saturday. As well, I do rounds from Monday through Friday to see patients who request a visit. I frequently visit with nursing and other staff to see if they need my service.

Ministry Update

This last year I have continued to study medical and bioethics. I remain endorsed by the Presbyterian and Reformed Chaplain Commission, and I am seeking ways to be able to take units of Clinical Pastoral Education in order, eventually, to become board certified as a hospital chaplain. The PRCC wants its chaplains to keep their ministry oversight judicatories aware of their work, which is why I am submitting this report.

Blessings

My trip to Mary Rutan Hospital from home normally takes about 15 minutes. During that time I am often praying that I will be a blessing to all with whom I meet. I frequently receive blessing. There is a nurse who often works in the Intensive Care Unit and in the Emergency Department. He is a retired Navy Hospital Corpsman who spent his naval career mostly in caring for Marines. He was very respectful and cordial with me. I found out that he had served in the Middle East with Navy Chaplain Captain Bryan Weaver, whom some of you might remember from RPTS. Bryan had been a tremendous spiritual help to the former HM2. He appreciates and supports the work of the chaplaincy at our hospital.

A second story to share is that in the first week of the year, when I was not the on-call chaplain, the switchboard called me to ask if I could come in to visit with the family of a dying woman. It was snowing fairly heavily. I told them I would be down within half an hour. Someone had not changed my name and contact number for on-call chaplain from the whiteboard in the switchboard room, in God's providence.

I arrived safely and found the family. The lady's husband was there with a nephew and niece-in-law of his. He remarked that, the next week, it would be their 57th anniversary. The previous day she had slipped on ice and broken her hip. She had orthopedic surgery earlier in the day in which I was called in. She "died" on the table, but was resuscitated. In the ICU she was comatose.

The couple had no church home. I shared the Gospel with the husband, then told him I would talk to his wife, with his permission, explaining that, not infrequently, comatose people can still hear and understand. I did that, spent some time with family, and left a business card with the husband if he wished further help. I've not heard from him since. I have no idea if the wife has died, or of her spiritual condition. God providentially had me there with her, on the near bank of the River of Death.

The upshot of stories like these and others that I've shared is that often, as I'm walking over to my car, I'm praying gratefully for the blessing, unasked-for, that our Father gave to me.

Challenges

The only challenges, currently, are certain limitations on my visitation with patients. I am only allowed to visit patients when asked for. I misunderstood this early in my work and began visiting with family members in waiting rooms and in other places. I was gently instructed not to do this further.

Prayer Requests

Please pray with me that I would be a blessing to patients, families, staff, and even administration and board. Pray that, through me, the Light of the world would shine forth!

Phil Pockras

Chaplain staff, Mary Rutan Hospital, Bellefontaine, Ohio

These reports were received by common consent. Rev. Dick Knodel prayed for the work of our chaplains, Fearing and Pockras.

Committees of the Day were announced by the moderator:

Advisory Committee 26-3: Church Planting Request: Colin Samul (chair), Ian Wise, Jonathan Schaefer. Westminster Relocation 26-7 Committee: Hanson (chair), Foltz, Ramirez. Nominating Committee: Aaron Murray, Jeff Jones, Dean Filson. Time and Place Committee: Anderson and Schlissler.

Rev. Adam Keuhner presented the Hetherton Property Committee Report. Rev. Joel Hart took the moderator's bench while Mr. Keuhner presented the report. The report is as follows:

Dear Fathers and Brethren,

We greet you in Christ's name with a summary of recent events and developments concerning the property and assets of the former Hetherton RPC in Johannesburg, MI. On March 7, 2025, the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery (GLGP) granted the request of the Hetherton RPC members to disorganize the congregation. In addition, a motion was adopted to "request the Trustees of Synod to provide from the sale of the Hetherton manse up to \$5000 for Morton's moving expenses and a gift of thanks of \$10,000 to Mr. Dage for his labors. The motion was seconded and carried."

On April 21, 2025, the GLGP AIC acted to "Appoint a Hetherton property committee" to "(1) determine the assets and liabilities of the congregation, (2) provide a list of the assets and liabilities to the Synod's Board of Trustees, (3) submit recommendations regarding the disposal of the property, and (4) provide local assistance as needed to the Synod's Board of Trustees."

On June 17, 2025, our committee presented an extensive report with five recommendations, all of which were adopted. As a result, our proposal for disposing of the Hetherton assets was sent to the Trustees of Synod, along with Scott Haughton's bid of \$75,000 to purchase the church and manse.

Upon learning of the offer, the Trustees decided to cover the sizable cost to appraise the respective properties. While attempts to appraise the church building remain outstanding, the manse appraised for \$146,500, causing the Trustees to politely decline Mr. Haughton's offer. Since then, the Trustees have indicated their intention to list the properties through a local real estate agent with the help of RPCNA financial controller, Vida Brown, who owns a home nearby and has a superior grasp of the local situation. Your committee believes it has fulfilled the first three aspects of its original remit (see above) and made ongoing progress on the fourth. All that remains, God willing, is for the members of this committee to maintain open communication with Vida Brown and the Trustees as the process moves toward a conclusion.

Hetherton Property Committee Report (Spring 2026)

With regard to committee composition, Pastor Kuehner and Elder Kim are unable to continue serving due to their increased shepherding workload more than three hours away in metro Detroit. In addition, Rev. Dage, who has been very busy working as an engineer and caring for his (literal) flock of sheep, has indicated his intention to join a local church, thus discontinuing his role in the GLGP. Hence, if this committee is to continue, the Nominating Committee would need to replace all three of its members. On the other hand, Presbytery could determine that this committee is no longer necessary, given that its only remaining task is to assist Vida Brown and the Trustees as needed. Rather than assigning a committee to perform this task, perhaps it could be done by the Ad Interim Commission (AIC). In any case, this is merely a suggestion for the court to consider as a possible alternative to our more conventional recommendations, which are as follows.

Recommendations:

1. That Presbytery instruct the Nominating Committee to replace all three members of the Hetherton Property Committee.
2. That Presbytery instruct the Committee to continue assisting the RPCNA Board of Trustees as needed.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bryan Dage
John Kim

Adam Kuehner, Ch.

Recommendation 1 is before us. A substitute motion was presented: "Presbytery appoint David Hanson to conclude the work of transmitting the possession of the Hetherton Church Building and Manse to the Trustees of Synod so that they can conclude the work of selling the properties."

The court voted favorably to hear the substitute motion. The substitute is now before us: the motion carries. Mr. Hanson will conclude the work.

Recommendation 2 is withdrawn. The committee was dismissed.

The Bloomington Visitation Report was presented by Rev. David Hanson. The report is as follows and was received by common consent.

November 15-16, 2025, the Bloomington Visitation committee made up of Donald Cassell, Jeff Jones, and David Hanson was hosted by the Bloomington RPC. Prior to our arrival, Bloomington RPC completed the presbytery visitation form, providing all the necessary background information for our visit. Of note, the elders instead of answering all of the questions themselves, tasked appropriate people with answering particular questions, so that in the outreach, diaconate, financial, and physical plant sections answers were provided by various committee chairs. Even this evident delegation gave early indication of the leadership structure which we observed throughout our visit.

Our visit began on Saturday afternoon with a three-hour ministry review followed by dinner at the church building. All of the active elders except for one were able to participate. We began with a devotion from Psalm 23 and then spent the next hour and a half discussing encouragements in the congregation. Realizing that we were going to run out of time and energy, we cut short the discussion of encouragements to move into a discussion of the challenges facing the congregation for the last hour. Sunday morning, David and Jeff returned for Sunday School, worship, and lunch. Donald was unable to return Sunday because of a significant presbytery report being given during the Sunday School hour at 2nd RP.

Our summary observation is that God is blessing the Bloomington congregation. There is evident unity, affection and appreciation within the session, from the session to the congregation, and from the congregation toward their elders. The congregation has received nearly 50 members in the past 2 years from a wide variety of sources including conversion growth. Increases in financial giving, small groups joining together for Bible study, Psalm singing, service projects, prayer, and fellowship are just a few areas of evident progress. Most of these areas of growth have been organic in nature, indicating that the preaching and shepherding are effectively motivating the people of God to love and good works! There are over 50 people involved in one-on-one mentoring relationships which is just another way in which newer members and younger believers are being incorporated into congregational life and encouraged in spiritual growth. The youth Sunday School classes, nursery, and youth group are all lively.

The session is to be commended in the midst of tremendous growth for pursuing a visitation program aimed at maintaining close contact with all the membership. In addition, God is raising up additional laborers for the work of ministry through this congregation. In addition to John Punt there are 2 other men who are exploring the

possibility of pursuing pastoral ministry. Also, there are young men who have evident gifts and interest in serving as ruling elders.

God is showing mercy to Bloomington, and it seems to our committee that our presbytery would do well to seek to learn from and incorporate practices from Bloomington's example of a healthy congregational life.

In the midst of these encouragements, there are a few challenges. Most notably, the facility is inadequate for the size of the congregation. Specifically, more auditorium seating, classroom and fellowship space, and restrooms are needed. The current facility is landlocked. Contact has been made with the adjoining lot owners, but neither is currently interested in selling even though both properties are used as rental units. Furthermore, there are not available properties to purchase nor is there an obvious place to plant or daughter a congregation outside of planting a competing RP congregation within the city of Bloomington which is not an optimal solution. The congregation works well together to optimize the current facility, but the building is definitely a limiting factor. In addition to the building, the elders also expressed concern for enfolding some of the less active members of the congregation and finding ways to more effectively use administrative help to lighten the load of the pastors. It was clear that while the elders want to rejoice in God's faithfulness that they greatly desire to continue to excel by tackling challenges in a timely way.

On Sunday before and after classes and following worship, we were able to visit with many of the members of the congregation and receive ample confirmation that the congregation's view of the session and the ministry aligned with what we heard in our visit with the session.

Along with the above report, we shared some additional observations with the Bloomington session. These observations were minor suggestions and considerations as the ministry continues forward.

Join us in giving thanks for the blessings and evident outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the oldest congregation in our presbytery. We pray that the Lord our God would continue to prosper the Bloomington congregation in the grace and the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

In Christ,
Donald, Jeff, and David

Rev. Adam Niess presented the Sycamore Visitation Committee Report. A few questions related to ongoing shepherding needs were asked and answered. The report is as follows:

Dear Fathers and Brothers,

It was our privilege to serve as the visitation committee to Sycamore RPC on November 8-9, 2025, in Kokomo, Indiana. We were welcomed by the session and congregation with open arms, and greatly appreciated the commitment and effort put forth by them for our time together. We were also blessed by their example, fellowship, and ministry on the Lord's Day.

During our weekend with them, we were encouraged by a number of things. Some examples would be: their faithful ministry of the Word and diligent shepherding of the flock, the unity they enjoy as elders and within the congregation, the two interns they currently have (one with the elders and one with the deacons), the great amount of

fellowship the people enjoy with one another, the good order in their church administration, and the formation of a new outreach committee.

At the same time, we acknowledge that they have dealt with challenging matters lately, as well as heartbreaking circumstances - such as, families leaving the congregation, hard shepherding issues to navigate, long-term counseling cases, and instances of church discipline. They have sought to honor the Lord and love His people through it all, however, and they continue to seek His help in it, for which we commend them. We mean it when we say, "Keep up the good work, brothers!"

With love for them in Christ, we also offered five recommendations to them and discussed them with the elders on two separate occasions.

The Lord is doing a good work in Sycamore RPC - one that serves as an example for all of us - but they need our prayers for encouragement and perseverance through the difficulties. In addition, we believe (along with their session) that they could benefit from an Advisory Committee of the presbytery to continue helping them navigate their challenges (see recommendation below).

As a committee, we are grateful for each of them, and for the blessing they are to the local congregation (and beyond). Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to serve you by visiting them.

Sincerely in Christ,
Scott Hunt
Adam Niess, chairman
Colin Samul

Recommendation:

That the Ad Interim Commission establish an Advisory Committee for the Sycamore session, comprised of Jason Camery, Scott Hunt, and Colin Samul.

The report was approved by common count.

Elder Robert Koch provided the Westminster Session Report. A time of questions and answers followed. The report is as follows:

Dear Fathers and Brethren,

Westminster Reformed Presbyterian Church continues to carry out an active, hopeful, and joyful ministry in the north suburbs of Chicago. The RPCNA has maintained a witness to the Chicago area for over a century, and we trust that God will continue to use us to proclaim Christ and uphold the Reformed faith in this region. We are about the business of proclaiming the Gospel to a needy and wanting world. We first equip the saints and send them into the world. Our intention is to prepare our members of Westminster, so they are ready to proclaim the love of Christ.

Membership

In 2025, we added three new members to the congregation. Two of them came as singles and were married during the year. Which leads me to marriages of which we had two, which is a first for this congregation which has previously had at the most one wedding in a year. We praise God for these new families getting started. During 2025, a young lady who was a daughter and sister of some of our members passed away. She had been battling lung cancer for several years and appeared to be in remission but as

the year progressed her cancer suddenly took a turn and in September she perished. This necessitated quite a bit of ministry work as well as financial obligation to help this family with their funeral expenses and other items. As so often happened in the past, the congregation and friends of the congregation came through with generous contributions to help this family with these untimely expenses, allowing them to grieve the loss of their daughter and sister with peace. Most significantly this young lady who for years while sensitive to the gospel had still pushed it away. She committed her life to Christ seeking his forgiveness and repenting of her sins in the few days before she died. For this we rejoice as we will once again be united.

Worship

We have been able to meet each Lord's Day for corporate worship, proclaiming the Word of God. We continued with our afternoon worship service at 2:30 following a fellowship lunch. We enjoy an in-person prayer service on Wednesday evenings during the quarterly communion season. Ordained Leadership Session met in constituted court 17 times during 2025. These meetings usually were conducted in person at the church. We also had one congregational meeting in February of 2025 which was the regular business meeting of the church.

Fellowship

Recognizing the church as the "communion of the saints," we gave a significant emphasis to fellowship. Beyond our Lord's Day worship, we sat down each Lord's Day after morning worship for meals together. Each Sunday we have carry-in dinners. People continue bringing casseroles, salads, and desserts to share. Many people drive long distances to attend Westminster and would like to eat a meal before they head home. This helps to accommodate them with an enjoyable time of fellowship. Thus, on average we are together each Lord's Day from 9:30 am to 4:00 pm. with groups often staying longer and having dinner at the manse.

Education

Our educational ministries continue to thrive. We currently have one adult class that meets each Lord's Day morning. We began the year completing the study in "The Sum of Saving Knowledge" which concluded in early February. Following that, Bob Koch started teaching a class going through the book of 1 Samuel, working through chapter 16. In November, we started a series from the Reformed Forum going through the first two books of Calvin's Institutes. We also continue with our Zoom prayer meeting on Wednesday evenings. This continues to work well, and we have been seeing an increase in the number of people enjoying the time of fellowship and prayer. We meet via Zoom, and it is attended by six to as many as twelve people. For devotion at this prayer time, we are going through "Prayers of the Bible" by Gordon Keddie.

Outreach

In 2025, we continued to do organized outreach activities. These have been held in a local park and downtown Libertyville. We also have been going door to door in the communities around the church, we continue to figure out the best way to utilize those events for outreach.

Property and Facilities

We are extremely thankful to God for the property we enjoy in Prairie View, Illinois. It provides us with a significant presence within the community. Both structures are sound and attractive, though not without maintenance challenges. The major issue we had this year was the pipe that brings water from the manse to the church broke. It was original galvanized pipe, so it most likely was over 100 years old. This was replaced on an

emergency basis. Unfortunately we had flooding in part of the basement and the basement furnace shut down which all needed to be taken care of. In God's providence we had funds contributed which took care of this unexpected expense. Please pray with us for additional families and individuals to join with us, we are healthy but small right now. We are praying for five new families to join with us.

Finances

In 2025, our income exceeded our budget by approximately \$3000. In addition, we collected \$7500 special giving to help cover the water line breakage and repairs. In 2025 we also received special funds to aid a family's funeral expenses. Our expenses for the year also came in under budget with things like electricity exceeding the budget and gas being less than the budget. So overall we ended the well strong financially and in better shape than we were last year.

Challenges

Like all local congregations, we are not without our trials, by which God keeps us humble, prayerful, and conscious of our utter dependence upon Him.

Conclusion

These are our major challenges, but this report began with a reference to Westminster as an active, hopeful, and joyful ministry, and that certainly bears repeating. Our witness to Christ is clear, our fellowship is deep, and our expectation for the blessing of God is high. We face uncertainties but know that Christ is King and Head of His church and that He bears all power and authority. We pray that He will stir us by His Spirit, prosper us in His grace, and use us in a mighty way for His kingdom and glory. Please support and pray for us to this end.

Thank you!

The report was received by common consent.

Communication 26-2, the Rev. Joshua Smith resignation request, was given by Rev. Smith. The resignation letter is as follows:

Dear Session of Westminster Reformed Presbyterian Church,

I first want to begin this letter expressing my great love for you as elders and for the congregation of Westminster as a whole. I truly believe I could not have asked for a better situation to be put into when being called to my first pastorate. What I am about to say does not stem from anything that happened nor from a dissatisfaction with my position as the minister here. It comes from many months of fervent prayer, seeking the Lord's will, and being willing to make the next step no matter what it may entail. It is in that spirit that I write this letter of resignation from the pastorate of this congregation. It is out of love for this congregation that I am writing this letter as well. It continues to become more and more clear that I am not equipped to be able to minister to this congregation in the way that they need me to. Ever since the Spanish-speaking group joined us nearly three years ago, I have felt this great sense of inability to shepherd and minister to them in the way that they need. I thank the Lord for them, and I thank the Lord that Westminster is a diverse congregation seeking to have a bilingual ministry. However, having a pastor who is not bilingual does not work well in that context. When Gina was in the hospital and I was with the Fernandez family trying to minister to them, I felt like such a failure because I was not able to minister to Frank and Gloria as they needed. I know that others who were there, and Frank and

Gloria themselves, would say that my ministry at that time was helpful, but that does not mean that it was to the extent that they needed. I want to make it clear that this letter is not a result of feeling defeated or like a failure; I am simply trying to convey what I believe is a real lack of ability in this matter. I have sought over the last three years to improve my Spanish skills, but I believe I am still many years away from being able to actually minister to anyone in Spanish. This is one reason why I believe the Lord is urging me to move on from here so that another who is more able to fully minister may come in and shepherd the hearts of all members in this congregation. Another thing that has been weighing on my heart greatly and is a factor in writing this letter is something that should not come as a surprise to any of you because I mentioned it to you all in very direct terms. My wife continues to hate being here. She loves the people at Westminster, but she has no real community. She has mentioned several times how she does not have friends here, just fellow church members. This is not due to a lack of trying on her part or on the part of anyone in the congregation. It is more than likely a result of the congregation being so spread out geographically. She is also a southern girl through and through, and I am unsure if anything could ever make her be okay with the culture and the climate here in northern Illinois. I am commanded by the Lord to love my wife as Christ loved the Church. I cannot see how keeping my wife in a place where she says she hates it is being loving to her. With all that being said, I would not be writing this letter if the Lord had not made evidence of His will clear to me that He desired me to move to another harvest field. As you all know, I have a heart for evangelism and church planting, and I also have a heart for my kinsmen according to the flesh, the South. An opportunity has developed that would see me potentially laboring in church planting efforts in North Alabama. There are several people in my hometown area who are desirous to have an RP congregation. The means of being able to do this have, by God's providence, come available because of Brooke's grandparents' house being offered to us to live in free of charge. Also, there is the opportunity to teach at a local Christian school (affiliated with the local PCA congregation) which would provide some additional income. There is also the possibility of using the local American Legion post as a meeting place free of charge. I was also put in touch with the owner of an historic church building in Sheffield who is interested in letting us meet there free of charge. The Lord seems to be working all the details together in such a way that I cannot ignore His providential hand in this. I know this is a difficult letter to read, and I want you to know it was difficult for me to write. When I took the call here, I said I had every intention of dying here. I did not come to Westminster expecting it to be a steppingstone to something else. I have tried to pour everything I have into this congregation, and I have sought to labor in such a way that whether I was pastor for four years or forty, my ministry would be the same. I love being here with you all, and I truly do love being your pastor. I pray the Lord will continue to bless Westminster Reformed Presbyterian Church, that you all would continue to seek out reformation both individually and corporately according to the Word of God, and that you would all grow in grace and love towards one another and towards Christ Jesus. "But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen." (2 Peter 3:18) My request is that this letter of resignation be accepted by the session and forwarded to Presbytery for their decision, with the resignation to be made effective July 12, 2026.

With all brotherly affection,

Rev. Joshua M. Smith

The court moved to a time of questions and answers from Mr. Smith. The moderator asked whether proper procedure according to the Constitution was followed. Mr Koch answered in

the affirmative. The presbytery accepted the resignation of Mr. Smith effective July 12, 2026. Rev. Shawn Anderson prayed the prayer of dissolution, to be effective July 12, 2026.

The Communication 26-3 advisory committee was announced by the moderator as Colin Samul, Jonathan Schaefer, and Ian Wise.

Mr. Josh Reshey gave the Terre Haute report. There were no questions from the floor. The report was received by common consent and Mr. Bowers prayed for the work of Terre Haute congregation. The Terre Haute report is as follows:

Dear Fathers and Brothers,

Though we have been without a pastor for most of 2025, we are grateful for the many ways that God has provided, allowing us to maintain much of our regular ministry and programming. Regular Sunday morning services have been held with only one cancellation due to weather, and we have observed the Lord's Supper quarterly. Session has continued to hold regular meetings on a monthly basis under the leadership of Pastor Jack Baumgardner who is graciously serving as provisional moderator. Though individuals in the congregation have faced challenging new personal circumstances in the past year including loss of job, cancer diagnosis, and difficulties with wayward children, the congregation continues to trust in God and has been faithful in attending to the means of grace. However, we recognize the importance of having a Teaching Elder at THRPC and so over the last year our Pastoral Search Committee has been hard at work pursuing leads, with an exciting new opportunity opening up recently.

Worship

We have been amazed by the steady stream of men faithfully bringing God's Word to our congregation over the past year. Some commit to preaching twice a month for a season, with John Punt coming regularly in the spring, Nathan Shaver in the summer, and Pastor Terry Dowds in the fall and winter. Also frequenting our pulpit are Pastor Roberts, Pastor Baumgardner, and Tyler Kniess, with Pastor Roberts and Pastor Gary McNamee administering the Lord's Supper. Many others have ministered among us, including those from the GLG presbytery, Midwest Presbytery and a local PCA congregation. The congregation has welcomed this ministry, and have done a great job of showing hospitality to those traveling from out of town.

Fellowship

We look forward to resuming a regular evening worship service when the Lord provides a pastor, but for now the congregation gathers for a time of psalm-singing, prayer, and fellowship most Sunday evenings. In addition to hosting the guest ministers on a weekly basis, our members show love for one another in many ways, often staying long after the service is over to share their joys and burdens. The Church Life Team organized a Fall and New Year party for the congregation, and will hopefully be able to resume the traditional Reformation Day party next year. The Missions Committee hosted a delightful visit from Leila Zhou who reported on her mission work in Asia, and they organized a Kid2Kid event to inform our children about RP Global Missions.

Bible Study

The Women's Fellowship met through the spring but has since been on hiatus. The Thursday Evening Bible Study completed a study of I and II Corinthians, David Murray's Jesus on Every Page, and studies of specific Messianic Psalms. The adult Sunday School class completed Dr. Godfrey's A Survey of Church History and Sinclair Ferguson's series on I Peter. We have four Sunday School classes for the children ranging from toddler to middle school led by a dedicated group of Sunday School teachers who are committed to training our children up in the Lord.

Diaconate

The congregation was greatly encouraged by the ordination of Dr. Justin Miller to the office of deacon in Spring 2025, joining our current deacons Dr. Brian Toevs and Kevin Sellers. The elders have been especially grateful for the support of these deacons who have been even more active than usual this year, overseeing the installation of a new roof for the building, engaging in mercy ministry, organizing the audit of the congregational books, taking initiative to complete projects around the building, and setting up various work days to support members of the congregation in need.

Budget

The annual congregational meeting will be held on February 20, 2026 to approve the attached budget which does not include a pastor's salary. Our congregation hopes to call a pastor in the near future, at which point the Session will present a revised budget including the pastor's salary to the congregation and to Presbytery as needed.

Membership

The membership of the congregation declined slightly in 2025, though attendance has held steady. A member known to some of you, Dan Deason, passed away in August. Another member, Pat Gard, transferred to a reformed Baptist church in Montana.

Congregational Statistics 2024 2025

Communicant members 30 28

Additional regular attenders 7 6

Both Steve and Mary Rhoda remain on the membership roll, so in addition to the ministry that they receive from the Terre Haute Shepherding Committee, the local elders continue their own work with them. It has been a privilege to witness Steve's remarkable and sustained progress in alcohol recovery, and in light of this recovery, we as a Session support the committee's recommendation to lift Steve's suspension.

Blessings to you in Christ,

The Session of Terre Haute RPC

Mr. Reshey also prayed for the food and recessed us. Recess was at 5:55pm.

The court reconvened at 6:56pm with prayer by the moderator in the name of Jesus Christ, the king and head of the church.

Resolution of Thanks committee was announced by the moderator as Josh Smith and Colin Elliot.

Communication 26-6 was presented by Mr. Tom Dinkledine. Mr. Dinkledine was given 30 minutes to present his paper and to take question from the floor. The communication is as follows:

Introduction

The goals of this paper are to present some shepherding principles, a case study of presbytery process failure, and some proposed updates to procedures. These proposals are intended to reduce predictable failures in shepherding, particularly as those failures affect non-officers of the church. This paper is not intended to accuse anyone for disciplinary purposes, nor is it intended to relitigate past decisions. However, it does reference past actions because, without examples, some might argue that no change is needed. Outcomes matter. In engineering, systems are evaluated not by intentions or opinions, but by how they behave under stress, and our present process failed under that stress. The procedures currently in place appear to be enablers of abusive behavior, acting more as roadblocks than guardrails to transparency and justice.

I. Governing Biblical and Confessional Principles

Any discussion of procedure must begin with the principles that procedure is meant to serve. Scripture repeatedly emphasizes that shepherds are required to inquire, listen, and protect the vulnerable. In Luke 10:25–37, the Good Samaritan helps regardless of prior laws, roles, or procedural boundaries. Acts 5:29 reminds us that obedience to God takes precedence over obedience to men when the two are in conflict. Proverbs 3:27–28 warns against withholding good through delay when action is within one’s power—an explicit link between delay and injustice. Jeremiah 10:21 warns that when shepherds do not inquire of the LORD, the flock suffers. The warning is not merely about false doctrine, but about failure to inquire at all. The Larger Catechism, Question 145, is especially relevant because it addresses sins forbidden under the ninth commandment “especially in public judicature.” These include prejudicing the truth, concealing the truth, undue silence in a just cause, stopping one’s ears against a just defense, and holding one’s peace when iniquity calls for reproof or complaint.

The above are not abstract theological concerns. They speak directly to how courts inquire, hear, deliberate, and decide.

II. An Analogy: Stress-Testing Current Procedures

Picture this: Your daughter is abused by an elder(s), and she, along with others, petitions the GLG presbytery for an investigation. The situation is referred to a Shepherding Committee (SC) whose stated goal is primarily reconciliation over investigation. She is told by the SC that she should meet alone with her elders (including some of the alleged abusive elders), without the support of others who had also witnessed similar patterns of behavior by the accused. She is criticized for refusing to do so, both privately and publicly. She is encouraged by the SC not to talk to others about her experience. For its report, the SC submitted its communication to the GLG late, but it was accepted since it was already on the agenda. Your daughter, after not receiving good shepherding care and seeing discrepancies in the report from the SC, attempts to appeal directly to presbytery with a second petition (with even more congregants) to assist in her effort to receive a fair hearing. She appears in person at a presbytery meeting and is surprised that the SC report tells the entire presbytery multiple times that she has deficiencies, deficiencies which have not been discussed with her. This almost certainly biases the presbyters against her and those who have petitioned on her behalf. Some members of the court argue that the matter is “not urgent,” without presenting (or even knowing) any facts from her petition. An elder asks from the floor whether anything in her communication addresses urgency and the only three voting delegates who have seen the communication, all of whom have conflicts of interest, refuse to provide any information at all—not even the names

or number of people Proposed Procedural Updates Related to Shepherding in Church Courts who signed the petition. She is told her petition is out of order and would not be read by any presbyters because it was late and not funneled through the committee of the accused. She cites the Book of Discipline's allowance for direct communications to the presbytery in "exceptional cases." She desires to speak to answer the question of urgency plus address the distortions in the S.C. report, and she is told not to speak unless asked. An elder, attempting to advocate for your daughter, is repeatedly and controversially ruled out of order. The moderator rules the petition out of order. Your daughter and her fellow petitioners weep as they realize the system is shutting the door on them. Does this process reflect wise, faithful shepherding? Does it sound like elders seeking truth and justice? Does it sound like a system that values the sheep? In this parable, if you substitute "petitioners" for "abused daughter," it represents what actually happened to the 2RP petitioners in the spring and summer of 2025. It highlights the current state of shepherding in our present system. If ten congregants, followed by thirteen more, representing 13 households totaling 46 souls, all in good standing, cannot be heard, a single person has no hope of being heard or helped. The group of petitioners included an inactive elder, a deacon, teachers, coordinators, missionaries, current and former church staff, and ordinary faithful members. If such people are functionally silenced by procedure, what chance does a single mother have? What chance does someone without procedural fluency, professional credentials, or institutional backing have? These examples are not presented to accuse anyone. They are presented to demonstrate that current procedures can, and do, produce outcomes that appear to prioritize assumptions over careful inquiry and elder privilege over ordinary sheep.

III. Proposed Procedural Updates

Church courts operate under real constraints: limited time, heavy dockets, imperfect information, and human weakness. Combined with these factors, unwise procedures (or even wise procedures wielded unwisely) exacerbate difficulties. None of these require malicious intent. They arise naturally in systems without adequate safeguards. The question is whether our current procedures sufficiently protect the sheep when these pressures converge. Here are some proposals:

1. Recording of Meetings

Presbytery meetings should be recorded as a standard practice, as controversies cannot always be predicted in advance. A notable exception would be for executive sessions. Relevant parties should have access to such recordings. In business, medicine, and manufacturing, even the possibility of measurement improves outcomes. Accountability changes behavior.

2. Session Gatekeeper Guidelines

Communications involving a session's alleged improper actions or biases should not be required to pass through that session as a prerequisite to reaching the presbytery. Requiring that prerequisite may create a conflict of interest and could allow delay.

3. Guidelines for Speakers

Clear rules should govern who may speak, when, and for what purpose. Gag orders and ad hoc restrictions should not be used to control outcomes. Time limits are reasonable; partiality is not. Allowing presbyters to repeatedly shout over other speakers should not be allowed. The volume of the voices in the room cannot be the determiner of truth and wisdom in the church courts.

4. Moderator Authority

Currently, a moderator can effectively act as judge by controlling recognition and procedure. Some checks and balances are necessary.

5. Proposals for More Informed Presbytery Decisions

A shepherding committee report should be shared with the affected parties prior to its submission to presbytery. The affected parties should be allowed to give feedback in writing to the presbytery. To this day, some 2RP petitioners contest key aspects of the SC's written and oral reports. There is no doubt that the key decisions made immediately following the SC's report were influenced by it. Even the wisest of counselors fail with incorrect or insufficient information. All communications to the presbytery should be passed on to the presbyters in a timely manner. If any communication is late for a logical reason, that reason should be noted by the clerk. In the above case, the SC's report was submitted late. The 2RP petitioners had only a few days to draft a response to the SC's report which included a petition with more signers than the March petition. Since some petitioners were at the June meeting in person, they had hoped to address some discrepancies in the SC's report, but were prohibited from doing so. In addition, their petition was ruled out of order for its late submission.

6. More Frequent Meetings as Needed (and/or a More Robust AIC)

Currently, this presbytery effectively has only one meeting per year, as presbyters made it clear at the June 2025 meeting that there was no appetite to do anything of substance in such a short meeting. After 2RP petitioners were encouraged by presbyters to submit their June 2025 petition to AIC, AIC returned it to them without any action. Meeting only once per year is insufficient unless accompanied by a robust AIC that has the authority to call for a special meeting to address urgent and serious issues. Due to limited time and resources, an online format for special presbytery meetings could be considered. Even if unintentionally, if the presbytery waits out a problem, it often "resolves" itself by means of the scattering of the sheep. Justice delayed is justice denied.

7. Conflicts of Interest

Elders under scrutiny should be recused from voting on relevant motions. Conclusion The GLG has acted as if it can determine the will of the Lord without inquiry (Jer 10:21), and that it is willing to ignore a petition signed by many members without seeing it (WLC Q145, 9th commandment violations). Therefore, trust in the collective judgment of the GLG will inevitably erode beyond present bounds. Sadly, around 50 congregants have departed from 2RP largely as a result of the events of 2025, many immediately following the June 2025 presbytery meeting. I recognize that no court has unlimited time. I do not claim exclusive wisdom. I would support adopting a standard recording proposal by the most expedient lawful means and referring the remaining proposals to a committee for refinement. If there are factual errors in this paper, I am willing to be corrected. I am grateful to those who have expressed agreement as well as critique. We must be careful not to allow procedure—meant to serve shepherding—to become a substitute for it. You do not have to answer to me. We do not ultimately answer to one another, though we should be accountable to one another. But we are all accountable to the Chief Shepherd, who hears the cries of His sheep and will inquire how they were treated.

Following Mr. Dinkledine's presentation a series of question from the floor were asked.

Rev. Aaron Murray presented he following motion: "The moderator assign a committee of the day to consider Mr. Dinkledine's request regarding the audio/video recording of the GLG

presbytery meetings and report back to this presbytery during the afternoon session of tomorrows meeting.” The motion was seconded and then amended.

Amendment: “To refer all recommendations within the Dinkledine paper to committee.” The motion to hear the amendment to the recommendation was seconded and carried.

The new motion: “That the moderator assign a committee of the day to consider Mr. Dinkledine’s requests and proposals for the GLG presbytery meetings and report back to this presbytery during the afternoon session of tomorrows meeting.”

The motion carries.

The 7:30pm order of the day is before us: The Covenanter Young People Union’s (CYPU) report was given by Rev. Aaron Murray. A Zoom call with the youth leadership team of the CYPU occurred to hear from the youth. The court heard from several of the young people:

Aaron Archer, the registration coordinator spoke on the fall ministry project. Jane Calendar spoke on the Winter Youth Conference where Dr. Whitla was the speaker. Calvin Eshelman, clerk of the Youth Leadership Team, gave the report on Theological Foundations Weekend. Gideon Soma spoke on a youth event where Ian Wise was the speaker. Riley Gardner, the social media person, spoke on TFY and what was learned there. Isaiah Shipp spoke on ECCO and the team that attended. Elizabeth Cousins from Bloomington RPC, and VP of the CYPU team. She spoke on the monthly Psalm sings that occur. Sam Faris is sick but also serves on the leadership team.

Aaron Murray then spoke further on the “logic of the youth events” from doctrine to service to friendship to a combination thereof. Elder Goerner prayed for the work of CYPU, giving thanks for the work of youth ministry in our midst.

The court then sang Psalm 144B.

Elder Kevin Duffey presented the CYPU Board report. The report is as follows:

Board Members: Bryan Planalp – President/Treasurer. Joy Whitt – Secretary/Clerk
Kevin Duffey. Jon Sturm. Elsa Sturm. Aaron Murray – Director

Board Activity: The Board met four times beginning in June of 2025 with several key areas of focus. • Focus on support for Aaron Murray and the YSLT (Youth Servant Leadership Team) event.

planning and coordination

- Coordination of the budget for CYPU.
- Oversight for CPP administration.
- Addition of Jon and Elsa Sturm to the Board
- Established Cell Phone Policy for CYPU events
- CPP Implementation review – No issue was at a CYPU Event. (see October CYPU Board minutes and Proposal 4 below)

Key Successes during the last year.

- Aaron Murray has effectively led the CYPU events and encouraged YSLT leadership in each of the events held.
- Events Held in 2025 (see Aaron’s Directors reports for more details)

- Summer Bash
- TFW - Theological Foundations Weekend
- Fall Ministry
- Winter Conference
- Psalm Sings
- All events were completed in compliance with the CPP (Child Protection Policy).
- Budget schedule was completed and submitted (See Attachment.) CYPUB Board

Proposals for Presbytery consideration:

Proposal 1:

We propose:

Board member changes:

- We accept the resignation of Kevin Duffey from the board and request Presbytery to make an addition to the CYPUB Board. Namely, a ruling elder from a church within Presbytery.

- We make officer changes to the CYPUB Board as follows:

- Jon Sturm – President
- Joy Whitt – Secretary/Clerk
- Bryan Planalp – Treasurer

Proposal 2: We Request: \$4,500 budget allocation from Presbytery to fund the CYPUB Director and Events. See attached CYPUB 2026 Financial Schedule.

Proposal 3: That the CYPUB Board request the GLG Presbytery to appoint Sunday, May 3, 2026, as a special day of voluntary giving to support CYPUB ministry, and that this request be formally communicated to all congregations within the presbytery.

Rationale: The GLG is a geographically large presbytery. Additional financial support would enable us to better serve students, especially those from outlying regions.

Increased funding would help cover travel and registration expenses for these students. It would also allow us to purchase recreational equipment and educational materials to enhance our events.

Proposal: 4: We Request: A review of our CPP implementation and our administration of the CPP incidents by the CYPUB Board. Recommendation: The CYPUB's decision regarding attendance at CYPUB events be referred to a committee for review and instruction.

Proposal 1: Carried.

Proposal 2: Automatic referral to the finance committee.

Proposal 3: Sunday May 3 as a day of giving for the work of youth ministry.

Proposal 4: The CYPUB's decision regarding attendance at CYPUB events to be referred to a committee for review and instruction.

Mr. Hart made the following motion: A three man committee to review the CYPUB minutes and report back at the next full presbytery meeting. Seconded. Motion carries.

The reports as a whole were approved.

Candidates and Credentials report was again taken up and presented by Rev. Adam Niess.

Recommendation 2. That the ministerial credentials of Rich Johnston be transferred to the Midwest Presbytery, per his request. Carried.

3. That Joel Hart, Rich Holdeman, and Adam Kuehner be nominated to serve another term on the C&CC. Sent to nomination committee.

4. That a new member (preferably a ruling elder) be provided for the C&CC to serve as a replacement for Ian Wise, per his request. Carried. Sent to nomination committee.

5. That student exams be conducted according to the schedule outlined below. Note: Christopher Schrock was examined and licensed to receive a call by the Midwest Presbytery (MWP). To alleviate any concerns regarding his past in the Communion of Reformed Evangelical Churches (CREC), we have shared three documents with you that he previously prepared for the MWP. Carried.

Mr. McCollum came back to the moderators bench and Mr. Kuehner began the exam process with Mr. TJ Patillo's Theology 1 examination. The exam followed a 20/10/5 schedule.

The roll call vote was taken by the assistant clerk. The examination was unanimously sustained and the roll call vote is as follows:

Name	LN	Patillo Theology 1
David Leap	Leap	S
Bruce Bowers	Bowers	S
Phil Pockras	Pockras	S
Colin Elliott	Elliott	S
Rich Holdeman	Holdeman	S
Philip McCollum	McCollum	S
Joel Hart	Hart	S
Jeff Jones	Jones	S
Dave Schisler	Schisler	S
Bob Daniels	Daniels	S
Bob Bibby	Bibby	S
Ken Nelson	Nelson	S
Adam Niess	Niess	S
Aaron Murray	Murray	S
Kevin Duffey	Duffey	S
Nathan Eshelman	Eshelman	S
Mark Goerner	Goerner	S
Mark Koller	Koller	S
Colin Samul	Samul	S
Glenn McFarland	McFarland	
Donald Cassell	Cassell	S
Dean Filson	Filson	S
Jerry Foltz	Foltz	S
Jon Hughes	Hughes	S
Adam Kuehner	Kuehner	S
David Hanson	Hanson	S
Mike Lotz	Lotz	S
Daniel Sturm	Sturm	S
Ian Wise	Wise	S
Scott Damerow	Damerow	S
Dick Knodel	Knodel	S
Shawn Anderson	Anderson	S
Brentt VanSickle	VanSickle	S
Josh Reshey	Reshey	S
Bob Koch	Koch	S
Josh Smith	Smith	S

The roll call vote for licensure to preach the gospel was unanimously sustained:

Name	LN	Patillo License to Preach
David Leap	Leap	S
Bruce Bowers	Bowers	S
Phil Pockras	Pockras	S
Colin Elliott	Elliott	S
Rich Holdeman	Holdeman	S
Philip McCollum	McCollum	S
Joel Hart	Hart	S
Jeff Jones	Jones	S
Dave Schisler	Schisler	S
Bob Daniels	Daniels	S
Bob Bibby	Bibby	S
Ken Nelson	Nelson	S
Adam Niess	Niess	S
Aaron Murray	Murray	S
Kevin Duffey	Duffey	S
Nathan Eshelman	Eshelman	S
Mark Goerner	Goerner	S
Mark Koller	Koller	S
Colin Samul	Samul	S
Glenn McFarland	McFarland	
Donald Cassell	Cassell	S
Dean Filson	Filson	S
Jerry Foltz	Foltz	S
Jon Hughes	Hughes	S
Adam Kuehner	Kuehner	S
David Hanson	Hanson	S
Mike Lotz	Lotz	S
Daniel Sturm	Sturm	S
Ian Wise	Wise	S
Scott Damerow	Damerow	S
Dick Knodel	Knodel	S
Shawn Anderson	Anderson	S
Brentt VanSickle	VanSickle	S
Josh Reshey	Reshey	S
Bob Koch	Koch	S
Josh Smith	Smith	S

Chairman Adam Niess presented the following for Mr. Patillo’s’ licensure:

Queries would be read by Rev. Jerry Foltz. Rev. Knodel is to pray for Mr. Patillo. Rev. Anderson would give the charge from the Word of God, including that Mr. Patillo is not to administer the sacraments, perform weddings, or pronounce benedictions. 2 Corinthians 4:5 was read and instruction followed: *“For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.”*

The Queries and Vows book was signed by Mr. Patillo.

Rev. Kuehner prayed the prayer of recess at 9:13pm.

The court reconvened at the Orlando Reformed Presbyterian Church on March 6, 2026. The moderator called the meeting to order at 8:42am. The court sang Psalm 89C, the moderator prayed, reconvening us in the name of Jesus Christ the king and head of the Church.

Mr. John Punt was introduced to the court and he called our attention to Matthew 4:12-17. Following the prayer for blessing on the Word, Mr. Punt preached the Word. Following the preaching of the Word the court sang Psalm 107B. The floor was then opened for comments and questions.

The roll call vote was taken and Mr. Punt’s preaching examination was sustained unanimously:

Name	LN	Punt Sermon 2
David Leap	Leap	S
Bruce Bowers	Bowers	\$
Phil Pockras	Pockras	S
Colin Elliott	Elliott	S
Rich Holdeman	Holdeman	S
Philip McCollum	McCollum	S
Joel Hart	Hart	S
Jeff Jones	Jones	S
Dave Schisler	Schisler	S
Bob Daniels	Daniels	S
Bob Bibby	Bibby	S
Ken Nelson	Nelson	S
Adam Niess	Niess	S
Aaron Murray	Murray	A
Kevin Duffey	Duffey	S
Nathan Eshelman	Eshelman	S
Mark Goerner	Goerner	S
Mark Koller	Koller	S
Colin Samul	Samul	
Glenn McFarland	McFarland	
Donald Cassell	Cassell	S
Dean Filson	Filson	S
Jerry Foltz	Foltz	S
Jon Hughes	Hughes	S
Adam Kuehner	Kuehner	S
David Hanson	Hanson	S
Mike Lotz	Lotz	S
Daniel Sturm	Sturm	S
Ian Wise	Wise	A
Scott Damerow	Damerow	S
Dick Knodel	Knodel	S
Shawn Anderson	Anderson	S
Brentt VanSickle	VanSickle	S
Josh Reshey	Reshey	S
Bob Koch	Koch	S
Josh Smith	Smith	A

It was announced that Mark Koller replaced Holdeman on the Dinkledine committee of the day.

Mr. Joel Hart presented the review of the Hunt exegesis paper titled, “I Will Shake the Heavens: A Redemptive-Historical Interpretation of the Dividing Wall in Ephesians 2:11-22.” The committee, made up of Aaron Murray and Joel Hart, are recommending the paper be sustained. The exegesis paper examination was sustained by a voice vote without vocal dissent.

The Sycamore session report was given Rev. Shawn Anderson. Bloomington Session will pray for the Sycamore congregation. The Sycamore session was received by common consent. The report is as follows:

The past year was one of testing and refinement for Sycamore RPC. As a congregation, we were reminded that the Lord grows His church through both increase and pruning, and that Christ Himself remains the faithful Shepherd of His people. Though the year brought difficulty, loss, and change, we are thankful for the Lord's preserving grace and for the growing clarity of our calling to stand firm in faith, obedience, and prayer.

The Session met in constituted court approximately fifteen times during the year and convened informally as needed to address pastoral and shepherding concerns. Our meetings were marked by prayerful deliberation under God's Word. Significant time was devoted to intercession for members and families, as well as for the peace, purity, and perseverance of the church. The elders continued to pursue faithful oversight through study, discussion, prayer, and personal shepherding, even as the year placed substantial pastoral demands on the Session.

Throughout the year, the elders studied Michael Kruger's *Bully Pulpit*, which encouraged careful reflection on pastoral authority, humility, and the responsible exercise of leadership in Christ's church. Household visitation and individual shepherding matters were discussed, with particular attention given to those facing grief, trial, or spiritual distress.

The Session interviewed and sustained two covenant youth this year, giving thanks to the Lord for helping them publicly profess faith in Christ and commit themselves to His visible church. The Session also addressed notable membership changes, including relocations and those who ceased regular participation. The membership roll declined from 94 to 80 over the year; of those 80, 21 are not in regular local attendance due to college enrollment, relocation pending transfer, or disciplinary circumstances. Average morning attendance was 65, with evening attendance averaging 41, reflecting the steady faithfulness of those who gathered regularly for worship. The Lord continued to bless the congregation with meaningful fellowship and connectional life. Highlights included communion weekends, RP Night at Victory Field, joint fellowship with sister congregations, youth participation in denominational events, hosting the GLG Women's Retreat, and seasonal congregational gatherings. These occasions strengthened bonds within the congregation and reinforced our shared life with the broader church.

The preaching and teaching ministry centered on themes particularly suited to the year's challenges. Morning worship focused on Spiritual Warfare, reminding us that our struggle is not against flesh and blood and that Christ has already secured the decisive victory. Sabbath evening worship emphasized The Fear of the Lord, calling us to reverent trust, humility, and obedience. The Lord's Supper was celebrated regularly, and congregational Psalm singing continued, including special Psalm sings on the fifth Lord's Days.

Prayer remained a defining feature of congregational life. The church labored together in calling upon the Lord through seasons of grief, illness, uncertainty, and sorrow, as well as in thanksgiving for new life, answered prayers, provision, and mercy. Much of the Lord's work among us occurred quietly through sustained corporate intercession, strengthening faith and perseverance.

Regular rhythms of teaching and fellowship were maintained through weekly classes, youth discipleship, and shared meals. Ordinary means—Word, prayer, and shared life—proved once again to be the Lord's chosen instruments for sustaining His people. The congregation also continued its involvement in community and mercy efforts,

including support for the local Pregnancy Resource Center and the Vermigli House ministry.

During the year, the pastor stepped back from regular counseling for a season of recalibration and training, addressing gaps in preparation and clarifying long-term counseling aims and practices. This proved fruitful and has strengthened the sustainability and faithfulness of pastoral care moving forward. The pastor served the broader church through denominational responsibilities, including participation on Synod study committees, for which the Session is grateful.

The year brought real loss and sorrow, and these trials affected morale. Yet the Lord has preserved a smaller, stable core marked by quiet faithfulness, reverence, and perseverance. We receive this not as an achievement, but as a gift of grace. Christ remains the Chief Shepherd of His church. He does not lose His sheep, and He faithfully accomplishes all that the Father has given Him to do.

As we look ahead, the Session and congregation seek to remain rooted in Christ, attentive to prayer, and increasingly outward-looking in witness and service. With confidence not in ourselves but in the Lord who builds His church, we trust that He will continue to lead us in His good and perfect will.

Respectfully submitted,
The Session of Sycamore Reformed Presbyterian Church

Mr. Josh Reshey presented the Sparta report. The Columbus session was requested to pray for the work of Sparta church. The report is as follows:

Losses in membership and continuing financial challenges have brought the session to recommend that the congregation petition for disorganization.

Pastor

Ross Fearing has completed his fifth year of ministry at Sparta Reformed Presbyterian Church. In addition, he continued to serve as an Army Reserve Chaplain. This year he moved from serving at the 76th Operational Response Command to the 139th Medical Brigade. He also worked as a math teacher at Christ our Savior Lutheran High School during the spring semester, concluding his work when the school closed. His daughter, Luthien, was born on January 23, 2025.

Public Ministry

The congregation continued to worship morning and evening each Lord's Day, with Ross providing most of the preaching. Because Ross was serving with the Army approximately 10 Lord's Days this last year, Pastor Terry Dowds filled the pulpit on most of these occasions. We thank Pastor and Mrs. Dowds for faithfully attending and supporting the congregation and especially for Pastor Dowds' clear preaching over the last five years. At the end of 2025, worship attendance was 10-15. The congregation reduced to two Sabbath School classes, with Mrs. Fearing leading the young children and Ross leading the rest of the congregation. We also continued to gather on Wednesday evening for congregational prayer.

Session

The session consists of Moderator Ross Fearing, Clerk Bill Wilson, and Provisional Elder Josh Reshey. We especially thank Mr. Reshey and the Terre Haute congregation for his consistent and helpful service to us on our session.

Membership

The congregation added one communing member and one baptized member this year and lost two communing members. The current membership count is 9 communing members and 7 baptized members. We have two adherents who frequently with us and two adherents who due to health and distance regularly use the worship livestream.

Properties

The properties of the church remain in serviceable condition. The congregation replaced the church water heater this year.

Finances

The 2025 financial report is included as Appendix 1 to this report. Expenses were about \$700 less than budgeted and giving was about \$12,000 more than budgeted. Expenses exceeded receipts by almost \$11,000 which was drawn from the congregation's general fund. As of December 31, the congregation had about \$35,000 in the general fund. Changes in the church membership led us to anticipate a reduction in giving over the next year. Anticipating the disorganization of the congregation, the 2026 budget commits to spending at the same levels as 2025.

Disorganization

The petition for disorganization is included as Appendix 2 to this report. The petition highlights the lack of people and lack of funding needed to sustain a ministry. These easily measurable factors reflect that despite efforts to conduct outreach in the community, prayers for the addition of more families, and improvements in the leadership of the church, the church has not shown growth and we do not see evidence that would suggest growth in the next year. For these reasons, the session is making the hard recommendation that the congregation petition for its disorganization.

The report was received by common consent. Sparta is over 200 years old and has requested disorganization from the presbytery. The disorganization request is before the court. Several comments and questions from the floor were heard. The moderator called the question and the Sparta congregation's request to dissolve the congregation was approved.

The congregation of Sparta Reformed Presbyterian Church, upon recommendation of the Session, approved the following petition without dissent on during a congregational meeting on February 4, 2026. Sparta Reformed Presbyterian Church petitions the Great Lake Gulf Presbytery to disorganize the congregation with an effective date of April 1, 2026.

The reasons for this request are as follows:

The financial condition of the congregation. The congregation has operated at an increasing deficit for three years and we project that there will not be sufficient funds to provide for another year of ministry.

The declining membership of the congregation. The average attendance for worship is approximately 12, with a recent loss of two family units (3 members). Note, this number includes 8 from Pastor Fearing's family. Total active communicant membership is 7.

For the Congregation,
Ross Fearing
Pastor, Sparta Reformed Presbyterian Church

A three man Sparta Disorganization Committee was recommended by Nominating Committee. The motion was seconded and announced: Josh Smith, Josh Reshey, Colin Elliot.

The SWORP Session report was given by Rev. Dick Knodel:

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 he art 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.

The Elkhart session prayed for the work of SWORP and the report was received by common consent.

The Southfield Session report was given Rev. Adam Kuehner. Rev. Philip McCollum took the moderator's bench so that Mr. Kuehner could present the report which follows:

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.

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 CYPUP 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

Recommendation 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). Motion carries.

Recommendation 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. The motion carries.

Recommendation three was previously considered under Candidates and Credentials.

The report was received by common consent. Rev. Murray prayed for the work of Southfield.

The Southside Report was presented by Mr. Daniel Sturm. The report was received by common consent. The Lafayette session led prayer following the report. The report is as follows:

Fathers and Brethren,

Session met in constituted court 18 times during the year. In addition to eleven monthly stated meetings, six special meetings were held: six for communicant membership interviews and one to call a special meeting of the corporation. In two meetings, Session set aside time to meet jointly with the Deacon Board to review and discuss progress on ministry initiatives. In December, the Session received Gary Burriss’ resignation from the Deacon Board. We are thankful to Gary for his sixteen years of service among us on the Deacon Board.

Public Services

Our congregation continues to be blessed by sound preaching as our pastors faithfully open God’s Word each week. Pastor Hanson concluded a preaching series through Isaiah and began a series in Ecclesiastes. He also preached sermons from Psalms and Genesis. Pastor Wise preached through I and II Peter and is continuing a series in Luke. During the year, he also preached four sermons from Hebrews 11 and one sermon each from Matthew and Psalms. In addition to the preaching ministry of our own teaching elders, the congregation also heard from guest preachers Pastor Joe Smith and Dr. Jeff Stivason. The sacrament of the Lord’s Supper was observed twelve times throughout the year, in the morning service once per quarter and in the evening service the other months. The sacrament of baptism was administered to Leah Marie Mauser; Jonathan

Jacob Lanza Cruz; Benjamin Andrew Lanza Cruz; David Sebastian Kleyn; Jacob Martin Rich; Josiah Gordon Hilliard; and Marie Aster Newland.

Pastoral Care

At the end of 2025, the total membership of the congregation stood at 276. The communicant membership was 199, a decrease of one, and the baptized roll numbered 77, an increase of five from 2024. The following twelve individuals were received as communicant members: Fausto Lanza and Erica Cruz; Jonathan Towery by transfer from Trinity Presbyterian Church (PCA), Asheville, NC; Dennis and Lavonne Ritenour by transfer from Calvary OPC, Middletown, PA; Alejandra Juarez; Johan Atlatenco; Bobby McCoy by transfer from Grace Presbyterian Church (PCA), Indianapolis, IN; Norma Orr by transfer from the rolls of the Alleghenies Presbytery; ReBecka Wells; Jacob and Kayla Lutz, and Finn Lutz onto the baptized roll, by transfer from Providence (OPC), West Lebanon, NH. Each at their own request, Forrest Wise was issued a Certificate of Dismissal; Michael and Rachel Fatyanov (and baptized children Isaac, Samuel, and Sofia) were transferred to Grace Assembly, Whiteland, IN; Archie McKissick was transferred to College Hill Reformed Church, Beaver Falls, PA; Kathryn Wise was transferred to Traders Point Christian Church, Whitestown, IN; Joel and Sharmayne Silverman were transferred to Hope Fellowship (PCA), Ocala, FL; Isaac and Grace Manring were transferred to Redemption OPC, Gainesville, FL; and Allison Cavanaugh was issued a Certificate of Dismissal. Miriam Bird was removed from the roll having joined Redeemer Presbyterian Church, Indianapolis. Susan Darbro, Dennis Parton, and William Carter (adherent) were deceased in 2025. There were five births during the year: Leah Marie Mauser (2/2), David Sebastian Kleyn (6/23), Marie Aster Newland (7/15), Jacob Martin Rich (9/15), and Josiah Gordon Hilliard (11/7). There was one wedding last year: Alyssa Butler to Will Martin (3/29). Participation in the Higher Courts and Wider Church Ministry Presbytery — Our ruling elder delegates to the Spring meeting of Presbytery held at Bloomington RPC were Ross Cerbus and David Kleyn. Pastor Hanson chaired the Bloomington RPC Visitation Committee and served on the Rhoda Shepherding Committee. Pastor Wise serves as interim moderator for Elkhart RPC and is a member of the Candidates and Credentials Committee. Ross Cerbus serves as Presbytery Assistant Treasurer and is on the Finance Committee. He also serves as the COVFAMIKOI treasurer. Mark Hart serves as Presbytery Treasurer. Synod — John Cavanaugh serves on the Central America and South America Committee, Ross Cerbus serves on the Board of Trustees, David Hanson serves on the South Asia Commission, and Mark Hart serves on the Synod Finance Committee.

Initiatives

The work of the Master Plan Committee continued in 2025 to the point where an estimated cost of the project could be provided. This was estimated to be \$3M. The Finance Committee reviewed what the congregation could afford, which showed the need to raise \$1.5M to fund the project. A Capital Campaign Committee was formed to strategize how to raise the needed funds. Several presentations were made to the congregation of the building plan and strategy to fund the project. A special meeting of the congregation was held in October to consider three motions regarding the building expansion and funding plan. The motions were passed with strong majorities in favor of the plan and campaign to fund the additional \$1.5M needed. Based on the growing number of junior high and high school students, the Youth Group restarted in 2025.

Lastly, the Session and Deacon Board made the church policies accessible to members on the church's website.

Respectfully submitted,
Southside Indianapolis RPC Session

A point of personal privilege was requested by Rev. Eshelman who introduced Rev. Glenn McFarland, currently the oldest living RPCNA minister at 95 years-old. Mr. McFarland stood and the court welcomed him with a round of applause.

Six congregations were prayed for:

Mr. Elliot for Sycamore. Mr. Jones for Sparta. Mr. Daniels for SWORP. Mr. Murray for Southfield. Mr. Bibby for Southside. Mr Pockras then prayed the prayer of dissolution for Sparta as well as giving thanks for Mr. McFarland's long tenure in the presbytery.

The court took a break at 10:30am. The court reconvened at 10:47am with the singing of Psalm 37C.

Mr. Christopher Schrock was invited to come to the pulpit and preach the Word of God. This sermon would be part of his ordination exams as he's been called to pastor the Second Reformed Presbyterian Church in Indianapolis.

Mr. Schrock read from Proverbs 1:1-6 and Proverbs 10:31-32. Mr. Schrock prayed for the ministry of the Word and then proceeded to preach from Proverbs 10. Following the preaching of the Word, Mr. Schrock prayed. Mr. Schrock called for the singing of Psalm 39A. The court was then opened for several questions from the floor. The time was extended to hear following comments.

The roll call vote was taken by the assistant clerk. The examination was unanimously sustained and is as follows:

Name	LN	Schrock Sermon
David Leap	Leap	S
Bruce Bowers	Bowers	A
Phil Pockras	Pockras	S
Colin Elliott	Elliott	S
Rich Holdeman	Holdeman	S
Philip McCollum	McCollum	S
Joel Hart	Hart	S
Jeff Jones	Jones	S
Dave Schisler	Schisler	S
Bob Daniels	Daniels	S
Bob Bibby	Bibby	S
Ken Nelson	Nelson	A
Adam Niess	Niess	S
Aaron Murray	Murray	S
Kevin Duffey	Duffey	S
Nathan Eshelman	Eshelman	S
Mark Goerner	Goerner	S
Mark Koller	Koller	A
Colin Samul	Samul	S
Glenn McFarland	McFarland	
Donald Cassell	Cassell	S
Dean Filson	Filson	S
Jerry Foltz	Foltz	S
Jon Hughes	Hughes	S
Adam Kuehner	Kuehner	S
David Hanson	Hanson	S
Mike Lotz	Lotz	S
Daniel Sturm	Sturm	S
Ian Wise	Wise	S
Scott Damerow	Damerow	S
Dick Knodel	Knodel	S
Shawn Anderson	Anderson	S
Brentt VanSickle	VanSickle	S
Josh Reshey	Reshey	S
Bob Koch	Koch	S
Josh Smith	Smith	S

Mr. Niess was welcome to the podium to continue the court with the examinations of Mr. Schrock. Mr. Schrock was given 10 minutes to introduce himself to the court.

The court took a 10 minute break to reconvene at 12:05pm.

The court was called to order at 12:06pm with the singing of Psalm 99A. Mr. Joel Hart prayed for the work of the Committee to Advise Presbytery Concerning Zach Smith as well as Communication 25-6; 25-7. The advisory committee report is as follows:

On January 15, 2026, the Ad Interim Commission appointed a 3-man committee with the following remit: “(1) interact with Zach Smith regarding GLG 25-6, (2) interact, as needed, with the 2RP session regarding 25-6 and 25-7, and (3) bring recommendations to the Spring meeting of Presbytery regarding next steps for the presbytery and/or the 2RP session.” On February 6, 2026, the committee met via Zoom with Zach and Beth Smith to discuss the circumstances that led to their returning from the mission field in South Sudan as well as their current situation and needs. On February 16, 2026, the committee met with the members of the Second RP session to get their perspective on the Smith’s departure from the mission field, their transition to Indianapolis, and their ongoing shepherding needs as a family. After considerable prayer and deliberation, the committee made a number of recommendations regarding the ongoing care and shepherding of the Smith family to the Second RP session, which we communicated directly to them. The committee makes the following recommendations to the presbytery:

- 1) That presbytery enter into executive session (with Beth Smith allowed to stay) to discuss the matter.
- 2) That presbytery hear from Zach Smith for up to 10 minutes.
- 3) That presbytery hear from Beth Smith for up to 10 minutes.
- 4) That Beth Smith be asked to leave executive session.
- 5) That, rather than accepting Zach Smith’s resignation from the office of teaching elder, presbytery formally depose him from his office as a teaching elder for serious violations of the seventh commandment that he has freely confessed and that obviously disqualify him from exercising the office of elder (BOD 4.1.d).
- 6) That this committee be dismissed.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rich Holdeman (chair), Scott Hoover (clerk), Aaron Murray

Communications 25-6 and 25-7 are as follows:

Dear 2RP Session: October 8, 2025

I write to you now with heaviness of heart, yet with assurances of God’s mercy and forgiveness. Some of you will know that this year has been an especially challenging year of ministry for me. The pressures felt so overwhelming that I recently experienced a severe nervous breakdown. In retrospect, it is clear to me that, in His grace, God was pressing me to the point of complete brokenness. Psalm 32:3-5 describes my experience well: “For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,” and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.”

For a couple years now, I've had unconfessed sin in my life. I've had personal moral failing and wrongly thought I could keep silent. But in His mercy, God pressed His hand heavy upon me. That was His grace. After spending a day in prayer and in His Word crying out for mercy, the Lord gave conviction and light. I was completely broken. The Lord answered. He gave me the ability to confess my sin. He gave me assurance of His love. I came home and confessed to Beth my personal moral failing and sin against her and God. The following day, I confessed to RPGM leadership and my team, and later that week to the pastor of 2RPC where my membership is held. The consequences are great. We are now both broken as a result of my sin. I believe that I am now disqualified to serve as an elder in Christ's church and that my ordination needs to be resigned. My sin was anonymous and private in nature and did not involve anyone from our area of South Sudan or related to the mission; however, I also need to step down from leadership as a missionary and an RPGM employee. For the sake of our marriage and family, we will be returning to Indianapolis in early November. My wife has expressed her desire to walk with me towards reconciliation and restoration in our marriage. I don't know the path forward, but I am committed to taking whatever steps are necessary to pursue a quiet life living in holiness and integrity before the Lord and my family. Despite the awful brokenness and deep grief over my sin, I am experiencing God's grace, forgiveness, and freedom that comes with walking in the light. The road ahead to healing is long, but the Lord has given us much hope. Please forward this communication to the GLG Presbytery in order for them to take the necessary steps with my credentials. I am willing to provide more details to the presbytery when they are ready to meet with me.

In Christ,
Zach Smith

October 12, 2025

Dear AIC,

The session of Second Reformed Presbyterian Church sends this communication in support of Zach Smith's letter to the AIC. The Smith family are beloved members of 2RP, which has served as their sending congregation since they were first sent out as members of the Cush 4 Christ mission team. Our earnest desire is to shepherd and care for them well as they return to the States.

The session affirms that it has witnessed Zach demonstrate sincere repentance for his sin. The "awful brokenness and deep grief" Zach describes in his letter was evident in his call with our pastor Jerry Foltz and ruling elder Dean Filson. Zach's decision to resign his ordination was made on his own initiative without any prompting from the session. The session affirms Zach's desire to pursue a "quiet life living in holiness and integrity before the Lord and my family" and will work to support him and his family as he seeks to live that out.

1 John 1:9 says that "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." Recognizing God's faithfulness to forgive, the only action the session has deemed necessary to take is to authorize transmittal of Zach's letter to the AIC. The session has not deemed any disciplinary action necessary and requests that the GLG presbytery take that into consideration. The session further requests that the presbytery keep Zach's letter and the session's letter confidential and handle Zach's request with due care for the wellbeing of the entire Smith family.

In the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ,
The Session of Second Reformed Presbyterian Church

Mr. Cassell moved for the court to enter executive session. The motion was seconded. There was discussion on who may stay in the room. The following amendment was made: Mr. Schrock be allowed to stay in the room as well. He will join Mrs. Beth Smith, along with Mrs. Mary Murray and Mrs. Catherine Plat; all to be present for their support of Mrs. Smith. Motion carried.

The moderator declared the court was in executive session at 12:18pm. The court left executive session at 1:43pm.

The following motions were made in executive session, were seconded and carried:

1. The court to hear Zach Smith for up to ten minutes. This was without objection.
2. The court to hear from Mrs. Beth Smith for up to ten minutes. This was without objection.
3. The moderator to extend forgiveness to Mr. Smith from the court for his serious violation of the seventh commandment.
4. That, rather than accepting Zach Smith's resignation from the office of teaching elder, presbytery formally depose him from his office as a teaching elder for serious violations of the seventh commandment that he has freely confessed and that obviously disqualify him from exercising the office of elder (BOD 4.1.d).

The language of the deposition was approved as follows:

In light of Mr. Smith's honorable confession and self-reporting of gross violations of the 7th commandment to the Great-Lakes Gulf Presbytery;

You, Mr. Smith, having experienced the gracious conviction of the Holy Spirit and voluntarily confessed to the sin of adultery, and having been found to be deserving of the penalty of deposition from your office in the Church of Christ. Now therefore, in His name, this court of His House, deposes you from the office of Teaching Elder, and declares your relationship to the mission field to be dissolved. You are forbidden to exercise any of the powers or duties of that office anywhere in the Church of Christ until penitence and new obedience on your part have shown you worthy of the exercise of those privileges, and until this Court restores your ordination by prayer and laying on of hands making you then eligible for re-election to an office.

We lovingly exhort you to continue walking in repentance and obedience and to rest in the sanctifying light of Jesus Christ in which no sin can be hidden.

Mr. Donald Cassell asked that the following letter from Dr. Os Guinness be spread on the record. It was received for information only by common consent:

1509 Hampton Hill Circle
McLean, Virginia 22101

March 5, 2026

Dear Members of the Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery,

If I may, allow me to enter an urgent plea on behalf of Zachary and Beth Smith. I have no standing in your judgment of this case except as a Christian brother, concerned like you, for the standing of our Lord and His gospel in this generation. We are living in a highly sensuous culture, when sex is widely accessible, and the temptations to immorality are rife. At such a time, the slide towards lax morality and cheap grace is lamentable and a real danger today. I commend you for your desire to stand on behalf of biblical purity and the need for realistic church discipline. Cheap grace is all too common. That said, the Gospel we proclaim is a matter of grace, rich grace, though never cheap grace. Israel's greatest king, David, received grace and forgiveness even after flagrant adultery, a despicable murder, and the death of the innocent child that was the fruit of his sin. Equally, our Lord forgave the woman caught in flagrant adultery, telling her to sin no more. He was truly concerned for her, and not just out to confound the legalism of the Pharisees.

As I understand the story, Zach was not caught in any act. He privately came under the conviction of the Holy Spirit and could have privately confessed his sin to God and done no more. But remarkably, he chose to confess his sin to his wife and beyond that to those to whom he was accountable. That choice alone, knowing the suffering that it could bring to him, reveals a man of profound integrity. He confessed out of the conviction and sensitivity of his own heart, when it was fully within his own choice to say nothing except in private prayer to God. Even together with Beth, again they could have simply forgiven each other and done nothing further. But they chose to move in the highest possible level of personal accountability and integrity.

Jesus Himself, with the woman caught in literal adultery, stopped the Pharisees carrying out the letter of the law in favor of demonstrating forgiveness, mercy, and grace. How can there be less forgiveness, mercy, and grace shown to a brother in Christ who has spent his life in service to Christ, who showed the supreme integrity and trust in bringing his failure to his brothers in Christ?

In addition to addressing Zach, you hold the future of a whole little family, father, mother, and children in your hands as you make this decision. Surely with a man of such integrity of conscience, there are biblical steps to restoration without destroying their life's calling, and perhaps even undermining the faith of someone who hears of your decision. To strip them of their qualifications, their credentials, to crush their sense of calling, and to make their reputations subject to public shame by a public record that may in itself inspire wild speculation and public gossip, surely bears no relation to the Good News we are called to bring to a broken world. It would surely be draconian to fix on Zach a lifetime Scarlet A as in Nathaniel Hawthorne's novel, a type of legal harshness that has done as much damage to the faith in American history as cheap grace has done at its worst. Is this the way we model the Grace of God and the redeeming work of Jesus to a generation which is being rapidly being lost to the Gospel?

I would therefore urge you to deliver a judgment that both fits the sin as measure for measure and also mirrors the grace of the Gospel. Zach's resignation and entire accountability process has surely been a full and sufficient measure already. I, for one, could not cast the first stone at Zach, and each of you should deeply examine your own hearts as you weigh your decision. I write as a "missionary kid" who comes from generations of missionaries who served with the China Inland Mission/Overseas Missionary Fellowship. Four members of my family are buried on the mission field, including my own two brothers. The CIM/OMF has always been known for the faithfulness, love, grace, and compassion with which they handled such things. My wife and I will be praying for your decision with this dear and precious family in your hands.

They and the generations before them have served the Lord sacrificially with all their lives and all their hearts. What would our Lord's verdict be?

With warm Christian greetings,

Os
Dr. Os Guinness

The court recessed at 1:45pm. The court reconvened at 2:24pm. The clerk read the proposed letter of communication related to Mr. Smith's deposition:

March 6, 2026

Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery (RPCNA)
Clerk's Office
324 East Livingston St
Orlando, FL, 32801

Fathers and Brothers,

On March 6, 2026, in constituted court, The Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery of the RPCNA deposed Mr. Zach Smith from the office of teaching elder.

The following deposition concerning Mr. Smith was pronounced:

In light of Mr. Zach Smith's honorable confession and self-reporting of gross violations of the seventh commandment to the Great-Lakes Gulf Presbytery:

You, Mr. Smith, have experienced the gracious conviction of the Holy Spirit and voluntarily confessed to the sin of adultery. Having been found to be deserving of the penalty of deposition from your office in the Church of Christ, now therefore, in Christ's name, this court of his house, deposes you from the office of teaching elder, and declares your relationship to the mission field to be dissolved.

You are forbidden to exercise any of the powers or duties of that office anywhere in the Church of Christ until penitence and new obedience on your part have shown you worthy of the exercise of those privileges, and until this court restores your ordination by prayer and laying on of hands making you then eligible for re-election to an office.

We lovingly exhort you to continue walking in repentance and obedience and to rest in the sanctifying light of Jesus Christ in which no sin can be hidden.

In light of his repentance and confession of his serious violations of the seventh commandment, the moderator extended the court's forgiveness to Mr. Smith.

Please use prudence in relationship to this communication and be in prayer for Mr. and Mrs. Smith as they seek the face of Jesus Christ and full restoration of that which has been broken.

On behalf of the Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery (RPCNA),

Rev. Nathan Eshelman
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery, Clerk

The personal godliness examination of Mr. Christopher Schrock was given by Mr. Phil Pockras. The floor was opened for questions. Following questions the roll call vote was taken by the assistant clerk. The exam was sustained unanimously. The roll call is as follows:

Name	LN	Schrock Godliness
David Leap	Leap	S
Bruce Bowers	Bowers	S
Phil Pockras	Pockras	S
Colin Elliott	Elliott	S
Rich Holdeman	Holdeman	S
Philip McCollum	McCollum	S
Joel Hart	Hart	S
Jeff Jones	Jones	S
Dave Schisler	Schisler	S
Bob Daniels	Daniels	A
Bob Bibby	Bibby	S
Ken Nelson	Nelson	S
Adam Niess	Niess	S
Aaron Murray	Murray	S
Kevin Duffey	Duffey	S
Nathan Eshelman	Eshelman	S
Mark Goerner	Goerner	A
Mark Koller	Koller	S
Colin Samul	Samul	S
Glenn McFarland	McFarland	S
Donald Cassell	Cassell	S
Dean Filson	Filson	S
Jerry Foltz	Foltz	S
Jon Hughes	Hughes	S
Adam Kuehner	Kuehner	S
David Hanson	Hanson	A
Mike Lotz	Lotz	S
Daniel Sturm	Sturm	S
Ian Wise	Wise	S
Scott Damerow	Damerow	S
Dick Knodel	Knodel	S
Shawn Anderson	Anderson	S
Brentt VanSickle	VanSickle	S
Josh Reshey	Reshey	S
Bob Koch	Koch	S
Josh Smith	Smith	S

Rev. Rich Holdeman gave Mr. Schrock the soundness in faith and commitment to the RP Testimony exam. The examination will follow a 20/10/5 timetable.

The assistant clerk called the roll call vote. The examination was sustained unanimously. The roll call vote is as follows:

Name	LN	Schrock Soundness in Faith
David Leap	Leap	S
Bruce Bowers	Bowers	S
Phil Pockras	Pockras	S
Colin Elliott	Elliott	S
Rich Holdeman	Holdeman	S
Philip McCollum	McCollum	S
Joel Hart	Hart	S
Jeff Jones	Jones	S
Dave Schisler	Schisler	S
Bob Daniels	Daniels	S
Bob Bibby	Bibby	S
Ken Nelson	Nelson	S
Adam Niess	Niess	S
Aaron Murray	Murray	S
Kevin Duffey	Duffey	S
Nathan Eshelman	Eshelman	S
Mark Goerner	Goerner	S
Mark Koller	Koller	S
Colin Samul	Samul	S
Glenn McFarland	McFarland	
Donald Cassell	Cassell	S
Dean Filson	Filson	S
Jerry Foltz	Foltz	S
Jon Hughes	Hughes	S
Adam Kuehner	Kuehner	S
David Hanson	Hanson	S
Mike Lotz	Lotz	S
Daniel Sturm	Sturm	S
Ian Wise	Wise	S
Scott Damerow	Damerow	S
Dick Knodel	Knodel	S
Shawn Anderson	Anderson	S
Brentt VanSickle	VanSickle	S
Josh Reshey	Reshey	S
Bob Koch	Koch	S
Josh Smith	Smith	S

Mr. Niess again took the floor. He gave some instructions on proceeding with ordination and installation. The floor was opened for a five minute discussion. The roll call vote to proceed with ordination and installation was called. The vote unanimous and is as follows:

Name	LN	Schrock: Plan to Install
David Leap	Leap	S
Bruce Bowers	Bowers	S
Phil Pockras	Pockras	S
Colin Elliott	Elliott	S
Rich Holdeman	Holdeman	S
Philip McCollum	McCollum	S
Joel Hart	Hart	S
Jeff Jones	Jones	S
Dave Schisler	Schisler	S
Bob Daniels	Daniels	S
Bob Bibby	Bibby	S
Ken Nelson	Nelson	S
Adam Niess	Niess	S
Aaron Murray	Murray	S
Kevin Duffey	Duffey	S
Nathan Eshelman	Eshelman	S
Mark Goerner	Goerner	S
Mark Koller	Koller	S
Colin Samul	Samul	S
Glenn McFarland	McFarland	
Donald Cassell	Cassell	S
Dean Filson	Filson	S
Jerry Foltz	Foltz	S
Jon Hughes	Hughes	S
Adam Kuehner	Kuehner	S
David Hanson	Hanson	S
Mike Lotz	Lotz	S
Daniel Sturm	Sturm	S
Ian Wise	Wise	S
Scott Damerow	Damerow	S
Dick Knodel	Knodel	
Shawn Anderson	Anderson	S
Brentt VanSickle	VanSickle	S
Josh Reshey	Reshey	S
Bob Koch	Koch	S
Josh Smith	Smith	S

Recommendation 6 from the Candidates and Credentials Committee was taken up: “That, upon the approval of his exams at this meeting, presbytery decide whether or not to accept Christopher Schrock’s ordination in the CREC.”

A motion was made to ordain Mr. Schrock as the CREC is not a true branch of the visible church.” The motion was seconded and discussed. There was a motion to amend—to strike the line concerning the CREC.

The first motion withdrawn and the court is now left with a “motion to ordain Mr. Schrock.” The motion was seconded and discussed.

The motion fails.

The following motion was made: “The Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery accept Christopher Schrock’s ordination as irregular but lawful, resulting in installation rather than ordination.”

The motion was seconded and carries. Mr. Schrock’s credentials will be received. The vote to proceed with the installation of Mr. Schrock is as follows:

Name	LN	Schrock: Plan to Install
David Leap	Leap	S
Bruce Bowers	Bowers	S
Phil Pockras	Pockras	S
Colin Elliott	Elliott	S
Rich Holdeman	Holdeman	S
Philip McCollum	McCollum	S
Joel Hart	Hart	S
Jeff Jones	Jones	S
Dave Schisler	Schisler	S
Bob Daniels	Daniels	S
Bob Bibby	Bibby	S
Ken Nelson	Nelson	S
Adam Niess	Niess	S
Aaron Murray	Murray	S
Kevin Duffey	Duffey	S
Nathan Eshelman	Eshelman	S
Mark Goerner	Goerner	S
Mark Koller	Koller	S
Colin Samul	Samul	S
Glenn McFarland	McFarland	
Donald Cassell	Cassell	S
Dean Filson	Filson	S
Jerry Foltz	Foltz	S
Jon Hughes	Hughes	S
Adam Kuehner	Kuehner	S
David Hanson	Hanson	S
Mike Lotz	Lotz	S
Daniel Sturm	Sturm	S
Ian Wise	Wise	S
Scott Damerow	Damerow	S
Dick Knodel	Knodel	
Shawn Anderson	Anderson	S
Brentt VanSickle	VanSickle	S
Josh Reshey	Reshey	S
Bob Koch	Koch	S
Josh Smith	Smith	S

The Candidates and Credentials Committee Report as a whole was approved.

The installation service planning request was forwarded to the Time and Place Committee.

The moderator, at 4PM, prayed and recessed us for a fifteen minute coffee break.

At 4:19 PM, the court sang 56B to the praise of God. Adam Kuehner prayed to reconstitute the court at 4:23 PM.

Jerry Foltz was invited to give the 2RP Congregational Report. Jerry highlighted the Lord's kindness to the congregation amid their many struggles. The report is as follows:

As I reflect on this past year of ministry, these words from Isaiah have stayed close to me. There were moments in 2025 when weariness pressed in deeply and when the weight of ministry made perseverance difficult. At times, I was keenly aware of my limitations and the reality that strength does not come from within. And yet, the Lord once again proved faithful. He did not grow weary, even when I did. He gave strength where there was little and sustained both me and this congregation through a demanding season. Alongside the challenges of this year, the Lord also gave many gifts. We rejoiced together in weddings, baptisms, and other evidences of His grace at work among us. As I look back on 2025, I do so with gratitude for a God who renews strength, carries His servants, and remains faithful in every season.

Worship and Preaching

By God's grace, the regular worship of the church continued week by week throughout 2025, as the Word of God was preached and the people of God gathered morning and evening. Throughout the year, I continued preaching through the Gospel of Mark, with only a few occasions when it was appropriate to turn our attention to other portions of Scripture. It has been a joy to walk through this Gospel together and to see how the Lord continues to use His Word to convict, encourage, and strengthen His people. In addition to the regular preaching of the Word, I continued to serve locally through the Thursday night Bible study, where we have been working through the Book of Psalms. This study has been a consistent source of encouragement through the reading of Scripture, the singing of psalms, prayer, and fellowship. We were also blessed in our evening services to hear from a variety of faithful preachers, and I remain grateful for the many pastors and elders who faithfully filled the pulpit during times when I was absent. Beyond the life of our local congregation, the Lord also provided opportunities to serve the wider church. In November, I was blessed with the opportunity to open the Word of God for the saints of Springs Reformed Church in Colorado Springs, Colorado. I also had the privilege of leading a breakout session on biblical stewardship at the CYPW Winter Conference, continuing my service on the South Asia Commission, chairing a presbytery shepherding committee providing care and counsel to a pastor and congregation, and participating on a Synod committee tasked with offering counsel and recommendations regarding the RP Home in Pennsylvania. I am thankful for these opportunities and for the ways they have broadened my appreciation for Christ's work in His church. Throughout the year, I have been deeply encouraged to see how the Lord has been at work through the various ministries of the church, both locally and beyond. Whether through preaching, teaching, shepherding, or quieter acts of service, it has been a joy to witness the Spirit of God strengthening His people, deepening their faith, and drawing them closer to Christ. For all of this, I remain profoundly thankful for the Lord's faithfulness.

Church Ministries and Discipleship

The discipleship life of the church remained active and fruitful throughout 2025. The Monday night Bible study completed studies in Romans, Ephesians, and Philippians. The Tuesday night Friendship Bible Study continued its faithful ministry to individuals with special needs, serving as a meaningful expression of Christ's love and care. A Wednesday night Bible study met at the Mauser home, paralleling the Thursday night study at my home. Both of these studies worked through the Book of Psalms and were marked by the reading and study of Scripture, the singing of psalms, prayer, and sweet fellowship. In addition, multiple women's Bible studies took place throughout the year, addressing a range of topics and providing encouragement and discipleship for the women of the congregation. Beyond these regular studies, the Lord has continued to use a variety of ministries and committees to strengthen the life of the church. Adult Bible School has provided ongoing instruction and theological grounding for adults. Youth Bible School and other youth-focused efforts have sought to support parents by training our covenant children in the Word of God and the call to Christian discipleship. The Girls' Gathering and IronMen Fellowship have offered age- and gender-specific opportunities for fellowship, encouragement, accountability, and spiritual growth. Women's Ministry activities have continued to foster discipleship, fellowship, and mutual encouragement among the women of the congregation. Together, these ministries reflect a shared desire to grow in the knowledge of God, to walk faithfully as disciples of Christ, and to build one another up in love. Over the past year, both the congregation and leadership have grown spiritually through a renewed commitment to prayer, faithful biblical teaching, and intentional discipleship. Challenges have strengthened our dependence on God's grace, and we have seen an increasing emphasis on shepherding, clear communication, fellowship, and faithfulness in worship.

Pastoral Care and Shepherding

Shepherding and pastoral care continued to be a central part of the work of ministry this year. The Lord provided consistent opportunities for counseling, as well as home and hospital visitations. Several members faced significant health challenges, particularly early in the year, and it was a blessing to see the congregation surround them with love, prayer, and tangible care. The ordinary and sacred moments of pastoral ministry, including baptisms, the Lord's Supper, and funerals, remained important means by which the Lord ministered comfort and grace to His people. The elders have continued to grow in their shepherding, deepening their pastoral care, fostering stronger discipleship, and being more intentional in encouraging and praying for the congregation. In October, we held an elders' retreat where we formulated a shepherding Action Plan. Portions of this plan have already begun to be implemented, with the hope that it will be fully in place during 2026. The elders have also been increasingly intentional in strengthening relationships within the congregation through regular personal connections and ongoing shepherding efforts.

Membership Milestones

Throughout the year, the congregation observed the sacrament of the Lord's Supper on twelve occasions, and the sacrament of baptism was administered on two occasions. We welcomed seven new members into the congregation and rejoiced in three marriages: Jesse Burton and Trinity Myers, Julie Oltean and Gary Barker, and Austin Middleton and Isabelle Guimaraes. In addition, we celebrated the birth of Palmer Barton Saunders, son of Daniel and Rylee Saunders, in July of 2025. At the same time, the church experienced several transitions. With sorrow, we issued six letters of standing, transferred twenty-seven communicant members to local churches, and transferred seven communicant members to churches in other locations. We also grieved the loss of Betty Butler, who was called home to be with the Lord on March 13, 2025. In all of these moments, the church family supported one another through faithful prayer,

practical care, and genuine fellowship, rejoicing together in times of joy and offering comfort and encouragement in times of sorrow.

Leadership and Staffing

Several changes took place in leadership and staffing during 2025. Two deacons, Adam Dinkledine and Philip Cutter, resigned from their service. Two elders, David Mauser and Russ Pulliam, took sabbaticals. Andrew Gilhooley resigned from his role as Facilities Manager, with his service concluding at the end of the year. We are grateful to God for Andrew's time among us and pray for the Lord's blessing upon his future endeavors. In October, we were blessed to bring Ezra Bell on staff as our new Facilities Manager. In December, the congregation elected Pastor Christopher Schrock to serve as Senior Pastor, and a call was issued that is currently being processed by Presbytery. These developments have been a significant encouragement as we look toward the future of the church. I remain deeply thankful for those who serve alongside me. Their faithfulness, wisdom, and dedication have been a constant encouragement. I am especially grateful for Addie Bell and her service as office manager, for Julie Mauser who faithfully assists as needed, for Ezra Bell and his diligent work in facilities management, and for the many volunteers who have given countless hours during church workdays and special projects.

Outreach and Missions

Outreach efforts continued throughout the year through special events such as the International Dinner and Fall Fest, providing meaningful opportunities to connect with those outside the church. We have also worked to maintain a consistent and thoughtful presence on social media, including the posting of sermon clips. It has been encouraging to hear how these efforts have reached people not only in our city, but also throughout the state, the country, and beyond. In addition to these visible outreach efforts, several committees and ministries have served quietly and faithfully to support the life and witness of the church. The Audio/Visual Ministry has continued to assist our worship services, classes, and special events, helping ensure that the Word is heard clearly and without distraction. ESL Classes have provided a valuable means of welcoming internationals into our community, offering both practical instruction and opportunities for gospel witness.

The Fellowship Activities and Hospitality Committee has played an important role in fostering meaningful relationships within the congregation and creating a warm, welcoming environment for members and visitors alike. Through these various efforts, the Lord has used ordinary acts of service to strengthen fellowship and extend care to those within and beyond the church.

The Missions Committee continued its work of supporting gospel ministry both locally and globally. This includes support for the church in South Asia, the work in Central Asia, the South Sudan mission, the Liberia work study and pastors' training program, international college student outreach, and other mission efforts under its oversight. We were also blessed to welcome the B family home while on furlough. Their time with us was a great encouragement and a reminder of the Lord's ongoing work to bring the gospel to the nations.

Facility and Stewardship

Throughout the year, several church workdays were held, with many volunteers giving generously of their time and effort. The church has sought to steward its resources wisely by prioritizing biblical stewardship, meeting needs within the congregation, and supporting the work of the gospel with careful financial oversight. While challenges inevitably arise, the Lord has provided abundantly through the faithful giving and service of His people.

Personal Reflections and Looking Ahead

One of my greatest joys this year has been seeing and hearing how powerfully God is at work in His people. At times, the workload has felt overwhelming, but the Lord has sustained me, and I am deeply grateful for His strength and for the support of this congregation. Above all, I continue to thank God for Monica, who remains the greatest earthly gift He has given me outside of salvation. Her love, wisdom, and constant support are an immeasurable encouragement. As we look ahead to 2026, my prayer is that the Lord would provide a second pastor to begin full-time ministry, strengthening our shepherding and discipleship efforts. One of the ongoing challenges before us is caring well for hurting and wandering sheep while keeping up with the daily demands of ministry. At the same time, we are thankful for the many opportunities the Lord has placed before us, even as we recognize the need for more laborers. I ask the congregation to pray for strength and endurance, and to pray earnestly that the Lord would provide another pastor in His perfect timing.

Through all that has taken place this year, I remain grateful for God's sustaining grace and for the encouragement of His people. To Him be all the glory.

Respectfully submitted,
Jerry Foltz
Associate Pastor, Second Reformed Presbyterian Church

The Second RP Shepherding report was given by Mr. Bob Bibby. The report is as follows:

Background & Charter

The Great Lakes–Gulf (GLG) Presbytery received Paper 25-3 from five couples of 2nd Indianapolis and Paper 25-4 from the Session of 2nd Indianapolis at its March meeting. Both papers petitioned the presbytery to assist in bringing resolution to a variety of disagreements that had arisen within the congregation, primarily related to a petition requesting an elder election and the events that followed. All parties agreed that a committee was needed to address issues of conflict, distrust, and hurt. In addition, concerns were raised regarding the Session's use of authority and perceived procedural irregularities. Accordingly, the presbytery approved a motion to establish a three-member Shepherding Committee to address the issues raised in Papers 25-3 and 25-4, along with related concerns. The committee was given latitude to determine whether the involvement of outside parties would be necessary to accomplish the work of mediation.

Summary of Activity

Since its establishment, the committee has met numerous times to develop strategies, organize the facts learned, and determine appropriate next steps. The committee has also held multiple meetings with various concerned parties, including the petitioners, members of the Shaver family, the Session, individual members of the congregation, and a retired Session member. Committee members have conducted many phone conversations with individuals and Session members within the congregation. In addition, Bill Roberts has preached fifteen times at 2nd RP since the committee was formed. A mediation meeting was also conducted between the petitioners and the Session. While this meeting did not achieve all that was initially hoped, some measure of reconciliation occurred between certain Session members and the petitioners. Notably, communication took place between Pastor Foltz and Nathan Shaver in which forgiveness was sought in writing, followed by a face-to-face meeting in which forgiveness was granted. Although our committee's charter was pastoral in nature, a

significant amount of investigative work proved necessary in order to understand the situation fully, determine an appropriate path forward, and develop recommendations that would be helpful for the future ministry of 2nd Reformed Presbyterian Church in the greater Indianapolis area.

Current Status

It is regrettable that all of the original petitioners have chosen to worship at other congregations in the area and have formally transferred their membership. In the committee's final meeting with the petitioners and the 2nd RP Session, it was clear that the petitioners were weary and felt the need to move on. While some indicated a willingness to consider returning at some point in the future, they currently believe this decision is in the best interest of their families. As a committee, we agree that a period of separation may be beneficial for all parties involved. With the departure of the original petitioner families, the committee shifted its focus to working directly with the Session. This work resulted in the development of an eight-point improvement plan for the Session. It is our belief that focused attention on these areas will significantly reduce the likelihood of future conflict and improve the Session's overall relationship with the congregation. A redacted version of this plan, prepared to protect individual confidentiality, was shared with the congregation as well as with the petitioners who have left 2nd RP. To assist the presbytery understanding the scope of this work, the relevant communication has been included in this report as Appendix A.

We are thankful that the 2nd RP Session developed a plan to address these concerns and communicated it openly with the congregation. To ensure transparency and provide an opportunity for interaction, a joint question-and-answer session involving the 2nd RP Session and the Shepherding Committee was held with the congregation on November 16. Overall, the plan was well received. As a committee, we believe these areas of improvement are necessary to strengthen the working relationships within the Session and between the Session and the congregation. While we believe the 2nd RP Session exhibited some clear shortcomings and made decisions that were unwise, based on our investigation we do not believe the Session acted in a manner contrary to the law and order of the church. On February 5, 2026, the Session provided a brief update on their work in response to our eight-point improvement plan. While steps have been taken to improve communication and clarity regarding the direction of the Session, additional work is still needed in this area. A pastoral review with Pastor Foltz has been completed, and a workload review is scheduled for the fall. In addition, the Session is continuing its study of Jay Adams's Handbook of Church Discipline. This study is critical for ensuring consistency in both the practice of church discipline within the congregation and the communication surrounding it. Following the completion of this study, the Session has committed to undertaking a focused study on the RP position regarding subscription to the Westminster Standards. Shepherding groups have been updated, and Session updates have been restructured to connect more directly with the congregation. Pastor Foltz has also begun regular mentorship meetings with another RP minister; Jerry was greatly encouraged following their first meeting. We respectfully ask the presbytery to continue praying for the 2nd RP Session and congregation as they work through this process. Please pray that there would be a growing love for one another, unity of the Spirit, and a bond of peace, so that this congregation may not be distracted from the work of building up the saints and bringing forth the gospel to the lost in the greater Indianapolis area (Ephesians 4:1-6).

Recommendations

1. That a Visitation Committee, composed of presbyters not currently serving on the Shepherding Committee, be appointed to conduct a visitation of 2nd RP and to follow

up on the Shepherding Committee's action plan toward the end of 2026.

2. That the 2nd RP Shepherding Committee be dismissed.

Respectfully submitted,
Joel Hart
Bill Roberts
Bob Bibby, Chair

APPENDIX A

2nd RP Session Improvement Document from the Presbytery Shepherding Committee with some personal examples redacted:

Dear 2nd RP Congregation:

Over the past months, we as a committee have had the opportunity to meet with the petitioners, meet with some of the members of your congregation (including the Shavers), meet with you as an entire session, meet with a number of these folks individually (in person and on the phone), and facilitate meetings with those who have expressed concerns over the work of the session. During these meetings and reviewing documentation submitted to us, there is no doubt that the petitioners and the session have a love for this congregation and that everyone involved would like a peaceful solution to manifest itself. We also understand the number of hours, many have worked to try to bring some sort of resolution here. While this situation has been discouraging to both sides, we as a committee continue to believe there is hope. In light of this, we are thankful that there have been examples of where affected parties have met, resulting in forgiveness being granted. We believe a part of achieving a lasting solution here is the willingness of your session to be willing to adapt and learn from this situation. Along those lines we provided a document, to your session, identifying weaknesses and errors with suggested solutions. We asked your session to review the document in order to help determine their steps going forward, which brings us to where we are today. We are thankful for the willingness of all involved to work with us as a committee and for your reference we have include a redacted version of the document given to your session. This document eliminates some of the examples we shared with your session to protect personal confidentiality. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to us at any time.

Yours in Christ,

2nd RP Shepherding Committee
Joel Hart
Bill Roberts
Bob Bibby, Chair

1. As a session, you have struggled with your management of information within the session, this has resulted in a number of problems coming to light over the course of the current conflict with some of the members of the congregation.

Proposed Solution: Effective immediately, this session needs to share all information, all session members must be engaged, make decisions as an entire session, assure you have the right level of detail to develop a decision / plan, and plan implementation of said decisions as a session.

2. In evaluating the first petition that came to you as elders, you erred as a session per the following:

a. You chose a more procedure-oriented route to declare the petition “out of order” as opposed to meeting with and understanding the concerns of the petitioning families. Later you did confess an error in declaring the petition out of order, but great damage had already been done. A similar error appeared to have been made in February when, as a session, you communicated a desire to meet with the petitioners, unfortunately you did not follow through in making this meeting happen and you did not communicate to the affected parties on why plans changed.

b. As a session, you chose to declare that Nathan was ‘unqualified’ from being an elder, which gave the impression that he was formally examined, when he was not.

c. In some cases, offering an apology (and not a confession) and then seemingly taking it back. Potential Solution: Before making decisions that could be controversial to the congregation, step back and ensure you have looked at all the angles. Pause and ask yourselves... Have you properly considered everything and are you all aligned prior to making this decision?

3. As a session, you struggled to manage the disconnect between Nathan Shaver’s endorsed public ministry with the congregation and private concerns some of you had about Nathan Shaver’s readiness for ministry. This struggle created an understandable disconnect to your congregation between Nathan being publicly endorsed while privately being questioned about his suitability.

Potential Solution: While unpaid or minimally paid interns are common in the church, before proceeding with this first step, the candidate must be, at a minimum, examined formally by the session. In the case of a paid intern doing regular preaching, he must be examined by your session and taken under care by the presbytery.

4. As a session, you have struggled to speak with a clear and coherent voice on the doctrinal standards required to take ordination vows at 2RP. The appearance, at least, was given that Pastor Foltz sought to hold (and lead the elders to hold) Nathan Shaver to a higher standard than that which is possibly held by active elders within the session.

Potential Solution: You as a session should work and discuss together the standards of subscription to the RP standards required for elders in the RPCNA and how they relate to ongoing life at 2RP. This is critical for you as a session and for how you are viewed by your congregation.

5. At times, you as a session, or individual elders, have operated or communicated in ways that gave unnecessary offense to the petitioners and other congregants individually or as a whole.

Potential Solution: You as a session should consider your communications with the congregation. Think of how it could be interpreted... you set the tone for the faithfulness of the congregation; your actions and speech communicate a message to the entire congregation.

6. Other personal, pastoral matters that have appeared in the conflict include:

a. A need to improve in shepherding well those who are suffering, even the dying, in the congregation. In this, the session as a whole could grow in sympathy and connectivity with the congregation. Where there has been failure on this point, confession of sin should occur.

- b. A need to improve consistent public communication with the congregation, such as post-session meeting emails.
- c. In these public communications, the session should grow in willingness to discuss bad news, personal struggles, or corporate failures. There can be a tendency to always want to put a good face forward, which in the long run, erodes trust.

Potential Solution: Even though you are working to improve things, you should seek to meet with those whom you may have offended in these areas and seek forgiveness.

7. Your pastor Jerry Foltz was thrust into an unplanned senior leadership role without the right level of experience. Because of this, mistakes were made that helped create and complicate the current situation.

8. Potential Solution: We believe that assigning a mentor to work alongside Jerry to help him gain an additional level of experience would help him grow in capability. Possibly consider having a temporary moderator for a period of time. You as a session have struggled to have a clear and consistent voice in the area of church discipline. This has created understandable questions about transparency and faithfulness. In light of this, we offer these areas of guidance:

- a. In cases of suspension or excommunication from membership, you as a session should make the people under its oversight aware publicly of the fact of and reason for the suspension (or excommunication) (DCG 4).
- b. In cases of members (regardless of age) rejecting the faith, you as a session should be readily willing (with sadness) to use the disciplinary measures of suspension/excommunication or formal removal from your rolls in the event there is no interaction with these individuals.
- c. In areas where you have failed on these points, you should consider the need for confession and repentance.

Potential Solution: You as a session are studying church discipline in your current session meetings. We advise you to study faithfully and work diligently through these issues and apply the guidelines we have given to you.

Recommendation 1: Carries. Recommendation 2: Approved by common consent.

Second RP Session was received and Shepherding Committee report was approved by common consent.

Mark Koller presented the report of the Dinkledine Advisory Committee report. The report is as follows:

Communication 26-6-Committee of the Day

This committee met at 9:30AM on 3/6/26. The committee also met with Tom and Susan Dinkledine to review communication 26-6 to understand their concerns and proposals. The committee acknowledges the accountability that comes with recordings of meetings but also realizes that there are logistical, practical, and financial concerns with recordings of meetings that need further evaluation and investigation.

For the concerns and proposals related to procedural updates, each of these needs further review and investigation to understand if the GLG needs to adopt procedural clarification.

Recommendations:

1: Create a 3-man study committee to evaluate and review communication 26-6 proposal 1. This study committee will survey Presbytery to understand the opinion of the full Presbytery on audio recordings as well as evaluate logistical and practical concerns, including evaluating the financial implications. This study committee will report their findings at the next spring meeting of Presbytery and provide recommendations.

2: Create a 3-man study committee to review communication 26-6 proposals 2-7, including meeting with Tom and Susan Dinkledine, to report back at the next spring meeting of Presbytery to determine and recommend if any procedural changes need to be implemented.

Mark Koller (chair), Bruce Bowers, Ken Nelson (clerk)

Recommendation 1: A voice vote called for the moderator to declare the motion failed. A call for division resulted in the motion failing 17-7. The clerks counted the votes and presented the results.

Recommendation 2: Carries.

The moderator announced the CYPUR Review Committee will be: David Whitla (chair); Shipp; Lodge. Alternates: Josh Smith, Mark Goerner, and Timothy Vincze.

The Selma report was given by Mr. Adam Niess. The report is as follows:

First of all, giving all glory and honor to God for allowing us to praise Him in our church building for approximately 148 years. We pray that a lot of souls were converted in that timeframe, allowing them to seek our Father's Heavenly Kingdom.

On January 12th, we met on our third year anniversary of when our church and manse was destroyed in 2023. After a lot of prayer and consideration, we realized that we cannot go from year to year, co-existing with Cornerstone Presbyterian. Also, we took a deep look at how our church has declined over the years to the numbers we are at now. The possibility of our growing here in this climate that lacks reverence to God amongst younger families and youth has a profound effect on our continuance.

Though we have a lot of history behind us, we figured how do we harness that history to carry it on for generations to come? And, who will this history be important to besides us?

So, from our meeting, we have voted on and regretfully decided to formally submit a petition to the Presbytery to dissolve our congregation for reasons that are mentioned in the petition.

We are truly thankful for being a part of this Presbytery and Synod, and grateful for you all being a part of our lives throughout the years. May you continue to grow and prosper in God's plan in building His Kingdom, thereby, bringing many to Him.

We continually ask Him for guidance in all we do, to Him be all the glory!

Please keep us in your prayers.
Respectfully submitted,
Averette Woodson
Greg Woodson
James Martin
Adam Niess, Interim Moderator

The Selma disorganization (communication 26-8) was heard by the court. The recommendation to disorganize was approved by voice vote. Their last service will be May 3, 2026. The request is as follows:

Dear Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery,

Please accept this letter as formal notification that Reformed Presbyterian Church of Selma, located at 627 J. L. Chestnut Jr. Blvd (formerly Jeff Davis Avenue), has voted to dissolve as a legal corporation, effective date 5/3/26.

This decision was reached after careful prayer and a formal vote of the congregation on January 12, 2026. It was determined that realistically, we cannot afford to maintain a church with the numbers we have; when it comes to compensation for a pastor, utilities, building maintenance, materials, furnishings, etc. We cannot solely rely on an endowment to cover for us from year to year without increasing the number of our parishioners, and we don't see that happening here in this city.

Key information: Entity Name: Reformed Presbyterian Church of Selma. Final Effective Date: 5/3/26. Debts: All outstanding debts have been satisfied or arranged for payment. Asset Distribution: Remaining assets (physical and financial) will be transferred to Synod's Board of Trustees, pursuant to our Constitution.

Thank you to all who have supported the ministry of Reformed Presbyterian Church of Selma over the past years of our existence. Please direct any inquiries regarding the final closing to Greg Woodson at gregory.woodson@att.net/334-327-6560.

Sincerely,
Greg Woodson, Elder
Reformed Presbyterian Church of Selma

Recommendations:

1. That the Presbytery disorganize the Selma R P Church, effective_ 5/3/26
2. That the Presbytery appoint a committee to handle the distribution of our assets.

Rev. Phil Pockras prayed the prayer of dissolution.

Mr. Anderson asked for a point of personal privilege related to the installation of Mr. Schrock. Some counsel was given related to his move.

Kevin Duffey gave the Orlando Session Report. The report was received by common consent. It is as follows:

Pastoral Leadership and Spiritual Development

Throughout much of the first half of 2025, Session studied *Undisciplined Disciples* by James Durham, focusing on wisdom applied to the topic of church discipline. In June, Session transitioned to *St. Peter's Principles* by Peter A. Lillback, focusing on the need for humble reliance on Christ in leadership.

Shepherding and Membership Care

Membership adjustments included the reception of new communicant members, including Ryan Knuth, Jose Vazquez, Jared & Christina Rodriguez, Derek and Amanda DeBlois (+four baptized children), Mark, Amy and Rachel Koller (+three baptized children), Abraham Goerner and Audrey Hamm (now McCafferty). Session also had the pleasure of welcoming teenagers into communicant membership including Matthew Guitierrez, Emily Garrow and Micah McCaskell. Several other members were transferred to other congregations or released from membership. In addition, the congregation witnessed the baptisms of April Hansen, Maximus Francoeur, Sophia Jennings and Lilah McCauley. The congregation mourned the loss of long-time member Ray Turmenne, long-time member and former minister Jim Wright and friend of the congregation Jerry Ward.

Outreach and Church Growth Efforts

Coffee on the Corner continues to be a regular, monthly form of outreach on Friday evenings in the warmer months. The consistent presence on the corner of Livingston and Broadway offers the opportunity for good coffee, conversation and relationship with the local community. A number of visitors and regular attendees have found ORPC through its online presence. In today's digital-first world, this should be no surprise. The ORPC website has high visibility for online users seeking an "Orlando reformed church." The ORPC website now features easy access to recent sermon series as well as information for both Celebration and Gainesville. Evening worship services continue in Celebration, FL, with Elder Goerner and Dr. Mark Koller leading services with help from others as well. The Gainesville church plant under Rev. Tom Reid, supported by occasional preaching from Rev. Steve Woodbury, moved into a new (and improved) location in 2025. It remains an encouragement to our Gainesville friends to have visitors from Orlando.

Denominational Involvement and Presbytery Participation Members of Session are actively engaged with the Great Lakes Gulf (GLG) Presbytery and the RPCNA Synod. Pastor Nathan and Elder Ramirez represented the congregation at the spring Presbytery meeting, Elder Duffey continues to serve on the CYPU board, Elder Schaefer continued his service on the Candidates & Credentials Committee, Pastor Nathan serves as the Clerk for the presbytery, and Elder Goerner served on the Ad-Interim Commission (AIC) for much of 2025. Elder Goerner also served in Ireland throughout the months of August and September, preaching at the Reformed Presbyterian congregations in Kilraughts and Ballymoney. Elder Goerner gave a presentation to the Orlando congregation in October upon his return on the history of the Reformed Presbyterian church in Ireland. In July, a number of Orlando families attended the Covfamikoi family conference (one of the largest groups from the various churches in our presbytery) which took place at Covenant College on Lookout Mountain. ORPC individuals served during Covfamikoi in various capacities including overseeing various children's education programs and games, facilitating breakout discussions and more. Several of Orlando's youth continue to participate in presbytery youth events including Winter Conference, Theological Foundations Weekend and Theological Foundations for Youth. Calvin Eshelman served on the leadership team for CYPU. Despite geographical challenges within the

presbytery, the participation of Orlando's youth in presbytery events has continued to increase in recent years.

Worship & Congregational Life

The centrality of the Word of God in the worship and life of our church remains a focus. Public worship at ORPC is intentionally and consistently simple with an emphasis on the Lord's Day and the ordinary means of grace. The reading and singing of the Word of God, prayer, the sacraments and the preaching of God's Word remain the Lord's primary and ordinary appointed means of providing spiritual nourishment and edification to us as His people. For these things, we are exceedingly grateful. We continue to have a robust educational ministry with Sabbath School classes for all ages including adults. Pastor Eshelman has completed teaching on ancient church history and continued into the medieval age. We give special thanks to our pastor who labors diligently to open the Word of God to us each Lord's Day often with two sermons as well as the leading of adult Sabbath School. We also give thanks for the many individuals who serve as deacons, as precentors, as AV crew and many other ways that can go unnoticed. Hospitality remains a consistent element in the life of our congregation. Families throughout Central Florida open homes regularly for times of fellowship where you can often find teenagers conversing with adults and some of our elderly saints about the sermon from the day. Praise God for the inter generational fellowship of ORPC! Planned social events and monthly fellowship meals remain highlights of church life. Visitors often remark about the hospitality experienced among the people of ORPC, and we give thanks to God for these times.

Facilities and Administration

The Session and diaconate communicate regularly around needs of the facility as well as mercy ministries. Budget planning and congregational meetings ensured transparency and involvement in financial decisions. Leadership Transitions & Elections We give thanks to God for the election of three deacons-elect during the December 2025 congregational meeting: Stephen McCaskell, Stephen Jennings and Jose Vazquez. Becky Farrant ended her sabbatical and resumed an active role with the diaconate. Scott Bailey, in addition to serving the congregation in his many roles, agreed to take on the role of Treasurer during the year. After serving as the Clerk of the Orlando Session for many years, Jonathan Schaefer stepped down at the conclusion of 2025 with Kevin Duffey taking over in 2026.

Looking Forward

As yet another new year begins, we are humbled and thankful to God for his faithfulness and provision year after year with our congregation. Despite saying goodbye to a few departing families in 2025, the Lord has continued to grow our body of believers in Central Florida. We as a Session desire to serve well during this season, and we recognize the need for additional long-range planning in addition to our regular Session meetings. Our aim is to find time for a retreat to spend time on "bigger picture" items. With the Lord's help, we seek to steward God's blessings wisely, plan for the future as our congregation grows, remain faithful to the gospel and advance Christ's kingdom. Would you commit to praying for us as a Session and pray for our congregation in these ways?

Closing Encouragement

"Let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. Colossians 3:15

As we grow together in our love for Christ, may His peace truly rule in our hearts, spurring us on toward good deeds, love for one another and thankfulness to God.

In Christ's service,
The Orlando Session

The Marion Report was given by Rev. Aaron Murray. He gave several highlights related to their ten year anniversary as well as thanks for new deacons.

The Session of Marion Reformed Presbyterian Church has no greater joy than to see the Lord's people walking in the truth and dwelling together in unity and fellowship. It is a particular delight to witness the congregation gathering for worship, prayer, singing, and study—not only on the Lord's Day but throughout the week. The Lord has graciously poured out His blessing upon us, as pictured in Psalm 133, where the precious oil runs down upon Aaron's beard and onto his garments.

As we reflect on this past year, we give thanks for the Lord's continued work in our midst. We have witnessed Him add to our number through public professions of faith by our covenant youth and through the transfer of members from other congregations. It is a profound encouragement to see the Lord's covenant promises unfolding before us. At the same time, we mourned the passing of our dear sister in Christ, Kay Camery, whom the Lord called home this year. Yet even in sorrow, we do not grieve as those without hope (1 Thessalonians 4:13), but with confidence in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. We are also grateful for your continued ministry to students from Indiana Wesleyan University and Taylor University, providing them with a church family while they are away from home. One of the most significant blessings this year has been the Lord's raising up of three men to serve as deacons. Chris Baker, Jordan Palmer, and Thomas Callender were elected by the congregation and ordained and installed on February 8, 2026. We encourage the congregation to pray faithfully for our deacons as they undertake their important work in meeting the needs of both our church family and the broader community. May the Lord prosper the work of their hands.

We were also thankful to celebrate the tenth anniversary of our congregation on September 11. It was a meaningful occasion of remembrance and thanksgiving. We were blessed by the preaching of Dr. Barry York, Pastor Shawn Anderson, and Pastor Jason Camery as we reflected on the Lord's faithfulness over the past decade.

The Session met in constituted court nineteen times during 2025. A central focus of our work has been to pray regularly and specifically for each member of the congregation by name. In addition, we held our annual Session Retreat on January 16, 2026. This provided an opportunity to reflect on Christ's work among us, thoughtfully consider the needs of the congregation, and seek the Lord's guidance for the year ahead.

During the retreat, we also reviewed certain aspects of our corporate worship to ensure that our practices best serve our calling to worship the Lord reverently and without distraction. As a result, three adjustments will be implemented this year. First, announcements will no longer be made from the pulpit immediately prior to worship. The Session believes this change will help preserve the focus and solemnity of our entrance into worship. Announcements will continue to be provided in the weekly bulletin. Second, with respect to the Lord's Supper, prayer requests that were previously shared during the post-communion "family" prayer time will now be received prior to the Call to Worship on Communion Sundays. Third, we will begin incorporating the Lord's Prayer corporately during the Communion service as part of our observance of the sacrament. The Communion Season observed in 2025 was a particular blessing to the

congregation, especially through the ministry of Dr. Jeffrey Stivason. We have scheduled our next Communion Season for June 20–21 of this year. We encourage you to mark these dates and to begin praying that the Lord would use this time to draw us nearer to Himself and conform us more fully to the image of Christ.

Finally, the Session expresses sincere gratitude for your love for our Triune God, for the church of the Lord Jesus Christ, and for this local congregation. We are thankful for the privilege of serving Christ by serving His church. We look forward with anticipation to laboring together in His service in the year ahead.

Respectfully Submitted,
Scott J. Hunt
Clerk of Session, Marion Reformed Presbyterian Church

The Marion report was received by common consent.

The Elkhart Report was given by Mr. Robert Daniels. The report was received and is as follows:

Praise God for His abundant love and faithfulness in guiding, guarding, and upholding His church at ERPC in 2026. It has been an unusual and eventful year in which we have seen Jesus' gracious care and provision for His body here. The Elders are thankful to our Lord Jesus Christ that he has gathered us on every Lord's Day to worship our Father in Heaven and to receive blessing from the teaching and ministry of His Word – except for the one-time interruption because of heavy snow. His provision of a preacher for every Lord's Day and the administration of The Lord's Supper twice is glory to Him and a great blessing to our congregation. Regular meetings of Sabbath School classes, fellowship lunches, prayer meetings, and men's and women's Bible studies have continued throughout the year. We are thankful for all who serve in leading these ministries. Please note the 2026 list of Session appointed leaders of Committees and Ministry Teams along with the Elders' Shepherding Groups. At our meeting on February 25, 2025, Session sadly received the resignation letter of Rev. Wade Mann dated February 8, 2025. He had also submitted a written statement to that effect to the Ad Interim Commission (AIC). The letter described the reason for resignation as ministerial burnout. The AIC appointed Rev. Ian Wise as Provisional Moderator of the Session of Elkhart Reformed Presbyterian Church (ERPC). Also, The Commission appointed a Visitation Committee: Rev. Rich Holdeman, Chair, Rev. Jonathan Sturm and Elder John Kim. The committee communicated with Rev. Wade and Mrs. Barb Mann and the members of Session – Elders Bob Daniels, Fikre Menbere. They offered counsel and assisted the Manns and ERPC during the transition. Rev. Ian had served as the Provisional Moderator of our Session when Pastor Wade Mann was on sabbatical. As of February 25, 2025, we are thankful and appreciate his ministry in leading our Session. The Elders met in constituted court thirteen meetings this past year – which includes the 2025 Annual Congregational Meeting and one un-constituted meeting. Elders had quarterly joint meetings with our Deacons: Eric Dean and Christopher Dean. By God's grace the Elders have endeavored to shepherd and nurture the members and adherents of Elkhart RP Church. The Deacons have faithfully served in stewardship and mercy ministry. Elder Bob has been leading the Pastoral Search Committee: Elder Bob Daniels (Chair), Eric Dean, Kathryn Dean, Bill Landow, Chris Taylor. He has, also, served as the point man to contact preachers and maintain the preaching schedule of visiting ministers. We are thankful for his perseverance in this ministry during this season as we look to The Lord to supply a pastor to shepherd our congregation. Elder Fikre follows up to plan for the worship service with the preachers and prepare the bulletins. Mr. Joey Liu internship: June 2024, Joey with his wife, Sandy, and son, Michael, came to Mishawaka to work in the after-

school program that Mr. Yuhui Lu was organizing. However, the program did not develop as planned. He completed his internship ministry with ERPC at the end of May 2025. He is pursuing further graduate education.

It was a joy to receive Mr. Amos Kratzer into communicant membership at ERPC at the meeting of Session on May 14, 2025. Also, at that meeting, Mrs. Susan Daniels' request to us the Fellowship Hall to teach Spanish was approved. A long-term vision to offer the building for this kind of ministry finally is being realized. At the June 2025 Session meeting, it was such an encouragement to receive the note that the committee of the Trustees of Synod approved the full grant of \$25,000.00 to help with the maintenance of our church building. At that meeting, we also were informed that the Bloomington RP Church was sending four volunteers to help with VBS – June 16-20, 2025. Michiana Covenant Presbyterian Church PCA: Rev. Peter Wallace on August 1, 2025, emailed an invitation to join them for an old-fashioned Presbyterian camp meeting where several congregations gathered for a time of fellowship and worship, culminating in a communion service. We gathered for an evening service at 5:30 P.M. on Sunday, August 31, 2025, at Potato Creek State Park. Please note that your elders are available to meet with you to address questions you might have and encourage you in the Lord Jesus. Whenever it is convenient, we would like to make annual shepherding visits of each household to stay in touch with each one of you to prayerfully support you. As we look forward to what The Lord Jesus will do among us in 2025, let us prayerfully persevere to serve in his kingdom. "Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." Isaiah 43:19

Respectfully presented,

Rev. Ian Wise, Provisional Moderator
Elders Bob Daniels, Fikre Menbere

The Columbus Session Report was presented by Dave Schisler. The report was received by common consent.

The Lafayette report was given by Ken Nelson. The report is as follows:

In looking at the congregational report from last year, one of the key highlights we mentioned was that 2024 we experienced the blessing of peace and stability. As we reflect on 2025, the session has noted that this peace and stability have continued and we are very thankful. The Lord has placed us in this community, time, and place to bring the Good News to those around us. Experiencing peace and stability, while considering our mission of taking the gospel to those around us, is a great blessing. As a congregation, we continue to be blessed by the faithful ministry of our pastoral staff. Our Senior and Associate Pastors work well together in bringing pastoral care and faithful teaching to our congregation. Adam has now finished his eighth full year of ministry here in Lafayette. Jonathan has now finished two and a half years as our Associate Pastor. The preached Word continues to be central to our ministry as a congregation. In 2025, amongst other smaller sermon series', Adam finished his sermon series from the book of Colossians and Jonathan preached through the books of Amos and Joel. Within the last few weeks, Adam has started preaching through Joshua and Jonathan through 1 Peter. We are excited for these new series. During 2025, we also continued the pastoral internship of Jonathan Park. At the end of July, he will have completed two years as a pastoral intern. His internship consisted of attending session meetings, meeting regularly with the Pastors, attending visitations, meeting with individuals, and leading in worship. It has been a joy to the session,

having him around, and we pray it has been a blessing to Jonathan. Please continue to pray for the Lord's leading for Jonathan and Ashley as they continue to consider the call of the Lord toward potential full-time ministry. In 2025, we had a large shift in one of the main ministries of our congregation. Bob Bibby had been faithfully leading the Tippecanoe County Jail Ministry for over 4 decades, including as chaplain of the jail. In May of 2025, Bob retired from this ministry. The congregation was glad we were able to hold a reception honoring Bob's service and provide him with gifts expressing our love and appreciation. With no one from our congregation stepping into the leadership role of this ministry, the oversight of the jail ministry has moved to another congregation. We continue to have members from our congregation who participate regularly in going into the jail; we are just not as involved in the overall leadership with the jail & community corrections administration. We continue to minister to undergraduate and graduate students at Purdue as well as young adults through our CORPS ministry. We also continue to minister to the youth of our church through Youth Group and Sabbath School programs.

In 2025 the session met as a constituted court a total of 16 times. The Lord's supper was conducted 12 times. As of 12/31/25, our current membership is 145 (102 communicant members, 43 baptized members.) Net change in total membership is -7 from 12/31/24. Our average attendance for our worship services was 124 (-9 from 2024) in the morning, and 101 (-5 from 2024) in the evening. We also modified our attendance calculation in 2025 by not including online attendance in our daily counts. This is part of the reason for the decline in our reported average attendance numbers. In 2025 the Lord saw fit to call three members' home. Tom Devaney and Jim Fisher both passed away on February 16, and Larry Walker passed away on June 17. We greatly miss these three men, but we are rejoicing with them that they are experiencing glory. In 2025 there were two baptisms in our congregation, there were weddings for two of our members, and the session met with 10 individuals who were invited to join us in celebration of the Lord's Supper. As a session, we also continue to be involved in the larger courts of our denomination. At the synod level, Adam is on the International Conference Advisory Committee; Bob is serving as Vice President of the E&P board, and is serving on the board of RPTS. At the presbytery level, Adam is serving as interim moderator of Selma, chairman of the Candidates and Credentials Committee, and is on a visitation committee to Sycamore RP; Jonathan is serving as moderator for the Ad Interim Commission, and as a CYP board member; Bob is serving as chairman of the 2RP shepherding committee; Chris is serving on the membership committee; and Ken is serving on the Finance Committee, Ad Interim Commission (for the beginning of 2025), and (along with Christy), as Covfamiko conference directors. We thank God for how He is guiding our congregation. We continue to seek God in all we do and are grateful for how He continues to fill our cup with his goodness and mercy.

The Ad Interim Commission Report was received. (We needed to wait until after the Sparta conversation occurred.)

Rev. Aaron Murray gave a draft of the nominating committee report.

We then went to a time of intercessory prayer for the congregations that we have just heard from:

Elder Goerner prayed for Second Indianapolis. Rev. Niess prayed for Orlando Church. Elder Jon Hughes prayed for the Marion congregation. Elder Damerow prayed for the work of Elkhart church. Elder Reshey prayed for the Columbus congregation. Elder Lotz prayed for the Lafayette congregation. Elder Lotz also prayed in thanksgiving for the food as well as a prayer

of recess.

The court recessed at 6pm for dinner and reconvened at 6:45pm. The court reconvened with the singing of Psalm 116B. The moderator prayed to reconvene us.

The court heard from three men representing sister denominations:

Rev. Matthew Atteberry from the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church was invited to the floor to speak on the work of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. He said, Acts 20:27 is the ARP moderator's verse for the next year of labor: "Do not shrink from declaring the whole counsel of God."

Rev. Aldo Leon presented on the work of the PCA, but mostly spoke of his own congregation. He said the PCA was dealing with identity issues and wrestling with the question of Christian nationalism. Several good things are happening at Pinelands, including simplicity in worship, Psalms and a cappella worship, a renewed focus on people and "worship wars are behind us."

Rev. Christian Khanda from Holy Trinity Orthodox Presbyterian Church began with reading Philippians 1:1-2. He said he was grateful for the time together, calling presbytery "a spiritual feast." He mentioned church plants, seeking to be faithful, presbytery supporting a missionary and family for a decade in Haiti, among other things.

Rev. Nathan Eshelman prayed for the three men and their denominations.

Rev. Jerry Foltz presented the Stephen Rhoda Shepherding Committee report. Mr. Foltz gave a brief summary of the report. The court then had time to ask questions of Mr. Rhoda. The report is as follows:

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 live-streamed 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

Recommendation 1: That the suspension of Reverend Stephen Rhoda from pastoral duties be lifted. The motion carried without vocal dissent.

Recommendation 2: That the Rhoda–Terre Haute Shepherding Committee be dissolved, its work having been completed to the satisfaction of Presbytery. The recommendation carried with thanks!

The clerk was asked to craft a letter according to DCG e-8-7 noting "solemnity and publicity" of the lifting of the suspension. That letter is as follows:

March 6, 2026
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery (RPCNA)
Clerk's Office
324 East Livingston St
Orlando, FL, 32801

Fathers and Brothers,

On March 6, 2025, Rev. Stephen Rhoda was suspended from office by the Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery. The pronouncement was as follows:

You, Rev. Steve Rhoda have been found guilty before this Court of the Church of Christ of the sin of a pattern of “immoderate use of drink” leading to “enslavement to alcohol” in breach of the sixth commandment, necessitating hospitalization and counseling. This Court, therefore, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, suspends you from the office of teaching elder, and forbids you to perform any of the duties belonging to it. This censure shall continue in effect until you have given satisfactory evidence of true repentance, and have been restored to good standing by this Court.

One year later, on March 6, 2026, the Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery lifted that suspension with our moderator’s words:

“Mr. Rhoda, in the name of Jesus Christ, Zion’s king and head, we declare the lifting of suspension of pastoral duties and commend you to the grace of God.” The court then rose to pray in thanksgiving for Mr. Rhoda’s repentance and restoration.

We are grateful for fruit of repentance that we have seen from Rev. Rhoda and with great joy, we let the church know that our brother has been reclaimed!

On behalf of the Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery (RPCNA),

Rev. Nathan Eshelman
Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery, Clerk

The moderator declared “Mr. Rhoda, in the name of Jesus Christ, Zion’s king and head, we declare the lifting of suspension of pastoral duties and commend you to the grace of God.” The moderator asked Rev. David Hanson to pray a prayer of thanksgiving for the lifting of the suspension.

Elder Ken Nelson gave the Covfamikoi report. There were 216 attendees. Mr. Nelson reported on Daniel Howe getting hospitalized right before he was scheduled to speak. This year Bryan Schneider will be speaking on Christ and Culture.

Covfamikoi 2025 was a blessed, but very challenging time. We had roughly 216 attendees, which is a bit lower than we had hoped or budgeted. Our new facility, Covenant College, was beautiful and very easy to work with. However, with any new facility comes learning along the way and logistical challenges. The most daunting challenge of 2025 Covfamikoi was that our main speaker, Daniel Howe, was hospitalized one week before the conference and could not attend. Finding a new speaker one week before the conference was extremely stressful. The Lord provided James Blair (Ballyclabber RP, Coleraine Northern Ireland) to speak for us on the attributes of God. James was in Bloomington for the summer on sabbatical. He did a wonderful job and the Lord was gracious to us.

2026 Conference:

As we look toward the 2026 conference we are heading back to Covenant College in Lookout Mountain Georgia. The dates for the conference are July 6-July 11. This will again be a Monday to Saturday schedule. The conference will start mid-afternoon on Monday and end Saturday morning. The theme this year is Christ and Culture: Biblical and Practical Theology with Bryan Schneider (Sharon RP, Morning Sun IA) as our main speaker. Covfamikoi has Facebook and Instagram pages to help market and generate excitement for the conference, please feel free to follow. Also please encourage your members to attend and help promote Covfamikoi.

Registration will open sometime in March. When registration is open we will send out a notification. We look forward to having many of you join us this summer!

Leadership/ Staffing:

Following the 2025 conference, as expected, Ross and Kaitlyn Cerbus stepped off from the roles of Conference Managers. (They worked alongside us since 2019 and were wonderful Managers. We enjoyed all our time working together). Thankfully, Ross agreed to stay on as Treasurer, which is a new leadership position. He will handle all things related to money and the contract with our facility. Previously these roles were a part of the Managers role. Yemi Aladajebi has agreed to come on board as our Conference Manager.

Tyler and Anastasia Kniess served as our Youth Program Directors for the last two years. Following the 2025 conference, they decided they would step off this role. Jonathan & Ashley Park have agreed to fill this role for the 2026 conference. Due to the challenges of the 2025 conference, we also felt we needed to add more to our executive staff. The additional position was to be recreation director (this is a position that was previously filled, but due to the challenging financial implications with reduced attendance, we had removed it). Currently we have budgeted for this position but have not found someone to fill this role.

Regarding the Conference Director position, Christy and I have agreed to remain on for the 2026 conference, and we are running full steam ahead. Following the 2026 conference we will officially be stepping off as Conference Directors. We have been searching for new directors, but so far, we have not found anyone. Now that we are within 4 months of the next Covfamikoï we need to spend our time and energy on filling teacher and staff roles as well as planning everything for 2026. We are asking the Covfamikoï Advisory Committee to work with the Nominating Committee to identify the next directors to take over following the 2026 conference. Hopefully someone can be identified to take over this summer as the work for 2027 starts immediately.

Financials:

Costs to operate conferences continue to rise. While our new facility was wonderful to work with, they have raised our rates 15% compared to last year's conference. We have worked as diligently as possible to keep the costs as low as possible while still holding an enjoyable and enriching conference. We would continue to encourage local congregations to consider providing scholarships to help offset the costs for your members to attend Covfamikoï.

Please see the attached Covfamikoï financials.

In order to try to keep registration rates as low as possible, we have asked for \$8,000 support from the Presbytery. This increase from the 2025 support level of \$4,000-> \$8,000 support from the Presbytery is half of the rate increase that we are being charged from Covenant

Recommendations:

1. That the Finance Committee allocates \$8,000 support for Covfamikoï in the 2026 budget.
2. That the Nominating Committee creates a Treasurer position for Covfamikoï and appoint Ross Cerbus to this role.
3. That the Nominating Committee appoint Yemi Aladajebi as Conference Manager.
4. That the Nominating Committee, working in conjunction with the Covfamikoï Advisory Committee, identify a new Conference Director following the 2026 Covfamikoï Conference. If no one is identified following this Presbytery, the role should show as "open."

Request: The role of Director must be filled by this meeting or it will be difficult to fill!

Colin Samul presented the 26-3 advisory committee report and is as follows:

Fathers and Brothers,

Your committee had the opportunity to meet with Rev. Joshua Smith twice during the Spring meeting. We also had the opportunity to meet with his wife Brooke towards the end of our second meeting. We questioned Rev. Smith in the areas of the demographics, background, and dynamics of the group in North Alabama. We also inquired about his contact and relationship with the group. We heard from him concerning his motivations, temperament, and understanding of exploratory work. We also received a sense of his approach and administrative details, along with how he plans to support his family as a church planter. We spoke with his wife about her mutual alignment and support of these goals.

Five households are from PCA congregations, 3 in the immediate area, 2 in Huntsville. There has also been interest from those coming from a Baptist/Non-Denom background. However, Rev. Smith is adamant that beyond the core group of interest, the main motivation and desire is for evangelism in the local community. He recounted to us that he has a history of doing evangelism in this area going back to his high school years. One family is former RP from the Vegas congregation (re-located for work), and a few of the individuals from the PCA are arriving at RP convictions. Rev. Smith has also expressed a desire to focus upon the veteran community—specifically, PTSD counseling/ministry from a biblical perspective. Given the deep ties of the Huntsville area to the DoW and Defense Industry, your committee is encouraged by the potential for his background as a veteran and desire to be useful in this context. We inquired about the posture of his convictions—both his RP convictions and particular convictions on secondary matters—and how he might hold these in the context of church planting. Your committee was satisfied that his desired approach is one of charity and patience.

In light of our conversations, your committee is supportive of establishing an exploratory work in conjunction with the arrival of Rev. Joshua Smith into the area. We recommend a measured approach with oversight, counsel, and thoughtful bench marks for progressing to next steps. Our recommendations for initial steps are as follows:

1. That the Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery establish an Exploratory Work in the Shoals Area of Alabama to be overseen by the Church Extension Committee upon the arrival of Rev. Joshua Smith into the area.
2. That the Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery increase the Church Extension Committee to 4 total members (vacancies to be appointed by the Nominating Committee).
3. That the Church Extension Committee monitor the effort and report back to the Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery with recommendations at the Presbytery meeting of Synod 2027.

Rev. Colin Samul (Chair)
Rev. Ian Wise
Elder Jonathan Schaefer

On Exploratory Works (D-34) was read by the moderator: “An exploratory work may consist of a Bible study, an evangelistic out-reach, or a preaching station, without the structural organization of formal membership or locally elected leadership. A preaching station consists of a group of people who gather regularly for public worship. At this initial stage of church

planting, there is greater flexibility regarding how the presbytery or a local session exercises oversight of the work...”

Recommendation 1: Carries. Recommendation 2: Carries. Recommendation 3: A Motion to amend “report progress at Spring 2027 and bring recommendations to the Spring 2028 meetings” was made. Motion carries.

The report was approved by common consent.

Committee 26-7 advisory committee report was presented by Rev. David Hanson. The original report is as follows. The advisory committee’s report follows the Westminster communication:

Dear Brethren:

Westminster RPC has faithfully ministered the Prairie View area for over 30 years. Changes in the last five years that have led us to consider relocating to areas north of our current location.

- Our church building was built in 1906 and the costs of keeping and maintaining our current church building and manse are putting increasing straining on our budget. See tables A through D in the attached proposal.

- Our members were once distributed widely over the Chicago metro area and Wisconsin with many having over an hour commute. Our membership distribution has tightened to an area from Vernon Hills, IL to Racine, WI within the last three years. See Map A in the attached proposal. We currently have one household in Chicago who are also looking into moving north to the Waukegan area.

- The immediate neighborhoods and towns around WRPC has undergone a significant transformation over the last 25 years and is not as open to gospel ministry as it was previously. We conclude this after three and a half years of outreach effort, seeing no tangible fruit from our labors. The Lord Jesus Christ says in Matthew 10:14, “And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear your words, when ye depart out of that house or city, shake off the dust of your feet.” We believe that in His providence, He is calling us to depart from this city and shake off the dust from our feet.

- The cost of living in the area around Prairie View are prohibitively high. Several individuals who expressed interest in our ministry were deterred by the high cost of living in our area.

- Our current budget will only allow us to compensate a pastor around \$35,000 per year. The plan to relocate as outlined in the attached proposal can be summarized in the following five points.

1. Sell the church property
2. Hold Lord’s day services at rented meeting or conference rooms in the Kenosha/Pleasant Prairie WI or Zion/Waukegan IL area.
3. Continue evangelistic efforts in northeast Illinois and southeast Wisconsin
4. Purchase housing for a prospective pastor in Kenosha/Pleasant Prairie, WI or Zion/Waukegan IL area using proceeds from the sale of the church property
5. Eventually, as the Lord prospers, purchase a church building in the Kenosha/Pleasant Prairie WI or Zion/Waukegan IL area.

We believe the Kenosha/Pleasant Prairie WI or Zion/Waukegan IL area is more fertile ground for church growth and better situated to serve our members. We held an informal discussion with our congregation on February 15, and there were no objections and much encouragement to moving forward with plan contained in the proposal. Currently, we are recruiting realtors and developers to ascertain the potential value our church property. One possible option is to sell our property to a developer. In this scenario the church building would be demolished and in addition to the sale of the property, we would have the opportunity to procure the salvage value of the early 20th century tin that covers the walls of the sanctuary and the first cut southern white pine which forms the internal structure of the church building. Naturally, the church building would be unusable once salvage operations ensue. We expect the proceeds from the sale of the church property to be sufficient to purchase new living quarters for a prospective pastor in the Kenosha/Pleasant Prairie, WI or Zion/Waukegan, IL area.

Our current pastor has submitted his resignation, which if accepted at this presbytery meeting, would be effective July 12th, 2026. While we are sad at his leaving, it opens a window where the manse will not be needed. This appears to be the optimal time to execute the sale of the church property and affect our relocation. We have identified a hotel conference room in Kenosha, WI that is centrally located with respect to the geographic distribution of most of our church members. The management seems eager to have us meet their hotel and is willing to accommodate our needs. We understand that the sale of the current property and a relocation to a new area requires presbytery approval.

Presently, timing is the most crucial and uncertain element in our relocation. We may want to include a Lord's day service in Kenosha, WI as part of our outreach efforts. Provisionally, we want to have all the details of the sale of the church property ready for the June presbytery meeting. In the meantime, we want the flexibility of meeting in Kenosha, WI or nearby locations if the need presents itself. Therefore, we petition the presbytery to allow WRPC to meet at alternative locations in the Kenosha/Pleasant Prairie, WI or Zion/Waukegan IL area.

In Christ
The Session
Westminster Reformed Presbyterian Church

The advisory committee reported:

The Communication 26-7 from the Westminster Session requests permission from the presbytery to sell their church building and manse in Prairie View, IL. Their intention is to move their meeting place roughly 25 minutes north to a location roughly equivalent to the geographic center of their membership. They also plan to purchase a manse near the new location to aid them in attracting a pastor.

This request to sell and move their worship location is made in order to fulfill the requirement in the Directory of Church Government Ch 2 Sect 11 pg D-6 "If a congregation wishes to change the location of its place of worship, it shall first secure the approval of presbytery both as to removal and as to the new location. A particular congregation shall not sell or mortgage property without the written permission of the presbytery transmitted through the session of the congregation."

In evaluating this request, we would like to note that:

The Directory of Church Government provides here a check and balance on the leadership of a local congregation, but we believe that the word “approve” implies a low bar of review as opposed to requiring presbytery “adopt” a particular real estate strategy.

Therefore, deference should be given to the local leadership if at all possible, particularly since the local session best understands the local community, local congregation, and is most invested in the health and welfare of the local flock.

However, beyond meeting this lower bar of review, Westminster has also provided compelling rationale concerning the difficulty of ministering in the Prairie View area, the un-affordability of housing for their members in the surrounding neighborhoods, and the greater potential for congregational vitality and renewal that a relocation offers.

In addition, we find compelling that for over 30 years, Elder Bob Koch has labored to renovate and maintain the Prairie View facility, and if Bob favors a sale even given his nostalgic connections to the building, it must be a good idea!

Motion 1: Approve Westminster RP Church’s request to sell their church building and manse & to relocate their worship services to a suitable rental location.

26-7: Recommendation 1 was approved. 26-7 report was then received.

Elder Colin Elliott was invited to the floor to give the Bloomington Session report. The report was received and is as follows:

The session has met in constituted court 20 times, and then two other longer meetings, one a planning retreat earlier this fall, and the other a more recent extended meeting with members of the presbytery visitation committee in early November. The main work of our regular, monthly meetings is praying for the congregation, discussing various visits with members of the congregation, working together on difficulties that individuals are facing, and giving counsel to the pastors concerning their ongoing work, including discussing preaching series. We also try to meet with representatives of the Deacon board quarterly. Four additional meetings were for the purpose of interviewing those interested in joining the congregation for communion, and two more meetings were arranged specifically for the purpose of adding new members to the congregation. Two more meetings were to conduct the election and ordination of Colin Elliott to the session, a very important blessing for the session. Elder Wes Archer was also given a sabbatical after 17 years of service on the session. We also accepted the resignation of Deacon David Perron from the deacon board, due to his job location moving to Cincinnati. The year has been remarkably busy but very encouraging, filled always with the empowering gifts of the Spirit’s work through the congregation; as Paul’s quotation says it, we have seen God’s work in bringing the congregation to Himself, and have in turn seen Him give the congregation so many gifts in the people He’s assembling as our congregation.

Concerning the membership and attendance changes from this last year, we note the following for calendar year 2025. The total membership on December 31, 2025, was 265, an increase of 22 over 2024, and an increase of 47 over the last two years, since 2023. The average in-person morning worship service attendance was 212, an increase of 12 over 2024. The average in-person evening worship service attendance was 122, an

increase of 6 from 2024. The average SS class attendance was 121, a decrease of 9 from 2024. Thirty-one new communicant members were added, including Eric and Anna Grace Brown, and Matthew Planalp who came to us from the Columbus RP Church, and Soloman van Vlack who came to us from the Providence (R.I.) RP church. Five were baptized members who became communicant upon their public profession. Fourteen new baptized, non-communicant members were added: 5 joined us with their parents, and 9 were baptized. Jesse Burton was transferred to 2nd RP of Indianapolis and 5 communicant members with 6 non-communicant members were transferred to non-RP congregations. One family was commended to their congregation in their home country. Jean Curry and Joe Moore both went to be with our God in glory, both after many, many decades of blessing us and serving the Lord as members of our congregation. Communicant membership at the end of 2024 was at 179 and rose to 200 at the end of 2025. The number of baptized non-communicant members at the end of 2024 was 64 and increased to 65 in 2025. To put these last few years in a larger historical perspective, we mention, as noted last year, that the membership in the congregation held consistently around 120 through the 1950's and 1960's, but beginning in 1970, the membership declined to a low of 65 members in 1987. At that time, the congregation came together to ask the Lord to open a new chapter in the congregation's work for Him, and through their sacrificial giving to support a second pastor and their new focus on serving Him and one another, the trajectory changed by the Lord's grace. Here, nearly 40 years later, we have grown to more than quadruple that size in the late 1980s.

This overall growth trajectory forms the main background of the session's focus for this last year. The main challenges concern providing growth in leadership and in the physical provision for the growing congregation. The first area of concern has been adding official leadership for the congregation. A main point of discussion with the presbytery visitation committee was how to assess the appropriate size of a session for the congregation as it grows, with a general conclusion that we need to be continually seeking out those who might be able to serve in the capacity. To this end, we reflect with thankfulness for the provision of Colin Elliott to the session this last spring. We are so thankful for his energy, gifts and the great encouragement he brings to us. Although we do not have specific plans to call another congregational meeting for election of more elders and deacons, we do expect that planning such meetings will be part of the work for the coming year. Building the pastorate is another part of our focus as a session. A crucial element of the session with respect to leadership for the congregation are the pastors. We are so thankful for God's provision for two pastors who so skillfully support one another and provide such a rich foundation of God's word to us from week to week. It is truly a joy to be able to work together with our pastors as a session, and we are so thankful for their strong and prayerful relationship. As part of our focus on building the pastorate, we have been able to provide for a half-portion of a Sabbatical leave for Pastor McCollum this last year, and we are planning on providing for the second portion this coming year. It is remarkable how fruitful this program continues to be, providing not only for him and his family, but also allowing us to serve and be served by the Blair family this last summer. We believe that this dual purpose of supporting both our pastors and others' pastors is a crucial part of what the Lord would have us do with this program, and so we are working out possible arrangements for adding an intern for the congregation this coming summer.

Over the years, the Bloomington ministry and congregation have proven to be a help for the development of pastors throughout the denomination, and we are beginning the process of formalizing this role. We expect that this summer may be a formative step in regularizing this for the future years. We also note, in this regard, the training and work of the Punts; John is now already more than half of the way through his seminary training

program. We are also discussing possible future plans for the pastorate with other men, including Tyler Kniess, who has preached for us. We also have people taking distance-learning classes from our seminary for various purposes related to equipping them for service in the church, and we wish to continue supporting this as people express interest. One other area of growth that we have been pursuing is increasing the session's effectiveness at building relationships with a growing congregation. This is one other area we discussed with the presbytery visitors as a challenge. The danger is that, as the congregation grows, it would lose its coherence as it becomes more difficult for people to know one another. We are so thankful for the regular visitation pattern we have been able to use and are so encouraged in being able to get together with so many in the congregation and see what the Lord is doing in their lives.

The second set of obvious challenges for the growing congregation concern the familiar problem of finding an efficient and effective path to growing the physical plant of the church. Our current approach, learned over the last two years, is to develop an incremental model, which addresses congregational needs as we have resources to do so. The next step in this plan is to construct an addition to the current building that will fit on the current land footprint. The following steps would fall into place as further property becomes available, and so the current plan must not preclude possible future additions. At this juncture, the incremental nature of the additions would also align with an incremental funding plan, which will likely entail a fund-raising campaign, though the timing of such a campaign will depend on the unfolding finances of the congregation. Another part of our current thinking is that there is a natural limit to the size of facility that can be created on the current site, which means that we will continue to probe possible ways to expand the ministry into additional sites beyond the First & Lincoln facility. It would be very ungrateful of us to neglect giving thanks to God for the way in which He has provided so richly with the financial support that our ministry has needed. The collections each year have not just met the needs of the pastors and enabled us to extend support to various other ministries and have also provided funds which grow as the congregation grows. Reviewing the past year brings additional matters which we also highlight. A plan by the Bloomington City government to expand High Street led people in the congregation to do a thorough investigation of the history of the congregation's relationship with the cemetery association, and with advice of counsel, the session asked the congregation to make various motions. These acts are intended to ensure that the Covenanter Cemetery Association can manage the property without the legal entanglement of the congregation, beyond the basic arrangement of the congregation acting as a back stop for the Association to ensure its long-term viability. We believe that the current arrangement is much clearer and hopefully will provide for the future of the Covenanter Cemetery well. The cemetery stands as a powerful witness of the Lord's work in Bloomington for almost as many years as Bloomington has existed.

We note Lena Dixson's retirement from her role as our congregational secretary, with great thankfulness and appreciation. It is difficult to imagine the congregation running without her irrepressibly hospitable smile and her attention to everything. Many years ago, we conducted an 'exit interview' with one of our pastors, and one prominent item on the list of 'assets' was simply put: "Lena". We cannot agree more. Our relationship with the Chinese congregation that meets in our building continues to be fruitful and very felicitous, and so we believe it is appropriate and helpful to continue to support them with our facilities, both for worship and for other ministries during the week.

Our congregation, through the facilitation of Pastor McCollum, sent a second mission group to Wilksburg, Penn., following up on their trip from two years before. Continuing this pattern for the coming year, we anticipate a second mission trip to Ireland for the

coming summer, following up in a different location on the work by a group two years ago. We also note with thanks the growing number of students worshiping with us from the university. These students are coming through connections with our current students including those living in the Christian Student Fellowship house and contacts encouraged through the RP student ministry on campus, which has been guided by Jacob Frost with Pastor McCollum's involvement. As the university is such a large proportion of the city, we are thankful for seeing the ministry growing there as it grows throughout the city.

Respectfully submitted by the Session of the Bloomington Congregation,

Wes Archer, Eric Cosens, CJ Davis, Ken de Jong, Colin Elliott, Rich Holdeman, Philip McCollum, & Stephen Shipp

The Belle Center report was given by Rev. Phil Pockras. The report was received by common consent.

We continue to rejoice in a full local Session. Both of our Ruling Elders have served well in the congregation and on Presbytery appointments. As well, we are blessed by an increasingly efficient Deacon board. We have a new member of the Deacons – Mr. Anthony Panichelle was elected, accepted his call, was successfully examined, and was ordained on February 15, 2026. Finances continue to be far better than a few years ago. Again, God blessed with a continued surplus in 2025. The appended financial report was presented to and approved by Session.

Our average attendance for 2025 was 50, down from 2024's average of 54. We had membership increase from the following sources: two by baptism and one by restoration and one by transfer from another denomination. We lost one member by excommunication, five by removal, and one was taken home to glory. Total membership is at 73; 51 communicant and 22 baptized. Since the beginning of 2025 we have had two babies baptized and we look forward to two more arriving later in the year. We rejoice in the blessing of receiving a man restored from excommunication; a former member of another RP congregation in another Presbytery. We proceeded only after seeing what we thought were credible evidences of repentance, and with advice and consent from his former Session. He continues to be a blessing. We rejoice that, even with the losses, we have been blessed with some new adherents. One is the local county extension agent, who lives only a block away from our building. A family of six lives to the northwest of our village only a couple of miles. They have their challenges, but they bring blessing, too.

There is a spirit of love, care, and delight in one another, shown by the fact that it is hard to get people out the door after worship services! People delight in sharing their lives with one another in prayer and concern. The special ladies' prayer group that continuously operates online and our young men's every-other-week Bible study that were begun in 2023 continue to present. A lady of our church was the leader for RP Missions' Cyprus team. Our pastor is very hopeful that Zion's King already has in place our congregation's future Session and Deacon Board. As a Session, we testify to the value of Synod's TFY program. Most of these young men are "alumni" of it. At least one of their wives is, too. Several young people attended many of the presbytery CYPY activities, as well as some Alleghenies Presbytery events, in the past year.

We changed our meeting times somewhat. Sabbath School is now at 11 AM, followed by our first worship service at noon. The second worship service is now at 5:30 PM.

Second service attendance has increased markedly. With many members having long commutes, in time and mileage, there has been opportunity for the exercise of hospitality by more local people. Our pastor continues his chaplain work at Mary Rutan Hospital in Bellefontaine, OH. His report on his chaplaincy work is before Presbytery. Our pastor is attempting to learn Portuguese. He has preached twice to a group of Presbyterians in and around Rio de Janeiro, over the internet, with interpreters. He is also encouraging a young Presbyterian minister in Brasilia. The two of them converse over the internet most weeks, with the young man seeking to improve his English and Phil his Portuguese. Phil hopes to use this to make and cultivate contacts who might be interested in the RPC. With them he has shared resources from RTF and keeps the Rev. Edgar Ibarra of Synod's CASA Committee informed.

Challenges

We have continued health challenges, especially chronic ones. We have people with lung and pulmonary problems, heart issues, arthritis, dementia, and diabetes. Attendance at both the prayer meeting and the second worship service are relatively poor, although improving. We are concerned that some of this is due to spiritual coolness. Some is due to our next challenge:

A continuing challenge is the physically spread-out nature of our congregation. We have a family coming from the southwest traveling an hour and a half each way. From the northwest, people drive forty-five or so minutes. From the southeast, families travel thirty to forty-five minutes to get to Belle Center. This makes fellowship, except on Sabbath, difficult. It makes pastoral visitation difficult. But there may be a hidden blessing to come! Each of these four population centers – Greenville, Ohio; Lima/Bluffton, Ohio; Marysville/Dublin, Ohio, and the Belle Center/Bellefontaine, Ohio center, could, in God's adorable providence, conceivably be kernels for daughter congregations.

The session of the Belle Center, OH, Congregation met for 10 stated and 10 called meetings in 2025. The 2024 minutes of the session were submitted to Presbytery and approved without correction. Our pastor attended Synod and 1 regular meeting of the Presbytery. Our ruling elders have been diligent to attend higher courts. Our pastor is currently serving on Presbytery's Church Extension Committee; and the committee studying issues with the property of departing congregations.

The congregation has not met since the last spring meeting of Presbytery. As of the time of the writing of this report, the 2026 annual meeting has not yet occurred. We hope it will be characterized by clarity, concord, and good spirits, as usual.

We meet each Lord's Day at Noon for worship. We have second services and, on the last Sabbath of each month, fellowship meals. The Lord's Supper is celebrated on each fifth Sabbath in months that have them. Our pastor has finished preaching through Luke's Gospel during the first service and is proceeding into Acts, volume II of Luke's work. In the second service, he preached through the book of Job and is now nearly finished in Paul's Epistle to the Ephesians. Before morning worship, we meet for Sabbath School. We have two classes, now: our family class, taught by our minister, currently using G. I. Williamson's Shorter Catechism for Study Classes; and a class just completed for ruling elder and deacon education through material produced by the RPTS, taught by RE Bowers.

The congregation meets for prayer on Wednesday evenings at 7:30, with an average attendance of five, but not infrequently as many as twelve. We would like to see more

participation from the congregation, but the physically scattered nature of our congregation does not help.

We look forward to 2026 as a united congregation with a rather clear vision of where we want to go, as we continue to advance a testimony for salvation by grace through faith in the saving Person and Work of Jesus Christ, and the mediatorial kingship of Jesus in our area.

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Pockras, Moderator
Jeffery Brotherton, Clerk

Rev. Joshua Smith presented the Atlanta Organizing Commission Report and presented the minutes to be adopted by the presbytery. The minutes are adopted and the report is approved.

The organization of Atlanta Reformed Presbyterian Church was something that many have been in prayer for many years. October 5, 2025 was a joyous and blessed day not simply because it was the Lord's Day but because it was the day of the organization service. Being surrounded by brothers and sisters in Christ, some already known, many others newly acquainted, was a foretaste of what awaits us in glory. By the grace of God, there were around eighty in attendance. This included the retired minister of the former congregation which had previously owned the building, ministers and elders from other local congregations, a city council member, and a representative from the mayor's office. They spoke of how amazed they were to see the work of Pastor Smith and the Atlanta RPC congregation in that area and how the congregation was impacting the community in ways that may not even be seen. While the area in which that ministry is taking place does seem to be changing over the years, the greatest need of the area remains the same. That is why Pastor Smith and the Atlanta congregation will, Lord willing, continue to see fruit from their labors and make an impact in the community, because they know that the community needs the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. As the service began on that Lord's Day, there was an overwhelming sense of the Holy Spirit amongst the congregation. The singing of Psalms was joyful and loud as the saints of God from several different states and multiple denominations all lifted up a shout of exaltation unto Jehovah for His goodness and mercy. Prayers were offered unto the Lord for His great provision throughout the years, for His great blessing in more recent times, and for His continued favor moving forward in seeking to see not only the community but the city of Atlanta, the state of Georgia, the United States of America, and all the nations of the earth won for Christ's crown and covenant. Rev. Colin Samul then preached an incredible sermon on unity within the congregation from Psalm 133, something which is essential if the congregation is to have lasting success. Afterwards, the administration and signing of the vows of communicant members were done. Then the administration and vows to install Rev. Dr. Frank Smith as pastor and Elder T.J. Patillo as church governor for the newly established congregation were done. The service then concluded with further time of praise and receiving of God's blessing.

After the service, there was a time of food and fellowship. This was an incredible opportunity to get to know some of the congregants of Atlanta and to hear of how they are personally engaging in the work of the ministry there. While my time with the Atlanta Reformed Presbyterian Church congregation was much too short, it was overwhelmingly sweet, and I thank the Lord for the opportunity to go there and be part of that historic occasion. It is my prayer that the Lord would continue to bless the saints there, to bless the work of Gospel ministry under the leadership of Pastor Smith and Elder Patillo, and that we would see that congregation grow into a mighty work for the cause of Christ.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joshua M. Smith

The Atlanta Temporary Governing Body report was given by the Scott Damarow.

The Atlanta RPC Session is pleased to present this, its first report to Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery, following upon our organization as a congregation on October 5th, 2025. An Amazing Day! As noted by numerous folks who were present for the organizational service, the first Sabbath of October was indeed an amazing day. About 80 people were in attendance, including a representative of the Atlanta mayor's office; the local Atlanta city councilman; and the widow of the former local councilman. Most importantly, the Holy Spirit showed up. An extensive description of the day's proceedings can be found at the end of this report.

Membership

Our membership is 15 (thirteen communicants and two non-communicants), representing 10 families. Of the 15 members, two-thirds are male. During the course of 2025, prior to organization, one member was dismissed, one member was transferred to the general roll of Presbytery, and three members were received (one by transfer and two by profession of faith). The list of members as of December 31, 2025, can be found at the end of this report.

Contacts and Prospects

We come across a lot of people in our ministry, some of whom remain anonymous to us. However, we keep track of those whose names we are able to learn and for whom we are able to glean contact information for possible follow-up. In 2025, we made a total of 153 contacts. Some of these are not necessarily prospects for church membership (examples would include out-of-towners whom we might happen to meet); nevertheless, we try to place such people on the Penny's Pen email list. Others, though, can be considered potential recruits for Atlanta RPC.

Attendance and Visitors

In 2025, the average attendance was 15.62. This represents a significant increase of about 27% from 2024, when the average attendance was 12.33. In 2025, there were no fewer than 65 first-time visitors in attendance at a worship service.

Worship

Customarily, in the worship service, we sing five psalm selections (including one sung as a doxology after the benediction). In 2025, we observed the sacrament of communion three times. Our ongoing goal is to have the Lord's Supper on a quarterly basis. In 2025, the pastor preached sermons from a variety of texts. He completed a series on the Law of God and the Ten Commandments, covering the Seventh through the Tenth Commandments. In conjunction with the series on the Decalogue, there were

sermons entitled “’Til Death Do Us Part”; “Civil Government’s Seventh Commandment Duty”; “Transgenderism”; “Theft by Government”; “Happy Is He Who Is Generous”; and “Miserable Miser!” Among other sermons, there were three on “The Office of Elder”; and one entitled “Elders in Every City.” The flock has also benefited by hearing sermons from others this past year: Rev. Chris Strevel, pastor of Covenant Presbyterian Church (OPC), Buford, Ga.; Elder T.J. Pattillo; and Rev. George Palombo, who is on staff at the Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary.

Sunday School

In 2025, our Sunday School was a combined class, taught by Elder T.J. Pattillo until his recent move to Pittsburgh. Since then, Elder David Leap and Daiyaan Winston have been the teachers. In January 2026, we began to plan a class for children as well, with Miss Amanda Rosa Leap to be the primary teacher.

Church Life

Every Lord’s Day, we experience warm and sincere fellowship. There is a genuine sense of koinonia amongst our people, and a real caring for one another. In numerous informal ways, folks maintain contact with each other during the week.

Community

In early 2026, three of our members were slated to move into a house just three doors from the church building. This development helps us in our quest of establishing a noteworthy “presence” in the heart of Atlanta. We believe that having these three people, along with most likely an additional person or two, will not only serve toward the building of community among these individuals, but also help with outreach.

Discipleship

In the past, we have had midweek studies. We are planning to re-establish them in the near future. Also, the local elders serving on the Session are getting together every month for prayer and study. Initially, the study will be using Timothy, Titus, and You.

Pastoral Activity

In 2025, the pastor engaged in at least 346 counseling occasions. Sometimes this counseling might last only a few minutes; other times, it took hours. He has counseled many people in the congregation, but also has counseled others who do not attend ARPC, and still others from across the RPCNA and in other branches of the church on a wide variety of topics, including ecclesiastical matters. In late fall 2025 (October 31st -November 2nd), Pastor Smith was the speaker at a conference at Christ Reformed Presbyterian Church, Paris, Tennessee, on the general theme of Applying Biblical Truth to Contemporary Church & Society. The topics of the lectures were “The Issue of Creation,” “The Issue of Sex,” “The Issue of Race,” “Worship,” and “The Issue of Feminism,” and the Sunday morning sermon was entitled “Transgenderism.” In December 2025, Dr. Smith penned “John Lafayette Girardeau’s Treatise on Instrumental Music in Public Worship,” slated for publication in the academic journal *The Confessional Presbyterian*.

The Pastor’s Wife

Penny Smith continues to play a key role in the life of the congregation, including serving as the Financial Secretary. In September, she was diagnosed with bladder cancer, and in November, with breast cancer. Thankfully, these two cancers appear not to be connected, and there is no indication that either one has spread. She has undergone three surgeries and is undergoing treatment. As one would expect from a Brit, she is a real trooper, and has a good spirit and optimistic attitude.

Ministerial Intern

From September 2019 to November 2025, Elder T.J. Pattillo faithfully served as a ministerial intern. He filled the Atlanta pulpit several times this past year. Upon the urging of members of the Presbytery, he and his family moved to Pittsburgh so that he could complete the last two quarters of his studies at Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary in person.

Sextons

One of the ways that we hope to develop leadership while also engaging in outreach is through the use of sextons, who will live in the church building. Recruiting such individuals remains a matter of prayer. We are hoping to recruit one or more young men, such as those graduating from Covenant College, who aspire to the gospel ministry.

Outreach

The pastor's wife continues to write Penny's Pen, with a new article about two or three times per year. There are more than 1000 names on the email list. The weekly pulpit messages are placed on SermonAudio. Also, Daiyaan Winston has been facilitating the live-streaming of our services, available through our YouTube channel. We are still trying to find ways to establish an effective "presence" in our neighborhood. Among the ideas broached is setting up a prayer table in the park two blocks away.

Renovating the Building

The significant renovations begun in 2024 continued in 2025. Volunteers from Covenant Presbyterian Church (OPC), Buford, Georgia, came in September to repaint the outside of the structure. However, the most extensive work was undertaken by Martin Lugo, a general contractor originally from Mexico. Through his craftsmanship and ingenuity, the old broom factory has taken on a new persona, and the edifice is barely recognizable from what it once was. Over the porch, international flags, representing the 17 nations where the Reformed Presbyterian Church has a presence, are flown four at a time. And high above those flags is a metal Blue Banner—the traditional Covenanter logo declaring "For Christ's crown and covenant." In early 2026, the tile flooring was being installed in the social hall and the foyer, thus completing that project. Still to come are the installation of a kitchen; new light fixtures and ceiling fans in the social hall; outdoor lighting; and landscaping.

A New Elder

We are blessed to have David Leap as our new elder, filling T.J.'s role as a ruling elder in the congregation. He was ordained and installed on November 16th, 2025. Participating in that service were three elders representing three fraternal denominations: Dr. Robert Horton (Covenant Presbyterian Church [OPC], Buford, Ga.); Dr. Patrick Coppock (Tucker [Ga.] Presbyterian Church [PCA]; and Mr. Jake Wasdin (White Oak Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church [ARP], Senoia, Ga.).

Finances

Cash assets at the end of 2025, including CDs, totaled \$176,488.52. By way of comparison, total cash assets at the end of 2024 were \$183,261.38. The financial statements for 2025 and the budget for 2026 are attached. We would add that we continue to be amazed at the Lord's provision for our financial needs, as well as the generosity of many folks from far and wide.

Mission Statement

The following mission statement, which was adopted by the Atlanta Commission on January 19, 2023, continues to guide our endeavors. Atlanta Reformed Presbyterian

Church aims to be a faithful church, in doctrine, worship, personal piety, church life, fellowship, outreach, and hospitality, with specific focus on downtown Atlanta, demonstrating the love of Jesus to all people, and seeking to impact the Atlanta metro area by modeling a covenantal Christ-like community and by the multiplying of other Reformed Presbyterian congregations.

Prayer Requests

1. For the addition of several members this year.
2. For strength and stamina for the leadership, that they might not be discouraged or lose heart.
3. For courage and boldness in the gospel, so the church would be a faithful witness for King Jesus.

Recommendations

1. That Rev. Brian Coombs be re-appointed as a member of the Session.
2. That this report be approved.

The report was received by common consent. (Clerk's note: The two recommendations from the Atlanta report were not voted on, but were approved as we received the report by common consent.)

The Finance Committee Report was presented by Rev. Joel Hart. The report is as follows:

Fathers and brothers,

Presented here is our proposed budget for 2026. A reminder of our process as a committee:

1. In the fall, we prepare a draft budget, with a primary goal of calculating the projected assessment total for the entire presbytery. This number must be calculated by year-end, so that assessments can be sent out to churches by the start of the year.

2. In the spring, we present the budget as a final budget, with the goal of only limited changes from the fall budget. You will see in the spreadsheet our proposed budget with explanations of changes. In the spring budget, we are inputting a change to the seminary student aid line. If Josiah Cook comes under care (as is being recommended), he would immediately receive the \$500/month stipend. We have reflected our expectation that we will come under care by increasing that line item to \$19,000. March 6, 2026: As we project the spring presbytery costs and other matters, we now request an additional assessment. We now project to budget \$22,500 (vs. a previous projection of \$15,500) for the spring meeting. Much of this is due to the unexpected blessing of welcoming new students and a new TE at 2RP. Further, we project now an additional \$1,000 for the Shoals Area work. We also contemplate the upcoming Schrock installation and the need to have funds available in case of ordinations/installations in Elkhart or Terre Haute (presently unbudgeted for). As it stands, we project to have \$6,645 of cash at year-end. We believe a cash balance of \$18,000 is a good general target for year-end cash balance. For this year, we request an additional \$11,000. Additional note: In 2025, we continued a recent pattern of assessments not being submitted in the calendar year OR being submitted so late (such as, on December 31) that they are not received/deposited until 2026. Further, many churches are needing to be reminded in the final weeks of the year to submit payments. Assessment information is communicated early in the calendar year and so, we believe this pattern to be unnecessary. We are asking elders and pastors to ensure that their treasurer is receiving

information concerning assessments and submitting payments in a timely manner.

Recommendation 1: That the proposed 2026 budget be approved.

Recommendation 2: That an additional 2026 \$11,000 assessment be approved.

Recommendation 3: That Ken Nelson be nominated to serve a second term on the committee, expiring in the year 2029.

In Christ,
 Ross Cerbus
 Joel Hart (Chair)
 Ken Nelson

2026 Budget - Submitted for March 5-7, 2026 Meeting

	2025 Budget (Spring Presbytery)	2026 Budget (Made Fall 2025 for assessment)	2026 Budget (w/ updates from Fall 2025)	2026 Budget (updated spring presbytery)	Comments on changes
	2025	2026	2026	2026	
INCOME					
101 - General Fund	\$43,000	\$46,000	\$46,000	\$46,000	
TOTAL INCOME	\$43,000	\$46,000	\$46,000	\$46,000	
EXPENSES					
201 - Annual Spring Meeting	\$8,500	\$15,500	\$15,500	\$22,500	Increased costs in 2026 vs. 2025 due to expense of Orlando presbytery.
203 - Annual Fall Meeting	\$4,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	Not budgeting, due to recent pattern of not having fall meetings.
Subtotal Presbytery Mtgs	\$12,500	\$15,500	\$15,500	\$22,500	
261 - Clerk Honorarium	\$3,150	\$3,250	\$3,250	\$3,250	3% raise in 2026, rounded off to nearest \$50.
262 - Ass't Clerk Honorarium	\$525	\$550	\$550	\$550	3% raise in 2026, rounded off to nearest \$50.
265 - Officer's Expenses	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$250	
Subtotal Officer's Expenses	\$3,925	\$4,050	\$4,050	\$4,050	
273 - Southern Ch Ext Committee	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$1,500	Increase due to church extension costs with Shoals Area work.
274 - Northern Ch Ext Committee					
276 - Internet Maintenance	\$500	\$525	\$525	\$525	3% raise in 2026 vs. 2025, rounded off to nearest \$25.
Subtotal Cmtte's & Comms	\$1,000	\$1,025	\$1,025	\$2,025	
300 - Congregational Visitations	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	
<i>Subtotal Congregational Visitation</i>	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	
400 - New Works			\$0	\$0	
408 - Atlanta Mission Church	\$4,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	Budget adjusted due to Atlanta now being fully organized and funding coming through other mechanisms.
Subtotal New Works	\$4,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	
500 - Seminary Student Aid	\$10,000	\$15,000	\$19,000	\$19,000	Increase vs. 2026 budget developed in 2025, due to (anticipated) addition of Josiah Cook as a full-time student in spring meeting.
520 - Covfamikoï	\$4,000	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000	Increase vs. 2025 to support increased Covfamikoï facility fees.

BUDGET CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE.

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2026 Budget - Submitted for March 5-7, 2026 Meeting

	2025 Budget (Spring Presbytery)	2026 Budget (Made Fall 2025 for assessment)	2026 Budget (w/ updates from Fall 2025)	2026 Budget (updated spring presbytery)	Comments on changes
	2025	2026	2026	2026	
540 - Youth Work (CYPU)	\$4,500	\$4,500	\$4,500	\$4,500	
550 - College Age Ministry	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	
560 - Fraternal Delegates	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	
Subtotal Other Ministries	\$20,100	\$29,100	\$33,100	\$33,100	
800 - Special Cmttee/Comm/Provisional Elders	\$1,500	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	Costs have increased in recent years; \$3K is more in line with actuals.
809 - Selma Support Fund	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	Could consider adjusting based on decisions with Selma at 2026 meeting.
811 - Atlanta Commission	\$1,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	See above comments on Atlanta (line 408)
Subtotal Special Cmtte's & Comm's	\$3,500	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	
901 - Other	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	Possibly would see \$2,000 spent here to support Westminster Grant Request.
902 - Synod - Retired Pastor's Exp	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
915 - Legal Fees	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Subtotal Miscellaneous	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$47,025	\$55,675	\$59,675	\$67,675	
ANNUAL NET	-\$4,025	-\$9,675	-\$13,675	-\$21,675	

Cash 1/1/2026	\$ 24,020
2025 Assessments Received in 2026	\$ 4,300
2026 Budgeted Expenses	\$ (67,675)
2026 Assessments	\$ 46,000
Expected Cash 12/31/2026	\$ 6,645
Desired Cash (to manage cash flow, allow for additional unplanned expenses, etc.)	\$ 18,000
Proposed Additional Assessment	\$ 11,000

Recommendation 1: approved by common consent.

Recommendation 2: Carried.

Recommendation 3: Nominating Ken.

A draft of the Nominating Committee Report was again presented by Aaron Murray. The moderator encouraged him to type it up and present it.

Shawn Anderson presented the Time and Place Committee Report and it is as follows:

Presbytery will meet on the Friday following Synod, **June 19, at 2pm**. Dinner at Second Indianapolis and then a 7pm installation of Mr. Schrock. There is no fall meeting needed. Next year's Spring meeting will be **March 4-6, 2027** at Columbus Church.

The time and place committee was approved by common consent.

The Resolution of Thanks report was presented by Josh Smith and Colin Elliot. The Report is as follows:

We, the members of the Great Lakes–Gulf Presbytery of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America, wish to express our sincere thankfulness for the kindness and

hospitality shown to us during our meeting held March 5–6, 2026, at the Orlando Reformed Presbyterian Church in Orlando, Florida.

We thank the many households of the congregation who graciously opened their homes to provide lodging and fellowship for delegates. We are also grateful for the congregation's generous hospitality in providing abundant and excellent meals along with refreshments throughout the meeting, which strengthened the Presbytery for its work. We further thank the members of the congregation who diligently prepared the facilities and served in managing the sound, audiovisual and Zoom technology, enabling the proceedings of Presbytery to be conducted smoothly and allowing the CYPUR report to be delivered remotely.

We express gratitude as well for the capable and faithful moderation of Rev. Adam Kuehner, whose leadership guided the court with wisdom, care and efficiency. We also give thanks for the ministry of the Word among us during this meeting, particularly through the preaching of Philip McCollum, John Punt and Christopher Schrock, by which the Lord instructed and strengthened His church. We also give thanks for the encouragement received through the CYPUR report and for the Lord's evident work among the youth of our churches.

Above all, we give thanks to the Lord Jesus Christ, the only King and Head of the Church. We rejoice in His continuing faithfulness to His church, in raising up men for the ministry of the gospel and in granting the Presbytery unity, graciousness and reverence for the Scriptures and our subordinate standards as difficult matters were considered.

Finally, we remind the members of Orlando Reformed Presbyterian Church that, as they have served us in these ways, they have done so unto Christ Himself (Matthew 25:35–40). May the Lord richly bless the congregation for their generous service to His church.

The Minute Book Review Committee report was given by Rev. Joel Hart. The Minute Book Reviewers found one potential discrepancy, but there was no action recommended on it. All of the Minute books were deemed to be in order.

The previous minutes were read by the clerk. The minutes were approved as amended.

Rev. Aaron Murray presented the Nominating Committee Report:

See the Following Page for Nominating Committee Report.

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Nominating Committee Report GLG Presbtery 2026	Financial Officers Treasure-Mark Hart Assistant Treasurer-Ross Cerbus Membership Committee Philip McCollum-Chair Phil Pockras Chris Stockwell Interim Moderators of Congregation Selma-Adam Niess <i>Terre Haute- Jack Baumgardner</i> <i>Elkhart--Ian Wise</i> Provisional Elder Sparta--Josh Reshey Visitation Committees Second RP Shawn Anderson--Chair Fick Menbre Ken DeJong Belle Center Phillip McCollum-Chair Jeff Jones Eric Cosens Intercurch Liason Dick Knodel Synod Finance Jon Hughes Geneva Board of Corporators Class of '27-Phil Pockras	Selma Dissolution Adam Niess (Ch) David Leap Aaron Murray Sparta Dissolution Josh Smith (Ch) Josh Reshey Colin Elliot Covfamiko Conference <i>Director:</i> Ken Nelson <i>Treasurer:</i> Ross Cerbus <i>Advisory:</i> Schaefer, Eshelman, D. Hanson <i>Manager:</i> Yemi Aladejebi CYPU Board: Class of '29 Bryan Planalp Bruce Bowes Class of '27 Joy Whitt Class of '28 Jon Sturm - President Elsa Sturm CYPU Director/YMCS: Aaron Murray
Ad Interim Commission Colin Samul -Moderator Tim Vincze Jeff Brotherton Matt Stigert Jonathan Schaefer Candidates & Credentials Class of '27 Adam Niess (Ch) Jonathan Schaefer Ian Wise Class of '29 Joel Hart Rich Holdamen Adam Kuehner Scott Hunt HMB Rep Class of '27--Josh Smith Church Extension Nathan Eshelman Greg Fisher Colin Samul Rich Holdeman Finance Committee Class of '29-Ken Nelson Class of '27-Joel Hart-Chair Class of '28-Ross Cerbus	*Nominating Committee A. Murray, J. Jones, D. Filson	

The nominating committee slate was adopted.

Mr. Murray moved to instruct the AIC to find and appoint a Covfamiko camp director by August of 2026. Motion was seconded. Motion carries.

Point of Personal Privilege was requested by Mr. Murray. Mr. Murray commented on the mood of the court and gave thanks to God for the care and brotherly love for one another.

The court then moved into a concert of prayer: Mr. Van Sickle prayed for the work of Bloomington Church. Mr. Reshey prayed for the work of the Belle Center Church. Mr. Bob Koch prayed for the work of the Atlanta congregation, with special attention on Mrs. Penny Smith.

A motion to adjourn was moved, seconded, and carried. Rev. Adam Kuehner prayed the prayer of adjournment at 9:52pm. The concluded with the singing of Psalm 133A.

Moderator: Adam Kuehner

Clerk: Nathan Eshelman