

# Immanuel Reformed Presbyterian Church Congregational Meeting Minutes

September 30, 2022, 7:00 pm EDT  
2212 Yeager Road, West Lafayette IN

Chairman: Ben Larson; Secretary: David Carr

Chairman Ben Larson called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM.

The edict for the meeting was read.

Praise: Psalm 25A.

Prayer: Ben Larson.

Meditation on Psalm 25: Ken de Jong. Psalm has chiasmic structure of prayer, proclamation, and prayer. The central thought is verse 11.

Praise Psalm 25B

Opportunity was given for questions and answers about the reports of committees established at the annual meeting.

Quorum was declared to be present by the chair, based on attendance taken by the secretary.

The proposed agenda was discussed.

## Adoption of Agenda

Motion to reverse the order of agenda items 1 & 2 failed on vote by show of hands.

Motion passed to adopt the amended agenda.

## MOTION ONE

Incorporating friendly amendments to clarify the motions;

### **IRPC will employ Dan Perrin to serve in an interim pastor role.**

The following rationale and details support the motion.

Dan's primary function would be, but not limited to, the following:

1. Preach regularly at IRPC's worship service on Sunday AM.
2. Provide consistent shepherding to the IRPC congregation and give adequate attention to current synodical commission work with former session members.
3. Disciple the session in order to teach and train them how to lead.
4. Call for a day of prayer and fasting, approximately in November, with prior teaching to prepare.

Motion carried to add the following:

5. This position would not impede the pursuit of a full-time pastor.

Dan's ministry to IRPC is expected to consist of approximately 30 hours per week and would allow for him to commute from his home in Indianapolis to West Lafayette. The duration of Dan's ministry would last 6 months with an option to renew for another 6 months.

Session presented Motion One and answered clarifying questions.

The motion was discussed and point 5 was amended to the motion.

Motion One passed with a strong majority by show of hands.

Matt Wilburn prayed for the Dan Perrin and the implementation of Motion One.

The congregation had a time of prayer, at least 10 minutes, started by Josh Karshen and concluded by Ben Larson.

## MOTION TWO

**Immanuel Reformed Presbyterian Church will end its formal official affiliation with the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America effective upon the vote.**

1. IRPC will continue to strive for healthy working relationships through all current commissions.
2. IRPC will utilize recommendations and action steps laid out by the working groups.
3. IRPC will work toward the goal of peaceable closure with RPCNA.

Motion passed to add Points 4 and 5, below, to the motion.

4. We commit to uphold our ecclesiastical vows within the framework of this local congregation.
5. IRPC will continue to use the current RPCNA Constitution (2021) as our governing document so far as we are able.

Session presented Motion Two and answered clarifying questions.

The motion was discussed and points 4 & 5 were amended to the motion.

Matt Wilburn registered his disagreement with Motion Two. See Appendix below.

Ballots were distributed.

Prayer for the voting.

Ballots were marked, collected, and counted.

Praise: Psalms 25C and 108A were sung.

The balloting results on Motion Two:

Abstain	5
Yes	36
<u>No</u>	<u>8</u>
Total	49

Congregation prayed regarding the outcome of the voting, opened by Ken de Jong and concluded by Ben Larson.

Jon Held shared some encouraging words.

Adjournment at 10:42 PM.

Praise: Psalm 67C.

**APPENDIX. DISSENT TO MOTION TWO.**

My name is Matt Wilburn, ruling elder at IRPC since February of 2022. I would like to register my dissent to the motion above (i.e., Motion 2).

Although I do not disagree with leaving a denomination, such as the RPCNA, given the right, appropriate reasons and done with care, I do have significant concerns with the above motion. Below contain a few components of my concern:

1. Some important questions have been left unanswered or not given sufficient clarity:
  1. What are the specific reasons IRPC is leaving the RPCNA?
  2. Have those reasons been made available from the IRPC Session and been given adequate time to pray through?

3. What options are available regarding other denominations?
4. What is actually gained by leaving the denomination immediately?
2. As stated earlier, I don't mind leaving, however, with such a significant move, a careful, thoughtful way in how we move forward should be given. However, I do not think that level of clarity exists.
3. If there are concerns with the RPCNA, which I think there are significant areas which have not been adequately addressed, have we as both IRPC and IRPC Session worked to communicate and collaborate to identify change. Some effort has occurred, however, I think there is room for further discussion.
4. In a pursuit to function out of faith, IRPC has continually prayed asking for help the past 2 years. The LORD has answered in the giving of provisional elders and support/wisdom given by others who are related to IRPC members. It seems clear the LORD has once again provided help in Dan Perrin to bring shepherding and care to a congregation which has lacked it.
5. Furthermore, Motion 2 was provided to the congregation on Friday (9/30) at 7:04 PM EST electronically, which was significantly different than Motion 2 provided earlier in the week on 9/28. Is this adequate time for congregants to read and pray through such a significant decision? I think not, which lands in my concern in #2 above.

Lastly, in an attempt to communicate in a concise fashion, it is near impossible to provide an all-encompassing explanation of such a substantial situation. Therefore, if there are any questions or clarity needed, please feel free to reach out to me directly to discuss.