

# The Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery (RPCNA)

Official Mtg. Minutes — Distr. 3/18/21

## **CLERK**

Adam Kuehner  
26580 Evergreen Rd.  
Southfield, MI 48076  
ak@streetsermon.org  
(248)497-9187

## **ASST. CLERK**

Dale Koons  
7529 Sauterne Cour  
Indianapolis, IN 46278  
dlkoons49@gmail.com  
(317)228-9522

## **2021 ANNUAL SPRING MEETING**

**Time:** Thursday March 4 @ 2pm to Saturday March 6 @ Noon

**Place:** Sycamore Reformed Presbyterian Church  
300 E. Mulberry St. Kokomo, IN 46517

**Phone:** (765) 854-0850

The Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery met for its annual spring meeting at the Sycamore RPC in Kokomo, Indiana on March 4, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.

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### **PRESBYTERY BUSINESS SESSION #1** *Thursday 2:00 - 5:30 p.m.*

#### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

The interim moderator, Wade Mann, called the presbytery to order at 2:01 p.m., at which time the court sang Psalm 48C to the praise of God and Mr. Mann constituted the court in prayer at 2:05 p.m.

#### **2. DEVOTIONAL ADDRESS**

Tre Cranford, a student under care, was invited forward to bring the introductory devotional address, after which he read from 1 Corinthians 15:33-34 and preached from the text on the need to safeguard Biblical doctrine and practice.<sup>1</sup> The court responded to God's word by singing Psalm 119H to the praise of God.

#### **3. ATTENDANCE**

The assistant clerk, Dale Koons, called the attendance roll and confirmed that a quorum was present.

#### **4. ZOOM PARTICIPATION POLICY<sup>2</sup>**

It was moved and seconded that presbytery ratify the decision of the Ad Interim Commission on 1/21/21 "to allow only those certified delegates with specific COVID-19 or other medical excuses to vote via video conferencing." This motion was discussed and passed, thereby ratifying and adopting the AIC's Zoom Participation Policy for this meeting.

- It was moved, seconded and passed by a vote of 23-14 that presbytery permit the votes of Zoom participants to count in division votes and roll call votes, but not in voice votes.

#### **5. FORMAL INTRODUCTIONS**

Members of the court introduced first-time delegates, after which Jerry O'Neill and Ed Blackwood introduced themselves as fellow RP elders from the Alleghenies presbytery.

#### **6. CLERK'S REPORT**

Adam Kuehner presented the clerk's report, bringing its list of recommendations before the court.

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<sup>1</sup> As noted below, with the subsequent approval of the C&CC exam recommendations, this address constituted Mr. Cranford's Expository Sermon 1 exam and was unanimously sustained by the court.

<sup>2</sup> AIC Minutes (1/21/21): "There was discussion regarding how to allow participation via Zoom conferencing. It was moved, seconded and passed to allow only those certified delegates with specific COVID-19 or other medical excuses to vote via video conferencing. This decision would need to be ratified at the start of the actual meeting of presbytery on March 4."

**Recommendation 1**<sup>3</sup> was discussed on the floor and adopted.

**Recommendation 2**<sup>4</sup> was adopted.

**Recommendation 3**<sup>5</sup> was adopted.

**Recommendation 4**<sup>6</sup> was divided into two distinct recommendations.

**Recommendation 4A**<sup>7</sup> was adopted.

**Recommendation 4B**<sup>8</sup> was taken up.

- It was moved and seconded to lay **Rec. 4B** on the table to refer it to the Spring 2022 meeting. This motion failed to receive the required two-thirds majority in a vote of 21-19.
- **Recommendation 4B** was adopted.

**Recommendation 5**<sup>9</sup> was adopted.

**Recommendation 6**<sup>10</sup> was adopted.

**Recommendation 7**<sup>11</sup> was discussed and failed, after which James Faris protested this action, per DCG 8.11 (D-40).

**Recommendation 8**<sup>12</sup> was amended so as to add the phrase “as amended to include a business item for the disposition of GLG 21-3”, after which it was adopted.<sup>13</sup>

**Recommendation 9**<sup>14</sup> was adopted.

**Recommendation 10**<sup>15</sup> was adopted.

**Recommendation 11**<sup>16</sup> was adopted.

It was moved, seconded, and passed to receive the clerk’s report.

## 7. OFFICER ELECTIONS

Frank Smith was nominated to serve as moderator; after which it was moved, seconded, and passed to close nominations, thereby adopting the appointment.

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<sup>3</sup> Recommendation 1: That presbytery appoint Jon Hughes and Steve Rhoda as parliamentarians for this meeting, with Keith Evans, Jason O’Neill, and James Odom serving as alternates.

<sup>4</sup> Recommendation 2: That presbytery instruct the nominating committee to determine the congregations to be visited this year.

<sup>5</sup> Recommendation 3: That presbytery refer the clerk’s proposed revision of the 10/23/20 minutes to the judicial committee (of the day) to report back with a recommendation later in the meeting.

<sup>6</sup> Recommendation 4: That presbytery refer GLG 19-5 and GLG 21-1 to the judicial committee (of the day) to report back with recommendations later in the meeting.

<sup>7</sup> Recommendation 4A: That presbytery refer GLG 19-5 to the judicial committee (of the day) to report back with recommendations later in the meeting.

<sup>8</sup> Recommendation 4B: That presbytery refer GLG 21-1 to the judicial committee (of the day) to report back with recommendations later in the meeting.

<sup>9</sup> Recommendation 5: That presbytery defer any consideration of GLG 20-12 until all relevant complaints have been adjudicated by the synod.

<sup>10</sup> Recommendation 6: That presbytery refer GLG 20-13 to the Southern Church Extension Committee (SOCHEX) to bring their perspective and recommendation later in the meeting during their oral report.

<sup>11</sup> Recommendation 7: That presbytery forward GLG 21-3 to synod without endorsement to be considered along with the other complaints related to the case.

<sup>12</sup> Recommendation 8 (original): That presbytery adopt the proposed agenda for this meeting.

<sup>13</sup> Recommendation 8 (as amended and adopted): That presbytery adopt the proposed agenda for this meeting as amended to include a business item for the disposition of GLG 21-3.

<sup>14</sup> Recommendation 9: That presbytery receive all written congregational reports without hearing oral reports, and refer Recommendation 1 from the Westminster RPC report and Recommendation 1 from the Selma RPC report to the nominating committee.

<sup>15</sup> Recommendation 10: That presbytery approve the following committee reports and commission minutes as submitted, without hearing oral reports: (A) Inter-Church Liaison Report, (B) Visitation Reports — Second RP, Sparta (C) Youth Ministries Committee of Synod Report (D) Covfamiko Report, (E) Geneva College Board of Corporators Report, (F) Minutes of Commission to Conduct Student Exams — 8/25/20 (G) Minutes of Andrew B. Installation Commission — 1/8/21, (H) Minutes of Sparta Installation Commission — 1/15/21.

<sup>16</sup> Recommendation 11: That presbytery grant all RPCNA elders present, including all non-certified delegates from this presbytery, the privilege of the floor during the remainder of this meeting.

- Adam Kuehner was nominated to continue as clerk, after which the appointment was adopted.
- Dale Koons was nominated to continue as assistant clerk, after which the appointment was adopted.

## 8. RULING/TEACHING ELDER MEMORIALS

Jon Hughes presented a memorial for Elder Emeritus Dr. Bruce Adams of the Southfield congregation, who passed into glory on March 30, 2020, after which James Faris led the court in a prayer of thanksgiving for the life and ministry of Dr. Adams. The memorial was received by common consent, and is available in the appendix to the minutes.

## 9. AD INTERIM COMMISSION REPORT

Kent Butterfield presented the Ad Interim Commission Report and brought **Recommendation 1**<sup>17</sup> before the court.

- By common consent, **Rec. 1** was modified as follows: **“That the nominating committee in the future consider nominating men from all different sessions for the Ad Interim Commission”**, after which the modified recommendation was adopted.

It was moved and seconded that presbytery rescind the following actions of the Ad Interim Commission: **Item 6** (the decisions regarding requests **#1** and **#2**) and **Item 7** of the October 2, 2020 minutes and **Item 4** of the October 12, 2020 minutes. The motion was divided into four parts, as specified below.

- It was moved and seconded to refer the approval of the AIC minutes to the judicial committee of the day. This motion failed, thereby bringing the four-part rescindment motion once again before the court.

**PART ONE**<sup>18</sup> of the motion to rescind was discussed and failed.

**PART TWO**<sup>19</sup> of the motion to rescind failed.

**PART THREE**<sup>20</sup> of the motion to rescind failed.

**PART FOUR**<sup>21</sup> of the motion to rescind failed.

It was moved, seconded, and passed to approve the Ad Interim Commission report, thereby spreading its minutes on the minutes of presbytery.

## 10. TREASURER'S REPORT

Keith Magill presented the treasurer's report, which was approved by common consent.

## 11. SHEPHERDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Wade Mann took the moderator's chair temporarily, as Frank Smith presented the shepherding committee report, after which **Recommendation 1**<sup>22</sup> and **Recommendation 2**<sup>23</sup> passed (thereby approving the report), and Mr. Smith resumed the chair.

## 12. CANDIDATES AND CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT

Adam Niess presented the Candidates and Credentials Committee report and answered questions from the floor, after which Wade Mann took the chair in order to permit Frank Smith to make a motion.

### **MOTION TO CONDUCT CERTAIN EXAMS BY COMMISSION (Adopted)**

It was moved and seconded that for the conducting of church history exams, personal godliness exams, and preaching exams, presbytery be split into two commissions with the details to be worked out by the C&CC. This motion was discussed and adopted.

- Mr. Smith resumed the chair, after which the court took up the report's recommendations.

**Recommendation 1**<sup>24</sup> was adopted.

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<sup>17</sup> That the nominating committee in the future nominate men from different sessions for the Ad Interim Commission.

<sup>18</sup> That presbytery rescind Item 6 (the decision regarding request #1) of the October 2, 2020 Ad Interim Commission minutes.

<sup>19</sup> That presbytery rescind Item 6 (the decision regarding request #2) of the October 2, 2020 Ad Interim Commission minutes.

<sup>20</sup> That presbytery rescind Item 7 of the October 2, 2020 Ad Interim Commission minutes.

<sup>21</sup> That presbytery rescind Item 4 of the October 12, 2020 AIC minutes.

<sup>22</sup> That Nathan Ecarma be transferred to Wayside Presbyterian Church (PCA), Signal Mountain, Tennessee.

<sup>23</sup> That this report be approved.

<sup>24</sup> That student exams be conducted according to the schedule outlined below. [That is, in the C&CC report.]

**Recommendation 2**<sup>25</sup> was referred to the nominating committee.

**Recommendation 3**<sup>26</sup> was referred to the nominating committee.

**Recommendation 4**<sup>27</sup> was adopted.

**EXPOSITORY SERMON 1 EXAM — Tre Cranford (UNANIMOUSLY SUSTAINED)**

Comments were received from the floor regarding Tre Cranford's Expository Sermon 1 exam,<sup>28</sup> after which the exam was unanimously sustained by a roll call vote with several abstentions by those who were not present for the entire sermon.

**13. LOUISVILLE COMMISSION REPORT**

David Hanson presented the Louisville Commission report, after which **Recommendation 1** was referred to the nominating committee, and it was moved, seconded, and passed to approve the report.

**14. HOME MISSION BOARD REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

Jason Camery presented the Home Mission Board Representative report, after which it was moved, seconded, and passed to approve the report.

**15. ATLANTA TGB REPORT**

Wade Mann took the chair in order to permit Frank Smith to present the report of the Atlanta Temporary Governing Body (TGB) and bring its recommendations before the court.

**Recommendation 1**<sup>29</sup> was adopted.

**Recommendation 2**<sup>30</sup> was referred to the finance committee.

**Recommendation 3**<sup>31</sup> was referred to the finance committee.

**Recommendation 4**<sup>32</sup> was referred to the nominating committee.

It was moved, seconded, and passed to approve the report, after which Mr. Smith resumed the moderator's chair.

**16. RECESS FOR DINNER**

Shawn Anderson addressed the court on behalf of the host congregation regarding various matters of food and hospitality, after which Ross Fearing recessed the court in prayer at 5:31 p.m.

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**PRESBYTERY BUSINESS SESSION #2** *Thursday 6:45 - 9:00 p.m.*

**17. CALL TO ORDER**

The moderator called the court to order with the signing of Psalm 67C, after which Jerry O'Neill constituted the court in prayer at 6:53pm and Shawn Anderson offered a point of personal privilege regarding the Wi-Fi.

**18. ATTENDANCE**

By common consent, it was adopted that presbytery authorize the assistant clerk to take attendance visually in this and all remaining business sessions.

- Dale Koons took attendance visually and confirmed that a quorum was present.

**19. READING OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Adam Kuehner read the minutes from the previous business session, after which it was moved, seconded, and passed to approve the minutes as amended.

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<sup>25</sup> That Adam Niess and Jonathon Schaefer be nominated to continue serving on the committee.

<sup>26</sup> That Ian Wise be nominated to serve on the committee.

<sup>27</sup> That Drew Poplin and Trevor Pattillo be given ten minutes to share their testimony with presbytery and be received as students under care.

<sup>28</sup> See Footnote #1 above.

<sup>29</sup> That the minutes of the Atlanta Commission be approved and spread on the minutes of Presbytery.

<sup>30</sup> That Presbytery grant \$2,000.00 for the work of Atlanta RPC for 2021.

<sup>31</sup> That Presbytery provide \$2,000.00 for the expenses of the Atlanta Commission.

<sup>32</sup> That the membership of the Atlanta Commission consist of the current members plus Elder T.J. Pattillo.

## 20. GUIDELINES FOR HOST CONGREGATIONS COMMITTEE

Wade Mann presented the report of the Guidelines for Host Congregations Committee, along with its recommendations.

**Recommendation 1A**<sup>33</sup> was adopted.

**Recommendation 1B**<sup>34</sup> was adopted.

**Recommendation 2**<sup>35</sup> was withdrawn.

**Recommendation 3**<sup>36</sup> was adopted.

**Recommendation 4**<sup>37</sup> was adopted, thereby dismissing the committee with thanks for its service.

The report was approved by common consent.

## 21. MODERATOR APPOINTMENTS

The moderator announced his appointments for the Session/TGB minute book review process, which are as follows.

**Atlanta:** Koons

**Belle Center:** O'Neill, Butterfield

**Bloomington:** Work, Poplin

**Christ Church:** Mann, Scott

**Columbus:** Morton, DeRosa

**Durham:** Larson, Niess

**Elkhart:** Magill, Holdeman

**Grand Rapids:** Blackwood, Nelson

**Hetherton:** Nelson, Bibby

**Immanuel:** Schaefer, Faris

**Lafayette:** Camery, J. Hart

**Marion:** Blankenship, Woodson

**Orlando:** F. Smith, Vincze

**Second RP:** Brown, Hughes

**Southfield:** Cavanaugh, Knodel

**Southside:** Rhoda, Dinkledine

**SWORP:** Anderson, Odom

**Sparta:** Evans, Reshey

**Sycamore:** A.B., Fearing

**Terre Haute:** Vincze, Whitla

**Westminster:** N/A

**Judicial Committee (of the Day):**<sup>38</sup> David Whitla, Jon Hughes, Jason O'Neill

**Nominating Committee:** Ian Wise, Tom Dinkledine, James Odom

## 22. CANDIDATES AND CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT

Adam Niess resumed his presentation of the C&CC report, distributing a revised exam schedule to the court which was adopted by common consent.

- Mr. Niess explained that Student Exam Commission 1 will consist in delegates whose surnames begin with A-M, whereas Student Exam Commission 2 will consist in delegates whose surnames begin with N-Z.
- The moderator appointed Wade Mann moderator of Student Exam Commission 1. Dale Koons will serve as clerk of Student Exam Commission 1 and Adam Kuehner will serve as clerk of Student Exam Commission 2.

### INTERVIEW TO RECEIVE UNDER CARE — Drew Poplin (RECEIVED)

Drew Poplin came forward and shared his testimony of personal faith and calling, after which he answered a question from the floor and was received as a student under care by voice vote.

### CHURCH HISTORY PAPER — Joe Smith (SUSTAINED)

Kent Butterfield presented the report of the committee to review Joe Smith's church history paper (Butterfield, Stockwell), after which the paper was sustained by voice vote.

### CHURCH HISTORY PAPER — Allen Blackwood (SUSTAINED)

Jon Hughes presented the report of the committee to review Allen Blackwood's church history paper (Smith, Hughes), after which the recommendation not to sustain the paper failed by a division vote of 9-20.

- It was moved, seconded, and passed to sustain the paper.

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<sup>33</sup> Recommendation 1A: That presbytery increase the amount budgeted for offsetting expenses to host congregations.

<sup>34</sup> Recommendation 1B: That presbytery authorize host congregations to collect a modest registration fee for delegates attending the meeting to be paid by the delegate's home congregation.

<sup>35</sup> Recommendation 2: That presbytery continue to minimize the cost to delegates and presbytery by asking larger host congregations to bear most of the expense for hosting the meetings.

<sup>36</sup> Recommendation 3: That the basic hosting requirements and expectations be communicated to potential host congregations when they are asked to serve as hosts.

<sup>37</sup> Recommendation 4: That this committee be dismissed.

<sup>38</sup> By request of the moderator, this committee was appointed by the previous interim moderator, Wade Mann, due to the current moderator's vested interest in GLG 21-1, which was referred to the committee earlier in the meeting.

**EXEGESIS PAPER — Mark Brown (SUSTAINED)**

Joel Hart presented the report of the committee to review Mark Brown's exegesis paper (Hart, Mann), after which the recommendation to sustain the paper was adopted by voice vote.

**BIBLE EXAMS — Joe Smith, Allen Blackwood (SUSTAINED)**

Adam Niess reported on the Bible Exam results for Joe Smith, who passed with distinction, and Allen Blackwood, who also passed. Joe Smith's exam was sustained by voice vote, after which Allen Blackwood's exam was also sustained by voice vote.

It was moved, seconded, and passed to amend a previous motion in order to conduct *all* of the student exams at this meeting (not merely church history, personal godliness, and preaching) by way of dual commissions.

**23. ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved, seconded, and passed to recess the presbytery in order for the dual commissions to conduct student exams.

- Craig Scott adjourned the court in prayer at 8:05 p.m.

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**GLGP STUDENT EXAM COMMISSION 1 — Official Minutes**

**FIRST SESSION — Thursday March 4, 2021 from 8:15 to 10:15 p.m.**

Mr. Wade Mann called Commission 1 to order, after which the court sang Psalm 77A to the praise of God. Mr. Mann then constituted the court in prayer at 8:15 p.m. March 4, after which he appointed Dale Koons to serve as the clerk.

**PREACHING EXAM — Bryan Dage (SUSTAINED)**

Mr. Mann called upon Bryan Dage for his Preaching Exam. Mr. Dage called upon God's name in prayer, read Ezra 3:10-13, preached on the steadfast love of the Lord, called upon God's name in prayer again. The exam was sustained by a roll call vote.

**THEOLOGY 1 EXAM — Joe Smith (UNANIMOUSLY SUSTAINED)**

Mr. Joel Hart conducted Joe Smith's Theological 1 exam, asking questions and receiving answers, after which Mr. Smith answered questions from the floor. The exam was discussed on the floor, and the exam was unanimously sustained by a roll call vote.

**PERSONAL GODLINESS EXAM — Drew Poplin (SUSTAINED)**

Mr. Ray Morton conducted Drew Poplin's Personal Godliness exam, asking questions and receiving answers, after which Mr. Poplin answered questions from the floor; the exam was discussed on the floor, and the exam was sustained by a roll call vote.

**CHURCH HISTORY EXAM — Mark Brown (NOT SUSTAINED)**

Mr. David Whitla conducted Mark Brown's Church History exam, asking questions and receiving answers, after which Mr. Brown answered questions from the floor; the exam was discussed on the floor, and the exam was not sustained by a roll call vote of 14-11, failing to achieve a two-thirds majority.

Mr. Robert Bibby recessed the commission in prayer at 10:15 p.m.

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**GLGP STUDENT EXAM COMMISSION 2 — Official Minutes**

**FIRST SESSION — Thursday March 5, 2021 from 8:14 to 10:23 p.m.**

Frank Smith called Commission 2 to order and constituted the court in prayer at 8:14. p.m., after which he appointed Adam Kuehner to serve as the clerk.

**PASTORAL & EVANGELISTIC GIFTS EXAM — Mark Brown (UNANIMOUSLY SUSTAINED)**

Rich Holdeman conducted Mark Brown's Pastoral and Evangelistic Gifts exam, asking questions and receiving answers, after which Mr. Brown answered questions from the floor; the exam was discussed on the floor, and the exam was unanimously sustained by a roll call vote.

**THEOLOGY 1 EXAM — AARON MURRAY (SUSTAINED)**

David Whitla conducted Aaron Murray's Theology 1 exam, asking questions and receiving answers, after which Mr. Murray answered questions from the floor; the exam was discussed on the floor, and the exam was sustained 10-4 by a roll call vote.

**THEOLOGY 1 EXAM — Allen Blackwood (NOT SUSTAINED)**

Keith Evans conducted Allen Blackwood's Theology 1 exam, asking questions and receiving answers, after which Mr. Blackwood answered questions from the floor; the exam was discussed on the floor, and the exam was not sustained by a roll call vote of 7-7.

**PERSONAL GODLINESS EXAM — Bryan Dage (UNANIMOUSLY SUSTAINED)**

Craig Scott conducted Bryan Dage's Personal Godliness exam, asking questions and receiving answers, after which Mr. Dage answered questions from the floor, the exam was discussed on the floor, and the exam was unanimously sustained by roll call vote.

Adam Kuehner read the commission minutes, after which it was moved, seconded, and passed to approve them as read, and Steve Rhoda recessed the commission in prayer at 10:23 p.m.

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**PRESBYTERY BUSINESS SESSION #3** *Friday 8:30 - 12:30 p.m.*

**24. CALL TO ORDER**

The moderator called the court to order, after which Averette Woodson constituted the court in prayer at 8:45 a.m.

**25. ATTENDANCE**

Dale Koons took attendance visually and confirmed that a quorum was present.

**26. READING OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Adam Kuehner read the minutes from the previous business session, after which the minutes were approved as read by common consent.

**27. MODERATOR APPOINTMENTS**

The moderator announced several appointments, which are as follows.

**Finance Committee:** Keith Magill, Richard Blankenship, Joel Hart

**Resolution of Thanks Committee:** Dick Knodel, Drew Poplin

**Time and Place Committee:** Jonathan Schaefer, Timothy Vincze

**28. CANDIDATES & CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT**

Adam Niess resumed his presentation of the C&CC report.

- By common consent, the following delegates were voluntarily transferred from Commission 1 to Commission 2: Joel Hart, Kent Butterfield, Ross Fearing, Zachary Blackwood.

**29. RECESS FOR STUDENT EXAM COMMISSIONS**

By common consent, it was determined to recess the court, so that Commissions 1 and 2 can convene to conduct the exams outlined in the updated exam schedule (See Minutes from Session 2 above).

- Shawn Anderson spoke on behalf of the host congregation regarding food and hospitality, and the court was recessed in prayer at 9:00 a.m. (See Minutes from Session 2 above)
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**GLGP STUDENT EXAM COMMISSION 1 — Official Minutes**

**SECOND SESSION — Friday March 5, 2021 from 8:55 to 11:45 a.m.**

The moderator called Commission 1 to order, after which Mr. Keith Magill constituted the court in prayer at 8:55 a.m. March 5.

**EXPOSITORY SERMON 2 EXAM — Mark Brown (UNANIMOUSLY SUSTAINED)**

Mark Brown came forward for his Expository 2 preaching exam. Mr. Brown called upon God's name in prayer, read Matthew 6:24-34, preached on God's promises to sustain us and provide for our needs today, then called upon God's name in prayer again, after which the court sang Psalm 28A to the praise of God, and the exam was unanimously sustained by a roll call vote.

**THEOLOGY & DISTINCTIVES EXAM — Bryan Dage (UNANIMOUSLY SUSTAINED)**

Mr. Steve Rhoda conducted Bryan Dage's Theology and Distinctives exam, asking questions and receiving answers, after which Mr. Dage answered questions from the floor, the exam was discussed on the floor, and the exam was sustained by unanimously sustained by a roll call vote.

The moderator recessed the court for a 15-minute break at 10:15 a.m. and Mr. Andrew B. reconvened the court in prayer at 10:30 a.m.

**EXPOSITORY SERMON 1 EXAM — Aaron Murray (UNANIMOUSLY SUSTAINED)**

Aaron Murray came forward for his Expository 1 preaching exam, read Psalm 130, called upon God's name in prayer, preached from the text on David's dependence on God, and called upon God's name in prayer again, after which the court sang Psalm 130A to the praise of God, and the exam was unanimously sustained by a roll call vote.

**PERSONAL GODLINESS EXAM — Jonathan Sturm (UNANIMOUSLY SUSTAINED)**

Mr. Philip McCollum conducted by Zoom Jonathan Sturm's Personal Godliness exam, asking questions and receiving answers, after which Mr. Sturm answered questions from the floor, the exam was discussed on the floor, and the exam was unanimously sustained by a roll call vote.

The moderator called upon Mr. Wes Archer to adjourn the court in prayer at 11:45 a.m.

**THIRD SESSION — Saturday March 6, 2021 from 8:15 to 8:20 a.m.**

The moderator called Commission 1 to order, after which the court was constituted in prayer at 8:15 a.m. March 6.

Mr. Koons read the minutes for the March 4, March 5 and March 6 meetings of the Commission, after which it was moved, seconded, and all minutes were approved as read. The court was adjourned in prayer at 8:20 am.

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**GLG STUDENT EXAM COMMISSION 2 — Official Minutes**

**SECOND SESSION — Friday March 5, 2021 from 9:07 to 11:55 a.m.**

The moderator called Commission 2 to order, after which Steven Work constituted the court in prayer at 9:07 a.m.

**EXPOSITORY SERMON 1 EXAM — Drew Poplin (UNANIMOUSLY SUSTAINED)**

Drew Poplin came forward for his Expository Sermon 1 exam, after which the court sang Psalm 60A to the praise of God. Mr. Poplin called upon God's name in prayer, read 1 Samuel 4:10-15, preached from verse 13 on Eli trembling for the ark of God as an example for elders today, and called upon God's name in prayer again, after which the court sang Psalm 125 to the praise of God, and the exam was unanimously sustained by a roll call vote.

- By common consent, the court took a brief break at 9:45am, and reconvened at 9:52am.

**EXPOSITORY SERMON 1 EXAM — Allen Blackwood (UNANIMOUSLY SUSTAINED)**

Allen Blackwood came forward for his Expository 1 preaching exam, read Psalm 142, called upon God's name in prayer, preached from the text on David's pathetic cry to God in the cave, and called upon God's name in prayer again, after which the court sang Psalm 142 to the praise of God, and the exam was unanimously sustained by a roll call vote.

**THEOLOGY 2 EXAM — Mark Brown (NOT SUSTAINED)**

James Faris conducted Mark Brown's Theology 2 exam, asking questions and receiving answers, after which Mr. Brown answered questions from the floor, the exam was discussed on the floor, and the exam was not sustained by a roll call vote of 7-8.

**EXPOSITORY SERMON 1 EXAM — Joe Smith (UNANIMOUSLY SUSTAINED)**

Joe Smith came forward for his Expository Sermon 1 exam, called upon God's name in prayer, read Acts 12:1-24, and preached from the text on Death, Deliverance, and Destiny, after which the court sang Psalm 110D to the praise of God, and the exam was unanimously sustained by a roll call vote.

By common consent, the moderator and clerk were authorized to approve the commission minutes on behalf of the commission [which they did subsequently].

By common consent, it was moved to adjourn the commission, and the moderator adjourned the court in prayer at 11:55 a.m.

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**30. PRESBYTERY BUSINESS SESSION #3 RECONVENED**

The moderator called the court to order, after which the court sang Psalm 5C to the praise of God and the moderator reconvened the court in prayer at 12:10 p.m. and issued the last call for papers.

**31. APPROVAL OF AD INTERIM COMMISSION MINUTES**

By common consent, the court approved the Ad Interim Commission minutes from the earlier portion of 2020, when the AIC had consisted of the Immanuel RPC Session and Greg Fisher. These minutes had been previously distributed via the delegates list, but had not been included in the minutes approved earlier in the meeting during the Ad Interim Commission Report.

**32. SOUTHERN CHURCH EXT. COMMITTEE (SOCHEX) REPORT**

Kent Butterfield presented an oral report of the Southern Church Extension Committee, bringing its recommendation in response to GLG 21-1: "That presbytery politely decline the request of Alleghenies Presbytery."

- The recommendation was discussed, after which the time was extended three minutes by common consent, and the recommendation was adopted.

**33. MINUTE BOOK REVIEW**

Dale Koons addressed the court regarding the minute book review process.

**34. RECESS FOR LUNCH**



Bob Bibby recessed the court in prayer and gave thanks for the meal at 12:38 p.m.

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**PRESBYTERY BUSINESS SESSION #4** *Friday 1:45 - 5:30 p.m*

**35. CALL TO ORDER**

The moderator called the court to order with the singing of Psalm 38B, after which David Hanson reconstituted the court in prayer at 1:55pm.

**36. ATTENDANCE**

Dale Koons took attendance visually and confirmed that a quorum was present.

**37. READING OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Adam Kuehner read the minutes, after which they were approved as amended by common consent.

**38. MOTION TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION**

It was moved and seconded that presbytery enter executive session including all GLG elders (including non-delegates) and those who signed the petition for the formation of the judicial commission plus one additional victim.

- It was moved, seconded, and passed to amend the motion by replacing the word “victim” with the phrase “interested party”. The motion was adopted as amended, thereby bringing the court into executive session at 2:18 p.m.
- By common consent, an ordained deacon from the host congregation was permitted to remain in the room for executive session in order to manage the audio and video feeds.

**PRESBYTERY ENTERS EXECUTIVE SESSION (2:18 p.m.)**

**39. IMMANUEL ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT**

Adam Niess presented the Immanuel Advisory Committee Report, after which, by common consent, the report was approved and the committee dismissed with thanks.

**40. IMMANUEL JUDICIAL COMMISSION REPORT**

Jason Camery and Shawn Anderson presented the Immanuel Judicial Commission Report, after which **Recommendation 1**<sup>39</sup> and **Recommendation 2**<sup>40</sup> were adopted.

- Mr. Camery and Mr. Anderson addressed the court and answered questions from the floor, after which a break was taken from 3:06 to 3:16 p.m.
- After the break, the commission resumed its presentation, addressing further questions from the floor, after which the court took another break from 4:34 to 4:48 p.m.

After the second break, members of the IRPC session addressed the court.

- Jared Olivetti addressed the court for nine minutes.
- Ben Larson addressed the court for five minutes.
- David Carr addressed the court for seven minutes.
- Nate Pfeiffer addressed the court for seven minutes.
- Zachary Blackwood addressed the court for seven minutes.
- Keith Magill addressed the court for 13 minutes.

**41. MOTION TO LEAVE EXECUTIVE SESSION**

It was moved, seconded, and passed to leave executive session at 5:48 p.m.

**PRESBYTERY LEAVES EXECUTIVE SESSION (5:48 p.m.)**

By common consent, the Immanuel Judicial Commission was made the immediate order of the day following the CYPUR report, which reports immediately following the reading of the minutes subsequent to the dinner break.

**42. RECESS FOR DINNER**

Rich Johnston called upon God’s name in prayer, giving thanks for the meal and recessing the court for dinner at 5:53 p.m.

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<sup>39</sup> That this report be given in executive session.

<sup>40</sup> That the petitioners be permitted to remain present while in executive session.

**PRESBYTERY BUSINESS SESSION #5** *Friday 6:45 - 9:00 p.m.*

**43. CALL TO ORDER**

The moderator called the meeting to order and gave instructions regarding the review of minute books and the convening of Student Exam Commission 1 on Saturday morning, after which Drew Poplin reconvened the court in prayer at 7:07 p.m., and the court sang Psalm 144B to the praise of God.

**44. ROLL CALL / VISUAL**

Dale Koons took attendance visually and confirmed that a quorum was present.

**45. READING OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

By common consent, the reading of the previous minutes was postponed until the end of the business session.

**46. PRESBYTERY YOUTH REPORT — C.Y.P.U.**

By common consent, members of the C.Y.P.U. leadership team were granted privileges of the floor during the Presbytery Youth Report, after which they presented their report, and received a round of applause in gratitude from the court.

- By common consent, the report was received with thanks.

**47. MOTION TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION**

It was moved, seconded, and passed to enter executive session according to the same terms of admission adopted in the previous business session, thereby bringing the court into executive session at 7:32 p.m.

**PRESBYTERY ENTERS EXECUTIVE SESSION (7:32 p.m.)**

**48. IMMANUEL JUDICIAL COMMISSION REPORT**

The Immanuel Judicial Commission concluded its report, answered questions from the floor, and proceeded to recommendations.

It was moved and seconded by a member of the judicial commission to appoint Shawn Anderson, Jason Camery, and Josh Reshey as special prosecutors to process charges against Jared Olivetti. This motion was discussed.

It was moved, seconded and passed (24-12) to refer the matter back to the Commission to report back tomorrow morning.

**49. MOTION TO LEAVE EXECUTIVE SESSION**

It was moved, seconded, and passed to leave executive session at 8:48 p.m.

**PRESBYTERY LEAVES EXECUTIVE SESSION (8:48 p.m.)**

**50. CANDIDATES & CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE**

Adam Niess resumed his presentation of the Candidates and Credentials Report.

**RECEPTION OF MINISTERIAL CREDENTIALS — Bryan Dage (UNANIMOUSLY SUSTAINED)**

The reception of Bryan Dage's ministerial credentials from the Orthodox Presbyterian Church was unanimously sustained by a roll call vote. Mr. Dage had left for the evening and was not present for the vote.

**POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE**

Ed Blackwood raised a point of personal privilege, sharing that it would have been far better for the court to have delayed the reception of Mr. Dage's credentials until Mr. Dage was present to observe it.

**LICENSURE TO PREACH — Joe Smith (UNANIMOUSLY SUSTAINED)**

Joe Smith's licensure to preach was unanimously sustained by a roll call vote, after which he affirmed the vows of licensure, signed the queries, and received a charge from David Hanson.

**51. READING OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Mr. Kuehner read the previous minutes, which were approved as read by common consent.

**52. ADJOURNMENT**

The court sang Psalm 107I to the praise of God, after which Timothy Vincze adjourned the meeting in prayer at 9:20 p.m.

## **PRESBYTERY BUSINESS SESSION #6** *Saturday 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.*

### **53. CALL TO ORDER**

The moderator called the meeting to order, after which Adam Niess reconvened the court in prayer at 8:45 a.m., and the court sang Psalm 74B to the praise of God.

### **54. ATTENDANCE**

Dale Koons took attendance visually and confirmed that a quorum was present.

### **55. CANDIDATES & CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE**

Adam Niess resumed his presentation of the Candidates and Credentials Report.

### **EVIDENCE OF PROGRESS SERMON EXAM — Jonathan Sturm (UNANIMOUSLY SUSTAINED)**

Jonathan Sturm came forward for his Evidence of Progress sermon exam, read Matthew 6:5-13, called upon God's name in prayer, preached from the text on the first three petitions of the Lord's Prayer, and again called upon God's name in prayer, after which the court sang Psalm 103D to the praise of God, discussed the sermon on the floor, and the exam was unanimously sustained by a roll call vote.

### **CEREMONIAL RECEPTION OF MINISTERIAL CREDENTIALS — Bryan Dage**

Bryan Dage came forward, after which Dale Koons called the roll and each delegate stood up in recognition of the court's unanimous reception of his ministerial credentials the previous evening.

### **REPORT AS A WHOLE**

Adam Niess informed the court that T.J. Pattillo's care status interview via Zoom had to be postponed due to time constraints.

- It was moved, seconded, and passed to approve the C&CC report as a whole.<sup>41</sup>

### **56. STUDENT EXAM COMMISSION MINUTES**

By common consent, the minutes of Student Exam Commission 1 and Student Exam Commission 2 (Inserted Above) were approved and spread on the minutes of presbytery.

### **57. MOTION TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION**

By common consent, the court entered executive session at 9:34 a.m. according to the same terms of admission used in the previous business sessions.

### **PRESBYTERY ENTERS EXECUTIVE SESSION (9:34 a.m.)**

### **58. IMMANUEL JUDICIAL COMMISSION REPORT**

The Immanuel Judicial Commission<sup>42</sup> resumed its report, after which it was moved, seconded, and passed to permit a victim family to address the court, and they did so.

The commission resumed its report and distributed their recommendations to the delegates.

- The moderator ruled that the court will proceed to consider and discuss the recommendations and not hear comments on the report at this time. Upon challenge, the chair was sustained.
- The commission proceeded to present the recommendations, starting with Recommendation 1.
- It was moved and seconded that presbytery leave executive session to consider the recommendations. This motion was discussed and withdrawn.
- By common consent, delegates were permitted to voice their response to the commission's oral presentation in executive session prior to the consideration of the recommendations, and they did so.
- The court took a break from 10:24 to 10:40 a.m., after which Psalm 119E was sung to the praise of God.
- Further responses to the commission's presentations were heard on the floor in executive session, after which, by common consent, the court moved to consider the commission's recommendations.

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<sup>41</sup> Recommendation 5: That our report be received.

<sup>42</sup> Ad Interim Commission Minutes (12/29/20): "It was moved, seconded and passed to establish a five-man Judicial Commission to investigate the degree of problems of child abuse at Immanuel RP Church, determine what counseling and any help that any perpetrators and victims, along with their families, and the Session and congregation may need and whether parties involved are cooperating with civil authorities (since the Department of Child Services and the Tippecanoe County Sheriff have been involved). They are also to give recommendations to Presbytery in the following areas: 1. Legal, 2. Ecclesiastical and 3. Pastoral. In addition, we call upon the churches and members of Presbytery who are becoming aware of this situation to practice grace, mercy, and patience. We would give assurance that much ministry has already taken place and the establishing of a Judicial Commission is for the purpose of ensuring good and just ministry in the future."

## 59. MOTION TO LEAVE EXECUTIVE SESSION

It was moved and seconded to leave executive session at this time. This motion was discussed and passed, thereby bringing the court out of executive session at 11:12 a.m.

### PRESBYTERY LEAVES EXECUTIVE SESSION (11:12 a.m.)

By common consent, the Immanuel Judicial Commission Report was laid on the table to consider the preliminary report of the nominating committee, after which it will be immediately taken up.

## 60. NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Ian Wise addressed the court on behalf of the nominating committee.

- By common consent, the nominations for Representatives to Youth Ministries Committee of Synod and Youth Secretary were tabled pending the outcome of the judicial commission report.
- It was moved, seconded, and passed to appoint David Hanson, Joel Hart, and Adam Niess to represent the presbytery in the complaint filed by Shawn Anderson *et al.*
- By common consent, the moderator was tasked with appointing delegates to represent the presbytery in the complaints to synod lodged against the AIC.<sup>43</sup>
- It was noted that David Schisler, not Ed Schisler, has been nominated to serve on the Louisville Commission.

## 61. IMMANUEL JUDICIAL COMMISSION REPORT

The Immanuel Judicial Commission proceeded to its recommendations

**I.J.C. RECOMMENDATION 1** — That the Presbytery appoint Shawn Anderson, Jason Camery, and Josh Reshey as special prosecution of the Presbytery against Nate Pfeiffer (BoD, II.1.3, E-9). **[Adopted, 25-12]**

- Recommendation 1 was brought before the court and discussed by the delegates.
- It was moved, seconded, and passed to extend the time to finish the remaining business items, after which the court resumed its discussion of Recommendation 1.
- It was moved and seconded to lay Recommendation 1 on the table to entertain a substitute motion: “That presbytery send a provisional moderator and a number of provisional elders to be appointed at the discretion of the moderator to the IRPC session.” This motion was discussed and failed, bringing Recommendation 1 once again before the court.
- It was moved and seconded to lay Recommendation 1 on the table to entertain the commission’s second slate of recommendations as outlined in their report. This motion was discussed and failed, bringing Recommendation 1 once again before the court.
- Recommendation 1 was adopted by a vote of 25-12. James Odom registered his dissent.

**I.J.C. RECOMMENDATION 2** — That the Presbytery require Nate Pfeiffer to refrain from the exercise of office until final action in the case has been taken, effective March 22 (BoD, II.2.9, E-12). **[Out of Order]**

- Recommendation 2 was discussed, after which the moderator ruled it out of order — along with Recommendations 4, 6, 8, and 10 — since the actions outlined in BOD II.2.9 (E-12) require charges to be filed before these additional actions can be taken.
- It was moved and seconded that presbytery authorize the Ad Interim Commission to require — at their discretion, at the appropriate time, as outlined in BOD II.2 (E-10/12), and referenced in Recommendations 2, 4, 6, 8, and 10 — all IRPC elders subject to the special prosecution to refrain from the exercise of their office.
- By common consent, the court moved to consider the odd numbered Recommendations first, then to return to this motion.

**I.J.C. RECOMMENDATION 3** — That the Presbytery appoint Shawn Anderson, Jason Camery, and Josh Reshey as special prosecution of the Presbytery against Keith Magill (BoD, II.1.3, E-9). **(Adopted, 24-12)**

- Recommendation 3 was discussed, after which it was adopted by a vote of 24-12. James Odom registered his dissent.

**I.J.C. RECOMMENDATION 5** — That the Presbytery appoint Shawn Anderson, Jason Camery, and Josh Reshey as special prosecution of the Presbytery against David Carr (BoD, II.1.3, E-9). **(Adopted, 25-13)**

- Recommendation 5 was discussed, after which it was adopted by a vote of 25-13. James Odom registered his dissent.

**I.J.C. RECOMMENDATION 7** — That the Presbytery appoint Shawn Anderson, Jason Camery, and Josh Reshey as special prosecution of the Presbytery against Jared Olivetti (BoD, II.1.3, E-9). **(Adopted, 28-11)**

- Recommendation 7 was discussed, after which it was adopted by a vote of 28-11. James Odom registered his dissent.
- The moderator instructed the delegates to identify themselves for the benefit of those watching the meeting via Zoom.

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<sup>43</sup> On 3/11/21, the moderator appointed the following delegates to represent the GLGP at synod in the Olivetti and Faris Complaint cases: Scott Hunt, Phil Pockras, and Kent Butterfield.

**I.J.C. RECOMMENDATION 9** — That the Presbytery appoint Shawn Anderson, Jason Camery, and Josh Reshey as special prosecution of the Presbytery against Ben Larson (BoD, II.1.3, E-9). **(Adopted, 26-13)**

- Recommendation 9 was discussed, after which multiple points of order were raised on the floor reminding a speaker to protect the identities of the victims.
- Ben Larson read a public confession of sin before the court, to which the moderator expressed his thanks.
- It was moved and seconded to lay Recommendation 9 on the table to entertain a substitute motion: “That presbytery appoint a three-man committee to counsel Ben Larson.” This motion was discussed and failed.
- Recommendation 9 was adopted by a vote of 26-13. James Odom registered his dissent.<sup>44</sup>

#### **EARLIER MOTION REVISITED (Adopted)**

The court revisited the following motion, which was again seconded: “That presbytery authorize the Ad Interim Commission to require — at their discretion, at the appropriate time, as outlined in BOD II.2 (E-10/12), and referenced in Recommendations 2, 4, 6, 8, and 10 — all IRPC elders subject to the special prosecution to refrain from the exercise of their office.”

- The motion was discussed and adopted by voice vote.

The court took a break from 1:25 to 1:45pm, after which it resumed its consideration of the Immanuel Judicial Commission recommendations.

#### **YOUTH MINISTRY APPOINTMENT (Adopted)**

David Whitla informed the court that Ben Larson has agreed to take a temporary leave of absence from youth ministry within the presbytery and denomination, after which, by common consent, the presbytery appointed Mr. and Mrs. Ken and Christy Nelson to serve as its Representatives on the Youth Ministry Committee of Synod *pro tem*.

**I.J.C. RECOMMENDATION 11** — A TGB is to be formed by this Commission with the 2021 Presbytery Moderator to assist Immanuel RP Church to step into original jurisdiction on March 22, 2021. **(Adopted as Amended)**

- The Immanuel Judicial Commission brought Recommendation 11 before the court.
- By common consent and with the committee’s permission, the motion was amended as follows: **“That, should the circumstances warrant, the AIC shall appoint provisional elders to the IRPC session, and also appoint a moderator.”**
- This amended version of Recommendation 11 was adopted by voice vote.

#### **PROVISIONAL ELDER APPOINTMENTS (Adopted)**

It was moved, seconded, and passed that the moderator appoint a provisional moderator for the IRPC session at this time.

- The moderator immediately appointed Bill Roberts to serve in this capacity, and Mr. Roberts confirmed his willingness to do so via Zoom, but requested that an additional provisional elder be appointed to assist him.
- It was moved, seconded, and passed that the moderator appoint an additional provisional elder at this time to assist Bill Roberts during this transition.
- Zachary Blackwood offered to consult members of the IRPC congregation for feedback regarding their preference for the identity of an additional provisional elder.

**Provisional Moderator:** Bill Roberts

**Add’l Provisional Elder:** Wade Mann (cf. Item #69 below)

**I.J.C. RECOMMENDATION 12** — That the Commission be granted authority to help the elders follow through with steps of repentance as laid out on p. 22 of the report. **(Adopted as Amended)**

- By common consent, Recommendation 12 was amended as follows: **“That the AIC, in consultation with the victims, appoint a three-man shepherding committee to help the existing local IRPC elders follow through with steps of repentance as laid out on p. 22 of the report.”**
- This motion was discussed, after which it was adopted as amended without vocal dissent.

**I.J.C. RECOMMENDATION 13** — The Commission with the IRPC elders, plan and host an IRPC congregational meeting for March 13, 2021. The Commission will address accusations, rumors, concerns, and other questions and comments from the

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<sup>44</sup> The rationale for all five of Mr. Odom’s registered dissents is as follows: “The proposed defendants have confessed, expressed apparently genuine repentance for their actions, and the facts are largely undisputed. Therefore it is unjust, unnecessary, and wasteful to appoint prosecutors and try them in the ordinary manner. The issues remaining are really shepherding the congregation (some of which would be done much better by retaining some or all of the Session and helping and guiding them through the process, rather than immediate and severe punishment) and what punishment is appropriate for each man, which should have been the focuses of action. Because the only reason that necessitates proceeding to trial now is the desire to impose a harsher punishment than we are otherwise allowed, this action puts the shepherding of the congregation behind (which is far enough behind due to the Session’s mismanagement) our personal sense of justice. This isn’t justice, or good shepherding, but expediency because of emotion. 2. The defendants are being treated identically, when they are not identically culpable.”

church. The elders can produce letters of acknowledgement of sin if they so desire. The Commission will also explain what happened at this meeting and the steps of repentance. **(Withdrawn)**

- Recommendation 13 was withdrawn by the commission.

**I.J.C. RECOMMENDATION 14** — Having acknowledged his sinful offenses, Prof. Keith Evans is to be admonished by this Presbytery, in the name and by the authority of Christ, for allowing his personal interests to affect his professional role in this case, to the offense of M0's family, the undue disturbance of the victims, and the distraction of the Commission. **(Failed)**

- Recommendation 14 was discussed, after which it failed.

**REQUEST FOR COUNSEL (Redirected)**

Zachary Blackwood asked the court to address the status of his role in youth ministry within the congregation, presbytery, and denomination. The commission encouraged him to work with the newly formed shepherding committee on this matter.

**REPORT AS A WHOLE (Approved)**

The report as a whole was discussed, after which it was approved, thereby spreading its minutes on the minutes of presbytery.

**WORD OF PASTORAL COMFORT TO GOD'S PEOPLE**

The moderator addressed the folks from Immanuel RPC (in-person and via Zoom) with a word of pastoral comfort, counsel, and encouragement, giving thanks to our Lord Jesus Christ for guiding the court through a difficult process, and for storing up our tears in His bottle and recording them in His book.

- Wade Mann led the court in an intercessory prayer for the entire situation at Immanuel RPC and all parties involved.

**62. DISPOSITION OF GLG 21-3**

It was moved, seconded, and passed to reconsider Recommendation 7<sup>45</sup> from the clerk's report. The recommendation was adopted without vocal dissent.

- The motion to reconsider was made by David Whitla, who previously voted with the majority.<sup>46</sup>

**63. JUDICIAL COMMITTEE OF THE DAY**

David Whitla presented the report of the Judicial Committee of the Day.

**Recommendation 1**<sup>47</sup> was adopted without vocal dissent.

**Recommendation 2**<sup>48</sup> was adopted without vocal dissent.

Frank Smith stepped out of the chair and was replaced by Wade Mann.

**Recommendation 3**<sup>49</sup> was discussed and adopted by voice vote, thereby adopting the following two statements:

1. This court hereby declares that belief in the literal parentage of Adam and Eve as our first parents is an essential point of the Christian system of doctrine.
2. This court hereby declares that belief in biological evolution (that is, the change from one "kind" of animal to another), and particularly belief in the evolution of the body of Adam from lower creatures, is incompatible with the Christian system of doctrine, and furthermore that denial of said evolutionary views is an essential point of the Christian system of doctrine.

Frank Smith resumed the moderator's chair, after which it was moved, seconded, and passed to approve the judicial committee's report as a whole.

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<sup>45</sup> That presbytery forward GLG 21-3 to synod without endorsement to be considered along with the other complaints related to the case.

<sup>46</sup> Clerk's Note: It was subsequently observed that the court did not fulfill its obligation to confirm that the seconder had also voted in the majority on Clerk's Recommendation #7. However, given the amended version of Clerk's Recommendation #8 (creating "a business item for the disposition of GLG 21-3") and the fact that this later motion was adopted without vocal dissent, the clerk believes this action to be legitimate.

<sup>47</sup> That presbytery accept the minutes of the 10/23/20 meeting as amended.

<sup>48</sup> That the moderator draft a letter of update to St. Lawrence Presbytery informing them that as requested, a process of investigation into Dr. LeFebvre's writings has been faithfully undertaken by the presbytery, but with its judicial aftermath still being contested in the church courts, it would be premature to "forward our conclusions" until synod's disposition of the complaint is known, and commending ourselves to their prayers.

<sup>49</sup> That presbytery adopt the two statements in Dr. Smith's petition and forward the petition to synod without endorsement.

**64. FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Keith Magill presented the finance committee report and addressed questions and comments from the floor, after which it was moved, seconded, and passed to adopt the report as amended.

**65. TIME & PLACE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Timothy Vincze presented the report of the Time and Place Committee, after which its sole recommendation — *That next year's annual spring meeting be held on March 3-5, 2022 at the RPC of Lafayette* — was adopted by common consent and the report was approved.

**66. REPORT ON SESSION MINUTE BOOKS**

Dale Koons addressed the court regarding the review of session minute books, indicating that nothing was found contrary to the law and order of the church. The following minute books remain outstanding: Selma and Grand Rapids.

**67. NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT**

Ian Wise presented the nominating committee report, after which several changes to the report were adopted.

- By common consent, Craig Scott was added to the list of nominees for the Candidates and Credentials Committee (Class of 2024), Adam Niess was nominated to be the new Candidates and Credentials Committee chairman, and Ben Larson was noted to have voluntarily recused himself temporarily in his capacity as Presbytery Youth Secretary.
- The nominating committee report (as thus amended) was adopted without vocal dissent, and is as follows:

**68. RESOLUTION OF THANKS COMMITTEE (Chairman)**

Drew Poplin presented the Resolution of Thanks Committee, after which it was adopted by common consent.

**69. MODERATOR APPOINTMENT**

The moderator announced his appointment of Wade Mann to serve as the additional provisional elder at Immanuel RPC.

**70. READING OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Adam Kuehner read the minutes, after which they were approved as read by common consent.

**71. POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE**

Andrew B. shared a point of personal privilege, updating the court regarding his ongoing preparation for future ministry.

**72. ADJOURNMENT**

The court sang Psalm 121C to the praise of God, after which the moderator adjourned the court in prayer at 3:46 p.m.









|                                 |                   |          |                |      |      |      |          |    |    |    |    |    |   |    |    |    |    |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|----------|----------------|------|------|------|----------|----|----|----|----|----|---|----|----|----|----|
| Hetherton RPC                   | Ray Morton        | ✓        | TE             | P    | P    | P    |          | S  | S  | S  | S  |    |   |    |    | S  | S  |
| Lafayette RPC                   | Ken Nelson        | 1/19/21  | RE             |      |      |      |          |    |    |    |    | S  | S | S  | S  | S  | S  |
| Lafayette RPC                   | Adam Niess        | 1/19/21  | TE             | P    | P    | P    |          | S  | S  | S  | S  |    |   |    |    | S  | S  |
| Christ Church RP                | Jason O'Neill     | 2/23/21  | RE             |      |      |      |          |    |    |    |    |    |   |    |    | S  | S  |
| Sparta RPC                      | James Odom        | 2/28/21  | RE             | P    | P    | P    |          | S  | S  | S  | S  |    |   |    |    | S  | S  |
| Immanuel RPC, West Lafayette    | Jared Olivetti    | ✓        | TE             | E    | P    | P    |          |    |    |    |    |    |   |    |    |    |    |
| Bell Center RPC                 | Philip Pockras    | 2/5/21   | TE             | ZOOM | ZOOM | ZOOM |          | S  | S  | S  | E  |    |   |    |    | S  | S  |
| Durham First RPC                | Drew Poplin       | 12/31/20 | RE             | p    | p    | p    |          |    | S  | S  | S  |    |   |    |    | S  | S  |
| Terre Haute RPC                 | Josh Reshey       | 1/23/21  | RE             | P    | P    | P    |          |    |    |    |    | S  | N | S  | S  | S  | S  |
| Terre Haute RPC                 | Steve Rhoda       | 1/23/21  | TE             | P    | P    | P    |          | S  | S  | S  | S  |    |   |    |    | S  |    |
| Ministers, Retired              | Bill Roberts      | ✓        | TE             | ZOOM | ZOOM | ZOOM |          |    |    |    |    |    |   |    |    |    |    |
| Orlando RPC                     | Jonathon Schaefer | 01/27/21 | RE             | p    | p    | p    |          |    |    |    |    | S  | N | S  | S  | S  | S  |
| Columbus RPC                    | Edmund Schisler   | 2/28/21  | RE             | P    | P    | P    |          | S  | S  | S  | S  |    |   |    |    | S  | S  |
| Grand Rapids First RPC          | Jake Schwartz     | 1/26/21  | RE             | E    | E    | E    |          |    |    |    |    |    |   |    |    |    |    |
| Grand Rapids First RPC          | Craig Scott       | 1/26/21  | TE             | P    | p    | p    |          |    |    |    |    | S  | N | S  | S  | S  | S  |
| Atlanta Presbyterian Fellowship | Frank J. Smith    | 2/27/21  | TE             | P    | P    | P    |          |    |    |    |    | S  | N | S  | S  | S  | S  |
| Lafayette RPC                   | Chris Stockwell   | 1/19/21  | ALT            |      |      |      |          |    |    |    |    |    |   |    |    |    |    |
| Southwest Ohio RPC, Mason, Ohio | Timothy Vincze    | 2/28/21  | RE             | P    | P    | P    |          |    |    |    |    | S  | N | S  | S  | S  | S  |
| Ministers, in Synod Service     | David Whitla      | ✓        | TE             | P    | P    | P    |          |    |    |    |    | S  |   |    |    | S  | S  |
| Southside RPC, Indianapolis     | Ian Wise          | 2/22/21  | TE             | P    | P    | P    |          |    |    |    |    | S  | N | S  | S  | S  | S  |
| Selma RPC, Alabama              | Averette Woodson  | 2/17/21  | RE             | P    | P    | P    |          |    |    |    |    | S  | S | S  | S  | S  | S  |
| Southwest Ohio RPC, Mason, Ohio | Steven Work       | 2/28/21  | TE             | P    | P    | P    |          |    |    |    |    | S  |   |    |    | S  | S  |
| Ministers, Retired              | Richard Johnston  | ✓        | TE             |      |      | P    |          |    |    |    |    |    |   |    |    |    |    |
|                                 |                   |          | Elders         | 42   | 43   | 42   | <b>S</b> | 26 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 16 | 7 | 14 | 15 | 42 | 39 |
|                                 |                   |          | Zoom Attendees | 5    | 5    | 5    | <b>A</b> | 0  | 0  | 0  | 1  | 0  | 0 | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0  |
|                                 |                   |          |                |      |      |      | <b>N</b> | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 8 | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0  |

## SATURDAY, MARCH 6

### Attendance and Roll Call Voting Records

LEGEND: P-present; ZOOM-present by ZOOM; S-Sustain;  
N-Not Sustain, A-Abstain, E-Excused; ✓ -Certified via TE Credentials

March 6, Session 6  
8:30am -12:30 pm

Jon Sturm (25/-/05)  
Evidence of Progress Sermon

| Congregation                 | First     | Last Name   | Date Certified | Status |      |   |
|------------------------------|-----------|-------------|----------------|--------|------|---|
| Sycamore RPC, Kokomo         | Shawn     | Anderson    | 2/10/2021      | TE     | P    | S |
| Bloomington RPC              | Wes       | Archer      | 2/2/2021       | RE     |      |   |
| Ministers, Other Service     | Andrew B. |             | ✓              | TE     | P    | S |
| Lafayette RPC                | Robert    | Bibby       | 1/19/21        | RE     | P    | S |
| Immanuel RPC, West Lafayette | Zachary   | Blackwood   | 2/5/21         | RE     | P    | S |
| Second RPC, Indianapolis     | Richard   | Blankenship | 1/20/21        | RE     | P    | S |
| Selma RPC, Alabama           | Mark      | Brown       | 2/17/21        | RE     | P    | S |
| Durham First RPC             | Kent      | Butterfield | 12/31/20       | TE     | P    | S |
| Marion RPC                   | Jason     | Camery      | 1/23/21        | TE     | P    | S |
| Second RPC, Indianapolis     | Donald    | Cassell, Jr | 1/20/21        | ALT    | ZOOM | S |
| Southside RPC, Indianapolis  | John      | Cavanaugh   | 9/22/21        | RE     | P    | S |
| Ministers, Active w/o Call   | Brian     | Dage        | 3/5/21         | TE     | P    | S |
| Elkhart RPC                  | Andy      | DeRosa      | 2/10/21        | RE     | P    | S |
| Sycamore RPC, Kokomo         | Tom       | Dinkledine  | 2/10/21        | RE     | P    | S |
| Ministers, in Synod Service  | Keith     | Evans       | ✓              | TE     | P    | S |
| Second RPC, Indianapolis     | James     | Faris       | 1/20/21        | TE     | E    |   |
| Sparta RPC                   | Ross      | Fearing     | ✓              | TE     | E    |   |
| Marion RPC                   | Greg      | Fisher      | 1/23/21        | RE     | P    | S |
| Southside RPC, Indianapolis  | David     | Hanson      | 2/22/21        | TE     | E    |   |
| Second RPC, Indianapolis     | Joel      | Hart        | 1/20/21        | TE     | P    | S |
| Bloomington RPC              | Richard   | Holdeman    | 2/2/21         | TE     | P    | S |
| Southfield RPC, Michigan     | Jon       | Hughes      | 1/14/21        | RE     | P    | S |
| Bell Center RPC              | Scott     | Hunt        | 2/5/21         | RE     | P    | S |

## SATURDAY, MARCH 6

### Attendance and Roll Call Voting Records

LEGEND: P-present; ZOOM-present by ZOOM; S-Sustain;  
N-Not Sustain, A-Abstain, E-Excused; ✓ -Certified via TE Credentials

March 6, Session 6  
8:30am -12:30 pm

Jon Sturm (25/-/05)  
Evidence of Progress Sermon

| Congregation                      | First Last Name   | Date Certified | Status |      |  |   |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|--------|------|--|---|
| Southwest Ohio RPC, Mason, Ohio   | Dick Knodel, Jr.  | 2/28/21        | TE     | P    |  | S |
| Westminster RPC, Prairie View, IL | Robert Koch       | 2/8/21         | RE     | ZOOM |  | S |
| Christ Church RP                  | Dale Koons        | 2/23/21        | RE     | P    |  | S |
| Southfield RPC, Michigan          | Adam Kuehner      | 1/14/21        | TE     | P    |  | S |
| Immanuel RPC, West Lafayette      | Benjamin Larson   | 2/5/21         | RE     | P    |  | S |
| Immanuel RPC, West Lafayette      | Keith Magill      | ✓              | TE     | P    |  | S |
| Elkhart RPC                       | Wade Mann         | 2/10/21        | TE     | P    |  | S |
| Ministers, Retired                | Paul Matthews     | EXCUSED        |        |      |  |   |
| Second RPC, Indianapolis          | David Mauser      | 1/20/21        | RE     |      |  |   |
| Bloomington RPC                   | Philip McCollum   | 2/2/21         | TE     | ZOOM |  | S |
| Sycamore RPC, Kokomo              | Robert McKissick  | 2/10/21        | ALT    | P    |  | S |
| Hetherton RPC                     | Ray Morton        | ✓              | TE     | P    |  | S |
| Lafayette RPC                     | Ken Nelson        | 1/19/21        | RE     | P    |  | S |
| Lafayette RPC                     | Adam Niess        | 1/19/21        | TE     | P    |  | S |
| Christ Church RP                  | Jason O'Neill     | 2/23/21        | RE     | P    |  | A |
| Sparta RPC                        | James Odom        | 2/28/21        | RE     | P    |  | S |
| Immanuel RPC, West Lafayette      | Jared Olivetti    | ✓              | TE     | E    |  |   |
| Bell Center RPC                   | Philip Pockras    | 2/5/21         | TE     | ZOOM |  | S |
| Durham First RPC                  | Drew Poplin       | 12/31/20       | RE     | P    |  | S |
| Terre Haute RPC                   | Josh Reshey       | 1/23/21        | RE     | P    |  | S |
| Terre Haute RPC                   | Steve Rhoda       | 1/23/21        | TE     | P    |  |   |
| Ministers, Retired                | Bill Roberts      | ✓              | TE     | ZOOM |  |   |
| Orlando RPC                       | Jonathon Schaefer | 01/27/21       | RE     | P    |  | S |

## SATURDAY, MARCH 6

### Attendance and Roll Call Voting Records

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N-Not Sustain, A-Abstain, E-Excused; ✓ -Certified via TE Credentials

March 6, Session 6  
8:30am -12:30 pm

Jon Sturm (25/-/05)  
Evidence of Progress Sermon

| Congregation                    | First Last Name  | Date Certified | Status         |      |          |    |
|---------------------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|------|----------|----|
| Columbus RPC                    | Edmund Schisler  | 2/28/21        | RE             | ZOOM |          | S  |
| Grand Rapids First RPC          | Jake Schwartz    | 1/26/21        | RE             | E    |          |    |
| Grand Rapids First RPC          | Craig Scott      | 1/26/21        | TE             | P    |          |    |
| Atlanta Presbyterian Fellowship | Frank J. Smith   | 2/27/21        | TE             | P    |          | S  |
| Lafayette RPC                   | Chris Stockwell  | 1/19/21        | ALT            |      |          |    |
| Southwest Ohio RPC, Mason, Ohio | Timothy Vincze   | 2/28/21        | RE             | P    |          | S  |
| Ministers, in Synod Service     | David Whitla     | ✓              | TE             | P    |          | S  |
| Southside RPC, Indianapolis     | Ian Wise         | 2/22/21        | TE             | P    |          | S  |
| Selma RPC, Alabama              | Averette Woodson | 2/17/21        | RE             | P    |          | S  |
| Southwest Ohio RPC, Mason, Ohio | Steven Work      | 2/28/21        | TE             | P    |          | S  |
| Ministers, Retired              | Richard Johnston | ✓              | TE             | P    |          | S  |
|                                 |                  |                | Elders         | 42   | <b>S</b> | 44 |
|                                 |                  |                | Zoom Attendees | 6    | <b>A</b> | 1  |
|                                 |                  |                |                |      | <b>N</b> | 0  |

## Minute Book Record

| 2021 Spring Presbytery Church |                                   | Comments                                                 | Reviewer    | Reviewer    |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
|                               |                                   |                                                          |             |             |
| 1                             | Atlanta Presbyterian Fellowship   |                                                          | Koons       |             |
| 2                             | Bell Center RPC                   |                                                          | O'Neill     | Butterfield |
| 3                             | Bloomington RPC                   |                                                          | Work        | Poplin      |
| 4                             | Christ Church RP                  |                                                          | Mann        | Scott       |
| 5                             | Columbus RPC                      |                                                          | Morton      | DeRosa      |
| 6                             | Durham First RPC                  |                                                          | Larson      | Niess       |
| 7                             | Elkhart RPC                       |                                                          | Magill      | Holdeman    |
| 8                             | Grand Rapids First RPC            |                                                          | Blackwood   | Nelson      |
| 9                             | Hetherton RPC                     |                                                          | Nelson      | Bibby       |
| 10                            | Immanuel RPC, West Lafayette      |                                                          | Schaefer    | Faris       |
| 11                            | Lafayette RPC                     |                                                          | Camery      | Hart        |
| 12                            | Marion RPC                        |                                                          | Blankenship | Woodson     |
| 13                            | Orlando RPC                       |                                                          | Smith       | Vincze      |
| 14                            | Second RPC, Indianapolis          |                                                          | Brown       | Hughes      |
| 15                            | Selma RPC, Alabama                | Left before Minute Book could be reviewed by Asst. Clerk |             |             |
| 16                            | Southfield RPC, Michigan          |                                                          | Cavanaugh   | Knodel      |
| 17                            | Southside RPC, Indianapolis       |                                                          | Rhoda       | Dinkledine  |
| 18                            | Southwest Ohio RPC, Mason, Ohio   |                                                          | Anderson    | Odom        |
| 19                            | Sparta RPC                        | Electronic records of Minute Book were lost for 2020.    | Evans       | Reshey      |
| 20                            | Sycamore RPC, Kokomo              |                                                          | A.B.        | Fearing     |
| 21                            | Terre Haute RPC                   |                                                          | Vincze      | Whitla      |
| 22                            | Westminster RPC, Prairie View, IL | No delegates present; did not send Minute Book           |             |             |