

The Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery (RPCNA)

2023 SPRING MEETING — Official Minutes

BUSINESS SESSION #1 (Thu 3/2 @ 2:00 p.m.)

The Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery met for its annual Spring Meeting at 2:00 p.m. on March 2, 2023 at the Southside Reformed Presbyterian Church, located at 6969 S. Meridian St. Indianapolis, IN 46217.

1. CALL TO ORDER / RETIRING MODERATOR'S ADDRESS

The moderator, Nathan Eshelman, called the court to order at 2:05 p.m. with the reading of Psalm 80.

- After calling upon God's name in prayer, he preached from the text on Asaph's plea of faith for God's work of restoration, asserting that our presbytery desperately needs to seek and experience this restoration through the tender healing mercies of Christ our Good Shepherd.
- Mr. Eshelman concluded in prayer, after which the court sang Psalm 80 in praise to God, and the moderator once again called upon God's name in prayer, constituting the court in the name and by the authority of Jesus Christ, Zion's only Head and King at 2:52 p.m.

2. ATTENDANCE

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

- A question was referred to the parliamentarians regarding the implications of seating the ruling elder delegate from IRPC, given that the IRPC session does not presently have a moderator.

3. INTRODUCTIONS

The moderator gave opportunity for the introduction of first-time delegates and other guests of the court.

- Shawn Anderson introduced first time delegate Brentt VanSickle, a ruling elder from Sycamore RPC.
- Jerry Foltz introduced first time delegate Adam Doerr, a ruling elder from Second RPC.
- Steve Sturm introduced fraternal delegate, local URC pastor, Rev. Austin Reifel.
- Nathan Eshelman introduced first time delegate, Alejandro Ramirez, a ruling elder from Orlando RPC.

4. PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

The clerk, Mr. Kuehner, presented Nathan Eshelman with a bamboo book featuring an inscription of his name on the center, and space for all the delegates to sign, in honor of his faithful service as moderator over the past year.

- The clerk also noted that the previous moderator, Frank Smith, had been prevented from attending last spring's meeting for health reasons, and presented him with a framed *Back to the Future* movie poster depicting Doc Brown and Marty McFly, and sharing that during Dr. Smith's time as moderator in 2021, they had spent so much time working together that the Kuehner children had begun comparing them to Doc and Marty.
- The court gave a round of applause in response to each gift.

5. CLERK'S REPORT

Adam Kuehner presented the clerk's report, providing the first segment of his oral report, stating that the digital review of session minutes has been completed for all congregations except Hetherton and IRPC, with nothing found to be contrary to the law and order of the church. He reminded session clerks of their need to submit their physical minute books to the assistant clerk in order to be checked for signatures and stamped. Having concluded the initial portion of his oral report, the clerk, brought his recommendations before the court.

- Recommendation 1¹ was seconded, after which Steve Rhoda's name was removed from the list of parliamentarians at his request, by way of friendly amendment, and the amended recommendation carried.
- Recommendation 2² was seconded, discussed, and carried, after which the court entered into executive session at 3:31 p.m.

¹ Rec. 1 (Clerk): That presbytery appoint the following parliamentarians for this meeting: J. Odom, F. Smith, P. Pockras (alt), J. Hughes (alt), ~~S. Rhoda (alt)~~, W. Mann (alt), J. Hart (alt). [CARRIED]

² Rec. 2 (Clerk): That presbytery enter executive session in order to hear the rest of the clerk's oral report and to consider Recommendations 3, 4, and 5. [CARRIED]

- Recommendation 3³ was seconded, discussed, and carried.
- Recommendation 4⁴ was seconded and discussed, at which time the previous moderator briefly took the chair, so that the current moderator could make a speech. The recommendation carried, after which the moderator returned to the chair. Frank Smith⁵ and Dick Knodel registered their dissent from Recommendation 4.
- Recommendation 5⁶ was seconded, discussed, and carried.
- It was moved, seconded, and carried that the Internet Maintenance Committee be directed to ensure that all oversight in administrative headship of their work be contained in this presbytery. The moderator ruled that this would not preclude a non-elder from serving as Internet Maintenance Technician (IMT), as is presently the case.
- It was moved, seconded, and carried to leave executive session at 5:25 p.m.

6. RECESS FOR DINNER

David Hanson addressed the court on behalf of the host congregation and called upon God in prayer, giving thanks for the food and recessing the court for dinner at 5:29 p.m.

³ Rec. 3 (Clerk): That presbytery confirm its understanding that the clerk is authorized to “handle correspondence” and to “have charge of all the papers and records belonging to the [court]” (DCG 4.4, D-28), meaning that, at the clerk’s discretion, due to the sensitive nature of certain documents, he may restrict access and transmission of such documents to the presbytery delegates only, and that these restrictions constitute binding counsel tendered in the Lord (QFO 9), unless or until reversed or modified by the Presbytery or its Ad Interim Commission, such that anyone who willfully violates these restrictions, has sinned against the court and may be subject to censure. [CARRIED]

⁴ Rec. 4 (Clerk): That presbytery, in keeping with the 2006 decision of GLGP and Synod (MoS, 142) to permit RPCI’s policy of discretionary access to session minutes, confirm that a session clerk’s duty to “furnish extracts from the minutes when ordered by the court” (DCG 4.4, D-28), to present session minutes “for review by the presbytery once a year” (DCG 4.5, D-29), to “transmit to the higher [court] all records and papers pertaining to [a complaint]” (BOD II.4.4, E-16), and to ensure that “ordinarily... minutes of the session are open to members of the congregation” (DCG 4.5, D-28) does not imply an unqualified or inalienable license for every individual to access or disseminate every such record for every conceivable reason, much less for non-members of the congregation and/or presbytery to procure previously unpublished or uncirculated minutes in an unauthorized manner for widespread publication without the court’s consent or knowledge. [CARRIED]

⁵ Frank Smith’s Dissent: The church courts have at times struggled with regard to pastoral duty and discretion vis-a-vis the nature of a court. What is a court and how is it to operate? In the words of the preliminary principles of the original American Presbyterian Book of Church Order, “since ecclesiastical discipline must be purely moral or spiritual in its object, and not attended with any civil effects, it can derive no force whatever, but from its own justice, the approbation of an impartial public, and the countenance and blessing of the great Head of the Church.” The phrase “approbation of an impartial public” implies that a court, by definition, is public. Its actions must be open to inspection by the general public. Indeed, the church is to model to the society what justice and righteousness should be, including the procedures. What is true in general is true in particular with respect to the people of the church. Not only must they be able to have confidence in the actions taken by the elders on their behalf, but they must also be able to know what those actions are—else how would they be able to exercise their right of complaint or seeking redress by memorial or some other means? The conclusion is that matters acted on by a court are not confidential. There are ways for elders in their several capacity to give counsel and exercise informal discipline, even in conjunction with other elders and by means of, in essence, having discussion as a committee of the whole, keeping minutes that could later be referenced, should the need arise. But when the elders act jointly in constituted court, those actions are and must be public. To the extent that Presbytery’s action on Item 4 undercut the public nature of church court minutes, I hereby dissent from said action.

⁶ Rec. 5 (Clerk): That presbytery form a three-man committee, appointed by the moderator, to contact Rev. Kyle Borg, the Winchester RPC session, and the Midwest Presbytery, respectively, on behalf of the GLGP to articulate our very serious concerns and ask that steps be taken in love to effectively persuade Rev. Borg to publicly repent and receive the freely and eagerly offered forgiveness of the GLGP and the IRPC session for his sin against these ecclesiastical bodies (not merely against the GLGP clerk) in admittedly publishing sensitive, password-protected GLGP judicial records — submitted by the IRPC session to the GLGP in connection with Rev. Borg’s own complaint against them — on the website, *Peace, Purity, Progress*, against the express instructions of the GLGP clerk. [CARRIED]

BUSINESS SESSION #2 (Thu 3/2 @ 6:40 p.m.)**7. CALL TO ORDER**

The moderator called the court to order at 6:40 p.m. with the singing of Psalm 122A and reconvened the meeting in prayer.

8. ATTENDANCE

The assistant clerk took visual attendance and confirmed that a quorum was present.

9. SPECIAL INTRODUCTIONS

The moderator gave opportunity for additional introductions.

- Dick Knodel introduced Rev. Archibald Allison, an OPC minister of the gospel, who briefly greeted the court.
- Wade Mann introduced first time delegate Robert Daniels, a ruling elder from Elkhart RPC.

10. PARLIAMENTARIANS

Frank Smith announced the parliamentarians' answer to the previous question about seating delegates whose session lacks a moderator, stating that there is no absolute prohibition for sessions in electing their own moderators, particularly under extraordinary circumstances, and so the IRPC delegate may be seated.

11. CLERK'S REPORT — *Continued*

Mr. Kuehner resumed the presentation of the clerk's report, notifying the court that the moderator and clerk had just received a letter of repentance from Kyle Borg (GLG 23-11B) seeking the forgiveness of the presbytery and the IRPC session, along with a request from Mr. Borg to address the court via Zoom to express his repentance personally.

- After some discussion, the moderator ruled that the court will hear from Mr. Borg at this time.
- This ruling was challenged and upheld by a vote of 20-13.
- Mr. Borg addressed the court via Zoom reading the content of his letter of repentance and asking for the court's forgiveness.
- The clerk urged the moderator to grant the court's forgiveness, in keeping with the previously adopted language of Clerk's Recommendation 5 ("that steps be taken in love to effectively persuade Rev. Borg to publicly repent and receive the freely and eagerly offered forgiveness of the GLGP"), yet noted that this would not preclude the appointment of the three-man Borg Resolution Committee, especially in relation to the IRPC session, nor would it prevent further action, such as a censure, if the court deems such action to be warranted [BOD I.3.3, E-4].
- The moderator granted Mr. Borg the court's forgiveness, employing the language of Clerk's Recommendation 5 ("the freely and eagerly offered forgiveness of the GLGP"), and the clerk led the court in prayer.

The court resumed its consideration of the list of recommendations from the clerk's report.

- Recommendation 6⁷ was seconded, discussed, and carried.
- Recommendation 7⁸ was seconded, discussed, and carried.
- Recommendation 8⁹ was seconded and carried.
- Recommendation 9¹⁰ was seconded and carried.

⁷ Rec. 6 (Clerk): That presbytery instruct the Nominating Committee to (A) Determine the congregations to be visited this year, (B) Consider the Geneva College Board of Corporators' nomination of Phil Pockras as GLGP Rep., (C) Replace the two departing members of the Membership Comte, (D) Replace the GLGP HMB Rep., (E) Nominate an IRPC provisional moderator, (F) Replace Jason O'Neill as GLGP Rep. on Synod's Finance Comte. [CARRIED]

⁸ Rec. 7 (Clerk): That presbytery instruct the incoming AIC to determine and disseminate the time and place for the fall meeting by 7/31/23. [CARRIED]

⁹ Rec. 8 (Clerk): That presbytery form a two-man committee, appointed by the moderator, to review the RPC of Lafayette's pastoral call to Jonathan Sturm and report back with its recommendation(s) later at this meeting. [CARRIED]

¹⁰ Rec. 9 (Clerk): That presbytery approve the following committee reports as submitted, without hearing oral reports: (A) Geneva College Board of Corp.'s Report, (B) Fearing Chaplaincy Report, (C) Home Mission Board Rep. Report. [CARRIED]

- Recommendation 10¹¹ was seconded, discussed, and carried.
- Recommendation 11¹² was seconded and carried.
- Recommendation 12¹³ was seconded and carried.
- Recommendation 13¹⁴ was seconded, discussed, and carried.
- Recommendation 14¹⁵ was seconded and carried.
- Recommendation 15¹⁶ was seconded and carried.
- Recommendation 16¹⁷ was withdrawn.
- Recommendation 17¹⁸ was seconded and carried.

It was moved, seconded, and discussed to lay Recommendation 17 on the table to entertain the following substitute motion: “That presbytery, in response to Mr. Faris’ request ‘for his credentials to be sent to Zionsville Fellowship Church’ (GLG 23-6), instruct the clerk to transfer Mr. Faris’ credentials to ZFC.”

- A point of order was raised, asserting the substitute motion to be unconstitutional, per DCG 3.II.E.5.i (D-21), since Zionsville Fellowship Church is an independent congregation and not a “denomination”.
- The moderator ruled in favor of the point of order, thereby declaring the motion to be out of order.
- The moderator’s ruling was challenged and overturned by a vote of 14-19.
- The following delegates registered their dissent: Jon Hughes, Adam Kuehner, Phil Pockras, Dick Knodel, Josh Smith, Frank Smith, Alejandro Ramirez, Greg Damerow, and Bruce Bowers.
- The following delegates notified the court of their intent to file a complaint against this action of the court: Adam Kuehner, Phil Pockras, Josh Smith, Frank Smith, Alejandro Ramirez, Greg Damerow, and Bruce Bowers.
- The motion to entertain the substitute carried by a vote of 20-12, after which the court discussed the substitute.

It was moved, seconded, discussed, and carried to amend the motion by adding the phrase: “with a rebuke for his email as recorded in GLG 23-8, and an encouragement to seek the peace and unity of the church in whatever ecclesiastical situation he finds himself in.”

- The motion was then divided into Part A and Part B, with Part A presently before the court.
- It was moved, seconded and discussed to refer Part A of the motion to synod for counsel.
- It was moved, seconded, and carried by two-thirds majority to table this discussion until the following day (Friday).

The court resumed its consideration of the clerk’s remaining recommendations.

¹¹ Rec. 10 (Clerk): That presbytery counsel the Synod Board of Trustees (DCG 2.11, D-6), in keeping with the wishes of the former CCRP congregation in Brownsburg, Indiana, to hold the remaining funds from the disorganized CCRP congregation for up to five years for a new work in Marion County or one of its eight bordering counties. [CARRIED]

¹² Rec. 11 (Clerk): That presbytery transmit GLG 22-22 and GLG 22-23 to synod without endorsement. [CARRIED]

¹³ Rec. 12 (Clerk): That presbytery formally dismiss the CCRP Commission with thanks. [CARRIED]

¹⁴ Rec. 13 (Clerk): That presbytery instruct its clerks to look into the synod’s requirements for annual congregational financial audits and report back to the presbytery no later than the spring of 2024. [CARRIED]

¹⁵ Rec. 14 (Clerk): That presbytery refer GLG 23-5 to the three-man, moderator-appointed Business Committee of the Day [BUSCOM] to examine the complaint (with pertinent records), to interact with the parties (as able), and to report back with its recommendation(s) later at this meeting. [CARRIED]

¹⁶ Rec. 15 (Clerk): That presbytery refer GLG 23-1, 23-2, 23-3, and 23-9 to a three-man, moderator-appointed IRPC Committee of the Day to examine each communication (with pertinent records) and report back with its recommendation(s) later at this meeting. [CARRIED]

¹⁷ Rec. 16 (Clerk): That presbytery refer GLG 23-8 to BUSCOM to advise whether or not its contents warrant any further action(s) by the presbytery (e.g. BOD I.3.1/2, E-4; BOD II.1.3/4, E-9), and to report back with its recommendation(s) later at this meeting. [WITHDRAWN]

¹⁸ Rec. 17 (Clerk): That presbytery, in response to Mr. Faris’ request “for his credentials to be sent to Zionsville Fellowship Church” (GLG 23-6), instruct the clerk to send ZFC a letter of ministerial standing, but not to *transfer* Mr. Faris’ credentials to ZFC. [LAID ON THE TABLE]

- Recommendation 18¹⁹ was seconded, discussed, and modified by friendly amendment to replace the phrase “Business Session 2” with the phrase “Business Session 3”, after which it carried.
- Recommendation 19²⁰ was seconded and carried.
- Recommendation 20²¹ was seconded, discussed, and carried.

12. ELECTION OF THE MODERATOR

It was moved and seconded to nominate Jon Hughes as moderator.

- It was moved, seconded, and carried to close the nominations, after which the court elected Mr. Hughes to the moderator’s chair without vocal dissent.

13. ELECTION OF THE CLERK(S)

It was moved and seconded to nominate Adam Kuehner as clerk.

- It was moved, seconded and carried to close the nominations, after which the court elected Mr. Kuehner to continue serving as clerk without vocal dissent.
- Nathan Eshelman assumed the role of assistant clerk from Dale Koons, after which the court showed its appreciation for Mr. Koons’ many years of faithful service by rising with applause.

14. AD INTERIM COMMISSION REPORT

David Hanson presented the AIC report, bringing its recommendations before the court.

- Recommendation 1²² carried.
- Recommendation 2²³ carried.

15. INTERNET MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Adam Kuehner presented the Internet Maintenance Committee report, bringing its recommendations before the court.

- Recommendation 1²⁴ carried.
- Recommendation 2²⁵ carried.
- It was moved, seconded, and carried to receive the report.

16. MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Frank Smith presented the report of the Membership Committee, bringing its recommendations before the court, and noting that each recommendation would need to be seconded, since he is the only remaining committee member.

- Recommendation 1²⁶ was seconded and carried.

¹⁹ Rec. 18 (Clerk): That presbytery instruct the moderator to announce the following appointments by the start of Business Session 2 3 at the latest: (A) Business Committee of the Day [BUSCOM]: 3 (B) IRPC Committee of the Day: 3 (C) Nominating Committee: 3 (D) Finance Committee: 3 (E) Resolution of Thanks Committee: 2 (F) Time and Place Committee: 2 (G) Lafayette Call Review Committee: 2. [CARRIED]

²⁰ Rec. 19 (Clerk): That presbytery adopt the proposed agenda for this meeting. [CARRIED]

²¹ Rec. 20 (Clerk): That presbytery grant all RPCNA elders present the privilege of the floor during the remainder of this meeting. [CARRIED]

²² Rec. 1 (AIC): That Presbytery receive this report. [CARRIED]

²³ Rec. 2 (AIC): That the minutes of this *Ad Interim* Commission be spread on the minutes of Presbytery. [CARRIED]

²⁴ Rec. 1 (IMC): That presbytery reappoint Andrew Imeson as Internet Maintenance Technician until the Spring 2024 meeting of presbytery, with an annual stipend of \$500. [CARRIED]

²⁵ Rec. 2 (IMC): That presbytery dissolve this committee and delegate its remit (To oversee all presbytery internet maintenance functions, including the work of the IMT, along with any additional items assigned by presbytery) to the clerks of presbytery. [CARRIED]

²⁶ Rec. 1 (MC): That Stephanie Thomson Ek be transferred to Indy Reformed Church (URCNA) with our blessing. [CARRIED]

- Recommendation 2²⁷ was seconded and carried.
- Recommendation 3²⁸ was seconded and referred to the Nominating Committee.
- Recommendation 4²⁹ was seconded and carried, thereby receiving the report.

17. TREASURER'S REPORT

It was noted that the treasurer's report has been moved to the following day, and will be presented, God willing, by Mark Hart.

18. CANDIDATES AND CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT

Adam Niess presented the Candidates & Credentials Committee report, bringing its recommendations before the court.

- Recommendation 1³⁰ carried.
- Recommendation 2³¹ was referred to the Nominating Committee.
- Recommendation 3³² was referred to the Nominating Committee.
- Recommendation 4³³ carried, thereby receiving the report.

BIBLE EXAM — J. JOHNSON (SUSTAINED W/O VOCAL DISSENT)

Mr. Niess announced that Joe Johnson passed his written Bible exam with distinction, after which the court sustained the results of the exam by voice vote without vocal dissent.

CHURCH HISTORY PAPER — J. JOHNSON (Sustained without Vocal Dissent)

The court sustained Joe Johnson's church history paper by voice vote without vocal dissent.

CHURCH HISTORY PAPER — J. STURM (Sustained without Vocal Dissent)

The court sustained Jonathan Sturm's exegesis paper by voice vote without vocal dissent.

PERSONAL GODLINESS EXAM — J. JOHNSON (Unanimously Sustained)

Joe Johnson came forward to receive his Personal Godliness exam from Aaron Murray, answering questions from Mr. Murray and from the floor, after which comments were received from the floor, and the exam was unanimously sustained by roll call vote.

PASTORAL AND EVANGELISTIC GIFTS EXAM — J. STURM (Unanimously Sustained)

It was moved, seconded and carried to extend the time to conduct Jonathan Sturm's Pastoral & Evangelistic Gifts exam.

- Jonathan Sturm came forward to receive his Pastoral and Evangelistic Gifts exam from Rich Holdeman, answering questions from Mr. Sturm and from the floor, after which comments were received from the floor and the exam was unanimously sustained by roll call vote.

19. EVENING RECESS

Ross Cerbus addressed the court on behalf of the host congregation regarding housing accommodations, after which the moderator recessed the court in prayer at 9:34 p.m.

²⁷ Rec. 2 (MC): That Deidra (Dee Dee) Shaw be transferred to First Presbyterian Church (PCA), Macon, Georgia, with our blessing. [CARRIED]

²⁸ Rec. 3 (MC): That the Nominating Committee nominate three new members of the Membership Committee. [CARRIED]

²⁹ Rec. 4 (MC): That this report be approved. [CARRIED]

³⁰ Rec. 1 (C&CC): That student exams be conducted according to the schedule outlined below. [CARRIED]

³¹ Rec. 2 (C&CC): That Joel Hart and Rich Holdeman be nominated to continue serving on the Committee. [CARRIED]

³² Rec. 3 (C&CC): That a replacement for Craig Scott be nominated to serve on the Committee. [CARRIED]

³³ Rec. 4 (C&CC): That our report be received. [CARRIED]

BUSINESS SESSION #3 (Fri 3/3 @ 8:30 a.m.)**20. CALL TO ORDER**

The moderator called the court to order with the singing Psalm 72F and reconvened the court in prayer at 8:45 a.m.

21. ATTENDANCE

The assistant clerk took visual attendance and confirmed that a quorum was present.

22. MODERATOR APPOINTMENTS

The moderator announced the following committee appointments.

<u>BUSCOM</u> James Odom (Ch) Shawn Anderson, Jerry Foltz	<u>Lafay. Call Rev. Comte</u> David Hanson Josh Smith	<u>Finance Comte</u> Joel Hart (Ch) Greg Damerow, Bruce Bowers	<u>Resolution of Thx Comte</u> Christ Stockwell (Ch) Robert Daniels Alejandro Ramirez
<u>IRPC Comte OTD</u> Frank Smith (Ch) Aaron Murray, John Hanson	<u>Nominating Comte</u> Ken Nelson (Ch) Ross Cerbus Steven Work	<u>Time and Place Comte</u> Dick Knodel (Ch) Ian Wise	

23. ATTENDANCE

The assistant clerk took visual attendance and confirmed that a quorum was present.

24. CANDIDATES AND CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT — *Continued*

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

EXPOSITORY SERMON 2 EXAM — J. STURM (Unanimously Sustained)

Jonathan Sturm came forward for his expository sermon 2 exam, read Revelation 8:1-5, preached from the text on our need to fill heaven with our prayers, and called upon God's name in prayer, after which the court sang Psalm 65A, shared comments from the floor, and unanimously sustained the exam by roll call vote.

25. MODERATOR APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Hughes announced his appointments for the Borg Resolution Committee: Joel Hart (Ch), Bob Bibby, Scott Hunt.

- Later in the meeting, the moderator announced that Joel Hart had declined to serve on this committee, after which he was replaced by Adam Doerr, with Bob Bibby serving as chairman of the committee.

26. READING OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

The clerk read the minutes from Business Sessions 1 and 2, after which it was moved, seconded, and carried to adopt the minutes as amended.

27. PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Jerry Foltz shared a point of personal privilege concerning Richard Blankenship's wife Linda, who is gravely ill and presently receiving hospice care, after which Jerry led the court in prayer for this matter.

28. CANDIDATES AND CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT — *Continued*

Adam Niess resumed the C&CC report, inviting Joe Johnson to come forward for his Theology 1 exam.

THEOLOGY 1 EXAM — J. JOHNSON (Unanimously Sustained)

Joe Johnson came forward to receive his Theology 1 exam from Jerry Foltz, answering questions from Mr. Foltz and from the floor, after which comments were received from the floor, and the exam was unanimously sustained by roll call vote.

29. MOTION FROM THE FLOOR (Carried)

It was moved, seconded, and carried that the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery, noting the evident blessing of the Holy Spirit upon the retiring moderator's preaching, hereby spreads a copy of Dr. Eshelman's sermon upon the minutes.

30. PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

David Whitla shared a point of personal privilege, informing the court that Rev. Ted Donnelly is nearing eternity, and asking for prayer, which was offered up by the moderator following the mid-session break.

31. MID-SESSION BREAK

The court took its mid-session break at 10:40 a.m. and resumed the meeting at 10:59 a.m. with the singing of Psalm 87, after which Mr. Hughes reconvened the court in prayer, and interceded for Ted Donnelly and his family, giving thanks to the Lord for using Rev. Donnelly's ministry to bless the church for so many years.

32. CANDIDATES AND CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT — *Continued*

Mr. Niess resumed his presentation of the Candidates and Credentials Committee report.

THEOLOGY 2 EXAM — J. STURM (Unanimously Sustained)

Jonathan Sturm came forward to receive his Theology 2 exam from Shawn Anderson, answering questions from Mr. Anderson and from the floor, after which comments were received from the floor, and the exam was unanimously sustained by roll call vote.

33. CONGREGATIONAL REPORTS

The court took up the hearing of congregational reports in reverse alphabetical order, as specified in the agenda.

WESTMINSTER RPC (Received)

Josh Smith presented the Westminster congregational report, after which it was moved, seconded, and carried to receive the report.

TERRE HAUTE RPC (Received)

Russell Lodge presented the Terre Haute congregational report, after which it was moved, seconded, and carried to receive the report.

SYCAMORE RPC (Received)

Bob McKissick presented the Sycamore congregational report, after which it was moved, seconded, and carried to receive the report.

SPARTA (Postponed)

The moderator appointed Phil Pockras to pray for Rev. Bob Morrow during the upcoming prayer time, and noted that the Sparta congregational report has been postponed until later in the meeting.

SOUTHFIELD (Received)

Adam Kuehner presented the Southfield congregational report, after which it was moved, seconded, and carried to receive the report.

34. INTERCESSORY PRAYER

The court entered into a time of intercessory prayer, led by Philip McCollum (Westminster), Steven Work (Terre Haute), Phil Pockras (Sparta, Bob Morrow), Joel Hart (Sycamore), and Rich Holdeman (Southfield).

35. DISABILITIES MINISTRY REPORT

Rich Johnston presented a report on behalf of Synod's Disabilities Ministry Committee, after which it was moved, seconded, and carried to receive the report.

36. LAFAYETTE CALL REVIEW COMMITTEE

David Hanson presented the report of the Lafayette Call Review Committee, recommending that the court sustain RPCs pastoral call to Jonathan Sturm as a regular gospel call, after which this recommendation carried.

37. CONGREGATIONAL REPORTS — *Continued*

The court returned to the hearing of congregational reports.

SOUTHWEST OHIO RPC (Received)

Greg (aka "Scott") Damerow presented the Southwest Ohio RP (SWORP) congregational report, after which it was moved, seconded, and carried to receive the report.

38. PRAYER & RECESS FOR LUNCH

David Schisler led the court in prayer for the SWORP congregation and for the Vincze family (in light of the recent passing of Elder Timothy Vincze's mother), and recessed the court for lunch at 12:27 p.m.

BUSINESS SESSION #4 (Fri 3/3 @ 1:30 p.m.)**39. CALL TO ORDER**

The moderator called the court to order at 1:34 p.m. with the singing of praise to God and reconvened the court in prayer.

40. ATTENDANCE

The assistant clerk took visual attendance, confirming that a quorum was present.

41. CANDIDATES AND CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT — *Continued*

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

CHURCH HISTORY EXAM — J. STURM (Unanimously Sustained)

Jonathan Sturm came forward to receive his Church History exam from Steve Rhoda, answering questions from Mr. Rhoda and from the floor, and receiving comments from the floor, after which the exam was unanimously sustained by roll call vote.

LICENSURE TO RECEIVE A CALL — J. STURM (Unanimously Sustained)

The court unanimously sustained Jonathan Sturm's licensure to receive a call.

- Jonathan Sturm affirmed the licensure queries as administered by Steve Sturm, and signed the queries in the minute book, after which Joel Hart led the court in prayer, licensing Mr. Sturm as eligible to receive a call in the name and by the authority of Jesus Christ, the only Head and King of the church.
- David Whitla issued a charge to Mr. Sturm on behalf of the court regarding the preacher's call from Christ and reminded him of the privileges, responsibilities, and limitations of licensure.

PRESENTATION OF PASTORAL CALL

The clerk presented Mr. Sturm with the pastoral call from RPC of Lafayette, and the moderator reminded him that he has two weeks to notify the clerk of his response to the call.

42. IRPC RESOLUTION COMMITTEE

Nathan Eshelman presented the report of the IRPC Resolution Committee, bringing its recommendations before the court, including a third recommendation not included in the written report.

- It was moved, seconded, and carried that presbytery enter executive session to hear this report, after which the court entered executive session at 2:35 p.m.
- Recommendation 1³⁴ was discussed, after which it was moved, seconded, and carried by two-thirds super-majority to move the previous question, and Recommendation 1 carried without vocal dissent.
- Recommendation 2³⁵ was modified by the committee to replace "Dan Perrin" with "Matt Wilburn", after which it carried and was implemented.
- Recommendation 3³⁶ carried.
- It was moved, seconded, and carried to receive the report.
- Nathan Eshelman led the court in prayer, after which it was moved, seconded, and carried to leave executive session, which the court did at 2:56 p.m.

43. IRPC COMMITTEE (OTD) REPORT

Frank Smith presented the report of the IRPC Committee (of the Day), bringing Recommendation 1A³⁷ before the court, after which the recommendation was discussed.

³⁴ Rec. 1 (IRPC-RES): The committee be continued and to report back to the synod-time meeting of presbytery. [CARRIED]

³⁵ Rec. 2 (IRPC-RES): That Mr. ~~Dan Perrin~~ Matt Wilburn be given five minutes to speak on the floor of presbytery. [CARRIED]

³⁶ Rec. 3 (IRPC-RES): That presbytery counsel the Trustees of Synod to make no claim against the property of IRPC. [CARRIED]

³⁷ Rec. 1A (IRPC-OTD): That the Anderson complaint (GLG 23-2) be heard tomorrow, with ten minutes for the complaint, twenty minutes for the defendant, and ten additional minutes for the complainant, followed by thirty minutes for debate, with provision for five minute extensions by simple majority. [CARRIED]

- It was moved and seconded to lay the recommendation on the table to entertain the following substitute: “That presbytery form a five-man judicial commission appointed by the moderator with authority to institute (and, as needed, bring to completion) judicial process against Sam Carr, Josh Karshen, and Matt Wilburn for their respective roles in the publicly known decision and/or action of the IRPC session to serve communion to Jared Olivetti while he remained under suspension by the synod.” This motion was defeated, thereby returning the discussion to Rec. 1A.

44. MID-SESSION BREAK

The court took its mid-session break at 3:25 p.m. and resumed the meeting at 3:48pm with the singing of Psalm 32D and a prayer by the moderator to reconvene the meeting.

45. IRPC COMMITTEE (OTD) REPORT — *Continued*

Frank Smith resumed his presentation of the IRPC Committee (of the Day), withdrawing Recommendation 1A and bringing Recommendation 1B³⁸ before the court on behalf of the committee.

- It was moved and seconded to lay the current recommendation on the table to entertain the following substitute: “That the Anderson Complaint (GLG 23-2) be referred to the IRPC Resolution Committee to make use of it in its work of advising the IRPC session.” This motion was defeated.

46. WITHDRAWAL OF COMPLAINT AND CHARGES

The moderator announced that the assistant clerk has consulted with Rev. Kyle Borg and that Rev. Borg has submitted a formal notice to the court (GLG 23-12) withdrawing his charge and complaint against the IRPC session.

47. IRPC COMMITTEE (OTD) REPORT — *Continued*

Frank Smith resumed his presentation of the IRPC Committee (of the Day) Report, and the court returned to its discussion of Recommendation 1B, after which the recommendation was defeated.

48. CLERK’S REPORT — *Continued*

Mr. Kuehner resumed his presentation of the clerk’s report, enabling the court to return to its discussion of Part A³⁹ of the substitute motion⁴⁰ currently on the floor, which previously had been substituted for Clerk’s Recommendation 17.⁴¹

- Part A of the substitute was defeated, after which it was moved, seconded, and carried to lay Part B on the table to entertain the following substitute: “That presbytery, in response to Mr. Faris’ request ‘for his credentials to be sent to Zionsville Fellowship Church’ (ZFC) send a letter of ministerial standing, and instruct the AIC to dismiss James Faris from the roll of GLGP TEs upon confirmation of the ZFC clerk’s receipt and acceptance of that letter.”
- The substitute motion was discussed, along with many heartfelt expressions of love and appreciation for Mr. Faris and his ministry over the years, after which it carried, and Aaron Murray led the court in prayer for Mr. Faris.

The clerk informed the court that it remains unclear as to whether or not presbytery has transmitted GLG 22-16⁴² to synod, per the requirements of the constitution.

- It was moved, seconded, and carried to transmit GLG 22-16 to synod without endorsement.

³⁸ Rec. 1B (IRPC-OTD): That presbytery refer the hearing of the Anderson Complaint (GLG 23-2) to a five-man commission to adjudicate the matter according to the following format: ten minutes for the complaint, twenty minutes for the defendant, and ten additional minutes for the complainant, followed by thirty minutes for debate, with provision for five minute extensions by simple majority. [DEFEATED]

³⁹ Part A of the Substitute Motion (on the floor): That presbytery, in response to Mr. Faris’ request ‘for his credentials to be sent to Zionsville Fellowship Church’ (GLG 23-6), instruct the clerk to transfer Mr. Faris’ credentials to ZFC. [DEFEATED]

⁴⁰ Substitute Motion (Parts A + B): That presbytery, in response to Mr. Faris’ request ‘for his credentials to be sent to Zionsville Fellowship Church’ (GLG 23-6), instruct the clerk to transfer Mr. Faris’ credentials to ZFC, and with a rebuke for his email as recorded in GLG 23-8, and an encouragement to seek the peace and unity of the church in whatever ecclesiastical situation he finds himself in.” [DIVIDED]

⁴¹ Rec. 17 (Clerk): That presbytery, in response to Mr. Faris’ request “for his credentials to be sent to Zionsville Fellowship Church” (GLG 23-6), instruct the clerk to send ZFC a letter of ministerial standing, but not to *transfer* Mr. Faris’ credentials to ZFC. [LAID ON THE TABLE]

⁴² GLG 22-16: A complaint from N. Enas v. GLGP for not accepting charges against J. Faris at its meeting in June 2022.

- It was moved, seconded, and carried to receive the clerk's report.

49. MOTION FROM THE FLOOR (Defeated)

It was moved and seconded that the court take up GLG 23-8.⁴³ This motion was defeated by a vote of 12-13, after which the court sang Psalm 25B.

- The following delegates registered their dissent to the court's decision not to take up GLG 23-8 and gave notice of their intent to file a complaint: Adam Kuehner, Frank Smith, Josh Smith, Alejandro Ramirez, and Shawn Anderson.

50. MOTION FROM THE FLOOR (Carried)

Mr. Hart moved a reconsideration of the overturning of the moderator's ruling the previous day (Thursday) during the clerk's report regarding the unconstitutionality of moving to transfer a minister's credentials to an individual congregation.

- Mr. Hart informed the court that he had previously voted in the majority, after which it was also confirmed that the seconder had also voted in the majority on the previous day.
- The motion to reconsider carried, thereby reaffirming the moderator's ruling that a motion to transfer a minister's credentials to a local congregation, rather than a denomination, is out of order, per DCG 3.II.E.5.i (D-21).

51. CONGREGATIONAL/TGB REPORTS — *Continued*

The court returned to the hearing of reports from congregations and temporary governing bodies (TGB).

Selma RPC

Adam Niess presented the Selma congregational report, after which it was moved, seconded, and carried to receive the report.

Atlanta RP Mission Church (TGB)

Frank Smith presented the report of the Atlanta TGB, bringing its recommendations before the court.

- Recommendation 1⁴⁴ was seconded and referred to the Finance Committee
- Recommendation 2⁴⁵ was seconded and referred to the Finance Committee
- Recommendation 3⁴⁶ was seconded and referred to the Nominating Committee.
- Recommendation 4⁴⁷ was seconded and carried, thereby receiving the report.

52. ATLANTA JUDICIAL COMMISSION

Frank Smith presented the report of the Atlanta Judicial Commission, after which it was moved, seconded, and carried to receive the report, thereby spreading the commission minutes on the minutes of presbytery.

53. CONGREGATIONAL REPORTS — *Continued*

The court returned to the hearing of congregational reports.

Second RPC

Jerry Foltz presented the Second RPC congregational report, after which it was moved, seconded, and carried to receive the report.

Southside RPC

John Hanson presented the Southside RPC congregational report, after which it was moved, seconded, and carried to receive the report.

54. PRAYER AND RECESS FOR DINNER

The court entered into a time of intercessory prayer, led by Adam Niess (Selma), Phil Pockras (Second RP), Frank Smith (Southside), and Jeff Brotherton (Atlanta), who also recessed the court for dinner at 5:37 p.m.

⁴³ GLG 23-8: A communication from K. Evans sharing an email from J. Faris re: J. Olivetti's restoration to communion.

⁴⁴ Rec. 1 (ATL): That Presbytery grant \$4,000.00 for the work of Atlanta RPC for 2023. [REFERRED]

⁴⁵ Rec. 2 (ATL): That Presbytery provide \$2,000.00 for the expenses of the Atlanta Commission. [REFERRED]

⁴⁶ Rec. 3 (ATL): That the membership of the Atlanta Commission consist of the current members. [REFERRED]

⁴⁷ Rec. 4 (ATL): That the report of the Atlanta Commission be approved. [CARRIED]

BUSINESS SESSION #5 (Fri 3/3 @ 6:45 p.m.)**55. CALL TO ORDER**

The moderator called the court to order at 6:47 p.m. with the singing of Psalm 144B, and reconvened the court in prayer.

56. ATTENDANCE

The assistant clerk took visual attendance and confirmed that a quorum was present.

57. PRESBYTERY YOUTH REPORT — C.Y.P.U.

Steve Rhoda presented the report of the CYPU Board, introducing the members of the CYPU leadership team.

- It was moved, seconded, and carried to grant the members of the CYPU leadership team the privileges of the floor to present their portion of the Presbytery Youth Report.
- David Erney informed the court regarding various CYPU ministry events, including Theological Foundations Weekend.
- Duncan Blank informed the court regarding the recent CYPU winter conference and various other youth ministry events.

Steve Rhoda resumed his presentation of the report, bringing the board's recommendations before the court.

- Recommendation 1⁴⁸ carried, after which Bryan Planalp took the podium for the remainder of the report.
- Recommendation 2⁴⁹ carried.
- Recommendation 3⁵⁰ carried.
- Recommendation 4⁵¹ was referred to the Finance Committee.
- It was moved, seconded, and carried to receive the report, after which the court gave Steve Rhoda a standing ovation for his diligent and faithful work with the youth of the presbytery.

⁴⁸ Rec. 1 (CYPU): That (1) Bryan Planalp will become the President of the CYPU Board, (2) Stephen Rhoda will remain Director of the CYPU, and (3) An additional CYPU board member will be named. [CARRIED]

⁴⁹ Rec. 2 (CYPU): That presbytery approve (1) Changes to the Youth Ministry Staff Application Form: (a) Removing the experience questions; our proposed revision is attached. (b) Changing the form requirements so that rather than a letter of recommendation from pastor or elders, there is a standard attestation that is sent to pastor or elders to confirm (by signing) or reject. (2) Purchasing a Docusign account and using it to administer this form electronically. (a) This will work on the web or via the Docusign app. (b) Presbytery may want to consider whether the Docusign account should be owned by the CYPU or by the presbytery itself (i.e., should it be shared across all presbytery events). (c) Docusign is \$25 per month per seat, so purchasing one seat would cost \$300 per year. (d) We would like to ask presbytery to fund this cost in our CYPU budget. The benefits will be speed, ease, and uniformity. (3) CYPU Board will create a process to administer the forms and collect the documentation. Sending and collecting the forms will be time-consuming at first, as all youth workers will have to be processed, but should become easier over time as youth workers assist at multiple events. [CARRIED]

⁵⁰ Rec. 3 (CYPU): That presbytery approve (1) CYPU Board review of the CPP to seek clarification and recommended minor adjustments. Some areas to be reviewed include: (a) In II.B.2, what does it mean to “administer a GLGP youth program”? Does this refer to event coordinators, or anyone present at the event to oversee the youth (event coordinator, counselors, drivers, cook)? (b) In III.A, “Staff” and “Volunteer” have different requirements, and volunteer does not mention background check or the application form. However, the rest of the policy and context seems to assume that volunteers will also fill out the application form; is that the intent? (i.) In III.A.2.c, what does it mean for volunteers to “remain under Staff supervision”? Does this mean line of sight, or just generally under their oversight at an event? Would counselors at the high school winter conference be Staff or Volunteers? (c) Regarding the application form, if the pastor is a close relative of the applicant, should we require that the form be approved by an unrelated pastor or elder rather than a relative? (d) The CPP does not say how frequently to administer background checks, or if the application form ever needs to be redone. Our assumption is that background checks need to be redone every three years, and that the application form is a one-time event. Is this correct? (e) Do the bathroom guidelines in III.D.3 apply to high school age youth? Youth was defined as “those the age of 18 years of age or younger”. (f) In III.C.2, what is an “approved adult”? Could this be added to the definition section? Is this someone who has to fill out the application form? [CARRIED]

⁵¹ That presbytery provide \$3000 for the work of the CYPU in 2023. [REFERRED]

58. ASSISTANT CLERK'S REPORT

The assistant clerk informed the court regarding the process of stamping minute books in confirmation of the digital review process which had taken place in the weeks leading up to the meeting.

59. ATLANTA JUDICIAL COMMISSION REPORT — *Continued*

It was moved, seconded, and carried to dismiss the Atlanta Judicial Commission with thanks.

60. IRPC COMMITTEE (OTD) REPORT — *Continued*

Frank Smith resumed his presentation of the IRPC Committee (of the Day), bringing Recommendation 1C⁵² before the court on behalf of the committee.

- It was moved, seconded and carried to amend the motion by inserting the phrase “scheduled for a time certain tomorrow”, thereby bringing the amended version of Recommendation 1C⁵³ before the court.
- The amended motion was discussed, after which the previous question was called, and this was defeated by a vote of 15-12, failing to reach the required two-thirds super-majority.
- The court continued its discussion of the amended motion, after which it carried, and the moderator announced that the Anderson Complaint (GLG 23-2) will be heard tomorrow following the preaching of the word.

61. BUSINESS COMMITTEE (OTD) [BUSCOM] REPORT

The BUSCOM report came before the court, after which it was moved, seconded, and carried to enter executive session at 7:58 p.m., with Scott Hunt registering his dissent from this action.

- The previous moderator took the chair, since the current moderator is an elder on the session complained against.
- James Odom began reading the committee's written report, after which a point of order was raised, that the complaint should first be heard by way of statements by the prosecution and defense, rather than hearing the committee's analysis of the complaint.
- The moderator ruled against the point of order, after which further discussion ensued concerning the best path forward and the committee agreed to move directly to Recommendation 1,⁵⁴ which carried.
- The moderator ruled that certain relatives of the complainant are neither parties nor counsel to the case, and therefore may not present in executive session.
- The prosecution presented its case for ten minutes, after which the defense presented its case for ten minutes.
- James Odom resumed his presentation of the committee's written report, after which the complainant was given a further opportunity to address the court and answer questions.
- The Southfield delegates informed the court that they would be abstaining from the vote, after which Recommendation 2⁵⁵ carried without vocal dissent, meaning that the complaint was not sustained.
- The moderator explained to the complainant his rights and options regarding an appeal to synod.
- It was moved, seconded, and carried to dismiss the committee, after which it was moved, seconded, and carried to receive the report.
- It was moved, seconded, and carried that presbytery leave executive session at 8:55 p.m., at which time the moderator resumed the chair from the previous moderator.

62. DISSENT FROM A PREVIOUS ACTION

Frank Smith read aloud his written dissent from the action of the court on the previous day to adopt Recommendation 4 from the clerk's report (See Footnote 5 above.)

⁵² Rec. 1C (IRPC-OTD): That the hearing of the Anderson Complaint (GLG 23-2) be according to the following format: 5 minutes for the complaint, ten minutes for the defendant, and five additional minutes for the complainant, followed by ten minutes for debate, with provision for five minute extensions by simple majority. [AMENDED]

⁵³ Rec. 1C (IRPC-ORD) [Amended]: That the hearing of the Anderson Complaint (GLG 23-2) be scheduled for a time certain tomorrow according to the following format: 5 minutes for the complaint, ten minutes for the defendant, and five additional minutes for the complainant, followed by ten minutes for debate, with provision for five minute extensions by simple majority. [CARRIED]

⁵⁴ Rec. 1 (BUSCOM): [That] The GLG Presbytery permits Mr. Allison to address the court for up to 10 minutes concerning this complaint. [CARRIED]

⁵⁵ Rec. 2 (BUSCOM): That the GLG Presbytery not sustain this complaint. [CARRIED]

63. MOTION TO EXTEND THE TIME (Carried)

It was moved, seconded, and carried to extend the time to hear the treasurer's report and the reading of the minutes.

64. TREASURER'S REPORT

Mark Hart presented the treasurer's report on behalf of presbytery treasurer, Jim Bishop, after which it was moved, seconded, and carried to receive the report.

65. PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

The clerk asked Mr. Hart's forgiveness for inadvertently forgetting to invite him forward to give his report earlier in the evening, as he had previously promised to Mr. Hart.

66. READING OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Mr. Kuehner read the minutes, after which it was moved, seconded, and carried to adopt the minutes as amended.

67. EVENING RECESS

The moderator recessed the court in prayer for the evening at 9:37 p.m.

BUSINESS SESSION #6 (Sat 3/4 @ 8:30 a.m.)**68. CALL TO ORDER**

The moderator called the court to order at 8:33 a.m., reconvening the court in the name of Jesus, the only King and Head of the church.

69. ATTENDANCE

The assistant clerk took visual attendance, confirming that a quorum was present.

70. MODERATOR APPOINTMENTS

The moderator noted that Adam Doerr will replace Joel Hart on the Borg Resolution Committee. The assistant clerk communicated to Bob Bibby that he will chair that committee, and Mr. Bibby agreed to this assignment.

71. CANDIDATES AND CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT — *Continued*

Adam Niess resumed his presentation of the Candidates and Credentials Committee report.

EVIDENCE OF PROGRESS SERMON — J. JOHNSON (Unanimously Sustained)

Mr. Joe Johnson came forward to preach his evidence of progress sermon, read Romans 1:1-7, preached from the text on the Good News of the Gospel (The Promise of the News, The Son of the News, The Spread of the News), and called upon God's name in prayer, after which the court sang Psalm 103D in praise to God, offered comments from the floor, and unanimously sustained the exam by roll call vote.

It was moved, seconded, and carried to receive the Candidates and Credentials Committee report as a whole.

72. COMPLAINT HEARING (GLG 23-2): ANDERSON v. IRPC SESSION

Frank Smith, chairman of the IRPC Committee (of the Day), introduced the hearing of the Anderson Complaint.

- It was moved and seconded to enter executive session. This motion was discussed on the floor, and was defeated by a vote of 12-17.
- Wade Mann reminded all those present in the room of the presbytery's policy which prohibits audio or video recordings of these proceedings without express permission from the court.

The complainant, Shawn Anderson, delivered his first five minute presentation, after which the respondent, Matt Wilburn, delivered his ten minute presentation, followed by the complainant, Mr. Anderson, who delivered his five minute closing statement, at which point the moderator instructed the court that it had ten minutes for deliberation and decision by way of questions and comments.

- During this ten minute period, it was moved and seconded that presbytery hereby sustains Specification 1 of the complaint against the actions of the IRPC session in that it violated the synod's upholding of Mr. Olivetti's censure of suspension of church membership privileges, and that presbytery hereby annuls the decision to admit Jared Olivetti to the Lord's Table.

- This motion (Motion 1A) was divided into Part 1A⁵⁶ and Part 1B⁵⁷, with Motion 1A remaining before the court.
- Discussion continued, at which point a speaker directed a question to one of the parties for clarification regarding a comment made in his presentation, after which a point of order was raised to limit discussion to the motion itself, which was upheld by the moderator.
- It was moved, seconded, and carried to lay on the table the discussion of Motion 1A, in order to debate and discuss the complaint as specified in the original motion, after which the court will return to the motion on the floor.
- The complaint was discussed, along with questions for Mr. Anderson and Mr. Wilburn regarding their presentations.
- It was moved, seconded, and carried to extend the time for five minutes, after which the discussion continued.
- It was moved and seconded that presbytery refer the complaint to synod, after which this motion was discussed and defeated by a vote of 7-21, with James Odom registering his dissent, and the court returning to discuss Motion 1A.

73. MID-SESSION BREAK

The court took its midsession break at 10:27 a.m. and resumed the meeting at 10:48 a.m., at which time the moderator called the court to order with the singing of Psalm 105A, and announced that the court would briefly take a motion with respect to the Sparta congregation.

74. MOTION FROM THE FLOOR

It was moved, seconded, and carried to receive the Sparta congregational report without hearing an oral report, thereby referring their recommendation for a provisional elder to the Nominating Committee.

75. COMPLAINT HEARING (GLG 23-2): ANDERSON v. IRPC SESSION — *Continued*

The court resumed its discussion of the motion previously on the floor regarding the Anderson Complaint.

- It was moved, seconded, and carried to call the previous question, and this carried by two-thirds majority.
- Motion 1A carried by a vote of 28-1, thereby sustaining Specification 1 of the Anderson Complaint (GLG 23-2), with James Odom registering his dissent from this action.⁵⁸
- Motion 1B of the motion came before the court, after which it was moved, seconded, and carried to amend the motion to add the phrase “and instruct the lower court to not continue to allow him to come to the Lord’s Table.”
- The amended version of Motion 1B⁵⁹ carried, with James Odom registering his dissent.

76. IRPC COMMITTEE (OTD) REPORT — *Continued*

Frank Smith resumed his presentation of the IRPC Committee (of the Day) report, bringing before the court the committee’s second recommendation (Rec. 2),⁶⁰ which was discussed and carried.

- The court proceeded to discuss the committee’s third recommendation (Rec. 3),⁶¹ which carried, with James Odom registering his dissent.

⁵⁶ Motion 1A (23-2 Hearing): That presbytery hereby sustains Specification 1 of the complaint against the actions of the IRPC session in that it violated the synod’s upholding of Mr. Olivetti’s censure of suspension of church membership privileges. [CARRIED]

⁵⁷ Motion 1B (23-2 Hearing): That presbytery hereby annuls the decision to admit Jared Olivetti to the Lord’s Table. [AMENDED]

⁵⁸ James Odom’s Dissent: “It belongs to the session alone to admit to membership in the church” (DCG-1-2, D-2). The local session is in charge of the table (DPW-3-11, F-13). Therefore it is out of order for a higher court, without being in the member’s presence, and thereby lacking necessary evidence to make the determination that a member’s “manner of life is notably inconsistent with their Christian profession,” to exercise a prior restraint upon a session to exclude a member from the table. Such an order creates a potential conflict of vows for both the session in charge of the table and the member obligated by vow to observe the appointed sacraments. By offering this as a sanction (BOD-4-1-C, E-5), the Constitution thereby contains a potential conflict. Synod has taken original jurisdiction, imposed this conflict, and therefore should be responsible for discipline in this matter and potential response to conflict of laws.

⁵⁹ Motion 1B (23-2 Hearing) [Amended]: That presbytery hereby annuls the decision to admit Jared Olivetti to the Lord’s Table, and instruct the lower court to not continue to allow him to come to the Lord’s Table. [CARRIED]

⁶⁰ Rec. 2 (IRPC-OTD): That presbytery receive Mr. Odom’s petition (GLG 23-8) for information. [CARRIED]

⁶¹ Rec. 3 (IRPC-OTD): That presbytery hereby rebukes elders Sam Carr and Josh Karshen for voting to admit Jared Olivetti to the Lord’s Table. [CARRIED]

- It was moved, seconded, and carried that presbytery instruct the IRPC session not to admit Jared Olivetti to the Lord's Table until the synod's censure of suspension is lifted. James Odom registered his dissent.
- It was moved (but failed to receive a second) that presbytery instruct the IRPC Resolution Committee to follow up with the IRPC session on the rebuke issued by the court, and report back to the presbytery with its counsel at its next meeting.
- It was moved and seconded that presbytery create a three-man AIC-appointed shepherding committee to follow up with the IRPC session on the rebuke issued by the court, and report back to the presbytery with its counsel at its next meeting. This motion was defeated by a vote of 10-15.
- It was moved, seconded, and carried to approve the report of the IRPC Committee (OTD).

77. MOTION FROM THE FLOOR (Carried)

It was moved and seconded that a three-man AIC-appointed committee evaluate the differences between the forgiveness granted at this meeting to Mr. Borg and the response to requests for forgiveness made at previous meetings.

- A point of order was raised that this motion is new business and is not germane, at which point the moderator ruled that the motion is germane, after which the motion carried.

78. FINANCE COMMITTEE

Joel Hart presented the Finance Committee report, bringing its recommendations before the court.

- Recommendation 1⁶² carried.
- Recommendation 2⁶³ carried.
- Recommendation 3⁶⁴ carried.
- Recommendation 4⁶⁵ carried.
- It was moved, seconded, and carried to receive the report as a whole.

79. COVFAMIKOI CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Ken Nelson presented the report of the COVFAMIKOI Conference Committee, noting that the 2022 attendance was about 100 less than the previous conference, and announcing that the 2023 conference will be held on July 15-20 with Rev. George Gregory as the main speaker.

- It was moved, seconded, and carried to receive the report as a whole.

80. TIME AND PLACE COMMITTEE REPORT

Ian Wise presented the report of the Time and Place Committee, bringing its recommendation before the court: "That next year's spring meeting be held at Second RP from February 29 to March 2, 2024." This motion carried, thereby setting the time and place for next year's spring presbytery meeting.

81. NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Ken Nelson presented the report of the Nominating Committee, providing some points of explanation, and bringing the committee's recommendations before the court.

- Recommendation 1⁶⁶ carried.
- Recommendation 2⁶⁷ was referred to the AIC.
- It was moved, seconded, and carried to receive the report as a whole, which is as follows.

⁶² Rec. 1 (FinCom): That the Selma RP church be exempted from an assessment for 2023. [CARRIED]

⁶³ Rec. 2 (FinCom): That the monthly stipend for seminary students be raised from \$300/month to \$500/month. [CARRIED]

⁶⁴ Rec. 3 (FinCom): That the complete funds for budget items pertaining to the CYPUP be funded on a quarterly basis. [CARRIED]

⁶⁵ Rec. 4 (FinCom): That the budget as proposed be adopted. [CARRIED]

⁶⁶ Rec. 1 (NomCom): That presbytery adopt the following slate of names as proposed in the report. [CARRIED]

⁶⁷ Rec. 2 (NomCom): That presbytery appoint a provisional elder for Sparta RPC. [CARRIED]

Ad Interim Commission

Shawn Anderson (Ch)
Jerry Porter
G. Scott Damerow
Aaron Hartzler
Alejandro Ramirez

Cand. & Cred. Comte

Class of 2025
Joel Hart
Rich Holdeman
Adam Kuehner

Class of 2024
Adam Niess (Ch)
Jonathan Schaefer
Ian Wise

Home Mission Board Rep.

Josh Smith

Church Extension Comte

Nathan Eshelman
Jason Camery
Bryan Dage

Financial Officers

Treasurer: Jim Bishop
Asst. Treasurer: Mark Hart

Membership Comte

Frank Smith (Ch)
Philip McCollum
Chris Stockwell

Interim Moderators

Selma: Adam Niess

Provisional Elders

Sparta: Open

Visitation Committees

Southwest Ohio RP
Adam Doerr (Ch)
Jeff Brotherton
David Schisler
Southfield
Wade Mann (Ch)
Brentt VanSickle
Russell Lodge

Inter-Church Liaison

Dick Knodel

Synod Finance Comte

Jon Hughes

Geneva Board of**Corporators Rep.**

Phil Pockras

Atlanta TGB

Steven Work (Ch)

G. Scott Damerow

Frank Smith

Dick Knodel

Tim Vincze

T.J. Pastille

Covfamikoi Conf. Comte

Director: Ken Nelson

Manager: Ross Cerbus

Advisory: J. Schaefer, N.

Eshelman, D. Hanson

CYPU Board

Class of 2025

Bryan Planalp (Pres.)

Anna Roberts (Treas.)

Kevin Duffy

Aaron Murray

Class of 2024

Joy Whitt

CYPU Director

Steve Rhoda

Youth Min. of Synod Rep.

Steve & Mary Rhoda

82. RESOLUTION OF THANKS COMMITTEE

Chris Stockwell presented the Resolution of Thanks Committee report, after which the resolution⁶⁸ was adopted.

83. PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

David Whitla shared a point of personal privilege, announcing that Professor Ted Donnelly had passed into glory earlier that day, and read a statement⁶⁹ from the Donnelly family.

84. ASSISTANT CLERK'S REPORT — *Continued*

The assistant clerk read his report, which is as follows:

- The Minute Books were all reviewed electronically and the following books were stamped with counsel: Atlanta (one set of signatures still needed), Belle Center, Bloomington (signatures needed), Elkhart, Lafayette, Marion, Second Indianapolis (Get a proper Minute Book), Southfield, Southside, Southwest Ohio, Sycamore, Terre Haute, Orlando.
- The following Minute Books were not stamped or signed: Columbus, Hetherton, Immanuel, Sparta, Westminster.
- The Minutes of the disorganized congregations of Christ Church and Grand Rapids were stamped and signed. There are seven missing signatures from Grand Rapids. These Minutes will be sent to RP Archives to be stored.
- It was moved, seconded, and carried to receive the report.

⁶⁸ Resolution of Thanks: Whereas the Southside Indianapolis Reformed Presbyterian Church has generously hosted the Spring meeting of the Great Lakes/Gulf Presbytery with great charity and much kindness; Whereas SSRPC has shared with us their wonderful building to aid the fulfillment of our agenda over three days; Whereas SSRPC has welcomed us warmly, fed us fully, and housed us hospitably; Whereas SSRPC has served the Church well to advance the Kingdom of Christ; Now therefore, we offer to our beloved sister church our heart-felt gratitude, expressing our deep appreciation for the blessings they have bestowed upon us; and we offer to God our thanksgiving for SSRPC; along with our prayers that our great God and Father will prosper the Gospel ministry in Indianapolis, sustaining by His Word and Spirit our fathers and mothers, and brothers and sisters, of SSRPC, for their continued faithfulness and fruitfulness unto the coming of the Kingdom of Christ on earth until His glorious return to make all things new. — Chris Stockwell (Reformed Presbyterian Church of Lafayette) Robert Daniels (Elkhart Reformed Presbyterian Church) Alejandro Ramirez (Orlando Reformed Presbyterian Church)

⁶⁹ Statement: "Our beloved husband & Dad passed peacefully into glory early this afternoon. We are so thankful that his suffering is now over and he is at home with his Saviour. We thank you for your continued prayers & care during this time. Lorna, Catherine, Ruth & Warren, John & Sarah. 2 Timothy 4:7, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."

85. READING OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

The assistant clerk read the minutes from the current business session, after which it was moved, seconded, and carried to adopt them as amended.

86. PRAYER OF ADJOURNMENT

The court sang Psalm 133B and the moderator adjourned the court with prayer at 12:05 p.m. in the name of Jesus Christ, the King and Head of the Church.

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