

REPORT OF THE RPCNA SYNOD'S COMMISSION
for the Repentance, Reconciliation, and Restoration of Jared Olivetti

APPENDIX A: Minutes

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1 Meeting of the
2 Olivetti Restoration Commission
3 8:00 p.m., August 30, 2022
4 Via Zoom Cloud Meetings
5

[BACK](#)

6 Attendance:

7 Gary McNamee, Moderator

8 Jonathan Parnell

9 Tom Pinson

10 Andrew Silva

11 Steve Sturm

12 Josh Karshen (consultative member)

13 *Richard Gamble is appointed Alternate to this Commission, but was unable to attend.

14 Guests:

15 Harry Metzger, 2022 Moderator of Synod
16
17

18 The Moderator, Gary McNamee, opened the meeting with a devotion from Matthew 20:17-28 and
19 constituted the Court in the name of Jesus Christ, King and Head of the Church. The Agenda
20 proposed by the Moderator was approved by common consent.
21

22 Following the introduction of Commission Members, Mr. Parnell was appointed Commission
23 Clerk by common consent; the Moderator issued a charge to the Commission regarding diligent
24 review of the BOD (Chapters 1-6), and standards of confidentiality and integrity.
25

26 The Commission reviewed its remit from the 2022 Synod:
27

28 Recommendation (d) was deliberated; during this, an amended version was
29 offered:
30

31 *“That Synod assign oversight of the repentance, reconciliation, and*
32 *restoration of Mr. Olivetti to a 5-man commission consisting of 2 of the*
33 *current SJC commissioners (we recommend Mr. Andrew Silva & Mr. Tom*
34 *Pinson) and 3 other men, all to be appointed by the 2022 Synod*
35 *Moderator, with one of the IRPC ruling elders as a consultative member.”*
36 [emphasis in original]
37

38 The amendment effort carried; the amended recommendation (d) carried. Matt
39 Wilburn and Josh Karshen registered their dissent to the amendment.¹
40

¹ 2022 Minutes of Synod, p. 165, ¶ 1

1 The document “Explanation of Censure & Steps Toward Restoration”² from Synod’s Judicial
2 Commission (SJC)(and in particular, points 1-5)³ was identified as a ‘starting point’ for the
3 Commission’s framework for Mr. Olivetti’s repentance, reconciliation, and restoration.

4
5 The Commission considered the first of the SJC points: Does Mr. Olivetti submit to the authority
6 of the Court of the RPCNA Synod, consistent with his vows of Ordination? (i.e., Will Mr. Olivetti
7 “[subject] in the Lord to the courts of this church, and engage to follow no divisive courses from
8 the doctrine and order which the church has solemnly recognized and adopted; and do you
9 promise to submit to all the brotherly counsel which your brethren may tender you in the Lord?”
10 Vow 9, Queries for Ordination, Installation and Licensure p. G-2 Official Vows)

11
12 **MOVED and SECONDED** to invite Mr. Olivetti to speak with the Commission without delay
13 concerning his repentance to date, and his willingness to work with the Commission. **The**
14 **motion carried.** Proposed meeting times are 6:00 p.m. (CST), September 22, 23, or 26, 2022.
15 Mr. Karshen will communicate the proposed dates with Mr. Olivetti.

16
17 **MOVED and SECONDED** to contact SJC’s Investigators to forward to the Commission a list of
18 all victim families aggrieved by Mr. Olivetti’s offenses. **The motion carried.** The Clerk will
19 contact the SJC Investigators.

20
21 Devotion leaders assigned by the Moderator for subsequent meetings are Parnell, Silva, Sturm,
22 Pinson in that order.

23
24 The date and time of next scheduled meeting will be 6:00 p.m., September 22, 23, or 26, pending
25 the answer of Mr. Olivetti.

26
27 Mr. Sturm and Mr. Parnell prayed for the work of the Commission and for Mr. Olivetti, and the
28 Court was adjourned by Mr. Parnell in the name of Jesus Christ, King and Head of the Church.

29
30 Respectfully submitted,

31 

32
33 Jonathan Parnell, Clerk

² See Appendix 1 to the Report of Synod’s Judicial Commission, 2022 Minutes of Synod, p. 199

³ *Id.* at 202 *et seq.*

1 Meeting of the
2 Olivetti Restoration Commission
3 6:00 p.m., September 22, 2022

[BACK](#)

4
5 Attendance:

6 Gary McNamee, Moderator
7 Jonathan Parnell
8 Tom Pinson
9 Andrew Silva
10 Steve Sturm
11 Josh Karshen, Consultative

12 Guests:

13 Jared Olivetti
14

15 The Olivetti Restoration Commission met online via Google Meet. Mr. Parnell opened
16 the meeting at 6:03 p.m. CDT with a devotion from John 21:15-17 and constituted the
17 Court in the name of Jesus Christ, King and Head of the Church.
18

19 The proposed agenda was approved by common consent.
20

21 The following questions were posed to Mr. Olivetti in advance of the meeting.

- 22 • How are you doing overall: spiritually, emotionally, physically, financially, etc.?
- 23 • Where do you stand regarding the decision of the SJC and Synod to sustain the SJC
24 decision?
- 25 • Have you communicated, either publicly or privately, to the congregation in regard
26 to your discipline? If so, what have you communicated?
- 27 • Can you provide evidence of fruits of repentance in your life?
- 28 • What are some things the Lord has revealed to you in recent months?
- 29 • Are you aware of any unresolved personal conflicts (i.e., where others have been
30 offended by you OR where you have been offended by others) from the last 2-3
31 years' events? (e.g., with IRPC members or former members? with neighbors?
32 with members of the GLG Presbytery or the Synod?) And are you still open to
33 seeking reconciliation (through confession and forgiveness) in a mediated setting?
34

35 The floor was given to Mr. Olivetti to speak openly to the Commission. In addition to
36 responding to the questions posed ahead of time, Mr. Olivetti responded to clarification
37 questions at the meeting. Jared was then excused from the meeting and the Commission
38 discussed next steps in the process considering Jared's interaction with the Commission.
39

1 **MOVED and SECONDED** to go over Synod's charges with Mr. Olivetti at our next
2 scheduled meeting and hear Jared's own confession on how he acknowledges he has
3 sinned. Motion **CARRIED**.

4
5 OLD BUSINESS:

6 The SJC Investigators have declined to share names of victim families at this time, citing
7 the families' unease and hurt during the disciplinary processes of the Synod. **BCC** the
8 Commission will hold its request for information in abeyance until further progress has
9 been made.

10
11 **BCC** the Minutes of the August 30, 2022, were **APPROVED**. Next meeting is **TBD** by
12 the Clerk via www.doodle.com. Mr. Silva will lead with devotions.

13
14 The Minutes were read back and Court was adjourned at 8:15 p.m. CDT with prayer by
15 Mr. Silva in the name of Jesus Christ, King and Head of the Church.

16
17 Respectfully submitted,

18
19 

20 Jonathan Parnell, Clerk

1 Meeting of the
2 Olivetti Restoration Commission
3 6:00 p.m., October 6, 2022
4 Via Zoom Cloud Meetings
5

[BACK](#)

6 Attendance:

7 Gary McNamee, Moderator
8 Jonathan Parnell
9 Tom Pinson
10 Andrew Silva
11 Steve Sturm
12 Josh Karshen, Consultative

13 Guests:

14 Jared Olivetti
15

16 Mr. Silva opened the meeting of the Olivetti Restoration Commission at 6:07 p.m. CDT with a
17 devotion from Mark 6:7-39 and prayer, constituting the Court in the name of Jesus Christ, King
18 and Head of the Church.
19

20 The proposed agenda was approved, and the Minutes of the September 22, 2022, were
21 **APPROVED BCC.**
22

23 With the purpose of understanding the impact of the Immanuel RP Congregation's September 30,
24 2022, vote to dissociate with the RPCNA, the Commission heard from Mr. Karshen (Immanuel
25 Ruling Elder).
26

27 **BCC** the Moderator was recognized as a voting member of who may participate in the
28 Commission's deliberation and voting. **MOVED** and **SECONDED** to use super majority voting
29 (requiring 2/3 majority of all voting members) for restoration of Mr. Olivetti's credentials and/or
30 privileges of the Lord's Table. Motion **CARRIED.**
31

32 Mr. Olivetti joined the meeting at 7:00 p.m. and talked through each of the charges with the
33 Commission. Mr. Olivetti left the meeting at 8:00 p.m. and the Commission entered into
34 discussion concerning next steps.
35

36 The Court was adjourned at 8:57 p.m. CDT with prayer by Mr. Sturm in the name of Jesus Christ,
37 King and Head of the Church.
38

39 Next meeting is **TBD**. Mr. Sturm will lead with devotions.
40

41 Respectfully submitted,
42

43 

44 Jonathan Parnell, Clerk

1 Meeting of the
2 Olivetti Restoration Commission
3 6:00 p.m., October 20, 2022
4 Via Zoom Cloud Meetings
5

[BACK](#)

6 Attendance:

7 Gary McNamee, Moderator
8 Jonathan Parnell
9 Tom Pinson
10 Andrew Silva
11 Steve Sturm
12 Josh Karshen, Consultative

13 Guests:

14 Jared Olivetti
15

16 Mr. Sturm opened the meeting of the Olivetti Restoration Commission at 6:03 p.m. CDT with a
17 devotion from John 17:20-26 and prayer, constituting the Court in the name of Jesus Christ, King
18 and Head of the Church.
19

20 The proposed agenda and Minutes of the October 6, 2022, meeting were **APPROVED BCC**.
21

22 The Commission reviewed Mr. Olivetti's oral and written testimony of his response to the various
23 charges and his acts of confession and repentance to date.
24

25 Mr. Olivetti joined the meeting at 7:00 p.m., and reviewed documentation exhibiting his
26 understanding of the charges, his confession of sin, his steps of repentance and reconciliation,
27 and how the LORD has been at work in his life. Mr. Olivetti was excused from the meeting at 7:55
28 p.m., and the Commission discussed next steps. **BCC** the Clerk will send an email thanking Mr.
29 Olivetti for his participation to this point with copy to all Commissioners.
30

31 The Court was adjourned at 9:05 p.m. CDT with prayer by Mr. Pinson in the name of Jesus Christ,
32 King and Head of the Church.
33

34 Next meeting is **TBD**. Mr. Pinson will lead with devotions.
35

36 Respectfully submitted,
37

38 

39 Jonathan Parnell, Clerk

Meeting of the
Olivetti Restoration Commission
6:00 p.m., October 31, 2022
Via Zoom Cloud Meetings

Attendance:

- Gary McNamee, Moderator
- Jonathan Parnell
- Tom Pinson
- Andrew Silva
- Steve Sturm
- Josh Karshen, Consultative

Mr. Pinson opened the meeting of the Olivetti Restoration Commission at 6:04 p.m. CDT with a devotion from Exodus 17:1-7 and prayer, constituting the Court in the name of Jesus Christ, King and Head of the Church.

The proposed agenda and Minutes of the October 20, 2022, meeting were **APPROVED BCC**.

The Commission spent time *evaluating* Mr. Olivetti’s responses to the various charges and acts of confession and repentance reported to date. Consideration was given to the SJC’s Explanation of Censure and Steps toward Restoration with a view to developing a plan for *guiding* additional steps of confession, repentance, and reconciliation with affected parties.

The Commission expressed its appreciation for Mr. Karshen’s efforts, as Mr. Olivetti’s Elder at Immanuel, to counsel and encourage Mr. Olivetti as he prays through his response to the charges.

The Court was adjourned at 9:30 p.m. CDT with prayer by Mr. Parnell in the name of Jesus Christ, King and Head of the Church.

Next meeting is **TBD**. Mr. McNamee will lead with devotions.

Respectfully submitted,


Jonathan Parnell, Clerk

1 Meeting of the
2 Olivetti Restoration Commission
3 6:00 p.m., November 21, 2022
4 Via Zoom Cloud Meetings
5

[BACK](#)

6 Attendance:

7 Gary McNamee, Moderator
8 Jonathan Parnell
9 Tom Pinson
10 Andrew Silva
11 Steve Sturm
12 Josh Karshen, Consultative
13

14 Mr. McNamee opened the meeting of the Olivetti Restoration Commission at 6:02 p.m. CST with
15 a devotion from Psalm 97, followed by prayer, constituting the Court in the name of Jesus Christ,
16 King and Head of the Church.
17

18 The proposed agenda and Minutes of the October 31, 2022, meeting were **APPROVED BCC**.
19

20 The Commission again considered the SJC's Explanation of Censure and Steps toward
21 Restoration with a view to developing a plan for guiding additional steps of confession,
22 repentance, and reconciliation with affected parties.
23

24 The Commission received and reviewed additional information from Mr. Olivetti on steps of
25 confession and repentance to date with particular individuals. IRPC Elder Karshen reported that
26 the Session has confirmed the reconciliation and restoration of Mr. Olivetti's relationships within
27 the current membership.
28

29 The Commission then took up Immanuel Session's request¹ to lift Mr. Olivetti's suspension from
30 the Lord's Table. No action was taken. **BCC** the Clerk will draft a letter to Immanuel Session
31 communicating the Commission's current posture on the matter.²
32

33 The Court was adjourned at 9:13 p.m. CDT with prayer by Mr. Pinson in the name of Jesus Christ,
34 King and Head of the Church.
35

36 Next meeting is **TBD**. Mr. Parnell will lead with devotions.
37

38 Respectfully submitted,
39

40 

41 Jonathan Parnell, Clerk

¹ [November 18, 2022, IRPC Session LTR](#) ("Olivetti Communion Request")

² [November 28, 2022, Commission LTR to IRPC Session](#) (Draft letter approved by the Commission and delivered via email)

1 Meeting of the
2 Olivetti Restoration Commission
3 6:00 p.m., December 2, 2022
4 Via Zoom Cloud Meetings
5

[BACK](#)

6 Attendance:

7 Gary McNamee, Moderator
8 Jonathan Parnell
9 Tom Pinson
10 Andrew Silva¹
11 Steve Sturm
12 Josh Karshen, Consultative

13 Guests:

14 Sam Carr
15 Matt Wilburn
16 Daniel Perrin
17

18 The Olivetti Restoration Commission met pursuant to a written request from Immanuel Session
19 (received November 30, 2022)² for reconsideration of the Commission’s November 21, 2022,
20 decision (and letter to Immanuel Session, delivered November 28, 2022)³ concerning Mr.
21 Olivetti’s suspension from the Lords’ Table.
22

23 The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. CST. The Moderator opened with a devotion from 1
24 Timothy 1:12-16, and then followed with prayer, constituting the Court in the name of Jesus
25 Christ, King and Head of the Church. The proposed Agenda was **ADOPTED BCC**, and the
26 Commission proceeded to discuss Immanuel Session’s request with the help of Mr. Karshen in his
27 capacity as an Immanuel Ruling Elder.
28

29 At 7:00 p.m. following a short break, the additional members of Immanuel Session (Mr. Carr and
30 Mr. Wilburn) joined the meeting, together with Immanuel Interim Pastor (Mr. Perrin, PCA). It
31 was **MOVED** and **SECONDED** to grant speaking privileges to Mr. Perrin. The motion
32 **CARRIED**. The Commission then heard from and interacted with Immanuel Session until 8:20
33 p.m. At that time, Mr. Perrin prayed thanking God for the positive interaction, after which, Mr.
34 Perrin and the Immanuel RP Session members (with the exception of Mr. Karshen) left the
35 meeting.
36

37 The Commission deliberated on Immanuel RP Session’s pleas that Mr. Olivetti be re-admitted to
38 the Lord’s Table. A **MOTION** to lift Jared’s suspension from the Lord’s Table **FAILED** for lack
39 of a second.
40

¹ Mr. Silva was excused from the meeting at 6:30 p.m. due to a prior commitment.

² [2022-11-30 IRPC Session LTR](#) (“Olivetti Communion Follow Up”)

³ [2022-11-28 Commission letter to Immanuel RP Session](#) (re: readmitting Mr. Olivetti to the Lord’s Table)

1 The Commission then turned its attention to the request of a former prosecutor in the Olivetti
2 case (received November 30, 2022) that information on the Commission's progress be publicized.
3 **BCC** the Commission declined to publish its Minutes at the present time.

4
5 The Court was adjourned at 9:30 p.m. CDT with prayer by Mr. Parnell in the name of Jesus Christ,
6 King and Head of the Church.

7
8 Respectfully submitted,

9
10 
11 Jonathan Parnell, Clerk

Meeting of the
Olivetti Restoration Commission
6:00 p.m., December 15, 2022
Via Zoom Cloud Meetings

[BACK](#)

Attendance:

Gary McNamee, Moderator
Jonathan Parnell
Tom Pinson
Andrew Silva
Steve Sturm
Josh Karshen, Consultative

Mr. Parnell opened the meeting of the Olivetti Restoration Commission at 6:02 p.m. CST with a devotion from Psalm 103:1-13, followed by prayer, constituting the Court in the name of Jesus Christ, King and Head of the Church.

The proposed Agenda was **ADOPTED BCC**. The Minutes of the November 21, 2022, meeting were reviewed and **APPROVED BCC**. The Minutes of the December 2, 2022, meeting were reviewed and **APPROVED BCC**. **BCC** correspondence referenced in the Minutes will be appended thereto.

Mr. Karshen was asked to delay his arrival at the meeting until 7:00 p.m. to permit the Commission to discuss correspondence received from Immanuel RP Session¹ *vis a vis* the Commission's remit, and the continuing role of Mr. Karshen as Consultative member.

Mr. Karshen joined the meeting at 7:00 p.m. and he responded to the Commission's questions about Immanuel Session's action to admit Mr. Olivetti to the Lord's Table. Mr. Karshen was excused from the meeting at 7:20 p.m. and the Commission resumed deliberation of its course of action.

It was **MOVED** and **SECONDED** to remove Mr. Karshen as a Consultative member of the Commission. Discussion ensued, and the motion was **WITHDRAWN**. **MOTION** to suspend Mr. Karshen's participation in Commission meetings for a time, pending deliberation over the action of Immanuel RP Session's decision to re-admit Mr. Olivetti to the Lord's Table. The **MOTION CARRIED**. The Moderator will advise Mr. Karshen of the Commission's decision.

It was **MOVED** and **SECONDED** (a) to advise Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery of Immanuel RP Session's action to re-admit Mr. Olivetti to the Lord's Table, in defiance of the ruling of the Synod and the counsel of the Olivetti Restoration Commission; and (b) to recommend appropriate discipline. The **MOTION CARRIED**. **BCC** correspondence touching on re-admitting Mr. Olivetti to the Lord's Table will be forwarded to Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery with the Commission's advice.

¹ [2022-12-04 IRPC Session LTR](#) ("Olivetti Communion Decision")

1
2 The Commission turned it's attention to Mr. Olivetti's decision to take Communion before censure
3 was lifted, in defiance of the ruling of the Synod, and correspondence to this effect.² **BCC** the
4 Commission will call Mr. Olivetti to meet at a date **TBD**.

5
6 The Court was adjourned at 9:50 p.m. CST with prayer by Mr. Silva in the name of Jesus Christ,
7 King and Head of the Church.

8
9 Respectfully submitted,

10 
11
12 Jonathan Parnell, Clerk

² [2022-12-04 Olivetti EML \(re: taking Communion\)](#)

1 Meeting of the
2 Olivetti Restoration Commission
3 6:00 p.m., January 3, 2023
4 Via Zoom Cloud Meetings
5

[BACK](#)

6 Attendance:

7 Gary McNamee, Moderator
8 Jonathan Parnell
9 Tom Pinson
10 Andrew Silva
11 Steve Sturm

12 Guests:

13 Jared Olivetti
14 Josh Karshen
15

16 Mr. Silva opened the meeting of the Olivetti Restoration Commission at 6:00 p.m. CST with a
17 devotion from 1 Timothy 3, followed by prayer, constituting the Court in the name of Jesus Christ,
18 King and Head of the Church.

19
20 The proposed Agenda was **ADOPTED BCC**. The Minutes of the December 15, 2022, meeting
21 were reviewed and **APPROVED BCC**. Several prior months' Minutes were amended by the
22 Clerk **BCC** to correct a technical error (time zone notation).
23

24 The Commission took up the matter of Mr. Olivetti's decision to take Communion before censure
25 was lifted, and discussed restorative objectives for the meeting. Mr. Olivetti and Mr. Karshen
26 joined the meeting at 7:00 p.m. and discussion ensued.
27

28 Mr. Olivetti was asked directly why he took Communion on December 4, 2022, in defiance of the
29 Synod's censure, and was also called upon to repent of having defied Synod's ruling. Mr. Olivetti
30 refused to admit sin, claiming to be under the sole jurisdiction of his local Session, who had
31 admitted him to the Table.
32

33 Having shared substantial argumentation with the Court orally, Mr. Olivetti was asked to submit
34 his arguments for the record in writing, which he agreed to do. Mr. Olivetti expressed willingness
35 to continue working with the Commission to restore his credentials, but asserted at the same time
36 that he was no longer under the jurisdiction of the RPCNA. At 7:45 p.m., following a period of
37 questioning, Mr. Olivetti and Mr. Karshen were dismissed from the meeting.
38

39 The Commission discussed Mr. Olivetti's responses and will review Mr. Olivetti's arguments with
40 regard to his having taken Communion while under the censure of the Synod. BCC the
41 Commission will formulate a draft ruling on the matters raised for discussion at its next meeting
42 time, **TBD**.
43

44 The Court was adjourned at 8:55 p.m. CST with prayer by Mr. Pinson in the name of Jesus Christ,
45 King and Head of the Church.

1
2
3
4
5

Respectfully submitted,



Jonathan Parnell, Clerk

Meeting of the
Olivetti Restoration Commission
6:00 p.m., January 19, 2023
Via Zoom Cloud Meetings

[BACK](#)

Attendance:

Gary McNamee, Moderator
Jonathan Parnell
Tom Pinson
Andrew Silva
Steve Sturm

Mr. Pinson opened the meeting of the Olivetti Restoration Commission at 6:10 p.m. CST with a devotion from 2 Samuel chapters 11 and 12, followed by prayer, constituting the Court in the name of Jesus Christ, King and Head of the Church.

The proposed Agenda was **ADOPTED BCC**. The Minutes of the January 3, 2023, meeting were reviewed and **APPROVED BCC**. The Commission then took up the matter of Mr. Olivetti's opposition to Synod's Suspension.

Pursuant to the Commission's request, Mr. Olivetti had delivered written argument supporting his position.¹ Having reviewed Mr. Olivetti's arguments and actions, the Commission deliberated over a draft ruling. It was **MOVED** and **SECONDED** to adopt the draft ruling as the Ruling of the Commission. The **MOTION CARRIED** and the draft ruling was **ADOPTED**.²

It was **MOVED** and **SECONDED** to deliver the Ruling of the Commission to Mr. Olivetti, accompanied by a cover letter calling him to repentance for his defiance of the Synod's Suspension, with copies to IRPC Session, the Clerk of Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery, and the Clerk and Moderator of Great Lakes Gulf AIC. The **MOTION CARRIED**. A draft cover letter was received and deliberated by the Commission. It was then **MOVED** and **SECONDED** to adopt the draft cover letter to accompany delivery of the Commission's Ruling.³ The **MOTION CARRIED**.

After reviewing the status of its remit, the Commission devoted time to prayer for Mr. Olivetti prior to adjournment. The Court was adjourned at 8:40 p.m. CST with prayer by Mr. Sturm in the name of Jesus Christ, King and Head of the Church. The Commission's next meeting is **TBD**.

Respectfully submitted,



Jonathan Parnell, Clerk

¹ [2023-01-07 Olivetti EML \(_finished notes_\)](#)

² [2023-01-19 RULING ON ACTION TAKEN AGAINST SYNOD'S SUSPENSION](#)

³ [2023-01-20 Ruling Cover LTR](#)

1 Meeting of the
2 Olivetti Restoration Commission
3 6:00 p.m., February 20, 2023
4 Via Zoom Cloud Meetings
5

[BACK](#)

6 Attendance:

7 Gary McNamee, Moderator
8 Jonathan Parnell
9 Tom Pinson
10 Andrew Silva
11 Steve Sturm
12

13 Mr. Sturm opened the meeting of the Olivetti Restoration Commission at 6:03 p.m. CST with a
14 devotion from Lamentations 3, followed by prayer, constituting the Court in the name of Jesus
15 Christ, King and Head of the Church.
16

17 The proposed Agenda was **ADOPTED BCC**. The Minutes of the January 19, 2023, meeting were
18 reviewed and **APPROVED BCC**.
19

20 Pursuant to Commission action, the Commission's Ruling and Cover Letter¹ were delivered by the
21 Clerk to Mr. Olivetti on January 20, 2023, via email with carbon copy IRPC Clerk of Session (Josh
22 Karshen), GLG Clerk (Adam Kuehner), GLG AIC Clerk (Richard Blankenship) & Moderator
23 (David Hanson). Mr. Olivetti responded to the Commission by email on February 3, 2023, stating
24 unequivocally that he was unwilling to continue meeting or working with the Commission.²
25

26 Deliberating its course following Mr. Olivetti's refusal to work toward repentance, reconciliation,
27 and restoration, the Commission **CONCLUDED BCC**:

- 28 • That the Clerk will communicate on behalf of the Commission indicating receipt of Mr.
29 Olivetti's email of February 3, 2023, (with copy to IRPC Session, the Clerk of Great Lakes
30 Gulf Presbytery, and the Clerk and Moderator of Great Lakes Gulf AIC).
- 31 • That before the Commission's next meeting, the Clerk will prepare for consideration a
32 draft the Commission's Final Report and Recommendations to the 2023 Synod.
33

34 The Court was adjourned at 7:50 p.m. CST with prayer by the Moderator, Mr. McNamee, in the
35 name of Jesus Christ, King and Head of the Church. The Commission's next meeting is **TBD**.
36

37 Respectfully submitted,

38 

39 Jonathan Parnell, Clerk
40

¹ [2023-01-20 Commission Ruling and Cover LTR](#)

² [2023-02-03 Olivetti EML](#) (A final note)(“...our time working together has come to an end.”)

Meeting of the
Olivetti Restoration Commission
6:00 p.m., March 24, 2023
Via Zoom Cloud Meetings

[BACK](#)

Attendance:

Gary McNamee, Moderator
Jonathan Parnell
Tom Pinson
Andrew Silva
Steve Sturm

The Moderator, Mr. McNamee, opened the meeting of the Olivetti Restoration Commission at 6:00 p.m. CDT with a devotion from Hosea 11, followed by prayer, constituting the Court in the name of Jesus Christ, King and Head of the Church.

The proposed Agenda was **ADOPTED BCC**. The Minutes of the February 20, 2023, meeting were reviewed and **APPROVED BCC**.

Pursuant to the Commission's directives, the Clerk on February 24, 2023, provided Mr. Olivetti a receipt for his email of February 3, 2023 (with copy to IRPC Session, the Clerk of Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery, and the Clerk and Moderator of Great Lakes Gulf AIC).¹

The Commission continued its deliberation following Mr. Olivetti's refusal to work toward repentance, reconciliation, and restoration. **MOVED** and **SECONDED** to recommend to Synod the excommunication of Mr. Jared Olivetti from the Church of Jesus Christ. **MOTION CARRIED**.

The Commission then turned its attention to a draft of the its Report and Recommendations to the 2023 Synod as prepared by the Clerk. Discussion and corrections were received. **MOVED** and **SECONDED** to approve the draft Report and Recommendations as amended. **MOTION CARRIED**.

The Minutes of the March 24, 2023, meeting were read back and approved **BCC**.

Mr. Silva closed the meeting with prayer for Mr. Olivetti and for the peace of the RPCNA. Mr. Silva then adjourned the Court at 8:20 p.m. CST with prayer in the name of Jesus Christ, King and Head of the Church.

Respectfully submitted,



Jonathan Parnell, Clerk

¹ [2023-02-23 Commission Receipt](#) (of 'Final Note' EML)

REPORT OF THE RPCNA SYNOD’S COMMISSION
for the Repentance, Reconciliation, and Restoration of Jared Olivetti

APPENDIX B: Correspondence

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2022-11-30	IRPC Session LTR (RE Serving Communion) att: “Olivetti Communion Follow Up”	p.6
2022-12-04	IRPC Session LTR (IRPC Communion Decision) att: “Olivetti Communion Decision”	p.9
2022-12-04	Olivetti EML (Answer to Andrew)	p.12
2023-01-07	Olivetti EML (_finished notes_)	p.13
2023-01-20	Commission Ruling and Cover LTR att: 2023-001-19 “RULING ON ACTION TAKEN AGAINST SYNOD’S SUSPENSION”	p.15
2023-02-03	Olivetti EML (A final note)	p.21
2023-02-24	Commission Receipt (of ‘Final Note’ EML)	p.22

Jonathan D. Parnell

[BACK](#)

From: Josh Karshen <jkarshen24@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 18, 2022 10:32 AM
To: Gary McNamee; Steve Sturm; Andrew Silva; TM Pinson; Jonathan D. Parnell
Cc: Sam & Robyn Carr; Matt Wilburn; DANIEL PERRIN
Subject: Olivetti Communion Request
Attachments: Olivetti Communion Request.pdf

Good morning everyone,

I hope your Friday is going well and your week is wrapping up nicely in preparation for the Lord's Day.

Enclosed, you will find a letter of request for this commission to consider lifting the censure of communion from Jared. I understand there isn't a meeting scheduled soon for the commission. I hope a matter of this significance could allow for an *ad hoc* meeting to be scheduled. I am more than happy to attend said meeting and answer any questions you may have if it helps with resolution.

The session of IRPC is praying for you and for this matter.

Thank you for your consideration.

-Josh Karshen (on behalf of the IRPC session)

Brothers of the Olivetti Restoration Commission,

I would like to begin by genuinely thanking you for your time spent on the matter of restoring our brother, Jared Olivetti. The elders of IRPC have continually prayed for you. We have also acknowledged many times the weight of the commission's decisions and understand, as best we can, how difficult they are for you all. I am thankful for our time together, for the ways you have challenged me personally to grow in godliness, and I am very thankful for a posture of brotherly concern, soft hearts, and open minds.

As the IRPC consultant to this commission, I am writing to you for consideration of restoration for Jared Olivetti to the Lord's Table. I wish to communicate reasons that I and the elders of IRPC believe to be sufficient for a sinner to be restored to communion with his savior. Communion is scheduled for December 4th. We seek to have that communion be a time of celebration; not only for what Christ has done for an entire group of unworthy imperfect sinners, but also the blessing of further steps of restoration for our brother Jared Olivetti.

As you all have seen, Jared has shown steps of repentance over the past 18 months. There have also been attempts for restoration and reconciliation with a large number of people, as well as a posture of hearing out brothers and sisters in matters of addressing his own sin. Have any of these been executed perfectly? No. Have these steps been carried out with a heart of brokenness? Most have. Have all of these been done by a man who is trying to mend relationships, fix mistakes, and pursue righteousness? The session would say yes, they have.

Scripture shows us that we are to examine ourselves and to approach the table in a repentant, worthy manner. 1 Corinthians 11 explains that a man is to examine himself and if he ignores this examination, he eats and drinks judgment upon himself. Considering 1 Corinthians 5, the local elders have come to a place of seeing sufficient repentance and brokenness for Jared to partake in the Lord's Table. According to scripture a man must be repentant, and the elders must examine him. To add further requirements is going beyond what God has said is needed and appropriate. Jared has shown that he has acknowledged sin and failures and has made attempts to bring peace and reconciliation, while continuing to examine himself and past actions.

I also ask for this restoration in consideration of the entire congregation of IRPC. This church is broken and is even closer to the edge of destruction because of this issue. There is real spiritual warfare happening and we cannot give the evil one a greater foothold by withholding the blessing of communion.

IRPC has not participated in communion in 6 months. This issue of withholding a repentant sinner from the table has devastated congregants to the point that they would not partake even if the church did observe communion. We believe communion with our Savior is a corporate blessing - not an individual event or someone's personal time with Jesus. I plead with you men to please consider the entire church body and their spiritual well-being with this decision.

Restoring Jared (and essentially the congregation) to the Lord's table would prove to be a tremendous encouragement to everyone involved. As the liaison to this commission, I am confident this step of encouragement and brotherly care would reap mighty benefits in our quest towards restoration. The congregation would also be encouraged immensely that you men have seen and acknowledged Jared's actions and are showing tangible signs of movement towards total restoration.

The elders of Immanuel Reformed Presbyterian Church honestly and earnestly seek your approval in lifting this censure and encouraging Jared down a path of godliness.

Thank you for your consideration.

In Christ,

Joshua Karshen
(On behalf of the elders of IRPC)

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Jonathan D. Parnell

[BACK](#)

From: Jonathan D. Parnell
Sent: Monday, November 28, 2022 2:26 PM
To: Josh Karshen (jkarshen24@gmail.com)
Cc: Gary McNamee (gmcnamee@grc@gmail.com); Tom Pinson (pinsonm@gmail.com); Andrew Silva (andrewsilva80@gmail.com); Steve Sturm (stevesturm@pobox.com)
Subject: IRPC Session LTR dated 11/18/2022

TO: IRPC Session
FR: Olivetti Restoration Commission
RE: Letter dated 11/18/2022
Re-admitting Mr. Olivetti to the Lord's Table
DA: November 28, 2022

Brothers in Christ:

We are encouraged that IRPC Session has confirmed Mr. Olivetti's steps to be reconciled with affected members. Restoration within the congregation helps to move us in the direction of restoring privileges, so we are grateful for your report as Mr. Olivetti's overseers with weekly close contact.

We regret, however, that as a Commission we are *not yet* of one mind to re-admit Mr. Olivetti to the Lord's Table. It is our hope that privileges of the Table can be restored following an envisioned on-site visit by Commission representatives.

To be clear, the Commission does *not* see Mr. Olivetti as being outside of Christ. Instead, we hesitate to restore Table privileges to Mr. Olivetti for the following reasons.

1. The Commission is concerned about submission to the authority and discipline of the church, as this is a vow Mr. Olivetti took for Ordination *and* for communicant membership. We acknowledge that Mr. Olivetti has *followed* the court's instructions (and we have been most appreciative of his willingness to meet with us) but we are still waiting to see a greater measure of *acceptance* of the Synod's brotherly counsel.

Regarding the authority of the church to suspend from the Table, we urge you to consider **Matthew 16:19** (i.e., the Elders are given the 'keys of the kingdom' and therefore, keys to permit or deny participation in the sacrament) and **2 Thessalonians 3:6, 14-15** (i.e., note implications for the Table arising from dissociating with and admonishing 'disorderly' brothers).

2. The Commission is also concerned about **Matthew 5:23-24** (i.e., putting reconciliation ahead of worship) as there are still unresolved conflicts: with believers in the community, with former IRPC members, and with RPCNA brothers in the Presbytery or the Synod. We believe that part of our task is to help restore Mr. Olivetti's ability to live at peace, as far as it depends on him. **Romans 12:18**

We acknowledge reconciliation may not be possible with some. However, we believe we can help to ensure Mr. Olivetti is able to come to the Table with a clear conscience. We plan to help those with offenses against Mr. Olivetti be reconciled with him and help Mr. Olivetti be reconciled with those who have sinned against him.

In conclusion, THANK YOU for IRPC Session's respectful posture during the pendency of this matter. THANK YOU for your prayers on our behalf. And THANK YOU for your continued patience.

Jonathan Parnell, Secretary
On behalf of the Olivetti Restoration Commission

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Jonathan D. Parnell

[BACK](#)

From: Josh Karshen <jkarshen24@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2022 9:18 PM
To: Gary McNamee; Jonathan D. Parnell; Andrew Silva; TM Pinson; Steve Sturm; DANIEL PERRIN; Sam & Robyn Carr; Matt Wilburn
Subject: Olivetti Communion Follow Up
Attachments: Olivetti Communion Follow Up.pdf

Brothers,

Thank you again for your response to our request for Jared to return to the table. These are very trying times. Please find enclosed a follow up request from the IRPC session.

We are praying for you all.

Thank you for your consideration.

-Josh

Brothers,

Thank you for your response and the reasons for continuing the suspension stated therein. We certainly acknowledge the caution and care being taken. We desire to follow up with you in hopes of a few things. First, we desire once again to plead with you to reconsider lifting this suspension. Second, explain the position the session is in. And third, to have a virtual meeting with the commission and the IRPC session before December 4th to discuss this as a group.

The session of IRPC desires nothing more than to be obedient servants to Jesus Christ, to be faithful shepherds to our congregation which God has placed us over, and to be Christian men of honor and integrity. However, we find ourselves in a very dangerous and precarious position.

With the suspension remaining, it continues to place the elders of IRPC in a position of future sin, of which there seems no escape. From our end, we are informed by the higher courts not to serve communion to a member of our own congregation. A member of which we, the local elders, do not see reason enough to withhold communion. Thus, from our perspective, if we follow scripture and serve a repentant man who is continuing to pursue righteousness and open to further instruction on repentance, we are defying authority and thus sinning. However, if we submit to authority and withhold communion from our brother, we will violate our conscience by failing to obey what we believe scripture to command. It seems the session has been placed in a situation where sin will result from either decision.

We are grateful for your thorough and concise explanation. However, in considering Matthew 16, the keys to the kingdom are given to Peter specifically as Jesus is speaking directly to Peter. But, as is the general reformed stance that elders are thus given the keys to the kingdom, surely Jesus meant the local elders of the local church in which a decision is to be declared. We agree and believe that the Church is given the authority to bar men from the Table. This authority rests with the local session and not the church at large. God holds us, the local session, responsible for the sheep placed under our care and our consciences are at stake in the just administration of the sacrament.

This point is further emphasized in Acts 15. After the council came together and made a decision, they sent Barsabbas and Silas to the local churches because the council's words were 'unsettling in their minds'. It goes on to teach us that those men went to the churches and 'stayed a while' to work with the local body on specific issues and questions (Acts 15:24-28). It could be assumed that any actions or discipline was handed down from the local elders after working with Barsabbas and Silas.

The keys of the kingdom text, and examples from Acts 15 and 1 Corinthians 5 & 11 lead us to believe that participation in the Lord's Table falls to the local session of elders who have direct oversight and can speak more completely into the local situation.

The session of IRPC want to be godly men under authority. Due to the decisions of the higher courts and commissions we are now being asked to sin. We, the local elders, either defy the authority over us or we bar a repentant and Christ-pursuing man from the Table.

The elders of IRPC plead and beg you to reconsider this decision. We do not want to sin. We do not want to defy our authority. We do not desire to sin by dismissing what we see as clear instruction from God's word. We thank you for your efforts to "help to ensure Mr. Olivetti is able to come to the table with a clear conscience". But his conscience is not the only one at stake.

The session would deeply appreciate a meeting with the commission before December 4th. As the session feels it is being forced to sin, we hope the commission understands the gravity of this dilemma and will find time to meet with us before Sunday 12/4. Members of our session are willing to accommodate any time in the coming days.

Thank you for your consideration.

We look forward to speaking with you in the days to come.

In Christ,

Josh Karshen

(on behalf of the IRPC session)

[Return to 2022-12-02 Minutes](#)

Jonathan D. Parnell

From: Josh Karshen <jkarshen24@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 4, 2022 6:51 AM
To: Jonathan D. Parnell; Gary McNamee; Andrew Silva; TM Pinson; Steve Sturm
Cc: DANIEL PERRIN; Sam & Robyn Carr; Matt Wilburn
Subject: IRPC Communion Decision
Attachments: Olivetti Communion Decision (1).pdf

[BACK](#)

Good morning brothers,

Please find attached our decision for communion this Lord's Day. I sincerely apologize for getting this to you on Sunday morning.

We pray your worship is not hindered by this late communication.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to reach out.

Thank you

In Christ,

-Josh

(On behalf of the IRPC session)

The our brothers on Olivetti Restoration Commission,

We are truly thankful for you, your time and attention to this matter, and for your willingness to hear our concerns in withholding communion from Jared Olivetti.

Over many months and especially the last few weeks the session has wrestled over this matter. Facets of this dilemma include 1) status of Jared as a pastor or a regular member, 2) who has authority over these matters as seen in scripture, 3) is it sinful to obey authority and keep a repentant man from the Lord's table, 4) is it sinful to serve a repentant man and disobey authority, and 5) the biblical foundations and groundedness of each of these factors.

The session understands the stance of the commission to move slowly in this matter. However, as shepherds we took vows to God, the local congregation, and then to the denomination and as such, we cannot allow this to proceed as it binds our conscience and further damages an already hurting man and congregation.

The session has carefully weighed the options and discussed the consequences. As we stated in our meeting, we feel trapped between either violating our consciences or acting against the ruling of the church. The session is of the mind that it is God-honoring for the elders and for the congregation to follow the examples set before us in scripture, even if it is not in compliance with the rulings of the church leadership.

We understand this is not what is acceptable in the book of discipline. We understand what is at stake. What is at stake goes far beyond a pastor's credentials or a group of elders who may or may not be in good standing with a denomination. Our standing before the Lord is of the utmost importance.

Therefore, the session of IRPC has voted to allow Jared back to the Lord's table. As seen clearly in scripture, this decision falls on the local elders who have direct oversight and knowledge enough to speak confidently into this matter. We encourage you to reach out directly to Jared Olivetti after Sunday morning service to confirm his participation. The session will not force him to partake.

Our desire to work with your commission for the full restoration of our brother Jared remains unchanged. We stand by all of our offers for help and cooperation in our previous meeting. We cannot agree on this particular ruling, but we pray this will not inhibit us from collaborating as brothers on the godly work of restoration and reconciliation.

This letter is to inform you that the session has in fact voted to allow a repentant sinner back to the grace giving sacrament of the Lord's Table.

Again, we are thankful for your time and consideration in the matter. We are truly saddened that our pleas have been denied. We have done everything in our power to avert this crisis. We embark on this course with heavy hearts, seeking to do what is right in the eyes of the Lord.

May God show continual mercy to us all.

In Christ and with warmest regards,
The session of Immanuel Reformed Presbyterian Church

[Return to 2022-12-15 Minutes](#)

Jonathan D. Parnell

From: Jared Olivetti <jaredolivetti@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 4, 2022 8:02 PM
To: Josh Karshen (jkarshen24@gmail.com); Jonathan D. Parnell; Gary McNamee; Andrew Silva; TM Pinson; Steve Sturm
Subject: Answer to Andrew

[BACK](#)

Dear commission,

Andrew asked by email about communion today, so I thought it would be helpful to let all of you know at the same time. I'm very grateful to have celebrated communion today with our congregation, under the oversight and by the invitation of my elders. I know this is not what you wanted, but I genuinely believe it is what the Lord wanted of me.

Like our elders, I remain open to listening to you and interacting with any counsel you may have. And like our elders, I'm grieved that the issue was forced to this point of division when far more peaceful paths were open to us all.

In Christ,
Jared

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Jonathan D. Parnell

[BACK](#)

From: Jared Olivetti <jaredolivetti@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 7, 2023 5:56 PM
To: Jonathan D. Parnell; Gary McNamee; "Andrew Silva; "Steve Sturm; "Tom Pinson; "Josh Karshen
Subject: finished notes

Commission,

Below is a condensed form of the notes I used for our meeting the other night. I hope you find them helpful.

Peace,
Jared

Regarding jurisdiction, I have more notes, but here are the most pertinent:

- D-28, 4.1 - the most salient point: "The session is the court having jurisdiction over the members of a congregation."
 - 4.6 - "The session alone admits to and dismisses from the membership of the congregation." This implicitly includes participation in the Lord's Supper.
 - See 4.8 - "The session is subordinate to the higher courts and shall be governed by their decisions." But this subordination clearly presumes the higher court will be making decisions that are within their bounds to make. Suspending a member of a congregation is not one of those things within the bounds of the higher courts.
 - To that point, see 4.9: "All judicial action affecting the standing of the members of the congregation shall be initiated in the session..." It couldn't be more clear than that. Once the SJC took away my ordination, I was simply a member of a congregation whom they had no right to discipline.

Regarding the timeline of the suspension:

- I was suspended in 3/22 without any clear statement of why I was suspended or what I needed to do to come out from under the discipline. Our elders later worked with the SJC to explain my repentance. Despite their efforts at showing my repentance, the SJC did not lift the suspension.
 - More specifically: we asked the SJC why I was suspended. The only answer was, "You aren't right with the church." No further details were given.
 - Initially, the SJC demanded that I "agree in heart and mind to everything" they charged me with. When pressed whether this requirement (i.e., total agreement) applied to suspension as well as deposition, the answer was "no." But a clear statement of what was required to take communion was never provided, to this day.
 - The SJC was disbanded without ever being required to explain this discipline.
- I provided the new commission my view of the charges, including three lists: what I've repented of, what isn't true (or isn't sin), and what isn't understandable. To this day the commission has not articulated what offenses they believe are outstanding.
- I provided the new commission with a clear list of those people whose forgiveness I've sought, etc. This was, apparently, insufficient, yet I was not told why or how.
- Currently, I am not aware of any sin on my conscience or anyone whose forgiveness I could seek at this point.
- The IRPC elders asked, on two occasions, for the commission to lift the suspension, giving their pastoral insight into my life and character, noting my repentance, as well as the burden this discipline placed on our congregation.

Regarding my perspective on the discipline:

- I was not instructed in righteousness by this discipline. Neither was the church, which remains befuddled as to the reason for the discipline. Repeating a long-standing pattern, no one has come to me to "win me as a brother" or instruct me in the gospel. By any reasonable standard, this discipline was deeply unbiblical and anti-gospel. If it hasn't served God's purposes, what has it served? The anger of the aggrieved and the reputation of the rpcna. This discipline has always been about punishment and vengeance, never about restoration or instruction.
- One group (RPCNA commissions) has worked to keep a repentant man separate from the table. Another (IRPC elders) has cleared the way for a Christian to enjoy his union with his Savior. Which one is Christlike? How could the restoration commission in good conscience say to me, "You cannot come to Christ"?
- As shepherds, we suspend someone because their profession of faith is in doubt; as soon as that doubt is cleared up, we lift the suspension. Does the commission still doubt my profession of faith?
- Similarly, when we suspend someone, we make a point to sit down with them, read them a letter that clearly explains (1) why you were suspended, (2) what we're going to count as the fruits of repentance and (3) how we're going to help you get there. Yet none of this was done for me. For the current commission to perpetuate discipline on someone without clearly telling them the why/how of the discipline proves, on its own, the unbiblical nature of the suspension.
- While I believe the commission desires my restoration, I cannot now believe that is the entire truth. The entire truth now seems to be, "We desire to restore Jared...in a way that validates what the RPCNA has done to him and confirms the narrative the RPCNA has published about him." Because of this, I have lost optimism for the restoration of my credentials.
- Further, if the commission genuinely wanted to restore me, they already had everything you needed, especially with my elders testifying to my repentance and my own testimony of that repentance. These elders know me better than the commission members, yet the commission's vote to perpetuate the discipline indicates they somehow know better. In other words, to demand more than the testimony of a man's elders indicates clearly they have other desires and goals than pure restoration.
- IRPC has given the courts of the RPCNA many opportunities to show *any* pastoral care to the congregation. The commission's votes to maintain destructive discipline is a failure to consider the many wounded sheep in West Lafayette.

Regarding sin (this was in the zoom chat, but in case you don't have it):

- As members of synod (and the SJC), I believe you sinned by imposing and/or blessing this unbiblical discipline against a repentant believer. (Lev. 19:15; Lk. 17:3)
- As members of this commission, I believe you have sinned by perpetuating unjust discipline and, consequently, the RPCNA's current narrative about my guilt. (Ps. 64:6)
- By refusing to lift the discipline, I believe you have sinfully failed to show pastoral care for our congregation. (James 4:17; Mt. 12:20)

My expectations:

- My first expectation is that no one who is not on the commission will be allowed to give unsolicited input to the commission, either privately or corporately. The commission seeking answers to questions is perfectly appropriate, but unsolicited input, especially from those who have sinned against us, is a significant conflict of interest.
- My second expectation is that, moving forward, the commission will operate on the assumption of my integrity and honesty. Questions will be brought to me so I can be spoken to and not just about.
 - nb: both of these are symptomatic of how I've been treated by the courts of the RPCNA. My guilt has been assumed from day one. I have been spoken about far more often than I've been spoken to. Any questions and concerns have been given the worst possible spin.

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Jonathan D. Parnell

[BACK](#)

From: Jonathan D. Parnell
Sent: Friday, January 20, 2023 9:16 PM
To: Jared Olivetti
Cc: Josh Karshen (jkarshen24@gmail.com); ak@streetsermon.org; richardblankenship3@gmail.com; davidrpts@hotmail.com
Subject: Communing while under Suspension of the Synod
Attachments: 2023-01-19 RULING ON ACTION TAKEN AGAINST SYNOD'S SUSPENSION.pdf

TO: Jared Olivetti
CC: IRPC Clerk of Session (Josh Karshen), GLG Clerk (Adam Kuehner), GLG AIC Clerk (Richard Blankenship) & Moderator (David Hanson)
FR: Olivetti Restoration Commission
RE: Communing while under Suspension of the Synod
DA: January 20, 2023

Jared:

The Commission has considered your response and the arguments, oral and written, given to justify your having taken Communion despite the Synod's Suspension. In our deliberations we did not receive any unsolicited input; and we have sought at all points to afford due respect your viewpoint, though we must disagree.

Having carefully considered the matter, we have adjudged that by knowingly and without justification violating the terms of your censure, you have aggravated the underlying offense that initially warranted your Deposition and Suspension. Please see attached our Ruling, addressing your arguments in detail. In brief, by taking Communion while under the Synod's Suspension, we see you continuing in the core underlying offense: the willful casting off of the church's authority.

Wherefore we continue in our endeavor to call you to repentance for the particular offenses that are clearly explained in the Synod's censures of Deposition and Suspension.

When you met with us, we talked about changing the conversation from 'what sin has been perpetrated against me that must be argued and defended' to 'how might our Sovereign God be glorified by my response to the events – and the censures – of the last several years?'

The mark of unrepentance is the 'refusal to listen' of Matthew 18. Will you continue to argue the matter of your sin that was settled by the Synod who granted you your ministerial credentials? Have you considered the implications of 'refusing to listen' even to the church? It is our continued prayer that we may still be able to work toward your restoration and reconciliation, but we must see that heart of repentance and submission to brotherly counsel.

When you have had a chance to read and digest our Ruling, we expect to hear from you with your acknowledgement of sin for having taken Communion December 4. We also expect a commitment that you will again refrain from the Table until the Suspension is lifted.

You have our assurance that lifting of the Suspension has not been, nor will it be, arbitrarily withheld. Please afford *us* the courtesy of letting us complete our work.

¹¹ My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline
or be weary of his reproof,

¹² for the Lord reproves him whom he loves,
as a father the son in whom he delights.

Proverbs 3:11-12

¹³ Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper,
but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.

Proverbs 28:13

Respectfully,
Jonathan D. Parnell, Clerk on behalf of
Olivetti Restoration Commission

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1 **IN THE COURT OF THE RPCNA SYNOD’S COMMISSION**
2 **for the repentance, reconciliation, and restoration of Jared Olivetti**
3

4 THIS MATTER COMES ON FOR HEARING this 19th day of January, 2023, upon the occasion of
5 Mr. Jared Olivetti actively partaking of the Lord’s Supper while under the censure of Deposition
6 from office accompanied by Suspension from the privileges of membership.
7

8 **WE FIND and ADJUDGE that Mr. Olivetti, by knowingly and without justification**
9 **violating the terms of his censure, has aggravated the underlying offenses that**
10 **initially warranted his Deposition and Suspension.**
11

12 Narrative

13 The facts are largely undisputed. Mr. Olivetti admits to being well informed of the judgment of
14 Synod’s Judicial Commission (announced March 10, 2022), which was sustained against all
15 complaints by the Synod at large (June 23, 2022).¹ Being well informed of his Suspension from
16 the Lord’s Supper, Mr. Olivetti testified to the Commission that prior to December 2022, he had
17 not partaken of Communion at Immanuel Reformed Presbyterian Church pursuant to the
18 Suspension. This fact was affirmed by the Session of the Immanuel Reformed Presbyterian
19 Church (“IRPC”), where Mr. Olivetti remains a member.
20

21 On November 18, 2022, the IRPC Session prayed the Commission by letter for restoration of Mr.
22 Olivetti to the Communion table.² Despite the encouraging signs presented by IRPC Session, the
23 Commission was not of one mind to lift the Suspension, and communicated its decision and
24 rationale to IRPC Session on November 28, 2022³. IRPC Session renewed its appeal in a
25 subsequent letter to the Commission dated November 30, 2022⁴, and by oral argument with the
26 Commission in a specially called meeting December 2, 2022.
27

28 The Commission was not persuaded at the meeting of December 2, 2022, to lift Mr. Olivetti’s
29 suspension; and on the Lord’s Day, December 4, 2022⁵, received notice by letter from IRPC
30 Session of its intent to re-admit Mr. Olivetti to the Communion Table. Later in the day, Mr.
31 Olivetti emailed the Commission stating that he had “celebrated communion today with our
32 congregation, under the oversight and by the invitation of my elders.”⁶
33

34 Mr. Olivetti’s Argument

35 Mr. Olivetti does not deny having taken Communion. Rather, Mr. Olivetti asserts that he has not
36 sinned by taking Communion because (i) IRPC Session (and not the Synod) holds jurisdiction
37 over him with respect to the privileges of membership; and (ii) that this is so because (a) pursuant
38 to the Synod’s censure of Deposition on him, he is now simply a non-ordained member of the

¹ See 2022 RPCNA Synod Basic Minutes, p. 18, line 20-21

² November 18, 2022 IRPC Session Letter to Commission

³ November 28, 2022 Commission Memo to IRPC Session

⁴ November 30, 2022 IRPC Session Letter to Commission

⁵ December 4, 2022 IRPC Session Letter to Commission

⁶ December 4, 2022 Olivetti email to Commission

1 RPCNA; and/or (b) in removing jurisdiction of the sex abuse matter at IRPC from the Great Lakes
2 Gulf Presbytery, the Synod did not specifically assert its jurisdiction over him.

3
4 We disagree.

5 Does the Session have exclusive jurisdiction over the membership?

6 With regard to jurisdiction, Mr. Olivetti correctly states that while “[the] session is subordinate to
7 the higher courts and shall be governed by their decisions,”⁷ but asserts that the term
8 ‘subordination’ “presumes that the higher court will be making decisions that are within their
9 bounds to make.”

10
11 Arguing that the Synod (and by extension, this Commission of the Synod) is not within its bounds
12 to suspend a member of a congregation, Mr. Olivetti cites from Chapter 4 of the RPCNA Directory
13 of Church Government (“DOCG”) that “[the] session is the court having original jurisdiction over
14 the members of a congregation,”⁸ that “[the] session alone admits to and dismisses from the
15 membership of the congregation,”⁹ and that “[all] judicial action affecting the standing of the
16 members of the congregation shall be initiated in the session.”

17
18 While phrases like ‘the session *alone* admits...’ and ‘*all* judicial action...’ would appear to reserve
19 to the lower court certain powers that cannot be invaded by the higher courts, these sections of
20 the DOCG cannot be read in isolation. To do so is inconsistent with the Presbyterian system of
21 government, with its hierarchy of courts, placing the local sessions under the authority of their
22 respective presbyteries and the presbyteries under the authority of the Synod.

23
24 Construing the RPCNA Constitution as a whole, we cannot ignore that “Synod ... may assume
25 original jurisdiction over *all matters* affecting the purity and welfare of the church, and may,
26 without complaint or appeal, investigate and adjudicate *any matter* requiring its attention...”¹⁰
27 (*emphasis added*). So while jurisdiction and authority of the session over the local flock is
28 *ordinarily* reserved to the local session, in all matters affecting the purity and welfare of the
29 church the higher court may assume original jurisdiction.

30
31 Did the Synod assume original jurisdiction over Mr. Olivetti?

32 According to the RPCNA Constitution, it is the presbytery “...who holds original jurisdiction
33 regarding the deposition of a teaching elder from his ordination¹¹ ... [with] power to ordain, install,
34 try, remove, suspend or depose teaching elders.”¹² As Mr. Olivetti served as a teaching elder in
35 the Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery (“GLG”), the presbytery held original jurisdiction over Mr.

⁷ DOCG Ch. 4 ¶8

⁸ DOCG Ch. 4 ¶1

⁹ DOCG Ch. 4 ¶6

¹⁰ DOCG Ch. 8, ¶ 12

¹¹ DOCG Ch. 3 ¶ II.E.6.b; *See also* BOD § II Ch. 1 ¶ 5 “*The presbytery has original jurisdiction in relation to suspension, deposition, or excommunication of teaching elders.*”

¹² DOCG Ch. 6 ¶ 13; *See also* BOD § I Ch. 4 ¶ 3.b “*...Any censures of suspension, deposition, or excommunication shall remain with the presbytery or the court holding his credentials.*”

1 Olivetti *until* the Synod voted (June 17, 2021) to assume original jurisdiction.¹³ This vote came on
2 the recommendation of a Judicial Committee of the day whose task was to address
3 Communications 21-16, 21-17, and 21-18 (all having to do with the integrity of GLG judicial
4 processes against IRPC elders, including Mr. Olivetti).¹⁴
5

6 Having lawfully assumed jurisdiction, the Commission is unaware of any action of the Synod
7 returning jurisdiction over Mr. Olivetti either to the presbytery or the local Session.
8

9 Did the Synod lose jurisdiction over Mr. Olivetti by virtue of his Deposition?

10 Mr. Olivetti asserts that “Once the SJC took away my ordination, I was simply a member of a
11 congregation whom they had no right to discipline.” We can think of nothing more absurd than
12 a court, exercising jurisdiction over a man, would by the very exercise of jurisdiction lose its
13 jurisdiction.
14

15 Nevertheless, we direct Mr. Olivetti to the Book of Discipline, that first, reserves jurisdiction over
16 the Deposition and Suspension of teaching elders to the presbytery;¹⁵ second, directs persons
17 under censure seeking restoration to come “before the censuring court” to ask for the lifting of
18 censure¹⁶ and reserves to the presbytery jurisdiction over restoration of a teaching elder from the
19 censures of suspension, deposition or excommunication¹⁷; and finally, expressly allows the
20 censure of Deposition to be “accompanied” by suspension.¹⁸
21

22 Wherefore we answer that Synod, having assumed jurisdiction, continues in its exercise of
23 jurisdiction over the combined Deposition and Suspension of Mr. Olivetti.
24

25 How can the Commission say “You cannot come to Christ”?

26 As elders in the RPCNA, we confess that “The Lord Jesus, as King and Head of His Church, hath
27 therein appointed a government, in the hand of Church officers”¹⁹ and that “To these officers, the
28 keys of the kingdom of heaven are committed: by virtue whereof, they have power respectively to
29 retain, and remit sins; to shut that kingdom against the impenitent, both by the Word and
30 censures and to open it unto penitent sinners, by the ministry of the Gospel, and by absolution
31 from censures, as occasion shall require.”²⁰
32

¹³ 2021 Synod Basic Minutes, p. 20, lines 14-18

¹⁴ *Id.* “We recommend *that Synod assume original jurisdiction in the matter of GLG and Immanuel*, and the moderator appoint a seven-man judicial commission to address this matter.” *See also* 2022 Report of the SJC, § 1 ¶ c, p. 1-3

¹⁵ BOD § II Ch. 1 ¶ 5 “The presbytery has original jurisdiction in relation to suspension, deposition, or excommunication of teaching elders”

¹⁶ BOD § I Ch. 6 ¶ 1. *See also* BOD § 1 Ch. 6 ¶ 6 “Restoration of a person under censure should be made only by the court that imposed the sentence or with its advice and consent.”

¹⁷ BOD § I Ch. 6 ¶ 4

¹⁸ BOD § I Ch. 4 ¶ 1.d “[Deposition] It may also be accompanied by suspension from church privileges.”

¹⁹ WCF Ch. 30 ¶ 1

²⁰ WCF Ch. 30 ¶ 2. *See* Matthew 16:19; Matthew 18:18

1 Judgment having been rendered against Mr. Olivetti by the RPCNA Synod, we as Commissioners
2 of the RPCNA Synod are not at liberty to re-try the case or alter the judgment. Instead, we are
3 tasked with the continued work of church discipline, involving oversight of Mr. Olivetti's
4 "repentance, reconciliation, and restoration."²¹

5
6 Notwithstanding IRPC Session's error (i.e., exceeding their authority by admitting to the Lord's
7 Table a man under the Suspension of the Synod), we find Mr. Olivetti's arguments specious and
8 hold Mr. Olivetti responsible for his own actions as a former teaching elder. Our rationale for
9 refusing to lift Synod's Suspension was provided to IRPC Session²² as follows:

- 10
11 1. "The Commission is concerned about submission to the authority and discipline of the
12 church, as this is a vow Mr. Olivetti took for Ordination and for communicant
13 membership. We acknowledge that Mr. Olivetti has *followed* the court's instructions (and
14 we have been most appreciative of his willingness to meet with us) but we are still waiting
15 to see a greater measure of *acceptance* of the Synod's brotherly counsel."
- 16
17 2. "The Commission is also concerned about Matthew 5:23-24 (i.e., putting reconciliation
18 ahead of worship) as there are still unresolved conflicts: with believers in the community,
19 with former IRPC members, and with RPCNA brothers in the Presbytery or the Synod. We
20 believe that part of our task is to help restore Mr. Olivetti's ability to live at peace, as far as
21 it depends on him. Romans 12:18"

22
23 The Lord's Table is for believers (sinners that we all are); however, it is right and proper for the
24 church to guard against believers coming to Christ in an unworthy manner.²³ For the reasons
25 cited above, the Commission is not *yet* prepared to lift Mr. Olivetti's suspension.

26
27 It is our sincere hope *and expectation* for Mr. Olivetti, that he would begin to see the events of the
28 last several years, the discipline of the church, as an *assignment* from God instead of an *obstacle*
29 to be overcome. In that expectation *we eagerly anticipate* how God will use Mr. Olivetti's gifts
30 and the spotlight that has been placed on him, for His glory and for the good of His church.

31 32 Conclusion

33 Mr. Olivetti's arguments fail to justify his actions in defiance of the Synod. Wherefore, Mr.
34 Olivetti, by knowingly and without justification taking Communion while under the Censure of
35 the Synod, is judged to have sinned by aggravating the underlying offenses that initially warranted
36 his Deposition and Suspension.

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²¹ 2022 Basic Minutes of Synod, p.19, ¶ 2

²² Commission Letter to IRPC Session (via email) November 28, 2022

²³ See WSC Q 97 and Scripture proofs. See also Directory of Public Worship, Ch. 3 ¶ 11 "Persons whose manner of life is notably inconsistent with their Christian profession, or who are unknown to the Session in charge of the Table, are not to be invited to commune."

Jonathan D. Parnell

From: Jared Olivetti <jaredolivetti@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 3, 2023 5:47 AM
To: Gary McNamee; Andrew Silva; Tom Pinson; Steve Sturm; Jonathan D. Parnell
Cc: Josh (Ashley) Karshen
Subject: A final note

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Commission,

Your insistence on upholding unbiblical discipline and refusal to take seriously the sins of your denomination mean that our time working together has come to an end.

I will not dishonor Jesus or endanger my family and my soul by any further interactions with the courts of your denomination. I reject and renounce the RPCNA's authority and discipline.

I have repented of my sins and sought to be reconciled where possible. My conscience is clear before the Lord and I will wait for Him to vindicate me.

Jared Olivetti

Jonathan D. Parnell

From: Jonathan D. Parnell
Sent: Friday, February 24, 2023 4:23 PM
To: Jared Olivetti
Cc: Josh Karshen (jkarshen24@gmail.com); ak@streetsermon.org; richardblankenship3@gmail.com; davidrpts@hotmail.com
Subject: RE: Repentance, Reconciliation, and Restoration

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TO: Jared Olivetti
CC: IRPC Clerk of Session (Josh Karshen), GLG Clerk (Adam Kuehner), GLG AIC Clerk (Richard Blankenship) & Moderator (David Hanson)
FR: Olivetti Restoration Commission
RE: Repentance, Reconciliation, and Restoration
DA: February 24, 2023

Jared:

The Commission acknowledges receipt of your email of February 3, 2023, titled "A final note" (below). We are saddened that you have chosen to stop working with us toward repentance, reconciliation, and restoration.

Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. Isaiah 55:7

Respectfully,
Jonathan Parnell, Clerk
on behalf of the Olivetti Restoration Commission

From: Jared Olivetti jaredolivetti@gmail.com
Sent: Friday, February 3, 2023 5:47 AM
To: Gary McNamee gmcnameegr@gmail.com; Andrew Silva andrewsilva80@gmail.com; Tom Pinson pinsonm@gmail.com; Steve Sturm stevesturm@pobox.com; Jonathan D. Parnell jparnell@plo.microsoftonline.com
Cc: Josh (Ashley) Karshen jkarshen24@gmail.com
Subject: A final note

Commission,

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I have repented of my sins and sought to be reconciled where possible. My conscience is clear before the Lord and I will wait for Him to vindicate me.

Jared Olivetti

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