

The Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery (RPCNA)

2023 June Meetings
Official Minutes

Stated Mtg. at the 2023 Synod

Time: Tuesday June 20, 2023 from 1:15 - 2:30 p.m.

Place: IWU Campus (Details TBA)

The Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery met for its stated meeting at the 2023 RPCNA Synod on the campus of Indiana Wesleyan University on Tuesday June 20, 2023 at 1:15 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The moderator called the court to order at 1:15 p.m. and constituted in the court in prayer.

2. ATTENDANCE (QUORUM)

By common consent, the assistant clerk took attendance visually and confirmed that a quorum was present.

3. CLERK'S REPORT (APPROVED)

Adam Kuehner presented the clerk's report, reminding the delegates that pertinent documents are available on the presbytery website, and bringing the report's recommendations before the court.

- Recommendation 1¹ was seconded, discussed, and carried.
- Recommendation 2² was seconded, discussed, and carried.
- Recommendation 3³ was seconded, discussed, and carried.
- Recommendation 4⁴ was seconded, discussed, and carried.
- Recommendation 5⁵ was seconded, discussed, and carried.
- It was moved, seconded, and carried to approve the report.

4. AD INTERIM COMMISSION REPORT (APPROVED)

Shawn Anderson presented the Ad Interim Commission (AIC) Report, offering an opportunity for questions about the minutes and bringing its recommendations before the court.

- Recommendation 1⁶ carried.
- Recommendation 2⁷ carried.

¹ Rec. 1 (Clerk): That presbytery appoint the following parliamentarians (6/20-23): J. Odom, F. Smith, P. Pockras (alt), S. Rhoda (alt). [CARRIED]

² Rec. 2 (Clerk): That presbytery adopt the proposed agenda for its meetings on June 20 and June 23. [CARRIED]

³ Rec. 3 (Clerk): That presbytery refer GLG 23-25 to the Borg Resolution Committee to seek clarification from the Midwest Presbytery regarding the precise nature of its concerns, and report back at the next full meeting of presbytery. [CARRIED]

⁴ Rec. 4 (Clerk): That presbytery adopt the 2023 GLGP report to synod. [CARRIED]

⁵ Rec. 5 (Clerk): That presbytery grant all RPCNA elders present the privilege of the floor during the remainder of this meeting. [CARRIED]

⁶ Rec. 1 (AIC): That the GLG Presbytery adopt the AIC minutes of 3/27/23, 4/24/23, 5/15/23, and 6/5/23. [CARRIED]

⁷ Rec. 2 (AIC): That the GLG Presbytery authorize the AIC to assess the number and significance of agenda 8 items and determine the necessity of a fall meeting no later than August 1, 2023. [CARRIED]

- Recommendation 3⁸ was discussed, after which it was moved, seconded, discussed, and carried to lay this recommendation on the table to entertain the following substitute motion: “That presbytery return Mr. Allison’s complaints (23-16, 23-17).” This motion carried.
- It was moved, seconded, discussed, and carried that presbytery communicate the court’s rationale to Mr. Allison via the AIC chair and the moderator *pro tem*.⁹
- Recommendation 4 carried, thereby approving the report.

5. STURM EXAM COMMISSION REPORT (APPROVED)

Ian Wise presented the (Jonathan) Sturm Exam Commission Report, after which the report and minutes were approved.

6. CANDIDATES AND CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT

Adam Niess presented the Candidates and Credentials Committee Report, introducing its recommendations.

- Recommendation 1¹⁰ carried.
- Recommendation 2¹¹ carried.
- Recommendation 3¹² was discussed and carried without dissent.

7. PAPER: GLG 23-19

Joel Hart presented a brief summary of GLG 23-19, bringing the paper’s recommendations before the court.

- Recommendation 1¹³ was seconded and carried without dissent.
- Recommendation 2¹⁴ was seconded and carried without dissent.
- Recommendation 3¹⁵ was seconded and carried without dissent.

8. PRAYER OF RECESS

It was moved, seconded, and carried to recess the court, and the moderator recessed the court in prayer at 2:08 p.m.

⁸ Rec. 3 (AIC): That the GLG Presbytery approve of the following procedure and schedule to take up Mr. Allison’s combined complaints (GLG 23-16, GLG 23-17) at the Presbytery meeting on June 23, 2023 at the RPC of Lafayette — COMPLAINT HEARING — GLG 23-16, 23-17 (Combined) (50 mins) [5:25] a. Complainant (10 mins) [4:45] b. Defendant (10 mins) [4:55] c. Floor Discussion (20 mins) [5:15] d. Vote on GLG 23-16 (5 mins) [5:20] e. Vote on GLG 23-17 (5 mins) [5:25]. [LAID ON THE TABLE]

⁹ Communication (6/20/23): “Dear Mr. Allison, On behalf of the Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery, we, Shawn Anderson and Nathan Eshelman, have been tasked with giving the rationale for why the Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery chose to not take up your complaint (named 23-16 and 23-17), which would have been scheduled to be heard on June 23, 2023. There are two reasons for us not hearing the complaint. The first rational for not hearing your complaint is that on March 3, 2023, the presbytery voted to not uphold your previous complaint, therefore allowing the Southfield session to go ahead with the trial. Therefore, your complaint against proceeding with a trial is redundant and has already been answered. Secondly, since you have also appealed the results of the trial to the presbytery, we believe that your time before the presbytery will be best served by us hearing that appeal rather than hearing this complaint and then hearing the same material in your upcoming appeal. It is for these reasons that the Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery has decided to vote down the Ad Interim Commission’s proposal and will not hear 23-16 and 23-17 this Friday, June 23, 2023 in Lafayette, IN. On behalf of the Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery, Nathan Eshelman, moderator *pro tem*; Shawn Anderson, chair of the Ad Interim Commission”

¹⁰ Rec. 1 (C&CC): That student exams be conducted according to the schedule outlined below. (See Report)

¹¹ Rec. 2 (C&CC): That John Punt be given ten minutes to share his testimony with presbytery and be received as a student under care.

¹² Rec. 3 (C&CC): That presbytery dismiss Stan McKenzie’s ministerial credentials (DCG 6.13, D-33), since he is no longer actively pursuing pastoral ministry and no longer holds membership within the RPCNA.

¹³ Rec. 1 (23-19): Form a standing 3-man finance committee. On this committee, a. Membership would be 3 years long. b. The committee would function with rotating “classes”, such that 1 member would rotate off yearly, ensuring continuity from year to year on the committee. c. The committee would appoint its own chairman. The chairman would be responsible for convening committee meetings and ensuring committee representation at presbytery meetings where the finance committee would present.

¹⁴ Rec. 2 (23-19): Appoint the treasurer/assistant treasurers as ex officio, non-voting members of the committee.

¹⁵ Rec. 3 (23-19): Direct the AIC to appoint the initial membership of this committee before fall 2023, so that this committee can be ready for presentations at any fall 2023 presbytery meeting or spring 2024 presbytery meeting.

Special Mtg. at the 2023 Synod

Time: Wednesday June 21, 2023 at 8:45 p.m.

Place: IWU Campus (Details TBA)

The Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery (RPCNA) met at 8:45 p.m. on Wednesday June 21, 2023 on the campus of Indiana Wesleyan University following the synod's evening business session for a special meeting, called by the moderator,¹⁶ to consider GLG 23-28, a communication from the IRPC session.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The moderator called the court to order at 8:45 p.m. and constituted in the court in prayer.

2. ATTENDANCE (QUORUM)

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

3. MODERATOR'S CALL (RATIFIED)

It was moved, seconded, and carried without dissent to ratify the moderator's call of the meeting.

4. CLERK'S REPORT (RECEIVED)

Adam Kuehner presented an oral clerk's report, bringing its recommendations before the court.

- It was moved, seconded, and carried to grant Mr. Magill privileges of the floor during this business session.
- Recommendation 1¹⁷ was seconded, discussed, and carried.
- Recommendation 2¹⁸ was seconded, and discussed.
- It was moved and seconded to lay Recommendation 2 on the table to entertain the following substitute motion: "That in light of the resignation of the ruling elders of IRPC and the transfer of their membership, that the presbytery recognize, with great sadness, the disorganization of IRPC." This motion was discussed and failed, returning the court to Recommendation 2.
- It was moved, seconded, and carried to take a five minute break.
- Following the break, the clerk read an amended version of Recommendation 2 (friendly amendment), which is as follows: "That presbytery, grieved at the IRPC session's unwillingness to deviate from its unlawful action of disavowing its affiliation with (and accountability to) the RPCNA, as well as its unauthorized reversal of Mr. Olivetti's synodical suspension, and, in light of the IRPC elders' resignation from office, hereby determine the IRPC congregation to be disorganized and dismiss its existing membership from the roll of presbytery, effective at the adjournment of the 2023 Synod."
- Further discussion ensued, after which it was moved and seconded to call the previous question. This motion carried by two thirds majority, and the amended version of Recommendation 2¹⁹ carried without dissent.

¹⁶ Moderator's Edict (6/21/23 @ 10:30 a.m.): "The Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery is called to meet Wednesday evening, June 21, at 8:45 p.m. in Noggle room 134 (on the campus of Indiana Wesleyan University, Marion, IN) for the purpose of considering communication GLG 23-28. Jon Hughes, Moderator" [RATIFIED]

¹⁷ Rec. 1 (Clerk): That presbytery take up GLG 23-28 and adopt the proposed agenda. [1. Constitution; 2. Visual Attendance; 3. Ratification; 4. Clerk's Report; 5. Prayer of Recess/Dissolution/Intercession.] [CARRIED]

¹⁸ Rec. 2 (Clerk): That presbytery, in light of the IRPC session's unwillingness to deviate from its unlawful action of disavowing its affiliation with (and accountability to) the RPCNA, as well as its unauthorized reversal of Mr. Olivetti's synodical suspension, hereby disorganize the IRPC congregation and dismiss its existing membership from the roll of presbytery, effective at the adjournment of the 2023 Synod. [AMENDED]

¹⁹ Rec. 2 (Amended): That presbytery, grieved at the IRPC session's unwillingness to deviate from its unlawful action of disavowing its affiliation with (and accountability to) the RPCNA, as well as its unauthorized reversal of Mr. Olivetti's synodical suspension, and, in light of the IRPC elders' resignation from office, hereby determine the IRPC congregation to be disorganized and dismiss its existing membership from the roll of presbytery, effective at the adjournment of the 2023 Synod. [CARRIED]

- It was moved, seconded, and carried that presbytery instruct the clerk and assistant clerk draft a letter to Redeeming Grace Church and share that with the presbytery by Friday's meeting.²⁰
- By common consent, the clerk's report was received.

5. PRAYER OF DISORGANIZATION

The moderator offered up a prayer of intercession and disorganization (to take effect at the adjournment of the 2023 Synod), in the name and by the authority of Zion's only Head and King the Lord Jesus Christ.

6. READING OF THE MINUTES (ADOPTED)

The clerk read the minutes, after which, by common consent, the minutes were adopted as amended.

7. PRAYER OF RECESS

By common consent, the moderator recessed the court at 9:52 p.m.

Special Mtg. after the 2023 Synod

Time: Friday June 23, 2023 from 3:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Place: Reformed Presbyterian Church of Lafayette
1723 S. Ninth St. Lafayette, IN 47905

The Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery (RPCNA) met at 3:30 p.m. on Friday June 21, 2023 at the Reformed presbyterian Church of Lafayette following the adjournment of the 2023 RPCNA Synod to conduct presbytery business, by order of the Ad Interim Commission.²¹

1. CALL TO ORDER

The moderator called the court to order at 3:30 p.m.

2. VISUAL ATTENDANCE (QUORUM)

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

3. CANDIDATES AND CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT — *Continued* (RECEIVED)

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

CARE STATUS INTERVIEW — JOHN PUNT (Received w/o Dissent)

John Punt came forward and shared his testimony of personal conversion and internal call to the ministry, after which he answered questions from the floor and the court received him as a student under care by voice vote without dissent.

EXPOSITORY SERMON 1 EXAM — JOE JOHNSON (Unanimously Sustained)

Mr. Niess resumed the C&CC report, introducing Joe Johnson's Expository Sermon 1 exam.

²⁰ This action was taken. After distributing an initial draft and receiving feedback from the court, the clerk sent the following email to Matt Wilburn, the former IRPC clerk of session: "Dear Matt, As officers of the court, Nathan, Jon, and I would like to notify your session and congregation of a recent action of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery in response to your letter (dated 6/18/23). On Wednesday 6/28/23, the following motion was adopted: "That presbytery, grieved at the Immanuel Reformed Presbyterian Church session's unwillingness to deviate from its unlawful action of disavowing its affiliation with (and accountability to) the RPCNA, as well as its unauthorized reversal of Mr. Olivetti's synodical suspension, and, in light of the IRPC elders' resignation from office, hereby determine the IRPC congregation to be disorganized and dismiss its existing membership from the roll of presbytery, effective at the adjournment of the 2023 Synod." In keeping with the moderator's prayer for you, the former Immanuel Reformed Presbyterian Church (now Redeeming Grace Church), we wanted to express our great loss and multiple reasons for sorrow in this matter, which we believe is shared by many in the court. Our prayer is that failures and sins will be forgiven by everyone and that the Lord will provide abundant sanctifying grace and healing for all of us, moving forward. We long for restored fellowship even in this life; and yet we maintain the expectation of glory that awaits as Jesus Christ will fully unify his church on the last great day. Please let us know if you have any questions regarding the presbytery's action. In Christ, Adam Kuehner, Clerk; Nathan Eshelman, Asst. Clerk; Jon Hughes, Moderator."

²¹ GLGP-AIC (Minutes, 5-15-23): "By common consent, the GLG Presbytery will meet from 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm on Friday June 23 at RPC of Lafayette."

- Joe Johnson came forward, read Deuteronomy 3:23-29, and preached from the text on the subject of Waiting upon the Lord, after which the court sang Psalm 84B to the praise of God. Comments were received from the floor and the exam was unanimously sustained by roll call vote.

LICENSURE TO PREACH — JOE JOHNSON (Unanimously Sustained)

The court unanimously sustained Mr. Johnson's licensure to preach by roll call vote, after which Joe Johnson came forward and affirmed the queries of licensure as administered by Jerry Foltz.

- Mr. Johnson then signed the queries in the minute book, and Phil Pockras called upon God's name in prayer, licensing him in the name and by the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ, after which Nathan Eshelman delivered a brief charge from 2 Corinthians 2:14-17.

Recommendation 4²² carried, thereby receiving the Candidates and Credentials Committee report as a whole.

4. POINT OF INFORMATION

AIC moderator Shawn Anderson shared a point of information with the court, reading the communication previously addressed to Mr. Gary Allison of Southfield RPC to notify him of the court's decision on Tuesday 6/20 to return his complaints, along with the reasons.²³

- Mr. Anderson also shared an email response from Mr. Allison.
- Nathan Eshelman (Moderator, 2022) took the moderator's chair, since Mr. Hughes serves on the Southfield session.

5. MOTION TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION (CARRIED)

It was moved and seconded that presbytery enter executive session. This motion was discussed.

- At Mr. Kuehner's request, so that he might participate more actively in the discussion without having to take down minutes, Frank Smith (Moderator, 2021) took the moderator's chair from Mr. Eshelman (Moderator, 2022; Asst. Clerk, 2023), who temporarily replaced Mr. Kuehner as clerk.
- The motion carried, after which the court entered executive session at 4:53 p.m.

6. MOTION TO ENTER COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (CARRIED)

It was moved, seconded, and carried that presbytery to enter a committee of the whole (COTW), after which COTW chairman Frank Smith shared further details regarding COTW, and the committee conducted its discussion.

7. MOTION TO EXIT COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (CARRIED)

- It was moved, seconded, and carried that presbytery exit COTW. Frank Smith retained the chair as moderator.

8. MOTION TO LEAVE EXECUTIVE SESSION (CARRIED)

- It was moved, seconded, and carried that presbytery leave executive session.
- Presbytery left executive session at 5:23 p.m., at which time Mr. Hughes resumed the moderator's chair.

9. MOTION TO DISMISS THE IRPC RESOLUTION COMMITTEE (CARRIED)

It was moved, seconded, and carried to dismiss the IRPC Resolution Committee.

10. REPORT ON MINUTE BOOKS (APPROVED)

The assistant clerk reported that the minutes of Sparta RPC were reviewed up to February 20, 2023 and were found to be within the law and order of the church. It was moved, seconded, and carried to approve this report.

11. READING OF THE MINUTES (ADOPTED)

The clerks read the minutes, after which it was moved, seconded, and carried to adopt them as amended.

12. HOST CONGREGATION

Adam Niess made an announcement on behalf of the host congregation regarding dinner.

13. PRAYER OF ADJOURNMENT

It was moved, seconded, and carried to adjourn the meeting, after which the moderator called upon God's name in prayer, giving thanks for the food, and offering up a prayer of adjournment at 5:33 p.m.

²² Rec. 4 (C&CC): That our report be received. [CARRIED]

²³ Cf. GLGP Minutes, Tuesday 6/20/23, Item 4, Footnote 9 (above).

Special Mtg. to Ordain and Install Jonathan Sturm

Time: Friday June 23, 2023 @ 7:00 p.m.

Place: Reformed Presbyterian Church of Lafayette
1723 S. Ninth St. Lafayette, IN 47905

The Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery met at 7:00 p.m. on Friday June 23, 2023 at the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Lafayette for the ordination of Mr. Jonathan Sturm as a minister of the gospel, as well as his installation as associate pastor of the Lafayette congregation.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The moderator welcomed the assembly to the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

- By common consent, Rev. Shawn Anderson was appointed assistant clerk *pro tem* during the rest of the meeting.
- The moderator called upon God's name in prayer, constituting the court.

2. ATTENDANCE

Rev. Anderson called the attendance roll and confirmed that a quorum was present.

3. PARTICIPATORY MOTION

It was moved, seconded, and carried that elder delegates without certificates be seated, that all Reformed Presbyterian ruling and teaching elders present who are not delegates be made consultative members of the court and that all elders in good standing in denominations with which we have fraternal relations be invited to participate in the laying on of hands.

4. NARRATION OF STEPS

Elder Ken Nelson presented the narration of steps leading up to Mr. Sturm's ordination and installation.

5. FINAL READING OF THE EDICT

Elder Bob Bibby performed the final reading of the edict.

6. ADHERENCE TO THE CALL

The communicant members confirmed their adherence to the pastoral call, and Mr. Sturm likewise confirmed his acceptance of the call.

7. CALL TO WORSHIP

The moderator called the assembly to worship God.

8. PRAISE & PRAYER

The assembly sang Psalm 60A in praise to God, after which the moderator led the assembly in a prayer of invocation.

9. PREACHING OF THE WORD

Rev. Ian Wise entered the pulpit, reading 2 Kings 2:1-18 and preaching from the text on "Elijah's God and Ours", after which he called upon God's name in prayer.

10. PRAISE

The assembly sang Psalm 113A in praise to God.

11. ORDINATION QUERIES

Elder Steve Sturm administered the queries of ordination to his son, Mr. Jonathan Sturm, who affirmed them before the assembly and signed the queries in the minute book.

12. PRAYER OF ORDINATION & INSTALLATION

Rev. Joel Hart led the court in a prayer of ordination and installation, whereby the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery ordained Mr. Sturm to the ministry of the gospel and installed him as associate pastor of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Lafayette by the laying on of the hands of the elders, and Mr. Sturm was extended the right hand of fellowship by the court.

13. CHARGE TO THE NEW PASTOR

The court sang Psalm 48C in praise to God, after which Rev. David Hanson issued a charge to the new pastor from John 11:32-26, urging him to “Cry more, to pastor well.”

14. CHARGE TO THE CONGREGATION

Rev. Adam Niess issued a charge to the congregation from 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13, urging them to know, respect, and love their new pastor.

15. SINGING OF PRAISE

The court sang Psalm 72C in praise to God.

16. BENEDICTION

Rev. Jonathan Sturm pronounced God’s blessing upon the assembly.

17. READING OF THE MINUTES

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

18. PRAYER OF ADJOURNMENT

By common consent, the moderator adjourned the court in prayer at 8:25 p.m.

**Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery
Attendance and Voting Record for June 20 & 23, 2023**

Delegate	Tues. 1:15pm	Wed. 8:45pm	Fri. 3:30pm	Fri. 7:00pm	Exam 1	Exam 2
Frank Smith (Atlanta)	E	P	P	P	S	S
Phil Pockras (Belle Center)	P	P	P	P	S	S
Bruce Bowers (Belle Center)	P	P	ND	P	ND	ND
Jefferey Brotherton	ND	ND	P	P	S	S
Rich Holdeman (Bloomington)	P	P	E	E	E	E
Philip McCollum (Bloomington)	NP	P	E	E	E	E
Joel Hart (Columbus)	P	P	P	P	S	S
Scott Hoover (Columbus)	P	NP	NP	NP	E	E
Jeff Jones (Columbus)	E	E	E	E	E	E
Wade Mann (Elkhart)	P	P	E	E	E	E
Robert Daniels (Elkhart)	NP	NP	E	E	E	E
Bryan Dage (Hetherton)	E	E	E	E	E	E
Ray Morton (Hetherton)	P	E	E	E	E	E
Jerry Foltz (Indy, Second)	P	P	P	P	S	S
Dean Filson (Indy, Second)	P	P	P	P	S	S
Jeff Platt (Indy, Second)	P	NP	P	P	S	S
Dave Hanson (Indy, Southside)	P	P	P	P	S	S

Delegate	Tues. 1:15pm	Wed. 8:45pm	Fri. 3:30pm	Fri. 7:00pm	Exam 1	Exam 2
Ian Wise (Indy, Southside)	P	P	P	P	S	S
Jerry Porter (Indy, Southside)	NP	NP	E	E	E	E
Steve Sturm (Indy, Southside)	P	P	P	P	S	S
Shawn Anderson (Kokomo)	P	P	P	P	S	S
Robert McKissick (Kokomo)	P	P	P	P	S	S
Adam Niess (Lafayette)	P	P	P	P	S	S
Bob Bibby (Lafayette)	P	P	P	P	S	S
Chris Stockwell (Lafayette)	P	P	P	P	E	E
Aaron Murray (Marion)	P	P	P	P	S	S
Jason Camery (Marion)	NP	NP	NP	NP	E	E
Scott Hunt (Marion)	NP	NP	NP	NP	S	E
Nathan Eshelman (Orlando)	P	P	P	E	E	S
Joe Worsham (Orlando)	P	P	E	E	E	E
O. Ross Fearing (Sparta)	P	P	E	E	E	E
James Odom (Sparta)	P	P	P	P	S	S
Dick Knodel (Southwest OH)	NP	NP	NP	NP	E	E
Steven Work (Southwest OH)	P	P	P	E	S	S
Scott Damerow (Southwest OH)	P	P	P	E	S	S
Adam Kuehner (Southfield)	P	P	P	P	S	S

Delegate	Tues. 1:15pm	Wed. 8:45pm	Fri. 3:30pm	Fri. 7:00pm	Exam 1	Exam 2
Jon Hughes (Southfield)	P	P	P	P	S	S
Stephen Rhoda (Terre Haute)	E	E	E	E	E	E
Joshua Smith (Westminster)	P	P	P	P	S	S
Bob Koch (Westminster)	E	E	E	E	E	E
David Whitla (Seminary)	P	P	E	E	E	E

P=Present.

NP=Not Present.

ND=Not a delegate

S=Sustained.

NS=Not Sustained.

A=Abstain.

Exam 1: Joe Johnson, Expository Sermon

Exam 2: Joe Johnson, Licensure to Preach

The Clerk's Report

2023 Mtg at Synod — Marion, IN
June 20-23, 2023 @ IWU

Dear Fathers & Brethren,

As usual, “the time is short” for presbytery business at this year’s synod. The following communications are available on our presbytery website (<https://glgpresbytery.org/2022-meeting-at-synod-marion>), along with various other relevant documents.

23-14: Complaint to Synod (Kuehner v. GLGP) *transmitted to synod*

23-15: Complaint to Synod (Allison v. GLGP) *returned to author*

23-16: Complaint to GLGP (Allison v. Southfield) *hearing on Fri 6/23*

23-17: Complaint to GLGP (Allison v. Southfield) *hearing on Fri 6/23*

23-18: Communication to AIC re: GLG 23-16/17 (Southfield Session) *received by AIC*

23-19: Petition to GLGP proposing a standing finance comte (J. Hart) *slotted for Tue 6/20*

23-20: Petition to GLGP requesting Hetherton visitation comte (B. Dage) *comte appointed*

23-21: Petition to Synod re: RPWA lawsuit (Orlando Session) *transmitted to synod*

23-22: Complaint to Synod (Allison v. GLGP) *transmitted to synod*

23-23: Complaint to Synod (Allison v. GLGP) *transmitted to synod*

23-24: Complaint to Synod (Enas v. GLGP) *transmitted to synod*

23-25: Communication to GLGP re: K. Borg (MWP) *received by clerk*

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That presbytery appoint the following parliamentarians (6/20-23): J. Odom, F. Smith, P. Pockras (alt), S. Rhoda (alt).
2. That presbytery adopt the proposed agenda for its meetings on June 20 and June 23.
3. That presbytery refer GLG 23-25 to the Borg Resolution Committee to seek clarification from the Midwest Presbytery regarding the precise nature of its concerns,¹ and report back at the next full meeting of presbytery.
4. That presbytery adopt the 2023 GLGP report to synod.²
5. That presbytery grant all RPCNA elders present the privilege of the floor during the remainder of this meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Adam Kuehner, Clerk

¹ In particular, the MWP’s communication could be interpreted as implying that our direct interactions with Mr. Borg up to this point have been inappropriate. It should be noted that Mr. Borg himself initiated direct formal contact with the GLGP by way of multiple communications regarding his involvement in the PPP (23-11A, 23-11B, 23-12), along with a request to address the court on the floor via Zoom during our spring meeting. The GLGP’s appointment of a committee to contact the MWP, the Winchester Session, and Mr. Borg himself, came as a response to Mr. Borg’s own initiation of direct formal contact with our presbytery. Moreover, Mr. Borg took the liberty of filing a complaint (23-1) and a charge of sin (23-3A, 23-3B) directly with the GLGP without any mediation by the MWP. It remains unclear why Mr. Borg would be free to contact the GLGP directly, while the GLGP would not be free to respond directly. Of course, GLG 23-25 may simply be urging us not to contact Mr. Borg *moving forward*. Perhaps the Borg Resolution Committee will be able to obtain further clarification regarding the MWP’s intent in sending this communication, so as to help us better understand and honor their request.

² Available online: [https://glgpresbytery.org/uploads/2023-at-synod/2023 GLGP Report to Synod.pdf](https://glgpresbytery.org/uploads/2023-at-synod/2023%20GLGP%20Report%20to%20Synod.pdf)

The Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery (RPCNA)

*Proposed Agenda for
2023 June Meetings*

CLERK

Adam Kuehner
ak@streetsermon.org

ASST. CLERK

Nathan Eshelman
n.p.eshelman@gmail.com

Stated Mtg. at the 2023 Synod

Time: Tuesday June 20, 2023 from 1:15 - 2:30 p.m.

Place: IWU Campus (Details TBA)

1. **CALL TO ORDER / PRAYER OF CONSTITUTION** (Hughes) *5 mins* [1:20]
2. **ATTENDANCE** (Eshelman) *5 mins* [1:25]
3. **CLERK'S REPORT** (Kuehner) *5 mins* [1:30]
4. **AD INTERIM COMMISSION REPORT / MINUTES** (Anderson) *10 mins* [1:40]
 - A. Questions from the Floor *5 mins* [1:35]
 - B. Approval of Minutes *5 mins* [1:40]
5. **STURM EXAM COMMISSION REPORT / MINUTES** *5 mins* [1:45]
6. **CANDIDATES & CREDENTIALS COMTE REPORT** (Niess) *10 mins* [1:55]
 - A. Overview of Upcoming Exams, Interviews, etc. *5 mins* [1:50]
 - B. Recommendation Re: Rev. Stan McKenzie's Credentials *5 mins* [1:55]
7. **GLG 23-19** (J. Hart) *30 mins* [2:25]
8. **PRAYER OF ADJOURNMENT** *5 mins* [2:30]

Special Mtg. after the 2023 Synod

Time: Friday June 23, 2023 from 3:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Place: Reformed Presbyterian Church of Lafayette
1723 S. Ninth St. Lafayette, IN 47905

1. **CALL TO ORDER / PRAYER TO RECONVENE** (Hughes) *5 mins* [3:35]
2. **VISUAL ATTENDANCE** (Eshelman)
3. **CANDIDATES & CREDENTIALS REPORT** (Niess) *60 mins* [4:35]
 - A. Care Status Interview — J. Punt (Testimony, Questions, Comments, RCV) *15 mins* [3:50]
 - B. Expository Sermon 1 — J. Johnson (Sermon, Comments, RCV) *30 mins* [4:20]
 - C. Licensure to Preach — J. Johnson (RCV, Queries, Signature, Prayer, Charge) *15 mins* [4:35]
4. **COMPLAINT HEARING — GLG 23-16/17 (Combined)** *50 mins* [5:25]
 - A. Complainant (10 mins) [4:45]
 - B. Defendant (10 mins) [4:55]
 - C. Floor Discussion (20 mins) [5:15]
 - D. Vote to Sustain GLG 23-16 (5 mins) [5:20]
 - E. Vote to Sustain GLG 23-17 (5 mins) [5:25]
5. **PRAYER OF ADJOURNMENT** *5 mins* [5:30]

DINNER BREAK *90 mins* [7:00]

Special Mtg. to Ordain/Install J. Sturm

Time: Friday June 23, 2023 @ 7:00 p.m.

Place: Reformed Presbyterian Church of Lafayette
1723 S. Ninth St. Lafayette, IN 47905

1. CALL TO ORDER / PRAYER OF RECONSTITUTION (Hughes)
2. ATTENDANCE (Eshelman)
3. PARTICIPATORY MOTION — That elder delegates without certificates be seated, that all Reformed Presbyterian ruling and teaching elders present who are not delegates be made consultative members of the court and that all elders in good standing in denominations with which we have fraternal relations be invited to participate in the laying on of hands.
4. NARRATION OF STEPS
5. FINAL READING OF THE EDICT
6. ADHERENCE TO THE CALL
7. CALL TO WORSHIP *See bulletin for precise order of worship.*
8. PREACHING OF THE WORD
9. ORDINATION QUERIES *Vocal + Written*
10. PRAYER OF ORDINATION
11. CHARGE TO THE NEW PASTOR
12. CHARGE TO THE CONGREGATION
13. PRAISE & BENEDICTION (Sturm)
14. READING OF THE MINUTES (Kuehner)
15. PRAYER OF ADJOURNMENT (Hughes)

Report of the **Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery** to 2023 Synod

We are supremely grateful for the gracious oversight of our Chief Shepherd, working through the courts and commissions of His Church to bring justice, mercy, and healing to our beleaguered presbytery. Below is a list of notable developments since last year's report, followed by a series of updates from our current ministry locations.

1. Bid farewell to three congregations: First RPC of Durham (Transferred to POA along with ministerial credentials for Rev. Butterfield and Rev. Poplin), First RPC of Grand Rapids (Disorganized), and Christ Church RP (Disorganized).
2. Dismissed two students under care: Jake Schwartz (Moved to POA) and Nathan Shaver (At His Request).
3. Received two new men under care: Joe Johnson (Orlando) and Cody Work (Elkhart).
4. Certified three men as eligible to receive a pastoral call, each of whom accepted a pastoral call to an RPCNA congregation: Allen Blackwood (Laramie), Aaron Murray (Marion), and Jonathan Sturm (Lafayette).
5. Ordained and installed two new teaching elders: Joshua Smith (Westminster RPC) and Aaron Murray (Marion RPC).
6. Released two men from their pastoral charges due to resignation: Craig Scott (Grand Rapids) and James Faris (Second RPC), whose ministerial credentials were dismissed at his request.
7. Appointed presbytery officers for 2023: Jon Hughes (mod.), Adam Kuehner (clerk), Nathan Eshelman (asst. clerk), Shawn Anderson (AIC mod.), Aaron Hartzler (AIC clerk).
8. Gave abundant thanks to God for raising up Elder Richard Blankenship (Second RPC) to serve with unrivaled diligence and excellence, far above and beyond the call of duty, for two consecutive years as our AIC clerk (2021-22).

ATLANTA RPC - MISSION (GEORGIA): We adopted this mission statement: "Atlanta Reformed Presbyterian Church aims to be a faithful church, in doctrine, worship, personal piety, church life, fellowship, outreach, and hospitality, with specific focus on downtown Atlanta, demonstrating the love of Jesus to all people, and seeking to impact the Atlanta metro area by modeling a covenantal Christ-like community and by the multiplying of other Reformed Presbyterian congregations." In late 2022, within a short period, we lost (via death and discipline) one-third of our membership. We grieve, but bow before the Lord. Prayer requests: outreach efforts; building renovations; a deacon or two; organizational plans.

BELLE CENTER RPC (OHIO): The Belle Center congregation has been blessed by new members by transfer, adult profession of faith, baptism, and baptized members making personal profession. Attendance, after taking a hit from Covid, is back to 2020 levels. We're thankful for a committed Session and deacon; we hope soon to be electing and eventually ordaining two more deacons. We are thankful, too, that the trial of sexual sin in our congregation has mostly resolved. The guilty member was suspended by Session, imprisoned by the magistrate, and died in prison, allegedly by a catastrophic accident. The family is on target for reunification in May or June. Our pastor and his wife are being blessed with grandchildren, and we anticipate at least two babies' birth in the congregation by the end of this year.

BLOOMINGTON RPC (INDIANA): The Lord has blessed our congregation tremendously in 2022. He continues to send new people to us for which we are very grateful. Our average worship attendance increased to 172 in the mornings and 119 in the evenings. We had six covenant children born in the congregation this past year, causing us to marvel at the way God has re-configured our congregation to include so many young families. Our growth has created space challenges with our existing building. We have hired an architectural firm to help us design an addition to our building.

Please pray for wisdom as we assess how best to use our resources to minister effectively in our community and on the Indiana University campus.

COLUMBUS RPC (INDIANA): The Lord has been good to Columbus RP. Pastor Hart has preached in Mark and Genesis. Visitation efforts have increased and been fruitful. Men's prayer, women's Bible studies, book clubs, and Lord's Day evening fellowship provide discipleship opportunities. Finances are strong. The congregation is experiencing unity. Membership is stable. One elder and one deacon were elected last year; we pray for more in the year(s) to come. Founding elder Ed Schisler retired from active service on the session after 44 faithful years. We pray for many more years of Christ sustaining Columbus RP.

CHRIST CHURCH RPC (BROWNSBURG, INDIANA): Christ Church Reformed Presbyterian (CCRP) was disorganized in October of 2022.

ELKHART RPC (INDIANA): ERPC praises God for His care over the past year. Session met 21 times including 3 meetings with the Deacons. Preaching focused on Luke. The Lord's Supper was held six times. SS Classes were provided for all ages. God blessed ERPC and Pastor Mann during his 4-month summer sabbatical. VBS was hosted in June. Wednesday dinners followed by Bible study and Kid's Group resumed in October. Several new families have been attending and a new elder was ordained and installed in January 2023. Pray for God to strengthen and sanctify the body, raise up workers for the harvest, and save the lost especially covenant children.

GRAND RAPIDS RPC (MICHIGAN): Grand Rapids RPC was disorganized in July of 2022.

HETHERTON RPC (MICHIGAN): Rev. Ray Morton had a sabbatical in 2022 during which time the pulpit was filled by resident TE (and Hetherton RE) Bryan Dage. Since then, Rev. Ray has been preaching in Daniel. Lord's Supper is observed twice a year (October and April). A new baby in March 2023 (baptism to be scheduled) yields total membership of 20, communicant membership 12. Average attendance is around 12.

IMMANUEL RPC (WEST LAFAYETTE, INDIANA): No report given.

LAFAYETTE RPC (INDIANA): God continues to bless us at RPC of Lafayette. We have continued to be faithfully fed by the Word of God. We are now studying 2 Timothy in our morning worship. We continue to be involved in jail ministry; college ministry; youth group; among other ministries. Within the last year we have been blessed with a new ruling elder, two new deacons, and we have called Jon Sturm to be our associate pastor; which he accepted. Our current membership is 163, an increase of 13 in the last year. We are very thankful for God's provisions. Thank you for praying for us!

MARION RPC (INDIANA): October 6th, 2022, Aaron Murray was ordained/installed as new pastor. The preaching consisted of sermons from Judges by Pastor Camery and Philippians by Pastor Murray. The Lord's Supper is celebrated on the 1st Lord's Day of each month. Members meet weekly at Pastor Murray's home for Bible study through the book of Joshua. In 2022 two were added as communicant members, and one was added to the congregation as a baptized member. As of the writing MRPC currently has 41 communicants, 17 baptized, and 3 adherents.

ORLANDO RPC (FLORIDA): In 2022, the Orlando Reformed Presbyterian congregation grew by 20 (10 communicant and 10 baptized) members and witnessed 3 baptized members transition to communicants by profession of faith. The Lord graciously provided 3 new elders (Mark Goerner, Kevin Duffey and Alejandro Ramirez) and a new deacon (Paul Knutson) to help serve the congregation. Session continued to work with Tom Reid on the development of a work in Gainesville,

Florida and recently Session approved moving forward with another work in Celebration, Florida. The congregation continues to be edified and encouraged through multiple opportunities for weekly study and fellowship.

SECOND RPC (INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA): *Some blessings:* The Gospel proclamation, that Christ lived among us, died on the cross for us, through preaching of James Faris and Jerry Foltz. Our calling of Jerry Foltz, with his Christ-centered story along with Monica's. We mourn the departure of James Faris with thanks for his years of fruitful ministry. Christ's building of a new generation of young families. Training men and women, through ministries and fellowship. Daily 7 a.m. prayer meeting, started during Covid. Christ builds His church through prayer. *Prayer request:* That the Lord would lead us to an additional pastor of His choice.

SELMA RPC (ALABAMA): The Selma congregation is continuing to carry on without a pastor and the Lord is still enabling us to persevere and endure. Regardless of the situation, the love for God's Word and the meaning of His Son, Jesus, dying on the cross for our sins, is exemplified through our desire to give Him the praise and the glory and try to be shining lights in this dark world. Although we lost our church to the tornado that struck on January 12, 2023, we did find a couple of places to meet for our Sabbath school classes and our morning worship. We met at Selma University for one Sabbath and Cornerstone Presbyterian has a smaller unused Sanctuary they are not using. So, we are there as long as they allow us to be. We thank God for them allowing us to use it and they wouldn't accept any monies at all. This is truly a blessing because it serves our needs. We do have services with them on some first Sundays because they have communion then and we also have services with them every fifth Sunday. We have established a GoFundMe account and a Clover account for those who want to contribute to our cause. Also, we have received monies from the insurance company and right now, we are trying to plan on what direction and what steps we need to take in replacing the church. We have a lot of decisions to make. We know that everything is in God's hands and His plans, so, we continually ask Him for guidance in all we do. To Him be all the Glory!!! Please keep us in your prayers.

SOUTHFIELD RPC (MICHIGAN): Membership and attendance continue to grow at a sustainable pace. In November, the session appointed five diaconal interns to serve in 2023 with a view to possible future nomination. Pastor Kuehner leads a theology course for those interested in future ministry roles. Two of our members participate in RPGM's Next Steps program and three plan to attend RP Mission trips this summer. Our budget increased by 20% over last year, reaching an all-time high. We are humbled and thankful to God for His abundant goodness, and remain hopeful as we continue to seek and serve him in the year ahead.

SOUTHSIDE RPC (INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA): At the end of 2022, total membership was 300, an increase of 23. Our congregation continues to be well-fed from God's word each week. Pastor Hanson completed preaching through his main series from the Gospel of John. Pastor Wise continued preaching through 1Kings, then 2Kings, followed by Lamentations. Session completed visitations begun in 2020 interrupted by the pandemic. Visitation feedback resulted in new weekly Men's Ministry meetings. The Master Plan Committee worked with our design team to reach several milestones for the Site Improvements Project introduced at 2021's annual congregational meeting. Construction is scheduled to begin in Spring 2023.

SOUTHWEST OHIO RPC (SWORP) Local church history always involves victories and defeats. With the approach of Fall, God in his wisdom shut down our prospective Christendom Bible College project. It was a great discouragement. But then, a bit later in the Fall, Kaiya Knodel became our church's first baptized child to make a profession of faith and become a confessing member of SWORP. We cried, and the year felt better! Our greatest joy is the exhilaration of maintaining a vital

preaching site and living church – exhibiting the Kingdom of God – in this evil world! What a privilege! Praise the Lord!

SPARTA RPC (ILLINOIS): God provided for Sparta RPC through some hard events and blessed us with recent encouragements. Last year we mourned the loss of Ross and Emily Fearing's stillborn daughter. We also mourned the retirement of longtime ruling elder and former pastor, Bob Morrow due to his declining health. God encouraged us with the addition of a young family and recent officer elections. Please pray that God would strengthen us through new leaders and grow our outreach into Sparta.

SYCAMORE RPC (KOKOMO, INDIANA): 2022 was a year of growth for us. We currently have 44 communicant members and 46 baptized members. We averaged 67 in AM attendance and 45 in PM. We completed our sermon series on Romans. Further, the Lord answered our requests in our weekly prayer meeting beyond our asking and expectation. Brentt VanSickle has joined the session. The Lord's blessed our diaconal ministry (growing in mercy ministry and improving/maintaining a 100 year-old building) and our Christian education ministry. 2023 marks our pastor's tenth year in service to God's Word.

TERRE HAUTE RPC (INDIANA): We are doing well in Terre Haute by God's grace through Christ. We have challenges but continue to carry out a Gospel ministry under the Great Commission of our Lord. We worship on the Lord's Day at 10:45am and 5:00 m; Sunday School at 9:30 am. On the first Sunday of each month we sit together at Christ's Table in the morning, enjoy lunch, and worship God again at 2:00 pm. Outreach, fellowship, and Bible study ministries continue throughout the week. We have four ministry teams: Facilities, Fellowship, Missions, and Outreach. Professing: 27; Baptized: 13; Adherents: 6.

WESTMINSTER RPC (CHICAGO, ILLINOIS): The Lord continues to bless us. Throughout last year many have begun regularly attending and have become very active in the life of the congregation. Our current membership is 16 communicants and 7 baptized. We also have 10 adherents. Our average attendance is 27. Since Pastor Smith arrived in August we have completed a series through Philippians and have begun a topical series on Worship. We regularly observe the sacraments: celebrating one baptism and the Lord's Supper during our communion seasons. We do regular outreach and evangelism within the local community. We pray the Lord will continue to work in and through us to mature our faith and to reach the Chicagoland area for Christ's Crown and Covenant.

To Adam M. Kuehner, Clerk of Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America:

And now, this eighteenth day of April A.D. 2023, comes Gary V. Allison and complains against the decision on March 19, 2023 of the Session of Southfield Reformed Presbyterian Church of The Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America, which was first communicated to me by written summons delivered on April 2, 2023.

In bringing this complaint I affirm that I believe that the Session has erred and that this error is serious; that I have tried to understand the Session's point of view; that I have seriously examined, in prayer before the Lord, my willingness to be in subjection to my brothers in Christ; and that I have made a serious effort to correct the error short of entering a complaint.

I complain to the Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery against the session's summons delivered to me on April 2, 2023 to appear and to answer to the charges, at Southfield Reformed Presbyterian Church, 26550 Evergreen Rd, Southfield MI on Friday, April 21, 2023 at 6:30pm EDT and to bring any counsel and witnesses I may have.

In support of this complaint I set forth the following grounds:

1. Subsequent to the March 2-4 meeting of the Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery I was expecting and waiting to receive a written response from the Presbytery communicating to me its action in regard to my written complaint that I submitted on January 6, 2023. Without receiving any written communication informing me of the action taken by the Presbytery, I have followed the instruction of the Book of Discipline to appeal in a timely manner (the Book of Discipline calls for notice of intent to appeal in 30 days from the date of being informed, and at least 60 days to be given to me for completion of my appeal).

The Book of Discipline states:

"11. Written notice of an intent to appeal and a summary statement of the reasons must be filed with the clerk of the court appealed from within thirty (30) days after the accused is informed of the action, and the clerk shall transmit the same, with the necessary records and papers, to the clerk of the higher court. The higher court, upon receiving notice of the intent to appeal, shall make available an appropriate advisor from among the members of the court for the appellant. At least sixty (60) days shall be given for preparing the appeal and transmitting it to the clerk of the higher court, along with a full statement of reasons for the appeal and all relevant documents. In order for members of the higher court to have time to read and process the appeal, a period of at least thirty (30) days must elapse between the court's receiving the appeal and the meeting where it is to be adjudicated. Parties are entitled to such extracts from the minutes as may be necessary in preparing an appeal. The clerk of the court shall furnish such extracts, but, if they are large, the court may request the party demanding them to pay the necessary expense."

2. I have clearly stated multiple specific grounds of my appeal to the Synod of the RPCNA which detail irregularity in the proceedings, injustice, manifest prejudice, admission of improper testimony and refusal to hear testimony that is important, and undue haste in reaching a decision before all the testimony has been heard.

3. To the present date I also have not yet been informed in writing of the Presbytery's answer to the grounds of my complaint, which are also grounds why the Session's March 19, 2023 decision is in error. These grounds are as follows:

1. The charge alleges five ways that I have sinned against God but does not state one specific instance and the "time, place and circumstances of its commission" as required in The Book of Discipline II.2.1. In addition, both Form 21 and Form 22 (H-20 and 21) require that a charge or accusation of sin give specific instance and the date on which a person has sinned against God.

2. The evidence for the alleged charge is a list of family members and one ruling elder who are not witnesses of the things alleged. One family member requested to testify is not a Christian and has lived elsewhere for many years with little contact. None of the witnesses listed has followed Matthew 18:15-17 and personally brought these allegations to me as our Lord requires and which is the "orderly manner for dealing with sin in His church" (The Book of Discipline, I.1.2 and I.2.1-4).

3. These allegations are based on false things my wife says in her sinful opposition to my patient and loving guidance and direction for daily living, including family worship, eating as a family, financial stewardship, education of our children, and entertainment, but the Session has not investigated the allegations as required in The Book of Discipline 1.3.2. If the Session properly investigated these allegations, it would find that she has been disregarding and violating the moral law as it is taught in Scripture and by the church and as I have lovingly brought to her attention (The Book of Discipline I.1.6). Leviticus 19:15; Deuteronomy 1:16-17, 16:18-20; Psalm 45:6-7; Proverbs 24:23-26; John 7:24; I Timothy 3:15; Hebrews 1:8-9. Larger Catechism #144-145.

4. The Session has brought a charge based on false statements from my wife, "who manifests malice" toward me consistently, both privately and openly in the presence of our children, which The Book of Discipline II.1.2 forbids.

5. The Session has instituted formal process without evidence being presented that the means of reconciliation referred to in The Book of Discipline section 1, chapter 2 have been tried as required in The Book of Discipline II.1.1.

6. The Session has instituted formal judicial process without "evidence sufficient to warrant a trial" and without determining that "Christ's rule (Matt. 18:15-16) has been followed," both of which are required in The Book of Discipline II.2.2.

7. Requiring family members to testify against the head of the family concerning matters of which they have no knowledge, is not right and will harm the family instead of strengthening it, which can only be done by addressing the actual sins, which the Session has ignored.

4. Session notified me on April 2, 2023 that previously on February 23, 2023 the Session added records from Hope Protestant Reformed Church as evidence without providing me a copy so I can prepare a defense.

I humbly ask the Presbytery to annul or reverse the action of the Session of Southfield Reformed Presbyterian Church on March 19, 2023, communicated to me on April 2, 2023, to schedule a trial without following the requirements of the Bible, our confessional standards, and The Book of Discipline.

Date: April 18, 2023

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary V. Allison". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "G".

Complainant: Gary V. Allison

To Adam M. Kuehner, Clerk of Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America:

And now, this twenty-first day of April A.D. 2023, comes Gary V. Allison and complains against the action of the Session of Southfield Reformed Presbyterian Church on April 21, 2023, to proceed to trial and conduct a trial contrary to Directory for Church Government 4.9 (D-29), The Book of Discipline, and Ordination Vow 9 (G-3), which are based upon the principles of truth and due process taught in Holy Scripture, the Westminster Confession of Faith, the Larger and Shorter Catechisms, and the Testimony of the Reformed Presbyterian Church (cf. A-88).

In bringing this complaint I affirm that I believe that the Session has erred and that this error is serious; that I have tried to understand the Session's point of view; that I have seriously examined, in prayer before the Lord, my willingness to be in subjection to my brothers in Christ; and that I have made a serious effort to correct the error short of entering a complaint.

In support of this complaint I set forth the following grounds:

1. The Session initiated and conducted a trial contrary to the rules set forth in the Book of Discipline as required in Directory for Church Government 4.9, "All judicial action affecting the standing of the members of the congregation shall be initiated in the session, and the trial shall be conducted in accordance with the rules set forth in the *Book of Discipline*."
2. The Book of Discipline requires that the Session "shall name the specific offense, the time, place and circumstances of its commission" (The Book of Discipline II.2.1, E-10), but the Session has not given the time, place, and circumstances of any specific instance of any offense.
3. The Book of Discipline requires that "if additional witnesses or new evidence are discovered, the accused shall be informed and further time given him or her to prepare a defense," but the Session provided new evidence two days before the trial without giving further time to prepare a defense.
4. The Book of Discipline requires that "the Presbyterian form of government provides for a gradation of courts whereby the lower is answerable to the higher. A decision of the lower court is subject to review and correction by a higher court. Any member of the church may carry his case through the lower courts even to the highest court for adjudication" (I.5, E-7), "a decision of the lower court is subject to review and correction by a higher court. Any member of the church may carry his or her case through the lower courts even to the highest court for adjudication," and "The action of an inferior court may be brought under the judgment of a higher court by Review of the Records, Complaint, Reference, or Appeal" (II.4.1, E-15), but the Session initiated and conducted a trial in spite of the fact that a complaint was brought within 30 days against the Session's decision on March 19 to hold a trial, and in spite of the fact that a complaint against the Session's decision to issue an accusation of sin and schedule a trial was appealed to Synod, and in spite of the fact that a

complaint was brought against the decision of the Presbytery on March 3, none of which have been adjudicated.

5. The Book of Discipline requires that “the lower court shall transmit to the higher all records and papers pertaining to the case. If this is not attended to, the higher court may reprove the lower for its negligence and postpone the hearing until these documents have been received” (The Book of Discipline II.4.4, E-16), but the Session initiated and conducted a trial rather than allowing its decision to be reviewed first by the higher court.
6. The Book of Discipline requires that the accused be able to have counsel and witnesses present during a trial, but the Session initiated and conducted a trial without any counsel or witnesses for the accused present because the accused understood that the complaints and the appeal must be adjudicated before a trial can properly be held, but the minister and elders of the Session informed the accused that the complaints and appeal had been received, and then insisted on holding the trial before their adjudication and at a time when counsel and witnesses for the accused were not able to be present and without any regard for these serious violations of due process as set forth and required in the holy Law of God, the confessional standards of the church, and The Book of Discipline.
7. The minister and elders of the Session have violated their solemn ordination vow in which they promised “subjection in the Lord to the courts of this church,” and engaged “to follow no divisive courses from the doctrine and order which the church has solemnly recognized and adopted” (Ordination vow 9, G-3).
8. The Session acted unlawfully by denying my right to appeal my complaint against the Session to Synod, thus usurping the authority of Synod to receive and consider the appeal of my complaint, contrary to The Book of Discipline I.5, E-7, and II.4.1, E-15.
9. The Session acted unlawfully by asserting that my appeal of a complaint is unrelated to Session’s summons to conduct a trial, when my appeal of a complaint seeks to have the Session acknowledge and follow the requirements of the Bible, the confessional standards, the Book of Discipline, and the Testimony of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, which states that the power of governing the church “is moral and spiritual, and subject to the law of God” (A-88).
10. The Session acted unlawfully by denying any irregularity in its proceedings when the Session’s actions violate the law of God, The Book of Discipline, and due process by initiating and conducting a trial when there are complaints and an appeal of a complaint concerning the trial that have not been adjudicated as required and no counsel and witnesses for the accused were able to be present.
11. The Session acted contrary to I Corinthians 14:40, “Let all things be done decently and in order,” by initiating and conducting a trial without due process as though there were a different means to uphold the truth than the holy Law of God, which shines the light of God that exposes the deeds of those who practice evil. The Lord Jesus Christ, the King and Head of the church, said, “But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen; that they have been done in God” (John 3.21).

I humbly ask the Presbytery to annul or reverse the action of the Session of Southfield Reformed Presbyterian Church on April 21, 2023, to proceed to trial and conduct a trial contrary to Directory for Church Government 4.9 (D-29), The Book of Discipline, and Ordination Vow 9 (G-3), which are based upon the principles of truth and due process taught in Holy Scripture, the Westminster Confession of Faith, the Larger and Shorter Catechisms, and the Testimony of the Reformed Presbyterian Church (A-88).


_____, Complainant
Gary V. Allison

Date: April 21, 2023

GLG Presbytery,

I write to propose some updates to our presbytery financial processes. The goals of this approach include:

- Improving continuity of understanding of financial approaches and decisions from year to year.
- Ensuring communication between the finance committee and the treasurer(s).
- Aligning our financial processes closer to denominational operations.
- Aligning our committee approach to finances to other presbytery committees (such as Candidates/Credentials).
- Strengthening our ability to steward the resources God has provided this presbytery.

This proposal has been shared with the current treasurer/assistant treasurer, and they are aligned that this would be a good step forward.

The proposal in short:

- Form a standing 3-man finance committee. On this committee,
 - Membership would be 3 years long.
 - The committee would function with rotating “classes”, such that 1 member would rotate off yearly, ensuring continuity from year to year on the committee.
 - The committee would appoint its own chairman. The chairman would be responsible for convening committee meetings and ensuring committee representation at presbytery meetings where the finance committee would present.
- Appoint the treasurer/assistant treasurers as *ex officio*, non-voting members of the committee.¹
- The committee would have the role of putting together the yearly budget, proposing the total assessment number for the year², and addressing other financial concerns that arise throughout the year, in conjunction with the treasurer(s).
- The workload of the committee would, Lord-willing, be reasonably light.

How this proposal differs from current operations:

- Currently, a finance committee of the day is appointed at presbytery meetings to draw up a yearly budget. This proposal here changes the committee from a committee of the day to a standing committee. The committee could still work at the presbytery meeting, but much of the work could be done in advance. Hopefully, at least one committee member could attend presbytery to facilitate work on issues that arise at the meeting.
- Currently, communication between the treasurers and the committee might occur, but it is not part of the formal “committee of the day” structure.
- Currently, finance committee members come from attendees at the presbytery meetings. This proposal allows a broader pool for finance committee members.

How this proposal does *not* differ from current operations:

- The committee would still present a budget to the presbytery at annual meetings, at which point the presbytery will vote on the final budget.

¹ This aligns to how denominational boards (like the Benefits Board on which I serve) draw treasurer Jim McFarland into discussions.

² The committee would propose the presbytery’s total assessment across all congregations. The treasurer would still oversee calculating and assessing the specific assessments for individual congregations.

- In recent history, the committee has had member(s) serve on the committee of the day in many successive years. These members have tracked certain financial issues through the year, often with the working assumption that they will be nominated again at the next year's meeting. Thus, in effect these have been serving as a kind of volunteer yearly finance committee (perhaps of 1). This proposal puts on paper that some form of continuity like this is a good idea.

Rationale for this proposal. Faithful oversight of finances requires a working knowledge of ...

- Financial categories, historic expenses, and yearly procedures for financial maintenance.
- Access to financial spreadsheets and records and how they are used.
- Issues faced by and connectivity with the treasurer(s) in their work and alignment/understanding of monthly financial operations.

All of this working knowledge is hard (or impossible?) to obtain for an *ad hoc* created finance committee of the day.

We have perhaps worked around this problem in the past by having known stated individuals tracking yearly finances and communicating with the treasurer on a continual basis. However, there are risks in that level of individual dependence. These include:

- What happens if a certain key individual is unavailable at a presbytery meeting? (This happened at the spring 2023 meeting).
- Are we assigning one individual to become a *de facto* lifetime chair of the committee, at least until he finds and fully trains a suitable replacement? This topic is relevant to the author who was committee chair at the last meeting and hopes not to chair this committee for the, Lord-willing, many decades of service in this court.

A steady system based on continuity will seemingly work more effectively.

Recommendations:

1. Form a standing 3-man finance committee. On this committee,
 - a. Membership would be 3 years long.
 - b. The committee would function with rotating "classes", such that 1 member would rotate off yearly, ensuring continuity from year to year on the committee.
 - c. The committee would appoint its own chairman. The chairman would be responsible for convening committee meetings and ensuring committee representation at presbytery meetings where the finance committee would present.
2. Appoint the treasurer/assistant treasurers as *ex officio*, non-voting members of the committee.
3. Direct the AIC to appoint the initial membership of this committee before fall 2023, so that this committee can be ready for presentations at any fall 2023 presbytery meeting or spring 2024 presbytery meeting.

With thanks,

Joel Hart

Midwest Presbytery

GLG 23-25

Of the
Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America

June 6, 2023

Greetings Fathers and Brothers in the Great Lakes / Gulf Presbytery,

I am writing on behalf of the Midwest Presbytery to communicate a recent action that was taken by our court in our shepherding of Kyle Borg. We are requesting that this communication be forwarded to the entire Great Lakes / Gulf Presbytery, its elders, and its member churches. We are requesting that all communications for Kyle Borg and/or the Winchester RPC Session be communicated through the Midwest Presbytery (via its Clerk) and that all direct communications to Mr. Borg and/or the Winchester RPC Session cease immediately.

Grace and Peace to you all,



Andrew Barnes
Clerk of the Midwest Presbytery



To: The Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery
From: The Former Elders of the Immanuel Reformed Presbyterian Church
Date: June 18, 2023
Subject: Final Statement of Disaffiliation

On September 30, 2022, the Immanuel Reformed Presbyterian Church voted to leave the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America. We have completely removed our membership as individuals and officers from the RPCNA. The RPCNA has no jurisdiction over us as individuals, nor the independently organized congregation in which we serve Jesus Christ.

In the process of departing, all members were asked if they would like to be transferred to other churches or returned to the oversight of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery. None have chosen to return to the oversight of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery.

The Congregation has reordered itself as an independent ecclesiastical entity and hereby returns the ecclesiastical name "Immanuel Reformed Presbyterian Church" to the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery.

In our disaffiliation with the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America and our reordering as an independent ecclesiastical entity, we retain the same officers of the Congregation, the same budget, property and assets, and the same legal entity with the State of Indiana.

We, the undersigned, are no longer serving as elders of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America.

Samuel Carr
Joshua Karshen
Matthew Wilburn

**Report of the Ad Interim Commission
for the Great Lakes–Gulf Presbytery (RPCNA) meeting at Synod June 20-23, 2023**

1 Fathers and Brothers,

2 The Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery (GLGP) *Ad Interim Commission (AIC)* for 2023/24 was appointed at the
3 March 2023 annual spring meeting and consists of the following members:

- 4 Shawn Anderson, Moderator (TE, Sycamore RPC – Kokomo, IN)
5 G. Scott Damerow (RE, South-West Ohio RPC – Mason, OH)
6 Aaron Hartzler, Clerk (RE, RPC of Lafayette – Lafayette, IN)
7 Jerry Porter (RE, RPC of Southside Indianapolis – Indianapolis, IN)
8 Alejandro Ramirez (RE, Orlando RPC – Orlando, FL)

9 Since the last meeting of the GLGP in March 2023, your AIC met in constituted court on: March 27,
10 2023, April 24, 2023, May 15, 2023, and June 5, 2023.

11 We have distributed the final approved minutes from each of those meetings to the delegates list and are
12 attached to this Report for adoption. You should note that there is a complaint to this Synod by Mr.
13 Allison against our decision to rule his complaint GLG 23-15 out of order (4/24/23)

14 Beyond Presbytery’s assignments, your AIC has processed eleven communications (23-14 through 23-24)
15 in the last 3 months.

16 **Fall Meeting**

17 There has been some question as to whether we ought to have a meeting of presbytery in the fall.
18 Presently, the following items would be on that fall meeting agenda:

- 19 1. Allison complaints 23-16, 23-17
20 2. Hetheron RPC Committee Report
21 3. Manring Appeal
22 4. Congregational Reports

23 Bloomington has a spot reserved for us Oct 5-7. We will *recommend* that the Presbytery authorize the
24 AIC to determine by August 1 if we have enough business to justify a fall meeting.

25 **GLG 23-16 & 23-17**

26 We have planned to hear these complaints together from Mr. Allison at the upcoming Presbytery
27 meeting at the RPC of Lafayette on Friday June 23. We informed Mr. Allison of this plan by email on
28 June 6, 2023. This will remove one agenda item from our possible fall meeting.

29 If the Presbytery is against this plan, then you can vote down our *recommendation* below that
30 Presbytery approve this plan.

1 **Standing Finance Committee**

2 Mr. Hart has written a good report (GLG 23-19) that the AIC supports. As he will be given time to
3 present at this meeting, we want to inform the court that we have 2 men already willing to serve: Joel
4 Hart (3 yrs.) and Ross Cerbus (1 yr.). If the recommendations pass, we plan to appoint these men and are
5 currently looking for a potential third man.

6 **Recommendations:**

- 7 1. That the GLG Presbytery adopt the AIC minutes of 3/27/23, 4/24/23, 5/15/23, and 6/5/23.
- 8 2. That the GLG Presbytery authorize the AIC to assess the number and significance of agenda
9 items and determine the necessity of a fall meeting no later than August 1, 2023.
- 10 3. That the GLG Presbytery approve of the following procedure and schedule to take up Mr.
11 Allison’s combined complaints (GLG 23-16, GLG 23-17) at the Presbytery meeting on June 23,
12 2023 at the RPC of Lafayette.

13 COMPLAINT HEARING — GLG 23-16, 23-17 (Combined) 50 mins [5:25]

- 14 a. Complainant (10 mins) [4:45]
- 15 b. Defendant (10 mins) [4:55]
- 16 c. Floor Discussion (20 mins) [5:15]
- 17 d. Vote on GLG 23-16 5 mins [5:20]
- 18 e. Vote on GLG 23-17 5 mins [5:25]

- 19 4. That the GLG Presbytery receive this report.

20 Respectfully submitted,

21 Shawn Anderson, Moderator (TE, Sycamore RPC – Kokomo, IN)
22 G. Scott Damerow (RE, South-West Ohio RPC – Mason, OH)
23 Aaron Hartzler, Clerk (RE, RPC of Lafayette – Lafayette, IN)
24 Jerry Porter (RE, RPC of Southside Indianapolis – Indianapolis, IN)
25 Alejandro Ramirez (RE, Orlando RPC – Orlando, FL)

Great Lakes–Gulf Presbytery Ad Interim Commission Minutes
March 27, 2023

1 The Ad Interim Commission of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery met by video conference call.

2 Those present included Shawn Anderson (moderator, Sycamore RPC-Kokomo, IN), G. Scott Damerow
3 (SW Ohio RPC), Aaron Hartzler (RPC of Lafayette, IN), Jerry Porter (Southside RPC, Indianapolis, IN),
4 and Alejandro Ramirez (Orlando RPC).

5 Shawn Anderson opened the meeting and constituted the court in prayer in the name and by the
6 authority of Jesus Christ, King and Head of the Church at 7:04 pm.

7 By common consent the agenda was adopted.

8 **Agenda Item 1:** Appoint a clerk.

9 **Action Taken:** Aaron Hartzler volunteered. By common consent, Aaron Hartzler was appointed clerk.

10 **Agenda Item 2:** (*From Presbytery, March 2-4, 2023*) 10. (Rec 7) That presbytery instruct the incoming
11 AIC to determine and disseminate the time and place for the fall meeting by 7/31/23.

12 **Action Taken:** Jerry Porter will check with Bloomington RPC if they can host in October 2023.

13 **Agenda Item 3:** (*From Presbytery, March 2-4, 2023*) 47. “That presbytery, in response to Mr. Faris’
14 request ‘for his credentials to be sent to Zionsville Fellowship Church’ (ZFC), send a
15 letter of ministerial standing, and instruct the AIC to dismiss James Faris from the roll
16 of GLGP TEs upon confirmation of the ZFC clerk’s receipt and acceptance of that
17 letter.”

18 **Action Taken:** Shawn Anderson will check to see if there are any pending judicial actions taken
19 against Mr. Faris. He will also look into what official action(s) are included in
20 “dismissal from the roll” of Presbytery.

21 **Agenda Item 4:** (*From Presbytery, March 2-4, 2023*) 76. It was moved and seconded that a three-man
22 AIC-appointed committee evaluate the differences between the forgiveness granted at
23 this meeting to Mr. Borg and the response to requests for forgiveness made at previous
24 meetings (this motion carried).

25 **Action Taken:** By common consent, Shawn Anderson and Jerry Porter will come up with names of
26 men to serve on this study committee.

27 **Agenda Item 5:** (*From Presbytery, March 2-4, 2023*) 80. (Rec 2) That presbytery appoint a provisional
28 elder for Sparta RPC.

1 **Action Taken:** A Ruling Elder was suggested. Shawn will check his availability prior to appointment.

2 **Agenda Item 6:** *(From the Presbytery of the Alleghenies)* Approve and forward a call from Trinity
3 RPC to Jonathan Sturm.

4 **Action Taken:** It was moved, seconded, and carried unanimously to approve the Trinity RPC pastoral
5 call to Jonathan Sturm as a regular gospel call, to be forwarded to Mr. Sturm. The
6 congregational meeting minutes, roll of communicant members, and pastor's call with
7 financial agreement are attached to and made part of these Minutes.

8 **Agenda Item 7:** *(From Adam Kuehner/IRPC Resolution Comte)* Appoint someone to replace Mr.
9 Kuehner on the IRPC Resolution Committee.

10 **Action Taken:** Shawn Anderson will ask the present committee for their input regarding (1) the need
11 for, and (2) possible suggestions for a replacement for Mr. Kuehner.

12 **Agenda Item 8:** *(From the Southfield RPC session)* Forward GLG 23-14 Complaint (Kuehner v. GLG
13 Presbytery) to synod with session endorsement.

14 **Action Taken:** It was moved, seconded, and carried unanimously to forward GLG 23-14 Complaint
15 (Kuehner v. GLG Presbytery) to synod.

16 **Agenda Item 9:** *(From the Lafayette RPC session)* Request to (1) appoint a commission to conduct
17 Jon's ordination exams for some time in the month of May, and (2) appoint Friday,
18 June 23, to hold Jon's ordination and installation service in Lafayette.

19 *[This would be the evening of the last day of Synod when elders would already be in*
20 *the vicinity, which would save mileage for the Presbytery. If housing is needed for*
21 *members of the GLGP that night, we could provide it for them.]*

22 **Action Taken:** Regarding (1) By common consent, the following Jonathan Sturm Ordination Exam
23 Commission was appointed, consisting of seven men, to conduct the ordination exams
24 for Jonathan Sturm:

- 25 1. Shawn Anderson (Clerk)
- 26 2. Bob McKissick
- 27 3. Jerry Foltz
- 28 4. Dean Filson
- 29 5. Ian Wise (Moderator)
- 30 6. John Hanson
- 31 7. Wade Mann

32 The following are appointed as alternates to the Commission, in the order listed, in the
33 event any of the above men are unable to serve.


- 34 8. Josh Smith

- 1 9. Joel Hart
- 2 10. Aaron Murray

3 Regarding (2) It was moved, seconded and carried unanimously, pending Mr. Sturm
4 sustaining his ordination exams, that Mr. Sturm’s ordination and installation service be
5 held on Friday, June 23.

6 The minutes of the actions taken, along with assignments, were reviewed.

7 Jerry Porter prayed for the Trinity RP Church and adjourned the court in prayer in the name and by the
8 authority of Jesus Christ, Head and King of the Church at 8:44 p.m.



9 Aaron Hartzler,
10 Clerk of the Ad Interim Commission



Shawn Anderson,
Moderator of the Ad Interim Commission

Great Lakes–Gulf Presbytery Ad Interim Commission Minutes
April 24, 2023

11 The Ad Interim Commission of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery met by video conference call.

12 Those present included Shawn Anderson (moderator, Sycamore RPC-Kokomo, IN), G. Scott Damerow
13 (SW Ohio RPC), Aaron Hartzler (RPC of Lafayette, IN), and Jerry Porter (Southside RPC, Indianapolis,
14 IN). Alejandro Ramirez (Orlando RPC, Orlando, FL) was absent due to eldership responsibilities.

15 Shawn Anderson opened the meeting and constituted the court in prayer in the name and by the
16 authority of Jesus Christ, King and Head of the Church, at 7:04 pm.

17 **Agenda Item:** Approve minutes from March 23, 2023, meeting.

18 **Action Taken:** It was moved, seconded, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the
19 March 23, 2023, meeting.

20 **Agenda Item 7:** *(From Adam Kuehner/IRPC Resolution Comte)* Appoint someone to replace Mr.
21 Kuehner on the IRPC Resolution Committee.

22 **Action Taken:** The current IRPC Resolution Committee members were consulted. No additional
23 member was appointed.

1 **Agenda Item 2:** *(From Presbytery, March 2-4, 2023)* 10. (Rec 7) That presbytery instruct the
2 incoming AIC to determine and disseminate the time and place for the fall meeting by
3 July 31, 2023.

4 **Action Taken:** Feedback was provided that a fall meeting was perhaps not necessary. Bloomington
5 RPC is willing to host a meeting, from October 5-7, 2023. A vote to meet in the fall
6 will be taken during the presbytery meeting at synod on June 22, 2023. Mr. Anderson
7 will consult with the GLGP clerk to determine if we need to have an earlier start time
8 for the June presbytery meeting.

9 **Agenda Item 5:** *(From Presbytery, March 2-4, 2023)* 80. (Rec 2) That presbytery appoint a
10 provisional elder for Sparta RPC.

11 **Action Taken:** Sparta had an elder election since the last meeting, and a provisional elder is no
12 longer needed.

13 **Agenda Item 3:** *(From Presbytery, March 2-4, 2023)* 47. “That presbytery, in response to Mr. Faris’
14 request ‘for his credentials to be sent to Zionsville Fellowship Church’ (ZFC), send a
15 letter of ministerial standing, and instruct the AIC to dismiss James Faris from the roll
16 of GLGP TEs upon confirmation of the ZFC clerk’s receipt and acceptance of that
17 letter.”

18 **Action Taken:** Having received confirmation from Zionsville Fellowship Church regarding Mr.
19 Faris’ letter of standing, it was moved, seconded, and carried unanimously that he be
20 removed from the roll of Teaching Elders of the Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery.

21 **Agenda Item 4:** *(From Presbytery, March 2-4, 2023)* 76. It was moved and seconded that a three-man
22 AIC-appointed committee evaluate the differences between the forgiveness granted at
23 this meeting to Mr. Borg and the response to requests for forgiveness made at
24 previous meetings (this motion carried).

25 **Action Taken:** It was moved, seconded, and carried that the following men serve as a study
26 committee “to evaluate the differences between the forgiveness granted at this
27 [Spring 2023 presbytery] meeting to Mr. Borg and the response to requests for
28 forgiveness made at previous meetings” and report at the 2024 Spring meeting of
29 presbytery:

- 30
31 1. Aaron Murray
32 2. David Mauser
33 3. Frank Smith (moderator)
34

35 The following are appointed as alternates to the Commission, in the order listed, in
36 the event any of the above men are unable to serve:

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- 4. Jeff Brotherton (alt)
- 5. Ross Fearing (alt)

Agenda Item 10: *(From Gary Allison via Southfield RPC, April 11, 2023)* request to forward complaint (GLG 23-15 Allison v. GLGP) to synod.

Action Taken: It was moved, seconded, and carried that Mr. Allison’s complaint and appeal be returned to him with the following rationale as to why it is out of order:

- 1. Book of Discipline II.4.11 (E-17), “Written notice of an intent to appeal and a summary statement of the reasons must be filed with the clerk of the court appealed from within thirty (30) days after the accused is informed of the action...”
- 2. Book of Discipline II.4.3 (E-15), “A complaint is a written statement made to a higher court by one or more persons aggrieved by an action of a lower court...The complainant shall give notice to the lower court within 30 days.”

Therefore, GLG 23-15 is out of order for the following reasons:

- 1. The thirty-day deadline for filing the appeal (both intent & summary) expired on April 2, 2023, but Mr. Allison submitted this appeal on April 9, 2023.
- 2. No prior notice of an intent to file an appeal or intent to file a complaint was communicated to the GLGP clerk.
- 3. The GLGP moderator (Mr. Nathan Eshelman occupying the chair) instructed Mr. Allison on the floor of the presbytery meeting on March 3, 2023, concerning the thirty-day window for taking such action.

Agenda Item 11: *(From Gary Allison via Southfield RPC, April 22, 2023)* request to forward GLG 23-16 (Allison v. Southfield RPC) and 23-17 (Allison v. Southfield RPC) (AIC item #11) to presbytery.

Action Taken: It was moved, seconded, and carried to forward the complaints to presbytery.

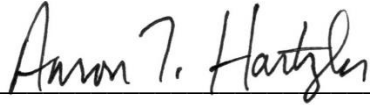
Agenda Item 12: GLG 23-18 (Southfield RPC response)

Action Taken: It was moved, seconded, and carried to forward the complaint to presbytery. Item closed.

The minutes of the actions taken, along with assignments, were reviewed.

1 Scott Damerow prayed for the Church and Allison the adjourned the court in prayer in the name and by
2 the authority of Jesus Christ, Head and King of the Church at 9:21 PM.

3 These minutes of April 24, 2023, were read and approved by common consent.
4



5 Aaron Hartzler,
6 Clerk of the Ad Interim Commission



Shawn Anderson,
Moderator of the Ad Interim Commission

Great Lakes–Gulf Presbytery Ad Interim Commission Minutes
May 15, 2023

7 The Ad Interim Commission of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery met by video conference call.

8 Those present included Shawn Anderson (moderator, Sycamore RPC-Kokomo, IN), G. Scott Damerow
9 (SW Ohio RPC), Jerry Porter (Southside RPC, Indianapolis, IN) and Alejandro Ramirez (Orlando RPC,
10 Orlando, FL). Aaron Hartzler (RPC of Lafayette, IN) was absent.

11 Shawn Anderson opened the meeting and constituted the court in prayer in the name and by the
12 authority of Jesus Christ, King and Head of the Church, at 7:21 pm.

13 **Agenda Item 2:** *(From Presbytery, March 2-4, 2023)* 10. (Rec 7) That presbytery instruct the incoming AIC
14 to determine and disseminate the time and place for the fall meeting by July 31, 2023.

15 **Action Taken:** A Fall meeting is penciled in from October 5-7, 2023, at Bloomington RPC. Having
16 consulted with the clerk of presbytery, several things that could potentially be on the
17 Fall meeting agenda. After AIC gives its report at the Presbytery meeting at Synod
18 and sharing such agenda items, it will come with the following recommendation:

19 **Recommendation 1:** That the GLG presbytery authorizes the AIC to assess the
20 number and significance of agenda items and determine the necessity of a fall
21 meeting no later than August 1, 2023.

22 **Agenda Item 13:** *(From the Synod the RPCNA)* That at-large teaching elders be certified for Synod in
23 Marion, IN at Indiana Wesleyan University (IWU) from June 20-23, 2023.

24 **Action Taken:** By common consent, the following at-large teaching elders are certified as delegates
25 to the meeting of Synod on June 20-23, 2023, at IWU (Marion, IN):

Andrew B.
Jack Baumgardner
Bryan Dage
Rich Johnston
Gordon Keddie
Ray Lanning

R. Paul Matthews
Glenn McFarland
Jim McMahon
James Pennington
Dennis Prutow
Thomas Reid

Bill Roberts
Frank Schutz
Zachary Smith
David Whitla
Steven Work
James Wright

1 The certification will be prepared by the AIC clerk and forward it to the clerk
2 of Synod and to the clerk and assistant clerk of the GLG presbytery. The
3 certification will be attached to and made a part of these minutes.

4 In the event of any oversight to the above list of at-large teaching elders, the
5 AIC moderator and clerk are authorized to certify those elders.

6 **Agenda Item 14:** *(From Candidates and Credentials Committee, May 11, 2023)* That
7 Presbytery meet after synod on Friday June 23 at RPC of Lafayette to conduct
8 student exams.

9 **Action Taken:** By common consent, the GLG Presbytery will meet from 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm
10 on Friday June 23 at RPC of Lafayette.

11 **Agenda Item 15:** *(From Orlando RPC, April 25, 2023)* request to forward a communication
12 (GLG 23-21) from the Orlando RPC Session to Synod.

13 **Action Taken:** It was moved, seconded, and carried to forward ORPC's communication to
14 Synod without endorsement.

15 **Agenda Item 16:** *(From Bryan Dage & Jason LaPointe, May 3, 2023)* request (GLG 23-20) for
16 a visitation committee of Presbytery for Hetherton RP Church.

17 **Action Taken:** By common consent the following Hetherton RPC Visitation Committee was
18 appointed to visit and report back to Presbytery at its next meeting following
19 their visit.

20 Committee: Joshua Smith, Scott Hunt, David Hanson (chair)

21 Alternates: Bob Bibby, Jason Camery


22 **Agenda Item 17:** *(From Joel Hart via Columbus RPC session [endorsed], May 6, 2023)* request
23 for the AIC to specify if/when/how Petition GLG 23-19 comes before the
24 court.

25 **Action Taken:** It was moved, seconded, and carried to 1) distribute the Petition GLG 23-19 to
26 the presbytery asap, 2) come to Presbytery at Synod with a recommendation
27 to erect a standing Finance Committee, and 3) provide nominations for the

1 Presbytery to vote on at said meeting (*similar to receiving a report from a*
2 *Nominations Committee*).

3 These minutes of May 15, 2023 were read and approved by common consent.

4 Alejandro Ramirez prayed for the Church and adjourned the court in prayer in the name and by
5 the authority of Jesus Christ, Head and King of the Church at 7:54 pm.



6 Aaron Hartzler,
7 Clerk of the Ad Interim Commission



Shawn Anderson,
Moderator of the Ad Interim Commission

8 **Form 3: Certificate of Teaching Elder to Synod**

9 The Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery has certified the following teaching elders to the meeting of
10 Synod, on the twentieth day of June in the year two thousand twenty-three, at 8:30 a.m., at
11 Indiana Wesleyan University (Marion, IN).

Andrew B.
Jack Baumgardner
Bryan Dage
Rich Johnston
Gordon Keddie
Ray Lanning
R. Paul Matthews
Glenn McFarland
Jim McMahan

James Pennington
Dennis Prutow
Thomas Reid
Bill Roberts
Frank Schutz
Zachary Smith
David Whitla
Steven Work
James Wright

12 Given this fifteenth day of May in the year 2023, by order of the Presbytery.



13 Aaron Hartzler,
14 Clerk of the Ad Interim Commission



Shawn Anderson,
Moderator of the Ad Interim Commission

Great Lakes–Gulf Presbytery Ad Interim Commission Minutes
June 5, 2023

1 The Ad Interim Commission of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery met by video conference call.

2 Those present included Shawn Anderson (moderator, Sycamore RPC-Kokomo, IN), G. Scott
3 Damerow (SW Ohio RPC), Aaron Hartzler (clerk, RPC of Lafayette, IN), Jerry Porter (Southside
4 RPC, Indianapolis, IN) and Alejandro Ramirez (Orlando RPC, Orlando, FL).

5 Shawn Anderson opened the meeting and constituted the court in prayer in the name and by the
6 authority of Jesus Christ, King and Head of the Church, at 7:07 pm.

7 **Agenda Item 17:** *(From Joel Hart via Columbus RPC session [endorsed], May 6, 2023)* request
8 for the AIC to specify if/when/how Petition GLG 23-19 comes before the
9 court.

10 **Action Taken:** By common consent, the AIC nominations so far include Joel Hart (3 years)
11 and Ross Cerbus (1 year).

12 **Agenda Item 18:** *(From Gary Allison via Southfield RPC, April 25, 2023)* request to forward a
13 complaint [GLG 23-22] and an appeal [GLG 23-23] to Synod against the
14 GLGP AIC decision to return his complaint [GLG 23-15] because it was ruled
15 out of order.

16 Pertinent documents to be forwarded include: GLG 23-15; AIC Minutes
17 (4/24/23); AIC letter to Mr. Allison (4/24/23)

18 **Action Taken:** It was moved, seconded, and carried to forward GLG 23-22 and GLG 23-23
19 to Synod with the following explanation:

20 *“The complaint and the appeal are the same in substance. Previously he filed*
21 *a communication which he called an appeal and complaint. It appears that he*
22 *has filed the same document with two different titles to avoid his previous*
23 *mistake. We are forwarding both with this explanation to shed light on the*
24 *possible confusion.”*

25 **Agenda Item 19:** *(From Nathan Enas and Kevin Swan, June 5, 2023)* request to forward a
26 complaint [GLG 23-24] to Synod against the GLGP decision to remove Rev.
27 James Faris from the roll of Teaching Elders of the GLGP.

28 **Action Taken:** It was moved, seconded, and carried to forward GLG 23-24 to Synod without
29 endorsement.

1 Pertinent documents to be forwarded include: Rev. Faris request for dismissal;
2 Minutes of GLG Presbytery (March 2-4, 2023); Letter of Standing of Rev.
3 Faris; AIC Minutes (3/27/23 & 4/24/23)

4 **Agenda Item 20:** Since (1) the Book of Discipline II.4.4 stipulates that if there is a complaint
5 against a court then, "...The lower court is the defendant in the case, and shall
6 be represented by one or more of its members or other persons appointed for
7 this purpose..." and (2) there are several complaints against the GLGP,
8 therefore the following representative appointments are made for the 2023
9 Synod.

10 **Action Taken:** By common consent, here are representative appointments for Synod 2023

11	23-01 [GLG 22-16 Enas, et al vs. GLG & Faris]	A. Kuehner / N. Eshelman
12	23-02 [GLG 22-23 Enas vs. GLG & CCRP Comm.]	A. Kuehner / N. Eshelman
13	23-03 [GLG 22-22 Enas & Swan vs. GLG Recording]	A. Kuehner / N. Eshelman
14	23-06 [GLG 23-14 Kuehner vs. GLGP]	J. Hughes / N. Eshelman
15	23-XX [GLG 23-24 Enas/Swan vs. GLGP]	R. Holdeman / S. Rhoda

16 **Agenda Item 21:** (*From Ben Manring, June 3, 2023*) notice of appeal and request to instruct the
17 SSRPC session to withdraw their announcement of rebuke, per BOD II.4.12.

18 **Action Taken:** It was moved, seconded, and carried that in accord with Book of Discipline
19 II.4.11 (E-17) the AIC will inform Mr. Manring that when they receive his
20 notice of appeal formally from the clerk of Southside RPC session, Mr. Sturm,
21 then the AIC will be able to act on his notice.

22 Mr. Jerry Porter recused himself from voting on this motion.

23 **Agenda Item 22:** (*From Adam Kuehner, June 5, 2023*) request to fill GLGP's interchurch
24 liaison due to Dick Knodel's resignation.

25 **Action Taken:** By common consent Shawn Anderson was appointed as GLGP's interchurch
26 liaison.

27 **Agenda Item 23:** AIC suggests taking up Mr. Allison's complaints [GLG 23-16 – *summoning*
28 *Mr. Allison to trial* and GLG 23-17 – *proceeding with Mr. Allison's trial*] as a
29 single complaint.

30 **Action Taken:** It was moved, seconded, and carried to that the following procedure be
31 adopted and slated for the GLGP's upcoming meeting on Friday, June 23
32 from 3:30-5:30 pm at the RP Church of Lafayette (1723 S 9th St, Lafayette,
33 IN 47905).

- 1 1. COMPLAINT HEARING — GLG 23-16, 23-17 (Combined) 50 mins
2 [5:25]
3 A. Complainant (10 mins) [4:45]
4 B. Defendant (10 mins) [4:55]
5 C. Floor Discussion (20 mins) [5:15]
6 D. Vote on GLG 23-16 5 mins [5:20]
7 E. Vote on GLG 23-17 5 mins [5:25]
8 2. The AIC will inform Mr. Allison of this date and schedule with the plan
9 for combining the complaints.
10 3. We will place this recommendation before the Presbytery at Synod for
11 their approval of this procedure.

12 **Recommendation:** *That the GLG Presbytery approve of the procedure*
13 *and schedule to take up Mr. Allison's combined complaints (GLG 23-16,*
14 *GLG 23-17) at the Presbytery meeting on June 23, 2023 at the RPC of*
15 *Lafayette.*

16 **Agenda Item 24:** *(From the Membership Committee, June 5, 2023)* request to transfer the
17 Boudreau family (Brenden*, Elizabeth*, George, Genevieve, Walter), former
18 members of the First RPC of Grand Rapids congregation, from the
19 membership roll of the GLGP to Little Farms Chapel OPC in Coopersville,
20 Michigan, at their request, effective June 5, 2023. (*Communicant)

21 **Action Taken:** It was moved, seconded, and carried to transfer the Boudreau family (Brenden
22 & Elizabeth Boudreau are communicant members, and George, Genevieve,
23 and Walter are baptized members) from the membership roll of the Great
24 Lakes-Gulf Presbytery to Little Farms Chapel OPC (Coopersville, MI).

25 These minutes of June 5, 2023 were read and approved by common consent.

26 Aaron Hartzler prayed for the Church and adjourned the court in prayer in the name and by the
27 authority of Jesus Christ, Head and King of the Church at 8:20 pm.
28
29

30 
31 _____

32 Aaron Hartzler,
33 Clerk of the Ad Interim Commission

30 
31 _____

32 Shawn Anderson,
33 Moderator of the Ad Interim Commission

Commission for Jonathan Sturm's Ordination Exams <> Minutes
RP Church of Lafayette (1723 S 9th St, Lafayette, IN 47905)
May 25, 2023

1. Dean Filson, Jerry Foltz, John Hanson, Wade Mann, Bob McKissick (not present), Aaron Murray, and Ian Wise (Moderator) were present.
2. Moderator Ian Wise constituted the Court in prayer at 2:02 pm in the name of Jesus Christ, the only King and Head of the church.
3. By common consent, Aaron Murray was appointed clerk of the Commission.
4. Mr. Murray called the roll and determined that a quorum of the Commission was present.
5. The agenda was approved by common consent.
6. Motion moved and carried so that privileges of the floor were granted to all ordained presbyters in the RPCNA.
7. Jonathan Sturm came forward to preach his ordination-level Sermon exam, called upon God's name in a prayer of illumination, read James 3:1-18, preached from the text on "perusing heavenly wisdom so you can control your uncontrollable tongue", and concluded in prayer and the singing of Psalm 15A, after which comments were received, and the exam was unanimously sustained by roll call vote.
8. Jonathan Sturm received his ordination-level Soundness in the Faith & Commitment to the RPC Testimony exam from Jerry Foltz, who asked Mr. Sturm questions and received answers, after which questions and comments were received from the floor and the exam was unanimously sustained by roll call vote.
9. Jonathan Sturm came forward to receive his ordination-level Personal Godliness exam from John Hanson, who asked Mr. Sturm questions and received answers, after which questions and comments were received from the floor and the exam was unanimously sustained by roll call vote.
10. The court unanimously sustained Jonathan Sturm's ordination by roll call vote. The AIC has declared Mr. Sturm's ordination and installation to be at 7:00 pm at the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Lafayette, IN on June 23, 2023.
11. Motion carried to adjourn the meeting.
12. The clerk read the minutes, and it was moved, seconded, and carried to adopt the minutes.
13. Dean Filson adjourned the court in prayer in Christ's name and authority at 3:45 pm.

Ian Wise, Moderator

Aaron Murray, Clerk

**Candidates & Credentials Committee
Great Lakes/Gulf Presbytery
June 2023 Report**

Recommendations

1. That student exams be conducted according to the schedule outlined below.
2. That John Punt be given ten minutes to share his testimony with presbytery and be received as a student under care.
3. That presbytery dismiss Stan McKenzie's ministerial credentials (DCG 6.13, D-33), since he is no longer actively pursuing pastoral ministry and no longer holds membership within the RPCNA.
4. That our report be received.

Serving for Christ,

Joel Hart (2026)
Adam Kuehner (2026)
Jonathan Schaefer (2024)

Rich Holdeman (2026)
Adam Niess (2024)
Ian Wise (2024)

Student Exam Schedule

Student	Exam	Time*	Examiner / text
Joe Johnson	Expository 1	25/-/5	Deuteronomy 3:23-29
	[Licensure to preach]		

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