

RBNet Monthly

A monthly publication of the Reformed Baptist Network
August 2024

Praying for each other more specifically,
encouraging one another
with what the LORD is doing,
"Rejoicing with those who rejoice,
weeping with those who weep."

IMPORTANT PREPARATION FOR THE 2024 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Please keep in mind the RBNet Pre-GA Virtual Business Meeting that's scheduled for Tues., Sept 3, 2:00 P.M. Eastern. This meeting is a very important priority as we aim at doing things decently and in order at our GA in Riverside, California, Sept. 16-18. Our chief purpose on Sept. 3 will be to virtually vote on amendments to our POLICY MANUAL and CONSTITUTION as proposed by the Ad Hoc Committee.

In order to get everyone up to speed and educated on these amendments and their significance, we've scheduled a series of preparatory steps:

1. Matt Foreman (Ad Hoc Chairman) and Mark Chanski have recorded a [NetTalk interview](#) summarily discussing the high points of the proposed amendments.

2. The Ad Hoc Committee has provided a written rendition of the proposed amendments with color coded aids for your review.

3. A Pastors' Fellowship Zoom Meeting is scheduled for **Aug. 13, 2:00 P.M. Eastern** time during which we'll have an open forum discussion with the Ad Hoc Committee on the proposed changes.

4. **ALL attendees are asked to register in advance for the Pre-GA Business Meeting. Every Full Member voting church will need to register beforehand** in order to secure a voting ballot for your church with the designation of a particular officer who will be officially casting the vote for your congregation. This registration for the Pre-GA Meeting and vote commits that individual to be present and cast a ballot. Registration is required no later than **Fri., Aug 30**.

Please seek to conscientiously keep up to date on the correspondence, information, and meetings that lead up to this important Pre-GA meeting and vote that will take place Tues., Sept. 3 at 2:00 P.M. Eastern. This will enable us to act with efficiency, doing things decently and in order with the goal of wisely fulfilling our Lord's Great Commission.

Thanks for your selfless willingness to work together cooperatively with brothers to strategically plot a battle plan for our Captain and Savior. 🙏

– Mark Chanski, RBNet Coordinator

MISSION THOUGHTS

THE HOLY SPIRIT THE POWER BEHIND MISSIONS

In all three passages of my regular Bible reading for today (7/18/24) I noted the ministry of the Holy Spirit. In Judges 14 & 15 the Spirit came upon Samson mightily for powerful acts beyond normal human strength.

In Isaiah 42 the Lord speaks about His Servant, "I have put my Spirit upon Him...." Matthew 12:18 quotes Isaiah revealing to us that Jesus is that Servant.

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As I reflect on the ministry of the Holy Spirit I am reminded of Pentecost (Acts 2); the apostolic miracles; the role of the Holy Spirit in directing where the gospel should go as with Philip to the Ethiopian Eunuch (8:29); to the Gentiles by the direction of the Holy Spirit (10:19); to the nations as the Holy Spirit told the church to separate Paul and Barnabas "for the work to which I have called them" (Acts 13:2).

But the direction of the Holy Spirit did not end with the sending out of Paul and Barnabas. On the second missionary journey, Paul and Silas were forbidden to preach the gospel in Asia (16:6) and then forbidden to go to Bithynia (16:7). But a vision from the man of Macedonia directed the missionaries to the west and the entrance of the gospel to Europe. How we thank God for this kind providence for by this we have the gospel!

The Holy Spirit is the Person of the Trinity that Jesus uses to build His church. Today missionaries need the Holy Spirit to fill them, empower them, direct them, and give fruit. So let us pray to that end. 🙏

– Gordon Taylor, RBNet Support

CHURCH UPDATES

Reformed Baptist Church of Northern Colorado,
Boulder, CO

Doug Van Dorn, Pastor

This year our report will be about growth. When we look back over the events of the past year, we are amazed to see all the areas where God has been at work in our church! Sometimes the small things get overshadowed by the desire for great things to happen, but Jesus said "are not two sparrows sold for a penny?! And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father." God cares about the small things in life too.

Here are some ways that we have seen growth in the recent past:

Numerically:

We have added several new families as members, another couple has started attending regularly and several single men are regular attenders. We have joyously seen our first new convert from within the confines of the City of Boulder! After a few weeks, she asked to be baptized, and has been growing in the faith ever since!

While we have added new families, we also have had two families move away, one to Tennessee, one to Oklahoma. You might ask "how is this considered growth?" Both of these families had been part of our church for a long time, both had shown growth in their knowledge and understanding of Reformed Theology and are prepared to become influencers in a new community—our field of influence has grown as a result!

Spiritually:

Pastor Doug has continued his series of sermons in Luke, and then began preaching Acts, teaching the importance of understanding that they should be studied together. They combine to give a marvelous amount of teaching on the ministry of Jesus in Luke, then follow up with the resulting establishment and growth of his church in Acts.

Our Sunday School has seen significant growth as a result of the format we have followed. Because we share a building with another church, our Worship Service comes first, and our Sunday School follows. We begin the Sunday School with a discussion of the sermon, where our people can dig deeper into the sermon. This has resulted in much growth in the understanding of the scriptures, and we get to know each other in a deeper way that results in opportunities for personal conversations with the pastor and elders.

Challenges:

We are in need of men qualified and willing to serve as elders. Two of our three elders are in their eighties. One is in poor health and seldom able to even attend our services. We ask for your prayers in this area of need. 🙏

CHURCH UPDATES

Pioneer Valley Baptist Chapel,
Chicopee, MA Andrew Guidara, Pastor

Dear RBNET
Greetings from what is known as the birthplace of Puritanism and Congregationalism in America—that often cold, snowy, and Great White Shark infested state of Massachusetts! It's been a very warm season up here, and I am loving it! Very good for my 45 tomato plants.

What a sad thing it is for Pastor Steven Graham and I to drive the streets of New England and see historically “reformed” church buildings now sporting anti-biblical flags out front. Being “pro everything” somehow means you are “anti-liberty in Christ” for many people in New England.

Nevertheless, Pioneer Valley Baptist Chapel is doing well. First, we have had many infants born this year. Secondly, we have in the last two months added 4 people to the membership. Thirdly, we will be adding over 10 people to membership at the end of July. Fourthly, we have several families who we need to get to know more interested in membership. We don't rush membership here...but it is rushing to us. It is a bit overwhelming!!!

We recently had the great honor, joy, and privilege to have Jim and Nancy Adams come to visit. Pastor Steve and I picked them up from Boston and drove them up to Old South Church in Newburyport MA. George Whitefield is buried under the pulpit there. That church now has a female pastor doing the preaching. Next, Pastor Steve, Paula, Stephanie (Pastor/Paula's daughter), myself, Gisell, Abigail, and Claudia had the privilege to take a guided tour (led by Pastor Steve) of Stockbridge, MA—the place where Jonathan Edwards and John Sergeant ministered to the Mohicans.

Also, we are greatly anticipating the time we have with Bob and Cathi Selph coming up soon. What a treat that will be for us (and Lord willing) for them.

Pastor Steve is preaching marvelously through the Gospel of Mark. I continue to learn so much from him in his preaching and perseverance. I am preaching through the book of Romans.

I don't know how to preach, be a pastor or anything, but by God's grace we go on. Pray for us! 🙏

CHURCH UPDATES

Reformed Baptist Church
Riverside, CA Robert Elliott, Pastor

Notes of prayer from Reformed Baptist Church of Riverside, California:

GA – Please pray that our efforts to put everything in place for the GA will be owned by God and that the circumstances of the gathering will be conducive to enabling us all to focus on the great task of fulfilling the great commission.

Youth Conference – Praise God with us for our recent Youth Conference and for the powerful time we had around the Word of God with youth from seven western states

Leaving CA – We continue to have folks move out of State. These are people we love, and when they go we miss them.

Many Visitors and New Members – Some weeks our building is overflowing, and there is a real sense that God is doing wonderful things in the lives of all kinds of people.

Unity and Joy – While there are always trials and troubles around and among us, we can't thank our kind God nearly enough for the continued sense of oneness that we enjoy. We truly know that we are rotten sinners and that each one of us is a potential stick of self-centered dynamite with the capacity of ruining things, but HE has kept us and given us genuine joy in being together. We know that Satan lurks and prowls and that left to ourselves we will be easy meat. Please pray for grace and then more grace. We want to be a shining example to all in our area of what beautiful confessional Christianity looks like. Oh, that we would be preserved from ourselves!

Our Missionaries – Please keep Sam and Emma who are in a “closed” South East Asian country in your prayers. They are now able to speak the national language well enough to share the gospel, and opportunities to present Christ have come their way.

Also, please keep Alex and Liya Torres in prayer. They are doing great in Spain and have significant gospel opportunities opening up for them too.

We hope you can come to the GA in September and if you do, any one of us would love to take time to tell you more about what our missionaries are up to. 🙏

CHURCH UPDATES

Grace Reformed Baptist Church,
Mebane, NC Stu Johnston, Pastor

Dear brothers and sisters,
We are grateful for Christ's provision of a new primary preaching pastor. Jones Ndzi came to us almost two years ago. He and Nicoline are from Cameroon. They had spent ten years in Louisville, where Jones completed his Ph.D. at Southern. Jim Savastio, of RBC of Louisville, commended and introduced him to us. Jones has been a great blessing to us.

We are grateful for Christ's work in many of our young adults. Five young men are taking seminary courses. One of them, Joe Byrd, is joining Bobby Jamieson in a church plant in nearby Chapel Hill. Joe will focus on student ministry at UNC. Another, Blake Whitley, has begun a Bible study in his home city of Asheboro. We pray that the study will develop into a church plant. Please pray for our Pastoral Apprentice program.

We continue to rejoice in the ministry Christ has given us in the Far East. After several years of being back in NC due to Covid restrictions and other factors, TC and his wife returned to China recently. The work of Reformed Evangelical Seminary continues to flourish. TC has almost completed his Ph.D. We anticipate the Lord using that degree to open additional doors in the Far East. 🙏

*In our Savior, Stu Johnston,
for the elders and saints of GRBC-Mebane*

The vision of Reformed Baptist Network
is to glorify God through fellowship
and cooperation
in fulfilling the Great Commission
to the ends of the earth.

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