

**Report of the SHEPHERDING COMMITTEE
SUNCOAST FLORIDA PRESBYTERY (SFP)
Providence Christian Church – Cape Coral, FL
Tuesday, May 9, 2023 – 10:00 a.m.**

- I. Business Referred to the Shepherding Committee: NONE.**
- II. Statement of Major Issues Addressed: NONE.**
- III. Communications: (See Appendix A)**
 - 1. Update from Sharon Poole, Presbytery Women's Ministry Coordinator.
 - 2. Update from Yaroslav Viazovski.
- IV. Speakers to address Presbytery: NONE.**
- V. TE's Without Call and TE's Laboring Out of Bounds:**
 - A. Ted Hamm, laboring out of bounds with "Upstate Warrior Solution: Connecting Warriors and their Families to the Resources they Need." Ted heads up the Church Partnership Program.
 - B. Bob Petterson, laboring out of bounds, serving "The Legacy Imperative." (Feb. 2020)
 - C. William Broderick, Navy Chaplain, laboring out of bounds; serving Safe Harbor Community Church in Fort Myers.
 - D. Yaroslav (Slava) Viazovski, laboring out of bounds in Minsk, Belarus. (Ordained – May of 2019).
 - E. Todd Augustine - laboring out of bounds; serving with Crossway Books, Oct.2020.
 - F. Gary Ogrovsky – W/O call since Feb. 2020.
 - G. Wayne Alder – laboring out of bounds; serving as US Army Reserves Chaplain.
 - H. Matthew Loveall – W/O call since Feb. 2021.
 - I. Jeff Krause – W/O call since Feb. 2022.
- VI. No Meeting. Committee Roster: TE Dwight Dolby (Chair.), TE Steve Schoof, TE Arnie Brevick; RE Jim Robinson, RE Scott Monkus.**
- VII. Contact: TE Dwight Dolby; dwightdolby@gmail.com**

APPENDIX A

1. **Sharon Poole** (Serving as our Presbytery Women's Ministry Coordinator.) I recently sent out an email to inform the women's ministry representatives of our presbytery about the Women's PCA summer study and upcoming events in the presbytery. I met with women's ministry representatives of Word of Life Church of North Port, Marco PC, and Westminster PC in the last month and a half.
2. **Yaroslav (Slava) Viazovski**, laboring out of bounds in Minsk, Belarus. Briefly the prayer points:
 1. We are really grateful that we as family, church, seminary and publishing ministry are still safe. It's unbelievable that we survived unscathed for that long.
 2. Pray for a group of young ladies and men who are considering joining our church. There are about 5-6 people. Some of them are believers already, some are still seeking God. I recently started to meet with them for a weekly Bible study on Thursdays.
 3. Pray for the development of the partnership between Minsk Reformed Seminary and Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary. We hope to translate PRTS's MA program into Russian and make it accessible to Russian-speaking students.

Report on Recent Conference (MTRW) What has just happened? MTRW update, April 4, 2023

Dear friends,

This update is fully by me not by a student. I gave myself the privilege to tell the more exciting news myself. We just have had an annual one day conference. We missed it on October 31st (I was too busy to put it together) so we did it on April 1st . Normally we had 30-40 people attending. This time we had over 160 participants without any extra advertising. I finally understood how George Whitefield felt when he preached to the crowd of 30,000. Yes, yes, you are laughing. But for all of us in Belarus 160 people feels exactly like that. Let me very briefly outline the highlights of the conference so that you may share my excitement.

1. The preaching was openly and unapologetically Reformed.

We had three speakers and here are their topics:

- Alexander Demidov (an elder of our church): How to find the will of God? He spoke about the hidden sovereign will and revealed, moral will of God.
- Myself: How to avoid burnout? I spoke about Elijah and how election motivates preaching the Gospel inspite of unbelief (in the beginning I, being a professional in this area, shared 5 certain ways how to burn yourself out by Easter).
- Sergey Khomchenko (one of our students and the pastor of the Trinity Reformed Baptist Church in Minsk): What is successful ministry? He spoke about the importance of the theological tradition, the ordinary means of grace and patient building up of the Cologne Cathedral (google it).

The response to all three sermons was positive and enthusiastic.

2. The audience was diverse.

It was not just for young or old people, only men or women, only ministers or lay people etc. We believe that we, ministers, should preach the gospel in such a way that all people can benefit from it. It was cool to have fellowship across age and gender groups. Denominationally speaking, only a third of participants were from Reformed churches. The other two thirds were from traditional (read: Arminian and often legalistic) churches. Yet nobody walked out during preaching although we did get tough questions at the Q&A session.

3. We sang songs which we normally sing in our church.

And they are not ultra modern to say the least. We have the taste for 17-19 centuries (although we sing In Christ Alone too!). We decided we would not pander to the current tastes. So how did our experiment go? The entire audience sang with some spirit and afterwards we received a good number of requests to share the texts and the tunes.

I do not know what to make of it all. Was it just an accidental occurrence? Will our conference be back to “normal” 50 people next year? Or is (finally) something going on here? What I know is that our efforts on the front of the theological education are bringing fruit. We have a growing squad of younger Reformed preachers who are able to hold attention of a bigger audience for the time of a good sermon. Thank you all so much for your patient and long term support of our ministry!

Yaroslav Viazovski