

Report of the SHEPHERDING COMMITTEE
SUNCOAST FLORIDA PRESBYTERY (SFP)
North Fort Myers Presbyterian Church
Tuesday, March 14, 2024

I. Business Referred to the Shepherding Committee: Two Items.

II. Statement of Major Issues Addressed:

A. Disposition of TE Matthew Loveall. TE Matt Loveall has been without call for over three years and was cited at our February 2024 presbytery meeting to appear before us to address the matter of his sense of call to the gospel ministry. He was contacted and indicated he was content with his present employment and feels no sense of a call to the gospel ministry. He also indicated he was unable able to appear before the presbytery at our May meeting but was genuinely amenable to any action to divest him from office without censure.

B. Disposition of TE Paul May. TE Paul May has resigned his calling as Assistant Pastor at Covenant Church in Naples to pursue a church planting effort in Colorado. He has already been received into Rocky Mountain Presbytery pending our release. Presbytery needs to take action to dissolve TE May's pastoral relations with the session of Covenant Church Naples and release him from our rolls.

III. Communications: (See Appendix A)

IV. Speakers to address Presbytery: NONE.

V. TE's Without Call and TE's Laboring Out of Bounds:

- A. Ted Hamm, without call since February 2024.
- 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 Reformed 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 Ogrosky – W/O call since Feb. 2020. [Presbytery approved another year (2024) as he is serving at Covenant Naples in contexts which benefit from ministerial status.]
- G. Wayne Alder – laboring out of bounds; serving as US Army Reserves Chaplain.
- H. Matthew Loveall – W/O call since Feb. 2021. Presbytery Action pending.

VI. Recommendations:

- 1. That presbytery take action to Divest from Office TE Matthew Lovall without censure in accordance with BCO 34-10 .*

2. That presbytery take action to dissolve the pastoral relations of TE Paul May with the Session of Covenant Church of Naples in accordance with BCO 23-1, and transfer his membership to Rocky Mountain Presbytery (PCA) in accordance with BCO 20-9.

VII. Committee Roster: TE Dwight Dolby (Chair.), TE Steve Schoof, TE Mitch Welborn; TE Arnie Brevick; RE Jim Robinson, RE Skip Schoenhals.

VIII. Contact: TE Dwight Dolby; [dwightdolby@gmail.com](mailto:dwrightdolby@gmail.com)

APPENDIX A: Recent updates

1. Sharon Poole (Serving as our Presbytery Women's Ministry Coordinator.) I continue to help keep my women's ministry contacts at our churches in the presbytery informed about opportunities to grow in their knowledge and love of the Lord. This year the PCA Women Ministry is holding a series of regional conferences around the country entitled, **Made for More Conference**. The Florida Region's conference will be held on November 8-9, 2024 at Covenant Church of Naples. This is not only for adult women but for girls from third grade up! I hope many of the ladies and girls in our presbytery will join us as we explore how God MADE US FOR MORE because of our creation design, gospel identity, and inter-generational friendships." Registration is now open with an early registration cost of \$75/adult and \$30/girl (grades 3-12). Yours in Christ, Sharon Poole

2. Gary Ogrosky (without call) At Covenant Church Naples, my service continues... Each month I prepare a service for our homebound members and take Communion to them. This is a most rewarding effort. With it comes the opportunity to also minister to their family members and caregivers. Also, I continue to serve with hospital visitation. This too gives opportunities to reach out beyond the patient. The third area of service is with the church's Shepherding Ministry within the church in which I am a Team Leader. I am blessed to be able to serve... Gary

3. Yaroslav (Slava) Viazovski, laboring out of bounds in Minsk, Belarus. [Edited] "Dear friends,... We just had our annual "I will be your God" conference on Apr 6. The audience grew a little in comparison with last year to 170 people. The average age was about 30. This time we chose attributes of God as the theme. In three sermons we spoke about simplicity, wisdom and the omnipresence of God. I invited my good friend **Denis Boris**, a Reformed Baptist pastor from Almaty, Kazakhstan, to preach on God being simple. His main point was that God is what He says He is. In other words, the attributes of God are identical with God's essence. So when we speak about God's attributes we speak God himself and not about something next to God. As you can see from the photo of Denis preaching it was not a scholastic lecture. **Sergei Khomchenko**, a Reformed Baptist pastor from Minsk, spoke about divine wisdom. The ultimate goal of God is his glory in salvation of sinners. This goal is achieved by the best means — the cross of Christ. For us, men, the highest wisdom is to strive towards God's goal using God's means. Finally, I spoke about omnipresence of God expounding Psalms 139 and 22. The first psalm gives us the picture of God's covenantal presence with David. The second psalm shows David's experience of God's absence. Psalm 22 describes the cross and resurrection of Christ. Christ endured the anti-omnipresence of God on our behalf and after His resurrection stands among His brothers — and this is the ultimate realization of the omnipresence of God in the specifically Christian sense. Three sermons fully focused on God himself did manage to create a certain atmosphere in the audience. I do not know how to describe it. I can only say that when I myself got back home and opened Twitter I could not read it and shut it down at once because it felt so irrelevant and pointless. Two Q&A sessions were amazing. We received over 30 questions and all of them were directly related to the three messages. So much so that one joker asked: "When are you going to speak about if it is ok to kiss before the wedding?" — meaning that this is the type of question the speakers normally get in Belarus.

Finally, we sold a lot of books. Above average. This happens when the audience is inspired by preaching. So this was an indicator for us that simplicity, wisdom and omnipresence of God gripped the minds and souls of the listeners. In fact, my wife Anya, who was responsible for coffee-breaks (as usual, you know) said that during preaching nobody wandered around the church corridors at all. We rarely (if ever) experienced this before.

Enjoy some photos from the conference.

In Christ,
Yaroslav



Please watch a 3 mins video about the Minsk Reformed Seminary (MRS). See link below.

<https://youtu.be/WQobMaYuTRs>