

Moderator's report:

I give God thanks and praise for all the blessings of 2023 for our faith community at Ray Of Hope. As I began to prepare my annual report, I realized that it has been 17 years since I assumed the officer role on the council as moderator! I have been blessed to have your support and trust in me to do God's work in this capacity of leadership as we discerned God's will for this ministry at Ray Of Hope together.

I want to thank Br. Benedict, Lisa Frost, and April Struhm for their tireless efforts as council members in 2023 as well as Christina McLaughlin and Ed Askins our newly elected council members for your willingness to serve. Please keep all the council members lifted up in prayer and join them in discernment on how to move this ministry forward.

At the first council meeting of 2023, we discussed the need to rotate officer positions on the council so that several individuals would know and understand the responsibilities of different officer roles and also help with burn out. To God be the glory, we actually were able to add people to the council in 2023 and rotate officers. In October, we held our election of officers to the council and I will be rotating from moderator to clerk, April Struhm will rotate from vice-moderator to moderator. Christina McLaughlin will serve as vice-moderator position. Lisa Frost will rotate off the council after the annual meeting and Ed Askins will serve as the treasurer. Many thanks to all who have stepped up to fill these positions. I am just in awe of how God works and has a plan for us and reveals it in God's time.

Many, many thanks to Lisa Frost for her 24 years of dedicated service and for all the seen and unseen financial responsibilities she took care of in her role as treasurer. Lisa will continue to be a valuable resource to the council and our church family.

It is also important to state again that anyone can assist any member of the council with their roles and responsibilities and be a part of any committee of the council. Your input and ideas are all welcomed and valued.

During the year, we leaned on the power of prayer as we prayed and asked God to help ensure we keep Ray Of Hope sustainable for the next generation, we prayed for continued wisdom and guidance for us all and that others would come forth and join this ministry. We called on the Holy

Spirit to help us in these areas and I know our prayers are being answered. We definitely saw the power of prayer joined with genuine faith on display

weekly during the intercessory prayers for many people as we received praise reports of healings for several of those we prayed for.

If you weren't aware, we even have a special prayer for the entire congregation that Br. Benedict wrote:

Prayer for our Congregation: (revised, 5/28/2023 by Br. Shawn F. Benedict) on Pentecost Sunday.

“ Lord Jesus Christ, we ask that your Holy Spirit continue to move in our Congregation in new and refreshing ways. We open our hearts to be a dwelling place, a home, a temple of your Holy Spirit. Empower us with the gifts of the Holy Spirit to be used as servants of God, disciples of Christ, and witnesses of God's love and eternal plan. Come, Holy Spirit, and impassion us with your Divine Love. Stir and enkindle within us the flames of compassion, forgiveness, patience, empathy, Joy in believing, thanksgiving and praise, and love for God's holy Will. Build an expectant faith within us with a view of a church full of possibilities and potential. Guide our lives; we pray through Christ our Lord, Amen.”

Please revisit this prayer often as I have done this year and know that prayer does change things.

We had our challenges in 2023, dealing with attempted break-ins, vandalism, excess utility bills, copyright compliance issues, needed building repairs, web host provider changes, expenses exceeding income some weeks and months, and just lack of resources to get everything done. As stated in Matthew 9:37, “the harvest is plenty and the laborers are few”.

These challenges did not deter us as we called on members and friends to help and we received responses. Several building improvement projects were led by Ed Askins, Kaiden Rae Benedict and Br. Shawn F. Benedict. April Struhm donated chromebooks and touchbook notebooks and docking station and other equipment this year to improve the experience of our guests and members that join us for worship and after service. Both

Christina McLaughlin and Ed Askins enriched us this year during worship services by sharing their musical talents. I am excited about who will be next to share. So many donations of talents, time and treasure that you can find listed in the weekly bulletins throughout the year as I know I will miss someone if I tried to list them all. So, I'll just thank you all who invested, sacrificed and prayed for this ministry at Ray Of Hope in 2023.

As we enter into the new year, let's go with the full armor of God on so that we can meet the challenges that will come.

In my final report as moderator, it bears repeating what I stated in the December council meeting, "we are a church on the move, please come and join us as we continue to grow and give glory to God". We are excited and thankful for all the growth we experienced in 2023 and look forward to it continuing.

Keep us on the right path Holy Spirit, as we want to do the will of God here at Ray of Hope. May we have new insights and opportunities for spiritual and financial growth in 2024 and beyond in our congregation. Please come to worship, bible enrichment and council meetings. We are a faith community that wants everyone to know that they are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation God's own special people where everyone is welcomed and there is opportunity for you to let your light shine and that nothing can separate you from the love of God.

It has been an honor to serve as your moderator for the past 17 years and I look forward to serving in the official position of clerk.

Respectfully submitted,

Veronica Floyd, Moderator, Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Vice Moderator Report:

Hello Everyone,

In 2023 as I assumed the role of vice moderator, I begin diligently studying the church by-laws and am currently the chairperson of the by-laws revision committee. I did cover the moderator's duties a few time during the year as was needed. I also was the council representative for three inquires classes presented in September 2023. I attended a Southern Tier Interfaith Coalition meeting around thanksgiving with Br. Benedict and Kaiden Rae Benedict and I have become a member of the coalition.

Here are a few thoughts for the beginning of the new year as my term as vice moderator is expiring. I am forced to think about the new term that is coming up and my position as moderator. I am truly looking forward to the new responsibilities and obligations of this position. I am asking God to please bless Ray Of Hope Church Of Or Lord Jesus Christ, and help us to serve him better.

Respectfully submitted,

April Struhm, Vice Moderator Ray of Hope Church of our Lord Jesus Christ

Clerk Report:

All matters of church correspondence was received and documented in the clerical records. The official office of clerk remained open on the Council however all duties were completed as shared by Veronica Floyd, moderator, Lisa Frost, treasurer and Br. Shawn F. Benedict, appointed pastor.

Respectfully submitted,

Veronica Floyd, Moderator Ray of Hope Church of our Lord Jesus Christ