

The Presbytery of Middle Tennessee is a community of churches and church leaders whose role is to guide and support the work of its constituents, striving to build up the body of Christ through connections of mutual support, creating a culture of leadership development and church transformation.

**ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-SIXTH STATED MEETING
THE PRESBYTERY OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, FRANKLIN
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2019**

8:00 am	1.	Registration (Order of the Day in CAPS)
8:30 am		Orientation for First Time Commissioners and Prayer for Presbytery – Carol Tate and Therese Howell (20 minutes)
9:00 am	2.	CALL TO ORDER / WORSHIP (Offering: split between the “Take 45” workshop agencies) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installation of 2019 Moderator and Vice-Moderator • Commissioning of Guatemalan Mission Team
10:00 am	3.	Break
10:15 am	4.	Reconvene / Establishment of Quorum / Recognition of 2018 Moderator / Statement of Procedures / Welcome by Host / Recognition of First Time Presbyters / Seating of Corresponding Members / Adoption of Agenda
10:35 am	5.	Stated Clerk’s Report – Therese Howell (5 minutes)
10:40 am	6.	Administrative Committee – Theresa Denton (10 min)
10:50 am	7.	Finance Committee – Mike Ingram (5 minutes) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval of 2019 Operating Budget
10:55 am	8.	Committee on Leadership Excellence – Sally Hughes (5 min)
11:00 am	9.	NaCoMe – Ryan Moore (5 min)
11:05 am	10.	Hunger Action Advocate – Stuart Wilson-Patton (5 min)
11:10 am	11.	“Take 45” Workshops <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presbyterian Disaster Assistance • HomeConnections • The Outreach Foundation
12:15 pm		Lunch – Prayer of Thanksgiving
1:00 pm		Reconvene
1:05 pm	12.	EP Search Committee – Sally Hughes (5 min)
1:35 pm	13.	Amendments to the Book of Order – Therese Howell (30 min)
2:20 pm	14.	Committee on Ministry – Stephen Yates (45 min) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reception of Minister • Commissioning Ruling Elder
2:25 pm	15.	Interim Executive Presbyter’s Report – Carol Tate (5 min)
2:35 pm	16.	Concerns, Celebrations, and Announcements – Carol Tate (10 min)
2:40 pm	17.	Unfinished Business 137th Stated Meeting – Thursday, May 23, 2019, Location TBA
2:40 pm	18.	Closing Prayer / Adjourn

First Presbyterian Church
101 Legends Club Lane
Franklin, TN
615-794-5114

From downtown Brentwood:
Go south on Franklin Road.
Take a left on Legends Club Lane.

From downtown Franklin:
Go north on Franklin Road.
Take a right on Legends Club Lane.

From I-65:
Take exit 67 for West McEwen Dr.
Take a left on Cool Spring Blvd.
Take a right on Mack Hatcher Memorial Parkway.
Take a right on Franklin Road.
Take a right on Legends Club Dr.

STATED CLERK'S REPORT
PRESBYTERY OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE
FEBRUARY 13, 2019

ADMIT TO RECORD

1. Session annual statistical reports have been mailed to clerks of sessions. The deadline for online filing is February 14, 2019. The deadline for the Stated Clerk to file these reports is March 1, 2019.
2. The Stated Clerk reports the following roster of former Permanent Judicial Commission members, pursuant to D-5.0206b.:

<u>Class of 2014</u>	<u>Class of 2016</u>	<u>Class of 2018</u>
RE Celeste Anderson	TE Bill Barger	RE Elinor Foster
RE John Lee	TE Todd Jones	RE Jane McDow
RE Mark Strength	TE Kaye Nickell	TE Sandra Randleman
TE Rob Weingartner		

3. The Synod reviewed the 201t minutes of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee. The presbytery's minutes were approved without exceptions.
4. The trial for the remedial case filed with the Synod of Living Waters, Patrick Handlson v. the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee, was held on Thursday, January 10. The Synod Permanent Judicial Commission stated, in part:

"IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the actions of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee at its meeting on February 3, 2018, related to Patrick Handlson are reversed in part and affirmed in part, and the 24-month requirement before he may renew his request for reinstatement is invalidated. "

"Therefore, while the Complainant's due process rights were violated by his exclusion from the meeting (where he had in fact earlier been given the opportunity not only to address the Presbytery but also to answer questions from other members), that is only true to the extent that the new 24-month requirement was added, and therefore the violation is rendered moot by the invalidation of that requirement."

"We conclude that the "conditions" approved by the Presbytery at its February 3, 2018, meeting, however, fall in the category of its "ongoing enforcement of a censure," and are therefore enforceable."

The full decision is attached, and will be spread upon the minutes, as directed by the Synod Permanent Judicial Commission.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Northminster Presbyterian Church in Murfreesboro, pursuant to G-2.0402, requests a waiver on the rotation of elders.
2. The minutes of the 135th Stated Meeting (October 18, 2018) of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee are presented for approval.

**PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION
OF THE SYNOD OF LIVING WATERS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)**

Patrick Handlson,)
Complainant,)
v.)
Presbytery of Middle Tennessee,)
Respondent.)

DECISION AND ORDER

SLW2018-02

Arrival Statement

This is a remedial case of original jurisdiction which is before the Permanent Judicial Commission of the Synod of Living Waters (SPJC or Commission) on a Complaint received on March 5, 2018, by Patrick Handlson (Complainant) against the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee (Presbytery). The trial of the case was held on January 10, 2019, at First Presbyterian Church in Franklin, Tennessee.

Jurisdictional Statement

In its Preliminary Order dated April 24, 2018, the officers of the SPJC found that this Commission has jurisdiction, that the Complainant has standing to file the Complaint, that the Complaint was timely filed, and that two of the three alleged irregularities state claims upon which relief can be granted, and the matter was accepted for trial on those two alleged irregularities.

Appearances

The Complainant was present and was represented by E. J. Mackie, Neal Lloyd, and Jamie Lloyd. The Respondent was represented by George V. Crawford III, Hunter Brush, and Terry Epling.

History

The Complaint arises from actions taken at a meeting of the Presbytery on February 3, 2018, at which a motion from the Committee on Ministry (COM) of the Presbytery to restore the Complainant, who is a minister member of the Presbytery currently under the censure of temporary exclusion, was not approved.

Subsequent to its disapproval of the COM's motion, the Presbytery considered, debated and approved a second motion that Complainant could, subject to certain conditions, "renew his request for reinstatement every 24 months..." Those conditions were as follows:

- that he can show continued work toward healing and health through things like counseling, getting a support group, participating in a church;
- that he continue to abide by the restrictions placed upon him through his guilty plea and abide by the Presbytery's Former Pastor Policy;

- that he submit written reports of his work toward healing and health every six months to the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry; and
- that there be no more incidents of misconduct on his part.

And that if Mr. Handlson desires for this body to reconsider the decision that has been made today, his request will come through the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery; and all of the documents provided at this meeting, including the victim's impact statement, as well as any other documents that the Committee on Ministry believes are important for this council to consider, will be included in the packet from the Presbytery prior to the meeting.

The Complainant, who had been present and was heard prior to the vote on the COM's motion, was not present when this second motion was offered, debated and adopted.

As stated above, the Complaint alleged three irregularities at the meeting, the first of which was that the Presbytery was irregular in "rejecting the recommendation of the Committee on Ministry." The officers' Preliminary Order which excluded this alleged irregularity on the grounds that even if true, this would not violate the constitution, was not challenged, and therefore that ruling is final.

The two alleged irregularities accepted for trial were that the Presbytery erred in "imposing new censures" following its vote on the COM recommendation, and that it further erred in "excluding [the Complainant] from the Presbytery's deliberation" on the matter.

A pre-trial conference was held on August 21, 2018, at which the parties were asked to create a joint stipulation of facts, and while each party submitted separate statements of facts that were substantially identical, they did not reach agreement on a single material fact, requiring at least some additional time for the trial of the case.

A briefing schedule was also set at the pre-trial conference, and a trial date was set subsequently.

Decision

In rendering this decision, the SPJC is mindful of the admonitions and instructions found in the preamble to the Rules of Discipline. This body and our purposes are unique. Our exercise of authority in Church Discipline is God given and is not intended to punish, but rather to focus on the healing and restorative nature of our faith.

God is honored by a commission like this when it seeks justice for all involved. Correction and restraint from wrongdoing will inevitably bring participants to repentance and restoration. Our duties are further broadened when we must assure not only the parties to the process, but also the larger community of faith, that the causes of discord and division have been effectively removed. Justice here is a gem with many facets.

The SPJC's actions in all regards are intended to build and strengthen the Church and are not punitive to either Mr. Handlson or the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee.

In this case, the constitution provides in D-12.0104h that "a person under the censure of temporary exclusion shall apply in writing to the council...for restoration upon the expiration of the time of exclusion or completion of the supervised rehabilitation pronounced." Clearly, the time "pronounced" in the censure was six months. When, at its meeting, the Presbytery began its further instruction on the matter of the Complainant's process of restoration by stating that he could only renew his request "every

24 months,” the Presbytery was in violation of this constitutional provision. Furthermore, adding such a requirement without the Complainant being given an opportunity to speak to it was a violation of the requirements of due process.

The General Assembly’s Permanent Judicial Commission in *Muskingum v. Hauser* (GAPJC 222-06) has ruled that “a presbytery has no authority to amend a censure. Insofar as the judicial process requires ongoing enforcement of a censure, that authority rests with the presbytery.” We conclude that the “conditions” approved by the Presbytery at its February 3, 2018, meeting, however, fall in the category of its “ongoing enforcement of a censure,” and are therefore enforceable.

Therefore, while the Complainant’s due process rights were violated by his exclusion from the meeting (where he had in fact earlier been given the opportunity not only to address the Presbytery but also to answer questions from other members), that is only true to the extent that the new 24-month requirement was added, and therefore the violation is rendered moot by the invalidation of that requirement.

We note that we reject the Complainant’s argument that no vote is necessary, and that the matters of restoration and honorable retirement cannot constitutionally be combined into a single vote. The Complainant’s welcome back into the communion through restoration is not his decision alone, which is why a communal process of some sort is warranted. Ultimately, he will not be restored until a majority of the Presbytery is willing to do so. That said, while the wording of the original censure is inartful in its implementation of both a definite time period *and* a supervised rehabilitation process (when the Rules of Discipline call for one or the other), the exclusion was clearly intended to be temporary, not permanent, and the Presbytery’s leadership is urged to help the Presbytery move forward in a manner that gives effect to the censure’s intent.

Order

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the actions of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee at its meeting on February 3, 2018, related to Patrick Handlson are reversed in part and affirmed in part, and the 24-month requirement before he may renew his request for reinstatement is invalidated.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee report this decision to the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee at its first meeting after receipt, that the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee enter the full decision upon its minutes, and that an excerpt from those minutes showing entry of the decision be sent to the Stated Clerk of the Synod of Living Waters.

Absences and Non-Appearances

Commissioner Christi Scott was recused and took no part in the deliberations or decisions. Commissioners Anne Chesnut, Jonathan Wallace, Chip Herndon, and David Maxwell were absent and took no part in the deliberations or decisions.

Certificate

We certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the decision of the Permanent Judicial Commission of the Synod of Living Waters of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in Remedial Case SLW2018-02, *Patrick Handlson v. Presbytery of Middle Tennessee*, made and announced at Franklin, TN, this 10th day of January, 2019.

Dated this 10th day of January, 2019.

Mac Forsyth, Moderator
Permanent Judicial Commission of the Synod of Living Waters

Gregory A. Goodwiller, Clerk
Permanent Judicial Commission of the Synod of Living Waters

I certify that I did transmit a certified copy of the foregoing to the following persons by Certified US Mail, directing Terry Newland to deposit it in the mail at Franklin, TN on or before the 11th day of January, 2019.

E. J. Mackie, Counsel for Complainant
George V. Crawford III, Counsel for Respondent
Stated Clerk, Presbytery of Middle Tennessee

Gregory A. Goodwiller, Clerk
Permanent Judicial Commission of the Synod of Living Waters

I certify that I received a certified copy of the foregoing, that it is a full and correct copy of the decision of the Permanent Judicial Commission of the Synod of Living Waters of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), sitting during an interval between meetings of the Synod, in Franklin, TN, in Remedial Case SLW2018-02, Patrick Handlson v. Presbytery of Middle Tennessee, and that it is the final judgment of the Synod of Living Waters in the case.

Dated at Franklin, TN, on January 10th, 2019.

Terry Newland
Stated Clerk, Synod of Living Waters

DRAFT
PRESBYTERY OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE
MINUTES OF ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-FIFTH STATED MEETING
OCTOBER 18, 2018

The 135th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee was held Thursday, October 18, 2018, at NaCoMe Camp and Retreat Center, Pleasantville, Tennessee. Interim Executive Presbyter Carol Tate and Stated Clerk Therese Howell led an orientation and time of prayer for first time commissioners. Moderator Ed Lancaster called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

WORSHIP

Worship was led by The Rev. Chris Joiner (First Presbyterian Church, Franklin), and The Rev. Dr. Cynthia Schwartz (Priest Lake Presbyterian Church, Nashville). Rev. Joiner preached the sermon, and The Rev. Dr. Will Berger was organist. An offering was collected and split evenly between NaCoMe and PDA Disaster Relief for Hurricane Florence.

DECLARATION OF QUORUM / STATEMENT OF PROCEDURES / WELCOME BY HOST / FIRST TIME COMMISSIONERS / CORRESPONDING MEMBERS

The meeting reconvened after worship; the Moderator declared a quorum was present and reviewed procedures for the meeting. Ryan Moore, Director of NaCoMe, welcomed commissioners and spoke of NaCoMe's ministry. First time commissioners to presbytery were recognized and welcomed.

The Presbytery's Mission and Operations Manual and the *Book of Order* provide for the seating of corresponding members and teaching and ruling elders with voice and those with voice and vote. Any ruling elder serving as presbytery's Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Moderator-in-Nomination, chairs of committees, members of the Administrative Committee, members of the Finance Committee, and the Moderator of Presbyterian Women, are enrolled as members of presbytery and shall have voice and vote. Ruling elders commissioned to particular pastoral service, and ruling elders who have previously served as presbytery moderator, within five years of completion of his/her term of service, are enrolled as members of presbytery with voice and vote. Any ruling elder serving as a committee representative to a particular meeting of presbytery in the absence of the chair shall have the privilege of voice and vote for that particular meeting of the presbytery. Persons certified in church service who are ruling elders shall have the privilege of voice and vote at all meetings of the presbytery, during their term of service in ministry in the presbytery of Middle Tennessee. Persons certified in church service, who are members of congregations in the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee, shall have the privilege of voice at all meetings of the presbytery during their term of service in a congregation or other ministry validated by the presbytery. Should a question arise concerning the enrollment of any person, the presbytery may resolve the matter upon the recommendation of the Permanent Judicial Commission. Corresponding members were seated without objection, and are listed with the roll.

ROLL

The roll of commissioners, corresponding members, and visitors attending the presbytery meeting is attached (Attachment A).

AGENDA

The Moderator stated that the agenda for the meeting had been provided in advance to commissioners. There were no questions or objections, and the following agenda was approved without objection:

- 9:00 am 1. Registration (Order of the Day in CAPS)
- 9:30 am Orientation for First Time Commissioners and Prayer for Presbytery – Carol Tate and Therese Howell (20 minutes)

- | | | | |
|----|----------|-----|--|
| 1 | 10:00 am | 2. | CALL TO ORDER / WORSHIP
(Offering split between PDA Disaster Relief – Hurricane Florence and NaCoMe) |
| 2 | | | |
| 3 | 10:45 am | 3. | Break |
| 4 | 11:00 am | 4. | Reconvene / Establishment of Quorum / Statement of Procedures / Welcome by Host / Recognition of First Time Presbyters / Seating of Corresponding Members / Adoption of Agenda |
| 5 | | | |
| 6 | | | |
| 7 | 11:07 am | 5. | Stated Clerk’s Report – Therese Howell (3 minutes) |
| 8 | | | • Approval of July 18, 2018 Minutes |
| 9 | 11:10 am | 6. | Finance Committee – Mike Ingram (5 min) |
| 10 | 11:15 am | 7. | Administrative Committee – Theresa Denton (50 min) |
| 11 | | | • Nominating Task Force – David Sawyer |
| 12 | 12:35 pm | | Lunch – Prayer of Thanksgiving |
| 13 | 1:15 pm | | Reconvene |
| 14 | | 8. | Campus Ministry Update (15 min) |
| 15 | 1:30 pm | 9. | Committee on Ministry – Greg Glover (45 min) |
| 16 | 2:15 pm | 10. | Interim Executive Presbyter’s Report – Carol Tate (15 min) |
| 17 | | | • Concerns, Celebrations, and Announcements |
| 18 | 2:30 pm | 11. | Unfinished Business |
| 19 | | | 136th Stated Meeting – Thursday, February 14, 2019 – First Presbyterian Church, Franklin |
| 20 | | | |
| 21 | 2:35 pm | 12. | Closing Prayer / Adjourn |

REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK

Therese Howell, stated clerk, called attention to the reports in the packet not requiring action, including the report from the Presbyterian Women.

Randal Bruce McVey / First Presbyterian Church, Fayetteville

The stated clerk has received the minutes of the commission to ordain and install Randal Bruce McVey as pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Fayetteville. *[minutes included in permanent record]*

Ashley McFaul-Erwin / Ordination

The stated clerk has received the minutes of the commission to ordain Ashley Mc-Faul Erwin to the ministry of the Word and Sacrament. *[minutes included in permanent record]*

Candice L. Klein / First Presbyterian Church, Gallatin

The stated clerk has received the minutes of the commission to install Candice L. Klein as pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Gallatin. *[minutes included in permanent record]*

Michael McLaughlin / First Presbyterian Church, Cookeville

The stated clerk has received the minutes of the commission to install Michael McLaughlin as pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Cookeville. *[minutes included in permanent record]*

Robert Montgomery / First Presbyterian Church, Lewisburg

The stated clerk has received the minutes of the commission to install Robert Montgomery as pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Lewisburg. *[minutes included in permanent record]*

Keith Gunter / New Creation Church, Hendersonville

The stated clerk has received the minutes of the commission to install Keith Gunter as pastor of New Creation Presbyterian Church, Hendersonville, to organize the New Creation Church, and to ordain and install the first session. *[minutes included in permanent record]*

1 Minutes of the 134th Stated Meeting (July 28, 2018)

2 The minutes and roll of the 134th stated meeting (July 28, 2018) of the Presbytery of Middle
3 Tennessee were presented for approval. The motion to approve the minutes was made, seconded, and
4 approved without objection.

5 Celebration of the Lord's Supper / UKIRK Vanderbilt and Belmont

6 The stated clerk reported that the campus ministry at Vanderbilt and Belmont seek permission
7 to celebrate the Lord's Supper during 2019. The Rev. Lindsey Groves, campus minister, usually presides
8 at the table. The motion was made, seconded, and approved without objection.

9 **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

10 Mike Ingram, Treasurer, presented the Finance Committee report.

11 Investment Task Force

12 The Finance Committee received a report from the Investment Task Force.

13 Nueva Vida

14 The Finance Committee received a report and financials from the Nueva Vida Administrative
15 Commission.

16 2019 Budget

17 The Finance Committee has begun work on the 2019 budget.

18 Financials

19 The Finance Committee provided financials as of September 30, 2018.

20 2017 Audit

21 The Finance Committee, in conjunction with the Presbytery's auditor, is finalizing the 2017 audit.

22 Policy on Check Signing

23 In response to a request regarding a restricted fund, the Finance Committee affirmed that the
24 policy on check signing (two signatures above a set amount) applies to all funds.

25 Culleoka Church Property

26 In response to a report regarding the Culleoka church property, David Sawyer, Ed Lancaster, and
27 a member from the Committee on Ministry will visit the church and check on the property.

28 Continuing Resolution

29 Ingram reported that the Finance Committee recommended that effective January 1, 2019,
30 essential expenses be paid at the 2018 budget level until the 2019 budget is approved by the Presbytery.
31 There were no questions or discussion, and the recommendation was approved

32 **ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

33 Theresa Denton, chair of the Administrative Committee, presented the committee's report.

34 Carol A. Tate / Interim Executive Presbyter

35 The Administrative Committee hired The Rev. Dr. Carol Tate as interim Executive Presbyter, for
36 32 hours/week, effective August 6, 2018, for one year (renewable).

37 EP Search Committee

38 The Administrative Committee receives regular updates from the EP Search Committee.

39 Resignation of Linda Griffis

40 The Personnel Task Force regretfully accepted the resignation of Linda Griffis, Administrative
41 Assistant/Hunger Action Advocate, effective October 5.

42 October 18, 2018 Presbytery Meeting

43 The Administrative Committee approved a draft agenda for the October 18 Presbytery meeting.
44 The Rev. Chris Joiner, pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Franklin, will preach. The offering will be split
45 between Presbyterian Disaster Relief (Hurricane Florence) and NaCoMe Camp and Conference Center.
46 The Administrative Committee also approved a food drive collection. The committee approved a time
47 for small group discussion for visioning.

1 Grant Applications

2 The Administrative Committee continued its discussion of new church development strategy /
3 oversight, and emerging ministries. The committee reiterated its concern that grant applications need
4 to be supported by ministries.

5 Administrative Committee Task Force

6 The Administrative Committee appointed John Hinkle (chair), David Sawyer, and Robert
7 Montgomery to visit with the Committee on Church Transformation regarding this work in the
8 Presbytery. Mike Ingram, Treasurer, will be invited to participate.

9 Financial Reports

10 The Administrative Committee receives monthly financial reports from Mike Ingram, Treasurer.

11 Nominating Task Force Report

12 The Rev. David Sawyer, chair of the Nominating Task Force, placed the following names in
13 nomination to fill vacancies as indicated (Class of 2021 unless otherwise noted):

14 Administrative Committee

15 Chris Joiner, TE, First Franklin, Moderator-in-Nomination

16 Geeta McMillan, RE, Blue Spring, Sparta

17 Trustees (members of both Administrative and Finance Committees)

18 John Hinkle, TE, First Murfreesboro, 2019 Moderator

19 Finance Committee

20 Shawn Thomas Smith, TE, First Smyrna

21 Allen Kennedy, RE, First Nashville

22 Committee on Church Transformation

23 Jeanne' Hoescht, TE, Oak Grove, Prayer Summits

24 _____, RE, Church Growth Strategy

25 Committee on Leadership Excellence

26 Class of 2020

27 Mark Bridges, RE, First Columbia, Fellowship of the Ordained

28 Class of 2021

29 Sherard Edington, TE, First Lebanon, Celebration of the Resurrection

30 _____, RE, Excellence in Officer Education

31 Committee on Ministry

32 Class of 2019

33 Cynthia Schwartz, TE, Priest Lake

34 Class of 2020

35 Lindsey Groves, TE, UKIRK Vanderbilt/Belmont

36 Janet Salyer, TE, Harpeth

37 Class of 2021

38 Pat Bridges, RE, First Columbia

39 Greg Glover, TE, First Clarksville

40 Debbie Sandwith, RE, Westminster Nashville

41 Katherine Smith, TE, Vanderbilt

42 _____, RE

43 _____, RE

44

45 Committee on Mutual Support

46 Steve Thomas, TE, Hillsboro

47 _____, RE, Guatemala Task Force

48 _____, RE, Hunger Action Task Force

49 Committee on Preparation for Ministry

50 Class of 2020

1 _____, RE

2 Class of 2021

3 Rachel Pence, TE

4 Will Radford, RE

5 _____, TE/RE

6 Permanent Judicial Commission

7 Class of 2024

8 Sharon Warfield, RE, Westminster Nashville

9 _____, RE

10 _____, TE/RE

11 The Moderator opened the floor for additional nominations, and the following names were
12 placed in nomination: Susan Burns, RE, First Franklin, Committee on Leadership Excellence; Sandra
13 Randleman, TE, First Nashville, Committee on Preparation for Ministry; Stuart Wilson-Patton, RE,
14 Second, Hunger Action Task Force (Class of 2020). The motion was seconded to receive these names in
15 nomination. There were no additional nominations, and the persons nominated were approved.

16 The presbytery then divided into small groups to review and discuss three questions posed by
17 the Administrative Committee regarding the presbytery’s vision and structure. After a time of
18 discussion, the small groups were dismissed to lunch.

19 The meeting reconvened after lunch and the Moderator offered a prayer.

20 **UKIRK / CAMPUS MINISTRIES**

21 Rev. Lindsey Groves, UKIRK / Vanderbilt and Belmont, reported on the presbytery’s campus
22 ministries at Vanderbilt University and Belmont University. She read a report from Rev. Micah Watson
23 on the campus ministry at Middle Tennessee State University. Rev. Michael McLaughlin, pastor at First
24 Cookeville, reported on the campus ministry at Tennessee Tech University. Commissioners were
25 encouraged to continue to support the campus ministries.

26 **COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY**

27 Dr. Guy Griffith, a member of the Committee on Ministry, presented the committee’s report.

28 Candice Klein / First Presbyterian Church, Gallatin

29 The COM approved The Rev. Michael Davis as mentor for The Rev. Candice Klein (First Gallatin).

30 Carol A. Tate / Interim Executive Presbyter

31 The COM examined The Rev. Dr. Carol Tate and approved her call as interim executive presbyter
32 of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee, effective August 6, 2018, 32 hours/week, and approved the
33 terms of call.

34 Scott Hanna / First Presbyterian Church, Lynnville

35 The COM examined Ruling Elder Scott Hanna (First Lynnville) and approved his filling the pulpit
36 at First Lynnville while he completes the Commissioned Lay Pastor training at the University of Dubuque
37 Theological Seminary. The Rev. Dr. Bill Bryant will supervise Mr. Hanna.

38 First Presbyterian Church, McMinnville / Pastor Nominating Committee

39 First Presbyterian Church, McMinnville, elected the following persons to serve as the PNC: Barry
40 Barnes (chair), Ginger Sinks (secretary), Ray Goode, Cynthia Campen, and Jeanine Miller.

41 Ministry Information Forms

42 The Committee on Ministry approved Ministry Information Forms for Harpeth Presbyterian
43 Church, Brentwood; First Presbyterian Church, McMinnville; and Emmanuel Presbyterian Church,
44 Nashville.

45 Kristi Moore / Bellevue Presbyterian Church, Nashville

46 The Committee on Ministry approved the dissolution of the pastoral relationship between The
47 Rev. Kristi Moore and Bellevue Presbyterian Church, Nashville. The COM approved the severance

1 agreement of seven months salary, housing, and Board of Pensions for Rev. Moore, and changed her
2 status to member-at-large.

3 Session Moderators

4 The COM approved The Rev. Mike Wilson as Moderator of the session of Bellevue Presbyterian
5 Church, Nashville, and Ruling Elder Pat Bridges (First Columbia) as moderator for First Presbyterian
6 Church, Spring Hill.

7 Angela Hancock

8 The COM dismissed The Rev. Dr. Angela Hancock (member-at-large) to the Presbytery of
9 Pittsburgh, effective October 9, 2018.

10 Sam Cooper, IV

11 The COM dismissed The Rev. Dr. Sam Cooper, IV (Honorably Retired) to the Presbytery of
12 Charleston-Atlantic, effective October 9, 2018.

13 Wael Sous / Evangelical Church of Egypt, Synod of the Nile

14 Dr. Griffith reported that the Committee on Ministry had examined two ministers in good
15 standing in the Evangelical Church of Egypt, Synod of the Nile, who wish to transfer to the Presbyterian
16 Church (U.S.A.) and become members of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee.

17 The Rev. Wael Sous is leading a new worshipping community nested in the Priest Lake
18 Presbyterian Church in Nashville. Pursuant to G-2.0505a.(2) the COM recommends that Rev. Sous be
19 granted an exemption for the examinations required of candidates, and that he be transferred to the
20 Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and received into the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee. Rev. Sous' statement
21 of faith and bio were included in the presbytery packet. Dr. Griffith invited The Rev. Nolan Huizenga and
22 The Rev. Wael Sous to come forward.

23 Rev. Sous spoke of his journey of faith, and responded to questions from Rev. Huizenga and from
24 commissioners. Rev. Huizenga escorted Rev. Sous out of the meeting; Dr. Griffith moved that the
25 presbytery grant Rev. Sous an exemption for the ordination examinations required of candidates. The
26 motion was approved by the required 2/3 vote. Dr. Griffith then moved that Rev. Sous' examination be
27 sustained, and that he be received as a member of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the Presbytery
28 of Middle Tennessee, and this was approved.

29 Rev. Huizenga and Rev. Sous were escorted back into the meeting, and informed of the
30 affirmative vote. Persons in support of Rev. Sous were recognized and welcomed while Rev. Sous signed
31 the Book of Ministerial Obligations.

32 Samy Estafanos / Evangelical Church of Egypt, Synod of the Nile

33 The Rev. Dr. Samy Estafanos was introduced; he is leading a new worshipping community nested
34 in First Presbyterian Church in Nashville. Pursuant to G-2.0505a.(2) the COM recommends that Dr.
35 Estafanos be granted an exemption for the examinations required of candidates, and that he be
36 transferred to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and received into the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee.
37 Dr. Estafanos' statement of faith and bio were included in the presbytery packet. Dr. Griffith invited Dr.
38 Estafanos to come forward.

39 Dr. Estafanos spoke briefly of his faith journey, and responded to questions from Rev. Huizenga
40 and from commissioners. Rev. Huizenga escorted Dr. Estafanos out of the meeting; Dr. Griffith moved
41 that the presbytery grant Dr. Estafanos an exemption for the ordination examinations required of
42 candidates. The motion was approved by the required 2/3 vote. Dr. Griffith then moved that Dr.
43 Estafanos's examination be sustained, and that he be received as a member of the Presbyterian Church
44 (U.S.A.) and the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee, and this was approved.

1 Rev. Huizenga and Dr. Estafanos were escorted back into the meeting, and informed of the
2 affirmative vote. Persons in support of Dr. Estafanos were recognized and welcomed while Dr. Estafano
3 signed the Book of Ministerial Obligations.

4 Bellevue Presbyterian Church, Nashville / Administrative Commission

5 Dr. Griffith reported that the Committee on Ministry recommended an administrative
6 commission be elected to work with the Bellevue Presbyterian Church, Nashville. The COM held
7 listening sessions at Bellevue, and believes this is the best way to work with the session and the church
8 as they discern God's will for their future. The following charge and membership was approved:

9 The Committee on Ministry, in consultation with the Administrative and Finance Committees, recognizes
10 that Bellevue Presbyterian Church, Nashville, is seeking to discern its mission and its future in its current context
11 and within the scope of its current membership. The Committee on Ministry believes that the recent history of
12 the congregation necessitates an administrative commission.

13 The congregation of Bellevue Presbyterian Church, Nashville, has declined in membership because of
14 conflict over recent years and is now under additional financial duress—perhaps to the verge of survivability--
15 during a period of pastoral transition. The most recent conflict, though it focusses on a decision of Session, is
16 likely more chronic and requires assistance from outside the resources of the congregation to assist in promoting
17 healing and reconciliation and the creation of new patterns of relating.

18 An administrative commission will assist the Bellevue Presbyterian Church and its session in creating
19 opportunities for healing and reconciliation, ~~in~~ discernment about their future, and will provide training and
20 guidance to the session in evaluating the congregation's financial viability and strategy for implementing its
21 mission.

22 A. Therefore, the Committee on Ministry recommends to the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee that it elect
23 an administrative commission for the Bellevue Presbyterian Church, Nashville, and that this commission
24 be given all the powers of Presbytery except that approval of merger or dissolution, or the sale of the
25 property, must be approved by the Presbytery. The administrative commission, upon its election, shall
26 be charged as follows:

- 27 1. The administrative commission shall assist the session in leading the congregation to examine
28 the nature and pattern of their recent conflicts and to engage in intentional processes of healing
29 and reconciliation following the recent departure of their pastor, with the aim of exercising and
30 beginning to establish new ways of relating and healthy patterns of conflict resolution.
- 31 2. The administrative commission shall support the work of the session by providing
32 comprehensive elder training prior to the installation of the next class of elders.
- 33 3. If the administrative commission believes at any point that it is in the best interest of the church
34 to assume original jurisdiction of the session, the administrative commission shall have the
35 authority to do so (G-3.0303e.).
- 36 4. The administrative commission shall work alongside the session of Bellevue Presbyterian Church
37 in managing its affairs and in determining what form pastoral leadership shall take, and shall
38 assist the session to assess the financial viability of the church and to make necessary changes to
39 recover financial health.
- 40 5. The administrative commission shall work with the session and congregation to discern God's
41 will and their vision for the future, to ensure that all voices are heard, that all options are
42 explored and considered, and that appropriate time is given to understand and appreciate the
43 momentous crossroads that the church has reached in its history and life.
- 44 6. The administrative commission is committed to Bellevue's call to be the church and strives with
45 them in prayer that God will open all doors for their spiritual, ecclesial, communal and financial
46 well-being. While the immediate road ahead seems daunting, the administrative commission
47 rejoices that the "Church is the body of Christ" and that "Christ gives to the Church all the gifts
48 necessary to be his body." (F-1.0301) The past few years have been difficult for Bellevue and the
49 present poses many questions, but Christ is the Church's hope. In the light of this, the
50 administrative commission will work in this hope with Bellevue Presbyterian Church to live in

1 the "lively, joyous reality of the grace of God" (F-1.0204) and to continue finding a way forward
2 as the church.

3 7. The administrative commission shall work with the session and congregation to discern whether
4 to merge or dissolve the congregation. If it is the will of the congregation to merge with another
5 PCUSA congregation, the administrative commission will work to facilitate the merger, after the
6 presbytery's approval.

7 8. If dissolution is determined to be the most pastoral and wise course of action, the
8 administrative commission shall, subject to approval of the presbytery, determine a date for the
9 dissolution, and:

10 (1) assist the session and members to wind up the affairs of the church, and transfer its remaining
11 members. The Stated Clerk of presbytery shall be authorized to grant letters of dismissal to
12 members whose names are still on the roll for up to one year after the closing worship service;
13 and

14 (2) The administrative commission shall draft a plan of dissolution, subject to the approval of the
15 presbytery, if it is the will of the congregation to dissolve. The administrative commission
16 shall plan, in consultation with the session and members of the church, a closing worship
17 service to honor the life, witness, and ministry of Bellevue Presbyterian Church.

18 (3) The administrative commission shall, in consultation with the session and congregation,
19 recommend to the Trustees of the Presbytery a plan for the disposal and sale of all church
20 property. The Trustees of presbytery shall be responsible for the property, until such time as
21 the administrative commission, in consultation with the Trustees, makes a determination on
22 the disposition of the property.

23 (4) The Trustees of presbytery shall have claim, on behalf of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee,
24 to any property of the Bellevue church not known at this time or property which may come
25 to the church as the beneficiary of a will or trust not known at this time.

26 B. The Administrative Commission shall report quarterly to the Committee on Ministry and will submit a
27 final report to the presbytery. Should the Administrative Commission decide that the sale of the
28 property is advisable, it shall also notify the Trustees for their recommendation to the presbytery.

29 C. The Committee on Ministry recommends the following persons for election as members of the
30 administrative commission for the Bellevue Presbyterian Church, Nashville, Tennessee:

31 Evelyn Graham, TE, Southminster Presbyterian Church, Nashville

32 Jane Herring, TE, Normandy and Belfast Presbyterian Churches

33 Larry McElroy, RE, Northminster Presbyterian Church, Murfreesboro

34 William Russell, RE, First Presbyterian Church, Spring Hill

35 Mike Wilson, TE, Downtown Presbyterian Church, Nashville (chair)

36 37 **INTERIM EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER REPORT / CONCERNS, CELEBRATIONS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

38 Carol A. Tate, Interim Executive Presbyter, spoke briefly about her work, and reported on the
39 offering and food collection. She then led the Presbytery in sharing concerns, celebrations, and
40 announcements. After a time of sharing, Dr. Tate offered a prayer.

41
42 There was no unfinished business; the Moderator stated the 136th Stated Meeting would be held
43 on Thursday, February 14, 2019, at First Presbyterian Church, Franklin. The meeting was adjourned with
44 prayer by the Moderator upon motion made, seconded, and approved.

45
46 Therese P. Howell
47 Stated Clerk
48

October 18, 2018 Stated Meeting Roll

Teaching Elders

_E_Adams, Chris	_E_Gay, Andy	_P_Kelly, Joel	_E_Picard, John Paul
_E_Allen, Bill	_E_Gilliam, Elizabeth	_E_Kidd, David	_E_Pope, Craig
_E_Anderson, David	_E_Gilliss, Martha Schull	_E_Kim, Yoon Min	_E_Ramirez-Jimenez, Lila
_E_Anderson, Rosanna	_E_Glover, Gregory	_E_Klein, Candace	_E_Randleman, Sandra
_E_Angel, Erin Howton	_E_Glover, Leslie	_E_Knight, Carole	_E_Rector, Stacy
_E_Angel, Jonathan	_E_Gordon, Stuart	_E_Lancaster, Jimmie	_E_Richardson, W. W.
_E_Asbury, Beverly	_P_Graham, Everlyn	_E_Larson, John	_E_Ritchie, Jeff
_E_Barger, Bill	_P_Griffith, Guy D.	_E_Leftwich, Phil	_E_Ritchie, Megan
_E_Beisswenger, Philip	_P_Groves, Lindsey	_E_Lewis, John	_E_Rogers-Vaughn, Annette
_P_Berger, Will	_E_Gundersen, Carl A.	_E_Lipsey, McCurdy	_E_Rodriguez, Josh
_E_Bonner, Leigh	_E_Gung, Justin	_E_Logan, Gail	_E_Rouquie, Richard
_E_Bradley, Mike	_E_Gunter, Keith	_P_Magee, Michael J.	_E_Salyer, Carson
_E_Bray, Linda	_E_Hamman, Jaco	_E_McCaw, Beth	_E_Salyer, Janet
_E_Bryan, Mark	_E_Hancock, Angela	_P_McClure, Annie	_P_Sawyer, David
_E_Bryant, William T.	_I_Handlson, Pat	_E_McCormack, Robert E.	_E_Schultz, Harris
_E_Burgener, John "Bo"	_P_Harding, Bobby	_E_McCullough, John	_P_Schwartz, Cindy
_E_Caldwell, Elizabeth	_E_Harkness, David	_P_McCullough, Mary Louise	_E_Skelly, John J., III
_E_Canon, Amelia	_E_Harrell, James E.	_E_McDaniel, Mark	_E_Smathers, Mike
_E_Casner, Paul	_E_Hassall, Harry S.	_P_McFaul-Erwin, Ashley	_E_Smith, Jimmy D.
_E_Cejka, III, Joseph	_E_Hawthorne, Blake	_P_McLaughlin, Michael	_P_Smith, Katherine
_E_Cheetham, John T.	_E_Herring, Jane	_E_McMillion, Claude	_P_Smith, Shawn Thomas
_E_Chuquimia, Teddy	_P_Hilley, John R.	_E_McRight, Dan	_E_Soderquist, Ann
_E_Clewer, Harry	_P_Hinkle, John	_P_McVey, Bruce	_P_Tate, Carol
_E_Coates, Coleman Lewis	_E_Hodgson, Peter	_E_Moffatt, III, Charles L.	_P_Thomas, C. S. (Steve) III
_E_Cowan, John	_E_Hoehst, Jeanne'	_E_Moiso, Aimee	_P_Thompson, C.J.
_E_Cox, Amy	_E_Horn, John	_P_Montgomery, Robert	_E_Thompson, Marjorie
_E_Crawford, John	_E_Hudnut-Beumler, Heidi	_E_Moore, Kristi	_E_Todd, John
_E_Crigler, III, A. S.	_E_Hudnut-Beumler, Jim	_E_Muse, Perry	_P_Traylor, Leslie
_E_Cross, III, Allen	_P_Hughes, Sally	_E_Musgrave, John	_E_Tuck, Janet
_E_Crumby, Robert	_E_Huie, Scott	_E_Nally, Sara	_E_Tyndall, Thomas B.
_E_Crumpler, David	_P_Huizenga, C. Nolan	_E_Nash, Jim	_E_Venable, III, Sid
_E_Danner, Charles	_E_Hunter, Jeannie	_E_Neil, Richard	_E_Walker, Thomas D.
_E_Davis, Michael	_E_Jackson, J. Harold	_E_Newsom, Ernest B.	_E_Wallace, Morgan
_E_DeVries, Adam	_E_Jarvis, Jennifer	_E_Nguot, Peter Lul	_E_Weingartner, Robert J.
_E_DeVries, Mark	_E_Johnson, Charles N.	_E_Nichols, H. Gudger, Jr.	_E_White, Jack
_E_Drake, Donovan	_P Joiner, Christopher A.	_E_Nichols, James A.	_E_White, Linda
_E_Durnell, Warner R.	_E_Jones, Phyllis	_E_Nickell, Kay Pickens	_P_Wilson, Amos L.
_E_Early, Kim Maphis	_E_Jones, Todd B.	_E_Nyhuis, Jule	_P_Wilson, Mike
_E_Early, Robert	_P_Kane, Jeff	_E_Paddon, Richard	_E_Yang, Sunggu
_E_Edington, Sherard	_E_Kang, Byung Hee	_E_Padget, Donald	_E_Yates, Stephen
_E_Eisenmenger, David	_E_Kang, Se Bong	_E_Page, Fred	_P_Zeigler, Richard
_E_Fraser, Carrie	_E_Kang, Shin	_E_Patton, Tom	
_E_Gasser, Anna D.	_E_Kaufman, John E	_P_Pence, Rachel	
	_P_R. Gary Kelly	_E_Pentecost, Mike	

P - Present
 E - Excused
 A - Absent
 I - Inactive

Ruling Elder Commissioners

<u>Church</u>	<u>Represented By</u>
Alexandria, Liberty Hill	
Allardt, First	
Alpine, Christ	
Ardmore, Bethany	Elizabeth May
Belfast	
Bethpage, Oak Grove	
Brentwood, Brentwood First East	1. Ruth Pennington 2. Richard Strecker
Harpeth	1. Jennifer Bennett 2. Andrew Shibley
Buffalo Valley	Shirley C. Puckett
Byrdstown, Smyrna	
Clarksville, First	1. 2. 3.
Macedonia	
Columbia, First	1. Frank Bellamy 2. Beth Patton 3.
Westminster	Mary Pat Denning
Cookeville, Double Springs First	1. Donna Simpson 2. Mark Thurman
Post Oak	
Cowan, Fellowship	
Crossville, Calvary	1. 2.
Culleoka, Central	
Decherd	
Dickson, First Pond	
Fairfield Glade, Westminster	
Fayetteville, First	1. Harold Dawkins 2.
St. John	
Franklin, First	1. Claire Crunk 2. Jean Acklin 3.
Historic Franklin	1. 2.
New Hope	
Gallatin, First	1. 2.
Sudanese	David Paduil
Hendersonville, First	1. Tim Bish 2. J. T. Thompson
New Creation	Jane Price
Hermitage	1. Linda Douglas 2.
Lawrenceburg, First	
Lebanon, First	1. 2.
Spring Creek	
Lewisburg, Bethbirei	

Church

Lewisburg, continued:

<u>Church</u>	<u>Represented By</u>
First	1. 2.
Lynnville, First	
Manchester, First	
McMinnville, First	
Milton, Hopewell	
Mt. Pleasant, First	
Murfreesboro, First	1. Kevin Heusinkreld 2. Kathy Jones 3. Don McKinney
Northminster	
Nashville, Bellevue	1. Jane Zubulake 2.
Donelson	1. Jim White 2. Ruth White
Downtown	1. 2.
Eastminster	1. 2.
Emmanuel First	Norris Hoover 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7.
Glen Leven	1. 2.
Glencliff	Betty Currey
Hillsboro	1. 2.
Hillwood	1. 2.
Korean	1. 2.
Priest Lake	David Sadler
Second	1. David Carlton 2. Joan Dayton 3. Stuart Wilson-Patton
Southminster	1.
St. Andrews	1. 2.
Trinity	1. Cynthia Turner 2.
Village	1. 2.
Westminster	1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6.
Woodland	
Normandy	
Old Hickory	
Petersburg, First	

<u>Church</u>	<u>Represented By</u>
Pulaski	
Pulaski, Brick Church	
First	1.
	2.
Readyville, Cripple Creek	
Shelbyville, First	1.
	2.
Silver Point, Mattie Smith	
Smyrna, First	1. Brian Wildes
	2.
Sparta, Blue Spring	
First United	
Hickory Valley	
Robinson Chapel	
Spring Hill, First	
Springfield, First	1.
	2.
Milldale	
Thompson Station, Bethesda	
Tullahoma, First	1.
	2.
Watertown, First	
Waverly, Ellis Grove	

Commissioned Ruling Elders (Voice and Vote):

Teresa Burns, First Pulaski; Andrew Smith, Blue Spring, Sparta

Ruling Elders, Voice and Vote:

Theresa Denton, Moderator in Nominations; Therese Howell, Stated Clerk; Mike Ingram, Treasurer; Ed Lancaster, 2018 Moderator; Geeta McMillan, Chair, Personnel; Diane Thurston, PW Moderator

Corresponding Members, Voice, without Vote:

Paul Bauer (Presbytery of National Capital); Samy Estafanos (Synod of the Nile); Ryan Moore, NaCoMe; Sam Moore, NaCoMe; Roy Paterik (Cripple Creek); Wael Sous (Synod of the Nile); Micah Watson (UKIRK MTSU); Bruce Wright (Refugee Ministries)

Visitors

Meredith Cox, Ministry Architects (Woodland); Patrick Handlson, Cookeville; Kim Joiner, First Franklin; Anne Keener, First Franklin; Pamela Kelly, Calvary Crossville; Elizabeth Sadler, Priest Lake; Seth Sadler, Priest Lake

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE
REPORT TO THE PRESBYTERY OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE
FEBRUARY 14, 2019

INFORMATION

1. The Administrative Committee usually meets on the third Thursday of each month, 1PM, at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Nashville. The committee meets jointly with the Finance Committee at 2:30PM.
2. The Administrative Committee receives regular reports from the EP Search Committee.

ADMIT TO RECORD

1. The Administrative Committee was informed that the \$7,500 PCUSA grant for the Egyptian Evangelical Arabic worshipping community, meeting at First Nashville, was received.
2. The 2019 dates / locations of presbytery meetings: February 14 (First Franklin); May 23; July 20 (Westminster Columbia); October 17. Locations for May and October to be confirmed.
3. The Administrative Committee approved the agenda for the February 14 Presbytery meeting. Rev. Donovan Drake will preach, and the offering will be split among the three agencies presenting reports (Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, The Outreach Foundation, and HomeConnections).
4. The Administrative Committee approved the change in office hours for the Presbytery; the Presbytery office will be closed on Friday.
5. The Administrative Committee reviewed the New Creation Church's grant application for a Sam Walton Award. The grant application was approved without objection.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. At the request of the Committee on Ministry, the Administrative Committee recommends the following change to update one of the responsibilities of the Committee on Ministry in the *Mission and Operations Manual*, page 13, line 10, as follows (language to be added is underlined):

Ordinarily, the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee does not receive a teaching elder seeking membership in the Presbytery as a member-at-large unless the teaching elder is the spouse of a teaching elder being received by the Committee on Ministry for the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee, or a teaching elder pursuing post-graduate study within the bounds of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee. The Committee on Ministry will review any such request on a case-by-case basis.

2. The Administrative Committee, through the Nominating Task Force, recommends the election of the following persons for vacancies as indicated:

Administrative Committee, class of 2020: Doug Berry, RE, Westminster Nashville
Committee on Ministry, class of 2020: Justin Gung, TE, Woodmont Christian Church
Committee on Ministry, class of 2021: Debbie Fraley, RE, First Fayetteville
Terry Panter, RE, First Murfreesboro
David Wood, RE, First Nashville
Committee on Mutual Support, Class of 2021: David Carlton, RE, Second (Guatemala TF)
NaCoMe Board of Governors, Class of 2021: Warner Durnell, TE, First Springfield

**Presbytery of Middle Tennessee (PMT)
2019 Budget Analysis**

This Budget adopted by the Administrative Committee and the Finance Committee is - in most instances - an **estimate** of activity expected in the 2019 calendar year. In addition to budgeted line items, Presbytery collects other (non-budgeted) income and pays other (non-budgeted) expense comprised mostly of restricted and designated donations and expenditures and miscellaneous other income and expense. **This budget is prepared principally on a cash basis and Presbytery's interim financial statements are generally prepared on the same basis as the budget but including other non-budgeted income and expense to measure compliance with our budget.** Annual audited financial statements are prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP), sometimes with exceptions. Presbytery is also the beneficiary of PCUSA or Synod grants, specifically including Hunger (#4010) and Campus Ministry (#5020-06).

Total Income is composed primarily of pledges made by and collected from constituent churches. Pledge income (#4000) is based on pledges made by Churches and estimates of pledges that will be paid by Churches. Presbytery is required to pay per capita (dues)¹ to the Synod of Living Waters and the PCUSA, based on the number of aggregate members reported in reports to Presbytery. The PMT has elected – by policy - to not impose the per capita requirement on each individual church, but to solicit income from each church based - at a minimum - on Presbytery's per capita requirements. We solicit contribution commitments from our Churches, but most responses are not received timely to allow consideration in the adopted budget. Accordingly, income is predominantly based on prior year giving and, accordingly, is a significant estimate. The amount of per capita paid and expected to be paid by Presbytery, based on constituent Churches' annual reports, is reported in accounts 5070-01 and 5070-03.

Expenses are estimated based on submissions by controlling committees and ministry units, known contractual requirements, projections and other sources.

Compensation (aggregate 5100 accounts) and **Per Capita Costs** (#s 5070.01 and .03) are two of our Presbytery's largest cost centers. Compensation, in most business and business-like endeavors, is typically the largest cost center. Presbytery is no exception. Compensation will be impacted in at least two significant respects in 2019, compared with 2018 because we are seeking an Administrative Assistant (AA) under terms significantly different from prior years, and more significantly, a new Executive Presbyter (we are now operating with an interim). We contemplate the AA will be a part-time / no fringe benefit position. The Hunger Action Advocate (#s 5100-35, 36 & 37) position is funded by a PCUSA grant (#4010). Accounting and payroll services (#5100-61) are outsourced to two separate entities.

¹ Per Capita for 2018 was \$3.98 for Synod and \$7.73 for PCUSA. Per Capita for 2019 is \$3.98 and \$8.95, respectively.

Program costs include Leadership Excellence, Mutual Support, Ministry (COM, CPM), and Church Transformation. NaCoMe and Campus Ministries are significant Mutual Support efforts. As noted above, Campus Ministries is partially funded by a Synod grant.

The **Church Transformation Committee** oversees several new church and transitional church efforts, some in conjunction with Administrative Commissions,² including the Hispanic Presbyterian Church, worshipping at Glenclyff Presbyterian Church, the Sudanese Presbyterian Church worshipping in Gallatin and the Training Hub operating in East Nashville - in connection with the Woodland Presbyterian Church. In addition, there are several other Administrative Commissions working with churches in Presbytery and there are emerging new church efforts. The ADMIN and FIN Committees monitors the work of these bodies and has, historically, responded to financial and other needs necessary to return these entities to healthy status. Presbytery, acting on the advice of the Church Transformation Committee, has contracted with an independent entity, Ministry Architects, to provide leadership and perform certain revitalization efforts identified as the East Nashville Hub (#5050-10). The 2019 grant request from Ministry Architects will be reviewed at the February 21 meeting of the Administrative and Finance Committees.

Finance and Administration costs include occupancy costs, office costs, communication, insurance, audit, and information technology costs. Occupancy costs consist of reimbursement of allocable utility, telephone and other costs paid in conjunction with an agreement with Westminster that provides office and meeting space. Presbytery is audited annually by an independent certified public accountant.

² Administrative Commissions are formed to guide Churches through periods of transition or other difficulties. Administrative Commissions work with Sessions to encourage and support Churches in transition for any number of reasons. There are currently five or six commissions at work in PMT. Administrative Commissions and other transformation efforts do not always need funding, but they often do need financial and other assistance. Accordingly, these efforts represent real financial liabilities - as reflected in this budget - and **potentially significant contingent liabilities** to PMT.

Presbytery of Middle Tennessee
2019 PROPOSED
Deficit Operating Budget Funded by Unrestricted Net Assets
INCOME FROM OPERATIONS

		2018 Proposed	2018 12/31/2018	2019 Proposed
4000	Intended giving (Pledges)	600,000	595,544	600,000
4010	GA Hunger Action Enabler	3,500	3,500	3,000
4070	Investment income	30,000	30,553	30,000
	Total income	\$ 633,500	\$ 629,597	\$ 633,000

Finance

5000-01	Occupancy	24,000	21,345	24,000
5000-02	Equipment	14,000	10,302	14,000
5000-03	Insurance	6,000	3,354	4,000
5000-04	Travel - support staff	200	108	200
5000-05	Office supplies	5,000	3,256	5,000
5000-06	Postage	1,500	552	1,000
5000-07	Telephone	4,500	4,096	4,500
5000-08	Audit Fee	8,500	8,800	9,000
5000-12	Webpage	700	479	900
5070-01	GA Per Capita	131,735	130,374	145,805
5070-03	Synod Per Capita	67,827	67,127	64,838
5101	Stewardship			
		263,962	249,793	273,243

Comm. On Leadership Excellence

5200-01	Leadership excellence training	7,000	1,077	5,000
5200-02	Other leadership expenses	2,000	1,621	
		9,000	2,698	5,000

Committee on Mutual Support

5010-03	NaCoMe Summer Camp	25,000	25,000	25,000
5020	Campus Ministry	55,000	54,959	55,000
5020-06	Synod support for Campus Ministry	(25,159)	(25,159)	(25,159)
5020-10	Neighborhood meetings	2,500		1,500
		57,341	54,800	56,341

Committee On Ministry

5030-01	Retreat	300	72	300
5030-02	Pastoral Care	2,500	2,554	3,000
5030-04	Background checks	500	386	500
		3,300	3,012	3,800

Comm. On Preparation For Ministry

5040	CPM	500		500
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Committee on Church Transformation

5050-11	Hispanic minister salary/housing	41,500	41,500	41,500
5050-13	Hispanic minister FICA	3,978	3,978	3,978
5050-14	Hispanic minister BOP	23,400	23,037	23,600
	Reimb. From HNCD			(3,000)
5050-07	Sudanese church support	30,000	30,000	30,000
5050-10	East Nashville Training HUB ***	30,000	30,000	30,000
		128,878	128,515	126,078

Administrative Committee

5060-02	Admin. Comm. expenses	500	42	500
5060-03	Moderator's Conference	2,500	825	2,500
5060-01	Presbytery meeting expenses	1,000	1,543	1,000
5060-05	2020 Initiatives	2,500	3,300	
5100-01	Exec. Presbyter Salary/Housing	85,300	87,691	92,890
5100-02	Exec. Presbyter FICA	8,487	7,080	5,215
5100-03	Exec. Presbyter Med/Pension	35,700	20,770	-
5100-04	Exec. Presbyter Expenses	10,000	8,379	10,000
5100-20	Stated Clerk Salary	29,703	29,703	29,703
5100-21	Stated Clerk FICA	2,273	2,272	2,273
5100-22	Stated Clerk Med/Pension	19,500	19,224	19,740
5100-23	Stated Clerk Prof. expenses	3,500	3,992	3,500
5100-30	Administrative Assistant Salary	37,514	28,857	18,000
5100-31	Administrative Assistant FICA	2,870	2,208	1,380
5100-31	Administrative Assistant BOP	13,200	11,102	-
5100-34	Administrative Assistant Cont. Ed.	1,000	1,622	-
5100-35	Hunger Action Advocate Salary	3,484	2,730	
5100-36	Hunger Action Advocate FICA	270	209	
5100-37	Hunger Action Advocate expenses	1,500	101	3,000
5100-61	Accounting & payroll service	22,000	20,859	22,000
5100-75	Temp service	1,000	327	-
5100-80	EP Search	3,000	540	2,000
5045	Nominating and representation			
		286,801	253,376	213,701

Permanent Judicial Commission

5090	PJC Expenses			
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Total Expenses \$ 749,782 \$ 692,194 \$ 678,663

Deficit Expected from Operations \$ (116,282) \$ (62,597) \$ (45,663)

Budget Deficit Funded From:

Congregational Dev. Designated Funds (3001-02) \$ 98,878
 Unrestricted Net Assets \$ 17,404

*** East Nashville Training Hub is subject to approval by Admin. & Finance of a contract with Ministry Architects

Presbytery of Middle Tennessee
Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Fund Balance
As of December 31, 2018

01/02/19
Cash Basis

	Dec 31, 18
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
1005 · Pinnacle Bank	75,052.23
Total Checking/Savings	75,052.23
Other Current Assets	
1300 · Baird Investments	
1300-04 · Baird Invest. - Cash Equiv.	50,256.32
1300-01 · Baird Invest. - Pooled	990,106.11
1300-02 · Baird Invest. - Default reserve	629,766.84
1300-03 · Baird Invest. - Endowment	10,749.80
Total 1300 · Baird Investments	1,680,879.07
Total Other Current Assets	1,680,879.07
Total Current Assets	1,755,931.30
Fixed Assets	
1500 · Fixed Assets	
1500-02 · Furniture and Equipment	14,480.19
1500-10 · Accumulated Depreciation	-11,469.12
Total 1500 · Fixed Assets	3,011.07
Total Fixed Assets	3,011.07
TOTAL ASSETS	1,758,942.37
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
2101 · Giving received in advance	3,000.00
Total Other Current Liabilities	3,000.00
Total Current Liabilities	3,000.00
Total Liabilities	3,000.00
Equity	
3001 · Unrestricted Net Assets	
3001-06 · Designation - Small Church Fund	111,490.93
3001-01 · Allowance for church defaults	629,766.84
3001-02 · Functional Endow. NCD & Revital	96,029.99
3001-04 · Designation - NCD (Properties)	115,651.55
3001 · Unrestricted Net Assets - Other	718,915.07
Total 3001 · Unrestricted Net Assets	1,671,854.38
3002 · Temporarily restricted funds	
3002-01 · Centsability	24,205.03
3002-02 · Peacemaking	1,817.83
3002-03 · Ferguson Funds	504.73
3002-05 · Guatemalan Support Funds	4,233.85
3002-06 · Pastoral Care	4,249.81
3002-10 · Triennium	3,869.99
3002-12 · Women in Ministry	1,290.00
3002-15 · Hispanic Fellowship	549.26
3002-18 · LEAD Event	2,152.68
3002-19 · COYAM Event	1,093.83
3002-23 · New Church Development	800.00
3002-26 · Sabbatical Assistance	4,625.82
3002-28 · Church Support & Training	3,273.19
3002-32 · CPM - Scholarships	4,191.28
3002-50 · St. Andrews Fund	56,541.16
3002-52 · Other restricted funds	5,000.00

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01/02/19
Cash Basis

Presbytery of Middle Tennessee
Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Fund Balance
As of December 31, 2018

	<u>Dec 31, 18</u>
3002-60 · Small Church Fund	42,862.91
3002-62 · Pastor to Pastors	<u>5,483.54</u>
Total 3002 · Temporarily restricted funds	166,744.91
3003 · Permanently restricted funds	10,749.80
3100 · Restricted/Designated Income	-286.39
Net Income	<u>-93,120.33</u>
Total Equity	<u>1,755,942.37</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>1,758,942.37</u>

Presbytery of Middle Tennessee
Actual to Budget Receipts and Disbursements
 December 2018

2:33 PM
 01/02/19
 Cash Basis

	Dec 18	Budget	Jan - Dec 18	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense					
Income					
4000 - Pledged giving	173,571.72	180,000.00	595,543.98	600,000.00	600,000.00
4010 - GA Hunger Action Enabler	0.00	0.00	3,500.00	3,500.00	3,500.00
4070 - Investment income					
4070-10 - Investment income	4,926.62	2,500.00	30,552.68	30,000.00	30,000.00
Total 4070 - Investment income	4,926.62	2,500.00	30,552.68	30,000.00	30,000.00
Total Income	178,498.34	182,500.00	629,596.66	633,500.00	633,500.00
Gross Profit	178,498.34	182,500.00	629,596.66	633,500.00	633,500.00
Expense					
5000 - Finance					
5000-01 - Occupancy	1,220.00	2,000.00	21,345.00	24,000.00	24,000.00
5000-02 - Equipment	252.81	1,167.00	10,302.13	14,000.00	14,000.00
5000-03 - Insurance	0.00	500.00	3,354.00	6,000.00	6,000.00
5000-04 - Travel - support staff	0.00	17.00	108.29	200.00	200.00
5000-05 - Office supplies	70.00	417.00	3,256.21	5,000.00	5,000.00
5000-06 - Postage	239.27	125.00	551.81	1,500.00	1,500.00
5000-07 - Telephone	8,800.00	375.00	4,095.50	4,500.00	4,500.00
5000-08 - Audit Fee	119.85	0.00	8,800.00	8,500.00	8,500.00
5000-12 - Webpage	97,374.18	59.00	479.40	700.00	700.00
5070-01 - GA Per Capita	50,127.00	32,933.00	130,374.18	131,735.00	131,735.00
5070-03 - Synod Per Capita		16,956.00	67,127.00	67,827.00	67,827.00
Total 5000 - Finance	158,203.11	54,549.00	249,793.52	263,962.00	263,962.00
5200 - Comm. on Leadership Excellence					
5200-01 - Leadership Excellence	0.00	584.00	1,077.00	7,000.00	7,000.00
5200-02 - Other leadership expenses	0.00	167.00	1,621.40	2,000.00	2,000.00
Total 5200 - Comm. on Leadership Excellence	0.00	751.00	2,698.40	9,000.00	9,000.00
5020 - Committee on Mutual Support					
5010-03 - NaCoMe Camp	0.00	0.00	25,000.00	25,000.00	25,000.00
5020-02 - MTSU Campus Ministry	1,602.96	1,604.00	19,235.52	19,249.00	19,249.00
5020-03 - TTU Campus Ministry	1,373.97	1,375.00	16,487.64	16,502.00	16,502.00
5020-05 - Vanderbilt Campus Ministry	1,602.96	1,604.00	19,235.52	19,249.00	19,249.00
5020-06 - Synod - Campus Ministry Support	-2,096.62	-2,096.00	-25,159.00	-25,159.00	-25,159.00
5020-10 - Neighborhood meetings	0.00	208.00	0.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
Total 5020 - Committee on Mutual Support	2,483.27	2,695.00	54,799.68	57,341.00	57,341.00

Presbytery of Middle Tennessee
Actual to Budget Receipts and Disbursements
 December 2018

2:33 PM

01/02/19

Cash Basis

	Dec 18	Budget	Jan - Dec 18	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
5030 - Committee on Ministry					
5030-01 - Retreat - COM	0.00	0.00	72.07	300.00	300.00
5030-02 - Pastoral Care	100.00	208.00	2,553.65	2,500.00	2,500.00
5030-04 - Background Checks	0.00	42.00	386.30	500.00	500.00
Total 5030 - Committee on Ministry	100.00	250.00	3,012.02	3,300.00	3,300.00
5040 - Comm. on Prep. for Ministry					
5040-01 - Career Testing & Counseling	0.00	42.00	0.00	500.00	500.00
Total 5040 - Comm. on Prep. for Ministry	0.00	42.00	0.00	500.00	500.00
5050 - Comm. on Church Transformation					
5050-11 - Hispanic Ministry salary/hsg	3,458.34	3,458.34	41,500.08	41,500.00	41,500.00
5050-13 - Hispanic Ministry FICA	331.50	331.50	3,978.00	3,978.00	3,978.00
5050-14 - Hispanic Ministry BOP	1,919.71	1,950.00	23,036.52	23,400.00	23,400.00
5050-08 - Hispanic church development	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5050-12 - East Nashville Training HUB	7,500.00	2,500.00	30,000.00	30,000.00	30,000.00
5050-07 - Sudanese church support	2,500.00	2,500.00	30,000.00	30,000.00	30,000.00
Total 5050 - Comm. on Church Transformation	15,709.55	10,739.84	128,514.60	128,878.00	128,878.00
5100 - Administrative Committee					
5060-02 - Admin. comm. expenses	0.00	42.00	41.69	500.00	500.00
5060-03 - Moderators conference	355.70	0.00	824.72	2,500.00	2,500.00
5060-01 - Presbytery meetings	0.00	0.00	1,543.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
5060-05 - 2020 Initiatives	0.00	208.00	3,300.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
5100-01 - Exec. Pres. Salary/Housing	7,741.66	7,108.00	87,690.69	85,300.00	85,300.00
5100-02 - Exec. Pres. FICA	434.60	707.25	7,080.36	8,487.00	8,487.00
5100-03 - Exec. Pres. Medical/Pension	140.00	2,975.00	20,769.77	35,700.00	35,700.00
5100-04 - Exec. Pres. expenses	2,475.28	2,475.25	8,378.95	10,000.00	10,000.00
5100-20 - Stated Clerk Salary	189.36	189.42	29,703.36	29,703.00	29,703.00
5100-21 - Stated Clerk FICA	1,601.99	1,625.00	2,272.13	2,273.00	2,273.00
5100-22 - Stated Clerk Medical/Pension	0.00	1,625.00	19,223.88	19,500.00	19,500.00
5100-23 - Stated Clerk expenses	0.00	292.00	3,992.46	3,500.00	3,500.00
5100-30 - Administrative Asst. Salary	0.00	3,126.17	28,856.79	37,514.00	37,514.00
5100-31 - Administrative Asst. FICA	0.00	239.17	2,207.65	2,870.00	2,870.00
5100-32 - Admin. Asst. Medical/Pension	0.00	1,100.00	11,102.16	13,200.00	13,200.00
5100-34 - Admin. Asst. Continuing Ed.	0.00	83.00	1,621.52	1,000.00	1,000.00
5100-35 - Hunger Action Enabler Salary	0.00	200.00	2,730.10	3,484.00	3,484.00
5100-36 - Hunger Action Enabler FICA	0.00	22.50	208.84	270.00	270.00
5100-37 - Hunger Action Enabler expenses	0.00	125.00	100.53	1,500.00	1,500.00
5100-61 - Accounting	2,167.97	1,837.00	20,859.09	22,000.00	22,000.00

Presbytery of Middle Tennessee
Actual to Budget Receipts and Disbursements
 December 2018

2:33 PM
 01/02/19
 Cash Basis

	Dec 18	Budget	Jan - Dec 18	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
5100-75 - Office Temps	326.97	83.00	326.97	1,000.00	1,000.00
5100-80 - EP Search expenses	0.00	0.00	540.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
Total 5100 - Administrative Committee	15,433.53	23,271.76	253,374.66	286,801.00	286,801.00
Total Expense	191,929.46	92,298.60	692,192.88	749,782.00	749,782.00
Net Ordinary Income	-13,431.12	90,201.40	-62,596.22	-116,282.00	-116,282.00
Other Income/Expense					
Other Income					
7001 - Unbudgeted Income					
7001-20 - Designated receipts	7,906.87		101,969.45		
7001-21 - Temp. Restricted-Receipts	11,588.45		53,842.07		
7001-15 - Unrealized gain/loss Baird	2,088.84		-12,248.88		
7001-05 - Other unbudgeted income	100.00		800.00		
Total 7001 - Unbudgeted Income	21,684.16		144,362.64		
Total Other Income	21,684.16		144,362.64		
Other Expense					
7002 - Unbudgeted expenses					
7002-20 - Designated disbursements	16,660.19		110,239.51		
7002-21 - Temp. Restricted disbursements	6,405.81		45,285.62		
7002-02 - PJC expenses - disciplinary	10,506.90		19,361.62		
Total 7002 - Unbudgeted expenses	33,572.90		174,886.75		
Total Other Expense	33,572.90		174,886.75		
Net Other Income	-11,888.74		-30,524.11		
Net Income	-25,319.86	90,201.40	-93,120.33	-116,282.00	-116,282.00

Presbytery of Middle Tennessee
Actual to Budget Receipts and Disbursements
December 2018

	<u>Jan - Dec 18</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>Over (Under) Budget</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
4000 - Pledged giving	595,543.98	600,000.00	-4,456.02	600,000.00
4010 - GA Hunger Action Enabler	3,500.00	3,500.00	0.00	3,500.00
4070 - Investment income				
4070-10 - Investment income	30,552.68	30,000.00	552.68	30,000.00
Total 4070 - Investment income	30,552.68	30,000.00	552.68	30,000.00
Total Income	629,596.66	633,500.00	-3,903.34	633,500.00
Gross Profit	629,596.66	633,500.00	-3,903.34	633,500.00
Expense				
5000 - Finance				
5000-01 - Occupancy	21,345.00	24,000.00	-2,655.00	24,000.00
5000-02 - Equipment	10,302.13	14,000.00	-3,697.87	14,000.00
5000-03 - Insurance	3,354.00	6,000.00	-2,646.00	6,000.00
5000-04 - Travel - support staff	108.29	200.00	-91.71	200.00
5000-05 - Office supplies	3,256.21	5,000.00	-1,743.79	5,000.00
5000-06 - Postage	551.81	1,500.00	-948.19	1,500.00
5000-07 - Telephone	4,095.50	4,500.00	-404.50	4,500.00
5000-08 - Audit Fee	8,800.00	8,500.00	300.00	8,500.00
5000-12 - Webpage	479.40	700.00	-220.60	700.00
5070-01 - GA Per Capita	130,374.18	131,735.00	-1,360.82	131,735.00
5070-03 - Synod Per Capita	67,127.00	67,827.00	-700.00	67,827.00
Total 5000 - Finance	249,793.52	263,962.00	-14,168.48	263,962.00
5200 - Comm. on Leadership Excellence				
5200-01 - Leadership Excellence	1,077.00	7,000.00	-5,923.00	7,000.00
5200-02 - Other leadership expenses	1,621.40	2,000.00	-378.60	2,000.00
Total 5200 - Comm. on Leadership Excellence	2,698.40	9,000.00	-6,301.60	9,000.00
5020 - Committee on Mutual Support				
5010-03 - NaCoMe Camp	25,000.00	25,000.00	0.00	25,000.00
5020-02 - MTSU Campus Ministry	19,235.52	19,249.00	-13.48	19,249.00
5020-03 - TTU Campus Ministry	16,487.64	16,502.00	-14.36	16,502.00
5020-05 - Vanderbilt Campus Ministry	19,235.52	19,249.00	-13.48	19,249.00

Presbytery of Middle Tennessee
Actual to Budget Receipts and Disbursements
December 2018

	Jan - Dec 18	YTD Budget	Over (Under) Budget	Annual Budget
5020-06 - Synod - Campus Ministry Support	-25,159.00	-25,159.00	0.00	-25,159.00
5020-10 - Neighborhood meetings	0.00	2,500.00	-2,500.00	2,500.00
Total 5020 - Committee on Mutual Support	54,799.68	57,341.00	-2,541.32	57,341.00
5030 - Committee on Ministry				
5030-01 - Retreat - COMI	72.07	300.00	-227.93	300.00
5030-02 - Pastoral Care	2,553.65	2,500.00	53.65	2,500.00
5030-04 - Background Checks	386.30	500.00	-113.70	500.00
Total 5030 - Committee on Ministry	3,012.02	3,300.00	-287.98	3,300.00
5040 - Comm. on Prep. for Ministry	0.00	500.00	-500.00	500.00
5040-01 - Career Testing & Counseling	0.00	500.00	-500.00	500.00
Total 5040 - Comm. on Prep. for Ministry	0.00	500.00	-500.00	500.00
5050 - Comm. on Church Transformation				
5050-11 - Hispanic Ministry salary/hsg	41,500.08	41,500.00	0.08	41,500.00
5050-13 - Hispanic Ministry FICA	3,978.00	3,978.00	0.00	3,978.00
5050-14 - Hispanic Ministry BOP	23,036.52	23,400.00	-363.48	23,400.00
5050-08 - Hispanic church development	0.00			
5050-12 - East Nashville Training HUB	30,000.00	30,000.00	0.00	30,000.00
5050-07 - Sudanese church support	30,000.00	30,000.00	0.00	30,000.00
Total 5050 - Comm. on Church Transformation	128,514.60	128,878.00	-363.40	128,878.00
5100 - Administrative Committee				
5060-02 - Admin. comm. expenses	41.69	500.00	-458.31	500.00
5060-03 - Moderators conference	824.72	2,500.00	-1,675.28	2,500.00
5060-01 - Presbytery meetings	1,543.00	1,000.00	543.00	1,000.00
5060-05 - 2020 Initiatives	3,300.00	2,500.00	800.00	2,500.00
5100-01 - Exec. Pres. Salary/Housing	87,690.69	85,300.00	2,390.69	85,300.00
5100-02 - Exec. Pres. FICA	7,080.36	8,487.00	-1,406.64	8,487.00
5100-03 - Exec. Pres. Medical/Pension	20,769.77	35,700.00	-14,930.23	35,700.00
5100-04 - Exec. Pres. expenses	8,378.95	10,000.00	-1,621.05	10,000.00
5100-20 - Stated Clerk Salary	29,703.36	29,703.00	0.36	29,703.00
5100-21 - Stated Clerk FICA	2,272.13	2,273.00	-0.87	2,273.00
5100-22 - Stated Clerk Medical/Pension	19,223.88	19,500.00	-276.12	19,500.00
5100-23 - Stated Clerk expenses	3,992.46	3,500.00	492.46	3,500.00

Presbytery of Middle Tennessee
Actual to Budget Receipts and Disbursements
December 2018

	Jan - Dec 18	YTD Budget	Over (Under) Budget	Annual Budget
5100-30 · Administrative Asst. Salary	28,856.79	37,514.00	-8,657.21	37,514.00
5100-31 · Administrative Asst. FICA	2,207.65	2,870.00	-662.35	2,870.00
5100-32 · Admin. Asst. Medical/Pension	11,102.16	13,200.00	-2,097.84	13,200.00
5100-34 · Admin. Asst. Continuing Ed.	1,621.52	1,000.00	621.52	1,000.00
5100-35 · Hunger Action Enabler Salary	2,730.10	3,484.00	-753.90	3,484.00
5100-36 · Hunger Action Enabler FICA	208.84	270.00	-61.16	270.00
5100-37 · Hunger Action Enabler expenses	100.53	1,500.00	-1,399.47	1,500.00
5100-61 · Accounting	20,859.09	22,000.00	-1,140.91	22,000.00
5100-75 · Office Temps	326.97	1,000.00	-673.03	1,000.00
5100-80 · EP Search expenses	540.00	3,000.00	-2,460.00	3,000.00
Total 5100 · Administrative Committee	253,374.66	286,801.00	-33,426.34	286,801.00
Total Expense	692,192.88	749,782.00	-57,589.12	749,782.00
Net Ordinary Income	-62,596.22	-116,282.00	53,685.78	-116,282.00
Other Income/Expense				
Other Income				
7001 · Unbudgeted Income				
7001-20 · Designated receipts	101,969.45			
7001-21 · Temp. Restricted-Receipts	53,842.07			
7001-15 · Unrealized gain/loss Baird	-12,248.88			
7001-05 · Other unbudgeted income	800.00			
Total 7001 · Unbudgeted Income	144,362.64			
Total Other Income	144,362.64			
Other Expense				
7002 · Unbudgeted expenses				
7002-20 · Designated disbursements	110,239.51			
7002-21 · Temp. Restricted disbursements	45,285.62			
7002-02 · PJC expenses - disciplinary	19,361.62			
Total 7002 · Unbudgeted expenses	174,886.75			
Total Other Expense	174,886.75			
Net Other Income	-30,524.11			
Net Income	-93,120.33	-116,282.00	23,161.67	-116,282.00

Presbytery of Middle Tennessee
Restricted Funds Analysis

	Dec. 31, 2017	Receipts	Disbursements	December 31, 2018
3001 - Unrestricted Net Assets				
3001-06 · Designation - Small Church Fund	111,490.93			111,490.93
3001-01 · Allowance for church defaults	629,766.84			629,766.84
3001-02 · Functional Endow. NCD & Revital	96,029.99			96,029.99
3001-04 · Designation - NCD (Properties)	115,651.55			115,651.55
3001 · Unrestricted Net Assets - Other	718,915.07			718,915.07
Total 3001 · Unrestricted Net Assets	1,671,854.38	-	-	1,671,854.38
3002 · Temporarily restricted funds				
3002-01 · Centsability	17,170.81	21,034.22	(14,000.00)	24,205.03
3002-02 · Peacemaking	938.23	1,379.60	(500.00)	1,817.83
3002-03 · Ferguson Funds	504.73			504.73
3002-05 · Guatemalan Support Funds	14,447.65	12,780.00	(22,993.80)	4,233.85
3002-06 · Pastoral Care	4,874.81	525.00	(1,150.00)	4,249.81
3002-10 · Triennium	3,869.99			3,869.99
3002-12 · Women in Ministry	1,290.00			1,290.00
3002-14 · New Creation NCD	0.00			-
3002-15 · Hispanic Fellowship	879.93		(330.67)	549.26
3002-18 · LEAD Event	2,152.68			2,152.68
3002-19 · COYAM Event	1,093.83			1,093.83
3002-23 - New Church Development		800.00		800.00
3002-26 · Sabbatical Assistance	4,100.82	525.00		4,625.82
3002-27 · Hispanic New Church Dev	0.00	3,595.00	(3,595.00)	-
3002-28 · Church Support & Training	3,273.19			3,273.19
3002-32 · CPM Scholarships	2,691.03	1,500.25		4,191.28
3002-40 - Leadership Excell. Scholarship	500.00		(500.00)	-
3002-50 · St. Andrews Fund	56,541.16			56,541.16
3002-52 - Other restricted funds		5,000.00		5,000.00
3002-60 · Small Church Fund	42,862.91			42,862.91
3002-62 - Pastor to Pastors	996.69	6,703.00	(2,216.15)	5,483.54
Total 3002 · Temporarily restricted funds	158,188.46	53,842.07	(45,285.62)	166,744.91
3003 - Permanently restricted funds				
	10,749.80			10,749.80

**Presbytery of Middle Tennessee
Designated Gifts Analysis**

	Dec. 31, 2017	Receipts	Disbursements	December 31, 2018
2500 - Designated Gifts				
2500-01 · Joy gift	1,807.00	18,166.75	(19,973.75)	-
2500-02 · One Great Hour of Sharing	-	25,036.65	(25,036.65)	-
2500-03 · Peacemaking - GA	482.66	2,759.15	(3,241.81)	-
2500-04 · Theological education	300.00	1,000.00	(1,300.00)	-
2500-05 · Pentecost		5,308.65	(5,308.65)	-
2500-06 · Mission Personnel	4,387.00	10,656.75	(15,043.75)	-
2500-09 · Heifer Program				-
2500-11 · Outreach Foundation		152.00	(152.00)	-
2500-12 · Campus Ministries		250.00	(250.00)	-
2500-15 · Living Water for the World				-
2500-20 · Disaster relief - other	1,293.40	21,772.50	(23,065.90)	-
2500-31 · Presbytery Offering		4,267.00	(4,267.00)	-
2500-30 · Other designated gifts		12,600.00	(12,600.00)	-
TOTAL	8,270.06	101,969.45	(110,239.51)	-

**Presbytery of Middle Tennessee
2018 Pledge to Actual**

	Pledge 2017	Paid 2017	Pledge 2018	Paid 12/31/2018	Paid Jan.2019 for 2018	Total for 2018
Allardt Presbyterian Church	960.00	880.00	960.00	880.00	80.00	960.00
Belfast Presbyterian Church	3,000.00	3,000.00		3,000.00		3,000.00
Bellevue Presbyterian Church				-		-
Bethany Presbyterian Church		400.00	400.00	-	400.00	400.00
Bethbirel Lewisburg	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00		1,500.00
Bethesda Presbyterian Church		1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00		1,500.00
Blue Spring Presbyterian Church	2,400.00	1,200.00		2,500.00		2,500.00
Brentwood First Presbyterian Church	2,316.00	2,316.00		2,400.00		2,400.00
Buffalo Valley Presbyterian Church	1,250.00	1,250.00	1,250.00	-		-
Caivary Presbyterian Church	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,250.00		1,250.00
Christ Church Presbyterian	750.00	750.00	750.00	750.00		750.00
Clarksville First Presbyterian Church	23,130.36	21,521.66	23,227.00	23,257.56		23,257.56
Columbia First Presbyterian	36,000.00	36,000.00	30,000.00	32,500.00		32,500.00
Columbia Westminster Presbyterian Church	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00		1,000.00
Cookeville First Presbyterian	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	4,500.00	1,500.00	6,000.00
Cowan Fellowship	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00		2,500.00
Cripple Creek Presbyterian	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00		500.00
Decherd Presbyterian Church		500.00		-		-
Dickson First Presbyterian				-		-
Donelson Presbyterian Church	2,000.00	4,000.00	4,000.00	4,000.00		4,000.00
Double Springs Presbyterian Church		800.00		-		-
Downtown Presbyterian Church			4,950.00	9,900.00		9,900.00
East Brentwood Presbyterian	6,500.00	6,500.00	6,500.00	6,500.00		6,500.00
Eastminster Presbyterian Church	500.00	500.00	250.00	250.00		250.00
Ellis Grove Presbyterian Church	400.00	800.00	800.00	600.00	200.00	800.00
Emmanuel		3,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00		2,000.00
Fayetteville First Presbyterian Church	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00		5,000.00
FFG Westminster Presbyterian Church		2,000.00		1,500.00	500.00	2,000.00
Franklin First Presbyterian	30,000.00	30,000.00	30,000.00	30,000.00		30,000.00
Gallatin First Presbyterian	2,400.00	2,000.00	2,400.00	2,000.00		2,000.00
Glen Leven Presbyterian Church	3,500.00	1,750.00	3,500.00	3,500.00		3,500.00
Glencliff Presbyterian Church	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	750.01	249.99	1,000.00
Harpeth Presbyterian Church	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00		3,000.00
Hendersonville First Presbyterian	15,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00		15,000.00
Hermitage Presbyterian Church	1,045.00	1,044.00	500.00	1,546.07		1,546.07
Hickory Valley Presbyterian Church				-		-
Hillsboro Presbyterian Church	14,000.00	14,000.00	14,000.00	14,000.00		14,000.00
Hillwood Presbyterian Church		660.00	570.00	570.00		570.00
Hispanic New Church Development	900.00	900.00		-		-
Historic Franklin Presbyterian Church	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,600.00	6,600.00		6,600.00
Hopewell Presbyterian Church	500.00	500.00	500.00	-		-
Korean Presbyterian Church	3,500.00	3,500.00	3,500.00	3,500.00		3,500.00
Lawrenceburg First Presbyterian	2,000.00		2,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	2,000.00
Lebanon First Presbyterian	6,985.00	6,985.00		7,085.00		7,085.00
Lewisburg First Presbyterian	2,000.00			-		-
Liberty Hill Presbyterian				-		-
Lynnville First Presbyterian	600.00	600.00		-		-
Macedonia Presbyterian Church				-		-
Manchester First Presbyterian	6,500.00	4,875.00	6,500.00	-		-
Mattie Smith Mem. Presbyterian Church				-		-
McMinnville First Presbyterian	2,600.00	2,600.00	2,600.00	2,600.00		2,600.00
Milldale Presbyterian Church				-		-
Mt. Pleasant First Presbyterian Church				-		-
Murfreesboro First Presbyterian	15,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	13,750.00		13,750.00
Nashville First Presbyterian	180,000.00	180,000.00	180,000.00	162,000.00	18,065.00	180,065.00
Nashville Westminster Presbyterian Church	110,000.00	110,000.00	110,000.00	110,000.00		110,000.00
New Creation NCD				-		-
Normandy Presbyterian Church	4,000.00	3,500.00	3,500.00	3,500.00		3,500.00
Northminster Presbyterian Church	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00		1,000.00
Oak Grove Presbyterian Church	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00		3,000.00

	Pledge 2017	Paid 2017	Pledge 2018	12/31/2018	for 2018	2018
Old Hickory Presbyterian Church	600.00	600.00	600.00	275.00	25.00	300.00
Petersburg First Presbyterian			300.00	300.00		300.00
Pond Presbyterian Church	250.00	250.00		250.00		250.00
Post Oak Presbyterian Church				-		-
Priest Lake Presbyterian Church	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00		5,000.00
Pulaski First Presbyterian	4,000.00	4,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00		6,000.00
Robinson Chapel Presbyterian Church			500.00	500.00		500.00
Second Presbyterian Church	40,000.00	40,000.00	40,000.00	40,000.00		40,000.00
Shelbyville First Presbyterian	8,000.00	8,000.00	8,000.00	7,337.00	663.00	8,000.00
Smyrna First Presbyterian	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00		5,000.00
Southminster Presbyterian Church	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,500.00		2,500.00
Sparta First United Presbyterian Church		1,500.00		1,500.00		1,500.00
Springfield First Presbyterian Church	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00		1,000.00
Spring Hill First Presbyterian	9,276.00	9,276.00	9,276.00	8,503.00	773.00	9,276.00
St. Andrews Presbyterian Church	7,100.00	7,100.00	7,100.00	6,508.34		6,508.34
St. John Presbyterian Church		137.53		282.00		282.00
Sudanese American Nuer		700.00	700.00	700.00		700.00
Trinity Presbyterian Church		5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00		5,000.00
Tulahoma First Presbyterian	8,800.00	8,800.00	9,800.00	6,600.00	2,200.00	8,800.00
Village Church				-		-
Watertown First Presbyterian		1,100.00	1,200.00	1,200.00		1,200.00
Woodland Presbyterian Church	4,800.00	4,400.00	5,400.00	4,900.00	900.00	5,800.00
Total	607,062.36	615,195.19	605,133.00	595,543.98	26,555.99	622,099.97

“Take 45”

Choose from among three short workshops--with some question and answer time-- before lunch—and learn about new possibilities for outreach in your congregation.

- ***Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.*** Coming from Louisville, regional volunteers Dave Doehnert (2013) and Donna Malone (2012) will share information about how PDA works in a disaster. They will give an overview of their work and share how you as an individual or as a group in your congregation can be trained to respond as a part of the PDA team. We hope to have PDA back this year for a longer training in disaster preparedness for our churches—for disasters both natural and manmade.
- ***HomeConnections.*** Calling all presbytery people handy with a hammer! If Habitat for Humanity is not right for your congregation, you can still use your skills to help scores of elderly or ill in your community. Keith Branson and other members of Westminster Presbyterian Church’s outreach ministry to the elderly will be on hand to share how to organize and connect with people in your community. How many people desperately need a wheelchair ramp or other simple home repairs in order to stay in their homes and how do you find those people? If construction is not your skill, learn how to assist senior citizens to sort and help with hoarding or down-sizing. Technical support and ideas about funding will start your ministry team on an outreach project that brings new possibilities to people in need in your community.
- ***The Outreach Foundation.*** Meet the new Director of Development, the Rev. Dr. Mark Mueller, who has recently joined the staff of the Outreach Foundation. Mark has long experience in global mission and is as persuasive as he is passionate about it. Come and hear how your church can get connected to people across the world in ways that can transform your congregation as you help others with real needs in their lives. We all now realize that the world has come to our doorstep in Middle Tennessee! How can your church learn to connect in ways that honor God and your new community members from around the world as you seek to be in relationship?

Proposed Amendments to the Constitution

Proposed Amendments to the *Book of Order*

Approved by the 223rd General Assembly (2018) and
recommended to the presbyteries for their vote.



Including: Note from the Stated Clerk, a list of the proposed amendments
with advice from the Advisory Committee on the Constitution, and an index.

NOTE FROM THE STATED CLERK

The 223rd General Assembly (2018) approved and recommended to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes proposed changes in the language of the *Book of Order* that, if approved, will amend the Constitution.

With each proposed amendment, reference is made to an item number that indicates the General Assembly Committee report and action related to each proposed amendment. These item numbers also indicate where to find other background information from various entities that was available electronically to the General Assembly commissioners. This information may be accessed through PC-Biz at <https://www.pc-biz.org>. The item number references will also be found in the *Minutes of the 223rd General Assembly (2018)*, which are expected to be available to the presbyteries by the time they consider the amendments. The full advice of the Advisory Committee on the Constitution (ACC) and other advisory entities can be found immediately following the item in the *Minutes* for which the advice is given.

Unless otherwise indicated, new language to be added to the *Book of Order* is in italics and any language to be stricken will have a line through it. In providing rationale and advice for each item, direct quotations from the various groups that presented or commented on these items before the General Assembly is used whenever possible.

Presbyteries must report to the Office of the General Assembly a separate vote on each proposed amendment. A presbytery may vote on the amendments in a consent agenda or omnibus motion, as long as each proposed amendment is identified separately. Presbyteries are required to report their votes by June 23, 2019. However, in order to make the changes and publish the 2019–2021 *Book of Order* in a timely manner, receipt of votes prior to this deadline would be appreciated (by May 10, 2019, if possible).

Thank you for your careful and prayerful consideration of these proposed amendments.



The Reverend Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, II
Stated Clerk of the General Assembly

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PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

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18-A. Election of Ruling Elders and Deacons On Amending G-2.0401 (Item 06-11)

The 223rd General Assembly (2018) directed the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

Shall G-2.0401 of the Form of Government be amended as follows? [Text to be deleted is shown with strike through; text to be added or inserted is shown in italic.]

“G-2.0401 Election of Ruling Elders and Deacons

“Ruling elders and deacons are men and women elected by the congregation from among its members. The nomination and election of ruling elders and deacons shall express the rich diversity of the congregation’s membership and shall guarantee participation and inclusiveness (F-1.0403). Ruling elders and deacons shall be nominated by a committee elected by the congregation, drawn from and representative of its membership. ~~Congregations may provide by their own rule for a congregational nominating committee, provided that the committee shall consist of at least three active members of the congregation, and shall include at least one ruling elder who is currently serving on the session.~~ *Congregations may provide by their own rule for a congregational nominating committee. The rule shall meet the following criteria: (1) the minimum size of the committee as specified in the rule shall be at least three persons; (2) at least one member of the committee shall be an elder currently serving on session; and (3) a majority of those persons on the committee who are eligible to vote shall consist of persons not currently serving on session.* The pastor shall serve ex officio and without vote. When elections are held, full opportunity shall always be given to the congregation for nomination from the floor of the congregational meeting by any active member of the congregation. A majority of all the active members present and voting shall be required to elect.”

Rationale

This proposed amendment originates from the Presbytery of Grace as Item 06-11. The Presbyteries of Grand Canyon, Muskingum Valley, Huntington, and de Cristo concurred. The Presbytery of Grace provided the following rationale [edited].

This proposed amendment clarifies the somewhat ambiguous language regarding the nominating committee membership.

The proposed changes set the minimum size of the nominating committee at three members, not including the pastor. This is ideal for small congregations yet also provides flexibility for churches to add more from this minimum.

The goal is to provide clarity while preserving the overall permission-giving nature of the Form of Government.

Advice from the Advisory Committee on the Constitution

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution advised the 223rd General Assembly (2018) to approve Item 06-11 as amended providing the following advice [edited]:

The Presbytery of Grace presents proposed language to clarify the minimum size of a congregational nominating committee and the requirement that a majority of the voting members of a congregational nominating committee be members-at-large of the congregation.

The proposed amendment provides helpful clarification to G-2.0401. The minimum size of a congregational nominating committee shall be three members, at least one member of which must be a ruling elder in active service on

the session. The minimum size of three is appropriate for smaller congregations. There is no maximum size for a congregational nominating committee.

The proposed amendment adds clarity and is consistent with past practice. The majority of a congregational nominating committee should be members-at-large of the congregation, not ruling elders currently serving on the session.

The Assembly Committee on Church Polity and Ordered Ministry (06) voted to approve the proposed amendment as amended 54/0. The 223rd General Assembly (2018) approved the committee's recommendation with amendment 478/3. (See *Minutes*, 2018, Part I, pp. 69, 72, 592.)

For the full report of Item 06-11, go to <https://www.pc-biz.org/#!/committee/3000008/business>

18-B. Renunciation of Jurisdiction

Background

These two proposed amendments, 18-B.1 and 18-B.2, (Item 06-09, Recommendations 1. and 2.) come out of the intent to clarify congregational prohibition and individual jurisdiction when a PC(USA) minister of Word and Sacrament renounces jurisdiction while in the midst of disciplinary proceedings and then wants to rejoin the PC(USA). [Editor's Note: The General Assembly approved the combination of two proposed amendments in one item. The advice on each of these proposed amendments come from the separate items, (Items 06-09 and 06-07) not on the combined items. In addition, the General Assembly asked that a third item similar be referred to the Rules of Discipline Task Force (Item 06-09, Recommendation 3.).]

18-B.1.

On Amending G-2.0509 (Item 06-09)

The 223rd General Assembly (2018) directed the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendments to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

Shall G-2.0509 be amended by striking the fourth paragraph and adding two new paragraphs to read as follows: [Text to be deleted is shown with a strike-through; text to be added is shown as italic.]

~~“Whenever a former minister of the Word and Sacrament has renounced jurisdiction in the midst of a disciplinary proceeding as the accused, that former minister of the Word and Sacrament shall not be permitted to perform any work, paid or volunteer, in any congregation or entity under the jurisdiction of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) unless and until the person rejoins the church, comes forward and resubmits to the disciplinary process.”~~

“No congregation or entity under the jurisdiction of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) shall be permitted to employ, for pay or as a volunteer, a former minister of the Word and Sacrament (teaching elder) who has renounced jurisdiction in the midst of a disciplinary proceeding as the accused.”

“Any former minister of the Word and Sacrament (teaching elder) who has renounced jurisdiction and later wants to be restored to office can be restored only through application to the presbytery in which he or she renounced jurisdiction for restoration to office, in which case the provisions of D-10.0401d and D-12.0200 shall apply.”

Rationale

The proposed amendment 18-B.1 originated from the Presbytery of Central Florida as Item 06-09 and proposed amendment 18-B.2 originated from the Presbytery of The Twin Cities Area as Item 06-07 Recommendation 2 and added to Item 06-09 by the General Assembly. The Presbyteries of Albany, Grand Canyon, Muskingum Valley, Newton, North Alabama, Tropical Florida, Wabash Valley and de Cristo concurred with Item 06-09 and the Presbyteries of Albany, Denver, Grand Canyon, Missouri River Valley, Wabash Valley and de Cristo concurred with former Item 06-07 including Item 06-07 recommendation 2. The Presbytery of Central Florida provided the following rationale for Item 06-09 [edited].

The [former] amendments to G-2.0509, while intended to protect the church and its entities from ministers who have left the church without submitting to the constitutional process for establishing guilt or innocence and providing for repentance when repentance is needed, have instead created a situation in which the administration of justice, as defined

by the amendment, is impossible to carry out. By definition of the section itself, a person who has renounced jurisdiction no longer holds membership in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The preamble to the Rules of Discipline defines the limits of church discipline as follows:

... The purpose of discipline is to honor God by making clear the significance of membership in the body of Christ; to preserve the purity of the church by nourishing the *individual within the life of the believing community*; to achieve justice and compassion for all participants involved; to correct or restrain wrongdoing in order to bring *members* to repentance and restoration; to uphold the dignity of those who have been harmed by disciplinary offenses; to restore the unity of the church by removing the causes of discord and division; and to secure the just, speedy, and economical determination of proceedings. ... (D-1.0101, emphasis added)

Since church discipline exists for the welfare of the believing community and applies to members of that community, a former minister of the Word and Sacrament (teaching elder) who has renounced jurisdiction is no longer a member by action of the presbytery that removes his or her name from its rolls. In any complaint, the Rules of Discipline would apply to the congregation or other entity which employed that former minister. Should a former minister of the Word and Sacrament who has renounced jurisdiction wish to be restored to the ordered ministry of minister of the Word and Sacrament (teaching elder), the process for restoration is spelled out in the Rules of Discipline, D-12.0200.

Advice from the Advisory Committee on the Constitution

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution advised the 223rd General Assembly (2018) to answer Item 06-09 with action on Item 06-07 providing the following advice [edited]. The Advisory Committee on the Constitution advised the 223rd General Assembly (2018) to answer Item 06-07 recommendation #1 with disapproval and refer recommendation #2 to the Rules of Discipline Task Force. They provided the following advice [edited].

Both Items 06-07 and 06-09 would amend G-2.0509 on renunciation of jurisdiction. Each proposes correcting a perceived flaw in the language of the last paragraph of G-2.0509. The approaches are different and do not achieve the same end. There is a comprehensive description of the issues related to renunciation of jurisdiction in the advice on Item 06-07 that will provide helpful background for consideration of this overture as well.

There are particular issues inherent in Item 06-09 [18-B.1]. The first sentence of Item 06-09 addresses the actions of a congregation. The second sentence of Item 06-09 [18-B.1], addresses actions of a former minister. Each part is discussed separately below.

... The Advisory Committee on the Constitution finds that the first paragraph would place requirements on the congregation or entity under the jurisdiction of the PC(USA), rather than on a former minister who has renounced the jurisdiction of this church and, therefore, is no longer subject to its jurisdiction and discipline. Section G-2.0509 is about ministers of the Word and Sacrament and their actions in renouncing jurisdiction. Insertion of requirements for a congregation or entity under the jurisdiction of the PC(USA) interrupts the flow and sense of this section.

... The Advisory Committee on the Constitution finds that the second paragraph presents some matters of concern.

- Having struck the requirement for rejoining the church in the existing text of G-2.0509, if approved, the new language would eliminate any requirement for membership before “application” for restoration.
- It would require “application” to the presbytery. “Application” is not defined, nor are there any criteria for considering such an “application.”
- Most significantly, it assumes that renunciation of jurisdiction is equivalent to removal from ordered ministry in judicial process. A person who seeks to be restored after the censure of removal (D-12.0201) has subjected him or herself to the discipline of the church and satisfied the requirements for restoration. A person who has renounced jurisdiction of this church in the midst of a disciplinary proceeding has avoided the discipline of this church. A 1989 authoritative interpretation specifies that one who renounces jurisdiction and seeks to return to ministry of the Word and Sacrament “should first come again under the jurisdiction of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) as a member of a particular church and then initiate the process and procedures found in G-2.06, Preparation for Ministry (formerly G-14.0300, Preparation for the Office of Minister of the Word and Sacrament).” The proposed language of Item 06-09 conflicts with this and would not require membership in the church.

[Editor's note: As noted in their advice above, the ACC provided advice on Item 06-07, which also applies to Item 6-09 since they recommended answering Item 06-09 with Item 06-07. The applicable advice is as follows.]

Return to Ordered Ministry

When a former minister renounced jurisdiction while a disciplinary case against him or her was pending, and now desires to return to ordered ministry in the PC(USA), additional process is required. Renunciation is not the removal of a person's status in ordered ministry, but a voluntary abandonment of it. A minister of the Word and Sacrament who renounced jurisdiction may not be *restored* to ordered ministry and the office of minister of Word and Sacrament because the person voluntarily acted in a manner to negate that status. This is particularly true where the minister renounced while a disciplinary case was pending against him or her and thus refused to be subject to church discipline.

1. A person who has renounced jurisdiction while subject to a disciplinary process and who is a minister in good standing of another denomination may seek to have those credentials recognized under G-2.0505.
2. A person who has renounced jurisdiction while subject to a disciplinary process and who is not a minister in good standing in another denomination or whose credentials are not recognized by the PC(USA), must do so as a member of a congregation through the process of G-2.06, Preparation for Ministry.

18-B.2.

On Amending D-10.0401d (Item 06-09)

Shall D-10.0401d be amended to read as follows? [Text to be deleted is shown with a strike-through; text to be added or inserted is shown as italic.]

~~“For instances where a former minister of the Word and Sacrament comes forward in self-accusation to undergo a disciplinary process to regain permission to perform work under the jurisdiction of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) (G-2.0509) who renounced jurisdiction while being accused in a disciplinary case rejoins the church, no time limit from the time of the commission of the alleged offense to the filing of charges shall apply. Charges based on all accusations that had been made by the time that the former minister of the Word and Sacrament had renounced jurisdiction may be brought regardless of the date on which any such offense is alleged to have occurred.”~~

Rationale

The proposed amendment 18-B.1 originates from the Presbytery of Central Florida as Item 06-09 and proposed amendment 18-B.2 from the Presbytery of The Twin Cities Area as Item 06-07 Recommendation 2. The Presbyteries of Albany, Grand Canyon, Muskingum Valley, Newton, North Alabama, Tropical Florida, Wabash Valley, and de Cristo concurred with Item 06-09 and the Presbyteries of Albany, Denver, Grand Canyon, Missouri River Valley, Wabash Valley and de Cristo concurred with former Item 06-07 including Item 06-07 Recommendation 2. The Presbytery of Central Florida provided the following rationale for Item 06-09 [edited].

How the Book of Order's Currently Mandated Disciplinary Process in G-2.0509 and D-10.0401d Is Inconsistent with the Preamble of the Rules of Discipline

Recently adopted language in the *Book of Order* may seem to be merely a compassionate response to former ministers of the Word and Sacrament who renounced jurisdiction while being accused in a disciplinary case, who may have done so because of pressing family or medical reasons, for example. The current process allows former teaching elders to rejoin the church, but does not require them to face accusations until sometime in the future when they themselves choose to come forward, in self-accusation, to resume the disciplinary process. However, requiring the disciplinary process to resume only when the accused chooses to come forward in self-accusation is inconsistent with

five out of seven of the purposes of discipline stated in the Preamble of the Rules of Discipline (D-1.0101), because such a process (1) tramples on victim's rights, (2) is not likely to remove causes of suspicion, and (3) is not likely to bring perpetrators of offenses to repentance, especially if many years pass between when the accused renounces jurisdiction and when the accused chooses to resume the disciplinary process.

The Preamble of the Rules of Discipline state that three of the purposes of discipline are:

- “to achieve justice and compassion for all participants involved;”
- “to uphold the dignity of those who have been harmed by disciplinary offenses;”
- “to secure the just, speedy, and economical determination of proceedings.” (D-1.0101)

When an accusation is made, victims have a right to see a fair and impartial investigation go forward with all deliberate speed (up to and including a trial, if necessary), so that, whatever the outcome of the disciplinary process, victims feel free to put memories of painful events in the past, and move on with their lives. However, under the current process in the *Book of Order*, victims (and perhaps their families or friends) may feel compelled to have to constantly prepare to testify about abusive events, just in case they ever receive notice from a new investigating committee that the accused wants to resume the disciplinary process, which could be at any time in the future of the accused's choosing. It is cruel, inhumane, and anything but “speedy,” to expect victims to keep hanging on to evidence of abuse and to relive painful memories for months, years, or even decades in the future, on the perhaps slim chance that the accused might rejoin the church and choose to resubmit to the disciplinary process. In the words of a theological seminary advisory delegate to the 2016 General Assembly (2016), the process in G-2.0509 and D-10.0401d as now written “punishes victims.”

Advice from the Advisory Committee on the Constitution

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution advised the 223rd General Assembly (2018) to answer Item 06-09 with action on Item 06-07 providing the following advice [edited]. The Advisory Committee on the Constitution advised the 223rd General Assembly (2018) to answer Item 06-07 recommendation #1 with disapproval and refer recommendation #2 to the Rules of Discipline Task Force. They provided the following advice [edited].

Part 2

Recommendation 2 of Item 06-07 would amend D-10.0401d to add words to make clear the section applies only to a former minister of the Word and Sacrament who renounced jurisdiction of the PC(US.) while a disciplinary proceeding was proceeding against him or her as the accused. There is a task force working on a revision to the Rules of Discipline. The amendment to D-10.0401d (Recommendation 2 of Item 06-7) should be referred to it.

Advice from the Advocacy Committee for Women's Concerns

The Advocacy Committee for Women's Concerns advised the 223rd General Assembly (2018) to approve Item 06-09 for its greater clarity of language in amending the *Book of Order*, G-2.0509 and approve Item 06-07 Recommendation 2.

While ACWC supports the above changes, they are inadequate. Unless victims have the right to a fair and impartial investigation with all deliberate speed, they will never feel free to put memories of painful events in the past and move on with their lives. Under the current ruling, however, former teaching elders are allowed to rejoin the church but are not required to face accusations and resume the disciplinary process until a time in the future of their own choosing. Thus, a predator can deliberately wait until after key witnesses have moved on with their lives, perhaps even died, or *the original* evidence is no longer available.

Advice from the Office of the General Assembly

The Office of the General Assembly advised the 223rd General Assembly (2018) advises that all items, including Items 06-09 and 06-07, amending the Rules of Discipline, be referred to the Rules of Discipline Task Force, which is

currently revising the Rules of Discipline as a whole and will report with suggested changes to the 224th General Assembly (2020).

The Assembly Committee on Church Polity and Ordered Ministry (06) voted to approve the proposed amendment as amended 54/3. The 223rd General Assembly (2018) approved the committee's recommendation with amendment 466/7. (See *Minutes*, 2018, Part I, pp. 71–72, 588.)

For the full report of Item 06-09, go to <https://www.pc-biz.org/#/committee/3000008/business>

18-C. Officers

On Amending G-3.0104 (Item 06-16)

The 223rd General Assembly (2018) directed the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

Shall G-3.0104 of the Form of Government be amended by adding the following statement as the last paragraph to read as follows? [Text to be added is shown as italic.]

“No congregation, session, presbytery, synod, or national office of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), nor any individual acting on behalf of or in an official capacity for the above institutions, shall publicly endorse or oppose, or otherwise encourage or discourage others to vote for or against an individual running for public office.”

Rationale

The proposed amendment originates from the Presbytery of Western North Carolina as Item 06-16. The Presbytery of de Cristo concurred. The Presbytery of Western North Carolina provided the following rationale for Item 06-16 [edited].

Since 1954, the Johnson Amendment has been a provision in the United States tax code prohibiting charitable organizations, including churches, from endorsing or opposing political candidates. This allows for charitable organizations to qualify for tax exemption and qualifies donations to these organizations as tax-exempt. In recent years, there has been discussion regarding the repeal of this amendment; those in favor of repeal claim that the amendment infringes on the first amendment rights of clergy and other leaders of religious and charitable organizations while those in favor of maintaining the statute fear that a repeal would lead to religious and charitable organizations becoming safe-havens for tax-exempt and un-reported political contributions.

While full repeal of the Johnson Amendment has not yet come to fruition, action has been taken to loosen the interpretation and implementation of the statute when churches and secular charitable organizations are found to be in violation.

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has long supported the notion of the separation of church and state. We can see this throughout our Foundations of Presbyterian Polity. Section F-3.0101a and b affirms that “God alone is Lord of the conscience,” and that “We do not even wish to see any religious constitution aided by the civil power, further than may be necessary for protection and security, and at the same time, be equal and common to all others.”

While it is clear that the principles of this overture are present in abundance throughout the *Book of Order* and *Book of Confessions*, there is no explicit guidance offered to governing bodies or to those in leadership positions regarding endorsing or opposing candidates running for political office. This amendment to the *Book of Order* precludes such activity while still allowing for churches and leaders to actively engage with secular issues that touch on the life of faith, to work towards bringing God’s reign of justice and peace ever closer to reality.

Advice from the Advisory Committee on the Constitution

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution advised the 223rd General Assembly (2018) disapprove Item 06-16 providing the following advice [edited].

The Presbytery of Western North Carolina summarizes the history of the “Johnson Amendment,” and anticipates change to that statute. Because the Johnson Amendment has not yet been revoked or altered, it is premature for the assembly to address anticipated statutory change. The overture would reverse long-standing foundational principles of our denomination and have long-reaching effects on the church,

Individual Discernment and Diversity of Religious Belief

Presbyterians begin with a firm and fundamental belief in the private discernment of religious belief. Section F-3.0101 sets forth and affirms the historic principle that “God alone is Lord of the conscience” and that “in all matters that

respect religion” “we consider the rights of private judgment . . . as universal and inalienable.” Holy Scriptures are the only rule of faith, and church power in matters of religious belief is limited as explained in F-3.0107. This first historic principle of church order (F-3.0101) was affirmed and explained in the policy statement, “God Alone Is Lord of the Conscience.”¹ The principle that God alone is Lord of the conscience both reflects and underlies many other foundational² and confessional³ statements in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

“Religious bodies and people of faith hold to a wide variety of convictions, ideas, and values that make important contributions to the shape and strength of public life. That life has been shaped by individuals and groups that have sought to create new forms, sustain traditional ones, challenge existing ideologies and reform or resist unjust institutions. Participation is thus viewed by the government sometimes as a blessing and at other times as a threat” (*God Alone*, p. 48; see also F-1.404). Because the individual is the bearer of conscience, it does not matter whether others of the same faith make the same conscientious claim. *God Alone*, p. 19. “Religious tolerance and pluralism are our political and societal norm. We do not perfectly achieve that norm and intolerance has not been eliminated. . . .” (*God Alone*, p. 7).

Formation of Conscience in Community

While Presbyterians emphasize individual belief, we also recognize the importance of community and our shared expression of belief. Discourse and expressions of diversity within the church are important to formation of religious conscience. As Presbyterians, we recognize that “The formation of conscience occurs in community, but its exercise is very often finally an individual matter” (*God Alone*, p. 19). It is a fundamental principle for our church and our country that “The individual’s right to believe cannot be divorced from the right to exercise that belief in the company and community of others. For nearly every human being, the right to practice religion only as a solitary individual is virtually no right at all” (*God Alone*, p. 12). “The exercise of individual and corporate conscience must be affirmed as an integral aspect of religious liberty.”⁴

Separation of Church and State

The freedom to express religious views in public is as important as the freedom to determine religious beliefs for oneself. For Reformed Christians, “faith demands engagement in the secular order and involvement in the political realm” (*God Alone*, p. 48). The so-called “separation between church and state” is “particularly misleading when used to advocate the separation of religion from politics or from any other dimension of the public order. The First Amendment has never meant separation of religion from community or separation of the church from public life. On their face, the religion clauses [of the U.S. Constitution] constitute an absolute prohibition on government participation in religious life; there is no hint that that barrier was even thought to isolate religion from the life of the republic” (*God Alone*, pp. 47–48).

Responsibility for Involvement in Public Life

The freedom and responsibility to express religious and moral views in public is an important part of our denominational principles and history. The Gospel demands that we share our faith and that we seek to be a community of faith witnessing to God’s good news and Christ’s teachings to the world in words and deeds. According to the Reformed tradition and standards of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), “it is a limitation and denial of faith not to seek its expression in both a personal and public manner, in such ways as will not only influence, but transform the public order and involvement in the political realm” (*God Alone*, p. 48). This principle reflects our foundational statements (F-1.0301, F-1.0304, F-1.0404), other parts of the *Book of Order* (e.g., W-5.0304), and our long-standing and important history of social witness to world.

Endorsement or Opposition to Political Candidates

“For these reasons, limitations upon the freedom of religious bodies to participate in public life are illegitimate and unconstitutional. The church is bound to reject any regulation limiting church advocacy or particular legislation or endorsement of candidates, or establishing religious qualifications for office holders” (*God Alone*, p. 50). Over the centuries, Presbyterians have stood up and spoken out against those who would silence the church and the faithful.

Internal Revenue Code provisions that limit tax-exempt religious organization from devoting “substantial” activity to attempts to influence legislation or participate or intervene in political campaigns on behalf of any candidate for public office, as well as recent public debate, heighten concerns about religious discourse about public life. There is a difference between discussion of issues and candidates, on one hand, and intervention in campaigns on behalf of specific candidates on the other” (*God Alone*, p. 50).

The 200th General Assembly (1988) specifically affirmed that: “We recognize that speaking out on issues will sometimes constitute implicit support or opposition to particular candidates or parties, where policy and platform differences are clearly drawn. Since such differences are the vital core of the political process, church participation should not be curtailed on that account; but we believe that it is generally unwise and imprudent for the church explicitly to support or oppose specific candidates, except in unusual circumstances” (*God Alone*, p. 50).

Each council should be mindful of these foundational principles and historical practice. “It is easy to step from advocating our vision to seeking to enforce it, from protecting religious liberty to requiring ‘right’ belief and action. The church must advocate its positions on public issues, but it should not seek to exercise political authority in its own right” (*God Alone*, p. 50).

Endnotes

1. *God Alone Is Lord of the Conscience* is a policy statement of Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) adopted by the 200th General Assembly (1988), and affirmed or cited by numerous subsequent General Assemblies and entities of the church. Hereafter “God Alone.”

2. Section F-1.0301 states the “Calling of the Church” is to be a community of faith, a community of hope, a community of love, and a community of witness. “The Great Ends of the Church” (F-1.0304) include “the promotion of social righteousness; and the exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world.” Section F-1.0404 explains the “Church seeks a new openness to God’s mission in the world.”

3. See, e.g., the Theological Declaration of Barmen and the Confession of 1967, which can be found in the *Book of Confessions*.

4. “The church is always obliged to respect claims of conscience lest it frustrate efforts to obey the will of God. We need not agree with the specific dictates of another’s conscience to respect and support the right to exercise that conscience. Paul told Christians that they were freed from Jewish dietary laws, but if the conscience of another is offended by eating certain foods, ‘for conscience sake—I mean his conscience, not yours—do not eat it’ (1 Corinthians 10:28–29). The obligation to respect the exercise of conscience is not only a dynamic of life within the church; it is both a demand and a dilemma of the First Amendment’s protection of religious freedom” (*God Alone*, p. 18).

Advice from the Advisory Committee for Social Witness Policy

The Advisory Committee for Social Witness Policy advised the 223rd General Assembly (2018) to approve 06-16 with suggested amendment providing the following advice [edited].

The Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (ACSWP) advises approval as amended below: [Text to be deleted is shown with a strike-through and with brackets; text to be added or inserted is shown with an underline and with brackets.]

~~“[No]~~ “[Except in cases of extreme danger to the common good, and even then with cautions against extreme partisanship, no] congregation, session, presbytery, synod, or national office of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), nor any individual acting on behalf of or in an official capacity for the above institutions, shall publicly endorse or oppose, or otherwise encourage or discourage others to vote for or against an individual running for public office.”

The substantial and generally fine General Assembly social witness policy on church/state relations, *God Alone Is Lord of the Conscience* (1988; <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/wp-content/uploads/1-god-alone-is-lord-1988.pdf>) refuses to limit prophetic religious speech, but also recognizes the wisdom of our predominant practice. “The church is bound to reject any regulation limiting church advocacy or particular legislation or endorsement of candidates, or establishing religious qualifications for office holders.” But then, “There is a difference between discussion of issues and candidates, on one hand, and intervention in campaigns on behalf of specific candidates on the other.” And further, “... we believe that it is generally unwise and imprudent for the church explicitly to support or oppose specific candidates, except in unusual circumstances” (all three quotes from page 50).

The General Assembly spoke to the issues involved in the Tax Justice policy of 2014, reaffirming the principles behind the current 501.c.3 category, and further addressing the abuse of the 501.c.4 category of “social welfare institutions” for political purposes and personal enrichment:

Rules governing tax-exempt “social welfare organizations” (501(c)(4)s) should exclude or strictly limit the eligibility of donations for partisan political purposes, parties and candidates, and the individual and corporate donors to or through such organizations should be made public due to their influence on the political process (http://www.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/acswp/pdf/acswp_tax_justice_42.pdf, p. 4).

The 222nd General Assembly (2016) addressed this matter even more directly, responding to Supreme Court decisions in the Citizens United and Voting Rights Act cases, which intensified the role of money in politics:

[The Assembly:] Endorses the continuing prohibition of partisan political endorsements by religious organizations or their leadership and other measures to respect both religious liberty and the separation of church and state. The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) strongly supports the freedom of religious organizations to speak on matters of policy, but personal endorsements and partisan ties may present the appearance of or opportunity for collusion, special treatment, and the violation of nonprofit tax status. <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/wp-content/uploads/Election-Protection-and-Integrity-in-Campaign-Finance-2016-ACSWP.pdf>, pp. 2–3)

The Assembly Committee on Church Polity and Ordered Ministry (06) voted to approve the proposed amendment as amended 31/24. The 223rd General Assembly (2018) approved the committee’s recommendation with amendment 370/99. (See *Minutes*, 2018, Part I, pp. 73, 611.)

For the full report of Item 06-16, go to <https://www.pc-biz.org/#!/committee/3000008/business>

18-D. Membership of Presbytery

On Amending G-3.0306 (Item 06-05)

The 223rd General Assembly (2018) directed the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

Shall the fourth paragraph of G-3.0306 of the Form of Government be amended by adding the following statement as follows? [Text to be added is shown as italic.]

“Every minister of the Word and Sacrament shall ordinarily be a member of the presbytery where his or her work is situated or of the presbytery where she or he resides. The presbytery may grant a minister permission to engage in work validated ministry that is outside its geographic bounds or which is not under its jurisdiction, but no presbytery shall permit a minister to engage in work that is within the geographic bounds of another presbytery and which is properly within the responsibility of another presbytery without consent of that presbytery. Such permission shall be obtained from both presbyteries and shall be reviewed and renewed annually.”

Rationale

This proposed amendment originates from the Presbytery of Tropical Florida as Item 06-11. The Presbyteries of Central Florida, Greater Atlanta, Huntington, Wabash Valley and de Cristo concurred. The Presbytery of Tropical Florida provided the following rationale [edited].

The current Form of Government lacks clarity with regard to the seeking of and granting of permission for a minister member of a presbytery to labor beyond the geographic boundaries of the presbytery of membership. This overture provides clarity to the seeking of permission to labor within the geographic bounds of a presbytery beyond that of the minister of Word and Sacrament’s membership.

As “the presbytery is the council serving as a corporate expression of the church within a certain district” (G-3.0301), the presbytery needs to have knowledge of and oversight for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) witness within its geographic district. Without the Form of Government making it clear that permission must be granted by the presbytery for all validated ministry taking place within its bounds, the particular corporate witness of a presbytery within a certain district may lack unity of strategy for mission under the Word. The addition of this paragraph to the Form of Government enhances the presbytery’s capacity for unity in its corporate witness as strategy for mission under the Word.

Advice from the Advisory Committee on the Constitution

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution advised the 223rd General Assembly (2018) to approve Item 06-05 as amended providing the following advice [edited]:

Item 06-05 seeks to return to the *Book of Order* the mechanism for seeking permission to labor beyond the geographic bounds of membership of the minister of the Word and Sacrament. The ... text ... is based on the language that was in the 2009–2011 edition of the *Book of Order*.

The Form of Government (G-3.0306) establishes that each presbytery determines the ministers who are its members and validates the ministries in which they are to be engaged, following the criteria of G-2.0503a(1)–(5) and the policy developed by the presbytery for validating the ministries of its members.

The Assembly Committee on Church Polity and Ordered Ministry (06) voted to approve the proposed amendment as amended 52/1. The 223rd General Assembly (2018) approved the committee’s recommendation with amendment 442/13. (See *Minutes*, 2018, Part I, pp. 71, 571.)

For the full report of Item 06-05, go to <https://www.pc-biz.org/#/committee/3000008/business>.

18-E. Pastor, Counselor, and Advisor to Its Pastors and Congregations

On Amending G-3.0307 (Item 06-02)

The 223rd General Assembly (2018) directed the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

Shall G-3.0307 of the Form of Government be amended as follows: [Text to be deleted is shown with a strike-through; text to be added or inserted is shown as italic.]

“G-3.0307 Pastor, Counselor, and Advisor to Its *Pastors Ministers of the Word and Sacrament* and Congregations

“Presbyteries shall be open at all times to communication regarding the life and ministry of their congregations.

“Each presbytery shall develop and maintain mechanisms and processes to serve as pastor and counselor to its ~~pastors, both ministers of the Word and Sacrament, and ruling elders commissioned to pastoral service (also called commissioned pastors (also known as commissioned ruling elders)),~~ as well as the *and* certified Christian educators of the presbytery; to facilitate the relations between the presbytery and its congregations, ~~pastors ministers of the Word and Sacrament, commissioned pastors,~~ and certified Christian educators; and to settle difficulties on behalf of the presbytery where possible and expedient.”

Rationale

The proposed amendment originates from the Presbytery of Santa Fe as Item 06-02. The Presbyteries of Grand Canyon, Muskingum Valley, Sierra Blanca, Southeastern Illinois, and de Cristo, concurred with Item 06-02. The Presbytery of Santa Fe provided the following rationale for Item 06-002 [edited].

The Presbytery of Santa Fe was one of the concurring presbyteries on the 2016 overture that became Amendment 16-C, Recommendations C.1 through C.8, ratified by a majority of the presbyteries. We are mindful of the valid criticism of Recommendation 16-C.6 (G-3.0307) raised by the Advisory Committee on the Constitution, as well as other concerns about repetitive wording. We believe this can be easily remedied by our proposed amendment.

Advice from the Advisory Committee on the Constitution

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution advised the 223rd General Assembly (2018) to approve Item 06-02 as amended providing the following advice [edited]:

The rationale for Item 06-02 focuses on the issue of repetitive wording in this section, but there is a more important issue that is corrected by this amendment.

The 222nd General Assembly (2016) approved Item 06-08 on amending the *Book of Order* to clarify titles to Ordered Ministry. Item 06-08 (2016) was a large amendment with seven recommendations, most which dealt with switching the default term for the ordered ministry of “teaching elder” to “minister of the Word and Sacrament.” In the process of approval, the 222nd General Assembly (2016) approved an amendment to G-3.0307 (sixth recommendation) to strike out the term “teaching elder” and insert not “minister of the Word and Sacrament,” but “pastor.”

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution called the attention of the assembly to an unintended consequence of this amendment, that by inserting the word “pastor” into the action defining who had access to the committee on ministry or its equivalent, the amendment was cutting off all ministers of the Word and Sacrament not serving as installed or temporary pastors from access to this committee or entity. Item 06-08 (2016) was approved and referred to the presbyteries without addressing this concern.

Item 06-02, if approved, will restore constitutional access to the committee on ministry or its equivalent to all minister members of the presbytery. It also deals with the issue of repetitive wording in this section with language that is clear and concise.

The Assembly Committee on Church Polity and Ordered Ministry (06) voted to approve the proposed amendment as amended 52/0. The 223rd General Assembly (2018) approved the committee's recommendation with amendment 464/3. (See *Minutes*, 2018, Part I, pp. 70, 565–66.)

For the full report of Item 06-02, go to <https://www.pc-biz.org/#!/committee/3000008/business>

18-F. Welcoming to the Table

On Amending W-4.0202 (Item 14-03)

The 223rd General Assembly (2018) directed the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

Shall W-4.0202 be amended as follows: [Text to be deleted is shown with a strike-through; text to be added or inserted is shown as italic.]

“W-4.0202 Welcoming to the Table

“In cases where baptized children who have not yet begun to participate in the Lord’s Supper express a desire to receive the Sacrament, ~~the session should provide an occasion to welcome them~~ *they shall be welcomed to the table in public worship. Their introduction to the Lord’s Supper should include and the session should ensure they receive ongoing instruction or formation in the meaning and mystery of the Sacraments.*”

Rationale

This proposed amendment originates from the Presbytery of Grace as Item 14-03. The Presbyteries of de Cristo, Grand Canyon, Huntingdon, Newton, and Palo Duro concurred. The Presbytery of Grace provided the following rationale [edited].

The current language “provide an occasion to welcome them” could be interpreted as the need to provide a “first communion” service for baptized children. If taken this way, the language could develop a mindset that baptized children must wait until a certain age or complete certain educational requirements before belonging at the table. This mindset would violate our understanding that the Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord’s Supper are linked (W-3.0408 “Welcome”) and that “all who come to the table are to be offered the bread and cup regardless of their age or understanding,” (W-3.0409 “The Theology of the Lord’s Supper”).

Striking this phrase simplifies the wording while maintaining the intent—to welcome the baptized and provide them with ongoing instruction. The responsibility for instruction in baptismal identity and worship education and participation is addressed in W-4.0201 “Nurturing the Baptized,” W-2.0303 “Ruling Elders,” and W-2.0305 “Shared Responsibility and Accountability.” The issue of welcome to those not baptized is addressed in W-3.0409 “The Theology of the Lord’s Supper.”

Advice from the Advisory Committee on the Constitution

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution advised the 223rd General Assembly (2018) to approve Item 14-03 providing the following advice [edited]:

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution advises the 223rd General Assembly (2018) to approve Item 14-03.

This amendment seeks to clarify that when children receive the Lord’s Supper for the first time, the Directory for Worship is not suggesting a service such as “first communion.”

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution finds that the overture has identified a possible contradiction between W-3.0409 and the current language of W-4.0202 and has provided an amendment to W-4.0202 that would resolve that contradiction. The Advisory Committee on the Constitution advises that the proposed language is clear and consistent with the stated intent of the overture.

The Assembly Committee on Theological & Church Growth Issues and Institutions (14) voted to approve the proposed amendment with comment 50/1. The 223rd General Assembly (2018) approved the committee’s recommendation with a voice vote. (See *Minutes*, 2018, Part I, pp. 17, 1205.)

For the full report of Item 14-03, go to <https://www.pc-biz.org/#/committee/3000016/business>.

18-G. Disciplinary Offense

On Amending D-2.0203b (Item 06-04)

The 223rd General Assembly (2018) directed the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

Shall D-2.0203b of the Form of Government be amended as follows? [Text to be deleted is shown with strike-through; text to be added or inserted is shown as italic.]

“b. An offense is any act or omission by a member or a person in an ordered ministry of the church that is contrary to the Scriptures or the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Sexual abuse as defined in Section D-10.0401c shall be considered contrary to the Scriptures or Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and therefore an offense for purposes of these rules.”

Rationale

This proposed amendment originates from the Presbytery of North Alabama as Item 06-04. The Presbyteries of Albany, Boise, Grand Canyon, Huntington, and de Cristo concurred. The Presbytery of North Alabama provided the following rationale [edited].

A recent ruling by a synod permanent judicial commission effectively indicated that actions in violation of a council’s sexual misconduct policy are not under the jurisdiction of the Rules of Discipline unless those actions are explicitly specified as contrary to the Scriptures or the Constitution. The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) requires “all councils shall adopt and implement a sexual misconduct policy and a child and youth protection policy” (*Book of Order*, G-3.0106). In order to meet this requirement, actions or omissions in violation of these policies must have the capacity to be addressed through our disciplinary process; otherwise the policies are unenforceable. Furthermore, it should be implicit that actions that violate constitutionally required policies are by their very nature contrary to the Scriptures or the Constitution. Decisions in prior disciplinary cases have supported this concept.

The members and congregations of the Presbytery of North Alabama wish to stringently affirm that sexual misconduct is sin. We believe past failure to confront this behavior has led to injustice and discord within the church, and scrutiny and litigation from without. We humbly ask the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to take an unequivocal stand for justice by equating this sin as an implicit violation of scriptural norms and constitutional ordination vows.

Advice from the Advisory Committee on the Constitution

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution advised the 223rd General Assembly (2018) to disapprove Item 06-04 with comment. They provided the following advice [edited].

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution advises the 223rd General Assembly (2018) to disapprove Item 06-04 with the following comment.

“While sexual misconduct is not condoned by Scriptures or the Constitution of the PC(USA), adding this language to the *Book of Order* is unnecessary. All councils and judicial commissions are admonished to consider sexual misconduct as contrary to the Scriptures and the Constitution of the PC(USA).”

Scriptures and the Constitution do not condone sexual misconduct or the abuse and endangerment of children and youth. Many acts involve impermissible sexual overtures, force, and misconduct. The assembly is reminded that the Constitution is not an enumeration of specific permitted or prohibited conduct, but rather a guide for all councils in administering their mission. Each council should be mindful that any act of sexual misconduct or child abuse is in violation of the Constitution. By singling out a particular violation of a particular policy, an inference might be made that violations of other policies are not contrary to the Scriptures and the Constitution.

Councils have the authority to establish and enforce their policies. Not all violations of a particular policy may be found to be contrary to Scripture or the Constitution. Violation of a council's sexual misconduct and/or child and youth protection policy may be procedural and may not rise to the level of a constitutional offense. The Rules of Discipline set forth the process for determining proof of an alleged offense, including sexual misconduct.

The assembly may consider admonishing all councils and judicial commissions that sexual misconduct is contrary to the Scriptures and the Constitution and that all councils are required to adopt and implement a sexual misconduct policy and/or child/youth protection policy (G-3.0106).

Alternatively, the assembly may consider referral of this item to the Task Force on the Rules of Discipline for report to the 224th General Assembly (2020).

Advice from the Advocacy Committee on Women's Concerns

The Advocacy Committee on Women's Concerns advised the 223rd General Assembly (2018) approve Item 06-04 providing the following advice [edited].

The Advocacy Committee for Women's Concerns (ACWC) agrees that any act or omission prohibited by the council of authority's duly adopted sexual misconduct policy and/or child and youth protection policy should be considered contrary to the Scriptures or Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and therefore an offense for purposes of these rules. ACWC agrees with this overture that past failure to confront sexual misconduct has led to injustice and discord within the church, and scrutiny and litigation from without.

Because all sexual abuse is, at the core, an abuse of power, certain populations are more vulnerable to such abuse. For instance, children and youth, developmentally disabled adults, and immigrant night shift workers are often the targets of sexual misconduct. Gender inequities rooted in theological misunderstandings based in patriarchy leave women within the church particularly vulnerable to sexual misconduct, not only from other clergy, but also to sexual harassment from male members of their congregations. It is essential that the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) take an unequivocal stand for justice by equating sexual misconduct to be an implicit violation of scriptural norms and constitutional ordination vows.

The Assembly Committee on Church Polity and Ordered Ministry (06) voted to approve the proposed amendment as amended 53/0. The 223rd General Assembly (2018) approved the committee's recommendation with amendment 416/13. (See *Minutes*, 2018, Part I, pp. 70, 570.)

For the full report of Item 06-04, go to <https://www.pc-biz.org/#!/committee/3000008/business>.

18-H. Time Limit

On Amending D-10.0401 (Item 06-24)

The 223rd General Assembly (2018) directed the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

18-H.1.

Shall D-10.0401b of the Form of Government be amended as follows: [Text to be deleted is shown with strike-through; text to be added or inserted is shown as italic.]

“b. For instances of sexual abuse of another person, the five-year time limit shall not apply. There is also no time limit for charging that a person who knew or reasonably should have known of the reasonable risk of sexual abuse of another as defined in D-10.0401c(1) or (2) failed to take reasonable steps to minimize the risk. Both charges may be brought regardless of the date on which an offense is alleged to have occurred.”

18-H.2.

Shall D-10.0401c(1) of the Form of Government be amended as follows: [Text to be deleted is shown with strike-through; text to be added or inserted is shown as italic.]

“(1) any person under the age of eighteen years or anyone ~~over the age of eighteen years~~ without the ~~mental~~ capacity to consent; or”

Rationale

This proposed amendment originates from the Advisory Committee on the Constitution comment on a referral from the 222nd (2016) General Assembly to the Office of the General Assembly. The original item before the 222nd (2016) General Assembly originated from the Advocacy Committee for Women’s Concerns.

Advice from the Advisory Committee on the Constitution

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution advised the 223rd General Assembly (2018) to refer Item 06-24 to the Rules of Discipline Task Force or approve as amended. They provided the following advice [edited].

[b.] The ACWC proposed and ACC recommended languages both impose a level of responsibility on persons that is not currently part of the Rules of Discipline. The ACC recommendation imposes a negligence standard for failure to respond to situations involving a reasonable risk of sexual misconduct, including the failure to report appropriately.

[c.1)] This language recognizes that minor persons cannot consent. The second clause clarifies that sexual abuse includes persons who lack of the capacity to consent for any reason whatsoever.

The Assembly Committee on Church Polity and Ordered Ministry (06) voted to approve the proposed amendment as amended 47/1. The 223rd General Assembly (2018) approved the committee’s recommendation with amendment 455/16. (See *Minutes*, 2018, Part I, pp. 73–74, 631–32.)

For the full report of Item 06-24, go to <https://www.pc-biz.org/#!/committee/3000008/business>

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18-H. Time Limit18
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 18-H.2. On Amending D-10.0401c(1)18

**COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY
REPORT TO THE PRESBYTERY OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE
FEBRUARY 14, 2019**

INFORMATION

1. The Committee on Ministry meets on the second Tuesday of each month, 4PM, at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Nashville. The Examinations Task Force and the Transitions Task Force meet prior to the COM meeting.
2. Outgoing members Greg Glover, Guy Griffith, and Marva Swann were thanked for their service on the Committee on Ministry.

ADMIT TO RECORD

1. In 2019, the Examinations Task Force is chaired by Rev. Nolan Huizenga; the Transitions Task Force is chaired by Donna Simpson; the Mediation Team is chaired by Rev. Jane Herring; and the Pastoral Care Team is chaired by Rev. Janet Salyer.
2. The Examinations Task Force addresses theology, polity, the “fit” of the call, all in a friendly but thorough manner. The Transitions Task Force works with churches seeking pastoral leadership. The Mediation Team addresses issues that arise in churches; and the Pastoral Care Team provides pastoral care to the pastors in the Presbytery.
3. The COM met with Rev. Mark DeVries of Ministry Architects, and Melinda Sanders, Woodland, who provided an update on the work of Ministry Architects with Woodland Presbyterian Church, Nashville.
4. The COM approved the following contracts:
 - interim contract between Rev. Scott Huie and Emmanuel Presbyterian Church, Nashville (renewal)
 - interim contract between Rev. Christopher Adams and First Presbyterian Church, Spring Hill (and annual terms: part time, 20 hours/week; \$17,277 salary; \$12,773 Board of Pensions; mileage \$0.54/mile up to \$2,000; four weeks vacation; two weeks study leave)
 - temporary supply contract between Rev. David John Eisenmenger and First United Presbyterian Church, Sparta, effective November 1, 2018 (also approved his return to active service for five months for Board of Pensions benefits; terms of contract \$175 cash salary, \$75 auto expenses per week, Nov. 1 – Dec. 31 and April 1 – Oct. 31; terms \$200 cash salary, \$132.98 pension, \$75 auto expenses per week; two weeks vacation; one week study leave)
 - part time interim contract between Rev. Warner Durnell and First Presbyterian Church, Springfield, effective December 1, 2018 (terms of contract \$36,000 cash salary and housing allowance (equally divided), \$1,500 automobile expense allowance, four weeks vacation, two weeks study leave, up to four weeks unpaid vacation, \$1,200 professional expenses, annual total \$38,700)
 - interim contract between Dr. Paul Bauer and First Presbyterian Church, Columbia (renewal; no changes in terms)
 - Supply contract between Rev. Marshall Gupton and Northminster Presbyterian Church, Murfreesboro (renewal; no changes in terms)
5. The COM approved the Ministry Information Form for a non-ordained Director of Christian Education for First Presbyterian Church, Shelbyville.
6. The COM approved Rev. Bobby Harding to moderate the session at Northminster Murfreesboro.
7. The COM approved Rev. Sarah Jordan (Presbytery of Chicago) to be added to the Pulpit Supply List.
8. The COM dismissed Rev. Mark McDaniel to the Presbytery of Ohio Valley, effective November 30, 2018.

9. The COM examined Rev. Sarah Bird, a member of the Presbytery of Pittsburgh, and approved her transfer to the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee and her call as Associate Pastor at First Presbyterian Church, Nashville. The commission to install will be provided at the Presbytery meeting.
10. The COM examined Dr. Mark Mueller, a member of the Presbytery of Wabash Valley, and approved his transfer to the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee, and validated his ministry with The Outreach Foundation.
11. The COM examined Dr. Toby Mueller, a member of the Presbytery of Wabash Valley, and approved her transfer to the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee, and addition to the Pulpit Supply List.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The COM recommends the following changes in the Former Pastor Policy, to update the policy regarding if / when a former associate pastor may return to the church previously served; this is not currently addressed in the policy (language to be added is underlined), Page 1, line 36 and line 38:

The former pastor will ordinarily seek a church home in another parish. If he / she remains in the community, that person bears a heavy obligation of self-restraint regarding the business and spiritual well-being of the congregation. The current pastor must invite any former pastor(s) back to the church previously served.

The first paragraph in the former pastor policy is as follows:

DEFINITION

A former pastor is one who no longer serves as pastor, associate pastor, or in any temporary pastoral relationship in a congregation due to call to other service, retirement, or involuntary termination. Whenever the term "pastor" is used in this policy, it is understood to mean pastor, associate pastor, or person serving in a temporary pastoral relationship.

2. The COM sustained the examination of Ruling Elder Anne Keener, a member of First Presbyterian Church, Franklin, and recommends she be commissioned to pastoral service at First Presbyterian Church, Franklin, for three years, to moderate the session, celebrate the sacraments, and officiate at marriages, all these responsibilities at the request of the pastor; have a voice and vote at presbytery (as a ruling elder for parity).
3. The Committee on Ministry examined Mary Sellers Shaw, a candidate under care of the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley, who has accepted a call as associate pastor for First Presbyterian Church, Franklin. A copy of her statement of faith and autobiographical statement is attached. The Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley asked that Middle Tennessee examine Ms. Shaw for ordination on their behalf. The COM approved the following terms of call: Salary \$41,000; Housing \$20,000; Social Security \$4,679; full Board of Pensions; professional expenses \$5,000. The commission to install will be provided at the presbytery meeting.
4. The Committee on Ministry examined Rev. John A. Smith, a member of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, who has accepted a call as pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Dickson, and Ellis Grove Presbyterian Church, Waverly. Pursuant to G-2.0505a.(2), the COM recommends that Rev. Smith be granted an exemption for the examinations required of candidates (such recommendation to be approved by 2/3 vote of the presbytery). The COM also recommends that Rev. Smith be received as a member of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee. A copy of Rev. Smith's statement of faith and biographical information is attached. The COM approved Rev. Smith's move onto the field on January 15, 2019 (permission to celebrate the sacraments, but cannot moderate the session until received by Presbytery. The commission to install will be provided at the Presbytery meeting.

I grew up in the arms of the church. My father is a Presbyterian minister and my mother is the church secretary. Our life as a family seemed to ebb and flow in accordance with the church's. Weddings, funerals, baptisms, and holidays all to some extent dictated my family's schedule. It is all I have ever known. And in some ways, I hope that is all I will ever know.

I have always loved the church, both the body and the building – the people and the practices. My roots are tightly interwoven with the roots of the church -- my life's key moments marked alongside the formative events in the life of the body of Christ. The faith I hold today has been formed not only by my father and mother, but by the members of the churches I have been a part of. I count that one of my richest blessings. From the felt storyboards to the Bible school songs and hand motions to the Christmas pageants and countless Sunday school classes, my childhood was marked by my time in and with the church.

As I began to mature and forge my own faith journey, I found deeper convictions and a faint whisper of direction. I discovered that my passions and gifts lie in my interactions with people. I love sharing with others, be it my time, my words, a prayer, or a listening ear. As I examined these affinities, I realized my call was to some form of ministry. I had the privilege of exploring this call as I was earning my bachelor's degree at a small Christian liberal arts school both through my formal training as a Bible and Religion major, and also as I was educated informally through conversations in the halls of my dorm and on the couches at local coffee shops.

In addition to the opportunity I had to sharpen my skills and develop a more foundational understanding of theology and Biblical interpretation at Princeton Theological Seminary, I was also able to discern a more specific call to ministry in the parish setting. I served as an intern at Thompson Memorial Presbyterian Church in New Hope, PA and got a unique perspective on pastoral ministry in the congregational setting. While my time serving as a chaplain and completing CPE was also very formative, it was an experience that affirmed my desire to invest in the people I serve long-term and make the journey of faith together. In the hospital setting I

was unable to follow up with patients or establish long-term relationships because of the nature of the work. And so I sense my call to a church where I can really invest in the lives of those I serve was strengthened by that experience.

My first call out of seminary was to Sewickley Presbyterian Church outside of Pittsburgh. This church has been a perfect fit for me in the first few years of ministry. I have had the opportunity to serve in a number of different roles – from teaching preschoolers and leading youth mission trips, to visiting the sick and shut-in, coming alongside grieving families in time of loss, managing adult education courses, and celebrating communion week in and week out, the rhythm of serving this church has been an often chaotic, usually unpredictable, but always rewarding gift.

As I look towards serving in a more specialized associate pastor role, I am eager and open to the ways God will continue to use me and shape me in the building of His Kingdom. Trusting His sovereignty and love is what sustains me in this strange and wonderful call to ministry.

Statement of Faith – Toby Mueller

As Creator, God creates all that is and calls it good. We, too, are good, for God created us in God's image. Being human, however, means that we are not God and so are separated from God. Our separation also affects our actions: toward ourselves, one another, and God. However, God knows and is with us in all of our lives and we can be comforted in this.

Jesus is the Christ, my Lord and Savior, fully God, fully human, in whom God chose to reveal Godself. In Jesus Christ we receive salvation, a gracious gift from God. Jesus has shown humanity how we are to live in loving existence with ourselves, God, and neighbor. On the cross, God participated in our suffering through Jesus, taking on our sins and transforming us (Rom. 12:2). God has also been revealed to us through Scripture. Scripture is faith's hearing God's 'beckoning' now through the community's past witness. It is the written, creative response from divine revelation, written in a particular time and place.

The Holy Spirit is the sustainer of life. The Holy Spirit works in the world to draw us as individuals and as faith communities toward God and away from what is contrary to God. The Spirit is manifested through faith and love. The Holy Spirit is not limited to working within the church but moves where the Spirit wishes to bring healing and wholeness to an estranged world. God has brought believers together to support and encourage each other in faith communities. These faith communities exist to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ and, being led by the Holy Spirit, are enabled to transform the world in which we live. We all participate in the ambiguities of life, but the Spirit's character of love calls all to be renewed, and be partners with God in bringing in the Kingdom.

The sacraments are holy signs and seals of the covenant of grace instituted by God. The grace exhibited in the sacraments is not from the elements, but is the work of the Holy Spirit. In baptism, God shows how our lives are cleansed from sin, and brought to new life in Christ, to be lived out in a community of faith. In the Lord's Supper, God helps us remember Jesus' partaking of bread and wine with his disciples, and also helps us look forward to feasting in God's kingdom. Through these sacraments the church is renewed and empowered, sustained, and sealed.

An affirmation of hope in eternal life is an important promise for Christians. Eternal life is something which we, as humans, have no claim to; it is through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection that this hope is a reality for us. I hope for eternal life for all of humanity, for it is because of all humanity that Christ came, died, and rose again.

Statement of Faith
Mary Sellers Shaw

1 I believe in one triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. I believe that God is omnipotent,
2 omniscient, and omnipresent. I believe that God is the creator of the entire universe and of
3 everything in it. I believe that God formed humanity by hand and breathed the Holy Spirit into
4 human to give us life. I believe that God claimed God's creation as "good" and that God loves all
5 creation unconditionally.

6 I believe in Jesus Christ as the Son of God, who came as the Word Incarnate to live among us.
7 I believe that Christ was fully human and fully divine. I believe in the mystery of the incarnation and
8 recognize that the nature of the incarnation, and of God, is beyond our human understanding. I
9 believe that Christ lived and did ministry on earth, that he experienced the range of human
10 emotions, and that he died on the cross for our salvation. I believe that Christ was resurrected from
11 the dead and overcame the sins and evils of the world. I believe that Christ's ministry lives on
12 through the church and the work of the Holy Spirit.

13 I believe in the Holy Spirit as the living Word. I believe the Holy Spirit was breathed into the
14 first human at creation and that the Spirit continues to move through the world today, connecting
15 us with God and guiding us as we discern God's call on our lives. I believe the Holy Spirit is present
16 in the very air we breathe and that the Spirit works through both the written and spoken Word, as
17 well as through the unwritten and unspoken presence.

18 I believe that the Bible is the written Word of God and that it represents a universal truth
19 that is interpreted over time and space. I believe that scripture is holy, and I also believe that it is
20 the inspired Word of God written by humans for particular contexts. I believe that scripture holds
21 truth in modern times and that humans are continuing to seek who God is and what God is doing in
22 the world. I believe that in scripture, we see God's love, grace, and covenant for all of creation.

23 I believe that all humans were formed in the imago dei and that we each are called to be
24 disciples in the world. I believe God's ultimate call on our lives is to love God and to love and serve
25 one another. I believe in the equality of all human beings, regardless of age, sex, gender, race,
26 orientation, ability, or other identifying factor. I believe that God created each of us as unique beings
27 and that we are called to celebrate diversity while also recognizing one another as each children of
28 God.

29 I believe that humanity was tempted and fell into sin. I believe that we each are sinful and
30 that we cannot escape from sin on our own. I believe that through grace alone, we are redeemed. I
31 believe that we do good works in the world not as a requirement for salvation but as a sign of faith
32 and as a response to God's call on our lives.

33 I believe in the church as both an institution in the world and as the collective body of
34 believers. I believe that the church is needed as a structure for people to gather, worship, and grow
35 in faith. I also believe that the church should not act as an insular structure limited by building,
36 congregation, or denomination. I believe the church universal is charged to feed the hungry, clothe
37 the naked, care for the sick, comfort the broken, and embrace all people. I believe the church is not
38 called to wait for people to come to it, but rather that the church and its members are sent into the
39 world to love and serve it in community.

40 I believe in the sacraments of baptism and communion. I believe that baptism is a sign and
41 seal of God's covenant of love and salvation. I believe that in baptism, the baptized and the
42 community of believers make a commitment to support one another in faith. I believe that one can
43 be baptized at any stage of life and acknowledge one baptism in the name of the Trinity. I believe in
44 the real presence of Christ at communion. I believe the bread and cup are both reminders of the
45 sacrifice of Jesus Christ at the crucifixion and also are a sign of the life of Christ in the world today. I
46 believe that the table is open to all who approach it and that communion is a sacred act that
47 connects us with God.

Spiritual Autobiography
Mary Sellers Shaw

Someone once told me that if you can find the “thin red thread” in scripture of what its central message is for you, you will always have something to hold onto in the midst of any doubts or questions. Throughout my faith journey, I have found that my “thread” is the love of God for all of us and our call to love one another. I see God in the beauty and complexity of creation and in the fundamental goodness and humanity I believe can be found in all. Over and over again in life, I find myself coming back to these basic principles, whether in times of heartache or of joy.

Growing up Presbyterian, I found a home in the church. I loved the liturgy and the tradition, and I learned the importance of giving back to the community. I got involved in every aspect of the church that I could, and I discovered a deep sense of calling and connection with God through the sacrament of communion. In both serving the elements as a Ruling Elder and receiving them as a part of the congregation, I felt connected to God and to the mystery of the incarnation. Looking back, then, it seems natural that I first felt my sense of call as a high school student while taking communion at Montreat Youth Conference. I felt a call to serve others and to ministry—this sense of call, though, felt scary and uncertain as I began discerning what it might mean for my life.

Throughout college, I began wrestling with this sense of call and with who I was meant to be as a person of faith. I attempted to try out different avenues for service, hoping that one might be a fit. Up to this point, faith had felt fairly easy. I might have had questions, but I trusted God and my community to live faithfully and treat one another well.

It was my year as a Young Adult Volunteer that brought about a new complexity to my faith. I struggled with questions about justice and theodicy, wondering how the God of goodness and love—a God I believe to always be just—would allow the suffering I witnessed on a daily basis in my work with those experiencing homelessness. The year also made me begin questioning the church and how we work in the world. If we are called to love and serve one another, why do we live in a world full of stereotypes and allow our justice system to be set up against those who need its help the most? And what is the church doing about it? I also, though, saw God’s love at work more deeply than I had ever before in the community that engulfed those with whom I was working. Amidst the deep sorrow of the world, there was true joy and hope.

This new questioning and exploring is what finally convinced me to follow the call to seminary. Throughout this time, my faith was both questioned and deepened as I learned to wrestle with the unknown, all while going back to that “thread.” I met people with fundamentally different theologies than my own and discovered a renewed passion for seeing the sacred in the everyday. I found deep and profound beauty in nature and in the complexity of human bodies and communities. And I learned the importance of being brave and following God’s call.

It was this call that led me to work as the Director of Mission and Outreach at First Presbyterian Church in Franklin. This congregation is full of energy and hope while also asking deep questions about how we interact with our community. I see God at work in new ways: in how children feel at home in the church, in how a shared table can make all feel welcome, and in how a community can act bravely to show up for our neighbors. My faith is strengthened every day as I see new life in the church, both congregationally and in the world.

I have faith today that God is at work in the world through each of us. We are called to love deeply and fully. This love is not always easy, but through the grace of Christ we continue to learn and grow together. This “thread” of how God loves us and how we are called to love one another guides me through moments of uncertainty and of strength. I am excited to continue this journey, growing closer to God and practicing a life of faithful service.

God is sovereign Lord of all creation. That statement is the bedrock of my faith and all other aspects of my faith stem and flow from that one truth. God created the world and all creation remains open to God's direct involvement. God is active in creation with the purpose of establishing the Kingdom of God and redeeming creation from the bondage to sin and death. God is a speaking and revealing God. As created beings of God, we know God because of God's initiative in making Godself known.

God's most direct revelation came in the form of Jesus the Christ, God's Son. It is through Jesus that God most clearly speaks of God's purpose and love for creation. It is through Jesus that the Kingdom of God broke into our current existence. Jesus' birth, life, and teaching communicate the welcoming nature of God. Jesus also communicates God's sense and purpose of justice to pursue and lift up those who have been marginalized and oppressed. These have been called into God's Kingdom. This is the gospel. The Powers that Be saw fit to crucify Jesus and through the supreme act of non-violent, self-sacrificing love, the Son of God laid down his life. The victory of God comes when death does not have the final word but rather life. The resurrection of Christ opens the door for all humanity to respond to God in faith and be welcomed into the Kingdom of God.

The work of Christ is made effective to individuals through the work of the Holy Spirit. Humanity, unable to come to God on their own, is called by the Holy Spirit. The Spirit works to give faith, regenerate, and justify people; continuing the work that Christ began. Throughout their lives the faith of individuals grows through the work of the Holy Spirit. This is sanctification and growth in grace. The Spirit of God uses circumstances, spiritual practices, and the community of faith (the church) to preserve disciples of Jesus and assist them in persevering. The work of redemption which was initiated by God, completed by Christ, will be brought to consummation through the working of the Holy Spirit.

God has given God's people the church to provide community and to continue to the advancement of God's Kingdom begun in the work of Jesus. The Church has been given the Word and Sacrament, both of which are used by God's Spirit to display and to seal God's work in the hearts of God's people. The church is connectional and confessional. The church is both visible and invisible. It is the already/but not yet Kingdom of God active and working in the world. The mission of God's people is to continue to spread the gospel, to display the love of God through acts of mercy to neighbor, and to continue to stand with the marginalized and oppressed against those who would use power to coerce and take advantage. This is done through non-violent, peaceful, and prophetic acts of resistance. This work is the continued work of Christ.

God's people are strengthened by the hope of the coming Kingdom of God. This future reality is when heaven and earth become one and the reign of God becomes manifest here as it is in heaven. Our work is a shadow of that which is to come. In this coming Kingdom all earthly Kingdoms will bow their knee to Jesus and acknowledge him as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. It is to Jesus that all glory and power and blessing and honor will be given forever and ever. AMEN.

I believe that my faith journey starts at birth because I believe that God was working and preparing my heart before I was even conscious that God existed. However, I will not start there. I became a disciple of Jesus at the age of 17. My conversion occurred in an Assemblies of God church in Salem, MO. It was in this church that I also felt my call to ministry though I had no idea it would look like it does now.

I went to undergrad at Evangel University in Springfield, MO. It was here that I first began to look at what I believed about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and the Church. I became disillusioned with what I was experiencing and began to turn to Church History for answers. As I prepared to graduate with no clear direction as to where to go next, a small Cumberland Presbyterian Church in my hometown contacted me and asked me if I would help them. They opened their pulpit to me and we gathered at the table together. It was in this small rural church that I first came into contact with Reformed theology and polity. I found a church that was confessional and connectional and it was like a breath of fresh air. I was drawn by the simplicity and reverence of the liturgy and captivated by a rich theology, especially reformed ecclesiology. I went to the session I was serving and they presented me to the presbytery as a probationer.

From 2006 to 2011 I began to work on a graduate degree in theology. My seminary journey was difficult and beautiful. It was through the probationary process that God truly shaped me for pastoral ministry. I had an amazing Committee of Ministry—Preparation who provided spiritual direction, challenged me on my preconceived ideas, and helped me to understand what it meant to be reformed and always reforming. During this time my daughter was born. I will often reference that moment as THE moment I began to understand God's love. Also during this time I entered the Air Force with the plan of becoming a Reserve Chaplain. This is a ministry which continues to provide me with new challenges and opportunities to share the love of God and serve others.

In 2011 I was ordained by the Missouri Presbytery of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Since then I have served smaller parishes and continued to work in the chaplaincy, both in the Air Force and with a local hospice. Over the past 8 years my ministry has continued to grow and take shape. The priorities I once thought were essential have lessened while other aspects of ministry have taken their place. My personal life has continued to change and in turn has continued to be a place of discipleship, taking the truths of scripture and teaching me to live them out in practical ways. My "modern family" continues to teach me about God's love and how I am to practice that on a daily basis.

Over the past 4 years my theology and faith journey has taken a definitive turn toward a more inclusive view of God. This change has lead me to the PCUSA...a church that is confessional and connectional...a church that stands in the rich stream of reformed history and takes seriously the call to continually reform...a church that is welcoming and hospitable to all that God may call...a church that stands alongside the oppressed and marginalized and seeks to be a prophetic voice in today's very loud, very busy world. It's quite strange. My journey to this point feels less like a journey from something to something (from my conversion to today) and more like a journey home.

**Martha Gilliss, Commissioner to the Synod of Living Waters
Report to the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee
February 14, 2019**

The Synod of Living Waters met Monday, January 28th at First Presbyterian Church, Franklin.

In general session, Keenan Rodgers from the Board of Pensions and William McConnell from the Presbyterian Mission Agency presented updates on mission engagement. Representatives from our Covenant Partners - Maryville College, Stillman College, Columbia Seminary, King University, Rhodes College, and the University of Pikeville - spoke of their work.

The Ministry Partnership Committee received a report from the PC(USA)'s Synod Leadership Gathering in which 14 of our 16 synods participated earlier this month. Working in conjunction with the "Equal Justice Initiative" in Montgomery, AL, and the Legacy Museum and the National Memorial for Peace and Justice, synod was asked four questions that will lead to a plan of action. The synod will support presbyteries in the engagement of an issue (i.e., racism, the "Me Too" movement, etc.) and facilitate communication through a website. So the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee has before us this question: are we as a Presbytery interested in working on such a project?

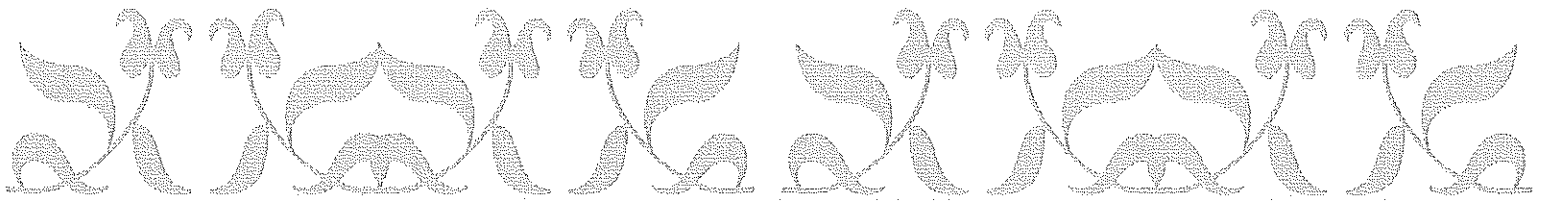
REPORT FROM THE SYNOD

Leonard E. Jordan

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve The Middle Tennessee Presbytery as the Ruling Elder Commissioner to the Synod meeting. The first order of business was to elect and install the incoming Moderator and Vice-Moderator. It gave me great pleasure to hand the gavel over to a great friend and former Teaching Elder from Middle Tennessee Presbytery Rev. Tom Lovell from North Alabama who was installed as 2019 Moderator and Ms. Susan Sumrall, Ruling Elder Commissioner, Mississippi.

You may recall that a visioning taskforce team of eight members was appointed with the purpose to engage the Synod, its leadership and its 12 presbyteries in a twelve-month visioning process. The report was received at this meeting. The Permanent Administrative Commission received the report and recommended a New Synod Mission Statement, revised Synod Staffing Pattern effective July 1, 2019 and Amended Synod standing rules. The moderator was charged with developing two additional task forces, an Implementation Task Force as well as a Manual of Operations task force to facilitate the Synod moving into its new structure and staffing pattern after the retirement of current Synod Executive Rev. Terry Newland June 30, 2019.

We also received the report from Living Waters for the World Executive, Mr. Steve Young. He reminded the reason for installing water systems are for the children who will one day be our future leaders. They will install their 1000 water system in 2019. Currently they have 962 water system installations recorded in their database. A total of 2300 volunteers have been trained and installed a total of 41 water systems in 2018.



Presbyterian Women

Save the Date

SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 2019

SPRING GATHERING 2019 FOR MTP-PW

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MCMINNVILLE, TN



Presbyterian Women

SAVE THE DATE



*Love Carved in Stone:
A Fresh Look at the Ten
Commandments*

Presbyterian Women
Synod Triennial
Gathering
First Presbyterian Church
Tupelo, MS

June 13-15, 2019



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN



Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Presbyterian Mission

Communications Strategies

to connect with your community

When: Saturday, March 30

Communications Workshop

This daylong workshop, conducted by communications professionals on the Presbyterian Mission Agency staff, will give you tips and techniques to better reach your audience. We'll offer insights and guidelines on creating a communications plan for your congregation, discuss the "do's and don'ts" of media relations and "pitching" stories to your local media. You'll learn proven techniques for using social media tools like Facebook and Twitter and leave with tips that will make your communications more effective and help increase your reach.

Where: Fellowship Hall
Westminster Presbyterian Church
3900 West End Avenue
Nashville, TN 37205

For more Information:

Contact the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee
615-332-3330
pbymidtnoffice@gmail.com

What do you want your community to know about your church?

Are you looking for ways to share God's love through social media? Does your church have a well-thought-out communications plan — for both internal and external audiences?

Create excitement and energy in your congregation by using simple, but powerful communications tools.

You don't have to have a huge budget or a large staff to effectively tell the story of your work inside and outside the church walls.