

**The 139<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee will be held on Thursday, October 17, 2019, at Second Presbyterian Church, 3511 Belmont Blvd, Nashville.**

Directions to the church are included with the packet. Registration will be in the Fellowship area; the meeting will be held in the sanctuary.

*Please register online for the meeting at the presbytery's website ([www.pbymidtn.org](http://www.pbymidtn.org)); click on Presbytery meetings. If you have difficulty registering online, please call or email Erin Dolman at the Presbytery office (615-332-3330; [pbymidtnoffice@gmail.com](mailto:pbymidtnoffice@gmail.com)) with your registration information.*

There will be an orientation for first time commissioners and a time of prayer for the presbytery, beginning at 9:00AM.

Presbytery will convene promptly at 9:30 AM with worship; The Rev. Yolanda Norton, Assistant Professor of Hebrew Bible, H. Eugene Farlough Professor of Black Church Studies at San Francisco Theological Seminary/University of Redlands Graduate School of Theology, will preach. The offering will be collected for Presbyterian Disaster Relief.

Childcare will be provided; you must make a reservation by contacting the church office (615-292-3343; [emily@secondpresbyterian.net](mailto:emily@secondpresbyterian.net)). The deadline for childcare registration is Thursday, October 10.

***Please help us by registering for the meeting so that a nametag will be available for you! And please register for lunch (\$15.00) so the church can have an accurate head count.***

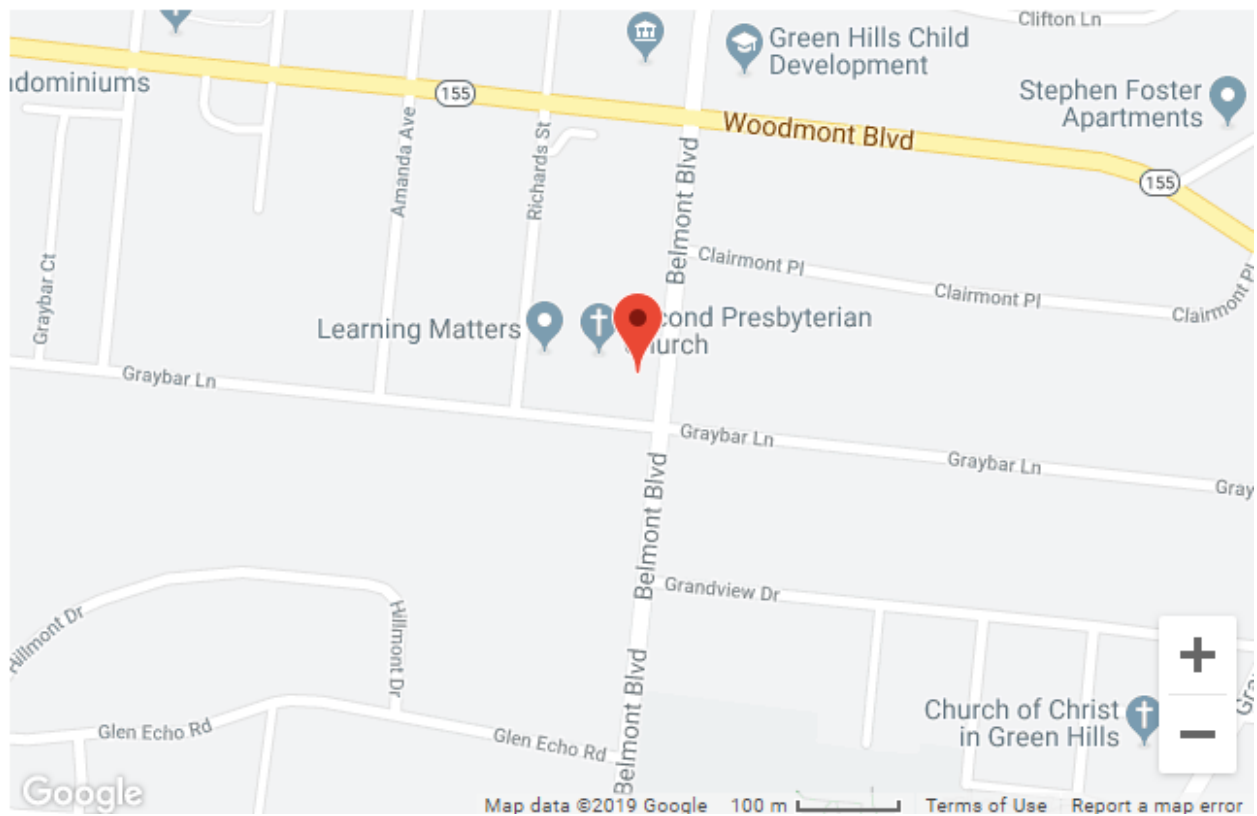
WiFi is available at the church; consider downloading specific reports in advance of the meeting. To download the entire packet, [click here](#). If you would like a paper copy of the packet, please call the presbytery office to request this. If you have any questions about the meeting, please contact Therese Howell (615-305-6795; [thehowell@aol.com](mailto:thehowell@aol.com)). If you have questions about a specific report, please contact the person listed on that report.

## Second Presbyterian Church

3511 Belmont Blvd

Nashville, TN 37215

Second Presbyterian is located on the corner of Belmont Blvd. and Graybar in the Green Hills of Nashville, TN, just one block south of Woodmont Blvd.





**Rev. Yolanda Norton** is the Assistant Professor of Hebrew Bible, H. Eugene Farlough Professor of Black Church Studies at San Francisco Theological Seminary/University of Redlands Graduate School of Theology.

Her work focuses on the books of Genesis and Ruth, and how each text treats foreign women and influences constructions of identity, especially for women of color who encounter the biblical canon in the modern world. She has published chapters in *I Found God in Me: Womanist Biblical Hermeneutics Reader* and *Global Perspectives in the Old Testament*. She also has a pending publication in Liturgical Press' new feminist commentary on the Psalms.

Rev. Norton is ordained in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and has served in various ministerial capacities in the Washington, D.C. area and Nashville. She holds a Master of Divinity and Master of Theological Studies degree from Wesley Theological Seminary and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Syracuse University. She is a Ph.D. candidate at Vanderbilt Divinity School.

**STATED CLERK'S REPORT  
PRESBYTERY OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE  
OCTOBER 17, 2019**

**ADMIT TO RECORD**

1. Meredith Cox / Ordination

The stated clerk has received the minutes of the commission to ordain Meredith Cox to the ministry of the Word and Sacrament.

2. Whitney Booth Lockard / Ordination

The stated clerk has received the minutes of the commission to ordain Whitney Booth Lockard to the ministry of the Word and Sacrament.

3. Len Carrell / First Presbyterian Church, Columbia

The stated clerk has received the minutes of the commission to install Len Carrell as pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Columbia.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. The stated clerk has received a request that UKIRK Nashville (Vanderbilt and Belmont) be allowed to celebrate the sacrament of communion during 2020. The Rev. Lindsey Groves will preside.
2. The roll and minutes of the 138<sup>th</sup> stated meeting (July 20, 2019) of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee (attached) are presented for approval.

**DRAFT**

**PRESBYTERY OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE  
MINUTES OF ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-EIGHTH STATED MEETING  
JULY 20, 2019**

The 138th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee was held Saturday, July 20, 2019, at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Columbia, Tennessee. Stated Clerk Therese Howell led an orientation and time of prayer for first time commissioners. Moderator John Hinkle called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

**WORSHIP / INSTALLATION OF CO-EXECUTIVE PRESBYTERS**

Worship included sermons by Meredith Cox, candidate under care of the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta, who preached on Psalm 15, and Whitney Booth Lockard, candidate under care of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee, who preached on Luke 10:34-42. Also participating in worship were Rev. Jeff Kane (pastor, Westminster Columbia), Rev. Ray Thomas (Co-Executive Presbyter), and Elder Robin Thomas (Co-Executive Presbyter). The Westminster Singers of Westminster Presbyterian Church, Columbia, provided special music, under the leadership of music director Wilson Henderson and organist Charline Henderson. The offering was collected to support Youth Triennium.

**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. Rev. Jeff Kane, pastor of the host church, welcomed commissioners, and spoke of the church's ministry to homeless families. 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).

1 **AGENDA**

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

- 5 8:30 am 1. Registration (Order of the Day in CAPS)
- 6 9:00 am Orientation for First Time Commissioners and Prayer for Presbytery – (20 min)
- 7 9:30 am 2. CALL TO ORDER / WORSHIP
- 8 (Offering: Youth Triennium)
- 9 10:30 am 3. Break
- 10 10:45 am 4. Reconvene / Establishment of Quorum / Statement of Procedures / Welcome by Host /
- 11 Recognition of First Time Presbyters / Seating of Corresponding Members / Adoption of
- 12 Agenda
- 13 11:00 am 5. Stated Clerk’s Report – Therese Howell (5 minutes)
- 14 11:05 am 6. Administrative Committee – Theresa Denton (5 min)
- 15 11:10 am 7. Finance Committee – Mike Ingram (5 minutes)
- 16 11:15 am 8. Committee on Leadership Excellence – Sally Hughes (5 min)
- 17 11:20 am 9. Committee on Ministry – Stephen Yates (35 min)
- 18 • Examination of Candidates for Ordination
- 19 11:55 am 10. Hunger Action Advocate Report – Stuart Wilson-Patton (5 min)
- 20 Noon 11. Prayer of Thanksgiving / Lunch
- 21 1:00 pm Reconvene
- 22 12. The Village Church Isaiah 1:18 Team Report – (45 min)
- 23 1:45 pm 13. Co-Executive Presbyters’ Report – Robin and Ray Thomas (10 min)
- 24 1:55 pm 14. Concerns, Celebrations, and Announcements – Thomases (15 min)
- 25 2:10 pm 15. Unfinished Business
- 26 **139th Stated Meeting – Thursday, October 17, 2019, Second Presbyterian Church,**
- 27 **Nashville**
- 28 2:15 pm 16. Closing Prayer / Adjourn

29 **REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK**

30 Ruling Elder Therese Howell, Stated Clerk, presented the following report.

31 Shane Smith / Hillsboro Presbyterian Church, Nashville

32 The Stated Clerk has received the minutes of the commission to install The Rev. Shane Smith as  
33 Pastor of Hillsboro Presbyterian Church, Nashville. *[minutes to be included in permanent record]*

34 Toby Mueller / Historic Franklin Presbyterian Church, Franklin

35 The Stated Clerk has received the minutes of the commission to install The Rev. Dr. Toby Mueller  
36 as Pastor of Historic Franklin Presbyterian Church, Franklin. *[minutes to be included in permanent record]*

37 Investigating Committee

38 The investigating committee appointed earlier completed their work and will not file charges.

39 Books of Order and Planning Calendars

40 The presbytery office ordered Books of Order and Presbyterian Planning Calendars. Books of  
41 Order are available for purchase at \$8.50 each. Calendars are to be shipped late August and are \$8.00.

42 Minutes of the 137<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting (May 30, 2019)

43 The Stated Clerk presented the minutes of the 137<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting (May 30, 2019) of the  
44 Presbytery of Middle Tennessee for approval. The motion was made and seconded to approve the  
45 minutes. After corrections, the minutes were approved as amended.

46 **ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

47 Ruling Elder Theresa Denton, Vice-Moderator and chair of the Administrative Committee,  
48 presented the committee’s report.

1 Telos at Southminster New Worshipping Community

2 The Administrative Committee approved the grant request for the new worshipping community,  
3 Telos at Southminster. Telos has scheduled its first worship service on the first Sunday of July at 9AM in  
4 the sanctuary at Southminster Presbyterian Church, Nashville.

5 Handlson v. Presbytery of Middle Tennessee

6 The committee received an update on Handlson v. Presbytery of Middle Tennessee.

7 Village Church / Isaiah 1:18 Report

8 The committee received a report from The Village Church Isaiah 1:18 Team. The Village Church  
9 has asked to be dismissed to the Disciples of Christ; Kelli X, the ruling elder approved to preach and lead  
10 worship, is scheduled to be ordained by the Disciples of Christ on July 14.

11 July 20, 2019 Presbytery Meeting

12 The committee approved the agenda for the July 20 Presbytery meeting. Two candidates for  
13 ordination, Whitney Booth Lockard and Meredith Cox, will preach during worship. The offering was  
14 approved for Youth Triennium scholarships; the Presbytery will hear a report on Triennium at the  
15 October meeting (the youth do not return from Triennium until July 20).

16 Rock Eternal New Church Development

17 The Rock Eternal Presbyterian Church (the Arabic speaking Egyptian NCD at Priest Lake) received  
18 a \$7,500 seed grant from 1001 Worshipping Communities.

19 **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

20 Ruling Elder Mike Ingram, Treasurer and chair of the Finance Committee, presented the  
21 committee's report. He reported the Finance Committee met monthly in conjunction with the  
22 Administrative Committee.

23 Financials

24 The Finance Committee provided financials as of May 30, 2019, and financials as of June 30, 2019  
25 were handed out at the meeting. Mr. Ingram briefly reviewed the financials, and thanked the  
26 Presbytery's accountant, Pat Webb, for her excellent work. Mr. Ingram briefly discussed the new tax  
27 laws related to charitable giving.

28 **COMMITTEE ON LEADERSHIP EXCELLENCE**

29 The Rev. Sally Hughes, chair of the Committee on Leadership Excellence, spoke of the  
30 committee's work. Events are planned throughout the year, including events lead by Craig Barnes and  
31 another by Joe Small. Surveys were distributed on the lunch tables and Rev. Hughes asked they be  
32 returned to her. She stated the Presbytery was blessed to have Ray Thomas, Robin Thomas, and Therese  
33 Howell as resources.

34 **COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY REPORT**

35 The Rev. Stephen Yates, chair of the Committee on Ministry, presented the COM's report, and  
36 introduced the new ministers who had joined the Presbytery in 2019.

37 Committee on Ministry Meetings

38 The Committee on Ministry meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 4PM at Westminster  
39 Presbyterian Church, Nashville.

40 Stephen Yates / Northminster Presbyterian Church, Murfreesboro

41 The COM approved Rev. Stephen Yates as Moderator of the Session of Northminster Presbyterian  
42 Church, Murfreesboro.

43 Jane Herring / Woodland Presbyterian Church, Nashville

44 The COM approved Rev. Jane Herring as liaison to Woodland Presbyterian Church, Nashville.

45 Mike Magee / Honorably Retired

46 The COM approved Rev. Mike Magee as Honorably Retired, effective July 1, 2019.

1 The Village Church / Isaiah Team Report

2 The COM received a report from the Isaiah Team for The Village Church. Kelly X, a ruling elder at  
3 Village Church approved to preach, will be ordained by the Disciples of Christ on July 14. The Isaiah Team  
4 will recommend The Village Church's dismissal to the Disciples of Christ.

5 Steve Musick / Honorably Retired

6 The COM sustained the examination of Rev. Steve Musick, Honorably Retired, and added him to  
7 the Pulpit Supply List and approved his transfer from the Presbytery of East Tennessee to the Presbytery  
8 of Middle Tennessee. A copy of his statement of faith and biographical statement is attached.

9 Evelyn Graham / Southminster Presbyterian Church, Nashville

10 The COM sustained the examination of the Rev. Evelyn Graham, Designated Pastor at  
11 Southminster Presbyterian Church, Nashville, and approved her call as installed pastor at Southminster,  
12 under the same terms of call. A copy of her statement of faith and biographical statement is attached.

13 Amy Busse / First Presbyterian Church, Pulaski

14 The COM sustained the examination of Rev. Amy Busse, a member of the Presbytery of Indian  
15 Nations, and approved her call to serve as pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Pulaski. The COM  
16 approved the following terms of call: salary - \$37,280; housing allowance - \$10,000; dental insurance -  
17 \$1,000; professional expenses - \$2,000; automobile expenses - \$1,500; Social Security supplement -  
18 \$3,999.37; other (bonus) - \$1,000; moving expenses - \$900; 4 weeks of vacation; and 2 weeks of  
19 continuing education. A copy of her statement of faith and biographical statement is attached.

20 Pat Handlson

21 The COM received a letter from Pat Handlson in response to the COM's request for more  
22 specificity in Handlson's required reports, as well as report from his care team. The Presbytery's  
23 attorneys will be contacted regarding a response to Mr. Handlson's letter.

24 Meredith Cox / Alive Hospice

25 Rev. Yates stated the Committee on Ministry examined Meredith Cox, a candidate under care of  
26 the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta, who has been called to serve as a chaplain at Alive Hospice, Nashville,  
27 as part of the St. Thomas CPE Residency program. A copy of their statement of faith and biographical  
28 statement was included with the COM report. The COM validated this ministry, and recommends  
29 Meredith Cox be examined by the Presbytery for ordination. Cox spoke of their journey of faith and call,  
30 and responded to questions from The Rev. Nolan Huizenga, chair of the COM's Examinations Task Force,  
31 and commissioners.

32 Whitney Booth Lockard / Agnes Scott College

33 Rev. Yates stated the Committee on Ministry examined Whitney Booth Lockard, a candidate  
34 under care of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee, who has been called to serve as Campus Chaplain at  
35 Agnes Scott College, Decatur, Georgia. A copy of her statement of faith and biographical statement is  
36 attached. Pending a successful examination, the COM recommended Whitney Booth Lockard be  
37 examined by the Presbytery for ordination, and that she be dismissed to the Presbytery of Greater  
38 Atlanta following her ordination. Lockard responded to questions from Huizenga and commissioners.

39 Cox and Lockard were escorted out of the sanctuary by Rev. Huizenga.

40 The motion to sustain the examination of Meredith Cox and approve them for ordination was  
41 approved without questions or discussion. The following commission to ordain was approved without  
42 objection: Sunday, August 11, 3PM, Woodland Presbyterian Church, Nashville; Teaching Elders – Lindsey  
43 Groves (UKIRK Nashville), chair; Mark DeVries (First Nashville); Rachel Penmore (Westminster Nashville);  
44 Ruling Elders – Jeff Moles (Second); Heidi Hall (Woodland); Guest of the Commission – Rev. Mary Cox,  
45 Presbytery of Greater Atlanta.

46 The motion to sustain the examination of Whitney Booth Lockard, approve her for ordination,  
47 and dismiss her to the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta following ordination was approved without



1 questions or discussion. The following commission to ordain was approved without objection: Sunday,  
2 July 21, 8:30AM, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Nashville; Teaching Elders –Janet Salyer (Harpeth),  
3 chair; Guy Griffith (Westminster Nashville); Jim Hudnut-Beumler (Vanderbilt Divinity School); Ruling  
4 Elders – Claire Harris Kramer (Westminster Nashville); Trice Gibbons (Second).

5 Cox and Lockard were escorted back into the sanctuary, and informed of the votes. Presbytery  
6 welcomed persons present in support of the candidates.

#### 7 Commissions to Install

8 Rev. Yates stated the Committee on Ministry would bring the commissions to install The Rev.  
9 Evelyn Graham as pastor of Southminster Presbyterian Church, Nashville, and The Rev. Amy Busse as  
10 pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Pulaski, to the October Presbytery meeting.

11 The Rev. Len Carrell, pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Columbia, asked the Presbytery to  
12 approve an amended commission to install. The following commission to install Rev. Carrell as pastor of  
13 First Columbia on Sunday, September 29, 2019, 3:30PM, First Columbia, was approved without  
14 objection: Teaching Elders – Chris Joiner (First Franklin), chair; C. Nolan Huizenga (Second); Carol Tate  
15 (At-Large); Ruling Elders – Argie Satterwhite (First Columbia); Leonard Jordan (St. Andrews); Therese  
16 Howell (Stated Clerk); Guests of the Commission – Ted Wardlaw (Austin Presbyterian Theological  
17 Seminary); Christi Armstrong (Hannahway Street Original Church of God); Hallie Hottle (Presbytery of  
18 Heartland); Carolyn Fisher (First Columbia).

19 The Presbytery took a brief recess, and approved without objection, adjustments in the agenda.

#### 20 **CO-EXECUTIVE PRESBYTERS' REPORT**

21 Robin and Ray Thomas reported on their work so far, and called attention to the Nominating flyer  
22 in the packet, as well the presbytery's new administrative assistant, Erin Dolman, who will begin work  
23 on Wednesday.

#### 24 **CONCERNS, CELEBRATIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS**

25 The Thomases led the Presbytery in the sharing of concerns, celebrations, and announcements.

#### 26 **HUNGER ACTION ADVOCATE REPORT**

27 Ruling Elder Stuart Wilson-Patton, Presbytery's Hunger Action Advocate, spoke of the  
28 Presbytery's work towards the eradication of hunger and poverty. He called attention to hunger grants,  
29 and encouraged churches to continue support of the Centsability program.

30 Mr. Wilson-Patton then offered a prayer for lunch.

31 The Moderator called the meeting back to order at 1PM, and offered a prayer.

#### 32 **VILLAGE CHURCH / ISAIAH 1:18 REPORT**

33 The Rev. Robert Montgomery, a member of the Village Church Isaiah 1:18 Team, presented the  
34 following report.

35 *"Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord." Isaiah 1:18*

36 The overriding goal of the gracious separation process is, ". . . the creation of an atmosphere where the  
37 peaceful discussion and resolution of disagreements as brothers and sisters in Christ can take place."<sup>1</sup>

38 Upon learning The Village Church wished to be dismissed from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the  
39 Administrative Committee of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee appointed an Isaiah 1:18 Team to carry out the  
40 Presbytery's Gracious Separation Policy.

#### 41 **History**

42 Village Church (PCUSA) Mission Statement (November 1997):

43 "The mission of the Village Church is to *Introduce* people to Jesus Christ. *Inspire* them in the worship of  
44 God. *Enlighten* them to the rich cultural heritage of people of African descent. *Encourage* them to seek justice

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<sup>1</sup> Policy Concerning Dismissal of Congregations, Presbytery of Middle Tennessee, revised July 18, 2015, page 12  
July 20, 2019

1 and liberation of the oppressed. *Instruct* them in the process of Christian growth and *Inflame* them with a passion  
2 to serve Christ in the church and in the world.”<sup>2</sup>

3 The Village Church was officially organized February 27, 2000, with 125 members, primarily from the  
4 Cayce Homes community. The church’s initial focus was on meeting the spiritual and social worship  
5 attendance of 100.<sup>3</sup>

6 The church’s history includes involvement with Tying Nashville Together, supporting ministries with  
7 schools and universities, Drum and Dance Ministry, and leadership within the community it serves. The church  
8 has supported persons in ministry, including an ordained Minister of the Word and Sacrament, two commissioned  
9 lay pastors, and a candidate under care.

10 The church shared space for a period of time with Woodland Presbyterian Church, Nashville, and has  
11 relocated to Madison, Tennessee. The church currently meets in the Martin Center in Madison. The Presbytery’s  
12 Committee on Ministry approved candidate under care, Kelli X, to serve as the church’s student pastor until Kelli  
13 could complete the requirements for ordination. The Presbytery also approved the commissioning of William A.  
14 Radford, a ruling elder, to serve as commissioned ruling elder for the congregation.

15 **Request**

16 The Administrative Committee reported to Presbytery on October 19, 2017 that the Session of The Village  
17 Church requested to be dismissed from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). An Isaiah Team 1:18 Team was  
18 appointed: Carol A. Tate, chair; Robert Montgomery (pastor, First Lewisburg); Connie Hamblen (elder,  
19 Eastminster). The Village Church appointed elders Rico X, Jenifer Grady, and Tremeta Norman. Kelli X, Warner  
20 Durnell (Executive Presbyter), and Therese Howell (stated clerk), served as advisory members.

21 The Isaiah 1:18 team held meetings on March 18, 2018, April 18, 2018, April 24, 2018, July 22, 2018 with  
22 the session and members of the congregation of The Village Church. It was clear that members of the church had  
23 been discussing a move from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) for several years.

24 It became very clear the overwhelming sentiment was to leave. The church has requested to be dismissed  
25 to the Disciples of Christ. The Rev. Dr. Christal Williams, presiding bishop of the Disciples of Christ in Tennessee,  
26 has confirmed the Disciples will welcome The Village Church into membership. Kelli X will be ordained as a  
27 Disciples of Christ minister on July 14.

28 At a meeting on July 20, with members of the congregation and members of the Isaiah 1:18 Team present,  
29 the following question was put to the congregation of The Village Church:

30 *Can we undertake a gracious separation, forgiving one another for our mutual struggles and failure/s,*  
31 *remembering and rejoicing in the strong gifts and witness of The Village Church, and seeking God’s will as we*  
32 *prayerfully move forward to serve Christ in the world?*

33 The answer was yes.

34 **Recommendation**

35 The Isaiah Team for The Village Church recommended to the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee that The  
36 Village Church, and those in its membership who wish to leave, be dismissed to the Disciples of Christ. The  
37 dismissal will include all assets and liabilities of The Village Church, all real and personal property. The session  
38 records, including session and congregational meeting minutes and the church roll, will be provided to the Stated  
39 Clerk, who will make a copy and return the originals to The Village Church. Persons who wish to remain in the  
40 PC(USA) will have their membership held by the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee, for up to one year from the date  
41 of the Presbytery’s action, or until such time as they unite with another congregation.

42 Rev. Montgomery reviewed the report and spoke of the work of the team. The recommendation  
43 was approved without discussion. Rev. Montgomery offered a prayer, and the Moderator thanked the  
44 team for their work.

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<sup>2</sup> Launching the Expansion of the Ministry of The Village Church (PCUSA), approved by the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee, July 24, 2007.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business, and the Moderator stated the 139<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting would be held on Thursday, October 17, 2019, at Second Presbyterian Church, Nashville. The meeting was adjourned with prayer by the Moderator upon motion made, seconded, and approved without objection.

Therese P. Howell  
Stated Clerk

**Teaching Elders**

\_E\_Adams, Chris  
 \_E\_Allen, Bill  
 \_E\_Anderson, David  
 \_E\_Anderson, Rosanna  
 \_E\_Angel, Erin Howton  
 \_E\_Angel, Jonathan  
 \_E\_Asbury, Beverly  
 \_E\_Barger, Bill  
 \_E\_Beisswenger, Philip  
 \_P\_Berger, Will  
 \_E\_Bird, Sarah  
 \_E\_Bonner, Leigh  
 \_P\_Bradley, Mike  
 \_E\_Bray, Linda  
 \_P\_Bryan, Mark  
 \_E\_Bryant, William T.  
 \_E\_Burgener, John "Bo"  
 \_E\_Caldwell, Elizabeth  
 \_E\_Canon, Amelia  
 \_P\_Carrell, Len  
 \_E\_Casner, Paul  
 \_E\_Cejka, III, Joseph  
 \_E\_Cheetham, John T.  
 \_E\_Chiquimia, Teddy  
 \_E\_Clewer, Harry  
 \_E\_Coates, Coleman Lewis  
 \_E\_Cowan, John  
 \_E\_Crawford, John  
 \_E\_Crigler, III, A. S.  
 \_P\_Cross, III, Allen  
 \_E\_Crumby, Robert  
 \_E\_Crumpler, David  
 \_E\_Danner, Charles  
 \_P\_Davis, Michael  
 \_E\_DeVries, Adam  
 \_E\_DeVries, Mark  
 \_E\_Drake, Donovan  
 \_E\_Durnell, Warner R.  
 \_E\_Early, Kim Maphis  
 \_E\_Early, Robert  
 \_E\_Edington, Sherard  
 \_E\_Eisenmenger, David  
 \_P\_Estafanos, Samy  
 \_E\_Fraser, Carrie  
 \_E\_Gasser, Anna D.  
 \_P\_Gay, Andy  
 \_E\_Gilliam, Elizabeth  
 \_E\_Gilliss, Martha Schull  
 \_P\_Glover, Gregory  
 \_E\_Glover, Leslie  
 \_P\_Gordon, Stuart  
 \_P\_Graham, Evelyn  
 \_P\_Griffith, Guy D.  
 \_E\_Groves, Lindsey  
 \_E\_Gundersen, Carl A.  
 \_E\_Gung, Justin  
 \_E\_Gunter, Keith  
 \_E\_Hamman, Jaco  
 \_I\_Handlson, Pat  
 \_E\_Harding, Bobby  
 \_E\_Harkness, David  
 \_E\_Harrell, James E.  
 \_E\_Hassall, Harry S.  
 \_P\_Hawthorne, Blake  
 \_P\_Herring, Jane  
 \_P\_Hilley, John R.  
 \_P\_Hinkle, John  
 \_E\_Hodgson, Peter  
 \_E\_Hoehst, Jeanne'  
 \_E\_Horn, John  
 \_E\_Hudnut-Beumler, Heidi  
 \_P\_Hudnut-Beumler, Jim  
 \_P\_Hughes, Sally  
 \_E\_Huie, Scott  
 \_P\_Huizenga, C. Nolan  
 \_P\_Hunter, Jeannie  
 \_E\_Jarvis, Jennifer  
 \_E\_Johnson, Charles N.  
 \_P Joiner, Christopher A.  
 \_E\_Jones, Phyllis  
 \_E\_Jones, Todd B.  
 \_P\_Kane, Jeff  
 \_E\_Kang, Byung Hee  
 \_E\_Kang, Se Bong  
 \_P\_Kang, Shin  
 \_E\_Kaufman, John E.  
 \_E\_Kelly, Gary  
 \_P\_Kelly, Joel  
 \_E\_Kidd, David

**July 20, 2019 Stated Meeting Roll**

\_E\_Kim, Yoon Min  
 \_P\_Klein, Candace  
 \_E\_Knight, Carole  
 \_E\_Lancaster, Jimmie  
 \_E\_Larson, John  
 \_E\_Leftwich, Phil  
 \_E\_Lewis, John  
 \_E\_Lipsey, McCurdy  
 \_E\_Logan, Gail  
 \_E\_Magee, Michael J.  
 \_P\_McCaw, Beth  
 \_E\_McClure, Annie  
 \_E\_McCormack, Robert E.  
 \_E\_McCullough, John  
 \_P\_McCullough, Mary Louise  
 \_E\_McDaniel, Mark  
 \_P\_McLaughlin, Michael  
 \_E\_McMillion, Claude  
 \_E\_McRight, Dan  
 \_E\_McVey, Bruce  
 \_E\_Moffatt, III, Charles L.  
 \_P\_Moiso, Aimee  
 \_P\_Montgomery, Robert  
 \_E\_Moore, Kristi  
 \_E\_Mueller, Mark  
 \_P\_Mueller, Toby  
 \_E\_Muse, Perry  
 \_E\_Musgrave, John  
 \_P\_Musick, Steve  
 \_E\_Nally, Sara  
 \_E\_Nash, Jim  
 \_E\_Neil, Richard  
 \_E\_Newsom, Ernest B.  
 \_E\_Nguot, Peter Lul  
 \_E\_Nichols, H. Gudger, Jr.  
 \_E\_Nichols, James A.  
 \_E\_Nickell, Kay Pickens  
 \_E\_Nyhuis, Jule  
 \_E\_Paddon, Richard  
 \_E\_Padget, Donald  
 \_E\_Page, Fred  
 \_E\_Patton, Tom  
 \_P\_Penmore, Rachel  
 \_E\_Pentecost, Mike  
 \_E\_Picard, John Paul  
 \_E\_Pope, Craig  
 \_E\_Ramirez-Jimenez, Lila  
 \_E\_Randleman, Sandra  
 \_E\_Rector, Stacy  
 \_E\_Richardson, W. W.  
 \_E\_Ritchie, Jeff  
 \_E\_Ritchie, Megan  
 \_E\_Rogers-Vaughn, Annette  
 \_E\_Rodriguez, Josh  
 \_E\_Rouquie, Richard  
 \_P\_Salyer, Carson  
 \_P\_Salyer, Janet  
 \_E\_Sawyer, David  
 \_E\_Schultz, Harris  
 \_E\_Schwartz, Cindy  
 \_E\_Shaw, Mary Sellers  
 \_E\_Skelly, John J., III  
 \_E\_Smathers, Mike  
 \_E\_Smith, Jimmy D.  
 \_E\_Smith, John A.  
 \_E\_Smith, Katherine  
 \_E\_Smith, Shane  
 \_E\_Smith, Shawn Thomas  
 \_E\_Soderquist, Ann  
 \_E\_Tate, Carol  
 \_P\_Thomas, C. S. (Steve) III  
 \_P\_Thomas, Ray  
 \_E\_Thompson, C.J.  
 \_E\_Thompson, Marjorie  
 \_E\_Todd, John  
 \_E\_Traylor, Leslie  
 \_E\_Tuck, Janet  
 \_P\_Tyndall, Thomas B.  
 \_E\_Venable, III, Sid  
 \_E\_Walker, Thomas D.  
 \_E\_Wallace, Morgan  
 \_E\_Weingartner, Robert J.  
 \_E\_White, Jack  
 \_E\_White, Linda  
 \_P\_Wilson, Amos L.  
 \_P\_Wilson, Mike  
 \_E\_Yang, Sunggu  
 \_P\_Yates, Stephen  
 \_P\_Zeigler, Richard

P - Present  
 E - Excused

A - Absent  
 I - Inactive

## Ruling Elder Commissioners

<u>Church</u>	<u>Represented By</u>	<u>Church</u>	<u>Represented By</u>
Alexandria, Liberty Hill		Manchester, First	
Allardt, First		McMinnville, First	
Alpine, Christ		Milton, Hopewell	
Ardmore, Bethany		Mt. Pleasant, First	
Belfast		Murfreesboro, First	1. Eric Egli
Bethpage, Oak Grove			2. Sarah Gwinn
Brentwood, Brentwood First			3. John Murphy
East	1.	Northminster	Larry McElroy
	2.	Nashville, Bellevue	1. Marilyn Hare
Harpeth	1. Andrea Gunfeld		2.
	2. Andrew Ring	Donelson	1.
Buffalo Valley	Shirley Puckett		2.
Byrdstown, Smyrna		Downtown	1. Chuck Cordova
Clarksville, First	1.		2.
	2.	Eastminster	1. Anna Baker
	3.		2. Connie Hamblen
Macedonia		Emmanuel	
Columbia, First	1. Frank Dale	First	1. Peter Cobb
	2. Pat Smith		2. Hal Sauer
	3.		3. John Wimberly
Westminster			4.
Cookeville, Double Springs	Dora Estes		5.
First	1. Donna Simpson		6.
	2.		7.
Post Oak		Glen Leven	1. Emily Townes
Cowan, Fellowship			2. Matthew Vorff
Crossville, Calvary	1.	Glencliff	
Decherd		Hillsboro	1.
Dickson, First	Excused		2.
Pond		Hillwood	1.
Fairfield Glade, Westminster			2.
Fayetteville, First	1. Jeanne Cannon	Korean	1.
	2. Joseph Hamilton		2.
St. John		Priest Lake	
Franklin, First	1. Jo Singer	Second	1. David Carlton
	2.		2. David McMillan
	3.		3.
Historic	1.	Southminster	Rick Hollis
	2.	St. Andrews	1. Charles Jordan
New Hope			2. Ron King
Gallatin, First	1. Liz Ferrell	Trinity	1. Vira Billington
	2. Ann Thurman		2.
Sudanese		Village	1.
Hendersonville, First	1. Paulette Farnham		2.
	2.	Westminster	1. Ed Branding
New Creation			2. Catie Lee
Hermitage	1.		3. Ralph Wheeler
	2.		4.
Lawrenceburg, First	Carole Ivey		5.
Lebanon, First	1.		6.
	2.	Woodland	Greg Gardener
Spring Creek		Normandy	
Lewisburg, Bethberei		Old Hickory	
First	1.	Petersburg, First	
	2.	Pulaski, Brick Church	
Lynnville, First			

<u>Church</u>	<u>Represented By</u>
Pulaski, continued	
First	1. Charlotte Hughes 2.
Readyville, Cripple Creek	
Shelbyville, First	1. Leo Skelton 2.
Silver Point, Mattie Smith	
Smyrna, First	1. 2.
Sparta, Blue Spring	
First United	
Hickory Valley	
Robinson Chapel	
Spring Hill, First	
Springfield, First	1. 2.
Milldale	
Thompson Station, Bethesda	
Tullahoma, First	1. Betty Gault 2. Sidney M. Hoehl
Watertown, First	
Waverly, Ellis Grove	Excused

### **Commissioned Ruling Elders**

Leonard Jordan, St. Andrews; Ed Keith, Bethany Ardmore and First Petersburg; Andrew Smith, Blue Spring Sparta

### **Ruling Elders, Voice and Vote:**

Theresa Denton, Vice Moderator; Therese Howell, Stated Clerk; Mike Ingram, Treasurer; Ed Lancaster, 2018 Moderator; Geeta McMillan, Administrative Committee; Robin Thomas, Co-Executive Presbyter

### **Corresponding Members, Voice, without Vote:**

Meredith Cox, candidate, Presbytery of Greater Atlanta; Marshall Gupton (SBC), Northminster; Whitney Booth Lockard, candidate, Presbytery of Middle Tennessee; Roy Paterik, Cripple Creek Readyville; Stuart Wilson-Patton, Hunger Action Advocate

### **Visitors**

Eliza Blades, Woodland; Bill Cox, Roswell Presbyterian Church, Roswell, GA; Mary Cox, Roswell Presbyterian Church, Roswell, GA; Pamela Kelly, Calvary of Big Lick; Nancye McElroy, Northminster Murfreesboro

**ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE  
REPORT TO THE PRESBYTERY OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE  
OCTOBER 17, 2019**

**INFORMATION**

1. The Administrative Committee usually meets on the third Thursday of each month, followed by a joint meeting with the Finance Committee. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 21, 2019, 12:30pm, at First Presbyterian Church, Franklin.
2. The Administrative Committee receives reports from the Co-Executive Presbyters, the Stated Clerk, and the Treasurer.
3. The Administrative Committee continues to work to resolve the 403(b) matter.

**ADMIT TO RECORD**

1. The Administrative Committee received a final report from the Trinity Oversight Committee, and concurred with its recommendations.
2. The Administrative committee approved the following presbytery meeting dates for 2020: Saturday, February 1; Thursday, May 7; Saturday, July 18; Thursday, October 15.
3. The Administrative Committee approved the worship plans for the October 17 Presbytery meeting. The Rev. Yolanda Norton, Assistant Professor of Hebrew Bible, H. Eugene Farlough Professor of Black Church Studies at San Francisco Theological Seminary/University of Redlands Graduate School of Theology will preach, and the offering will be collected for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. The general outline of the agenda was approved; the Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Moderator-in-Nomination, the Co-Executive Presbyters, and the Stated Clerk were authorized to approve the final agenda.
4. The Administrative Committee discussed terms, and clarified that the six year term limit, as stated in the Mission and Operations Manual, would apply.
5. The Administrative Committee received updates from the Nominating Task Force. A slate of nominees is provided with this report.
6. The Administrative Committee received a report from the Personnel Task Force. The task force has revised the Presbytery's Personnel Policies; the revisions are included with this report.
7. Erin Dolman has been hired as the Administrative Assistant, effective July 24. She has a dual degree in communications and public relations, and experience in website work and WordPress.
8. The Personnel Task Force evaluated the Stated Clerk, Therese Howell, and recommends her re-election as stated clerk, for a three-year term.
9. The Administrative Committee approved the revision of the Presbytery's Sexual Misconduct Policy, as well as the creation of a child and youth protection policy. Ray and Robin Thomas will recruit persons to assist with these policies.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. The Nominating Task Force recommends approval of the following slate of nominees:  
*[All nominees are to the class of 2022, unless otherwise indicated]*

RE Cristi Scott, St. Andrews, Moderator-in-Nomination

RE Steve Douse, First Nashville, Treasurer

**Administrative Committee**

TE Greg Glover, First Clarksville (Class of 2021)

TE Mary Louise McCullough, Second

**Finance**

TE Evelyn Graham, Southminster

RE Melinda Sanders, Woodland

**Church Transformation**

RE Bob LaGrone, First Nashville (Class of 2021)

TE Lilia Rameriz-Jimenez, UMC

TE Chris Adams, First Spring Hill

**Leadership Excellence**

TE Jonathan Angel, Allardt

RE Dr. Mary Martin, First Murfreesboro

**Committee on Ministry**

TE Beth McCaw, Telos at Southminster (Class of 2020)

TE Allen Cross, First Shelbyville (Class of 2021)

RE Debra Van DerVeer, Historic Franklin

RE Nolan Huizenga, Second

RE Gary Kelly, Honorably Retired

RE Jim Petersen, First Franklin

TE Cindy Schwartz, Priest Lake

TE Leslie Traylor, Hermitage

**Mutual Support**

TE Josh Rodriguez, First Nashville (Think Tank)

TE Mary Sellers Shaw, First Franklin (Campus Ministries)

RE Vicky McMillen, First Dickson (Youth)

**Committee on Preparation for Ministry**

RE Kate Adcock, Second (Class of 2021)

TE Michael McLaughlin, First Cookeville

RE Andrew Smith, Blue Spring Sparta

TE Mike Wilson, Downtown

**Permanent Judicial Commission**

RE Bill Carver, First Franklin (Class of 2024)

**UKIRK Nashville Board**

Chair, Rachel Penmore, Westminster, 2020

Vice-Chair, Nolan Huizenga, Second, 2021

Treasurer, Guy Hicks, Westminster, 2020

Outreach Chair, Kate Workman, alumni, 2021

Secretary, Montgomery Williams, Westminster, 2021

Dinner Coordinator, Jody Kelly, Hillsboro, 2020

Stacy Rector, Member at Large, 2021

Mary Sellers Shaw, First Franklin, 2021

*Samera Zavarro, Downtown, 2022*

*Josh Rodriguez, First Nashville, 2022*

*Kip Rush, Cumberland Presbyterian Church, 2022*

*Christie Kelly, Westminster, 2022*

*Ryan Fox, First Franklin, 2022*

2. The Nominating Task Force recommends the following to serve as committee chairs for 2020:  
Administrative                      TE Chris Joiner, First Franklin (by virtue of office)



Finance	RE Steve Douse, First Nashville (by virtue of office)
Church Transformation	TE Chris Adams, First Spring Hill
Leadership Excellence	RE Sally Hughes, Trinity
Committee on Ministry	RE Donna Simpson, First Cookeville
Mutual Support	RE Stuart Wilson-Patton, Second
Preparation for Ministry	TE Michael Wilson, Downtown

3. The Nominating Task Force recommends approval of the following commissioners to the 224<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (2020):
- Teaching Elders**  
*Heidi Hudnut-Beumler, Westminster Nashville*  
*Chris Joiner, First Franklin*  
*Michael Wilson, Downtown Nashville*
- Ruling Elders**  
*Theresa Denton, Emmanuel*  
*Connie Hamblen, Eastminster*  
*Geoff Lackey, First Spring Hill*
- Young Adult Advisory Delegate**  
*Austin Fiala, First Tullahoma*
4. The Administrative Committee, upon recommendation of the Personnel Task Force, recommends the following changes to the Personnel Policies (text to be deleted is indicated by ~~striketrough~~; text to be added is underlined):

Page 2, Line 43: ADDENDUM (*Position Descriptions*)

Page 3, Line 16:

The presbytery has the following classes of employees including elected (G-3.0104), called, hourly, interim, and temporary-:

- 1) Employees working 20 or more hours per week (2)
  - a) Employees prior to January 1, 2019 receiving full benefits:  
More than 20 but less than 31 hours per week:  
\*Stated Clerk
  - b) Employees after January 1, 2019 receiving no benefits:  
More than 20 hours but less 31  
None
  - c) Employees 32 to 35 hours per week receiving full benefits:  
\*Co-Executive Presbyter
- 2) Employees working less than 20 hours per week (1) – eligible for self-funded benefits:  
\*Administrative Assistant
- 3) Installed pastors (0)  
None
- 4) Ministers of the Word and Sacrament working 20 or more hours per week (1)
  - a) 32 to 35 hours per week receiving full benefits:  
\*Co-Executive Presbyter
- 5) Minister of the Word and Sacrament working less than 20 hours per week (0)  
none

Page 3, Line 19:

Stated Clerk:

Per the Book of Order, the presbytery elects a Stated Clerk. Benefits received are medical, death, disability, and pension through the Board of Pensions, and reimbursement for some professional expenses.

Executive Presbyter(s):

The presbytery also has ~~an Executive Presbyter~~ Co-Executive Presbyter(s), a called position. The terms of employment and benefits of the Co-Executive Presbyter(s) shall be defined in the call.

**Throughout the remaining document, “Co-Executive Presbyter(s)” replaces “Executive Presbyter.”**

Page 3, Line 32, Hourly Staff:

The Co-Executive Presbyter(s) and a member of the Personnel Task Force will recruit, interview, and select persons for hourly positions to be approved by the Personnel Task Force. Position descriptions will be recommended by Personnel Task Force to the Administrative Committee for approval. All employees are eligible for some Board of Pension benefits through self-funded participation. Benefits and terms of employment will be defined in each position description. Any changes in the requirements and/or hourly expectation could require change in benefits. The position opening will be posted including throughout the presbytery.

Page 3, Line 42, Interim Employees (Transitional called or elected employees):

To provide continuity of administrative and/or program services, the Administrative Committee may authorize the Co-Executive Presbyter(s) and/or the Personnel Task Force, or an appointed search team, to select interim staff to fill vacant positions until the position is filled. Benefits and terms of employment will be defined in each position description.

Page 6, Line 30, Annual Vacation:

Hourly Staff: The length of vacation is determined by the length of service. After one year of ~~full-time~~ service, ~~10 working days with~~ two weeks of equivalent pay are granted. After two years of service, ~~15 days~~ three weeks of equivalent pay are earned.

5. The Administrative Committee, upon recommendation of the Personnel Task Force, recommends Therese Howell be re-elected to a three-year term as stated clerk.

**Presbytery of Middle Tennessee  
Committee Membership 2020 - 2022**

TE – Minister of the Word and Sacrament    RE – Ruling Elder    \*Second Term    To be elected

Administrative Committee

Class of 2020

Doug Berry, RE  
Westminster Nashville  
\*Robert Montgomery, TE  
First Lewisburg

Class of 2021

Greg Glover, TE  
First Clarksville  
\*Geeta McMillan, RE  
Blue Spring, Sparta

Class of 2022

Mary Louise McCullough, TE  
Second  
Cristi Scott, RE  
St. Andrews  
Moderator-in-Nomination

Trustees (members of both Administrative and Finance Committees)

Theresa Denton, RE  
2020 Moderator

Chris Joiner, TE  
Vice-Moderator

Steve Douse, RE  
First Nashville  
Treasurer

Finance Committee

\*Bill Barger, TE  
Honorably Retired  
\*Suzanne McLemore, RE  
Westminster Nashville

\*Shawn Thomas Smith, TE  
First Smyrna  
\*Allen Kennedy, RE  
First Nashville

Evelyn Graham, TE  
Southminster  
Melinda Sanders, RE  
Woodland

Committee on Church Transformation

\*Barb Hall, RE  
East Brentwood  
Celebrate the Journey  
John Hilley, TE  
East Brentwood  
Church Planting & Redevel.

\*Jeanne' Hoescht, TE  
Oak Grove  
Prayer Summits  
Bob LaGrone, RE  
First Nashville  
Church Growth Strategy

Lilia Ramirez-Jimenez, TE  
UMC Publishing  
Healthy Congregations  
Chris Adams, TE  
First Spring Hill  
Chair

Committee on Leadership Excellence

\*Sally Hughes, TE  
Trinity  
Chair  
Mark Bridges, RE  
First Columbia  
Excellence in Officer Ed.

\*Sherard Edington, TE  
First Lebanon  
Celebration / Resurrection  
Susan Burns RE  
First Franklin  
Fellowship of the Ordained

Jonathan Angel, TE  
Allardt  
College of Preachers  
Dr. Mary Martin, RE  
First Murfreesboro  
Leadership Excellence

Committee on Ministry

Beth McCaw, TE  
Telos at Southminster  
Justin Gung, TE  
Woodmont Christian Church  
\*Jane Herring, TE  
Emmanuel  
Bill Russell, RE  
First Spring Hill  
Janet Salyer, TE  
Callings Nashville  
Donna Simpson, RE  
First Cookeville

\*Pat Bridges, RE  
First Columbia  
Allen Cross, TE  
First Shelbyville  
Debbie Fraley, RE  
First Fayetteville  
Debbie Sandwith, RE  
Westminster Nashville  
Terry Panter, RE  
First Murfreesboro  
David Wood, RE  
First Nashville

Debra VanDerveer, RE  
Historic Franklin  
Nolan Huizenga, TE  
Second  
Gary Kelly, TE  
Honorably Retired  
Jim Petersen, RE  
First Franklin  
Cynthia Schwartz, TE  
Priest Lake  
Leslie Traylor, TE  
Hermitage

Committee on Mutual Support

\*Jeff Kane, TE  
Westminster Columbia  
Neighborhood Meetings  
Stuart Wilson-Patton, RE  
Second Nashville  
Hunger Task Force & Chair

David Carlton, RE  
Trinity  
Guatemala TF  
\*Steve Thomas, TE  
Honorably Retired

Josh Rodriguez, TE  
First Nashville  
Think Tank  
Mary Sellers Shaw, TE  
First Franklin  
Campus Ministries  
Vicky McMillan, RE  
First Dickson  
Youth

Committee on Preparation for Ministry

\*Paul Casner, TE  
Donelson  
Tom McDow, RE  
Westminster Nashville  
Sandra Randleman, TE  
First Nashville

\*Rachel Penmore, TE  
Westminster Nashville  
\*Will Radford, RE  
Presbytery of Middle Tenn.  
Kate Adcock, RE  
Second

Andrew Smith, RE  
Blue Spring, Sparta  
Michael Wilson, TE  
Downtown  
Michael McLaughlin, TE  
First Cookeville

Permanent Judicial Commission

Class of 2020  
Mary Ellen Ausenbaugh, RE  
Buffalo Valley  
Carol Foster, RE  
First Fayetteville  
John Todd, TE  
Honorably Retired

Class of 2022  
Stacy Rector, TE  
TADP  
Carson Salyer, TE  
Honorably Retired  
C.J. Thompson, TE  
First Manchester

Class of 2024  
Sharon Warfield, RE  
Westminster Nashville  
Bill Carver, RE  
First Franklin  
\_\_\_\_\_, TE/RE

Committee Chairs

Administrative TE Chris Joiner, First Franklin (by virtue of office)  
Finance RE Steve Douse, First Nashville (by virtue of office)  
Church Transformation TE Chris Adams, First Spring Hill  
Leadership Excellence RE Sally Hughes, Trinity  
Committee on Ministry RE Donna Simpson, First Cookeville  
Mutual Support RE Stuart Wilson-Patton, Second  
Preparation for Ministry TE Michael Wilson, Downtown

Commissioners to the 224<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (2020)

Teaching Elders:

Heidi Hudnut-Beumler, Westminster Nashville  
Chris Joiner, First Franklin  
Michael Wilson, Downtown Nashville

Ruling Elders:

Theresa Denton, Emmanuel  
Connie Hamblen, Eastminster  
Geoff Lackey, First Spring Hill

Young Adult Advisory Delegate:

Austin Fiala, First Tullahoma

UKIRK Nashville Board

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Treasurer, Guy Hicks, Westminster, 2020

Outreach Chair, Kate Workman, alumni, 2021

Secretary, Montgomery Williams, Westminster, 2021

Dinner Coordinator, Jody Kelly, Hillsboro, 2020

Stacy Rector, TADP, 2021

Mary Sellers Shaw, First Franklin, 2021

*Samera Zavaro, Downtown, 2022*

*Josh Rodriguez, First Nashville, 2022*

*Kip Rush, Cumberland Presbyterian Church, 2022*

*Christie Kelly, Westminster, 2022*

*Ryan Fox, First Franklin, 2022*

Nominating Task Force  
Presbytery of Middle Tennessee  
Slate of Nominees

[All nominees are to the class of 2022, unless otherwise indicated]

**Administrative Committee**

TE Greg Glover, First Clarksville (Class of 2021)

TE Mary Louise McCullough, Second

RE Cristi Scott, St. Andrews (Moderator-in-Nomination)

**Finance**

TE Evelyn Graham, Southminster

RE Melinda Sanders, Woodland

RE Steve Douse, First Nashville (Treasurer)

**Church Transformation**

RE Bob LaGrone, First Nashville (Class of 2021)

TE Lilia Rameriz-Jimenez, UMC

TE Chris Adams, First Spring Hill

**Leadership Excellence**

TE Jonathan Angel, Allardt

RE Dr. Mary Martin, First Murfreesboro

**Committee on Ministry**

TE Beth McCaw, Telos at Southminster (Class of 2020)

TE Allen Cross, First Shelbyville (Class of 2021)

RE Debra Van DerVeer, Historic Franklin

RE Nolan Huizenga, Second

RE Gary Kelly, Honorably Retired

RE Jim Petersen, First Franklin

TE Cindy Schwartz, Priest Lake

TE Leslie Traylor, Hermitage

**Mutual Support**

TE Josh Rodriguez, First Nashville (Think Tank)

TE Mary Sellers Shaw, First Franklin (Campus Ministries)

RE Vicky McMillen, First Dickson (Youth)

**Committee on Preparation for Ministry**

RE Kate Adcock, Second (Class of 2021)

TE Michael McLaughlin, First Cookeville

RE Andrew Smith, Blue Spring Sparta

TE Mike Wilson, Downtown

**Permanent Judicial Commission**

RE Bill Carver, First Franklin (Class of 2024)

**FINANCE COMMITTEE  
REPORT TO THE PRESBYTERY OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE  
OCTOBER 17, 2019**

**Information**

1. The Finance Committee usually meets on the third Thursday of each month, jointly with the Administrative Committee. The next meeting will be November 21, 2019, at First Presbyterian Church, Franklin.

**Admit to Record**

1. The Finance Committee reviewed financials as of August 31, 2019. A copy of the August financials are included with this report.
2. The Finance and Administrative Committees reviewed a financial statement from the Nueva Vida new church development.
3. The Finance and Administrative Committees reviewed a preliminary draft of the 2018 audit. Completion is awaiting a newly adopted FASB-required liquidity disclosure, which is being drafted for review.
4. The Finance Committee, in conjunction with the Administrative Committee, reviewed a preliminary draft of the 2020 budget. Reductions are recommended, and a final budget will be recommended for approval at the February 1, 2020 Presbytery meeting.
5. The Finance and Administrative Committees discussed the issue of the presbytery's 403(b) plan, and agreed to engage a tax attorney to review the plan to determine its compliance with current tax laws.

**Recommendation**

1. The Finance Committee recommends that effective January 1, 2020, essential expenses be paid at the 2019 budget level until the 2020 budget is approved by the Presbytery.

**Presbytery of Middle Tennessee**  
**Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Fund Balance**  
 As of August 31, 2019

	Aug 31, 19
<b>ASSETS</b>	
<b>Current Assets</b>	
Checking/Savings	
1005 · Pinnacle Bank	31,704.55
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	31,704.55
<b>Other Current Assets</b>	
1300 · Baird Investments	
1300-04 · Baird Invest. - Cash Equiv.	81,961.60
1300-01 · Baird Invest. - Pooled	1,018,640.78
1300-02 · Baird Invest. - Default reserve	629,766.84
1300-03 · Baird Invest. - Endowment	10,749.80
<b>Total 1300 · Baird Investments</b>	1,741,119.02
<b>Total Other Current Assets</b>	1,741,119.02
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	1,772,823.57
<b>Fixed Assets</b>	
1500 · Fixed Assets	
1500-01 · Leasehold Improvements	31,500.00
1500-02 · Furniture and Equipment	16,960.37
1500-10 · Accumulated Depreciation	-27,227.62
<b>Total 1500 · Fixed Assets</b>	21,232.75
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	21,232.75
<b>Other Assets</b>	
1800 · Other Assets	
1801-01 · Gift In-Kind Receivable	41,166.65
1801-02 · Discount of In-Kind Receivable	-398.53
<b>Total 1800 · Other Assets</b>	40,768.12
<b>Total Other Assets</b>	40,768.12
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	1,834,824.44
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
<b>Liabilities</b>	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
Other Current Liabilities	
2300 · Payroll Withholdings	0.08
2500 · Designated gifts	
2500-01 · Joy gift	938.00
2500-02 · One Great Hour of Sharing	2,562.05
2500-03 · Peacemaking - GA	196.67
2500-05 · Pentecost	975.40
2500-06 · Mission Personnel	250.00
2500-20 · Disaster relief - other	275.00
<b>Total 2500 · Designated gifts</b>	5,197.12
<b>Total Other Current Liabilities</b>	5,197.20
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	5,197.20
<b>Long Term Liabilities</b>	
2800-01 · Loan payable - WPC	18,375.00
<b>Total Long Term Liabilities</b>	18,375.00
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	23,572.20



**Presbytery of Middle Tennessee**  
**Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Fund Balance**  
**As of August 31, 2019**

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	<u>Aug 31, 19</u>
<b>Equity</b>	
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	25,068.76
3001-04 · Designation - NCD (Properties)	115,651.55
3001 · Unrestricted Net Assets - Other	687,022.76
	<hr/>
<b>Total 3001 · Unrestricted Net Assets</b>	<b>1,569,000.84</b>
3002 · Temporarily restricted funds	
3002-01 · Centsability	32,230.37
3002-02 · Peacemaking	529.41
3002-03 · Ferguson Funds	4.73
3002-05 · Guatemalan Support Funds	8,477.35
3002-06 · Pastoral Care	2,249.81
3002-10 · Triennium	1,968.99
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
3002-27 · Hispanic New Church Dev	2,616.60
3002-28 · Church Support & Training	2,073.19
3002-32 · CPM - Scholarships	5,737.83
3002-50 · St. Andrews Fund	56,541.16
3002-52 · Other restricted funds	5,000.00
3002-60 · Small Church Fund	42,862.91
3002-62 · Pastor to Pastors	4,291.64
3002-75 · In-Kind Gift Lease	65,491.83
	<hr/>
<b>Total 3002 · Temporarily restricted funds</b>	<b>240,587.41</b>
3003 · Permanently restricted funds	10,749.80
3100 · Restricted/Designated income	24,141.64
Net Income	-33,227.45
	<hr/>
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>1,811,252.24</b>
	<hr/>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>1,834,824.44</b>
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**Presbytery of Middle Tennessee**  
**Actual to Budget Receipts and Disbursements**  
**August 2019**

2:50 PM  
 09/11/19  
 Cash Basis

	Aug 19	Budget	Jan - Aug 19	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>					
<b>Income</b>					
4000 - Pledged giving	36,541.63	40,000.00	269,893.86	315,000.00	600,000.00
4010 - GA Hunger Action Advocate	0.00	0.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
4070 - Investment income					
4070-10 - Investment income	3,737.42	2,500.00	18,286.68	20,000.00	30,000.00
<b>Total 4070 - Investment income</b>	<b>3,737.42</b>	<b>2,500.00</b>	<b>18,286.68</b>	<b>20,000.00</b>	<b>30,000.00</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>40,279.05</b>	<b>42,500.00</b>	<b>291,180.54</b>	<b>338,000.00</b>	<b>633,000.00</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>40,279.05</b>	<b>42,500.00</b>	<b>291,180.54</b>	<b>338,000.00</b>	<b>633,000.00</b>
<b>Expense</b>					
5000 - Finance					
5000-01 - Occupancy	990.00	1,000.00	18,535.00	20,000.00	24,000.00
5000-02 - Equipment	1,092.81	1,167.00	13,170.69	9,332.00	14,000.00
5000-03 - Insurance	0.00	333.00	3,562.00	2,664.00	4,000.00
5000-04 - Travel - support staff	0.00	17.00	0.00	132.00	200.00
5000-05 - Office supplies	-221.40	417.00	3,562.82	3,332.00	5,000.00
5000-06 - Postage	0.00	83.00	1,003.00	668.00	1,000.00
5000-07 - Telephone	269.56	375.00	2,595.14	3,000.00	4,500.00
5000-08 - Audit Fee	0.00	0.00	0.00	9,000.00	9,000.00
5000-12 - Webpage	0.00	75.00	748.38	600.00	900.00
5070-01 - GA Per Capita	0.00	12,150.00	0.00	97,205.00	145,805.00
5070-02 - GA Mission Giving	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5070-03 - Synod Per Capita	0.00	5,403.00	0.00	43,226.00	64,838.00
5070-04 - Synod Mission Giving	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total 5000 - Finance</b>	<b>2,130.97</b>	<b>21,020.00</b>	<b>43,177.03</b>	<b>189,159.00</b>	<b>273,243.00</b>
5200 - Comm. on Leadership Excellence					
5200-01 - Leadership Excellence	0.00	417.00	0.00	3,332.00	5,000.00
<b>Total 5200 - Comm. on Leadership Excellence</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>417.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>3,332.00</b>	<b>5,000.00</b>
5020 - Committee on Mutual Support					
5020-03 - NaCoMe Camp	0.00	0.00	25,000.00	25,000.00	25,000.00
5020-02 - MTSU Campus Ministry	1,602.96	1,603.00	12,823.68	12,824.00	19,251.00
5020-03 - TTU Campus Ministry	1,373.97	1,374.00	10,991.76	10,992.00	16,498.00
5020-05 - Vanderbilt Campus Ministry	1,602.96	1,603.00	12,823.68	12,824.00	19,251.00
5020-06 - Synod - Campus Ministry Support	-2,096.58	-2,097.00	-16,772.64	-16,771.00	-25,159.00
5020-10 - Neighborhood meetings	0.00	125.00	0.00	1,000.00	1,500.00
<b>Total 5020 - Committee on Mutual Support</b>	<b>2,483.31</b>	<b>2,608.00</b>	<b>44,866.48</b>	<b>45,869.00</b>	<b>56,341.00</b>

**Presbytery of Middle Tennessee  
Actual to Budget Receipts and Disbursements  
August 2019**

2:50 PM  
09/11/19  
Cash Basis

	Aug 19	Budget	Jan - Aug 19	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
5030 - Committee on Ministry					
5030-01 - Retreat - COM	0.00	25.00	0.00	200.00	300.00
5030-02 - Pastoral Care	0.00	250.00	100.00	2,000.00	3,000.00
5030-04 - Background Checks	0.00	42.00	454.10	332.00	500.00
<b>Total 5030 - Committee on Ministry</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>317.00</b>	<b>554.10</b>	<b>2,532.00</b>	<b>3,800.00</b>
5040 - Comm. on Prep. for Ministry					
5040-01 - Career Testing & Counseling	0.00	42.00	0.00	332.00	500.00
<b>Total 5040 - Comm. on Prep. for Ministry</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>42.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>332.00</b>	<b>500.00</b>
5050 - Comm. on Church Transformation					
5050-11 - Hispanic Ministry salary/hsg	3,458.34	3,458.00	27,666.72	27,668.00	41,500.00
5050-13 - Hispanic Ministry FICA	331.50	332.00	2,652.00	2,650.00	3,978.00
5050-14 - Hispanic Ministry BOP	1,919.71	1,967.00	15,357.68	15,732.00	23,600.00
5050-15 - Hispanic NCD Reimbursement	-250.00	-250.00	-2,000.00	-2,000.00	-3,000.00
5050-12 - East Nashville Training HUB	0.00	2,500.00	15,000.00	20,000.00	30,000.00
5050-07 - Sudanese church support	2,500.00	2,500.00	20,000.00	20,000.00	30,000.00
<b>Total 5050 - Comm. on Church Transformation</b>	<b>7,959.55</b>	<b>10,507.00</b>	<b>78,676.40</b>	<b>84,050.00</b>	<b>126,078.00</b>
5100 - Administrative Committee					
5100-02 - Admin. comm. expenses	0.00	42.00	20.00	332.00	500.00
5100-03 - Moderators conference	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,500.00
5100-01 - Presbytery meetings	0.00	83.00	377.50	667.00	1,000.00
5100-01 - Exec. Pres. Salary/Housing	0.00	0.00	27,095.81	27,097.00	27,097.00
5100-02 - Exec. Pres. FICA	0.00	0.00	1,521.10	1,521.00	1,521.00
5100-04 - Exec. Pres. expenses	547.90	833.00	8,976.54	6,668.00	10,000.00
5100-05 - Co-EP Salary	1,916.66	1,916.00	8,241.64	8,241.00	15,908.00
5100-06 - Co-EP Housing	3,750.00	3,750.00	16,125.00	16,125.00	31,125.00
5100-07 - Co-EP FICA	433.50	433.00	1,864.05	1,864.00	3,598.00
5100-08 - Co-EP Medical/Pension	1,473.33	2,370.00	8,392.34	9,480.00	18,961.00
5100-14 - Co-EP 403b Match	166.66	167.00	716.64	717.00	1,383.00
5100-09 - Co-EP 2 Salary	5,666.66	5,667.00	24,366.64	24,368.00	47,034.00
5100-10 - Co-EP 2 FICA/Med	433.50	433.00	1,864.05	1,864.00	3,598.00
5100-12 - Co-EP 2 Pension	680.00	680.00	2,924.00	2,924.00	5,644.00
5100-15 - Co-EP 2 403b Match	166.66	167.00	716.64	717.00	1,383.00
5100-18 - EP Moving Expense	0.00	0.00	8,913.71	10,000.00	10,000.00
5100-20 - Stated Clerk Salary	2,475.28	2,475.00	19,802.24	19,800.00	29,703.00
5100-21 - Stated Clerk FICA	189.38	190.00	1,514.90	1,513.00	2,273.00
5100-22 - Stated Clerk Medical/Pension	1,644.66	1,645.00	13,157.28	13,160.00	19,740.00
5100-23 - Stated Clerk expenses	0.00	292.00	526.49	2,332.00	3,500.00
5100-30 - Administrative Asst. Salary	1,130.00	1,500.00	3,560.00	12,000.00	18,000.00
5100-31 - Administrative Asst. FICA	86.43	115.00	272.33	920.00	1,380.00
5100-37 - Hunger Action Advocate expenses	0.00	250.00	0.00	2,000.00	3,000.00
5100-51 - Accounting	1,744.11	1,833.00	13,966.71	14,668.00	22,000.00

**Presbytery of Middle Tennessee**  
**Actual to Budget Receipts and Disbursements**  
August 2019

	Aug 19	Budget	Jan - Aug 19	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
5100-75 · Office Temps	0.00		762.93		
5100-80 · EP Search expenses	0.00	167.00	2,642.68	1,332.00	2,000.00
<b>Total 5100 · Administrative Committee</b>	<b>22,504.73</b>	<b>25,008.00</b>	<b>168,321.22</b>	<b>180,310.00</b>	<b>282,848.00</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>35,078.56</b>	<b>59,919.00</b>	<b>335,595.23</b>	<b>505,584.00</b>	<b>747,810.00</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>5,200.49</b>	<b>-17,419.00</b>	<b>-44,414.69</b>	<b>-167,584.00</b>	<b>-114,810.00</b>
<b>Other Income/Expense</b>					
Other Income					
7001 · Unbudgeted Income					
7001-20 · Designated receipts	8,502.60		121,646.48		
7001-21 · Temp. Restricted-Receipts	1,120.16		31,417.47		
7001-15 · Unrealized gain/loss Baird	4,397.18		46,289.24		
7001-05 · Other unbudgeted income	-6,500.00		1,775.00		
7001-50 · In-Kind Contribution Revenue	61.12		609.64		
<b>Total 7001 · Unbudgeted Income</b>	<b>7,581.06</b>		<b>201,737.83</b>		
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>7,581.06</b>		<b>201,737.83</b>		
<b>Other Expense</b>					
7002 · Unbudgeted expenses					
7002-20 · Designated disbursements	7,500.00		116,449.36		
7002-21 · Temp. Restricted disbursements	2,000.00		25,183.40		
7002-02 · PJC expenses - disciplinary	5,854.00		23,584.48		
7002-50 · In-Kind Rent	3,166.67		25,333.35		
<b>Total 7002 · Unbudgeted expenses</b>	<b>18,520.67</b>		<b>190,550.59</b>		
<b>Total Other Expense</b>	<b>18,520.67</b>		<b>190,550.59</b>		
<b>Net Other Income</b>	<b>-10,939.61</b>		<b>11,187.24</b>		
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>-5,739.12</b>	<b>-17,419.00</b>	<b>-33,227.45</b>	<b>-167,584.00</b>	<b>-114,810.00</b>

**Presbytery of Middle Tennessee  
2019 Pledge to Actual**

	Pledge 2018	Paid 2018	Pledge 2019	Paid 8/31/2019
Allardt Presbyterian Church	960.00	960.00	960.00	560.00
Belfast Presbyterian Church		3,000.00		3,000.00
Bellevue Presbyterian Church				-
Bethany Presbyterian Church	400.00	400.00		-
Bethbirei Lewisburg	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
Bethesda Presbyterian Church	1,500.00	1,500.00		-
Blue Spring Presbyterian Church		2,500.00		-
Brentwood First Presbyterian Church		2,400.00		-
Buffalo Valley Presbyterian Church	1,250.00		1,250.00	1,250.00
Calvary Presbyterian Church	1,000.00	1,250.00	1,000.00	750.00
Christ Church Presbyterian	750.00	750.00	750.00	750.00
Clarksville First Presbyterian Church	23,227.00	23,257.56		15,547.68
Columbia First Presbyterian	30,000.00	32,500.00	30,000.00	17,500.00
Columbia Westminster Presbyterian Church	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Cookeville First Presbyterian	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	3,000.00
Cowan Fellowship	2,500.00	2,500.00		1,500.00
Cripple Creek Presbyterian	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
Decherd Presbyterian Church				-
Dickson First Presbyterian				2,000.00
Donelson Presbyterian Church	4,000.00	4,000.00		3,000.00
Double Springs Presbyterian Church			800.00	800.00
Downtown Presbyterian Church	4,950.00	9,900.00		-
East Brentwood Presbyterian	6,500.00	6,500.00	6,500.00	4,875.00
Eastminster Presbyterian Church	250.00	250.00		-
Ellis Grove Presbyterian Church	800.00	800.00	800.00	400.00
Emmanuel	2,000.00	2,000.00		-
Fayetteville First Presbyterian Church	5,000.00	5,000.00		2,500.00
FFG Westminster Presbyterian Church		2,000.00		1,000.00
Franklin First Presbyterian	30,000.00	30,000.00		22,500.00
Gallatin First Presbyterian	2,400.00	2,000.00		1,800.00
Glen Leven Presbyterian Church	3,500.00	3,500.00	3,500.00	2,625.00
Glenclyff Presbyterian Church	1,000.00	1,000.00		583.35
Harpeth Presbyterian Church	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	1,500.00
Hendersonville First Presbyterian	15,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	10,000.00
Hermitage Presbyterian Church	500.00	1,546.07	1,546.08	901.88
Hickory Valley Presbyterian Church				-
Hillsboro Presbyterian Church	14,000.00	14,000.00		7,000.00
Hillwood Presbyterian Church	570.00	570.00		259.00
Hispanic New Church Development				-
Historic Franklin Presbyterian Church	6,600.00	6,600.00	6,600.00	3,300.00
Hopewell Presbyterian Church	500.00			-
Korean Presbyterian Church	3,500.00	3,500.00		-
Lawrenceburg First Presbyterian	2,000.00	2,000.00		-
Lebanon First Presbyterian		7,085.00		2,912.00
Lewisburg First Presbyterian				-
Liberty Hill Presbyterian				-
Lynnville First Presbyterian				-
Macedonia Presbyterian Church				-
Manchester First Presbyterian	6,500.00			1,625.00
Mattie Smith Mem. Presbyterian Church				-
McMinnville First Presbyterian	2,600.00	2,600.00	2,600.00	1,950.00
Milldale Presbyterian Church				-
Mt. Pleasant First Presbyterian Church				-
Murfreesboro First Presbyterian	15,000.00	13,750.00	15,000.00	5,000.00
Nashville First Presbyterian	180,000.00	180,065.00	180,000.00	108,000.00
Nashville Westminster Presbyterian Church	110,000.00	110,000.00	110,000.00	-
New Creation Church				-
Normandy Presbyterian Church	3,500.00	3,500.00		2,000.00
Northminster Presbyterian Church	1,000.00	1,000.00		-
Oak Grove Presbyterian Church	3,000.00	3,000.00		-

	Pledge 2018	Paid 2018	Pledge 2019	8/31/2019
Old Hickory Presbyterian Church	600.00	300.00	300.00	200.00
Petersburg First Presbyterian	300.00	300.00		-
Pond Presbyterian Church		250.00		250.00
Post Oak Presbyterian Church				-
Priest Lake Presbyterian Church	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	3,333.28
Pulaski First Presbyterian	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	4,000.00
Robinson Chapel Presbyterian Church	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
Second Presbyterian Church	40,000.00	40,000.00	35,600.00	-
Shelbyville First Presbyterian	8,000.00	8,000.00	8,000.00	4,669.00
Smyrna First Presbyterian	5,000.00	5,000.00		2,500.00
Southminster Presbyterian Church	2,000.00	2,500.00		1,000.00
Sparta First United Presbyterian Church		1,500.00		-
Springfield First Presbyterian Church	1,000.00	1,000.00		-
Spring Hill First Presbyterian	9,276.00	9,276.00	9,276.00	5,411.00
St. Andrews Presbyterian Church	7,100.00	6,508.34	4,800.00	3,791.67
St. John Presbyterian Church		282.00		-
Sudanese American Nuer	700.00	700.00		-
Trinity Presbyterian Church	5,000.00	5,000.00		2,500.00
Tullahoma First Presbyterian	9,800.00	8,800.00	8,800.00	4,400.00
Village Church				-
Watertown First Presbyterian	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	800.00
Woodland Presbyterian Church	5,400.00	5,800.00	5,400.00	3,150.00

<b>Total</b>	<b>605,133.00</b>	<b>622,099.97</b>	<b>473,182.08</b>	<b>269,893.86</b>
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**Presbytery of Middle Tennessee  
Designated Gifts Analysis**

	Dec. 31, 2018	Receipts	Disbursements	August 31, 2019
<b>2500 - Designated Gifts</b>				
2500-01 · Joy gift	-	19,665.74	(18,727.74)	938.00
2500-02 · One Great Hour of Sharing	-	20,739.20	(18,177.15)	2,562.05
2500-03 · Peacemaking - GA	-	423.17	(226.50)	196.67
2500-04 · Theological education	-	200.00	(200.00)	-
2500-05 · Pentecost	-	1,385.20	(409.80)	975.40
2500-06 · Mission Personnel	-	3,867.92	(3,617.92)	250.00
2500-09 · Heifer Program	-	600.00	(600.00)	-
2500-11 · Outreach Foundation	-			-
2500-12 · Campus Ministries	-	300.00	(300.00)	-
2500-15 · Living Water for the World	-			-
2500-20 · Disaster relief - other	-	4,105.00	(3,830.00)	275.00
2500-31 · Presbytery Offering	-	2,506.00	(2,506.00)	-
2500-30 · Other designated gifts	-	67,854.25	(67,854.25)	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	-	121,646.48	(116,449.36)	5,197.12

Presbytery of Middle Tennessee  
Restricted Funds Analysis

	Dec. 31, 2018	Receipts	Disbursements	August 31, 2019
<b>3001 · Unrestricted Net Assets</b>				
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	25,068.76			25,068.76
3001-04 · Designation - NCD (Properties)	115,651.55			115,651.55
3001 · Unrestricted Net Assets - Other	790,981.70			790,981.70
<b>Total 3001 · Unrestricted Net Assets</b>	<b>1,672,959.78</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,672,959.78</b>
<b>3002 · Temporarily restricted funds</b>				
3002-01 · Centsability	24,205.03	14,385.34	(6,360.00)	32,230.37
3002-02 · Peacemaking	1,817.83	211.58	(1,500.00)	529.41
3002-03 · Ferguson Funds	504.73		(500.00)	4.73
3002-05 · Guatemalan Support Funds	4,233.85	13,475.00	(9,231.50)	8,477.35
3002-06 · Pastoral Care	4,249.81		(2,000.00)	2,249.81
3002-10 · Triennium	3,869.99	1,099.00	(3,000.00)	1,968.99
3002-12 · Women in Ministry	1,290.00			1,290.00
3002-14 · New Creation NCD	0.00			-
3002-15 · Hispanic Fellowship	549.26			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	4,625.82			4,625.82
3002-27 · Hispanic New Church Dev	2,116.60	700.00	(200.00)	2,616.60
3002-28 · Church Support & Training	3,273.19		(1,200.00)	2,073.19
3002-32 · CPM Scholarships	4,191.28	1,546.55		5,737.83
3002-40 · Leadership Excell. Scholarship	0.00			-
3002-50 · St. Andrews Fund	56,541.16			56,541.16
3002-52 · Other restricted funds	15,500.00		(10,500.00)	5,000.00
3002-60 · Small Church Fund	42,862.91			42,862.91
3002-62 · Pastor to Pastors	5,483.54		(1,191.90)	4,291.64
3002-75 · In-Kind Gift Lease	65,491.83			65,491.83
<b>Total 3002 · Temporarily restricted funds</b>	<b>244,853.34</b>	<b>31,417.47</b>	<b>(35,683.40)</b>	<b>240,587.41</b>
<b>3003 - Permanently restricted funds</b>				
	10,749.80			10,749.80



**COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY  
REPORT TO THE PRESBYTERY OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE  
OCTOBER 17, 2019**

**Information**

1. The Committee on Ministry meets the second Tuesday of each month at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Nashville.
2. The COM received reports from the Pastoral Care Team, the Mediation Team, the Examinations Task Force, and the Transitions Task Force.
3. The COM receives reports from Ray and Robin Thomas, Co-Executive Presbyters. Rev. Thomas will not be doing pulpit supply but will be available to preach with the minister present, and also on the Sunday after a minister leaves, if invited.
4. The COM receives reports from Therese Howell, Stated Clerk.

**Admit to Record**

1. The COM will recommend Elder Donna Simpson, First Cookeville, serve as chair of COM for 2020. The COM approved The Rev. Nolan Huizenga, Second, as COM vice-chair for 2020.
2. The Rev. Stephen Yates was approved as session moderator and liaison for Normandy Presbyterian Church.
3. The Rev. Robert Montgomery was approved as liaison for Bethberei Presbyterian Church, Lewisburg.
4. The Rev. Steve Thomas was approved as session moderator and liaison for Central Presbyterian Church, Culleoka.
5. Elder Debbie Fraley was approved as liaison for First Presbyterian Church, Shelbyville.
6. The Rev. Robert Montgomery was approved as session moderator and liaison for Belfast Presbyterian Church.
7. Katherine Nichols, First Presbyterian Church, Tullahoma, met with the Examinations Task Force and endorsed for commissioned pastor training.
8. The COM received a six-months report from Pat Handlson, and discussed the upcoming hearing with the General Assembly Permanent Judicial Commission.
9. The COM received a report from the Bellevue Administrative Commission.
10. The COM dismissed The Rev. Leigh Bonner to the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta, effective September 10, 2019, to accept a call.
11. The COM dismissed The Rev. Mark McDaniel to the Presbytery of Ohio Valley, effective September 10, 2019, to accept a call.

12. The COM dismissed The Rev. Craig Pope to the Presbytery of Savannah, pending reception by that Presbytery.
13. The COM revised its requirements for congregational meetings to call a pastor from “vote by ballot” to add “or voice vote or show of hands.”
14. Katrina Olson, who is on the ordination track with the Christian Reformed Church, was approved for the Pulpit Supply List. A copy of Ms. Olson’s statement of faith and
15. The COM approved the temporary pastoral relationship between The Rev. Jeannie Hunter and Bethberei Presbyterian Church, Lewisburg, and approved Rev. Hunter as moderator of the session.
16. The pastoral relationship between Rev. Jane Herring and Normandy Presbyterian was dissolved, effective September 30, 2019. Rev. Herring’s contract with Belfast Presbyterian Church will also end September 30, 2019.
17. The Committee on Ministry sustained the examination of Rev. Jane Herring, and approved her call as part time installed pastor for Emmanuel Presbyterian Church, Nashville, effective October 15, 2019. The COM also approved the terms of call: Salary / Housing \$36,600; medical insurance - \$11,000; pension - \$4,026; death/disability insurance - \$366; four weeks of vacation; two weeks continuing education; consideration of a three month sabbatical after six years of continuous service. A copy of Rev. Herring’s statement of faith and biographical statement is attached. The commission to install will be presented at the presbytery meeting.
18. The Committee on Ministry sustained the examination of The Rev. Laura Cheifetz, a member of the Presbytery of Mid-Kentucky, who has accepted a call as Assistant Dean of Admissions, Vocation, and Stewardship at Vanderbilt Divinity School. A copy of Rev. Cheifetz’s statement of faith and biographical statement is attached. The COM received Rev. Cheifetz as a member of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee, and validated her ministry.
19. The Committee on Ministry sustained the examination of The Rev. Dr. Ryan Moore, a member of the Presbytery of Eastern Oklahoma, who as accepted the call to serve as Pastor and Head of Staff for First Presbyterian, Nashville, effective October 21, 2019. A copy of Dr. Moore’s statement of faith and biographical statement is attached. The COM received Dr. Moore as a member of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee, and approved the following terms of call: salary - \$177,500; housing allowance - \$50,000; cell phone allowance - \$1,200; automobile expense – IRS approved mileage rate; SECA supplement – 50% of SECA taxes on effective salary and relocation costs; continuing education - \$6,000; professional expenses - \$3,300; full medical, pension, disability, and death benefit under Board of Pensions; five weeks of vacation; two weeks of continuing education; 100% of relocation costs; assistance with down payment on house, up to 20%, in the form of a loan. The church will also grant three month sabbatical after six years of continuous full-time service. The commission to install will be presented at the presbytery meeting.

**Recommendations**

*Commissions to install for Rev. Jane Herring / Emmanuel Presbyterian Church; Rev. Dr. Ryan Moore / First Nashville; Rev. Amy Busse Stoker / First Pulaski*

Spiritual Autobiography  
*Katrina J. Olson*

God has always been exceptionally real to me, even in the seasons of life when there has been silence between us. But I've learned that even silence from God has the capacity to ring loudly in our lives, attuning our ears for what comes next. From the reverberating gong-like messages to the whispers seemingly carried on the wind, I've never remembered a time in my life that God has not be present.

On the surface my spiritual autobiography is seemingly very straightforward. I was baptized as an infant into the covenantal promises of my Christian home, my Christian Reformed Church, and my rural Christian community in southwestern Ontario. I attended Sunday School and Catechism classes. I went to Young Adult meetings on Fridays and led worship regularly on Sunday. My first job after receiving my Bachelor of Music was as a worship coordinator at a CRC where I worked for nine years while also earning my MDiv and ThM in Worship at Calvin Theological Seminary. Now I'm here in Nashville working full time on a PhD at Vanderbilt in Homiletics and Liturgics.

But delving deeper, beyond what I've done to why I've done them, I come to wonder at the marvelous faithfulness of God. My Christian home was different than the others in my community. My bread-winning, assertive, and strong mother showed me that despite church rules of submissiveness, there was another way. My father, who grew up in a poor and abusive household, not only showed me the power of breaking cycles from within, but also displayed frustration for the larger systems we were caught up in and taught me empathy. Our family was different in a small, normative community which meant we were outsiders, lower-class citizens. I hated the community we were a part of, it felt hypocritical and dangerous. However, despite the pain that I met in the church in my young life, I was strangely drawn to it. God made it very clear to me that this broken community was not a part of the plan. Change was needed, I needed to be a part of that change.

When I was at seminary we were encouraged to share our "called" stories. People often had a moment of decision that varied in degrees of radical explosiveness. I couldn't relate. I've never had such a decisive moment. I've always just followed. God has always been at the center of my life and my involvement has been through God's leading, God's prompting. Of course, I would join the praise team despite members of the church getting up and walking out when we led. Of course, I would make my profession of faith years before what was typical in our community because God had compelled it. Of course, I would be looking for a job in lay ministry because God had been preparing me for years to do so. Of course, I would be applying to seminary because I felt God challenging me to fully lead in all aspects of worship and ministerial life, no longer limited by non-ordination. Of course, I would seek a PhD, if only to find more tools with which I could work for God's purposes. Of course, God, I will.

God has led through some painful places, but these experiences have only spurred me on, showing me where the desperate need exists. Both within the church but also in how the church is showing up in our world. The church is beautiful. It belongs to the God that I love and serve beyond all else. The church is flawed. I am called by God to show up in any way that I can. I am always discerning where God is leading next, what my next task needs to be. I'm not perfect.

I've faltered many times. But I relentlessly pursue that goal, hidden in Christ, running alongside the saints who have gone before me, run with me, and who will come after me. I hear their steps beating in rhythm with mine. We work together, to bring about the kingdom of God until Christ's return. I've always felt a call in both the loud and the quiet. My life is simply an answer.

Statement of Faith*Katrina J. Olson*

The Heidelberg Catechism opens up with the question: “What is your only comfort in life and in death?” I fully resonate with the answer: “That I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.” My identity is found in Christ and all that I believe is rooted in the understanding that God moved first, taking me into the fold. This is where I belong. I believe in a Triune God. The One who rejoices over us with singing. The One who wills us to breed life instead of death.

I call upon my *Abba*, Father, as Christ did, humbly knowing that my prayers are heard by the Creator of all things. The heart that formed me, and all living things, hears us and cares.

I believe that Christ is fully God and fully human. God chose, in part, the limitation of humanity so that in Christ, humanity could find freedom.

I feel the Holy Spirit within me, marveling that the God who holds the universe strikes my heart, thrumming within me, inspiring me to move in harmony with the Divine will.

I believe that sin has corrupted our relationships in both vertical and horizontal patterns. Sin’s effects distort and destroy what God has created as good. Our sin manifests in new and evolving ways, requiring us to constantly be aware of harmful patterns. From the small injustice of a hurtful word when compassion was needed to the large systems beyond our immediate control. Evil manifests not just among us but can breed within us. Sin harms us beyond what we can fully comprehend.

I believe that God has intervened. Before Christ, God compelled the world through chosen people, nations, and prophets. In the person of Christ, God defeated death once and for all and overcame evil. The ramifications of the cross are beyond what any of us can fully know. The debt of offenses, the power of evil, the chains of sin were rectified in the mysteries of the cross, resurrection, and ascension. As we wait for Christ to return, we work in the power of the Holy Spirit because although conquered, sin’s effects are still waging against us and among us. Yet, we also have the truth of Christ’s triumph on our side. Christ has shown us that we have already ultimately won. Christ’s life and sacrifice demonstrates that God is one of both justice and grace and as such, we must also reflect these traits.

I believe that our scripture is divinely inspired. *Sola Scriptura* allows me to rest on the promises of the Bible as time distances us from the humanity of Christ and the events of the cross. I trust that scripture contains the designs of salvation. Smudged with human finger prints, the Bible holds what I need to know God more fully. I have faith that the Holy Spirit has guided the hearts of the original authors, the pens of the scribes, and the knowledge of the translators. I know that those who read scripture are just as divinely inspired as those who wrote scripture and together we can discern the paradigms of truth from God that emerge.

I believe in the *ekklesia*—the holy church. We are called to pass on life in Christ to others by being salt and light in this world. Although we falter through infighting and rules for a false grace of our own design, we must push forward to our ultimate call of love and justice. We participate, one generation to the next, in the church universal. We are bound by our love for one another in Christ, shaped into form through our creeds and statements of faith, and called to show up in this world

together; there, in one unified voice we proclaim the good news of the gospel for all people and all of creation. Although God is not limited by the church, we are blessed that the Almighty chooses to work through us. We are called to be a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing before God. I pray that the things that we do and say rise up as a sweet fragrance before the Triune One that holds us all.

**Statement of Faith: Jane Herring**

My faith rests on the promise of God's grace. Even in our brokenness, God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit pours out grace upon us which we do not earn and cannot merit. In God's sovereignty I place my faith and pray that God as Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit, takes my belief and helps me in my unbelief (Mark 9).

The Sovereignty of God: God is my creator, my parent, my teacher, my confidant. I believe that God is the creator of the world and all in it. Not able to know the mind of God, I believe the correct attitudes toward God are gratitude, trust, love, and faith, all of which manifest in worship, praise, and service. In God's sovereignty, grace abounds. God is ever holding us in grace. Clinging to God's sovereignty is a safeguard against the human tendency to make idols, as well as a remedy to idolatry.

The Trinity: Christ is the begotten Son of God the Creator, human and divine. Christ frees us from being bound and defined by sin. Even though sin exists in our lives still, Christ has conquered it. The Holy Spirit is our advocate and guide, sustaining us in that freely given grace. I believe the Holy Spirit is at work in this world and can use any means to facilitate God's will. God, Christ and Holy Spirit are the Trinity which is the one true God. God, in these three persons, is beyond human understanding but accessible in relationship. Just as the Trinity shows us God as a God of interrelatedness, we too can live in relationship to God and to one another because of Christ's work and the abiding counsel of the Holy Spirit.

Atonement: Humanity is a creation of God and exists in a broken state but is also beloved by our Creator who came into the broken world as the Word made Flesh and into intimate relationship with humanity who was created in God's image. Christ came to teach us and love us, and was crucified for love of us. Christ conquered death and showed us in his resurrection that we need not fear life nor death, but give ourselves completely to God and let our souls and spirits have peace through life lived in faith in the Sovereign Lord. Christ Jesus in this way is a person of the Trinity who mediates for us the distance between us and God through his life, teaching, and crucifixion, all part of his atoning work as Savior.

Authority of Scripture: God is also revealed through Scripture. We can find in Scripture, through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, understanding of God, understanding of humanity, and understanding of how to live into this life. Scripture is God's special revelation to humanity. I believe the Bible is a living word, speaking into our lives, drawing us into conversation with God, encouraging us to participate in our own spiritual growth and in awareness of what God can and does do in our lives. We interact with Scripture, interpreting particular passages within the context of the entire Scripture, through the lens of Jesus Christ, and with the assistance of theological principals which are the result of centuries of study and reflection and which come to us through our Reformed tradition.

The Sacraments: The Sacraments are outward signs of the reality of God's grace and are a crucial part of the life of the church community. As stated in the *Westminster Confession*, the sacraments are "signs and seals of the covenant of grace." The sacrament of communion is our spiritual nourishment. The blood of Christ which was shed for us and the body of Christ which was broken for us are yet the mystery we live into, the love which adopted us, and the spiritual nourishment we take in as we walk the path as Christians. The Lord's Supper connects us to Christ through the presence of the Holy Spirit. Baptism is the sign and seal of God's claim on us as believers and children of believers. Baptism means what God says about us is more important than what anyone else says about us, more important, even, than what we say about ourselves. What God says about us is that we belong to God: "in life and in death we belong to God," as worded in *A Brief Statement of Faith*. The sacraments are also a celebration, baptism marking a beginning of the journey of a lifetime in God and communion providing sustenance to us along the journey through the presence of the Holy Spirit in the gathered community.



Laura M. Cheifetz, *Spiritual Autobiography*

I describe my sense of call as “God is funny.” The short version is every time I have considered parish ministry, worked hard on my PIF, had interviews in congregations, the clear answer is “nope.” The long version is this.

I grew up steeped in congregational life. As a double pastors’ kid, my faith was formed through the western congregations, rural and suburban, that my father served, and by my mother’s studies at seminary and in a spiritual direction program, and the congregations she served. Church was never not an option. Even when I was sick, I had two choices: the parent that stayed at home with me would either help me put together a worship service or we could listen to the Presbyterian church service in Seattle that was on the radio. I didn’t realize people considered Easter a family holiday until college, which I found terribly quaint compared to the long grueling day after an intense 40 days spent at church with the other kids who found themselves parented by animated Bible stories.

My rebellion in high school was choosing my own church, one served by someone who wasn’t my parent. In college, I tried really hard to attend church. I even branched out and tried the Methodist congregation within walking distance, and the ELCA congregation close by. I ended up on a two-year break from congregational life, and instead did what in my own head I called my missionary work: volunteered with the county health department by distributing condoms and bleach kits downtown, and talking to folks about getting tested for STIs.

After going to seminary because I found myself simultaneously upset with and in deep care for humanity at a theological level, accepting the fact that I am simply deeply committed to the church and its people, I really wanted to serve in congregations. I had done everything decently and in order for ordination. I passed every exam on the first try, took the right classes (mostly, except for that time I skipped the preaching class and yet still managed to win a preaching award), did extra field education and extended my seminary education by a year in order to do so, and was approved to seek a call before I graduated.

Nothing was right. The places I felt called to didn’t feel called to me, and the places that felt called to me were where I thought I wouldn’t last two years.

In the end, I was called to work with Asian American young adults and pastors engaged in vocational discernment and leadership development. At various junctures, I tried to branch out to congregational work, but by that time, I was in a relationship with a woman, and I learned I am really effective in systems involving personalities bound by HR protections, programs, grants, a certain political and social freedom that fits the things I care about, and a wider diversity of geography and belief than most congregations in which I have worshipped. I feel most called when I sit in worship services I don’t understand (literally), speak with people my childhood congregations would avoid, and most PNCs that have interviewed me are inclined to agree.

I am called to serve God’s people. This service tends to involve travel, thinking through big problems involving budgets or nation-wide disagreements between 1.7 million Presbyterians, or

writing and speaking on difficult things we haven't yet solved, like racism. Knowing that a lot of people invested in my development, I am committed to the development of others. Now I'm the person making sure to visit an earnest and somewhat exasperating new pastor while we are on vacation, or relentlessly referring certain young people to serve on committees or planning teams. The church needs leadership that can stretch in love between those who don't know why pronouns are a big deal, and those who feel we are all on the brink of complete climate disaster. I am called to be a small part of this very big work.

## Ryan V Moore Statement of Faith

I affirm the historic witness of the one, holy, catholic and apostolic church as revealed in the Scriptures, and summarized in the ancient Apostles' and Nicene Creeds. I gladly embrace the essential tenets of the Reformed tradition which lift up the authority of Scripture, the sovereignty of God, and the joyful calling to proclaim Jesus as Lord.

Everything necessary—the whole counsel of God—for understanding the glory of God, humanity's salvation, faith, and life is set down in the pages of the Old and New Testaments. All things in Scripture are not always easily understood; yet those things which are essential for salvation, for a life rooted in Jesus Christ, are by the Spirit's power open to all who would see and hear.

There is one God, without beginning and without end who is eternal, infinite, perfect, and glorious; unchangeable in his being and perfection; the Creator of all things, and Sovereign of the cosmos. God, perfect in love and righteousness, one in essence, existing eternally in the three persons of the Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Jesus Christ is alone the full and complete revelation of God to the world. He is God's eternal and only-begotten Son, conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered and was buried, and on Easter he rose again from the dead for us and for our salvation. Jesus is both fully human and fully divine, and by his life, death, resurrection and ascension to the right hand of the Father is the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.

The Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity, is the breath of God, the Lord and giver of life. The Spirit convicts and persuades us to repent from our sin and to confess Jesus as Savior and Lord. The Spirit bestows spiritual gifts on the church so that it might be a credible witness in its proclamation of the gospel. The Spirit is our comforter, turning sorrow into joy, and is our advocate, interceding for us through the Son to the Father.

God, out of his love and for his glory, created man and woman in his own image. Humanity is the crown of God's creation, blessed to live in fellowship with God, glorifying and enjoying him forever. Tragically, humanity rebelled against God, unable to repair a right relationship with God, others, and creation.

Out of God's great love and mercy, he sent his only Son to rescue us from death, to atone for our sins, to remove our guilt, and to redeem us. Therefore, our only comfort is that we belong—body and soul, in life and in death—to Jesus Christ, who by his blood shed on the cross has fully paid for all our sins. Soli Deo Gloria!

## **Spiritual Autobiography**

The Lord's best gifts to me have come wrapped in flesh and bones. My wife Heather is an important reminder to me of the playfulness of God. My three kids are means of grace by which the Lord is refining me more in to the likeness of the Son. There are and have been countless family and friends, mentors and teachers who have been treasures from the Lord.

I grew up in rural Indiana. My father is a retired art professor at a small christian college and my mother a homemaker. My folks were my first teachers in the faith. And they continue to reveal to me aspects of God's love. Through the years I have watched them trust in the Lord and love one another as my mother's health has slowly declined and her world has gotten smaller. Their life together reminds me that there is no where the Lord Jesus is not willing to go to be with us.

From a young age I came to understand that walking with Jesus meant walking in community. Elementary through high school I met Thursday mornings for breakfast with five of my closest guy friends and a dad who discipled us. We learned to pray together, we memorized scripture, and we encouraged and challenged each other. We've remained fast friends all these years even though we live around the globe (Abu Dhabi, Ethiopia, and Bangkok as well as Stateside).

Probably, like many adults, I began to own the faith for myself after leaving college. I was working in Washington D.C at the FAA., a tenor section leader at National Presbyterian chancel choir, and singing nights with the Washington Opera Chorus. It was my first time living removed from a predominately christian subculture. I had questions, as many young people do. On an existential level my faith in Christ never was lost. However, I did lose confidence or was left wondering if the Christian faith was able to offer a credible and reasonable witness in the larger public square. It was at ~~the~~ crossroads that National Presbyterian and later Blacknall Presbyterian in Durham played an important role in my faith formation. First off, I found a welcome at National and a vibrancy in liturgy, theology, and preaching that was new and attractive to me. And secondly, I discovered these documents called catechisms, confessions, and creeds. I was totally taken that a tradition, like the Reformed faith, would consider the life of the mind a worthy and essential pursuit of christian faith and life. And I was captivated by the way the pastors at National and then Blacknall wove together heart and mind. I had found a home.

In the last several years Psalm 27:4 has been very important, "One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in his temple." I'm learning to pray with the Psalmist. I love the cadence of the prayer, "dwell...gaze...inquire." I long for the Spirit, bit by bit, to make this my prayer all the way down.