

PRESBYTERY OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE
MINUTES OF ONE HUNDRED FORTY-FIRST STATED MEETING
JULY 18, 2020

The 141st Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee met via Zoom on Saturday, July 18, 2020. Vice-Moderator Chris Joiner presented Zoom tips for the meeting. Moderator Theresa Denton called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

DECLARATION OF QUORUM / STATEMENT OF PROCEDURES / FIRST TIME COMMISSIONERS / STANDING RULES / CORRESPONDING MEMBERS

Moderator Denton declared a quorum was present, and reviewed procedures for the meeting. First time commissioners to presbytery were recognized and welcomed.

The Moderator stated that *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised (11th Edition)*, the parliamentary authority for councils of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), says that electronic meetings must be properly authorized in the council's bylaws. The Presbytery of Middle Tennessee's bylaws, the Mission and Operations Manual, does not allow the presbytery to meet electronically. She stated it was not possible to meet in person to amend the manual to allow electronic meetings. The motion was made, seconded, and approved by the required three-quarters vote of commissioners to set aside the standing rules to allow the electronic meeting as well as receive the supplemental materials and additional item of business.

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

ROLL

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

AGENDA

The Moderator stated that the agenda for the meeting had been provided in advance to commissioners, and a revised agenda had been sent out. The Moderator reported there were additional items of business for consideration. The motion to set aside the standing rules to act upon the additional items of business was made and seconded. The following agenda was approved by the necessary three-quarters vote of commissioners:

- | | | |
|----------|----|-------------------------------------------------------|
| 9:30 am | 1. | Registration Open for Joining Meeting |
| 10:00 am | 2. | Zoom Protocol and Meeting Instructions – Chris Joiner |
| | | Call to Order – Theresa Denton |
| | | Statement of Procedures / Declaration of Quorum / |

		Seating of Corresponding Members / Adoption of Agenda
10:15 am	3.	Welcome / Co-Executive Presbyters' Report – Robin & Ray Thomas
10:20 am	4.	Matthew 25 Invitation – Diane Moffett
10:50 am	5.	Administrative Committee – Chris Joiner (5 min)
10:55 am	6.	Committee on Mutual Support – Stuart Wilson-Patton (5 min)
11:00 am	7.	Worship <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offering – NaCoMe • Concerns and Celebrations
11:30 am	8.	Committee on Ministry – Donna Simpson (30 min) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidate for Ordination • Recognition of Retirement – Teddy Chuquimia • Recognition of Retirement – Mark DeVries
Noon	9.	Board of Pensions – Keenan Rodgers (5 min)
12:05 pm	10.	General Assembly Commissioners' Reports (10 minutes)
12:15 pm	11.	Committee on Preparation for Ministry – Mike Wilson (10 minutes)
12:25 pm	12.	Stated Clerk's Report – Therese Howell (5 minutes)
12:30 pm	13.	Finance Committee – Steve Douse (5 minutes)
12:35 pm	14.	Mission Engagement – William McConnell (5 minutes)
12:40 pm	15.	Unfinished Business
		142nd Stated Meeting – Thursday, October 15, 2020, NaCoMe Camp and Conference Center, Pleasantville
12:45 pm	16.	Closing Prayer / Adjourn

CO-EXECUTIVE PRESBYTERS' REPORT

Robin and Ray Thomas, Co-Executive Presbyters, welcomed commissioners and provided an update on their work in the presbytery.

MATTHEW 25 INVITATION

Rev. Diane Moffett, President of the Presbyterian Mission Agency, spoke of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Matthew 25 Invitation. Rev. Moffett invited the Presbytery to be part of this important program, which was dedicated to building congregational vitality, dismantling structural racism, and eradicating systemic poverty. As a Matthew 25 mid-council, the Presbytery will work on the three areas of focus, as well as encouraging 20% of the congregations in the Presbytery to become Matthew 25 congregations.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Dr. Chris Joiner, Vice-Moderator and chair of the Administrative Committee, presented the Administrative Committee report.

Handlson v. Presbytery of Middle Tennessee

The Administrative Committee received a report from the stated clerk on the remedial complaint filed by Patrick Handlson. The committee continues to be committed to working toward reconciliation in the Presbytery regarding the decision of this matter at the February Presbytery meeting. The committee will review the process used at the February Presbytery meeting, seeking to learn from it for future reference.

Crisis Communication Plan

A team (Kelly Christie, Ross Thomas, Susie Lane, Geeta McMillan) reviewed the current Crisis Communication Plan, with Robin Thomas. The plan's scope expanded, and included other possible crises; the team will report to the Administrative Committee. The revised plan was approved (Attachment B) information.

Nueva Vida New Church Development

The committee received a report on the Nueva Vida new church development. The Committee on Church Transformation and the Nueva Vida Administrative Commission have discussed leadership of the congregation, in light of the upcoming retirement of Rev. Teddy Chiquimia, and the possibility of chartering the church. It is understood that the church will not be self-sustaining at this time but the chartering statement will include a plan to achieve self-sufficiency. Sources of funding will be explored.

Cancellation of May Presbytery Meeting

Without objection, the May Presbytery meeting was cancelled due to the shelter-at-home order.

Federal Paycheck Protection Program

Steve Douse, Treasurer, reported that the Presbytery had applied for a Federal Paycheck Protection Program grant; the Presbytery's estimated eligibility under that program is \$60,000 to \$70,000, which is roughly 2½ times the Presbytery's average monthly salary amount during 2019, and bears interest at 1%.

Increase in Hunger Grant Application Awards

At the request of the Committee on Mutual Support, the Administrative and Finance Committees agreed to increase the Hunger Grant Application availability from \$2,000 to \$4,000 in order to address increased food scarcity currently being experienced at food banks and shelters.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Webinars

Ray and Robin Thomas, Co-Executive Presbyters, reported on two PDA webinars that will be presented in response to COVID-19 on April 21st and 28th as follows: 1) Building Resilience for Faith Leaders, and 2) Live Faith Leaders Support. Both webinars will focus on the particular issues facing faith leaders and awareness of the importance of the spiritual life which guides all.

Presbytery Staff Update

The Co-Executive Presbyters reported that Pat Webb, CPA, resigned in February, and Administrative Assistant Felicia Mesner resigned due to health reasons; April 16 was her last day at the Presbytery. There is currently no plan to search for a new Administrative Assistant.

Lilly Foundation Grant Application

The Administrative Committee approved the request of Mark DeVries to submit a grant application to the Lilly Foundation for Lilly's Thriving Congregations Initiative. The grants funded by this initiative will provide up to \$1 million for the design and implementation of programs that support and enable smaller congregations to thrive over a period up to five years. Congregations and partnerships covered by the proposal are as follows: Nueva Vida (Spanish speaking) partnering with Glencliff Presbyterian; Eastminster (Spanish speaking) partnering with Woodland Presbyterian; Sudanese Nuer congregation working with First Presbyterian Church, Clarksville, First Presbyterian Church, Columbia, and First Presbyterian Church, Hendersonville; and Priest Lake Presbyterian Church hosting a Spanish-speaking church and one of the Arabic congregations for weekly worship. A copy of the grant request is available upon request.

Evangelical Arabic Presbyterian Church New Worshipping Community

The Administrative Committee was informed that the Evangelical Arabic Presbyterian Church (led by Dr. Samy Estafanos) has been in conversation with First Presbyterian Church of Smyrna about meeting in First Church's building. The Evangelical Arabic Church was awarded a \$25,000 grant from the PC(USA) 1001 New Worshipping Communities. The funding application expects presbyteries whose churches receive funds to provide matching funds. The source of these matching funds is to be determined in the future.

LatinX Hub

Following the Hispanic Summit in 2017, a group formed to assist Nueva Vida in various ways as the church imagined its future. Ministry Architects and Rev. Mark Devries were part of that group. The Lily grant proposal (above) evolved out of the relationships formed in the process.

Rev. Devries walked the Administrative Committee through a written rationale for funding to establish a "LatinX Hub." The "hub" model, which would involve several small LatinX churches in the Presbytery, calling on resources from various pastoral and administrative sources, has also been reviewed and approved by the Church Transformation Committee, the Nueva Vida Administrative Commission, the Eastminster Administrative Commission, and the Committee on Ministry. In addition, the Kharis Foundation has agreed to provide funding for five years if Lilly approves the final grant proposal. If received, the Lilly and Kharis grants will allow the Presbytery to reduce its funding of Nueva Vida from \$40,000 to \$25,000 in 2021. By consensus, Ministry Architects and Rev. DeVries were instructed to proceed with a formal proposal. A copy of the LatinX Hub proposal was included with the COM report.

Grant Application Approvals

The committee endorsed the following grant applications: (1) First Clarksville - to provide educational opportunities assisting individuals with mental retardation or other disabling conditions and to fund social and educational events for the First Clarksville Bicentennial celebration, enhancing church relations with its downtown neighbors; and (2) First Clarksville - To assist in providing a safe and familiar setting for aging loved ones and provide respite for caregivers.

July 18 Presbytery Meeting

The Administrative Committee approved the July 18 Presbytery meeting be held by Zoom, and approved the following for the meeting: Invitation to Rev. Diane Moffett, President / Executive Director of the Presbyterian Mission Agency, to report on the Matthew 25 Invitation; as well as reports from Keenan Rodgers, Presbytery's representative from the Board of Pensions, and Bill McConnell, Mission Engagement Advisor, Presbyterian Mission Agency. The offering was designated for NaCoMe Camp and Conference Center, and there will be information on giving to the offering.

Formation of Social Justice Working Group

The Co-Executive Presbyters reported that the Committee of Mutual Support will convene a social justice working group, and the Administrative Committee endorsed this proposal. The Co-Executives reported it will probably be six people, but flexible as people come and go.

Sexual Misconduct Policy

A team (Chris Williams, Teresa Burns, Rosanna Anderson, Suzie Lane, Doug Berry) have drafted a new sexual misconduct policy, which was attached for review. Commissioners were asked to forward any suggestions or comments to Co-Executive Presbyter Ray Thomas (ray.presmid Tenn@gmail.com). The Administrative Committee will present this policy for approval at the October Presbytery meeting.

Safe Church Template

A draft Safe Church template was provided for review. Commissioners were asked to forward any suggestions or comments to Co-Executive Presbyter Ray Thomas (ray.presmid Tenn@gmail.com). The Administrative Committee will present this policy for the use of churches in the Presbytery upon approval by the Administrative Committee.

Matthew 25 Mid-Council

The Administrative Committee recommended that the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee become a Matthew 25 Mid-Council. There was no discussion and the recommendation was approved.

COMMITTEE ON MUTUAL SUPPORT

Ruling Elder Stuart Wilson-Patton, chair of the Committee on Mutual Support, provided an update on the committee's work. Mr. Wilson-Patton commended the Presbytery for its new status as a Matthew 25 Mid-Council.

Resignation of Committee Member

The Committee on Mutual Support accepted with regret the resignation of Vicky McMillen (First Dickson).

Hunger Grant Applications

The Committee approved Hunger Grant Applications from Westminster Room in the Inn sponsored by Westminster Presbyterian Church in Columbia, TN, and Project J.O.Y. (Harlan, KY) sponsored by Priest Lake Presbyterian Church in Nashville, TN. Each hunger grant was approved for the maximum amount of \$4,000.

Social Justice Working Group

The Committee voted to create a six-member working group on social justice that will report to the Committee on Mutual Support.

Matthew 25 Mid-Council

The Committee recommended to the Administrative Committee that the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee commit to becoming a Matthew 25 mid-council at the July 18th meeting.

WORSHIP

Rev. Jonathan Angel and Rev. Erin Howton-Angel led the Presbytery in worship. Lee Catoe, a candidate under care of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee, preached the sermon. The offering was directed to NaCoMe Camp and Conference Center.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

Ruling Elder Donna Simpson, Committee on Ministry chair, presented the committee's report.

Michael Bradley / Normandy Presbyterian Church

The COM approved renewal of the interim pastoral contract between Dr. Michael Bradley and Normandy Presbyterian Church for the period of January 1 to September 30, 2020. Terms: \$1,670 cash salary per month, \$333 housing allowance per month, mileage at the current IRS rate, 4 weeks of vacation, 2 weeks of study leave, and professional expenses as approved by the church treasurer.

David John Eisenmenger / First United Presbyterian Church, Sparta

The COM approved the renewal of the temporary pastoral contract between Rev. David John Eisenmenger and First United Presbyterian, Sparta, effective from January 1 to December 31, 2020. Terms: cash salary - \$200/week, mileage - \$0.50/mile, 2 weeks of vacation, and 1 week of study leave.

Handlson v. Presbytery of Middle Tennessee

The Committee discussed the Presbytery's vote to not restore Pat Handlson to active ministry and COM's response. Handlson's Care Team met with the COM at its April 14 meeting regarding their concerns about the February Presbytery meeting proceedings and decisions as they related to Mr. Handlson. COM and the Care Team members discussed next steps regarding Mr. Handlson's remedial complaint to the Synod of the Living Waters, and what COM can do to support this and future Care Teams. The Care Team (Ann Roberts, Stephen Yates, Michael Davis) agreed to continue to serve as a Care Team for Handlson. Cindy Schwartz, Gary Kelley, and Beth McCaw volunteered to draft a description of functions, responsibilities, etc., for future Care Teams. The stated clerk reported the Committee of Counsel is exploring mediation.

Walter Chuquimia

Walter Chuquimia, who is Teddy Chuquimia's brother, has been filling pulpits in several churches in the Presbytery. He is a convicted sex offender who renounced the jurisdiction of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) when charges were filed; he cannot serve churches in either a volunteer or paid capacity. The COM asked the stated clerk to notify all Clerks of Session that Mr. Chuquimia cannot fill the pulpit or serve in any capacity.

Rhonda Banasiak / First Presbyterian Church, Clarksville

The Examinations Task Force met with Rhonda Banasiak, a ruling elder at First Presbyterian Church, Clarksville, who has completed CRE training. The COM will request her commissioning at the July Presbytery meeting. Greg Glover has been assigned as her mentor.

Brad Warren / Hopewell Presbyterian Church, Milton

The COM approved Brad Warren, an ordained Southern Baptist minister, to serve at Hopewell Presbyterian Church, Milton. Terry Panter was approved as moderator for Hopewell Presbyterian Church, Milton. The COM will appoint a mentor to Rev. Warren for polity and theology.

Jimmy Lancaster / First Presbyterian Church, McMinnville

The COM approved the renewal of the temporary supply contract between Rev. Jimmy Lancaster and First Presbyterian Church, McMinnville, with no change in terms. Ruling Elder Terry Panter was approved as the liaison to First Presbyterian, McMinnville.

Kristi Moore / Glenclyff Presbyterian Church, Nashville

The COM approved the renewal of the temporary supply contract between Rev. Kristi Moore and Glenclyff Presbyterian Church, Nashville, for the period of 4/1/2020 through 9/30/2020.

First Presbyterian Church, Shelbyville / Ministry Information Form

The Transitions Task Force approved the Ministry Information Form for First Presbyterian Church, Shelbyville, for an associate pastor, pending update of the minimum effective salary.

Rosanna Anderson / First Presbyterian Church, Springfield

The COM approved the call of Rev. Dr. Rosanna Anderson and First Presbyterian Church, Springfield, as the 3/4 time installed pastor. Terms include salary - \$22,000; housing allowance - \$15,500; professional expenses - \$2,500; Social Security assistance - \$2,325; 4 weeks vacation; 2 weeks continuing education.

Normandy Presbyterian Church / Pastor Nominating Committee

The following persons were elected as the Pastor Nominating Committee for Normandy Presbyterian Church: Ken Brannon, Martha Craddock, Gary Crockett, Claudia Hazelwood, Brent Hitt, Emily Owens, and Karen Riley.

Central Presbyterian Church, Culleoka

The COM discussed Central Presbyterian Church, Culleoka, and its deteriorating property. The Transitions Task Force appointed Rev. Steve Thomas, Honorably Retired, as the church's moderator.

Nueva Vida New Worshipping Community Liaison

Ruling Elder David Wood was approved as the liaison for the Nueva Vida new worshipping community.

Roy Paterik / Cripple Creek Presbyterian Church, Readyville

The Committee on Ministry approved Roy Paterik, a minister member of the Reformed Church in America who serves as temporary supply at Cripple Creek Presbyterian Church, Readyville, as a temporary member of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee with voice and vote.

Dr. Jim Rountree / Celebration of the Sacraments

The COM approved Jim Rountree, ruling elder at First Presbyterian Church, Dickson, to administer sacraments and moderate the sessions at First Presbyterian Church, Dickson, and Ellis Grove Presbyterian Church, Waverly, in the event the pastor, Rev. John A. Smith, is called to active duty in the US Air Force Reserves.

Rachel Thompson Orfield / Harpeth Presbyterian Church, Brentwood

The COM examined Rev. Rachel Thompson Orfield, a minister member of the Presbytery of the Peaks, who has accepted a call as pastor of Harpeth Presbyterian Church, Brentwood, effective July 2020. The terms of call were approved: \$3,500 annual salary, \$58,500 housing, \$3,500 professional expenses, \$268 Social Security tax, \$4,000 moving costs, \$22,940 Board of Pensions, four weeks vacation, two weeks study leave, parental leave of 10 weeks paid and two weeks unpaid (provided if needed). Rev. Orfield was introduced and welcomed to the Presbytery.

LatinX Hub

The Committee on Ministry approved the Ministry Architects proposal for the LatinX Hub, to be established at Nueva Vida. Rev. Mark DeVries presented the budget, timeline, and job descriptions for the Hub; persons in leadership include Rev. Lilia Ramirez (Presbytery of Middle Tennessee), Rev. Gustavo Vasquez (Presbytery of Middle Tennessee), Jael Fuentes (ruling elder at Eastminster Presbyterian Church, Nashville), Rev. Juan Sarmiento (Presbytery of San Fernando). The Kharis Foundation will commit \$20,000 for the Hub for the next five years, upon approval. The Church Transformation Committee, the Nueva Vida Administrative Commission, and the Eastminster Administrative Commission have approved the proposal. The start date is May 15; a summary of the proposal was provided with the COM report. The COM approved Rev. Lilia Ramirez as coordinating pastor for the LatinX Hub.

Allen Cross, III / First Presbyterian Church, Shelbyville

The COM approved the dissolution of the pastoral relationship between Allen Cross, III, and First Presbyterian Church, Shelbyville, effective 6/18/2020, pending congregational approval on June 14, and dismissed him to the Presbytery of Tres Rios to accept a new call. Gary Kelley was approved as the moderator for First Presbyterian Church, Shelbyville.

Evelyn Graham / Southminster Presbyterian Church, Nashville

The COM approved the dissolution of the pastoral relationship between Evelyn Graham and Southminster Presbyterian Church, Nashville, effective June 30, 2020, and approved her status at member-at-large, effective July 1, 2020. Steve Musick, Honorably Retired, was approved as the moderator of the session and liaison for Southminster Presbyterian Church, Nashville.

Dismissals

The Committee on Ministry dismissed the following pastors to the Presbyteries indicated:

- Phyllis Jones to New Covenant Presbytery (Texas)
- Nancy McCurley to Homestead Presbytery, Arkansas
- John Westlund, Jr. to Greater Atlanta Presbytery
- Katherine Smith to the Presbytery of New Hope (North Carolina)

Andrew Smith / Blue Spring Presbyterian Church, Sparta

Andrew Smith has resigned at Blue Spring Presbyterian Church, Sparta. Rev. Michael McLaughlin was appointed moderator and Larry Wilmoth was granted permission to administer the sacraments.

Michael Wilson / Downtown Presbyterian Church, Nashville

The COM approved the extension of the Designated Pastoral relationship with Rev. Mike Wilson for six months, effective October 1, 2020 – March 31, 2021. Debra Vanderveer was appointed liaison for Downtown.

Family Leave Policy

The COM reviewed a draft Policy on Family Leave. The policy includes up to 12 weeks of paid leave for family care. The financial burden for small churches and possible solutions were discussed. The task force will continue to work out details regarding support for smaller churches to be included in the policy.

Rhonda Banasiak / First Presbyterian Church, Clarksville

Ms. Simpson stated the COM approved the request of First Presbyterian Church, Clarksville, and Ruling Elder Rhonda Banasiak to move the commissioning of Ms. Banasiak as a CRE from the July Presbytery meeting to the October meeting.

Lee Catoe / Candidate for Ordination

The COM examined Lee Catoe, a candidate under care of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee, for ordination to his position at the PCUSA Center in Louisville, KY. He serves as editor for Outbound, an online journal, and Associate for Young Adult Social Witness. The COM validated this ministry, and recommended Mr. Catoe be examined for ordination. A copy of his statement of faith and autobiographical statement were included with the COM report.

Rev. Nolan Huizenga lead the examination of Mr. Catoe. Mr. Catoe spoke briefly of his faith journey, and responded to questions from Rev. Huizenga and commissioners. Rev. Huizenga and Mr. Catoe moved to a Zoom waiting room.

Ms. Simpson moved that Mr. Catoe's examination be sustained, and this was seconded and approved without objection. The COM recommended that Mr. Catoe be approved for ordination and received as a teaching elder member of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee. The motion was approved.

The motion was made, seconded, and approved to approve the following commission to ordain Lee Catoe: Sunday, August 23, 2pm, Second Presbyterian Church, Nashville; Teaching Elders – Lindsey Groves (UKIRK Nashville); Heidi Hudnut-Beumler (Westminster Nashville); James Hudnut-Beumler (Vanderbilt Divinity School); Mary Louise McCullough (Second); Stacy Rector (Tennesseans Against the Death Penalty); Janet Salyer (Callings), chair; Ruling Elders – Greg Gardner (Woodland); Jeff Moles (Second, Nashville); Guest of the Commission – Rev. Ashley McFaul-Erwin (Presbytery of Long Island).

Rev. Huizenga and Mr. Catoe came back into the meeting, and the Moderator announced the decisions. Persons present in support of Mr. Catoe were applauded.

Sally Hughes / Trinity Presbyterian Church, Nashville

Ms. Simpson reported that the Committee on Ministry recommended approval of the call of Dr. Sally Hughes from designated pastor to installed pastor at Trinity Presbyterian Church, Nashville. Dr. Hughes and her husband were due back from Mississippi yesterday, but their plans changed and they are driving back today. The terms of the call were approved by the Committee on Ministry earlier this year, and the COM has the authority to approve the commission to install, so the COM asked that the Presbytery go ahead and consider

this recommendation today. There were no questions, and this was approved by the required 3/4 vote of the Presbytery members present and voting. Persons in support of Dr. Hughes and Trinity were recognized.

Recognition of Retirement of Medardo “Teddy” Chuquimia

Ruling Elder Tony McMahan, Glencliff Presbyterian Church, Nashville, and a member of the Nueva Vida Administrative Commission, spoke with gratitude of Pastor Teddy’s ministry. He thanked Pastor Teddy for his work with the new church development.

Recognition of Retirement of Mark DeVries

Rev. Adam DeVries, First Presbyterian Church, Nashville, spoke of the ministry of his father, Rev. Mark DeVries. He thanked his father for his support, and reported that his father was still working, despite being retired!

The Moderator thanked Dr. Chuquimia and Rev. DeVries for their ministry and service to the Presbytery, and offered a prayer.

BOARD OF PENSIONS

Keenan Rodgers, the Regional Representative of the Board of Pensions, provided a report on the Board of Pensions, and upcoming changes to the plan. He encouraged commissioners to contact him with any questions about the benefits plan.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Theresa Denton, Chris Joiner, Mike Wilson, Connie Hamblen, and Geoff Lackey provided written reports through the Presbytery packet and the Presbytery newsletter. All were grateful to have had this opportunity to participate in the virtual General Assembly.

COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY

Rev. Mike Wilson, chair, Committee on Preparation for Ministry, presented the committee’s report.

David Garvey, First Presbyterian Church, Nashville

The Committee on Preparation for Ministry received David Garvey (First Nashville) as an inquirer under care of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee as of February 25, 2020.

Delilah Jane Phillips, Calvary Presbyterian Church, Crossville

The Committee on Preparation for Ministry received Delilah Jane Phillips (Calvary Crossville) as an inquirer under care of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee as of June 12, 2020.

Lee Catoe / Certified Ready for Call

The Committee approved Lee Catoe, a candidate under care of the Presbytery, as certified ready for call as of April 28, 2020.

Carly Misenheimer / Certified Ready for Call

The Committee approved Carly Misenheimer (Second), a candidate under care of the Presbytery, as certified ready for call as of April 28, 2020.

Kody Whitaker / Candidacy

The Committee on Preparation for Ministry recommended that Inquirer Kody Whitaker (First Presbyterian Church, Nashville) be examined for candidacy. Mr. Whitaker spoke of his sense of call and Christian service undertaken, and responded to questions from commissioners.

Rev. Wilson and Mr. Whitaker were moved to a waiting room, and the motion to receive Mr. Whitaker as a candidate was approved. Rev. Wilson and Mr. Whitaker came back into the meeting and the Moderator reported on the vote.

The Moderator led commissioners in a liturgy for the newly-enrolled candidate. A charge and prayer were offered for Mr. Whitaker. Persons present in support of the candidate were recognized.

STATED CLERK’S REPORT

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

Investigating Committee

Allegations had been received against a member of Presbytery, and an investigating committee was formed in accordance with the Mission and Operations Manual. The investigating committee completed their

work, and no charges were filed.

Handlson v. Presbytery of Middle Tennessee

Patrick Handlson filed a remedial complaint with the Synod of Living Waters, complaining of the Presbytery's action at the February 1, 2020 meeting (the decision not to restore him to active membership). A committee of counsel has been appointed to represent the Presbytery in this matter.

2019 Church Statistics

The 2019 church statistics, as reported by the sessions, is attached (Attachment B).

Summary B – 2019 Ministerial Changes

The ministerial changes in 2019 are as follows:

1. MINISTERIAL NECROLOGY

NAME	OCCUPATION	PLACE OF DEATH	AGE	DATE
CRIGLER, III, A. S. "SHEP"	HONORABLY RETIRED	FRANKLIN, TN	83	07/31/2019
CRUMBY, ROBERT H.	HONORABLY RETIRED	NASHVILLE, TN	91	12/24/2019
JACKSON, J. HAROLD	HONORABLY RETIRED	NASHVILLE, TN	91	06/11/2019

2. MINISTERS DISMISSED TO OTHER PRESBYTERIES

NAME	DISMISSED	DATE
BONNER, LEIGH	GREATER ATLANTA	09/10/2019
BOOTH, WHITNEY LOCKARD	GREATER ATLANTA	07/21/2019
HILL, STEPHEN R	GREAT RIVERS	07/09/2019
MCDANIEL, MARK	OHIO VALLEY	09/10/2019
MCFAUL-ERWIN, ASHLEY	LONG ISLAND	07/09/2019
PENMORE, RACHEL	EAST TENNESSEE	11/12/2019
POPE, CRAIG	SAVANNAH	09/10/2019
RODRIGUE, KIMBERLY	SOUTH LOUISIANA	07/09/2019
HANCOCK, ANGELA DIENHART	PITTSBURGH	10/09/2019

3. MINISTERS DISMISSED TO OTHER DENOMINATIONS

NAME	DISMISSED TO	DATE
	NONE	

4. PERMANENT REMOVALS FROM ROLL

NAME	CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISION	DATE
	NONE	

NAME	RECEIVED FROM	DATE
BIRD, SARAH R	PITTSBURGH	EFF 03/04/2019; COM 12/11/2018
BUSSE STOKER, AMY L	INDIAN NATIONS	EFF 05/14/2019
CARRELL, LEN TURBEVILLE	HEARTLAND	EFF 02/12/2019
CHEIFETZ, LAURA	MID-KENTUCKY	EFF 09/10/2019
GERBER, DAVE	TAMPA BAY	EFF 10/08/2019
MOORE, RYAN V	EASTERN OKLAHOMA	EFF 10/21/2019; COM 09/10/2019
MUSICK, STEVE	EAST TENNESSEE	EFF 06/11/2019
SHAW, MARY SELLERS	SHEPPARDS AND LAPSLEY	EFF 04/15/2019; PBV 2/14/2019
SMITH, SHANE S	HOLSTON	EFF 06/03/2019; COM 04/09/2019
THOMAS, RAYMOND S	deCRISTO	EFF 04/22/2019; PBV 02/25/2019
MUELLER, MARK	WABASH VALLEY	EFF 12/11/2018
MUELLER, TOBY	WABASH VALLEY	EFF 11/13/2018

6. MINISTERS ORDAINED BY THIS PRESBYTERY

NAME	MALE/FEMALE	DATE
BOOTH, WHITNEY LOCKARD	FEMALE	ORD 07/21/2019; PBV 07/20/2019
COX, MEREDITH	FEMALE	ORD 08/11/2019; PBV 07/20/2019

 7. MINISTERS RECEIVED FROM OTHER DENOMINATION

NAME	RECEIVED FROM	MALE/FEMALE	DATE
SMITH, JOHN A.	CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH	MALE	02/14/2019; EFF 01/15/2019

8. MINISTERS RESTORED TO ROLL

NAME	CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISION	DATE
	NONE	

RECAP

LOSSES	GAINS	JAN. 1, 2019	
1. NECROLOGY 3	5. RECEIVED--PRESB. 12	SUBTRACT LOSSES	-12
2. DISMISSED--PRESB. 9	6. ORDAINED 2	ADD GAINS	+15
3. DISMISSED--DENOM. 0	7. RECEIVED--DENOM. 1	MINISTERS ON ROLL	_____
4. OTHER REMOVALS <u>0</u>	8. RESTORED <u>0</u>	AS OF DEC. 31, 2019	186
TOTAL LOSSES 12	TOTAL GAINS 15		

NUMBER IN TRANSIT 0

Approval of Minutes of 140th Stated Meeting (February 1, 2020)

The Stated Clerk reported the minutes of the 140th Stated Meeting were provided in advance of the meeting. The motion was made, seconded, and approved without objection to approve the minutes and the roll as presented.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Ruling Elder Steve Douse (First Presbyterian Church, Nashville), Treasurer, and chair of the Finance Committee, presented the committee's report.

Finance Committee Meeting and Responsibilities

The Finance Committee meets monthly in conjunction with the Administrative Committee to review presbytery's finances. The committee chair also monitors financial developments between meetings through weekly cash flow reports.

Financials

Financials as of June 30, 2020 were presented for information.

Investment Task Force

The Investment Task Force (Suzanne McLemore (chair), Claude McMillion, Anders Hall, Vance Lahey, Evelyn Graham) presented a revised Investment Policy, which was amended and approved by the committee (Attachment C). The committee asked the task force to revise the asset allocation section to further reduce the reliance on cash for investment purposes.

Presbytery Paycheck Protection Program

The Presbytery received a \$63,200 loan from First Farmers Bank under the Federal Paycheck Protection Program, and will apply to have the entire amount of the loan forgiven once presbytery satisfies all of the criteria, which should happen sometime in July. In accordance with standard accounting practice for nonprofits, the financials show the loan proceeds for which the presbytery has qualified for forgiveness as income.

Stewardship Letter

The Finance Committee sent a stewardship letter updating sessions on presbytery's budget and finances.

Randolph Business Resources

Randolph Business Resources was hired to handle the presbytery's bookkeeping following the resignation of Pat Webb as the presbytery's bookkeeper.

Annual Review of Presbytery Finances

The Finance Committee approved an annual review of the presbytery's finances, with an audit every five years. Mullins, Clemmons and Mayes PLLC has been engaged to perform the 2019 review.

Belfast Presbyterian Church / Sale of Farm Property

The Finance Committee was informed of the sale of farm property owned by Belfast Presbyterian Church. The sales price was \$100,000.

First Presbyterian Church, Cookeville / Easement

The Finance Committee approved the right of way easement to the City of Cookeville for construction of a bike path adjacent to the campus ministry house for \$4,000.

Task Force for Budget Process and Financial Policies and Procedures

A task force of the Finance Committee (Melinda Sanders, chair) is reviewing the presbytery's financial policies and procedures, as well as the budget process. The proposed budget plan is to 1) contact presbytery committees in June requesting their projected needs for the following year; 2) submit a preliminary budget to the Finance Committee by September; 3) present the proposed budget to the Administrative Committee in October; 4) present the proposed budget to the Presbytery at the fall meeting. An application process will be developed for disbursement of all funds ranging from Hunger to NaCoMe to UKirk and funds through COM to churches and pastors. The Finance Committee has reviewed a draft financial policies and procedures document, which the task force is continuing to refine. The task force seeks conversation about how to make these processes creative, robust, and accountable.

East Brentwood Presbyterian Church / Small Business Administration Loan

Mr. Douse reported that the Finance Committee recommended that East Brentwood Presbyterian Church be allowed to encumber its property in connection with a \$250,000 Small Business Administration loan. The interest rate on the loan is 2.75%, with payback not to exceed 30 years. The recommendation was approved.

Glenclyff Presbyterian Church, Nashville / Sale of Manse

Mr. Douse stated the Finance Committee recommended that Glenclyff Presbyterian Church be allowed to sell the church manse, subject to the final sales contract being submitted to the Finance Committee for approval. The recommendation was approved.

MISSION ENGAGEMENT

William McConnell, Mission Engagement Advisor in the Office of Mission Engagement and Support, reported on the ongoing work of the Presbyterian Mission Agency. He is available for speaking engagements on the programs and ministry of the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The Moderator stated there was no unfinished business, and stated it was her hope that the 142nd Stated Meeting Thursday, October 15, 2020, would be able to be held at NaCoMe Camp and Conference Center. The meeting adjourned upon motion made, seconded, and approved without objection after a prayer by the Moderator.

Therese P. Howell, Stated Clerk