

**PRESBYTERY OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE**  
**MINUTES OF ONE HUNDRED FORTY-SIXTH STATED MEETING**  
**OCTOBER 21, 2021**

The 146<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee met via Zoom on Thursday, October 21, 2021. Stated Clerk Therese Howell provided Zoom tips and information for first time commissioners. Moderator Chris Joiner called the meeting to order at 9:30 am.

**WORSHIP**

Worship was led by Rev. Sally Ann McKinsey (UKIRK Tennessee Tech), Rev. Claire Berry (UKIRK Nashville), Rev. Micah Watson (UKIRK Middle Tennessee State University), Dr. Aaron Stauffer (candidate, Presbytery of Middle Tennessee), and students Wren Miller and Evan Stephens. Dr. Stauffer preached the sermon, and the offering was directed to NaCoMe Camp and Conference Center.

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

After a break, the Moderator reconvened the meeting and declared a quorum was present. The Moderator reviewed procedures for the meeting.

*Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised (11<sup>th</sup> Edition)*, the parliamentary authority for councils of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), states 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. The Moderator 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-fourths 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 Moderator welcomed first time commissioners, and introduced the newest pastors, Rev. Mark David Calvert-Rosenberger, who is serving as temporary pastor at First Presbyterian Church, Springfield, and Rev. Walt Tennyson, a chaplain at St. Thomas Nashville.

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. The following agenda was approved without objection:

- 9:00 am 1. Registration (Order of the Day in CAPS)
- 9:15 am Orientation to Zoom | First Time Commissioners (10 min)
- 9:30 am 2. CALL TO ORDER / WORSHIP
  - Offering: NaCome Camp and Conference Center
- Break
- 10:35 am 3. Reconvene / Establishment of Quorum / Statement of Procedures / Recognition of First Time Presbyters / Seating of Corresponding Members / Adoption of Agenda
- 10:50 am 4. Stated Clerk's Report – Therese Howell (5 min)
  - Approval of Minutes of 145<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting (July 17, 2021)
- 10:55 am 5. Administrative Committee – Cristi Scott Ligon (10 min)
- 11:05 am 6. Finance Committee – Steve Douse (15 min)
- 11:20 am 7. Committee on Leadership Excellence – Aaron Stauffer (10 min)
- 11:30 am 8. Committee on Mutual Support – Stuart Wilson-Patton (15 min)
- 11:45 am 9. Co-Executive Presbyters' Report – Ray and Robin Thomas (15 min)
- 12:00 pm 10. Committee on Ministry Report – Erin Howton-Angel (35 min)
  - Examination of Candidate for Ordination
- 12:35 pm 12. Concerns and Celebrations
- 13. Unfinished Business
- 147<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting – February 2022 (Final Date and Location TBD)**
- 12:50 pm 14. Closing Prayer / Adjourn

### STATED CLERK'S REPORT

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

#### Session Minutes Review

The Stated Clerk asked commissioners to remind the clerks of sessions that minutes would be reviewed virtually in November. Informational materials and the Zoom link would be forthcoming.

#### Annual Statistical Reports

The Stated Clerk reported that it was almost annual statistical report season! Reports and instructions would be emailed to clerks of sessions.

#### Committee on Preparation for Ministry

The Stated Clerk called attention to the report of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry, which was included in the Presbytery packet. The following report was admitted to record without objection.

#### **Report of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry October 2021**

The Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM) is responsible for guiding, caring for, and examining candidates for ministry in our denominational process. All those seeking to become teaching elders/Ministers of Word and Sacrament must move through the steps detailed in the CPM checklist that can be found on the presbytery website. And there are a lot of steps!

Typically the full presbytery is only involved when prospective teaching elders desire to move from the inquiry phase to the candidacy phase and are "examined with respect to personal Christian faith, forms of Christian service undertaken, and motives for seeking the ministry." The presbytery then votes to "affirm or deny the examination."



Retired; The Rev. Ray Thomas, Co-Executive Presbyter, Presbytery of Middle Tennessee; *Ruling Elders*: Beth Derrick, Bellevue Presbyterian Church of Nashville; Elizabeth Todd, Emmanuel Presbyterian Church of Nashville; Robin Thomas, Co-Executive Presbyter, Presbytery of Middle Tennessee.

The Commission was called to order by the Chair of the Commission, Rev. Bill Bryant, and Robin Thomas was appointed Clerk of the Commission by the Chair. The Chair offered the opening prayer. The Order of worship for this Installation Service was reviewed with the constitutionally required elements for such a service found to be in place. By common consent the Order of Worship was adopted and a copy of the printed program will be attached to these minutes.

The Commission recessed to the Sanctuary for the Service of Worship with the Chair presiding. The Sermon was preached by Rev. Warner Durnell. The Constitutional questions were propounded to Rev. Scott Huie by the Chair and they were answered in the affirmative. The Constitutional questions were propounded to the Congregation by Robin Thomas and answered in the affirmative by the Congregation. A prayer was offered by Rev. Ray Thomas.

The Rev. Scott Huie was duly installed as Pastor of Bellevue Presbyterian Church, Nashville, Tennessee.

A Charge was delivered to Rev. Scott Huie by Rev. Fred Page and David Wood charged the congregation. The Service was closed with the Benediction pronounced by the Rev. Scott Huie. The Commission was adjourned at the benediction of the worship service.

Robin Thomas, Clerk of the Commission

#### Celebration of Communion – UKIRK Nashville

The Stated Clerk received a request from UKIRK Nashville to celebrate the sacrament of communion during 2022; Rev. Claire Berry will preside. The motion was made, seconded, and approved without objection.

#### Approval of Minutes of 145<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting (July 17, 2021)

The minutes and roll of the 145<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting, held on July 17, 2021, were provided with the Presbytery packet. The motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes; after corrections to the roll, the minutes and the roll were approved as amended.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Elder Cristi Scott Ligon, Vice-Moderator and chair of the Administrative Committee, presented the Administrative Committee's report.

#### Working Group to Revise the Missions and Operations Manual

The Administrative Committee received an update on the working group to revise the Presbytery's Missions and Operations Manual.

#### Waverly Flooding

The Administrative Committee received an update on the relief efforts for the Waverly flooding.

#### Presbytery Meetings

The Administrative Committee approved the February and July meetings in 2022 to be conducted via Zoom, and the summer and fall meetings to be held in person.

#### Vision 2020

The Administrative Committee reviewed feedback from the May Presbytery meeting regarding Vision 2020 and determined that revising the Presbytery's goals should be postponed until a later time.

#### Social Justice Working Group

The Administrative Committee received an update on the social justice working group.

#### Personnel Task Force

The Administrative Committee received an update from the Personnel Task Force; staff reviews are underway.

#### Nominating Task Force Report

Rev. Stephen Yates, chair of the Nominating Task Force, presented a slate of nominees for service as indicated to the Class of 2024 (unless otherwise noted). The Moderator opened the floor for additional nominations, and there were two additional nominees. The following slate was elected for service as indicated:

Administrative Committee: Greg Glover, TE, First Clarksville  
 Elinor Foster, RE, First Lewisburg, Moderator-in-Nomination

Finance Committee: Hal Sauer, RE, First Nashville  
 Steve Thomas, TE, Honorably Retired

Comm. on Church Transformation: Bob LaGrone, RE, First Nashville  
 Keith Gunter, TE, New Creation

Comm. on Leadership Excellence: Laura Cheifetz, TE, Vanderbilt  
 Aaron Stauffer, RE, Second

Class of 2022: Sara Bird Kneff, TE, First Nashville

Comm. on Ministry: Tom Drake, RE, Bellevue  
 Bill Patterson, RE, First Murfreesboro  
 Amy Stoker, TE, First Pulaski  
 Frank Wade, RE, Westminster Nashville  
 David Wood, RE, First Nashville  
 Carol Foster, RE, First Fayetteville

Comm. on Ministry, Class of 2022: Tom Bagley, TE, Normandy

Comm. on Ministry, Class of 2023: Sally Hughes, TE, Trinity

Comm. on Mutual Support: Teresa Burns, RE, First Pulaski  
 David Carlton, RE, Second

Class of 2023: Sally Ann McKinsey, TE, UKIRK Cookeville

Comm. on Mutual Support, Class of 2023: Vacancy, TE or RE

Comm. on Prep for Ministry: Kate Adcock, RE, Second  
 Guy Griffith, TE, Westminster Nashville  
 Blake Hawthorne, TE, First Lynnville

Comm. on Prep for Ministry, Class of 2022: Gloria Dale, RE, First Columbia

Permanent Judicial Commission, Class of 2026: J. B. Smith, RE, First Lewisburg

Committee Chairs

Administrative TE Stephen Yates (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 Aaron Stauffer, Second

Committee on Ministry TE Erin Howton-Angel, Allardt

Mutual Support TE Bobby Harding, First Murfreesboro

Preparation for Ministry TE Mike Wilson, Second

Commissioners to the 225<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (2022)

*Teaching Elder Commissioners:* Lindsey Groves, Member-at-Large; Lilia Ramierz-Jimenez, LatinX Hub; C. J. Thompson, First Manchester; *Ruling Elder Commissioners:* Bob LaGrone, First Nashville; Kathy Nichols, First Tullahoma; Cristi Scott, St. Andrews; *Young Adult Advisory Delegate:* Shammah Tapok, Emmanuel

Presbytery of Middle Tennessee | Committee Membership 2022 - 2024

TE – Minister of the Word and Sacrament RE – Ruling Elder \*Second Term *elected 10/21/2021*  
Administrative Committee

<u>Class of 2022</u>	<u>Class of 2023</u>	<u>Class of 2024</u>
*Theresa Denton, RE Emmanuel	*Doug Berry, RE Westminster	* <u><i>Greg Glover, TE</i></u> First Clarksville
*Mary Louse McCullough, TE Second	Heidi Hudnut-Beumler, TE Westminster Nashville	<u><i>Elinor Foster, RE</i></u> First Lewisburg Moderator-in-Nomination

Trustees (by virtue of office; serve as members of both Administrative and Finance Committees)

Cristi Scott Ligon, RE St. Andrews 2022 Moderator	Stephen Yates, TE First Tullahoma Vice-Moderator	Steve Douse, RE (Class of 2023) First Nashville Treasurer
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Finance Committee

Evelyn Graham, TE Member-at-Large	Rosanna Anderson, TE Member-at-Large	<u>Hal Sauer, RE</u> First Nashville
Melinda Sanders, RE Woodland	Anders Hall, RE Westminster Nashville	<u>Steve Thomas, TE</u> Honorably Retired

Committee on Church Transformation

Lilia Ramirez-Jimenez, TE LatinX Hub	John Hilley, TE East Brentwood	* <u>Bob LaGrone, RE</u> First Nashville
Chris Adams, TE First Spring Hill	Kathy Nichols, RE First Tullahoma	<u>Keith Gunter, TE</u> New Creation

Committee on Leadership Excellence

<u>Sara Bird Kneff, TE</u> First Nashville	Mary Moody, RE Second	* <u>Laura Cheifetz, TE</u> Vanderbilt
Dr. Mary Martin, RE First Murfreesboro	Shane Smith, TE Hillsboro, Nashville	* <u>Aaron Stauffer, RE</u> Second

Committee on Ministry

Debra Van Derveer, RE Historic Franklin	Erin Howton-Angel, TE Allardt	<u>Tom Drake, RE</u> Bellevue
Gary Kelly, TE Honorably Retired	*Beth McCaw, TE Telos at Southminster	<u>Carol Foster, RE</u> First Fayetteville
Jim Petersen, RE First Franklin	John A. Smith, TE First Dickson/Ellis Grove	<u>Bill Patterson, RE</u> First Murfreesboro
Cynthia Schwartz, TE Priest Lake Nashville	Shelby Smith, RE First Spring Hill	* <u>Amy Stoker, TE</u> First Pulaski
Leslie Traylor, TE Hermitage	Liz Thomas, RE First Clarksville	<u>Frank Wade, RE</u> Westminster Nashville
<u>Tom Bagley, TE</u> Normandy	<u>Sally Hughes, TE</u> Trinity Nashville	* <u>David Wood, RE</u> First Nashville

Committee on Mutual Support

Josh Rodriguez, TE First Nashville	Bobby Harding, TE First Murfreesboro	<u>Teresa Burns, RE</u> First Pulaski
Mary Sellers Shaw, TE First Franklin	<u>Sally Ann McKinsey, TE</u> Tenn Tech Campus Ministry	* <u>David Carlton, RE</u> Second

Committee on Preparation for Ministry

Michael McLaughlin, TE First Cookeville	Meredith Cox, TE St. Thomas, Nashville	* <u>Kate Adcock, RE</u> Second
Michael Wilson, TE Second	James Peeler, RE Harpeth Brentwood	* <u>Guy Griffith, TE</u> Westminster Nashville
<u>Gloria Dale, RE</u> First Columbia	*Sandra Randleman, TE First Nashville	* <u>Blake Hawthorne, TE</u> First Lynnville

Permanent Judicial Commission

<u>Class of 2022</u> Stacy Rector, TE TADP	<u>Class of 2024</u> Bill Carver, RE First Franklin	<u>Class of 2026</u> Michael Bradley, TE HR/Dechard
Carson Salyer, TE	Christi Ensich, RE	James Hudnut-Beumler, TE

Honorably Retired  
C.J. Thompson, TE  
First Manchester

Historic Franklin  
Sharon Warfield, RE  
Westminster Nashville

Vanderbilt Div. School  
J. B. Smith, RE  
First Lewisburg

#### **Committee Chairs**

Administrative TE Stephen Yates (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 Aaron Stauffer, Second  
Committee on Ministry TE Erin Howton-Angel, Allardt  
Mutual Support TE Bobby Harding, First Murfreesboro  
Preparation for Ministry TE Mike Wilson, Second  
Commissioners to the 225<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (2022): Shammah Tapok, Emmanuel, Young Adult Advisory Delegate; Teaching Elder Commissioners: Lindsey Groves, Member-at-Large; Lilia Ramirez-Jimenez, LatinX Hub; C. J. Thompson, First Manchester; Ruling Elder Commissioners: Bob LaGrone, First Nashville; Kathy Nichols, First Tullahoma; Cristi Scott, St. Andrews

#### **Ordination Exam Readers, Class of 2023**

Gloria Dale, RE, First Columbia; Therese Howell, RE, First Franklin; Aimee Moiso, TE, Member-at-Large; Sally Hughes, TE, Trinity Nashville; Alternates: Joyce Harris, RE, St. Andrews Nashville; Annesse Ashton, RE, St. Andrews Nashville

#### **UKIRK Nashville Board**

##### 2022

Jody Kelly, Dinner Coordinator  
Kelly Christie  
Samera Zavarro  
Mary Sellers Shaw  
Ryan Fox

##### 2023

Kip Rush  
Josh Rodriguez  
Bill Christie, Vanderbilt Advisor

#### **FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Ruling Elder Steve Douse, Treasurer and chair of the Finance Committee, presented the committee's report.

##### Financial Reports

Financial reports and investment results as of September 30, 2021, were provided with the Presbytery packet. Mr. Douse spoke briefly about the reports.

##### 2020 Review

Mr. Douse reported that the Independent Accountants' Review Report for the year ending December 31, 2020, prepared by Mullins Clemmons & Mayes, PLLC, was provided with the Presbytery packet. He stated Presbytery's financial statements were determined to be in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, with only one long-standing exception involving our decision not to book pledges as income until they are paid rather than at the time of receipt.

##### Property Transfers

Mr. Douse reminded commissioners that at its July meeting, Presbytery approved the transfer of six church properties still owned by the Presbytery to the individual churches. Five of those transfers have been completed – Emmanuel, Priest Lake, Southminster, St. Andrews, and East Brentwood. The sixth – Double Springs in Cookeville – has been delayed while a church corporation is formed. We expect that transfer to be completed shortly.

##### East Brentwood Presbyterian Church / Tax Exemption

In July the Finance Committee reported that Presbytery's application for tax exemption for property adjacent to East Brentwood PC was partially denied, and that the denial was being appealed to the State Board of Equalization. Although the appeal was successful, the property has since been transferred to East Brentwood. Because of the change of ownership, the church must now reapply to

have the property classified as tax exempt. However, in light of the decision obtained by Presbytery on appeal, the Finance Committee anticipates that the church will have no difficulty in establishing the property's tax exempt status.

#### Investments

In July, Presbytery approved revisions to the Investment Policy that authorized the Finance Committee to consolidate investments in a Vanguard balanced fund. As a result, Presbytery's prior investment advisor at Baird was no longer able to handle the account, and the Finance Committee has approved the recommendation of its Investment Task Force to move the investment portfolio from Baird to Vanguard.

#### Designated Funds

Following an extensive review of Presbytery's designated funds, which have accumulated in relatively haphazard fashion over the years, the Finance Committee is proposing a substantial reorganization of the existing funds to better align with Presbytery's mission and long term goals. A list of the designated funds showing the proposed revisions and the post-revision balance for each fund was provided with the Presbytery packet, along with a pro forma balance sheet showing the balances as of September 30 if the changes had been in effect at that time. Among the major changes:

- a. A reduction in the Allowance for Church Defaults from the existing balance of \$630,000 to \$200,000. The current balance is far in excess of Presbytery's likely exposure in the event a church defaults on a loan that Presbytery has guaranteed, taking into account the value of the collateral (church property) securing these loans. We believe that maintaining a \$200,000 default reserve is more than adequate to protect Presbytery in the event of a deficiency judgment on one of its guaranteed loans.
- b. Redeployment of a portion of the \$430,000 being removed from the Allowance for Church Defaults into six new funds that address long-term funding needs:
  - i. Matthew 25 Initiatives (\$100,000)
  - ii. Youth and Young Adult Fund (\$10,000)
  - iii. Connectional Development Fund (\$10,000)
  - iv. Social Media and Technology Fund (\$30,000)
  - v. Leadership Development and Education Fund (\$20,000)
  - vi. Mediation Fund (\$20,000)
- c. Transfer of \$100,000 from the Allowance for Church Defaults into the fund for New Church Development and Church Transformation.
- d. Transfer of the remaining \$140,000 being removed from the Allowance for Church Defaults into unrestricted reserves, which would become a functional endowment pursuant to amendments being proposed to Presbytery's Financial Policies and Procedures.
- e. Creation of a Disaster Assistance Fund to replace the separate funds previously created for each individual event, thus allowing excess or unused funds to be applied to future needs. This is sometimes referred to as the Red Cross model, which is used by most disaster relief organizations.
- f. Elimination or merger of several obsolete, unfunded, duplicative, or overly narrow funds.
- g. Recharacterization of the Joe Hutton Endowment Fund as a functional rather than a legal endowment.

Each fund would be administered by one of Presbytery's standing committees, which are identified in the description of each fund. Each committee would be responsible for recommending additions to and disbursements from its assigned funds, subject to the guidelines contained in the



proposed revisions to Presbytery's Financial Policies and Procedures that accompany this report and are among the Finance Committee's recommendations.

#### Guatemala Task Force Funds

Mr. Douse stated that as originally drafted, the Finance Committee's proposed revisions to Presbytery's designated funds included a recommendation that Fund 3002-05, which is used to collect and disburse funds for Guatemala mission trips, be phased out and the funds transferred to a separate entity—either The Outreach Foundation or the Presbyterian Mission Agency, or a separate 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization formed for that purpose. This entity would then assume responsibility for PMT mission activities in Guatemala, including organizing and administering mission trips and providing financial support for churches in the Peten Q'eqchi Presbytery. This recommendation is reflected in the language appearing in the Exhibit C relating to Fund 3002-05.

This recommendation was prompted in part by concerns about financial oversight and accountability and even more by concerns about the safety of the Guatemala mission field and Presbytery's responsibility (and potential liability) for the missionaries who travel abroad under its auspices. Guatemala is on the U.S. State Department's Do Not Travel list because Covid 19 and crime are rampant. Anyone who signs up for such a trip is entitled to know that the sponsoring organization has good local intelligence about the situation on the ground, has the expertise to know if a trip is safe or not, can provide security and insurance, and is prepared to handle emergencies such as a kidnapping or a case of Covid that requires medical evacuation.

If Presbytery sponsors the trip, we must be prepared to provide that kind of support. But because we do not have that kind of expertise and infrastructure, it is in the best interests of all concerned, especially all those who would be traveling to Guatemala with Presbytery's imprimatur, that we partner with one of the established foreign mission organizations or spin off the Guatemala Task Force into a separate organization that would then assume all responsibility for these activities.

Before presenting this recommendation, representatives of the Finance Committee and the Guatemala Task Force discussed the committee's concerns and options for addressing them. Based on these discussions, the Finance Committee has agreed to hold this recommendation in abeyance while efforts are made to establish a partnership with one of the Presbyterian mission organizations that would provide financial accountability and oversight of mission activities sufficient to resolve the Finance Committee's concerns. Based on the outcome of these efforts, the Finance Committee will submit a proposed revision to the terms of Fund 3002-05 at the February meeting. In the meantime, our recommendation is to continue the fund in its current format, with efforts by all concerned to increase the level of financial accountability and transparency.

#### Financial Policies and Procedures

Mr. Douse stated that in conjunction with the recommended changes in Presbytery's designated funds, the Finance Committee is proposing amendments to Presbytery's Financial Policies and Procedures that (a) address how funds subject to donor restrictions are to be handled when the restriction can no longer be complied with; (b) authorize the Finance Committee to add, eliminate, or modify designated funds; (c) distinguish between donor-prescribed and functional endowments; (d) reclassify Presbytery's unrestricted reserves as a functional endowment; and (e) establish spending limits, guidelines, and procedures for withdrawing funds from Presbytery's investments. A redlined copy of the proposed changes was provided with the Presbytery packet.

#### 2022 Budget

Mr. Douse reported that a proposed operating budget for 2022, based on the giving patterns exhibited by the churches thus far in 2021, was projected with the same amount of income from pledged giving as in 2021. Projected investment income is the same as in the 2021 budget, but the expected composition is quite different. As we move away from CDs and increase the percentage of equities in our portfolio, there will be less income thrown off by our investments that can be used for

operating expenses. The Finance Committee therefore proposes as part of its budget recommendation that more of the unrealized gains from investments be made available to replace the income previously generated by CDs. The net result is that the revenue from investments will be greater than what we expect to receive in 2021.

Projected expenses reflect input received from staff and committees about their priorities and expectations for the coming year. The Finance Committee included a 2% cost of living raise for staff. Office expenses are lower because of the move from a physical to a virtual office. Some committee expenses have been removed from the operating budget because, under the proposed realignment of designated funds, those committees will have access to additional monies from those funds. The net result is a balanced budget, with the potential for some additional spending from designated funds.

#### Sale of Property / Rockwood, Tennessee

Some months ago the Finance Committee was approached by a potential buyer for two undeveloped parcels of land, totaling three acres, in Rockwood, Tennessee. The property had been owned by the St. Andrew Presbytery of the United Presbyterian Church in the United States of America (UPC) prior to that denomination's 1983 merger with the Presbyterian Church in the United States to form the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). It is located near Camp Ozone, a property once owned by the UPC. After researching presbytery and denominational records with the assistance of the Stated Clerk, the committee concluded that even though there was apparently no formal transfer of title following Reunion, title to the property did pass from the St. Andrew Presbytery to the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee. PMT received all of the churches in St. Andrew Presbytery located in the Central Time Zone, which is where the Rockwood property is located.

The buyer has offered \$2,500 per acre, or a total of \$7,500, for the property and is willing to take a quitclaim deed rather than a warranty deed, provided we furnish him with a formal explanation of how title passed to PMT. Based on its research into prevailing property values, the unlikelihood that Presbytery could make effective use of the property, and the buyer's willingness to accept a quitclaim deed, the Finance Committee has voted to recommend that we sell the property to the prospective buyer on such terms as the Finance Committee is able to negotiate and deems reasonable under the circumstances.

#### Revisions to Designated Funds

Mr. Douse reported that the Finance Committee's first recommendation was revised to reflect the committee's decision to continue the Guatemala Fund in its current format. The Finance Committee recommended approval of the proposed revisions to Presbytery's designated funds as shown in the revised listing of funds provided with the Presbytery packet, and the committee would bring a recommendation regarding the Guatemala funds to the February 2022 Presbytery meeting.

There was discussion, and a substitute motion was made and seconded that the Presbytery vote on funding the Guatemala missions today. After discussion, the substitute motion failed, and the main motion was before the Presbytery.

The motion was made and seconded to delete the following from the Finance Committee report: "This recommendation was prompted in part by concerns about financial oversight and accountability and even more by concerns about the safety of the Guatemala mission field and Presbytery's responsibility (and potential liability) for the missionaries who travel abroad under its auspices. Guatemala is on the U.S. State Department's Do Not Travel list because Covid 19 and crime are rampant." There was discussion, and the motion to call for the question was made, seconded and approved. The motion to amend the report was defeated.

After discussion, the original motion as amended by the Finance Committee was approved.

#### Financial Policies and Procedures

Mr. Douse stated the Finance Committee recommended approval of the amendments to Presbytery's Financial Policies and Procedures, a copy of which was provided with the Presbytery packet. There were no questions, and the recommendation was approved.

#### 2022 Budget

The Finance Committee recommended approval of the proposed budget for 2022. Mr. Douse spoke to the budget. The motion was made and seconded to amend the budget by restoring \$500 to the budget line item for Hunger Action Advocate Travel, and to transfer \$25,000 from the default loan line item to the Centsability Fund. Ruling Elder Stuart Wilson-Patton, Second Nashville, spoke to the amendment, citing the need for funds for hunger abatement. There was discussion, and the amendment was approved. Dr. Gregory Glover, First Clarksville, asked that the minutes reflect his abstention.

There was a question regarding additional funding for campus ministries, and Mr. Douse stated that the Finance Committee's budget working group would take that input. The budget, as amended, was approved (Attachment C).

#### Sale of Property in Rockwood, Tennessee

The Finance Committee recommended that the Presbytery approve the sale of two parcels of land in Rockwood Tennessee and authorize the Finance Committee to negotiate the sale to a buyer for such price and on such terms as the committee deems reasonable. There were no questions or objections, and this was approved.

Finance Committee member Rev. Evelyn Graham stated the Finance Committee members, especially Steve Douse, Melinda Sanders, and Co-Executive Presbyter Ray Thomas spent many hours working on these issues. The Moderator stated he was grateful for the time and service of the Finance Committee.

After a brief recess, the Moderator called the meeting back to order.

#### **COMMITTEE ON LEADERSHIP EXCELLENCE**

Dr. Aaron Stauffer, chair of the Committee on Leadership Excellence, presented the committee's report.

#### Church Treasurers Training

Dr. Stauffer reported that on November 6, 2021, there will be a training session for church treasurers. The link for registration was shared in Chat.

#### *Preaching the Headlines: Possibilities and Pitfalls*

Dr. Stauffer reported that on February 26, 2022, Lisa L. Thompson, Ph.D., will speak on her new book, *Preaching the Headlines: Possibilities and Pitfalls*. Additional information will be available at a later date.

### **COMMITTEE ON MUTUAL SUPPORT**

Ruling Elder Stuart Wilson-Patton, chair of the Committee on Mutual Support, presented the committee's report.

#### Hunger Grants

The Committee on Mutual Support approved Hunger Grant Applications from: (1) Second Harvest Food Bank for \$2,000; and (2) the Presbytery's Matthew 25 Feeding Project at Glenciff Presbyterian Church for \$4,000.

#### 2022 Budget Requests

The Committee on Mutual Support approved 2022 Budget Requests for the UKirks, NaCoMe, and the Neighborhood Meetings in the total amount of \$57,241 (including the Synod Support for Campus Ministries), subject to the receipt of a completed Finance Committee grant application from UKirk Tennessee Tech.

#### Guatemala Partnership Agreement

Mr. Wilson-Patton stated the Committee on Mutual Report recommended that the Presbytery approve the Guatemala Partnership Agreement for another three years. A copy of the agreement was included in the Presbytery meeting packet.

The motion was made and seconded to postpone the vote on the agreement to the February 2022 Presbytery meeting. There was discussion on the merits and disadvantages of postponing the vote. After discussion, the motion to postpone failed.

There was a motion to call the question, which was seconded and approved. The recommendation to approve the Guatemala Partnership Agreement was approved (Appendix D).

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

Robin and Ray Thomas, Co-Executive Presbyters, provided an update on their work in the presbytery. They provided an update on the Waverly flood relief; over \$42,000 has been raised to date.

#### Commissioned Pastors

Rev. Thomas lifted up the commissioned pastors currently serving in the Presbytery:

Rhonda Banasiak, First Clarksville	Ed Keith, Bethany Ardmore & First Petersburg
David Beatty, Christ Alpine	Milton Nesbitt, First Pulaski & Brick Church
Ray Handisides, Old Hickory	Kathy Nichols, First Tullahoma
Amy Harkness, Belfast	Becky Smith, Westminster Fairfield Glade
Leonard Jordan, St. Andrews Nashville	Kevin Whitehead, Westminster Columbia
Anne Keener, First Franklin	Larry Wilmoth, Double Springs Cookeville

Ms. Thomas offered a prayer. Rev. Thomas reminded commissioners that October was Pastor Appreciation Month, and encouraged everyone to celebrate and encourage the pastors throughout 2021.

### **COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY**

Rev. Erin Howton-Angel, chair of the Committee on Ministry, presented the committee's report.

#### COM Vice-Chair

The COM elected Ruling Elder Debra Van DerVeer (Historic Franklin) as Vice-Chair.

#### Leslie Traylor / Spring Creek Presbyterian Church, Lebanon

The COM appointed Leslie Traylor as the liaison for Spring Creek Presbyterian Church, Lebanon.

#### Pulpit Supply List

The COM added Warner Durnell, Teddy Chuquimia, and Joseph Cejka to the pulpit supply list.

#### Lindsey Groves

The COM approved the dissolution of the pastoral relationship between Rev. Lindsey Groves as campus minister of UKIRK Nashville, effective September 15, 2021. Rev. Groves' status was changed to member-at-large.

David Eisenmenger / Buffalo Valley Presbyterian Church

Rev. David Eisenmenger was appointed Moderator at Buffalo Valley Presbyterian Church.

Joel Kelley / Calvary Presbyterian Church of Big Lick

The COM approved the dissolution of the pastoral relationship between Rev. Joel Kelly and Calvary Presbyterian Church of Big Lick in Crossville, effective 8/31/2021, with severance through 9/30/2021. Rev. Kelly's status was changed to member-at-large. Rev. Erin Howton-Angel was appointed Moderator of the session.

Chris Adams / First Presbyterian Church, Spring Hill

Rev. Chris Adams was approved as part time installed pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Spring Hill. The COM also approved the following terms of call: annual salary \$17,227; Board of Pensions, \$14,500; mileage, up to \$2,000 paid at \$0.54 per mile; 6 weeks of vacation, including Sundays and study leave; one Sunday off a month, and 20 hours per week, not to exceed 29 hours per week. Rev. Howton-Angel moved the approval of the following commission to install: Sunday, November 21, 2021, 10AM at First Spring Hill; Teaching Elders: Rev. Mark DeVries (Honorably Retired); Rev. Warner Durnell (Honorably Retired); Ruling Elders: Pat Bridges (First Columbia); Melinda Sanders (Woodland), Chair; Shelby Smith (First Spring Hill). The motion was seconded and approved without objection. Persons present in support of Rev. Adams were recognized.

Nolan Huizenga / Second Presbyterian Church, Nashville

The COM approved the dissolution of the associate pastoral relationship between Rev. Nolan Huizenga and Second Presbyterian, Nashville, effective 8/31/2021. Rev. Huizenga's status was changed to member-at-large effective 9/1/2021.

Mark David Calvert-Rosenberger / First Presbyterian Church, Springfield

The COM approved the temporary pastoral relationship between Rev. Mark David Calvert-Rosenberger, a member of the United Church of Christ, and First Presbyterian Church, Springfield.

Mike Wilson / Second Presbyterian Church, Nashville

The COM approved the temporary associate pastor supply contract between Second Presbyterian, Nashville, and the Rev. Mike Wilson. The terms of the contract, effective 10/1/2021 through 9/30/2022, include annual salary and housing, \$65,069; Board of Pensions and insurance, \$6,506; Social Security supplement, \$4,978; mileage and development, \$1,000; continuing education, \$2,000; 4 weeks of vacation; and 2 weeks paid study leave.

Beth McCaw / New Worshipping Community (Telos) and Southminster Presbyterian Church, Nashville

The COM approved the dissolution of the pastoral relationship between Rev. Beth McCaw and the New Worshipping Community (Telos), pending congregational approval, effective 10/3/2021. The COM approved her call as the installed pastor at Southminster Presbyterian, Nashville, pending congregational approval, effective 10/4/2021. The COM approved the terms of call between Rev. McCaw and Southminster Presbyterian as follows: salary, \$28,770; housing, \$30,000; professional expenses, \$2,600; SECA supplement, \$4,496; four weeks of vacation; and two weeks of paid study leave. Rev. Howton Angel moved approval of the following commission to install: Sunday, October 24, 2021, 4:30pm, Southminster Presbyterian Church Nashville; Teaching Elders: Ray Thomas (Co-Executive Presbyter), Steve Musick (Honorably Retired); Ruling Elders: Robin Thomas (Co-Executive Presbyter); Susan Christison (Southminster); Guests of the Commission: The session of Southminster Presbyterian Church, Nashville. The motion was seconded and approved without objection. Persons present in support of Rev. McCaw were recognized.

Central Presbyterian Church, Culleoka

The COM received a report on Central Presbyterian Church, Culleoka. The membership has dwindled, and the contract with Rev. Dwight Liles, the supply pastor, was terminated June 30. The COM will recommend that an Administrative Commission be established to close the church.

New Hope Presbyterian Church, Franklin

The COM received a report on New Hope Presbyterian Church, Franklin. The COM will recommend an Administrative Commission be established to close the church.

Aaron Stauffer

The COM examined Aaron Stauffer, a candidate under care of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee. Dr. Stauffer's ministry as the Louisville Institute Post-Doctoral Fellow at Vanderbilt Divinity School was validated, and the COM approved his ordination, pending his successful examination at the Presbytery meeting.

Scott Huie / Bellevue Presbyterian Church, Nashville

The COM approved the following commission to install for Rev. Scott Huie as designated pastor at Bellevue Presbyterian Church, Nashville: Sunday, October 17, 2021, 10:30AM; Ministers - Bill Bryant (Honorably Retired); Warner Durnell (Honorably Retired); Fred Page (Member-at-Large); Ray Thomas (Co-Executive Presbyter); Elders – Beth Derrick (Bellevue); Robin Thomas (Co-Executive Presbyter); Elizabeth Todd (Emmanuel); David Wood (First Nashville).

Temporary Supply

The COM approved a motion that temporary supply means no more than two times per quarter for temporary pulpit supply, and any request that exceeds this must be approved by the Committee on Ministry, at the sole discretion of the Committee on Ministry.

Walt Tennyson

The COM examined Rev. Walt Tennyson, a member of the Presbytery of the Mid-South, and approved his transfer to the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee, and will validate his ministry as a chaplain at Alive Hospice and CPE student at St. Thomas Hospital at the November COM meeting. A copy of Rev. Tennyson's statement of faith and autobiographical statement was included in the Presbytery packet.

Beth McCaw / Southminster Presbyterian Church, Nashville

Rev. Howton Angel moved approval of the following commission to install: Sunday, October 24, 2021, 4:30pm, Southminster Presbyterian Church Nashville; Teaching Elders: Ray Thomas (Co-Executive Presbyter), Steve Musick (Honorably Retired); Ruling Elders: Robin Thomas (Co-Executive Presbyter); Susan Christison (Southminster); Guests of the Commission: The session of Southminster Presbyterian Church, Nashville. The motion was seconded and approved without objection. Persons present in support of Rev. McCaw were recognized.

Chris Adams / First Presbyterian Church, Spring Hill

Rev. Howton-Angel moved the approval of the following commission to install: Sunday, November 21, 2021, 10AM at First Spring Hill; Teaching Elders: Rev. Mark DeVries (Honorably Retired); Rev. Warner Durnell (Honorably Retired); Ruling Elders: Pat Bridges (First Columbia); Melinda Sanders (Woodland), Chair; Shelby Smith (First Spring Hill). The motion was seconded and approved without objection. Persons present in support of Rev. Adams were recognized.

Central Presbyterian Church, Culleoka

The COM recommended that the following charge and membership for an Administrative Commission for Central Presbyterian Church, Culleoka, be approved.

The Committee on Ministry, at the request of the Central Presbyterian Church, Culleoka, TN, recommended that the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee create an administrative commission for the dissolution of its congregation.

- A. The Committee on Ministry recommends that the administrative commission be charged as follows:
- (1) Assume original jurisdiction, with the full powers of the session.
  - (2) The administrative commission shall:

- a. assist members to wind up the affairs of the church, and transfer its remaining members. The Stated Clerk shall be authorized to grant letters of dismissal to members whose names are still on the roll for up to one year after the closing worship service; and
- b. plan, in consultation with the members of Central Presbyterian Church, Culleoka, a closing worship service, to honor the life, ministry, and witness of the church.

(3) The administrative commission shall receive the records of the session, including, but not limited to, all session minutes, the church's roll / register, all minutes of congregational meetings, all minutes of the Board of Deacons, and any other legal and financial records. These records will be deposited with the Stated Clerk of presbytery, who shall transmit them to the Presbyterian Historical Society.

(4) Under Form of Government, Chapter IV, G-4.02, all property of Central Presbyterian Church, Culleoka, Tennessee, is held in trust for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The administrative commission appointed by the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee, on October 21, 2021, is authorized to take possession of all real and personal property, financial records, inventories of equipment, and any other assets, and arrange for transfer of title to the Presbytery of all accounts and real property known to be in possession of Central Presbyterian Church, Culleoka.

(5) The administrative commission shall consult with the session of Central Presbyterian Church, Culleoka, regarding requests the congregation may have related to the disposition of equipment and memorials and other property of the church.

B. The Trustees of presbytery shall have claim, on behalf of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee, to any property of Central Presbyterian Church, Culleoka not known at this time or property which may come to Central Presbyterian Church, Culleoka as the beneficiary of a will or trust not known at this time.

C. The commission shall confer with the Trustees of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee regarding the disposal of the property of Central Presbyterian Church, Culleoka. The Trustees of presbytery shall be responsible for the property, until such time as presbytery approves the disposition of the property. The administrative commission shall make a recommendation to the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee, in consultation with the Trustees of presbytery, for the sale of the property of Central Presbyterian Church, Culleoka.

D. The commission will report to the Committee on Ministry at least every three months. The COM recommends the following be elected as members of the administrative commission for Central Presbyterian Church, Culleoka: TE Steve Thomas, HR; RE Pat Bridges, First Columbia; RE Bill Russell, First Spring Hill; TE David Sawyer, HR.

Rev. Thomas spoke to the motion. There were no questions or objections and this was approved.

#### New Hope Presbyterian Church, Franklin

The COM recommended the following charge and membership for an Administrative Commission for New Hope Presbyterian Church, Franklin:

The Committee on Ministry, at the request of the New Hope Presbyterian Church, Franklin, TN, recommends that the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee create an administrative commission for the dissolution of its congregation.

- A. The Committee on Ministry recommends that the administrative commission be charged as follows:
- (1) Assume original jurisdiction, with the full powers of the session.
  - (2) The administrative commission shall:
    - a. assist members to wind up the affairs of the church, and transfer its remaining members. The Stated Clerk shall be authorized to grant letters of dismissal to members whose names are still on the roll for up to one year after the closing worship service; and
    - b. plan, in consultation with the members of New Hope Presbyterian Church, Franklin, a closing worship service, to honor the life, ministry, and witness of the church.

(3) The administrative commission shall receive the records of the session, including, but not limited to, all session minutes, the church's roll / register, all minutes of congregational meetings, all minutes of the Board of Deacons, and any other legal and financial records. These records will be deposited with the Stated Clerk of presbytery, who shall transmit them to the Presbyterian Historical Society.

(4) Under Form of Government, Chapter IV, G-4.02, all property of New Hope Presbyterian Church, Franklin, Tennessee, is held in trust for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The administrative commission appointed by the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee, on October 21, 2021, is authorized to take possession of all real and personal property, financial records, inventories of equipment, and any other assets, and arrange for transfer of title to the Presbytery of all accounts and real property known to be in possession of New Hope Presbyterian Church, Franklin.

(5) The administrative commission shall consult with the session of New Hope Presbyterian Church, Franklin, regarding requests the congregation may have related to the disposition of equipment and memorials and other property of the church.

B. The Trustees of presbytery shall have claim, on behalf of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee, to any property of New Hope Presbyterian Church, Franklin not known at this time or property which may come to New Hope Presbyterian Church, Franklin as the beneficiary of a will or trust not known at this time.

C The commission shall confer with the Trustees of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee regarding the disposal of the property of New Hope Presbyterian Church, Franklin. The Trustees of presbytery shall be responsible for the property, until such time as presbytery approves the disposition of the property. The administrative commission shall make a recommendation to the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee, in consultation with the Trustees of presbytery, for the sale of the property of New Hope Presbyterian Church, Franklin.

D. The commission will report to the Committee on Ministry at least every three months. The COM recommends the following be elected as members of the administrative commission for New Hope Presbyterian Church, Franklin: TE Sally Hughes, Trinity Nashville; TE C. J. Thompson, First Manchester; RE Anne Parsons, First Franklin; RE Earl Davis, Historic Franklin.

Rev. Thomas spoke to the motion. There were no questions or objections and this was approved.

#### Aaron Stauffer

Rev. Howton-Angel stated the Committee on Ministry recommended that Dr. Aaron Stauffer, a candidate under care of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee, be examined for ordination. The COM approved the validation of Dr. Stauffer's ministry as the Louisville Institute Post-Doctoral Fellow at Vanderbilt Divinity School. A copy of Dr. Stauffer's statement of faith and autobiographical statement were included with the COM report.

Dr. Stauffer responded to questions from Rev. Howton-Angel and commissioners, and was then moved into the waiting room. The motion to sustain Dr. Stauffer's examination and approve him for ordination to the ministry of the Word and sacrament was approved without objection. Dr. Stauffer was brought back into the meeting and the Moderator reported the Presbytery's action. Dr. Stauffer was congratulated and persons in support of him were recognized.

#### **CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS**

Ray and Robin Thomas led the Presbytery in sharing concerns and celebrations, including the celebration of 100 years of ministry on October 24 at Calvary Presbyterian Church of Big Lick, and 40 years of ministry at the Nashville Korean Presbyterian Church on October 31. The Presbytery was informed of the death of Dr. Dan McRight, Honorably Retired, on October 19. Ray Thomas then offered a prayer.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

The Moderator stated there was no unfinished business.

The Moderator announced the 147th Stated Meeting would be held on Saturday, February 5, 2022, via Zoom. The meeting was adjourned upon motion made, seconded, and approved without objection after a closing prayer by the Moderator.

Therese P. Howell  
Stated Clerk