

DRAFT
PRESBYTERY OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE
MINUTES OF ONE HUNDRED FORTIETH STATED MEETING
FEBRUARY 1, 2020

The 140th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee was held on Saturday, February 1, 2020, at First Presbyterian Church, Tullahoma, Tennessee. Stated Clerk Therese Howell led an orientation and time of prayer for first time commissioners. Moderator John Hinkle, Jr. called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

**WORSHIP / COMMISSIONING OF GUATEMALA MISSION TEAM /
INSTALLATION OF MODERATOR AND VICE-MODERATOR**

Worship was led by Rev. Stephen Yates, pastor, and Sally Hoehl, elder, First Presbyterian Church, Tullahoma. Dr. Jeff Kane (Westminster Presbyterian Church, Columbia) preached the sermon, and music was provided by David Hiebert, Organist, First Presbyterian Church, Tullahoma. The offering was collected for the Presbytery's Guatemalan Partnership. The Moderator, assisted by Robin and Ray Thomas, Co-Executive Presbyters, lead the commissioning of the Guatemala Mission Team. The Moderator, the Stated Clerk, and Rev. Jane Herring (Emmanuel Presbyterian Church) led the installation of Theresa Denton (ruling elder, Emmanuel Presbyterian Church) as Moderator, and Dr. Chris Joiner (pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Franklin) as 2020 Moderator and Vice-Moderator, respectively.

**DECLARATION OF QUORUM / RECOGNITION OF 2019 MODERATOR / STATEMENT OF
PROCEDURES / WELCOME BY HOST / FIRST TIME COMMISSIONERS / CORRESPONDING MEMBERS**

The meeting reconvened after worship; Moderator Denton declared a quorum was present. The Co-Executive Presbyters and the Moderator presented 2019 Moderator Dr. John Hinkle, Jr., with gifts for his service. The Moderator spoke briefly, and then reviewed procedures for the meeting. Rev. Stephen Yates, pastor of the host church, welcomed commissioners. First time commissioners to presbytery were recognized and welcomed.

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

ROLL

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

AGENDA

The Moderator stated that the agenda for the meeting had been provided in advance to commissioners. 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:

- | | | |
|----------|-----|--|
| 9:00 am | 1. | Registration (Order of the Day in CAPS) |
| 9:30 am | | Orientation for First Time Commissioners and Prayer for Presbytery – (20 min) |
| 10:00 am | 2. | CALL TO ORDER / WORSHIP
(Offering: Guatemala Mission Trip) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Installation of 2020 Moderator and Vice Moderator• Commissioning of Guatemalan Mission Trip |
| 11:00 am | 3. | Break |
| 11:15 am | 4. | Reconvene / Establishment of Quorum / Recognition of 2019 Moderator / Statement of Procedures / Welcome by Host / Recognition of First Time Presbyters / Seating of Corresponding Members / Adoption of Agenda |
| 11:30 am | 5. | Finance Committee – Steve Douse (15 minutes) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approval of 2020 Operating Budget |
| 11:45 am | 6. | Committee on Ministry, Part 1 – Nolan Huizenga (one hour) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pat Handlson – Request for Restoration |
| 12:45 pm | | Lunch – Prayer of Thanksgiving |
| 1:40 pm | | Reconvene |
| | 7. | Synod of Living Waters – Greg Goodwiller (5 minutes) |
| | 8. | Report on the International Reformed Anglican Dialogue Committee – Aimee Moiso and Nolan Huizenga (30 min) |
| 2:05 pm | 9. | Committee on Church Transformation – Chris Adams (15 minutes) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sudanese Church Report |
| 2:20 pm | 10. | Committee on Preparation for Ministry – Mike Wilson (10 minutes) |
| 2:30 pm | 11. | Administrative Committee – Chris Joiner (10 minutes) |
| 2:40 pm | 12. | Committee on Ministry, Part 2 – Donna Simpson (20 minutes) |
| 3:00 pm | 13. | Committee on Mutual Support – Stuart Wilson-Patton (5 minutes) |
| 3:05 pm | 14. | Stated Clerk’s Report – Therese Howell (5 minutes) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approval of Minutes of 139th Stated Meeting (Oct 17, 2019) |
| 3:10 pm | 15. | Proposed Overture – 224 th General Assembly (2020) – Therese Howell (10 minutes) |
| 3:20 pm | 16. | Co-Executive Presbyters’ Report – Robin & Ray Thomas (10 minutes) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Concerns, Celebrations, and Announcements |
| 3:30 pm | 17. | Unfinished Business <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 141st Stated Meeting – Thursday, May 21, 2020, Blue Spring Presbyterian Church, Sparta |
| 3:35 pm | 18. | Closing Prayer / Adjourn |

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

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

Committee Vice-Moderator and Clerk

Melinda Sanders was named the committee’s Vice-Moderator and Allen Kennedy was named the committee’s Clerk.

Routine Disbursements

The following routine disbursements were approved to be paid without submission of vouchers: Westminster Presbyterian Church – cost sharing (rent) - \$1,083.33; Sudanese Nuer Church support - \$2,041.67; NaCoMe - \$5,000 in February, March, April, May and June; Campus Ministries: MTSU - \$1,602.96; Vanderbilt/UKIRK \$1,602.96; TTU - \$1,373.97.

Financials

Financials as of December 31, 2019 were presented for information.

Expenses Related to Handlson Cases

The Finance Committee reviewed a report of the expenses related to the Handlson cases. Mr. Douse responded to questions from commissioners related to specific expenditures.

2021 Restricted Fund

Mr. Douse reported that the Finance Committee recommended that beginning in 2021 a new restricted fund be established into which transfers from the operating fund are to be made annually, sufficient in aggregate amount to fund the expected additional cost of an audit, which should be performed at intervals in the future of no long than every fifth year. Mr. Douse spoke to the motion, and it was approved.

2020 Budget

Mr. Douse presented a proposed 2020 budget prepared by the Finance Committee. He stated the budget reflects a budgeted loss of \$10,310 and the charging of \$42,240 of expenses to specific restricted funds. After discussion, the budget (Attachment B) was approved.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY, PART 1

Rev. Nolan Huizenga, Vice-Moderator of the Committee on Ministry, presented Part 1 of the Committee on Ministry report.

Process for Consideration of Handlson Restoration

The Committee on Ministry recommended that the Presbytery go into executive session to consider the matter of restoring Pat Handlson to the active roll of the Presbytery, and that he be allowed to remain in the room the entire time. The Committee on Ministry also recommended that ballots be used for this vote; the ballots to be counted by members of the Administrative Committee during lunch, with the decision to be reported when the Presbytery reconvenes after lunch. The vote on Honorably Retired Status will be taken up in Part 2 of the committee's report.

Rev. Huizenga stated the Committee on Ministry also recommended that Ruling Elder Ann Roberts, a member of Pat Handlson's Care Team, be allowed to remain in the room during executive session.

The Moderator asked if there were any questions regarding the process. The recommendations were approved by voice vote.

Rev. Heidi Hudnut-Beumler (Westminster Presbyterian Church, Nashville) made a motion that the Presbytery allow two women, victims in this case, to have voice without vote as the Presbytery moves into executive session. The motion was seconded, and Rev. Hudnut-Beumler stated the women would identify themselves if they did speak. The motion was approved.

Ruling Elder Virginia Lovellette (First Presbyterian Church, Cookeville), made a motion that Mrs. Debbie Handlson be allowed to speak and remain in the room during executive session. The motion was seconded and approved.

The Moderator reminded those who remained in executive session that the proceedings – questions, discussion, debate – were confidential, and persons could be punished under disciplinary procedure if they violate the confidentiality of the executive session. Persons permitted to remain in the meeting are honor bound not to divulge anything that occurred. The Moderator then stated the meeting would move into executive session, and stated who would be allowed to remain in the meeting.

The meeting moved into executive session.

The motion to rise from executive session was made, seconded, and approved.

The Moderator then offered a prayer for lunch.

The Moderator called the meeting back to order, and offered a prayer.

DECISION ON HANDLSON RESTORATION

The Moderator asked that the Presbytery take a moment to settle. The Moderator stated that emotions were high, and the person next to you might not have voted the same as you, and asked that there be no outbursts or reactions when the vote was reported. The Moderator then reported that the vote to restore Pat Handlson to active ministry was defeated by a vote of 18 for restoration, 85 against restoration, and three abstentions. Rev. Ray Thomas, Co-Executive Presbyter, then offered a prayer of healing and reconciliation.

Dr. John Hinkle, Jr., (First Presbyterian Church, Murfreesboro), moved that the mission of the body of Christ demanded this action (on the vote to not restore Handlson to active ministry). The motion was seconded, and approved.

Pat Handlson asked to address the Presbytery, and the Moderator allowed this. Handlson stated that he would continue to seek restoration.

SYNOD OF LIVING WATERS

Dr. Greg Goodwiller, Synod of Living Waters Executive, brought greetings to the Presbytery from the other 11 Presbyteries in the Synod in Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Kentucky. Dr. Goodwiller spoke briefly about the work of the synod and called attention to the synod's new mission statement on forming, fostering, furthering relationships.

REPORT ON THE INTERNATIONAL REFORMED ANGLICAN DIALOGUE COMMITTEE

Dr. Aimee Moiso and Rev. Nolan Huizenga presented a report on the work of the International Reformed Anglican Dialogue Committee; Dr. Moiso serves on the committee. The committee seeks reconciled relationships at the international level and over history. Dr. Moiso and Rev. Huizenga presented a video and responded to questions about the committee's work.

COMMITTEE ON CHURCH TRANSFORMATION

Rev. Chris Adams (First Presbyterian Church, Spring Hill), Moderator of the Committee on Church Transformation, presented the committee's report, and spoke briefly about the committee's 2020 goals.

Sudanese Nuer Presbyterian Church, Gallatin

Rev. Adams introduced Ruling Elders David Paduil, Gatluak Thah, and David Reath of the Sudanese Nuer Presbyterian Church. They spoke of the history of Sudan and the growing church in Gallatin, which offers traditional Sudanese worship. Paduil stated that Sudanese look forward to Saturday and Sunday, and when Sudanese go to church, they go to stay! The church will pay off its mortgage in 2020, and asked Presbytery to join the church in mission and thanked the Presbytery for its continued support.

Woodland Presbyterian Church, Nashville

Rev. Adams stated this was the third year for the Woodland Ministry Hub, and shared a video prepared by the church. He thanked Presbytery for the support of the church.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY

Rev. Mike Wilson (Downtown Presbyterian Church, Nashville), Moderator of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry, presented the committee's report.

Jocelyn Wildhack

The Committee on Preparation for Ministry approved Candidate Jocelyn Wildhack as certified ready to receive a call. Ms. Wildhack received a call and was ordained by the Presbytery of Arkansas to serve Ferncliff Conference Center in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Elizabeth Hollingsworth Doolin

The Committee on Preparation for Ministry approved Candidate Elizabeth Hollingsworth Doolin as certified ready to receive a call. Ms. Doolin received a call and was ordained by the Presbytery of Mid-South to serve as UKIRK campus minister at Rhodes College in Memphis, Tennessee. Ms. Doolin also serves as Director of Young Adult Ministry at Idlewild Presbyterian Church in Memphis.

Michael Cuppett

Rev. Wilson stated the Committee on Preparation for Ministry recommended that Inquirer Michael Cuppett be approved for candidacy. Mr. Cuppett's statement of faith and understanding of Christian vocation were provided with the Presbytery packet.

Mr. Cuppett spoke briefly of his sense of call, and responded to questions from commissioners. Rev. Wilson and Mr. Cuppett left the sanctuary. There were no questions, and the recommendation was approved. Rev. Wilson and Mr. Cuppett were invited back into the Presbytery, and the Moderator reported on the motion. The Moderator led the Presbytery in liturgy for receiving Mr. Cuppett as a candidate, and the liturgy concluded with applause. Rev. Lindsey Groves (UKIRK Vanderbilt/Belmont) offered a charge based on 2 Timothy 2:15, and Dr. Sally Hughes (Trinity Presbyterian Church, Nashville) offered a prayer. The Moderator then asked persons present in support of Mr. Cuppett be recognized.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

Dr. Chris Joiner (First Presbyterian Church, Franklin), Moderator of the Administrative Committee, presented the committee's report.

Presbytery Administrative Assistant

The Administrative Committee was informed of the resignation of Erin Dolman, Administrative Assistant. Ms. Dolman accepted a full time job. The committee was informed that Felicia Mesner has been hired, effective January 6, 2020, to serve as Presbytery's Administrative Assistant. Ms. Mesner was introduced, and welcomed to the Presbytery.

February 1, 2020 Presbytery Meeting

The Administrative Committee approved the agenda for the February 1 Presbytery meeting. The offering was approved for the Guatemala Mission Trip. The persons serving on the upcoming Guatemala Mission Team will be commissioned at the meeting; the incoming Moderator and Vice-Moderator will be installed. Rev. Dianne Moffett, Executive Director of the Presbyterian Mission Agency, has been invited to speak about the Matthew 25 Initiative.

Handlson v. Presbytery of Middle Tennessee

The Administrative Committee met with the Finance Committee and COM leadership to review the General Assembly Permanent Judicial Commission decision on Handlson v. Presbytery of Middle Tennessee. George Crawford, III, one of Presbytery's attorneys in this matter, and Flor Velez-Diaz, Manager of Judicial Process for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), were also present at the meeting. The Administrative Committee will ask the Presbytery to go into executive session, with Pat Handlson staying in the meeting the entire time. Ballots will be utilized for the question of restoration, which will be taken up at the beginning of the meeting. Members of the Permanent Judicial Commission will serve as tellers; the ballots will be counted during lunch, and the decision reported immediately after lunch.

Nominating Task Force - 2020

The following persons have agreed to serve on the Nominating Task Force for 2020: Dr. Mary Louise McCullough, chair (member of the Administrative Committee); Elder Ken Diehl (First Tullahoma); Rev. Jeanne Hoechst (Honorably Retired); Rev. Scott Huie (Harpeth, Brentwood), Elder Anne Parsons (First Franklin); Elder Shirley Puckett (Buffalo Valley).

Personnel Task Force - 2020

The following persons were appointed to serve as the Personnel Task Force for 2020: Elder Geeta McMillan, chair (Administrative Committee); Dr. Greg Glover (First Clarksville); Elder Connie Hamblen (Eastminster).

Update to Presbytery Crisis Communication Plan

The following persons are serving with Robin Thomas to revise / update the Presbytery's Crisis Communication Plan: Elder Kelly Cristie (Westminster Nashville); Rev. David Gerber (Avalon Hospice); Elder Suzie Lane (Westminster Nashville); Elder Geeta McMillan (Blue Spring Sparta); Elder Ross Thomas (First Springfield).

Update to Presbytery Sexual Misconduct Policy

The following persons are serving with Ray Thomas to revise the Presbytery's Sexual Misconduct Policy and draft a child and youth protection policy: Rev. Rosanna Anderson (validated ministry); Elder Doug Berry (Westminster Nashville); Commissioned Elder Teresa Burns (First Pulaski); Elder Suzie Lane (Westminster Nashville); Elder Chris Williams (First Pulaski).

Presbytery Logo

Ray and Robin Thomas, Co-Executive Presbyters, presented a new logo for the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee, which will be used on letterhead and business cards, as well as social media. The Administrative Committee approved this without objection.

2020 Committee Orientation Day

Robin Thomas reported on Committee Orientation Day, scheduled for January 4, 2020, 10AM – 1PM, at First Presbyterian Church, Franklin. This will be an opportunity for the committees to meet, get to know one another, and report on meeting times, etc.

Presbytery Office Closed

The Presbytery office will be closed December 23 – 26.

Changes to the Mission and Operations Manual

Dr. Joiner reported the Administrative Committee, at the request of the Committee on Ministry, recommended the following change to the Mission and Operations Manual, in order to more efficiently handle the call process:

Committee on Ministry

Page 13, insert at Line 19 (text to be deleted is indicated by ~~strikethrough~~; text to be added is underlined):

- Approve commissions for installations (commissions to ordain or to ordain and install are to be approved by Presbytery); and

There were no questions or objections, and this was approved by the required two-thirds vote.

Dr. Joiner stated the Administrative Committee, at the request of the Finance Committee, recommended the following change to the Mission and Operations Manual. The Finance Committee believes it is not necessary to have an annual audit, but instead, an annual financial review, with an audit every five years.

Treasurer

Page 5, insert at Line 33 (text to be deleted is indicated by ~~strikethrough~~; text to be added is underlined):

. . . He/She shall report to presbytery on an annual basis at the completion of the audit or review of presbytery's funds, assets and liabilities, normally at the May meeting of presbytery.

There were no questions or objections, and this was approved by the required two-thirds vote.

Nomination to the NaCoMe Board

Dr. Joiner moved that Ruling Elder Vance Lahey (First Presbyterian Church, Franklin), be elected to fill a vacancy on the NaCoMe Board. There was a second, and no additional nominations, and this was so ordered by the Moderator.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY, PART 2

Ruling Elder Donna Simpson (First Presbyterian Church, Cookeville), Moderator of the Committee on Ministry, presented part 2 of the committee's report.

Ministers Received into the Presbytery

Ms. Simpson reported that Rev. David Gerber had been received from the Presbytery of Tampa Bay, and introduced at the October Presbytery meeting, but was inadvertently left out of the COM report. She reported the Committee on Ministry had received the following ministers into the Presbytery, and invited them to stand if they were present to be welcomed: Laura Cheifetz, Vanderbilt Divinity School; Ryan Moore, First Presbyterian Church, Nashville; Gustavo Vasquez, Director of Hispanic/Latino Communications, United Methodist Church.

2020 Minimum Effective Salary

The 2020 minimum effective salary for full time installed pastors and full time commissioned pastors is \$48,640.

David Gerber

The Committee on Ministry sustained the examination of Rev. Dr. David Gerber, a member of the Presbytery of Tampa Bay, and received him into membership in the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee. Dr. Gerber serves as chaplain at Avalon Hospice, and the COM validated this ministry.

Pulpit Supply List

The COM approved Aaron Stauffer and David Gerber for the pulpit supply list.

Liaisons and Session Moderators

The COM approved the following liaisons and session moderators: Stephen Yates – liaison for Normandy Presbyterian Church; Gary Kelly – liaison for First Presbyterian Church, Lawrenceburg; Mark Mueller – moderator for Bellevue Presbyterian Church, Nashville; Allen Cross – moderator for Hopewell Presbyterian Church, Milton; Amy Busse Stoker – liaison for First Presbyterian Church, Lawrenceburg.

Scott Huie / Harpeth Presbyterian Church, Brentwood

Rev. Scott Huie was approved as part time interim at Harpeth Presbyterian Church, Brentwood.

Kristi Shay Moore / Glenclyff Presbyterian Church, Nashville

Rev. Kristi Shay Moore was approved as temporary supply (six months) for Glenclyff Presbyterian church, Nashville. The COM approved the terms - \$400/week cash salary, for weeks she preaches; she will not be obligated to perform other pastoral duties, except in emergency situations, during the weeks she does not preach.

Michael Bradley / Normandy Presbyterian Church

The COM approved the interim contract between Dr. Michael Bradley and Normandy Presbyterian Church, effective October 1, 2019 – September 30, 2020. Terms of the contract include cash salary - \$2,000 per month, mileage at the current IRS rate, four weeks of vacation, two weeks of study leave. The interim will be responsible for arranging pulpit supply during leave.

Warner Durnell / First Presbyterian Church, Springfield

The COM approved the final renewal of the interim contract between Warner Durnell and First Presbyterian Church, Springfield, effective December 1, 2019 – April 30, 2020. Terms approved: salary and housing - \$18,000; automobile expense - \$750; professional expenses - \$1,200; two weeks of paid vacation, one week of study leave; and up to three weeks of unpaid vacation.

Warner Durnell / First Presbyterian Church, Tullahoma

The COM approved the part time temporary supply contract between Warner Durnell and First Presbyterian Church, Tullahoma, effective May 1, 2020 – July 31, 2020, while Stephen Yates is on sabbatical. Terms approved: 20 hours/week; compensation for this period - salary - \$6,000; housing \$2,610; mileage \$1,044; and Rev. Durnell will moderate the session.

Marshall Gupton / Northminster Presbyterian Church, Murfreesboro

The COM approved the renewal of the temporary supply contract between Marshall Gupton and Northminster Presbyterian Church, Murfreesboro, at the same terms.

Chris Adams / First Presbyterian Church, Spring Hill

The COM approved the renewal of the interim contract between Chris Adams and First Presbyterian Church, Spring Hill, at the same terms.

Gustavo Vasquez

The COM sustained the examination of Rev. Gustavo Vasquez, a minister member of the Presbytery of Palisades, and received him into membership in the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee. Rev. Vasquez serves as Director of Hispanic/Latino UMC Communications for the United Methodist Church. A copy of Rev. Vasquez' statement of faith and biographical information was included with the presbytery packet.

Laura Purtle / First Presbyterian Church, Spring Hill

The COM endorsed Laura Purtle, a ruling elder at First Presbyterian Church, Spring Hill, for commissioned pastor training at the University of Dubuque. The COM approved the classes for the Master of Arts in Christian Leadership for this training.

Evelyn Graham / Southminster Presbyterian Church, Nashville

The COM approved the call of Evelyn Graham as designated pastor at Southminster Presbyterian Church, Nashville for a six-month term, effective January 1 – June 30, 2020. The COM approved the following terms: Cash salary \$12,180; housing \$11,945; Social Security supplement \$1,846; Board of Pensions \$15,162 (estimated); professional expenses \$1,450.

Steve Musick / East Brentwood Presbyterian Church

The COM approved the temporary part time pastoral contract for Rev. Steve Musick, including moderating the session, with East Brentwood Presbyterian Church, while Rev. John Hilley is on sabbatical, effective January 1, 2020 through March 31, 2020. Terms approved: cash salary \$9,000 and professional expenses up to \$1,000.

Blake Hawthorne / First Presbyterian Church, Lynnville

The COM approved the temporary supply contract between Blake Hawthorne and First Presbyterian Church, Lynnville.

Rachel Penmore / Westminster Presbyterian Church, Nashville

The COM approved the dissolution of the associate pastoral relationship between Rachel Penmore and Westminster Presbyterian Church, Nashville, and dismissed Rev. Penmore to the Presbytery of East Tennessee Presbytery to accept a newcall.

Change in Mission and Operations Manual

The COM recommended a change in the Mission and Operations Manual to allow the Committee on Ministry to approve installation commissions.

Ryan Moore / First Presbyterian Church, Nashville

The COM ratified the commission to install for Dr. Ryan Moore as pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Nashville: Sunday, January 12, 2020; Ruling Elders Lonnie Stout (First

Nashville), chair; Robin Thomas (Co-Executive Presbytery); Frank Wade (Westminster Nashville); Teaching Elders Stuart Gordon (First Nashville); Todd Jones (Honorably Retired); Ray Thomas (Co-Executive Presbyter); Guests Jim Miller (Presbytery of Eastern Oklahoma); Allan Poole (Presbytery of New Hope).

Pat Handlson

The COM met with Pat Handlson on January 14, 2020 and discussed his current situation and experiences since his original censure. Ms. Simpson stated that since the motion to restore Pat Handlson was defeated, the Presbytery could not take up the issue of designating him as Honorably Retired. She stated this could be taken up again when the motion to restore Mr. Handlson is presented.

Jeanne Hoescht / Honorably Retired

Ms. Simpson reported that the Committee on Ministry had approved the retirement of Rev. Jeanne' Hoescht, and recommended this retirement be recognized. Dr. Sally Hughes spoke briefly about Rev. Hoescht's ministry, and offered a prayer.

Amy Harkness / Belfast Presbyterian Church

The Committee on Ministry examined Ruling Elder Amy Harkness, a member of Downtown Presbyterian Church, Nashville, and recommended she be commissioned to part time pastoral service at Belfast Presbyterian Church for the period November 24, 2019 – November 29, 2020. Ms. Harkness will moderate the session, celebrate the sacraments, officiate at marriages at the request of the session, and have a voice and vote at Presbytery meetings. The COM approved the following terms: Cash salary \$26,800; professional and continuing education \$2,000; mileage \$4,000; two weeks vacation and study leave annually. The COM will assign a mentor for Ms. Harkness. There were no questions, and the recommendation was approved. The Moderator led the commissioning service, and persons present in support of Ms. Harkness were recognized.

Bellevue Administrative Commission

The Committee on Ministry recommended that Rev. Steve Musick (Honorably Retired) and Ruling Elder David Wood (First Nashville) be elected to serve on the Bellevue Administrative Commission, to replace Rev. Mike Wilson (Downtown Nashville) and Ruling Elder Larry McElroy (Northminster Murfreesboro). There were no questions, and the nominations were approved.

COMMITTEE ON MUTUAL SUPPORT

Ruling Elder Stuart Wilson Patton, Hunger Action Advocate, presented the committee's report.

Mary Sellers Shaw

Rev. Mary Sellers Shaw (First Presbyterian Church, Franklin) was elected Vice-Moderator of the committee.

Hunger Action Grants

The committee approved a hunger action grant to God's Storehouse of Giles County and Good Samaritan of Tullahoma for \$2,000 each.

STATED CLERK'S REPORT

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

Annual Statistical Reports

Session annual statistical reports have been mailed to clerks of sessions. The deadline for filing online is February 20, 2020. The deadline for the stated clerk to file these reports is March 6, 2020.

Roster of Former Permanent Judicial Commission Members

Pursuant to D-5.0206b., following is a roster of former Permanent Judicial Commission members:

Class of 2016

Dr. Bill Barger (Honorably Retired)
Dr. Todd Jones (Honorably Retired)
Dr. Kaye Nickell (Honorably Retired)

Class of 2018

Elder Elinor Foster (First Lewisburg)
Elder Jane McDow (Westminster Nashville)
Dr. Sandra Randleman (First Nashville)

2018 Minutes of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee

The Synod of Living Waters reviewed the 2018 minutes of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee. The presbytery's minutes were approved without exceptions.

Jane Herring / Emmanuel Presbyterian Church, Nashville

The stated clerk has received the October 27, 2019 minutes of the commission to install Rev. Jane Herring as pastor of Emmanuel Presbyterian Church, Nashville.

Amy Busse Stoker / First Presbyterian Church, Pulaski

The stated clerk has received the November 4, 2019 minutes of the commission to install Rev. Amy Busse Stoker as pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Pulaski.

Ryan D. Moore / First Presbyterian Church, Nashville

The stated clerk has received the January 12, 2020 minutes of the commission to install Dr. Ryan D. Moore as pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Nashville.

Eastminster Presbyterian Church, Nashville / Sale of Property

The stated clerk stated that the Eastminster Administrative Commission reported the sale of the Eastminster Presbyterian Church property. The sale price was \$1,000,000, the closing was held on January 22, 2020, and the net proceeds distributed to the Eastminster church. Eastminster is currently worshipping at the Woodland Presbyterian Church, Nashville.

Minutes and Roll of the 138th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee (October 17, 2019)

The minutes and roll of the 138th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee, held on October 17, 2019, were provided with the Presbytery packet. There was a correction to the roll and the minutes and roll were presented as amended without objection.

OVERTURE TO THE 224th GENERAL ASSEMBLY (2020)

The Stated Clerk reported the session of Westminster Presbyterian Church, Nashville, presented an overture (Attachment B) to the Presbytery for approval. The Presbytery of Chicago will bring this overture to the 224th General Assembly (2020), and asks the Presbytery to concur with the overture. The Permanent Judicial Commission reviewed the overture, pursuant to the Mission and Operations Manual, and recommends its approval.

Dr. Guy Griffith, associate at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Nashville, spoke to the overture. After discussion, the overture was approved. The Stated Clerk reported the Presbytery was allowed to send an overture advocate to the Assembly to speak to the overture. Dr. Griffith volunteered to serve as the overture advocate, and this was approved without objection.

CO-EXECUTIVE PRESBYTERS' REPORT

Robin and Ray Thomas, Co-Executive Presbyters, reported on their work in the presbytery, and their goals to support the Vision 2020 plan. The Co-Executive Presbyters led in the sharing of concerns, celebrations, and announcements.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The Moderator stated there was no unfinished business, and reported the 142nd Stated Meeting would be Thursday, May 21, 2020, at Blue Spring Presbyterian Church, Sparta. The meeting adjourned upon motion made, seconded, and approved without objection after a prayer by the Moderator.

Therese P. Howell, Stated Clerk