

Co-Executive Presbyters Report

As we did in February 2021, we want to remind the Presbytery of significant advances that we all have achieved together through your collective contributions of leadership, resources, prayer, faithfulness, and compassion, despite challenges and limitations which we know all too well.

2021 Highlights:

- Recognizing the need for a part-time Communication Coordinator, Rev. Dr. Aimee Moiso was hired in the spring to assist the Presbytery Staff in composing and distributing the bi-weekly eNews, work with PCSDesk in updating and ultimately upgrading the Presbytery website, keep the Directory updated, and help develop a shared, accessible database through POMA. When Aimee was called to a new position with the Louisville Institute during the summer, we contracted with Ministry Architects to provide a Virtual Ministry Assistant to fill the Communication Coordinator position. Anne Orsi began serving in that position following Aimee's departure. Unfortunately, at the end of 2021, Anne announced that she was leaving MA to begin a full-time position elsewhere. Our new Communications Coordinator, through Ministry Architects, Evan Gail Carter began serving in January 2022.
- Much of our time, energy, and attention in the first half of the year was focused on fulfilling the presbytery's decision to move from its physical office at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Nashville to a virtual office, meaning staff members work remotely, most often from home. This involved countless hours of culling through files, making decisions about equipment and furniture, scanning files of value, shredding confidential files, disposing of others, and setting up home office space. Mail delivery has been moved to a local UPS store, checks are processed by the Co-EPs, bills are paid electronically by our Accountant, Gina Andrews.
- As of this date we have now visited 75 of our 80 churches and hope to visit the remaining five, as time allows, over the next few months.
- The Committee on Ministry has been one of our most active and most engaged committees. In January 2021, the COM reestablished the assigning of COM liaisons to each of churches. This has been a tremendous help in building relationships of trust, caring, and support through the presbytery. The liaisons have been particularly involved with those churches which have been experiencing pastoral transitions. We have been tremendously blessed by the caliber and commitment of ministers and ruling elders who serve on COM!
- At the October Presbytery meeting, we honored the 12 Commissioned Pastors who faithfully serve 15 of our congregations, some for more than 20 years – thank you, good and faithful servants of Jesus Christ!
- During the course of the year, Presbytery commissioned 3 ACs to dissolve churches – Mattie Smith Memorial in Silver Point, Central in Culleoka, and New Hope in Franklin. The closing worship service for Mattie Smith Memorial Presbyterian Church was held on December 12.

- We have been involved with coordinating Disaster Relief and Recovery following the devastating flood in Waverly on August 21. We have worked closely with Rev. John Smith, with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, with Westminster Presbyterian Church, and with other agencies on the ground who are bringing needed resources and support. We are extremely grateful for the financial generosity which has flowed from our churches within and beyond the presbytery, as well as for the multiple volunteer hours that have been given to help this hurting community.
- We were fed, by food and fellowship, as we gathered with many of our Pastors and Validated Ministers for Neighborhood Lunches during the summer and fall.
- The Matthew 25 Food Bank, located at Glencliff Presbyterian Church, celebrated its one-year anniversary in December, thanks to the generous financial contributions and thousands of volunteer hours from members of several of our churches. We are very impressed with its development over the course of one year. It has established a secure underpinning, with its staff, volunteers, clients, delivery and serve schedule, and funding, which has us hoping that this ministry can be expanded to feed even more families in 2022.
- The Committee on Leadership Excellence offered Church Treasurer Training in November and is offering a virtual event led by Dr. Lisa Thompson in February. We look forward to even more leadership events this year.
- A task force, established by the Administrative Committee, worked through most of the year on revisions to the current Mission and Operations Manual. Following the presentation of those revisions to the Presbytery in February, they will be presented for approval in May.
- Thanks to the diligence and attentive stewardship of the Finance Committee and its Investment Task Force, the Presbytery's investments increased in value by over \$146,000 for the year. The Finance Committee also brought a motion to the October Presbytery which clarified the purposes and oversight of our designated funds and also established new funds which can be utilized for grants to support such things as Media and Technology, along with Matthew 25 Ministries in our churches. In October, the Presbytery approved a balanced operating budget for 2022.

All of our churches, ministries, leaders, members, and participants, as well as the Presbytery itself need no reminders that we are vulnerable, at every moment, to all kinds of threats: positive test results, floods, fires, tornadoes, disease, defeat, and death. But the sustaining potency of the Gospel promises and the power we've received to proclaim hope, sustain well-being, open doors of welcome, speak healing into pain, break chains of oppression, and release the captives carry us with purpose and grace into this new year. Thank you for shining your light and overcoming the darkness, even if it only happens within a three-foot radius, or in a far-off corner of Middle Tennessee. We rejoice in your faith in Jesus Christ.

Ray & Robin Thomas