

DRAFT
PRESBYTERY OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE
MINUTES OF ONE HUNDRED FORTY-EIGHTH STATED MEETING
MAY 19, 2022

The 148th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee met in person on Thursday, May 19, 2022. Stated Clerk Therese Howell provided an orientation for first time commissioners. Moderator Crist Scott Ligon called the meeting to order at 9:45 am.

WORSHIP

Worship was led by Rev. Larissa Romero (interim pastor, Downtown Presbyterian Church, Nashville), Rev. Claire Berry (pastor, UKIRK Nashville), and Rachel Thompson Orfield (pastor, Harpeth Presbyterian Church, Brentwood). Candidates Claire Harris Kramer and Michael Cuppett preached, and the Guatemala Mission Team and the Commissioners to the 225th General Assembly (2022) were commissioned for service. Robin and Ray Thomas, Co-Executive Presbyters, led in the sharing of cares and concerns. David Wood, a board member of The Outreach Foundation, spoke of the foundation's Ukrainian Relief Efforts. Approximately \$2,067 was collected at the meeting and via the QR Code; added to donations received from churches and individuals, over \$15,000 has been sent to The Outreach Foundation for these relief efforts.

DECLARATION OF QUORUM / STATEMENT OF PROCEDURES / FIRST TIME COMMISSIONERS / CORRESPONDING MEMBERS / WELCOME BY HOST

After a break, Moderator Scott Ligon reconvened the meeting and declared a quorum was present.

The Moderator reviewed procedures for the meeting, and welcomed first time commissioners. The Moderator stated that there were reports requiring action, which necessitated setting aside the standing rules. The motions was made and seconded to set aside the standing rules to receive the late reports, and this was approved by the requisite three-fourth votes of commissioners.

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.

Dr. Chris Joiner, pastor of the host church, welcomed commissioners to the meeting.

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) |
| 9:30 am | | Orientation for First Time Commissioners – Therese Howell (10 min) |
| 9:45 am | 2. | CALL TO ORDER / WORSHIP |
| | | • Offering: The Outreach Foundation – Ukraine Relief |
| 10:45 am | | Break (10 minutes) |
| 10:55 am | 3. | Establishment of Quorum / Statement of Procedures / Recognition of First Time Presbyters / Welcome by Host / Seating of Corresponding Members / Adoption of Agenda |
| 11:10 am | 4. | Stated Clerk’s Report – Therese Howell (10 min) |
| | | • Approval of Minutes of 147 th Stated Meeting (February 5, 2022) |
| 11:20 am | 5. | Administrative Committee – Doug Berry (30 min) |
| 11:50 am | 6. | Finance Committee – Hal Sauer (10 min) |
| Noon | 7. | Committee on Ministry, Part I - Erin Howton-Angel (15 min) |
| 12:15 pm | 8. | Co-Executive Presbyters’ Report – Robin & Ray Thomas (15 min) |
| 12:30 pm | | Break (15 minutes) |
| 12:45 pm | | Reconvene |
| | 9. | Committee on Church Transformation – Chris Adams (5 min) |
| 12:50 pm | 10. | Committee on Leadership Excellence – Aaron Stauffer (5 min) |
| 12:55 pm | 11. | Committee on Preparation for Ministry Report – Mike Wilson (15 min) |
| | | • Inquirer to Candidate |
| 1:10 pm | 12. | Committee on Mutual Support – Bobby Harding (10 min) |
| 1:20 pm | 13. | Committee on Ministry, Part II – Erin Howton Angel (30 min) |
| | | • Candidate for Ordination |
| | | • Ruling Elder to be Commissioned to Service |
| 1:50 pm | 14. | Sharing of Concerns & Celebrations – Robin & Ray Thomas |
| 2:00 pm | 15. | Unfinished Business |
| | | 149th Stated Meeting – July 16, 2022 or August 13, 2022 Via Zoom |
| 2:05 pm | 16. | Closing Prayer / Adjourn |

STATED CLERK’S REPORT

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

Dr. Aaron Stauffer / Commission to Ordain

The Stated Clerk has received the minutes of the Commission to Ordain Dr. Aaron Stauffer to the ministry of the Word and Sacrament. *[minutes to be included in permanent record]*

2021 Summary B and Annual Church Statistics

The 2021 Summary B (ministerial changes) and the 2021 annual church statistics (as reported by clerks of sessions) were provided to commissioners. (Attachments B and C)

Delilah Jane Phillips / Christian Educator Certification

The Presbytery has received notification that Ruling Elder Delilah Jane Phillips (Calvary Presbyterian Church, Crossville), has completed the requirements for certification as a Christian Educator. The Moderator led the Presbytery in a brief recognition of Mrs. Phillips’ achievement and presented Mrs. Phillips with her certification certificate. The Stated Clerk then offered a prayer. Persons in support of Mrs. Phillips were recognized.

New Hope Administrative Commission Final Report

The Stated Clerk has received the final report of the New Hope Administrative Commission. Dr. Sally Hughes, chair of the commission, presented the commission’s report.

Our charge from the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee was 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, Tennessee. Members of the commission are Reverend Sally Hughes (Trinity Nashville), Reverend CJ Thompson (First Manchester), Ruling Elder Earl Davis (Historic Franklin), and Anne Parsons (First Franklin).

Members of New Hope Presbyterian Church have not been worshipping in the building located on 1939 Lewisburg Pike, Franklin TN 37064 for a number of years. The AC was unable to find any minutes of the last session meeting. All records, documents, certificates, deeds, etc. were given to Rick Warick, the historian for Williamson County. The AC contacted Karen Lankford, Jan Lincoln and Deedee Bumpus to inform them that the AC would act as the session of New Hope in the process of closing the church.

We were unable to find any information from the state or IRS about property deeds or tax records. There were no unclaimed funds at The Tennessee Treasury Department website.

All bank accounts have been closed and the Walter B Anderson Memorial Fund has been transferred to Bethesda Presbyterian Church.

The Cross Country Cowboy Church has been worshipping in the building. They have been paying insurance and utilities and making repairs as needed. They would like to continue to worship there with a rental contract. They hope to purchase the property in the future. The AC recommends the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee continue to rent to the Cross Country Cowboy Church. They intend to call the building The Ridge Meeting House.

The closing church service for New Hope Presbyterian Church was held on April 24 at 4:00 pm. The Cross Country Cowboy Church, the Bethesda congregation and former church members were invited to the service.

This history was included in the bulletin of the final worship service:

It is hard to write a short description of a long, faithful history. In 1806 the New Hope congregation was organized by the Reverend Duncan Brown, called the Ridge Meeting House, atop the Ridge in the grove. In 1810, the first house of worship was built by logs furnished by neighbors. The floor was made of hewn slabs and each family member made a bench and placed it in the church. At the time, it was the only church building south of Franklin in Williamson County and its first name was "Ridge Meeting House." Since all official church records before 1858 were destroyed by fire, no one knows exactly when the name was changed to New Hope Presbyterian Church.

In 1829, a second building was built on the site and in May 1869 the present church was built on land given by James W. Williams. In 1937, two Sunday school rooms were added and in 1939 electric lights were installed. Carpet was placed in the church building in 1954 as well as gas heat.

The first elders were John Miller, Andrew Herron, James Herron, Thomas Gillespie and David Gillespie. Families who were part of New Hope from the beginning were the Alexanders, Andersons, Blythes, Bonds, Camerons, Chapmans, Elliotts, Flemings, Gillespies, Irvins, McClellans, Steeles and Williams.

Since 1806 the New Hope Presbyterian Church has been faithful in proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ in word and in deed throughout all its days. We give thanks for the worship and witness of New Hope Presbyterian Church and for how the community and individual lives have been made richer by this church's presence.

Reverend CJ Thompson is in the process of conveying the deed to the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee. The final meeting of the AC was held on May 9, 2022.

Rev. Hughes stated the administrative commission recommended that the Presbytery continue to rent to the Cross Country Cowboy Church. The recommendation was approved without objection. Rev. Hughes recommended that the administrative commission be dismissed. The motion was seconded and approved with thanks to the commission for their work. Rev. Hughes then offered a prayer.

Ratification of Presbytery Actions 2020 - 2022

The Stated Clerk stated that because the Presbytery did not yet have a policy on electronic Presbytery meetings, decisions made and Zoom meetings and actions resulting from those decisions, needed to be ratified. The Stated Clerk recommended that actions taken at the following Zoom Presbytery meetings, and all actions taken by officers, committees, commissions, and staff as a result of those actions, be ratified by a three-fourths

vote: July 18, 2020; August 25, 2020; October 15, 2020; February 6, 2021; May 20, 2021; July 17, 2021; October 21, 2021; February 5, 2022. The motion was seconded, and the Stated Clerk reported that since some of the actions taken required a higher standard for approval, the Presbytery should use the higher standard of ¾ vote for approval. There was no discussion, and the recommendation was approved by ¾ vote.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Ruling Elder Doug Berry, Vice-chair of the Administrative Committee, presented the Administrative Committee's report in the absence of Rev. Stephen Yates, who was on sabbatical.

Administrative Committee Liaisons to Presbytery Committees

The Administrative Committee members will serve as liaisons to committees as follows: Doug Berry – Committee on Preparation for Ministry; Theresa Denton – Committee on Mutual Support; Heidi Hudnut-Beumler – Committee on Ministry; Mary Louise McCullough – Committee on Church Transformation; Cristi Scott Ligon – Committee on Leadership Excellence.

The Administrative Committee received reports on the ongoing work of Presbytery's committees. The Committee on Leadership Excellence's event on pastoral leadership (February 26) is available on the Presbytery's website.

Working Group to Revise the Missions and Operations Manual

The proposed revised Mission and Operations Manual continues to be lifted up in the eNews and will be presented for approval at the May 19 Presbytery meeting.

Stated Clerk Retirement

The Administrative Committee received a report from the Personnel Committee regarding the upcoming retirement of the Stated Clerk (12/31/2022) and approved the election of a Stated Clerk Nominating Committee. The Administrative Committee, upon request of the Personnel Committee, will present a revised position description for the incoming Stated Clerk.

Personnel Committee

Pending approval of the revised Missions and Operations Manual, the Administrative Committee appointed the following expanded Personnel Committee: Greg Glover (First Clarksville), chair; Connie Hamblen (Eastminster); Heidi Hudnut-Beumler (Westminster Nashville); Jeff Kane (Westminster Columbia); Lavona Russell (East Brentwood).

Nominating Task Force Report

The Administrative Committee received a report from the Nominating Task Force [Elinor Foster (Moderator-in-Nomination), chair; Scott Huie (Bellevue); Robert Montgomery (First Lewisburg); Shirley Puckett (Buffalo Valley); Bill Russell (First Spring Hill); Mary Catherine Sevier (First Murfreesboro).

May 19 Presbytery Meeting

The Administrative Committee approved plans for a modified, in-person meeting for the May 19 Presbytery meeting. The meeting will be held at First Presbyterian Church, Franklin; lunch will not be provided, but snacks and breaks will be available throughout the agenda. Worship will include a sermon by Candidate for Ordination Claire Harris Kramer, and assisting in worship will be ministers received by the Presbytery in 2020 and 2021.

Revised Missions and Operations Manual

Mr. Berry reported the working group, led by Cristi Scott Ligon and members John Hinkle (First Murfreesboro), Geeta McMillan (Administrative Committee), Melinda Sanders (Finance Committee), and staff members Ray Thomas (Co-Executive Presbyter) and Therese Howell (Stated Clerk), finalized their work on revising the Presbytery's Mission and Operations Manual. The revised Manual was presented as information to the February Presbytery meeting, along with a list of major revisions. The Administrative Committee reviewed the proposed revisions, and recommended approval of the revised Mission and Operations Manual.

Mr. Berry recommended that the Manual be handled seriatim (section by section), and the Moderator asked for objections. There were none, and each section was presented for approval. In Section Two, Officers, Elected Officials, and Representatives, Rev. John Hinkle moved that the following sentence be stricken: "However, for good cause shown, the Administrative Committee is authorized to advise the Stated Clerk not to publish the names of the investigating committee." The motion was seconded, and there was discussion. The

motion was made and seconded to refer this sentence and the concerns expressed back to the Administrative Committee for further consideration. There was discussion and this was approved. The remaining sections were presented and there were no further amendments. The Mission and Operations Manual was approved. The revised Manual is attached (Attachment D) and will be posted on the Presbytery's website.

Stated Clerk Job Description

Mr. Berry reported that with the upcoming retirement of the Stated Clerk, the Administrative Committee, at the request of the Personnel Committee, recommended approval of a revised job description for the incoming Stated Clerk, scheduled to begin service January 1, 2023. The changes in hours, duties, and compensation are based on aligning the Stated Clerk position with the Presbytery's present and anticipated staffing needs. The following position description is for 15 hours, and does not include healthcare or Board of Pensions benefits:

Presbytery of Middle Tennessee

Job Description: Stated Clerk

(Part-time, no medical/pension benefits)

Purpose

The Stated Clerk position is required by the Book of Order to ensure that constitutional requirements are met by the Presbytery. In addition, the Stated Clerk fulfills duties assigned by the Presbytery through its Mission and Operations Manual, serves as Presbytery's parliamentarian, and contributes to the collaboration, trust-building, and faithfulness practiced within the Presbytery operations to fulfill our mission and ministry purposes.

The Stated Clerk fills an important role in representing the values, vision, and goals of the Presbytery. Creativity and adaptability are expected, beyond the required record-keeping and compliance with the Book of Order. When polity or customary practices are tested, the Stated Clerk's response shall be exploring possibilities and inviting further conversation.

Essential Duties

1. Ensure that constitutional requirements are met:

- Record actions of the Presbytery including the recording of Presbytery minutes and filing reports as required by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
- Keep rolls of Presbytery membership and attendance
- Preserve Presbytery minutes and other records, furnishing verified extracts upon request
- Provide orientation, training, advice, and requested resources in matters of judicial process
- Assist the Administrative Committee in review of the process and formula for parity of minister and elder members, every five years

2. Fulfill duties assigned by Mission and Operations Manual and Policies:

- Assist in preparations for Presbytery meetings
 - Coordinate with the Moderator, committee chairs, communication director, and Executive Presbyter in preparing for and conducting Presbytery meetings
 - Lead orientation for first-time commissioners at Presbytery meetings
 - Conduct site visits, with Executive Presbyter, at host church for in-person and hybrid meetings
 - Prepare and distribute documents for Presbytery meetings, including contacting committee chairs for reports, drafting the agenda, preparing detailed agenda with the Moderator, reporting actions and correspondence, and providing "Highlights of the Presbytery Meeting"
- Attend meetings of the Administrative Committee, Commission on Ministry, Committee on Preparation for Ministry, Permanent Judicial Commission, and other committees when invited by the chair, or as directed by the Executive Presbyter or the Administrative Committee
- Provide orientation, training, and support for administrative commissions
- Make files, policies, and documents available as requested to resource Presbytery leadership
- Support the work of commissions, committees, and task forces, as needed
- Participate in training of General Assembly commissioners
- Provide for the regular review of Record Retention Policy
- Serve as Secretary of the Corporation

3. Serve as Presbytery's parliamentarian.

Other Assigned Duties:

- Assist in planning annual Committee Orientation
- Service in the Larger Church – Attend the annual Polity, Benefits, and Mission Conference, Synod of Living Waters, and the General Assembly
- Process and report background checks for new minister members
- Assist PNCs with posting MIFs on Church Leadership Connection
- Provide announcements and updates for Presbytery eNews
- Keep Presbytery’s electronic files updated
- Forward approved policy and documents to Communications Coordinator for posting on website
- Serve collaboratively and transparently with the Executive Presbyter

Resources

The Presbytery will provide access to a laptop computer, reimburse cell phone service @ \$75 per month, and Bria remote phone app subscription. Training and access will be provided for the database (POMA) and cloud document storage (One Drive). Participation in professional groups and conferences deemed relevant to the position will be supported by the Presbytery.

Essential Skills, Gifts, and Experiences

- Must be a member in good standing, as a Ruling Elder or Minister of Word and Sacrament, in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
- Proven knowledge of the Book of Order, Presbyterian Polity, Robert’s Rules of Order, and PCUSA structures and resources
- Collaborative team-player, invested in best outcomes for all staff colleagues, Presbytery leaders, ministers, and churches
- Able to mediate differences, build trust, and consistently represent the values, practices, and mission of the Presbytery
- Finds joy in wading into details, keeping records, sharing appropriate Presbytery documents, learning to improve as a Stated Clerk, and equipping other for their roles and responsibilities
- Throws the spotlight on dotted line paths, and limited stop signs, in helping others navigate the Presbytery map
- Trustworthy, approachable, prompt in responses, and respectful in all interactions
- Keeps Presbytery property and documents safeguarded yet readily available and accessible, as needed or requested

Accountability: The Stated Clerk shall be accountable to the Executive Presbyter as Head of Staff. Regarding constitutional responsibilities, areas of concern will be communicated to the Administrative Committee through the Personnel Task Force.

Evaluation: The Stated Clerk will be reviewed by the Executive Presbyter at the end of the first year of their term. In the first half of the third year, a comprehensive evaluation will be conducted by the Executive Presbyter and the Personnel Task Force.

Term of Service: The Stated Clerk shall be nominated by the Personnel Task Force through the Administrative Committee and be elected by the Presbytery for a three-year term (to begin January 1). The term is renewable.

Edited, 3/10/2022

The revised position description was approved without discussion.

Stated Clerk Search Committee

Mr. Berry reported that the Administrative Committee, at the request of the Nominating Task Force, recommended that the following persons be elected to serve as the Stated Clerk Nominating Committee: Ora Bransford Luxe (St. Andrews); Michael Davis (First Hendersonville); Todd Jones (Honorably Retired); Lavona Russell (East Brentwood); Shelby Smith (First Spring Hill). The Moderator opened the floor for additional nominations, and there were none. The recommendation was approved without discussion.

The Moderator asked that Presbytery take a moment to thank Therese Howell for her service to the Presbytery.

Nominating Task Force

Mr. Berry stated that with the approval of the revised Manual, the Administrative Committee, at the request of the Nominating Task Force, recommended approval of the following slate, to serve as indicated:

- a. Committee on Social Justice:

- i. Class of 2022: Dora Estes (Double Springs); Justin Gung (Val. Ministry)
- ii. Class of 2023: Andrea Elkins (First Murfreesboro)
- iii. Class of 2024: Henry Deadrick (St. Andrews)

The Moderator opened the floor for additional nominations, and Mr. Berry reported that Rev. Claire Berry, UKIRK Nashville pastor, had agreed to serve in the class of 2024. There were no additional nominations, and the slate, as amended, was approved.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Ruling Elder Hal Sauer, Vice-Chair of the Finance Committee, presented the committee's report, in the absence of Treasurer Steve Douse, who was travelling.

Financial Reports

Financial reports and investment results as of April 30, 2022, were provided with the Presbytery packet. Mr. Sauer spoke briefly about the reports.

Guatemala Task Force / Presbytery of Peten Q'Eqchi Presbytery

Mr. Sauer stated that at its last meeting, Presbytery approved a Finance Committee recommendation concerning the Guatemala Task Force that, among other things, required that the task force obtain insurance for Presbytery, acceptable to the Finance Committee, covering future mission trips. It was subsequently determined that liability coverage is available for foreign mission trips under Presbytery's current general liability and umbrella insurance policies. After reviewing the insurance policies and Rob Weingartner's communications with Presbytery's insurer, Church Mutual Insurance Company, the Finance Committee believes Presbytery is adequately protected by these policies and the insurance requirement has been satisfied.

Funds for Relief Efforts in Ukraine

The Finance Committee approved a \$5,000 donation from the Disaster Assistance Fund to the Outreach Foundation to assist with their work in Ukraine and Eastern Europe related to the war in Ukraine. It also urged churches and individuals to add their own contributions. The Administrative Committee approved donating the offering from the May Presbytery meeting to the Outreach Foundation for Ukraine relief.

Investment Funds – Change in Investment Company

Mr. Sauer reported that Presbytery previously approved a Finance Committee recommendation to transfer Presbytery's investment funds from Baird & Co. to Vanguard. After a lengthy process, the new Vanguard account has been approved but not yet funded. The Investment Task Force will determine when and how funds are transferred into the new account.

Proposed Revisions to Presbytery's Financial Policies and Procedures

Mr. Sauer stated the Finance Committee recommended approval of changes to Presbytery's Financial Policies and Procedures that (a) specify in greater detail how grants, loans, and off-budget expenditures from restricted and designated funds are handled and (b) require use of a new remittance form to accompany contributions and other payments made to Presbytery. A redline showing the changes and a clean copy showing the document as amended were provided with the Presbytery packet. The proposed changes were approved without discussion (Attachment E).

Restricted and Designated Funds

Mr. Sauer reported that the Finance Committee recommended approval of the reorganized description of Presbytery's restricted and designated funds. A redline showing the changes and a clean copy showing the document as amended provided with the Presbytery packet. The proposed changes were approved without objection (Attachment F).

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY, PART I

Rev. Erin Howton Angel, chair of the Committee on Ministry, presented Part I of the committee's report. Rev. Howton Angel stated that this part of the Committee on Ministry report was to celebrate the ministry and retirement of three pastors, Candice Klein, Janet Salyer, and Rob Weingartner. She called attention to the report, and corrected the spelling of Rev. Klein's name, and the correct date for Rev. Salyer's retirement (April 12, 2022).

Candice Klein

The Committee on Ministry approved the dissolution of the pastoral relationship between Candice Klein and First Presbyterian Church, Gallatin, effective April 30, 2022. The COM approved the change in status of Rev. Klein to Honorably Retired, effective May 1, 2022.

Dr. Mark Bryan, Rev. Michael Davis, and Rev. Sherard Edington each spoke to Rev. Klein's ministry, and Rev. Klein spoke briefly.

Janet Salyer

The COM approved the change in status to Honorably Retired to the Rev. Janet Salyer, effective April 12, 2022. Ruling Elder Susan Brantley, Rev. Lindsey Groves, and Rev. Mary Sellers Shaw spoke to Rev. Salyer's ministry. Rev. Salyer spoke briefly of her ministry.

Robert Weingartner

The COM approved the change in status to Honorably Retired to the Rev. Dr. Rob Weingartner, effective June 1, 2022. Dr. Ryan Moore spoke to Dr. Weingartner's ministry, and Dr. Weingartner spoke briefly.

Rev. Howton Angel offered a prayer for the ministry and witness of these retired pastors.

REPORT OF THE CO-EXECUTIVE PRESBYTERS

Co-Executive Presbyters Robin and Ray Thomas each reported on their work. They then led the Presbytery in sharing concerns and celebrations, and Robin Thomas offered a prayer.

The Presbytery took a 15 minute break, and reconvened in the sanctuary.

COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY REPORT

Rev. Mike Wilson, chair of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry, presented the committee's report. A list of inquirers and candidates under care as of May 2022 was provided for commissioners (Attachment G).

Actions on Candidates and Inquirers

The CPM took the following actions related to candidates and inquirers under care:

- Recommended for candidacy: Delilah Jane Phillips (Calvary Presbyterian Church, Crossville), February 20, 2022
- Enrolled David Sadler, Priest Lake Presbyterian Church, Nashville, as an Inquirer, March 22, 2022
- Voted to recommend to COM the validation of Michael Cuppett's (Trinity Presbyterian Church, Nashville) call to chaplaincy at Johns Hopkins Dept. of Spiritual Care and Chaplaincy, Baltimore, effective May 10, 2022. The CPM also recommended that Mr. Cuppett be ordained by, and keep his membership in, the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee and be allowed to toil outside the bounds of the Presbytery.

Delilah Jane Phillips

Rev. Wilson reported that the Committee on Preparation for Ministry recommended that Inquirer Delilah Jane Phillips (Calvary Presbyterian Church, Crossville) be examined for candidacy. A copy of her CPM paperwork was provided with the Presbytery packet.

Mrs. Phillips spoke of her sense of call and Christian service undertaken. She responded to questions, and then she and Rev. Wilson stepped out of the sanctuary. There was no further discussion, and the recommendation to move Mrs. Phillips to candidacy was approved.

Mrs. Phillips and Rev. Wilson returned to the sanctuary, and the Moderator reported the vote. The Moderator then led the Presbytery in liturgy for this occasion, and asked Mrs. Phillips about her willingness to move to candidacy and serve the church; all questions were answered in the affirmative. Rev. Michael McLaughlin (First Presbyterian Church, Cookeville) offered a charge to Mrs. Phillips, and Rev. Wilson offered a prayer.

Persons present in support of Mrs. Phillips were recognized and welcomed.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CHURCH TRANSFORMATION

Rev. John Hilley, a member of the Committee on Church Transformation, presented the committee's report. Rev. Hilley spoke of the Committee's work.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON MUTUAL SUPPORT

Rev. Bobby Harding, chair of the Committee on Mutual Support, presented the Committee's report. Rev. Harding spoke of the committee's work, and reminded commissioners of the technology grants.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY, PART II

Rev. Howton Angel presented Part II of the COM's report.

Mediation Training

COM members Erin Angel, Beth McCaw, John Smith, Leslie Traylor, and Debra Van Derveer are to attend the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center mediation training.

Task Force for Boundary Training

The COM has appointed a task force composed of Amy Busse Stoker, Sally Hughes, Beth McCaw, and John Smith to plan a boundary / sexual misconduct training.

Pastoral Care Team Co-Chairs

Gary Kelly and Frank Wade will co-chair the Pastoral Care Team.

First Presbyterian Church, Columbia / Ministry Information Form

The COM approved the Ministry Information Form for First Presbyterian Church, Columbia.

East Brentwood Presbyterian Church / Discernment

The COM approved the discernment process for East Brentwood Presbyterian Church.

New Hope Administrative Commission Report

The COM received a report from the New Hope Administrative Commission. There will be a celebration of the ministry of the church on April 24, 2022, 4 PM.

Ruling Elders in Training for Commissioned Pastoral Service

The COM reports that the following persons are in training to become commissioned pastors: Scott Hanna (First Presbyterian Church, Lynnville); Rick Robinson (Milldale Presbyterian Church, Springfield) and Beau Carr (Christ Church, Alpine). Laura Purtle (First Presbyterian Church, Spring Hill) has completed training, and is scheduled for commissioning to service.

Sally Ann McKinsey Sisk

The COM was informed that Sally Ann McKinsey Sisk will end her service as Tenn. Tech UKIRK Campus Minister effective May 15, 2022. Rev. McKinsey Sisk has accepted a call to serve as editor of Call to Worship, effective May 14, 2022.

Evelyn Graham

The COM placed Rev. Evelyn Graham (Member-at-Large) on the pulpit supply list and the approved interim list.

Session Moderators

The COM approved the following persons to serve as session moderators as indicated:

- a. Walt Tennyson – Buffalo Valley Presbyterian Church
- b. Jeannie Hunter – Oak Grove Presbyterian Church, Bethpage
- c. Bill Patterson – Northminster Presbyterian Church, Murfreesboro
- d. Keith Gunter – First Presbyterian Church, Gallatin

Heidi Hudnut-Beumler / Westminster Presbyterian Church, Nashville

The COM approved the change of call between Heidi Hudnut-Beumler and Westminster Presbyterian Church, Nashville, from designated associate pastor to associate pastor.

Anne Keener / First Presbyterian Church

The COM approved the renewal of the commission of Anne Keener as commissioned pastor at First Presbyterian Church, Franklin, for the following terms: Salary \$51,000, \$5,000 toward retirement plan, four weeks vacation, two weeks continuing education.

Meredith Cox

The COM approved the validation of the ministry of Meredith Cox as chaplain at Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

Warner Durnell / First Presbyterian Church, Tullahoma

The COM approved Warner Durnell to serve as temporary pastor at First Presbyterian Church, Tullahoma, while pastor Stephen Yates is on sabbatical, May 1, 2022 through July 31, 2022. This arrangement and terms were approved prior to the pandemic and was updated to the current dates.

Tim Dunn / Antioch Partners

The COM examined Rev. Tim Dunn, a minister member of the Presbytery of Cherokee, who serves Antioch Partners, an organization that encourages those in business that the marketplace is the mission field. The COM approved the reception of Rev. Dunn as a member of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee, and validated his ministry with Antioch Partners.

Cindy Stahler / Calvary Presbyterian Church, Crossville

The COM examined Rev. Cindy Stahler, a minister member of the United Church of Christ, and approved the contract of Rev. Stahler to serve as part time temporary supply (25 hours / week) at Calvary Presbyterian Church, Crossville, effective March 9, 2022 – March 9, 2023. Erin Angel will continue as session moderator and will serve as Rev. Stahler’s mentor.

Jule Nyhuis / Hillwood Presbyterian Church, Nashville

The COM approved the renewal of the designated pastor contract between Jule Nyhuis and Hillwood Presbyterian Church, Nashville, for the period June 1, 2022 through December 31, 2024.

Elizabeth “Liz” Thomas

The COM mourns the loss of their colleague and friend, Ruling Elder Liz Thomas (First Presbyterian Church, Clarksville), who died unexpectedly on May 7.

Advent Workshop

The COM Pastoral Care Team will host an Advent workshop in October. The workshop will be led by Donovan Drake, and will be held at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Nashville. Additional information will be forthcoming.

Clergywomen’s Retreat

The COM Pastoral Care Team will host a clergywomen’s retreat on Saturday, August 27, at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Nashville. Additional details will be forthcoming.

Jason Loscuito / Glencliff Presbyterian Church, Nashville

The COM approved the renewal of the temporary pastoral relationship between Rev. Jason Loscuito (Southern Baptist) and Glencliff Presbyterian Church, Nashville, for the term May 8, 2022 – November 22, 2022.

Michael Magee / Change in Status

The COM approved the change in status of Michael Magee from Honorably Retired to Member-at-Large, effective May 10, 2022.

Mike Jones / First Presbyterian Church, Smyrna

The COM approved Ruling Elder Mike Jones (First Presbyterian Church, Smyrna) to celebrate the sacrament of communion during Shawn Thomas Smith’s vacation.

Central Presbyterian Church, Culleoka Administrative Commission

The COM received a report from the Central Culleoka Administrative Commission.

Robin and Ray Thomas / Transitional Ministry Training

The COM received a report from the Co-Executive Presbyters on their recent transitional ministry training.

Task Force for Annual Report Forms

The COM appointed a task force, composed of members Erin Howton Angel, Debra Van Derveer, and Frank Wade, and Co-Executive Presbyter Robin Thomas, to revise the annual report forms for active ministers and commissioned pastors.

Claire Harris Kramer

Rev. Howton Angel reported the COM examined Claire Harris Kramer, a candidate under care of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee, who is serving as a therapist at the Nashville Collaborative Counseling Center. The COM validated this ministry and recommended that Claire Harris Kramer be examined for ordination by the Presbytery. A copy of her statement of faith and biographical statement were provided with the Presbytery packet.

Mrs. Harris Kramer spoke briefly of her faith journey and her ministry, and responded to questions from the COM and commissioners.

Michael Cuppett

Mrs. Howton Angel reported the COM examined Michael Cuppett, a candidate under care of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee, who has accepted a call as resident chaplain at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore. The COM validated this ministry and recommended that Michael Cuppett be examined for ordination by the Presbytery. A copy of his statement of faith and biographical statement were provided with the Presbytery packet. Mr. Cuppett will labor outside the bounds of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee, pending permission to labor inside the bounds of the Presbytery of Baltimore.

Mr. Cuppett spoke briefly of his faith journey and call to ministry, and responded to questions from the COM and commissioners.

Rev. Beth McCaw, a member of the Committee on Ministry, escorted Mrs. Harris Kramer and Mr. Cuppett from the sanctuary.

Rev. Howton Angel moved that the examination of Mrs. Harris Kramer be sustained, and this was approved without objection. She then moved that the examination of Mr. Cuppett be sustained, and this was also approved without objection.

Rev. Howton Angel moved that Mrs. Harris Kramer be approved for ordination and received as a teaching elder member of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee, and this was approved. She then moved that Mr. Cuppett be approved for ordination and received as a member of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee, and this was approved.

Rev. Howton Angel stated the COM recommended approval of the following commission to ordain Claire Harris Kramer: Sunday, May 22, 2022, 3pm, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Nashville; Ministers – Carson Salyer (Honorably Retired), chair; Lindsey Groves (member-at-large); Heidi Hudnut-Beumler (Westminster Presbyterian Church, Nashville); Donovan Drake (Westminster Presbyterian Church, Nashville); James Hudnut-Beumler (Vanderbilt Divinity School); Aimee Moiso (member-at-large); Ruling Elders – Janet Kuhn (Westminster Presbyterian Church, Nashville); Robin Thomas (Co-Executive Presbyter); Guests of the Commission – Andy Kramer (Westminster Presbyterian Church, Nashville); Rachel Penmore (Presbytery of East Tennessee). There were no objections, and this was approved.

Rev. Howton Angel moved the approval of the following commission to ordain Michael Cuppett: Sunday, June 12, 2022, 4:30pm, Trinity Presbyterian Church, Nashville; Ministers – Lindsey Groves (member-at-large), chair; Sally Hughes (Trinity Presbyterian Church, Nashville); Meredith Cox (St. Thomas Nashville); Ruling Elders – Judy Schomber (Trinity Presbyterian Church, Nashville); Connie Hamblen (Eastminster Presbyterian Church, Nashville). The motion was seconded and approved without objection.

Rev. McCaw escorted Mrs. Harris Kramer and Mr. Cuppett back into the sanctuary, and the Moderator reported on the votes. Mrs. Harris Kramer and Mr. Cuppett signed the Book of Ministerial Obligations, and persons present in support of them were recognized and welcomed.

Laura Purtle / First Presbyterian Church, Spring Hill

Rev. Howton Angel reported the COM examined Laura Purtle, an elder at First Presbyterian Church, Spring Hill, who has completed the commissioned pastor training at the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary. The COM recommended that Ms. Purtle be commissioned to service at First Presbyterian Church, Spring Hill, with the following responsibilities: administer the Lord's Supper; administer the sacrament of Baptism; moderate the session when invited by the session moderator; perform a service of Christian marriage when invited by the session or other responsible committee; have a voice and vote at Presbytery meetings (counted as a ruling elder for parity). Rev. Chris Adams will serve as mentor.

There were no questions, and the recommendation was approved. The Moderator led the commissioning service for Mrs. Purtle, who responded to the ordination questions in the affirmative. Persons present in support of Mrs. Purtle were recognized and welcomed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The Moderator called for unfinished business, and there was none. The Moderator announced the 149th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee would be held on August 13, 2022, via Zoom.

The motion was made, seconded and approved without objection to adjourn after a closing prayer by the Moderator.

Therese P. Howell
Stated Clerk