

## Co-Executive Presbyters Report

We are looking forward to being with y'all at our second in-person Presbytery meeting of the year! Thanks to your prayerful support, your generous stewardship, your involvement in Presbytery leadership roles, your participation in lectionary groups with Presbyterian colleagues, your active relationships with neighboring churches or pastoral colleagues, and your active participation in any of our Presbytery's mission projects, NaCoMe, or UKirks, we can report that the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee is alive and well. We have begun to bring **RE Mary Catherine Sevier** on board as Stated Clerk (pending her election), with training and orientation to the role, responsibilities, and resources available, so that she is ready to assume this key office on January 1. We have also launched our search for an **Operations Coordinator**, who we also hope to hire and onboard by January 1. *Please invite qualified candidates to apply!* Our goal is to navigate the transition to a new staffing model, adding two new staff persons, as smoothly as possible so that our churches, pastors, missions, and minister members receive quality support, timely communication, and helpful connections throughout.

In addition to taking the lead roles in the staff changes and staffing the various committees and commissions within the Presbytery, the two of us are thankful to be able to visit our churches and ministers more actively, in person, this year! So far, in 2022, we have been able to visit 36 of our 80 churches – for Sunday worship, session meetings, church anniversaries, congregational dinners, neighborhood pastors' lunches, ordinations, as well as with pastor nominating committees, and transitional minister search teams. In all, we've been able to make over 70 such visits over the course of this year. Thank you for inviting us!

That's our connectional church - connections between people – at its best. Through the Commission on Ministry this year, our Validated Ministers were invited to give an update on their specialized ministry. A reading team from COM read each submitted report with joy, appreciation, and gratitude for the unique and specialized ministries here in the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee. Connection is what makes people feel recognized, seen, and heard. Building those relationships of trust and love is what we're about.

We invite you to pray for our Presbytery leaders in the coming year. All the *volunteers* listed in the Nominating Task Force report, committee members and chairs, our Moderator, Vice-Moderator, and Moderator-in-Nomination. Those leaders that you will elect on November 10 will faithfully serve this Presbytery, volunteering their time, talent, energy, and love. Pray for our soon-to-be (pending her election) Stated Clerk and the Presbytery staff. We invite your patience and grace as they transition into their new responsibilities and the new Presbytery staffing model.

Ray and Robin Thomas

A note from Robin:

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee alongside my best friend and most trusted colleague. I am thankful and humbled by God's call to us to have served together as your Co-Executive Presbyters.

I've enjoyed traveling the country roads and admiring the Nashville cityscape as we visited with Pastors and Ruling Elders within this presbytery, from Waverly to Allardt and from Clarksville to Ardmore. My desire to foster deeper connections and strengthen mutual support at the beginning of our ministry here was well-suited for where this presbytery hoped to grow. Building trust and lasting bonds, envisioning new ways to be church, while honoring God and honoring each other, energizes me and has enriched my life as I have served this presbytery.

Thank you for your trust in me, your prayers for our ministry here, and your support,

Robin