

DRAFT
PRESBYTERY OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE
MINUTES OF ONE HUNDRED FORTY-NINTH STATED MEETING
AUGUST 13, 2022

The 149th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee met via Zoom on Saturday, August 13, 2022. Stated Clerk Therese Howell provided Zoom tips and an orientation for first time commissioners. Moderator Crist Scott Ligon called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

WORSHIP

Worship was led by Rev. Chris Adams (pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Spring Hill), and liturgists were Moderator Scott and Ruling Elder Shelby Smith (First Presbyterian Church, Spring Hill). Robin and Ray Thomas, Co-Executive Presbyters, led in the sharing of cares and concerns. The offering was collected for the Guatemala Task Force.

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 had not been received within the seven day time limit, which necessitated setting aside the standing rules. The motion was made and seconded to set aside the standing rules to receive the reports, and this was approved by three-fourths vote of commissioners present.

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:

- | | | |
|----------|----|--|
| 9:30 am | 1. | Registration (Order of the Day in CAPS) |
| 9:45 am | | Orientation for First Time Commissioners – Therese Howell (10 min) |
| 10:00 am | 2. | CALL TO ORDER / WORSHIP |
| | | • Offering: Guatemala Partnership |

1	11:00 am	Break (5 minutes)
2	11:05 am	3. Establishment of Quorum / Statement of Procedures / Recognition of
3		First Time Presbyters / Seating of Corresponding Members / Adoption of Agenda
4	11:20 am	4. Stated Clerk's Report – Therese Howell (5 min)
5		• Approval of Minutes of 148 th Stated Meeting (May 19, 2022)
6	11:25 am	5. Administrative Committee – Stephen Yates (5 min)
7	11:30 am	6. Finance Committee – Steve Douse (10 min)
8	11:40 am	7. Report from the General Assembly Commissioners – (20 min)
9	Noon	8. Co-Executive Presbyters' Report – Robin & Ray Thomas (10 min)
10	12:10 pm	9. Committee on Ministry – Erin Howton Angel (10 min)
11	12:20 pm	10. Committee on Leadership Excellence – Aaron Stauffer (5 min)
12	12:25 pm	11. Stated Clerk Search Committee Report – Shelby Smith (5 min)
13	12:30 pm	12. Guatemala Task Force Report - (10 min)
14	12:40 pm	13. Unfinished Business
15		150th Stated Meeting – Thursday, November 10, 2022 (location TBD)
16	12:45 pm	14. Closing Prayer / Adjourn

17 **STATED CLERK'S REPORT**

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

19 Claire Harris Kramer / Ordination

20 The Stated Clerk received the minutes of the Commission to Ordain Claire Harris Kramer to the ministry

21 of the Word and Sacrament.

22 The Ordination Commission appointed by the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee to ordain Candidate Claire Harris

23 Kramer in a Validated Ministry at Nashville Collaborative Counseling Center met at Westminster Presbyterian

24 Church of Nashville, Tennessee, on Sunday, May 22 at 1 PM. Members present were:

25

26 *Teaching Elders* - The Rev. Dr. Carson Salyer, Honorably Retired; The Rev. Lindsey Groves, Member-at-Large;

27 The Rev. Heidi Hudnut-Beumler, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Nashville; The Rev. Dr. Aimee Moiso,

28 Member-at-Large; The Rev. Dr. Donovan Drake, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Nashville; The Rev. Dr. James

29 Hudnut-Beumler, Vanderbilt Divinity School.

30

31 *Ruling Elders* - Janet Kuhn, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Nashville; Robin Thomas, Co-Executive Presbyter,

32 Presbytery of Middle Tennessee.

33

34 *Guests of the Commission:* The Rev. Rachel Penmore, Presbytery of East Tennessee; Andy Kramer, Westminster

35 Presbyterian Church, Nashville.

36

37 The Commission was called to order by the Chair of the Commission, the Rev. Carson Salyer, and Robin Thomas

38 was appointed Clerk of the Commission by the Chair. The Chair offered the opening prayer. The Order of

39 Worship for this Ordination Service was reviewed with the constitutionally required elements for such a service

40 found to be in place. By common consent the Order of Worship was adopted.

41

42 The Commission recessed to the Sanctuary for the Service of Worship with the Chair presiding. The Sermon was

43 preached by the Rev. Lindsey Groves. The Constitutional questions were propounded to Claire Harris Kramer by

44 the Rev. Carson Salyer and they were answered in the affirmative.

45

46 Claire Harris Kramer was duly ordained to the Ministry of the Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church

47 (U.S.A.) by the laying on of hands. A prayer was offered by Janet Kuhn.

48

49 A Charge was delivered to Claire Harris Kramer by the Rev. Heidi Hudnut-Beumler. The Service was closed

50 with the Benediction pronounced by the Rev. Claire Harris Kramer. The Commission was adjourned at the

51 benediction of the worship service.

52

53 Respectfully submitted, Robin Thomas

54

1 Michael J. Cuppett / Ordination

2 The Stated Clerk received the minutes of the Commission to Ordain Michael Cuppett to the ministry of the Word
3 and Sacrament.

4 The Commission appointed by the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee to Ordain Michael J. Cuppett as a Minister of
5 the Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) met at Trinity Presbyterian Church on June 12, 2022
6 at 4:00 PM.

7
8 Members present were Teaching Elders Rev. Meredith Cox, Vanderbilt University Medical Center; Rev. Lindsey Groves,
9 Member-at-Large; Rev. Sally Hughes, Trinity Presbyterian Church, Nashville; and Ruling Elders Connie Hamblen,
10 Eastminster Presbyterian Church, Nashville; Judy Schomber, Trinity Presbyterian Church, Nashville.

11
12 The Commission was called to order by the Chair, Rev. Lindsey Groves, and the opening prayer was offered by the chair.
13 On motion, Judy Schomber was elected Clerk of the Commission. The Order of Worship for the Service and the minutes
14 were approved. The Commission was adjourned at the benediction of the worship service.

15
16 The Commission recessed to the Sanctuary for the Service of Worship with the Chair presiding. The sermon was
17 preached by Rev. Sally Hughes.

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19 The constitutional questions were propounded to Michael J. Cuppett by the Chair and they were answered in the
20 affirmative. Michael J. Cuppett was duly Ordained as a minister of the Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church
21 (U.S.A.) by the laying on of hands. A prayer was offered by Ruling Elder Judy Schomber.

22
23 A charge was delivered to the pastor by Rev. Meredith Cox. The service was closed with the benediction pronounced by
24 the Rev. Michael J. Cuppett.

25 Judy Schomber, Clerk of the Commission

26
27 Review of the 2021 Minutes of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee

28 The 2021 minutes of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee have been provided for approval to the Synod
29 of Living Waters.

30 Approval of February 5, 2022 Stated Meeting Minutes

31 The minutes of the February 5, 2022 stated meeting of the Presbytery were presented for approval. The
32 motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. There were no additions or corrections, and the minutes
33 were approved without objection.

34 Approval of May 19, 2022 Stated Meeting Minutes

35 The minutes of the May 19, 2022 stated meeting of the Presbytery were presented for approval. The
36 motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. There were no additions or corrections, and the minutes
37 were approved without objection.

38 **ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

39 Rev. Stephen Yates, chair of the Administrative Committee, presented the Administrative Committee's
40 report.

41 August 13, 2022 Presbytery Meeting

42 The Administrative Committee approved plans for the August 13 Presbytery meeting: Zoom meeting;
43 offering to go to the Guatemala Task Force; Rev. Chris Adams will preach.

44 Review of May 19 Presbytery Meeting

45 The committee reviewed the May 19 Presbytery meeting, which received many positive comments.

46 Grants Awarded

47 The Administrative Committee received reports on recent grants awarded: Telos at Southminster received
48 \$30,000 from 1001 Worshipping Communities; the Kharis Foundation has awarded \$25,000 to the Latinx Hub
49 and \$20,000 to the Matthew 25 Food Bank. The Administrative Committee approved accepting the LatinX grant
50 with the conditions that the Presbytery continue its funding of the Initiative, a representative of Ministry
51 Architects serve as resource, and Kharis approves anyone hired for the Initiative. In the event the program is
52 discontinued or the conditions are not met, any monies not distributed will be returned to the Kharis Foundation.

1 Personnel Task Force Report

2 The Administrative Committee received a report from Greg Glover, chair of the Personnel Task Force,
3 related to the upcoming retirement of the stated clerk and the pending transition to the incoming clerk. Dr. Glover
4 also reported that Personnel is looking at staffing patterns and the possibility of work space or co-working space.

5 Stated Clerk Search Committee

6 Ray Thomas reported on the work of the Stated Clerk Search Committee. Shelby Smith was elected chair,
7 and Ora Bransford Luxe was elected clerk. The committee is hard at work, and has added a short introduction
8 and contact information to the job description, and developed a compensation schedule.

9 Pending Pastoral Changes

10 The Administrative Committee received a report of pending pastoral changes.

11 Invitation to Co-Moderator of the 225th General Assembly

12 The Administrative Committee has invited Ruth Santana-Grace, Co-Moderator of the 225th General
13 Assembly (2022) to the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee. Information will be forthcoming if the invitation is
14 accepted and a date can be agreed upon.

15 Proposed Revision to the Mission and Operations Manual

16 The proposed revision to the Mission and Operations Manual will be considered by the Administrative
17 Committee at their next meeting.

18 Nominating Task Force

19 Rev. Yates stated that the Nominating Task Force recommended that Rev. Larissa Romero, interim pastor
20 at The Downtown Presbyterian Church, Nashville, be elected to serve in the class of 2024 of the Committee on
21 Social Justice.

22 The Moderator opened the floor for additional nominations, and there were none. The motion was
23 approved.

24 **FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

25 Treasurer Steve Douse, Chair of the Finance Committee, presented the committee's report.

26 Financial Reports

27 Financial reports and investment results as of July 31, 2022, were provided with the Presbytery packet.
28 Mr. Douse spoke briefly about the reports.

29 Update on 2021 Review

30 The Finance Committee has received a draft of the Independent Accountants' Review Report for
31 Presbytery for 2021 from Clemmons, Mullins & Mayes. There were no unresolved issues relating to Presbytery's
32 finances, and we expect the report to be finalized shortly.

33 Stated Clerk Search Committee Expenses

34 The Finance Committee allocated \$1,000 to cover expenses of the Stated Clerk Search Committee.

35 Kharis Foundation Grants

36 The Board of the Kharis Foundation awarded two grants to the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee. The first,
37 for \$25,000, was to help fund Presbytery's Latinx Ministry Initiative. The grant was conditioned on Presbytery
38 providing currently budgeted funds to support the Latinx Ministry, continuing to use Ministry Architects as a
39 resource, and giving Kharis the right to approve staff hired for the Latinx Ministry. The Finance Committee voted
40 to accept these conditions. The second grant, for \$20,000, was to support Presbytery's Matthew 25 Food Bank
41 at Glencliff Presbyterian Church, Nashville.

42 Grants from Designated Funds

43 So far this year Presbytery has made 14 grants totaling \$62,309.61 from its designated funds. Nine of
44 these, totaling \$41,309.61, were for social media and technology initiatives. There were also \$16,000 in hunger
45 action grants and a Matthew 25 grant for \$5,000. A complete list showing amounts and recipients is included in
46 the financial reports.

47 Change in Investment Account

48 Presbytery's investment portfolio at Baird & Co. is being liquidated and the proceeds transferred to
49 Presbytery's account at Vanguard, where they will be invested over time in a balanced fund, as previously
50 approved by Presbytery.

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Budget Working Group Update

The Finance Committee's budget working group has been soliciting input from Presbytery's committees and staff and from related organizations in preparation for compiling the 2023 budget. The committee's proposed budget will be submitted to Presbytery at the November meeting.

Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program Mortgage Grants

Hillsboro Presbyterian Church Construction Loan

The Finance Committee recently received a request from Hillsboro PC to approve the church's application for a \$350,000 construction loan from the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program to cover a portion of currently ongoing renovations to the church building. As with all PILP loans, Presbytery would be asked to certify that it has reviewed and approved this project as compatible with the borrower's mission and that it has reviewed and approved the borrower's financial plan as fiscally responsible. Presbytery would also be required to guarantee the loan. The Finance Committee is reviewing financial and other information provided by the church and will meet to act on the request and make a recommendation to Presbytery before the stated meeting.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS TO THE 225TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY (2022)

The Moderator spoke of her experiences as an elder commissioner and presented a slide show of photographs from the 225th General Assembly (2022). Ruling Elder Bob LaGrone also spoke of his experience as a commission. Teaching elder commission Lindsey Groves and Young Adult Advisory Delegate Shammah Takop presented written reports.

Co-Executive Presbyters Robin and Ray Thomas each reported on their work.

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

The COM welcomed Heidi Hudnut-Beumler, COM's liaison from the Administrative Committee, and discussed ways to facilitate communication and greater health between the two committees.

The COM approved the Ministry Information Form for interim pastor for First Presbyterian Church, Gallatin.

1 The COM approved the renewal of the temporary pastoral relationship between Rev. Mark Calvert
2 Rosenberger and First Presbyterian Church, Springfield.

3 Sally Ann McKinsey Sisk / Validated Ministry

4 The COM approved the terms of call and validated the ministry of Sally McKinsey Sisk.

5 Lee Catoe / Terms of Call

6 The COM approved the terms of call for Lee Catoe.

7 Lombard Mennonite Peace Center Conflict Resolution Training

8 The COM received a report from Erin Howton Angel, Beth McCaw, John Smith, and Leslie Traylor
9 regarding the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center Conflict Resolution Training they attended.

10 Clergy Women's Retreat

11 The COM's Pastoral Care Team will host a clergy women's retreat on August 27, 9AM-3PM, at
12 Westminster Presbyterian Church, Nashville. Childcare will be provided, and there is no charge for the event
13 (donations will be accepted!).

14 Advent Education Event

15 The Pastoral Care Team will also sponsor an Advent Education event on Thursday, October 27, at
16 Westminster Presbyterian Church, Nashville, led by Donovan Drake.

17 Annual Report Forms

18 The COM approved new annual report forms, to be sent out annual, with online reporting options.

19 Taylor Todd

20 The COM dismissed Rev. Taylor Todd to the Presbytery of North Alabama.

21 Warner Durnell / First Presbyterian Church, McMinnville

22 The COM approved the temporary pastoral relationship between Rev. Warner Durnell and First
23 Presbyterian Church, McMinnville, for six months, effective September 1, 2022.

24 Larissa Romero / The Downtown Presbyterian Church, Nashville

25 The COM approved the renewal of the temporary pastoral relationship between Rev. Larissa Romero and
26 The Downtown Presbyterian Church, Nashville, for the period August 1, 2022 – July 31, 2023.

27 Administrative Commission Updates

28 The COM received reports from the Central Presbyterian Church Administrative Commission and the
29 First Presbyterian Church Sparta Administrative Commission.

30 Josh Rodriguez / First Presbyterian Church, Nashville

31 The COM approved the dissolution of the associate pastoral relationship between Rev. Josh Rodriguez
32 and First Presbyterian Church, Nashville, effective August 31, 2022. The COM also dismissed Rev. Rodriguez
33 to the Presbytery of Miami Valley to accept a new call.

34 Rev. Adam DeVries and Rev. Josh Rodriguez spoke briefly about Rev. Rodriguez's ministry at First
35 Presbyterian Church, Nashville. Rev. Howton-Angel offered a prayer.

36 Karen Fleming / Buffalo Valley Presbyterian Church

37 The COM approved Rev. Karen Fleming, a minister member of the Church of the Nazarene, to serve as
38 part time pulpit supply for Buffalo Valley Presbyterian Church, and added Rev. Fleming to the pulpit supply list.

39 Rev. Nolan Huizenga

40 The COM dismissed Rev. Nolan Huizenga to the Presbytery of Mid-Kentucky.

41 Dr. Aimee Moiso

42 The COM dismissed Dr. Aimee Moiso to the Presbytery of Mid-Kentucky.

43 **COMMITTEE ON LEADERSHIP EXCELLENCE REPORT**

44 Rev. Laura Mariko Cheifetz, vice-chair of the Committee on Leadership Excellence, spoke of the
45 committee's work.

46 **REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK SEARCH COMMITTEE**

47 Ruling Elder Shelby Smith, Chair of the Stated Clerk Search Committee, provided an update on the work
48 of the committee.
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1 **GUATAMALA TASK FORCE REPORT**

2 Rev. Mike Magee (member-at-large), Ruling Elder Baird Dixon (Second Presbyterian Church, Nashville),
3 and Rev. John A. Smith (pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Dickson and Ellis Grove Presbyterian Church,
4 Waverly), provided a report and slide show on the recent mission trip to Guatemala.

5 **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

6 The Moderator called for unfinished business, and there was none. The Moderator announced the 150th
7 Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee would be held hopefully in person on November 10, 2022.
8 The meeting location would be announced closer to the meeting time.

9
10 Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 12:25pm after a closing prayer by the Moderator.
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14 Therese P. Howell
15 Stated Clerk