

**PRESBYTERY OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE**

**FEBRUARY 5, 2022**

**147<sup>th</sup> STATED MEETING MINUTES**

**Via Zoom**

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**PRESBYTERY OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE  
MINUTES OF ONE HUNDRED FORTY-SEVENTH STATED MEETING  
FEBRUARY 5, 2022**

The 147<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee met via Zoom on Saturday, February 5, 2022. Stated Clerk Therese Howell provided Zoom tips and information for first time commissioners. Moderator Chris Joiner called the meeting to order at 9:30 am.

**WORSHIP**

Worship was led by Leonard Jordan, Commissioned Pastor of St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, Nashville. Elder Jordan preached the sermon, and 2022 Moderator, Cristi Scott Ligon (St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, Nashville), and Vice-Moderator Rev. Stephen Yates (First Presbyterian Church, Tullahoma), were installed to office during worship. The sanctuary of St. Andrews Presbyterian Church was filled with people in support of the 2022 Moderator. The offering was collected for the Matthew 25 Food Bank.

**DECLARATION OF QUORUM / RECOGNITION OF 2021 MODERATOR / STATEMENT OF PROCEDURES / FIRST TIME COMMISSIONERS / STANDING RULES / CORRESPONDING MEMBERS**

After a break, Moderator Scott Ligon reconvened the meeting and declared a quorum was present. Co-Executive Presbyters Robin and Ray Thomas presented a gift for travel to 2021 Moderator Chris Joiner, as well as a gift of a hand turned bowl for Kim Joiner, for all her work leading the Presbytery in Zoom meetings in 2020 and 2021.

The Moderator reviewed procedures for the meeting. *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised (11<sup>th</sup> Edition)*, the parliamentary authority for councils of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), states electronic meetings must be properly authorized in the council's bylaws. The Presbytery of Middle Tennessee's bylaws, the Mission and Operations Manual, does not allow the presbytery to meet electronically. The Moderator stated it was not possible to meet in person to amend the manual to allow electronic meetings. The motion was made, seconded, and approved by the required three-fourths vote of commissioners to set aside the standing rules to allow the electronic meeting as well as receive the supplemental materials and additional item of business.

The Moderator welcomed first time commissioners, and introduced the newest pastors, Rev. Mark David Calvert-Rosenberger, who is serving as temporary pastor at First Presbyterian Church, Springfield, and Rev. Walt Tennyson, a chaplain at St. Thomas Nashville.

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:

- |          |     |  |
|----------|-----|--|
| 9:00 am  | 1.  | Registration (Order of the Day in CAP)   |
| 9:30 am  |     | Orientation to Zoom   First Time Commissioners (10 min)  |
| 9:45 am  | 2.  | CALL TO ORDER / WORSHIP  |
|          |     | • Offering: Matthew 25 Food Bank   |
|          |     | • Installation of 2022 Moderator and Vice-Moderator  |
| 10:45 am | 3.  | Establishment of Quorum / Recognition of 2021 Moderator / Statement of Procedures / Recognition of First Time Presbyters / Seating of Corresponding Members / Adoption of Agenda |
| 11:00 am | 4.  | Stated Clerk's Report – Therese Howell (5 min)   |
|          |     | • Approval of Minutes of 146 <sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting (October 19, 2021)   |
| 11:05 am | 5.  | Administrative Committee – Stephen Yates (30 min)  |
| 11:35 am | 6.  | Finance Committee – Steve Douse (20 min)   |
| 11:55 am | 7.  | Committee on Leadership Excellence – Aaron Stauffer (10 min)   |
| 12:05 pm | 8.  | Committee on Ministry Report – Erin Howton-Angel (15 min)  |
| 12:20 pm | 9.  | Synod of Living Waters Commissioners' Reports – (5 min)  |
| 12:25 pm | 10. | Committee on Mutual Support – Bobby Harding (10 min)   |
| 12:35 pm | 11. | Committee on Preparation for Ministry – Mike Wilson (10 min)   |
| 12:45 pm | 12. | Committee on Church Transformation – Chris Adams (10 min)  |
| 12:55 pm | 13. | Board of Pensions Report – Keenan Rodgers (5 min)  |
| 1:00 pm  | 14. | Co-Executive Presbyters' Report – Robin & Ray Thomas (15 min)  |
|          |     | • Sharing of Concerns & Celebrations   |
| 1:15 pm  | 15. | Unfinished Business  |
|          |     | <b>148<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting – Thursday, May 19, 2022</b> (location TBD)   |
| 1:20 pm  | 14. | Closing Prayer / Adjourn   |

## STATED CLERK'S REPORT

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

### Annual Statistical Reports

The Stated Clerk reported the deadline for annual statistical reports was approaching. She asked clerks of sessions to call or email her with questions.

### Per Capita Letter

The Stated Clerk received a letter from J. Herbert Nelson II, Stated Clerk of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), thanking the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee for the payment of per capita in 2021.

### Chris Adams / First Presbyterian Church, Spring Hill

The Stated Clerk has received the minutes of the Commission to Install Rev. Chris Adams as pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Spring Hill.

The Commission appointed by the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee to Install Teaching Elder Chris Adams as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Spring Hill, Tennessee, met at the Church on Sunday, November 21, 2021 at 9:35AM. Members present were: Teaching Elders – Rev. Mark DeVries (Honorably Retired), Rev. Warner Durnell (Honorably Retired); Ruling Elders – Pat Bridges (First Columbia), Melinda Sanders (Woodland Nashville), chair, Shelby Smith (First Spring Hill).

The Commission was called to order by the Chair, Melinda Sanders, who offered the opening prayer. On motion Shelby Smith was elected Clerk of the Commission. The Order of Worship for this Installation Service was reviewed and the minutes were approved. The Commission was adjourned at the benediction of the worship service. The Commission recessed to the Sanctuary for the Service of Worship with the Chair presiding. The Sermon was preached by Rev. Mark DeVries. The Constitutional Questions were propounded to Rev. Chris Adams and to the Congregation by Shelby Smith, and they were answered in the affirmative. A prayer was offered by Rev. Mark DeVries.

Melinda Sanders declared Rev. Chris Adams was duly Installed as pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Spring Hill, Tennessee. A Charge was delivered to Rev. Chris Adams by Rev. Warner Durnell and Pat Bridges Charged the Congregation. The Service was closed with the Benediction pronounced by Rev. Chris Adams. The Commission was adjourned at the benediction of the worship service.

Shelby Smith, Clerk of the Commission

Scott Huie / Bellevue Presbyterian Church, Nashville

The Stated Clerk has received the minutes of the Commission to Install Rev. Scott Huie as part time designated pastor of Bellevue Presbyterian Church, Nashville.

The Commission appointed by the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee to Install Teaching Elder Scott Huie as Pastor of Bellevue Presbyterian Church, Nashville, Tennessee, met at the Church on Sunday, October 17, 2021 at 10AM. Members present were: Teaching Elders – Rev. Dr. Bill Bryant (Honorably Retired), chair, Rev. Warner Durnell (Honorably Retired), Rev. Fred Page (Honorably Retired), Rev. Ray Thomas (Co-Executive Presbyter); Ruling Elders – Beth Derrick (Bellevue Nashville), Elizabeth Todd (Emmanuel Nashville), Robin Thomas (Co-Executive Presbyter), David Wood (First Nashville).

The Commission was called to order by the Chair, Dr. Bill Bryant, who offered the opening prayer. On motion Robin Thomas was elected Clerk of the Commission. The Order of Worship for this Installation Service was reviewed with the constitutionally required elements for such a service found to be in place. By common consent the Order of Worship was adopted and a copy of the printed program will be attached to these minutes.

The Commission recessed to the Sanctuary for the Service of Worship with the Chair presiding. The Sermon was preached by Rev. Warner Durnell. The Constitutional Questions were propounded to Rev. Scott Huie by the Chair and they were answered in the affirmative. The Constitutional Questions were propounded to the Congregation by Robin Thomas and answered in the affirmative by the Congregation. A prayer was offered by Rev. Ray Thomas.

Rev. Scott Huie was duly Installed as pastor of Bellevue Presbyterian Church of Nashville, Tennessee. A Charge was delivered to Rev. Scott Huie by Rev. Fred Page and David Wood Charged the Congregation. The Service was closed with the Benediction pronounced by Rev. Scott Huie. The Commission was adjourned at the benediction of the worship service.

Robin Thomas, Clerk of the Commission

Beth McCaw / Southminster Presbyterian Church, Nashville

The Stated Clerk has received the minutes of the Commission to Install Rev. BethMcCaw as pastor of Southminster Presbyterian Church, Nashville.

The Commission appointed by the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee to Install Teaching Elder Beth McCaw as Pastor of Southminster Presbyterian Church, Nashville, Tennessee, met at the Church on Sunday, October 24, 2021 at 10:30AM. Members present were: Teaching Elders – Rev. Dr. Sally Hughes (Trinity Nashville), Rev. Dr. Steven J. Musick (Honorably Retired), Rev. Ray Thomas (Co-Executive Presbyter); Ruling Elders – Susan Christison (Southminster Nashville), Robin Thomas (Co-Executive Presbyter); Guests of the Commission: the session of Southminster Presbyterian Church - Andy Young, Barbara Cobb, Katie Cummings, Bethany Reynolds, Nancy Roberts, Anita Kimbrough, Sam DiCarlo, Blake Davis, Amber Lewis-Stewart.

The Commission was called to order by the Chair, Rev. Ray Thomas, who offered the opening prayer. The Order of Worship for this Installation Service was reviewed and the minutes were approved. The Commission was adjourned at the benediction of the worship service.

The Commission recessed to the Sanctuary for the Service of Worship with the Chair presiding. The Sermon was preached by Rev. Ray Thomas. The Constitutional Questions were propounded to Rev. Beth McCaw by the Chair, and they were answered in the affirmative. Ruling Elders Blake Davis and Susan Christison propounded the Constitutional Questions to the Congregation and they were answered in the affirmative by the Congregation. A prayer was offered by Ruling Elder Robin Thomas.

Rev. Ray Thomas declared Rev. Beth McCaw duly Installed as pastor of Southminster Presbyterian Church of Nashville, Tennessee. A Charge was delivered to Rev. McCaw by Rev. Dr. Sally Hughes and Rev. Steven Musick Charged the Congregation. The Service was closed with the Benediction pronounced by Rev. Beth McCaw.  
Beth McCaw, Clerk of the Commission

#### 2020 Minutes of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee

The Stated Clerk reported that the Synod of Living Waters, at its meeting on January 24, 2022, approved the 2020 Minutes of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee without exception.

#### Michael Snoddy / Certified Church Musician, Presbyterian Association of Musicians

The Stated Clerk received a letter reporting that Michael Snoddy, Director of Music and Organist at First Presbyterian Church, Franklin, has received the Presbyterian Association of Musicians professional certification as a Certified Church Musician. The Presbytery's standing rules allow Mr. Snoddy voice at Presbytery meetings.

The Moderator led the Presbytery in a brief recognition of Mr. Snoddy's achievement, and offered a prayer. Persons in support of Mr. Snoddy were recognized.

#### Approval of Minutes of 147<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting (October 21, 2021)

The minutes and roll of the 146<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting, held on October 21, 2021, were provided with the Presbytery packet. The motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes, and the minutes were approved without correction or objection.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Rev. Stephen Yates, Vice-Moderator and chair of the Administrative Committee, presented the Administrative Committee's report.

#### Working Group to Revise the Missions and Operations Manual

The Working Group to revise the Manual of Administrative Operations (Cristi Scott, chair; John Hinkle; Geeta McMillan; Melinda Sanders; staff: Ray Thomas, Therese Howell) presented a final draft for Administrative Committee review. Commissioners will be encouraged to send revisions to Cristi Scott (cristi.s06@comcast.net) in advance of the May Presbytery meeting for Administrative Committee review. The Manual will be presented for approval at the May Presbytery meeting, and churches will be encouraged to send the same commissioners to the February and May Presbytery meetings. The final draft was provided for review, along with a list of substantive changes.

#### 2022 Youth Triennium

Linzi Anderson of First Presbyterian Church, Franklin, will be registrar for the 2022 Youth Triennium at the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis, July 24-27. Communication about the Triennium will be forthcoming.

#### Kentucky Tornado Recovery Relief

The Administrative Committee approved a \$3,000 donation for tornado recovery efforts in Western Kentucky. The donation will be sent to the First Presbyterian Church, Mayfield.

#### Committee Resignations

The Administrative Committee was informed of the resignation of Cindy Schwartz from the Committee on Ministry, and Rosanna Anderson from the Finance Committee.

#### 2022 Personnel Task Force

The Administrative Committee approved the Personnel Task Force for 2022: Dr. Greg Glover, chair; Ruling Elder Connie Hamblen, Eastminster; Ruling Elder Lavona Russell, East Brentwood.

#### Presbytery Zoom Meetings

The Administrative Committee approved the purchase of a larger Zoom account for Presbytery meetings. The committee was grateful for Kim Joiner and First Presbyterian Church, Franklin, for the use of the church's Zoom account. The Presbytery's Communication Coordinator will host meetings going forward, and a team will be recruited to assist with the Zoom meetings.

### 2022 Nominating Task Force

The Ad Hoc Appointing Group (Elinor Foster, Administrative Committee, chair; Erin Howton-Angel, COM; Mike Wilson, CPM; Aaron Stauffer, Leadership Excellence; Bobby Harding, Mutual Support; Steve Douse, Finance) met to appoint the following persons to serve as the 2022 Nominating Task Force: Elinor Foster, chair; Scott Huie, Bellevue; Robert Montgomery, First Lewisburg; Mary Catherine Sevier, First Murfreesboro; Shirley Puckett, Buffalo Valley; Bill Russell, First Spring Hill.

#### Vacancies

The Administrative Committee recommended that the following persons be elected to fill terms as indicated:

Finance Committee, Class of 2023:	Bruce McVey, First Fayetteville
Comm. on Church Transformation, Class of 2023:	Ken Diehl, First Tullahoma
Committee on Ministry, Class of 2022	Mark Mueller, The Outreach Foundation
225 <sup>th</sup> General Assembly, Alternate Teaching Elder:	C. J. Thompson, First Manchester
225 <sup>th</sup> Alternate Ruling Elder:	Judy Venable, Calvary Crossville

Rev. Yates reported that the Presbytery had sent three teaching and three ruling elders as commissioners to the General Assembly, but the Presbytery's membership had dropped below 16,000, so the Presbytery is only able to send two teaching and two ruling elder commissioners. Rev. C.J. Thompson had been elected as a commissioner, but agreed to serve as an alternate. Elder Kathy Nichols had been elected as a ruling elder commissioner, but she has moved out of the bounds of the Presbytery. Elder Judy Venable (Calvary Presbyterian Church, Crossville), agreed to serve as an alternate. Rev. Yates also reported that Rev. Mark Mueller, Executive Director of The Outreach Foundation, had agreed to serve on the Committee on Ministry, but his name was inadvertently left off the Administrative Committee report.

The Moderator opened the floor for additional nominations, and there were none. The slate, as presented, was elected.

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Ruling Elder Steve Douse, Treasurer and chair of the Finance Committee, presented the committee's report.

#### Financial Reports

Financial reports and investment results as of December 31, 2021, were provided with the Presbytery packet. Mr. Douse spoke briefly about the reports.

#### Finance Committee Meetings

The Finance Committee meets by Zoom at 11:30 on the third Thursday of each month (immediately preceding the Administrative Committee meeting at 12:40), unless that date conflicts with a stated meeting of Presbytery, in which case the committee meets a week earlier.

#### Finance Committee Vice-Moderator and Clerk | Investment Task Force

The committee selected Hal Sauer to serve as vice-moderator and Evelyn Graham to serve as clerk and to continue her role as internal auditor. Anders Hall will continue to head Presbytery's Investment Task Force, which reports to the Finance Committee. Evelyn Graham (Member-at-Large) and Vance Lahey (First Franklin) are the other members of the Task Force. The committee also assigned members to its Budget, Property, and Stewardship Working Groups.

#### Grants

Presbytery received a \$10,000 grant from the Kharis Foundation for the Mathew 25 Food Bank and a donation of \$1,000 from Ministry Architects for the Latinx Ministry.

#### Western Kentucky Tornado Relief

The Finance Committee approved a \$3,000 donation from the Disaster Assistance Fund to the Presbytery of Western Kentucky to assist in their recovery from the December tornadoes that devastated the area around Mayfield.

### Sale of Property / Rockwood, Tennessee

The sale of property in Rockwood Tennessee, which was previously approved by Presbytery, was completed in December. The \$7,500 sale price was deposited into the designated account for new church development.

### Revised Remittance Form

The Finance Committee is preparing a revised remittance form to be used by churches when submitting contributions and other funds to Presbytery.

### Guatemala Task Force / Presbytery of Peten Q'Eqchi Presbytery

The Presbytery of Middle Tennessee has for years maintained a relationship with the Peten Q'eqchi Presbytery in Guatemala. Through Presbytery's Guatemala Task Force, it has raised money that is used to send mission teams to the Peten and to provide direct financial support to churches in Guatemala. Although this money is raised and the mission teams are recruited and operate under the auspices of this Presbytery, the Task Force has historically operated autonomously. Funds are raised and disbursed by the Task Force, and participants are recruited and sent on mission trips, with little or no oversight by anyone outside the Task Force.

Because of concerns about financial accountability and about the safety and security of mission teams (and the related potential for financial liability on the part of PMT), the Finance Committee drafted a recommendation for the October stated meeting that the Guatemala mission activities and finances either be spun off to a separate nonprofit entity established for that purpose or that PMT establish a partnership with one of the Presbyterian mission agencies that would provide the kind of expertise and infrastructure needed to conduct our mission activities in Guatemala safely and effectively. However, after meeting with representatives of the Guatemala Task Force, the Finance Committee agreed to hold that recommendation in abeyance until the February meeting to allow the Task Force time to explore options for addressing the Finance Committee's concerns.

With the assistance of Rob Weingartner, former Executive Director of The Outreach Foundation, the Task Force has determined that the Finance Committee's preferred option of partnering with The Outreach Foundation or the Presbyterian Mission Agency is not feasible. Instead, the Task Force has proposed that it be more fully integrated into Presbytery's governing structure, thus allowing for more active oversight and greater financial accountability.

The Finance Committee originally rejected that option because it believed Presbytery lacked the expertise and infrastructure needed to manage foreign missions in a professional manner. However, after working with the Task Force and consulting with Rob Weingartner, the committee has concluded that in-house management of the Guatemala mission could be done in a way that protects both the Presbytery and those who participate in the Guatemala mission trips.

Of the issues raised by the Finance Committee, those dealing with financial accountability are the easiest to resolve. We are willing to work with the Task Force to establish procedures for fund transfers and reporting that will permit us to monitor and verify what happens to money that is sent to Guatemala to support the work of Presbytery's mission partners. The Task Force has itself recognized the need for better financial controls and reporting for those funds, and it has already taken steps in that direction.

Providing for the safety and security of mission trip participants – and the liability that entails – are the harder issues. We recognize that some degree of risk is unavoidable for people participating in a foreign mission. Our concern is ensuring that we have taken all reasonable efforts to reduce and manage that risk. People who go on a mission trip sponsored by this Presbytery are entitled to assume that we have done our due diligence, in conjunction with trusted and responsible local mission partners, to determine that the trip is advisable, that the participants have been well prepared, and that the trip will be planned and managed in a professional manner.

While this is in the first instance the responsibility of the Task Force, which has experienced and well qualified leaders, their decisions must be subject to review by others who are not part of the Task Force and personally invested in its mission. Although the Guatemala Task Force has been subject to



nominal oversight by the Committee on Mutual Support, the Finance Committee would strengthen the role of CMS in supervising the work of the Task Force, particularly its funding activities and mission trips. All important decisions involving programs and mission trips should be approved not only by the Committee on Mutual Support, but also the Executive Presbyters.

In addition, we would require all mission trip participants to sign a waiver of liability form approved by CMS and the Finance Committee. CMS has already reviewed and approved two possible waiver forms, and we expect no difficulty in getting agreement on this issue.

A final requirement, to protect Presbytery in case there is liability exposure not covered by a waiver, is that the Guatemala Task Force must obtain and pay for an insurance policy providing protection for Presbytery that is similar in kind to the coverage The Outreach Foundation maintains for its foreign mission activities (allowing for the difference in the scope of activities covered). This must be supplemented by appropriate insurance protection for the individual participants, including a medical evacuation policy. If there are insufficient funds in the Guatemala account when the initial premium is due, we recommend that Presbytery advance the premium, which can then be repaid as the account is replenished.

While it is uncertain if all of these measures can be put into place before the mission trip currently scheduled for early March, the Finance Committee believes we owe it to those who have committed to that trip to try. However, they must understand that these steps are for the protection of all concerned – the missionaries who are going and the presbytery that is sending them. If the trip ends up being cancelled or postponed, that will be unfortunate, but it is preferable to taking shortcuts.

The Finance Committee's specific recommendations are set out below.

The Finance Committee recommended that the Guatemala Task Force continue as a mission of this Presbytery, and that it be authorized to send funds and mission teams to Guatemala in furtherance of this mission, but only on the following conditions:

- a. The Task Force must draft (and subsequently adhere to) procedures for making money transfers to foreign mission partners. These procedures must be approved by the Committee on Mutual Support and the Finance Committee. Disbursements for approved purposes must be made using official vouchers submitted by the Task Force Chair with appropriate documentation and approved by the Chair of CMS and the Executive Presbyters.
- b. The Task Force must report regularly to the Committee on Mutual Support, which is charged with exercising active oversight of its work. The Task Force must submit detailed plans for any mission trips it wishes to undertake, as well as information about proposed funds transfers, to the Committee, and subsequently to the Executive Presbyters, for review and approval. The Committee or the Executive Presbyters may set conditions that must be met before the funds transfer or mission trip takes place, or they may veto it completely.
- c. The Task Force is encouraged to formulate a due diligence checklist that can be used as a template both for those charged with planning mission trips and those who are reviewing those plans.
- d. The Task Force must obtain approval from both the Committee on Mutual Support and the Finance Committee for a waiver of liability form to be signed by all mission trip participants.
- e. The Task Force must procure insurance to protect the Presbytery in connection with mission trips and other activities in Guatemala. The coverage must be similar to that maintained by The Outreach Foundation in connection with its missionary activities and must be approved by the Committee on Mutual Support and the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee is authorized to advance funds to cover the initial premium if necessary, to be repaid from Guatemala funds as that account is replenished. This coverage

must be supplemented by insurance purchased by the individual participants, including medical evacuation and crisis response coverage.

After discussion, the recommendation was approved.

#### First Presbyterian Church, Cookeville / Sale of Property

Mr. Douse reported that First Presbyterian Church, Cookeville, requested permission to sell a lot that was donated to the church, which the church cannot use. There was a contract on the property for \$12,500, but the buyer opted not to go forward with the purchase based on problems discovered during the presale inspection. The church intends to put the property back on the market. The Finance Committee recommended that Presbytery approve the sale, and this was approved without objection.

#### **COMMITTEE ON LEADERSHIP EXCELLENCE**

Rev. Laura Mariko Cheifetz, vice-chair of the Committee on Leadership Excellence, presented the committee's report.

#### Anti-Racism Workshop

Rev. Cheifetz reported that the Committee approved the Booking Agreement with Crossroads Anti-Racism Organizing and Training, which will facilitate the Anti-Racism digital workshop to be held April 29-30, 2022.

#### Pastoral Leadership in the Church

The Pastoral Leadership in the Church event to be held on February 26, 2022, 11AM, will be recorded and added to the Committee's digital training library. Dr. Lisa L. Thompson, Associate Profession and the Cornelius Vanderbilt Chancellor Faculty Fellow of Black Homiletics and Liturgies at the Divinity School and Graduate Department of Religion at Vanderbilt University, will speak on her new book, *Preaching the Headlines: Possibilities and Pitfalls*.

#### Treasurer Training

Rev. Cheifetz reported that the Treasurer Training held in November 2021 was now available on the Presbytery's website.

#### **COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY**

Rev. Erin Howton Angel, chair of the Committee on Ministry, presented the committee's report.

#### Odette Sous and Marshall Gupton

The COM was informed of the deaths of Odette Sous, the wife of Rev. Wael Sous, and Rev. Marshall Gupton, supply pastor at Northminster Presbyterian Church.

#### Jason Loscuito / Glencliff Presbyterian Church, Nashville

The COM examined Rev. Jason Loscuito, a Baptist minister, and approved him to preach and provide pastoral care at Glencliff Presbyterian Church, Nashville, for a six month term, effective 11/7/2021 – 5/7/2022, for \$350/week, not renewable without COM approval, with the following provisos: 1) Rev. Loscuito will pursue courses in Presbyterian polity and Reformed sacraments from an institution identified by the Examination Task Force; 2) after six months, Rev. Loscuito will again meet with the Examination Task Force to discuss what he's learned; and 3) he will be assigned a mentor by COM. The COM approved Rev. Will Berger as mentor and tutor for Rev. Loscuito.

#### Carrie Fraser / Glencliff Presbyterian Church, Nashville

The Rev. Carrie Fraser was appointed moderator of the Session of Glencliff Presbyterian Church, Nashville, and she will celebrate the sacraments.

#### Walt Tennyson / Alive Hospice

The COM validated Rev. Walt Tennyson's ministry as a chaplain at Alive Hospice.

#### Mark Mueller / First Presbyterian Church, Columbia

The COM approved Dr. Mark Mueller as moderator for First Presbyterian Church, Columbia.

Mattie Smith Memorial Presbyterian Church, Silver Point

The COM received a report on the closing worship service for Mattie Smith Memorial Presbyterian Church, Silver Point, scheduled for 12/12/2021, 3PM.

First Presbyterian Church, Columbia / Pastor Nominating Committee

The COM received a report on the election of the PNC at First Presbyterian Church, Columbia: Dawn Taylor, Ed Lancaster, Jean Mac Ball, Matt Campbell, Dwight Fox, and Jeff Baxter.

Temporary Supply Guidelines

The COM reconsidered its action to define temporary supply as preaching at a particular church more than twice per quarter, such service more than that requiring COM approval. After discussion, including the burden this would place on smaller churches, the motion was defeated; the COM will not define temporary supply in this manner.

Central Presbyterian Church, Culleoka and New Hope Presbyterian Church, Franklin / Training

The COM was informed that training for the administrative commissions for Central Presbyterian Church, Culleoka, and New Hope Presbyterian Church, Franklin, will be held on 11/15/2021.

Pulpit Supply List

The COM approved adding Rev. Claire Berry, UKirk, Therese Howell, Stated Clerk, and Rev. Walt Tennyson, Alive Hospice, to the Pulpit Supply list.

Larissa Romero / Temporary Membership

The COM approved Rev. Larissa Romero, a member of the Reformed Church in America, who is currently serving as interim at The Downtown Presbyterian Church, as a temporary member of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee.

Beau Carr / Christ Church, Alpine

The COM approved the application of Beau Carr, a ruling elder at Christ Church, Alpine, to become a Commissioned Pastor.

2022 COM Liaisons

An updated list of COM liaisons was provided with the COM report. (Att. B)

2022 Ministerial Compensation Guidelines

The 2022 Ministerial Compensation Guidelines was provided with the COM report. (Att. C)

COM Retreat

The COM held a retreat on February 12, 2022.

**REPORT FROM COMMISSIONERS TO THE SYNOD OF LIVING WATERS**

The Presbytery heard a report from Commissioned Pastor Leonard Jordan, one of Presbytery's commissioners to the Synod of Living Waters, on the work of the Synod.

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON MUTUAL SUPPORT**

Rev. Bobby Harding, chair of the Committee on Mutual Support, presented the Committee's report. The Committee provided information on the grant application process for technology funds.

**COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY REPORT**

Rev. Mike Wilson, chair of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry, provided an outline on the committee's inquirer / candidacy process.

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CHURCH TRANSFORMATION**

Rev. Chris Adams, chair of the Committee on Church Transformation, reported on the Committee's work with new worshipping communities, immigrant churches, and existing congregations.

## **BOARD OF PENSIONS REPORT**

Keenan Rodgers, Church Consultant for the Board of Pensions, spoke of the Board's Benefits Programs, Assistance Programs, and its new Care Navigation Program.

## **REPORT OF THE CO-EXECUTIVE PRESBYTERS**

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

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

The Moderator called for unfinished business, and there was none. The Moderator announced the 148<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee would be held on May 19, 2022, at a location to be determined.

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

*Therese P. Howell*

Therese P. Howell  
Stated Clerk