Memorandum

To: Commissioners and Attendees

From: Mary Catherine Sevier, Stated Clerk, Middle Tennessee Presbytery (contact: sc.midtennpres@gmail.com)

Re: 156th Stated Meeting of the Middle Tennessee Presbytery to be held May 11, 2024

Date: May 3, 2024

Please find attached the packets including the agenda, reports, and other relevant documents pertaining to the 156th Stated Meeting of the Middle Tennessee Presbytery, which will be held Saturday, May 11th at First Presbyterian Church, 210 N. Spring St., Murfreesboro Tennessee, 37130. In keeping with the standing rules of the presbytery, this packet is distributed at least seven days before the meeting.

Registration links for the meeting, the optional lunch, and for childcare were distributed earlier with the call which was sent on Friday, April 26. You may find the links on the presbytery website as well.

We are most fortunate to welcome Synod of Living Waters Executive Presbyter and Acting Stated Clerk the Rev. Greg Goodwiller. We will also welcome our bridge Executive Presbyter the Rev. Terry Newland, who will preach our sermon. The offering will go to Nourish Foodbank.

In the packet, titled "156th Main Agenda and Materials" you will find the following:

--Map and Parking instructions for First Presbyterian Church, Murfreesboro

- --Agenda
- --Minutes of the 155th Stated Meeting

--Reports from various committees, taskforces, and the Stated Clerk.

Keenan Rodgers, Board of Pensions Church Consultant will conduct a workshop on the 2025 changes to the benefits structure at 8:45 am in Classroom C of FPC Murfreesboro. <u>This workshop is OPTIONAL and REQUIRES</u> **REGISTRATION by Saturday May 4**th.

Please note that lunch will be held at 12:00 pm, and registration is required for lunch at the time you register for the meeting. The cost is \$15, which will be payable May 11th by either cash or check. Unfortunately no credit card payments can be accepted. <u>Please register for lunch by Saturday, May 4th</u>. The meeting is scheduled to conclude at 2:05 pm. Please plan to be present for the entire meeting.

Thank you for your time in reviewing these documents and attending the meeting. We look forward to being together in person as we move forward with the ministry of the congregations of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee.

Here are the ways to give to the offering: ▲ send a check to the Presbytery office (1113 Murfreesboro Rd, Suite 106, #216, Franklin, TN 37064)

▲ go to the presbytery website, <u>www.pbymidtn.org</u>, and click the "Give Now" button

▲ scan the QR Code on the agenda which will direct you to the presbytery website.

First Presbyterian Church 210 N. Spring St. Murfreesboro, TN 37130

Where Should I Park?



<u>4 Main Parking</u> <u>Areas:</u>

A. Front parking lot

B. Spring St. - both sides of street

C. Church parking lot on Spring St. (behind building)

D. Bank parking lot (as available)

<u>Additional Parking:</u> Additional parking around downtown area as available.

Where Should I Enter?



Enter the building through our College St. Glass Doors on the left.

The Presbytery of Middle Tennessee is a community of churches and church leaders whose role is to guide and support the work of its constituents, striving to build up the body of Christ through connections of mutual support, creating a culture of leadership excellence and church transformation.

ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-SIXTH STATED MEETING

THE PRESBYTERY OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE

AGENDA

SATURDAY, MAY 11, 2024

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MURFREESBORO

8:45 am	OPTIC	PTIONAL: Presentation from Keenan Rodgers, Board of Pensions (Classroom C)						
9:15-10:00 am 9:45 am		Registration (Order of the Day in CAPS) Orientation to First Time Commissioners – Mary Catherine Sevier (10 min)						
10:00 am	1.	 CONVENE Establishment of Quorum Adoption of Agenda and Approval of Minutes of 155th Stated Meeting Seating of Corresponding Members 						
		Welcome from host FPC Murfreesboro						
10:10 am	2.	 WORSHIP Offering: Nourish Food Bank Sermon: The Rev. Terry Newland The Lord's Supper 						
11:00 am 11:10 am	3. 4.	BREAK Reconvene/REPORTS (numbers indicate order in packet) Recognition of First Time Presbyters						
		Greetings from the Rev. Greg Goodwiller, Living Waters Synod EP and Acting Stated Clerk						
11:20 am		(1) Administrative Committee – Jane Herring (10 minutes)						
11:30 am		(2) Finance Committee – Evelyn Graham (15 minutes)						
11: 45 am		 (3) Commission on Ministry – Erin Howton-Angel (15 minutes) Keenan Rodgers, Board of Pensions Dissolution of the Central 						

Culleoka AC

1: 00 pm	(4) Personnel Task Force – Lavona Russell
1. 10	(10 minutes)
1: 10 pm	(5) Committee on Preparation for
	Ministry – Lisa Hermann
	(10 minutes)
1:20 pm	(6) Committee on Mutual Support –
	Bobby Harding (10 minutes)
1:30pm	(7) Committee on Church
	Transformation – John Hilley (10
	minutes)
1:40 pm	(8) Committee on Social Justice – Henry
	Deaderick (10 minutes)
1:50 pm	Bridge Executive Presbyter report –
	Terry Newland (10 minutes)
2:00 pm	(9) Report of the Stated Clerk -
	Mary Catherine Sevier (10
	minutes)
2:10 pm	ANNOUNCEMENTS and ADJOURNMENT
	157 th Stated Meeting,
	Thursday, August 8, 2024
	in person
	Second Presbyterian Church, Nashville
	Closing Prayer

Adjournment

*Here are the ways to give to today's offering: ▲ send a check to the Presbytery office (1113 Murfreesboro Rd, Suite 106, #216, Franklin, TN 37064)
▲ go to the presbytery website, <u>www.pbymidtn.org</u>, and click the "Give Now" button
▲ scan the QR Code below which will take you to the donation page





REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE Presbytery of Middle Tennessee May 11, 2024

INFORMATION

- The Administrative Committee ordinarily meets on the second Wednesday of each month, hybrid format in person and via Zoom, at 4:30 pm following the meeting of the Finance Committee.
- The Administrative Committee receives regular reports from the Executive Presbyter, the Stated Clerk, and the Treasurer.
- The Administrative Committee has begun turning our hearts and minds toward the process needed to search for an interim EP and we are looking at methods of examining our own system for the sake of becoming a more robust Presbytery, strong in our polity and strong in our Christian fidelity to one another, to the church, and to God's call on our lives to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ to the people of Middle Tennessee.

ADMIT TO RECORD

- 1. The "Bridge EP search team" has been dissolved and we welcomed our new Bridge EP on March 18, 2024, the Rev. Terry Newland.
- 2. The Administrative Committee voted to return to in-person stated presbytery meetings; called meetings may be by Zoom format as determined on a case-by-case basis. The August 2024 stated meeting will be held in person at Second Presbyterian Church rather than by Zoom. A hybrid format is not being considered right now.
- 3. A clarification: the Trinity Task Force is a temporary task force of the Finance Committee, not a joint task force of Admin and Finance.
- 4. St. John Presbyterian Church of Fayetteville has filed for gracious separation. An Isaiah 1:18 team is being appointed and will be working with the congregation through the Isaiah 1:18 Gracious Separation Process.
- 5. The Administrative Committee was informed of the following resignations and subsequently informed the Nominating Task Force: Committee on Leadership Excellence: Aaron Stauffer, TE, Class of 2024 and Commission on Ministry, Ora Bransford Lux, RE, Class of 2026, Mark Mueller, TE, Class of 2025
- 6. The offering for the 156th Stated Presbytery Meeting May will go to the Nourish Food Bank.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) The Administrative Committee recommends that the Nueva Vida Task Force which reports to the Committee on Mutual Support be made a standing task force.
- 2) The Administrative Committee recommends that the Manual of Missions and Operation be amended on page 17 to include the word "Standing" in the description of the Nueva Vida Task Force. This recommendation will require a 2/3 vote.
- 3) The Administrative Committee recommends that the Manual of Missions and Operation be amended on pages 6 and 16 to delete reference to the Pastors-to-Pastors program. This recommendation comes at the request of the Commission on Ministry because said program no longer exists.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT TO THE PRESBYTERY OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE May 11, 2024

INFORMATION

1. The Finance Committee conducts a hybrid meeting at 3:00 on the second Tuesday of each month at Westminster Nashville in person and on Zoom. The committee meets immediately before the Administrative Committee so that the committees are able to meet together to discuss joint issues, if necessary.

ADMIT TO RECORD

- 1. Financial statements are attached including year to date activity through March 2024 and monthly activity for March 2024. A summary of both the balance sheet and the income statement is also attached. Items to note:
 - a. Pledged giving is \$9,462 over budget for March 2024 and is over budget \$6,044 year to date. Thank you to our churches.
 - b. An invoice of \$20,000 was received for the demolition of Central Presbyterian Church in Culleoka, TN. Included in this bill is a fine of over \$8,000 for the failure to demolish the building in a timely manner. The payment of this invoice is the result of the change in designated account 3001-43.
 - c. The Matthew 25 Food Project, Acct 3002-33, received a \$40,000 grant from the Kharis Foundation.
- 2. Regarding a potential long-term lease between Trinity Presbyterian and the Linden Waldorf School, an additional member was added to the task force assigned to work with Trinity. This addition was in response to the presbytery's desire to diversify the task force. John Hinkle (TE, Murfreesboro, First) was added to the three original members of Steve Douse (RE Nashville, First), Allen Kennedy (RE Nashville, First), and Jane Herring (TE Chair of Admin).

3. The Administrative Commission (AC) for Brick Church Presbyterian in Giles County began their work in accordance with the charge they have been given to determine the status of this church congregation. Members of this AC are Amy Stoker (TE), Carol Foster (RE), Chris Williams (RE), and Jim Moran (TE).

PMT Summary of Financial Results Ending March 31, 2024

Income Statement

				Jan thru	Year to	Over/	2024
	March 2024	March 2024	Over/(Under)	March 2024	Date	Under	Annual
	Actual	Budget	Budget	Actual	Budget	Budget	Budget
Pledged Giving	\$33,489.88	\$24,027.22	\$9,462.66	\$62,302.22	\$56,258.13	\$6,044.09	\$522,000.00
Investment Income	\$13,639.82	\$13,642.00	(\$2.18)	\$13,868.54	\$13,642.00	\$226.54	\$54,568.00
Total Income	\$47,129.70	\$37,669.22	\$9,460.48	\$76,170.76	\$69,900.13	\$6,270.63	\$576,568.00
Total Expenses	\$52,428.47	\$48,795.54	\$3,632.93	\$109,389.00	\$108,952.12	\$436.88	\$576,912.75
Net Ordinary Income	(\$5,298.77)	(\$11,126.32)	\$5,827.55	(\$33,218.24)	(\$39,051.99)	\$5,833.75	(\$344.75)

Balance Sheet for the Month End of February 2024 and March 2024

	Balance as of	Balance as of		Balance as of	Balance as of	
	Feb 29, 2024	March 31, 2024	Difference	Dec 31, 2023	March 31, 2024	Difference
Total Assets	\$2,569,268.55	\$2,625,895.97	\$56,627.42	\$2,337,909.67	\$2,625,895.97	\$287,986.30
Less:						
Liabilities	\$23,224.46	\$37,753.45	(\$14,528.99)	\$172,752.18	\$37,753.45	(\$134,998.73)
Equity	\$2,546,044.09	\$2,588,142.52	(\$42,098.43)	\$2,165,157.49	\$2,588,142.52	\$422,985.03
	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Vanguard Balance	\$2,457,629.43	\$2,502,829.95	\$45,200.52	\$1,956,222.67	\$2,502,829.95	\$546,607.28
Pinnacle Bank Balance	\$88,414.12	\$108,066.02	\$19,651.90	\$215,378.47	\$108,066.02	(\$107,312.45)

Designated Funds	Balance as of	Balance as of	
	Feb 29, 2024	March 31, 2024	Difference
3001-01 Allowance for church defaults	\$200,000.00	\$200,000.00	\$0.00
	\$0.00	¢212 207 20	¢212 207 20
3001-08 Designation - NCD Upper Cumberland	\$0.00	\$313,387.20	\$313,387.20
3001-41 · Silver Point, Mattie Smith	(\$5,842.07)	(\$5,984.32)	(\$142.25)
3001-42 · New Hope, Franklin	\$395,196.54	\$395,196.54	\$0.00
3001-43 · Central Presbyterian, Culleoka	\$1,026.00	(\$19,304.70)	(\$20,330.70)
3001-04 · Designation - NCD (Properties) - Other	\$250,620.95	\$250,620.95	\$0.00
3001-10 · Youth & Young Adult Support	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00
3001-11 · Connectional Development Fund	\$8,152.52	\$8,152.52	\$0.00
3001-12 · Social Media & Technology Fund	\$6,875.39	\$6,875.39	\$0.00
3001-13 · Leadership Dev & Education Fund	\$16,762.68	\$16,762.68	\$0.00
3001-14 · Mediation Fund	\$18,000.00	\$18,000.00	\$0.00
3001-15 · Designation Matthew 25 Fund	\$45,680.00	\$45,680.00	\$0.00
3001 Unrestricted Net Assets - Other	\$1,052,234.37	\$1,038,634.37	(\$13,600.00)
Temporary Restricted Funds			
3002-01 · Centsability	\$12,048.01	\$12,124.46	\$76.45
3002-02 · Peacemaking	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
3002-05 · Guatemalan Support Funds	\$12,489.45	\$12,519.45	\$30.00
3002-06 Pastoral Care	\$1,470.00	\$1,470.00	\$0.00
3002-09 · Disaster Assistance Fund	\$18,149.02	\$18,149.02	\$0.00
3002-10 · Triennium	\$2,941.26	\$2,941.26	\$0.00
3002-12 · Women in Ministry	\$190.00	\$190.00	\$0.00
3002-26 · Sabbatical Assistance	\$4,625.82	\$4,625.82	\$0.00
3002-27 · Hispanic New Church Dev	\$96,030.51	\$96,322.82	\$292.31
3002-32 · CPM - Scholarships	\$5,248.68	\$5,248.68	\$0.00
3002-33 · Matthew 25 Food Project	(\$7,660.63)	\$28,210.24	\$35,870.87
3002-34 · Mburu Family Fund	\$3,641.15	\$3,641.15	\$0.00
3002-50 · St. Andrews Fund	\$56,636.75	\$56,636.75	\$0.00
3002-52 · Meeting scholar/preacher	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$0.00
3002-62 · Pastor to Pastors	\$1,907.40	\$1,907.40	\$0.00

3003 - Perm. Restricted Funds

\$10,749.80 \$10,749.80

\$0.00

The Presbytery of Middle Tennessee Actual to Budget Receipts and Disbursements Period Ending March 2024

		Mar 2024		Jan-Mar 2024			
	Mar 2024 Actual	Budget	\$ Over Budget	Actual	YTD Budget	\$ Over Budget	Annual Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense		<u> </u>	+ • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •			t oren _ mager	
Income							
4000 · Pledged giving	33,489.88	24,027.22	9,462.66	62,302.22	56,258.13	6,044.09	522,000.00
4070 · Investment income 4070-10 · Investment income	12 620 82	13.642.00	0.19	12 969 54	12 642 00	226 54	E4 E68 00
4070-10 · Investment income Total 4070 · Investment income	13,639.82 13,639.82	13,642.00	-2.18 -2.18	13,868.54 13,868.54	13,642.00	226.54 226.54	54,568.00 54,568.00
Total Income	47,129.70	37,669.22	9,460.48	76,170.76	69,900.13	6,270.63	576,568.00
Gross Profit	47,129.70	37,669.22	9,460.48	76,170.76	69,900.13	6,270.63	576,568.00
Expense							
5000 · Finance							
5000-01 · Occupancy	550.00	550.00	0.00	1,650.00	1,650.00	0.00	6,600.00
5000-02 · Equipment	0.00	208.33	-208.33	0.00	624.99	-624.99	2,500.00
5000-03 · Insurance 5000-05 · Office Expense	2,438.00 454.92	2,000.00 166.67	438.00 288.25	2,438.00 1,264.39	2,000.00 500.01	438.00 764.38	2,000.00 2,000.00
5000-06 · POMA (Database)	0.00	0.00	0.00	830.00	1,250.00	-420.00	1,250.00
5000-07 · Telephone	188.50	250.00	-61.50	565.50	750.00	-184.50	3,000.00
5000-08 · Audit Fee	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	22,877.00
5000-11 · Processing Fees (Bank, Payroll)	166.03	166.67	-0.64	627.98	500.01	127.97	2,000.00
5000-12 · Webpage	175.00	83.33	91.67	175.00	249.99	-74.99	1,000.00
5070-01 · GA Per Capita	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	146,677.00
5070-03 · Synod Per Capita Total 5000 · Finance	14,892.25 18,864.70	14,892.25 18,317.25	0.00 547.45	14,892.25 22,443.12	14,892.25 22,417.25	0.00 25.87	59,569.00 249,473.00
5020 · Committee on Mutual Support	10,004.70	10,317.25	547.45	22,443.12	22,417.23	25.07	249,475.00
5010-03 · NaCoMe Camp	5,400.00	5,400.00	0.00	10,800.00	10,800.00	0.00	27,000.00
5020-02 · MTSU Campus Ministry	1,666.67	1,666.67	0.00	5,000.01	5,000.01	0.00	20,000.00
5020-03 · TTU Campus Ministry	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00	4,500.00	4,500.00	0.00	18,000.00
5020-05 · Vanderbilt Campus Ministry	1,750.00	1,750.00	0.00	5,250.00	5,250.00	0.00	21,000.00
5020-06 · Synod - Campus Ministry Support	-2,201.41	-2,201.41	0.00	-6,604.23	-6,604.23	0.00	-26,416.92
Total 5020 · Committee on Mutual Support	8,115.26	8,115.26	0.00	18,945.78	18,945.78	0.00	59,583.08
5030 · Committee on Ministry	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5030-01 · Retreat - COM 5030-04 · Background Checks	0.00 280.07	0.00 83.33	0.00 196.74	0.00 557.51	0.00 249.99	0.00 307.52	0.00 1,000.00
Total 5030 · Committee on Ministry	280.07	83.33	196.74	557.51	249.99	307.52	1,000.00
5040 · Comm. on Prep. for Ministry	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5050 · Comm. on Church Transformation							
5050-07 · Sudanese church support	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5050-08 · Hispanic church support	2,083.33	2,083.33	0.00	6,249.99	6,249.99	0.00	25,000.00
Total 5050 · Comm. on Church Transformation	2,083.33	2,083.33	0.00	6,249.99	6,249.99	0.00	25,000.00
5060-01 · Comm. for Social Justice	0.00	83.33	-83.33	0.00	249.99	-249.99	1,000.00
5100 · Administrative Committee	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5100-02 · GA Co-Moderator Visit 5100-03 · Moderator Conference	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5100-04 · EP expenses	946.18	833.33	112.85	1,799.50	2,499.99	-700.49	10,000.00
5100-05 · EP Salary	7,461.92	3,896.92	3,565.00	15,255.76	11,690.76	3,565.00	46,763.00
5100-06 · EP Housing	4,124.16	4,124.17	-0.01	12,372.48	12,372.51	-0.03	49,490.00
5100-07 · EP FICA	886.30	613.58	272.72	2,113.46	1,840.74	272.72	7,363.00
5100-08 · EP Medical/Pension	3,190.16	3,128.22	61.94	9,384.66	9,384.66	0.00	37,538.67
5100-14 · EP 403b Match	252.50	252.50	0.00	757.50	757.50	0.00	3,030.00
5100-20 · Stated Clerk Salary	2,253.34 172.38	2,253.33 172.42	0.01 -0.04	6,760.02 517.14	6,759.99 517.26	0.03 -0.12	27,040.00 2,069.00
5100-21 · Stated Clerk FICA 5100-23 · Stated Clerk expenses	75.00	166.67	-91.67	225.00	500.01	-275.01	2,009.00
5100-30 · Operations Coord. Wages	1,785.34	1,785.33	0.01	5.356.02	5,355.99	0.03	21,424.00
5100-31 · Operations Coord. FICA	136.58	136.58	0.00	409.74	409.74	0.00	1,639.00
5100-32 · Operations Coord. Med/Pension	587.38	583.33	4.05	1,764.95	1,749.99	14.96	7,000.00
5100-61 · Accounting	1,213.87	1,000.00	213.87	4,476.37	3,500.00	976.37	11,500.00
5100-70 · Legal Fees	0.00	833.33	-833.33	0.00	2,499.99	-2,499.99	10,000.00
5100-80 · EP Search expenses	0.00	333.33	-333.33	0.00	999.99	-999.99	4,000.00
5100 · Administrative Committee - Other	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total 5100 · Administrative Committee	23,085.11 52,428.47	20,113.04 48,795.54	2,972.07 3,632.93	61,192.60 109,389.00	60,839.12 108,952.12	353.48 436.88	240,856.67 576,912.75
Total Expense Net Ordinary Income	-5,298.77	-11,126.32	5,827.55	-33,218.24	-39,051.99	5,833.75	-344.75
Other Income/Expense	-3,230.11	-11,120.32	5,027.55	-33,210.24	-33,031.33	5,055.75	-044.70
Other Income							
7001 · Unbudgeted Income							
7001-15 · Unrealized gain/loss on Invest.	45,200.52	0.00	45,200.52	86,607.28	0.00	86,607.28	0.00
7001-21 · Temp. Restricted-Receipts	42,475.98	0.00	42,475.98	62,549.48	0.00	62,549.48	0.00
Total 7001 · Unbudgeted Income	87,676.50	0.00	87,676.50	149,156.76	0.00	149,156.76	0.00
Total Other Income	87,676.50	0.00	87,676.50	149,156.76	0.00	149,156.76	0.00
Other Expense							
7002 · Unbudgeted expenses	6 206 2F	0.00	6,206.35	25.832.01	0.00	25.832.01	0.00
7002-21 · Temp. Restricted disbursements	6,206.35 6,206.35	0.00	6,206.35	25,832.01	0.00	25,832.01	0.00
Total 7002 · Unbudgeted expenses Total Other Expense	6,206.35	0.00	6,206.35	25,832.01	0.00	25,832.01	0.00
Net Other Income	81,470.15	0.00	81,470.15	123,324.75	0.00	123,324.75	0.00
let Income	76,171.38	-11,126.32	87,297.70	90,106.51	-39,051.99	129,158.50	-344.75
	. 0, 17 1.00	, 120.32	07,201.10	20,100.01		0,100.00	

Page 1 of 3

The Presbytery of Middle Tennessee Balance Sheet As of March 31, 2024

ASSETS	Mar 31, 24
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
1005 · Pinnacle Bank - PMT	105,174.49
1015 · Pinnacle Bank - NV	2,891.53
Total Checking/Savings	108,066.02
Other Current Assets	
1102 · Prior year pledges receivable	15,000.00
1300 · Investments	
1300-11 · Vanguard-Pooled	1,297,224.94
1300-12 · Vanguard-Default Reserve	629,766.84
1300-13 · Vanguard-Endowment	10,749.80
1300-14 · Vanguard-Cash Equivalent	565,088.37
Total 1300 · Investments	2,502,829.95
Total Other Current Assets	2,517,829.95
Total Current Assets	2,625,895.97
Fixed Assets	
1500 · Fixed Assets	
1500-02 · Furniture and Equipment	2,165.37
1500-10 · Accumulated Depreciation	-2,165.37
Total 1500 · Fixed Assets	0.00
Total Fixed Assets	0.00
TOTAL ASSETS	2,625,895.97
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
20000 · *Accounts Payable	21,799.32
Total Accounts Payable	21,799.32
Other Current Liabilities	
2300 · Payroll Withholdings	137.79
2500 · Designated gifts	
2500-01 · Joy gift	13,895.00
2500-02 · One Great Hour of Sharing	358.00
2500-03 · Peacemaking - GA	531.34
2500-04 · Theological education	200.00
2500-12 · Campus Ministries	125.00
2500-30 · Other designated gifts	707.00
Total 2500 · Designated gifts	15,816.34
Total Other Current Liabilities	15,954.13
Total Current Liabilities	37,753.45
	57,755.45

The Presbytery of Middle Tennessee Balance Sheet As of March 31, 2024 37,753.45

Equity	
3001 · Unrestricted Net Assets	
3001-01 · Allowance for church defaults	200,000.00
3001-04 · Designation - NCD (Properties)	
3001-08 · Designation - NCD Upper Cumberl	313,387.20
3001-41 · Silver Point, Mattie Smith	-5,984.32
3001-42 · New Hope, Franklin	395,196.54
3001-43 · Central Presbyterian, Culleoka	-19,304.70
3001-04 · Designation - NCD (Properties) - Other	250,620.95
Total 3001-04 · Designation - NCD (Properties)	933,915.67
3001-10 · Youth & Young Adult Support	10,000.00
3001-11 · Connectional Development Fund	8,152.52
3001-12 · Social Media & Technology Fund	6,875.39
3001-13 · Leadership Dev & Education Fund	16,762.68
3001-14 · Mediation Fund	18,000.00
3001-15 · Designation Matthew 25 Fund	45,680.00
3001 · Unrestricted Net Assets - Other	1,038,634.37
Total 3001 · Unrestricted Net Assets	2,278,020.63
3002 · Temporarily restricted funds	
3002-01 · Centsability	12,124.46
3002-05 · Guatemalan Support Funds	12,519.45
3002-06 · Pastoral Care	1,470.00
3002-09 · Disaster Assistance Fund	18,149.02
3002-10 · Triennium	2,941.26
3002-12 · Women in Ministry	190.00
3002-26 · Sabbatical Assistance	4,625.82
3002-27 · Hispanic New Church Dev	96,322.82
3002-32 · CPM - Scholarships	5,248.68
3002-33 · Matthew 25 Food Project	28,210.24
3002-34 · Mburu Family Fund	3,641.15
3002-50 · St. Andrews Fund	56,636.75
3002-52 · Meeting scholar/preacher	5,000.00
3002-62 Pastor to Pastors	1,907.40
Total 3002 · Temporarily restricted funds	248,987.05
3003 · Permanently restricted funds	10,749.80
3100 · Restricted/Designated income	-36,717.47
32000 · Retained Earnings	-3,004.00
Net Income	90,106.51
Total Equity	2,588,142.52
AL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	2,625,895.97

Total Liabilities

The Presbytery of Middle Tennessee Actual to Budget Receipts and Disbursements Period Ending March 2024

		Mar 2024		Jan-Mar 2024			
	Mar 2024 Actual	Budget	\$ Over Budget	Actual	YTD Budget	\$ Over Budget	Annual Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense							
Income							
4000 · Pledged giving	33,489.88	24,027.22	9,462.66	62,302.22	56,258.13	6,044.09	522,000.00
4070 · Investment income 4070-10 · Investment income	13.639.82	13.642.00	-2.18	13.868.54	13.642.00	226.54	54.568.00
Total 4070 · Investment income	13,639.82	13,642.00	-2.18	13,868.54	13,642.00	226.54	54,568.00
Total Income	47,129.70	37,669.22	9,460.48	76,170.76	69,900.13	6,270.63	576,568.00
Gross Profit	47,129,70	37.669.22	9,460,48	76,170,76	69,900,13	6,270.63	576.568.00
Expense		01,000.22	0,100.10	10,110.10	00,000.10	0,210.00	010,000.00
5000 · Finance							
5000-01 · Occupancy	550.00	550.00	0.00	1,650.00	1,650.00	0.00	6,600.00
5000-02 · Equipment	0.00	208.33	-208.33	0.00	624.99	-624.99	2,500.00
5000-03 · Insurance	2,438.00	2,000.00	438.00	2,438.00	2,000.00	438.00	2,000.00
5000-05 · Office Expense	454.92	166.67	288.25	1,264.39	500.01	764.38	2,000.00
5000-06 · POMA (Database)	0.00	0.00	0.00	830.00	1,250.00	-420.00	1,250.00
5000-07 · Telephone	188.50	250.00	-61.50	565.50	750.00	-184.50	3,000.00
5000-08 · Audit Fee	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	22,877.00
5000-11 · Processing Fees (Bank, Payroll)	166.03 175.00	166.67 83.33	-0.64	627.98 175.00	500.01 249.99	127.97 -74.99	2,000.00
5000-12 · Webpage 5070-01 · GA Per Capita	0.00	83.33	91.67 0.00	0.00	249.99	-74.99	1,000.00 146,677.00
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	14,892.25	14,892.25	0.00	14,892.25	14.892.25	0.00	59.569.00
5070-03 · Synod Per Capita Total 5000 · Finance	14,892.25	14,892.25	547.45	22,443.12	22,417.25	25.87	249,473.00
Total 5000 · Finance 5020 · Committee on Mutual Support	18,804.70	10,317.25	547.45	22,443.12	22,417.25	20.67	249,473.00
5010-03 · NaCoMe Camp	5,400.00	5,400.00	0.00	10.800.00	10,800,00	0.00	27.000.00
5020-02 · MTSU Campus Ministry	1.666.67	1.666.67	0.00	5.000.01	5.000.01	0.00	20.000.00
5020-02 · M ISO Campus Ministry 5020-03 · TTU Campus Ministry	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00	4,500.00	4,500.00	0.00	18,000.00
5020-05 · Vanderbilt Campus Ministry	1,750.00	1,750.00	0.00	5,250.00	5,250.00	0.00	21,000.0
5020-06 · Synod - Campus Ministry Support	-2.201.41	-2,201.41	0.00	-6,604.23	-6,604.23	0.00	-26,416.9
Total 5020 · Committee on Mutual Support	8,115,26	8,115,26	0.00	18,945.78	18,945.78	0.00	59,583.0
5030 · Committee on Ministry	-,	-,					
5030-01 · Retreat - COM	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0
5030-04 · Background Checks	280.07	83.33	196.74	557.51	249.99	307.52	1,000.00
Total 5030 · Committee on Ministry	280.07	83.33	196.74	557.51	249.99	307.52	1,000.00
5040 · Comm. on Prep. for Ministry	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5050 · Comm. on Church Transformation							
5050-07 · Sudanese church support	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5050-08 · Hispanic church support	2,083.33	2,083.33	0.00	6,249.99	6,249.99	0.00	25,000.00
Total 5050 · Comm. on Church Transformation	2,083.33	2,083.33	0.00	6,249.99	6,249.99	0.00	25,000.00
5060-01 · Comm. for Social Justice	0.00	83.33	-83.33	0.00	249.99	-249.99	1,000.00
5100 · Administrative Committee							
5100-02 · GA Co-Moderator Visit	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0
5100-03 · Moderator Conference	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0
5100-04 · EP expenses	946.18	833.33	112.85	1,799.50	2,499.99	-700.49	10,000.0
5100-05 · EP Salary	7,461.92	3,896.92	3,565.00	15,255.76	11,690.76	3,565.00	46,763.0
5100-06 · EP Housing	4,124.16	4,124.17	-0.01	12,372.48	12,372.51	-0.03	49,490.0
5100-07 · EP FICA	886.30	613.58	272.72	2,113.46	1,840.74	272.72	7,363.0
5100-08 · EP Medical/Pension	3,190.16	3,128.22	61.94	9,384.66	9,384.66	0.00	37,538.6
5100-14 · EP 403b Match	252.50	252.50	0.00	757.50	757.50	0.00	3,030.0
5100-20 · Stated Clerk Salary	2,253.34	2,253.33	0.01	6,760.02	6,759.99	0.03	27,040.0
5100-21 · Stated Clerk FICA	172.38	172.42	-0.04	517.14	517.26	-0.12	2,069.0
5100-23 · Stated Clerk expenses	75.00 1.785.34	166.67 1.785.33	-91.67 0.01	225.00 5.356.02	500.01 5.355.99	-275.01 0.03	2,000.0 21,424.0
5100-30 · Operations Coord. Wages							
5100-31 · Operations Coord. FICA	136.58	136.58	0.00	409.74	409.74	0.00	1,639.0
5100-32 · Operations Coord. Med/Pension 5100-61 · Accounting	587.38 1.213.87	583.33 1,000.00	4.05 213.87	1,764.95 4,476.37	1,749.99 3,500.00	14.96 976.37	7,000.0
	1,213.87	1,000.00	-833.33	4,476.37	3,500.00	-2 499 99	11,500.0 10,000.0
5100-70 · Legal Fees 5100-80 · EP Search expenses	0.00	833.33 333.33	-833.33 -333.33	0.00	2,499.99	-2,499.99	4,000.0
5100-80 · EP Search expenses 5100 · Administrative Committee - Other	0.00	333.33	-333.33	0.00	0.00	-999.99	4,000.0
Total 5100 · Administrative Committee	23,085.11	20,113.04	2,972.07	61,192.60	60,839.12	353.48	240,856.6
Total Expense	52,428.47	48,795.54	3,632.93	109,389.00	108,952.12	436.88	576,912.7
Vet Ordinary Income Other Income/Expense	-5,298.77	-11,126.32	5,827.55	-33,218.24	-39,051.99	5,833.75	-344.7
				1			1
Other Income				1			1
7001 · Unbudgeted Income 7001-15 · Unrealized gain/loss on Invest.	45,200.52	0.00	45,200.52	86,607.28	0.00	86,607.28	0.0
7001-15 · Unrealized gain/loss on Invest. 7001-21 · Temp. Restricted-Receipts	45,200.52	0.00	45,200.52	62,549,48	0.00	62.549.48	0.0
	42,475.98	0.00	42,475.98	149,156.76	0.00		0.0
Total 7001 · Unbudgeted Income	87,676.50	0.00	87,676.50	149,156.76	0.00	149,156.76 149,156.76	0.0
Total Other Income	87,070.50	0.00	87,070.50	149,150.76	0.00	149,100.76	0.0
Other Expense	1						
7002 · Unbudgeted expenses	6 206 25	0.00	6 206 25	25 832 04	0.00	25 822 04	0.0
7002-21 · Temp. Restricted disbursements	6,206.35	0.00	6,206.35	25,832.01	0.00	25,832.01	
Total 7002 · Unbudgeted expenses	6,206.35	0.00	6,206.35	25,832.01	0.00	25,832.01	0.0
Total Other Expense	6,206.35	0.00	6,206.35	25,832.01	0.00	25,832.01	0.0
-	01 170 1-	0.05			0.00		
Net Other Income	81,470.15 76,171.38	0.00	81,470.15 87,297.70	123,324.75 90,106.51	0.00 -39,051.99	123,324.75 129,158.50	0.0

The Presbytery of Middle Tennessee Balance Sheet As of March 31, 2024

	Mar 31, 24
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings 1005 · Pinnacle Bank - PMT	105,174.49
1015 · Pinnacle Bank - NV	2,891.53
Total Checking/Savings	108,066.02
Other Current Assets 1102 · Prior year pledges receivable	15.000.00
1300 · Investments	13,000.00
1300-11 · Vanguard-Pooled	1,297,224.94
1300-12 · Vanguard-Default Reserve	629,766.84
1300-13 · Vanguard-Endowment 1300-14 · Vanguard-Cash Equivalent	10,749.80 565,088.37
Total 1300 · Investments	2,502,829.95
Total Other Current Assets	2,517,829.95
Total Current Assets	2,625,895.97
Fixed Assets 1500 · Fixed Assets	
1500-02 · Furniture and Equipment	2,165.37
1500-10 · Accumulated Depreciation	-2,165.37
Total 1500 · Fixed Assets Total Fixed Assets	0.00
TOTAL ASSETS	2,625,895.97
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities Accounts Payable	
20000 · *Accounts Payable	21,799.32
Total Accounts Payable	21,799.32
Other Current Liabilities	
2300 · Payroll Withholdings 2500 · Designated gifts	137.79
2500-01 · Joy gift	13,895.00
2500-02 · One Great Hour of Sharing	358.00
2500-03 · Peacemaking - GA 2500-04 · Theological education	531.34 200.00
2500-04 · Theological education 2500-12 · Campus Ministries	125.00
2500-30 · Other designated gifts	707.00
Total 2500 · Designated gifts	15,816.34
Total Other Current Liabilities Total Current Liabilities	15,954.13
Total Liabilities	37,753.45
Equity	
3001 · Unrestricted Net Assets	
3001-01 · Allowance for church defaults 3001-04 · Designation - NCD (Properties)	200,000.00
3001-08 · Designation - NCD Upper Cumberl	313,387.20
3001-41 · Silver Point, Mattie Smith	-5,984.32
3001-42 · New Hope, Franklin 3001-43 · Central Presbyterian, Culleoka	395,196.54 -19,304.70
3001-04 · Designation - NCD (Properties) - Other	250,620.95
Total 3001-04 · Designation - NCD (Properties)	933,915.67
3001-10 · Youth & Young Adult Support	10,000.00
3001-11 · Connectional Development Fund 3001-12 · Social Media & Technology Fund	8,152.52 6,875.39
3001-13 · Leadership Dev & Education Fund	16,762.68
3001-14 · Mediation Fund	18,000.00
3001-15 · Designation Matthew 25 Fund 3001 · Unrestricted Net Assets - Other	45,680.00 1,038,634.37
Total 3001 · Unrestricted Net Assets	2,278,020.63
3002 · Temporarily restricted funds	
3002-01 · Centsability	12,124.46
3002-05 · Guatemalan Support Funds 3002-06 · Pastoral Care	12,519.45 1,470.00
3002-09 · Disaster Assistance Fund	18,149.02
3002-10 · Triennium	2,941.26
3002-12 · Women in Ministry 3002-26 · Sabbatical Assistance	190.00 4,625.82
3002-27 · Hispanic New Church Dev	96,322.82
3002-32 · CPM - Scholarships	5,248.68
3002-33 · Matthew 25 Food Project	28,210.24
3002-34 · Mburu Family Fund 3002-50 · St. Andrews Fund	3,641.15 56,636.75
3002-52 · Meeting scholar/preacher	5,000.00
3002-62 · Pastor to Pastors	1,907.40
Total 3002 · Temporarily restricted funds	248,987.05
3003 · Permanently restricted funds 3100 · Restricted/Designated income	10,749.80 -36,717.47
32000 · Retained Earnings	-3,004.00
Net Income	90,106.51
Total Equity TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	2,588,142.52 2,625,895.97
	2,020,030.31

Commission on Ministry Report to the Presbytery May 11, 2024

ADMIT TO RECORD

- The Rev. Stephanie Boaz was added to the pulpit supply list.
- Kimberly Coward was added to the pulpit supply list after a sustained exam.
- The Rev. Jason Loscuito, a minister of another denomination, was approved to serve at Glencliff as Supply through July 7, 2024
- The Rev. Evelyn Graham was appointed moderator for the Woodland Church.
- An exit interview was conducted with The Rev. Adrian White.
- Editorial changes were approved to the Former Pastor Policy to ensure gender inclusive language.
- In accordance with the Book of Order, Terms of Dissolution were attached to the Ministerial Compensation Policy.
- The call between The Rev. Chris Joiner and First, Franklin was dissolved with an effective date of May 31, 2024 and upon this date he is being released to The Presbyterian Church of Canada.
- The Rev. Dr. Eun Joo Kim was examined and received into the presbytery as a validated minister serving as a preaching professor at Vanderbilt Divinity School.
- A Pulpit Supply policy was adopted as amended for the presbytery.
- Background checks were ordered for all individuals on the pulpit supply list.
- The newly Rev. **DOCTOR** Amy Stoker was celebrated for her accomplishments in earning her Doctor of Ministry.
- The COM heard a presentation from Keenan Rodgers concerning the new Board of Pensions Benefits Plan and Dues Structure.
- The Pastoral Care Team is working with the Board of Pensions to host a THRIVE conference in Nashville at Westminster Church on September 26-27, 2024.
- The Rev. Katie Ory was received as a temporary member of the presbytery in accordance with G-2.0506.
- The Rev. Kaye Pickens Nickell was removed from the roll at her renouncing of her jurisdiction.

RECOMMENDATION

• That the Culleoka AC be dissolved with thanks [Final report of the AC to be included in the permanent record.]

hhudnutbeumler@nashvillewpc.org

PERSONNEL TASK FORCE REPORT FOR 5/11/24 PRESBYTERY MEETING PACKET

The Personnel Task Force of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee is not freestanding but exists as a task force of the Administrative Committee. Since Ray Thomas announced his retirement in Fall, 2023, the Personnel Task Force has been consulting the Presbytery's Personnel Policies Manual and working closely with the Administrative Committee to chart a path into and through this transition in Executive Presbyter (EP) leadership.

The Administrative Committee authorized the Personnel Task Force (PTF), along with an additional Administrative Committee member (Mark Bryan, TE, Glen Leven), to serve as the Bridge EP Search Team. Candidates were identified through networking and job posting on the PMT website. Three applicants were interviewed, references checked, and the Rev. Terry Newland was recommended to and approved by the Administration Committee to join the PMT as Bridge EP on March 18. Hopefully, everyone saw the PMT e-news announcement about Terry's background (as both a Synod and Presbytery Exec) and many members have had a chance to meet or reacquaint themselves with Terry. He has jumped right into his new roles and is "on-site" in the Presbytery three days per week and working remotely at other times.

Ray Thomas's last day in the office was March 21, and an exit interview was conducted. The PTF said farewell to Ray and Robin with a celebratory luncheon and the sharing of the best wishes and gifts from Presbytery members.

The Bridge EP and Personnel Task Force continue to work to support our Presbytery staff members during this time of transition. The PTF has now turned to next steps in this transition for the PMT by reaching out to several Presbyteries who have recently experienced leadership change and providing the Administrative Committee with some questions on next steps for this transition.

Kate Adcock

m.k.adcock@gmail.com

Report from the Committee on Preparation for Ministry to the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee May 11, 2024

Information

The Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM) is responsible for guiding, caring for, and examining candidates for ministry in our denominational process. All those seeking to become teaching elders/Ministers of the Word and Sacrament must move through the steps detailed in the CPM checklist that can be found on the presbytery website. And there are a lot of steps!

Typically, the full presbytery is only involved when prospective teaching elders desire to move from the inquiry phase to the candidacy phase and are "examined with respect to personal Christian faith, forms of Christian service undertaken, and motives for seeking the ministry." The presbytery then votes to "affirm or deny the examination." Enrollment as an inquirer and being certified "ready to receive" a call are handled by the CPM and those actions are reported back to the presbytery with recommendations. Occasionally the CPM will consider requests to validate a ministry to which a ready-to-receive candidate may be ordained. These are usually settings that are not in a church but which may be considered pastoral (e.g. hospital, hospice, prison or street chaplaincy; certain positions in seminaries and divinity schools; or work at the denominational level).

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. To receive Kimberly Coward (First, Franklin) as an Inquirer under care of Presbytery of Middle Tennessee with the full endorsement of her home church. The CPM has examined Ms. Coward.
- 2. To approve Ashley Higgins (First, Nashville) as certified ready for call. The CPM has examined Ms. Higgins.
- 3. To withdraw Keith Vinson (Spring Creek, Lebanon) from the care of the presbytery, per his request. The session of Spring Creek has been notified.
- 4. To withdraw Leslie Deslauriers (Historic Franklin) from the care of the presbytery, per her request. The session of Historic Franklin has been notified.

Kimberly Coward's Statement of Faith

- Preface: The people who loved me in my youth also loved Jesus, and I naturally absorbed that love into my own life. And because those who taught me to love Jesus also taught me that he spoke through an inerrant canon understood from a conservative evangelical perspective, I also believed that and defended it as a Christian leader for decades. I deconstructed in 2016, coming to terms with the nature of Scripture as a collection of writings that must be received for what they are not what we might wish for them to be. I have found myself continuing to believe the Christian gospel and to love the Bible-but as a person with fewer answers, less certainty, and hopefully more humility. My statement of faith reflects my current set of beliefs as I've grappled with God's revelation in Christ, witnessed in the Christian Scriptures.
- God: The Creator, Sustainer, and Lord of all creation is both personal and infinite-one God manifest as the distinct persons of Father, Son, and Spirit. God is unbound by any creaturely limit and moves toward Their¹ creatures in perfect love, manifested in parental care, compassion, and redemption. God has made humans so that we may know them, yet God has left much about God's self a mystery to us.
- Creation: God created all that exists by choice in distinction from Themselves, and God ordained humanity to rule as Their images on earth. We individually and corporately usurp God's world, which is sin, and are consequently alienated from God, from one another, from the world, and from our own selves. Even with wisdom, we lack the moral strength and resources to repair what we have broken.
- Christ: In the fulness of time God sent Jesus, the incarnate Son of God. He became human, lived a sinless life, suffered an atoning death, was raised in power, ascended to the seat of supreme power, and will return to consummate his kingdom. By his sacrifice God has redeemed us from the curse of sin, and to him God has granted every blessing that we forfeited in our sin.
- Salvation: God's Spirit always seeks, always reveals, and always draws humans toward reconciliation to their creator through Jesus Christ. To those who humble themselves before that grace, the Spirit gives more grace to open the eves of our hearts to the supremacy of Jesus and his gospel. When we respond with repentance and faith, we find the relationships ruined by sin healing in the power of God's love: justification to reconcile us to God; reconciliation to restore our bond with one another; sanctification to heal our taste for true goodness and strength to pursue it; the promise of a new heavens and earth where we will live in peace. As the firstfruits of all these gifts, God gives us Their Spirit, who manifests Their presence, fills us with power, remakes our will, and guarantees our hope.
- The Church: The object of salvation is not merely individual bliss but cosmic shalom—the kingdom of God, where God's will is done on earth as it is in heaven and where God's blessing is enjoyed. The church is the community Jesus established to bear witness to that hope, to exemplify the power of the gospel to heal, and to proclaim the gospel in word and deed. It is Christ's body, where God's Spirit works to make the redemptive presence and power of God manifest in the world. The Spirit cleanses and nourishes us through baptism and communion, outward signs representing inward grace.
- Last Things: Creation is destined to be a domain in which God's will is done on earth as it is in heaven and where all creatures experience God's presence as their greatest blessing. Jesus will come in a way and at a time that God alone knows, and those willing to receive God's grace will be raised with perfect bodies, perfect hearts. Perhaps God will grant the freedom to humans to finally choose death rather than life, but I am hopeful for the final triumph of God's love over every pocket of resistance in every human heart.
- Scripture: God spoke and acted at various times and in various ways, most fully and finally in Jesus Christ-the word made flesh. The Spirit moved in God's people to record, interpret, and apply those revelations, which the church later collected into the Old and New Testament canons. Some passages surely reflect God's words and others are human words reflecting human limitations and errors. But as Christians hear these sacred texts with humble and open hearts, God's Spirit draws them to Jesus, in whom is salvation.

I resonate with Reformed theology in several of its historic emphases:

- One covenant of grace revealed in Scripture's single story of redemption
- Divine incomprehensibility, holiness, sovereignty, and accommodation
- Creation's incurable misery apart from divine initiative
- Jesus's salvation made certain for all who are "in him"
- Justification by faith alone and sanctification by the means of grace received by faith
- Spiritual presence of Christ in the means of grace and sacraments as visible signs of invisible grace
- Leadership by clergy and laity working within an ordered context
- Historical movement toward a kingdom in which divine glory and human joy are forever coextensive

¹ I sometimes use third-person plural pronouns for God since I believe God is both triune and transcends gender categories. 156th packet 2024.05.11 19 of 57

Commission on the Ministry Presbytery of Middle Tennessee 1113 Murfreesboro Road, Suite 106, #216 Franklin, TN 37064

February 26, 2024

Dear Members of the Commission on Ministry,

At its regular meeting on February 18, 2024, the Session of First Presbyterian Church, Franklin unanimously endorsed Kimberly Coward for Inquirer status under the care of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee. Kimberly has been a blessing to our congregation, and we are excited about this next step in her journey.

Please feel free to reach out to me or to the Clerk of Session, Karen Hanson, if you have any questions.

Peace,

Chris Joiner

Ashley Higgins Statement of Faith

I believe that God is the author of all creation and that God calling it all "good" is supremely important in understanding how God views his creation. I believe God has a particular affection for the lowly and that it is the responsibility of all followers of God to repent to both God and neighbor for the ways we perpetuate broken systems. In response to repentance, we then work with God to bring redemption, physical and spiritual, to our pockets of the world for the sake of the gospel and to the Glory of God.

I believe that Jesus Christ is God who put on flesh and that it is the single most sacrificial, loving act God could have ever done for all of creation. I believe that in Jesus Christ we are undeservingly gifted a clear image of God and what it looks like to be not just a believer in God but a follower of God. I believe that Jesus' death and resurrection means that I don't have to continually work to be "good" but that I am redeemed- as is all of humanity.

I believe that through the Holy Spirit, God has proven again the depths of God's love and desire to be in relationship with all of humanity and that this allows me to be a part of the story. I believe that God's breath in my life has physical and spiritual implications for the ways in which I invite others into God's story of redemption.

I believe that God is someone who cares deeply about justice and reconciliation. I am deeply formed by Liberation Theology and its emphasis that liberation for the marginalized is liberation for us all.

In this season of life, I am much more formed and wooed by theology which points to the work of God in this world, the saving grace of Jesus Christ, and our response of gratitude (and not shame). I am compelled by theology that centers the Holy Spirit at work in our lives for the sake of the gospel (not my good deeds at work in my life for the sake of my salvation.)

In all of this, I believe that my response to God's graciousness toward me is gratitude in the form of word and deed, in ways big and small. And above all, I believe that "my" statement of faith is not an individual practice but one lived in community, that I am but one member of the Church universal, and that God calls us to live out our personal faith not individually but collectively.

Presbytery of Middle Tennessee

Committee on Mutual Support

May 11, 2024

Information

The Committee on Mutual Support has continued its work of supporting various ministries, programs, and organizations throughout Middle Tennessee including the Guatemala partnership, NaCoMe, the Nueva Vida Food Project, the UKirks (MTSU, Nashville, and Tennessee Tech), and our Hunger and Technology Grants.

Every month we welcome a representative from one of the ministries we support. In March we had the opportunity to meet with John Hilley and Lavona Russell from the Guatemala Task Force. John expressed how proud he was of what the PMT is continuing to do with the Presbytery of the Peten. Members of PMT are encouraged to reach out to learn more about this partnership and consider ways to get involved. In April we were visited by Ryan and Anna Beth Gibbons, the new directors at NaCoMe Camp and Retreat Center. They shared their excitement with the new work and look forward to working with and being supported by the PMT. They are especially hopeful to serve the PMT by knowing what we need and creatively working to meet our needs as a presbytery.

Work is being done to streamline the Hunger Grant Application. The revised application will be easier for applicants to complete and also will also provide more helpful information for our committee when we meet to discuss them.

As a part of our 2024 goals, COMS decided to reach out to each of the churches of the PMT in order to gain a better understanding of two things: (1) their awareness of COMS and what our committee does and can offer 2) to gain a better sense of their missional activities and involvement locally and abroad. Over the next few months, the members of COMS will be contacting the churches with some questions.

On April 23 the COMS took a field trip to the Nueva Vida Food Bank for a tour. We met several of the volunteers and heard from Yaheli Vargas, one of the NVFB staff members. This is a thriving and rapidly growing food ministry which runs like a well-oiled machine.

Admit to Record

 The COMS awarded two hunger grants: \$2500 to FPC Smyrna for a church-wide meal packaging event with the organization, Rise Against Hunger, and \$4000 for Nueva Vida Food Project, which seeks to "feed the hungry, undermine the systemic poverty and racism in our area, and to create vitality at Nueva Vida and other churches in the Presbytery that participate."

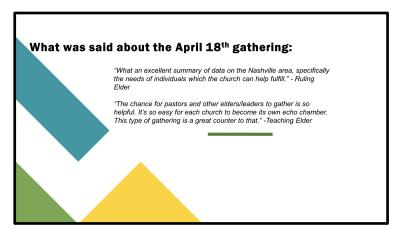
COMMITTEE ON CHURCH TRANSFORMATION REPORT TO THE PRESBYTERY OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE MAY 11, 2024

INFORMATION

The Committee is charged with engaging renewed enthusiasm for church growth and sustained vitality within existing congregations.

1. Feeling isolated?....CCT has launched a learning and support cohort for pastors, called the

Middle Tennessee "Cohort of Innovation." It is in partnership with Cyclical, Inc. and provides pastors in our Presbytery with a monthly connection to pastors meeting nationally in a learning hub and to resources from ...to online self care support. The Middle Tennessee cohort meets locally (via zoom) to support each other and to share resources aimed at innovation in the church. CCT covers the cost of the monthly subscription for up to 12 pastors

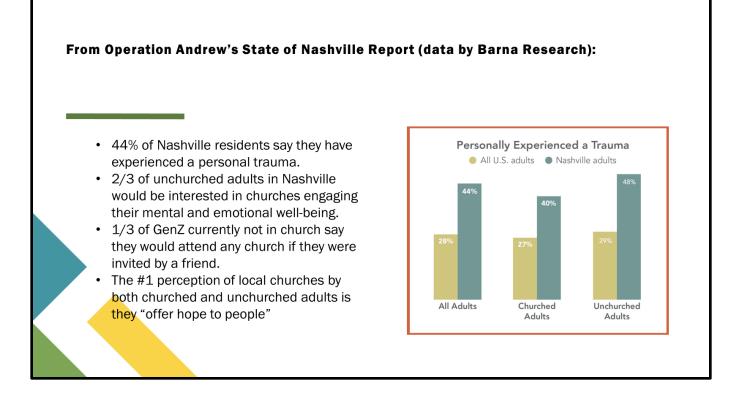


and we have 3 spots still available. (Reach out to Chair John Hilley/<u>jhilley@ebpctn.org</u> or Facilitator Keith Gunter <u>keithgunter@newcreationhendersonville.org</u> if you are interested in one of the 3 remaining spots.

2. Has your church plateaued and in decline?...CCT has two (2) available "seat passes" for use by a church in the Presbytery of Middle TN interested in revitalization. Working in partnership with Full Cyclical, churches undergo an assessment (\$3,250 value) and develop a game plan. Full Cyclical pairs you with a guide. The guide comes onsite and meets with



the leadership team. Three churches in our presbytery have completed the assessment and have a gameplan of next steps. A fourth church is scheduled for September. If you are interested in being one of the remaining two churches in this phase of funding, please contact CCT chair, John Hilley (jhilley@ebpctn.org)



If you would like to:

- Received Operation Andrew's Adam Buzard's April 18th presentation on "The State of Nashville";
- 2. Find out more about joining the Middle Tennessee Cohort of Innovation group;
- 3. How your church may be a fit for one of Full Cyclical's "Seat Pass
 - ...then contact CCT Chair John Hilley (jhilley@ebpctn.org).



ADMIT TO RECORD

1. The Committee on Church Transformation (CCT) hosted a seminar on April 18, 2024 for pastors and church leaders, featuring The Rev. Adam Buzard of Operation Andrew. The two hour conversation introduced data from Barna Research on the "State of Nashville" and surrounding areas and revealed opportunities for churches of all sizes and types of communities to reach out to their neighbors.

Presbytery of Middle Tennessee

Social Justice Committee Report to Presbytery

May 11, 2024

Members: Claire Berry(TE), Hannah Cruse(RE), Henry Deaderick (RE), Adam Devries(TE), Andrea Elkins(RE), Stacy Rector(TE), Terry Newland, TE, ex officio

INFORMATION

The Committee on Social Justice is hosting a 1.5hr workshop on Israel and Palestine relations with author Michael McRay on May 18th (Sat) from 1-2:30 pm at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, Nashville. Below is a short biography of Mr. McRay.

Michael McRay's family has ties to Israel that go back to 1967. He grew up in the Church of Christ in a small rural Appalachian town of 2700. His grandfather was an archaeologist and a New Testament professor, and Michael made his first trip to Israel at 10 years old followed by 13 trips over the last 20 years. He has marched in Palestine, worked in prison ministry and is an ally to the LGBTQ community.

He had a conservative dad who would often talk about Mathew 25 and refer to it as a cheat sheet for the final exam. When asked to describe God Michael said this, "God is an expanse that is beyond what we can understand but he is accessible because God is wherever there is resurrection in the world, whenever there is life coming from death, wherever there is healing hope and love in the midst of difficulty and hate and hope in the midst of despair that is God, That's where God is."

STATED CLERK REPORT TO THE PRESBYTERY OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE May 11, 2024

INFORMATION

- 1. 65 churches, or 81%, submitted at least one category of the required statistical reports.
- 2. The Synod of Living Waters provided training for the GA commissioners on Sunday, April 21.
- 3. The Stated Clerk and the COM Moderator attended A Season of Rebuilding A New Benefits Plan for a Changing Church in Philadelphia at the invitation of the Board of Pensions on April 30 -May 1, 2024.
- 4. Pursuant to the Gracious Separation policy, a training for the Isaiah 1:18 team will be scheduled shortly so that the team can beginning working with the St. John Presbyterian Church
- 5. The Stated Clerk encourages all members, commissioners, and visitors to read the supplemental reports from committees.

ADMIT TO RECORD

1. The annual statistical reports are available for review and are attached to this report. They include the Summary Membership report and the Minister Transactions.

Summary Membership Report for 115-385 2023

<u>Location</u>	<u>Pin #</u>	Church Name	<u>Begin</u> <u>Total</u>	<u>Adj.</u> <u>Member.</u>	<u>New</u> <u>Member.</u> <u>Total</u>	<u>Cert</u> <u>Gains</u>	<u>Youth</u> Profess.	<u>Profess. /</u> <u>Reaffirm.</u>	<u>Cert</u> Losses	<u>Death</u> Losses	<u>Deleted</u> Losses	<u>End Total</u>	<u>Diff</u>
Alexandria	3571	Liberty Hill	28		28							28	0
Allardt	3437	First PC of Allardt	94	0	94	0	0	0	0	0	0	94	0
Alpine	3438	Christ	44		44							44	0
Ardmore	20532	Bethany	15	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	0
Belfast	20524	Belfast	6		6							6	0
Bethpage	3031	Oak Grove	24	0	24						8	16	-8
Brentwood	23328	Brentwood First	14	0	14	0	0	0	0	1	0	13	-1
Brentwood	11088	East Brentwood	224	0	224	1	0	3	0	4	78	146	-78
Brentwood	20525	Harpeth	165	0	165	0	7	5	1	3	0	173	8
Brentwood	23357	Korean	201	0	201	12	4	4	10	1	0	210	9
Buffalo Valley	20526	Buffalo Valley	14	0	14	2	0	1	0	0	0	17	3
Clarksville	20527	First	429	0	429	0	4	16	2	4	0	443	14
Clarksville	20528	Macedonia	45		45							45	0
Columbia	20530	First	378	0	378	5	6	7	3	3	0	390	12
Columbia	3575	Westminster	42	-1	41	0	0	2	0	1		42	1
Cookeville	3445	Double Springs	6	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0
Cookeville	3442	First	127	0	127	5	0	10	2	2	33	105	-22
Cookeville	3443	Post Oak	34		34							34	0
Cowan	3576	Fellowship	16		16							16	0
Crossville	3439	Calvary PC of Big Lick	86	0	86	7	1		1	3		90	4
Decherd	20531	Decherd	19	-14	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0
Dickson	3579	First	91	19	110	1	1	12	2	0	0	122	12
Dickson	3580	Pond	18	-2	16						0	16	0
Fairfield Glade	11780	Westminster	42	0	42	0	0	0	1	2	6	33	-9
Fayetteville	20533	First	187	0	187	2	1	3	0	3	0	190	3
Fayetteville	20534	St John	11		11							11	0
Franklin	20537	First	760	0	760	16	5	9	12	8	0	770	10
Franklin	11386	Historic Franklin	184	0	184	6	0	2	0	1	0	191	7
Gallatin	20539	First	203	-104	99	0	0	6	1	7	3	94	-5

Summary Membership Report for 115-385 2023

Location	<u>Pin #</u>	Church Name	<u>Begin</u> <u>Total</u>	<u>Adj.</u> Member.	<u>New</u> Member. Total	<u>Cert</u> <u>Gains</u>	<u>Youth</u> Profess.	<u>Profess. /</u> <u>Reaffirm.</u>	<u>Cert</u> Losses	<u>Death</u> Losses	Deleted Losses	<u>End Total</u>	<u>Diff</u>
Gallatin	11683	Sudanese American Nuer	77		77							77	0
Hendersonville	20541	First	190	0	190	4	0	5	2	4	21	172	-18
Hendersonville	15088	New Creation	246	0	246	0	1	61	0	0	0	308	62
Hermitage	20542	Hermitage	75	0	75	0	0	2	0	6	0	71	-4
Lawrenceburg	20543	First	9	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	0
Lebanon	3585	First	171	0	171	2		1	2	4	2	166	-5
Lebanon	20544	Spring Creek	21	-13	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0
Lewisburg	20545	Bethbirei	37	-12	25	0	0	0	0	1	0	24	-1
Lewisburg	20546	First	159	0	159		4	3		4	3	159	0
Lynnville	20548	First	42		42							42	0
Manchester	20550	First	81	0	81	0	1	6	0	1	0	87	6
McMinnville	3589	First	72	0	72	0	0	0	0	4	0	68	-4
Milton	20551	Hopewell	5		5							5	0
Mount Pleasant	20553	First	15	0	15							15	0
Murfreesboro	20554	First	462	-4	458	16	5	7	0	5	7	474	16
Murfreesboro	20555	Northminster	40	0	40						1	39	-1
Nashville	20557	Bellevue	110	0	110	1	1	8		1		119	9
Nashville	20558	Donelson	192	0	192	2	0	2	2	8	0	186	-6
Nashville	20559	Downtown	95	-1	94	1	0	6	0	1	17	83	-11
Nashville	3592	Eastminster	54	12	66	0	0	0	0	0	0	66	0
Nashville	12001	Emmanuel	56	-19	37	0	0	0	0	0	0	37	0
Nashville	20560	First	4495	0	4495	31	28	15	7	26	2	4534	39
Nashville	20561	Glen Leven	125	4	129			2		1		130	1
Nashville	20562	Glencliff	10	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0
Nashville	3591	Hillsboro	305		305							305	0
Nashville	20563	Hillwood	40	0	40	0	0	0	4	1	17	18	-22
Nashville	10914	Priest Lake	98	0	98			8	7	2		97	-1
Nashville	20566	Second	348	-1	347	1	1	7	2	4	81	269	-78
Nashville	3596	Southminster	59	0	59			7	0	0	0	66	7
Nashville	11906	St Andrews	90	0	90	3				1		92	2
Nashville	20567	Trinity	73	0	73	3		1	0	3	0	74	1

Summary Membership Report for 115-385 2023

Location	<u>Pin #</u>	Church Name	<u>Begin</u> <u>Total</u>	<u>Adj.</u> Member.	<u>New</u> <u>Member.</u> <u>Total</u>	<u>Cert</u> Gains	<u>Youth</u> Profess.	<u>Profess. /</u> <u>Reaffirm.</u>	<u>Cert</u> Losses	<u>Death</u> Losses	<u>Deleted</u> Losses	End Total	<u>Diff</u>
Nashville	20569	Westminster	2410	-6	2404	25	21	23	6	19	12	2436	32
Nashville	20570	Woodland	77	0	77			3		1	9	70	-7
Normandy	3594	Normandy	33	-1	32			1	2	1		30	-2
Old Hickory	20571	Old Hickory	42		42							42	0
Petersburg	20573	First	12	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	0
Pulaski	20574	Brick Church	6		6							6	0
Pulaski	20575	First	194	0	194			2	2	2		192	-2
Readyville	11905	Cripple Creek	44	-9	35	0	0	0	0	1	0	34	-1
Shelbyville	20579	First	130	0	130	0	0	1	0	1	0	130	0
Smyrna	11637	First	119	0	119	0	0	2	0	3	39	79	-40
Sparta	3457	Blue Spring	45	-9	36	0			0	0		36	0
Sparta	3459	Hickory Valley	4		4							4	0
Sparta	3460	Robinson Chapel	20	0	20	1	0	0	0	2	0	19	-1
Spring Hill	20582	First	108	0	108	3	4	5	2	2	1	115	7
Springfield	3599	First	46	0	46	0	0	0	0	1	0	45	-1
Springfield	3600	Milldale	30	0	30	1	0	0	0	1	0	30	0
Thompson Station	20529	Bethesda	60	0	60	3		2	2	1		62	2
Tullahoma	3601	First	177	0	177	0	11	7	1	4		190	13
Watertown	20585	First	13		13							13	0
Waverly	3603	Ellis Grove	38	0	38					2		36	-2
Totals			14967	-161	14806	154	106	267	76	161	340	14756	-50

115385 Middle Tennessee

		Recap			
Losses		Gains		Minister Totals as of 1/1/2023	171
Necrology	5	Ordained	2	Subtract Losses	12
Dismissed - Presby	7	Received - Presby	6.	Add Gains	10
Dismissed - Denom	0	Received - Denom	1	Ministers On Roll as of 12/31/2023	169
Other Removals	0	Restored	1	In Transit	Ø
Total	12	Total	10		

Ministerial Necrology

ld	Name	Date
M00000390	Asbury, Beverly A	8/22/2018
M00002455	Clewer, Harry D	10/24/2023
M00005128	Gundersen, Carl A	4/17/2023
P00002104	McMillion, Claude Ashton	1/4/2023
M00009804	Nash, James Henry	3/24/2023

Ministers Dismissed to Other Presbyteries

ld	Name	Date	Dismissed To
M00502228	Groves, Lindsey Alexandra	2/14/2023	Cascades
M00016289	Hawthome, James B	5/23/2023	Charleston-Atlantic
M00502011	Kim, Yoonmin	11/12/2023	Midwest Korean
M00035617	McCullough, Mary Louise	5/23/2023	Lake Erie
M00034035	Metzger, Esther	5/23/2023	New Hope
M00032478	Mueller, Toby E	11/12/2023	Charlotte
M00504663	Phillips, Delilah Jane	8/12/2023	Charlotte

M00503693	M00035427	M00038485	M00504586	M00038302	M00032804	d	Ministers Rec	M00504576		MONSOARRa	PI	Ministers Orda	Ы	Permanent Re		pi	Ministers Disn	12/6/2023 2:10:35 PM
Wellman, William	Sasser, Zachary Scott	Hill, Sara C R	Hill, Judith Ellen	Hill, Austin D	Arnold, Judith L	Name	Ministers Received From Other Presbyteries	White, Adrian	r nillips, pellian sane	Philling Delilah lang	Name	Ministers Ordained By This Presbytery	Name	Permanent Removals From A Roll		Name	Ministers Dismissed to Other Denominations	:10:35 PM
2/14/2023	9/12/2023	8/31/2023	5/4/2023	8/31/2025	9/13/2022	Date		2/19/2023	011212020	8/10/0002	Date		Date			Date	S	

	Received From
2022	Southern Kansas
2025	North Central Iowa
)23	Wabash Valley
2023	North Central Iowa
2023	South Louisiana

Tampa Bay

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Minister Summary

Page 2

Constitution Provision

14. F	intel CORE	CapsLk		3
		Ministers Restored To Roll Id <u>Name</u> M00504586 Hill, Judith Ellen	Ministers Received From Other Denominations Id <u>Name</u> <u>Da</u> M00504624 Hamman, Jaco 7/2	12/6/2023 2:10:35 PM
		<u>Date</u> 4/26/2023	ominations <u>Date</u> 7/22/2017	s
			<u>Received From</u> Reformed Church in America	Minister Summary
		100736		Page 3

NOMINATING TASK FORCE REPORT TO THE PRESBYTERY OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE May 11, 2024

INFORMATION

- 1. The Task Force is required to submit a slate of nominees to fill all committees as well as individuals to serve as readers of exams, attend the General Assembly, attend the Synod, and serve on the Permanent Judicial Commission
- 2. The Task Force is composed of: Leonard Jordan, CRE, Chair and member of the Administrative Committee, Stephanie Coleman, RE, Scott Huie, TE, Vicky Harwell, RE, Shirley Puckett, RE, and Stephen Yates, TE. Terry Newland, TE and Bridge Executive Presbyter, and Mary Catherine Sevier, RE and Stated Clerk, staff the Task Force.
- The Task Force was informed of the following resignations and subsequent vacancies: Committee on Leadership Excellence: Aaron Stauffer, TE, Class of 2024

Commission on Ministry Ora Bransford Lux, RE, Class of 2026 Mark Mueller, TE, Class of 2025

The Task Force would like to hear of any individuals within the presbytery who should be considered for discernment as possible members of this committee and commission. Please contact Leonard Jordan with those names and contact information, and he will bring them to the Task Force for discernment.

ADMIT TO RECORD

1. Attached is a current list of committee, commission, and task force members.

Presbytery of Middle Tennessee | Committee Membership 2024-2026

TE – Minister of the Word and Sacrament RE – Ruling Elder *Second Term

Class of 2024 Betsy Bond, RE Trinity, Nashville Mark Bryan, TE Glen Leven

Administrative Committee Class of 2025 Leonard Jordan, CP St. Andrews *Heidi Hudnut-Beumler (TE) Westminster. Nashville

Class of 2026 Sandra Randleman (TE) FPC, Nashville Chris Williams (RE) First, Pulaski Moderator-in-Nomination

Trustees (by virtue of office; serve as members of both Administrative and Finance Committees) Elinor Foster, RE Jane Herring, TE First, Lewisburg Emmanuel 2024 Moderator

Hal Sauer, RE First. Nashville Jim Moran, TE First, Shelbyville

*Bob LaGrone, RE First. Nashville Keith Gunter, TE New Creation

*Laura Cheifetz, TE

VACANT

Tom Drake, RE Bellevue Carol Foster, RE First Fayetteville **Bill Patterson**. RE First Murfreesboro *Amy Stoker, TE First Pulaski Frank Wade, RE Westminster, Nashville *David Wood, RE First, Nashville

Teresa Burns, RE First Lewisburg *David Carlton, RE Second, Nashville

Vice-Moderator Finance Committee *Melinda Sanders, RE Woodland, Nashville Donovan Drake (TE) Westminster, Nashville

Committee on Church Transformation *Lila Ramirez-Jimenez,TE LatinX. Hub Barbara Halverstadt, RE Emmanuel, Nashville

Committee on Leadership Excellence *Sarah Bird Kneff, TE First Columbia *Dr. Mary Martin, RE First, Murfreesboro

> Commission on Ministry Tom Bagley, TE Normandy Anne Keener, CP First, Franklin *Gary Kelly, TE Honorably Retired

VACANT Mickey Stueck, RE First Lebanon *Leslie Traylor, TE Hermitage

Committee on Mutual Support Will Wellmann, (TE) Validated Minister Spencer Truett, RE First Dickson *Ross Thomas, RE First Springfield

Evelyn Graham, TE (Class of 2025) Second, Nashville Treasurer

*Anders Hall, RE Westminster, Nashville Bruce McVey, TE First Fayetteville

*Robin White, RE Historic Franklin *John Hilley, TE East Brentwood

Denise Moran, RE First, Shelbyville Dave Nock, RE Priest Lake, Nashville

*Erin Howton-Angel, TE Allardt *Sally Hughes, TE Trinity, Nashville *John A. Smith, TE First Dickson/Ellis Grove *Shelby Smith, RE First, Spring Hill

VACANT

Shawn Thomas Smith, TE First, Smyrna

*Bobby Harding, TE First, Murfreesboro Claire Harris Kramer, TE NCCC

Class of 2024	Class of 2025	Class of 2026
	Committee on Preparation for	or Ministry
*Kate Adcock, RE	*Michael McLaughlin, TE	Lisa Hermann (TE)
Second, Nashville	First, Cookeville	Monroe Carrell
*Guy Griffith, TE	Judy Schomber, RE	*James Peeler, RE
Westminster, Nashville	Trinity, Nashville	Harpeth, Nashville
Jonathan Angel, TE	Judy Tygard, RE	Dina Crigger (RE)
First, Allardt	Bellevue	FPC, Lewisburg
	Committee on Social Justice	
Henry Deaderick, RE	Hannah Cruse	*Andrea Elkins
St. Andrews, Nashville	First, Clarksville	First, Murfreesboro
Adam DeVries, TE	Stacy Rector, TE	*Claire Berry, TE
Member-at-Large	TADP	UKIRK Nashville
	Permanent Judicial Commis	sion
<u>Class of 2024</u>	<u>Class of 2026</u>	<u>Class of 2028</u>
Bill Carver, RE	Michael Bradley, TE	Bill Russell, RE
First Franklin	HR, Decherd	First, Spring Hill
Christi Ensch, RE	James Hudnut-Beumler, TE	Walt Tennyson, TE
Historic Franklin	Vanderbilt Divinity Sch	
Sharon Warfield, RE	J.B. Smith, RE	Terry Denton, RE
Westminster, Nashville	First Pulaski	Emmanuel, Nashville
Committee Chairs		

Committee Chairs

Administrative	TE Jane Herring (by virtue of office)
Finance	TE Evelyn Graham (by virtue of office)
Church Transformation	TE John Hilley
Leadership Excellence	RE Dr. Mary Martin
Commission on Ministry	TE Erin Howton-Angel
Mutual Support	TE Bobby Harding
Preparation for Ministry	TE Guy Griffith
Social Justice	RE Henry Deaderick

Synod Commissioners Class of 2024

Joyce Harris, RE, St. Andrews, Nashville Will Berger, TE, Member-at-Large

Commissioners to the 226th General Assembly (2024)

Young Adult Advisory Delegate: Anna Catherine Oeser

Teaching Elder Commissioners:

Erin Howton-Angel, First Allardt, Jane Herring, Emmanuel Ruling Elder Commissioners: Carol Foster, RE, FPC Fayetteville, Judy Venable, RE, Big Lick Calvary

Ordination Exam Readers, Class of 2025

Gloria Dale, RE, First Columbia Annesse Ashton, RE, St. Andrews Nashville Greg Glover, TE, First Clarksville <u>Sally Hughes, TE</u>,Trinity Nashville Alternates: Joyce Harris, RE, St. Andrews Nashville Guy Griffith, TE, Westminster Nashville 2

Con't page 3

UKIRK Nashville Board

Rev. Claire Berry, Executive Director

- Rev. Rachel Thompson-Orfield, Chair, Harpeth Presbyterian Church
- Ms. Kate Armstrong, Westminster Presbyterian Church
- Ms. Tania Carter, Second Presbyterian Church
- Dr. Bill Christie, Westminster Presbyterian Church
- Ms. Kelly Christie, Westminster Presbyterian Church
- Ms. Barbara Fay, Woodland Presbyterian Church
- Dr. Ryan Fox, First Presbyterian Church, Franklin
- Dr. Nathaniel Freymeyer, UKirk Alum
- Rev. Ean Taylor, Brenthaven Presbyterian Church (Cumberland Presbyterian)
- Rev. Mary Sellers Shaw, First Presbyterian Church, Franklin
- Rev. Shane Smith, Hillsboro Presbyterian Church

PRESBYTERY OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE MINUTES OF ONE HUNDRED FIFTY FIFTH STATED MEETING FEBRUARY 10, 2024

The 155th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee met via Zoom on Saturday, February 10, 2024. Stated Clerk Mary Catherine Sevier provided Zoom tips and an orientation for first time commissioners. Moderator Elinor Foster called the meeting to order at 9:30 am.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA/DECLARATION OF QUORUM / STATEMENT OF PROCEDURES / CORRESPONDING MEMBERS

Moderator Foster declared a quorum was 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.

AGENDA

The moderator stated that the agenda had been provided in advance. The agenda and the consent agenda were approved as amended by the deletion of the Rev. Greg Goodwiller's greetings without objection.

The Presbytery of Middle Tennessee is a community of churches and church leaders whose role is to guide and support the work of its constituents, striving to build up the body of Christ through connections of mutual support, creating a culture of leadership excellence and church transformation.

ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-FIFTH STATED MEETING

THE PRESBYTERY OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE

AGENDA

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY	10, 2024
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		VIRTUAL (ZOOM)
9:00-9:30 am		Registration (Order of the Day in CAPS)
9:15 am		Orientation to Zoom and of First Time
		Commissioners – Mary Catherine Sevier(10
	4	min)
9:30 am	1.	CONVENE
		Establishment of Quorum Adoption of Agonda and Concent Agonda
		Adoption of Agenda and Consent Agenda
		 Seating of Corresponding Members
a a-	2.	WORSHIP
9:35 am		Offering: Tornado Victim Relief to be
		Dispersed Through FPC Springfield and FPC
		Clarksville
		Sermon: The Rev. Stephen Yates
		 Installation of Moderator and Vice-
		Moderator
10:30 am	3.	BREAK (10 minutes)
10:40 am	4.	Reconvene/REPORTS (numbers indicate order in packet)
		Recognition of First Time Presbyters
		Greetings from Living Waters Synod EP (10 mins)
		Recognition of Stephen Yates (10 minutes)
11:00 am		(1) Executive Presbyter's Report – Ray Thomas (10
		minutes)
11:10 am		(2) Personnel Task Force – Heidi Hudnut-
11: 30 am		Beumler (20 minutes)
11. 50 dill		(3) Administrative Committee – JaneHerring (10 minutes)
		 FPC, Decherd request for
		Administrative Commission
11: 40 am		(4) Finance Committee – Hal Sauer
		(10 minutes)
		Administrative Commission for
		Brick Church Presbytery
11:50 am		(5) Commission on Ministry – Erin
		Howton-Angel (15 minutes)
		Introduction of Zach Sasser

	Introduction of Stephanie	
	Hanson Boaz	
	Greetings from Keenan	
	Rodgers, BoP	
12:05 pm	(6) Committee on Preparation for	
	Ministry – Guy Griffith (10 minutes)	
	Examination and	
	Reception of Candidate	
	Under Care Mallory	
	Hammond	
12:15 pm	(7) Committee on Church	
	Transformation – John Hilley (10	
	minutes)	
12:25pm	(8) Committee on Leadership	
	Excellence – Mary Martin (5	
	minutes)	
12:30 pm	(9) Stated Clerk Report – Mary	
	Catherine Sevier (10 minutes)	
12:40 pm	ANNOUNCEMENTS and	
ADJOURNMENT		
	156 th Stated Meeting,	
	Saturday, May 11, 2024	
	First Presbyterian Church	
	Murfreesboro, Tennessee	
	Closing Prayer	
	Adjournment	

155th Stated Meeting, Presbytery of Middle Tennessee, February 10, 2024 Consent Agenda*

Item #Title(1)Approval of Minutes and Roll of the 154th Stated Meeting of November 9, 2023(2)Approval of Minutes and Roll of the Called Meeting of November 30, 2023

(3) Approval of Minutes and Roll of the Called Meeting of January 11, 2024

*A consent agenda provides a mechanism to use the meeting body's time efficiently. These items will not be considered individually UNLESS any member requests that one or all the items be removed from this consent agenda.

ROLL

The roll of commissioners, corresponding members, and visitors attending the 155th Stated Meeting is attached (Attachment A).

WORSHIP

Worship was led by the Rev. Robert Montgomery, pastor of First Lewisburg, and the participants included Elinor Foster, Jane Herring, Teresa Burns, Dina Crigger, and Colin Pickle. Music was provided by Naphtali Frey and the First Lewisburg choir. The sermon was delivered by Stephen Yates, and the offering was collected for Tornado Relief to be Distributed through First Springfield and First Clarksville. The Moderator and Vice-Moderator were installed. The Rev. Ray Thomas led in sharing care and concerns and the prayers of the people.

Following worship, a ten minute break was observed.

RECONVENING/RECOGNITION OF FIRST TIME COMMISSIONERS

The moderator reconvened the meeting, welcomed first time commissioners and invited them to introduce themselves.

RECOGNITION OF STEPHEN YATES

The Moderator recognized the Rev. Ray Thomas, who led an appreciation of the work of outgoing moderator Stephen Yates and presented him with tokens of appreciation. Rev. Yates commented on his enduring appreciation for the work of Ruling Elders who sacrifice their own time to further the work of the church.

EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER'S REPORT

The Rev. Ray Thomas, Executive Presbyter, delivered his report and reiterated his and former Co-Executive Presbyter Robin Thomas's commitment to visiting every church within the presbytery. He reminded the presbytery of his work to create "openness and listening" within the presbytery, of the accomplishments during his tenure such as the Nueva Vida Foodbank, and of his focus on the "horizontal and vertical" connections across the presbytery. He again stated his intent to comply with the former pastors policy by disengaging from presbytery affairs for at least one year with the exception of attending worship with his wife.

PERSONNEL TASK FORCE

The Rev. Heidi Hudnut-Beumler was recognized to present the report from the Personnel Task Force.

RECOGNITION OF RAY THOMAS

Rev. Hudnut-Beumler led an appreciation of the work and ministry of the retiring Executive Presbyter Ray Thomas. A video of thanks and well wishes from various people across the presbytery was shown; the Stated Clerk presented a certificate and letter of appreciation from the Acting Stated Clerk of the General Assembly, and Rev. Helmut-Beumler presented him with tokens of appreciation. Rev. Thomas offered his gratitude for the kind words and gestures.

UPDATE ON EP TRANSITION

Rev. Hudnut-Beumler then made the report of the Personnel Task Force. The Task Force has formed with the endorsement of the Administrative Committee a Bridge EP Search Team, which is composed of:

Heidi Hudnut-Beumler, TE, Westminster Nashville, Chair, PTF, and Administrative Committee member Lavona Russell, RE, East Brentwood, Vice-chair, PTF member Connie Hamblen, RE, Eastminster, Nashville, PTF member Jack Baxter, RE, First, Columbia, PTF member Jeff Kane, TE, Westminster, Columbia, PTF member Mark Bryan, TE, Glen Leven, Nashville, Administrative Committee member

41 of 57

The Bridge EP Search Team is drafting a job description to recommend to the Administrative Committee for approval and is actively seeking and evaluating candidates for the Bridge EP position. The position is expected to be a 6 month renewable contract. A Transitional EP will be sought with the help of a consultant, and this individual will serve for a longer period of time while an installed candidate is found.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

The Moderator recognized the Rev. Jane Herring, chair of the Administrative Committee, who made the following report:

REVIEW OF THE NOVEMBER 9 STATED MEETING

The committee reviewed the November 9 Stated Presbytery meeting at FPC Clarksville which the quorum was lost following lunch. \$1678 was collected via the offering for the Sudanese Church.

CALLED MEETING OF NOVEMBER 30

The Administrative Committee called and approved plans for the November 30 called Presbytery meeting, with the following items to be considered: all items which were offered for admit to record and all actions items will be put to ratification vote; Anne Catherine Oeser will be nominated as the YAAD for the 226th GA.

CALLED MEETING OF JANUARY 11,2024

The Administrative Committee called and approved plans for a called presbytery meeting on January 11, 2024 to approve the sale of the New Hope PC property for \$405,000.

STATED MEETING OF FEBRUARY 10, 2024

The Administrative Committee approved the agenda for the stated meeting of February 10, 2024: will be held by Zoom, moderator and co-moderator will be installed, the Rev. Stephen Yates will preach, and the offering will go to tornado relief distributed through FPC Clarksville and FPC Springfield.

POLICY COMPLIANCE TASK FORCE

The Administrative Committee approved the following members of the Policy Compliance Task Force: Chris Williams, chair, Doug Berry, and Erin Howton-Angel.

SAFE CHURCH POLICY ADAPTATION

The Administrative Committee approved the adaptation of the Safe Church template approved in 2021 to presbytery for review by the Policy Compliance Task Force.

BRIDGE EP SEARCH TEAM

The Administrative Committee approved the creation of a Bridge EP Search Team, chaired by Heidi Hudnut-Beumler. Other members include Mark Bryan as well as the Personnel Task Force members.

HEALTHY CHURCHES CONSULTANTS

The Administrative Committee approved the exploration of engaging Healthy Churches as it moves forward in the search for the next Executive Presbyter as well as engaging insight and advice from our synod staff.

2025 STATED MEETING DATES

The Administrative Committee approved the following dates for the stated meetings of 2025:

- February 8, via Zoom
- May 3, in person, location TBD
- August 7, via Zoom
- November 6, in person, location TBD

SOUTHMINSTER AND TRINITY TASKFORCES

The Administrative Committee concurred with the Finance Committee in the creation of a task force to support Southminster and a task force to discuss the proposed long term lease of Trinity by the Lindon Waldorf School.

RETIREMENT DATE OF RAY THOMAS

The Administrative Committee, in concurrence with the Personnel Task Force accepted with regret the new retirement date of March 31, 2024 by Ray Thomas.

2024 NOMINATING TASK FORCE

The Administrative Committee heard a report from the Ad Hoc Committee. The 2024 nominating Task Force is composed of: Chair, Leonard Jordan, CRE, St. Andrews; Scott Huie, TE, FPC Bellevue; Stephanie Coleman, RE, DPC; Shirley Puckett, RE, Buffalo Valley; Vicky Harwell, RE, FPC Pulaski; Stephen Yates, TE, FPC Tullahoma.

PDA RELIEF FUNDS

The Administration Committee heard a report from the EP on the disaster relief funds from the Presbyterian Disaster Agency.

PROPOSED QUORUM CHANGE

The Administrative Committee approved the Stated Clerk's request to consider bringing forth a motion to change the quorum at stated meetings.

PHYSICAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Administrative Committee approved the boundary description of the presbytery as written by the Office of the General Assembly.

AMENDING THE MANUAL OF MISSION AND OPERATION

The Administrative Committee approved the Stated Clerk's request to consider amending the language of the Mission and Operations Manual to reflect the language of the Book of Order 2023-2025 on retired ministers.

QUESTIONS AND MOTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

Rev. John Smith was recognized to ask a question regarding the composition of the Trinity Task Force. His statement, included in the permanent record at his request, is below. Rev. Herring agreed to take his request to the Finance Committee, who created the task force, and ask the committee to consider adding members to the task force to balance the congregations represented. She further explained that the members of the task force were chosen for expertise and prior knowledge of the proposed lease of the property rather than for congregational alignment.

Rev. Smith's comments: I'm John Smith the Teaching Elder at First Presbyterian in Dickson, TN and Ellis Grove Presbyterian Church in Waverly, TN. I have some concerns about the creation of the task force to discuss the long-term lease of Trinity by the Linden Waldorf School. If I understand correctly Trinity operates under the rules of G-4.0208, the exception provided at the time of the reunion between the Northern and

Southern Churches, so they are subject to the Property portion of the PCUS denomination. I have questions about this, but in truth I'm just beginning my research into this and don't have the information to even present intelligible question (those will come later).

What I have learned is that the exception does make this situation a bit more complex than what might be the norm and we want to make sure that the rights of congregation at Trinity are upheld as well as ensure that G-4.0203 (the trust clause) is respected. This brings me to the concern I want to raise today. I was informed that the membership of the Task Force to discuss this was made up of three individuals; 1 Teaching Elder and 2 Ruling Elders with both Ruling Elders coming from the same congregation. First off, the mission and operations manual of the presbytery says, "Unless defined herein, tasks, terms of responsibilities, and composition of a task force shall be reported promptly to the Administrative Committee and to the Presbytery through the appointing committee." So, given that, can you please provide any additional

6

information about the task than that one was appointed to discuss this issue, especially concerning the make-up of the task force?

The Book of Order in G-3.0109 says that in appointing committees and commissions councils shall be mindful of the principles of unity and diversity consistent with the provisions of this Constitution. Now I realize that this is a task force not a committee or a commission but given the significance of this lease and the complexity of the issue involving the exception I think that it would be wise for the Presbytery to abide by this principle in the creation of this task force. Given that it is coming from the Administrative Committee would they be willing to revisit this issue when they meet next. I would like to see the task force expanded and diversified with more than one congregation represented. I request that my concerns about this Task Force be recorded in the minutes.

The Rev. Will Berger, member-at-large, moved that the task force be disbanded and the lease approved. The Rev. Sally Hughes seconded. This motion was ruled out of order.

RECOMMENDATION

The Administrative Committee, upon the request of Decherd FPC, recommended that an Administrative Commission be formed to dissolve the congregation. Dr. Michael Bradley requested the names of the commissioners to relay to the congregation. The charge is to be included in the permanent record. The motion carried.

<u>CHARGE TO FPC DECHERD ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION</u> **Decherd Presbyterian Church, Decherd – Administrative Commission**

The Administrative Committee, at the request of the Decherd Presbyterian Church, Decherd, TN, recommends that the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee create an administrative commission for the dissolution of its congregation.

- A. The Administrative Committee recommends that the administrative commission be charged as follows:
 - (1) Assume original jurisdiction, with the full powers of the session.
 - (2) The administrative commission shall:
 - a. assist members to wind up the affairs of the church, and transfer its remaining members. The Stated Clerk shall be authorized to grant letters of dismissal to members whose names are still on the roll for up to one year after the closing worship service; and
 - b. plan, in consultation with the members of Decherd Presbyterian Church, Decherd, if so desired, a closing worship service, to honor the life, ministry, and witness of the church.

(3) The administrative commission shall receive the records of the session, including, but not limited to, all session minutes, the church's roll / register, all minutes of congregational meetings, all minutes of the Board of Deacons, and any other legal and financial records. These records will be deposited with the Stated Clerk of presbytery, who shall transmit them to the Presbyterian Historical Society.

(4) Under Form of Government, Chapter IV, G-4.02, all property of Decherd Presbyterian Church, Decherd, Tennessee, is held in trust for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The administrative commission appointed by the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee, on February 10, 2024, is authorized to take possession of all real and personal property, financial

7

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 Decherd Presbyterian Church, Decherd.

(5) The administrative commission shall consult with the session of Decherd Presbyterian Church, Decherd, regarding requests the congregation may have related to the disposition of equipment and memorials and other property of the church.

B. The Trustees of presbytery shall have claim, on behalf of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee, to any property of Decherd Presbyterian Church, Decherd not known at this time or property which may come to Decherd Presbyterian Church, Decherd as the beneficiary of a will or trust not known at this time.

C The commission shall confer with the Trustees of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee regarding the disposal of the property of Decherd Presbyterian Church, Decherd. The Trustees of presbytery shall be responsible for the property, until such time as presbytery approves the disposition of the property. The administrative commission shall make a recommendation to the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee, in consultation with the Trustees of presbytery, for the sale of the property of Decherd Presbyterian Church, Decherd.

D. The commission will report to the Administrative Committee at least every three months.

The Administrative Committee recommends the following be elected as members of the administrative commission for Decherd Presbyterian Church, Decherd:

Steve Elkins, RE, FPC Murfreesboro Ellen Hill, TE, Honorably Retired Tom Bagley, TE, Normandy Presbyterian Charlotte Broyles, RE, FPC Tullahoma

February 10, 2024

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Moderator recognized RE Hal Sauer, Vice-chair of the Finance Committee, who made the following report in the excused absence of the Rev. Evelyn Graham, treasurer.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Financial reports and investment results as of December 31, 2023, were provided with the Presbytery packet. Mr. Sauer spoke briefly about the reports.

PROCEEDS OF NEW HOPE PC

RE Melinda Sanders made a motion to create a designated fund called the New Hope Fund which would consist of the proceeds of the sale of the New Hope Presbyterian Church. This fund would be used for extra expenses related to the costs of the bridge EP, the interim EP, and the consultant firm, all of which are proposed actions to hire an installed EP. The motion was seconded by the Rev. Bryan. The Rev. Mary Sellers Shaw amended the motion to divert a portion of the funds to smaller ministries; the Rev. Heidi Hudnut Beumler then made a motion to refer the entire matter to the Finance and Administrative Committees for further consideration. That motion was seconded and carried.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION FOR BRICK CHURCH PC

Mr. Sauer brought a recommendation from the Finance Committee, with the concurrence of the Administrative Committee that an AC be formed and charged with determining whether Brick Church PC is an extinct congregation and/or should be dissolved. This motion carried, and the charge is included in the permanent record.

Brick Church Presbyterian, Giles County, Tennessee – Administrative Commission

The Finance Committee recommends that the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee create an administrative commission for the purpose of determining whether the Brick Church Presbyterian Church has become extinct by reason of the dispersal its members, the abandonment of its work or other cause.ⁱ

The Finance Committee recommends that the administrative commission be charged as follows:

- (1) The administrative commission shall attempt to contact known members or individuals with knowledge of the church.
- (2) If successful, the commission shall determine with those members whether the session of the church is able to exercise its authority. If so, the commission shall walk alongside the session to determine whether the congregation shall be dissolved. If the commission determines that the session is unable or unwilling to manage wisely its affairs, the administrative commission shall assume original jurisdiction, with the full powers of the session.ⁱⁱ The commission shall then determine whether the congregation shall be dissolved.
- (3) The administrative commission shall assist members to wind up the affairs of the church and transfer its remaining members. The Stated Clerk shall be authorized to grant letters of dismissal to members whose names are still on the roll for up to one year after the closing worship service.
- (4) If the commission is unable to contact members, it shall declare the congregation to be extinct pursuant to G-4.0205 as cited in the prologue.
- (5) Under Form of Government, Chapter IV, G-4.02, as noted above, all property of Brick Church Presbyterian, Brick Church, Giles County, Tennessee, is held in trust for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The administrative commission appointed by the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee on February 10, 2024, is authorized 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 Brick Church Presbyterian Church, Brick Church, Giles County.

- (6) The administrative commission shall receive the records of the session, including, but not limited to, all session minutes, the church's roll / register, all minutes of congregational meetings, all minutes of the Board of Deacons, and any other legal and financial records. These records will be deposited with the Stated Clerk of presbytery, who shall transmit them to the Presbyterian Historical Society.
- (7) If possible, the administrative commission shall consult with the session or remaining members of Brick Church Presbyterian Church, Brick Church, Giles County, regarding requests the congregation may have related to the disposition of equipment and memorials and other property of the church.
- (8) The Trustees of presbytery shall have claim, on behalf of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee, to any property of Brick Church Presbyterian not known at this time or property which may come to Brick Church Presbyterian as the beneficiary of a will or trust not known at this time.
- (9) The commission shall confer with the Trustees of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee regarding the disposal of the property of Brick Church Presbyterian. The Trustees of presbytery shall be responsible for the property, until such time as presbytery approves the disposition of the property. The administrative commission shall make a recommendation to the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee, in consultation with the Trustees of presbytery, for the sale of the property of Brick Church Presbyterian.

(10) The commission will report to the Finance Committee at least every three months.

The Finance recommends the following be elected as members of the administrative commission for Brick Church Presbyterian:

Carol Foster, RE, FPC Fayetteville Jim Moran, TE, FPC Shelbyville Amy Busse Stoker, TE, FPC Pulaski Chris Williams, RE, FPC Pulaski

COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

The Rev. Erin Howton-Angel, chair of the Commission on Ministry, presented the following report.

10

RESIGNATION OF MODERATOR AND BRIDGE PASTOR AT FPC GALLATIN

The COM approved the resignation of the Rev. Mark Mueller as moderator and part time bridge pastor at First Gallatin.

MINISTERIAL COMPENSATION POLICY

COM approved additional language to be added to the Ministerial Compensation Policy which clarified the definition of a full-time pastor at 35 hours a week.

THE REV. YOON MIN KIM

COM dismissed the Rev. Yoon Min Kim (NKPC) to the Presbytery of Midwest Hanmi <u>THE REV. TOBY MUELLER</u>

COM dismissed the Rev. Toby Mueller to Charlotte Presbytery.

PULPIT SUPPLY LIST

COM added the Rev. Laura Cheifetz, the Rev. Adam DeVries, and the Rev. Mike Magee to the Pulpit Supply List.

COM removed Jim Mahurin from the Pulpit Supply List at his request.

THE REV.STEPHANIE BOAZ

COM admitted the Rev. Stephanie Boaz as a Minister Member at Large after reviewing the current parity schedule.

The REV. KATIE ORY

COM approved the contract between Blue Spring and the Rev Katie Ory from the Cumberland Presbyterian Church with the Rev. Erin Howton-Angel serving as mentor. Terms of Call are 14 hours a week at \$22,800 annually with mileage reimbursed at \$0.67 per mile; 4 weeks of vacation; 2 weeks of Study Leave; \$300 Professional Expenses. The call approval is pending her examination by the Exam Team.

MODERATOR OF WOODLAND PC

The Rev. Sally Hughes was appointed as Moderator of the Woodland Presbyterian Church. <u>MODERATOR OF FPC GALLATIN</u>

The Rev. Leslie Traylor was appointed as Moderator of First Presbyterian, Gallatin. MODERATOR OF FPC SPRINGFIELD AT 5th AVE. UNITING

The Rev. Michael Davis was appointed as Moderator of the FPC Springfield session of the congregation of 5th Ave Uniting Church of Springfield, TN.

THE REV. MARY SELLERS SHAW

The COM validated the ministry of the Rev. Mary Sellers Shaw at the Martha O'Bryan Center as the Director of Service Learning.

THE REV. WILL WELLMAN

The COM validated the ministry of the Rev. Will Wellman to teach classes at Westminster Presbyterian Church.

FORMATION OF PNC, HISTORIC FRANKLIN AND NASHVILLE KOREAN

The COM approved the formation of PNCs at Historic Franklin and Nashville Korean. The Nashville Korean PNC is composed of: Bae, Jung W., Cho, Sung Ho,Ha, Kyung, Mi,Ju, Tae, J.,Kim, Myung, S.,Park, Sue, Shin, Hyun W. (Chair). The Historic Franklin PNC is composed of: Cindy Morelli, John Kimball, Robin White, Paul Trapeni, Susan Henry, Steve Young, John Fraser.

CHAIR OF MEDIATION

The COM appointed the Rev. John Smith as chair of the Mediation Team. 2024 CHURCH LIAISON ASSIGNMENTS

The COM approved the 2024 Church Liaison Assignments.

THE REV. ZACH SASSER

The COM approved the commission to install the Rev. Zach Sasser at Downtown Presbyterian to be done on January 28, 2024. The Commission was composed of: The Rev. Ray Thomas,EP; Elinor Foster, RE,FPC Lewisburg; the Rev. Barry Chance, Eastminster Presbytery, Debra Gentry, RE,DP; the Rev. Warner Durnell, Honorably Retired; the Rev. Adrian White,minister-at-large; the Rev. Keith Gunter, New Creations; and Jack Henderson, RE,DP; Debra VanDerveer, RE,Historic Franklin; and Dixie Williamson, RE, DP.

WEBINAR

The COM hosted a webinar on January 11, 2024 with the Rev. Joan Gray; "Trusting the Spirit to Move." The recording is available.

THRIVE

The COM approved PMT to host a THRIVE (Thinking Retirement: Identity, Vocation, and Economics) Conference to be held in September of this year. More information to come.

RULING ELDER TRAINING TO ADMINISTER SACRAMENTS

The COM is planning to host a Ruling Elder training on Administering Sacraments in the context of a local church. More information to come.

RETIREMENT OF EP RAY THOMAS

The COM accepted with regret the retirement of the Rev. Ray Thomas, effective April 1, 2024. INTRODUCTION OF THE REV. ZACH SASSER

Rev. Howton Angel introduced the Rev. Zach Sasser, newly installed pastor at Downtown Presbyterian Church.

KEENAN RODGERS, BOP

Rev. Howton-Angel introduced Keenan Rodgers, of the Board of Pensions, who brought greetings and made remarks about the impending change in structure during 2025.

COMMITTEE ON THE PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY

The Rev. Lisa Hermann, Vice-Chair of the Committee on the Preparation for Ministry, made the committee's report in the excused absence of the chair, the Rev. Guy Griffith. Rev. Hermann introduced Mallory Hammond, Inquirer from the FPC Nashville congregation. The Committee recommended that Ms. Hammond be approved to be moved to Candidacy. Following Ms. Hammond's statement of her sense of call and Christian service, there were questions from the floor. Ms. Hammond was then moved to a break-out room. Following brief discussion, the motion out of committee was passed. Ms. Hammond was welcomed back and congratulated. The Rev. Sandra Randleman offered a prayer, and the Rev. Ryan Moore delivered the charge.

COMMITTEE ON CHURCH TRANSFORMATION

The Moderator recognized the Rev. John Hilley, chair of the Committee on Church Transformation to make a report from the committee. The Rev. Hilley had the following items admitted to record.

INVITATION TO JOIN "COHORT OF INNOVATION"

Rev. Hilley elaborated on the Cohort, which is part of the Cyclicals Initative being undertaken by the committee. The Rev. Hilley and Keith Gunter are facilitating this cohort. An invitation to churches and pastors to join a Presbytery of Middle Tennessee "Cohort of Innovation."

BARNA RESEARCH STATE OF NASHVILLE REPORT

The Committee has invited Operation Andrew to present to the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee churches their **State of Nashville** report conducted by Barna Research in April.

NUEVA VIDA

The Committee supported the new worshiping community at Nueva Vida. <u>REQUEST OF EP TRANSITION EMPHASIS</u>

The Committee requests from the Administration Committee and the Personnel Committee that "Church Transformation and Growth strategy" is identified as a hiring priority for the transition executive presbyter and for the eventual executive presbyter and furthermore that this priority is reflected in the recruiting, interviewing, and hiring of these candidates.

COMMITTEE ON LEADERSHIP EXCELLENCE

The Moderator recognized Dr. Mary Martin, chair of the Committee on Leadership Excellence. FUNDS EXPENDITURES APPROVAL

The Committee approved the expenditure of funds for the attendance of the PMT treasurer to the Presbyterian Foundation Finance Conference in November, 2023. The Committee also approved the expenditure of funds for an honorarium to the Rev. Joan Gray who led the seminar "Creative Shift—Trusting the Spirit to Move" on January 11, 2024.

REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK

The Moderator recognized Ruling Elder Mary Catherine Sevier, Stated Clerk, for her report. Annual Statistics Report

The clerk thanked the congregations who have submitted their reports and reminded the others that the deadline for autonomous reporting is February 15; the deadline for the data to be submitted to the clerk for her to enter is February 28.

Death of the Rev. Harry Clewer

The Stated Clerk was informed of the death of Honorably Retired TE the Rev. Harry Clewer on October 23, 2023.

Minutes of the Installation Commission of Zach Sasser

The Clerk received the minutes of the Installation Commission of Zach Sasser.

MINUTES

Installation Commission for Downtown_Presbyterian Church Nashville, Tennessee

Sunday, January 28, 2024, 2 P.M.

The Installation Commission appointed by the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee to install Teaching Elder Zach Sasser as Pastor met at the Downtown Presbyterian Church of Nashville, Tennessee, on January 28, 2024 at Downtown Presbyterian Church at 1:30 P.M. Members present were:

Teaching Elders

The Rev. Keith Gunter, Pastor of New Creation Presbyterian Church of Hendersonville The Rev. Warner Durnell, Retired The Rev. Adrian White, Member-at-large The Rev. Ray Thomas, Executive Presbyter

Ruling Elders

Elinor Foster, First Presbyterian Church of Lewisburg Debra VanDerveer, Historic Franklin Presbyterian Church of Franklin Debra Gentry, Downtown Presbyterian Church, Nashville Jack Henderson, Downtown Presbyterian Church, Nashville Dixie Williamson, Downtown Presbyterian Church, Nashville

Invitation to sit with the Commission:

The Rev. Barry Chance, General Presbyter/Stated Clerk, Eastminster Presbytery, OH RE Erin Bell, Downtown Presbyterian Church, Nashville.

The Commission was called to order by the Chair of the Commission, RE Elinor Foster, and TE Ray Thomas was appointed Clerk of the Commission by the Chair. TE Ray Thomas offered the opening prayer. 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 TE Barry Chance. The constitutional Questions were propounded to TE Zach Sasser by the Chair and they were answered in the affirmative. The Constitutional Questions were propounded to the Congregation by RE Debra Gentry and answered in the affirmative by the Congregation. A prayer was offered by TE Warner Durnell.

TE Zach Sasser was duly installed as Pastor of Downtown Presbyterian Church, Nashville.

A Charge was delivered to the Pastor by TE Keith Gunter and RE Debra VanDerveer charged the congregation. The Service was closed with the Benediction pronounced by TE Zach Sasser. The Commission was adjourned at the benediction of the worship service.

Respectfully submitted:

TE Ray Thomas, Clerk of the Commission

Service of Installation for The Rev. Zachary Scott Sasser

and

The Ordination and Installation of Church Officers



Image created by The Rev. Zach Sasser based on a photograph of unknown origin sourced online

The Downtown Presbyterian Church Nashville, Tennessee

January 28th, 2024

2022 MINUTES OF THE PRESBYTERY

The 2022 minutes of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee were approved without exception by the Synod of Living Waters at its stated meeting on January 22, 2024.

REMEDIAL COMPLAINTS

Three remedial complaints were filed against the presbytery by an individual member. The complainant withdrew all complaints and the Synod PJC filed an order of dismissal on January 23, 2024. The Committee of Counsel is dismissed with thanks for their dedicated and time consuming service in the middle of the busy holiday seasons of Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas. The Committee was composed of: the Rev. Dr. John A. Hinkle, jr., FPC Murfreesboro, RE Donna Simpson, FPC Cookville, and RE Debbie Fraley, FPC Fayetteville.

MUTUAL SUPPORT ITEMS TO ADMIT TO RECORD

The Committee on Mutual Support approved the following grants: Hunger Grants were awarded to Kinsman Redeemer Homeless Ministry and Nashville Living Wage and a Technology Grant was given to the Sudanese Presbyterian Church.

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORTS

The Clerk called attention to the supplemental reports in the packet from the Committee on Mutual Support and the Committee on Social Justice.

<u>MANUAL OF MISSION AND OPERATIONS MANUAL AMENDMENTS</u> The Clerk explained that because the 2023-2025 *Book of Order* no longer recognizes the title "Honorable Retirement" for all retired Teaching Elders after July 11, 2023, the Presbytery's Manual needed to be amended to reflect that language. The following amendments to the Manual were approved by the body by a two-thirds majority vote.

- 1. Page 5 will read "The rolls of teaching elders who are members-at-large or Honorably Retired or Retired and live out of state, or are not able to participate in the work of the Presbytery, will be adjusted for the purpose of parity." [Language in red font to be added.]
- 2. Page 15 will not contain the word "Honorable".

QUORUM TO CONDUCT BUSINESS AND AMENDMENT OF SAME IN THE MANUAL OF MISSION AND OPERATIONS

The Clerk brought forward the following recommendation, which was moved and seconded: The required quorum for a stated meeting and to conduct corporate business will be reduced from 75 commissioners to the following: 15 Teaching Elders, 15 Ruling Elders, and at least eight congregations represented among the 30 individuals, and that this change be reflected in the Manual of Mission and Operations on pages 3 and 4. The motion carried with the required twothirds majority.

APPROVAL OF PHYSICAL BOUNDARY OF THE PRESBYTERY

The Clerk recommended that the Manual of Mission and Operations be amended on page 2 by adding the following boundary description on line 43: The geographic district of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee consists of the counties of Bedford, Bledsoe, Cannon, Cheatham, Clay, Coffee, Cumberland, Davidson, Dekalb, Dickson, Fentress, Franklin, Giles, Grundy, Hardin, Hickman, Houston, Humphreys, Jackson, Lawrence, Lewis, Lincoln, Macon, Marion, Marshall, Maury, Montgomery, Moore, Overton, Perry, Pickett, Putnam, Robertson, Rutherford, Sequatchie, Smith, Stewart, Sumner, Trousdale, Van Buren, Wayne, Warren, White, Williamson, and Wilson, all in the state of Tennessee; with the exception that the Fairfield Glade Community Church in Cumberland County is a member of the Presbytery of East Tennessee and the First Presbyterian Church of Savannah in Hardin County is a member of the Presbytery of the Mid-South. This amendment is necessary to comply with an overture being presented at the 226th.

ADJOURNMENT

The Moderator asked for new and unfinished business. There was none. The Moderator asked for a motion for adjournment. The Motion was made, seconded, and approved. The Moderator closed with prayer and adjourned the meeting at 1:15 pm after announcing the 156th stated meeting will take place May 11, 2024, at FPC Murfreesboro.

Attachment A

Teaching Elders _P_Adams, Chris _E_Anderson, David _P_Anderson, Rosanna _P_Angel, Erin Howton _P_Angel, Jonathan <u>E</u>Arnold, Judith E Bagley, Tom _E_Barger, Bill _P_Berry, Claire _P_Berger, Will E Boaz, Stephanie Hanson _P_Bradley, Michael _E_Bray, Linda _P_Bryan, Mark S. _E_Bryant, William T. E Burgener, John "Bo" _E_Caldwell, Elizabeth E Canon, Amelia _P_Carrell, Len _E_Casner, Paul _E_Catoe, Lee _E_Cejka, III, Joseph E Cheetham, John T. _E_Cheifetz, Laura M. E Chuquimia, Teddy _E_Coates, Coleman Lewis E Cox, Meredith _E_Crawford, John _E_Crumpler, David _E_Danner, Charles _P_Davis, Michael P DeVries, Adam _E_DeVries, Mark P Drake, Donovan _E_Durnell, Warner R. E Early, Kim Maphis _E_Early, Robert _P_Edington, Sherard _E_Eisenmenger, David _E_Fraser, Carrie _E_Gasser, Anna D. _E_Gay, Andy

- P Present
- E Excused

_E_Gerber, David _E Gilliam, Elizabeth _E_Gilliss, Martha Schull P Glover, Gregory E Glover, Leslie _E_Gordon, Stuart _E_Graham, M. Evelyn _E_Griffith, Guy D. _E_Gung, Justin _E_Gunter, Keith E Hamman, Jaco _E_Handlson, Pat P Harding, Bobby _E_Harkness, David E Harrell, James E. _E_Hassall, Harry S. P Hermann, Lisa C. P Herring, Jane _E_Hill, Austin _E Hill, Ellen _E_Hill, Sara P Hilley, John R. _P_Hinkle, Jr., John E Hodgson, Peter _E_Hoechst, Jeanne' E Horn, John _P_Hudnut-Beumler, Heidi _P_Hudnut-Beumler, James _P_Hughes, Sally P_Huie, Scott _E_Hunter, Jeannie _E_Jarvis, Jennifer P Johnson, Charles N. _P Joiner, Christopher A. E Jones, Todd B. _E_Kane, Jeff E Kang, Se Bong _E_Kang, Shin _E_Kaufman, John E. P Kelly, Gary _E_Kidd, David _E_Klein, Candice _E Kneff, Sarah Bird

_E_Knight, Carole E Kramer, Claire Harris E Lancaster, Jimmie _P_Larson, John _E_Leftwich, Phil _E_Lewis, John _E_Lipsey, McCurdy _E_Logan, Gail E Magee, Michael J. _P_McCaw, Beth _E_McClure, Annie _E_McCormack, Robert E. _E_McCullough, John _E_McKinsey, Sally Ann _P_McLaughlin, Michael D. _E_McVey, Bruce _E_Moffatt, III, Charles L. _P_Montgomery, Robert _P_Moore, Ryan _P_Moran, James A. _E_Mueller, Mark _E_Muse, Perry _E_Musgrave, John _E_Musick, Steve _E_Nally, Sara E Neil, Richard _E_Newsom, Ernest B. _E_Nichols, James A. _E_Nickell, Kay Pickens _E Nyhuis, Jule _E_Orfield, Rachel Thompson _E_Paddon, Richard _E_Padget, Donald _E_Page, Fred E Paterik, Roy _E_Patton, Tom _E_Pentecost, Mike _E_Picard, John Paul _E_Ramirez, Lilia M. _P_Randleman, Sandra _P_Rector, Stacy _E_Richardson, W. W. _E_Ritchie, Jeff A – Absent I - Inactive

February 10, 2024 Stated Meeting Roll _E_Ritchie, Megan _E_Rodriguez, Josh _E_Rogers-Vaughn, Annette _E_Rouquie, Richard P Salyer, Carson _E_Salyer, Janet _P_Sasser. Zach _E_Sawyer, David _E_Schultz, Harris _P_Schwartz, Cindy _P_Shaw, Mary Sellers _E_Skelly, John J., III _E_Smathers, Mike _E_Smith, Jimmy D. E Smith, John A. _E_Smith, Shane _P_Smith, Shawn Thomas _E_Soderquist, Ann _E_Stauffer, Aaron _P_Stoker, Amy B. _E_Tate, Carol _E_Tennyson, Walt _E_Thomas, C. S. (Steve) III _P_Thomas, Ray _E_Thompson, C.J. E Thompson, Marjorie _E_Todd, John _E_Traylor, Leslie _E_Tuck, Janet _E_Tyndall, Thomas B. _E_Vasquez-Paredes, Gustavo _E_ Venable, III, Sid _E_Wallace, Morgan _E_Weingartner, Robert J. E Wellman, Will P White, Adrian E White, Jack _E_White, Linda _E_Wilson, Amos L. _E_Yang, Sunggu P_Yates, Stephen _E_Zeigler, Richard

Ruling Elder Commissioners

Church	Represented By		
<u>Church</u> Alexandria, Liberty Hill	<u>Represented By</u>	Church	Represented By
Allardt, First		Lewisburg, Bethberei	<u>Represented By</u>
Alpine, Christ		First	1. Elinor Foster
Ardmore, Bethany		THSt	2.
Belfast		Lynnville, First	2.
Bethpage, Oak Grove		Manchester, First	
Brentwood, Brentwood First		McMinnville, First	
East	1. Tyler Spaid	Milton, Hopewell	
Lust	2. Barbara Hall	Mt. Pleasant, First	
Harpeth	1.	Murfreesboro, First	1. Jackie Jenkins
Impen	2.		2. Brian Iske
Buffalo Valley	1. Mary Ellen Ausenbaugh		2. Diran Isite
Clarksville, First	1. Kenneth Giles	Northminster	
,	2.	Nashville, Bellevue	1. Betsy Ames
			2. Judy Tygard
Macedonia		Donelson	1.
Columbia, First	1. Mary Beth Cotham		2.
	2.	Downtown	1. Dave Coleman
Westminster		Eastminster	1. Connie Hamblen
Cookeville, Double Springs			2. Anna Baker
First	1. Cade Arnold	Emmanuel	
	2.	First	1. Hal Sauer
Post Oak			2.
Cowan, Fellowship			3.
Crossville, Calvary	1. Judy Venable		4.
	2.		5.
Culleoka, Central			6.
Decherd			7.
Dickson, First	1. Spencer Truett	Glen Leven	1. Irene Hansen
Pond			2. Matthew Victory
Fairfield Glade, Westminster	1. Donnie Harris	Glencliff	1. Pauline Kennedy
Fayetteville, First	1. Carol Foster	Hillsboro	1.
St. Jahr	2.	TT:II-read	2. 1. Dah Gaaran
St. John	1. Mike Anderson	Hillwood	1. Bob Cooper
Franklin, First	 Mike Anderson Sam Webb 	Korean	1
	2. Sam webb 3.	Korean	1. 2.
Historic	 Debra Van De Veer 		2. 3.
Instone	2. Caroline Stewart	Priest Lake	J. 1. Dave Nock
	2. Caronne Stewart	Second	1. Betsy Bond
Gallatin, First	1.	Second	2. Gray Sasser
Gunutin, Thist	2.		2. Gruy Susser
Sudanese	1. David Paduil	Southminster	
Suddifese	2. Koang Chol	St. Andrews	1. Henry Deaderick
Hendersonville, First	1. Brian Burke	Starmarens	2.
	2. Jean Getter	Trinity	1.
New Creation	1.		
	2.	Westminster	1. Don Schulze
Hermitage	1.		2. Jim Barr
<u> </u>	2.		3. Rhea Bucy
Lawrenceburg, First	1. Carole Ivey		4. Ron Harris
Lebanon, First	1. Mickey Stuecke		5.
	2.		
Spring Creek		Woodland	Brett Withers
		Normandy	
		56 of 57	156th packet 2024.05.11

<u>Church</u> Old Hickory Petersburg, First Pulaski, Brick Church Pulaski, First	<u>Represented By</u> 1. Chris Williams
Readyville, Cripple Creek	2.
Shelbyville, First	 Mary Brown Lori Sain Smith
Smyrna, First	1. Marta Smith 2. Lisa Jordan
Sparta, Blue Spring Hickory Valley Robinson Chapel	
Spring Hill, First	1. Geoff Lackey
Springfield, First	 Shelby Smith 1.
Milldale Thompson Station, Bethesda Tullahoma, First	 Charlotte Broyles Bethany Sterling
Watertown, First Waverly, Ellis Grove	

Commissioned Ruling Elders

Leonard Jordan, St. Andrews;

Ruling Elders, Voice and Vote:

Administrative Committee; Melinda Sanders, Finance Committee; Mary Catherine Sevier, Stated Clerk; Mary Martin, Committee on Leadership Excellence chair; Presbyterian Women Diane Thurston; , Henry Deaderick, Social Justice chair

Moderator within five years of office: Cristi Scott Ligon, Theresa Denton, Ed Lancaster

<u>Corresponding Members, Voice, without Vote:</u>

<u>Visitors:</u> Louis Morrow, Teresa Burns, Dina Crigger, First Lewisburg choir and congregation, Kimberly Coward, Mallory Hammond, Brim Wilson, Ed Branding, Keenan Rodgers

Unable to place: Tricia Scott (no location entered),