

**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 Goodwillier'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

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 min)
9:30 am	1.	CONVENE <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establishment of Quorum• Adoption of Agenda and Consent Agenda• Seating of Corresponding Members
9:35 am	2.	WORSHIP <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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-Beumler (20 minutes)
11: 30 am		(3) Administrative Committee – Jane Herring (10 minutes) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• FPC, Decherd request for Administrative Commission
11: 40 am		(4) Finance Committee – Hal Sauer (10 minutes) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Administrative Commission for Brick Church Presbytery
11:50 am		(5) Commission on Ministry – Erin Howton-Angel (15 minutes) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction of Zach Sasser

12:05 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of Stephanie Hanson Boaz • Greetings from Keenan Rodgers, BoP <p>(6) Committee on Preparation for Ministry – Guy Griffith (10 minutes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 ADJOURNMENT	<p>ANNOUNCEMENTS and</p> <p>156th Stated Meeting, Saturday, May 11, 2024 First Presbyterian Church Murfreesboro, Tennessee</p> <p>Closing Prayer Adjournment</p>

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

Item #	Title
(1)	Approval of Minutes and Roll of the 154 th 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

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

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.

CHARGE TO FPC DECHERD ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION **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

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.

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

THE REV. TOBY MUELLER

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.

MODERATOR OF FPC GALLATIN

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 Cyclical Initiative 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 worshipping community at Nueva Vida.

REQUEST OF EP TRANSITION EMPHASIS

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.

MANUAL OF MISSION AND OPERATIONS MANUAL AMENDMENTS

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 two-thirds 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.

Teaching Elders

_P_Adams, Chris
 _E_Anderson, David
 _P_Anderson, Rosanna
 _P_Angel, Erin Howton
 _P_Angel, Jonathan
 _E_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_Catoo, 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

_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_Hoehst, 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

February 10, 2024 Stated Meeting Roll

_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

_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

A – Absent

I - Inactive

P - Present

E – Excused

Ruling Elder Commissioners

<u>Church</u>	<u>Represented By</u>
Alexandria, Liberty Hill	
Allardt, First	
Alpine, Christ	
Ardmore, Bethany	
Belfast	
Bethpage, Oak Grove	
Brentwood, Brentwood First East	1. Tyler Spaid 2. Barbara Hall
Harpeth	1. 2.
Buffalo Valley	1. Mary Ellen Aussenbaugh
Clarksville, First	1. Kenneth Giles 2.
Macedonia	
Columbia, First	1. Mary Beth Cotham 2.
Westminster	
Cookeville, Double Springs First	1. Cade Arnold 2.
Post Oak	
Cowan, Fellowship	
Crossville, Calvary	1. Judy Venable 2.
Culleoka, Central	
Decherd	
Dickson, First Pond	1. Spencer Truett
Fairfield Glade, Westminster	1. Donnie Harris
Fayetteville, First	1. Carol Foster 2.
St. John	
Franklin, First	1. Mike Anderson 2. Sam Webb 3.
Historic	1. Debra Van De Veer 2. Caroline Stewart
Gallatin, First	1. 2.
Sudanese	1. David Paduil 2. Koang Chol
Hendersonville, First	1. Brian Burke 2. Jean Getter
New Creation	1. 2.
Hermitage	1. 2.
Lawrenceburg, First	1. Carole Ivey
Lebanon, First	1. Mickey Stuecke 2.
Spring Creek	

<u>Church</u>	<u>Represented By</u>
Lewisburg, Bethberei First	1. Elinor Foster 2.
Lynnville, First	
Manchester, First	
McMinnville, First	
Milton, Hopewell	
Mt. Pleasant, First	
Murfreesboro, First	1. Jackie Jenkins 2. Brian Iske
Northminster	
Nashville, Bellevue	1. Betsy Ames 2. Judy Tygard
Donelson	1. 2.
Downtown	1. Dave Coleman
Eastminster	1. Connie Hamblen 2. Anna Baker
Emmanuel First	1. Hal Sauer 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7.
Glen Leven	1. Irene Hansen 2. Matthew Victory
Glenclyff Hillsboro	1. Pauline Kennedy 1. 2.
Hillwood	1. Bob Cooper
Korean	1. 2. 3.
Priest Lake Second	1. Dave Nock 1. Gray Sasser
Southminster	
St. Andrews	1. Henry Deaderick 2.
Trinity	1. Betsy Bond
Westminster	1. Don Schulze 2. Jim Barr 3. Rhea Bucy 4. Ron Harris 5.
Woodland Normandy	Brett Withers

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

Corresponding Members, Voice, without Vote:

Visitors: 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),