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Presbytery of Middle Tennessee

Committee on Mutual Support

August 8, 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.

We are pleased to announce that a revised Hunger Grant Application has been completed and approved and is now available on the PMT website. The new application is more streamlined for applicants to complete and also provides our committee with more helpful information in the decision making process.

As a part of our 2024 goals, COMS continues to reach out to the churches. The purpose of these conversations is to gain a better understanding of two things: their awareness of COMS and what our committee does and can offer. And 2) to gain a better sense of their missional activities and involvement locally and abroad. We'd like to thank everyone's assistance in making this effort a success.

Admit to Record

Hunger grants awarded: \$4000 to Second Harvest Food Bank (May 2024)

Another successful trip to Guatemala is in the books. More info is attached. Travelers from the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee's Guatemala-Peten Partnership Task Force (GPPTF) included John Hilley (Trip Leader), Barb Hall, and Lavona Russell. Key elements of this eight-day trip included a meeting with our Peten Q'eqchi Presbytery (PQP) pastor-partners, visits to two churches in the PQP, a day of Theological Training, and accompanying the Moderator of the PQP to a meeting with the IENPG (comparable to the General Assembly in the PCUSA).

Recommendation

1. The Committee on Mutual Support moves that the Covenant Agreement between PMT and Peten Q'eqchi Presbytery be approved for renewal.

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Report from the Committee on Preparation for Ministry
to the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee
August 8, 2024

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. 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).

ADMIT TO RECORD

1. A motion was made and accepted that we make available - upon request from candidate and sponsoring church - 50% of the cost of the required psychological evaluation. This distribution will come from 3002-32, which is the line item specifically designated for CPM to use to assist sponsoring congregations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. None at this time.