

**MIDDLE TENNESSEE
MINUTES OF ONE HUNDRED FIFTY SEVENTH STATED MEETING
AUGUST 8, 2024**

The 157th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee met in person at Second Presbyterian Church, Nashville, on Thursday, August 8, 2024. Stated Clerk Mary Catherine Sevier provided an orientation for first time commissioners. In the absence of Moderator Elinor Foster, Vice-Moderator Jane Herring called the meeting to order at 9:04 am.

**DECLARATION OF QUORUM / STATEMENT OF PROCEDURES / FIRST TIME
COMMISSIONERS / CORRESPONDING MEMBERS**

Vice-Moderator Herring 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 (Attachment A). The Vice-Moderator also announced that the Stated Clerk had requested that TE John Smith of FPC Dickson and Ellis Grove serve as assistant parliamentarian and assistant stated clerk. There was no objection.

**AGENDA, CONSENT AGENDA, MINUTES OF 156th STATED MEETING,
AND MINUTES OF JULY 11th CALLED MEETING**

The vice-moderator stated that the agenda and the consent agenda, which contained the minutes of the 156th stated meeting and the July 11th called meeting, had been provided in advance. The agenda and the consent agenda containing the minutes were approved 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.

THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-SEVENTH STATED MEETING

THE PRESBYTERY OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE

AGENDA OF AUGUST 8, 2024

SECOND PRESBYTERIAN, NASHVILLE

8:30 am		Registration (Order of the Day in CAPS)
8:45 am		Orientation of First Time Commissioners – Mary Catherine Sevier(10 min)
9:00 am	1.	CONVENE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of Quorum • Adoption of Agenda and Consent Agenda • Seating of Corresponding Members • Recognition of First Time Presbyters
9:10 am	2.	Worship <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sermon: Ashley Higgins, Candidate for Ordination • Offering: 50% to CPM Inquirer Sponsorship Support; 50% to Miss Martha’s Ice Cream Cranking (Martha O’ Bryan Center)
10:10 am- 10:30 am		BREAK
10:30 am	3.	Reconvene/REPORTS (numbers indicate order in packet)
10:30 am		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (1) Administrative Committee- Jane Herring (30 minutes)
11:00 am		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (2) Finance Committee – Evelyn Graham (15 minutes) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Report from the Brick Church PC AC
11:15 am		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (3) Nominating Task Force – Leonard Jordan (5 minutes)
11:20 am		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (4) Commission on Ministry – Erin Howton-Angel (25 minutes) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ordination Examination of Ashley Higgins ○ Commissioning Examination of David Sadler ○ Report from the Decherd PC AC
11:45 am		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (5) Committee on Mutual Support – Bobby Harding (5 minutes)
11:50 am		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee on Social Justice – Claire Berry (5 minutes)
11:55 am		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (6) Stated Clerk Report – Mary Catherine Sevier (10 minutes)
12:05 am		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Presbyter’s Report – Terry Newland (5 minutes)
12:10 am		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (7) Report of the GA Commissioners (20 minutes)
12:30 pm		ANNOUNCEMENTS and ADJOURNMENT 158 th Stated Meeting, Thursday, November 14, 2024, First Dickson, (co-hosted by Ellis Grove, Waverly 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, www.pbymidtn.org, and click the "Give Now" button

▲ scan the QR Code below which will take you to the donation page



12:30 pm – 2:00 pm OPTIONAL BREAKOUT SESSIONS with boxed lunches available for pre-order

- A. COM members discuss the Board of Pensions changes to the benefits plan. Come with your specific questions and get one-on-one help with determining the various paths available for your congregation
- B. Meet with the Commissioners to the GA for specific Q and A about the experience, the process, and the specific amendments on which we will be asked to hold ratification votes
- C. Meet the Committees: What are all these committees, teams, and task forces? Enjoy some time getting to know the volunteers who have heard God's call to serve our presbytery – and begin listening for His call to you!
- D. Just for fun—sign up for an indoor pickleball tourney! Depending on the number, we will enjoy a pick up game, a round robin, or an all out bracketed tournament! No experience, racquets or balls required – just bring your favorite court shoes!

WELCOME

157rd Stated Meeting, Presbytery of Middle Tennessee, August 08, 2024

Consent Agenda:

Item #	Title
(1)	Approval of Minutes and Roll of the 156 th Stated Meeting of May 11, 2024
(2)	Approval of Minutes and Roll of the Called Meeting of July 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.**

The Rev. Evelyn Graham, Interim Pastor at Second, Nashville, offered words of welcome and worship commenced.

WORSHIP

Rev. Graham and RE Clee Lee led worship with Candidate for Ordination Ashley Higgins delivering the sermon on miraculous hope through God. The offering was shared between the Martha O'Bryan Center and the CPM's fund to help churches who are sponsoring candidates and inquirers. Music was provided by members of the Second Presbyterian choir and organist Steven Cook.

Following worship, there was a break for fellowship, and the Vice-Moderator reconvened the meeting at 10:34 am.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

Vice-Moderator Herring designated the Stated Clerk as Moderator without objection while she presented the following report from the Administrative Committee.

COM Co-Chairs

The Administrative Committee approved COM being chaired by co-chairs, serving staggered terms.

Policy Compliance TaskForce

The Policy Compliance Committee is continuing its work.

Website Guidelines

A team is being created to draft guidelines for the posting of events on the PMT website.

Insurance Review Team

The insurance review team is working to confirm that PMT coverage is optimal.

Resignations

The following resignations were reported and the Nominations Taskforce has been notified: Committee on the Preparation for Ministry: Dina Crigger, and Commission on Ministry: Rev. Tom Bagley. While previously reported, the Committee also accepted and expressed regret at the resignation of Heidi Hudnut-Beumler, TE of Westminster PC, Nashville.

Covenant Agreement between Guatemala Task Force and PQP

The Covenant Agreement renewal between PMT Guatemala Task Force and the PQP was approved and recommended that Mutual Support present to the Presbytery for approval.

Background Check Availability for Congregations

Congregations will have the opportunity to create their own accounts through PMT's background check company.

Approval of Called Meeting

The Administrative Committee approved a call for a meeting on July 11, 2024, to approve an offer of sale of the Central Presbyterian property in Culleoka, TN. The sale closed on August 1, 2024.

Isaiah 1:18 Team—St. John PC

The Isaiah 1:18 Team formed to walk with the St. John PC in its request for gracious dismissal is moderated by Harold Dawkins, RE of FPC Fayetteville, along with Clerk Denise Moran, RE of FPC Shelbyville and Rev. John Smith, TE of FPC Dickson and Ellis Grove PC

August 8, 2024 Stated Meeting Plans.

The Administrative Committee heard and approved the plans for the August 8, 2024, Stated Meeting to be held in person and to convene by 9:00 am and conclude by 12:30 pm. Optional lunch and breakouts will be available.

Center for Healthy Churches/Pneumatrix

The Administrative Committee presented a recommendation to enter an agreement with Center for Healthy Churches/Pneumatrix to assist in a visioning process before beginning a search for the installed Executive Presbyter. The Committee moved that PMT hire the Center for Healthy Churches/ Pneumatrix (CHCP) for a visioning and discernment process for the mission of the presbytery and possibly to engage a second process to help find candidates to be considered as the next executive presbyter. The motion was out of committee and did not require a second. An amendment was proposed:

That PMT hire the Center for Healthy Churches/ Pneumatrix (CHCP) for a visioning and discernment process for the mission of the presbytery ~~and possibly to engage a second process to help find candidates to be considered as the next executive presbyter.~~

The Amendment was seconded and discussed. It passed unanimously. The motion was then voted upon:

That PMT hire the Center for Healthy Churches/ Pneumatrix (CHCP) for a visioning and discernment process for the mission of the presbytery.

The motion carried unanimously.

Bridge Executive Presbyter's Contract

The Administrative Committee presented a recommendation and moved that negotiations begin to extend Rev. Terry Newland's contract as Bridge Executive Presbyter. The motion did not need a second and following discussion the motion carried unanimously.

The Administrative Committee report being concluded, the Stated Clerk returned the gavel to the Vice-Moderator.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Rev. Evelyn Graham, chair of the Finance Committee, presented the following information and discussed the financial statements for the past quarter. She noted that the investment account is somewhat up, expenses are somewhat under budget, and giving is approximately \$25,000 under the pledged amount.

Matthew 25 Food Project

The name of the Matthew 25 Food Project (3002-33) was changed to the Nueva Vida Foodbank Fund.

Designated fund 3002-62

Due to the discontinuation of the Pastor to Pastor program, the Pastor to Pastor designated fund (3002-62) balance of \$1,907.40 was moved into the Nueva Vida Foodbank Fund (3002-33).

Trinity Task Force Report

Jane Herring, TE Emmanuel, resigned from the Trinity Presbyterian Task Force. She was replaced by Evelyn Graham, TE Second Nashville. Other members include John Hinkle, TE Murfreesboro, Steve Douse, RE Nashville First, Allen Kennedy, RE Nashville, First. The Trinity Presbyterian Task Force met with the Trinity Presbyterian Session and Sally Hughes, TE Trinity, the moderator of the Trinity Session on July 23, 2024. A 5-year lease was signed by Trinity Presbyterian Church and the Linden Waldorf School effective July 1, 2024.

New Designated Fund

The Finance Committee has approved a new designated fund for \$75,000 from Unrestricted Net Assets-Other (which currently has a balance of \$1,034,630) for expenses associated with the transitional period for finding a new EP. These expenses shall include but not be limited to expenses for consulting by Center for Healthy Churches/Pneumatrix, additional staffing expenses as necessitated by the transition, and other anticipated and unexpected costs due to this transition.

Brick Church Administrative Commission Report

The Rev. Amy Stoker, chair of the Brick Church AC, presented the following report. The Commission, composed of Rev. Stoker, TE at First, Pulaski and moderator; Rev. Jim Moran, TE at First, Shelbyville and clerk; Carol Foster, RE at First, Fayetteville; and Chris Williams, RE at First, Pulaski, has assumed original jurisdiction pursuant to its charge after numerous failed attempts to contact known members. The Commission wishes to work with any known members and the Brick Church community in the property disposition, but it has found that worship has not been held since 2018 and that the congregation is extinct through its session's abandonment of its work. The AC moved that the congregation be dissolved with thanks for its long ministry. The motion carried unanimously.

NOMINATING TASK FORCE

CRE Leonard Jordan of St. Andrews Nashville made the report from the Nominating Task Force. Sara Hill, TE member-at-large, was elected to fill a vacancy on the Committee for Leadership Excellence; Debra Gentry, RE at Downtown Nashville, was elected to fill a vacancy on the Committee on the Preparation for Ministry; and Dwight Fox, RE at First Columbia, was elected to fill a vacancy on the Commission for Ministry.

COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

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

Thrive Seminar

The COM will host a THRIVE seminar on September 26 – 27, 2024, at Westminster Nashville.

Members Dismissed

The following ministers were dismissed: Rev. Adrian White to Mid-Kentucky Presbytery; Rev. Mark Mueller to Charlotte Presbytery; Rev. Mike Magee to New Covenant Presbytery

Members moved to Member-at-Large status

The Rev. Laura Cheifetz and Rev. Cynthia Schwartz were moved to Member-At-Large

Bridge Pastor, First Franklin

The Rev. Claire Berry was approved as a bridge pastor at First Franklin from May, 2024 through August, 2024 with a salary of \$8000.

Pastoral Relationship Dissolution

COM dissolved the relationship between Rev. Stuart Gordon and First, Nashville. Rev. Gordon's status was changed to Member-At-Large.

MDP Approvals

MDPS were approved for Historic Franklin and 5th Uniting in Springfield.

PNC and APNC Approvals

The formations of a PNC at Second, Nashville and an APNC at First, Nashville were approved.

Contract Extension

The contract extension to December 31, 2024, of Jason Loscuito, temporary minister at Glencliff, was approved.

Moderator of Priest Lake Session

Rev. Beth McCaw was appointed moderator of the Priest Lake session.

Ordination Examination of Ashley Higgins

Rev. Howton-Angel presented Ashley Higgins, candidate for ordination, for examination for ordination and moved the approval. Ms. Higgins's faith statement is included in the permanent record, and she spoke to her sense of calling and spiritual life. After a brief period of questions, Rev. Howton-Angel escorted her from the room. After a brief discussion, the motion carried unanimously. Ms. Higgins was welcomed back and congratulated. Rev. Howton-Angel moved the approval of her commission to ordain and install. This motion also carried unanimously. The commission is composed of: Teaching Elders: Heidi Hudnut Beumler, Westminster Nashville, Mark DeVries, HR, PMT; Ruling Elders: Elinor Foster, FPC Lewisburg or her designee, Susan Weathersby, Westminster Nashville, Becky Campbell, FPC Nashville, Amy Wilson, New Hope Presbytery, Liz Setser, Salem Presbytery. Guest of the Commission: the Rev. Dr. Kenda Creasy Dean, Kingston United Methodist Church, Princeton, NJ. The ordination will take place Sunday, September 15, 11:00 am, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Nashville. Ms Higgins has accepted a call as Associate Pastor for Community Life at Westminster, Nashville. Her terms of call are included in the permanent record.

Ashley Higgins Statement of Faith 08/2024

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 scripture is the Word of God which reveals the Truth of who God is. I believe that the sacraments are the most ordinary of elements, gifted by God through Jesus to the people of God, as signs of the ongoing work of the Spirit in our midst. Through both scripture and the sacraments, we are invited to celebrate and join in God's ongoing work in the world with gratitude- connecting us with followers of Christ throughout the history of the Church.

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.

Pastoral Call
(For Pastor, Co-Pastor, Associate Pastor)

The Westminster Presbyterian Church of Middle Tennessee, belonging to Middle Tennessee Presbytery, being well satisfied with your qualification for ministry and confident that we have been led to you by the Holy Spirit as one whose service will be profitable to the spiritual interests of our church and fruitful for the Kingdom of our Lord, earnestly and solemnly calls you,

Ashley Higgins
(name)
to undertake the office of
Associate Pastor for Community Life

of this congregation, beginning (TIME), promising you in the discharge of your duty all proper support, encouragement and allegiance in the Lord.

That you may be free to devote (part-time- 25 hrs./week) to the ministry of Word and Sacrament among us, we promise and obligate ourselves to pay you in regular monthly payments the following effective salary and following vouchersed expenses (all in those which are agreed to):

Effective salary		Reimbursable expenses (by voucher)	
Cash Salary	\$ _____	Automobile expense (____ per mile)	\$ <u>950.00</u>
Fair rental value of manse	\$ _____	Business/professional expenses	\$ <u>950.00</u>
Housing Allowance	\$ <u>30,000.00</u>	SECA Supplement (up to 50%)	\$ _____
Utilities Allowance	\$ _____	Continuing Education	\$ <u>1,875.00</u>
Deferred Compensation	\$ _____	Other allowances-Cell	\$ <u>1,200.00</u>
Other allowances	\$ _____	Moving Costs (up to)	\$ _____
Total	\$ <u>50,000.00</u>		

Full medical, pension, disability, and death benefit coverage under the Board of Pensions

Paid Vacation 16 days
Paid Continuing Ed 3 days

We further promise and obligate ourselves to review with you annually the adequacy of this compensation.

In the seventh year of service, the congregation will provide for a three-month Clergy Renewal Leave, continuing the salary and benefits for that period, and providing for pulpit supply in the pastor's absence.

In testimony whereof we have subscribed our names this 14th day of July, 2024

Cheryl Foltz Summarie Dora Stego
Erin Aguin

Having moderated the congregational meeting which extended this call for ministerial services, I do certify that the call has been made in all respect according to the presbytery policy and the Form of Government, and that the persons who signed the foregoing call were authorized to do so by vote of the congregation.

Vote of the congregation at the meeting was _____ in favor of the candidate and _____ opposed.

approved by COM on
2024.06.11

Mary Catherine Sawyer
Shirley Clark

(signed) Virginia C. Reynolds
Moderator of the meeting

Ashley Higgins - Past. Name
Associate Pastor
11/29/2024

Commissioning of Ruling Elder David Sadler to Priest Lake Presbyterian Church

Rev. Howton-Angel moved the examination and approval of commission to Priest Lake, Nashville of RE David Sadler. Mr. Sadler joined Rev. Howton-Angel on the floor of Presbytery and spoke briefly about his spiritual autobiography, statement of faith, and sense of calling. Following a period of questions, Rev. Howton-Angel escorted him from the room. After discussion, his commission was approved unanimously. Rev. Howton-Angel escorted him back to the meeting, and Vice-Moderator Herring propounded the constitutional questions. CRE Sadler was congratulated by the attendees.

Brief Statement of Faith – David L. Sadler

God is the ruler and creator of all. God provides for all our needs and blesses us richly. Through sacrificial love, God gave us the greatest teacher of love, Jesus Christ. It is through him that believers have salvation. Jesus was the human form of God on earth and taught us to love radically. The Holy Spirit, the final part of the trinity, blows through us and around us. The Spirit moves us and guides us in our life journey. The Spirit allows us to feel God's presence even though we cannot see God. The Holy Spirit convicts me to listen for God in my daily life and act in obedience when I listen to God. Believing in the Trinity provides me the means to fulfill my calling from God and be an obedient follower by loving others.

The scriptures are the divinely inspired Word of God. By reading and studying them both in private and group settings, we learn how God has loved creation and is a source of constant presence in our lives. The church provides a community for believers to gather in worship and learn more about God. The church is an outlet for us to use our gifts and talents to love others through service and being present in times of celebration and mourning. I view the church as a safe place to have doubt and bring questions to God. The church provides a means of support for believers in their faith journey. Through our involvement in church, we are fed spiritually and grow closer to God and to each other.

The sacraments provide a reminder of God's presence in our lives. Communion for me is the greatest reminder of Jesus's sacrificial death for my salvation. I feel closer to God when I celebrate the sacraments. When I see a baptism, I am reminded of the new life God has provided to me. We as believers cannot live life without being aware of God's presence in all aspects of our lives.

Spiritual Autobiography– David L. Sadler

I grew up in a family very active in the Presbyterian church. My grandfather was a retired PCUSA pastor and both parents were ordained elders. I professed my faith at age 9 and completed Communicant's class. After becoming a member of First Presbyterian, Springfield I served on the Worship Committee. I enjoyed learning in Sunday School each week and had the opportunity to explore different faiths thanks to my wonderful teachers who took us to different worship services. I remained active in church during college, yet at times, I was questioning some of my beliefs. This seems to be a natural phase as a young adult discerning whether one's beliefs are his own or simply accepted and assumed beliefs from family. My faith journey continued at the Presbyterian Student Fellowship (now known as UKirk) at Middle Tennessee State University. I was feeling the call to go into ministry; however, I was resistant at the time as I was questioning whether I had a genuine calling to ministry or just wanted to honor my grandfather's influence on me. I got married immediately after graduating from college and was blessed with three wonderful children. As I was teaching them about God and helping them grow in their faith, I realized that God was calling me to answer the call to go into ministry. At a session meeting in 1999, a letter was read from the presbytery about an opportunity for elders to be trained to be lay pastors. Without hesitation I raised my hand and was enrolled in training. During the trials I have experienced, I have seen the hand of God at work and the spirit guiding me along the way.

Report from Decherd Presbyterian Church Administrative Commission

Rev. Howton-Angel recognized the Rev. Tom Bagley, TE at Normandy PC and member of the Decherd AC along with RE Steve Elkins of First Murfreesboro, moderator, RE Charlotte Broyles of First Tullahoma, clerk, and Honorably Retired TE Ellen Hill. Rev. Bagley reported that the session of Decherd had requested an AC in order to be dissolved. The AC has walked alongside the session and congregation. A closing service of thanksgiving was held March 31, 2024, and the AC has steadily worked to help members transfer if they wish, and other tasks associated with dissolution. Following the assumption of original jurisdiction, the AC moved that the Decherd congregation be dissolved with thanks for its long ministry to the Decherd and Franklin County community. The motion carried unanimously. Rev. Bagley noted that the AC would begin the work of discernment of property disposition.

Approval of Southminster Presbyterian Church Administrative Commission

Rev. Howton-Angel next moved on behalf of COM that PMT charge an AC with the authority to investigate fully, including financial records, session minutes, relevant records, and other documents as well as emails relating to operation of the childcare program; provide fully any pastoral care to pastor and congregation, and assume original jurisdiction, if necessary, following all guidelines as stated in G-3.0303(e). Further, the COM chair and co-chair are charged with nominating the membership. Those nominated are Michael McLaughlin, TE, FPC Cookeville, Mike Koban, RE, Westminster, and Mickey Stueck, RE FPC Lebanon. Rev. Howton-Angel noted that the session and moderator of Southminster had requested support from presbytery. The motion carried.

Southminster Presbyterian Church, Nashville– Administrative Commissionⁱ

The Commission on Ministry, following thoughtful deliberation of the request for support from the installed minister and moderator of Southminster, recommends that the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee create and empower an administrative commission for Southminster Presbyterian Church, Nashville, with the following powers and responsibilities:

1. To visit and walk alongside the session of the Southminster Presbyterian Church in Nashville.
2. To provide full pastoral care to the staff, session and congregation members, and members of the childcare community.
3. To investigate fully including financial records, session minutes, relevant records and documents as well as emails relating to the operation of the childcare at Southminster Presbyterian Church in Nashville.
4. 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. This step will not be taken without fully satisfying the requirements of G-3.0303(e)ⁱ.
5. The commission shall be empowered to perform all administrative and other tasks necessary to fulfill its charge and to carry out the responsibilities delegated to it.
6. This administrative commission shall report to COM and to the Presbytery at each stated meeting.
7. Membership in this administrative commission shall be by appointment of the Co-Chairs of COM in consultation with the Stated Clerk and Executive Presbyter of the presbytery. Should additional members be needed, the Co-Chair of the COM in consultation with the Stated Clerk and Executive Presbyter shall recommend those individuals to the Presbytery for approval.
8. The commission shall begin its work immediately upon its creation by the presbytery. That date is August 8, 2024.
9. The commission shall be composed of three members who shall be:

- 1) The Rev. Michael McLaughlin, TE, FPC Cookeville
- 2) Mike Koban, RE, Westminster, Nashville
- 3) Mickey Stuecke, RE, FPC Lebanon

N.B. As we seek to live our mission and responsibility as a connectional denomination, we must rely on our polity in uncertain or disordered times. The presbytery, under the *Book of Order*, is given the authority to establish administrative commissions.

G-3.01 A commission is empowered to consider and conclude matters referred to it by a council. The designating council shall state specifically the scope of the commission's powers and any restrictions on those powers.

G-3.01b. *Administrative Commissions*

Administrative commissions are designated to consider and conclude matters not involving ecclesiastical judicial process, except that in the discharge of their assigned responsibilities they may discover and report to the designating council matters that may require judicial action by the council. Functions that may be entrusted to administrative commissions include, but are not limited to:

(5) (by presbyteries, synods, and the General Assembly) visiting particular councils, congregations, or agencies over which they have immediate jurisdiction reported to be affected with disorder, and inquiring into and settling the difficulties therein, except that no commission of a presbytery shall be empowered to dissolve a pastoral relationship without the specific authorization by the designating body (G-2.0901);

Further, an administrative commission may

G-3.0303(e). assume original jurisdiction in any situation in which it determines that a session cannot exercise its authority. After a thorough investigation, and after full opportunity to be heard has been accorded to the session, the presbytery may conclude that the session of a congregation is unable or unwilling to manage wisely its affairs, and may appoint an administrative commission with the full power of session. This commission shall assume original jurisdiction of the existing session, if any, which shall cease to act until such time as the presbytery shall otherwise direct.

Administrative commissions are not recommended lightly and without great deliberation.

COMMITTEE ON MUTUAL SUPPORT

The Rev. Bobby Harding, TE at First, Murfreesboro and chair of the Committee on Mutual Support, presented the committee's report.

Hunger Grant

A hunger grant of \$4000 was made to Second Harvest Food Bank.

Guatemala Task Force Visit and Renewal of Covenant Agreement.

The latest trip to Guatemala was highly successful. Rev. Harding moved that the Covenant Agreement with the Peten Q'eqchi Presbytery be renewed. After discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE

The Rev. Claire Berry, UKirk Nashville, made the report from the Committee on Social Justice, reminding the Presbytery of the resources available on the website.

REPORT FROM THE STATED CLERK

Mary Catherine Sevier, Stated Clerk, delivered the following report.

Grant to Priest Lake PC from the Committee on the Preparation for Ministry

The Committee on the Preparation for Ministry will use monies from its designated fund, 3002-32, to defray up to 50% of the cost of sponsoring an Inquirer or Candidate upon request from the sponsoring congregation.

Criteria for Nomination to Synod Commissioner

Pursuant to the Manual of Operation and Missions, the Stated Clerk reports the following criteria for nominees as a Synod Commissioner:

- Teaching and ruling elders and young adults will ordinarily only be elected once to serve as commissioners to General Assembly or Synod from the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee.
- Teaching elders who have been members of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee for at least seven years.
- Teaching and ruling elders who have a history of active involvement in the work of the Presbytery.
- Ruling elders from churches who have not sent a representative to Assembly or Synod in four years or more.
- A balance between women and men, teaching and ruling elders, and young adults from churches outside the Nashville area and those within the Metro Nashville area.

- Prior General Assembly and Synod alternates, and Presbytery moderators, will be given consideration as Commissioners.
- The ability to work effectively with technology and materials from the General Assembly and Synod committees and plenary sessions, understanding that stamina and energy are required.
- The ability to understand and the willingness to communicate the work of the General Assembly and Synod to the Presbytery and the ability to understand and the willingness to communicate the work of the Presbytery to the General Assembly and Synod. The Stated Clerk shall keep a cumulative list of commissioners, alternates, and young adult advisory delegates to General Assembly and Synod, for the use of the Nominating Task Force, to ensure compliance with the criteria.

Permanent Judicial Commission Roster

Pursuant to the Book of Order 3.0602(b), the Stated Clerk reports the following individuals make up the Permanent Judicial Commission roster.

Class of 2024	Class of 2026	Class of 2028
Bill Carver, RE First Franklin	Michael Bradley, TE HR	Bill Russell, RE FPC Spring Hill
Christi Enschede, RE Historic Franklin	James Hudnut-Beumler, TE Vanderbilt Divinity School	Walt Tennyson, TE Alive Hospice
Sharon Warfield, RE Westminster Nashville	J.B. Smith, RE FPC Pulaski	Terry Denton, RE Emmanuel PC

REPORT OF THE BRIDGE EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER

The Moderator recognized the Rev. Terry Newland to make the report of the executive presbyter. Rev. Newland noted the good work he is seeing across the presbytery and the warm relationships between members. He expressed his optimism at the work being done. He expressed appreciation for the work of the Stated Clerk and the Operations Coordinator.

**REPORT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMMISSIONERS
AND THE YOUNG ADULT ADVISORY DELEGATE**

Commissioners to the 226th General Assembly Carol Foster, RE of First Fayetteville, Jane Herring, TE of Emmanuel, Erin Howton-Angel, TE of First, Allardt, and AC Oeser, YAAD of Westminster Nashville presented a report along with written comments from Commissioner Judy, RE of Calvary Big Lick. The group presented the work of their respective assigned committees and reflected on the pride and inspiration they felt in attending the gathering. They noted that Rev. Howton-Angel served as Moderator of the Bills and Overture Committee, and the Rev. John Smith of First, Dickson and Ellis Grove was elected to Board of Chaplaincy and served as tech support and parliamentarian during the General Assembly. They also noted that they were hosting a break out session following the Stated Meeting for individuals to ask specific questions about proposed amendments to the Book of Order and other actions of the Assembly.

ADJOURNMENT

The Vice-Moderator asked for new and unfinished business. There was none. The Vice-Moderator asked for a motion for adjournment, which was made, seconded, and approved. The Vice-Moderator closed with prayer and adjourned the meeting at 12:27 pm after announcing the 158th stated meeting will take place November 14, 2024 in person at First Dickson co-hosted by Ellis Grove.

Teaching Elders

_E_Adams, Chris
 _E_Anderson, David
 _E_Anderson, Rosanna
 _P_Angel, Erin Howton
 _E_Angel, Jonathan
 _E_Arnold, Judith
 _P_Bagley, Tom
 _E_Barger, Bill
 _P_Berry, Claire
 _P_Berger, Will
 P_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
 _E_Carrell, Len
 _P_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
 _E_Glover, Gregory
 _E_Glover, Leslie
 _P_Gordon, Stuart
 _P_Graham, M. Evelyn
 _P_Griffith, Guy D.
 _E_Gung, Justin
 _E_Gunter, Keith
 _E_Hamman, Jaco
 _E_Handlson, Pat
 _P_Harding, Bobby
 _E_Harrell, James E.
 _E_Hassall, Harry S.
 E_Hermann, Lisa C.
 _P_Herring, Jane
 _E_Hill, Austin
 _E_Hill, Ellen
 _P_Hill, Sara
 _E_Hilley, John R.
 _P_Hinkle, Jr., John
 _E_Hodgson, Peter
 _E_Hoehst, Jeanne'
 _E_Hudnut-Beumler, Heidi
 _E_Hudnut-Beumler, James
 _P_Hughes, Sally
 _P_Huie, Scott
 _E_Hunter, Jeannie
 _E_Jarvis, Jennifer
 _E_Johnson, Charles N.
 _E_Jones, Todd B.
 _P_Kane, Jeff
 _E_Kang, Se Bong
 _E_Kang, Shin
 _E_Kaufman, John E.
 _E_Kelly, Gary
 _E_Kidd, David
 _E_Kim Eun Joo
 _E_Klein, Candice
 _E_Kneff, Sarah Bird

August 8, 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.
 _P_McVey, Bruce
 _E_Moffatt, III, Charles L.
 _P_Montgomery, Robert
 _E_Moore, Ryan
 _P_Moran, James A.
 _E_Muse, Perry
 _E_Musgrave, John
 _E_Musick, Steve
 _E_Nally, Sara
 _E_Neil, Richard
 _E_Newsom, Ernest B.
 _E_Nichols, James A.
 _E_Nyhuis, Jule
 _P_Orfield, Rachel Thompson
 _E_Paddon, Richard
 _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
 _E_Salyer, Carson
 _P_Salyer, Janet
 _P_Sasser, Zach
 _E_Sawyer, David
 _E_Schultz, Harris
 _E_Schwartz, Cindy
 _P_Shaw, Mary Sellers
 _E_Skelly, John J., III
 _E_Smathers, Mike
 _E_Smith, Jimmy D.
 _P_Smith, John A.
 _E_Smith, Shane
 _P_Smith, Shawn Thomas
 _E_Soderquist, Ann
 _E_Stauffer, Aaron
 _P_Stoker, Amy B.
 _E_Tate, Carol
 _P_Tennyson, Walt
 _E_Thomas, C. S. (Steve) III
 _E_Thomas, Ray
 _P_Thompson, C.J.
 _E_Thompson, Marjorie
 _E_Todd, John
 _P_Traylor, Leslie
 _E_Tuck, Janet
 _P_Tyndall, Thomas B.
 _E_Vasquez-Paredes, Gustavo
 _E_Venable, III, Sid
 _E_Wallace, Morgan
 _E>Weingartner, Robert J.
 _P_Wellman, Will
 _E_White, Jack
 _E_White, Linda
 _P_Wilson, Amos L.
 _E_Yang, Sunggu
 _P_Yates, Stephen
 _E_Zeigler, Richard

P - Present

E - Excused

A - Absent

I - Inactive

Ruling Elder Commissioners

PMT 2024.08.08 approved 2024.11.14

<u>Church</u>	<u>Represented By</u>	<u>Church</u>	<u>Represented By</u>
Alexandria, Liberty Hill		Lewisburg, Bethberei	
Allardt, First		First	1.
Alpine, Christ			2.
Ardmore, Bethany		Lynnville, First	
Belfast		Manchester, First	
Bethpage, Oak Grove		McMinnville, First	1. Ray Goode
Brentwood, Brentwood First		Milton, Hopewell	
East	1. Lavona Russell	Mt. Pleasant, First	
	2.	Murfreesboro, First	1. Paul Lane
Harpeth	1.		2. Patsy Coleman
	2.	Northminster	
Buffalo Valley	1.	Nashville, Bellevue	1. Larry McElroy
Clarksville, First	1. Phillip R. Kemmerly		1. Bob Downing
	2. Douglas Young	Donelson	2. Lynn Edwards
			1. Jill York
Macedonia		Downtown	2.
Columbia, First	1.		1. Denny Harris
	2. Mary Beth Cotham	Eastminster	
			1.
Westminster	Jackie Shrago		2.
Cookeville, Double Springs		Emmanuel	1. Barbara Halverstadt
First	1.	First	1. David Wood
	2.		2. Hal Sauer
Post Oak			3.
Cowan, Fellowship			4.
Crossville, Calvary	1.		5.
	2.		6.
			7.
Decherd		Glen Leven	1. Margie McCullough
Dickson, First			2. Ronnie Townes
Pond		Glenclyff	1.
Fairfield Glade, Westminster	1.	Hillsboro	1.
Fayetteville, First	1. Dan Tice		2.
	2. Harold Dawkins	Hillwood	1. Bob Cooper
St. John		Korean	1.
Franklin, First	1. Jason Coleman		2.
	2. John Korab		3.
	3. Philip Ott	Priest Lake	1. David Nock
Historic	1.	Second	1. Priscilla Coe
	2.		2. Alan Fey
Gallatin, First	1. Fran Young		
	2.	Southminster	1. Jenn Maxwell
Sudanese	1.	St. Andrews	1. Charles Jordan
	2.		2.
Hendersonville, First	1.	Trinity	1. Sissy Leech
	2.		
New Creation	1.	Westminster	1. Jim Barr
	2.		2. Travis Self
Hermitage	1. Sharon Bragg		3.
	2.		4.
Lawrenceburg, First	1.		5.
Lebanon, First	1. Margaret Ann Trail		
	2. Mickey Stueck	Woodland	1.
		Normandy	1. Karen Riley
Spring Creek			

<u>Church</u>	<u>Represented By</u>
Old Hickory Petersburg, First Pulaski, Brick Church First	1. 2.
Readyville, Cripple Creek Shelbyville, First	1. Jim Ikard 2.
Smyrna, First	1. 2.
Sparta, Blue Spring Hickory Valley Robinson Chapel Spring Hill, First	1. Geoff Lackey 2.
Springfield, First	1.
Milldale Thompson Station, Bethesda Tullahoma, First	1. Brad Sturgin 2. Joyce Hiebert
Watertown, First Waverly, Ellis Grove	

Commissioned Ruling Elders

Leonard Jordan, St. Andrews; Anne Keener, First Franklin,
Rick Robinson, Milldale, Rhonda Banasik, FPC Clarksville,
Kevin Whitehead, Westminster Columbia, David Paduil,
Sudnese Nuer American PC

Ruling Elders, Voice and Vote:

Mary Catherine Sevier, Stated Clerk; Presbyterian Women
Diane Thurston;

Moderator within five years of office:

Corresponding Members, Voice, without Vote:

Terry Newland, Shepards and Lapsley

Visitors:

Linda Goode
Nancye McElroy
Ashley Higgins
David Sadler
Robert Francis
Jeff Binns
Nyawel Kuei
Stan Herring
Ed Branding
Bob Young