

# Consent Agenda

## 159th Stated Meeting, Presbytery of Middle Tennessee, February 8, 2025

Item #	Title
(1)	Approval of Minutes and Roll of the 158th Stated Meeting of November 14, 2024
(2)	Approval of Request by First, Nashville of Waiver of Session Elder term limitation, pursuant to G-2.0404

\*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.

**MIDDLE TENNESSEE PRESBYTERY  
MINUTES OF ONE HUNDRED FIFTY EIGHTH STATED MEETING  
NOVEMBER 14, 2024**

The 158<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee met in person at First Presbyterian Church, Dickson, on Thursday, August 8, 2024. Stated Clerk Mary Catherine Sevier provided an orientation for first time commissioners. In the absence of Moderator Elinor Foster, former Moderator the Rev. Mark Bryan called the meeting to order at 8:34 am.

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

Moderator Bryan 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 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.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA**

The moderator stated that the agenda and the consent agenda, which contained the minutes of the 157<sup>th</sup> stated meeting, the policies on sexual misconduct, child protection, anti-racism, and harassment, the 2025 parity schedule, a request from First Lawrenceburg and Cripple Creek for an exemption from rotating elders, and a request from UKirk Nashville to administer the Lord's Supper during 2025 had been provided in advance. The agenda and the consent agenda 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-EIGHTH STATED MEETING**

**THE PRESBYTERY OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE**

**AGENDA OF NOVEMBER 14, 2024**

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, DICKSON, TN**

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8:00 am		Registration (Order of the Day in CAPS)
8:15 am		Orientation for First Time Commissioners – Mary Catherine Sevier(10 min)
8:30 am	1.	CONVENE <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Establishment of Quorum</li><li>• Adoption of Agenda and Consent Agenda</li><li>• Seating of Corresponding Members</li><li>• Recognition of First Time Presbyters</li></ul>
8:35 am	2.	Worship <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sermon:</li><li>• Service of Necrology/All Saints Remembrance</li><li>• Offering: Latin X /Nueva Vida Food bank</li></ul>
9:15 am	3.	REPORTS (numbers indicate order in packet)
9:20 am		Remarks from Lauren Rodgers, Presbytery Mission Agency
9:25 am		Remarks from Doug Marshall, Presbyterian Home for Children
9:30 am		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• (1) Finance Committee – Evelyn Graham (15 minutes)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ 2025 Budget and Financial Policies</li></ul></li></ul>
9:45 am		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• (2) Nominating Task Force – Leonard Jordan (10 minutes)</li></ul>
9:55 am		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• (3) Committee on Mutual Support –Bobby Harding (5 minutes)</li></ul>
10:00 am		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• (4) Commission on Ministry – Erin Howton- Angel (10 minutes)</li></ul>
10:10 am		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• (5) Committee on the Preparation for Ministry – Guy Griffith (15 minutes)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Examination of Gage Arnold and disposition of request to move to candidacy</li></ul></li></ul>

- 10:25 am • (6) Committee on Church Transformation - John Hilley (5 minutes)
- 10:30 am • (7) Stated Clerk Report – Mary Catherine Sevier (10 minutes)
- 10:40 am • Executive Presbyter’s Report – Terry Newland (5 minutes)
- 10:45 am • (8) Administrative Committee I- Jane Herring (5 minutes)
- 10:50 am • BREAK (20 minutes) Please go to the FPC Dickson Parish Hall and Office Building as shown on map
  
- 11:15 am • Administrative Committee II – Jane Herring (60 minutes)
  - Center for Healthy Churches/Pneumatrix
- 12:15 pm OLD BUSINESS
- 12:15 pm ANNOUNCEMENTS and ADJOURNMENT  
159<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting, Saturday, February 8, 2025,  
First, Shelbyville  
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](http://www.pbymidtn.org), and click the “Give Now” button***  
***▲ scan the QR Code below which will take you to the donation page***



**Consent Agenda**

**158th Stated Meeting, Presbytery of Middle Tennessee, November 14, 2024**

Item #	Title
(1)	Approval of Minutes and Roll of the 157th Stated Meeting of August 8, 2024
(2)	Approval of Anti-Racism Policy
(3)	Approval of Harassment Policy
(4)	Approval of Sexual Misconduct Policy
(5)	Approval of Safe Church (Child and Youth Protection) Policy
(6)	Approval of Request by First, Lawrenceburg and Cripple Creek of Waiver of Session Elder term limitation, pursuant to G-2.0404
(7)	Approval of request from UKirk Nashville to administer the sacrament of the Lord's Supper during the year 2025. Ordained individuals invited by the UKirk Nashville board of trustees will preside.

Rev. John Smith, Pastor at First, Dickson, offered words of welcome and worship commenced.

## **WORSHIP**

Rev. Smith led worship and delivered the sermon on our theological roots and their relevance to our world. The offering was given to Neuva Vida Foodbank. Stirring music was provided by the First Dickson choir.

Following worship, the Moderator continued the morning's order of business. Greetings and information were brought by Doug Marshall and Cindy Fisher from the Presbyterian Home for Children in Talledega, Alabama. The home works with children in foster care primarily. Ministry Engagement Advisor Lauren Rogers from the Interim Unified Agency, formerly the Presbyterian Mission Agency, introduced herself. She reminded the body of the many initiatives such as supporting missionaries and mission work, mitigating food insecurity and hunger programs, and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, which is particularly engaged in relief for those affected by Hurricane Helene in neighboring Holston Presbytery. The Agency anticipates providing assistance there for the next five to seven years. She also informed the body of the Special Offerings and the materials available, particularly on the upcoming Joy Gift offering. She noted the following churches had participated in all four Special Offerings in the last 18 months: Emmanuel, First, Clarksville, First, Cookeville, First, Franklin, First, Shelbyville, First, Spring Hill, Southminster, Westminster Fairfield Glade, and Westminster, Nashville and provided certificates to those congregations.

## **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 increased, expenses are under budget, and revenue is under about the same amount. She also noted that while the investment account holds \$2,700,000, about \$2,100,000 of that is in restricted funds. The amount that can be used for operating is about \$600,000, which is equal to the expenses likely to be incurred in 2025.

### Annual Budget 2025

The Finance Committee approved the proposed 2025 budget, including a change in investment income which can be used for operating expenses to be increased from 3% to 5% of the previous three calendar year-end market values. This increase will not be funded by decreasing any principal. The proposed budget was recommended by the Budget Task Force comprised of Hal Sauer, chair, RE First Nashville, Melinda Sanders, RE Woodland, and Mike Koban, RE Nashville Westminster. The Finance Committee moved that the Annual Budget for 2025 be approved, including the increase in investment income allowed to be used from 3% to 5%. The motion was approved.

### Amounts in Accounts 3002-27 and 3002-33

At the request of the Latinx Ministry Task Force and the Nueva Vida Food Project Task Force, amounts in acct 3002-27 Hispanic New Church Development and acct 3002-33 Nueva Vida Food Bank are to be combined and divided by two to give each account an equal amount of approximately \$55,000. Many donations deposited into account 3002-27 were meant for the food bank. In the future, donations will be better tracked to determine the correct account in which funds should be deposited.

### Legal Task Force

Chris Williams, RE First, Pulaski and Cristi Scott Ligon, RE St. Andrews, were added to the Legal Task Force. Other members include Melinda Sanders, RE Woodland and Steve Douse, RE First, Nashville. A motion was approved for the Legal Task Force to act for this calendar year only.

### St. John Isaiah 1:18 Team Update

The St. John Presbyterian Church of Fayetteville, TN has been assigned an Isaiah 1:18 Team. Such teams are assigned to churches which would like to leave the denomination. The church has approximately twelve members and has joined the Conservative Congregational Christian Conference (CCCCUSA.com) and changed their name to Christ the King Community Church. The congregation would like to officially leave the PC(USA) and would like to take their property with them. The remaining property is thought to be approximately 5 acres. The Finance Committee is requesting documents related to the congregation from the Presbyterian Historic Foundation and has retained Chris Adams to begin the process of ascertaining the value of the land.

### Trinity Task Force Update

The Trinity Presbyterian Task Force asked that a liaison from the Trinity Presbyterian Session be appointed to improve communications between the two entities. The Trinity Session appointed Jackie and Phil Elbert to be the liaisons, and they were approved by the Finance Committee.

### Mattie Smith PC Sale Update

The planned sale of Mattie Smith Presbyterian Church did not close due to the property's lack of a septic system. In addition, due to the limited size of the property, a septic system cannot be added. Due to the lack of a septic system, the property has no value and is a liability to the presbytery, which continues to pay insurance costs monthly. The Finance Committee has approved the sale of the property for the cost of legal and real estate fees.

### Brick Church AC Update

The Administrative Commission (AC) of Brick Church Presbyterian determined that the church abandoned its ministry in 2019 or 2020. The property is surrounded on four sides by a cemetery and has little or no value. The two remaining session members have not responded to repeated requests for information. Chris Williams, RE, the Chair of the AC, has completed an exhaustive search for the property deed. Mr. Williams recommends the presbytery quit claim the property to the two remaining session members and/or the cemetery association which oversees the property, as the property has become a liability to the presbytery. Finance approved the quit claim deed.

### Southminster AC Update

The AC for Southminster Presbyterian Church will need funds to offset the costs of hiring the necessary experts to fulfill its charge. The Finance Committee approved up to \$25,000 to be available to the AC as a loan against the assets of the church. This money is to be used to further the charge of the AC and is not to be used for the usual expenses of operating the church. Designated account 3001-18 will be set up in October to track these expenses.

### Dechard AC Update

The Dechard Presbyterian property has appraised at approximately \$400,000. Next steps include discerning property disposition.

### Review of Financial Policies and Procedures

The Financial Policies and Procedures is a living document and requires frequent updating. The committee spent a significant amount of time updating this document over the past several months. A motion was passed to approve all changes. Significant changes include:

- a. Grammatical changes, including all references to Executive Presbyters, have been replaced with the single Executive Presbyter language.
- b. As previously noted, the current budget and likely future budgets will need investment income to help balance the presbytery's budget. The amount of investment income which can be used for operating expenses has been increased from 3% to 5% of the previous three calendar year-end market values.
- c. Policies regarding internal controls were tightened, especially since the presbytery no longer uses paper checks. Instead, the presbytery almost exclusively uses ACH payments for our expenses.

The Finance Committee moved that the Policies and Procedures be approved. RE Melinda Sanders offered an amendment, which was seconded. The amendment stated: insert the clause "if the Presbytery would incur liability or could foreseeably become responsible for the outcome of the transaction" in the sentence reading "It should be noted that all churches, whether exempt or not, must receive Presbytery's permission to encumber real property" found in the paragraph entitled Property. During discussion, an amendment to the amendment to defer the entire Property paragraph discussion to the definite time of the February 8, 2025 Stated Meeting and to task TE Greg Glover and RE Melinda Sanders to work together to draft and present language at that time was made, seconded, and approved. A motion to approve the Revised Financial Policies and Procedures without the paragraph entitled "Property" was seconded and approved unanimously.

## NOMINATING TASK FORCE

CRE Leonard Jordan of St. Andrews Nashville made the report from the Nominating Task Force.

### Leadership Team for the Visioning Process

The Leadership Team for the visioning process is composed of Cade Arnold, RE, First Cookeville, Mark Bryan, TE, Glen Leven, Hannah Cruse, member, First, Clarksville, Warner Durnell, TE, HR, Sherard Edington, TE, First, Lebanon, Barbara Halverstadt, RE, Emmanuel, Claudia Hazelwood, RE, Normandy, Ashley Higgins, TE, Westminster, Nashville, Lilia Jimenez, TE, Nueva Vida, Leonard Jordan, CRE, St. Andrews, Bob LaGrone, RE, First, Nashville, Ryan Moore, TE, First, Nashville, Amy Stoker, TE, First Pulaski, Spencer Truett, RE, First Dickson

### Committee Slate 2025-2027

CRE Jordan then presented the slate of officers, committee and commission members, synod commissioners, and PJC members and moved that these individuals be elected to their respective positions. The motion was approved unanimously.

#### **Presbytery of Middle Tennessee | Committee Membership 2025-2027**

TE – Minister of the Word and Sacrament RE – Ruling Elder \*Second Term to be elected 11/14/2024

##### Administrative Committee

<u>Class of 2025</u>	<u>Class of 2026</u>	<u>Class of 2027</u>
Leonard Jordan, CRE St. Andrews	Sandra Randleman, TE First, Nashville	*Betsy Bond, RE Trinity
Kathy Corlew(RE) FPC Murfreesboro		*Mark Bryan, TE Glen Leven Erin Howton Angel, TE First Allardt Moderator-in-Nomination

Trustees (by virtue of office; serve as members of both Administrative and Finance Committees)

Jane Herring, TE Emmanuel 2025 Moderator	Chris Williams, RE First, Pulaski Vice-Moderator	Evelyn Graham, TE (Class of 2025) Second, Nashville Treasurer
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##### Finance Committee

*Melinda Sanders, RE Woodland Donovan Drake, TE Westminster, Nashville	*Anders Hall, RE Westminster, Nashville Bruce McVey, TE First, Fayetteville	*Hal Sauer, RE First, Nashville *Jim Moran, TE First, Shelbyville
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##### Committee on Church Transformation

*Lila Ramirez-Jimenez, TE Latin X, Hub Barbara Halverstadt, RE Emmanuel	*Robin White, RE Historic Franklin *John Hilley, TE East Brentwood	*Keith Gunter, TE New Creation Kim Luther, RE First Allardt
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##### Committee on Leadership Excellence

*Sarah Bird Kneff, TE First, Columbia *Dr. Mary Martin, RE First, Murfreesboro	Denise Moran, RE First, Shelbyville Dave Nock, RE Priest Lake	Sara Hill, TE Member at Large Greg Glover, TE FPC Clarksville
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Class of 2025	Class of 2026	Committees, 2025-2027, page 2 Class of 2027
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VACANT (IE)  
(in process)  
Anne Keener, CRE  
First, Franklin  
Gary Kelly, TE  
HR  
Todd Jones, TF  
HR  
Mickey Stueck, TE  
First, Lebanon  
\*Leslie Traylor, TE  
Hermitage

Commission on Ministry  
Stephen Yates, TE  
First, Tullahoma  
Sally Hughes, TE  
Trinity  
VACANT (TE)  
(in process)  
Dwight Fox, RF  
First, Columbia  
Judy Arnold (IE)  
Westminster, Fairfield  
Glade  
VACANT (RE)  
(in process)

Brett Withers, RE  
Woodland  
VACANT (RE)  
  
\*Bill Patterson, RE  
First, Murfreesboro  
Zach Nasser, TF  
Downtown  
VACANT, RE  
  
Cade Arnold, RE  
First, Cookeville

Committee on Mutual Support

Will Wellman, TE  
Member-at-large  
(Validated-Westminster,  
Nashville)  
Spencer Truett, RE  
First, Dickson  
\*Ross Thomas, RE  
First, Springfield

\*Bobby Harding, TE  
First, Murfreesboro  
Claire Harris Kramer, TE  
Member-Large  
(Validated-NCCC)

Samara Zavaro (RF)  
Downtown

Committee on Preparation for Ministry

\*Michael McLaughlin, TE  
First, Cookeville  
Judy Schomber, RE  
Trinity  
Judy Tygard, RE  
Bellevue

Lisa Hermann, TE  
Validated -Monroe Carrell  
\*James Peeler, RE  
Harpsith  
Debra Gentry, RE  
Downtown

Marilee Meschefske, RE  
Westminster, Columbia  
CJ Thompson, TE  
First, Manchester  
Roseanna Anderson, TE  
Validated at large

Committee on Social Justice

Hannah Cruse  
First, Cookeville  
Stacy Ractor (TE)  
Validated-TADP

\*Andrea Elkins  
First, Murfreesboro  
\*Claire Berry, TE  
UKIRK Nashville

\*Henry Deaderick, RE  
St. Andrews  
\*Adam Devries, TE  
Validated - Westminster,  
Nashville

Permanent Judicial Commission

Class of 2026

Michael Bradley, TE  
HR  
James Hudnut-Beumler, TE  
Validated - VU Divinity  
J.B. Smith, RE  
First, Pulaski

Class of 2028

Bill Russell, RE  
First, Spring Hill  
Walt Tennyson, TE  
Validated - Alive Hospice  
Terry Denton, RE  
Emmanuel

Class of 2030

John Smith, TE  
First, Dickson/Ellis Grove  
Keith Demmen, RE  
New Creation  
Ryan Moore, TE  
First, Nashville

Committee Chairs ("nominated by the Admin Committee through the Nominating Task Force")

Administrative  
Finance  
Church Transformation  
Leadership Excellence  
Commission on Ministry

RE Chris Williams (by virtue of office)  
TE Evelyn Graham (by virtue of office)  
TE John Hilley  
RE Dave Nock  
TE Stephen Yates  
RE Mickey Stueck  
TE Bobby Harding  
TE Lisa Hermann  
RE Henry Deaderick

Mutual Support  
Preparation for Ministry  
Social Justice

Synod Commissioners Class of 2025

Jim Hoobler, RE  
Downtown  
Carol Foster, RE Alternate  
First, Fayetteville

Andy Gay, TE  
HR  
Claire Berry, TE Alternate  
UKirk Nashville

Ordination Exam Readers, Class of 2025

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

UKIRK Nashville Board (reported only; not elected by PMT)

Rev. Claire Berry, Executive Director  
Will be reported at next stated meeting

**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 the Hill Pantry Annex at Hillwood PC, and grants of \$1500 each were made to the HERO program (Homeless Education Resource Office at MNPS) and to The Well Outreach.

**COMMISSION ON MINISTRY**

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

Thrive Seminar

The COM hosted a THRIVE seminar on September 26 – 27, 2024, at Westminster Nashville with presenters from the Board of Pensions. Twenty-one individuals participated.

Member Dismissed

The Rev. Jennifer Jarvis was dismissed to the East Tennessee Presbytery.

Minister Validaton

The ministry of the Rev. Jeanie Hunter at the Society of St. Andrews was validated.

Bridge Pastorate

The contract for the Rev. Warner Darnell to serve as Bridge Pastor at First Franklin through December 31, 2024 was approved.



### Terms of Call Approvals

Several terms of call were approved. They include those of the Rev. Il Sun Kim and the Nashville Korean Presbyterian Church; his start date is October 20, 2024, installation is scheduled for January 26, 2025 at 2PM, and terms of call are as follows: Annual salary, \$55,000; Housing Allowance, \$10,000; Utilities Allowance, \$1,135; Other medical insurance, \$21,450; Professional expenses, \$2500; Social Security Tax \$8415; 4 weeks of vacation, 2 weeks of continuing education including Sundays. Terms of call for the Rev. Claire Berry and Historic Franklin Presbyterian Church are as follows: Annual salary, \$90,000; Automobile Expense, \$500; Other medical insurance, \$493; Professional expenses, \$1000; Social Security Tax \$6885; Continuing Education Allowance, \$2,500; Moving Costs, \$18,000; 4 weeks of vacation, 2 weeks of continuing education including Sundays. The Rev. Jule Nyhuis will become Installed rather than Designated Pastor at Hillwood PC. Installation Commission was elected and the Installation service will occur on November 16, 2024 at 2PM. Terms of call are as follows: Annual salary, \$51,925; Housing Allowance, \$19,950; Other medical insurance, \$493; Professional expenses, \$8500; Social Security Tax \$5498; Retirement Savings Plan match, \$600; 4 weeks of vacation, 3 weeks of continuing education including Sundays.

### Parish Associate at FPC Nashville

The COM were informed that the Rev. Sara Hill will serve as a Parish Associate at First Presbyterian in Nashville.

### Renewal of Commissions of Ruling Elders

The COM renewed Commissions for Ruling Elders Amy Harkness of Belfast, Leonard Jordan of St. Andrews, Ed Keith of Bethany, Whitehead, Larry Wilmoth of Double Springs and Robinson Chapel, and Kevin Whitehead of Westminster, Columbia for terms of three years each.

### 2025 Minimum Effective Salary

The minimum effective salary was set at \$56,000. This amount is 80% of the \$70,000 minimum salary set for 2025 by the Board of Pensions.

### PNC and MDP Approval

Harpeth Presbyterian Church was approved to form a PNC and begin a search for their next pastor; the MPD was approved to be uploaded to the CLC database.

### Pulpit Supply List

The Pulpit Supply List is regularly updated and is available in the filing cabinet of the presbytery website.

### Annual Reports

Annual Reports from Validated Ministers and Ministers at Large have been received and responded to.

## **COMMITTEE ON THE PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY**

### Gage Arnold Examination for Candidacy

The Rev. Guy Griffith of Westminster, Nashville, presented the committee's report. He presented Gage Arnold, Inquirer under the care of the session of First Nashville and the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee, to be examined for Candidacy. Mr. Arnold presented his faith statement and spoke to his call and service; Rev. Griffith questioned him as did several members and commissioners. Rev. Griffith presented the motion out of committee that Mr. Arnold be moved to Candidacy. The motion was unanimously approved.

### Gage Arnold, Personal Faith Statement

Scripture tells me that I am a sinner saved by grace through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ for the glory of God alone. This summation testifies to the primary message of the Reformation (referred to by modern readers as the *Five Solas*, that salvation is a gift of God's kindness to those undeserving and shackled in their own sin. I know this to be true not simply on the basis of head knowledge but because my efforts to work out my own salvation have fallen woefully short. The oldest child of a broken home, I sought to find love, acceptance, and fulfillment in any place I could find it. Every place, that is, except in the arms of the Living God. I had many questions about why such pain, addiction, trauma, and turmoil affected my upbringing and family system, but, by God's grace, I found a community of faith that told me those simple truths I listed above. That I could not save

myself, that my efforts to try to fill the God-shaped hole in my heart with anything but Himself would fail terrifically, and that God's love made manifest through Christ was the greatest apologetic for seeing the ways the Lord stooped into the pain of this world that the sin, evil, and pain that wrecked my heart and world would one day be eradicated. That message rooted itself in my heart. The Holy Spirit moved and drew me to faith in the work that Christ had accomplished for me – that I could not commend myself for my own salvation, but that I instead would collapse on Christ, trusting him to heal me of my sin-sick heart. As I have gone along, this message has continued to shape my faith. A mentor of mine would often say that the gospel message is not the ABCs of the Christian faith, it is the A to Z of the Christian faith. I find myself reciting the alphabet to myself again and again, trusting in the work Christ has done in my heart, seeking to partner with him in seeing his kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven, and praying toward that vision until our Lord comes again to make all things new.

### COMMITTEE ON CHURCH TRANSFORMATION

The Rev, John Hilley, East Brentwood, presented a short summary of the work of the committee and exhorted congregations to contact the committee when resources are needed.

### REPORT FROM THE STATED CLERK

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

#### Commission to Ordain Ashley Higgins

The Stated Clerk has received the minutes of the Commission to Ordain and Install the Rev. Ashley Coates Higgins. The members of the commission were: Chris Willimas, RE, chair, the Rev. Mark DeVries, the Rev. Heidi Hudnut Beumler, Blake Brookshire, RE, and Becky Campbell, RE. Individuals invited to sit with the commission included the Rev. Kendra Creasy Dean, Amy Wilson, RE, and Lis Sester, RE

MINUTES  
Ordination/Installation Commission for Ashley Higgins  
Westminster Presbyterian Church  
Nashville, Tennessee  
Sunday, Sept. 15, 2024 11:00 am

The Ordination/Installation Commission appointed by the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee to ordain and install the Teaching Elder Ashley Higgins Pastor met at the Westminster Presbyterian Church of Nashville, Tennessee, on Sept. 15, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. Members present were:

**Teaching Elders**  
 The Rev. Kendra Creasy Dean, Pastor of Princeton Theological Seminary  
 The Rev. Mark DeVries, Pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church of Nashville, Tennessee  
 The Rev. Heidi Hudnut Beumler, Pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church of Nashville, Tennessee

**Ruling Elders**  
 Blake Brookshire, Westminster Presbyterian Church of Nashville  
 Becky Campbell, Westminster Presbyterian Church of Nashville  
 J. Christopher Williams, 1st Pres., Pulaski Presbyterian Church of Pulaski

to offer  
 Invitation to sit with the Commission:  
 Amy Wilson, RE, Presbyterian Church of Durham, NC  
 Liz Sester, RE, Camino Pres., Salton, CA  
 The Commission was called to order by the Chair of the Commission, Chris Williams and Heidi Hudnut Beumler. The Stated Clerk of the Commission by the Chair. The Chair asked Heidi to offer 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 Rev. Dr. Creasy Dean. The constitutional questions were propounded to Ashley Higgins by the Chair and they were answered in the affirmative. The Constitutional Questions were propounded to the Congregation by the Chair and answered in the affirmative by the Congregation. A prayer was offered by Blake Brookshire and Amy Wilson and Liz Sester.

Ashley Higgins was duly installed as Associate Pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church, Nashville. The chair led the Statement on Ordination and Installation.

A Charge was delivered to the Ashley by Mark DeVries and Heidi Hudnut Beumler. The Service was closed with the Benediction pronounced by Ashley Higgins. The Commission was adjourned at the benediction of the worship service.

Respectfully submitted:  
 [Signature] Clerk of the Commission

### 2025 Parity Schedule

The parity schedule determining the number of commissioners each congregation may send to presbytery meetings for 2025 as determined from the reported 2023 statistics from sessions will be distributed to clerks of session and pastors as well as posted on the PMT website.

### Session minutes review

The session minutes of the churches within the presbytery are being peer reviewed in person at four available gatherings at various times and locations across the presbytery with the additional option of self review if clerks are unable to attend in person sessions. Sessions whose minutes have been reviewed and those whose minutes have not been available will be listed in the next Stated Clerk's report..

### Proposed Changes to the Book of Order

Further opportunities to learn more about the proposed changes to the Book of Order as recommended by the 226<sup>th</sup> GA will be available before the next Stated Meeting.

### Manual of Operation and Missions Amendment

The Stated Clerk recommended that the Manual of Operation and Missions be updated on page 4 to reflect a new policy on parity of attendance at Presbytery meetings. The new policy reflects the reality of diminished memberships at many congregations and keeps in place parity of teaching elders and ruling elders. The motion to approve the amendment was made and seconded, and there was no discussion. The motion was approved unanimously.

## **REPORT OF THE BRIDGE EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER**

The Moderator recognized the Rev. Terry Newland to make the report of the executive presbyter. Rev. Newland noted 2024 Moderator Elinor Foster's service to the Presbytery over the years/ The body expressed its appreciation to her, which the Stated Clerk and Bridge Executive Presbyter will convey to her along with a token of appreciation for her service.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE**

The Rev. Jane Herring, Emmanuel, presented the Administrative Committee report.

### Resignation of the Rev. Laura Cheifetz

The resignation of the Rev. Laura Cheifetz from the Committee on Leadership Excellence was reported to the Nominating Task Force.

### Death of Michael Smathers

The death of the Rev. Michael Smathers was reported and mourned.

### Belfast Presbyterian

Belfast PC reported that a congregational vote was approved to sell two very small lots across the street from the church with the funds going toward the church's mission. This congregation availed itself of the exemption granted under G.4.0208.

### Review of August 8 Stated Meeting and Planning for November 14 Stated Meeting

The evaluations from the August 8, 2024 Stated Meeting of PMT reflected that commissioners and members are pleased with the format of morning business and occasional optional breakout sessions. The agenda, consent agenda, and plans for the November 14, 2024 Stated Meeting of PMT were approved; the offering from the November meeting will go to the Nueva Vida food bank; the Presbyterian Children's Home in Talladega, Alabama will have a table at the meeting and be given 5 minutes to talk; Ministry Engagement Advisor Lauren Rogers will also speak briefly.

### Policy Approvals

The Safe Church, Anti-Racism, Sexual Misconduct, and Harassment policies were approved as presented by the Policy Compliance Task Force and appear on the November 14 Consent Agenda.

### Permanent Administrative Commission

A motion to work with the COM to recommend a permanent Administrative Commission tasked with working with congregations who have requested and are proceeding with dissolution was approved. The Permanent AC will be developed and presented to the Presbytery at a future Stated Meeting.

### Bridge Executive Presbyter Vacation

Bridge EP the Rev. Terry Newland reported a pleasant and enjoyable vacation and gave thanks for the opportunity.

### Continuing Work of Healthy Churches/Pneumatrix

Personnel wished to highlight the need to revisit the potential of a second phase of work with Center for Healthy Churches/Pneumatrix to vet possible candidates for consideration for the Executive Pastor Nominating Committee (EPNC). This appears desirable such that internal and external candidates get fair consideration.

### Composition of Visioning Leadership Team

The Nominating Task Force reported the composition of the Visioning Leadership Team which began its work with a training session on October 26. The Task Force continues to fill the 2025-2027 Committee slate.

### Staff Salary Changes

Personnel recommends that the salary changes for Mary Catherine Sevier and Terry Newland, which were effective on 8/16, roll into 2025 with no additional change on 1/1/25. They also recommended that Gregory Taylor receive a 3% cost of living adjustment (COLA), effective on 1/1/25. This recommendation was approved, and the Finance Committee incorporated it into the proposed 2025 budget to be presented for Presbytery approval at the November 14 Stated Meeting.

## **VISIONING LISTENING SESSION**

The Moderator announced that the body would have a break and then participate in a listening session facilitated by consultants from Healthy Churches/Pneumatrix and the visioning leadership team. The body moved to the Fellowship Hall for the conversational listening session. The body was not reconvened so that all present had full voice.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Following the listening session, Vice-Moderator Jane Herring reconvened and 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 prayers of the people and adjourned the meeting at 12:36 pm after announcing the 159<sup>th</sup> stated meeting will take place February 8, 2025 in person at First Shelbyville..

## Attachment A

### Teaching Elders

\_E\_Adams, Chris  
\_E\_Anderson, David  
\_E\_Anderson, Rosanna  
\_P\_Angel, Erin Howton  
\_E\_Angel, Jonathan  
\_E\_Arnold, Judith  
\_E\_Bagley, Tom  
\_E\_Barger, Bill  
\_P\_Berry, Claire  
\_E\_Berger, Will  
\_E\_Boaz, Stephanie Hanson  
\_E\_Bradley, Michael  
\_E\_Bray, Linda  
\_P\_Bryan, Mark S.  
\_E\_Burgener, John "Bo"  
\_E\_Caldwell, Elizabeth  
\_E\_Canon, Amelia  
\_E\_Carrell, Len  
\_E\_Casner, Paul  
\_E\_Catloe, Lee  
\_E\_Cejka, III, Joseph  
\_E\_Cheetham, John T.  
\_E\_Chucquimia, Teddy  
\_E\_Coates, Coleman Lewis  
\_E\_Cox, Meredith  
\_E\_Crawford, John  
\_E\_Crumpler, David  
\_E\_Danner, Charles  
\_E\_Davis, Michael  
\_E\_DeVries, Adam  
\_E\_DeVries, Mark  
\_E\_Drake, Donovan  
\_P\_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  
\_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  
\_P\_Higgins, Ashley  
\_E\_Hill, Austin  
\_E\_Hill, Ellen  
\_P\_Hill, Sara  
\_P\_Hilley, John R.  
\_P\_Hinkle, Jr., John  
\_E\_Hodgson, Peter  
\_E\_Hoechst, Jeanne'  
\_E\_Hudnut-Beumler, Heidi  
\_E\_Hudnut-Beumler, James  
\_P\_Hughes, Sally  
\_P\_Huie, Scott  
\_E\_Hunter, Jeannie  
\_E\_Johnson, Charles N.  
\_E\_Jones, Todd B.  
\_E\_Kane, Jeff  
\_E\_Kang, Se Bong  
\_E\_Kang, Shin  
\_E\_Kaufman, John E.  
\_E\_Kelly, Gary  
\_E\_Kidd, David  
\_E\_Klein, Candice

### November 14, 2024 Stated Meeting Roll

\_E\_Kneff, Sarah Bird  
\_E\_Knight, Carole  
\_E\_Kramer, Claire Harris  
\_E\_Lancaster, Jimmie  
\_E\_Larson, John  
\_E\_Leftwich, Phil  
\_E\_Lewis, John  
\_E\_Lipsey, McCurdy  
\_E\_Logan, Gail  
\_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.  
\_E\_Montgomery, Robert  
\_P\_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  
\_E\_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  
\_E\_Salyer, Janet  
\_P\_Sasser, Zach  
\_E\_Sawyer, David  
\_E\_Schultz, Harris  
\_E\_Schwartz, Cindy  
\_E\_Shaw, Mary Sellers  
\_E\_Skelly, John J., III  
\_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  
\_E\_Thomas, Ray  
\_P\_Thompson, C.J.  
\_E\_Thompson, Marjorie  
\_E\_Todd, John  
\_P\_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  
\_E\_White, Jack  
\_E\_White, Linda  
\_E\_Wilson, Amos L.  
\_E\_Yang, Sunggu  
\_E\_Yates, Stephen  
\_E\_Zeigler, Richard

P - Present  
E - Excused

A - Absent  
I - Inactive

**Ruling Elder Commissioners**

<u>Church</u>	<u>Represented By</u>	<u>Church</u>	<u>Represented By</u>
Alexandria, Liberty Hill		Lewisburg, Bethberei	1.
Allardt, First		First	2.
Alpine, Christ		Lynnville, First	
Ardmore, Bethany		Manchester, First	
Belfast		McMinnville, First	1. Donna (illegible)
Bethpage, Oak Grove		Milton, Hopewell	
Brentwood, Brentwood First		Mt. Pleasant, First	
East	1. Lavona Russell	Murfreesboro, First	1. Eric Egli
	2.		2. Chet Logan
Harpeth	1.	Northminster	
	2.	Nashville, Bellevue	1. Karen Bullock
Buffalo Valley			2.
Clarksville, First	1. Doug Young	Donelson	1.
	2. Phil Kemmerly		2.
	3.	Downtown	1. Tara Herbert
Macedonia			2.
Columbia, First	1. Lorie Fisher	Eastminster	1.
	2. Dwight Fox		2.
	3.	Emmanuel	1. Barbara Halverstadt
Westminster		First	1. Bill Akin
Cookeville, Double Springs			2. Kevin Garvey
First	1. Cade Arnold		3. Dee Ann Stone
	2.		4. Hal Sauer
Post Oak			5. Tom Stumb
Cowan, Fellowship			6. David Wood
Crossville, Calvary	1. Judith Venable		7.
	2. Vickie Rhea	Glen Leven	1. Margie Mc Culloch
Dickson, First	1. Vicky McMillen		2.
Pond		Glenclyff	
Fairfield Glade, Westminster		Hillsboro	1.
Fayetteville, First	1.		2.
	2.	Hillwood	1. Bob Cooper
St. John			2.
Franklin, First	1. Jim Mahurin	Korean	1. Mi Hyea Fisher
	2. Phil Otts		2.
	3. Starr Nolan	Priest Lake	
Historic	1.	Second	1. St. Clair Blue
	2.		2. Nancy Morris
New Hope		Southminster	1. Greta McClain
Gallatin, First	1.	St. Andrews	1. Charles Jordan
	2.		2. Ronald King
Sudanese		Trinity	1. Betsy Bond
Hendersonville, First	1.		2.
	2.	Westminster	1. Suzie Lane
New Creation			2. Jim Bare
Hermitage	1. Margaret Caudill		3. Greg Cornish
	2.		4. Virginia Reynolds
Lawrenceburg, First			5.
Lebanon, First	1. Mickey Stueck		6.
	2. Jim Stueck	Woodland	
Spring Creek		Normandy	1. Claudia Haszelwood

<u>Church</u>	<u>Represented By</u>
Old Hickory Petersburg, First Pulaski, First	1. Paige Garner 2.
Readyville, Cripple Creek Shelbyville, First	1. Jim Ikard 2. Lori Sain Smith
Smyrna, First	1. Meredith White 2.
Sparta, Blue Spring Hickory Valley Robinson Chapel Spring Hill, First	1. W. Phil Buerger 2. Geoff Lackey
Springfield, First	1.
Milldale Thompson Station, Bethesda Tullahoma, First	1. 2.
Watertown, First Waverly, Ellis Grove	

**Commissioned Ruling Elders**

Leonard Jordan, St. Andrews; Anne Keener, First Franklin;  
David Paduil, Sudenese, Rick Robinson, Milldale

**Ruling Elders, Voice and Vote:**

Mary Catherine Sevier, Stated Clerk; Melinda Sanders,  
Finance Committee ; Presbyterian Women Diane Thurston

Moderator within five years of office:

**Corresponding Members, Voice, without Vote:**

Terry Newland, Shepards and Lapsley  
PK Kim, East Tennessee

**Visitors:**

Gage Arnold  
Doug Marshall  
Cindy Fisher  
Lauren Rogers  
Dudley Elvery  
Kimberly Coward  
In Genu Hoy  
Hannah Cruse  
Tim (illegible)  
Illegible  
Illegible  
Bill Owen  
Michelle Snyder  
Tut Lam