Memorandum

To: Commissioners, Members, and Attendees

From: Erin Bell, Temporary Stated Clerk, Middle Tennessee Presbytery (contact: sc@pbymidtn.org)

Re: Call to 166th Stated Meeting of the Middle Tennessee Presbytery to be held on November 7th, 2026

Date: September 26th, 2026

Please find attached the agenda, reports, and other relevant documents pertaining to the 166th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee. In keeping with the standing rules of the presbytery, this packet is distributed at least seven days before the meeting.

The meeting will be hosted by First Presbyterian Church of Franklin (101 Legends Club Ln, Franklin, 37069) on Saturday, November 7th, 2026. Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. Following a break for lunch, the meeting is scheduled to conclude at 2:45 p.m.

Register online via the presbytery website at: https://pbymidtn.org/meeting-registration/

The word will be proclaimed by Rev. Ryan Moore, Pastor at First, Nashville.

In the packet titled "166th Stated Meeting Main Agenda and Materials" you will find the following:

- Parking instructions and address for First Presbyterian Church of Franklin
- Main Agenda
- Reports and supporting documents from Committees, Commissions, Task Forces, the Transitional Executive Presbytery and the Temporary Stated Clerk
- Roster of all current members of Presbytery committees and commissions, along with previous members of the Permanent Judicial Commission

A second packet, entitled "166th Stated Meeting Consent Agenda and Materials", contains the consent agenda and minutes of the 165th Stated Meeting and Called Meeting held on September 30th. These are sent separately for your convenience in accessing them before and during the meeting.

Thank you for your time in reviewing these documents and attending the meeting. We look forward to being together in person as we move forward with the ministry of the congregations and the business of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee. An evaluation form, to be completed following the meeting, will be accessible on the Presbytery (pbymidtn.org/meetings). The feedback received is used to inform planning for future meetings.

Ways to Contribute to the Offering for the Guatemala-Peten Partnership

▲ Mail a Check to the Presbytery Office
The Presbytery of Middle Tennessee
1113 Murfreesboro Rd
Suite 106, #216
Franklin, TN 37064

▲Visit the Presbytery Website
www.pbymidtn.org
Click the "Give Now" button

▲Scan the QR Code with your phone's camera
This link will take you to the donation page.

Remember to designate your giving.

Please specify that your donation is for the Guatemala-Peten Partnership.

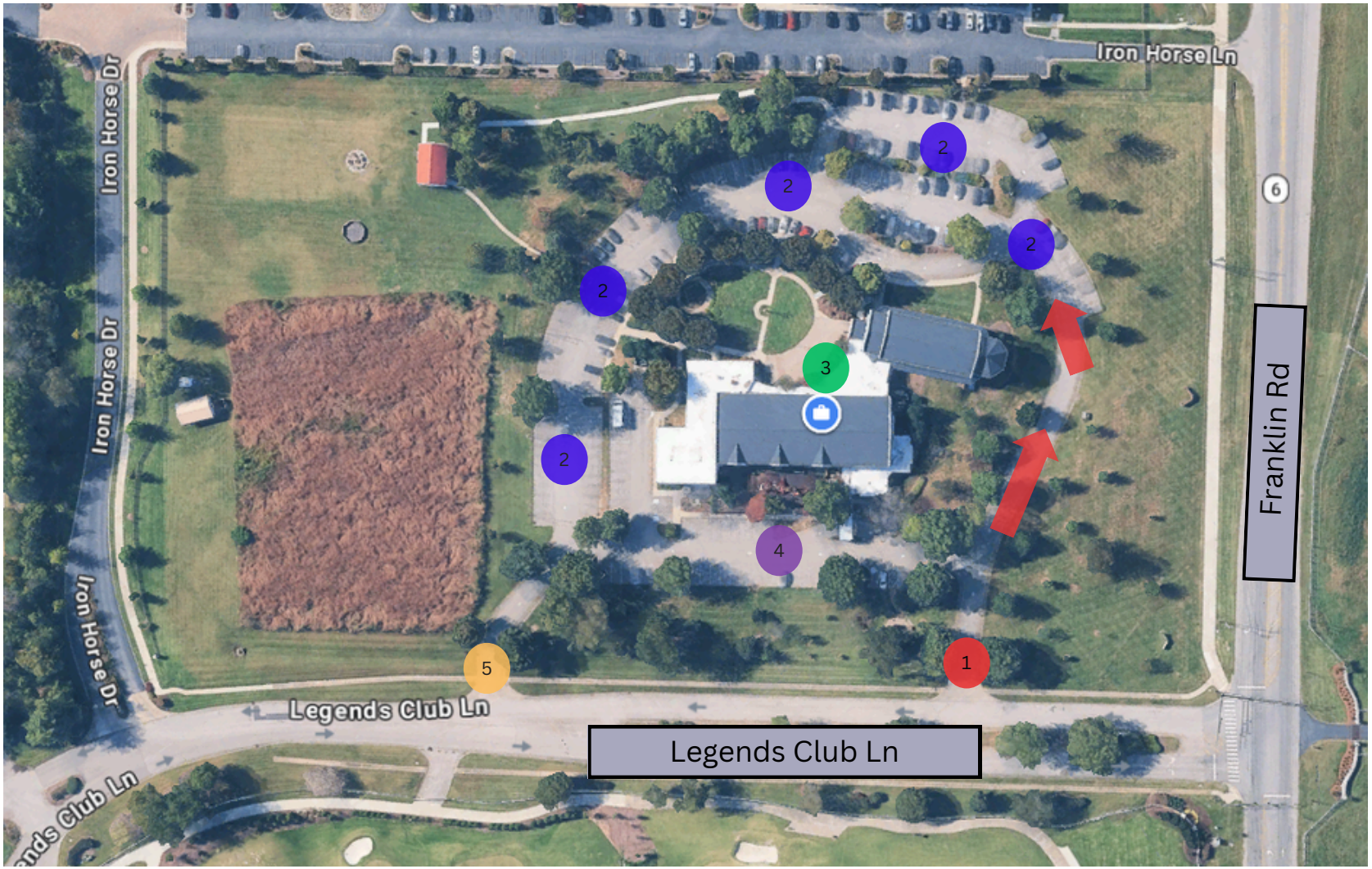
Directions to First Presbyterian Church, Franklin.
101 Legends Club Lane, Franklin TN

Coming from North of Franklin. Take I-65 South. Take Exit 71- Concord Road and turn right onto Concord Road. Continue until it ends (.6 miles- 3 stop lights) and take a left onto Franklin Road (Hwy 31-S). Stay on Franklin Rd for 4.2 miles (5 stop lights). Turn left at the light onto Legends Club Lane. The church is on your right. Take the first entrance to the right and go around the church to the top parking lot.

Once in the parking lot you should enter the church through the Main Entrance which is well marked just off the courtyard with the Celtic Cross.

Coming from the South of Franklin. Take I-65 North to Cool Springs Blvd Exit to the West. Stay on Cool Springs Blvd to Mack Hatcher Parkway (1.7 miles - 6 stop lights) where you will turn to the right. Stay on Mack Hatcher to the next light (0.7 miles) and take a right on Franklin Road (Hwy 31-N). After you turn onto Franklin Road, go to the next light (0.2 miles) and turn right on Legends Club Lane. The church is on your right. Take the first entrance to the right and go around to the top parking lot.

Once in the parking lot you should enter the church through the Main Entrance which is well marked just off the courtyard with the Celtic Cross.



1 Enter Here and follow arrows to upper parking lot.

2 Parking

3 Main Entrance

4 Overflow Parking- no entrance to event on this side of the building.

5 Exit Only

Presbytery of Middle Tennessee

166th Stated Meeting

Main Agenda and Materials

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 SIXTY-SIXTH STATED MEETING
THE PRESBYTERY OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE
AGENDA OF NOVEMBER 7TH, 2026
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF FRANKLIN

9:00 Registration (Order of the Day in CAPS)

9:15 Orientation for First Time Commissioners (Erin Bell, Temporary Stated Clerk)

9:30 CONVENE

- Establishment of Quorum
- Adoption of Agenda and Consent Agenda
- Seating of Corresponding Members
- Recognition of First Time Presbyters

9:40 WORSHIP

- Sermon: Rev. Ryan Moore
- Offering: Guatemala Partnership

10:30 BREAK (5 minutes)

10:35 REPORTS (numbers indicate order in packet)

All speakers are advised to review the policies for oral reports and speaking during Stated and Called meetings of the Presbytery.

(1) Presbyterian Home for Children (CEO Doug Marshall – 5 minutes)
(2) Evergreen Presbyterian Ministries (Mr. Tom Starling – 5 minutes)
(3) Finance Committee (Rev. Bruce McVey - 30 minutes)
(4) Committee on Mutual Support (Rev. Claire Harris Kramer – 10 minutes)
(5) Commission on Ministry (RE Mickey Stueck – 25 minutes)
(6) Nominating Task Force (CRE Leonard Jordan – 10 minutes)

Noon LUNCH

1:00 RECONVENE

(7) Joys, Concerns, & Announcements (Rev. Sherard Edington – 10 minutes)
(8) Visioning Plan Update (Ad Hoc Committee Members – 45 minutes)
(9) Administrative Committee (TE Erin Howton-Angel – 10 minutes)
(10) Committee on Church Transformation (Rev. John Hilley, RE Lavona Russell – 15 minutes)

(11) Executive Presbyter's Report (Rev. Sherard Edington – 5 minutes)

(12) Temporary Stated Clerk's Report (RE Erin Bell – 10 minutes)

2:35 CLOSING PRAYER & ADJOURNMENT

- 167th Stated Meeting: Saturday, February 6th, 2027
  Allardt Presbyterian Church, Allardt
- Closing Prayer – RE Chris Williams
- Adjournment

Contribute to Today's Offering: Guatemala Partnership

▲Mail a Check to the Presbytery Office

Please note "Presbytery Meeting Offering" on the memo line.

The Presbytery of Middle Tennessee
1113 Murfreesboro Rd
Suite 106, #216
Franklin, TN 37064

▲Visit the Presbytery Website

www.pbymidtn.org
Click the "Give Now" button

▲Scan the QR Code

This link will take you to the donation page

Committee Oral Reports Policy at Stated and Called Meetings:

Committee chairs shall provide oral reports at Stated or Called Presbytery Meetings only if they have submitted a written report that is part of the meeting packet and only on work pertaining to their committee, including any action items requiring consideration.

As written reports are disseminated well before the presbytery meeting, keeping comments short when referring to (submitted written) information that does not require or inform an action is helpful. Reviewing and encouraging conversation around issues that do require action is welcome and fosters productive engagement.

Speaking during Stated or Called Presbytery Meetings Policy:

Any commissioner or member of Presbytery may speak to items under discussion during Stated Meetings. Speaking time is limited to five minutes per person. Per Roberts Rules of Order, individuals may not speak more than twice to a single issue unless the Moderator asks them a direct question.

Policies Approved by Middle Tennessee Presbytery May 3, 2025

FINANCE COMMITTEE
REPORT TO THE PRESBYTERY OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE
November 7, 2026

3
Note: Reports begin with the third item on the agenda

Bruce McVey
931-433-1905
brucemcvey@fpunet.com

INFORMATION

1. The Finance Committee conducts a hybrid meeting at 2:00 on the third Thursday of each month at Westminster Nashville in person and on Zoom. The committee meets immediately before the Administrative Committee so that the committees are able to meet to discuss joint issues, if necessary.

ADMIT TO RECORD

1. Financial statements are attached—including year to date activity through June 30, 2026.
    a. Income: Year-to-date ordinary income is approximately $316,000, roughly $47,000 below budget through September.
    b. Pledges: Pledged giving totals approximately $226,000 year to date, about $47,000 below budget, and remains the primary reason income is trailing projections.
    c. Expenses: Ordinary expenses are approximately $334,000 year to date, about $26,000 under budget. This spending restraint has offset more than half of the income shortfall.
    d. Bottom line: Ordinary operations show an approximately $18,000 year-to-date deficit. The budget anticipated a roughly $2,000 surplus, making the operating result about $21,000 worse than budget. Including investment gains and restricted-fund activity, the overall year-to-date bottom line is positive by approximately $115,000.
    e. Investments: Vanguard investments totaled approximately $6.28 million at September 30. During the third quarter, the portfolio declined approximately $48,000 from market performance, partially offset by about $15,000 in dividends, interest, and capital-gain distributions, resulting in a net quarterly decrease of approximately $33,000. There were no deposits or withdrawals during the quarter.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To approve the proposed 2027 budget (see attached).
2. To approve the proposed Capital Renewal and Vitality Fund (see attached). This proposal will be seeded initially with $200,000 from the proceeds of sales of closed or merged congregations.
3. To approve the proposed Mission and Ministries Grant Fund (see attached). This proposal will be seeded initially with $200,000 from the proceeds of sales of closed or merged congregations.

The Presbytery of Middle Tennessee
Actual to Budget
Statement of Activity
Period Ending September 2026

	SEPT 2026 Actual	SEPT 2026 Budget	$ Over Budget	YTD 2026 Actual	YTD 2026 Budget	$ Over Budget	2026 Annual Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense							
Income							
4000 · Pledged giving	24,068.94	43,189.43	-19,120.49	225,995.48	273,268.78	-47,273.30	520,000.00
4005 · Contributions	0.00			30.40			
4070 · Investment income							
4070-10 · Investment income	29,880.28	29,867.25	13.03	89,682.33	89,601.75	80.58	119,469.00
Total 4070 · Investment income	29,880.28	29,867.25	13.03	89,682.33	89,601.75	80.58	119,469.00
Total Income	53,949.22	73,056.68	-19,107.46	315,708.21	362,870.53	-47,162.32	639,469.00
Gross Profit	53,949.22	73,056.68	-19,107.46	315,708.21	362,870.53	-47,162.32	639,469.00
Expense							
5000 · Finance							
5000-01 · Occupancy	550.00	550.00	0.00	4,950.00	4,950.00	0.00	6,600.00
5000-02 · Equipment	0.00	41.67	-41.67	2,800.00	375.03	2,424.97	500.00
5000-03 · Insurance	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,816.50	3,000.00	-183.50	4,000.00
5000-05 · Office Expense	416.28	250.00	166.28	3,078.70	2,250.00	828.70	3,000.00
5000-06 · POMA (Database)	0.00	0.00	0.00	830.00	1,750.00	-920.00	1,750.00
5000-07 · Telephone	385.84	250.00	135.84	3,016.64	2,250.00	766.64	3,000.00
5000-08 · Audit Fee	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,000.00
5000-11 · Processing Fees (Bank, Payroll)	228.07	233.33	-5.26	2,263.72	2,099.97	163.75	2,800.00
5000-12 · Webpage	75.00	83.33	-8.33	461.00	749.97	-288.97	1,000.00
5070-01 · GA Per Capita	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	164,452.30
5070-03 · Synod Per Capita	14,531.97	14,531.97	0.00	43,595.91	43,595.91	0.00	58,127.90
Total 5000 · Finance	16,187.16	15,940.30	246.86	63,812.47	61,020.88	2,791.59	252,230.20
5020 · Committee on Mutual Support							
5010-03 · NaCoMe Camp	0.00	0.00	0.00	30,000.00	30,000.00	0.00	30,000.00
5020-01 · Nueva Vida Food Bank	2,083.33	2,083.33	0.00	18,749.97	18,749.97	0.00	25,000.00
5020-02 · MTSU Campus Ministry	1,833.33	1,833.33	0.00	16,499.97	16,499.97	0.00	22,000.00
5020-03 · TTU Campus Ministry	1,666.67	1,666.66	0.01	15,000.03	14,999.94	0.09	20,000.00
5020-05 · Vanderbilt Campus Ministry	1,916.67	1,916.66	0.01	17,250.03	17,249.94	0.09	23,000.00
5020-06 · Synod - Campus Ministry Support	-2,201.41	-2,201.41	0.00	-19,812.69	-19,812.69	0.00	-26,417.00
Total 5020 · Committee on Mutual Support	5,298.59	5,298.57	0.02	77,687.31	77,687.13	0.18	93,583.00
5030 · Committee on Ministry							
5030-04 · Background Checks	175.83	166.66	9.17	956.01	1,499.94	-543.93	2,000.00
Total 5030 · Committee on Ministry	175.83	166.66	9.17	956.01	1,499.94	-543.93	2,000.00
5040 · Comm. on Prep. for Ministry	0.00	33.33	-33.33	0.00	299.97	-299.97	400.00
5060-01 · Comm. for Social Justice	0.00	83.33	-83.33	0.00	749.97	-749.97	1,000.00
5100 · Administrative Committee							
5100-02 · Presbytery Meeting Expenses	0.00	166.66	-166.66	57.37	1,499.94	-1,442.57	2,000.00
5100-03 · Moderator Conference	0.00	41.66	-41.66	0.00	374.94	-374.94	500.00
5100-04 · EP expenses	475.21	833.33	-358.12	12,501.41	7,499.97	5,001.44	10,000.00
5100-05 · EP Salary	3,750.00	3,750.00	0.00	33,750.00	33,750.00	0.00	45,000.00
5100-06 · EP Housing	4,500.00	4,500.00	0.00	40,500.00	40,500.00	0.00	54,000.00
5100-07 · EP FICA	631.12	631.12	0.00	5,680.02	5,680.08	-0.06	7,573.50
5100-08 · EP Medical/Pension	1,803.80	2,145.00	-341.20	16,233.59	19,305.00	-3,071.41	25,740.00
5100-20 · Stated Clerk Salary	3,750.00	3,750.00	0.00	33,750.00	33,750.00	0.00	45,000.00
5100-21 · Stated Clerk FICA	286.88	286.87	0.01	2,581.80	2,581.83	-0.03	3,442.50
5100-23 · Stated Clerk expenses	0.00	333.33	-333.33	2,115.24	2,999.97	-884.73	4,000.00
5100-30 · Operations Coord. Wages	4,416.66	4,416.66	0.00	27,036.07	39,749.94	-12,713.87	53,000.00
5100-31 · Operations Coord. FICA	337.88	337.87	0.01	2,043.45	3,040.83	-997.38	4,054.50
5100-32 · Operations Coord. Med/Pension	0.00	833.33	-833.33	4,660.74	7,499.97	-2,839.23	10,000.00
5100-61 · Accounting	1,345.72	1,500.00	-154.28	10,764.87	13,500.00	-2,735.13	18,000.00
5100-70 · Legal Fees	0.00	833.33	-833.33	0.00	7,499.97	-7,499.97	10,000.00
Total 5100 · Administrative Committee	21,297.27	24,359.16	-3,061.89	191,674.56	219,232.44	-27,557.88	292,310.50
Total Expense	42,958.85	45,881.35	-2,922.50	334,130.35	360,490.33	-26,359.98	641,523.70
Net Ordinary Income	10,990.37	27,175.33	-16,184.96	-18,422.14	2,380.20	-20,802.34	-2,054.70
Other Income/Expense							
Other Income							
7001 · Unbudgeted Income							
7001-15 · Unrealized gain/loss on Invest.	-88,388.97			186,866.21			
7001-21 · Temp. Restricted-Receipts	14,390.93			130,900.07			
Total 7001 · Unbudgeted Income	-73,998.04			317,766.28			
Total Other Income	-73,998.04			317,766.28			
Other Expense							
7002 · Unbudgeted expenses							
7002-21 · Temp. Restricted disbursements	19,548.84			184,596.21			
Total 7002 · Unbudgeted expenses	19,548.84			184,596.21			
Total Other Expense	19,548.84			184,596.21			
Net Other Income	-93,546.88			133,170.07			
Net Income	**-82,556.51**	**27,175.33**	**-109,731.84**	**114,747.93**	**2,380.20**	**112,367.73**	**-2,054.70**

The Presbytery of Middle Tennessee
Statement of Financial Position
As of September 30, 2026

	Sep 30, 26
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
1005 · Pinnacle Bank - PMT	252,287.24
1015 · Pinnacle Bank - NV	1,788.76
Total Checking/Savings	254,076.00
Other Current Assets	
1202 · Prepaid expenses	758.87
1300 · Investments	
1300-11 · Vanguard-Pooled	5,636,941.05
1300-12 · Vanguard-Default Reserve	629,766.84
1300-13 · Vanguard-Endowment	10,749.80
1300-14 · Vanguard-Cash Equivalent	8.01
Total 1300 · Investments	6,277,465.70
1400 · Miscellaneous receivables	-1,440.25
Total Other Current Assets	6,276,784.32
Total Current Assets	6,530,860.32
Fixed Assets	
1500 · Fixed Assets	
1500-02 · Furniture and Equipment	2,165.37
1500-10 · Accumulated Depreciation	-2,165.37
Total 1500 · Fixed Assets	0.00
Total Fixed Assets	0.00
TOTAL ASSETS	**6,530,860.32**
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
20000 · *Accounts Payable	24,166.85
Total Accounts Payable	24,166.85
Credit Cards	
2015 · Pinnacle Bank Credit Card	3,218.92
Total Credit Cards	3,218.92
Other Current Liabilities	
2500 · Designated gifts	
2500-01 · Joy gift	50.00
2500-02 · One Great Hour of Sharing	4,115.00
2500-20 · Disaster relief - other	25.00
2500-23 · Old Hickory Neville Bequest	16,616.55
2500-30 · Other designated gifts	8,000.00
Total 2500 · Designated gifts	28,806.55
Total Other Current Liabilities	28,806.55
Total Current Liabilities	56,192.32
Total Liabilities	56,192.32
Equity	
3001 · Unrestricted Net Assets	
3001-01 · Allowance for church defaults	200,000.00
3001-04 · Designation - NCD (Properties)	
3001-08 · Designation - NCD Upper Cumberl	263,387.20
3001-44 · Decherd PC	720.50
3001-49 · Woodland PC	-10,803.00
3001-50 · Mt Pleasant FPC	-16,328.32
3001-04 · Designation - NCD (Properties) - Other	197,459.79
Total 3001-04 · Designation - NCD (Properties)	434,436.17
3001-13 · Leadership Dev & Education Fund	11,892.89
3001-14 · Mediation Fund	18,680.69
3001-15 · Matthew 25 Fund	19,680.00
3001-17 · EP Transition Fund	16,526.74
3001-19 · Nueva Vida NCD - PMT Budget	21,999.96
3001-20 · Investment Income - PMT Budget	5,479.71
3001-22 · Sabbatical Assistance - COM	9,500.00
3001-23 · Centsability - COM	5,246.94
3001-24 · Transitional Pastor Training	3,000.00
3001 · Unrestricted Net Assets - Other	5,426,707.12
Total 3001 · Unrestricted Net Assets	6,173,150.22
3002 · Temporarily restricted funds	
3002-01 · Centsability	3,848.32
3002-05 · Guatemalan Support Funds	10,778.03
3002-06 · Pastoral Care	1,470.00
3002-09 · Disaster Assistance Fund	14,269.02
3002-10 · Triennium	2,941.26
3002-26 · Sabbatical Assistance	5,877.82
3002-27 · Nueva Vida New Church Dev	210.24
3002-32 · CPM - Scholarships	5,574.18
3002-33 · Nueva Vida Food Bank	
3002-35 · NV Food Bank - Kharis Grant	16,000.03
3002-33 · Nueva Vida Food Bank - Other	-281.74
Total 3002-33 · Nueva Vida Food Bank	15,718.29
3002-50 · St. Andrews Fund	56,636.75
3002-52 · Meeting scholar/preacher	5,000.00
Total 3002 · Temporarily restricted funds	122,323.91
3003 · Permanently restricted funds	10,749.80
3100 · Restricted/Designated income	53,696.14
Net Income	114,747.93
Total Equity	6,474,668.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	**6,530,860.32**

Presbytery of Middle Tennessee
Policies, Assumptions, and Motion for the 2027 Budgets

Applicable Policies:

- The Mission and Operations Manual, p. 17, line 40-41 says that the Finance Committee's purpose is to *"Recommend a balanced annual operating budget, after review by the Administrative Committee, for approval by the Presbytery at the last meeting of the year."*
- The Mission and Operations Manual, p.12, line 42 says that the Administrative Committee's purpose is to *"review the balanced annual operating budget proposed by the Finance Committee."*
- The Presbytery's Financial Policies and Procedures outlines the process that the Finance Committee is required to use on pages 6-8.
- It is important to note the Presbytery's policies on mandated payments. This can be found on page 5 under Stewardship of the Financial Policies and Procedures: *"Presbytery pays per capita assessments, based on the reported membership of each church, to the Synod of Living Waters and the PC(USA) General Assembly. Although Presbytery could mandate payment of these assessments by its member churches, it has chosen instead to rely on their voluntary contributions to fund both the per capita payments and other parts of the budget…"*
- The Presbytery's Financial Policies and Procedures also require an external review each year with a full *"audit every five years by a qualified CPA."* The next audit will occur in 2030. Page 11, External Review.

Notable Change for the Budget of the Presbytery:

Because of the requirement in the Mission and Operations Manual that the operating budget for the Presbytery be balanced, the budget for 2027 has been divided into two budgets: the Operating Budget and the Missional Budget. The Operating Budget functions as a typical budget where actual amounts spent are tracked throughout the year, any excess is not carried over into the new year, and new amounts can be proposed in the new year's budget. The Missional Budget is made up of certain Restricted and Designated Funds that can be carried over into the next year and that can have additional funds added during the year if needed. The proposed Operating Budget is $713,000, and the proposed Missional Budget is $1,430,906.

Assumptions for Income:

- It should be noted that the amount of contributions from churches is continuing its downward trend.
- Consequently, the Presbytery withdraws from Investments 5% of the average of the previous three calendar year-end market values to balance the Operating Budget.
- The Presbytery is currently dependent on the sale of church properties to balance its budget and to fund its missional objectives.

Assumptions for Expenses:

- All of the operating budget items under the **Committee on Mutual Support** have been moved to the Missional Budget since all of their work is mission oriented. Their line items, under the Missional Budget, reflect increases for

NaCoMe and the UKIRKS, the Presbytery's food bank, Centsability, Triennium, and the Guatemala Fund. The committee requested funding for Mission and Ministry Grants, and those funds ($200,000) are reflected in their Missional Budget. A copy of the grant paperwork is attached.

- **Commission on Ministry** has money in the Operating Budget for background checks and has money in the Missional Budget for Sabbatical Assistance, Pastoral Care, and Mediation.
- **Committee on Preparation for Ministry** has money in Missional Budget for scholarship.
- All of the funds for the **Committee on Church Transformation** are in the Missional Budget. The committee has approximately $500,000 in designated accounts.
- Because of inactivity, The **Committee on Social Justice** does not have any money in the budgets.
- Because of inactivity, **Committee on Leadership Excellence** does not have money in the budgets.
- Most of the budget for the **Administrative Committee** is included in the Operating Budget and includes salaries and benefits, meeting expenses, accounting and legal fees, and educational expenses. BECAUSE OF TIMING FOR GETTING THE BUDGET TO THE PRESBYTERY, IT SHOULD NOT BE ASSUMED THAT BECAUSE A SALARY HAS BEEN INCLUDED IN THE BUDGET THAT IT WILL BE FILLED. PRESBYTERY STILL HAS THE OPTION NOT TO AGREE TO STAFFING THAT HAS BEEN PROPOSED. The Administrative Committee is also responsible for a Missional Budget fund for Meeting Scholar/Preacher.
- The **Finance Committee** and Administrative Committee share responsibility for two Missional Budget items: The St. Andrew's Fund and Church Defaults. The Finance Committee is also responsible for the Disaster Assistance Fund, the J. Hutton Endowment, and a new fund for Deferred Maintenance Grants ($250,000). A copy of the grant paperwork is attached.

	2027 Annual Budget	2026 Annual Budget	Jan - Sept YTD 2026 Actual	Jan - Sept YTD 2026 Budget	$ Over Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense					
Income					
4000 · Pledged giving	$520,000	$520,000	$225,995	$273,269	-$47,273
4005 · Contributions			$30		
4070 · Investment income					
4070-10 · Investment income	$193,000	$119,469	$89,682	$89,602	$81
Total 4070 · Investment income	$193,000	$119,469	$89,682	$89,602	$81
Total Income	$713,000	$639,469	$315,708	$362,871	-$47,162
Gross Profit	$713,000	$639,469	$315,708	$362,871	-$47,162
Expense					
5000 · Finance					
5000-01 · Occupancy	$7,800	$6,600	$4,950	$4,950	$0
5000-02 · Equipment	$1,500	$500	$2,800	$375	$2,425
5000-03 · Insurance	$5,000	$4,000	$2,817	$3,000	$184
5000-05 · Office Expense	$3,150	$3,000	$3,079	$2,250	$829
5000-06 · POMA (Database)	$2,000	$1,750	$830	$1,750	$920
5000-07 · Telephone	$4,380	$3,000	$3,017	$2,250	$767
5000-08 · Audit Fee	$7,300	$7,000	$0	$0	$0
5000-11 · Processing Fees (Bank, Payroll)	$3,450	$2,800	$2,264	$2,100	$164
5000-12 · Webpage	$1,050	$1,000	$461	$750	$289
5070-01 · GA Per Capita	$188,950	$164,452	$0	$0	$0
5070-03 · Synod Per Capita	$63,466	$58,128	$43,596	$43,596	$0
Total 5000 · Finance	$288,046	$252,230	$63,812	$61,021	$2,792
5020 · Committee on Mutual Support					
5010-03 · NaCoMe Camp		$30,000	$30,000	$30,000	$0
5020-01 · Nueva Vida Food Bank		$25,000	$18,750	$18,750	$0
5020-02 · MTSU Campus Ministry		$22,000	$16,500	$16,500	$0
5020-03 · TTU Campus Ministry		$20,000	$15,000	$15,000	$0
5020-05 · Vanderbilt Campus Ministry		$23,000	$17,250	$17,250	$0
5020-06 · Synod - Campus Ministry Support		$ (26,417)	-$19,813	-$19,813	$0
Total 5020 · Committee on Mutual Support	$0	$93,583	$77,687	$77,687	$0
5030 · Committee on Ministry					
5030-04 · Background Checks	$2,000	$2,000	$956	$1,500	$544
Total 5030 · Committee on Ministry	$2,000	$2,000	$956	$1,500	$544
5040 · Comm. on Prep. for Ministry		$400	$0	$300	$300
5060-01 · Comm. for Social Justice		$1,000	$0	$750	$750
5100 · Administrative Committee					
5100-02 · Presbytery Meeting Expenses	$2,100	$2,000	$57	$1,500	$1,443
5100-03 · Moderator Conference	$525	$500	$0	$375	$375
5100-04 · EP expenses	$15,000	$10,000	$12,501	$7,500	$5,001
5100-05 · EP Salary	$48,564	$45,000	$33,750	$33,750	$0
5100-06 · EP Housing	$54,000	$54,000	$40,500	$40,500	$0
5100-07 · EP FICA	$7,846	$7,574	$5,680	$5,680	$0
5100-08 · EP Medical/Pension	$30,769	$25,740	$16,234	$19,305	$3,071
5100-20 · Stated Clerk Salary	$66,500	$45,000	$33,750	$33,750	$0
5100-21 · Stated Clerk FICA	$5,087	$3,443	$2,582	$2,582	$0

5100-22 Stated Clerk Med/Pension	$19,950				
5100-23 · Stated Clerk expenses	$2,500	$4,000	$2,115	$3,000	$885
5100-30 · Operations Coord. Wages	$53,000	$53,000	$27,036	$39,750	$12,714
5100-31 · Operations Coord. FICA	$4,055	$4,055	$2,043	$3,041	$997
5100-32 · Operations Coord. Med/Pension	$15,900	$10,000	$4,661	$7,500	$2,839
5100-40 - Shepherds	$24,000				
5100-50 - Deans	$26,000				
5100-61 · Accounting	$18,000	$18,000	$10,765	$13,500	$2,735
5100-70 · Legal Fees	$19,158	$10,000	$0	$7,500	$7,500
5100-80 - Education/Development	$10,000				
Total 5100 · Administrative Committee	$422,954	$292,311	$191,674	$219,233	$27,559
Total Expense	$713,000	$641,524	$334,130	$360,491	$26,361
Net Ordinary Income	$ (0)	$ (2,055)	$ (18,422)	$2,380	$ (20,802)

Presbytery of Middle TN

2027 Missional Budget Restricted and Designated Funds By Committees

0

	Fund Balance 07/01/2026	Receipts/Disbursements YTD 09/30/2026	2027 Beginning Balance (approx)	Acct #
Administrative Committee				
St. Andrews Fund	$56,637		$56,637	3002-50
Church Defaults	$200,000		$200,000	3001-01
Meeting Scholar/Preacher	$5,000		$5,000	3002-52
E/P Transition Fund	$16,527		$16,527	3001-17
Finance Committee				
St. Andrews Fund	$56,637		$56,637	3002-50
Church Defaults	$200,000		$200,000	3001-01
Disaster Assistance	$14,269	$7979/$7979	$14,269	3002-09
J Hutton Endowment	$10,000		$10,000	
Deferred Maintenance Grant			$250,000	
Commission on Ministry				
Sabbatical Assist - Donor Restr.	$5,878		$5,878	3002-26
Sabbatical Assist - Designated	$12,500	0/$3000	$29,500	3001-22
Pastoral Care	$1,470		$1,470	3002-06
Mediation Fund	$18,000	$1564/$883	$18,881	3001-14
Transitional Pastor Training		$10,000/$7,000	$3,000	3001-24
Committee on Preparation for Ministry				
CPM Scholarships	$5,574		$5,574	3002-32
Committee on Church Transformation				
NCD/Transformation-Upper Cumb	$313,387	0/$50,000	$263,387	3001-08
NCD/Transformation-Other Prop	$222,460	0/$25,000	$197,460	3001-04
Nueva Vida Church Support	$25,643	$10,655/$36,088	-$210	3002-27
Committee on Mutual Support				
(Please note that the Synod reimburses the Presbytery for $26,417 of the expense of the campus ministries)				
MTSU Campus Ministry	$22,000	0/$16500	$27,000	
TSU Campus Ministry	$20,000	0/$15,000	$25,000	
Vanderbilt Campus Ministry	$23,000	0/$17,250	$28,000	
NaCoMe	$30,000	0/$22,500	$35,000	
Centsability - COM	$12,857	0/$7,610	$5,247	3001-23
Centsability - Restricted	$8,628	$15,220/$20,000	$3,848	3002-01
Triennium	$2,941		$2,941	3002-10
Guatamala Fund	$6,603	$17517/$13,554	$10,778	3002-05
Nueva Vida Food Bank - desig. Fund	$6,413	$79,803/$73108	-$281	3002-33
Nueva Vida Food Bank - '26 Budget	$18,750	$18,750/$18,750	$0	3001-21
Nueva Vida Food Bank - Kharis grant	$50,000	0/$34,000	$16,000	3002-35
Mission and Ministry Grant			$200,000	
Committee on Leadership Development				
Committee for Social Justice				
TOTAL OF MISSIONAL BUDGET			**$1,430,906**	

Proposal: Capital Renewal and Vitality Fund, CRVF

Purpose and Background

Many congregations within the presbytery face increasing challenges in maintaining aging facilities, particularly as membership declines or financial resources become constrained. In several cases, churches approaching closure or merger have been unable to adequately address deferred maintenance, resulting in properties that require significant repair or remediation. This creates both financial and logistical burdens for the presbytery when such properties are transferred or dissolved.

To address this issue proactively, this proposal outlines the establishment of a targeted grant program (Capital Renewal and Vitality Fund, CRVF) utilizing funds recycled from closed or merged congregations. The intent is to support viable churches in maintaining their existing facilities, thereby preserving ministry capacity and reducing long-term liabilities for the presbytery.

Program Objectives

The proposed grant program seeks to:

* Reduce the accumulation of deferred maintenance across church properties.
* Extend the useful life of existing facilities for active congregations.
* Encourage responsible stewardship of church assets.
* Minimize future financial and administrative burdens on the presbytery.

Eligibility Criteria

To ensure responsible allocation of funds, applicant churches must meet the following criteria:

1. Demonstrated Viability

Applicants must show evidence of ongoing ministry viability, including:

* Stable or sustainable membership trends.
* Active participation in ministry and mission.
* A realistic financial outlook for continued operation over the next 3-5 years.

2. Financial Transparency

Churches must provide a clear picture of their financial position, including:

* Current operating budget and recent financial statements.
* Disclosure of all endowment funds, reserves, and restricted assets.
* The existence of any other programmatic grants or access to additional funds.
* Explanation of why internal funds cannot fully cover maintenance needs.

3. Stewardship Commitment

Applicants must demonstrate a commitment to ongoing property care, including:

* A basic maintenance plan or schedule.
* Willingness to contribute matching funds where feasible.

Use of Funds

Grant funds are intended strictly for the maintenance and preservation of existing church properties. A timely intervention prevents emergencies from becoming crises and reduces long-run costs. It also strengthens connectional witness as congregations experience tangible mutual support across the presbytery.

Eligible uses include:

* Roof repair or replacement
* HVAC system repair or replacement
* Structural repairs (e.g., foundations, walls, accessibility improvements)
* Plumbing and electrical system maintenance
* Safety-related improvements (e.g., fire systems, code compliance)
* ADA/ accessibility improvements

Restrictions

To maintain focus and fairness, grant funds may not be used for:

* New construction or building expansions

* Cosmetic upgrades unrelated to structural or functional needs
* Programmatic expenses or staffing
* Debt reduction unrelated to maintenance work

Grant Structure and Limits

* Grants may be awarded on a sliding scale based on demonstrated need and available presbytery funds.
* Consideration may be given to matching contributions from the applying church.
* Priority may be given to projects addressing urgent safety or structural concerns.

Application and Review Process

Churches seeking funding must submit:

* A completed application form, submitted to the Finance Committee
* Detailed description of the maintenance issue
* Cost estimates or contractor bids
* Financial documentation as outlined above

The Finance Committee will review applications, evaluate need and viability, and make funding recommendations. Grants over $50,000 required direct approval from the Presbytery upon recommendation by Finance. Annual reporting shall be required until the Finance Committee has evidence that the project has been successfully completed and that the funds have been used as intended. Any funds not used within the scope and proposed timeline of the grant shall be returned to the Presbytery.

Receipt of a CRVF grant by an exempt church will require completion of a contract for acceptance of a lien against the affected property for the projected life of the maintenance or repair covered by the grant. The lien shall be removed upon repayment of the grant in full.

Conclusion

This grant program represents a proactive and faithful stewardship of presbytery resources. By investing in the maintenance of viable congregations, the presbytery not only supports ongoing ministry but also mitigates future burdens associated with neglected properties. This approach reflects both practical wisdom and a commitment to sustaining the physical spaces where ministry continues to take place.

Approval of this proposal will enable the presbytery to act strategically, compassionately, and responsibly in caring for its congregations and their shared assets.

Application for Church Financial Assistance From the Middle Tennessee Presbytery

Purpose: This form is intended for churches within the Middle Tennessee Presbytery seeking loan or grant assistance administered by the Finance Committee. Completion of this application does not guarantee approval or funding. Funds are available from either the St. Andrews Endowment in the form of a loan or a grant from the MTP "Capital Renewal & Vitality Fund" (CRVF).

1. Applicant Church Information

Check which source of funds your church seeks:

St. Andrews Endowment_____ CRVF _____

Church Name	
Street Address	
City, State, ZIP	
Primary Contact Name and Title	
Phone	
Email	
Church Website	
Federal EIN	
Year Organized / Chartered	

2. Type and Amount of Request

Request Type	□ Loan □ Grant
Total Amount Requested	$ _____
Maximum Requested Amount Certification	□ The amount requested does not exceed $200,000.
Requested Term, if Loan	_____ months / years
Requested Start Date	
Requested Funding Deadline	

3. Project or Need Description

Please describe the project, ministry need, capital restoration, emergency repair, or other purpose for which funds are requested.

Project / Need Title	
Brief Summary	
Purpose and Expected Benefit to the Church or Community	
Estimated Total Project Cost	$ _____
Other Funding Sources Secured or Pending	
Projected Completion Date	

4. Financial Information

Current Annual Operating Budget	$ _____
Average Annual Giving / Contributions	$ _____
Current Cash Reserves	$ _____
Current Debt Obligations	$ _____
Monthly Debt Service, if any	$ _____
Proposed Repayment Source, if Loan	
Collateral or Security Offered, if applicable	

Exempt Church Stipulation

An “exempt” MTP church receiving CRVF funds shall repay the full amount of the grant to the Middle Tennessee Presbytery in the event of the sale of the church property.

5. Governance and Authorization

The applicant church must confirm that the request has been authorized by the church session consistent with church polity and applicable governing documents and meets the guidelines required by the Middle Tennessee Presbytery.

From the Committee on Mutual Support

Proposal for the "Mission and Ministries Grant Fund"

Background and Rationale

The Presbytery of Middle Tennessee has long sought to support and strengthen its churches and ministries, particularly during times of transition and need. Meanwhile, efforts and special projects within our existing churches and ministries are constantly needed.

This proposal recommends the creation of a designated grant fund to support revitalization and special projects for churches, college ministries, and Presbytery-led ministry initiatives. The Committee on Mutual Support believes this would better enable us to fulfill our mission of seeking opportunities for the presbytery to collaborate and engage in mission and ministry.

Proposal Summary

We propose the creation of the "Missions and Ministries Grant Fund," seeded with an initial allocation of $200,000. This fund would be available only to churches and college ministries within the Presbytery, as well as ministry programs initiated by the Presbytery itself. The purpose of the grant is to provide financial resources for revitalization efforts, innovative ministry initiatives, and special projects that strengthen the mission and sustainability of congregations and ministries.

Grant Structure and Administration

- **Grant Amount:** Up to $10,000 per approved application.
- **Eligibility:** Open to:
    - Churches within the PMT
    - College ministries under the Presbytery's umbrella
    - Ministry programs initiated or overseen by the PMT
- **Uses of Funds:** Grants may be used for:
    - Revitalization initiatives (e.g., outreach programs, leadership development, missional engagement)
    - Facility upgrades directly tied to revitalization (not routine maintenance)
    - Community engagement and innovative ministry models

    - Special projects that strengthen congregational vitality
    - Grants will not be provided for uses such as: routine facility maintenance, emergency maintenance, church staffing needs, or existing church programs that do not fit within the stated purpose of the grant, as determined by the Committee on Mutual Support.
- **Application Process:** An application would be available on the PMT website and can be submitted at any time throughout the year.
- **Oversight and Reporting:** Recipients will be required to submit a follow-up report within a designated timeframe detailing how funds were used and their impact.
- **Fund Management:** The Committee on Mutual Support will oversee the administration of the grant, including reviewing applications, awarding grants, and ensuring appropriate accountability for the use of funds. The committee will provide periodic reports to the Presbytery regarding the status and impact of the grant fund.

Sustainability of the Fund

To ensure the ongoing viability of this grant, the Committee on Mutual Support proposes that when the balance of the fund nears $50,000, the Committee on Mutual Support will contact the Finance Committee to secure additional funding.

Conclusion

This new grant fund provides a responsible and impactful way to steward the resources of the Presbytery, aligning them with current and future needs.

We respectfully submit this proposal for consideration by the Finance and Administrative Committees and look forward to discussing how this initiative can best serve the Presbytery's mission.

Submitted by Rev. Bobby Harding (chair) on behalf of the Committee on Mutual Support

Mission and Ministries Grant Application **Presbytery of Middle Tennessee**

Grant Overview

The Presbytery of Middle Tennessee (PMT) is pleased to offer the "Mission and Ministries Grant" to support the ministry efforts of churches, college ministries, and presbytery-led initiatives within our bounds. This grant is designed to provide financial assistance for projects aimed at revitalization, mission engagement, or other special initiatives that align with the presbytery's vision for strengthening and expanding ministry.

- **Grant Limit**: Up to $10,000 per application
- **Eligibility**: Churches, college ministries, and PMT-led initiatives
- **Funding Period**: Applications are accepted throughout the year, and funds must be used within 12 months.

Eligibility Criteria

Applicants must:

1. Be a church, college ministry, or presbytery-led initiative within the PMT.
2. Demonstrate how the grant funds will be used for revitalization, special projects, or mission-aligned initiatives.
3. Show a clear plan for implementation and accountability.
4. Commit to providing a follow-up report on the impact of the grant.

* Grants will not be provided for routine facility maintenance, emergency maintenance, church staffing needs, or existing church programs that do not fit within the stated purpose of the grant.

Application Instructions

Please submit the completed application to the chair of the Committee on Mutual Support. Applications can be created as a separate document or completed online [**here**].

1. Applicant Information

- Church/Ministry Name
- Affiliated College (if applicable)
- Primary Contact Name & Title
- Email Address
- Phone Number
- Mailing Address

2. Project Description

- Project Title
- Project Start Date
- Estimated Completion Date
- Describe the project and how it aligns with the presbytery's mission.
- What specific needs does this project address?
- How will this project contribute to revitalization or special ministry initiatives?

3. Budget & Funding

- Total Project Cost
- Amount Requested
- Other Funding Sources (if applicable)
- Provide a budget breakdown for how grant funds will be used.

4. Implementation & Evaluation

- What are the key steps and timeline for project implementation?
- Who will be responsible for carrying out the project?
- How will success be measured and reported back to the presbytery?

5. Supporting Documentation

- A letter of support from the session or governing body
- Any additional relevant materials (plans, photos, testimonials, etc.)

Grant Agreement & Reporting

Recipients will be required to submit a brief impact report within one year of receiving funding. The report should outline how funds were used, key outcomes, and any lessons learned. By signing below, the applicant acknowledges that all information provided is accurate and agrees to comply with the grant requirements.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

For more information, please contact the Committee on Mutual Support

Chair: Rev. Dr. Bobby Harding | bobby@mborofpc.org

Rev. Dr. Bobby Harding
bobby@mborofpc.org

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Presbytery of Middle Tennessee

Committee on Mutual Support and Social Justice

November 2026

Information

The Committee on Mutual Support met twice since the presbytery meeting in August of 2026. Our August meeting focused primarily on hunger grants, as it was the first time we reviewed applications that met our summer deadline. Please see notes below for information about which grants were awarded. Our community also spent time planning and discussing changes to our budget for the coming year.

We spent most of our October 20, 2026 meeting discussing the proposal we received from the Nueva Vida Food Project Task Force. We had been asked to consider two changes. First, a location change. NVFP has outgrown its space at Glencliff, and the parking layout there hasn't been ideal. A new location was found at Arlington United Methodist Church on Murfreesboro Rd. that meets their needs. Second, a name change. The task force raised concerns about the current name and the need for the community to recognize what they do and who they serve. The new name, Abundant Life Food Project, would include Spanish and Arabic translations on the sign.

We are also proud to see the Mission and Ministries Grant Fund presented on the PMT floor and look forward to great things to come.

…

Admit to Record

On August 20, 2026, our committee reviewed and approved four separate hunger grants, each for the full amount of $4000.00. On October 20, 2026.

Hunger Grants Awarded:

1. **Emmanuel Presbyterian Church**. The grant will support existing partnerships with Oasis and Maple Village, specifically their goody bags and produce projects.
2. **Second Harvest Food Bank**. The grant will support various projects that make up the organization's regular work.
3. **Nueva Vida Food Project**. The grant will help make processes more effective and help Nueva Vida respond to an increased demand for their services.
4. **New Creation**. The grant will help fund the church's Rise Against Hunger project to pack 20,000 meals for its community.
5. ****Helping Hands of Humphrey County**. At our October meeting, we received a special request for an exemption to our policy as to when grants can be received. After reviewing the application and the appeal from Ellis Grove Presbyterian Church, our committee agreed to review the request. The grant was awarded for $4000.

On October 20, 2026, the Committee on Mutual Support unanimously approved the Nueva Vida task force's proposal for the location and name change.

No Recommendations

Mickey Stueck, EdD.
Mickey.stueck@gmail.com
Rev. Dr. Amy Busse Stoker
Amyweezie@gmail.com

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COMMISSION ON MINISTRY
Report to the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee
November 7, 2026

INFORMATION

1. The Commission on Ministry meets on the second Tuesday of the month in hybrid format at 4:00 pm. It receives reports from the Transitional Executive Presbyter and the Temporary Stated Clerk.
2. The Commission hears reports from active Administrative Commissions on a quarterly basis and reports those to the Presbytery.

ADMIT TO RECORD

1. Rev. Manual D. Silva-Esterrich, PL&W conducted a training for COM members on August 29th at Hermitage Presbyterian Church.
2. Jay Wittmeyer with the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center led a mediation training at First, Nashville from September 21st-25th. The following elders from the Presbytery attended and have been added to the Mediation Team's roster for potential service in the future.
    a. RE Barbara Halverstadt (Emmanuel, Nashville)
    b. TE Zach Sasser (Downtown, Nashville)
    c. RE Mickey Stueck (First, Lebanon)
    d. RE Kevin Whitehead (Westminster, Columbia)
3. Rev. Sally Hughes, Rev. Joy Warren, and Rev. Sherard Edington coordinated a "Welcome to the Presbytery" reception at Trinity Presbyterian Church for ministers who have joined the Presbytery since November 2025.
4. Approved the addition of Jeanne Hoescht to the pulpit supply list
5. Approved the addition of Rev. Robert Brady (UCC pastor and military chaplain) to the pulpit supply list, pending examination
6. Approved the Installation Commission for Rev. Jooyoung Hong at Nashville Korean Presbyterian Church
7. Authorized Rev. Eddie Bellis to labor outside the bounds until received by the Foothills Presbytery.
8. Authorized Rev. John Skelly to labor outside the bounds in order to perform a wedding at Sugarcreek Presbyterian Church in Dayton, Ohio

9. Authorized RE Mickey Stueck to moderate Hermitage Presbyterian Church's called congregational meeting to approve the dissolution of the relationship with Rev. Leslie Traylor
10. Approved Eastminster Presbyterian Church's job description for a Pastor/Head of Staff
11. Approved Terms of Call for Rev. Victoria Krebs to First, Tullahoma and Jooyoung Hong to Nashville Korean, Nashville
12. Approved a four-member task force to work with a pastor from another denomination who is discerning a call within the Presbtyery. Members of the task force include:
    a. Rev. Sherard Edington (Transitional Executive Presbyter)
    b. Rev. Sally Hughes (Chair of COM Examination teams)
    c. Rev. Austin Hill (member of COM)
    d. Rev. Stephanie Boaz (Chair of CPM).
13. Approved the following Employment Agreements:
    a. Rev. Robert Montgomery at First, Franklin (Interim)
    b. Rev. Rob McRay at Donelson, Nashville (Interim)
    c. Rev. Derek White at Priest Lake, Nashville pending letter from his District Superintendent (Temporary)
    d. CRE Wayne Patton at First, Watertown and Liberty Hill, Alexandria (Temporary)
14. Sustained the examinations of Wayne Patton, Rev. Victoria Krebs, and Rev. Derek White
15. Commissioned Wayne Patton to First, Watertown and Liberty Hill, Alexandria with authorization to moderate both Sessions and administer the Sacraments
16. Granted membership transfers to the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee to Rev. Ronald Sumption (Pueblo Presbytery) and Rev. Victoria Krebs (West Virginia Presbytery)
17. Granted temporary membership to CRE Wayne Patton
18. The following churches have Solo Pastor positions posted on the Church Leadership Connection portal:
    a. Harpeth Presbyterian Church, Brentwood
    b. Calvary Presbyterian Church of Big Lick, Crossville
    c. First Presbyterian Church, Smyrna
    d. Donelson Presbyterian Church, Nashville
19. Acknowledged with gratitude the ministries of Rev. Leslie Traylor at Hermitage Presbyterian Church and Rev. Robert Montgomery at First, Lewisburg.
20. In recognition of Pastor Appreciation Month, the Pastoral Care Team encouraged members of the commission to send a note or letter of appreciation to the Pastors of their designated churches.
21. The Pastoral Care Team is providing a cake during lunch at the November Stated Meeting in honor of the Pastors within the Presbytery.
22. The Pastoral Care Team ensures teaching elders within the Presbytery are provided with prayer or support if/when requested.

A Note on Communion

The Book of Order (W-3.0414) states that as soon as possible after the service (ordinarily on the same day), the bread and cup may be shared with absent, homebound, or hospitalized members by two or more persons in ordered ministry. Those who carry out this extended service of communion shall be authorized by the session; equipped with the necessary theological, pastoral, and liturgical gifts and resources; and instructed to maintain the unity of Word and Sacrament through the reading of Scripture and offering of prayers. The Commission on Ministry provides periodic training for Ruling Elders interested in administering Communion during worship.

Recommendations:

1. The Commission on Ministry moves to extend temporary membership in the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee to Rev. Derek White.

2. The Commission on Ministry moves to approve a waiver to the standing rule that no two members of the same congregation can serve on the COM. The waiver would allow a commission member from The Downtown Presbyterian Church and from the recently-dissolved Woodland Presbyterian Church, which has merged with The Downtown Presbyterian Church, to complete their terms in 2027.

Reception of Minister Colleagues

According to the missions and operations manual for the Presbytery, all teaching elders received by the COM shall appear at the next convenient Stated Meeting to be introduced and welcomed to the Presbytery and to share their faith statement and other information they wish to give. Such an introduction is only for the purpose of facilitating fellowship among ministerial colleagues and not for the purpose of examination and approval. The Chair of the COM Examinations Team shall oversee the introductions as part of the Commission on Ministry's report**.**

The following ministers have been admitted to the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee since November 2025.

- Rev. Gage Arnold - First, Nashville
- Rev. Stuart Gordon - First, Columbia
- Rev. Jooyoung Hong - Nashville Korean, Nashville
- Rev. Darren Kennedy - First, Nashville
- Rev. Victoria Krebs - First, Tullahoma
- CRE Wayne Patton - First, Watertown and Liberty Hill, Alexandria
- Rev. Roger Speer - Normandy, Normandy and Cowan Fellowship, Cowan
- Rev. Ronald Sumption - Retired
- Courtnay Veazey - Second, Nashville
- Joy Warren - Trinity, Nashville
- Patrick Woolsey - First, McMinnville
- Taylor Young - First, Gallatin

Nominating Task Force
Report to the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee
November 7, 2026

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CRE Leonard Jordan
LE_Jordan@bellsouth.net

Information:

1. The Task Force is required to submit a slate of nominees to all committees and commissions, as well as individuals to serve as readers of exams and commissioners to the Synod of Living Waters.
2. The entire slate of nominees is included with this report. Those not so designated indicate an open slot available for service. Those marked with an asterisk indicate a second term.
3. The Task Force is composed of: CRE Leonard Jordan, (St. Andrew's, Nashville) Chair and member of the Administrative Committee; TE Scott Huie (Bellevue, Nashville); RE Vicky Harwell (First, Pulaski); RE Verna Rydlund, TE Sara Hill, and TE Jonathan Angel (Allardt, Alladrd). TE Sherard Edington (Transitional Executive Presbyter), and RE Erin Bell (Temporary Stated Clerk) staff the Task Force.
4. The Nominating Task Force asks that all REs and TEs who are not serving Presbytery committees, commissions, or task forces prayerfully consider the calls to slots marked as Vacant in the following slate of nominees.

Recommendations:

1. The Task Force moves that the following slate of nominees be elected. *Slate to be included in the permanent record*

Presbytery of Middle Tennessee
Committee/Commission Membership - 2027-2029
(Pending Election)

TE- Minister of the Word and Sacrament
CRE – Commissioned Ruling Elder
RE - Ruling Elder
*****Second Term to be elected

Class of 2027	**Class of 2028**	**Class of 2029**
	Administrative Committee	
*Betsy Bond, RE Trinity, Nashville	*Leonard Jordan, CRE St. Andrews, Nashville	Donovan Drake, TE Westminster, Nashville
*Mark Bryan, TE Glen Leven, Nashville	*Kathy Corlew, RE First, Murfreesboro	***Vacant (TE)*** *Moderator-in -Nomination*
	Trustees	
Erin Howton-Angel, TE Allardt, Allardt Moderator	Suzanne McLemore, RE Westminster, Nashville Vice-Moderator	Bruce McVey, TE First, Fayetteville Treasurer (Class of 2027)
	Finance Committee	
*Hal Sauer, RE Westminster, Nashville	George Crawford, RE First, Nashville	***VACANT (RE)***
*Jim Moran, TE Interim - First, Tullahoma	Greg Glover, TE First, Clarksville	Stacey Rector, TE Validated - TADP
	Committee on Church Transformation	
Keith Gunter, TE New Creation, Hendersonville	Denise Moran, RE First, Tullahoma	Lori Sain Smith, RE First, Shelbyville
VACANT (RE)	***VACANT (TE)***	***VACANT (TE)***
	Committee on Leadership Excellence	
Sara Hill, TE Validated - First, Nashville	Stuart Gordon, TE Interim - First, Columbia	Dave Nock, RE Priest Lake, Nashville
VACANT (RE)	***VACANT (RE)***	***VACANT (RE)***

By virtue of office, trustees serve as members of both the Administrative and Finance Committees.

Class of 2027	Class of 2028	Class of 2029
	Commission on Ministry	
Brett Withers, RE Downtown, Nashville	Geeta McMillan, RE Blue Spring, Sparta	Susan Carey, RE Westminster, Nashville
*Bill Patterson, RE First, Murfreesboro	Rhonda Banasiak, CRE First, Clarksville	Taylor Young, TE First, Gallatin
Zach Sasser, TE Downtown, Nashville	*Todd Jones, TE Honorably Retired	Dee Dee Lopes, RE Buffalo Valley, Buffalo Valley
VACANT (TE)	*Mickey Stueck, RE First, Lebanon	Walt Tennyson, TE Honorably Retired
Cade Arnold, RE First, Cookeville	Barbara Halverstadt, RE Emmanuel, Nashville	Susan Burns, RE First, Franklin
Steve Thomas, TE Honorably Retired	Austin Hill, TE Member-at-Large	***VACANT (TE)***
	Committee on Mutual Support	
Samera Zavaro, RE Downtown, Nashville	*Will Wellman, TE Validated - Westminster, Nashville	Claire Harris-Kramer, TE Validated, NCCC
	*Spencer Truett, RE First, Dickson	***VACANT (TE)***
	Charles Jordan, RE St. Andrew's, Nashville	
	Committee on Preparation for Ministry	
Marilee Meschefske, RE Westminster, Columbia	*Stephanie Boaz, TE Westminster, Nashville	James Peeler, RE Harpeth, Brentwood
CJ Thompson, TE First, Manchester	*Judy Tygard, RE Bellevue, Nashville	***VACANT (RE)***
VACANT (TE)	Sandra Randleman, TE First, Nashville	***VACANT (TE)***
	Committee on Social Justice	
*Adam Devries, TE Validated - Westminster, Nashville	Greta McClain, RE Southminster, Nashville	Derek White, TE Priest Lake, Nashville
VACANT (TE)	***VACANT (RE)***	***VACANT (RE)***

Class of 2027	Class of 2028	Class of 2029

Permanent Administrative Commission for Congregational Change

John Hinkle, TE First, Murfreesboro	Melinda Sanders, RE Downtown, Nashville	Debbie Fraley, RE First, Fayetteville
George Crawford, RE Westminster, Nashville	Allen Kennedy, RE First, Nashville	Greg Glover, TE First, Clarksville

Class of 2028	Class of 2030	Class of 2032

Permanent Judicial Commission

Bill Russell, RE First, Spring Hill	John smith, TE First, Dickson/Ellis Grove	***VACANT (TE)***
Terry Denton, RE Emmanuel, Nashville	Keith Dennen, RE New Creation Hendersonville	***VACANT (RE)***
VACANT (TE)	Ryan Moore, TE First, Nashville	***VACANT (TE)***

Committee Chairs/Co-Chairs

Chairpersons are appointed by the Admininstrative Committee through the Nominating Task Force.

Administrative	TE Erin Howton Angel (by virtue of once)
Finance	TE Bruce McVey (by virtue of office)
Church Transformation	TE John Hilley
Leadership Excellence	RE Dave Nock
Commission on Ministry	RE Mickey Stueck
Commission on Ministry	TE Amy Busse Stoker
Mutual Support	TE Bobby Harding
Preparation for Ministry	TE Stephanie Boaz
Social Justice	***Vacant (TE or RE)***

Synod Commissioners Class of 2027

Vacant (RE)	**Vacant (TE)**
Vacant (RE) *Alternate*	**Vacant (TE)** *Alternate*

Ordination Exam Readers Class of 2027

Gloria Dale, RE First, Columbia	Annesse Ashton, RE St. Andrew's, Nashville	Greg Glover, TE First, Clarksville
Guy Griffith, Westminster, Nashville	TE, Joyce Harris, RE St. Andrew's, Nashville *Alternate*	PK Kim, TE Nashville Korean, Nashville *GA reader for Korean language exams*

UKIRK Nashville Board

Rev. Mary Sellers Shaw - Executive Director

Ms. Kelly Christie, Chair	Mr. David Carlton	Rev. Lee Catoe
Ms. Barbara Fay	Dr. Ryan Fox	Dr. Nathaniel Freymeyer
Dr. Brent Graham	Ms. Holly Miller	Rev. Shane Smith

Board members are reported to, not elected by, the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee.

Ad Hoc Visioning Committee
Report to the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee
RE Chris Williams, Chairperson
September 24, 2026

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Information:
During the August 6th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee, a motion was approved to authorize the formation of an ad hoc committee of five persons, appointed and chaired by the Moderator, to bring a revised visioning report and plan for implementation to the Presbytery for consideration at the Stated Meeting in November. During discussion, it was noted that the current plan does not specify personnel processes for hiring new staff. It was confirmed that the motion, as stated, authorized the ad hoc committee to address the concerns cited.

Admit Members appointed to the Committee are: RE Suzanne McLemore (Westminster, Nashville), TE Chris Adams (First, Spring Hill), TE John Hinkle (First, Murfreesboro), RE Spencer Truett (First, Dickson), and TE Greg Glover (First, Clarksville).

Recommendations:

1. **Motion:** Observing that the presentation of a concise, shared revision of the mission and vision and plan for implementation is unachievable given the allotted time and resources, the Ad Hoc Visioning Committee moves that a vote on said report and implementation plan be had at the stated meeting in May 2027, and that pending that presentation the Coordinating Committee contemplated in the November 2025 Visioning Plan be implemented immediately to replace the Administrative Committee, chaired by the Vice Moderator and consisting of the Moderator, Moderator-in-Nomination, Executive Presbyter, and a member from each committee/commission including, but not limited to, Commission on Ministry, Church Transformation, Committee on Preparation for Ministry, Mutual Support/Social Justice, Finance, and Nominations including Personnel.

2. **Motion:** The Ad Hoc Visioning Committee moves that the Coordinating Committee continue the visioning process stating a clear vision for the Presbytery through a permanent visioning committee, appointed by the Coordinating Committee Chair and consisting of 5-7 members, and that said permanent visioning committee be immediately charged with the May presentation of the revised visioning report and implementation plan. The revised visioning report and implementation plan shall articulate a concise shared mission and vision informed by congregational input; identify a limited number of priorities and their benefits to congregations and communities; recommend actions, responsible groups, a timetable, and funding implications; establish a process for assessing progress and reporting regularly to the Presbytery; and explain how proposed staffing and structures support those priorities.

Administrative Committee
Report to the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee
November 7, 2026

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Erin Howton-Angel
rev.erin.angel@gmail.com

Information:

The Administrative Committee conducts a hybrid meeting at 4:00 on the third Thursday of each month at Westminster Nashville in person and on Zoom. The committee meets immediately after the Finance Committee so that the committees can meet to discuss joint issues, if necessary. The next meeting will combine November and December's meetings and will be held on December 10th at 4:00 pm.

Admit to Record:

1. A Stewardship letter requesting pledges for 2027 was approved and mailed to each church in the Presbytery. A letter of appreciation for pledges is being drafted.
2. The committee approved an operations and a missional budget for 2027.
3. A 3.6% cost of living adjustment was approved for the Transitional Executive Presbyter and the Temporary Stated Clerk, which is to take effect 1/1/27.
4. The committee continues to evaluate resources to fulfill the Presbytery's anti-racism policy.
5. The EP search team, chaired by Rev. Amy Busse Stoker, is currently filling out the Ministry Discernment Profile, and requires a job description approved by Presbytery.
6. Job descriptions for an Installed Executive Presbyter and the Installed Stated Clerk were drafted by the Personnel Task Force (PTF) and approved by the committee.
    a. PTF recommended a full-time Stated Clerk position, which was approved by the committee.
    b. The committee voted to remove all references to the proposed Vision Plan from the Installed Executive Presbyter and Installed Stated Clerk job descriptions until a plan is approved by the body of Presbytery.
7. The committee reviewed the job description of the Transitional Executive Presbyter, which states that the Transitional Executive Presbyter may not apply for the Installed Executive Presbyter position, and will assist with the search for the Installed Executive Presbyter, and voted to affirm it.
8. Training for the EP search committee was provided by Rev. Dr. Greg Goodwiller, Synod Executive and Stated Clerk for the Synod of Living Waters.
9. The request from the Permanent Administrative Commission to call a meeting of the Presbytery on September 30th at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom was approved for the purpose of:
    a. dissolving Woodland Presbyterian Church, Nashville, with its rolls and assets transferred to The Downtown Presbyterian Church of Nashville

b. dissolving Belfast Presbyterian Church, in Belfast, with its rolls and assets being transferred to the Presbytery
c. approving the sale of property for the former First Presbyterian Church of Mt. Pleasant

10. The committee voted to include approval of job descriptions for the Installed Executive Presbyter and Installed Stated Clerk in the agenda for the Called Meeting in September. However, due to a staffing oversight, the job descriptions were not distributed with the requisite seven-days notice. Therefore, the action items were pulled from the Called Meeting agenda. No action was taken on the job descriptions. The documents have since been properly distributed.
11. The agenda for the next Stated Meeting of the Presbytery, to be held on November 7th at First Frankin, was approved.
12. The request from the Committee on Church Transformation to designate the offering at the next Stated Meeting for the Guatemala-Peten partnership was approved.
13. Orientation for all committees and commissions of the Presbytery will be held via Zoom from 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 9, 2027. Due to the format of the meeting and weather concerns in January, the meeting will not work as a hybrid meeting. Admin. will look for future opportunities to facilitate committee members meeting each other in person.
14. The dates and locations for Stated Meetings of the Presbytery are approved for 2027. All meetings are to be held on Saturdays.
    a. February 6th - Allardt Presbyterian Church, Allardt
    b. May 1st - The Downtown Presbyterian Church of Nashville
    c. August 7th - Second Presbyterian Church of Nashville
    d. November 6th - East Brentwood Presbyterian Church, Brentwood

Recommendations:

1. **Motion** to approve the presented job description for an Installed Executive Presbyter.
2. **Motion** to approve the presented job description for an Installed Stated Clerk.
3. **Motion** to amend the Missions and Operations Manual to include a deadline of 14 days prior to a Stated Meeting for the Stated Clerk to receive information for that Stated Meeting. This deadline does not apply to Called Meetings.
    a. The Missions and Operations Manual states that materials related to meetings of the Presbytery must be distributed seven days prior to the meeting. However, It does not specify a deadline to submit information to the Stated Clerk.
4. **Motion** to amend the Missions and Operations manual to update the eligibility requirements for service on the Permanent Judicial Commission from four years to two years, as is mandated by the current Book of Order.
    a. Pursuant to the Book of Order, D-3.0203 b. *Eligibility*, "no person who has served on a permanent judicial commission for a full term shall be eligible for reelection until two years have elapsed after the expired six year term

b. Current Text: A member having served a full term of six years shall be ineligible for re-election until **four** years has elapsed after the expired six-year term.
c. Proposed Amended Text: A member having served a full term of six years shall be ineligible for re-election until **two** years has elapsed after the expired six-year term.
d. This amendment to the manual will change the eligibility requirements for the PJC. The Nominating Task Force may continue to allow extended gaps in re-election to the PJC.

Presbytery of Middle Tennessee
Job Description: Executive Presbyter

Purpose

The Executive Presbyter serves as the head of staff for the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee, with responsibility to administer all operational functions of the Presbytery and act as its leader, demonstrating a pastoral and compassionate presence, encouraging, supporting, and celebrating the full spectrum of ministry and mission within our bounds. This position is defined and driven by the guiding principles and practices documented in the Mission and Operations Manual.

Responsibilities:

The Executive Presbyter will work with the Presbytery in fulfilling its mission by:

- Developing and maintaining relationships of love and trust, cultivating Presbytery connections and its overall health, addressing changing needs, naming challenges, engaging crucial conversations, and celebrating successes
- Generating increased trust, inclusion, and vital connections with and between congregations and ministers, with an eye, and voice, toward growth in innovation and diversity
- Working in collegial relationships with Presbytery leadership; consulting and coaching, collaborating and creating, equipping and empowering
- Managing the business and operational processes of the Presbytery
- Facilitating the Presbytery's exploration of new and adaptive approaches to mission and ministry
- Leading with an eye toward cultivating congregations to be Christ's agents of transformation through relationships, ministries, and missions that produce the fruits of the Spirit.

Relationships

The Executive Presbyter will be accountable to the Presbytery through its Administrative Committee, working in close relationship with the Personnel Task Force. The EP will:

- Serve as Presbytery staff for assigned commissions, committees, task forces, teams, and work groups
- Serve as Presbytery resource staff for special task forces and Administrative Commissions as appointed by the Moderator or elected by the Presbytery
- Represent the Presbytery with denominational entities: PDA, PILP, Board of Pensions, Presbyterian Mission Agency, Presbyterian Foundation, General Assembly, Synod of Living Waters
- Supervise professional staff members: Stated Clerk and Operations and Communications Coordinator
- Oversee the performance of all Presbytery's contracted workers.

Resources

The Presbytery will provide access to a laptop computer, reimburse cell phone service @ $75 per month, and Bria remote phone app subscription. Training and access will be provided for the database (POMA) and cloud document storage (One Drive). Participation in conferences deemed relevant to the position will be supported by the Presbytery. These will include annual dues in the Association of Mid-Council Leaders Group and attendance at its annual conference, and involvement in the Synod EP Forum.

Essential Skills, Gifts, and Experiences

- Strong understanding and articulation of Reformed Theology. Creates space for a range of theological understanding. Exhibits curiosity and respect for other faith traditions while maintaining clarity and support of our Presbyterian traditions.
- Ability to develop valued cross-cultural relationships, with humility and genuine engagement in the interests of others
- Must be a member in good standing, as Ruling Elder or Minister of Word and Sacrament, in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
- Basic knowledge of denominational structures and resources
- Proven ability to listen, empathize, assess, and use adaptive approaches to opportunities and problem-solving. Can articulate a practical theology of change and transformation, recognizing challenges, and identifying the key and distinctive roles of sessions and ministers
- Demonstrated ability to mediate complex and conflicted situations, apply family systems theory, and mentor others in conflict resolution approaches. Able to navigate, interpret, and resource churches and pastors during significant transitions
- Exhibit tenacity, grace, flexibility, and receptivity when faced with unanticipated or sizable challenges. Bring non-anxious presence and mature self-awareness in times of grief, stress, and conflict. Able to exegete unspoken sub-texts which may lead to breakthroughs
- Self-differentiated person who can enter ambiguous or unclear territory with emotional balance, confidence, and agility
- Observes healthy boundaries, self-care, and spiritual discipline
- Punctual, reliable, well-organized, effective communicator, flexible and able to triage priorities
- Courage and grace to speak hard truths and set the thermostat for open, honest, inclusive, and vulnerable conversations

Accountability: The Executive Presbyter will be accountable to the Administrative Committee through the Personnel Task Force. Evaluations will be conducted by the Personnel Task Force after the first full year, followed by evaluations every year.

Compensation, Classification and Schedule: The Executive Presbyter is a full-time, exempt position and paid on a salaried basis. The schedule and location of work (home, office, elsewhere) may vary weekly based on meeting locations and work priorities at that time; and will include weekend work. This position will be governed by the PMT Personnel Policies at the time of employment.

Draft: 9/18/2026

Job Description: Stated Clerk

Purpose

The Stated Clerk position is required by the Book of Order to ensure that constitutional requirements are met by the Presbytery. In addition, the Stated Clerk fulfills duties assigned by the Presbytery through its Mission and Operations Manual, serves as Presbytery's parliamentarian, and contributes to the collaboration, trust-building, and faithfulness practiced within the Presbytery operations to fulfill our mission and ministry purposes.

The Stated Clerk fills an important role in representing the values, vision, and goals of the Presbytery. Creativity and adaptability are expected, beyond the required record-keeping and compliance with the Book of Order. When polity or customary practices are tested, the Stated Clerk's response shall be exploring possibilities and inviting further conversation.

Essential Duties

1. Ensure that constitutional requirements are met:

● Record actions of the Presbytery including the recording of Presbytery minutes and filing reports as required by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
● Keep rolls of Presbytery membership and attendance
● Preserve Presbytery minutes and other records, furnishing verified extracts upon request
● Provide orientation, training, advice, and requested resources in matters of judicial process
● Assist the Administrative Committee in review of the process and formula for parity of minister and elder members, every five years
● Make recommendations concerning closed church records and provide for their permanent safekeeping with the Presbyterian Historical Society

2. Fulfill duties assigned by Mission and Operations Manual and Policies:

● Assist in preparations for Presbytery meetings
    o Coordinate with the Moderator, committee chairs, Operations Coordinator, and Executive Presbyter in preparing for and conducting Presbytery meetings
    o Lead orientation for first-time commissioners at Presbytery meetings
    o Conduct site visits with Executive Presbyter at host church for in-person and hybrid meetings
    o Prepare and distribute documents for Presbytery meetings, including contacting committee chairs for reports, drafting the agenda, preparing detailed agenda with the Moderator, reporting actions and correspondence, and providing "Highlights of the Presbytery Meeting"
● Attend meetings of the Administrative Committee, Commission on Ministry, Committee on Preparation for Ministry, Finance Committee, Permanent Judicial

Commission, and other committees when invited by the chair, or as directed by the Executive Presbyter or the Administrative Committee
● Provide orientation, training, and support for administrative commissions
● Make files, policies, and documents available as requested to resource Presbytery leadership
● Support the work of commissions, committees, and task forces as needed
● Participate in training of General Assembly commissioners
● Provide for the regular review of Record Retention Policy
● Serve as Secretary of the Corporation

3. Serve as Presbytery's parliamentarian.

Other Assigned Duties:

● Assist in planning annual Committee Orientation
● Service in the Larger Church – Attend the annual Polity, Benefits, and Mission Conference, Synod of Living Waters, and the General Assembly
● Process and report background checks for new minister members
● Provide announcements and updates for Presbytery eNews
● Keep Presbytery's electronic files updated
● Forward approved policy and documents to Communications Coordinator for posting on website
● Serve collaboratively and transparently with the Executive Presbyter

Resources

The Presbytery will provide access to a laptop computer, reimburse cell phone service @ $75 per month, and Bria remote phone app subscription. Training and access will be provided for the database (POMA) and cloud document storage (One Drive). Participation in professional groups and conferences deemed relevant to the position will be supported by the Presbytery.

Essential Skills, Gifts, and Experiences

● Must be a member in good standing, as a Ruling Elder or Minister of Word and Sacrament, in the Middle Tennessee Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
● Proven knowledge of the Book of Order, Presbyterian Polity, Robert's Rules of Order, and PCUSA structures and resources
● Collaborative team-player, invested in best outcomes for all staff colleagues, Presbytery leaders, ministers, and churches
● Able to mediate differences, build trust, and consistently represent the values, practices, and mission of the Presbytery
● Finds joy in wading into details, keeping records, sharing appropriate Presbytery documents, learning to improve as a Stated Clerk, and equipping others for their roles and responsibilities
● Throws the spotlight on dotted line paths, and limited stop signs, in helping others navigate the Presbytery map

- Trustworthy, approachable, prompt in responses, and respectful in all interactions
- Keeps Presbytery property and documents safeguarded yet readily available and accessible, as needed or requested

Accountability: The Stated Clerk shall be accountable to the Executive Presbyter as Head of Staff. Regarding constitutional responsibilities, areas of concern will be communicated to the Administrative Committee through the Personnel Task Force.

Term of Service: The Stated Clerk shall be nominated by the Personnel Task Force through the Administrative Committee and be elected by the Presbytery for a three year term. The term is renewable.

Compensation, Classification, and Schedule: The Stated Clerk is a full-time, exempt position, paid on a salaried basis. The schedule and location of work (home, office, elsewhere) may vary weekly based on meeting locations and work priorities at that time, and will include occasional weekend work. This position will be governed by the PMT Personnel Policies at time of employment.

Revised September 20, 2026

Committee on Church Transformation Report to Presbytery — November 7, 2026

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Committee on Church Transformation (CCT) Report to the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee November 7, 2026 Stated Meeting

Rev. John Hilley, Moderator

The purpose of the Committee on Church Transformation (CCT) as stated in the presbytery's current plan is: "to engage renewed enthusiasm for church growth. God is calling us to new ways of being church, and this may include: annual 'Celebrate the Journey' reports; creation of a Church Transformation and Growth strategy; Healthy Congregation seminars; planting new churches and redevelopment of churches; and prayer covenant and prayer summits."

The committee met on October 6, 2026 and in a called meeting on October 20, 2026, both by video conference. Its work this fall has centered on the Nueva Vida worshipping community. This report places before the body one "Celebrate the Journey" story and three items for information. **It includes one conditional recommendation, on 2027 funding for Nueva Vida (Part II, item 2).**

I. Celebrate the Journey: Nueva Vida Worshipping Community

The CCT chair recognizes the Nueva Vida Worshipping Community for a "Celebrate the Journey" story relating the "why" behind this ministry and its potential impact.

Nueva Vida has been a new worshipping community of the presbytery and was on the verge of chartering as a congregation under the leadership of The Rev. Teddy Chuquimia until COVID changed this trajectory. During COVID the worshiping community started food sourcing people in need which would eventually lead to the Nueva Vida Food Ministry. ESL classes resumed. And then joint worship happened in partnership with Eastminster Presbyterian and a monthly "Brunch with Jesus" informal worship happened at Glencliff Presbyterian Church. These have been led by Rev. Lilia Ramirez with Jacob Gambrell (as part of the Presbytery's contract with Ministry Architects) and guided by the Nueva Vida Task Force (co-chairs Barb Hall and Mike Pentecost). In addition to worship, the food project, and ESL classes, a women's ministry and a Q'eqchi' ministry has begun. With God's help, the community is moving, in time, toward becoming a church.

At the committee's October 6 meeting, Rev. Ramirez reported:

- ESL classes continue.
- The monthly women's gathering drew 21 women with their children, most from the wider community.
- Brunch with Jesus averages 35–55 people.
- A community baby shower with Mother to Mother and Mueller Care was held October 7 at St. Edward's Catholic Church on account of space needs, with about 10 bilingual volunteers and more than 200 women and children registered.

The eventual goal is worship every Sunday as funds allow, beginning with a second monthly service in 2027 in addition to its "Brunch With Jesus."

A season of change. Eastminster Presbyterian Church has separated from its partnership with Nueva Vida and has relocated to Old Hickory and plans to call its own pastor. The presbytery's contract with Ministry Architects concludes December 31, 2026, and Latinx Ministry Services is closing. These changes leave Nueva Vida with strong participation but without secure funding for part-time leadership. The actions in Part II respond to that need.

II. Actions of the Committee - Admit to Record

The following actions were taken by the committee on October 6, 2026.

Item 1 and Item 3 are reported for information and requires no vote. Item 2 is a conditional recommendation.

1. **For information to the body and requires no vote: Ministry Architects contract.** The presbytery's contract with Ministry Architects concludes, as written, on December 31, 2026. **Motion:** That the Committee on Church Transformation dissolve the relationship with Ministry Architects and redirect the funding portion related to Nueva Vida be continued. **Action:** Carried. Rev. Lilia Ramirez and Jacob Gambrell will be designated for Nueva Vida and will phase out their support of Eastminster by the end of December. They will be engaged directly (as employees of the presbytery or as independent contractors) to continue with Nueva Vida.

2. Recommendation: 2027 funding request for Nueva Vida Worshiping Community

- **Motion:** That the Committee on Church Transformation request the Finance Committee to include $55,000 for Nueva Vida in the 2027 mission budget.
- **Action:** Carried.

The committee did not name specific funding sources, leaving that to the Finance Committee. The request has been forwarded to the Finance Committee and would come before the body through the 2027 mission budget.

Because this funding is critical to the worshiping community's continuation, and November 7 is the presbytery's last stated meeting of 2026, CCT is prepared to bring this request directly to the body if the Finance Committee cannot act on it before this meeting. If that is the case, CCT will move:

That the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee include $55,000 for the Nueva Vida Worshiping Community in the 2027 mission budget.

3. For information: Multi-year commitment. By consensus, the committee affirmed in principle a multi-year commitment to Nueva Vida, to be explored further in its coming meetings.

III. Nueva Vida Memorandum of Understanding (for information)

At its called meeting on October 20, 2026, the committee adopted a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) governing the relationship among the Nueva Vida Task Force, the worshipping community, and its ministries. The MOU falls within the existing authority of the task force and requires no action by the presbytery. It is reported here for information.

- **Motion:** That the Committee on Church Transformation adopt the Nueva Vida Memorandum of Understanding as operative.
- **Action: Approved.**

Why an MOU now. The Nueva Vida Food Project grew out of the worshipping community. Over time, and after the departure of past leadership, the two came to operate largely apart. The end of the Ministry Architects contract and of the Eastminster partnership made it necessary to clarify roles before 2027. The MOU reaffirms the original relationship as Nueva Vida moves toward becoming a church.

Next steps. The task force and the CCT Chair is circulating the MOU to all parties. Barb Hall and Mike Pentecost, co-chairs of the Nueva Vida Task Force will convene all parties named in the MOU in mid-November, before the Ministry Architects contract ends. The Food Project Director will continue to report to the Committee on Mutual Support.

The text of the MOU is attached to this report as an appendix.

IV. Update on Prior Grants (for information)

First Presbyterian Church, Cookeville. On November 8, 2025, the presbytery approved $150,000 from restricted account 3001-08 over five years ($50,000 in 2026) for a community minister. The Finance Committee asked CCT to report annually on how funds were used, what proved effective, and what challenges arose. [Status of the community minister hire, progress report received, and 2027 release of $40,000.

Status update: 1st installment of $40,000 has been released.

Another "Celebrate Our Journey" story from First Presbyterian Cookeville's Community Life Minister who is funded through this grant.

“Looking back on June, our Mission and Outreach ministries experienced one of their busiest weekends as the church simultaneously hosted both the Giving Griddle and a double tent at the Pride Festival. Coordinating two major outreach efforts on the same day challenged all of us to work together rather than compete for volunteers and resources. What emerged was a beautiful example of our congregation living into its calling. Church members stepped up in remarkable ways, serving alongside one another with joy and purpose. Together, these ministries reached hundreds of people in our community while also strengthening the relationships within our own church family. It was a tangible reminder that when we serve together, we not only share God's love with our neighbors—we are also transformed ourselves.

As I continue growing into the Community Life Minister role, I remain encouraged by the ways this position is helping connect our congregation more deeply with one another while creating new opportunities to engage our community with the love of Christ. The work of building relationships—both within our church family and beyond our walls—continues to be at the heart of this ministry, and I look forward to seeing how God continues to shape this role in the months ahead.” — The Rev. Katie Ory Long

Southminster Presbyterian Church, Nashville. In 2025, CCT approved $50,000 from restricted account 3001-04 ($25,000 in 2026 and $25,000 in 2027) toward accessibility upgrades for the partnership with Woodbine Community Organization and Our Place Nashville.

Status update: Southminster has received 1st round of funding. Woodbine Community Organization is in active funding stage for development.

In conclusion, the committee gives thanks for the faithful work of the Nueva Vida Task Force, especially Shane Smith and Barb Hall, and for the ministry of Rev. Lilia Ramirez and Jacob Gambrell. We give thanks for churches who are seeking faithfully to serve Jesus

Christ in their communities wherever they are located within this Presbytery.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. John Hilley, Chair Committee on Church Transformation

Appendix: Nueva Vida Memorandum of Understanding

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

DATE: October 20, 2026
TO: The Nueva Vida Food Project Committee & Lead Director and to all Members of the Nueva Vida Task Force and Its Ministries
FROM: The Committee on Church Transformation
SUBJECT: Governance, Alignment, and Operational Protocols

1. PURPOSE & ORGANIZATIONAL RELATIONSHIP

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) clarifies the structural, financial, and operational relationship between the Nueva Vida Task Force and the Nueva Vida Food Project. The Nueva Vida Food Project was founded as, and remains, a core subsidiary ministry of the Nueva Vida Task Force under the auspices of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee (and the Committee for Church Transformation). The ultimate strategic, legal, and operational authority for all Nueva Vida ministries resides with the Nueva Vida Task Force. This document establishes the protocols required to ensure the Food Project remains aligned with the foundational mission of Nueva Vida.



2. OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES

To eliminate operational silos, ensure mutual transparency, and reinforce the shared mission of Nueva Vida, both governing bodies will adopt a mandatory, reciprocal attendance model. This ensures physical representation at all meetings without placing an undue burden on a single volunteer.

- **Food Project Representation on the Task Force:** The Lead Director of the Food Project will serve as a standing, ex-officio member of the Nueva Vida Task Force and is required to attend all Task Force meetings. Additionally, one member of the Food Project Committee will attend each Task Force meeting. This second seat may be filled by a rotating volunteer from the Food Project Committee to distribute the time commitment.

- **Task Force Representation on the Food Project:** The NWC Pastor (or Task Force Director) will serve as a standing, ex-officio member of the Food Project Committee and is required to attend all Food Project meetings. Additionally, one member of the Task Force will attend each Food Project meeting. This second seat may be filled by a rotating member of the Task Force.

3. PASTORAL ACCESS & REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

Nueva Vida is a faith-based initiative. While the Food Project provides vital emergency assistance, it operates as an extension of the broader Nueva Vida ministry.

- **Unrestricted Access:** The Pastor of the Nueva Vida Worshipping Community serves as the spiritual leader of the entire organization and maintains full, unrestricted access to all ministries including food distribution sites, volunteers, and operational hours.

- **Federal Guidelines (USDA/TEFAP):** The Task Force ensures that all operations comply strictly with federal regulations governing government-funded food distribution. Food assistance is provided unconditionally to all in need, without discrimination or any requirement of religious participation.

- **Voluntary Spiritual Support:** The Pastor's physical presence on site serves to offer pastoral care and prayer strictly on a voluntary basis to those who explicitly request it. Because engagement with the worshipping community is never a prerequisite for receiving food, pastoral presence violates no federal, FDA, or USDA regulations and must be welcomed by Food Project leadership.

4. FINANCIAL TRANSPARENCY & GRANTS

Due to the complex nature of the Food Project's grant funding, the Task Force acknowledges that the Food Project maintains separate financial accounts. However, as the governing body holding ultimate responsibility for the ministry, the Task Force requires total financial transparency.

- The Food Project Committee must submit copies of all grant applications and subsequent award or denial letters to the Task Force within 14 days of submission or receipt.

- The Food Project Committee must submit a comprehensive financial statement (Income, Expenses, and Account Balances) to the Task Force on a quarterly basis. If the Food Project already submits a quarterly report containing the above items to the Committee on Mutual Support (CMS) then all that is needed is a copy of that report each quarter.

- *Major unbudgeted expenditures exceeding $5,000 require prior notification to the Task Force.

5. OPERATIONAL REPORTING & VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT

The health of the Food Project depends heavily on volunteer engagement and retention. The Task Force (as well as the Committee on Mutual Support) has a fiduciary duty to monitor the operational health and community reputation of the ministry.

- **Monthly Operations Report:** The Lead Director of the Food Project is required to submit a standardized, one-page monthly report to the Task Force.
- **Volunteer Retention:** The Food Project leadership is expected to maintain a healthy, collaborative environment for all volunteers.

Required Reporting Schedule

Document / Report	Responsible Party	Frequency	Submission To
Operational Updates (Volunteers, Incidents)	Lead Director	Monthly	Task Force
Financial Statements (Income/Expenses)	Food Project Chair/Treasurer	Quarterly	Task Force
Grant Applications & Award Letters	Lead Director / Chair	Within 14 Days	Task Force
Conflict of Interest Disclosures	All Committee Members	Annually	Task Force

6. CONFLICT OF INTEREST & CONDUCT

All members of Nueva Vida Ministries and its operational leadership must operate free from conflicts of interest that could compromise the integrity of the Presbytery or Nueva Vida.

- Any committee member serving in a dual capacity with external funding organizations (e.g., foundation boards) or partner organizational governance shall formally recuse themselves from decisions that financially intersect with those entities.
- Leadership is expected to work in a non-territorial, collaborative manner that honors the overarching authority of the Task Force and the Presbytery.

7. ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND AGREEMENT

Continued operation of the Nueva Vida Food Project and its leadership is contingent upon strict adherence to the governance structures outlined in this Memorandum. Refusal to comply with financial transparency, reporting requirements, or pastoral access protocols may result in operational suspension or leadership restructuring by the Task Force.

Signatures:

Barb Hall & Mike Pentecost, Co-Chairs
Nueva Vida Task Force

Signature | Date: _____ | _____

Melinda Sanders, Chair
Nueva Vida Food Project Committee

Signature | Date: _____ | _____

Lilia Ramirez, Director
Nueva Vida New Worshipping Community

Signature | Date: _____ | _____

Evelyn Graham, Lead Director
Nueva Vida Food Project

Signature | Date: _____ | _____

John Hilley, Chair
Committee for Church Transformation

Signature | Date: _____ | _____

Sherard Edington, Executive Presbyter (Optional/Witness)
Presbytery of Middle Tennessee

Signature | Date: _____ | _____

REPORT OF THE TRANSITIONAL EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER 11

Rev. Sherard Edington
November 2026

Dear Friends,

To be honest, it is hard to believe an entire year has passed since that Sunday last November when, after 34 years in parish ministry, I stepped down from the pulpit and accepted the call to be your Transitional Executive Presbyter. I want to take this opportunity to reflect on this past year and celebrate what God is doing in the life of our Presbytery.

Early on, I noticed a critical shortage of trained Interim/Transitional Pastors across our region. To address this, I coordinated with TM Pathways to host a specialized training cohort. I recruited 9 participants from the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee (PMT) alongside enough from across the Synod to make the class possible. Having begun in September, the cohort is now nearly finished. While not every participant will be available for immediate placement, we have taken a major step forward in building a strong bench for future leadership.

As a Presbytery, we have also walked through significant transitions together. Two of our congregations—Woodland-Nashville and Hopewell-Milton—chose to merge their ministries with neighboring churches. Sadly, three congregations—Belfast, First-Mt. Pleasant, and Brentwood First—voted to close their doors. We give thanks for their years of faithful witness. Meanwhile, the final report of the Visioning Team remains before the Presbytery, awaiting our decision to approve or dismiss its recommendations.

In community ministry, the Nueva Vida Food Project continues to nourish many hungry neighbors and will soon expand into an even fuller expression of Christ's call to serve.

In January, following the ice storm that caused so much trauma across our Presbytery, I worked with the Board of Pensions and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to bring financial relief to many of our impacted congregations.

In May, PMT hosted an orientation and training event for all General Assembly commissioners across our Synod.

Alongside my being named EP, we welcomed Erin Bell as Temporary Stated Clerk and Rory Womack as full-time Operations and Communications Coordinator. Erin has poured countless hours into organizing our records, managing annual statistics, overseeing Boundary Training, and much more. Rory has rejuvenated our website, taken charge of the eNews, and will soon publish an updated Presbytery Directory. I remind our staff regularly that our core purpose is to faithfully serve the ministers and congregations of Middle Tennessee. That is why we exist. If you or your church have a need, please reach out—we are here to help in any way we can.

This year brought far more travel than I expected. I made several trips to Louisville to meet with fellow Mid Council leaders, attended the Presbyterian Foundation's Luminocity Conference in Orlando, and participated in Presbyterian Leader Formation in Baltimore. Twice I have attended the Synod's Forum with my counterparts from the four states of our Synod. Of course, a highlight of the year was attending the Presbyterian General Assembly in Milwaukee, where our Stated Clerk, six commissioners, and I witnessed the heart of our denomination at work.

Day to day, I participate in all Presbytery committee and task force meetings, and our staff gathers every Monday for prayer and planning. On Sundays, I love visiting our congregations—especially preaching for churches navigating leadership transitions. Throughout the week, I continue meeting with pastors to learn about their lives, gifts, and unique ministry contexts.

Finally, at our upcoming Presbytery meeting, you will notice the Examinations Team chair welcoming new ministers with a friendly "exam"—a meaningful tradition of accountability and connection that we are glad to restore.

As I have shared elsewhere, we are a strong, resilient Presbytery blessed with faithful leaders and congregations, and God is actively at work in every corner of our shared life together.

Peace,

Sherard

Erin Bell
sc@pbymidtn.org

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TEMPORARY STATED CLERK
REPORT TO THE PRESBYTERY OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE
November 7, 2026

INFORMATION

1. Collaborative sessions for Clerks of Sessions to review 2025 minutes and share best practices or special challenges have been held during September and October. A meeting to review minutes is scheduled following the adjournment of the Stated Meeting on November 7th. A few additional meetings are pending confirmation. The deadline to participate in minutes review is November 15th.

2. Supplemental reports are included in the meeting packet. Please read them, as they contain important information about the Presbytery's committees, commissions, and task forces. The packet also contains a detailed report from the Presbyterian Home for Children.

3. The Temporary Stated Clerk attended several trainings in the past three months:
    - Commission on Ministry Workshop (8/29) at Old Hickory Presbyterian Church, led by Rev. Manuel Silva-Esterrich, Manager of Call Process Support and Statistics, Mid Council Connections, for PL&W
    - Mediation Training (9/21-9/25) at First, Nashville, led by Jay Wittmeyer with the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center *(facilitator, not attendee*)
    - Church Discipline webinar part 1 of 3 (10/6) led by Flor Vélez-Diaz, Manager of Judicial Process and Social Witness and Assistant Stated Clerk for PL&W
    - Mid Council Leaders' Gathering (10/11-10/14) at the PC(USA) Headquarters in Louisville
    - Mid Council Cohort meetings via Zoom

4. Per the Book of Order, councils are mandated to require certificates of completion of boundary training, particularly around sexual misconduct and child sexual abuse prevention, every 36 months from its members, all Certified Christian Educators, all Commissioned Ruling Elders, and all Inquirers and Candidates. Sessions must require boundary training for their active members as well.

   The presbytery has approved training content by Praesidium Academy. This material is provided to church leadership at no additional cost. The training consists of on-demand video modules that take 15-20 minutes to complete. A certificate of completion is

provided at the conclusion of each module. If this training applies to you, contact the Temporary Stated Clerk. Each Clerk of Session on record with PMT has received information.

ADMIT TO RECORD

1. The Stated Clerk received the minutes of the Commission to Install Jooyoung Hong as Associate Pastor at Nashville Korean Presbyterian Church. The members of the commission were: Rev. Il Sun (PK) Kim and Rev. Inhye Park of Nashville Korean Presbyterian Church; RE Trice Gibbons, Second Presbyterian Church of Nashville (Chairperson); RE Vicky McMillen, First Presbyterian Church of Dickson, RE, and Yeon Su Na, Nashville Korean Presbyterian Church. *[minutes to be included in the permanent record]*

2. The Temporary Stated Clerk received the resignation of the Rev. Rosanna Anderson from the Committee on Preparation for ministry. The Vice-Moderator and the Chair of the Nominating Task Force have been notified of the leadership vacancy.

3. The following ministers requested transfers of their memberships to other presbyteries: Rev. Jeff Kane to the Arkansas Presbytery and Rev. Leslie Traylor to the Eastminster Presbytery

Review of Session Minutes

Pursuant to the Book of Order, G-3.0108, the Clerks of Sessions for the following 33 churches have submitted minutes for review or participated in the review process to improve their minutes procedures and formats: Liberty Hill, Alexandria; Christ, Alpine; Allardt, Allardt; Oak Grove, Bethpage; Buffalo Valley, Buffalo Valley; Calvary Big Lick, Crossville; First, Clarksville; Macedonia, Clarksville; First, Columbia; First, Cookeville; Westminster Fairfield Glade; First, Fayetteville; First, Franklin; First, Lawrenceburg; First, Lebanon; Spring Creek, Lebanon; First, Lewisburg; First, McMinnville; First, Murfreesboro; Northminster, Murfreesboro; Bellevue, Nashville; Downtown, Nashville, Glen Leven; Nashville; Priest Lake, Nashville; Second, Nashville; Normandy, Normandy; First, Pulaski; First, Shelbyville; Blue Spring, Sparta; Robinson Chapel, Sparta; First, Spring Hill; First, Tullahoma; and First, Watertown.

Recommendations:

The Book of Order G-2.0404 *Terms of Service* states that Ruling elders and deacons shall be elected to serve terms of no more than three years on the session or board of deacons, and may be eligible for reelection according to congregational rule. However, no ruling elder or deacon shall be eligible to serve more than six consecutive years, and a ruling elder or deacon who has served six consecutive years shall be ineligible for election to the same board for at least one year.

The presbytery may, upon written request and by majority vote, grant a congregation a waiver of this limitation on terms. seven churches have submitted a written request for a waiver of the term limit for Ruling Elders

Motion to approve the requests for a waiver of the limitation on term for ruling elders, pursuant to G-2.0404 Terms of Service, from the following seven congregations:

a. Chris Church, Alpine
b. Macedonia, Clarksville
c. Oak Grove, Bethpage
d. Buffalo Valley, Buffalo Valley
e. First, Lawrenceburg
f. Northminster, Murfreesboro
g. Robinson Chapel, Sparta

MINUTES
Installation Commission for Nashville Korean Presbyterian Church
Nashville, Tennessee

Sunday, August 23, 2026, 11:15 A.M.

The Installation Commission appointed by the **Presbytery of Middle Tennessee** to install the Teaching Elder **Rev. Dr. Jooyoung Hong** as Associate Pastor met at the **Nashville Korean Presbyterian Church** (Nashville, Tennessee) on **August 23, 2025** at 10:46 A.M. Members present were:

Ruling Elders
Elder Trice Gibbons, Second Presbyterian Church of Nashville, Chair of the Commission
Elder Vicky McMillen, First Presbyterian Church of Dickson
Elder Yeon Su Na, Nashville Korean Presbyterian Church

Teaching Elders
Rev. Ilsun (PK) Kim, Pastor of Nashville Korean Presbyterian Church
Rev. Inhye Park, Children's Ministry Pastor of Nashville Korean Presbyterian Church

The Commission was called to order by the Chair of the Commission **Elder Trice Gibbons** and **Rev. Ilsun (PK) Kim** was appointed Clerk of the Commission by the Chair. The Chair 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 **Rev. Ilsun (PK) Kim** presiding. The Sermon was preached by **Rev. Ilsun (PK) Kim**. The constitutional Questions were propounded to **Rev. Dr. Jooyoung Hong** by the Chair and they were answered in the affirmative. The Constitutional Questions were propounded to the Congregation by **Elder Yeon Su Na** and answered in the affirmative by the Congregation. A prayer was offered by **Rev. Inhye Park**.

Rev. Dr. Jooyoung Hong was duly installed as **Associate Pastor/Bridge Ministry Lead Pastor** of **Nashville Korean Presbyterian Church** (Nashville, Tennessee).

A Charge was delivered to the **Rev. Dr. Jooyoung Hong** by **Elder Vicky McMillen** and **Elder Trice Gibbons** charged the congregation. The Service was closed with the Benediction pronounced by **Rev. Dr. Jooyoung Hong**. The Commission was adjourned at the benediction of the worship service.

Respectfully submitted:

_____, Clerk of the Commission
Rev. Ilsun (PK) Kim

CPM Report to the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee for November 7, 2026

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Committee Chair: Stephanie Boaz, TE Westminster-Nashville

Vice Chair: Sandra Randleman, TE First-Nashville

Clerk: Judy Tygard, RE Bellevue-Nashville

In addition to our work with those in the Call process, in 2026, the CPM's goal is to help congregations and their sessions understand the role of the CPM. More importantly, the committee hopes to impress upon the churches and their leadership that the Call to be a Teaching Elder/Minister of Word and Sacrament always begins in the local church. In order to help congregations understand and embrace their role, the committee is happy to send a team to your session meeting or special meeting to give a presentation and answer questions. If your church is interested in receiving a visit, please reach out to: Stephanie Boaz, sboaz@nashvillewpc.org.

To Be Recorded:

Chandler Meador, a student at Vanderbilt Divinity School, was endorsed by the session of her congregation, Downtown-Nashville to begin the Call process. She met with the CPM and was enrolled as an Inquirer on July 28, 2026. She was introduced at the August Presbytery meeting.

For Information:

In recent months, the committee has reviewed the rolls and made contact with those who have been listed as an Inquirer or Candidate. This has resulted in re-connection as well as an opportunity to celebrate when one has been called in a new direction.

For Action:

The CPM requests that the Presbytery vote to remove the following names from the rolls of Inquirers and Candidates as they continue to explore/accept God's call in a different direction.

Tara Lentz
William Wince
David Garvey

Presbyterian Home *for* Children

Raising hopes, growing confidence, and nurturing faith since 1868

Post Office Drawer 577 ◆ Talladega, Alabama 35161

Telephone: 256.362.2114 ◆ E-mail: info@phfc.org ◆ Website: www.phfc.org

MR. DOUG MARSHALL
President/CEO

October 19, 2026

Dear Friends in Ministry,



Since 1868, the Presbyterian Home for Children has been a place where children and families facing difficult circumstances can find safety, stability and hope. While our ministry is rooted on our historic campus in Talladega, Alabama, the people we serve—and the Presbyterian community that supports this work—extend far beyond our campus.

In 2024, the Presbyterian Home for Children entered into a covenant relationship with the Synod of Living Waters, opening an important new chapter in our ministry and connecting us more closely with Presbyterian congregations throughout Alabama, Mississippi and Tennessee. Since then, we have appreciated opportunities to attend Presbytery meetings like yours and introduce more of you to the Home and the work God has entrusted to us.

Because we are still relatively new to many of you in Tennessee, I want to tell you more about who we are and, just as importantly, how we may be able to help a family in your community.

Every day at the Presbyterian Home for Children is centered on helping children and families build stronger futures. Our ministry has evolved tremendously over more than 158 years as the needs of children and families have changed. Today, we provide safe housing and comprehensive support for mothers and children experiencing homelessness or housing instability, help mothers work toward reunification with children in foster care, prepare young women for independent adulthood, provide family support services, and educate children through our accredited, Christ-centered private school, Ascension Leadership Academy.

At the heart of much of this work is a simple belief: families sometimes need more than a temporary solution. They need time, stability, encouragement and people willing to walk alongside them as they build a different future.

Our Secure Dwellings program is a powerful example of that philosophy. Mothers and their children can come to our Talladega campus from Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee and beyond. They do not have to be Presbyterian, and they do not have to live in Alabama to seek our help.



Through improvements to our residential cottages, we now have room to serve up to 24 mothers and 40 children on campus. Secure Dwellings gives families something that is often incredibly difficult to find: the gift of time.

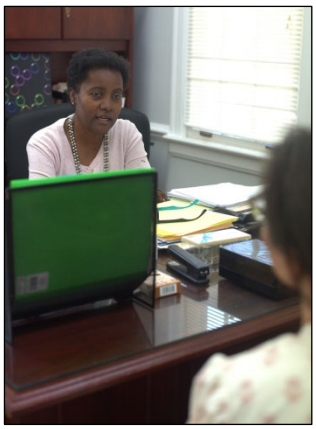
This is not an emergency shelter or a short-term housing program. Mothers and their children can remain with us for up to two years.

For a mother who has spent weeks worrying about where her children will sleep tomorrow night, two years of stability can change everything. It gives her a chance to dream and breathe.

During those two years, our staff walks alongside each mother as she develops a plan for independence. That may mean finding employment, earning a GED, enrolling in college, pursuing a career she once thought was out of reach, strengthening parenting skills, learning to manage finances or accomplishing several of those goals at once.

Our goal is not simply for a family to have a safe place to live while they are with us. We want mothers to leave the Home prepared to live independently, confidently and successfully for years to come.

That is one reason we especially want churches and agencies in Tennessee to know about Secure Dwellings. **You may know a mother who needs us.** Your congregation may encounter a family experiencing housing instability. A school, social worker, nonprofit, community organization or other agency in your community may be searching for a long-term option for a mother and her children. Please reach out to us. A referral or even a telephone call could become the first step toward a very different future for that family.



In 2025, we expanded our family ministry again by opening the **Robinson Family Unity Center**, which serves mothers whose children have entered foster care and who are working toward reunification.
Sometimes the barrier keeping a mother from regaining custody of her children is not a lack of love. It may be housing instability, unemployment or another circumstance she needs help overcoming. The Robinson Family Unity Center provides housing, case management, advocacy and individualized support while mothers work to meet the requirements necessary to bring their children home.

We have already seen what that support can accomplish.

One mother we will call **Laura** came to us after domestic violence and housing instability contributed to the loss of custody of her children. Working with our staff, she began addressing the requirements necessary for reunification and rebuilding the stability her family needed. After being reunited, she was able to continue that journey through Secure Dwellings, where mother and children could move forward together.

Another mother, **Faith**, regained custody of her children this spring after working with our staff to secure employment, establish stability and demonstrate her readiness to provide a safe home.

Faith had someone particularly meaningful standing beside her: PHFC case worker **Shandra Thomas**. More than a decade earlier, Shandra herself had come to the Presbyterian Home for Children with seven children and in need of housing. She rebuilt her life, continued her education and eventually returned to the Home as a social worker helping other mothers do the same.

When Faith's case went before a judge, Shandra advocated for her and testified about the progress she had witnessed. Faith regained custody of her children.

It is difficult to imagine a better picture of this ministry: a mother who once came to the Home needing help standing in a courtroom years later to help another mother bring her children home.

Following reunification, mothers may transition into Secure Dwellings with their children, giving the newly reunited family additional time and support to build toward lasting independence.

The children living on our campus also have access to another important resource: **Ascension Leadership Academy**, our accredited, Christ-centered private school, which also serves students from the surrounding Talladega community.

Some children arrive at the Home having experienced homelessness, family instability or other circumstances that have disrupted their education. Our teachers understand that a child may need both academic instruction and the encouragement that comes from having adults who believe in what he or she can accomplish.



Our goal is to help students who have fallen behind reach grade level and then give them the opportunity to go even further.

The results can be remarkable. In the 2025-26 school year, Ascension celebrated four graduating seniors who collectively earned a school-record **$240,000 in college scholarships**.

Those accomplishments represent much more than numbers. They represent young people looking toward college, careers and futures filled with possibility.

As our programs have grown, we have also been investing in the historic campus that makes much of this ministry possible.

The Presbyterian Home for Children's **$1.7 million Journey Capital Campaign**, which began in 2025 and continues through 2027, is restoring and improving our campus so it can serve children, young adults and families for generations to come.

For decades, our cottages and other campus buildings have been places of healing, hope and transformation. Today, those same facilities are being adapted to meet a new generation of needs.



Through the generosity of Presbyterian churches and faithful supporters, we have completed major renovations to our cottages, added a new playground and pavilion where children can simply enjoy being children, and made important campus sidewalk improvements.



Our future projects include restoring our historic chapel as a center for worship, prayer, Bible study and counseling, as well as continued renovations to Johnson Hall, home to our Transition to Adult Living program for young women up to age 26 without children, many of whom come out of foster care without a strong support system and need additional guidance.

Thanks to the generosity of God's people, the remaining need for the Journey Capital Campaign has been reduced to **$423,600**.

Every improvement has a purpose beyond bricks and mortar. A renovated cottage means another mother and her children can have a safe place to call home. A restored chapel creates a place for worship, counseling and spiritual growth. An improved campus gives the children, mothers and young women entrusted to our care a place where they can begin imagining what comes next.

As we continue building our relationship with Presbyterians throughout the Synod of Living Waters, we hope you will come to know the Presbyterian Home for Children as **your ministry, too** – as a resource you can turn to when you encounter a child or family who needs the kind of help we provide.

Perhaps there is a mother in your congregation who is struggling with housing. Perhaps someone in your church knows a family living in a motel, a car or temporarily with friends or relatives. Perhaps an agency in your community is working with a mother who needs a longer-term path toward independence. Or perhaps you simply feel called to help make this ministry possible through your prayers and financial support.

Whatever brings you to us, we hope you will reach out.

We would be honored to talk with you about our programs, answer questions, accept referrals, visit your Presbytery or congregation, or welcome you to Talladega to see firsthand how God is working through this ministry.

For more than 158 years, the Presbyterian Home for Children has responded when children and families needed a safe place and someone willing to believe in their future. The way we serve has changed with the times, but that calling has not.

We are grateful to now share that calling more closely with our Presbyterian brothers and sisters in the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee.

Together, we can give more children and families the opportunity not merely to survive a difficult season, but to **live, dream, breathe and build a stronger future.**

In Christ's service,



Doug Marshall
President and CEO
Presbyterian Home for Children

Presbytery of Middle Tennessee
2026 – 2028 Members of Presbytery Committees and Commissions

** indicates second term of service*
Chairpersons names are noted in bold

Trustees of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee Trustees serve as members of the Administrative and Finance Committees by virtue of office.		
Presbytery Moderator (President)	**Presbytery Vice-Moderator (Chair of Admin.)**	**Presbytery Treasurer (Chair of Finance)**
Chris Williams (RE) Pulaski, First	Erin Howton-Angel (TE) Allardt, First	Bruce McVey (TE) Fayetteville, First

Administrative Committee		
Class of 2026	**Class of 2027**	**Class of 2028**
Donovan Drake (TE) Nashville, Westminster	*Betsy Bond (RE) Nashville, Trinity	*Leonard Jordan (CRE) Nashville, St. Andrews
	*Mark Bryan, (TE) Nashville, Glen Leven	*Kathy Corlew (RE) Murfreesboro, First
		Suzanne McLemore (RE) Westminster, Nashville **Moderator-in-Nomination**

Finance Committee		
Class of 2026	**Class of 2027**	**Class of 2028**
*Anders Hall (RE) Nashville, Westminster	*Mark Bryan (TE) Nashville, Glen Leven	George Crawford (RE) Nashville, Westminster
VACANT (TE)	VACANT (RE)	Greg Glover (TE) Clarksville, First

Committee on Church Transformation		
Class of 2026	**Class of 2027**	**Class of 2028**
***John Hilley (TE)** Brentwood, East Brentwood	*Keith Gunter (TE) Hendersonville, New Creation	VACANT (RE)
Lori Sain Smith (RE) Shelbyville, First	VACANT (TE)	VACANT (TE)

Committee on Leadership Excellence		
Class of 2026	**Class of 2027**	**Class of 2028**
Denise Moran (RE) Tullahoma, First	Sara Hill (TE) Nashville, First -Validated	VACANT (RE)
Dave Nock (RE) Nashville, Priest Lake	VACANT (RE)	VACANT (TE)

Commission on Ministry		
Class of 2026	**Class of 2027**	**Class of 2028**
Carrie Fraser (TE) Member-at-large	Brett Withers (RE) Nashville, Woodland	Austin Hill (TE) Nashville, Westminster
*Sally Hughes (TE) Retired **Chair of Examinations**	*Bill Patterson (RE) Murfreesboro, First	Rhonda Banasiak (CRE) Clarksville, First **Chair of Pastoral Care Team**
***Amy Stoker (TE)** First, Pulaski **Co-chair of COM**	Zach Sasser (TE) Nashville, Downtown	*Todd Jones (TE) Retired
David Sadler (CRE) Nashville, Priest Lake **Chair of Review Team**	Cade Arnold, (RE) Cookeville, First	***Mickey Stueck (RE)** Lebanon, First **Co-chair of COM**
Susan Carey (RE) Westminster, Nashville **Chair of Transitions Team**	Steve Thomas (TE) Retired	Barbara Halverstadt (RE) Nashville, Emmanuel **Chair of Mediation Team**
VACANT (TE)	VACANT (RE)	Geeta McMillan (RE) Sparta, Blue Spring

Committee on Mutual Support		
Class of 2026	**Class of 2027**	**Class of 2028**
***Bobby Harding (TE)** Murfreesboro, First	Samara Zavaro (RE) Nashville, Downtown	*Will Wellman (TE) Nashville, Westminster -Validated
Claire Harris-Kramer (TE) NCCC - Validated		*Spencer Truett (RE) Dickson, First
		Charles Jordan (RE) Nashville, St. Andrews

Committee on Social Justice		
Class of 2026	**Class of 2027**	**Class of 2028**
*Andrea Elkins Murfreesboro, First	*Henry Deaderick (RE) Nashville, St. Andrews	Greta McClain (RE) Nashville, Southminster
*Claire Berry (TE) Historic Franklin	*Adam Devries (TE) Nashville, Westminster - Validated	VACANT (TE)

Permanent Administrative Commission		
Class of 2026	**Class of 2027**	**Class of 2028**
Debbie Fraley (RE) First, Fayetteville	John Hinkle (TE) First, Murfreesboro	**Melinda Sanders (RE)** Nashville, Woodland
Greg Glover (TE) First Clarksville	George Crawford (RE) Westminster, Nashville	Allen Kennedy (RE) Nashville, First

Committee on Preparation for Ministry		
Class of 2026	**Class of 2027**	**Class of 2028**
*James Peeler (RE) Brentwood, Harpeth	Marilee Meschefske (RE) Columbia, Westminster	***Stephanie Boaz, TE** Nashville, Westminster
VACANT (RE)	CJ Thompson (TE) Manchester, First	*Judy Tygard (RE) Nashville, Bellevue
VACANT (TE)	VACANT (TE)	Sandra Randleman (TE) Nashville, First

Ordination Exam Readers			
Class of 2026	**Class of 2027**	**Class of 2028**	**Alternates:**
PK Kim (TE) Nashville, Korean	Gloria Dale (RE) Columbia, First		Sally Hughes (TE) Retired
	Annesse Ashton (RE) Nashville, St. Andrews		Joyce Harris (RE) Nashville, St. Andrews
	Greg Glover (TE) Clarksville, First		
	Guy Griffith (TE) Nashville, Westminster		

Permanent Judicial Commission		
Class of 2026	**Class of 2028**	**Class of 2030**
Michael Bradley (TE) Retired	Bill Russell (RE) First, Spring Hill	**John Smith (TE)** Dickson, First Waverly, Ellis Grove
James Hudnut-Beumler (TE) Retired	Walt Tennyson (TE) Alive Hospice - Validated	Keith Dennen, RE Hendersonville, New Creation
J.B. Smith, RE First, Pulaski	Terry Denton (RE) Nashville, Emmanuel	Ryan Moore (TE) Nashville, First

Presbytery of Middle Tennessee Commissioners 2026

General Assembly Commissioners - 2026			
Spencer Truett (RE) Dickson, First	Bruce McVey (TE) Fayetteville, First	Jim Moran (TE) Tullahoma, First	**Alternate:** Leslie Traylor (TE) Hermitage, Hermitage
Betsy Bond (RE) Nashville, Trinity	Mickey Stueck (RE) Lebanon, First	Mary Sellers Shaw (TE) UKIRK - Validated	

Synod of Living Waters Commissioners - 2026			
*Donovan Drake (TE) Nashville, Westminster	Vickie Harwell (RE) Pulaski, First	Gary Kelly (TE) HR	Anne Keener (CRE) Franklin, First

Presbytery of Middle Tennessee Relevant Boards

UKIRK Board Members Members are reported only; not elected by the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee.			
Mr. David Carlton	Ms. Barbara Fay	Dr. Brent Graham	Rev. Shane Smith
Rev. Lee Catoe	Dr. Ryan Fox	Ms. Holly Miller	
Ms. Kelly Christie	Dr. Nathaniel Freymeyer	Mary Sellers Shaw, Executive Director	

revised 10/23/2026

Permanent Judicial Commission Roster of Former Members		
Class of 2024	**Class of 2022**	**Class of 2020**
Bill Carver (RE First, Franklin)	Stacy Rector (TE Validated - Tennesseans for Alternatives to the Death Penalty)	Mary Ellen Ausenbaugh (RE Buffalo Valley, Buffalo Valley)
Christi Ensch (RE Historic, Franklin)	Carson Salyer (TE Honorably Retired)	Carol Foster (RE First, Fayetteville)
Sharon Warfield (RE Westminster, Nashville)	CJ Thompson (TE First, Manchester)	Dr. John Todd (TE Honorably Retired)

Book of Order D-3.0206 a. *Roster of Former Members*

The stated clerk shall keep a current roster of those members of the permanent judicial commission whose terms have expired within the past six years. The names shall be arranged alphabetically within classes beginning with the most recent class. The stated clerk shall report the roster annually to the council or councils.

Updated 10/23/26

Presbytery of Middle Tennessee

166th Stated Meeting

Consent Agenda and Materials

Presbytery of Middle Tennessee
166th Stated Meeting - Consent Agenda
November 7th, 2026

Items on this agenda appear to require no debate. Therefore, they are listed together and will be voted upon as one motion. These items will not be considered individually UNLESS any member requests that one or all the items be removed from this consent agenda.

The Committee on Preparation from Ministry moves:

- removal of the following names from the rolls of Inquirers and Candidates as they continue to explore/accept God's call in a different direction: Tara Lentz, William Wince, and David Garvey

The Administrative Committee moves:

- amending the Missions and Operations manual to update the eligibility requirements for service on the Permanent Judicial Commission from four years to two years after a full term, as is mandated by the current Book of Order (D-3.0203 b. *Eligibility)*
  - Current Text: A member having served a full term of six years shall be ineligible for re-election until **four** years has elapsed after the expired six-year term.
  - Proposed Amended Text: A member having served a full term of six years shall be ineligible for re-election until **two** years has elapsed after the expired six-year term.

The Temporary Stated Clerk moves:

- approval of requests for a waiver of the limitation of terms for ruling elders, pursuant to G-2.0404 *Terms of Service,* from the following seven congregations: Christ Church, Alpine; Macedonia, Clarksville; Oak Grove, Bethpage; Buffalo Valley, Buffalo Valley; First, Lawrenceburg; Northminster, Murfreesboro; Robinson Chapel, Sparta
- approval of the minutes and roll of the 165th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery on August 6th, 2026
- approval of the minutes and roll of the Called Meeting of the Presbytery on September 30th, 2026

Erin Bell
sc@pbymidtn.org

PRESBYTERY OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE
MINUTES OF ONE HUNDRED SIXTY-FIFTH STATED MEETING
AUGUST 6, 2026

The 165th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee was held in person at Bellevue Presbyterian Church in Nashville on Saturday, August 6, 2026. Temporary Stated Clerk Erin Bell provided an orientation for first-time commissioners. Moderator Chris Williams, RE First Presbyterian Church of Pulaski, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and opened with prayer.

DECLARATION OF QUORUM / STATEMENT OF PROCEDURES

Moderator Williams 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 the Presbytery's Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Moderator-in-Nomination, chairs of committees, members of the Administrative Committee, members of the Finance Committee, members of the Permanent Administrative Commission, 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. The Moderator announced that the Stated Clerk had requested that Rev. John Smith of First Presbyterian Church in Dickson, serve as parliamentarian and time keeper. There was no objection.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

The Moderator stated that the agenda and the consent agenda, which contains the draft minutes and roll of the 164th stated meeting, as well as the draft minutes and roll of a called meeting held on July 10th via Zoom, were distributed on July 30, 2026.

Rev. Scott Huie, member of the Nominating Task Force, moved to amend the standing rules to allow a report from the Nominating Task Force and to add the election of a Stated Clerk search committee to the agenda. These names were not included in the report for this meeting, and were not in the hands of the body for seven days. The Mission and Operations Manual allows suspension of the standing rules by a three-quarters vote of members present at the meeting.The motion carried. The Moderator noted that a report from the Nominating Task Force would follow the sharing of joys, concerns, and announcements.

A motion was made to change the order of the agenda so that the PAC report would follow the Visioning Report for the Presbytery. The motion was rejected.

A point of order was made, stating that the Visioning Report was not properly submitted because the visioning education team was not given authorization to make changes to the report or propose a plan for implementation. The Moderator stated that the point of order was well taken. A motion was then made to amend the agenda to strike item six (6), "Visioning Plan for the Presbytery," from the meeting's agenda, and to authorize an ad hoc committee of five persons, appointed and chaired by the Moderator, to bring a revised visioning report and plan for implementation to the Presbytery for consideration at the Stated Meeting in November. During discussion, it was noted that the current plan does not specify personnel processes for hiring new staff. It was confirmed that the motion, as stated, authorized the ad hoc committee to address the concerns cited. Following an initial affirmative vote, a division of the house was called. The vote was repeated with 70 ayes and 11 nays. The motion carried.

The agenda and consent agenda were then approved as amended.

SEATING OF CORRESPONDING MEMBERS

No corresponsing members were present at the meeting.

RECOGNITION OF FIRST-TIME COMMISSIONERS

The moderator welcomed first time commissioners and invited them to introduce themselves.

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 SIXTY-FIFTH STATED MEETING
THE PRESBYTERY OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE
AGENDA OF AUGUST 6TH, 2026
BELLEVUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NASHVILLE

9:00 Registration (Order of the Day in CAPS)

9:15 Orientation for First Time Commissioners (Erin Bell, Temporary Stated Clerk)

9:30 CONVENE

- Establishment of Quorum
- Adoption of Agenda and Consent Agenda
- Seating of Corresponding Members
- Recognition of First Time Presbyters

9:40 WORSHIP

- Sermon: Rev. Eddie Bellis
- Offering: Nueva Vida Food Project

10:25 BREAK (5 minutes)

10:30 REPORTS (numbers indicate order in packet)

All speakers are advised to review the policies for oral reports and speaking during Stated and Called meetings of the Presbytery.

(1) Presbyterian Home for Children (Ms. Suzanne Cornett - 5 minutes)
(2) Board of Pensions (Mr. Keenan Rodgers – 5 minutes)
(3) Committee on Mutual Support (Rev. Claire Harris Kramer - 10 minutes)
(4) PAC (RE George Crawford - 10 minutes)
(5) Guest Speaker (Mr. Elliott Robinson, Program Specialist for the Civil Rights Room, Nashville Public Library– 20 minutes)
(6) Visioning Plan for the Presbytery (TBD - 45 minutes)

12:05 LUNCH – Your GA Commissioners, Mr. Keenan Rodgers, and Ms. Suzanne Cornett will be available for extended conversations during the lunch break. Rev. Jeannie Hunter will also be available to discuss the Society of St. Andrew.

1:00 RECONVENE

(7) Joys, Concerns, & Announcements (Rev. Sherard Edington – 10 minutes)

(8) General Assembly Report (GA Commissioners – 20 minutes)

(9) Ad Hoc Committee on General Assembly Nominating Criteria (Rev. Mary Sellers Shaw – 10 minutes)

(10) Administrative Committee (RE Suzanne McLemore - 15 minutes)

(11) Finance Committee (Rev. Bruce McVey - 5 minutes)

(12) Commission on Ministry (RE Mickey Stueck – 10 minutes)

(13) Executive Presbyter's Report (Rev. Sherard Edington – 5 minutes)

(14) Stated Clerk's Report (RE Erin Bell- 5 minutes)

2:25 CLOSING PRAYER & ADJOURNMENT

- 166th Stated Meeting: Saturday, November 7th, 2026
  First Presbyterian Church, Franklin
- Closing Prayer – RE Chris Williams
- Adjournment

Contribute to Today's Offering: Nueva Vida Food Project

▲Mail a Check to the Presbytery Office

Please note "Presbytery Meeting Offering" on the memo line.

The Presbytery of Middle Tennessee
1113 Murfreesboro Rd
Suite 106, #216
Franklin, TN 37064

▲Visit the Presbytery Website

www.pbymidtn.org
Click the "Give Now" button

▲Scan the QR Code

This link will take you to the donation page

Committee Oral Reports Policy at Stated and Called Meetings:

Committee chairs shall provide oral reports at Stated or Called Presbytery Meetings only if they have submitted a written report that is part of the meeting packet and only on work pertaining to their committee, including any action items requiring consideration.

As written reports are disseminated well before the presbytery meeting, keeping comments short when referring to (submitted written) information that does not require or inform an action is helpful. Reviewing and encouraging conversation around issues that do require action is welcome and fosters productive engagement.

Speaking during Stated or Called Presbytery Meetings Policy:

Any commissioner or member of Presbytery may speak to items under discussion during Stated Meetings. Speaking time is limited to five minutes per person. Per Roberts Rules of Order, individuals may not speak more than twice to a single issue unless the Moderator asks them a direct question.

Policies Approved by Middle Tennessee Presbytery May 3, 2025

Consent Agenda

165th Stated Meeting, Presbytery of Middle Tennessee

August 6th, 2026

Item #	Title
(1)	Approval of Minutes and Roll of the 164th Stated Meeting of May 2nd, 2026
(2)	Approval of Minutes and Roll of the Called Meeting of the Presbytery on July 10th, 2026

***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.**

WORSHIP

Rev. Scott Huie, Pastor of Bellevue Presbyterian Church, led the body in worship. Worship music was provided by Bellevue's talented musicians and singers. Bellevue Presbyterian Church's leadership led the liturgy and prayers. Rev. Eddie Bellis, Interim Pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Franklin, preached an engaging sermon titled "Jiggle the Wires" which centered on John 4:5-42. Rev. Evelyn Graham, Executive Director of Nueva Vida Food Project, shared a brief overview of the ministry, along with its joys and challenges. An offering of $1,263.00 was collected for The Nueva Vida Food Project.

REMARKS FROM SUZANNE CORNETT

Ms. Suzanne Cornett, Development Coordinator for the Presbyterian Home for Children, shared a brief overview of the Presbyterian Home for Children's mission and ministry.

REMARKS FROM KEENAN RODGERS

Mr. Keenan Rodgers, Board of Pensions Church Consultant, shared a brief overview of recent changes to the Board of Pensions' policies. He highlighted the recent election of Krysten Carter Holloway as the next President of the Board of Pensions.

COMMITTEE ON MUTUAL SUPPORT

The Moderator recognized Rev. Claire Harris Kramer, Co-Chair of the Committee on Mutual Support to provide an update on the work of the Committee. She highlighted the missions and ministries overseen by the committee: hunger and technology grants, Nueva Vida Food Project, and UKirks. The most recent deadline for hunger grants was in June; approved funds will be distributed at the end of August. Applications for the next round of grants will close on January 1st, 2027. She concluded the report by requesting prayer for each of these ministries, particularly UKirks at MTSU, Nashville, and Tennessee Tech as they prepare for a new school year on their campuses.

PERMANENT ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION (PAC)

The Moderator recognized George Crawford, RE from Westminster, Nashville and member of the PAC. Mr. Crawford presented the PAC's report on their work to propose Policies and Procedures for Receiving Congregations into the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee, and the PC(USA) by extension. Mr. Crawford moved to approve the policy as amended, with changes highlighted in red.The motion carried.

PRESBYTERY OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE
POLICY GOVERNING RECEPTION OF CONGREGATIONS FROM OTHER DENOMINATIONS

The Presbytery of Middle Tennessee adopts the following policies, procedures, and standards in the event that a congregation requests to enter into relationship with and come under the authority of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in the district that The Presbytery of Middle Tennessee covers. These policies, procedures, and standards attempt to reflect the same attitude of reconciliation and forbearance that the Gracious Separation Policy strives to maintain and encourage for our own congregations. It is not our objective to ever encourage division or dissatisfaction between a congregation and its denomination.

I. Principles and Overview

a. Presbytery's Authority

The Presbytery of Middle Tennessee has adopted this reception policy to guide the exercise of its constitutional responsibilities under G-1.02, G-3.0101, G-3.0303, and G-5.0101 on the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) commonly called the Book of Order:

G-1.02 The Organizing of a Congregation
A congregation in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) can be organized only by the authority of a presbytery and shall function under the provisions of this Constitution.

G-3.0101 Councils as an Expression of Unity of the Church
Powers not mentioned in this Constitution are reserved to the presbyteries.

G-3.0303 Relations with Sessions
Presbytery has a particular responsibility to coordinate, guide, encourage, support, and resource the work of its congregations
for the most effective witness to the broader community. In order to accomplish this responsibility, the presbytery has authority to:
a. **develop strategy for the mission of the church in its district**;
b. **control the location of new congregations and of congregations desiring to move** as well as to divide, dismiss, or dissolve congregations in consultation with their members;
c. establish minimum compensation standards;
d. counsel with a session concerning reported difficulties within a congregation, including:
(1.) advising the session as to appropriate actions to be taken to resolve the reported difficulties,
(2.) offering to help as a mediator, and
(3.) acting to correct the difficulties if requested to do so by the session or if the session is unable or unwilling to do so, following the procedural safeguards of the Church Discipline;
e. assume original jurisdiction in any situation in which it determines that a session cannot exercise its authority.
f. consider and act upon requests from congregations for permission to take the actions regarding real property as described in G-4.0206.

G-5.0101 Ecumenicity
The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) at all levels seeks to manifest more visibly the unity of the body of Christ and will be open to opportunities for conversation, cooperation, and action with other ecclesiastical groups. It will seek to initiate, maintain, and strengthen relations with other Reformed and Christian entities.

b. Presbytery's Initial Responsibilities:

i. Strategy. Identify the strategy for the mission of the church within the boundaries of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee and evaluate any request by a session, or the governing body of the congregation, to be recognized by the Presbytery as a member congregation in light of that strategy, especially whether the location, membership, and property of the transferring congregation are desirable for the fulfilment of the Presbytery's strategy for mission.

ii. Ecumenism. Determine in conversation with the responsible officers of the transferring denomination what are the reasons for disaffiliation and, if every opportunity for reconciliation has been exhausted, whether the transferring council concurs with the request of the transferring session.

II. Eligible Denominations:
The Presbytery shall consider requests by churches for transfer to the PC(USA) from any Reformed denomination, specifically any member of the World Communion of Reformed Churches, to which we may consider transfer a congregation. The Presbytery may consider transfer of a church from a denomination covered by the Formula of Agreement for full communion. The Presbytery shall not consider transfer of a congregation from independency.

III. New Church Development:
Special consideration shall be given to any congregation currently located in proximity to an area identified by the Presbytery as desirable for New Church Development.

IV. Responsibilities Delineated:

a. The Stated Clerk shall be the official correspondent with the sending denomination. The moderator of the Administrative Committee, the Commission on Ministry and the Permanent Administrative Commission for Congregational Change of the shall be notified of the request by a congregation to be received by the Presbytery.
b. The Administrative Committee shall determine the alignment of the entering congregation with the Presbytery's mission and goals for our region and recommend action regarding the request to the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee.
c. The Finance Committee shall review the financial statements, obligations, etc. of the entering congregation and determine the fiscal health of the congregation.
d. The Commission on Ministry shall examine the qualification of all transferring elders and ministers.
e. The Permanent Administrative Commission for Congregational Change shall help manage terms of dismissal, transfer of title, name, by-laws, policies, incorporation status, refinancing of debt, determine the disposition of the congregation's physical assets, etc.

V. Initiating the Process for Receiving a Congregation:

a. A session, or the governing body of a congregation, may initiate the process by sending a letter to the stated clerk requesting to be received as a congregation into the Presbytery. The stated clerk shall contact the equivalent officer of the transferring council to determine whether the council is in concurrence with the request and the reasons for the request.
b. An officer of the transferring council may contact the stated clerk requesting that a congregation be received by the Presbytery.

VI. Dissolution:
If the Stated Clerk determines that a congregation has been dissolved by the "sending" denomination, the request shall be received by Presbytery as the request to form a new congregation.

VII. Disciplinary Process:
The Presbytery shall not receive the transfer of any church or minister against whom there is an ongoing disciplinary case in another denomination. The Presbytery shall not receive ministers or elders of another denomination who have renounced jurisdiction of that denomination.

VIII. The Administrative Committee:

a. The Administrative Committee shall make an initial determination as to the advisability and desirability of receiving the congregation based on potential impact to existing congregations and the Presbytery's strategy for mission. With the help of the Permanent Administrative Commission for Congregational Change and the Finance Committee, this shall include an evaluation of the costs and benefits of aiding members of the transferring church to join existing congregations of the Presbytery. If the congregation would cause substantial costs to the Presbytery, such as needing to pay off mortgages, buying property, and underwriting other obligations, that will be adequate reasons to not recommend moving forward in the process. If the initial determination is positive for transfer and recognition of the congregation as a congregation, the Administrative Committee shall request additional determinations by the Commission on Ministry and the Permanent Administrative Commission for Congregational Change. The Administrative Committee shall make a final recommendation to Presbytery as to the request by the congregation for transfer to the Presbytery. (This final recommendation shall include the recommendations of the Commission on Ministry and the Permanent Administrative Commission for Congregational Change.

IX. Permanent Administrative Commission for Congregational Change (PACCC):

a. Examine any negotiated terms of dismissal between the congregation and the dismissing council regarding their potential financial (or other) impact on the Presbytery.
b. Review and recommend to the Presbytery actions related to the transferring church's name, records, property, liabilities, and debts.
c. Determine the value of transferring church property, other assets and resources and communicate those to the Administrative Committee and Finance Committee.
d. Review and make recommendations to the Presbytery regarding the transferring congregation's articles of incorporation, bylaws, and policies.

X. The Commission on Ministry:

a. The Commission on Ministry shall determine whether there is an existing congregation of our Presbytery within a ten mile radius of the congregation that is requesting transfer and, in conversation with the pastor(s) and session(s) of the affected church(es), shall make a determination as to the significance and likely impact on the life and ministry of the church(es) in the neighborhood.
b. The Commission on Ministry, through its Mediation Team, shall lead at least one Town Hall Meeting with the congregation that is requesting transfer. There must be at least one town hall meeting to which the entire church family is invited. The purpose is to provide an opportunity for members of the congregation to engage in dialogue with each other and with representatives of presbytery concerning the desire of members of the congregation to be received by the Presbytery. All recent members of the congregation should be invited to attend and, if feasible, the meeting(s) should precede any congregational vote for transfer by at least 30 days. No formal action may be taken at the informational town hall meeting(s).
c. The Commission on Ministry shall determine whether the transferring body is doctrinally consistent with the essentials of Reformed theology, as those are understood by this presbytery, and whether the transferring congregation has been governed by a polity that is consistent in form and structure with that of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

d. The Commission on Ministry shall determine if the transferring body understands and agrees to the financial obligations of membership in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the Presbytery including per capita, support of the mission and ministry of the Presbytery, minimum salary requirements, and obligations for the Board of Pension.
e. The Commission on Ministry shall examine the pastor who is requesting transfer for membership in Presbytery, inquire as to the minister's collegiality in the transferring council, review the appropriateness of the terms of call, and examine and recommend either continuation or dissolution of the existing pastoral relationship.
f. The Commission on Ministry shall determine if the incoming pastor and elders should undergo an educational process to understand the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Constitution to ensure that the vows that are taken are done with understanding and comprehension.

XI. Presbytery Action (upon final recommendation from the Administrative Committee):
a. Approve the reception of the new congregation when the way be clear.
b. Provide for a vote by the congregation and transfer of individual memberships by signature: "We, the undersigned, in response to the grace of God, desire to be **received** as a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), to be known as _____. We promise and covenant to live together in unity and to work together in ministry as disciples of Jesus Christ, bound to him and to one another as a part of the body of Christ in this place according to the principles of faith, mission, and order of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)"
c. Provide for the examination by the Presbytery of members of the congregations governing body who will be transferred in as elders who are active on Session.
d. Examine and receive the pastor(s) of the congregation and approve terms of call.
e. Provide for a worship service of the Presbytery in the location where the congregation will regularly worship to celebrate the recognition of the new congregation.

XII. Exceptions:
Exceptions to this policy may be proposed by any party responsible for carrying out its provisions as listed under Section IV Responsibilities Delineated. Exceptions shall require a 2/3 affirmative vote of the Presbytery.

PRESENTATION BY MR. ELLIOTT ROBINSON

The moderator recognized Rev. Sherard Edington to introduce Mr. Elliott Robinson, Program Specialist for Special Collections and the Civil Rights Room at the Main Branch of the Nashville Public Library. The Civil Rights Room contains free resources which recount efforts toward desegregation and equality in the 1950s and 1960s. Mr. Robinson's presentation centered on the history of the civil rights movement in Nashville/middle Tennessee and its intersection with churches and religion in Tennessee. Throughout the presentation he connected key points of history to specific church actions, both for and against the efforts to expand civil rights at that time. Mr. Robinson noted that having an awareness and understanding of the civil rights movement connects us with where we've been and where we're going.

MODIFICATION OF THE AGENDA

Following the presentation, the Moderator noted that the following item on the agenda could not be considered in the alloted time before lunch. He proposed that item nine on the agenda, "Ad Hoc Committee on General Assembly Nominating Criteria", be moved up the agenda to be

considered before the planned lunch break in order to remain on schedule. The change to the agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON GENERAL ASSEMBLY NOMINATING CRITERIA

A motion was approved in the November 2025 Stated Meeting to refer amending the guidelines for nomination to serve as GA and Synod Commissioners to an Ad Hoc Committee. Rev. Rosanna Anderson (Validated), Rev. Greg Glover (First, Clarksville), Rev. Jane Herring (Emmanual, Nashville), CRE Leonard Jordan (St. Andrews, Nashville), Rev. Mary Sellers Shaw (Ukirk, Nashville), and Rev. John Smith (First, Dickson) were appointed.

The Moderator recognized Rev. Mary Sellers Shaw and Rev. John Smith to present the committee's report. Rev. Shaw moved that the amended criteria for selection of nominees to the General Assembly and the Synod of Living Waters be approved and published on the Presbytery's website. The motion carried. The Moderator instructed the Nominating Task Force to use the approved criteria when selecting nominees for 2027 and going forward.

Synod and General Assembly Commissioner Guidelines-
Amendment Recommendations

Commissioners to the General Assembly and the Synod of Living Waters, as well as alternate commissioners, are to be elected at the November meeting the year prior to their term of service. The Nominating Task Force shall nominate General Assembly commissioners, General Assembly advisory delegates, and Synod commissioners, as well as their alternates, according to the number allotted to the Presbytery by the respective councils. The following criteria for selection for nominees to the General Assembly and the Synod of Living Waters are appropriate and may be used and should be published on the Presbytery's website and to the Presbytery at the August stated meeting.

- Teaching and ruling elders and young adults will ordinarily only be elected once to serve as commissioners to the General Assembly or Synod from the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee.
- Teaching Elders should have demonstrated experience in the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee. Normally, a full term of service on one of the Presbytery's committees is sufficient. Alternative demonstration of experience may be considered.
- Teaching and ruling elders who have a history of active involvement in the work of the Presbytery.
- Ruling elders from churches who have not recently sent a representative as a commissioner to General Assembly or Synod.
- Commissioners should represent the diversity of our Presbytery in accordance with the Book of Order.
- 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.

RECESS FOR LUNCH

The Moderator invited the body to recess for lunch, provided by the meeting hosts. Rev. Stephanie Boaz (Westminster, Nashville) was selected to offer the blessing of the meal. Ms. Suzanne Cornett of the Presbyterian Home for Children, Mr. Keenan Rodgers with the Board of Pensions, Rev. Jeannie Hunter with the Society of St. Andrew, Mr. Elliott Robinson with the Nashville Public Library were available during the lunch break for conversations about their work. Many attendees visited their display tables to learn more about their ministries. Additionally, the General Assembly commissioners were available for conversation and questions during the lunch hour.

RECONVENE AND SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

The Moderator reconvened the meeting at 1:10 and recognized Rev. Sherard Edington, Transitional Executive Presbytery, who asked attendees to share their praises and requests for prayer. Rev. Stephanie Boaz, Chair of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry, introduced three new Inquirers: Cade Arnold, Chandler Meador, and Jessie King. Several attendees shared upcoming church events, milestones, and recent developments. Rev. Edington then led the body in prayer.

NOMINATING TASK FORCE

The Moderator recognized Rev. Scott Huie, member of the Nominating Task Force, to present a report on behalf of the task force. As noted above, the inclusion of this report and subsequent motion was approved by the requisite three-quarters majority of the members present.

Election of Stated Clerk Search Committee

The following individuals were nominated to serve on the Stated Clerk Search Committee: Rev. Joy Warren (Trinity, Nashville), Rev. Sally Hughes (Honorably Retired), RE Robb McDaniel (First, Murfreesboro), RE Bethany Sterling (First, Tullahoma), and RE Sarah Natale (First, Shelbyville). There being no additional nominations, the motion to elect the Stated Clerk search committee was approved unanimously.

The PMT's Missions and Operations Manual directs the Nominating Task Force to include a list of all current members of the Presbytery's committees and commissions with every report to Presbytery. There are a number of vacancies that need to be filled. This information is located at the conclusion of the minutes. [Attachment A]

Rev. Huie concluded the report by encouraging members present to contact him or another member of the Nominating Task Force if interested in joining one of the Presbytery's many

committees, commissions, and task forces. The Nominating Task Force will present the slate of volunteers for election in the coming year during the November Stated Meeting.

REPORT OF COMMISSIONERS TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Presbyery of Middle Tennessee was fortunate to send six commissioners to the 227th General Assembly (GA): RE Betsy Bond (Trinity, Nashville), Rev. Jim Moran (First, Tullahoma), RE Spencer Truett (First, Dickson), Rev. Mary Sellers Shaw (Ukirk, Nashville), Rev. Bruce McVey (First, Fayetteville/Treasurer and Trustee of PMT), and RE Mickey Stueck (First, Lebanon). This year, commissioners met in committees online locally prior to attending in-person plenary in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Each commissioner gave a brief report which highlighted the work of their respective assigned committees and noted key reflections from the process and/or gathering. The commissioners thanked the Presbytery for entrusting them with the work of attending General Assembly and encouraged members present to consider serving as commissioners in 2028. It was noted they would be available following the Stated Meeting for individuals to ask specific questions about proposed amendments to the Book of Order and other actions of the Assembly. The commissioners' written reports are included with the minutes of this meeting [Attachment B].

At the conclusion of the reports, the Moderator requested a round of applause for the commissioners and support people who worked so hard to represent the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee at General Assembly. The Moderator thanked the commissioners for giving generously of their time and talents to engage in the important work of the church. This recognition concluded the reports on the 227th General Assembly.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

The Moderator recognized RE Suzanne McLemore, Moderator-in-Nomination and member of Westminster, Nashville, to present the report for the Administrative Committee.

Missional Incubator Program

The committee met with Rev. Phil Lotspeich, General Presbyter for the Presbytery of Transylvania who spoke about Missional Incubators, a 9-to-12-month Mid Council and presbytery program designed to equip church leaders and entrepreneurs to launch innovative ministries. Those eligible to participate include churches from all areas (urban, suburban, small town and rural). The Administrative Committee leadership will follow up with Rev. Lotspeich.

Presbytery of Middle Tennessee Vision Plan Town Hall Meetings

As mandated in the November 2025 meeting of the Presbytery, a series of town hall meetings were held for the purpose of educating the the body about the proposed vision plan. The leadership team for these meetings was elected in the previous Stated Meeting of the Presbytery. Town hall meetings were held on June 24th at Second, Nashville; July 9th at First, Lewisburg, and

July 18th at First, Cookeville. Additional online meetings were held on July 8th and 20th. General information about the meetings, links to join the online meetings, the vision plan in full, and a tentative implementation outline were shared with the Presbyery in a series of emails and on the Presbytery's Facebook page.

Called Meeting of The Presbytery

The committee approved the Permanent Administrative Commission's request to call a meeting on July 27th for the purpose of approving the sale of the Decherd Presbyterian Church property.

Anti-Racism Training Materials

The committee was asked to help source materials that can meet the requirements noted in the Presbytery's anti-racism policy. This task has been delegated to the Operations and Communications Coordinator, in partnership with the COM review team.

Presbytery Meeting Dates Set for 2027

The following dates have been set for Stated Meetings of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee in 2027. The Temporary Stated Clerk is working with the three churches that have volunteered to host meetings in the coming year to finalize the schedule.

- February 6th - First Presbyterian Church of Allardt
- May 1st - location pending
- August 7th -location pending
- November 6th – location pending.

Nominating Task Force Updates

The Nominating Task Force members are: CRE Leonard Jordan (Chair), TE Sarah Hill (Westminster, Nashville), TE Jonathan Angel (Allardt, Allardt), TE Scott Huie (Bellevue, Nashville), RE Vickie Harwell (First, Pulaski) and RE Verna Rydlund (First, Franklin). They are working to fill vacancies in committees and identify a Stated Clerk Search Committee. Members of the Presbytery are encouraged to review the 2026-2028 slate of Presbytery Committees and consider serving on a committee. Email sc@pbymidtn.org for more information.

Personnel Task Force Updates

RE Denise Moran (First, Tullahoma) and Rev. Michael McLaughlin (First, Cookeville) were appointed by the Administrative Committee to the Personnel Task Force with three-year terms, ending in 2028. They join current members: Chairperson RE Kathy Corlew, (First, Murfreesboro), RE Lavona Russell (East Brentwood, Brentwood) and RE Jack Baxter (First, Columbia). In July, the Personnel Task Force asked the Administrative Committee to follow-up with the Executive Presbyter search committee to ensure they have begun their work and offer any support needed.

Changes to Presbytery Staff

The planned elimination of the part-time Operations Coordinator position became effective June 30th. The Presbytery of Middle Tennessee thanks Gregory Taylor for his service and wishes him success in future endeavors. The new full-time Operations and Communications Coordinator position went into effect on July 1, 2026. Rory Womack was hired to fill this position.
Ms. McLemore requested that Rev. Michael McLaughlin be recognized to acknowledge the contributions of Gregory Taylor, former Operations Coordinator for the Presbytery. Rev. McLaughlin led the body in a prayer of appreciation and blessing for Mr. Taylor. Rev. Sherard Edington was recognized to introduce Rory Womack as the Operations and Communications Coordinator. This concluded the Administrative Committee's report.

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Moderator recognized Rev. Bruce McVey, Pastor of First, Fayetteville and Chair of the Finance Committee, to make the report. Rev. McVey also serves as Treasurer and Trustee for the Presbytery.

Financial Statements

Financial statements including year-to-date activity through June 30, 2026 were included in the packet for the meeting. Rev. McVey noted that year-to-date ordinary income is about $197,000; roughly $27,000 below budget through June. Pledged giving totals about $137,000 YTD, approximately $27,000 below budget and the primary reason income is trailing projections. Ordinary expenses are about $228,000 YTD, approximately $23,000 under budget, which has helped offset most of the income shortfall. As such, ordinary operations show a $31,000 YTD deficit, about $3,600 worse than budget. Including investment gains and restricted-fund activity, however, the overall YTD bottom line is positive by approximately $176,000. Vanguard investments totaled approximately $6.31 million on June 30. The portfolio had a strong quarter, including about $275,000 in market appreciation and $55,000 in investment income.

Transitional Pastor Training Fund

The Finance Committee created the Transitional Pastor Training Fund (3001-24) and seeded it with $10,000. The committee has the ability to re-evaluate and add funding up to one year or in perpetuity. The fund is designated to provide training by Transitional Ministry Pathways for up to 15 Teaching Elders and Commissioned Ruling Elders. The presbytery filled the minimum slots required to form a synchonous virtual cohort which will meet online weekly for seven-weeks beginning in October.

Update from the Budget Task Force

The following members of the Budget Task Force were elected in the May meeting of the Finance Committee: RE Hal Sauer (Westminster, Nashville), RE Melinda Sanders (Woodland, Nashville), RE Mike Koban (Westminster, Nashville), Rev. Greg Glover (First, Clarksville), and Rev. Sherard Edington ex officio. RE Sauer will serve as chairperson for the task force.

Rev. McVey concluded his report with a note that the Finance Committee had intended to bring forward a motion to authorize the Cowan congregation to sell its manse. However, the committee has opted to wait and bring the motion to the Presbytery when the church has a buyer for the property.

COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

The Moderator recognized RE Mickey Stueck, member of First, Lebanon and Co-chair of the COM, to present the Commission's report.

Discernment Approval for Ms. Adrian Taylor

Ms. Adrian Taylor is currently in the ordination process with the Evangelical Covenant Order of Presbyterians (ECO). She has requested to proceed with ordination in the PC(USA) rather than ECO. She holds a B.A. in Religion from Furman University and a Master of Divinity at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. COM approved a six-month discernment period for Ms. Taylor with a COM-appointed mentor, leading to consideration for ordination. Rev. Sally Hughes was appointed as mentor for Ms. Taylor.

Communion Training for Ruling Elders

Rev. Sally Hughes was authorized to provide training for Ruling Elders to serve communion. The training was held at Glen Leven Presbyterian Church and by Zoom on July 11th. Certificates of completion were provided to attendees.

Update to the Pulpit Supply List

The addition of RE Trice Gibbons and RE Wayne Patton to the pulpit supply list was approved.

Changes to the Membership Roll of the Presbytery

The COM's vote by email on April 29th to grant Rev. Roger Speer temporary membership in the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee was ratified. Rev. Jeff Kane became an at-large member of the Presbytery following his resignation from Westminster, Columbia. The COM sustained the examination of Jooyoung Hong and approved the request to transfer his membership to the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee.

Sabbatical Grant Approval

A sabbatical grant for the maximum $1,500 was approved for Emmanuel, Nashville. Rev. Jane Herring's sabbatical is scheduled for September through November 2026.

Retirement of Rev. Robert Montgomery

COM approved the retirement of Rev. Robert Montgomery from First Presbyterian Church of Lewisburg effective July 1st, 2026. RE Brett Withers moderated a meeting to dissolve the pastoral relationship between Rev. Montgomery and the Lewisburg congregation. While Rev.

Montgomery was unable to attend the meeting, the COM recognized his ministry at Lewisburg over the past eight years.

Installation Commision

The Installation Commission for Rev. Sarah Bird Kneff at Nashville Westminster was approved.

Approval of Employment Agreements

The following employment agreements were approved by the COM: Rev. Roger Speer at Normandy Presbyterian Church, Rev. Ray Thomas at Priest Lake Presbyterian Church, Rev. Jeannie Hunter at Shelbyville Presbyterian Church, Rev. Dennis Buckley at Northminster Presbyterian Church, Rev. Jason Loscuito at Glencliff Presbyterian Church, and Rev. Stuart Gordon as Transitional Pastor at First Presbyterian Church of Columbia.

Permission to Labor Inside the Bounds

The request from Rev. Clint Loveall to labor inside the bounds of the Presbytery to perform a wedding on June 6, 2026 was approved.

Approval of Mission Studies

The following mission studies were approved by the COM: First, Lewisburg; First, Lebanon; First, Franklin; Westminster, Nashville; and Donelson, Nashville.

Approval of Ministry Discernment Profiles (MDPs)

Donelson Presbyterian Church's Ministry Discernment Profile was approved.

Renewal of Commission for RE Rhonda Banasiak

The Commission for Ruling Elder Rhonda Banasiak at First Presbyterian, Clarksville was renewed by COM. The 3-year commission will expire on July 1, 2029.

Appointment of Moderator of Session

The request from First, Lewisburg, for the Rev. Sally Hughes to moderate their session was approved, provided the date and time do not conflict with COM meetings.

Delegation of Boundary Training

The COM delegated the responsibility of ensuring compliance with the required completion of boundary training to the Review Team with the support of the Presbytery staff.

Commision on Ministry Training

The COM approved the Temporary Stated Clerk's request for a Commision on Ministry training to be provided by staff of the Presbyterian Life & Witness, previously the Office of the General Assembly. Ms. Bell was authorized to coordinate a workshop for a Saturday in August.

Church Referral to the Permanent Administrative Commission

The request from Belfast Presbyterian Church to be transferred from the COM to the PAC was approved.

Pastoral Vacanies

The following churches have Solo Pastor positions posted on the Church Leadership Connection portal: Harpeth Presbyterian Church, Brentwood; Normandy Presbyterian Church, Normandy; Calvary Presbyterian Church of Big Lick, Crossville; First Presbyterian Church, Tullahoma; Priest Lake Presbyterian Church, Nashville; First Presbyterian Church, Smyrna; and Donelson Presbyterian Church, Nashville.

Ms. Stueck concluded her report by noting that the pulpit supply has been updated and uploaded to the Presbytery's website under the "Filing Cabinet" heading. Ministers were encouraged to utilize this resource.

REPORT OF THE TRANSITIONAL EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER

The Moderator recognized Rev. Sherard Edington, Transitional Executive Presbyter, to give his report to the Presbytery. He shared highlights from his work over the past few months, particularly the recent staffing transition. Like the commissioners, he shared key reflections from attending the General Assembly. He also thanked the Presbytery for their support of the staff and commissioners who attended from the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee.

Rev. Edington has worked diligently to connect members of the Presbytery who are interested in completing interim training with the funds and resources to do so over the coming months. He commended the finance committee for creating the Transitional Pastor Training Fund to support this initiative which will benefit the Presbytery.

REPORT OF THE TEMPORARY STATED CLERK

Moderator Williams recognized the Temporary Stated Clerk, RE Erin Bell of Downtown, Nashville. Ms. Bell began her report with a note of appreciation for Gregory Taylor, previously the Operations Coordinator for the Presbytery. She emphasized his kindness and guidance when she started her position as Temporary Stated Clerk. Ms. Bell noted a few areas where Mr. Taylor was of particular support to the staff and Presbytery.

Ms. Bell then shared a few brief announcements with the Presbytery:

1. Collaborative meetings for Clerks of Sessions to review their Session and congregational meeting minutes from 2025 are currently being scheduled. Each church's minutes must be reviewed. Additional information will be shared via email, the Presbytery's newsletter, and the Presbytery's Facebook page.

2. Per the Book of Order, councils are mandated to require certificates of completion of boundary training, particularly around sexual misconduct and child sexual abuse prevention, every 36 months from its members, all Certified Christian Educators, all Commissioned Ruling Elders, and all Inquirers and Candidates. Sessions must require boundary training for their active members as well. The presbytery has approved training content by Praesidium Academy. This material is provided to church leadership at no additional cost. The training consists of on-demand video modules that take 15-20 minutes to complete. A certificate of completion is provided at the conclusion of each module. Each Clerk of Session of record with PMT has received registration information. Rory Womack will begin to support churches with boundary training through the Review Team of the Commission on Ministry.

3. Attendees were encouraged to sign up to receive emails from the Presbytery and to join the Presbytery's Facebook Group: "Presbytery of Middle Tennessee Connection". The Facebook group is a semi-public space for churches to share announcements and events.

4. The Temporary Stated Clerk has been working diligently with Jay Wittmeyer of the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center, RE Barbara Halverstadt, and TE Leslie Traylor on the Presbytery's plans to host a 5-day Mediation Workshop at First Presbyterian Church in Nashville. The training is scheduled for September 21st-25th. The ideal maximum attendance is 12-15 people. The cost for members of the Presbytery is $500. For more information, email sc@pbymidtn.org.

Commission to Ordain and Install the Rev. Gage Arnold

The Temporary Stated Clerk received the minutes of the Commission to Ordain and Install the Rev. Gage Arnold as Associate Pastor for Youth and Their Families at First Presbyterian Church, Nashville. The members of the commission were: Mr. Chris Williams, RE, First Presbyterian Church of Pulaski (Moderator); Rev. Ryan Moore and Rev. Sandra Randleman of First Presbyterian Church of Nashville; Rev. Austin Hill, Member-at-Large, Presbytery of Middle Tennessee; Ms. Carrie Hininger, RE; Rev. Cort Gatliff, South Highland Presbyterian Church of Birmingham, AL; and Rev. Ken Loggett, Koininia Church, Southeast EPC.

Commission to Install the Rev. Sarah Bird Kneff

The Temporary Stated Clerk received the minutes of the Commission to Install the Rev. Sarah Bird Kneff as Associate Pastor for Faith Formation at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Nashville. The members of the commission were: Rev. Evelyn Graham, Executive Director of Nueva Vida Food Project; Mr. Ned Hildebrandand, RE, Westminster, Nashville; Rev. Donovan Drake, Rev. Ashley Higgins, and Rev. Adam DeVries of Westminster, Nashville; and Ms. Becky Campbell, RE, First Presbyterian Church, Nashville.

Pastor Nominating Committees

The Temporary Stated Clerk received the following names of active Pastor Nominating Committees within the Presbytery as of August 6th, 2026:

- PNC for **Harpeth, Brentwood:** Sue Giere, Xylina East Ridge, Karen Neuman, James Peeler, Ray Scheetz, and Alec Sgro

- PNC for **Calvary Big Lick, Crossville:** Chairperson: Judy Venable, Vickie Rhea, Lindsey Thompson, Martha Weaver, and Bill Beckett
- PNC for **First, Franklin:** Chairperson: Susan Burns, Rich Crim, Mary Bryan, Ryan Fox, Mike Henry, Nancy Moody, Jim Petersen, Sam Webb
- PNC for **First, Lewisburg:** Chairperson: Don Kania, Brady Phillips (Secretary), Hale Hawkins, Nancy Johnson, Sharon Brandon, Jeff Hewitt, Quinn Stewart, Stephen Frye, and Nicole Pickle
- PNC for **Donelson, Nashville**: Co-chairs: Carolyn Lance & Joy Roark, Dennis Crumby, Laura Piper, Janet Smith, Randy Smith, Jim White, Malee Cherry, and Jeni Steele
- PNC for **Priest Lake, Nashville**: Chairperson: Jon Loudermilk, Tom Tozer, Jeff Binns, Lisa Blaustone, and Chelsea Jennette
- PNC for **Westminster, Nashville:** Moderator: Betsy Bernstein, Secretary: Blake Brookshire, Kent Capps, Kelly Christie, Andy Garcia, Kate Griffin, Leslie Grote, Hugh Harvey, Ned Munson, Kate Pennington and Virginia Reynolds.
- PNC for **First, Smyrna**: Chairperson: Joy Leonard, Melanie Noe, Darlene Whorton, Mike Jones, and Stuart Stephens
- PNC for **First, Tullahoma**: Chairperson: Keith Kushman, Tim Behrendorrf, Thomas Dimon, Kristi Freuchtl, Sydney Hoehl (Scribe), Cindy Kinney, and Brad Sturgil.

GA Commissioners' Reports

The Temporary Stated Clerk received written reports from each of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee's General Assembly Commissioners: RE Betsy Bond, RE Mickey Stueck, RE Spencer Truett, TE Bruce McVey, TE Jim Moran, and TE Mary Sellers Shaw. The Temporary Stated Clerk's report on the General Assembly is included with the GA Commissioners' reports [Attachment B].

The Presbytery summary of the 2025 statistical reports have been delivered [Attachment C].

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other items on the agenda, Moderator Williams announced that the 166rd Stated Meeting of the Presbytery will take place on Saturday, November 7th at the First Presbyterian Church of Franklin. He then asked for a motion to adjourn which was seconded and approved. After a closing prayer, the meeting adjourned at 2:36 p.m.

Erin Bell
Temporary Stated Clerk

Presbytery of Middle Tennessee
2026 – 2028 Members of Presbytery Committees and Commissions

** indicates second term of service*
Chairpersons names are noted in bold

Trustees of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee Trustees serve as members of the Administrative and Finance Committees by virtue of office.		
Presbytery Moderator (President)	**Presbytery Vice-Moderator (Chair of Admin.)**	**Presbytery Treasurer (Chair of Finance)**
Chris Williams (RE) Pulaski, First	Erin Howton-Angel (TE) Allardt, First	Bruce McVey (TE) Fayetteville, First

Administrative Committee		
Class of 2026	**Class of 2027**	**Class of 2028**
Donovan Drake (TE) Nashville, Westminster	*Betsy Bond (RE) Nashville, Trinity	*Leonard Jordan (CRE) Nashville, St. Andrews
	*Mark Bryan, (TE) Nashville, Glen Leven	*Kathy Corlew (RE) Murfreesboro, First
		Suzanne McLemore (RE) Westminster, Nashville **Moderator-in-Nomination**

Finance Committee		
Class of 2026	**Class of 2027**	**Class of 2028**
*Anders Hall (RE) Nashville, Westminster	*Mark Bryan (TE) Nashville, Glen Leven	George Crawford (RE) Nashville, Westminster
VACANT (TE)	VACANT (RE)	Greg Glover (TE) Clarksville, First

Committee on Church Transformation		
Class of 2026	**Class of 2027**	**Class of 2028**
***John Hilley (TE)** Brentwood, East Brentwood	*Keith Gunter (TE) Hendersonville, New Creation	VACANT (RE)
Lori Sain Smith (RE) Shelbyville, First	VACANT (TE)	VACANT (TE)

Committee on Leadership Excellence		
Class of 2026	**Class of 2027**	**Class of 2028**
Denise Moran (RE) Tullahoma, First	Sara Hill (TE) Nashville, First -Validated	VACANT (RE)
Dave Nock (RE) Nashville, Priest Lake	VACANT (RE)	VACANT (TE)

Commission on Ministry		
Class of 2026	**Class of 2027**	**Class of 2028**
Carrie Fraser (TE) Member-at-large	Brett Withers (RE) Nashville, Woodland	Austin Hill (TE) Nashville, Westminster
*Sally Hughes (TE) Retired **Chair of Examinations**	*Bill Patterson (RE) Murfreesboro, First	Rhonda Banasiak (CRE) Clarksville, First **Chair of Pastoral Care Team**
***Amy Stoker (TE)** First, Pulaski **Co-chair of COM**	Zach Sasser (TE) Nashville, Downtown	*Todd Jones (TE) Retired
David Sadler (CRE) Nashville, Priest Lake **Chair of Review Team**	Cade Arnold, (RE) Cookeville, First	***Mickey Stueck (RE)** Lebanon, First **Co-chair of COM**
Susan Carey (RE) Westminster, Nashville **Chair of Transitions Team**	Steve Thomas (TE) Retired	Barbara Halverstadt (RE) Nashville, Emmanuel **Chair of Mediation Team**
VACANT (TE)	VACANT (RE)	Geeta McMillan (RE) Sparta, Blue Spring

Committee on Mutual Support		
Class of 2026	**Class of 2027**	**Class of 2028**
***Bobby Harding (TE)** Murfreesboro, First	Samara Zavaro (RE) Nashville, Downtown	*Will Wellman (TE) Nashville, Westminster -Validated
Claire Harris-Kramer (TE) NCCC - Validated		*Spencer Truett (RE) Dickson, First
		Charles Jordan (RE) Nashville, St. Andrews

Committee on Social Justice		
Class of 2026	**Class of 2027**	**Class of 2028**
*Andrea Elkins Murfreesboro, First	*Henry Deaderick (RE) Nashville, St. Andrews	Greta McClain (RE) Nashville, Southminster
*Claire Berry (TE) Historic Franklin	*Adam Devries (TE) Nashville, Westminster - Validated	VACANT (TE)

Permanent Administrative Commission		
Class of 2026	**Class of 2027**	**Class of 2028**
Debbie Fraley (RE) First, Fayetteville	John Hinkle (TE) First, Murfreesboro	**Melinda Sanders (RE)** Nashville, Woodland
Greg Glover (TE) First Clarksville	George Crawford (RE) Westminster, Nashville	Allen Kennedy (RE) Nashville, First

Committee on Preparation for Ministry		
Class of 2026	**Class of 2027**	**Class of 2028**
*James Peeler (RE) Brentwood, Harpeth	Marilee Meschefske (RE) Columbia, Westminster	***Stephanie Boaz, TE** Nashville, Westminster
VACANT (RE)	CJ Thompson (TE) Manchester, First	*Judy Tygard (RE) Nashville, Bellevue
VACANT (TE)	Rosanna Anderson (TE) Fisher Island Union Chapel, NY- Validated	Sandra Randleman (TE) Nashville, First

Ordination Exam Readers			
Class of 2026	**Class of 2027**	**Class of 2028**	**Alternates:**
PK Kim (TE) Nashville, Korean	Gloria Dale (RE) Columbia, First		Sally Hughes (TE) Retired
	Annesse Ashton (RE) Nashville, St. Andrews		Joyce Harris (RE) Nashville, St. Andrews
	Greg Glover (TE) Clarksville, First		
	Guy Griffith (TE) Nashville, Westminster		

Permanent Judicial Commission		
Class of 2026	**Class of 2028**	**Class of 2030**
Michael Bradley (TE) Retired	Bill Russell (RE) First, Spring Hill	**John Smith (TE)** Dickson, First Waverly, Ellis Grove
James Hudnut-Beumler (TE) Retired	Walt Tennyson (TE) Alive Hospice - Validated	Keith Dennen, RE Hendersonville, New Creation
J.B. Smith, RE First, Pulaski	Terry Denton (RE) Nashville, Emmanuel	Ryan Moore (TE) Nashville, First

Presbytery of Middle Tennessee Commissioners 2026

General Assembly Commissioners - 2026			
Spencer Truett (RE) Dickson, First	Bruce McVey (TE) Fayetteville, First	Jim Moran (TE) Tullahoma, First	**Alternate:** Leslie Traylor (TE) Hermitage, Hermitage
Betsy Bond (RE) Nashville, Trinity	Mickey Stueck (RE) Lebanon, First	Mary Sellers Shaw (TE) UKIRK - Validated	

Synod of Living Waters Commissioners - 2026			
*Donovan Drake (TE) Nashville, Westminster	Vickie Harwell (RE) Pulaski, First	Gary Kelly (TE) HR	Anne Keener (CRE) Franklin, First

Presbytery of Middle Tennessee Relevant Boards

UKIRK Board Members Members are reported only; not elected by the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee.			
Mr. David Carlton	Ms. Barbara Fay	Dr. Brent Graham	Rev. Shane Smith
Rev. Lee Catoe	Dr. Ryan Fox	Ms. Holly Miller	
Ms. Kelly Christie	Dr. Nathaniel Freymeyer	Mary Sellers Shaw, Executive Director	

revised 7/28/2026

Report from Betsy Bond on the 227th General Assembly of the PC(USA)
Milwaukee, Wisconsin, June 22-July 2, 2026

I am Betsy Bond, Ruling Elder from Trinity Presbyterian Church in Nashville. This was my first time attending General Assembly.

My committee assignment was General Assembly Operations. One of our key items of business [GAO-01] was approving the location of the 228th General Assembly, which will be held in San Juan, Puerto Rico. We also recommended that General Assembly committee work be completed in person in 2030, which was approved [GAO-02]. We made many other decisions related to motions that committees brought to the floor. We had daily worship services with great music and sermons. I love attending worship.

When we were not working, I attended several small group meetings related to women involved in Presbytery work. I also attended a luncheon for Ruling Elders. While attending GA, I met some really interesting people.

The program that left the biggest imprint in my heart and in my mind was the “Healing Not Harm: A Walk to End Gun Violence” event. This was part of the General Assembly’s community day. The event started with a gathering at the park on the banks of the river. We had an opportunity to see a Guns to Gardens blacksmith demonstration and hear speakers from the national offices and the area give presentations related to gun violence. A dad shared the life, mental heath challenges and suicide of his teenaged son. The second speaker, a mom who introduced herself, "I used to be the mom of two children who were killed due to gun violence." The two speakers were amazing as they shared their stories. The event ended with a short walk to Milwaukee’s City Hall. Our group encircled the building in prayer and then walked back to the convention center. I had no idea the PC(USA) church is involved so deeply in the "Guns to Gardens" program. I'm going to find a way to be involved in any way I can.

I am honored to have been there and witnessed the living, compassionate work that the PC(USA) is doing from sea to shining sea, from the north to the south and the east to the west.

Respectfully submitted,
Betsy Bond
Ruling Elder Commissioner, 227th General Assembly

Report from Bruce McVey on the 227th General Assembly of the PC(USA)
Milwaukee, Wisconsin, June 22-July 2, 2026

I am Bruce McVey, pastor at First Fayetteville, and it was my distinct honor to serve our presbytery as a Teaching Elder Commissioner at the 227th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

As many of you know, serving as a GA commissioner is both a privilege and a commitment. Most days kept us engaged in worship, committee work, plenary business, debate, discernment, and voting from 8:30 in the morning until nearly 10:00 at night. Yet even through the long hours, technical challenges, and difficult conversations, I experienced a deep spirit of connection, careful listening, and grace.

While we conducted a vast amount of business, one of the most meaningful highlights for me was our time together in worship. Our scriptural theme for the Assembly came from Revelation 22:2: *"The leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations."*

We were deeply blessed by a sermon preached by the Rev. Dr. Kevin Vandiver (ELCA) (https://tinyurl.com/kmcn3fdf). He challenged us with the powerful image of the "Tree of Life" which, defying natural laws, stands on *both* sides of the river of human division. He reminded us that God's power to bridge our deepest social, racial, political, and theological divides is grander than our human limitations, and he called on us as a church to "take our own medicine" of grace and reconciliation rather than just prescribing solutions for others.

When it came to the floor business, the Assembly wrestled with many complex issues facing our church and our world today. Here are a few major action items passed by the 227th General Assembly:

- As is the custom, we tracked the financial implications of our actions daily. The General Assembly per capita rates were officially set at $13.04 for 2027 and $12.72 for 2028.
- The Assembly voted overwhelmingly to host the 228th General Assembly in San Juan, Puerto Rico in 2028. This marks an historic milestone as the first time our highest council will meet on Latin American and Caribbean soil.
- The Assembly voted to fully abolish the historic "Doctrine of Discovery," committing the PC(USA) to ongoing reconciliation and repair alongside Indigenous communities.
- We adopted a social witness policy on Generative AI and created a permanent standing committee to ensure emerging technologies are used ethically and never replace Spirit-led pastoral care or human discernment.

- The Assembly approved the updated *Kairos Palestine II* document; formally recognized the ongoing military destruction in Gaza as genocide, while also denouncing both antisemitism and Islamophobia globally.
- GA approved sending a proposed constitutional amendment to presbyteries establishing a "Senior Ordination Portfolio" as an alternative assessment alongside standard ordination exams. GA also approved mandating anti-racism training every 36 months for teaching elders and commissioned ruling elders.
- The Excellence in Theological Education Awards were presented to Dr. Frances Taylor Gench and Dr. James Hudnut-Beumler for their lifetime contributions to biblical scholarship and pastoral mentorship.
- GA marked 70 years of the ordination of women in our denomination, honoring the witness of trailblazing women such as the Rev. Margaret Towner and the Rev. Dr. Diane Moffett.

Across these actions, I was reminded again of what it means to be Presbyterian. We do not always agree quickly or easily. We amend. We debate. We ask questions. We worry about process, language, budgets, and implications. But at our best, we do these things because we believe Jesus Christ is still at work in the church, and because we trust that the Holy Spirit can guide us through honest conversation toward greater faithfulness.

My time at the 227th General Assembly deepened my gratitude for our connectional church. I am grateful for the commissioners and advisory delegates who listened carefully, spoke courageously, and prayed faithfully. I am grateful for the staff and leaders who guided the General Assembly through complex business. Most of all, I am grateful to the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee for entrusting me with this responsibility and for inviting me to serve at the table of the wider church.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Bruce McVey
Teaching Elder Commissioner, 227th General Assembly

Report from Jim Moran on the 227th General Assembly of the PC(USA)
Milwaukee, Wisconsin, June 22-July 2, 2026

I am Jim Moran, Teaching Elder, and Interim Pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Tullahoma. It was an honor to be sent by the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee as a commissioner to the 227th General Assembly (GA) of the Presbyterian Church (USA). The official Assembly began on Monday, June 22 at 8 a.m. with an online plenary. Afterwards, GA committees gathered online for three days before journeying to the land of cheese, cherries, cranberries, beer, and ginseng.

On Friday, June 26 most of the commissioners flew/drove to Milwaukee, Wisconsin. On Saturday, there were committee lunches to begin our Milwaukee work. I served on the Reformed Identity around the World (RIW) committee. Each day began with worship planned by various committee volunteers. We had eight multi-hour sessions in our three-day meeting. We discussed, deliberated, and voted on 11 overtures from the presbyteries. All six of our MTP commissioners sat together toward the back of the large convention hall - three directly in front of three on the left inside aisle.

Several RIW-approved committee overtures were placed on the consent agenda. One overture requested that the U.S. Congress approve an embargo of Israel until the war in Gaza/Lebanon ended, and another overture named what was going on in Gaza genocide. One of these overtures was amended in RIW committee over the concern rightly expressed about possible violence towards Jews by clearly stating that Israel's government was responsible for the genocide, not the Jewish people. A couple of overtures discussed the Palestinians and their place in the Middle East, including the support of the *Kairos Document* titled "Kairos Palestine – The Palestinian Christian Initiative", subtitled "A Moment of Truth: Faith in a Time of Genocide." We heard remotely from the Reverend Dr. Fahed Abul Akel, himself a Palestinian and the former Moderator of the 2002 GA, having been elected at the 2001 GA in Columbus, Ohio, on these issues at both our RIW committee meeting and plenary as we considered these two overtures. Another overture recommended to request the U.S. Congress to end the embargo with Cuba and reopen trade.

These overtures were a major part of what our GA committee discussed and a part of the approved work of the GA plenary. Some of our overtures were directed at developing a new missiology (RIW-02) and to review the processes that terminated mission co-workers around the world and the PC(USA)'s fiduciary responsibility for the use of funds given for missions. My hope is that there can be compassionate reconciliation with the mission co-workers terminated and our global mission partners affected by these seemingly abrupt terminations.

The Middle Tennessee Presbytery is well represented in the GA by ruling elder Cristi Scott Ligon as Co-Moderator of the Unification Commission (UC). The UC began in 2014 and has had the huge task of reorganizing the national offices. The Assembly ended with the election of co-moderators to preside over the GA228, June 11-22, 2028, in San Juan, Puerto Rico: the Rev. Marta Pumroy-Cordero, border ministry coordinator for the Tres Rios Foundation in Tres Rios Presbytery, and the Rev. Dr. Kristopher D. Schondelmeyer, pastor and head of staff at First Presbyterian Church in Davenport, Iowa.

What a joy to serve!

Report from Mickey Stueck on the 227th General Assembly of the PC(USA)
Milwaukee, Wisconsin, June 22-July 2, 2026

I am Mickey Stueck (she/her), First Presbyterian Church, Lebanon. This was my third GA. My first was to 221st in Detroit (2014) as an observer and 222nd in Portland (2016) as a commissioner. In 2014 and 2016, committee meetings were held in person whereas the 227th committee meetings were held by Zoom.

The theme of this Assembly was "Persevering toward Wholeness". Rev. 22:2 "…and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations."

There were ten committees, and our Presbytery was represented on six.

I served on the Financial Stewardship and Witness committee. We heard from each of the remaining nine committees regarding financial implications of each of the overtures coming through their committees. We discussed the financial implications on future ministries/missions with recommendations and motions to be presented during plenary. Each approved item coming before plenary had the potential to affect per capita and the 2027-2028 budget.

Unlike the other nine committees whose work was completed before plenary, the Financial Stewardship and Social Witness met one more time. After the last plenary on Wednesday night, we met in person to finalize the proposed per capita and 2027-2028 budget. The committee recommended and moved the following to plenary: PL&W per capita* be set at $13.04 for 2027 and $12.72 for 2028 and the 2027-2028 budget of $188.4 million.

Other action items:

- A seven-member commission to investigate the 2025 dissolution of Presbyterian World Missions and termination of some of the staff.
- Proposed Book of Order amendment regarding White Christian Nationalism as a theological error incompatible with the teachings of Jesus.
- Several other proposed Book of Order amendments
- Israel's military actions against Gaza as genocide
- Gender affirming health care and other gender related issues
- Changes to ministry preparation and ordination

Final order of business was the election and installation of the co-moderators: Rev. Marta Pumroy-Cordero and Rev. Doctor Kristopher Schondelmeyer.

The 228th Assembly will be in San Juan, Puerto Rico, in 2028.

It has been an honor to represent the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee at the 227th General Assembly. It is a lot of work and very informative, but well worth the effort. Thank you for the

opportunity. A special highlight for me was to see and visit with three of my friends from my former presbytery.

*“Per capita is an annual apportionment per member requested from congregations.” These funds are used to support the Presbytery, Synod, and PL&W’s ministry/missions.

Mickey Stueck
RE First, Lebanon

2026 General Assembly Commissioner Report
Rev. Mary Sellers Shaw, UKirk Nashville

It was an honor to represent the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee at the 227th General Assembly in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Commissioners, made up of Teaching Elders and Ruling Elders, gathered from every Presbytery in the denomination, first virtually for a week of committee meetings then in person for a week of plenary business. Present also were Young Adult Advisory Delegates, Theological Student Advisory Delegates, Partner Advisory Delegates, and representatives from the denominational office (now named Presbyterian Life & Witness [PLW]) and various stakeholders.

I served on the Climate and Environmental Justice (CLJ) committee, which discussed five overtures. All of our overtures passed with a majority in committee and were approved via the consent agenda in plenary (the only committee to do so). Through CLJ's work, we approved new divestment policies for the denomination to continue previous GA's efforts to divest our funds away from fossil fuels and to seek renewable energy sources instead. We also voted to establish a permanent endowment fund to support environmental concerns called the "Green Future Fund"; provide educational resources about regenerative farming; and adopt a new policy named "Intent, Effect, Haste: Ethical Guidance on Fossil Fuels," as guidance for the PC(USA) in future decision-making about fossil fuels and their use. While I care deeply about climate change and environmental justice, I was not as familiar with the topics CLJ was discussing. This was an interesting and helpful committee to be placed on so that I could deepen my understanding of how we can respond faithfully on a systemic level to environmental concerns, and I'm grateful for the proactive and unified response from the whole assembly.

During plenary, there were several highlights that were interesting to discuss. I was particularly interested to learn about recommendations for ordination guidelines, including potentially allowing a portfolio instead of or in addition to ordination exams. We had many discussions about the repercussions of the denomination's restructuring (previously with the Office of the General Assembly and Presbyterian World Mission being separate entities, now PLW). A potential new confession was presented but was referred for further study and development before returning to the next GA.

Our denomination also committed to making bold statements denouncing white Christian nationalism as well as the genocide in Palestine. We committed new policies for the study of racial justice, LGBTQIA+ advocacy, and other justice issues, continuing our commitment to advocating for the flourishing of all people.

While there were certainly moments we disagreed and challenged one another, there were so many more moments of unity, compassion, and hope. It was a gift to join together with people from across the denomination as we discerned together where God is calling us as individuals and as the Church to live with justice, mercy, and humility in the face of our world today. With prayer and thanksgiving, we continue the work and look forward to the next time we all gather together– 2028 in San Juan, Puerto Rico!

Report from Spencer Truett on the 227th General Assembly of the PC(USA)
Milwaukee, Wisconsin, June 22-July 2, 2026

My name is Spencer Truett, Ruling Elder from First Presbyterian Church of Dickson, TN. This was my first time serving as a commissioner to General Assembly, and I served on the General Assembly Relationships (GAR) Committee.

Our committee's real work started before the Assembly ever convened. The week before Milwaukee, we spent three straight days on Zoom, roughly 14 hours each, getting through the bulk of our docket before we'd even met in person. The item that consumed the most time was GAR-05, the Unification Commission's recommendation for a new Organization for Mission: essentially, how Presbyterian Mission and World Mission's work will be governed, and how the pieces of our denomination relate to each other between Assemblies. It was as complicated as it sounds. We heard from speaker after speaker on both sides, worked through a complex substitute motion, and fielded more than 60 amendments before it was finally settled. Nearly a full day of committee time went into that one item alone. Sitting through it, what struck me wasn't the frustration of it dragging on; it was that this is what the actual work of the church looks like when it's being done carefully: slow, exhausting, occasionally testing everyone's patience, but not a minute of it wasted. When it finally passed, amended, by a unanimous 57-0 vote, the relief was palpable.

GAR-03 was the other item that stuck with me, for a different reason. It concerned the Board of Pensions, and whether the Assembly should establish a formal deliverance or refer the matter for further study. The heat in that debate didn't really come from the committee itself; it came from the advocates representing the Board of Pensions and the Unification Commission, whose exchanges kept devolving into a kind of "he said, he said" that made it obvious there was still real disagreement and miscommunication between the two sides that hadn't been worked out. Those pushing for the minority report wanted to move forward with the original recommendation anyway, disagreements and all. Still, the committee ultimately felt the wiser course was to refer the matter for further study rather than force a resolution before those issues were actually settled. That recommendation to refer carried on the floor of the full Assembly as well. I came away from it thinking about how much of this work depends on people being willing to say "we're not ready" instead of just pushing a vote through when we’re all tired and ready for the day to end.

Upon arriving in Milwaukee, each day of the full Assembly began with worship, and it did a lot to hold everything else together. There's something genuinely moving about a room of hundreds of Presbyterians singing and worshiping at the same time, especially before walking into a day like the ones we were having. Once the gavel came down and business started, the pace didn't really let up. The floor had its own strange emotional rhythm: that little burst of

applause when a motion passed unanimously, and right behind it, the small groan we'd all let out together when a vote everyone assumed would be unanimous fell one short and robbed us of the chance to clap. We worked through a packed docket all week, plenty of overtures, reports, and routine business that never makes the news but still takes real time and real care to get right. We tackled numerous items of business that came to the floor, listened to countless motions both for and against with passionate voices on both sides, engaged in thoughtful discernment, and came away with a heightened appreciation for the phrase "I move to call the question." Notably, in a vote that's already made news well beyond our denomination, the Assembly adopted RIW-04, declaring that the government of Israel has violated international law prohibiting genocide in its war in Gaza, alongside RIW-10, commending the Kairos Palestine II document for study in our congregations and presbyteries. Watching the whole Assembly wrestle publicly with something that consequential, and do it together, was a reminder of just how much weight our collective voice carries when we're actually willing to use it.

Honestly, though, what I'll remember most didn't happen on the floor at all. It was the conversations, with Teaching and Ruling Elders from presbyteries all over the country, hearing how their churches are wrestling with the same things ours is, or hearing about something they're doing that I want to take home with me. It reframed what I think of as a "small church," sitting next to people whose churches and presbyteries are a fraction of the size of Middle Tennessee's. The days were long enough to test anyone's patience. Fourteen hours in a convention chair is its own kind of spiritual discipline. Some of the best moments, though, happened apart from the deliberation on the floor: cutting up with our own Presbytery's commissioners at our table, a late-night drink at the hotel bar, a shared meal at the German beerhall working off the day. I left Milwaukee with friendships I expect to keep for a long time.

Serving as a first-time commissioner was an honor, and more of an education than I expected. I'm grateful to the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee for the chance to represent our churches, and for the chance to sit at that much larger table.

Respectfully submitted,

Spencer Truett

Report from Erin Bell, Temporary Stated Clerk, on the 227th General Assembly of the PC(USA)
Milwaukee, Wisconsin, June 22-July 2, 2026

It was my distinct honor to represent the Presbytery as Temporary Stated Clerk during the 227th General Assembly. My primary role was caretaker for the Presbytery's commissioners, ensuring that everyone had what they needed to complete their work.

On the Saturday before GA business commenced, I joined RE Betsy Bond in attending "Healing not Harm: A Walk to End Gun Violence". The event began with a rally where speakers shared personal experiences and calls to action. We observed a blacksmith transforming weapons into art. The event concluded with a march to City Hall. It was very moving to encircle the building and pray for the people and policies needed to enact meaningful change. The event was well-organized, and served as a public witness of the values of the PC(USA).

On Sunday, RE Mickey Stueck and I attended worship at Calvary Presbyterian Church, the "Big Red Church" in downtown Milwaukee. As a member of a downtown church with unique architecture, I was overjoyed to worship in this historic space. Members of the church provided lunch (brats with beer or not) and provided us with the utmost hospitality. I felt it most strongly on Sunday, but the worship services throughout the week were times to set business to the side and simply be in community with fellow Presbyterians.

I spent the bulk of my time during plenary in my assigned seat in the area designated for Stated Clerks and Executive Presbyters to observe the proceedings. I learned quite a bit about parliamentary procedure that I hope will enable me to better serve this Presbytery. It was very informative to see how per capita is used to further the mission and ministries of the PC(USA). Listening without a vote offers a unique perspective on the process. I enjoyed the discussion, the points & counterpoints, the care & attention given to each item of business. Everything was done with deliberation and intention. It was exciting to clap and cheer when motions were approved unanymously, but I most enjoyed the hearty round of applause that each committee received when their final reports were submitted. You could feel a particular kind of joy or pride when a committee stood to be recognized.

Outside of plenary, I attended multiple events with Mid Council colleagues, a Ruling Elder luncheon with two of our commissioners, and a Mid Council breakfast featuring speaker Robert P. Jones on the topic of intersectionality in religion, culture, and public policy. I was also fortunate to share several meals with the PMT Commissioners. These were wonderful opportunities to hear their perspectives on the process and reflections on completed business.

In the coming months, I will be reporting official business from General Assembly that will merit your consideration. Many of these items are highlighted in the GA reports of your commissioners and the summary provided by *The Presbyterian Outlook*. The work of the

General Assembly will soon expand, and Presbyteries will be asked to make decisions with delibration and intention. For now, I extend my gratitude to you for giving me the invitation to attend, to learn, to worship, to observe, to collaborate, and to serve.

Respectfully submitted,
Erin Bell
Temporary Stated Clerk
Presbytery of Middle Tennessee

2025 Presbytery Statistical Report

Attachment D
PMT 2025 Statistics

Presbytery	**Middle Tennessee**		
Address	**1113 Murfreesboro Road, Suite 106, #216, Franklin, TN 37064**		
Phone	**615-332-3330**	**Fax**	
Email	**sc@pbymidtn.org**		
Web Site	**https://pbymidtn.org/**		
Membership			
Prior Active Members	**14605**	Adjusted membership	**14723**
Gains		**Losses**	
Certificate	**160**	Certificate	**137**
Youth Professions	**78**	Deaths	**145**
Professions & Reaffirmations	**179**	Deleted for any Other Reason	**368**
Total Gains	**417**	**Total Losses**	**650**
Total Ending Active Members	**14490**		
Baptisms		Average Weekly Worship Attendance	**4671**
Presented by Others	**89**	Friends of the Congregation	**1918**
At Confirmation	**19**	Ruling Elders on Session	**459**
All Other	**24**	Do you have Deacons? Yes / No	**8 / 47**
Age Distribution of Active Members		**People with Disabilities**	
17 & Under	**632**	Hearing impairment	**285**
18 - 25	**1021**	Sight impairment	**128**
26 - 40	**2457**	Mobility impairment	**276**
41 - 55	**2477**	Other impairment	**337**
56 - 70	**3248**		
Over 70	**3104**	**Gender Distribution**	
Total Age Distribution	**12939**	Women	**7166**
		Men	**5801**
		Non-Binary	**19**
Youth in Congregation			
Age 4 and under	**454**	Middle School (6th – 8th grade)	**393**
Elementary School (K-5th grade)	**770**	High School (9th – 12th grade)	**576**
		Total Youth	**2193**
Racial Ethnic			
Asian/Pacific Islander/South Asian	**459**	Native American/Alaska Native/Indigenous	**2**
Black/African American/African	**73**	White	**12362**
Middle Eastern/North African	**5**	Multiracial	**252**
Hispanic/Latino-a	**55**		
		Total Racial Ethnic	**13208**
Budgeted Income	**31,415,176**		
Budgeted Expense	**33,547,039**		
Receipts			
Regular Contributions	**21,610,347**	Bequests	**2,931,259**
Capital Building Fund	**728,854**	Other Income	**8,063,983**
Investment Income	**4,747,058**	Subsidy or Aid	**53,365**
Expenditures			
Local Program	**25,792,988**	Investment Expenditures	**324,754**
Local Mission	**1,860,758**	Per Capital Apprt	**326,288**
Capital Expenditures	**3,393,545**	Other Mission	**522,469**

Attachment E

PMT Stated Meeting Roll
August 6, 2026 Bellevue, Nashville

Teaching Elders

_E_Adams, Chris
_E_Anderson, David
_E_Anderson, Rosanna
_E_Angel, Erin Howton
_E_Angel, Jonathan
_P_Arnold, Gage
_E_Arnold, Judith
_E_Bagley, Tom
_P_Bellis, Eddie
_P_Berger, Will
_E_Berry, Claire
_E_Bradley, Michael
_E_Bray, Linda
_P_Bryan, Mark S.
_E_Burgener, John "Bo"
_E_Caldwell, Elizabeth
_E_Canon, Amelia
_E_Casner, Paul
_E_Catoe, Lee
_E_Cejka, III, Joseph
_E_Cheetham, John T.
_E_Chuquimia, Teddy
_E_Coates, Coleman Lewis
_E_Cox, Meredith
_E_Crawford, John
_E_Danner, Charles
_E_Davis, Michael
_P_DeVries, Adam
_E_DeVries, Mark
_E_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
_P_Graham, M. Evelyn
_P_Griffith, Guy D.
_E_Gung, Justin
_P_Gunter, Keith
_E_Hamman, Jaco
_P_Hammond, Mallory
_E_Handlson, Pat
_P_Hanson Boaz, Stephanie
_E_Harding, Bobby
_E_Harrell, James E.
_P_Harris Kramer, Claire
_E_Hermann, Lisa C.
_P_Herring, Jane
_E_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
_E_Hughes, Sally
_P_Huie, Scott
_P_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
_P_Kennedy, Darren
_E_Kidd, David
_E_Kim, Eun Joo
_P_Kim, Il Sun
_E_Klein, Candice
_E_Kneff, Sarah Bird
_E_Knight, Carolyn
_P_Larson, John
_E_Leftwich, Phil
_E_Lipsey, McCurdy
_E_Logan, Gail
_P_Loscuito, Jason
_E_Magee, Michael J.
_E_Mayes, Jim
_P_McCaw, Beth
_E_McClure, Annie
_E_McCormack, Robert E.
_E_McCullough, John
_E_McKinsey Sisk, Sally Ann
_P_McLaughlin, Michael D.
_E_McVey, Bruce
_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
_E_Paddon, Richard
_E_Page, Fred
_P_Park, Inhye
_E_Paterik, Roy
_E_Patton, Tom
_E_Pentecost, Mike
_E_Picard, John Paul
_E_Ramirez-Jimenez, Lilia M.
_P_Randleman, Sandra
_P_Rector, Stacy
_E_Ritchie, Jeff
_E_Ritchie, Megan
_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
_P_Shaw, Mary Sellers
_E_Skelly, John J., III
_E_Smith, Jimmy D.
_P_Smith, John A.
_P_Smith, Shane
_E_Soderquist, Ann
_P_Speer, Roger
_E_Stoker, Amy B.
_E_Tate, Carol
_P_Tennyson, Walt
_E_Thomas, C. S. (Steve) III
_E_Thomas, Ray
_E_Thompson, C.J.
_E_Thompson, Marjorie
_E_Todd, John
_P_Traylor, Leslie
_E_Tuck, Janet
_E_Tyndall, Thomas B.
_E_Vasquez-Paredes, Gustavo
_E_Veazey, Courtnay
_P_Venable, III, Sid
_E_Wallace, Morgan
_P_Warren, Joy
_E_Weingartner, Robert J.
_E_Wellman, Will
_E_White, Jack
_E_White, Linda
_E_Wilson, Amos L.
_E_Woolsey, Patrick
_E_Yang, Sunggu
_P_Young, Taylor
_E_Zeigler, Richard

P - Present
E – Excused
A – Absent
I – Inactive

Ruling Elder Commissioners

Church	Represented By
Alexandria, Liberty Hill	1.
Allardt, First	1.
Alpine, Christ	1.
Ardmore, Bethany	1.
Belfast, Belfast	1.
Bethpage, Oak Grove	1.
Brentwood, East	1. Lavona Russell
	2.
	3.
Brentwood, Harpeth	1.
	2.
	3.
Buffalo Valley, Buffalo Valley	1. DeeDee Lopes
Clarksville, First	1. Mary Johnson
	2. Phil Kemmerly
	3. Doug Young
	4. Illegible
Clarksville, Macedonia	1.
Columbia, First	1. Jim Mayfield
	2.
	3.
	4.
Columbia, Westminster	1.
Cookeville, Double Springs	1.
Cookeville, First	1.
	2.
	3.
Cookeville, Post Oak	1.
Cowan, Fellowship	1.
Crossville, Calvary	1. Judy Venable
Dickson, First	1. Spencer Truett
	2.
	3.
Dickson, Pond	1.
Fairfield Glade, Westminster	1.
Fayetteville, First	1. Illegible
	2.
	3.
Franklin, First	1. Rich Crim
	2. Judi Arnold
	3. Dan Crunk
	4. Stan Nolan
Franklin, Historic	1. Anita Passarells
	2.
	3.
Gallatin, First	1. Theresa Ball
Gallatin, Sudanese	1.
	2.
Hendersonville, First	1. Scott B.
	2.
	3.

Church	Represented By
Hendersonville, New Creation	1.
	2.
	3.
	4.
Hermitage, Hermitage	1. Margaret Cantrell
Lawrenceburg, First	1.
Lebanon, First	1.
	2.
	3.
Lebanon, Spring Creek	1.
Lewisburg, Bethberei	1.
Lewisburg, First	1. Teresa Burns
	2.
	3.
Lynnville, First	1.
Manchester, First	1.
McMinnville, First	1.
Mt. Pleasant, First	1.
Murfreesboro, First	1. Rogers Harrison
	2. Illegible
	3. Paula Stow
	4. Katie Peachey
Murfreesboro, Northminster	1. Larry McElroy
Nashville, Bellevue	1. Linda Bozza
	2. Anne Clarke
	3. Beth Derrick
Nashville, Donelson	1.
	2.
	3.
Nashville, Downtown	1. Dixie Williamson
Nashville, Eastminster	1.
	2.
Nashville, Emmanuel	1. Barbara Halverstadt
Nashville, First	1. Denise Bellardo
	2. Ron Pasquale
	3. Jane Smith
	4.
	5.
Nashville, Glen Leven	1. Cheryl Cunningham
	2. Maxine Rowe
	3.
Nashville, Glencliff	1.
Nashville, Hillsboro	1. Dixon Witherspoon
	2.
	3.
	4.
Nashville, Hillwood	1. Bob Cooper
Nashville, Korean	1.
	2.
	3.
	4.
Nashville, Priest Lake	1. Nancy Loudermilk

Ruling Elder Commissioners

Church	Represented By
Nashville, Second	1. Ron McNutt
	2. David Stone
	3. Laura Denison
	4. Diana Nelson
Nashville, Southminster	1.
Nashville, St. Andrews	1. Charles D. Jordan
	2. Kenneth T. McClellan
Nashville, Trinity	1. Vira Baker
Nashville, Westminster	1. Ken Garrison
	2. Ward DeWitt
	3. Kate Griffin
	4. Kirsten Crosby
	5.
Nashville, Woodland	1. Brett Withers
Normandy, Normandy	1. Claudia Hazelwood
Old Hickory, Old Hickory	1.
Petersburg, First	1.
Pulaski, First	1. Brent Stoker
	2.
	3.
Readyville, Cripple Creek	1.
Shelbyville, First	1. Aaron Crafton
	2.
	3.
Smyrna, First	1. Paul S.
Sparta, Blue Spring	1.
Sparta, Hickory Valley	1.
Sparta, Robinson Chapel	1.
Spring Hill, First	1.
	2.
	3.
Springfield, First	1.
Springfield, Milldale	1.
Thompson Station, Bethesda	1.
Tullahoma, First	1. Alan Harris
	2. Doug Thomas
	3.
Watertown, First	1.
Waverly, Ellis Grove	1.

Commissioned Ruling Elders

Rhonda Banasiak (Clarksville, First)
Anne Keener (Franklin, First)

Ruling Elders, Voice and Vote by Virtue of Office:

Erin Bell (Nashville, Downtown), PMT Temp. Stated Clerk
Betsy Bond (Nashville, Trinity), Member of Admin.
George Crawford (Nashville, Westminster), Member of Finance and PAC
Debbie Fraley (Fayetteville, First), Member of PAC
Suzanne McLemore (Nashville, Westminster), Admin. and Moderator-in-Nomination
Dave Nock (Nashville, Priest Lake), Chair of Committee on Leadership Excellence
Hal Sauer (Nashville, First) Member of Finance
Mickey Stueck (Lebanon, First), Co-Chair of COM
Diane Thurston (Hermitage, Hermitage) Moderator of Presbyterian Women
Chris Williams (Pulaski, First), Member of Admin.

Moderator within five years of office:

N/A

Corresponding Members, Voice, without Vote:

N/A

Visitors with voice:

Suzanne Cornett (Presbyterian Home for Children)
Keenan Rodgers (Board of Pensions of Presbyterian Church)

Visitors:

Joseph P. Cowden
Bette Schnitzer
Ken Engel
Caroline Engel
Randy Cox
George S.
Teresa Parrish
Janet Tudor
Mary Allen
Emma Rose
H. Knight
Jordan Knight
Taylor Knight
Austin Knight
Sally B.
Shirley Puckett
Judy Tygard
Ruth Ann Drake
D. McElroy
H. D.
Laura Marzano
Phillip Dean
Heather Tudor
Steve Tudor
Karen Bullock
John Edmonds
Paula Childers
Elliott W. Robinson
Chandler Meador
Amanda Cooper
Mike Childers
Gary Head

PRESBYTERY OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE
MINUTES OF CALLED MEETING
SEPTEMBER 30, 2026

A Called Meeting of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee (PMT) was held electronically via Zoom at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 30th, 2026.

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

Temporary Stated Clerk Erin Bell provided the Zoom meeting protocol for attendees. The poll feature within Zoom was used to verify attendance and confirm a quorum. Moderator Chris Williams called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m. and opened with prayer.

Moderator Williams declared a quorum was present. The Presbytery's Mission and Operations Manual provides that a called meeting may be held providing the Administrative Committee has called it by submitting the call in writing to the Stated Clerk and the call has gone out 7 days before the meeting. The quorum for called meetings is 12 Teaching Elders and 12 Ruling Elders from different congregations. 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].

AGENDA

Ms. Bell clarifed that two proposed motions from the Administrative Committee were withdrawn prior to the meeting. The Moderator stated that the only items of business which could be properly considered were the approval of the sale of the property of the former First Presbyterian Church of Mt. Pleasant, the dissolution of Woodland Presbyterian Church, and the dissolution of Belfast Presbyterian Church. Each of these business items were stated in the call.

OFFER TO PURCHASE PROPERTY

The Moderator recognized RE Melinda Sanders, Chair of the Permanent Administrative Commission, to speak to the business at hand. The congregation of First Presbyterian Church of Mt. Pleasant previously voted to close the church and held their last service on December 28, 2025. On May 2nd, 2026, the Presbytery voted to dissolve the congregation.

RE Sanders then stated the following motion: The Permanent Administrative Commission moves that the Presbytery agree to sell the building and property that was the former First Presbyterian Church of Mt. Pleasant, Tennessee for $520,000; and in order to facilitate that sale, the Trustees and the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery be authorized to sign the necessary paperwork. The Moderator noted that the motion is from a commission of the Presbytery and does not require a second, then asked for discussion. There was none. The motion carried.

DISSOLUTION OF WOODLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, NASHVILLE

The Moderator recognized RE Melinda Sanders and RE George Crawford, members of the PAC, to speak to the business at hand.

RE Crawford offered a brief overview of the PAC's process of dissolving Woodland Presbyterian Church. Earlier this year, the congregation requested to begin the process of dissolution. Their

last service was held on March 29th, 2026. The congregation has been worshipping at The Downtown Presbyerian Church of Nashville since Easter. The Sessions of both churches have approved a Memorandum of Understanding. RE Crawford commended the Sessions of Woodland and Downtown for their thoughtful diligence in merging their congregations.

RE Sanders then stated the following motion: In accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding between the two churches, the PAC moves that Woodland Presbyterian Church be dissolved, its rolls be transferred to The Downtown Presbyterian Church, and that the proceeds of its property, once sold, will be transferred to The Downtown Presbyterian Church.

The Moderator noted that the motion is from a commission of the Presbytery and does not require a second, then asked for discussion. A member spoke in favor of the motion, noting the connection between the congregations seems very positive and beneficial to them both. There being no further discussion, the motion carried.

DISSOLUTION OF BELFAST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, BELFAST

The Moderator recognized RE Melinda Sanders to speak to the business at hand. The Belfast Presbyterian Church congregation voted to close and have its last worship service on October 4, 2026. Their intention is merge with another PMT church in the immediate vicinity. The PAC informed the Presbytery that in the interim, and in accordance with their charge, they had taken Original Jurisdiction of Belfast Presbyterian Church.

RE Sanders stated the following motion: The PAC moves that Belfast Presbyterian Church be dissolved as of October 4, 2026, that its rolls transferred to the Presbytery, and that the assets accumulated by the PAC including the sale of its property be held by the Presbytery until such time as a Memorandum of Understanding can be worked out.

The Moderator noted that the motion is from a commission of the Presbytery and does not require a second, then asked for discussion. There was none. The motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

The Moderator thanked everyone for their time and asked for a motion to adjourn. It was seconded and passed unanimously. The Moderator announced that the next stated meeting of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee will be held on Saturday, November 7th at First Presbyterian Church in Franklin, TN. Rev. Bruce McVey closed the meeting with prayer. The Moderator declared the meeting adjourned at 1:26 p.m.

Attachment A
September 30, 2026 Called Meeting Roll

Teaching Elders

_P_Adams, Chris
___Anderson, David
_P_Anderson, Rosanna
___Angel, Erin Howton
___Angel, Jonathan
___Arnold, Gage
___Arnold, Judith
___Bagley, Tom
___Bellis, Eddie
___Berger, Will
_P_Berry, Claire
___Bradley, Michael
___Bray, Linda
_P_Bryan, Mark S.
___Burgener, John "Bo"
___Caldwell, Elizabeth
___Canon, Amelia
___Casner, Paul
___Catoe, Lee
___Cejka, III, Joseph
___Cheetham, John T.
___Chuquimia, Teddy
___Coates, Coleman Lewis
___Cox, Meredith
___Crawford, John
___Danner, Charles
_P_Davis, Michael
___DeVries, Adam
___DeVries, Mark
___Drake, Donovan
___Durnell, Warner R.
___Early, Kim Maphis
___Early, Robert
_P_Edington, Sherard
___Eisenmenger, David
___Fraser, Carrie
___Gasser, Anna D.
___Gay, Andy
___Gerber, David
___Gilliam, Elizabeth
___Gilliss, Martha Schull
_P_Glover, Gregory
___Glover, Leslie
___Gordon, Stuart
___Graham, M. Evelyn
___Griffith, Guy D.
___Gung, Justin
___Gunter, Keith
___Hamman, Jaco
___Hammond, Mallory
___Handlson, Pat
___Hanson Boaz, Stephanie
___Harding, Bobby
___Harrell, James E.
___Harris Kramer, Claire
___Hermann, Lisa C.
___Herring, Jane
___Higgins, Ashley
___Hill, Austin
___Hill, Ellen
_P_Hill, Sara
_P_Hilley, John R.
_P_Hinkle, Jr., John
___Hodgson, Peter
___Hoechst, Jeanne
___Hong, Jooyoung
___Hudnut-Beumler, Heidi
___Hudnut-Beumler, James
___Hughes, Sally
_P_Huie, Scott
___Hunter, Jeannie
___Johnson, Charles N.
___Jones, Todd B.
___Kang, Se Bong
___Kang, Shin
___Kaufman, John E.
___Kelly, Gary
___Kennedy, Darren
___Kidd, David
___Kim, Eun Joo
_P_Kim, Il Sun
___Klein, Candice
_P_Kneff, Sarah Bird
___Knight, Carolyn
___Larson, John
___Leftwich, Phil
___Lipsey, McCurdy
___Loscuito, Jason
___Logan, Gail
___Magee, Michael J.
___Mayes, Jim
___McCaw, Beth
___McClure, Annie
___McCormack, Robert E.
___McCullough, John
___McKinsey Sisk, Sally A.
_P_McLaughlin, Michael D.
_P_McVey, Bruce
___Montgomery, Robert
___Moore, Ryan
_P_Moran, James A.
_P_Muse, Perry
___Musgrave, John
___Musick, Steve
___Nally, Sara
___Neil, Richard
___Newsom, Ernest B.
___Nichols, James A.
___Nyhuis, Jule
___Paddon, Richard
___Page, Fred
___Park, Inhye
___Paterik, Roy
___Patton, Tom
___Pentecost, Mike
___Picard, John Paul
___Ramirez-Jimenez, Lilia
___Randleman, Sandra
___Rector, Stacy
___Ritchie, Jeff
___Ritchie, Megan
___Rogers-Vaughn, Annette
___Rouquie, Richard
___Salyer, Carson
___Salyer, Janet
_P_Sasser, Zach
___Sawyer, David
___Schultz, Harris
___Schwartz, Cindy
___Shaw, Mary Sellers
___Skelly, John J., III
___Smith, Jimmy D.
_P_Smith, John A.
___Smith, Shane
___Soderquist, Ann
___Speer, Roger
_P_Stoker, Amy B.
___Tate, Carol
___Tennyson, Walt
_P_Thomas, C. S. (Steve) III
___Thomas, Ray
___Thompson, C.J.
___Thompson, Marjorie
___Todd, John
___Traylor, Leslie
___Tuck, Janet
___Tyndall, Thomas B.
___Vasquez-Paredes, Gustavo
_P_Veazey, Courtnay
___Venable, III, Sid
___Wallace, Morgan
_P_Warren, Joy
___Weingartner, Robert J.
___Wellman, Will
___White, Jack
___White, Linda
___Wilson, Amos L.
___Woolsey, Patrick
___Yang, Sunggu
___Young, Taylor
___Zeigler, Richard

P - Present
E – Excused
A – Absent
I – Inactive

Ruling Elder Commissioners

Church	Represented By
Alexandria, Liberty Hill	1.
Allardt, First	1.
Alpine, Christ	1.
Ardmore, Bethany	1.
Belfast, Belfast	1.
Bethpage, Oak Grove	1.
Brentwood, East	1. Lavona Russell
	2.
	3.
Brentwood First	1.
Brentwood, Harpeth	1.
	2.
	3.
Buffalo Valley	1. DeeDee Lopes
Clarksville, First	1.
	2.
	3.
	4.
Clarksville, Macedonia	1.
Columbia, First	1.
	2.
	3.
	4.
Columbia, Westminster	1.
Cookeville, Double Springs	1.
Cookeville, First	1.
	2.
	3.
Cookeville, Post Oak	1.
Cowan, Fellowship	1.
Crossville, Calvary of Big Lick	1.
Dickson, First	1.
	2.
	3.
Dickson, Pond	1.
Fairfield Glade, Westminster	1.
Fayetteville, First	1.
	2.
	3.
Franklin, First	1.
	2
	3.
	4.
Franklin, Historic	1.
	2.
	3.
Gallatin, First	1.
Gallatin, Sudanese	1.
	2.
Hendersonville, First	1. Howard Renton
	2.
	3.
Hendersonville, New Creation	1.
	2.

Church	Represented By
Hendersonville, New Creation	3.
	4.
Hermitage, Hermitage	1.
Lawrenceburg, First	1.
Lebanon, First	1.
	2.
	3.
Lebanon, Spring Creek	1.
Lewisburg, Bethberei	1.
Lewisburg, First	1.
	2.
	3.
Lynnville, First	1.
Manchester, First	1.
McMinnville, First	1.
Milton, Hopewell	1.
Mt. Pleasant, First	1.
Murfreesboro, First	1.
	2.
	3.
	4.
Murfreesboro, Northminster	1.
Nashville, Bellevue	1.
	2.
	3.
Nashville, Donelson	1.
	2.
	3.
Nashville, Downtown	1. Dixie Williamson
Nashville, Eastminster	1. Connie Hamblen
	2.
Nashville, Emmanuel	1.
Nashville, First	1.
	2.
	3.
	4.
	5.
Nashville, Glen Leven	1.
	2.
	3.
Nashville, Glencliff	1.
Nashville, Hillsboro	1.
	2.
	3.
	4.
Nashville, Hillwood	1.
Nashville, Korean	1.
	2.
	3.

	4.
Nashville, Priest Lake	1. Amy Aviles
Nashville, Second	1. Priscilla Coe
	2.
	3.
	4.

Church	**Represented By**
Nashville, Southminster	1.
Nashville, St. Andrews	1.
	2.
Nashville, Trinity	1. Jacqueline Elbert
Nashville, Westminster	1.
	2.
	3.
	4.
	5.
Nashville, Woodland	1. Brett Withers
Normandy, Normandy	1.
Old Hickory, Old Hickory	1.
Petersburg, First	1.
Pulaski, First	1.
	2.
	3.
Readyville, Cripple Creek	1.
Shelbyville, First	1.
	2.
	3.
Smyrna, First	1.
Sparta, Blue Spring	1.
Sparta, Hickory Valley	1.
Sparta, Robinson Chapel	1.
Spring Hill, First	1.
	2.
	3.
Springfield, First	1.
Springfield, Milldale	1.
Thompson Station, Bethesda	1.
Tullahoma, First	1.
	2.
	3.
Watertown, First	1.
Waverly, Ellis Grove	1.

Commissioned Ruling Elders
Amy Harkness (Belfast, Belfast)
Leonard Jordan (Nashville, St. Andrews)
Anne Keener (Franklin, First)

Ruling Elders, Voice and Vote by Virtue of Office:
Chris Williams (Pulaski, First) PMT Moderator
Melinda Sanders (Nashville, Woodland), PAC
George Crawford (Nashville, Westminster), PAC
Debbie Fraley (Fayetteville, First), PAC
Allen Kennedy (First, Nashville), PAC
Mickey Stueck (Lebanon, First), Chair of COM
Dave Nock (Nashville, Priest Lake), Chair of CLE
Kathy Corlew (Murfreesboro, First), Admin. Committee
Hal Sauer (Nashville, First), Finance Committee
Erin Bell (Nashville, Downtown), PMT Temp. Stated Clerk

Moderator within five years of office:
N/A

Corresponding Members, Voice, without Vote:
N/A

Ruling Elders with Voice:
Rory Womack (First, Cookeville) PMT Staff

Visitors with Voice:

Visitors without Voice: