



## MID-TENN

Presbytery of Middle Tennessee E-Newsletter



"You are dust, and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19)



### STATISTICAL REPORT DEADLINES

The deadlines to file your statistical reports are as follows:

**Thursday, February 15**  
*(to file reports online)*

**Friday, March 2**  
*(for Stated Clerk to enter data for you)*

To file your reports online, please [click here](#).

If your login ID and password are needed, please contact Linda Griffis at the Presbytery office, 615-332-3330

February 2018

### Presbytery of Middle Tennessee Summary of the 132nd Stated Meeting February 3, 2018 First Presbyterian Church, Columbia

The Presbytery of Middle Tennessee met on Saturday, February 3, 2018, at First Presbyterian Church, Columbia. The February stated meeting is usually a busy meeting, and this proved true again. Members of the host church greeted commissioners with instructions for parking, directions on getting around the building, and gracious hospitality at registration. An orientation for first time commissioners was provided by Executive Presbyter Warner Durnell and Stated Clerk Therese Howell.



Rev. Dr. William Williamson, preaching

The sermon, "Distance Makes No Difference" based on Ephesians 2:11-22, as well as leading commissioners in a recitation of the 23rd Psalm.

Executive Presbyter Warner Durnell, Dr. Gordon, and Ms. Howell led the service of installation for 2018 Moderator, Ruling Elder Ed Lancaster and Vice-Moderator The Rev. Dr. Carol Tate. An offering of \$1,621.00 was collected for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Hunger Program in Honor of Barbara Howell. Holy



Installation of 2018 Moderator and Vice-Moderator

If you have any questions, please contact Therese Howell, Stated Clerk at [thehowell@aol.com](mailto:thehowell@aol.com)

**Dr. Rubye P. Torrey  
Memorial Service  
February 17, 2018  
First Presbyterian  
Church, Nashville**



A Memorial Service for Dr. Rubye P. Torrey is slated for Saturday, February 17, 2018 in the Sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church, Nashville (4815 Franklin Road). Pre-Service Music begins at 10:15AM with Service following at 11AM; a lunch repass buffet will be in the Fellowship Hall after the service.



*New Book of Common Worship coming in 2018, to read more go to the [PCUSA Mission Agency Website](http://www.pcusa.org/mission)*

*The Book of Common Worship, 2018 edition, will be published in 3 editions in Spring 2018.*

**The Institute of**

Communion was celebrated, with Dr. Williamson and Dr. Tate serving at the table. Special music was provided by the choir of First Presbyterian Church, Columbia, directed by Marcy Lay and Eric Wyse, organist.



**Outgoing 2017 Moderator,  
Dr. Stuart Gordon**  
*Picture by Leonard Jordan*

from the meeting.

Dr. Gordon was thanked for his service as 2017 Moderator. Rev. Durnell gifted Dr. Gordon with an assortment of bow ties, and the presbytery provided an engraved pewter julep cup. Moderator Lancaster spoke of his upcoming year of service, and reported that commissioners to the 132nd stated meeting of the presbytery would be able to tour the adjacent Polk Home for half price on Saturday upon presentation of their name tag

The presbytery approved changes to the [Mission and Operations Manual](#), and approved the [2018 budget](#). The presbytery honored Ruling Elder Barbara Howell for her 17 years of service as presbytery's Hunger Action Advocate with the adoption of a [resolution](#). Rev. Steve Thomas, Chair of the Committee on Mutual Support, presented Mrs. Howell with flowers and a gift to celebrate her service.

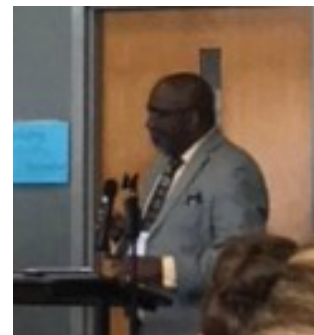


**Honoring Retirement  
of Barbara Howell**  
*Picture by Leonard Jordan*

The presbytery received reports from the Committee on Church Transformation, the Committee on Leadership Excellence, and the Committee on Preparation for Ministry.

Ruling Elder Leonard Jordan and The Rev. Martha Gilliss, presbytery's commissioners to the Synod of Living Waters, reported on the synod's recent meeting, and Elder Jordan's installation as 2018 Moderator of the Synod.

The Committee on Ministry's recommendation was debated in executive session. The meeting came out of executive session, and the Moderator reported that the COM's recommendation was not approved, and the presbytery approved a process for restoration of Rev. Handlson.



*Leonard Jordan moderating  
Synod January 2018 Meeting*

Rev. Durnell led the presbytery in sharing concerns, celebrations, and announcements. The Moderator announced the 133rd Stated Meeting of the presbytery would be held on Thursday, May 3, 2018, at First Presbyterian Church, Tullahoma. The meeting was adjourned at 3pm after a closing prayer by the Moderator.

**PRESBYTERY'S CAMPUS MINISTRIES ATTEND  
COLLEGE CONFERENCE AT MONTREAT**

*by Lindsey Groves,  
UKIRK Nashville  
Campus Minister*

Innovative Faith-  
Based Leadership  
Belmont University



**EXECUTIVE  
CERTIFICATE  
PROGRAM - LEVEL  
3**

**February 12, 2018  
thru March 19, 2018**

Institute for Innovative Faith-Based Leadership at Belmont University seeks to provide on-going training and education for faith-based leaders who want to sharpen their ministry skills. For a list of the classes they are offering this Spring, [click here](#).

To register, [click here](#)

**Committee Meeting  
Dates**

**CE Brown Bag**  
Monday, February 12,  
@ 11:30 am  
Presbytery office

**Committee on  
Ministry**  
Tuesday, February 13  
@ 4:00 pm  
Presbytery Office

**Administrative  
Committee**  
Thursday, February  
15  
@ 1:00 pm

**Finance Committee**  
Thursday, February  
15  
@ 2:30 pm

Two of our presbytery's campus ministries, representing four schools (Belmont, Lipscomb, MTSU and Vanderbilt), happily attended the annual College Conference at Montreat the first week of January.

We enjoyed being in a more than packed house with friends from all over the country... to give you an idea of the growth of the conference



in the last decade: all of the housing that Montreat has available for College Conference is booked in the first hour it becomes available! The theme for this year's conference was "HOME" and we worshipped and discussed with enthusiasm our many understandings of welcome, safety, and what it means to be at home. In that spirit, we enjoyed a special time of fellowship with



other campus ministries in our home state, including students from schools in Memphis, Knoxville, and Chattanooga (as seen in the silly picture... we were such a big group it

was difficult to get a clear picture :). If you know a college student, here in Tennessee, or away, please be sure to let a campus minister in our presbytery know! UKirk, the PCUSA and CPC campus ministry network, has chapters at many universities and we'd love to see even more folks at Montreat next year!



**SAVE THE DATE!!**

2018 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women  
August 2-5, 2018  
Louisville, Kentucky

Visit [website](#) for registration and more information

**Links of Interest**

[Now What? Making mission matter today.](#) (A hands-on, hearts-in conference about being the church in the

**Executive Presbyter  
Search Committee**

Thursday, February  
15 @ 4:00 pm

**Committee on  
Preparation for  
Ministry**

Tuesday, February 27  
@ 4:00 pm  
First, Nashville

21st century. March 23-24, 2018 at NaCoMe Camp and  
Retreat Center)

[Breaking the Silence: Addressing Youth Substance  
Abuse](#) (hosted by East Brentwood Presbyterian Church  
and Holy Family Catholic Church on February 25, 2018  
(3-5 pm) at Holy Family Catholic Church)

[NaCoMe Camp and Retreat Center](#)

[UKIRK Nashville](#)

[Presbyterian Disaster Assistance](#)

[Montreat Conference Center](#)

*You receiving this e-newsletter because you are a member or friend of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee or one of its congregations.*

**Disclaimer:**

*Articles and events that appear in the e-newsletter are believed to be of interest to some segments of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee. However, these articles and events are not necessarily endorsed by the Presbytery.*

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