

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY
Report to the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee
17 May 2014

Information:

1. COM is working to improve the process relating to pastoral calls. Part of that process will feature more extensive reference checking by PNCs and not allow Teaching Elders 'to take the field' prior to a full Presbytery exam. These added steps will doubtless result in more called Presbytery meetings in order to exam those called to new work in a timely manner.
2. Following a request by Franklin First, COM representatives met with the pastors of that congregation to facilitate and supervise a change in pastoral status. (A report and attendant recommendations will be presented next Tuesday to COM and reported to the Presbytery on 17 May.)
3. COM approved Teresa Burns, Ruling Elder at First Pulaski, for Commissioned Ruling Elder training at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary with the approval and support of her Session.

Admit to Record:

1. COM confirmed the action of the EP, COM representatives, and an Investigating Committee of the Presbytery to declare First Manchester vacant, upon the renunciation of jurisdiction by former Teaching Elder Ben Schultz. COM appointed a moderator and a liaison to Manchester First.
2. COM approved the Rev. Ernest Newsom (HR) of our Presbytery as a mentor for Dr. Gilbert Varela, a member of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Costa Rica, who is serving as Temporary Supply at Eastminster.
3. COM approved a contract as Temporary Supply between Hopewell Presbyterian Church, Milton and the Rev. Joseph Cejka, III.

Items for Approval:

1. The COM recommends that Presbytery validate the work of the Rev. David Jones, a member of our Presbytery, with *The Moment Fellowships*, a ministry under the supervision of Historic Franklin Presbyterian church and supported in part by The 1001 Worshipping Communities project of our denomination.
2. COM recommends that, in light of the recent difficulties encountered at First Manchester, Presbytery waive the payment of vacancy dues to the Board of Pensions.

Respectfully submitted, John Richard Todd, Ph.D.