

**REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK
TO THE PRESBYTERY OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE
MAY 17, 2014**

ADMIT TO RECORD

1. The Stated Clerk has received the minutes of the commission to ordain Jane Herring.
2. The Stated Clerk has received the minutes of the commission to install Dr. Greg Glover as pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Clarksville.
3. Attached is the summary of all teaching elder changes for the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee in 2013.
4. Attached is the summary of church statistics for the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee for 2013.
5. The Stated Clerk received an allegation of misconduct against a teaching elder member of the presbytery. An investigating committee was formed, and on February 5, 2014, the following charges were filed against Ben Schultz:
 - a. Beginning in or around November 2010, and continuing to date, Ben Schultz did commit the offense of action that is contrary to Matthew 18: 6-7: "If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were fastened around your neck and you were drowned in the depth of the sea." The action that Mr. Schultz committed was sending electronic messages containing inappropriate and offensive suggestions, language and subject matter including content of a sexual nature to minors.
 - b. Beginning in or around June, 2012, Ben Schultz did commit the offense of action that is contrary to Mission Presbytery's Policy on Sexual Ethics and thus violated ordination question W-4.4003e: "Will you be governed by our church's policy and abide by its discipline?" The action that Mr. Schultz committed was abusing the authority of his pastoral relationship and bringing fear and humiliation to the life of a colleague rather than healing and redemption.
 - c. Beginning in or around May 2012 and continuing to the present, Ben Schultz did commit the offense of action that is contrary to W-6.2005: ". . . The pastor nurtures the community through the ministries of Word and Sacrament, by praying with and for the congregation, through formal and informal teaching, and by example." The actions that Mr. Schultz committed were: crossing the boundaries of the pastor/parishioner relationship; treating the youth in his care

as peers; and initiating and persistently pursuing inappropriate conversations at unacceptable times. Said conversations were devoid of pastoral content or tone.

- d. On or about January 2014, Ben Schultz did commit the offense of action that is contrary to G-2.0504: "When teaching elders are called as pastor, co-pastor, associate pastor of a congregation they are to be responsible for a quality of life and relationships that commends the gospel to all persons and that communicates its joy and justice." The action that Mr. Schultz committed was leaving four young people from the area of Manchester unsupervised in the church building for several hours on a Friday evening, alarming their parents, putting the youth at risk, and opening the church to legal liability.
 - e. Beginning on or about April 2013, Ben Schultz did commit the offense of action that is contrary to II Corinthians 4: 1-2: "Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practice cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God." The action that Mr. Schultz committed was misrepresenting behavior referenced by the Sexual Misconduct Self-Certification Statement on your Personal Information Form which states: "...I have never resigned or been terminated from a position for reasons related to sexual misconduct" and by failing to give the Investigative Committee the full facts about the incident which led to his leaving First Presbyterian Church of Corpus Christi.
6. The Stated Clerk reports that Ben Schultz renounced the jurisdiction of the church effective February 6, 2014. This information has been reported to the Office of the General Assembly and the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee (by this report).

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The minutes of the 117th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery (February 1, 2014) are presented for approval.
2. The Stated Clerk has received the final report and recommendations (attached) from the First Gallatin Administrative Commission.

MINISTERIAL CHANGES JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2013

1. MINISTERIAL NECROLOGY

NAME	OCCUPATION	PLACE OF DEATH	AGE
MAC NAIR, ARCH LEPHON	HONORABLY RETIRED	NASHVILLE TN	101
PTOMEY, K. C. JR.	HONORABLY RETIRED	NASHVILLE TN	71
MANN, JR., NOAH HORACE	HONORABLY RETIRED	NASHVILLE TN	84
OWENS, DOROTHY MADDOX	HONORABLY RETIRED	NASHVILLE TN	69
MOROS, DONNA LAUBACH	HONORABLY RETIRED	BARRANQUILLA	
RICHARDSON, JR., ROBERT PRICE	HONORABLY RETIRED	NASHVILLE TN	87

2. MINISTERS DISMISSED TO OTHER PRESBYTERIES

NAME	DISMISSED TO	DATE
MC LAUGHLIN, MICHAEL DAMON	ST ANDREW	06/30/2012
STEPHENS, ANDREW L., JR.	GREATER ATLANTA	EFF 01/01/2013
HIGGINBOTHAM, JESSI	TROPICAL FLORIDA	EFF 05/31/2013
HOOP, CATHY CALDWELL	SHEPPARDS & LAPSLEY	EFF 08/03/2013
MORAN, JAMES A.	COASTAL CAROLINA	EFF 09/15/2013
PHELPS, ROBERT	MISSISSIPPI	EFF 07/31/2013
GIVER-JOHNSTON, DONNA	PITTSBURGH	EFF 12/10/2013
COWSER, ANGELA	CHICAGO	EFF 11/12/2013
HANDLEY, DAVID SHULL	CHICAGO	EFF 11/12/2013

3. MINISTERS DISMISSED TO OTHER DENOMINATIONS - NONE

4. PERMANENT REMOVALS FROM ROLL - NONE

5. MINISTERS RECEIVED FROM OTHER PRESBYTERIES

NAME	RECEIVED FROM	DATE
CANTER, JOHN WALTER FINCH	SHENANDOAH	EFF 03/01/2013
CHUQUIMIA, MEDARDO TEDDY	PUEBLO	EFF 01/01/2013
JONES, PHYLLIS E.	MISSION	EFF 05/02/2013
ANDERSON, ROSANNA PIPER	MONMOUTH	EFF 05/02/2013
YATES, STEPHEN	FLORIDA	EFF 08/01/2013
SCHULTZ, BENJAMIN EDWARD	MISSION	EFF 06/01/2013
LARSON, JOHN WILLIAM	MID-SOUTH	EFF 06/16/2013
KANE, JEFFREY	DENVER	EFF 10/01/2013
RODRIGUE, KIMBERLY	SANTA FE	EFF 10/01/2013

6. MINISTERS ORDAINED BY THIS PRESBYTERY

NAME	MALE/FEMALE	DATE
HOOP, CATHY CALDWELL	FEMALE	ORD 08/03/2013 (SECOND)
BONNER, LEIGH	FEMALE	ORD 10/26/2013 (TRINITY)
HWANG, HO DONG	MALE	ORD 10/27/2013 (KOREAN)

7. MINISTERS RECEIVED FROM OTHER DENOMINATION

NAME	RECEIVED FROM	MALE/FEMALE	DATE
MONTGOMERY, ROBERT	CHURCH OF CHRIST	MALE	02/23/2008

8. MINISTERS RESTORED TO ROLL - NONE

LOSSES		RECAP		GAINS		JAN. 1, 2013	
1. NECROLOGY	6	5. RECEIVED--PRESB..	9	SUBTRACT LOSSES	-15		
2. DISMISSED--PRESB.	9	6. ORDAINED	3	ADD GAINS	+13		
3. DISMISSED--DENOM.	0	7. RECEIVED--DENOM.	1	MINISTERS ON ROLL			
4. OTHER REMOVALS	0	8. RESTORED	0	DEC. 31, 2013	182		
TOTAL LOSSES	15	TOTAL GAINS	13				
NUMBER IN TRANSIT	1						

-IN TRANSIT-

GLOVER, GREGORY / PBV OF SCIOTO VALLEY / 01/01/2014

Summary Membership Report for 115-385 2013

<u>Location</u>	<u>Church Name</u>	<u>Begin Total</u>	<u>End Total</u>	<u>Diff</u>
Alexandria	Liberty Hill	51	51	0
Allardt	First	171	174	3
Alpine	Christ	72	72	0
Ardmore	Bethany	20	19	-1
Belfast	Belfast	11	8	-3
Bethpage	Oak Grove	32	32	0
Brentwood	Brentwood First	16	19	3
Brentwood	East Brentwood	239	237	-2
Brentwood	Harpeth	348	220	-128
Brentwood	Korean	232	227	-5
Buffalo Valley	Buffalo Valley	27	27	0
Byrdstown	Smyrna	14	14	0
Clarksville	First	498	479	-19
Clarksville	Macedonia	45	45	0
Clifton	First	66	66	0
Columbia	First	602	602	0
Columbia	Westminster	51	49	-2
Cookeville	Double Springs	6	6	0
Cookeville	First	210	210	0
Cookeville	Post Oak	56	34	-22
Cowan	Fellowship	16	16	0
Crossville	Calvary PC of Big Lick	127	128	1
Culleoka	Central	17	17	0
Decherd	Decherd	34	34	0
Dickson	First	192	182	-10
Dickson	Pond	18	18	0
Fairfield Glade	Westminster	96	96	0
Fayetteville	First	306	304	-2
Fayetteville	St John	16	16	0
Franklin	First	918	944	26
Franklin	Historic Franklin	280	286	6
Franklin	New Hope	9	9	0
Gallatin	First	491	334	-157
Gallatin	Sudanese American Nuer	130	130	0
Hendersonville	First	220	225	5
Hermitage	Hermitage	261	257	-4
Lawrenceburg	First	23	22	-1
Lebanon	First	184	189	5
Lebanon	Spring Creek	25	25	0
Lewisburg	Bethbirei	30	29	-1
Lewisburg	First	144	143	-1
Lynnville	First	39	39	0
Manchester	First	87	87	0
McMinnville	First	79	79	0
Milton	Hopewell	14	14	0
Mount Pleasant	First	25	25	0
Murfreesboro	First	702	568	-134
Murfreesboro	Northminster	77	72	-5
Nashville	Bellevue	273	237	-36
Nashville	Donelson	337	340	3
Nashville	Downtown	87	99	12

Nashville	Eastminster	97	97	0
Nashville	Emmanuel	92	84	-8
Nashville	First	4265	4316	51
Nashville	Glen Leven	170	162	-8
Nashville	Glenclyff	34	34	0
Nashville	Hillsboro	451	409	-42
Nashville	Hillwood	133	130	-3
Nashville	Priest Lake	186	186	0
Nashville	Second	558	496	-62
Nashville	Southminster	111	111	0
Nashville	St Andrews	138	138	0
Nashville	The Village	117	117	0
Nashville	Trinity	112	112	0
Nashville	Westminster	1946	1960	14
Nashville	Woodland	75	69	-6
Normandy	Normandy	44	44	0
Old Hickory	Old Hickory	87	87	0
Petersburg	First	18	19	1
Pulaski	Brick Church	6	6	0
Pulaski	First	187	191	4
Readyville	Cripple Creek	44	44	0
Rock Island	Rock Island	21	21	0
Shelbyville	First	226	228	2
Silver Point	Mattie Smith Memorial	20	20	0
Smyrna	First	280	278	-2
Sparta	Blue Spring	26	26	0
Sparta	First United	31	31	0
Sparta	Hickory Valley	4	4	0
Sparta	Robinson Chapel	29	29	0
Spring Hill	First	114	118	4
Springfield	First	134	125	-9
Springfield	Milldale	56	56	0
Thompson Station	Bethesda	90	85	-5
Tullahoma	First	190	190	0
Watertown	First	15	13	-2
Waverly	Ellis Grove	71	73	2
ZZZZZ	Middle Tennessee		0	0
Totals		18202	17664	-538

**Administrative Commission for First Presbyterian Church, Gallatin
Final Report -- May 17, 2014**

The Presbytery of Middle Tennessee elected an Administrative Commission for First Presbyterian Church of Gallatin in May, 2012, out of concern over the level of conflict and turmoil inside the congregation. With this final report, the Administrative Commission is grateful to report that by the grace of God, over the past two years, the difficulties and pain that necessitated the election of the commission have either been resolved or are in the process of being so. Many events have transpired, some of which were extremely painful and required great patience and persistence by the members and leaders who resolved to stay together and seek God's will as Christians, as a congregation and as members of the Presbyterian Church USA.

This document constitutes our final report as a commission with our concluding recommendations to the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee regarding First Presbyterian of Gallatin.

The charge given to our commission was, first of all, to provide a fair and open hearing to anyone wishing to meet with the Commission to share their concerns and advice. Accordingly, in June and July of 2012, commission members conducted interviews and conversations with every person who accepted the invitation for a time to share their concerns, and nearly 70 members responded to this opportunity by coming to meet with commission members. These were intense and informative interviews, and they revealed both the depth of pain that had developed inside the congregation and its leadership and also the deep love that the people had for each other, even within their conflicts.

From that point forward, the principal work of the Commission came for us to be prayerful, listening companions of encouragement and support in the journey toward healing and reconciliation, as well as in the process of accepting the decision of about 40 members to leave the congregation to form a new non-Presbyterian fellowship in the fall of 2012. While there were indeed controversy and confusion over the change in ordination standards (Amendment 10A), the recent conflicts were actually part of an extended history of distrust and strained relationships that had gone on for several years and touched on many, many different issues. A lack of clear understanding of Presbyterian Church (USA) polity hampered efforts by individuals to overcome the emerging divisions, and a painful prevalence of rumor had seriously wounded the trust within the congregation and its leadership.

Although our own efforts as a commission were unable to prevent the departure of some members and the resignation of some session members, the remaining session members and the commission members did address every issue raised throughout the investigation and listening process. We sought full and open conversations, and some instances of weak administration and lapses in polity were identified. But, as a commission, we found no instances of deliberate misconduct by any elders or the pastor.

After the painful events of the summer and fall of 2012, the remaining session members came together, ministered to the church and gently helped the congregation to move forward. Officer elections were successfully held, and the new session members brought energy and faith for even further recovery and new growth for First Gallatin by the beginning of 2013.

Throughout 2013, our goal as a commission was to help the church to experience a complete church year cycle of stable and normal congregational life. Commission members worked with the session and pastor to carry out leadership training, establish new communication networks, set up administrative procedures, clarify and stabilize the budgeting and financial reporting process. We celebrated with the whole congregation plans for outreach and shared with them in the peaceful and joyful nomination and election processes for the congregation's leadership by the end of the year. During 2013 and 2014, we have witnessed the continued strengthening and growth of the church in all aspects of its congregational life, as well as in its outreach to the surrounding community.

The Administrative Commission held its last meetings with the session and the pastor on Sunday, April 27, 2014. At those meetings, we were delighted to hear reports that every recommendation that the Commission had made was

either completed or was in the process of completion, including: the adoption of bylaws, consolidated policies and procedures manual, sexual misconduct policy, updated membership roll, 2014-2015 budget process, a financial review of all church finances and operations, improved communications plan, policy and timelines for evaluation of all staff, pastoral care plan when the pastor is unavailable and a gift acceptance policy. They are also taking steps toward a visioning process for the congregation's future. Clearly all these are marks of a strong and competent session.

We also met with the pastor, with appreciation for his perseverance and commending him for his service and growth in his ministry. We celebrated with him this part of his journey in ministry and prayed for God's blessings on him and his family as he moves forward after what has obviously been a challenging experience of church life for him and would have been for any pastor.

While we as commission members will always profoundly grieve the events that prompted the election and mission of the Gallatin Administrative Commission, we will treasure even more deeply the time and relationships that we have shared with the people of this congregation. For us as commission members, we saw again the beauty of the faithfulness of God, the joy of the Holy Spirit's care for us and Jesus Christ's unfailing grace and patience with all of us as God's children. As Presbyterians, we also claim again the great grace of being "connectional church" together.

We honor the faith, love and convictions of all those touched by the struggles and wrestlings that took place among the people of First Presbyterian of Gallatin. We also trust that all who have lived with that story in any way will seek to learn how to entrust ourselves more fully to God and renew our commitment to acknowledge other believers as disciples of Jesus, and to live with each other in Christian communion and love, diverse and individual as we all are.

We give thanks to God for all God's mercies to the church and pray joyfully a special blessing on the dear brothers and sisters of First Presbyterian Church of Gallatin, Tennessee, and their future as a congregation.

Our final recommendations:

1. That the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee, with guidance from the Congregational Development Committee, seek to provide up to one-half the cost of a Visioning process facilitator for First Presbyterian Church of Gallatin, up to \$2500, and
2. That the Administrative Commission for First Presbyterian Church of Gallatin be dismissed and dissolved with the acceptance of this report at the May, 2014, meeting of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee.

Thanks be to God for all mercies and all grace! Glory to God in the highest and praise to Jesus Christ in the church, by the unending joy of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

Respectfully submitted:

Ruling Elders

Donna Simpson, Co-Chair

Theresa Denton, Clerk pro tempore

Don Swain

Susan Paris

Teaching Elders

Amos Wilson, Co-Chair

Robert Montgomery, Clerk

Janet Salyer