



MID-TENN

Presbytery of Middle Tennessee E-Newsletter

January 13, 2017



**THE PRESBYTERY
OFFICE WILL BE
CLOSED ON
MONDAY,
JANUARY 16, 2017
IN OBSERVANCE OF
MARTIN LUTHER
KING JR. DAY**



**128th Stated Meeting
February 4, 2017**
First Presbyterian Church
210 N. Spring Street
Murfreesboro, TN 37130

Registration starts
at 8:00 am
Call to Order/Worship:
9:00 am

LISTENING, AN ESSENTIAL LEADERSHIP QUALITY

From the Desk of the Executive Presbyter



This issue of The MID-TENN is being dispersed on the eve of another Birthday Anniversary and National Holiday in honor of the life and legacy of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr. King was a Christian minister, Baptist pastor, mid-

twentieth century prophet, and social activist, who became the chief spokesperson for America's Civil Rights Movement in the 1950s and 60s.

On each annual Dr. King National Holiday observance, I reach for a book of writings by King or about King in order to reacquaint myself with the man and the movement he heralded. This year I turned to the book [Martin Luther King, Jr., On Leadership, by Donald T. Phillips.](#) Author Donald Phillips draws upon speeches by and recorded interviews with the late Dr. King, in putting together this publication largely lifting up the principles and practices of effective leadership that Martin King, Jr. exemplified.

One leadership quality cited in this book, that Dr. King wrote about, spoke about, and sought to exemplify in his life and ministry, is that of LISTENING. "The best leaders realize that people want to know that their ideas and thoughts are being, at the very least, heard. Only then can there be a chance that those concerns may be acted upon. When leaders listen first, then speak, they are engendering trust in those who would follow." [MLK, Jr. On Leadership, page 42,43]

Annual Statistical Report

2016 Annual Statistical Report Information

It is time for the session annual statistical report and statistical report information has been mailed to all churches.

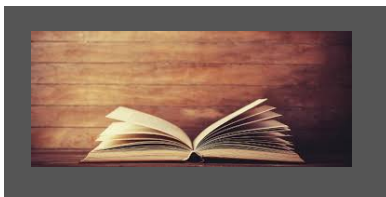
The deadlines to file your reports are as follows:

Thursday, February 16
(deadline to file reports online)

Friday, February 24,
(deadline for Stated Clerk to file reports)

[Click here](#) to visit the PMT's Stated Clerk Webpage for all needed information.

The workbook and instructions are online at: <http://oga.pcusa.org/stats>



Barth Reading Group

Everyone interested in reading Karl Barth in the company of others is invited to a new group forming this month.

Clifford Anderson,
Associate University Librarian for Research and Learning at Vanderbilt, and **Stuart Gordon, Associate Pastor at First Church,**

Such is a lesson to hear and heed by all who assume leadership roles and responsibilities in the church and society. First listen; lead by being led. "Happy Birthday, Junior!"



SOUPER BOWL OF CARING SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2017

Get ready for the 2017 Souper Bowl of Caring challenge.

Let the Souper Bowl of Caring know you're holding a collection [by signing up on their website](#). They will send you materials to promote your event.

The Souper Bowl of Caring empowers youth and unites communities around the time of the Big Game to help those in need.

Here are the statistics:

- 48 million Americans live in poverty
- 1 in 7 Americans face hunger every day
- More than 630,000 people in the United States are homeless
- 23% of those struggling went to college
- 16 million children live in food insecure households

Please join us as we demonstrate God's love by loving our neighbors through the Souper Bowl of Caring. It is a simple, yet significant act of caring for others by collecting cans of food and/or dollar bills to give to your local hunger agencies or local food pantries.

UPCOMING EVENTS



PMT'S MISSION BANQUET FEBRUARY 16, 2017

**Nashville Korean Presbyterian Church
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm**

What mission program is your church involved with?

Nashville, invite you to join them in reading Barth on the doctrine of providence, III/3. In 2015 Cliff edited, with Bruce McCormack, [*Karl Barth and the Making of Evangelical Theology*](#), published by *Eerdmans*.

The group will meet on the first and third Tuesdays each month, from February through June, at Newk's next to Centennial Park in Nashville. Members may enjoy a dutch dinner or simply take part in the conversation, which will run from 5:30 to 7:00 PM. Contact sgordon@fpcnashville.org for a reading schedule.

Lilly Endowment Clergy Renewal Program

CLERGY RENEWAL APPLICATION INFORMATION

The Lilly Endowment Clergy Renewal Programs at Christian Theological Seminary provide funds to congregations to support renewal leaves for their pastors. Congregations may apply for grants of up to \$50,000 to underwrite a renewal program for their pastor and for the pastor's family, with up to \$15,000 of those funds available to the congregations to help cover costs for ministerial supply while the pastor is away. There is no cost to the congregations or the pastors to apply; the grants represent the Endowment's continued investment in renewing

In the spirit of discovery and fellowship, the Presbytery Mission Banquet will be held on Thursday, February 16, 2017 at 6:00 pm, at the Nashville Korean Presbyterian Church to recognize the work of our churches.

Each church invited to attend the Mission Banquet. We hope each church will be represented by a member and their pastor or chair of the church's Mission Committee. We look forward to having all those in Middle Tennessee who are committed to mission and peacemaking gathered in one room.

The Mission Banquet will feature a mini mission fair, recognition of mission programs, and a keynote address by Jeff Ritchie, retired Associate Director of Mission at the Outreach Foundation and David Paduil, Ruling Elder at the Sudanese American Nuer Presbyterian Church. They will share, inform, and even entertain us concerning their faith in Jesus Christ and the work of the church here and abroad.

To register to attend the banquet, please [click here](#).
The registration deadline has been changed to February 6, 2017.

MAKE NOTE NOW: Coming in 2017-2018

PMT's Leadership Excellence Training

There will be 9 Leadership Excellence Training sessions held locally beginning August 2017 through May 2018 (various Tuesdays monthly; 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.).

Local convener, The Rev. Tom Laney of the Turner Center for Church Leadership, will teach, facilitate, and provide individual coaching to participants. Additional nationally known guest speakers will teach specific sessions on Adaptive Leadership, Managing and Mobilizing Resources, Leading Leaders, and Feeding Leaders' souls (especially your own!).

Look for Registration forms with full schedule of guest speakers, dates, readings, and details of 9 sessions beginning January 30, 2017.

There are 10 participant slots available.

Cost to Participants \$700 (\$350 due March 15, 2017 and \$350 due January 15, 2018). Additional expenses to be covered by Presbytery of Middle TN as an initiative of PMT's VISION 2020.

Any questions, please contact Planning Team Leader Jule M. Nyhuis (revjmn@gmail.com) or any member of

the health and vitality of American Christian congregations. Interested parties can find more information [here](#).

Grace and Peace,
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Warner Durnell.

Make plans now to participate!

UPCOMING COMMITTEE MEETINGS



Nominating Task Force

Tuesday, January 17, 2017
1:30 pm - Presbytery office

CE Brown Bag

Thursday, January 19, 2017
11:30 am - Presbytery Office

Committee on Preparation for Ministry

Thursday, January 24, 2017
4:00 pm - FPC Nashville

You are 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.