

**PRESBYTERY OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE**  
**MINUTES OF ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-EIGHTH STATED MEETING**  
**FEBRUARY 4, 2017**

The 128th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee was held Saturday, February 4, 2017, at First Presbyterian Church, Murfreesboro. Executive Presbyter Warner Durnell and Stated Clerk Therese Howell led an orientation and time of prayer for first time commissioners. Moderator Virginia S. Lovellette called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**WORSHIP**

Worship was led by The Rev. Dr. John Hinkle, Jr., pastor, and The Rev. Bobby Harding, associate pastor, of the host church. Jocelyn Fisher, Director of Music of the host church, Valerie Rains, organist, and the First Murfreesboro choir provided special music. Candidate Rachel Pence preached the sermon. The offering (\$2,298.52) was collected for the Eastminster Presbyterian Church, Nashville. The mission team to Guatemala (David Carlton, Second; Teddy Chuquimia, Nuevo Vida NCD; Barb Hall, Brentwood First; John Hilley, East Brentwood; Kara Hilley, East Brentwood; Jeffrey Rein, East Brentwood; Paul Rein, East Brentwood; Aaron Renton, East Brentwood; Mark Riley, Normandy) was commissioned. The sacrament of the Lord's Supper was celebrated.

**DECLARATION OF QUORUM / WELCOME BY HOST / STATEMENT OF PROCEDURES / FIRST TIME  
COMMISSIONERS / CORRESPONDING MEMBERS**

The meeting reconvened after worship, and the Moderator declared a quorum was present. Dr. Hinkle welcomed commissioners to First Presbyterian Church, and called attention to the history of the church printed in the bulletin. The Moderator stated that it was customary to install the incoming Moderator at the February meeting, but The Rev. Dr. Stuart Gordon, 2017 Moderator, was ill and could not attend. She stated she would moderate the meeting, and Dr. Gordon would be installed in May. The Moderator offered a prayer for Dr. Gordon. The Moderator reviewed procedures for the meeting, and first time commissioners to presbytery were recognized and welcomed.

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 presbytery's Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Moderator-in-Nomination, chairs of committees, members of the Administrative Committee, members of the Finance Committee, 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. Corresponding members were seated without objection, and are listed with the roll.

## ROLL

The roll of commissioners, corresponding members, and visitors attending the presbytery meeting is attached (Attachment A).

## AGENDA

The Moderator stated that the agenda for the meeting had been provided in advance to commissioners. The motion was made and seconded to set aside the standing rules to receive additional reports requiring action. There were no questions or objections, and this was approved by a three-fourths vote. The following agenda was then approved upon motion duly made and seconded:

- |          |     |  |
|----------|-----|--|
| 8:00 am  | 1.  | Registration (Order of the Day in CAPS)  |
| 8:30 am  |     | Orientation for First Time Commissioners and Prayer for Presbytery – Warner Durnell and Therese Howell (20 minutes)  |
| 9:00 am  | 2.  | CALL TO ORDER / WORSHIP (Offering: Eastminster Presbyterian Church) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Preaching: Candidate Rachel Pence</li><li>• Sacrament of the Lord's Supper</li><li>• Commissioning of Guatemalan Mission Team</li></ul>  |
| 10:15 am | 3.  | Break  |
| 10:30 am | 4.  | Reconvene / Establishment of Quorum / Installation of 2017 Moderator / Recognition of 2016 Moderator / Statement of Procedures / Welcome by Host / Recognition of First Time Presbyters / Seating of Corresponding Members / Adoption of Agenda  |
| 10:45 am | 5.  | Stated Clerk's Report – Therese Howell (5 minutes) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Approval of Minutes</li></ul>   |
| 10:50 am | 6.  | Administrative Committee – Ed Lancaster (10 min) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Nominating Task Force Report</li></ul>  |
| 11:00 am | 7.  | Finance Committee – Mike Ingram (10 minutes) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Approval of 2017 Operating Budget</li></ul>   |
| 11:10 am | 8.  | Committee on Ministry – Theresa Denton (one hour) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Examination of Candidate Rachel Pence</li><li>• Recognition of Retirements - Bill Barger, Jeff Ritchie, Megan Ritchie</li><li>• Commissioning of Ruling Elders Jim Rountree and Harold Dawkins</li></ul> |
| 12:10 pm |     | Lunch – Prayer of Thanksgiving   |
| 1:10 pm  |     | Reconvene  |
|          | 9.  | Proposed Amendments to the Book of Order – Therese Howell (30 min)   |
| 1:40 pm  | 10. | Committee on Mutual Support – Steve Thomas (10 min) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Guatemala Task Force Report</li><li>• NaCoMe Update</li><li>• Hunger Action Advocate</li></ul>   |
| 1:50 pm  | 11. | Synod Commissioners' Report – 5 min  |
| 1:55 pm  | 12. | Concerns, Celebrations, Announcements – Warner Durnell (10 min)  |
| 2:05 pm  | 13. | Executive Presbyter's Report – Warner Durnell (5 min)  |
| 2:10 pm  | 14. | Unfinished Business  |
|          |     | <b>129th Stated Meeting –</b>  |
|          |     | <b>Saturday, May 6, 2017, Hillsboro Presbyterian Church, Nashville</b>   |
| 2:15 pm  | 15. | Closing Prayer / Adjourn   |

## STATED CLERK'S REPORT

Ruling Elder Therese Howell, Stated Clerk, presented the clerk's report, and called attention to the report of the Permanent Judicial Commission, and NaCoMe Conference Center included in the packet.

*Permanent Judicial Commission*

The Permanent Judicial Commission held a joint training session with members of the PJC of the Presbytery of North Alabama on August 31, 2016. The training was led by Laurie Griffith, Manager of Judicial Process and Social Witness, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Members of the class of 2016 (Teaching Elder Todd Jones, Teaching Elder Bill Barger, Teaching Elder Kaye Nickell) were thanked for their service on the Permanent Judicial Commission. The PJC accepted with regret the resignation of Teaching Elder John Westlund due to his move to Georgia.

The Permanent Judicial Commission elected Ruling Elder Elinor Foster as chair for 2017. Teaching Elder John Todd was elected 2017 vice-chair, and Teaching Elder Stacy Rector was elected clerk of the PJC for 2017.

The PJC reviewed the proposed amendments to the Book of Order. The PJC supports the amendments, although members were divided over proposed amendment 16-C regarding titles for ordered ministry.

Session Minutes Review

Session minutes will be reviewed on Saturday, February 18; Saturday, March 4; Saturday, April 8. All sessions held at the presbytery office, 10AM – Noon.

Remedial Complaint

The Stated Clerk has been notified that the remedial complaint filed by the session of First Presbyterian Church, Cookeville, against the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee, the presbytery’s Permanent Judicial Commission, and the Stated Clerk, has been dismissed by the Permanent Judicial Commission of the Synod of Living Waters.

Investigating Committee

The Stated Clerk received allegations of misconduct against a teaching elder member of the presbytery. Pursuant to the presbytery’s Mission and Operations Manual, an investigating committee was appointed. The Investigating Committee reported that charges would not be filed, and this decision was appealed. Upon review by designated members of the Permanent Judicial Commission, the decision of the Investigating Committee was sustained, and the matter was concluded.

Roster of Former Permanent Judicial Commission Members

The Stated Clerk reports the following roster of former PJC members, pursuant to D-5.0206b.:

<u>Class of 2012</u>	<u>Class of 2014</u>	<u>Class of 2016</u>
RE Susan Freeman Burns	RE Celeste Anderson	TE Bill Barger
TE James Hudnut-Beumler	RE John Lee	TE Todd Jones
RE Suzanne McLemore	RE Mark Strength	TE Kaye Nickell
	TE Rob Weingartner	

Synod Review of 2015 Presbytery Minutes

The Stated Clerk reported that the Synod reviewed the 2015 minutes of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee. The presbytery’s minutes were approved without exceptions.

2016 Summary of Ministerial Changes

Following is a summary of ministerial changes for 2016.

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1. MINISTERIAL NECROLOGY

NAME	OCCUPATION	PLACE OF DEATH	AGE	DATE
PATTON, JAMES W. "BILL"	HONORABLY RETIRED		83	06/18/2016
SMITH, FRANKLIN	HONORABLY RETIRED			03/22/2016

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2. MINISTERS DISMISSED TO OTHER PRESBYTERIES

NAME	DISMISSED TO	DATE
CANTER, JOHN WALTER	THE JAMES	EFF 12/01/2015; COM 02/20/2016
GOTT, KYLE	DONEGAL	EFF 06/01/2016; COM 06/14/2016
HICKS, MARY MARGARET	MID-SOUTH	EFF 11/08/2016

SMITH, JR., THEODORE A. GREATER ATLANTA EFF 03/08/2016  
 WADE, LINDSEY SHEPPARDS & LAPSLEY EFF 01/01/2016; COM 02/20/2016

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 3. MINISTERS DISMISSED TO OTHER DENOMINATIONS

NAME	DISMISSED TO	DATE
	NONE	

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 4. REMOVALS FROM ROLL

NAME	CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISION	DATE
HANDLSON, PATRICK	D-12.0104f	EFF 10/01/2016; PJC 09/29/2016

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 5. MINISTERS RECEIVED FROM OTHER PRESBYTERIES

NAME	RECEIVED FROM	DATE
ALLEN, JR., WILLIAM C.	NORTH ALABAMA	EFF 04/26/2016
CROSS, III, ALLEN	NORTHEAST GEORGIA	EFF 02/07/2016; ON FIELD 12/06/2015
HUIE, SCOTT	GREATER ATLANTA	EFF 11/08/2016
HUNTER, JEANNIE MARIE	DONEGAL	EFF 07/12/2016
MUSGRAVE, JOHN L.	LAKE HURON	EFF 06/14/2016

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 6. MINISTERS ORDAINED BY THIS PRESBYTERY

NAME	MALE / FEMALE	DATE OF ORDINATION
	NONE	

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 7. MINISTERS RECEIVED FROM OTHER DENOMINATION

NAME	RECEIVED FROM	MALE/FEMALE	DATE
		NONE	

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 8. MINISTERS RESTORED TO ROLL

NAME	CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISION	DATE
	NONE	

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 RECAP  
 LOSSES                      GAINS

			JAN. 1, 2016	180	
1. NECROLOGY	02	5. RECEIVED--PBYS	05	SUBTRACT LOSSES	- 09
2. DISMISSED--PRESB.	06	6. ORDAINED	00	ADD GAINS	+ 05
3. DISMISSED--DENOM.	00	7. RECEIVED--DENOM.	00	MINISTERS ON ROLL	____
4. OTHER REMOVALS	<u>01</u>	8. RESTORED	<u>00</u>	DEC. 31, 2016	176
TOTAL LOSSES	09	TOTAL GAINS	05		

NUMBER IN TRANSIT - 3

--- I N T R A N S I T ---

HILL, STEPHEN – TO BE DISMISSED TO PRESBYTERY OF GREAT RIVERS  
 NEELY, HUDSON – TO BE DISMISSED TO PRESBYTERY OF FOOTHILLS  
 BANCROFT, ALAN – TO BE DISMISSED TO PRESBYTERY OF NEW HOPE

October 20, 2016 Minutes

The minutes of the 127th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee (Oct. 20, 2016) were presented for approval. The motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. After corrections, the minutes were approved.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Ruling Elder Ed Lancaster, Administrative Committee chair, presented the committee's report.

##### 2017 Presbytery Meeting Dates

The Administrative Committee set the following dates for 2017 Presbytery meetings: Saturday, February 4; Saturday, May 6, Saturday, July 22; Thursday, October 19.

##### 2017 Personnel Task Force

The following persons will serve as the Personnel Task Force in 2017: RE Elinor Foster (chair); RE Susan Freeman Burns; TE Rik Rouquie.

##### 2017 Nominating Task Force

The following persons will serve as the Nominating Task for in 2017: TE David Sawyer (chair); TE Bill Bryant; RE Jim Vowell; RE Dora Estes; TE Martha Gilliss; RE Joyce Nix Harris. The Nominating Task Force will present a report at the February presbytery meeting.

##### Leadership Training Program

The Administrative and Finance Committees approved \$6,785 for partial funding for ten participants in a Leadership Training program, conducted by the Turner Center for Church Leadership.

##### Trinity Task Force

The committee received a report from Dr. Guy Griffith, a member of the Trinity Task Force. Dr. Griffith reported COM approved The Rev. Dr. Sally Hughes as Designated Pastor at Trinity, and reviewed benchmarks approved by the presbytery at its October 20, 2016 stated meeting.

##### Financial Report

The committee received a financial report from Mike Ingram, Treasurer.

##### Judicial Matters Report

The committee received a report from the Stated Clerk on judicial matters.

##### Amendments to the *Mission and Operations Manual*

Mr. Lancaster stated that upon request of the Committee on Ministry, the Administrative Committee recommended the following changes to the *Mission and Operations Manual*:

Amend page 13, line 30, as follows (text to be deleted indicated by ~~striketrough~~; text to be added indicated by underline):

The membership of the Committee on Ministry shall be ~~12~~ 18 persons – ~~six~~ nine ruling elders and ~~six~~ nine teaching elders, none of whom shall represent the same congregation.

There was no discussion and the amendment was approved.

Mr. Lancaster reported that the Committee on Ministry approved a policy in 2015 regarding the reception of teaching elders who are members-at-large. The Administrative Committee recommended the Mission and Operations Manual be updated to reflect this COM policy:

Amend page 14, line 17, as follows (text to be deleted indicated by ~~striketrough~~; text to be added indicated by underline):

- The Presbytery of Middle Tennessee does not receive a teaching elder seeking membership in the Presbytery as a member-at-large unless the teaching elder is the spouse of a teaching elder being received by the Committee on Ministry for the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee, or a teaching elder pursuing post-graduate study within the bounds of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee.

There was no discussion and the amendment was approved.

## Nominating Task Force Report

Mr. Lancaster presented the Nominating Task Force report. The task force's nominations were presented to fill vacancies as indicated. The Moderator opened the floor for additional nominations, and the following persons were elected as indicated:

### Administrative Committee

Class of 2018 - RE Geeta McMillian, First Sparta

### Committee on Church Transformation

Class of 2018 – RE Tony McMahon, Glenciff, Nashville

Class of 2019 - TE Lilia Ramirez, UMC Publishing

### Committee on Ministry

Class of 2017 – TE Jane Herring, Normandy

Class of 2018 – TE Andy Gay, Honorably Retired

TE Lindsey Groves, UKIRK Nashville

RE Marva Swann, St. Andrews

Class of 2019 – RE Lynn Tollett, Calvary of Big Lick

TE Todd Jenkins, First Lewisburg

RE Diane Miner, First Clarksville

TE Stephen Yates, First Tullahoma

### Committee on Mutual Support

Class of 2018 – RE Betsy Bahn, Downtown Nashville

### Committee on Preparation for Ministry

Class of 2017 – RE Pam Shampain, First Nashville

Class of 2018 – TE Leigh Bonner, Nations Ministry Center

Class of 2019 – RE Andrew Smith, First Cookeville

### Finance Committee

Class of 2019 – RE Mi Hyea Fisher, Nashville Korean PC

### Permanent Judicial Commission

Class of 2018 – RE Jerry Hawkins, First Murfreesboro

Class of 2022 – TE Carson Salyer, Honorably Retired

### Hispanic NCD Administrative Commission

RE Kathy Ianni – Second Nashville

RE Tara Lentz – Second Nashville

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Ruling Elder Mike Ingram, Treasurer and chair of the Finance Committee, presented the committee's report.

### Finance Committee Meetings

In 2017 Finance Committee meetings in odd-numbered months will take place at First Nashville (until the Presbytery office is moved to its new location) and in even-numbered months at First Spring Hill.

### Investment Task Force Report

The committee received a report from the Investment Task Force. The committee voted to include \$30,000 of investment earnings in the 2017 budget.

### Trinity Task Force Report

The committee received a report from the Trinity Task Force.

### 2016 Audit

Work on the 2016 audit is scheduled to begin in March, with an expectation of completion of the audit in June.

### Judicial Matters

The committee received an update on costs to date on judicial matters.

Woodland Presbyterian Church, Nashville

In conjunction with the Administrative Committee, it was agreed that \$5,000 be allocated for a ministry assessment for Woodland Presbyterian Church.

Financials

Mr. Ingram spoke briefly about the unaudited financials and analysis as of 12/31/2016 provided to the presbytery.

2017 Budget

Mr. Ingram stated the Finance Committee recommended approval of the proposed 2017 budget (Attachment B). He called attention to changes in the budget compared with the 2016 budget, and reported the committee may amend the budget during 2017. There were no discussion or questions, and the budget was approved as presented.

**COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY**

Ruling Elder Theresa Denton, Committee on Ministry chair, presented the committee's report.

COM 2017 Vice-Chair

The COM elected The Rev. Dr. Greg Glover as 2017 vice-chair of the committee.

COM Policies

The COM approved revisions to the Guidelines for Mentors, Release from the Exercise of Ordered Ministry, Policy for Presbytery Pastoral Response, Policy on Temporary Pastoral Relationships, Policy on Designated Pastors, and Suggested Interim Contract. These guidelines and policies will be posted on the presbytery's website. The COM approved revisions to the Former Pastor Policy. Presbytery will be asked to approve this policy at the May Presbytery Meeting. The COM will continue its review of policies and guidelines.

Kaye Nickell

The COM granted Honorably Retired status to The Rev. Dr. Kaye Nickell, effective November 17, 2016.

Walter Canter / Calvary Presbyterian Church of Big Lick

The COM, at the request of the pastor, dissolved the pastoral relationship between Walter Canter and Calvary Presbyterian Church of Big Lick as of November 30, 2016, and dismissed Rev. Canter to the Presbytery of the James effective December 1, 2016, to accept a new call.

Hudson Neely / Hillsboro Presbyterian Church, Nashville

The COM, at the request of the associate pastor, dissolved the associate pastoral relationship between Hudson Neely and Hillsboro Presbyterian Church, Nashville, as of October 31, 2016, and approved Rev. Neely status as member-at-large.

Heidi Hudnut-Beumler / Westminster Presbyterian Church, Nashville

The COM approved the interim associate pastor contract between The Rev. Heidi Hudnut-Beumler and Westminster Presbyterian Church, Nashville, effective November 14, 2016.

Sally Hughes and Will Berger / Historic Franklin Presbyterian Church

The COM, at the request of the co-pastors, approved the dissolution of the co-pastoral relationship between The Rev. Dr. Sally Hughes and The Rev. Dr. Will Berger and Historic Franklin Presbyterian Church, effective December 31, 2016.

Will Berger

The COM approved member-at-large status for The Rev. Dr. Will Berger effective January 1, 2017.

Sally Hughes / Trinity Presbyterian Church, Nashville

The COM approved the designated pastoral relationship between The Rev. Dr. Sally Hughes and Trinity Presbyterian Church, Nashville, for a three year term beginning January 1, 2017.

The following installation commission was approved without objection: Sunday, February 12, 2017, 3pm; Teaching Elders – Dr. Bill Barger (Honorably Retired); Dr. Will Berger (Member-at-Large); Rev. Warner Durnell (Executive Presbyter); Dr. Guy Griffith (Westminster Nashville); Heidi Hudnut-Beumler (Westminster Nashville); Ruling Elders – Therese Howell (First Franklin); Hank Howertown (Trinity Nashville); Lillian Stewart (Historic Franklin); Guest of the Commission – Rev. Sara Anne Berger (Presbytery of the Pines)

Scott Huie / Emmanuel Presbyterian Church, Nashville

The COM approved the half-time interim contract between The Rev. Scott Huie and Emmanuel Presbyterian Church, Nashville, effective November 27, 2016, through November 19, 2017, and approved the reception of Rev. Huie from the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta. Rev. Huie is required to take interim / transitional training after the first of the year.

Mary Margaret Hicks

The COM dismissed the Rev. Mary Margaret Hicks to the Presbytery of Mid-South effective November 8, 2016.

Blake Hawthorne

The COM approved placing The Rev. Blake Hawthorne on the pulpit supply list.

John Cheetham / First Presbyterian Church, Watertown and Liberty Hill Presbyterian Church, Alexandria

The COM approved the renewal of the interim contract between The Rev. Dr. John Cheetham and Liberty Hill Presbyterian Church, Alexandria and Watertown Presbyterian Church, Watertown, effective October 1, 2016, through October 1, 2017, with a 5% increase in terms.

Marshall Gupton / Northminster Presbyterian Church, Murfreesboro

The COM approved the renewal for one year of the supply contract between The Rev. Marshall Gupton and Northminster Presbyterian Church, Murfreesboro, effective November 1, 2016.

Charles McCaskey / First Presbyterian Church, Cookeville

The COM approved the interim contract between First Presbyterian Church, Cookeville, and The Rev. Dr. Charles McCaskey, a member of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, effective September 15, 2016 through March 31, 2017 with the following terms: Salary (six months) \$11,310; Housing (six months) \$11,190; Base Salary and Housing (two weeks) \$1,875; Automobile allowance, reimbursement for business mileage per policy; three weeks vacation including Sundays.

Guy Griffith / Historic Franklin Presbyterian Church

The COM approved The Rev. Dr. Guy Griffith as moderator of Historic Franklin Presbyterian Church.

Jim Vowell / White County Parish

The COM approved Ruling Elder Jim Vowell as moderator of the White County Parish.

Sid Venable III / Calvary Presbyterian Church of Big Lick

The COM approved The Rev. Sid Venable III as moderator of Calvary Presbyterian Church of Big Lick.

Greg Glover / Milldale Presbyterian Church, Springfield

The COM approved The Rev. Dr. Greg Glover as moderator of Milldale Presbyterian Church, Springfield.

Jimmy Smith / The Village Church, Nashville

The COM approved The Rev. Jimmy Smith as moderator of The Village Church, Nashville.

Tom Tyndall / First Presbyterian Church, Gallatin

The COM approved the temporary supply contract between The Rev. Dr. Tom Tyndall and First Presbyterian Church, Gallatin. Dr. Tyndall was also approved as moderator.

Historic Franklin Presbyterian Church

At the request of the congregation, the COM approved the change in pastoral position at Historic Franklin Presbyterian Church from co-pastor to single pastor.



Jule Nyhuis / Hillwood Presbyterian Church, Nashville

The COM approved the interim contract between The Rev. Dr. Jule Nyhuis and Hillwood Presbyterian Church, Nashville, effective February 21, 2017, with the following terms: Salary \$44,270; Housing \$15,500; FICA/SECA \$4,606; Board of Pensions \$21,978; Dental \$445; Automobile \$5,000; vacation four weeks annually; study leave two weeks annually. Dr. Nyhuis will moderate the session.

Pastor-to-Pastor Program

The COM approved the request of the Pastor to Pastor program that members will serve no more than two, three-year terms, but the terms can be adjusted to maintain geographic integrity.

Beth McCaw

The COM approved the request of Beth McCaw, a candidate under care of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee, to take interim training.

Pat Handlson / First Presbyterian Church, Cookeville

The COM reviewed the proposed severance agreement between Pat Handlson and First Presbyterian Church, Cookeville.

Eastminster Presbyterian Church, Nashville

The COM received a report on the recent fire at Eastminster Presbyterian Church, Nashville. Eastminster will worship at Woodland Presbyterian Church; the session, pastor, and congregation of Eastminster continue to assess their needs.

First Presbyterian Church, Lawrenceburg

Ms. Denton stated the COM recommended that First Presbyterian Church, Lawrenceburg, pursuant to G-2.0404, be granted a waiver for the rotation of elders, due to the small size of the church. There were no questions or discussion, and this was approved.

Rachel Pence / Westminster Presbyterian Church, Nashville

The COM examined Ms. Rachel Pence, a candidate under care of the Presbytery of St. Augustine, and approved her call as associate pastor at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Nashville, effective February 6, 2017. A copy of Ms. Pence's statement of faith and biographical statement were provided to commissioners. The COM recommended that Ms. Pence be examined for ordination (Middle Tennessee is examining Ms. Pence for ordination on behalf of the Presbytery of St. Augustine).

Ms. Pence spoke of her faith journey, and responded to questions from Ms. Denton on behalf of the Committee on Ministry. After a time of questions from commissioners, the motion was made, seconded, and approved to close questioning and proceed to vote. Ms. Spence was escorted from the sanctuary.

Ms. Denton moved that Ms. Pence's examination be sustained. The motion was seconded and approved without objection. Ms. Denton, on behalf of the Committee on Ministry, moved that Rachel Pence be received as a teaching elder member of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee upon her ordination by the Presbytery of St. Augustine. The motion was approved.

Ms. Denton moved approval of the terms of call: Salary \$37,000; Housing \$19,000; Social Security (FICA) \$4,300; Full Board of Pensions; Continuing Education, Books, Related Expenses \$2,500; Automobile reimbursed at current IRS rate; four weeks vacation; two weeks study leave; two weeks service to the greater Church. The motion was seconded and approved.

Ms. Denton moved approval of the following commission to install, which was seconded and approved: Sunday, March 5, 3pm; Teaching Elders – Warner Durnell (Executive Presbyter); Stuart Gordon (First Nashville); Heidi Hudnut-Beumler (Westminster Nashville); Ruling Elders – (Blake Brookshire (Westminster Nashville); Theresa Denton (Emmanuel Nashville); Therese Howell (First Franklin).

Ms. Pence was invited back into the sanctuary and informed of the presbytery's decisions. Person present in support of Ms. Pence were recognized and congratulated while Ms. Pence signed the presbytery's Book of Ministerial Obligations.

Bill Barger

Ms. Denton stated the COM recommended the adoption of a resolution honoring The Rev. Dr. Bill Barger; Rev. Durnell presented the following resolution:

WHEREAS, The Reverend William (“Bill”) J. Barger, a native of Rahway, New Jersey, has served in ordered ministry for 33 years as a Presbyterian Church (USA) teaching elder); and

WHEREAS, Bill Barger was reared in the Episcopal Church as a happy compromise between the German “Hard Shell” Baptist Church of his father’s upbringing, and the Orthodox Christian Church of his mother’s upbringing; and

WHEREAS, Bill was introduced to the Presbyterian and Reformed Traditions while an undergraduate student at Hope College, Holland Michigan, a university of the Reformed Church of America; and

WHEREAS, Bill went on to earn an MBA at Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Michigan, which led to an early career in marketing and sales with General Foods Corporation, White Plains, NY, and the Ralston Purina Corporation, St. Louis, MO; and

WHEREAS, Bill, his wife Kim, and their son William, moved to Nashville in 1974 in order for Bill to own and operate The Nashville Sound Studio; and

WHEREAS, once in Nashville, the Barger family joined the Bellevue Presbyterian Church, Bill was ordained a Ruling Elder and began to experience a sense of call to preach the Gospel. As he tells of it in his own words, *“I was in a good church with a good preacher, so I had a good mentor. It was my understanding at the time that every sermon was directed to me;”* and

WHEREAS, Bill took a leap of faith by selling his business, enrolling in the Divinity School at Vanderbilt University, and coming under the care of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee, in order to follow the call of God upon his life; and

WHEREAS, Bill, while matriculating at the Vanderbilt Divinity School, served an 18 month field practicum at the Bellevue and Trinity Presbyterian Churches of Nashville; and

WHEREAS, Bill was ordained a Minister of Word and Sacrament in the PCUSA in 1983, having accepted the call to serve as Pastor for the First Presbyterian Church of Harlan, Kentucky, where he remained for four years and where his daughter Molly was born; and

WHEREAS, in 1987 Bill went on to accept the call to serve as Pastor for the First Presbyterian Church in Dickson, TN, linked with the Ellis Grove Presbyterian Church of Waverly, TN, devoting himself to church and civic activities in both communities; and

WHEREAS, Bill has served the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee as a member of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry, the Administration and Finance Committee, the Permanent Judicial Commission, and currently serves on the Investment Task Force and the Finance Committee; and

WHEREAS, Bill will be well remembered for his proclaiming a message of forgiveness and grace, of being an active feminist, and abiding devotion to the small membership churches; again in his own words, *“Small churches deserve as good a Minister as an large church;”* and

WHEREAS, Bill Barger’s faithful service to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, has manifested itself in Honorable Retirement, effective January 1, 2017;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, That the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee, on this, the 4<sup>th</sup> day of February, in the year of our Lord, 2017 offer praise to God for the Rev. William (“Bill”) J. Barger, and thanks to him for his committed service to the Church of Jesus Christ.

The presbytery showed their appreciation of Dr. Barger’s ministry with applause and a standing ovation. The Moderator ordered the resolution spread upon the minutes. Dr. Barger spoke briefly of his ministry, and family and friends present in support of Dr. Barger were recognized. Rev. Durnell then offered a prayer.

Jeff and Megan Ritchie

Ms. Denton stated the COM intended to honor Jeff and Megan Ritchie upon their retirement, but the Ritchies were not able to attend the February presbytery meeting. Ms. Denton moved the resolutions honoring Jeff Ritchie be spread upon the minutes and Megan and Jeff be recognized at a future presbytery meeting. The motion was seconded and approved without objection.

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF MINISTRY  
THE REVEREND DR. JEFFERSON (“JEFF”) RITCHIE**

WHEREAS, The Reverend Dr. Jefferson (“Jeff”) Ritchie was born in Louisville, Kentucky, baptized and reared in the Bardstown Road Presbyterian Church of Louisville; and

WHEREAS, Jeff, two years after graduating from Davidson College in Davidson, NC, went on to matriculate at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, CA, where he earned his Master of Divinity degree; and

WHEREAS, Jeff met Megan Knox and the two were married on January 1, 1976, and to their union over time two children were given, Katherine Ritchie Ryder and Andrew Jefferson Ritchie; and

WHEREAS, Jeff was ordained to the office of Minister of Word and Sacrament by the Presbytery of Newark (NJ) upon accepting the call to serve as Pastor for the First Presbyterian Church of Caldwell, NJ, from 1976 – 1980; and

WHEREAS, Jeff served as a missionary to Korea from 1980 - 1989, earning a Doctor of Ministry degree from San Francisco Theological Seminary during this time period; and

WHEREAS, Jeff served in the Worldwide Ministries Division of the General Assembly of the PCUSA from 1989-97, first as Missionary in Residence (1989-91), then as Coordinator for International Evangelism (1992-97); and

WHEREAS, Jeff served as Associate Director for Mission of The Outreach Foundation for 19 years, from 1998 – 2016; and

WHEREAS, Jeff was a member of the Presbytery of Newark from 1977-1998, a member of the Presbytery of Mid-Kentucky from 1998 – 2000, and a member of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee from 2000 – to the present, as a presbyter of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee served on the Outreach Mission Unit that planned the Annual Mission Conference from 2002 – 2004, and the Congregational Development Committee that helped to launch an Hispanic New Church Development;

WHEREAS, Jeff Ritchie has served in ordered ministry as a teaching elder for 40 years, with plans to spend the next 40 years being grandfather to Alex and Matthew Ryder; and

WHEREAS, Jeff Ritchie’s faithful service to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, has manifested itself in Honorable Retirement, effective January 1, 2017;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, That the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee, on this, the 4<sup>th</sup> day in February, in the year of our Lord, 2017, offers praise to God for The Rev. Dr. Jefferson (“Jeff”) Ritchie, and offers thanks to him for his committed service to the Church of Jesus Christ.

Dr. Jim Rountree / First Presbyterian Church, Dickson and Ellis Grove Presbyterian Church, Waverly

Ms. Denton introduced Dr. Jim Rountree, and reported the COM had examined Dr. Rountree, a ruling elder at First Presbyterian Church, Dickson, and recommended that he be commissioned to particular pastoral service at First Presbyterian Church, Dickson, and Ellis Grove Presbyterian Church, Waverly, effective January 1, 2017. The COM recommended that Dr. Rountree be given the authority to moderate the session, administer the sacraments, perform a service of Christian marriage, and have voice and vote at presbytery meetings. The COM recommended the commission continue until an interim pastor is hired. The COM will assign a mentor to Dr. Rountree.

Harold Dawkins / First Presbyterian Church, Fayetteville

Ms. Denton introduced Mr. Harold Dawkins, a ruling elder at First Presbyterian Church, Fayetteville, and reported the COM examined him and recommended that he be commissioned to particular pastoral service in order to serve as a hospital chaplain. The COM recommended that Mr. Dawkins be given the authority to administer the sacraments and perform a service of Christian marriage. The COM will assign a mentor to Mr. Dawkins.

The Moderator asked if there were any questions; there were none. The motions were approved as presented. The Moderator propounded the constitutional questions to Dr. Rountree and Mr. Dawkins, and all were answered in the affirmative. The Moderator declared Dr. Rountree and Mr. Dawkins commissioned to particular pastoral service as recommended. Persons present in support of Dr. Rountree and Mr. Dawkins were recognized and congratulated.

## AMENDMENTS TO THE BOOK OF ORDER

The Stated Clerk presented the proposed amendments to the Book of Order. After discussion, the amendments were approved:

### PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

Approved by the 222nd General Assembly (2016) and Recommended to  
the Presbyteries for Their Affirmative or Negative Votes

Please CHECK ✓  
appropriate box

		Affirmative	Negative
16-A	Child and Youth Protection Policy – On Amending G-3.0106 (Item 05-09)	√	
16-B	Parity in Committees—On Amending G-3.0109 (Item 06-05)	√	
16-C	Ordered Ministry Titles		
C.1	On Amending F-3.0202 (Item 06-08, Recommendation 1)	√	
C.2	On Amending G-2.0102 (Item 06-08, Recommendation 2)	√	
C.3	On Amending G-2.0301 (Item 06-08, Recommendation 3)	√	
C.4	On Amending G-2.05 and G-2.0501 (Item 06-08, Recommendation 4)	√	
C.5	On Amending G-2.0701 (Item 06-08, Recommendation 5)	√	
C.6	On Amending G-3.0307 (Item 06-08, Recommendation 6)	√	
C.7	On Amending Titles in the director for Worship and the Rules of Discipline (Item 06-08, Recommendation 7)	√	
C.8	On Amending W-4.4001a. (Item 06-08, Recommendation 8)	√	
16-D	Relationship to PC(USA) of a Person Who Has Renounced Jurisdiction of the Church		
D.1	On Amending G-2.0509 (Item 06-10, Recommendation 1.)	√	
D.2	On Amending D-10.0401 (Item 06-10, Recommendation 2)	√	
16-E	Certified Service Requirements—On Amending G-2.1101, Item 06-18)	√	
16-F	The Ministry of Members—On Amending G-1.0304 (Item 09-11)	√	
16-G	Access to the Lord’s Table—On Amending W-2.4011a. and b. (Item 04-03)	√	
16-H	Directory for Worship – On Replacing the Current Directory for Worship (Item 14-04)	√	

1 Dr. Hinkle provided information for lunch, and the Moderator offered a prayer for the meal.

2  
3 The presbytery was reconvened at 12:45pm by the Moderator, who offered a prayer.

4 **COMMITTEE ON MUTUAL SUPPORT**

5 The Rev. Steve Thomas, chair of the Committee on Mutual Support, presented the committee's  
6 report.

7 NaCoMe Camp and Conference Center

8 Ryan Moore, Director of NaCoMe, provided a brief report on NaCoMe, and encouraged  
9 commissioners to visit the display and to visit NaCoMe!

10 Guatemala Task Force Report

11 Ruling Elder Kathy Corlew provided an update on the work of the Guatemala Task Force. She  
12 thanked the presbytery for the interest, support, and partnership with Guatemala.

13 Report of the Hunger Action Advocate

14 Ruling Elder Barbara Howell, presbytery's Hunger Action Advocate, called attention to her report  
15 and the upcoming One Great Hour of Sharing offering. She provided an update on the Centsability  
16 Program – almost \$21,000 has been collected, and a list of churches participating is included in her  
17 report. The program has provided 12 hunger grants.

18 2017 Mission Banquet

19 Rev. Thomas provided information on the 2017 Mission Banquet, scheduled for February 16, at  
20 the Nashville Korean Presbyterian Church. He encouraged commissioners to register to attend the  
21 banquet.

22 Rev. Thomas also spoke of the work of the committee, and encouraged persons interested in  
23 participating on the committee to join them.

24 **REPORT OF THE SYNOD COMMISSIONERS**

25 Commissioned Ruling Elder Leonard Jordan thanked the presbytery for the opportunity to serve  
26 as a commissioner to the Synod of Living Waters. He provided highlights of the recent Synod meeting,  
27 including an increase in per capita and a report from Living Waters for the World. He reported that he  
28 is serving as vice-moderator of the Synod, and shared the great news of his first grandson!

29 **REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER / CONCERNS, CELEBRATIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS**

30 Warner Durnell, Executive Presbyter, provided a report and then led commissioners in sharing  
31 concerns, celebrations, and announcements. He then offered a prayer.

32 **RECOGNITION OF 2016 MODERATOR**

33 Rev. Durnell stated that it was presbytery's custom to honor the outgoing moderator, but he  
34 knew the Moderator was not fond of curtain calls! Rev. Durnell thanked Virginia Lovellette for her  
35 service to the presbytery – and stated that she had served with grace on the Committee on Ministry, as  
36 a liaison to churches, as Chair of the Coordinating Committee, and as Moderator. Ms. Lovellette was  
37 presented with a gift card to use at one or more charities of her choice.

38 The presbytery honored Ms. Lovellette with a standing ovation.

39  
40 There being no further business, the Moderator announced the 129<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting would be  
41 held May 6 at Hillsboro Presbyterian Church, Nashville. The motion to adjourn was made, seconded and  
42 approved with a prayer by the Moderator.

43  
44 Therese P. Howell  
45 Stated Clerk