

PRESBYTERY OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE
MINUTES OF ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-NINTH STATED MEETING
MAY 6, 2017

The 129th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee was held Saturday, May 6, 2017, at Hillsboro Presbyterian Church, Nashville. Executive Presbyter Warner Durnell and Stated Clerk Therese Howell led an orientation and time of prayer for first time commissioners. 2016 Moderator Virginia S. Lovellette called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

WORSHIP

Worship was led by The Rev. Chris Adams, pastor of the host church. Special music was provided by Tim Gmeiner, organist. Candidates Beth Smith McCaw and Josh Rodriguez each preached a sermon. The offering was collected for the Committee on Ministry's Sabbatical and Pastoral Care funds. 2017 Moderator, The Rev. Dr. Stuart Gordon, and 2017 Vice-Moderator, Ruling Elder Ed Lancaster, were installed during the service of worship.

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

The meeting reconvened after worship, and Moderator Gordon declared a quorum was present. Rev. Adams welcomed commissioners to Hillsboro Presbyterian Church, and spoke briefly about the church. 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 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:

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

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

2017 Presbytery Meeting Locations

The Administrative Committee approved presbytery meeting locations for the remainder of 2017: Saturday, July 22, East Brentwood; Thursday, October 19, NaCoMe Camp and Conference Center.

Financial Report

The Administrative Committee received a first quarter financial report from the Treasurer.

Hispanic NCD Administrative Commission

The Administrative Committee reviewed a report and financials from the Hispanic NCD Administrative Commission.

Woodland Presbyterian Church / Ministry Architects

The Administrative Committee, upon request of the Committee for Church Transformation, approved "bridge funding" for Ministry Architects' work with Woodland Presbyterian Church, Nashville, for three months, in an amount not to exceed \$6,000.

Eastminster Presbyterian Church, Nashville

The Administrative Committee concurred with the Finance Committee that an administrative commission be formed to assist the Eastminster Presbyterian Church session in discerning the church's future.

May 6 Presbytery Meeting

The Administrative Committee approved the agenda for the May Presbytery meeting. The offering will be collected for the COM's sabbatical and pastoral care funds.

Young Adult Volunteer Program

The Administrative Committee received a request from the Committee on Mutual Support, seeking approval of a grant application for the renewal of the Young Adult Volunteer program. The Administrative Committee approved the request, with the following caveats:

- a. Grant funds will be held until resolution of the caveats, and returned if not resolved.
- b. Professional liability insurance responsibility
- c. Adequate financial controls
- d. Establishment of governing board and responsibilities
- e. Clarification of funding from participating congregations (presbytery is not required to provide funding)

Eastminster Administrative Commission

Mr. Lancaster reported the Administrative Committee recommended that an administrative commission be formed to work with the session and congregation of Eastminster Presbyterian Church, Nashville. Ruling Elders Anna Bailey and Donna Ramsey, of Eastminster, spoke for the commission, and thanked the Presbytery for its ongoing support after the church fire. Mr. Lancaster spoke briefly about the commission, and the following charge was approved:

The Presbytery is responsible for congregations and teaching elders within a specific area, and "... for assisting and supporting the witness of congregations to the sovereign activity of God in the world, so that all congregations become communities of faith, hope, love, and witness. ..." (G-3.0301). This responsibility includes the power to provide that the Word of God is truly preached and heard, the Sacraments are rightly administered and received, and the community of faith is nurtured.

On December 11, 2016, a fire destroyed the buildings of Eastminster Presbyterian Church in Nashville, and the structure was declared a total loss. Woodland Presbyterian Church, Nashville, three miles from Eastminster, offered the use of their church property so that Eastminster could continue to gather together for worship and fellowship. The Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Program sent a grant for day-to-day expenses, and

the churches in the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee have sent funds and materials to Eastminster. The presbytery's Committee on Church Transformation approved funds for an assessment by Ministry Architects.

The Administrative and Finance Committees support the discernment of the Eastminster session and congregation, and believe that this discernment would be facilitated with the assistance of an administrative commission.

The administrative commission shall report quarterly to the Administrative Committee and will submit its final report to the presbytery. Should the administrative commission decide that the sale of the property is advisable, it shall also notify the Trustees for their recommendation to the presbytery.

Therefore, in accordance with the *Book of Order*, the Administrative Committee recommends to the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee that it elect an administrative commission for the Eastminster Presbyterian Church, Nashville, and that this commission be charged to take any one or more of the following actions as it deems necessary:

1. The administrative commission shall work with the session and congregation to discern the future of Eastminster Presbyterian Church. The discernment shall include a review of a Reformed witness and mission and ministry in East Nashville.
2. The administrative commission will work alongside the session in managing its affairs, including the management of funds received in the church's insurance settlement. The administrative commission may assume original jurisdiction if necessary.
3. The administrative commission will:
 - a. Determine, in consultation with the session and congregation, that a Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) presence for mission and ministry is important in the community served by the Eastminster Presbyterian Church. In this case, the administrative commission shall, in consultation with the Committee on Church Transformation:
 - i. determine what steps should be taken for transformation, redevelopment, and / or revitalization of the session and congregation; and
 - ii. make a recommendation to the presbytery regarding the plan for transformation, redevelopment, and / or revitalization of the Eastminster Presbyterian Church, in consultation with the session and the congregation.
 - b. draft a plan of merger, if it is the will of the Eastminster Presbyterian Church session and congregation to merge with another PCUSA congregation willing to merge with them.
 - c. if this is determined to be the most pastoral and wise course of action, draft a plan of dissolution; or
 - d. discern another course of action for the congregation.

The following persons were elected as members of the administrative commission for the Eastminster Presbyterian Church, Nashville, Tennessee:

The Rev. Dr. Bill Barger, Honorably Retired

Ruling Elder Suzanne McLemore, Westminster Nashville

The Rev. Lilia Rameriz, UMC Publishing / Nashville Korean

Ruling Elder Melinda Sanders, Glen Leven Nashville

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

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

Investment Task Force

The Finance Committee received a report from the Investment Task Force.

Hispanic NCD Administrative Commission

The Finance Committee reviewed a report and financials from the Hispanic NCD Administrative Commission. The committee will review the original grant application for the NCD at its next meeting.

Eastminster Administrative Commission

The Finance Committee concurred with the Administrative Committee that an administrative commission be formed to assist the Eastminster Presbyterian Church session in discerning the church's future.

Presbytery Office Relocation

The Finance Committee received an update on the presbytery office relocation.

2016 Audit

The 2016 Audit is underway.

Financials

Financials as of March 31, 2017, as well as an analysis of the Financials by the Treasurer, were presented for review.

Oak Grove Presbyterian Church Request

Mr. Ingram reported the Finance Committee received a request from the Oak Grove Presbyterian Church. The church had been gifted with a cemetery years ago; the session requested they be allowed to transfer the cemetery to a not-for-profit entity for the care and maintenance of the cemetery. No consideration will be paid for the property; the transaction allows the church to avoid future maintenance liabilities. The Finance Committee recommended the Oak Grove Presbyterian Church be allowed to transfer the property, and this was approved.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER

The Rev. Warner Durnell, Executive Presbyter, presented a brief report in addition to the printed report provided with the Presbytery packet.

PRESENTATION - THE REV. DR. DONALD MCKIM

The Rev. Rosanna Anderson, chair of the Fellowship of the Ordained of the Committee on Leadership Excellence introduced guest speaker The Rev. Dr. Donald McKim. Dr. McKim is Editor for "The Present Word," "Joining the Feast" in the Feasting on the Word Curriculum, and also Editor for 'Being Reformed: Faith Seeking Understanding' for Congregational Ministries Publishing of the Presbyterian Church (USA), as well as the author of several books on Presbyterianism. Dr. McKim presented a lecture, and responded to questions from commissioners.

Commissioners recessed for lunch in the Fellowship Hall.

The Moderator called the meeting back to order, and opened with prayer.

CONCERNS, CELEBRATIONS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Durnell led the presbytery in sharing concerns, celebrations, and announcements.

COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY

Ruling Elder Will Radford, chair of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry, presented the committee's report.

List of Inquirers and Candidates

Attached is a current list of inquirers and candidates under care of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee. (Attachment C)

Ashley McFaul-Erwin / Second Presbyterian Church, Nashville

Mr. Radford introduced Ashley McFaul-Erwin, a member of Second Presbyterian Church and an inquirer under care of the presbytery. The Committee on Preparation for Ministry recommended that Ms. McFaul-Erwin be approved for candidacy. Ms. McFaul-Erwin spoke of her call to ministry and responded to questions from commissioners.

T. Wesley Moore / First Presbyterian Church, Cookeville

Mr. Radford introduced Mr. T. Wesley Moore, a member of First Presbyterian Church, Cookeville and an inquirer under care of the presbytery. The CPM recommended that Mr. Moore be moved to candidacy. Mr. Moore spoke of his call to ministry and responded to questions from commissioners.

Ms. McFaul-Erwin and Mr. Moore were escorted out of the sanctuary, and the Moderator called for discussion. The motion to move Ms. McFaul-Erwin and Mr. Moore to candidacy was approved. Both were called back into the sanctuary, and the Moderator reported the affirmative vote. The Moderator led commissioners in a liturgy for the newly-enrolled candidates.

The Rev. Stacy Rector offered a charge for Ms. McFaul-Erwin, and The Rev. Dr. Mary Louise McCullough offered a prayer. Ruling Elder Virginia Lovellette offered a charge and prayer for Mr. Moore. Persons present in support of the candidates were recognized.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

The Rev. Dr. Greg Glover, Vice-Chair of the Committee on Ministry, presented the committee's report.

Renewal of Temporary Pastoral Relationships

The Committee on Ministry approved the renewal of the following temporary pastoral relationships for 2017:

Dr. Michael Bradley / Dechard Presbyterian Church
Rev. Kent Bailey / Milldale Presbyterian Church, Springfield
Rev. Joseph Cejka III / Hopewell Presbyterian Church, Milton
Rev. Harry Green / First Presbyterian Church, McMinnville
Rev. Marshall Gupton / Northminster Presbyterian Church, Murfreesboro
Rev. Dwight Liles / First Presbyterian Church, Mt. Pleasant

Renewal of Interim Pastoral Relationships

The COM approved the renewal of the following interim pastoral relationships:
Dr. Jimmie Lancaster / Priest Lake Presbyterian Church, Nashville
Dr. Charles McCaskey / First Presbyterian Church, Cookeville

Renewal of Validated Ministries

The Committee on Ministry approved the renewal of the following validated ministries:
Rev. Rosanna Anderson / Associate Director, Stewardship Ministries, United Methodist Church
Rev. Linda Bray / Alive Hospice
Rev. Stacy Rector / Tennesseans for Alternatives to the Death Penalty
Rev. Janet Todd Salyer / Callings
Rev. Katherine Smith / Vanderbilt Divinity School
Dr. Robert Weingartner / The Outreach Foundation

Renewal of Commissions

The COM approved the renewal of the following ruling elder commissions for the terms specified:

David Beaty / Christ Church, Alpine / three years
Ray Handisides / Old Hickory Presbyterian Church / three years
Jo Ann Hansel / Southminster Presbyterian Church, Nashville / three years
Becky Smith / Westminster Presbyterian Church, Fairfield Glade / three years
Larry Wilmoth / Double Springs Presbyterian Church, Cookeville / three years

Ministry Information Forms

The Committee on Ministry approved Ministry Information Forms for the following churches:
Calvary Presbyterian Church of Big Lick, Crossville
First Presbyterian Church, Fayetteville
First Presbyterian Church, Lewisburg

Dismissals

The COM dismissed the following teaching elders to the presbyteries as indicated:
The Rev. Meg Flannagan to the Presbytery of Long Island
The COM dismissed The Rev. Alan Bancroft to the Presbytery of New Hope
The COM dismissed The Rev. Hudson Neely to the Presbytery of Foothills

Honorably Retired Status

The Committee on Ministry approved the status of Honorably Retired as follows:
The Rev. Steve Thomas III - effective May 1, 2017
The Rev. Dr. Samuel Cooper III - June 1, 2017, with approval of dissolution of associate pastoral relationship at First Presbyterian Church, Nashville, effective May 31, 2017

Pat Handlson

The COM approved the severance agreement between First Presbyterian Church and Pat Handlson. The COM reviewed the report of its subcommittee charged with oversight of Pat Handlson during the period of temporary exclusion from ordered ministry. The subcommittee recommended Mr. Handlson's restoration, but the COM did not sustain this recommendation and does not recommend restoration at this time. The vote to recommend restoration was defeated by a vote of 2 for, 14 opposed, and 1 abstention.

Leigh Bonner / Woodland Presbyterian Church, Nashville

The COM approved the temporary supply contract between The Rev. Leigh Bonner (Nations Ministry Center) and Woodland Presbyterian Church, Nashville, pending Rev. Bonner's successful examination with the COM Examinations Task Force. The contract is for 15 hours/week at a rate of \$2,000/month.

Joyce Merritt / First Presbyterian Church, Murfreesboro

The COM sustained the examination of The Rev. Joyce Merritt, a member of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, and approved the contract between Rev. Merritt and First Presbyterian Church, Murfreesboro. Rev. Merritt will serve as parish associate. A copy of Rev. Merritt's statement of faith and biographical information was provided with the COM report.

Mark McDaniel / Historic Franklin Presbyterian Church

The COM approved the interim contract between The Rev. Mark McDaniel, a member of the Presbytery of Ohio Valley, and Historic Franklin Presbyterian Church, effective May 7, 2017. The COM sustained the examination of Rev. McDaniel, and received him into membership in the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee, pending approval of the interim contract by the session. A copy of Rev. McDaniel's statement of faith and biographical statement was provided with the COM report.

The Rev. Leslie Traylor / Hermitage Presbyterian Church

The COM sustained the examination of The Rev. Leslie Traylor, a member of the Presbytery of Missouri River Valley, who accepted a call to Hermitage Presbyterian Church, and received Rev. Traylor

into membership in the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee. A copy of Rev. Traylor's statement of faith and biographical information was provided with the COM report. The COM also approved the following terms of call: Salary \$40,000; Housing \$17,000; Social Security \$4,361; Board of Pensions; Dental Insurance \$443; Professional Expenses (auto, continuing education, etc.) \$5,500; four weeks vacation; two weeks continuing education; five days of personal leave (non-Sundays); full cost of moving. Dr. Glover presented the following commission to install Rev. Traylor, and this was approved without objection: Sunday, June 25, 2017, 3pm, Hermitage Presbyterian Church; Teaching Elders: Michael Davis (First Hendersonville), Warner Durnell (Executive Presbyter), Carol Tate (First Fayetteville); Ruling Elders: Bob Gessler (Donelson), Therese Howell (Stated Clerk), chair; Kathy Johnson (Hermitage).

Dr. Glover asked Leigh Bonner, Joyce Merritt, Mark McDaniel, and Leslie Traylor to stand and be recognized; all were welcomed into the Presbytery. Persons present in support of the ministers were recognized.

Candidates for Ordination

Dr. Glover reported that the Committee on Ministry had examined Beth McCaw, a candidate under care of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee, and approved her call as pastor of the new worshipping community at Southminster Presbyterian Church, Nashville. A copy of Ms. McCaw's statement of faith and biographical statement was provided with the COM report. The COM recommended that Ms. McCaw be examined for ordination and installation.

Dr. Glover introduced The Rev. Nolan Huizenga, a member of the COM Examinations Task Force, to lead the examination of Ms. McCaw. Ms. McCaw spoke of her journey of faith, and responded to questions from Rev. Huizenga and commissioners.

Dr. Glover introduced Mr. Josh Rodriguez, a candidate under care of the Presbytery of Western Colorado and approved his call as associate pastor at First Presbyterian Church, Nashville. A copy of his statement of faith and biographical statement was provided with the COM report. Mr. Rodriguez was examined by the Committee on Ministry, and the COM recommended he be examined for ordination and installation.

Rev. Huizenga led the examination of Mr. Rodriguez. After speaking of his faith journey, Mr. Rodriguez responded to questions from Rev. Huizenga and commissioners.

Rev. Huizenga escorted Ms. McCaw and Mr. Rodriguez out of the sanctuary. Dr. Glover stated that the sermons preached by Ms. McCaw and Mr. Rodriguez at worship were a part of their examinations, and moved that this part of the examinations be sustained. The motion was seconded and approved without objection.

Beth Smith McCaw / Southminster Presbyterian Church, Nashville

Dr. Glover moved on behalf of the Committee on Ministry that the examination of Ms. McCaw be sustained, and that she be approved for ordination and installation, and received as a teaching elder member of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee. The motion was approved.

Dr. Glover reported the COM approved the following terms of call for Ms. McCaw: Salary \$25,000; Housing \$24,000; Social Security Tax \$1,875; Reimbursable Expenses \$5,000; Full Board of Pensions. Dr. Glover moved the approval of the following commission to ordain and install, and it was seconded and approved without objection: Sunday, June 11, 2017, Southminster Presbyterian Church, 4pm – Teaching Elders: Chris Adams (Hillsboro), Warner Durnell (Executive Presbyter), Chair, Heidi Hudnut-Beumler (Westminster Nashville), Rachel Pence (Westminster Nashville); Ruling Elders: Marla Albert (Hillsboro); JoAnn Hansel (Southminster); Guests of the Commission: Jennifer Smith Davis (Presbytery of Southern New England), Douglas H. Smith (Presbytery of Tropical Florida).

Josh Rodriguez / First Presbyterian Church, Nashville

Dr. Glover, on behalf of the Committee on Ministry, moved that the examination of Mr. Rodriguez be sustained, and that he be approved for ordination and installation, and received as a teaching elder member of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee. The motion was approved.

Dr. Glover moved approval of the following terms of call for Mr. Rodriguez: Salary \$25,000; Housing \$24,275; Social Security Tax \$3,770; Professional Expenses \$4,000 (includes auto, continuing education, books, personal business expenses); \$17,985 Board of Pensions. The motion was seconded and approved without objection. Dr. Glover moved the approval of the following commission to ordain and install, and it was seconded and approved without objection: Sunday, June 18, 2017, First Presbyterian Church, Nashville, 11am – Teaching Elders: Todd Jones (First Nashville), chair; Lindsey Groves (UKIRK Nashville); Warner Durnell (Executive Presbyter); Ruling Elders – Brent Moody (First Nashville); Cristi Scott (St. Andrews Nashville); Guests of the Commission – Alan Gibson (Presbytery of Western Colorado), Beau Smith (Presbytery of Western Colorado).

Rev. Huizenga, Ms. McCaw, and Mr. Rodriguez were escorted back into the sanctuary, and the Moderator reported the affirmative votes. Persons presented in support of Ms. McCaw and Mr. Rodriguez were recognized and welcomed while Ms. McCaw and Mr. Rodriguez signed the Book of Ministerial Obligations.

Transfer of Ordination to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Dr. Glover reported the Committee on Ministry would present two ministers in good standing from other denominations who wish to transfer to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and become members of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee.

The C.O.M. examined The Rev. Dr. Jaco Hamman, a minister member of the Reformed Church of America, who serves as Professor of Religion, Psychology & Culture at Vanderbilt Divinity School. The COM validated Dr. Hamman's ministry, and recommended, pursuant to G-2.0505a.(2), that Dr. Hamman be granted an exemption for the examinations required of candidates, and that he be transferred to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and received into the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee.

The C.O.M. also examined The Rev. Dr. Byung Hee Kang, a minister member of the Korean Presbyterian Church Abroad, who has accepted a contract to serve as assistant to the pastor at the Nashville Korean Presbyterian Church. The COM recommended, pursuant to G-2.0505a.(2), that Dr. Kang be granted an exemption for the examinations required of candidates, and that he be transferred to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and received into the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee.

Dr. Hamman and Dr. Kang each spoke briefly about their journeys of faith, and responded to questions from Rev. Huizenga and commissioners. Rev. Huizenga escorted Dr. Hamman and Dr. Kang from the sanctuary.

Jaco Hamman / Vanderbilt Divinity School

Dr. Glover moved that Dr. Hamman be granted an exemption for the examinations required of candidates. The motion was approved by the required 2/3 vote. Dr. Glover moved that Dr. Hamman be received as a member of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee, and this was approved.

Byung Hee Kang / Nashville Korean Presbyterian Church, Nashville

Dr. Glover moved that Dr. Kang be granted an exemption for the examinations required of candidates, and the motion was approved by the required 2/3 vote. Dr. Glover moved that Dr. Kang be received as a member of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee. The motion was approved.

Rev. Huizenga, Dr. Hamman, and Dr. Kang were escorted back into the meeting, and informed of the affirmative votes. Persons presented in support of Dr. Hamman and Dr. Kang were recognized and welcomed while Dr. Hamman and Dr. Kang signed the Book of Ministerial Obligations.

Teresa Burns / First Presbyterian Church, Pulaski

Dr. Glover reported the COM sustained the examination of ruling elder Teresa Burns, a member of First Presbyterian Church, Pulaski. The COM recommended that Ms. Burns be commissioned to pastoral service at First Pulaski, such service to include celebration of the sacraments and leadership with the new worshipping community under the direction of the session. A copy of Ms. Burns' statement of faith and biographical information was provided with the Presbytery packet.

Ms. Burns spoke briefly of her journey of faith, and responded to questions from commissioners. The motion to commission Ms. Burns to particular pastoral service at First, Pulaski, was approved. The Moderator propounded the constitutional questions to Ms. Burns, and all were answered in the affirmative. Persons present in support of Ms. Burns were recognized and welcomed.

Policy on Former Pastors

Dr. Glover reported the COM revised the Former Pastor Policy, and moved approval of the revised policy. A marked up copy of the policy, as well as a "clean" copy, were provided with the Presbytery packet. Dr. Glover spoke to the revisions, and the following policy, as revised, was approved.

**PRESBYTERY OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE
POLICY CONCERNING FORMER PASTORS**

DEFINITION

A former pastor is one who no longer serves as pastor, associate pastor, or in any temporary pastoral relationship in a congregation due to call to other service, retirement, or involuntary termination.

RATIONALE FOR THE POLICY

When the pastoral relationship between a pastor and a congregation is dissolved, the nature and character of the relationship changes. Both the pastor and the congregation must disengage from the nature and character of the pastoral relationship, in order to engage and establish new relationships. This policy, and the attached paper on how to relate to a former pastor, address issues in this transition.

When a pastor leaves a congregation due to retirement, call to other service, or involuntary termination, there are certain ethical standards that should be followed so the ties between the former pastor and the congregation are severed and new relationships are established between the new pastor and the congregation. When those standards are followed it provides a smooth transition and happy relationship among all parties. Direction for the former pastor comes from the words of John 3:30, "He must increase, but I must decrease."

REQUIREMENTS FOR FORMER PASTORS

When a pastor resigns, retires, or leaves for other reasons, due care should be exercised not to influence, by direction or indirection, by spoken or written word, the selection of any successor or the policies of that successor. After leaving a church, the former pastor shall exercise all care so as to have no further influence upon the congregation either by conversation, correspondence or other action.

During the closure phase of a ministry, the retiring / resigning / leaving pastor should publicly announce that he / she will no longer be available for pastoral services to the members of that church following the stated date of termination. Thereafter, the pastor shall fulfill that announced intention by declining all requests from members of that church to conduct baptisms, weddings, funerals, and other pastoral duties for them and shall encourage the strengthening of ties between the congregation and their present pastor. In special situations a former pastor may be called upon for services upon the invitation of the present pastor and the approval of the session. The former pastor would not ordinarily conduct services but rather would assist the present pastor at his / her direction.

The former pastor will seek a church home in another parish. If he / she remains in the community, that person bears a heavy obligation of self-restraint regarding the business and spiritual well-being of the congregation.

The former pastor shall vacate both the manse and the office by the date of dissolution or by a mutually agreed upon date. At the time of vacating, all keys must be returned to the session or proper church committee. Further, definite plans should be made by the former pastor for the disposition of pastoral counseling notes, personal records, etc. It is strongly recommended that the former pastor change her/his phone number(s).

Former pastors who are elected pastor emeritus are reminded that this is an honorary title only and carries no job responsibilities or privileges unless they are expressly stated by the session and approved by the presbytery.

Former pastors are still under the obligation of the presbytery's policies.

Subject to the needs and desires of the former pastor and his / her family, the presbytery has a responsibility to meet the spiritual and physical needs of this family and to utilize their talents and gifts to the glory of God.

REQUIREMENTS FOR CHURCH MEMBERS

When the pastoral relationship between a pastor and a congregation is dissolved by reason of retirement, a call to other service, or any other cause, the pastor's relationship with members of the congregation is altered in ways that must be respected by all persons involved. The relationship that formerly existed between the pastor and members of the congregation is no longer appropriate. Although the pastor continues as a sister / brother in Christ, this pastor is no longer "the pastor."

Efforts on a congregation member's part to continue the past relationship, such as asking the former pastor to perform some usual or customary pastoral services, creates an ethically awkward situation. While the former pastor may wish to honor the request (and certainly would not want to hurt feelings), ministerial etiquette and ethics make it inappropriate to render such services unless invited to do so by the present pastor and the session.

It is inappropriate to ask a former pastor to provide pastoral services for any reason (e.g., weddings, hospital calls, funerals).

It is inappropriate to discuss the congregation, the new pastor, the session, or any other aspect of congregational life with the former pastor. Especially do NOT solicit the former pastor's advice or counsel about any of these matters. However, in her / his best interest and for the health of the church, the former pastor must distance herself / himself from the congregation. Raising issues related to the congregation puts the former pastor in violation of this policy. It is inappropriate to take comments, concerns, or criticisms of the current pastor to a former pastor. This puts the former pastor in violation of this policy.

It is appropriate to pray regularly for both current and former pastors and the congregation.

I / We have read and agreed to abide by these policies.

Pastor/Associate Pastor/Interim Pastor

Date

Clerk of Session

Date

Revised by the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee May 6, 2017

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There being no further business, the Moderator announced the 130th Stated Meeting would be held Saturday, July 22, 2017 at East Brentwood Presbyterian Church. The motion to adjourn was made, seconded and approved with a prayer by the Moderator.

Therese P. Howell
Stated Clerk