

**PRESBYTERY OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE
MINUTES OF ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-FIRST STATED MEETING
OCTOBER 19, 2017**

The 131st Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee was held Thursday, October 19, 2017, at NaCoMe Camp and Conference Center, Pleasantville, Tennessee. Executive Presbyter Warner Durnell and Stated Clerk Therese Howell led an orientation and time of prayer for first time commissioners. Moderator Stuart Gordon called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

WORSHIP

Worship was led by Martha Bess DeWitt, Janet Salyer, Marjorie Thompson, and Carol Tate. Rev. Thompson preached the sermon, and the sacrament of the Lord's Supper was celebrated. The offering was collected for the support of NaCoMe.

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

The meeting reconvened after worship; the Moderator declared a quorum was present and reviewed procedures for the meeting. Ryan Moore, director of NaCoMe, welcomed commissioners and spoke briefly about NaCoMe's history. 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 approve the following agenda, and this was so ordered without objection:

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| 9:00 am | 1. | Registration (Order of the Day in CAPS) |
| 9:30 am | | Orientation for First Time Commissioners and Prayer for Presbytery – Warner Durnell and Therese Howell (20 minutes) |

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| 10:00 am | 2. | WORSHIP (Offering – NaCoMe) |
| 11:00 am | 3. | Break |
| 11:15 am | 4. | Call to Order / Establishment of Quorum / Statement of Procedures / Welcome by Host / Recognition of First Time Presbyters / Seating of Corresponding Members / Adoption of Agenda |
| 11:30 am | 5. | Stated Clerk’s Report – Therese Howell (5 min) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval of July 2017 Meeting Minutes |
| 11:35 am | 6. | Administrative Committee – Ed Lancaster (10 min) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nominating Task Force Report – David Sawyer |
| 11:45 pm | 7. | Finance Committee – Mike Ingram (10 min) |
| 11:55 am | 8. | Executive Presbyter’s Report – Warner Durnell (10 min) |
| 12:05 pm | 9. | Prayer of Thanksgiving / Lunch |
| 1:00 pm | 10. | Committee on Ministry – Theresa Denton (30 min) |
| 1:30 pm | 11. | Committee on Mutual Support – Steve Thomas (15 min) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guatemala Ministry Update |
| 1:45 pm | 12. | Concerns, Celebrations, Announcements – Warner Durnell (15 min) |
| 2:00 pm | 13. | Unfinished Business |
| | | 132nd Stated Meeting – Saturday, February 3, 2018, First Presbyterian Church, Columbia, Tennessee |
| 2:05 pm | 14. | Closing Prayer / Adjourn |

STATED CLERK’S REPORT

Ruling Elder Therese Howell, Stated Clerk, presented the clerk’s report, and called attention to the reports of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry, the Hunger Action Advocate, the Committee on Leadership Excellence (preaching event October 30, 2017), and the Nueva Vida Administrative Commission.

Committee on Preparation for Ministry *Inquirers and Candidates*

Person(s) received as Inquirers – None
Person(s) removed from roll of Inquirers – Jon Nevel
Persons certified ready for call
Emily Wilmesherr – May
Elizabeth Hollingsworth – August
Claire Harris Kramer – September
Beth Olker – September

List of Inquirers and Candidates (Attachment B)

Overture – Presbytery of Central Nebraska

The Stated Clerk has received an overture from the Presbytery of Central Nebraska re: Administrative Personnel Association, which was referred to the Permanent Judicial Commission.

Evelyn Graham / Southminster Presbyterian Church, Nashville

The Stated Clerk has received the minutes of the commission to ordain and install Evelyn Graham as part time designated pastor at Southminster Presbyterian Church, Nashville. *[minutes to be included in permanent record]*

Cynthia Schwartz / Priest Lake Presbyterian Church, Nashville

The Stated Clerk has received the minutes of the commission to install The Rev. Dr. Cindy Schwartz as pastor at Priest Lake Presbyterian Church, Nashville. *[minutes to be included in permanent record]*

July 22, 2017 Minutes

The minutes of the 130th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee (July 22, 2017) were presented for approval. The motion to approve the minutes as presented was made, seconded, and approved without objection.

Celebration of the Lord's Supper / UKIRK Nashville

The Stated Clerk presented the request form UKIRK Nashville to celebrate the Lord's Supper on the third Thursday of each month when school is in session. The motion to approve this request was made, seconded, and approved without objection.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

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

Financial Report

The Administrative Committee received a financial report from the Treasurer.

Nueva Vida (Hispanic NCD) Administrative Commission

The Administrative Committee reviewed a report Hispanic NCD Administrative Commission.

Eastminster Administrative Commission

The Administrative Committee received a report from the Eastminster Administrative Commission.

October Presbytery Meeting

The Administrative Committee approved the agenda for the October Presbytery meeting. The offering will be collected for NaCoMe.

Retirement of Executive Presbyter

The Administrative Committee discussed the retirement of Executive Presbyter Warner Durnell (July 31, 2018). The committee asked the Nominations Task Force to bring a slate of nominees for an Executive Presbyter Search Committee to the October presbytery meeting. The Administrative Committee will invite cluster meetings to offer, at their fall meetings, guidance to the EP Search Committee regarding hopes and expectations of a new executive presbyter. The Administrative Committee will review the current executive presbyter job description, as well as review the 2020 Vision Plan as the presumed alternative to a self-study.

2018 Nominating Task Force Chair

The Administrative Committee appointed The Rev. David Sawyer to serve as the 2018 chair of the Nominating Task Force.

2018 Personnel Task Force Chair

The Administrative Committee appointed Ruling Elder Geeta McMillan to serve as chair of the Personnel Task Force.

Isaiah Team / The Village Church

Upon the request of the session of The Village Church, the Administrative Committee will appoint an Isaiah 1:18 Team to work with the church as they discern their relationship with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Teaching Elder Robert Montgomery, Teaching Elder Carol Tate, and Ruling Elder Connie Hamblen have agreed to serve on the Isaiah Team.

NaCoMe Charter

Mr. Lancaster reported that the Administrative Committee, at the request of the Board of NaCoMe, recommended the following amendments to the NaCoMe charter:

1. The name of the corporation be changed to NaCoMe Camp and Retreat Center, Presbyteries of Middle Tennessee and Mid-South (PCUSA).

2. Article III be amended in its entirety to read and provide as follows: III. The Board of Governors shall be comprised of not less than 12 and not more than 16 members, as may jointly be determined by the Presbyteries of Middle Tennessee and Mid-South, with one-half of members of the Board to be at all times selected by each of the Presbyteries.

There were no questions, and the amendments were approved.

Nominating Task Force Report

The Rev. David Sawyer, chair of the Nominating Task Force, presented the committee's report. The names for election are indicated with **bold underline**:

TE – Minister of Word and Sacrament	RE – Ruling Elder	*Trustee
	<u>Administrative Committee</u>	
<u>Class of 2018</u>	<u>Class of 2019</u>	<u>Class of 2020</u>
John Hinkle, TE First Murfreesboro	David Sawyer, TE First Spring Hill	<u>Robert Montgomery</u> , TE First Pulaski
Geeta McMillian, RE First Sparta	_____, RE / TE	<u>Theresa Denton</u> , RE Mod.-in-Nomination
Ed Lancaster, RE* 2018 Moderator	Carol Tate, TE* 2018 Vice-Moderator	Mike Ingram, RE* Treasurer
	<u>Finance Committee</u>	
<u>Shawn Thomas Smith</u> , TE First Smyrna	MiHyea Fisher, RE Nashville Korean	<u>Bill Barger</u> , TE Honorably Retired
J. Allen Kennedy, RE First Nashville	Sally Hughes, TE Trinity	<u>Suzanne McLemore</u> , RE Westminster Nashville
	<u>Committee on Church Transformation</u>	
Jeanne' Hoescht, TE Oak Grove Prayer Summits	Phil Martin, RE First Nashville Chair	<u>Barb Hall</u> , RE East Brentwood Celebrate the Journey
Tony McMahan, RE Glencliff Church Growth Strategy	Lilia Ramirez-Jimenez, TE UMC Publishing Healthy Congregations	<u>John Hilley</u> , TE East Brentwood
	<u>Committee on Leadership Excellence</u>	
Sherard Edington, TE First Lebanon Celebration of the Resurrection	Donovan Drake, TE Westminster Nashville College of Preachers	<u>Sally Hughes</u> , TE Trinity Chair
_____ Excellence in Officer Education	Jule Nyhuis, TE Hillwood Leadership Excellence Training	_____ Fellowship of the Ordained
	<u>Committee on Ministry</u>	
Pat Bridges, RE First Columbia	C. Nolan Huizenga, TE Second	<u>Jane Herring</u> , TE Normandy
Andy Gay, TE Honorably Retired	Todd Jenkins, TE First Lewisburg	<u>Bill Russell</u> , RE First Spring Hill
Gregory Glover, TE First Clarksville	Larry McElroy, RE Northminster M'boro	<u>Donna Simpson</u> , RE First Cookeville
Guy Griffith, TE Westminster Nashville	Diane Miner, RE First Clarksville	<u>Patty Nunley</u> , RE First McMinnville
Lindsey Groves, TE UKIRK Nashville	Lynn Tollett, RE Calvary Crossville	<u>Scott Corlew</u> , RE First Murfreesboro
Marva Swann, RE St. Andrews	Stephen Yates, TE First Tullahoma	_____, TE
	<u>Committee on Mutual Support</u>	
Kathy Corlew, RE First Murfreesboro	Leonard Jordan, RE St. Andrews	<u>Jeff Kane</u> , TE Westminster Columbia

Guatemala Task Force
Steve Thomas III, TE
Honorably Retired
Chair

Leigh Bonner, TE
Woodland
Will Radford, RE
Village Church
Diane Stark, RE
Second

Class of 2018
Elinor Foster, RE
First Lewisburg
Jane McDow, RE
Westminster Nashville
Sandra Randleman, TE
First Nashville

Teaching Elders:
Greg Glover, First Clarksville
Mary Louise McCullough, Second
Carol Tate, 2019 Moderator
Young Adult Advisory Delegate: **Callie Spencer**, Westminster Nashville
Martha Gilliss, TE, Member-at-Large

Steve Douse, RE, First Nashville
Sally Hughes, TE, Trinity
Melinda Sanders, RE, Glen Leven

Rev. Craig Pope, Harpeth, Chair
Rev. Jim Hudnut-Beumler, At-Large
Montgomery Williams, Westminster, Secretary
Rev. Joshua Rodriguez, First Nashville
Samera Zavaro, Downtown Nashville
Ashton Beggs, First Nashville
Rev. Kipp Rush, Brenthaven CPC
Rev. Rachel Pence, Westminster Nashville

The Moderator opened the floor for additional nominations, and there were none. The motion was made, seconded, and approved to elect the nominees by acclamation.

Technology Task Force
Beth McCaw, TE
Southminster
Campus Ministries
Committee on Preparation for Ministry

Bobby Harding, TE
First Murfreesboro
Andrew Smith, RE
First & Blue Spring, Sparta
Michael Wilson, TE
Downtown

Permanent Judicial Commission
Class of 2020

Mary Ellen Ausenbaugh, RE
Buffalo Valley
Carol Foster, RE
First Fayetteville
John Todd, TE
Honorably Retired

Commissioners to 223rd General Assembly (2018)

Ruling Elders:
Elinor Foster, First Lewisburg
Geeta McMillan, First Sparta
Bart Walker, First Murfreesboro

Commissioners to Synod of Living Waters

Leonard Jordan, CRE, St. Andrews

Executive Presbyter Search Committee

Donovan Drake, TE, Westminster Nashville
Ed Lancaster, RE, First Columbia

UKIRK Nashville

Whitney Book Lockhard, Class of 2008, Vice-Chair
Guy Hicks, At-Large, Treasurer
Meghan Backes Russell, Class of 2008, Outreach Chair
Rev. Nolan Huizenga, Second Nashville
Lynda Jody Kelly, Hillsboro Nashville
Rev. Stacy Rector, At-Large
Ben Vos, Woodland Nashville
Rev. Lindsey Groves, Campus Minister and Executive Director

Neighborhood Meetings

Hunger Task Force

Paul Casner, TE
Donelson
Tom McDow, RE
Westminster Nashville
Pam Shampain, RE
First Nashville

Class of 2022
Stacy Rector, TE
TADP
Carson Salyer, TE
Honorably Retired
C.J. Thompson, TE
First Manchester

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Ruling Elder Mike Ingram, Treasurer and chair of the Finance Committee, presented the following report.

Investment Task Force Report

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

Nueva Vida (Hispanic NCD) Administration Commission

The Finance Committee received a report from the Hispanic NCD Administrative Commission.

Eastminster Administrative Commission

The Finance Committee received a report from the Eastminster Administrative Commission.

Presbytery Office Relocation

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

2018 Budget

The Finance Committee has begun work on the 2018 budget.

Financials

The Finance Committee reviewed financials as of August 31, 2017 which were provided with the presbytery packet.

Continuing Resolution

Mr. Ingram stated the Finance Committee recommended that effective January 1, 2018, essential expenses be paid at the 2017 budget level until the 2018 budget is approved by the presbytery. There were no questions or discussion, and this was approved.

EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER'S REPORT

Warner Durnell, Executive Presbyter, spoke about the importance of camp in faith formation. He spoke of the recent meeting with Phil Martin, chair of the Committee on Church Transformation, and a group of Egyptian Presbyterians who wish to start a worshipping community. Rev. Durnell also updated the presbytery on the presbytery office's recent move to Westminster Presbyterian Church, Nashville.

Rev. Durnell stated that on August 1, 2018, he will have served 40 years of active ministry, both as a church pastor and in executive service to synod and presbyteries. He reported on several ministries, and stated it was good to be Middle Tennessee's presbyter. The presbytery responded to this report with applause.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

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

Ministry Information Forms

The Committee on Ministry, through its Transitions Task Force, approved the following Ministry Information Forms: First Presbyterian Church, Nashville (associate); Westminster Presbyterian Church, Fairfield Glade (updated; pastor); First Presbyterian Church, Cookeville (pastor); First Presbyterian Church, Springfield (pastor); Calvary Presbyterian Church, Crossville (updated; pastor).

Cynthia Schwartz / Commission to Install

The Committee on Ministry approved the following installation commission for The Rev. Dr. Cindy Schwartz: August 20, 2017, 3pm, Priest Lake Presbyterian Church, Nashville; ministers Dr. Guy Griffith (Westminster Nashville); Executive Presbyter Warner Durnell (chair); Dr. Jimmie Lancaster (Honorably Retired); ruling elders Phil Hereford (Priest Lake); Stated Clerk Therese Howell (First Franklin).

Marshall Gupton / Northminster Presbyterian Church, Murfreesboro

The Committee on Ministry, at the request of the session of Northminster Presbyterian Church, Murfreesboro, approved The Rev. Marshall Gupton, stated supply, to celebrate the sacraments at Northminster.

Tim Diffendorfer / First, Watertown and Liberty Hill, Alexandria

The Committee on Ministry approved The Rev. Tim Diffendorfer to serve as stated supply at First Presbyterian Church, Watertown, and Liberty Hill Presbyterian Church, Alexandria, effective October 1, 2017. The COM gave approval for Rev. Diffendorfer to celebrate the sacraments.

Jennifer Jarvis / Chaplain

The Committee on Ministry examined and received The Rev. Jennifer Jarvis, a member of the Presbytery of East Tennessee, who has accepted a call as chaplain at St. Thomas-Rutherford. The COM also validated this ministry.

Chris Adams / Hillsboro Presbyterian Church, Nashville

The Committee on Ministry approved the dissolution of the pastoral relationship between The Rev. Chris Adams and Hillsboro Presbyterian Church, Nashville, effective September 30, 2017. The COM also approved a severance agreement for the period October 1, 2017 – January 31, 2018, pending approval by the congregation.

Pat Handlson

The Committee on Ministry met with Pat Handlson on two separate occasions, and has continued to receive reports from Mr. Handlson's care team and counselor. The Committee on Ministry will recommend Mr. Handlson's restoration to ordered ministry at the February 3, 2018 Presbytery meeting, upon completion of a year of counseling as required by the Decision and Censure.

John Hilley / East Brentwood Presbyterian Church

The Committee on Ministry, at the request of the session and congregation of East Brentwood Presbyterian Church, recommended that The Rev. John Hilley, stated supply, be called as designated pastor for East Brentwood, effective January 1, 2018, for the period January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2021. The COM recommended this pursuant to G-2.0504c: *A presbytery may determine that its mission strategy permits a minister of the Word and Sacrament currently called as an Associate Pastor to be eligible to serve as the next installed pastor or co-pastor, or a minister of the Word and Sacrament employed in a temporary pastoral relationship to be eligible to serve as the next installed pastor, co-pastor, or associate pastor. Presbyteries that permit this eligibility shall establish such relationships only by a three-fourths vote of the members of presbytery present and voting.*

Ms. Denton reported that the terms of call were approved by the Committee on Ministry, as well as a three month extension of the stated supply contract.

Rev. Hilley responded to questions, and the recommendation was approved. The following commission to install was approved upon motion made and seconded: February 25, 2018, 10AM, East Brentwood; Teaching elders Warner Durnell, chair (executive presbyter); Annette Rogers Vaughn (Pastoral Center for Healing); Chris Adams (member-at-large); Ruling elders John Philbrick (East Brentwood); James Dickson (Downtown); guest of commission The Rev. Dr. Hattie Wagner (Presbytery of Mid-Kentucky). Persons present in support of Rev. Hilley were recognized and welcomed.

The Moderator offered a prayer, and the meeting recessed for lunch.

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

COMMITTEE ON MUTUAL SUPPORT

The Rev. Steve Thomas, chair of the Committee on Mutual Support, presented the committee's report. The Rev. Phillip Beisswenger spoke of his work in Guatemala, and provided a powerpoint presentation. He encouraged everyone to be part of a mission team to Guatemala, and to keep them in prayer. The Rev. John Hilley provided an update on the Basico program.

CONCERNS, CELEBRATIONS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Executive Presbyter Warner Durnell led the presbytery in a time of sharing concerns, celebrations, and announcements. Rev. Durnell then offered a prayer.

The Moderator stated the 132nd stated meeting of the presbytery would be held on Saturday, February 3, 2018, at First Presbyterian Church, Columbia.

There was no unfinished business, and the meeting was adjourned upon motion made, seconded, and approved. The Moderator closed the meeting with prayer at 1:55pm.

Therese P. Howell
Stated Clerk