



# MID-TENN

## Presbytery of Middle Tennessee E-Newsletter

### Actions of Called Meeting June 26, 2018

July 2018



Candidate Bruce McVey (Presbytery of Tampa Bay) was examined and approved for ordination and installation as Pastor at First Presbyterian Church, Fayetteville.

Candidate Ashley McFaul-Erwin (Presbytery of Middle Tennessee) was examined for ordination to a validated CPE chaplaincy with the St. Thomas/Vanderbilt partnership.

### Upcoming Events at the July 28th Stated Presbytery Meeting

*submitted by Therese Howell, Stated Clerk*

The July 28, 2018 stated meeting of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee promises to be a meeting where God's goodness, mercy, and grace are evident all day. While all of the business that comes before the presbytery is important, here are three items that stand out.



*Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson*

The Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson II, Stated Clerk of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), will be the preacher for worship at this meeting, and he will also speak about the actions at the 223rd General Assembly (2018). Dr. Nelson was elected stated clerk at the 222nd General Assembly (2016). In his narratives presented to the nominating committee, he said: "The challenge for our denomination today is to find our way back to living and working

for the Kingdom of God. Serving the Church is not enough. Our vision must point toward a higher calling that demonstrates the love and faith that Jesus taught. The reign of God over all powers and principalities is the epitome of Jesus's claim to a Godly vision for the world. The challenges to achieve this reality are great, but the God we serve is able to do all things except fail. We must trust in the Lord with all our hearts and do not rely on our own insight. (Proverbs 3:5) With God's help and the power of the Holy Spirit, I believe we can be a significant leader as a denomination in teaching, living and spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the entire world."

A copy of Dr. Nelson's bio is available [[click here](#)]. Come listen for the Word of God and come learn about the "Kindom" of God from the General Assembly in St. Louis.

Also at the July meeting will be a motion to charter the New Creation New Church Development. This NCD, nurtured by First Presbyterian Church, Nashville, is led by The Rev. Keith



### First Presbyterian Church in Pulaski Haiti Mission Work

First Presbyterian Church of Pulaski has participated in helping to oversee and finance a water

treatment facility in Jeremie, Haiti. FPC Pulaski became involved when contacted by their Haitian brother Valdes Innocent.



Valdes had been contacted by Father Inmel of Jeremie with a need for clean water in his city. Valdes got in touch with Robert Montgomery and the Mission Ministry unit got the ball rolling...[read more](#)



### First Presbyterian Church in Franklin

Evenings with A.J.

The Old Testament in the New  
Dr. Amy-Jill Levine

Wednesday, August 15, 22, & 29  
6:00 pm - Summer Box Supper in Wilson Hall  
6:45 pm - Lecture Series in Barr Conf. Room 211



Dr. Levine will be lecturing on The Old Testament in the New: how Isaiah, Jonah, Adam and Eve are intertwined in the New Testament with relevancy for

our world today. [Click here for flyer.](#)

**Lectures, Supper and Childcare at No Charge with registration at [fpcfranklin.org](http://fpcfranklin.org)**

### PMT Hunger Grant Applications are available

The Presbytery of Middle Tennessee's Hunger Program, through the PMT Committee on Mutual Support, offers yearly grants to churches and organizations who are helping to combat hunger. The PMT Hunger Grant is made possible by funds collected by the congregations in our Presbytery



Gunter, and meets in Hendersonville, TN. Rev. Gunter is being called as pastor of the church. A brief history of the new church development can be found [\[click here\]](#).



Rev. Keith Gunter

And the July meeting will be the Presbytery's opportunity to thank The



Rev. Warner Durnell

Rev. Warner R. Durnell, executive presbyter, for his six years of service to the Presbytery. Warner is retiring, effective August 1, 2018, and the Presbytery will take some time to honor him and thank him for his service. There will be a reception after the meeting - with cake! - and an opportunity to thank Warner for his time with the

Presbytery of Middle Tennessee.

**Note:** If you are interested in sending a note, card, or letter for Warner's memory book, or make a contribution to a gift, please see the instructions [\[click here\]](#).

### JULY STATED MEETING REGISTRATION:

All TE and RE Commissioners and Visitors who plan on attending this meeting need to register and indicate whether you would like lunch. [REGISTER HERE](#) for the upcoming July Presbytery Meeting. Thank you.

### Hispanic June Summit

*submitted by Phil Martin, Chair  
Church Transformation Committee*

As the congregation and Administrative Commission of Eastminster Presbyterian Church in East Nashville began to pick up the pieces in the aftermath of a December 2016 fire that totally destroyed its building, this unique and bi-lingual congregation called upon our Presbytery to take a challenging step.

Their request, originating in late 2017, was to "hold a visioning/planning meeting of the ACs for both Eastminster Presbyterian Church and Neuva Vida (Hispanic new church development community worshipping at the Glencliff Presbyterian Church), members of the Church Transformation Committee, and designated members from the Administrative Committee, the Finance Committee, and Committee on Ministry to discuss an over-arching vision and comprehensive plan for the Presbytery's ministry with Spanish speaking populations and congregations in Middle Tennessee."

The purpose was to begin to discern and act upon three key questions: 1) What are we called to do regarding ministry to this part of the community? 2) How do we do that in a sustainable way within the limited resources that God has generously given us? 3) Where is God at work out ahead of us?

That visioning and planning session,

through the 4 Cents a Meal Offering.

If you are interested in applying for a grant for your hunger ministry or know an organization in your area that would benefit in applying for a grant, please contact Linda Griffis at the Presbytery office either by phone, 615-332-3330 or email at [pbymidtnoffice@gmail.com](mailto:pbymidtnoffice@gmail.com) for more details.

organized and implemented by the Church Transformation Committee, took place on June 1 and 2. It's safe to say that it exceeded all expectations in most every way.



Participants in the Hispanic Summit



**Committee on Church Transformation**  
August 6, 2018  
Conference Call

**Committee on Ministry (COM)**  
Tuesday, August 14  
4:00 pm  
Presbytery Office - RM 196

**CE Brown Bag**  
Monday, August 20  
11:30  
Presbytery office

**Administrative Committee**  
Thursday, August 16  
1:00 pm  
Presbytery Office - RM 196

**Finance Committee**  
Thursday, August 16  
2:30 pm  
Presbytery office - RM 196

**Committee on Preparation of Ministry (CPM)**  
Tuesday, August 21  
4:00 pm  
Presbytery office

More than thirty individuals representing 18 congregations of our Presbytery participated. Rev. Rosa Miranda, associate for Hispanic/Latino Intercultural Congregational Support for Racial Ethnic & Women's Ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency in Louisville was a key-note guest along with fifth-generation Presbyterian Conrad Rocha, who leads the Synod of the Southwest and four presbyteries in an area of the country that has a long history ministering to Spanish-speaking people...[read more](#)

### What are some creative ways your church is doing to feed the hungry?

*submitted by Linda Griffis  
PMT Administrative Assistant/HAA*

I recently read an article on the [PCUSA Hunger Program's website](#) (also in Presbyterian Outlook-June 2018) entitled [Creative ways congregations are doing more to Feed the Hungry](#) by Sherry Blackman.



In the [article](#) it said, "Hunger is at the heart of being human. People hunger for food, for love, for belonging and for Christ himself. Feeding the hunger of humanity is why the church exists. Presbyterian churches around the country are working to creatively nourish and sustain those who struggle with food insecurity, malnourishment and poverty."



Some of the creative ideas that I read about go beyond the traditional food pantries and community meals. These ideas include "blessing boxes" on church property, helping feed animals with day old bread at a farm in exchange for fresh produce for their food pantry, and churches are offering nutrition classes by partnering with other organizations.

#### Quick Links

[\*\*Presbytery of Middle Tennessee\*\*](#)

[\*\*Synod of Living Waters\*\*](#)

[\*\*Presbyterian Church \(USA\)\*\*](#)

[\*\*Board of Pensions\*\*](#)

*What are some of the creative things that your church is doing locally to combat hunger in your area?*

Let me know by submitting a short article and a picture, if possible, to Linda Griffis, [pbymidtnoffice@gmail.com](mailto:pbymidtnoffice@gmail.com) for submission in the August issue of the MID-TENN E-

newsletter (or future issues). Deadline for August E-newsletter is August 6, 2018.

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*You are receiving this e-newsletter because you are a member or friend of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee or one of its congregations.*

**DISCLAIMER:**

Articles and events that appear in the e-newsletter are believed to be of interest to some segments of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee. However, these articles and events are not necessarily endorsed by the Presbytery.