

1 **DRAFT**
2 **PRESBYTERY OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE**
3 **MINUTES OF ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-THIRD STATED MEETING**
4 **MAY 3, 2018**
5

6 The 133rd Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee was held Thursday, May 3,
7 2018, at First Presbyterian Church, Tullahoma, Tennessee. Executive Presbyter Warner Durnell and
8 Stated Clerk Therese Howell led an orientation and time of prayer for first time commissioners.
9 Moderator Ed Lancaster called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

10 **WORSHIP**

11 Worship was led by The Rev. Stephen Yates (First Tullahoma), The Rev. Dr. Jule Nyhuis (Hillwood),
12 The Rev. Warner Durnell (Executive Presbyter), Christy Sherrer (First Tullahoma), and Ed Lancaster (First
13 Columbia). Rev. Durnell preached the sermon, special music was provided by Daivd Hiebert, organist,
14 First Presbyterian Church, Tullahoma.

15 The Presbytery's commissioners to the 223rd General Assembly (2018) were commissioned
16 during the worship service. Moderator Ed Lancaster and Stated Clerk Therese Howell led the
17 commissioning of teaching elders Greg Glover, Mary Louise McCullough, and Carol Tate, and ruling elders
18 Pat Bridges, Geeta McMillan, and Bart Walker. An offering of \$1,095 was collected for the Committee
19 on Ministry's Pastoral Care and Sabbatical Assistance Funds.

20 **DECLARATION OF QUORUM / STATEMENT OF PROCEDURES / RECOGNITION OF 2017 MODERATOR /**
21 **WELCOME BY HOST / FIRST TIME COMMISSIONERS / CORRESPONDING MEMBERS**

22 The meeting reconvened after worship; Moderator Lancaster declared a quorum was present
23 and reviewed procedures for the meeting. Rev. Yates, pastor at First Tullahoma, welcomed
24 commissioners and spoke briefly about the church. First time commissioners to presbytery were
25 recognized and welcomed.

26 The Presbytery's Mission and Operations Manual and the *Book of Order* provide for the seating
27 of corresponding members and teaching and ruling elders with voice and those with voice and vote. Any
28 ruling elder serving as presbytery's Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Moderator-in-Nomination, chairs of
29 committees, members of the Administrative Committee, members of the Finance Committee, and the
30 Moderator of Presbyterian Women, are enrolled as members of presbytery and shall have voice and
31 vote. Ruling elders commissioned to particular pastoral service, and ruling elders who have previously
32 served as presbytery moderator, within five years of completion of his/her term of service, are enrolled
33 as members of presbytery with voice and vote. Any ruling elder serving as a committee representative
34 to a particular meeting of presbytery in the absence of the chair shall have the privilege of voice and
35 vote for that particular meeting of the presbytery. Persons certified in church service who are ruling
36 elders shall have the privilege of voice and vote at all meetings of the presbytery, during their term of
37 service in ministry in the presbytery of Middle Tennessee. Persons certified in church service, who are
38 members of congregations in the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee, shall have the privilege of voice at all
39 meetings of the presbytery during their term of service in a congregation or other ministry validated by
40 the presbytery. Should a question arise concerning the enrollment of any person, the presbytery may
41 resolve the matter upon the recommendation of the Permanent Judicial Commission. Corresponding
42 members were seated without objection, and are listed with the roll.

43 **ROLL**

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

1 **AGENDA**

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

- 6 9:00 am 1. Registration (Order of the Day in CAPS)
- 7 9:30 am Orientation for First Time Commissioners and Prayer for Presbytery – Warner Durnell
8 and Therese Howell (20 minutes)
- 9 10:00 am 2. CALL TO ORDER / WORSHIP (Offering: COM Sabbatical/Pastoral Care Funds)
- 10 • Commissioning of 2018 General Assembly Commissioners
- 11 11:00 am 3. Break
- 12 11:15 am 4. Reconvene / Establishment of Quorum / Statement of Procedures / Welcome by Host /
13 Recognition of First Time Presbyters / Seating of Corresponding Members / Adoption of
14 Agenda
- 15 11:25 am 5. Stated Clerk’s Report – Therese Howell (5 minutes)
- 16 • Approval of February 3, 2018 Minutes
- 17 11:30 am 6. Administrative Committee – Carol Tate (20 min)
- 18 • Nominating Task Force Report
- 19 11:50 am 7. Executive Presbyter Report (10 min)
- 20 • Concerns, Celebrations, and Announcements
- 21 12:00 pm Lunch – Prayer of Thanksgiving
- 22 12:45 pm Reconvene
- 23 12:50 pm 8. Executive Presbyter Search Committee – Steve Douse (10 min)
- 24 1:00 pm 9. Committee on Preparation for Ministry – Will Radford (20 min)
- 25 1:20 pm 10. Committee on Ministry – Greg Glover (40 min)
- 26 2:00 pm 11. Unfinished Business
- 27 **134th Stated Meeting – Saturday, July 28, 2018 - Westminster Presbyterian Church,**
28 **Nashville**
- 29 2:05 pm 12. Closing Prayer / Adjourn

30 **REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK**

31 The stated clerk called attention to the reports of the Finance Committee, Presbyterian Women,
32 Hunger Action Advocate, and GenOn Ministries included in the presbytery packet.

33 2017 Church Statistical Reports

34 The 2017 Church Statistics were provided with the Presbytery packet (Attachment B).

35 2017 Summary B

36 The 2017 Summary B, a list of all ministerial changes in 2017, was provided with the Presbytery
37 packet (Attachment C).

38 John Hilley / East Brentwood Presbyterian Church

39 The stated clerk has received the minutes of the commission to install John Hilley as designated
40 pastor of East Brentwood Presbyterian Church. [minutes in permanent record]

41 Remedial Complaint

42 The stated clerk received a copy of a remedial complaint filed by Pat Handlson against the
43 Presbytery of Middle Tennessee. In accordance with the *Book of Order* and the Presbytery’s Mission and
44 Operations Manual, a committee of counsel has been appointed and has filed a response to the

1 complaint with the Synod of Living Waters. The Stated Clerk of the Synod of Living Waters has notified
2 the committee of counsel that a pretrial hearing will be scheduled.

3 Investigating Committee

4 The Stated Clerk has received allegation of an offense, and in consultation with the chair of the
5 Committee on Ministry and the Executive Presbyter, as specified in the Mission and Operations Manual,
6 appointed an investigating committee.

7 February 3, 2018

8 The minutes of the 132nd Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee (February 3,
9 2018) were presented for approval. The roll from the meeting was inadvertently left out of the packet,
10 and will be provided for approval in July. The motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes,
11 and the minutes were approved as presented.

12 **ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

13 Dr. Carol Tate, Chair of the Administrative Committee, presented the committee’s report.

14 Financial Report

15 The Administrative Committee received a financial report from the Treasurer.

16 Updates – Committee on Church Transformation

17 The Administrative Committee received updates from the Committee on Church Transformation
18 on the Evangelical Presbyterian Arabic worshipping community, the Sudanese Church, and the Hispanic
19 ministry at Eastminster.

20 EP Search Committee

21 The EP Search Committee presented a draft Executive Presbyter job description, to be
22 presented to the presbytery for approval.

23 May Presbytery Meeting

24 The Administrative Committee approved the offering for the May 3 presbytery meeting be
25 collected for the Committee on Ministry’s Sabbatical and Pastoral Care Funds.

26 COM Boundary Training

27 The committee received a report on the COM’s boundary training.

28 Village Church Isaiah Team

29 The committee received a report from the Village Church Isaiah Team.

30 The Rev. David Sawyer, chair of the Nominating Task Force, presented the following report to fill
31 vacancies as indicated:

32 223rd General Assembly (2018) – Ruling Elder Pat Bridges, First Columbia

33 NaCoMe Board – Michael Dahlke, First Clarksville, Class of 2019

34 The Moderator opened the floor for additional nominations; there were none. The slate, as
35 presented, was approved by voice vote.

36 **EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER REPORT / CONCERNS, CELEBRATIONS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

37 Warner Durnell, Executive Presbyter, led the Presbytery in sharing concerns, celebrations, and
38 announcements. After a time of sharing, Rev. Durnell offered a prayer.

39 **EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER SEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT**

40 Ruling Elder Steve Douse (First Nashville), a member of the Executive Presbyter Search
41 Committee, updated the presbytery on the committee’s work. The committee has interviewed “key
42 stakeholders” as well as the current Executive Presbyter, reviewed the existing EP position description,
43 and discussed the essential elements of the position, built around the three pillars of the Vision 2020
44 report (fostering connections of mutual support, leadership development, and church transformation).
45 The search committee recommended approval of a new position description.

46 After discussion, the following position description for the Executive Presbytery was approved:

1 Ours is a geographically large and diverse presbytery. Its 84 churches are scattered from Alabama to Kentucky
2 and span nearly 200 miles east to west. Several dozen are in Nashville and the surrounding area, including three
3 very large congregations ranging in size from 1200 to 4500 members. Another 12-15 are county seat churches,
4 typically with several hundred members. The rest are small and rural, many with only a few dozen members.
5 There is an equally great theological and political diversity in this presbytery, although our liberal and conservative
6 congregations have thus far found ways to live and work together peacefully, with minimal drama. We have not
7 suffered major losses of churches through dismissal (only one so far), though many churches have faced declining
8 enrollments and budgets, and several have been shuttered. These losses have been only partially offset by several
9 new church developments.

10
11 We currently have a full-time executive presbyter, a full-time assistant, and a part-time stated clerk. The
12 presbytery's offices are in one of the large Nashville churches. The executive presbyter is charged with many of
13 the supervisory and administrative tasks typical of an executive director. This includes dealing with polity issues
14 and helping us relate to the wider church. Yet these tasks, while necessary and important, are not the essence of
15 the position. Rather, we look to the executive presbyter most of all to help us live into our vision of how a
16 presbytery should serve its constituent churches and ministers.

17
18 Several years ago we engaged in a process of self-examination designed to help us focus on the core functions of
19 a presbytery—the areas in which connectionalism truly brings added value to our constituent congregations and
20 ministers. We identified three, which are embodied in the resulting vision statement:

21
22 The Presbytery of Middle Tennessee is a community of churches and church leaders whose role is to guide and
23 support the work of its constituents, striving to build up the body of Christ through connections of mutual support,
24 creating a culture of leadership development, and church transformation.

25
26 The first essential function—fostering connections of mutual support—recognizes that as Presbyterians, we are
27 connected to fellow believers and congregations by a common history, geography, polity, and mission. We are at
28 our best when we see our bonds of connectedness as opportunities to learn from each other and to lean on each
29 other. Our role as a presbytery is to help broker fruit-bearing collaboration and community among the
30 presbytery's member congregations, countering isolationism born of geography or parochialism.

31
32 The second—leadership development—builds on Presbyterians' well-known love of learning and commitment to
33 excellence in the training of their ministers and lay leaders. Together we can offer leadership training and
34 resources that far exceed what all but the largest churches could do on their own.

35
36 Finally, a commitment to building up the body through church transformation comes from the recognition that to
37 honor the Great Commission, we must be prepared to change and adapt as the world around us—the mission
38 field—changes. Our call is not just to share the gospel, but to share it effectively. For that, we need to be willing
39 to follow the leading of the Spirit, even when it takes us outside our comfort zone. That happens in two ways:
40 first, by planting new worshipping communities where they can thrive and become self-sufficient, and second, by
41 revitalizing existing congregations that are in decline but are willing to undertake the hard work of moving toward
42 a new, missional understanding of what sort of witness they are called to make in their changing communities.
43 We must do both if we hope to have a presbytery of healthy, thriving churches in years to come, which is exactly
44 what we hope our new executive presbyter will help us achieve. The person we are looking for cannot be content
45 merely to provide hospice care for dying churches; rather, that person must be committed to fostering spiritual
46 and numerical growth and vitality in the churches of this presbytery.

47
48 The Presbytery recessed for lunch after a prayer by Warner Durnell.

49 The Moderator called the meeting back to order after lunch and offered a prayer.

1 **COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY**

2 Ruling Elder Will Radford (Village Church), chair of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry,
3 presented the committee's report.

4 Brandy Beilke

5 The committee received Brandy Beilke, a member at First Presbyterian Church, Cookeville, as an
6 inquirer under care of the Presbytery effective April 17, 2018.

7 Aaron Stauffer

8 The committee received Aaron Stauffer as an inquirer as a transfer from the Presbytery of John
9 Calvin, and approved the transfer of his church membership to Second Presbyterian Church, Nashville.

10 Jocelyn Wildhack

11 The Committee on Preparation for Ministry recommended that Jocelyn Wildhack, an inquirer
12 under care of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee, be approved for candidacy. Ms. Wildhack spoke of
13 her call to ministry and Christian service undertaken. Ms. Wildhack was escorted out of the sanctuary,
14 and the Moderator called for discussion. The motion to move Ms. Wildhack to candidacy was approved.
15 Ms. Wildhack was called back into the sanctuary, and the Moderator reported the affirmative vote. The
16 Moderator led commissioners in a liturgy for the newly-enrolled candidate.

17 The Rev. Mary Louise McCullough offered a charge and prayer for Ms. Wildhack. Persons present
18 in support of the candidate were recognized.

19 **COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY**

20 The Rev. Dr. Greg Glover, chair of the Committee on Ministry, presented the committee's report.

21 Boundary Training

22 The COM presented sexual misconduct / boundary training on April 10, 2018, at First
23 Presbyterian Church, Franklin. All ministers and commissioned ruling elders were required to attend;
24 staff persons from presbytery's churches were invited. A video of the program will be provided for
25 persons who were unable to be present.

26 Interim Ministry Contract

27 The COM approved revisions to its interim ministry contract; a copy is attached for information.
28 (Attachment D)

29 First Presbyterian Church, Dickson and Ellis Grove Presbyterian Church, Waverly

30 The COM approved the Ministry Information Form for First Presbyterian Church, Dickson, and
31 Ellis Grove Presbyterian Church, Waverly.

32 Jimmie Lancaster / First Presbyterian Church, McMinnville

33 The COM approved the interim contract between Jimmie Lancaster and First Presbyterian
34 Church, McMinnville. The COM also approved Dr. Lancaster moderating the session, and the terms of
35 call.

36 Charles McCaskey / First Presbyterian Church, Cookeville

37 The COM approved the renewal of the interim contract between Charles McCaskey and First
38 Presbyterian Church, Cookeville, effective April 1, 2018 – September 30, 2018.

39 Jule Nyhuis / Hillwood Presbyterian Church, Nashville

40 The COM approved the renewal of the interim contract between Jule Nyhuis and Hillwood
41 Presbyterian Church, Nashville, effective February 21, 2018.

42 Robert Montgomery / First Presbyterian Church, Pulaski

43 The COM approved the dissolution of the pastoral relationship between Robert Montgomery and
44 First Presbyterian Church, Pulaski, effective March 31, 2018.

1 Robert Montgomery / First Presbyterian Church, Lewisburg

2 The COM approved the call between Robert Montgomery and First Presbyterian Church,
3 Lewisburg, effective April 1, 2018. The COM also approved the terms of call as follows: Cash Salary
4 \$30,600; Housing \$18,300; Social Security \$4,050; Automobile \$2,500; Professional Expenses \$1,000;
5 Board of Pensions \$20,497 (including dental); four weeks vacation; two weeks study leave. The
6 commission to install will be provided at the presbytery meeting.

7 Joel Kelly / Calvary Presbyterian Church of Big Lick

8 The COM sustained the examination of Joel Kelly, a minister member of the Presbytery of
9 Transylvania, and approved his transfer to the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee, and his call as Pastor to
10 Cavalry Presbyterian Church of Big Lick. A copy of his statement of faith and biographical statement was
11 provided in the Presbytery packet. Rev. Kelly was introduced, and welcomed to the Presbytery. The
12 following commission to install was approved without objection: Sunday, May 20, 4PM, Calvary
13 Presbyterian Church of Big Lick; Teaching Elders - Warner Durnell (Executive Presbyter), chair; Sid
14 Venable (Honorably Retired); Ruling Elders – Therese Howell (Stated Clerk); Virginia Lovellette (First
15 Cookeville); Lynn Tollett (Calvary).

16 John Skelly

17 The COM approved the change the status of John Skelly to Honorably Retired, effective April 1,
18 2018.

19 David Sawyer / First Presbyterian Church, Spring Hill

20 The COM approved the dissolution of the pastoral relationship between David Sawyer and First
21 Presbyterian Church, Spring Hill, effective August 31, 2018, and approved the change in status for Rev.
22 Sawyer to Honorably Retired, effective September 1, 2018.

23 C. S. Thomas III / Hillsboro Presbyterian Church, Nashville

24 The COM approved the change in status of Steve Thomas from Honorably Retired to Active, and
25 approved his service as interim pastor, Hillsboro Presbyterian Church, Nashville, effective May 1, 2018.
26 The COM approved the following contract terms: cash salary \$65,000; Social Security, \$4,875;
27 Pension/Major Medical, \$23,400; professional expenses, \$5,000; four weeks vacation annually
28 (prorated); two weeks study leave annually (prorated).

29 Milton Nesbitt / First Presbyterian Church, Pulaski

30 The COM approved Milton Nesbitt to moderate the session at First Presbyterian Church, Pulaski.

31 Jeanne Hoechst / First Presbyterian Church, Gallatin

32 The COM approved Jeanne Hoechst to moderate the Session at First Presbyterian, Gallatin, for
33 May – July, while Michael Davis is on sabbatical.

34 Pat Handlson / Care Team

35 The COM received an update from Pat Handlson's Care Team.

36 Heidi Hudnut-Beumler / Westminster Presbyterian Church, Nashville

37 Dr. Glover stated the COM, at the request of the session and congregation of Westminster
38 Presbyterian Church, Nashville, recommended that Heidi Hudnut-Beumler, interim associate pastor, be
39 called as designated associate pastor for a term of two years. The COM recommended this pursuant to
40 G-2.0504c: *A presbytery may determine that its mission strategy permits a minister of the Word and*
41 *Sacrament currently called as an Associate Pastor to be eligible to serve as the next installed pastor or*
42 *co-pastor, or a minister of the Word and Sacrament employed in a temporary pastoral relationship to be*
43 *eligible to serve as the next installed pastor, co-pastor, or associate pastor. Presbyteries that permit this*
44 *eligibility shall establish such relationships only by a three-fourths vote of the members of presbytery*

1 *present and voting.* A copy of Rev. Hudnut-Beumler’s statement of faith and biographical information
2 was included in the Presbytery packet.

3 The COM approved the following terms of call: Salary and Housing \$79,000; Continuing
4 Education \$3,000; Social Security \$6,000; Full Board of Pensions; Automobile reimbursement at current
5 IRS rate; four weeks vacation; two weeks continuing education; two weeks service to the greater church.

6 There were no questions for Rev. Hudnut-Beumler, and she was escorted out of the sanctuary.
7 The Moderator reminded commissioners the motion to call Rev. Hudnut-Beumler required a three-
8 fourths vote of the Presbytery. There was no discussion, and the recommendation was unanimously
9 approved. Rev. Hudnut-Beumler was escorted back into the sanctuary, and the Moderator announced
10 the affirmative vote. The following commission to install was approved upon motion made and
11 seconded: Sunday, June 24, 11AM, Westminster Nashville; Teaching Elders – Donovan Drake
12 (Westminster Nashville); Warner Durnell (Executive Presbyter); Guy Griffith (Westminster Nashville);
13 James Hudnut Beumler (Vanderbilt Divinity School); Rachel Pence (Westminster Nashville); Katherine
14 Hande Smith (Vanderbilt Divinity School); Ruling Elders – Ed Lancaster (First Columbia and Moderator
15 of the Presbytery); Ashley McFaul-Erwin (Second); Don Schulze (Westminster Nashville). Persons
16 present in support of Rev. Hudnut-Beumler were recognized.

17 Jule Nyhuis / Hillwood Presbyterian Church, Nashville

18 The COM, at the request of the session and congregation of Hillwood Presbyterian Church,
19 Nashville, recommended that Jule M. Nyhuis, interim pastor, be called as designated pastor effective
20 June 1, 2018, for the term June 1, 2018 – May 31, 2022. The COM recommended this pursuant to G-
21 2.0504c: *A presbytery may determine that its mission strategy permits a minister of the Word and*
22 *Sacrament currently called as an Associate Pastor to be eligible to serve as the next installed pastor or*
23 *co-pastor, or a minister of the Word and Sacrament employed in a temporary pastoral relationship to be*
24 *eligible to serve as the next installed pastor, co-pastor, or associate pastor. Presbyteries that permit this*
25 *eligibility shall establish such relationships only by a three-fourths vote of the members of presbytery*
26 *present and voting.* The COM approved the following terms of call: Cash salary \$45,155; Housing
27 \$15,810; Social Security \$4,664; Dental \$445; Professional Expenses \$5,000; Professional Development
28 \$2,500; four weeks vacation (prorated annually to include four Sundays); full Board of Pensions; two
29 weeks study leave (prorated annual to include two Sundays); three months paid sabbatical eligibility in
30 2020.

31 There were no questions for Dr. Nyhuis, and she was escorted out of the sanctuary. The
32 Moderator reminded commissioners the motion to call Dr. Nyhuis required a three-fourths vote of the
33 Presbytery. There was no discussion, and the recommendation was unanimously approved. Dr. Nyhuis
34 was escorted back into the sanctuary, and the Moderator announced the affirmative vote. The following
35 commission to install was approved upon motion made and seconded: Sunday, June 10, 2018, 3PM,
36 Hillwood; Teaching Elders – Will Berger (member-at-large); Evelyn Graham (Southminster); Nolan
37 Huizenga (Second), chair; Ruling Elders – Theresa Denton (Emmanuel); Deb O’Brien (First Nashville);
38 Jennifer Stootsberry (Hillwood). Persons present in support of Dr. Nyhuis were recognized.

39 Dr. Glover then offered a prayer for the new calls.

40 First United Presbyterian Church, Sparta

41 Dr. Glover reported that at the request of First United Presbyterian Church, Sparta, and with the
42 concurrence of the White County Parish, the COM recommended that First United be allowed to
43 withdraw from the parish. There were no questions or discussion, and this was approved.

The Rev. Dr. John Skelly III

Dr. Glover reported the Committee on Ministry had approved Dr. John Skelly's retirement, and Rev. Durnell presented the following resolution in honor of Dr. Skelly's ministry:

WHEREAS, John Joseph Skelly, III was born to John J. Skelly, Jr., and Jean Keith Skelly, and was baptized in the St. James Catholic Church of Springfield, New Jersey, but was confirmed in the St. Peter's Catholic Church of Port Washington, New York, where he also attended Catholic Grammar School; and

WHEREAS, John Skelly graduated from the public high school of Port Washington, NY, before migrating south to attend the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Virginia, where he started as a math major, but switched to a religion major, with aspirations to become a teacher at the collegiate level; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from the University of Virginia, in the spring of 1971, he entered Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, Virginia, in the fall as one of many non-Presbyterian students; and

WHEREAS, while at Union Theological Seminary, John spent his first summer practicum with the Virginia Council of Churches as an Administrator for three Day Care Centers for children of migrant workers on the Eastern Shore of Virginia, and preached his first sermon in the Belle Haven and Wachapreague Presbyterian Churches on Psalm 100; and

WHEREAS, in 1973 John joined the Belle Haven Church and came under the care of what was then Norfolk Presbytery, and while under care of Norfolk Presbytery served an intern year as a Campus Chaplain to Old Dominion University under the supervision and sponsorship of Second Presbyterian Church and Larchmont United Methodist Churches of Norfolk; and

WHEREAS, in August of 1973, just prior to his intern year, John and Jane Abernathy were married in the Chapel at Warren Wilson College in Swannanoa, North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, the mentoring of college professor Harry Gamble and seminary professor Balmer Kelly helped John to hear and answer the call to pastoral ministry, it was on August 27, 1975 that John was ordained to the ministry of the Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church in the United States, in answering the call to serve as Associate Pastor of Bayside Presbyterian Church of Virginia Beach, VA, from June 1975 thru February 1981; and

WHEREAS, the Reverend John J. Skelly III went on to serve as Associate Pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Wilmington, North Carolina, from March 1981 thru August 1988, and then on to serve a ten-year stretch as Pastor of the Trinity Presbyterian Church in Nashville, TN, from August 1988 thru May 1998, before embarking on a twenty year run of interim pastorates (from May 1998 thru February 2018); and they were for the Harpeth Presbyterian Church of Brentwood, TN, the Southminster Presbyterian Church of Nashville, TN, the Donelson Presbyterian Church of Nashville, TN, the First Presbyterian Church of Lewisburg, TN, the Edgewood Presbyterian Church of Columbus, GA, the First Presbyterian Church of Newton, NC, the Presbyterian Church of Henderson, KY, the Fayette Presbyterian Church of Fayetteville, GA, First Presbyterian Church of Hendersonville, TN, Westminster Presbyterian Church of Decatur, GA, the First Presbyterian Church of Greenville, MS, Sugar Creek Presbyterian Church of Kettering, OH, and First Presbyterian Church of Eaton, OH, and he may have another interim or two in him still; and

WHEREAS, what John has enjoyed most about being an Interim Pastor are – meeting new people in new places; getting to know, teach, lead, and serve children and youth; delivering children's messages; baptizing babies and leading Communion; assisting vision teams and congregations in discerning God's call to ministry for a new day; and building community within congregations; and

WHEREAS, John and his wife Jane have both served the Church in commendable fashion, for Jane Skelly is herself a Certified Christian Educator and a Ruling Elder, having served as Director of Christian Education for the Little Creek Naval Chapel in Virginia Beach, VA, Educator and Resource Center Director for the former Wilmington (NC) Presbytery, Preschool Teacher at Trinity, Westminster, Woodmont Baptist, Blakemore United Methodist, and First Presbyterian Churches of Nashville, and currently serve as a volunteer at Binkley School in the Pre-K Blended Class; and

WHEREAS, John and Jane are the proud parents of three daughters, Sarah who resides in Portland, Oregon, Rebekah along with her husband Jonny and son Kaiden who reside in Seattle, Washington, and Hannah who resides in Washington, DC, making them bi-coastal parents and grandparents; and

WHEREAS, John's favorite verse from the Bible is 2 Corinthians 12:9, "My grace is sufficient for you;" and
May 3, 2018

1 WHEREAS, the process of relating Scripture to the experiences of his life, and interpreting his life in light
2 of Scripture has admittedly helped John to uncover this motivating passage for his ministry; and

3 WHEREAS, John Skelly's faithful service to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, has manifested itself in
4 Honorable Retirement, effective May 1, 2018;

5 BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, That the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee, on this, the 3rd of May, in the year
6 of our Lord, 2018, offer praise to God for The Reverend John J. Skelly, III, and offer thanks to God for his committed
7 service to the Church of Jesus Christ.

8 Rev. Durnell moved that the resolution be spread upon the minutes, and the motion was
9 seconded and adopted. Dr. Skelly spoke briefly about his ministry, and Rev. Durnell offered a prayer.

10
11 There was no unfinished business, and the Moderator thanked the host church for their
12 hospitality.

13 The Moderator announced that the 134th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee
14 would be held on Saturday, July 28, 2018, at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Nashville.

15 The meeting was adjourned upon motion duly made and seconded with a closing prayer by the
16 Moderator.

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19
20
21 Therese P. Howell
22 Stated Clerk
23