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Interim Executive Presbyter Report to Presbytery October 18, 2018

In just these two months since I have been interim exec, I have had a wonderful entry into the life of this presbytery. I have helped facilitate **listening groups** and have filled pulpits, bringing greetings from the presbytery each time. I have witnessed and assisted in ordination and installation services. I have taught church school classes about the **new Book of Common Worship** and heard several churches' **requests for help with elder training**, for teachers for their congregations about **what it means to be Reformed and Presbyterian**, for assistance with **church finance**. Everywhere I go, people are curious, questioning, eager to share.

First Cookeville (Michael McLaughlin), First Gallatin (Candace Klein), and First Lewisburg (Robert Montgomery), have all **installed new pastors** in the last couple of months. Bruce McVey was **ordained and installed** as the new pastor at First Fayetteville; Second Presbyterian hosted the **ordination** of Ashley McFaul-Erwin to a validated chaplaincy ministry at Next Door. These were days of great rejoicing in these congregations and our relationships through the presbytery deep and strong.

A liturgical scholar of yesteryear suggested that Calvin, and perhaps other Reformers, prepared their congregations to hear the reading of scripture in this way: "A reading from _____." **"Our ears are open,"** the people responded. Westminster, Nashville continues that pattern even now.

Our ears are open. Our ears will be open to one another's perspectives at this presbytery meeting and at the **pastors' lunch at Hillsboro Presbyterian on October 11 at noon**. Let's talk with each other about what we need, what we dream about, what we believe to be faithful in our service to the Lord of the Church in this presbytery at this time and place.

And while your ears are open, hear this. The Administrative Committee has asked that **the offering be divided between the Presbyterian Disaster Agency in response to the ravages of Hurricane Florence AND to our beloved NaCoMe. So come prepared to give double!**

Lastly, the astounding statistics about hunger still remain: 1 in 4 or 5 children is hungry. Hickman County, the location of NaCoMe, has a connection with Second Harvest and our gifts of food can make a difference in the lives of local people who are hungry. On the next page is a list of non-perishable items to bring to our upcoming presbytery meeting. **Bring all you can. If a 100-plus of us each brings a bag of groceries, we can make a difference.**

Let us not only be hearers of the Word, but also doers. Looking forward to our time together at NaCoMe.

Grateful for our common life and service to Christ in Middle Tennessee,
Carol