

**COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY  
REPORT TO THE PRESBYTERY OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE  
FEBRUARY 14, 2019**

**INFORMATION**

1. The Committee on Ministry meets on the second Tuesday of each month, 4PM, at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Nashville. The Examinations Task Force and the Transitions Task Force meet prior to the COM meeting.
2. Outgoing members Greg Glover, Guy Griffith, and Marva Swann were thanked for their service on the Committee on Ministry.

**ADMIT TO RECORD**

1. In 2019, the Examinations Task Force is chaired by Rev. Nolan Huizenga; the Transitions Task Force is chaired by Donna Simpson; the Mediation Team is chaired by Rev. Jane Herring; and the Pastoral Care Team is chaired by Rev. Janet Salyer.
2. The Examinations Task Force addresses theology, polity, the “fit” of the call, all in a friendly but thorough manner. The Transitions Task Force works with churches seeking pastoral leadership. The Mediation Team addresses issues that arise in churches; and the Pastoral Care Team provides pastoral care to the pastors in the Presbytery.
3. The COM met with Rev. Mark DeVries of Ministry Architects, and Melinda Sanders, Woodland, who provided an update on the work of Ministry Architects with Woodland Presbyterian Church, Nashville.
4. The COM approved the following contracts:
  - interim contract between Rev. Scott Huie and Emmanuel Presbyterian Church, Nashville (renewal)
  - interim contract between Rev. Christopher Adams and First Presbyterian Church, Spring Hill (and annual terms: part time, 20 hours/week; \$17,277 salary; \$12,773 Board of Pensions; mileage \$0.54/mile up to \$2,000; four weeks vacation; two weeks study leave)
  - temporary supply contract between Rev. David John Eisenmenger and First United Presbyterian Church, Sparta, effective November 1, 2018 (also approved his return to active service for five months for Board of Pensions benefits; terms of contract \$175 cash salary, \$75 auto expenses per week, Nov. 1 – Dec. 31 and April 1 – Oct. 31; terms \$200 cash salary, \$132.98 pension, \$75 auto expenses per week; two weeks vacation; one week study leave)
  - part time interim contract between Rev. Warner Durnell and First Presbyterian Church, Springfield, effective December 1, 2018 (terms of contract \$36,000 cash salary and housing allowance (equally divided), \$1,500 automobile expense allowance, four weeks vacation, two weeks study leave, up to four weeks unpaid vacation, \$1,200 professional expenses, annual total \$38,700)
  - interim contract between Dr. Paul Bauer and First Presbyterian Church, Columbia (renewal; no changes in terms)
  - Supply contract between Rev. Marshall Gupton and Northminster Presbyterian Church, Murfreesboro (renewal; no changes in terms)
5. The COM approved the Ministry Information Form for a non-ordained Director of Christian Education for First Presbyterian Church, Shelbyville.
6. The COM approved Rev. Bobby Harding to moderate the session at Northminster Murfreesboro.
7. The COM approved Rev. Sarah Jordan (Presbytery of Chicago) to be added to the Pulpit Supply List.
8. The COM dismissed Rev. Mark McDaniel to the Presbytery of Ohio Valley, effective November 30, 2018.

9. The COM examined Rev. Sarah Bird, a member of the Presbytery of Pittsburgh, and approved her transfer to the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee and her call as Associate Pastor at First Presbyterian Church, Nashville. The commission to install will be provided at the Presbytery meeting.
10. The COM examined Dr. Mark Mueller, a member of the Presbytery of Wabash Valley, and approved his transfer to the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee, and validated his ministry with The Outreach Foundation.
11. The COM examined Dr. Toby Mueller, a member of the Presbytery of Wabash Valley, and approved her transfer to the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee, and addition to the Pulpit Supply List.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The COM recommends the following changes in the Former Pastor Policy, to update the policy regarding if / when a former associate pastor may return to the church previously served; this is not currently addressed in the policy (language to be added is underlined), Page 1, line 36 and line 38:

The former pastor will ordinarily 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 current pastor must invite any former pastor(s) back to the church previously served.

The first paragraph in the former pastor policy is as follows:

### 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. Whenever the term “pastor” is used in this policy, it is understood to mean pastor, associate pastor, or person serving in a temporary pastoral relationship.

2. The COM sustained the examination of Ruling Elder Anne Keener, a member of First Presbyterian Church, Franklin, and recommends she be commissioned to pastoral service at First Presbyterian Church, Franklin, for three years, to moderate the session, celebrate the sacraments, and officiate at marriages, all these responsibilities at the request of the pastor; have a voice and vote at presbytery (as a ruling elder for parity).
3. The Committee on Ministry examined Mary Sellers Shaw, a candidate under care of the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley, who has accepted a call as associate pastor for First Presbyterian Church, Franklin. A copy of her statement of faith and autobiographical statement is attached. The Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley asked that Middle Tennessee examine Ms. Shaw for ordination on their behalf. The COM approved the following terms of call: Salary \$41,000; Housing \$20,000; Social Security \$4,679; full Board of Pensions; professional expenses \$5,000. The commission to install will be provided at the presbytery meeting.
4. The Committee on Ministry examined Rev. John A. Smith, a member of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, who has accepted a call as pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Dickson, and Ellis Grove Presbyterian Church, Waverly. Pursuant to G-2.0505a.(2), the COM recommends that Rev. Smith be granted an exemption for the examinations required of candidates (such recommendation to be approved by 2/3 vote of the presbytery). The COM also recommends that Rev. Smith be received as a member of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee. A copy of Rev. Smith’s statement of faith and biographical information is attached. The COM approved Rev. Smith’s move onto the field on January 15, 2019 (permission to celebrate the sacraments, but cannot moderate the session until received by Presbytery. The commission to install will be provided at the Presbytery meeting.