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**DRAFT**  
**PRESBYTERY OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE**  
**MINUTES OF ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-SIXTH STATED MEETING**  
**FEBRUARY 14, 2019**

The 136th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee was held Thursday, February 14, 2019, at First Presbyterian Church, Franklin, Tennessee. Interim Executive Presbyter Carol Tate and Stated Clerk Therese Howell led an orientation and time of prayer for first time commissioners. Moderator Ed Lancaster called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**WORSHIP**

Leading worship were The Rev. Dr. Donovan Drake (pastor, Westminster Nashville), Ruling Elder Therese Howell (Stated Clerk), Ruling Elder Anne Keener (First Franklin), Ruling Elder Ed Lancaster (2018 Moderator), Mary Sellers Shaw (Director of Mission and Outreach, First Franklin), and The Rev. Dr. Carol Tate (Interim Executive Presbyter). Dr. Drake preached the sermon, and Michael Snoddy, Director of Music/Organist (First Franklin) provided special music. The Rev. Dr. John Hinkle, Jr., (First Presbyterian Church, Murfreesboro), was installed as the 2019 Moderator, and Ruling Elder Theresa Denton (Emmanuel Presbyterian Church, Nashville) was installed as the Vice-Moderator. The offering was collected for the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Home Connection, and The Outreach Foundation.

**DECLARATION OF QUORUM / STATEMENT OF PROCEDURES / RECOGNITION OF 2018 MODERATOR / WELCOME BY HOST / FIRST TIME COMMISSIONERS / CORRESPONDING MEMBERS**

The meeting reconvened after worship; Moderator Hinkle declared a quorum was present and reviewed procedures for the meeting. Executive Presbyter Warner Durnell presented a gift to 2018 Moderator Ed Lancaster, and the Presbytery thanked Mr. Lancaster for his service. Mr. Lancaster thanked the Presbytery for the opportunity to serve. Dr. Hinkle spoke briefly and offered a prayer.

First time commissioners to presbytery were recognized and welcomed. Rev. Joiner, pastor of the host church, welcomed commissioners to First Presbyterian Church Franklin.

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.

1 **ROLL**

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

4 **AGENDA**

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

- 9 8:00 am 1. Registration (Order of the Day in CAPS)
- 10 8:30 am Orientation for First Time Commissioners and Prayer for Presbytery – Carol Tate  
11 and Therese Howell (20 minutes)
- 12 9:00 am 2. CALL TO ORDER / WORSHIP  
13 (Offering: split between the “Take 45” workshop agencies)  
14 • Installation of 2019 Moderator and Vice-Moderator
- 15 10:00 am 3. Break
- 16 10:15 am 4. Reconvene / Establishment of Quorum / Recognition of 2018 Moderator /  
17 Statement of Procedures / Welcome by Host / Recognition of First Time  
18 Presbyters / Seating of Corresponding Members / Adoption of Agenda
- 19 10:35 am 5. Stated Clerk’s Report – Therese Howell (5 minutes)
- 20 10:40 am 6. Administrative Committee – Theresa Denton (10 min)
- 21 10:50 am 7. Finance Committee – Mike Ingram (5 minutes)  
22 • Approval of 2019 Operating Budget
- 23 10:55 am 8. Committee on Leadership Excellence – Sally Hughes (5 min)
- 24 11:00 am 9. NaCoMe – Ryan Moore (5 min)
- 25 11:05 am 10. Hunger Action Advocate – Stuart Wilson-Patton (5 min)
- 26 11:10 am 11. “Take 45” Workshops  
27 • Presbyterian Disaster Assistance  
28 • HomeConnection  
29 • The Outreach Foundation
- 30 12:15 pm Lunch – Prayer of Thanksgiving
- 31 1:00 pm Reconvene
- 32 12. EP Search Committee – Sally Hughes (5 min)
- 33 1:05 pm 13. Amendments to the Book of Order – Therese Howell (30 min)
- 34 1:35 pm 14. Committee on Ministry – Stephen Yates (45 min)  
35 • Reception of Minister  
36 • Commissioning Ruling Elder
- 37 2:20 pm 15. Interim Executive Presbyter’s Report – Carol Tate (5 min)
- 38 2:25 pm 16. Concerns, Celebrations, and Announcements – Carol Tate (10 min)
- 39 2:35 pm 17. Unfinished Business
- 40 **137th Stated Meeting – Thursday, May 23, 2019, Location TBA**
- 41 2:40 pm 18. Closing Prayer / Adjourn

42 **REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK**

43  
44 The Stated Clerk called attention to the reports from the Presbytery’s commissioners to the  
45 Synod of Living Waters (Commissioned Pastor Leonard Jordan and The Rev. Martha Gilliss), as well as a  
46 report and information from Presbyterian Women, which were included in the packet. The Stated Clerk  
47 presented the following report.

1 Session Annual Statistical Reports

2 Session annual statistical reports have been mailed to clerks of sessions. The deadline for online  
3 filing is February 14, 2019. The deadline for the Stated Clerk to file these reports is March 1, 2019.

4 Roster of Former Permanent Judicial Commission Members

5 The Stated Clerk reported the following roster of former Permanent Judicial Commission  
6 members, pursuant to D-5.0206b.:

7 <u>Class of 2014</u>	8 <u>Class of 2016</u>	9 <u>Class of 2018</u>
10 RE Celeste Anderson	11 TE Bill Barger	12 RE Elinor Foster
13 RE John Lee	14 TE Todd Jones	15 RE Jane McDow
16 RE Mark Strength	17 TE Kaye Nickell	18 TE Sandra Randleman
19 TE Rob Weingartner		

20 Review of 2017 Presbytery Minutes

21 The Synod of Living Waters reviewed the 2017 minutes of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee.  
22 The presbytery’s minutes were approved without exceptions.

23 Patrick Handlson v. The Presbytery of Middle Tennessee

24 The Stated Clerk reported that the trial for the remedial case filed with the Synod of Living  
25 Waters, Patrick Handlson v. the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee, was held on Thursday, January 10.  
26 Following is the decision of the Synod Permanent Judicial Commission:

27 **PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION**  
28 **OF THE SYNOD OF LIVING WATERS**  
29 **PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)**

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Patrick Handlson, )  
 )  
 Complainant, )  
 )  
 v. )  
 )  
 Presbytery of Middle Tennessee, )  
 )  
 Respondent. )  
 )

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**DECISION AND ORDER**

**SLW2018-02**

30 **Arrival Statement**

31 This is a remedial case of original jurisdiction which is before the Permanent Judicial Commission of the  
32 Synod of Living Waters (SPJC or Commission) on a Complaint received on March 5, 2018, by Patrick Handlson  
33 (Complainant) against the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee (Presbytery). The trial of the case was held on January  
34 10, 2019, at First Presbyterian Church in Franklin, Tennessee.

35 **Jurisdictional Statement**

36 In its Preliminary Order dated April 24, 2018, the officers of the SPJC found that this Commission has  
37 jurisdiction, that the Complainant has standing to file the Complaint, that the Complaint was timely filed, and that  
38 two of the three alleged irregularities state claims upon which relief can be granted, and the matter was accepted  
39 for trial on those two alleged irregularities.

40 **Appearances**

41 The Complainant was present and was represented by E. J. Mackie, Neal Lloyd, and Jamie Lloyd. The  
42 Respondent was represented by George V. Crawford III, Hunter Brush, and Terry Epling.

43 **History**

The Complaint arises from actions taken at a meeting of the Presbytery on February 3, 2018, at which a  
motion from the Committee on Ministry (COM) of the Presbytery to restore the Complainant, who is a minister  
member of the Presbytery currently under the censure of temporary exclusion, was not approved.

Subsequent to its disapproval of the COM’s motion, the Presbytery considered, debated and approved a  
second motion that Complainant could, subject to certain conditions, “renew his request for reinstatement every  
24 months...” Those conditions were as follows:

- that he can show continued work toward healing and health through things like counseling, getting a support group, participating in a church;

- 1 • that he continue to abide by the restrictions placed upon him through his guilty plea and abide by the  
2 Presbytery's Former Pastor Policy;
- 3 • that he submit written reports of his work toward healing and health every six months to the  
4 Presbytery's Committee on Ministry; and
- 5 • that there be no more incidents of misconduct on his part.

6 And that if Mr. Handlson desires for this body to reconsider the decision that has been made today, his  
7 request will come through the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery; and all of the documents provided at this  
8 meeting, including the victim's impact statement, as well as any other documents that the Committee on  
9 Ministry believes are important for this council to consider, will be included in the packet from the  
10 Presbytery prior to the meeting.

11 The Complainant, who had been present and was heard prior to the vote on the COM's motion, was not  
12 present when this second motion was offered, debated and adopted.

13 As stated above, the Complaint alleged three irregularities at the meeting, the first of which was that the  
14 Presbytery was irregular in "rejecting the recommendation of the Committee on Ministry." The officers'  
15 Preliminary Order which excluded this alleged irregularity on the grounds that even if true, this would not violate  
16 the constitution, was not challenged, and therefore that ruling is final.

17 The two alleged irregularities accepted for trial were that the Presbytery erred in "imposing new  
18 censures" following its vote on the COM recommendation, and that it further erred in "excluding [the  
19 Complainant] from the Presbytery's deliberation" on the matter.

20 A pre-trial conference was held on August 21, 2018, at which the parties were asked to create a joint  
21 stipulation of facts, and while each party submitted separate statements of facts that were substantially identical,  
22 they did not reach agreement on a single material fact, requiring at least some additional time for the trial of the  
23 case.

24 A briefing schedule was also set at the pre-trial conference, and a trial date was set subsequently.

### 25 **Decision**

26 In rendering this decision, the SPJC is mindful of the admonitions and instructions found in the preamble  
27 to the Rules of Discipline. This body and our purposes are unique. Our exercise of authority in Church  
28 Discipline is God given and is not intended to punish, but rather to focus on the healing and restorative nature of  
29 our faith.

30 God is honored by a commission like this when it seeks justice for all involved. Correction and restraint  
31 from wrongdoing will inevitably bring participants to repentance and restoration. Our duties are further  
32 broadened when we must assure not only the parties to the process, but also the larger community of faith, that the  
33 causes of discord and division have been effectively removed. Justice here is a gem with many facets.

34 The SPJC's actions in all regards are intended to build and strengthen the Church and are not punitive to  
35 either Mr. Handlson or the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee.

36 In this case, the constitution provides in D-12.0104h that "a person under the censure of temporary  
37 exclusion shall apply in writing to the council...for restoration upon the expiration of the time of exclusion or  
38 completion of the supervised rehabilitation pronounced." Clearly, the time "pronounced" in the censure was six  
39 months. When, at its meeting, the Presbytery began its further instruction on the matter of the Complainant's  
40 process of restoration by stating that he could only renew his request "every 24 months," the Presbytery was in  
41 violation of this constitutional provision. Furthermore, adding such a requirement without the Complainant being  
42 given an opportunity to speak to it was a violation of the requirements of due process.

43 The General Assembly's Permanent Judicial Commission in *Muskingum v. Hauser* (GAPJC 222-06) has  
44 ruled that "a presbytery has no authority to amend a censure. Insofar as the judicial process requires ongoing  
45 enforcement of a censure, that authority rests with the presbytery." We conclude that the "conditions" approved  
46 by the Presbytery at its February 3, 2018, meeting, however, fall in the category of its "ongoing enforcement of a  
47 censure," and are therefore enforceable.

48 Therefore, while the Complainant's due process rights were violated by his exclusion from the meeting  
49 (where he had in fact earlier been given the opportunity not only to address the Presbytery but also to answer  
50 questions from other members), that is only true to the extent that the new 24-month requirement was added, and  
51 therefore the violation is rendered moot by the invalidation of that requirement.

1 We note that we reject the Complainant's argument that no vote is necessary, and that the matters of  
2 restoration and honorable retirement cannot constitutionally be combined into a single vote. The Complainant's  
3 welcome back into the communion through restoration is not his decision alone, which is why a communal  
4 process of some sort is warranted. Ultimately, he will not be restored until a majority of the Presbytery is willing  
5 to do so. That said, while the wording of the original censure is inartful in its implementation of both a definite  
6 time period *and* a supervised rehabilitation process (when the Rules of Discipline call for one or the other), the  
7 exclusion was clearly intended to be temporary, not permanent, and the Presbytery's leadership is urged to help  
8 the Presbytery move forward in a manner that gives effect to the censure's intent.

9 **Order**

10 IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the actions of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee at its meeting on  
11 February 3, 2018, related to Patrick Handlson are reversed in part and affirmed in part, and the 24-month  
12 requirement before he may renew his request for reinstatement is invalidated.

13 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee report this  
14 decision to the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee at its first meeting after receipt, that the Presbytery of Middle  
15 Tennessee enter the full decision upon its minutes, and that an excerpt from those minutes showing entry of the  
16 decision be sent to the Stated Clerk of the Synod of Living Waters.

17 **Absences and Non-Appearances**

18 Commissioner Christi Scott was recused and took no part in the deliberations or decisions.  
19 Commissioners Anne Chesnut, Jonathan Wallace, Chip Herndon, and David Maxwell were absent and took no  
20 part in the deliberations or decisions.

21 **Certificate**

22 We certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the decision of the Permanent Judicial  
23 Commission of the Synod of Living Waters of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in Remedial Case SLW2018-02,  
24 Patrick Handlson v. Presbytery of Middle Tennessee, made and announced at Franklin, TN, this 10<sup>th</sup> day of  
25 January, 2019.

26 Dated this 10<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2019.

27 \_\_\_\_\_  
/s/

28 Mac Forsyth, Moderator  
29 Permanent Judicial Commission of the Synod of Living Waters

30 \_\_\_\_\_  
/s/

31 Gregory A. Goodwiller, Clerk  
32 Permanent Judicial Commission of the Synod of Living Waters

33 I certify that I did transmit a certified copy of the foregoing to the following persons by Certified US  
34 Mail, directing Terry Newland to deposit it in the mail at Franklin, TN on or before the 11<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2019.  
35 E. J. Mackie, Counsel for Complainant  
36 George V. Crawford III, Counsel for Respondent  
37 Stated Clerk, Presbytery of Middle Tennessee

38 \_\_\_\_\_  
/s/

39 Gregory A. Goodwiller, Clerk  
40 Permanent Judicial Commission of the Synod of Living Waters

41 I certify that I received a certified copy of the foregoing, that it is a full and correct copy of the decision of  
42 the Permanent Judicial Commission of the Synod of Living Waters of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), sitting  
43 during an interval between meetings of the Synod, in Franklin, TN, in Remedial Case SLW2018-02, Patrick  
44 Handlson v. Presbytery of Middle Tennessee, and that it is the final judgment of the Synod of Living Waters in  
45 the case.

46 Dated at Franklin, TN, on January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

47 \_\_\_\_\_  
/s/

48 Terry Newland, Stated Clerk, Synod of Living Waters

49 **Northminster Presbyterian Church, Murfreesboro**

50 The Stated Clerk reported that the Northminster Presbyterian Church in Murfreesboro, pursuant  
51 to G-2.0402, requested a waiver on the rotation of elders. The motion was made, seconded, and  
52 approved.

1 Minutes of the 135<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting (October 18, 2018)

2 The Stated Clerk presented the minutes of the 135<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting (October 18, 2018) of the  
3 Presbytery of Middle Tennessee for approval. The minutes were approved as presented upon motion  
4 duly made and seconded.

5 **ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

6 Ruling Elder Theresa Denton, Chair of the Administrative Committee, presented the committee's  
7 report.

8 Egyptian Worshipping Community Grant

9 The Administrative Committee was informed that the \$7,500 PCUSA grant for the Egyptian  
10 Evangelical Arabic worshipping community, meeting at First Nashville, was received.

11 2019 Presbytery Meeting Dates

12 The Administrative Committee approved the following dates and locations of presbytery  
13 meetings for 2019: February 14 (First Franklin); May 23 (location to be confirmed); July 20 (Westminster  
14 Columbia); October 17 (location to be confirmed).

15 February 14 Presbytery Meeting

16 The Administrative Committee approved the agenda for the February 14 Presbytery meeting.  
17 Rev. Donovan Drake will preach, and the offering will be split among the three agencies presenting  
18 reports (Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, The Outreach Foundation, and HomeConnection).

19 Presbytery Office Hours

20 The Administrative Committee approved the change in office hours for the Presbytery; the  
21 Presbytery office will be closed on Friday.

22 New Creation Church Grant

23 The Administrative Committee reviewed the New Creation Church's grant application for a Sam  
24 Walton Award. The grant application was approved without objection.

25 Amendment to the Mission and Operations Manual

26 At the request of the Committee on Ministry, the Administrative Committee recommended the following  
27 amendment to update one of the responsibilities of the Committee on Ministry in the *Mission and*  
28 *Operations Manual*, page 13, line 10, as follows (language to be added is underlined):

29 Ordinarily, the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee does not receive a teaching elder seeking  
30 membership in the Presbytery as a member-at-large unless the teaching elder is the spouse of a  
31 teaching elder being received by the Committee on Ministry for the Presbytery of Middle  
32 Tennessee, or a teaching elder pursuing post-graduate study within the bounds of the Presbytery  
33 of Middle Tennessee. The Committee on Ministry will review any such request on a case-by-case  
34 basis.

35 There was no discussion, and this amendment was approved by two-thirds vote.

36 Nominating Task Force Report

37 The Rev. David Sawyer, chair of the Nominating Task Force, presented the following nominees  
38 for vacancies as indicated:

39 Administrative Committee, class of 2020: Doug Berry, RE, Westminster Nashville  
40 Committee on Ministry, class of 2020: Justin Gung, TE, Woodmont Christian Church  
41 Committee on Ministry, class of 2021: Debbie Fraley, RE, First Fayetteville  
42 Terry Panter, RE, First Murfreesboro  
43 David Wood, RE, First Nashville  
44 Committee on Mutual Support, Class of 2021: David Carlton, RE, Second (Guatemala TF)  
45 NaCoMe Board of Governors, Class of 2021: Warner Durnell, TE, First Springfield  
46

47 The Moderator opened the floor for additional nominations; there were none. The slate, as  
48 presented, was approved.

1 **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

2 Ruling Elder Mike Ingram, chair of the Finance Committee, presented the committee’s report.

3 2018 Financials

4 The Finance Committee provided financials as of December 31, 2018. Mr. Ingram thanked Pat  
5 Webb, Presbytery’s accountant, for her work, and briefly reviewed the financials. He encouraged  
6 churches to review the pledge to actual report, and to let the committee know of any changes to their  
7 pledges.

8 2019 Operating Budget

9 The Finance Committee recommended approval of the 2019 Operating Budget (Attachment B).  
10 Mr. Ingram called attention to per capita, as well as staff compensation. The Presbytery is seeking an  
11 Administrative Assistant whose compensation will be significantly different from prior years, as well as  
12 an Executive Presbyter. He stated the budget may need to be modified during the year. There was no  
13 discussion, and the budget, as presented, was approved.

14 **COMMITTEE ON LEADERSHIP EXCELLENCE**

15 The Rev. Dr. Sally Hughes, chair of the Committee on Leadership Excellence, reminded  
16 commissioners of the committee’s charge, to strengthen leadership. She reported that the committee’s  
17 next meeting would be February 19; the committee hopes to offer workshops and online resources.

18 **NACOME CAMP AND CONFERENCE CENTER**

19 Ryan Moore, director of NaCoMe Camp and Conference Center, thanked the Presbytery for its  
20 support, and spoke of the camp’s work. He encouraged the Presbytery to spread the word about  
21 summer camp, and reported on the second annual “Now What” conference at NaCoMe.

22 **HUNGER ACTION ADVOCATE REPORT**

23 Ruling Elder Stuart Wilson-Patton, Presbytery’s new Hunger Action Advocate, spoke of his top  
24 three reasons for serving the Presbytery: his 15 years defending social safety net programs; it was in his  
25 blood – his mother served as Hunger Action Enabler in West Virginia in the 1970s; and his love of Christ  
26 gives him no choice! Mr. Wilson-Patton spoke of his goal of invigorating and increasing the Centsability  
27 program, as his plans to visit all the churches in the Presbytery.

28 **“TAKE 45” WORKSHOPS**

29 The Rev. Dr. Carol Tate, Interim Executive Presbyter, stated that in the listening sessions at the  
30 October 18, 2019 Presbytery meeting, commissioners asked for workshop / learning opportunities at  
31 Presbytery meetings. She reported that the Administrative Committee listened! The “Take 45”  
32 workshops were an opportunity to learn about new possibilities for outreach. Commissioners could  
33 choose from three workshops, 45 minutes each, and then be dismissed for lunch. The following  
34 workshops were offered: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, lead by regional volunteers Dave Doehnert  
35 and Donna Malone; HomeConnection, an outreach ministry of Westminster Presbyterian Church,  
36 Nashville, lead by Keith Branson and members of Westminster; and The Outreach Foundation, lead by  
37 The Rev. Dr. Mark Mueller, Directory of Development for The Outreach Foundation.

38 The presbytery then divided into groups for the workshops, after which they were dismissed to  
39 lunch. The meeting reconvened after lunch and the Moderator offered a prayer.

40 **EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER SEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT**

41 The Rev. Dr. Sally Hughes, chair of the Executive Presbyter Search Committee, recognized the  
42 members of the search committee: Ruling Elder Steve Douse (First, Nashville); The Rev. Dr. Donovan  
43 Drake (Westminster Nashville); Ruling Elder Ed Lancaster (First, Columbia); and Ruling Elder Melinda  
44 Sanders (Woodland Nashville).

45 Dr. Hughes reported the search committee had extended a call which had been accepted. The  
46 search committee requested a called meeting of the Presbytery, to be held on February 25, 2019, 10AM,  
47 at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Nashville, for the purpose of voting on the call to fill the position

1 of Executive Presbyter and any and all matters related to the call. The motion to call the meeting was  
2 made, seconded, and approved.

3 The search committee asked that Presbytery set aside its standing rules that meeting materials  
4 be provided seven days in advance. The details of the call would not be available until February 20. The  
5 motion was made, seconded, and approved by three-fourths vote to set aside the standing rules to  
6 receive the meeting packet

7 Dr. Hughes stated that the search committee was excited about the call, and looked forward to  
8 reporting to the Presbytery. She thanked Interim Executive Carol Tate and Stated Clerk Therese Howell  
9 for keeping things moving during the transition.

### 10 **AMENDMENTS TO THE *BOOK OF ORDER***

11 Ruling Elder Therese Howell, Stated Clerk, presented the proposed amendments to the *Book of*  
12 *Order*. Each proposed amendment was presented to the presbytery for action, and the Presbytery voted  
13 as follows:

14 18-A.	Election of Ruling Elders and Deacons; On Amending G-2.0401	Approved
15 18-B.	Renunciation of Jurisdiction	
16	18-B.1 On Amending G-2.0509	Approved
17	18-B.2 On Amending D-10.0401d	Approved
18 18-C.	Officers; On Amending G-30104	Approved (63/21)
19 18-D.	Membership of Presbytery; On Amending G-3.0306	Approved
20 18-E.	Pastor, Counselor, and Advisor to Its Pastors and Congregations;	
21	On Amending G-30307	Approved
22 18-F.	Welcoming to the Table; On Amending W-4.0202	Approved
23 18-G.	Disciplinary Offense; On Amending D-2.0203b	Approved
24 18-H.	Time Limit	
25	18-H.1 On Amending D-10.0401b	Approved
26	18-H.2 On Amending D-10.0401c(1)	Approved

### 27 **COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY REPORT**

28 The Rev. Lindsey Groves, vice-chair of the Committee on Ministry, presented the COM's report.

#### 29 2019 Committee on Ministry Leadership

30 In 2019, the COM's Examinations Task Force is chaired by The Rev. Nolan Huizenga; the  
31 Transitions Task Force is chaired by Ruling Elder Donna Simpson; the Mediation Team is chaired by The  
32 Rev. Jane Herring; and the Pastoral Care Team is chaired by The Rev. Janet Salyer. The Rev. Lindsey  
33 Groves serves as COM's vice-chair.

34 The Examinations Task Force addresses theology, polity, the "fit" of the call, all in a friendly but  
35 thorough manner. The Transitions Task Force works with churches seeking pastoral leadership. The  
36 Mediation Team addresses issues that arise in churches; and the Pastoral Care Team provides pastoral  
37 care to the pastors in the Presbytery.

#### 38 Ministry Architects / Woodland Presbyterian Church, Nashville

39 The COM met with The Rev. Mark DeVries of Ministry Architects, and Ruling Elder Melinda  
40 Sanders, Woodland, who provided an update on the work of Ministry Architects with Woodland  
41 Presbyterian Church, Nashville.

#### 42 Temporary Pastoral Relationships

43 The COM approved the following contracts:

- 44 • interim contract between Rev. Scott Huie and Emmanuel Presbyterian Church, Nashville  
45 (renewal)
- 46 • interim contract between Rev. Christopher Adams and First Presbyterian Church, Spring  
47 Hill (and annual terms: part time, 20 hours/week; \$17,277 salary; \$12,773 Board of  
48 Pensions; mileage \$0.54/mile up to \$2,000; four weeks vacation; two weeks study leave)



- 1 • temporary supply contract between Rev. David John Eisenmenger and First United  
2 Presbyterian Church, Sparta, effective November 1, 2018 (also approved his return to  
3 active service for five months for Board of Pensions benefits; terms of contract \$175 cash  
4 salary, \$75 auto expenses per week, Nov. 1 – Dec. 31 and April 1 – Oct. 31; terms \$200  
5 cash salary, \$132.98 pension, \$75 auto expenses per week; two weeks vacation; one week  
6 study leave)
- 7 • part time interim contract between Rev. Warner Durnell and First Presbyterian Church,  
8 Springfield, effective December 1, 2018 (terms of contract \$36,000 cash salary and  
9 housing allowance (equally divided), \$1,500 automobile expense allowance, four weeks  
10 vacation, two weeks study leave, up to four weeks unpaid vacation, \$1,200 professional  
11 expenses, annual total \$38,700)
- 12 • interim contract between Dr. Paul Bauer and First Presbyterian Church, Columbia  
13 (renewal; no changes in terms)
- 14 • Supply contract between Rev. Marshall Gupton and Northminster Presbyterian Church,  
15 Murfreesboro (renewal; no changes in terms)

16 First Presbyterian Church, Shelbyville / Ministry Information Form

17 The COM approved the Ministry Information Form for a non-ordained Director of Christian  
18 Education for First Presbyterian Church, Shelbyville.

19 Northminster Presbyterian Church, Murfreesboro

20 The COM approved The Rev. Bobby Harding to moderate the session at Northminster  
21 Presbyterian Church, Murfreesboro.

22 The Rev. Sarah Jordan / Pulpit Supply List

23 The COM approved The Rev. Sarah Jordan (Presbytery of Chicago) to be added to the Pulpit  
24 Supply List.

25 The Rev. Mark McDaniel

26 The COM dismissed The Rev. Mark McDaniel to the Presbytery of Ohio Valley, effective  
27 November 30, 2018.

28 The Rev. Sarah Bird / First Presbyterian Church, Nashville

29 The COM examined The Rev. Sarah Bird, a member of the Presbytery of Pittsburgh, and  
30 approved her transfer to the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee and her call as Associate Pastor at First  
31 Presbyterian Church, Nashville.

32 The Rev. Dr. Mark Mueller

33 The COM examined Dr. Mark Mueller, a member of the Presbytery of Wabash Valley, and  
34 approved his transfer to the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee, and validated his ministry with The  
35 Outreach Foundation.

36 The Rev. Toby Mueller

37 The COM examined Dr. Toby Mueller, a member of the Presbytery of Wabash Valley, and  
38 approved her transfer to the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee, and addition to the Pulpit Supply List.

39 Patrick Handlson

40 The COM received a six months report from Pat Handlson.

41 The Rev. Dr. Jimmie Lancaster / First Presbyterian Church, McMinnville

42 The Committee on Ministry approved the temporary supply contract (not to exceed 30  
43 hours/week) between The Rev. Dr. Jimmie Lancaster and First Presbyterian Church, McMinnville, for one  
44 year, effective March 1, 2019 - February 28, 2020. The COM also approved the terms: Cash salary  
45 \$20,000, housing \$18,000, Pension / Major Medical \$4,000, Professional Expenses \$3,000.

1                    The Rev. Keith Gunter / New Creation Church, Hendersonville

2                    The COM approved the change in the terms of call for The Rev. Keith Gunter, pastor of New  
3 Creations Church, Hendersonville. The approved terms are: Cash Salary \$55,667, Housing \$22,000, Auto  
4 Allowance \$2,540, Phone Allowance \$900, SECA \$5,941, Continuing Education \$400.

5                    The Rev. Robert Ochsenrider / Westminster Presbyterian Church, Fairfield Glade

6                    The Committee on Ministry approved the part time stated supply contract with The Rev. Robert  
7 Ochsenrider, a United Methodist minister, and Westminster Presbyterian Church, Fairfield Glade. Rev.  
8 Ochsenrider was granted permission to celebrate communion. CRE Becky Smith will continue to  
9 moderate the session.

10                    Changes to the Former Pastor Policy

11                    Rev. Groves reported that the Committee on Ministry recommended the following changes in  
12 the Former Pastor Policy, to update the policy regarding if / when a former pastor / associate pastor may  
13 return to the church previously served; this is not currently addressed in the policy (language to be added  
14 is underlined), Page 1, line 36 and line 38:

15                    The former pastor will ordinarily seek a church home in another parish. If he / she remains in the  
16 community, that person bears a heavy obligation of self-restraint regarding the business and  
17 spiritual well-being of the congregation. The current pastor must invite any former pastor(s) back  
18 to the church previously served.

19  
20                    The first paragraph in the former pastor policy is as follows:

21                    DEFINITION

22                    A former pastor is one who no longer serves as pastor, associate pastor, or in any temporary  
23 pastoral relationship in a congregation due to call to other service, retirement, or involuntary  
24 termination. Whenever the term "pastor" is used in this policy, it is understood to mean pastor,  
25 associate pastor, or person serving in a temporary pastoral relationship.

26                    After discussion, the proposed changes were approved.

27                    Ruling Elder Anne Keener / First Presbyterian Church, Franklin

28                    The COM sustained the examination of Ruling Elder Anne Keener, a member of First Presbyterian  
29 Church, Franklin, and recommended she be commissioned to pastoral service at First Presbyterian  
30 Church, Franklin, for three years, to moderate the session, celebrate the sacraments, and officiate at  
31 marriages, all these responsibilities at the request of the pastor; have a voice and vote at presbytery (as  
32 a ruling elder for parity).

33                    The Rev. Nolan Huizenga, chair of the Examinations Task Force, asked Ms. Keener about her  
34 sense of call. There were no questions from the floor; Rev. Huizenga and Ms. Keener left the meeting.  
35 After discussion, the recommendation to commission Ms. Keener to pastoral service at First Franklin was  
36 approved.

37                    Rev. Huizenga and Ms. Keener were escorted back into the meeting. The Moderator reported  
38 on the vote, and propounded the constitutional questions to Ms. Keener; all were answered in the  
39 affirmative. Persons present in support of Ms. Keener were recognized and welcomed with applause.

40                    Mary Sellers Shaw / First Presbyterian Church, Franklin

41                    The Committee on Ministry examined Mary Sellers Shaw, a candidate under care of the  
42 Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley, who has accepted a call as associate pastor for First Presbyterian  
43 Church, Franklin. A copy of her statement of faith and autobiographical statement were provided with  
44 the presbytery packet. The Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley asked that Middle Tennessee examine  
45 Ms. Shaw for ordination on their behalf. The COM approved the following terms of call: Salary \$41,000;  
46 Housing \$20,000; Social Security \$4,679; full Board of Pensions; professional expenses \$5,000.

1 Ms. Shaw spoke briefly of her faith journey and sense of call, and responded to questions from  
2 Rev. Huizenga. There were no questions from the floor. Ms. Shaw and Rev. Huizenga left the sanctuary.  
3 There were no questions, and the examination was sustained without objection. Rev. Groves, on behalf  
4 of the Committee on Ministry, moved that Mary Sellers Shaw be approved for ordination and  
5 installation, and received as a minister member of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee, and this was  
6 approved.

7 Rev. Groves reported the Committee on Ministry had approved the terms of call as follows: Cash  
8 salary \$41,000; housing \$20,000; Social Security \$4,679; full Board of Pensions; professional expenses  
9 \$5,000.

10 Rev. Groves moved approval of the following commission to install: Sunday, April 14, First  
11 Presbyterian Church, Franklin; teaching elders Chris Joiner (First Franklin), chair; Lindsey Groves (UKIRK  
12 Nashville); Ashley McFaul-Erwin (The Next Door); ruling elders Steve Lewis (First Franklin); Bill Caruso  
13 (First Nashville). There were no objections, and the commission was approved.

14 Ms. Shaw and Rev. Huizenga rejoined the meeting. The Moderator reported on the vote, and  
15 Ms. Shaw signed the Book of Ministerial Obligations. Persons present in support of Ms. Shaw were  
16 recognized and welcomed with applause.

17 The Rev. John A. Smith / First Presbyterian Church, Dickson; Ellis Grove Presbyterian Church, Waverly

18 Rev. Groves reported that the Committee on Ministry examined Rev. John A. Smith, a member  
19 of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, who has accepted a call as pastor of First Presbyterian Church,  
20 Dickson, and Ellis Grove Presbyterian Church, Waverly. Pursuant to G-2.0505a.(2), the COM  
21 recommends that Rev. Smith be granted an exemption for the examinations required of candidates (such  
22 recommendation to be approved by 2/3 vote of the presbytery). The COM also recommends that Rev.  
23 Smith be received as a member of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the Presbytery of Middle  
24 Tennessee. A copy of Rev. Smith's statement of faith and biographical information were provided with  
25 the Presbytery packet. The COM approved Rev. Smith's move onto the field on January 15, 2019  
26 (permission to celebrate the sacraments, but cannot moderate the session until received by Presbytery).  
27 The commission to install will be provided at the Presbytery meeting.

28 Rev. Smith spoke of his journey of faith and his sense of call, and responded to questions from  
29 Rev. Huizenga. There were no questions from commissioners; Rev. Smith and Rev. Huizenga left the  
30 sanctuary.

31 The motion to sustain Rev. Smith's examination was approved without objection. Rev. Groves  
32 moved that Rev. Smith be granted an exemption for the ordination exams, and this was approved by  
33 two-thirds vote. The motion to receive Rev. Smith as a minister member of the Presbyterian Church  
34 (U.S.A.) and a member of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee was approved.

35 Rev. Groves reported the Committee on Ministry approved the following terms of call for Rev.  
36 Smith: First Dickson – Salary and Housing \$31,520; Professional Expenses \$2,000; Social Security \$2,411;  
37 four weeks vacation, two weeks study leave; Ellis Grove - Salary and Housing \$15,760; Professional  
38 Expenses \$1,000; Social Security \$1,206; four weeks vacation, two weeks study leave; shared – full Board  
39 of Pensions.

40 Rev. Groves moved approval of the following commission to install: Sunday, March 3, 4PM, First  
41 Presbyterian Church, Dickson; teaching elders Nolan Huizenga (Second), chair; Carol Tate (Interim  
42 Executive Presbyter); ruling elders Vicky McMillen (First Dickson); Gary Rickenbrode (Ellis Grove);  
43 Therese Howell (Stated Clerk); guest of the commission – Rev. Joy Warren (Murfreesboro Presbytery,  
44 Cumberland Presbyterian Church). There were no questions or objections, and this was so ordered by  
45 the Moderator.

46 Rev. Smith signed the Presbytery's Book of Ministerial Obligations, and persons present in  
47 support of Rev. Smith were recognized and welcomed with applause.

1 **INTERIM EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER’S REPORT**

2 The Rev. Dr. Carol Tate, Interim Executive Presbyter, spoke briefly about her work, and thanked  
3 the Presbytery for the opportunity. She stated she loved working with Pat Webb, Mike Ingram, and  
4 Therese Howell. Rev. Tate stated she would be cheering the Presbytery on, and looked forward to new  
5 leadership.

6 She then led the Presbytery in sharing concerns, celebrations, and announcements. After a time  
7 of sharing, Dr. Tate offered a prayer.

8 The Moderator thanked Dr. Tate for her leadership, and the Presbytery recognized her with  
9 applause and a standing ovation.

10  
11 There was no unfinished business; the Moderator reminded commissioners of the called meeting  
12 on Monday, February 25, 2019, 10AM, at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Nashville. He stated the  
13 137<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting would be held on Thursday, May 23, 2019, at a location to be announced.

14  
15 The meeting was adjourned with prayer by the Moderator upon motion made, seconded, and  
16 approved without objection.

17  
18  
19  
20 Therese P. Howell  
21 Stated Clerk  
22