

PRESBYTERY OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE
MINUTES OF ONE HUNDRED FORTY-FIFTH STATED MEETING
JULY 17, 2021

The 145th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee met via Zoom on Saturday, July 17, 2021. Rev. Nolan Huizenga provided Zoom tips and information for first time commissioners. Moderator Chris Joiner called the meeting to order at 9:30 am.

WORSHIP

Worship was led by Dr. Sally Hughes (Trinity Presbyterian Church, Nashville) and Rev. Steve Thomas III (Honorably Retired). Dr. Will Berger (At-Large) provided music, and Mr. Ryan Moore (NaCoMe Camp and Conference Center) preached. The offering was directed to the UKIRKS of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee.

**DECLARATION OF QUORUM / STATEMENT OF PROCEDURES / FIRST TIME COMMISSIONERS /
STANDING RULES / CORRESPONDING MEMBERS**

After a break, the Moderator declared a quorum was present, and reviewed procedures for the meeting. First time commissioners to presbytery were recognized and welcomed.

Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised (11th Edition), the parliamentary authority for councils of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), states electronic meetings must be properly authorized in the council's bylaws. The Presbytery of Middle Tennessee's bylaws, the Mission and Operations Manual, does not allow the presbytery to meet electronically. The Moderator stated it was not possible to meet in person to amend the manual to allow electronic meetings. The motion was made, seconded, and approved by the required three-fourths vote of commissioners to set aside the standing rules to allow the electronic meeting as well as receive the supplemental materials and additional item of business.

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.

ROLL

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

AGENDA

The Moderator stated that the agenda for the meeting had been provided in advance to commissioners. The motion to approve the following agenda was approved without objection:

- | | | |
|----------|-----|---|
| 9:00 am | 1. | Registration (Order of the Day in CAPS) |
| 9:15 am | | Orientation to Zoom First Time Commissioners (10 min) |
| 9:30 am | 2. | CALL TO ORDER / WORSHIP |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offering: UKirks of Middle Tennessee |
| 10:15 am | 3. | Reconvene / Establishment of Quorum / Statement of Procedures / Recognition of First Time Presbyters / Seating of Corresponding Members / Adoption of Agenda |
| 10:25 am | 4. | Stated Clerk's Report – Therese Howell (15 min) |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Report of the Administrative Commission for First United Presbyterian Church, Sparta • Approval of Minutes of 144th Stated Meeting (May 20, 2021) |
| 10:40 am | 5. | Administrative Committee – Cristi Scott Ligon (15 min) |
| 10:55 am | 6. | Finance Committee – Steve Douse (15 min) |
| 11:10 am | 7. | Co-Executive Presbyters' Report – Robin & Ray Thomas (10 min) |
| 11:20 am | 8. | Committee on Leadership Excellence – Aaron Stauffer (20 min) |
| 11:40 am | 9. | Committee on Ministry Report – C. Nolan Huizenga (30 min) |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioning of Ruling Elder |
| 12:10 pm | 10. | Concerns and Celebrations
Unfinished Business
145th Stated Meeting – Thursday, October 21, 2021, NaCoMe Camp and Conference Center |
| 12:25 pm | 11. | Closing Prayer / Adjourn |

STATED CLERK'S REPORT

Ruling Elder Therese Howell, Stated Clerk, presented the following report.

Presbytery Records

The Stated Clerk reported the Presbytery's records and files had been received by the Presbyterian Historical Society in Philadelphia, where they will be held on deposit for the Presbytery. She thanked the staff of Westminster Presbyterian Church, Nashville, for their support and patience as the files and records were packed up.

Approval of Minutes of 144th Stated Meeting (May 20, 2021)

The minutes and roll of the 144th Stated Meeting, held on May 20, 2021, were provided with the Presbytery packet. The motion was made, seconded, and approved without objection to approve the minutes and the roll as presented.

Final Report of the First Sparta Administrative Commission

The Stated Clerk received the final report of the Administrative Commission for First United Presbyterian Church, Sparta. The Rev. Joel Kelly, a member of the administrative commission, presented the report.

On October 15, 2020, during the one hundred forty-second stated meeting of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee, the Committee on Ministry, at the request of the First United Presbyterian Church, Sparta, TN, recommended that the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee create an Administrative Commission for the dissolution of its congregation.

The COM recommendation was passed with the following members elected to serve on the Administrative Commission (AC): Rev. Meredith Cox, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville; Rev. Joel Kelly, Calvary Presbyterian Church, Crossville; Rev. Michael McLaughlin, First Presbyterian Church, Cookeville; Elder Shirley Puckett, Buffalo Valley Presbyterian Church; Elder Donna Simpson, First Presbyterian Church, Cookeville. At an organizational meeting on October 28, 2020 the AC selected Rev. Michael McLaughlin as moderator of the commission and Donna Simpson as clerk.

Actions of the Administrative Commission

In keeping with the charge and instructions provided, the Administrative Commission has done the following:

1. Assisted the session and members of FUPC to wind up the affairs of the church.
2. Planned, in consultation with the session and members of First United Presbyterian Church, Sparta, a closing worship service, to honor the life, ministry, and witness of the church. The service was held on the grounds of the FUPC property on June 6, 2021. Members, former members, former ministers, our Co-Executive presbyters, as well as the members of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee were invited to gather for the service. The turnout was solid with over 40 persons in attendance and the service was beautiful.
3. Received the records of the session, including, but not limited to, all session minutes, the church's roll / register, all minutes of congregational meetings, all minutes of the Board of Deacons, and any other legal and financial records. These records will be deposited with the Stated Clerk of presbytery, who shall transmit them to the Presbyterian Historical Society.
4. Per F.O.G, Chapter IV, G-4.02, took possession of all real and personal property, financial records, inventories of equipment, and other assets, and will arrange for transfer of title to the Presbytery of all accounts and real property know to be in possession of First United Presbyterian Church, Sparta.
5. Secured and paid premium for proper insurance on the FUPC property.
6. Secured and paid for a survey of the FUPC property marking the manse and church building as separate properties for easier/faster sale.
7. Consulted with remaining session members of FUPC, Sparta, regarding requests the congregation may have related to the disposal of equipment, memorials, and other property of the church. Consulted with members of nearby PC(USA) congregations regarding the disposal of personal properties which can be utilized by those congregations.
8. Conferred with the Trustees of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee regarding the use of the property of FUPC, Sparta.
9. Communicated with tenants of the manse and collected rent payments through May. Tenants have vacated the manse as of June 1, 2021 and the house is in good condition following a walkthrough by AC members.
10. Studied, consulted, discerned, and determined that a Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) presence for mission and ministry would eventually be potentially impactful and viable in the Upper Cumberland region.
11. The commission determined that transformation and/or revitalization of a PC(USA) congregation is not currently potentially impactful or viable in the current location of FUPC Sparta.
12. Conferred with the Trustees of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee regarding the disposal of the real and personal properties of First United Presbyterian Church, Sparta.
13. Secured the building. Kept the yard mowing service going for both the manse and the church. Throughout the Commission's work, the empty building was physically checked at least weekly.
14. Inventoried the contents of the church building (attached). The AC will continue working to sell, donate, or otherwise dispose of the inventoried personal items remaining at FUPC Sparta.

15. Fielded interest in the property by a few groups or individuals by word of mouth within the Sparta and White County community.

16. Consulting with local realtors to gauge the potential value of the real property of both the manse and the church.

Rev. Kelly presented the commission's first recommendation, that the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee grant the First United Presbyterian Church Sparta Administrative Commission the authority to conduct all business to sell the real property of FUPC for the best price available as well as to sell and/or otherwise dispose of the personal property of FUPC. There were no questions or objections, and this was so ordered by the Moderator.

Rev. Kelly, on behalf of the commission, recommended that all funds, from the dissolution of First United Presbyterian Church of Sparta, Tennessee, be set aside for ten (10) years in a designated fund to be used in the Upper Cumberland counties of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee to establish and develop new worshipping communities or to revitalize and redevelop existing churches with a comprehensive plan. After ten (10) years if the funds have not been utilized, then they will be available for such other use as the Presbytery sees fit.

Elder Steve Douse, Treasurer, brought an amendment from the Finance Committee to strike the phrase, "After ten (10) years" and insert "as of July 2031" and to add the following sentence to the end of the recommendation: "While the funds remain restricted under this designation, they will be administered by the Committee on Church Transformation."

Mr. Douse spoke to the amendment, stating the Finance Committee commends the Administrative Commission for their work, and believes the amendment clarifies the time limit as well as the responsibility for the funds. Rev. John Larsen moved that "or its successor" be added at the end of the proposed last sentence. This was seconded and after discussion, approved.

The following amended motion was approved without additional questions or discussion: That all funds, from the dissolution of First United Presbyterian Church of Sparta, Tennessee, be set aside for ten (10) years in a designated fund to be used in the Upper Cumberland counties of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee to establish and develop new worshipping communities or to revitalize and redevelop existing churches with a comprehensive plan. As of July 2031, if the funds have not been utilized, then they will be available for such other use as the Presbytery sees fit. While the funds remain restricted under this designation, they will be administered by the Committee on Church Transformation, or its successor.

Rev. Kelly presented the final recommendation of the commission, that the Presbytery give thanks to God for nearly two hundred years of ministry of First United Presbyterian Church of Sparta, its ministers, and its members. There were no questions or objections, and this was approved. The Moderator thanked the commission for its work, and for the ministry of First United Presbyterian Church, Sparta. Rev. Kelly then offered a prayer.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Elder Cristi Scott Ligon, Vice-Moderator and chair of the Administrative Committee, presented the Administrative Committee report. She stated that the Administrative Committee continues to discuss appropriate formats and settings for future Presbytery meetings. Anyone with questions or suggestions should contact Moderator Chris Joiner.

Communications Coordinator

The Administrative Committee received with regret the resignation of Dr. Aimee Moiso has been hired as Communications Coordinator. Dr. Moisee has accepted a call with The Louisville Institute. Ms. Ligon reported that the Presbytery has contracted with Ministry Architects for a virtual office assistant who will handle the communications coordinator position.

Presbytery Office – New Mailing Address

The Administrative Committee received the final report of the Presbytery Office's move to a virtual office. The new mailing address for the Presbytery Office is **1113 Murfreesboro Rd, Suite 106, #216, Franklin, TN 37064.**

Reports

The Administrative Committee received reports from the Co-Executive Presbyters, the Stated Clerk, and the Treasurer.

Working Group to Revise the Missions and Operations Manual

The Administrative Committee received an update on the working group to revise the Presbytery's Missions and Operations Manual, and plans to bring revisions to the Manual to the October Presbytery meeting.

Social Justice Working Group

The Administrative Committee received an update on the social justice working group.

Matthew 25 Food Program

The Administrative Committee received an update on the Matthew 25 Food Program; volunteers are welcome!

Vision 2020 Report

The Administrative Committee received a report of the breakout sessions regarding Vision 2020 goals.

Committee on Leadership Vacancy

The Administrative Committee recommended that Shane Smith, pastor, Hillsboro Presbyterian Church, Nashville, be elected to the class of 2023 of the Committee on Leadership Excellence. Ms. Ligon stated she appreciated the work of the Nominating Task Force to fill the vacancy. The Moderator opened the floor for additional nominations, and there were none. The recommendation was approved.

The Presbytery took a five minute recess. The Moderator called the meeting back to order.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Ruling Elder Steve Douse, Treasurer and chair of the Finance Committee, presented the committee's report.

Financial Reports

Financial reports and investment results as of June 30, 2021, were provided with the Presbytery packet. Mr. Douse spoke briefly about the reports.

2019 Review

Mr. Doue reported that the Independent Accountants' Review Report for the year ending December 31, 2019, prepared by Mullins Clemmons & Mayes, PLLC, was complete, and provided with the Presbytery packet (Attachment B). He stated that Presbytery's financial statements were determined to be in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, with only one long-standing exception involving our decision not to book pledges as income until they are paid rather than at the time of receipt.

Fund for Rev. Lucas Mburu and Family

At the request of Dr. Jaco Hamman of Vanderbilt Divinity School, the Finance Committee voted to establish a designated fund to serve as a conduit for gifts to support the family of Rev. Lucas Mburu, a Kenyan doctoral candidate at Vanderbilt.

Designated Funds Working Group

A working group of the Finance Committee, headed by vice-moderator Melinda Sanders, is reviewing Presbytery's designated funds with an eye toward proposing revisions that would:

- a. More clearly define the purposes and uses of each fund;
- b. Specify how the money in each fund can be accessed and, if appropriate, how the funds will be augmented or replenished in the future;
- c. Identify the committee of Presbytery responsible for administering the fund; and
- d. Categorize the funds according to duration (temporary or permanent), formal constraints on how the funds are used (restricted or unrestricted), and whether the object is to hold funds for Presbytery to use for its own purposes or to serve as a conduit for contributions to third parties (accumulation or pass-through).

Database System

The Finance Committee approved the purchase of a database system – the Presbytery Office Management Assistant – specifically designed for the needs of mid-councils like PMT. This software will allow staff to maintain a single dataset for information such as contact information for pastors, staff, and clerks of session that can be used for all purposes, as opposed to our current system in which separate lists are maintained in a variety of different programs and formats. The result should be both greater accuracy of information and increased efficiency. The \$4,980 cost includes data loading, training, and maintenance for the first two years.

East Brentwood Property Tax Exemption

The partial denial of a tax exemption application for property adjacent to East Brentwood Presbyterian Church, which is owned by the Presbytery but leased to the Christian Legacy Foundation and the Pastoral Center for Healing, has been appealed to the State Board of Equalization.

Administrative Commission for First Sparta

The Finance Committee reviewed the Report of the Administrative Commission for First United Presbyterian Church of Sparta, and will propose two amendments on Recommendation No. 3 of the report. The amendments will clarify the end date of the ten year term and which Presbytery committee will be responsible for the administration of funds. It is our understanding that the Administrative Commission has no objection to the proposed changes.

Investment Policy

Mr. Douse reported that the Finance Committee recommended approval of the amended and restated Investment Policy, which replaces the version that accompanied the Committee's October 15, 2020 report to Presbytery. The proposed amended policy was included in the Presbytery packet. He stated that there was a typo in Appendix A, Transfer of Funds; 5/31/2022 should be 5/31/2021, and a corrected version was posted in the chat. Major revisions include a greater percentage allocated to equities, a detailed schedule for transitioning the portfolio from its current certificates of deposit, and the use of a Vanguard balanced fund as our primary investment vehicle. There were no questions or objections, and the Investment Policy as presented was approved (Attachment C).

Transfer of Property

Mr. Douse stated that the Finance Committee recommended that Presbytery approve the transfer of six church properties currently owned by Presbytery to the individual church corporations. The six churches to whom the property would be transferred are:

- a. Emmanuel Presbyterian Church, Nashville;
- b. Priest Lake Presbyterian Church, Nashville;
- c. Southminster Presbyterian Church, Nashville;
- d. St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, Nashville;
- e. Double Springs Presbyterian Church, Cookeville; and

f. East Brentwood Presbyterian Church, Brentwood.

Mr. Douse stated these transfers are being made pursuant to the Presbytery's Church Property Sale Policy, adopted February 6, 2020. Attorney Jack Stringham, a ruling elder at First Presbyterian Church, Nashville, has been authorized by the Finance Committee to effectuate these property transfers on behalf of Presbytery's Trustees, if the recommendation is approved. After discussion, the recommendation was approved.

CO-EXECUTIVE PRESBYTERS' REPORT

Robin and Ray Thomas, Co-Executive Presbyters, welcomed commissioners and provided an update on their work in the presbytery. They expressed gratitude for the work of Nolan Huizenga and Aimee Moiso and best wishes as they move to Louisville for Dr. Moiso's new call. The Co-Executives also reminded commissioners that it was almost Nominating season, and hoped that anyone called would be ready to serve.

COMMITTEE ON LEADERSHIP EXCELLENCE

Dr. Aaron Stauffer, chair of the Committee on Leadership Excellence, presented the committee's report.

Training and Resources

The Committee has previously identified the most significant training needs as Congregational Leadership, including committee leadership and spiritual leadership; Ruling Elder Training; and Social/Racial Justice Training. Ways to meet these training needs were discussed, including utilizing both live and virtual training, taking advantage of expertise within the Presbytery and bringing in outside speakers.

The Committee noted that there are many existing resources that church leadership may not be aware of and discussed ways to promote those resources.

The Committee will continue to work to develop and deliver Committee Leadership training, Ruling Elder training, and Social/Racial Justice Training for the Presbytery.

Dr. Stauffer reported the committee has tentatively scheduled the following Presbytery Training Opportunities:

- October 2021: *Treasurer Training and Full Calendar Presentation*
- Feb. 2022: *Team Building*
- May 2022: *Negotiating a Call*
- August 2022: *Leading in Diversity*
- November 2022: *Navigating Power Dynamics in the Church*

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

Rev. Nolan Huizenga, chair of the Committee on Ministry, presented the committee's report.

Chris Adams / Bi-Vocational Ministry

The Committee on Ministry received a report from Rev. Chris Adams and his experience with bi-vocational ministry. The COM discussed how best to support part time ministries, and Rev. Adams suggested a model might be developed to assist small churches.

First United Presbyterian Church, Sparta

The Co-Executive Presbyters reported on the service of celebration on June 6 at First United Presbyterian, Sparta.

Bellevue Presbyterian Church, Nashville / Ministry Information Form

The COM approved the Ministry Information Form for Bellevue Presbyterian Church, Nashville.

Samy Estafanos / Evangelical Arabic Presbyterian Church

Dr. Samy Estafanos, pastor at the Evangelical Arabic Presbyterian Church, stepped down as pastor of this new worshipping community. The COM approved the change in status of Dr. Estafanos to Member-at-Large.

James A Moran / First Presbyterian Church, Shelbyville

The Committee on Ministry examined Rev. Dr. James Moran, a member of the Presbytery of Central Florida, and approved his call as pastor at First Presbyterian, Shelbyville, effective August 1, 2021. Dr. Moran's statement of faith and biographical statement is attached. The COM approved the transfer of Dr. Moran from the Presbytery of Central Florida, as well as the following terms of call: salary, \$38,000; housing allowance, \$24,000; deferred compensation (403(b) plan), \$5,000; Social Security reimbursement, \$4,743; medical/pension, \$26,545; mileage allowance, \$4,212; professional expenses and continuing education, \$2,500; five weeks of vacation; and two weeks annual study leave. The COM approved the following installation commission: Sunday, September 12, 2021, 5pm; Teaching Elders: Sherard Edington (chair), First Presbyterian Church, Lebanon; Mark Bryan, Glen Leven Presbyterian Church, Nashville; Gary Kelly, Honorably Retired; Ruling Elders: Kate Canady, First Presbyterian Church, Shelbyville; Nancy Provost, Hermitage Presbyterian Church. Rev. Huizenga welcomed Dr. Moran back to the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee, and congratulated First Shelbyville on the call.

Katherine Nichols / First Presbyterian Church, Tullahoma

The Examinations Task Force met with Katherine Nichols, a ruling elder at First Presbyterian Church, Tullahoma, who has completed Commissioned Ruling Elder training. The COM will request her commissioning at the July Presbytery meeting.

Rosanna Anderson / First Presbyterian Church, Springfield

The Committee on Ministry approved the dissolution of the pastoral relationship between Rev. Dr. Rosanna Anderson and First Presbyterian Church, Springfield. The COM approved the change in Dr. Anderson's status to Member-At-Large.

Kristi Shay Moore

The COM dismissed Rev. Kristi Shay Moore, effective July 15, 2021, to the Presbytery of West Virginia to accept a call.

Scott Huie / Bellevue Presbyterian Church, Nashville

The COM approved the call to Rev. Scott Huie as designated pastor, effective August 1, 2021, for two years, and the following terms of call: 30 hours/week, Annual salary \$ 18,800; Annual Housing allowance \$ 30,000; Reimbursable Professional expenses up to \$2,500 annually; Reimbursable Automobile Mileage up to \$3,000 annually; Social Security Tax 50% of Self-Employment Tax; Annual Vacation of Four weeks inclusive of Sundays; Annual Study Leave Two weeks.

Larissa Romero / Downtown Presbyterian Church, Nashville

The COM sustained the examination of Rev. Larissa Romero, a member of the Reformed Church of America, and approved her contract as interim pastor of Downtown Presbyterian Church, Nashville, effective August 1, 2021. The COM approved Rev. Romero as moderator of the session.

Claire Berry / UKIRK Nashville (Vanderbilt and Belmont)

The COM examined Rev. Claire Berry, a member of the Presbytery of Mission, and approved her call to UKIRK Nashville (Vanderbilt and Belmont), effective September 27, 2021. The COM validated this ministry and approved her transfer from the Presbytery of Mission.

Morgan Wallace / Buffalo Valley Presbyterian Church and Mattie Smith Memorial Church

The COM approved the dissolution of the pastoral relationship between Rev. Morgan Wallace and Buffalo Valley Presbyterian Church, Buffalo Valley, and Mattie Smith Memorial Church, Silver Point, effective August 31, 2021. The COM also approved the status of Honorably Retired for Rev. Wallace, effective September 1, 2021.

Len Carrell / First Presbyterian Church, Columbia

The Committee on Ministry approved the dissolution of the pastoral relationship between Rev. Len Carrell and First Presbyterian Church, Columbia, effective June 30, 2021. The COM approved the status of member-at-large for Rev. Carrell, effective July 1, 2021.

Update to Sabbatical Policy

Rev. Huizenga stated the COM recommended the following change to the Ministerial Compensation Policy related to sabbaticals (text to be added is underlined; text to be deleted is indicated by ~~strikethrough~~):

SECTION 3 - SABBATICAL POLICY

All full-time (35 hours per week or more) teaching elders ~~and commissioned ruling elders in permanent installed positions are to~~ and full time commissioned ruling elders shall be granted a compensated sabbatical of at least three months after completion of six years of continuous full-time service to a particular church, and such sabbatical is part of the terms of call/~~contract~~. The Committee on Ministry strongly endorses this policy for all full-time professional staff of any church. With the agreement of the session, a sabbatical ~~will~~ may be combined with vacation and study leave. If the teaching elder/commissioned ruling elder leaves within 12 months of completion of the sabbatical, he/she is not eligible for severance. In churches with multiple staff, congregations may limit sabbatical leave to one staff person per year. Pastoral Nominating Committees in the presbytery are required to incorporate sabbatical leave provisions into pastoral terms of call in order for such terms to be approved by COM. Part time installed pastors or pastors serving in temporary pastoral relationships with congregations may negotiate provisions for a sabbatical in their terms of call/contracts. The requirements of this policy go into effect upon approval by presbytery. ~~and will only apply to all new terms of call after date of approval.~~

There were no questions or discussion, and this was so ordered by the Moderator.

Chris Adams / First Presbyterian Church, Spring Hill

The COM, at the request of the Pastor Nominating Committee of First Presbyterian Church, Spring Hill, recommends that, pursuant to G-2.0504c., the Presbytery approve the call to Rev. Chris Adams, who is currently serving as the interim pastor for the church. Rev. Huizenga stated that COM believes this is in the best interest of the parties, and if approved, the PNC will negotiate the call and terms of call. There was no discussion, and this was approved by the required three-fourths vote.

Mattie Smith Memorial Presbyterian Church, Silver Point

Rev. Huizenga stated that the COM had been made aware that the Mattie Smith Memorial Presbyterian Church in Silver Point wished to close, and recommended the appointment of an administrative commission. Without objection, the following charge and members were approved for the administrative commission:

- A. The Committee on Ministry recommends that the administrative commission be charged as follows:
- (1) The administrative commission shall:
 - a. assist the session and members to wind up the affairs of the church, and transfer its remaining members. The Stated Clerk shall be authorized to grant letters of dismissal to members whose names are still on the roll for up to one year after the closing worship service; and
 - b. plan, in consultation with the session and members of Mattie Smith Memorial Presbyterian Church, Silver Point, a closing worship service, to honor the life, ministry, and witness of the church.
 - (2) The administrative commission shall receive the records of the session, including, but not limited to, all session minutes, the church's roll / register, all minutes of congregational meetings, all minutes of the Board of Deacons, and any other legal and financial records. These records will be deposited with the Stated Clerk of presbytery, who shall transmit them to the Presbyterian Historical Society.
 - (3) Under Form of Government, Chapter IV, G-4.02, all property of Mattie Smith Memorial Presbyterian Church, Silver Point, Tennessee, is held in trust for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The administrative commission appointed by the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee, on July 17, 2021, is authorized to take possession of all real and personal property, financial records, inventories of equipment, and any other

assets, and arrange for transfer of title to the Presbytery of all accounts and real property known to be in possession of Mattie Smith Memorial Presbyterian Church, Silver Point.

(4) The administrative commission shall consult with the session of Mattie Smith Memorial Presbyterian Church, Silver Point, regarding requests the congregation may have related to the disposition of equipment and memorials and other property of the church.

B. The Trustees of presbytery shall have claim, on behalf of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee, to any property of Mattie Smith Memorial Presbyterian Church, Silver Point not known at this time or property which may come to Mattie Smith Memorial Presbyterian Church, Silver Point as the beneficiary of a will or trust not known at this time.

C The commission shall confer with the Trustees of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee regarding the disposal of the property of Mattie Smith Memorial Presbyterian Church, Silver Point. The Trustees of presbytery shall be responsible for the property, until such time as presbytery approves the disposition of the property. The administrative commission shall make a recommendation to the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee, in consultation with the Trustees of presbytery, for the sale of the property of Mattie Smith Memorial Presbyterian Church, Silver Point.

D. The commission will report to the Committee on Ministry at least every three months. The COM recommends the following be elected as members of the administrative commission for Mattie Smith Memorial Presbyterian Church, Silver Point:

RE Linda Burgess (Mattie Smith Memorial, Silver Point)

RE Jim Petersen (First, Franklin)

TE David Eisenmenger (Honorably Retired)

TE Evelyn Graham (Member-at-Large)

Katherine Nichols / First Presbyterian Church, Tullahoma

The Committee on Ministry examined ruling elder Katherine Nichols, a member of First Presbyterian Church, Tullahoma, who has completed commissioned ruling elder training. The COM recommends that Ms. Nichols be commissioned to pastoral service at First Tullahoma. A copy of her statement of faith was included with the COM report. Ms. Nichols will, if requested, moderate the session, celebrate the sacraments, and officiate at marriages, at the request of the session; have a voice and vote at Presbytery meetings. There were no questions, and the recommendation was approved.

The Moderator propounded the constitutional questions to Ms. Nichols, and all were answered in the affirmative. Persons present in support of Ms. Nichols were recognized.

The Moderator thanked Rev. Huizenga for his work with the Committee on Ministry, as well as assisting with Zoom meetings. He hoped for grace and peace during this transition.

CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS

Ray and Robin Thomas led the Presbytery in sharing concerns and celebrations. Ray Thomas then offered a prayer.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The Moderator stated there was no unfinished business, and thanked Robin and Ray Thomas and Therese Howell for their leadership. He stated he was grateful for their creativity, flexibility, patience, and vision.

The Moderator announced the 146th Stated Meeting would be held on Thursday, October 21, 2021, and commissioners should stay tuned on whether this would be in person or via Zoom. The meeting was adjourned at 11:45am upon motion made, seconded, and approved without objection after a closing prayer by the Moderator.

Therese P. Howell
Stated Clerk

July 17, 2021

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Approved _____