

Presbytery of the Mid-South

Summer Stated Meeting

August 30, 2011

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**Presbytery of the Mid-South Spring Stated Meeting
May 10, 2011**

Call to Order and Constituting Prayer

The Spring Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of the Mid-South was held on May 10, 2011 at Pinecrest Conference and Retreat Center. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by the Moderator, Bonnie Blair. Bonnie opened the meeting with prayer.

Welcome

Lucy Cummings, the Associate Executive Presbyter, welcomed the gathering to Camp Pinecrest. Lucy also oriented those gathered to the Camp's surroundings.

Introduction of First Time Attendees

Moderator Blair then asked churches to introduce first time attendees. About six introductions were made.

Quorum

The clerk then declared that a quorum was present.

Roll

A quorum was declared of 50 Ministers, 31 Elders, & 2 Commissioned Lay Pastors, representing 31 churches 5 elders representing the Coordinating Council or chairs of permanent committees, and 2 voting certified educators.

Symbols- 1-Absent, Excused; 2-Absent, Unexcused; 3-Absent, attendance not required

S.S. – Stated Supply; I.P. – Interim Pastor; T.S. – Temporary Supply; C.L.P. – Commissioned Lay Pastor;

*Elder attending for the first time).

CHURCHES

PASTORS

ELDERS REPRESENT

Adamsville	Vacant	Bob Schaible
Advent	Christopher Scruggs Donald Kerns (A.P.) Cindy Schwartz (A.P.)	Tom Nunley Richard Shaw
Anderson	Vacant	Not Represented
Balmoral	Carla Meisterman	Beverly Hooker
Bartlett, Grace	Larry Turner ²	Dossett Foster
Bethel	Anthony L. Burton ²	John E. Barber
Bethel Springs	Vacant	Not Represented
Bethesda	Vacant	Not Represented
Blytheville	Vacant	Not Represented
Brownsville	James C. McCurdy	Elaine Russell McCool
Buntyn	John Larson	Billye B. Mauney
Caruthersville	Ricky Lyle	Anthony Hartsfield
Cedar Grove	Robert Barger, (C.L.P.) ¹	Not Represented
Clarkton	Paul Williams, (T.S.) ³	Not Represented
Collierville	Warner Davis	Jim Wilcox
Cordova	Thomas Pickering	Bob Gammon
Dyer	Vacant	Not Represented

Dyersburg, Grace	Lisa Williams, (T.S.) ³	Audrey Toombs
Evergreen	Ken Letterman ¹	Anna Lee Burkle
	Davis Bailey	
	Julie Bailey	
	Amy Howe (A.P.)	
	Billy Newton, (P.A.) ¹	
	Walter Tennyson (P.A.)	
	Kera Kilpatrick	
Farmington	Roger Graf	Mary Lou Collins
	Cornelius Sherman (P.A.)	
Germantown	Charles Webster	Sharon Goldsworthy
	Ernest Mellor, (P.E.) ³	Evelyn Mosley
	J. Blake Hudson	
	Norlita Kaul, (T.S.)	
Greenleaf Community	Vacant	Not Represented
Huntingdon	Arthur Lodge ³	Alexander Innes
Idlewild	Steve Montgomery	Mary Lou Adams
	Elizabeth Gayle Walker (A.P.) ²	Marius Carriere
	Margaret Burnett (A.P.)	Maizie Rhea
	Corinne Nienhuis, (C.L.P.)	
	Anne Apple, (Interim A.P.)	
	Stacy Smith ¹	
	Denton McLellen, (P.A.)	
Jackson, First	John H. White	Susan Harris
	Bob Henry, (P. A.) ³	Ted Showalter
Kennett	Vacant	Excused
Kerrville	Ernest P. Scott, (S.S.) ³	Excused
Korean Pres. Church of Memphis	Joo Seob Lee	Not Represented
LaGrange	Vacant	Robin Bowen
Liberation Community	Vacant	Not Represented
Malden	Paul Williams ³	Not Represented
Marl Bluff	Vacant	Not Represented
Mason	Keith Jones, (C.L.P.) ¹	Wandy Smith
McKenzie	J. Pratt Hubbard, (T.S.)	Not Represented
Memphis, First	C. V. Scarborough	K. C. Warren
	Stephanie Patton, (P.A.)	
Mt. Sharon	Arnold Newman (S.S.)	Not Represented
New Hope	Vacant	Not Represented
New Madrid	Vacant	Not Represented
Oakland	Sam Laine, (S. S.) ³	Miles Hilliard
Paris	Jennifer Goggins	Not Represented
Parkway Gardens United	Brian Henderson ¹	Not Represented
	Andrea Jeans (P.A.)	

Piggott	Vacant	Excused
Pleasant Ridge	James Jackson, (C.L.P.)	Not Represented
Purdy	Vacant	Not Represented
Ripley	Conner Franklin (C.L.P.)	W. R. Griggs
Rosemark	Horace Houston, (S.S.)	Harry Lee Davidson
	Katie Hudson	
Savannah	Arnold Newman (S.S.)	Not Represented
Selmer	Vacant	Not Represented
Shady Grove	Jarad Bingham	Kitty Cannon
	Ellen Roberds (P.A.)	
Somerville	Michael Krech	Tamma Havercamp
Tiptonville	Gene E. Canestrari, (S. S.) ¹	Excused
Trinity	Lee Clements	Hye Young Lee
	In Sung Hoang	
	Marion Garrett (P.A.) ³	
Oak Street Community	Vacant	Excused
West Memphis, First	Dave Schieber, (S.S.)	R. Lee McQueen, Jr.
Woodland United	Mat Miller	Bert Seaton
	Pam Haley, (A.P.)	

OTHER CONTINUING ACTIVE MEMBERS OF PRESBYTERY - RETIRED

Herbert Hall Adams	Philip Bell, Jr. ³
Milton P. Brown ³	Don Coleman ³
Edward Craxton ³	Rob Crumpton
Paul Currie ³	Millen Darnell ³
James H. Daughdrill, Jr. ³	Joe Donaho
Robert Duke ³	Anne Hagler
George K. Harris, III ³	Charles D. Harvey ³
Tyson Hope ³	G. William Jones ³
Margaret Jorgensen	Charles R. Kennon ³
Walter Lockhart	Linda Jo McKim
William E. Melton ³	Charles (Chuck) Miller
R. Christy Morgan ³	Ernest Scott ³
David Seltzer ³	William E. Shenk ³
Larry (Bud) Sizemore	Margaret Suttle ³
Lee Waltz ³	

MEMBERS – AT- LARGE

John Beaumont	David Bubb ¹
Mary Allison Cates ¹	David Clubb ¹
Greg Crisp (Inactive)	Stephen Haynes ²
Kendra Hotz	Luther Ivory ²
Kenneth Jones ²	Will Jones ¹
Lisa Kroener	Jimmie Lancaster
Rebecca Patterson Luter ¹	Ruth Lovell ¹
Sam McAliley ¹	Ed McColgan
Donald McKim	Stephen Mealor ¹

Billy Newton¹
Janet Schaller
Randy Tracy¹

Robert Norvell¹
Rod Spencer²

OTHER MEMBERS

Bonnie Blair
John Coats
Sophia Hardy²
Natalie Toombs¹

Lucy Cummings
Marti Becker
Phil Shannon

CERTIFIED CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS

Rosemary Banta

Shirley Hartsfield

VISITING CORRESPONDING MEMBERS

Denton McLellan, Arkansas Presbytery

Terry Newland, Synod Living Waters

VISITORS

Robin Ballou, Juanita Barber, Amy Barnes, Brian Barnhill, Tammy Bolen, Willie Crittenden, Nancy Crumpton, Richard Cockrill, Eddie Dickey, Gerald Dykstra, Jari Dykstra, Dan Eubanks, Angela Graves, Justin Hensley, Daniel Kay, Mary Korowin, Jill Lancaster, Billy Majors, Jean Markham, Betty McCallen, Elsie McLemore, Prince McLemore, Anna McNeill, Jason Mendoza, Brandy Miller, Harlon Mills, Daniel Park, Don Pigue, Michael Pugh, Kim Sauer, Tom Sauer, Bert Seaton, Jr., Robert Shaw, David Shotsberger, Whit Sloane, Gail Sutton, Kenny Suh, David Solomon, Jean Starnes, Tony Sutton, Alanna Teague, Douglas Thompson, Rick Thompson, Teresa Waters, Trivy Williams, Marilyn Wilson

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved with one change. The honorable retirement of Ed McColgan was moved from the 1:50 p.m. slot, to the 10:15 a.m. slot, since Dr. McColgan needed to leave early.

Adoption of the Omnibus Motion

The item listed as part of the Omnibus motion were all passed. These items included:

A) The Committee on Ministry

1. The COM approved Norlita Kaul to serve as a staff pastor at Germantown Presbyterian Church for ¾ time on a 12 month contract and to be allowed to administer the sacraments. (This covenant begins on Saturday, April 16, 2011 and it can be terminated prior to the twelve (12) months by either GPC or Norlita with sixty (60) days written notice.) The financial compensation is as follows:
36,000 Annual salary/housing
2,754 SECA (7.65%)
7,020 Major Medical (19.5%)
4,320 Pension (12%)
900 Auto/travel allowance
51,994 Total
2. The COM approved Norlita Kaul to take the PCUSA ordination exams in preparation for becoming a PCUSA pastor.

3. The COM approved the request from Balmoral PC to have the Rev. Stephanie Patton be approved to moderate the Session, to administer the Sacraments, to preach and provide pastoral care during the months of June, July, and August 2011, while Carla Meisterman is on sabbatical leave, and she will be paid \$10,500.

**The Minutes Review Committee
Report to Presbytery
May 10, 2011**

OMNIBUS MOTION (Entire Report is part of Omnibus Motion)

The Minutes Review Committee recommends that the following report be approved:

Minutes of the Session of the following churches were examined and approved without exception:

Collierville
Cordova
Farmington
Idlewild
Jackson, First
Oakland
Piggott, First
Somerville, First

Minutes of the Session of the following churches were also examined and approved with exception: (Please refer to your Report Form Session Minutes for these exceptions).

First, Huntington
Kerrville
Paris, First
Woodland United

Exception Codes:

1. Time and place of each meeting are not given.
2. Names of elders present are not noted.
3. Each meeting was not opened and closed with prayer.
4. Session did not always approve its own minutes.
5. Session did not meet at least once a quarter.
6. An audit of the church's books was not made.
7. Session did not approve annual budget of church.
8. Annual Statistical Report was not approved, included in minutes, and ordered to be forwarded to Presbytery.
9. Session did not make an annual review of the church membership roll to maintain an accurate roll of (a) active members, (b) inactive members, (c) baptized members, (d) affiliate members.
10. Communications from higher governing bodies were not read and acted on by the Session as requested by the sending higher governing body.
11. Minutes do not state the composition of the Session with regard to racial ethnic members, women, men, and age groups and how this corresponds to the composition of the congregation.
12. Session's minutes do not record the annual review of the adequacy of compensation for all staff.
13. Representatives were not elected to each meeting of Presbytery.
14. Representatives did not report to the Session on their attendance at Presbytery.
15. Minutes are not included of at least an annual congregational meeting.
16. Congregational meeting minutes do not record a "review of the adequacy of the compensation of the pastor or pastors."
17. The vote to call (and the business specified for) each congregational meeting was not recorded in Session's minutes.
18. Minutes are not included of all congregational meetings called by the Session.
19. Minutes of the Board of Deacons were not examined annually by the Session.
20. A Joint Board Meeting (if the church has a Board of Deacons) was not held.

21. Minutes do not record ordination and installation of new Deacons and Elders.
22. Minutes do not record reception of new members, giving full names, and noting manner of reception (Profession of Faith, Transfer by Letter, Reaffirmation).
23. All dismissals and other deletions from the church roll were not acted upon by the Session with full information recorded in the Minutes.
24. There are irregularities or inconsistencies with Presbyterian procedure in actions of the Session.

These are the churches whose minutes are routinely due for examination at the Fall Stated Meeting of Presbytery.

Adamsville, First	Brownsville, First	Caruthersville, First
Cedar Grove	Clarkton, First	Dyer, First
Liberation Community	Greenleaf Community	Kennett, First
Korean Presbyterian Church	Malden, First	Mason
New Madrid, First	Savannah, First	Tiptonville
Oak Street Community		

***Also due for examination are those churches presently reported as delinquent at this Spring Stated Meeting. Next Due Date October 18, 2011**

Churches that are delinquent at this meeting in submission of their Session Minutes for annual review by Presbytery are these:

Bethel	Bethel Springs	Blytheville, First
Grace, Dyersburg	Mount Sharon	Parkway Gardens United
Rosemark, First	Shady Grove	West Memphis, First

The Committee on Ministry will be informed concerning churches delinquent two or more times in the submission of their records.

All churches whose minutes are due for examination at the Spring Stated Meeting will receive a notification approximately one month before they are due. (Due date, October 18, 2011)

(Omnibus Motion)

**STATED CLERK
REPORT TO PRESBYTERY
MAY 10, 2011**

Recommendations:

That the Proposed Docket for this meeting of Presbytery be approved.

That the Minutes of the Winter Stated Meeting on February 12, 2010, be approved as printed.

That presbytery hear the annual Memorial Service.

That the churches be commended for their cooperation in submitting their Annual Statistical Reports for 2011. The following churches did not report: Adamsville First; Adamsville-Mt. Sharon; Anderson; Brownsville-First; Greenleaf Community; Korean Presbyterian Church; Mason; Parkway Gardens United; Piggott-Fires; New Hope-McKenzie; Marl Bluff; Purdy; Pleasant Ridge; Bethesda-Selmer; Savannah-First; and West Memphis-First.

The Presbytery ended the year 2010 with 57 churches, 108 ministers on the roll and 8,564 members.

Receptions:

from another Presbytery:

Rev. In Sung Hoang, from New Hope Presbytery

Newly Ordained:

That the minutes of installation of Rev. Joseph Ricky Lyle, Pastor First Presbyterian Church Caruthersville, MO be approved.

Deaths:

Rev. Grimstead, William Thaddeus (Thad), March 6, 2011

Rev. Patterson, Robert G. (Bob), March 21, 2011

Dismissal:

to another Presbytery:

Rev. Christopher Ham, to Presbytery of Tropical FL

Removed from Roll:

Revs. Paul Tucker, Scott Sealy & Ed Knox

Appoint a Person to Present Resolution of Thanks

Moderator Blair appointed Dr. Linda Jo McKim to prepare a resolution of thanks.

A Moment of Honor

Rev. Denton McClelland was called upon by the Presbytery to pay honor to Dr. Ed McColgan. Denton did a great job honoring Ed for his many years of service to the Presbyterian Church (USA). Ed was thanked by the Presbytery with a large ovation.

Report from Churches Seeking Dismissal

Moderator Bonnie Blair presented the following report to the Presbytery

Dismissal Requests From Churches

On February 12, 2011, the Presbytery of the Mid-South appointed an Administrative Commission (AC) to work with churches seeking dismissal with property. This AC followed the presbytery adopted "Procedures, Guidelines and Standards for Dismissing Congregations" to the best of its ability while working with sessions and congregations in churches seeking dismissal with property. The AC reports the following churches have completed the process, and it is with sadness that the AC presents the following motions from churches seeking dismissal with property.

1. Motion from the First Presbyterian Church, Ripley, TN, to be dismissed with its property from the Presbytery of the Mid-South of the Presbyterian Church (USA) to the Presbytery of the Central-South of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, and by being dismissed with property, First Presbyterian Church, Ripley, TN, acknowledges that the Presbytery of Memphis, which is now called the Presbytery of the Mid-South of the Presbyterian Church (USA), no longer has any financial obligations or responsibilities in any way for this church and its property; and the effective date of this dismissal will be the date when the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of the Mid-South receives a confirmation letter of official acceptance by the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.
2. Motion from the Advent Church, Memphis and Arlington, TN, to be dismissed with its property from the Presbytery of the Mid-South of the Presbyterian Church (USA) to the New Wineskins Presbytery of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, and by being dismissed with property, Advent Church, Memphis and Arlington, TN, acknowledges that the Presbytery of Memphis, which is now called the Presbytery of the Mid-South of the Presbyterian Church (USA), no longer has any financial obligations or responsibilities in any way for this church and its property; and the effective date of this dismissal will be the date when the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of the Mid-South receives a confirmation letter of official acceptance by the New Wineskins Presbytery of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

3. Motion from the First Presbyterian Church, Adamsville, TN, to be dismissed with its property from the Presbytery of the Mid-South of the Presbyterian Church (USA) to the Presbytery of the Central-South of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, and by being dismissed with property, First Presbyterian Church, Adamsville, TN, acknowledges that the Presbytery of Memphis, which is now called the Presbytery of the Mid-South of the Presbyterian Church (USA), no longer has any financial obligations or responsibilities in any way for this church and its property; and the effective date of this dismissal will be the date when the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of the Mid-South receives a confirmation letter of official acceptance by the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.
4. Motion from Woodland United Presbyterian Church, Memphis, TN (Woodland), to be dismissed with its property from the Presbytery of the Mid-South of the Presbyterian Church (USA) to the National Transitional Presbytery of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, and by being dismissed with property, Woodland acknowledges that the Presbytery of Memphis, which is now called the Presbytery of the Mid-South of the Presbyterian Church (USA), no longer has any financial obligations or responsibilities in any way for this church or its property; and the effective date of this dismissal will be the date when the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of the Mid-South receives a confirmation letter of official acceptance by the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

Submitted by:

Bonnie Blair, Elder, Farmington, Germantown; Marti Becker, Elder, Evergreen, Memphis;
 Jim Boyd, Elder, Germantown, Germantown; Lucy Cummings, Elder, Idlewild, Memphis;
 Phil Shannon, Elder, Balmoral, Memphis; Lee Clements, Minister, Trinity, Martin;
 Will Jones, Minister at Large; Carla Meisterman, Minister, Balmoral, Memphis;
 Bo Scarborough, Minister, First, Memphis; John White, Minister, First, Jackson;
 Jimmie Lancaster, Executive Presbyter

**Report to the Presbytery of the Mid-South
 Chronology of Events
 First Presbyterian Church, Adamsville, TN**

1. A letter was sent by certified mail to the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of the Mid-South, from Bill Majors, Clerk of the Session of First Presbyterian Church, Adamsville, TN, requesting dismissal with property from the PC(USA).
2. On February 12, 2011, the Mid-South Presbytery approved an Administrative Commission to work with churches seeking dismissal.
3. The Administrative Commission met with the Session on April 17, 2011, and talked with the Elders about their concerns and desires.
4. The Administrative Commission met with the Congregation on April 17, 2011, and after making a presentation, a vote was taken and 16 people voted in favor of being dismissed with property and there was no opposition.
5. The Administrative Commission reports it has fulfilled the requirements in "Guidelines and Standards for Dismissing Congregations" to the best of its ability. It is with sadness that the Administrative Commission presents the following motion on its own merits:
6. Motion from the First Presbyterian Church, Adamsville, TN, to be dismissed with its property from the Presbytery of the Mid-South of the Presbyterian Church (USA) to the Presbytery of the Central-South of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, and by being dismissed with property, First Presbyterian Church, Adamsville, TN, acknowledges that the Presbytery of Memphis, which is now called the Presbytery of the Mid-South of the Presbyterian Church (USA), no longer has any financial obligations or responsibilities in any way for this church and its property; and the effective date of this dismissal will be the date the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of the Mid-South receives a confirmation letter of official acceptance by the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

Submitted by:

Jimmie Lancaster, Executive Presbyter
 Lee Clements, Minister, Trinity Presbyterian Church, Martin, TN
 John White, Minister, First Presbyterian Church, Jackson, TN
 Will Jones, Minister at Large
 Carla Meisterman, Minister, Balmoral, Memphis, TN
 Bonnie Blair, Elder, Farmington, Germantown, TN
 Math Becker, Elder, Evergreen, Memphis, TN
 Jim Boyd, Elder, Germantown, Germantown, TN
 Lucy Cummings, Elder, Idlewild, Memphis, TN
 Phil Shannon, Elder, Balmoral, Memphis, TN
 Bo Scarborough, Minister, First Presbyterian, Memphis, TN

**Report to the Presbytery of the Mid-South
Chronology of Events
Advent Church, Memphis and Arlington, TN**

1. A letter dated March 2, 2011, was sent by certified mail to the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of the Mid-South from the Session of Advent Church, Memphis and Arlington, TN, requesting dismissal with property from the PC(USA).
2. On February 12, 2011, the Mid-South Presbytery approved an Administrative Commission to work with churches seeking dismissal.
3. The Administrative Commission members met with the Session on March 22, 2011, and talked with the Elders about their concerns and desires.
4. The Administrative Commission met with the Congregation on April 10, 2011, and after making a presentation, a vote was taken. The motion to be dismissed with property passed by a vote of 482 in favor, 19 opposed and 3 abstentions.
5. Advent has agreed to make payments according to Section 7 in the dismissal document.
6. The Administrative Commission reports it has fulfilled the requirements in "Guidelines and Standards for Dismissing Congregations" to the best of its ability. It is with sadness that the Administrative Commission presents the following motion on its own merits:
7. Motion from the Advent Church, Memphis and Arlington, TN, to be dismissed with its property from the Presbytery of the Mid-South of the Presbyterian Church (USA) to the New Wineskins Presbytery of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, and by being dismissed with property, Advent Church, Memphis and Arlington, TN, acknowledges that the Presbytery of Memphis, which is now called the Presbytery of the Mid-South of the Presbyterian Church (USA), no longer has any financial obligations or responsibilities in any way for this church and its property; and the effective date of this dismissal will be the date when the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of the Mid-South receives a confirmation letter of official acceptance by the New Wineskins Presbytery of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.
8. Along with the dismissal of Advent Church, pastors Chris Scruggs, Don Kerns and Cindy Schwartz will also be dismissed and the effective date of dismissal will be when the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of the Mid-South receives a confirmation letter of official acceptance by the New Wineskins Presbytery of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

Submitted by:

Will Jones, Minister at Large
Carla Meisterman, Minister, Balmoral, Memphis, TN
Dave Schieber, Stated Clerk
Jimmie Lancaster, Executive Presbyter
Lee Clements, Minister, Trinity Presbyterian Church, Martin, TN
John White, Minister, First Presbyterian Church, Jackson, TN
Bonnie Blair, Elder, Farmington, Germantown, TN
Marti Becker, Elder, Evergreen, Memphis, TN
Jim Boyd, Elder, Germantown, Germantown, TN
Lucy Cummings, Elder, Idlewild, Memphis, TN
Phil Shannon, Elder, Balmoral, Memphis, TN

**Report to the Presbytery of the Mid-South
Chronology of Events
Woodland United Presbyterian Church, Memphis, TN**

1. A letter dated March 30, 2011, was sent by certified mail to the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of the Mid-South from the Session of Woodland United Presbyterian, Church (Woodland) Memphis, TN, requesting dismissal with property from the PC(USA).
2. On February 12, 2011, the Mid-South Presbytery approved an Administrative Commission to work with churches seeking dismissal.
3. The Administrative Commission members met with the Session on April 26, 2011, and talked with the Elders about their concerns and desires.
4. The Administrative Commission met with the Congregation on May 1, 2011, and after making a presentation, a vote was taken. The motion to be dismissed with property passed by a vote of 155 in favor, 35 opposed and 0 abstentions.
5. Woodland has agreed to make payments according to Section 7 in the dismissal document.

6. The Administrative Commission reports it has fulfilled the requirements in “Guidelines and Standards for Dismissing Congregations” to the best of its ability. It is with sadness that the Administrative Commission presents the following motion on its own merits:
7. Motion from Woodland United Presbyterian Church, Memphis, TN, to be dismissed with its property from the Presbytery of the Mid-South of the Presbyterian Church (USA) to the National Transitional Presbytery of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, and by being dismissed with property, Woodland United Presbyterian Church, Memphis, TN, acknowledges that the Presbytery of Memphis, which is now called the Presbytery of the Mid-South of the Presbyterian Church (USA), no longer has any financial obligations or responsibilities in any way for this church and its property; and the effective date of this dismissal will be the date when the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of the Mid-South receives a confirmation letter of official acceptance by the National Transitional Presbytery of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.
8. Along with the dismissal of Woodland United Presbyterian Church, pastors Matt Miller and Pam Haley will also be dismissed and the effective date of dismissal will be when the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of the Mid-South receives a confirmation letter of official acceptance by the National Transitional Presbytery of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

Submitted by:

Will Jones, Minister at Large
 Bo Scarborough, Minister, First, Memphis, TN
 Bonnie Blair, Elder, Farrington, Germantown, TN
 Marti Becker, Elder, Evergreen, Memphis, TN
 Lucy Cummings, Elder, Idlewild, Memphis, TN
 Phil Shannon, Elder, Balmoral, Memphis, TN
 Jimmie Lancaster, Executive Presbyter
 Carla Meisterman, Minister, Balmoral, Memphis, TN
 Lee Clements, Minister, Trinity Presbyterian Church, Martin, TN
 John White, Minister, First Presbyterian Church, Jackson, TN
 Jim Boyd, Elder, Germantown, Germantown, TN

**Report to the Presbytery of the Mid-South
 Chronology of Events
 First Presbyterian Church, Ripley, TN**

1. A letter dated March 8, 2011 was sent by certified mail to the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of the Mid-South, from Dan Irvin, Clerk of the Session of First Presbyterian Church, Ripley, TN, requesting dismissal with property from the PC(USA).
2. On February 12, 2011, the Mid-South Presbytery approved an Administrative Commission to work with churches seeking dismissal.
3. The Administrative Commission members met with the Session on April 5, 2011, and talked with the Elders about their concerns and desires.
4. The Administrative Commission met with the Congregation on April 5, 2011, and after making a presentation, a vote was taken. There were 13 people present and voting and the vote was 13~ for 0 against.
5. The Administrative Commission reports it has fulfilled the requirements in “Guidelines and Standards for Dismissing Congregations” to the best of its ability. It is with sadness that the Administrative Commission presents the following motion on its own merits:
6. Motion from the First Presbyterian Church, Ripley, TN, to be dismissed with its property from the Presbytery of the Mid-South of the Presbyterian Church (USA) to the Presbytery of the Central-South of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, and by being dismissed with property, First Presbyterian Church, Ripley, TN, acknowledges that the Presbytery of Memphis, which is now called the Presbytery of the Mid-South of the Presbyterian Church (USA), no longer has any financial obligations or responsibilities in any way for this church and its property; and the effective date of this dismissal will be the date the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of the Mid-South receives a confirmation letter of official acceptance by the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.
7. The First Presbyterian Church in Ripley, TN has agreed to pay its per capita on a declining basis as outlined in #7 of the dismissal document.

8. With the dismissal of this church, Conner Franklin will no longer be a PCUSA Commissioned Lay Pastor there.

Submitted by:

Lee Clements, Minister, Trinity Presbyterian Church, Martin, TN
John White, Minister, First Presbyterian Church, Jackson, TN
Will Jones, Minister at Large
Carla Meisterman, Minister, Balmoral, Memphis, TN
Jimmie Lancaster, Executive Presbyter
Bonnie Blair, Elder, Farmington, Germantown, TN
Marti Becker, Elder, Evergreen, Memphis, TN
Jim Boyd, Elder, Germantown, Germantown, TN
Lucy Cummings, Elder, Idlewild, Memphis, TN
Phil Shannon, Elder, Balmoral, Memphis, TN

Also included here are the Administrative Commission reports from each church. The entire report was moved and seconded. The floor was opened for further discussion. Rev. Linda Jo McKim presented the following substitute motion.

Whereas the EPC is not in correspondence with the PCUSA and whereas the actions taken by these churches and several others in the past is a violation of the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church USA, I move that the Presbytery of the Mid-South declare these churches to be in schism and that their pastoral staff be declared in violation of their ordination vow to promote the peace and unity of the church.

Whereas these churches are in schism and their pastors have violated their vows and the EPC is not in correspondence with the PCUSA, that no letter of dismissal be forthcoming from the Presbytery of the Mid-South,

Whereas the pastoral staff of these churches have violated their ordination vows they must repent of their treason or renounce the jurisdiction of the PCUSA at this meeting.

Following a motion and second and then discussion of the substitute motion, the assembly noted that they were ready to vote on whether or not the substitute motion should become the main motion. The assembly failed to support the substitute motion by a margin of 14 for and 55 against.

Discussion then returned to the main motion. The question was called and the motion passed by a vote of great strength. Time was then taken for silent prayer.

Worship – 10:40 a.m.

The presbytery was blessed to have the Synod of the Living Waters, executive, Dr. Terry Newland, present to share a sermon.

Morning Worship The Presbytery of the Mid-South May 10, 2011

Prayer Before Worship:

O gracious and holy God, give us diligence so seek you, wisdom to perceive you, and patience to wait for you. Grant us, O God, a mind to meditate on you; eyes to behold you; ears to listen for your word; a heart to love you; and a life to proclaim you; through the power of the Spirit of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (BCW, p24, prayer attributed to Benedict of Nursia, c. 480-547)

CALL TO WORSHIP:

John White

Leader: Be joyful in the Lord, all you people; serve the Lord with gladness and come before God's presence with a song.

People: Know that the Lord alone is God; we belong to the Lord who made us, and we are God's people and the sheep of God's pasture;

Leader: Enter God's gates with thanksgiving; go into the holy courts with praise; give thanks and call upon the name of the Lord.

People: For the Lord is good, and God's mercy is everlasting and God's faithfulness endures from age to age.

All: Let us join our hearts and voices together in the worship of the one true God, who knows us the best and loves us the most.

PRAYER OF ADORATION

John White

*HYMN: "Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God"

Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, And all these things shall be added unto you, Allelu, alleluia!

Ask and it shall be given unto you, seek and ye shall find, Knock and the door shall be opened unto you Allelu, alleluia!

INTRODUCTION OF GUEST PREACHER

Bonnie Blair

SCRIPTURE AND MESSAGE

Terry Newland

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING

Jimmie Lancaster

OFFERTORY CALL AND PRAYER (for Youth Ministries)

Lucy Cummings

OFFERTORY MUSIC

NECROLOGY REPORT and PRAYER

Bonnie Blair and John White

*HYMN "Amazing Grace"

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but now am found, was blind but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved; How precious did that grace appear, the hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils and snares, I have already come; 'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me, his word my hope secures; He will my shield and portion be, as long as life endures. When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,

We've no less ways to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Bonnie Blair

*Rise in body or in spirit

Worship Leaders:

John White, Moderator Elect, Pastor, First, Jackson

Bonnie Blair, Moderator and Elder at Farmington, Germantown

Terry Newland, Executive for the Synod of Living Waters

Jimmie Lancaster, Executive Presbyter

Lucy Cummings, Associate Executive Presbyter, Elder at Idlewild, Memphis

Kim Sauer, Music Leader

MEMORIAL SERVICE NECROLOGY

We remember with gratitude the following Elders who entered the Church Triumphant in the year 2010:

Ashford, Charlie	Farmington	January 5.2010
Howard, Harriett Emaline	Piggott, First	January 6.2010
Johnson, James Gibb	Idlewild	February 6, 2010
Cristensen, Joe	Germantown	February 11,2010
Roach, Pat Taylor	Evergreen	March 1, 2010
Flout, Margaret Jones	Idlewild	April, 2010
Green, Walt	Cordova	May 28, 2010
White, Dr. William	Shady Grove	June 1, 2010
Wheeler, Helen	Woodland United	June 20.2010
Henry, Deruice	Bethel Springs	June 23.2010
Driver, Dr. Clarence (Bubba)	Jackson, First	July 29, 2010
Page, Roy Calvin	Idlewild	August 18, 2010
Jones, Ernest	Parkway Gardens United	August 26.2010
Wofford, Patricia Lee	Evergreen	August 26, 2010

McLean, AlbertA.	Evergreen	August31, 2010
Sinnema, Thomas Sjoerd	Paris, First	September 1, 2010
Briggs, Bill	Woodland United	September 11,2010
Boyd. H. L (Lee)	Advent .	October 19.2010
Jeffers, Jack	West Memphjs, First	November 20,2010
Wilson, Ernest	Woodland United	November 22.2010
Sade, Jr. William I (Bill)	Huntingdon, First	December 6, 2010
Drew, Joe	Cordova	December 12, 2010
Sawtell, William (Bill)	Woodland United	December 24, 2010

We also remember with gratitude the following elder who entered the Church Triumphant in the year 2009:

Boyle, Mary Muldrow	Germantown	November 24,2009
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During the time of prayer, our executive, Dr. Jimmie Lancaster, asked the Presbytery to pray for Rev. Warren Wilkewitz (he had a leg amputated) , the families of Thad Grimstead, and Bob Patterson (pastors of Presbytery who died), and for the churches with whom the Presbytery has severed ties. The offering at this service amounted to \$685.00 and will be shared in Presbytery youth ministry work.

Time with Terry

The next 20 minutes were spent in a question and answer session with Terry Newland, the Executive of the Synod of the Living Waters.

Administrative Commission

Phil Shannon reported for the commission.

1. Phil emphasized that changes will have to be made in the near future.
2. Phil projected a 2011 shortfall of \$20,000.
3. Dismissed churches account for some of the needed changes.
4. He asked churches to please do their best in regard to meeting pledges to the Presbytery.
5. He highlighted a list of current contributions.

Church Donation Report May 6, 2011

<u>Church</u>	<u>Pledge</u>			<u>Per-Capita</u>	
	<u>Unified</u>	<u>Selective</u>	<u>Received</u>	<u>Assessment</u>	<u>Paid</u>
Adamsville, FPC				463.61	
Advent	7,000.00	27,000.00	8,499.99	15,474.55	5,158.25
Anderson				62.65	
Balmoral	18,000.00		3,750.00	2,430.82	2,430.82
Bethel	500.00			1,127.70	
Bethel Springs				526.26	526.26
Bethesda				150.36	
Blytheville, FPC				2,142.63	
Brownsville, FPC				1,917.09	
Buntyn	2,500.00		857.99	1,453.48	1,453.48
Caruthersville, FPC	4,000.00		600.00	1,979.74	
Cedar Grove	100.00		100.00	87.71	87.71

Clarkton, FPC			225.54	
Collierville	4,000.00	1,000.00	1,704.08	1,704.08
Cordova			1,491.07	1,491.07
Covington, FPC		600.00	4,059.72	
Dyer, FPC			250.60	250.60
Evergreen	4,000.00	1,000.00	3,132.50	3,132.50
Farmington	20,000.00	5,000.00	2,368.17	2,368.17
Germantown	33,000.00		10,612.91	
Grace, Bartlett		250.00	2,142.63	2,142.63
Grace, Dyersburg	1,000.00		538.79	
Greenleaf Community			187.95	
Huntington, FPC			588.91	588.91
Idlewild	165,000.00	41,250.00	18,268.74	4,567.19
Jackson, FPC	20,600.00	5,150.00	5,826.45	5,826.45
Kennett, FPC	6,000.00	1,500.00	1,516.13	1,516.13
Kerrville			213.01	213.01
Korean P C of Memphis			187.95	187.95
LaGrange Liberation Community		300.00	250.60	250.60
Malden, FPC	2,000.00		1,014.93	
Marl Bluff			313.25	
Mason			50.12	37.59
McKenzie, FPC			125.30	125.30
Memphis, FPC	2,000.00	500.00	300.72	300.72
Mount Sharon			2,105.04	
New Hope			927.22	
New Madrid, FPC		1,500.00	50.12	
Oak Street Community			551.32	551.32
Oakland	1,000.00		350.84	350.84
Paris, FPC	5,000.00	1,250.01	476.14	476.14
Parkway Grdns United			1,428.42	476.16
Piggott, FPC	500.00		2,393.23	1,196.62
Pleasant Ridge			162.89	162.89
Purdy			75.18	
Ripley, FPC			238.07	238.07
Rosemark	2,000.00		213.01	213.01
Savannah, FPC			501.20	501.20
Selmer, FPC			288.19	288.19
Shady Grove	500.00		375.90	
Somerville, FPC	5,500.00		2,255.40	2,255.40
Tiptonville			1,704.08	1,704.08
Trenton, FPC			238.07	238.07
Trinity	3,500.00	583.34	3,032.26	3,032.26
West Memphis, FPC			789.39	789.39
Woodland United	15,000.00		2,067.45	
			3,896.83	1,298.92

Total	<u>322,700.00</u>	<u>28,500.00</u>	<u>72,191.33</u>	<u>107,306.92</u>	<u>48,131.98</u>
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6. Rev. Carla Meisterman made the following motion: that Presbytery appoint a task force for Financial strategy made up of 5 people appointed by Presbytery Council. The Task Force will work with Phil Shannon, Treasurer and John Coats of the Endowment Committee to examine assets, liabilities, staff, ministry and mission in order to develop strategy and present options for assuring financial health for the future of our Presbytery. The motion was seconded, discussed and passed.

Lunch 12:15 p.m.

Small Groups

The Presbytery moved into a period of small group conversations at 1:00 p.m. Each group discussed the same questions. Highlights of things to do in the future included:

1. Build deeper relationship with each other.
2. Develop more learning opportunities.
3. Have more fellowship events.
4. Do more strategic planning.
5. Share good things happening in local churches.

All agreed this was a very helpful session.

Leadership Mission Area

The Committee on Ministry reported through Rev. Michael Krech the following:

Motion to sustain the examination of Tom Sauer and to recommend him to the Presbytery to become a Commissioned Lay Pastor and to be commissioned at the May 10 Presbytery meeting. Motion to commission Tom Sauer to serve as a CLP at the LaGrange Presbyterian Church and to lead worship, to moderate the Session, administer the Sacraments, and approve the terms of service for twelve months and he will be paid \$200 per service which included mileage reimbursement. The Rev. Roger Graf will be a mentor to Tom.

Both motions passed following a presentation and time of questioning of Tom Sauer. Tom was then commissioned as a lay pastor.

There was no report from Committee on Preparation for Ministry.

Bills and Overtures

Rev. Tom Pickering, chair, reported for the Bills and Overture Committee.

I. For Action. General Assembly Overture 10-2 *The Confession of Blhar*

Motion:

That *The Book of Confessions* be amended by adding the Confession of Belhar following A Brief Statement of Faith – Presbyterian Church (USA) and its accompanying documents? The “Accompanying Letter” and scriptural references to the confession should be printed with it without confessional status if this proposal is adopted.

The Committee Recommends:

The committee moves this item and asks that it be considered on its merits without a recommendation of the committee. It does offer one piece of guidance. The General Assembly by requiring a 2/3 vote of all Presbytery recognizes that confessions should not be added to our Book of Confessions unless they make a

specific and compelling contribution. Whether or not the Confession of Belah meets that standard is up to the wisdom of each Presbyter as they are led by the Holy Spirit.

After discussion a vote was called. Those favoring Belhars addition to the Book of Confessions amounted to 28 votes. Those not favoring the addition amounted to 30 votes. The motion did not pass.

Tom then presented the second part of his report:

II For Action.

Recommendations of B&O concerning the effects of nFOG on the Presbytery and the Congregations of the Presbytery.

If nFOG is adopted by the Church as a whole, on July 11, 2011 major portions of the previous book of order that have guided us in the past will cease to exist, I called Greg Goodwiller of St. Andrew Presbytery to see what he was recommending for his presbytery. They have adopted a motion similar to motion #1 to provide a bridge until their manual of operations can be revised. Motion #2 is designed to provide a similar temporary bridge for our congregations while our congregations adapt to the changes brought if nFOG goes into effect on July 11th.

Motion 1:

In the event the New Form of Government passes and becomes effective July 11, 2011, where it is unclear or where items have not been updated in a revised Presbytery Manual of Operations, The Presbytery of the Mid-south adopts the 2009-2011 Form of Government as its standard.

After the motion was opened for discussion, Carla Miesterman offered a substitute motion that was seconded. The substitute motion said:

Presbytery appoints a Task Force for the Implementation of nFOG chaired by The Reverend Anne Apple, Adjunct Professor of PCUSA Polity at Memphis Theological Seminary. Presbytery Council will staff this Task Force with an additional 3 members no later than June 10, 2011 to accomplish the following:

1. Prepare an implementation plan for the new Form of Government to be presented at the August Presbytery meeting.
2. Chair Anne Apple will work with the Presbytery office to communicate with all Clerks of Session in our Presbytery before June 1, 2011 to make sure sessions have adopted the appropriate quotas for session and congregational meetings before July 1, 2011 to insure the business of their churches may be conducted.
3. Task Force for Implementation will provide nFOG resource information to each session and encourage each session to name a person in their church to act as a parliamentarian for nFOG to work with the Task Force for Implementation during this transition.
4. Task Force for Implementation will call and equip a team of educators to prepare and schedule training for all pastors and sessions in our Presbytery of nFOG by December 2011.
5. Presbytery will name a Task Force for updating Presbytery By-Laws chaired by Honorable retired pastor, The Reverend Maggie Jorgensen, Attorney at Law. Council will staff this Task Force with an additional 3 members no later than June 10, 2011 to work in concert with the Task Force on Implementation of nFOG to insure that Presbytery by-laws and nFOG are working in concert by December 31, 2011.

Following a time of perfecting both the substitute motion and the main motion a vote was called for asking if the substitute motion should become the main motion. By a vote of 23 for and 30 against, the substitute motion failed to become the main motion. A vote on the main motion was then taken and it passed by a margin of 47-2.

Tom then presented another motion in regard to the possible passage of nFOG.

Motion 2:

In the event the New Form of Government passes and becomes effective July 11, 2011, the Presbytery of the Mid-South adopts the 2009-2011 Form of Government as the standard for the congregations in the Presbytery until a congregation has revised its own by laws to reflect the New Form of Government.

Following a brief discussion the motion passed by a vote of 48-0.

Tom ended his report with the following information:

For Information:

Bills and Overtures is developing a “boiler plate” set of Bi-Laws to provide guidance for our congregations which will reflect the changes that Churches will need to make in their bi-laws cover areas where nFOG is silent.

Coordinating Council

Dr. Steve Montgomery reported for the council and asked that:

1. Bo Scarboro be added to the standing Administrative Commission in regard to dismissals.
2. Stephanie Wall be added to the Administrative Commission for First Presbyterian Church in West Memphis, AR.

The Presbytery approved both appointments.

Nominating Committee

Carla Meisterman reported for Will Jones and asked churches to submit their nominations to the committee.

Conference Report

The conference on helping people prepare for caregiving and end of life issues for their loved ones and themselves, was promoted. Rose Mary Banta will lead three different events in June. A brochure is attached.

"What a grace-filled, sensitive, thorough presentation! You presented us with so much information and such great resources. It has been a real gift to be in your workshop."

Anne Wilson
APCE workshop participant and board member

Three Workshop Opportunities:

- June 23 First Presbyterian Church,
 Jackson, TN
 9:30am - 12:30pm
 (1573 N. Highland Ave)
- June 28 Shady Grove
 Presbyterian Church,
 Memphis, TN
 9:30am - 12:30pm
 (5530 Shady Grove Road)
- June 30 First Presbyterian Church,
 Caruthersville, MO
 9:30am - 12:30pm
 (701 Carleton Avenue)

*\$10 registration fee
 includes lunch and materials.*



Presbytery of the Mid-South
 449 Patterson Street
 Memphis, TN 38111
 Address Correction Required



STARTING THE CONVERSATION:



HELPING PEOPLE PREPARE
 FOR CAREGIVING AND END
 OF LIFE ISSUES FOR THEIR
 LOVED ONES AND
 THEMSELVES

Workshops available
 June 23, June 28, and June 30

Presbytery of the Mid-South
 901.324.7701



Why should we talk?

With the aging population in our country and congregations, our faith communities are the ideal places to hold conversations around the many issues to be considered in making decisions around care giving and the end of life.

So, who should attend?

Pastors, educators, caregivers, people working in adult ministry, and any other people interested in these topics. Workshops are open to anyone who would like to join us.



Rosemary Banta

Our presenter is an elder and Certified Christian Educator in the Presbytery of the Mid-South and is former President of the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators. She presented this workshop at their 2011 Annual Conference.

What to expect...



This workshop will:

- *Consider the rationales for opening the conversations around the issues of caregiving*
- *Identify the key topics that need to be included in the conversations*
- *Look at the difficulties of confronting these issues in a culture of denial and the benefits that come to families who do so before a time of crisis.*
- *Examine models that have been helpful to other congregations*
- *Receive many additional helpful resources*
- *Determine ideas that would be applicable for use in both congregation and family settings*

Registration

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Church _____

Check one date:

- June 23, First Pres, Jackson, TN
- June 28, Shady Grove Pres, Memphis, TN
- June 30, First Pres, Caruthersville, MO

Please send this form with your check for \$10/person to the address below by 2 weeks prior to your choice of workshop.

You may also notify us by email or phone. Payment will be expected before the event.



Old Business

Jimmie Lancaster thanked Charlie Webster, the interim pastor at Germantown Presbyterian Church, for an excellent job. Charlie was also thanked with a hearty round of applause. Charlie will be moving on to his next call.

New Business

None

Resolution of Thanks

Rev. Linda Jo McKim offered the following resolution of thanks:

On behalf of Bonnie Blair, moderator of the Presbytery of the Mid-South and all those in attendance, be it resolved that a hearty Thank you go to Pinecrest Conference and Retreat Center for providing the space at almost a moment's notice for our meeting today. Here is a place where we truly see the wonders of God's creation. And for a few minutes we are silenced by its beauty.

Further: be it resolved that the kitchen staff be thanked for another delicious meal

Further: be it resolved that Carmen and her staff be thanked for the preparations they made for our time together today.

Fellow presbyters, join me in calling out "Thank You" for the hospitality we received today "Thank You."

Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The motion passed and the meeting was closed with a prayer by Rev. Linda Jo McKim.

Respectfully Submitted,

David A. Schieber, clerk

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