

The Minutes
Of
Mississippi Valley Presbytery

General Synod of the
Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church



Spring Stated Meeting

March 5-6, 2012

French Camp Presbyterian Church
French Camp, Mississippi

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PROCEEDINGS
MISSISSIPPI VALLEY PRESBYTERY
French Camp Presbyterian Church
French Camp, Mississippi

Spring Stated Meeting
March 5-6, 2012

The registration of delegates began at 4 pm. Following an evening meal at 6 p.m., the Spring 2012 Stated Meeting of Mississippi Valley Presbytery began at 7 p.m. with an opening worship service led by Rev. Alex Coblentz, pastor of the French Camp Presbyterian Church. The sermon was preached by Rev. Andy Putnam, the Moderator of General Synod. The worship service also included the celebration of the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, led by Rev. Coblentz, (see **Appendix A**).

Following the worship service and a brief recess, Rev. Andy Coburn, Moderator of Mississippi Valley Presbytery, called the meeting to order and opened with prayer.

Mr. Glen Barlow, an elder at the French Camp Presbyterian Church, welcomed the presbytery to the meeting.

The Principal Clerk confirmed a quorum was present.

Ministers Present

Thomas Braithwaite (**E**)
Ron Brunson (**E**)
Meredith Cavin
Moises Chan
Conrad Cheatham
Gary Clowers (**E**)
James Coad III
Alex Coblentz
Andy Coburn
Joey Donahue (**E**)
Bill Everett
W. Nate Falls (**E**)
James Fee (**E**)
Michael Garvey (**E**)
Jodie Gaston (**E**)
Carl Geisik (**E**)

T.J. Gentry
Dan Hazen
Matthew Heathman
Tim Phillips
Troy Pritt (**E**)
Zech Schiebout
Wayne Stanchfield (**E**)
David Storment
Charles Todd
John Tucker
Don Watkins
Howard Wheeler
Robert White (**E**)
Steve Woods (**E**)
Mike Yarman

(A) = Unexcused Absence (E) = Excused Absence

Ruling Elders Present

Bethany – none	Hickory Springs – none
Brighton – John Moore	Hopewell – Charles Browning
Covenant Reformed – none	Midlane Park – none
Covington – Milton Murphy	Mt. Zion – Charles Bunner
Ebenezer – Edwin Dees	New Albany – Gene Tate
Elsberry – none	New Geneva – none
Faith – none	Pottsville – none
French Camp – H. Glen Barlow	Providence Reformed – none
Gospel of Grace – Marshall Snodgrass	Richland – Bob Mitchell
Graceview – none	Salem – Kerry Regen
Gum Tree – Charles Covington	Sharon – none
Helena – Robert Bennett	Wood Avenue – none
Hernando – none	

Stated Supply

Al Herrington

Guests

Marion Bunner, Barbara Cheatham, Martha Dees, Scott Fletcher, Benjamin Glaser, Leah Heathman, Joan Herrington, Mark Jones, Larry Littlejohn, Joyce Mitchell, Carolyn Murphy, Carl Patterson, Andy Putnam, David Searfoss, Kathy Tucker, Paul Walley, Joe Yerby

Several first-time guests were introduced to the presbytery. After the introduction of guests, Mr. John Cockrell, a ruling elder at French Camp Presbyterian Church, presented the agenda (see **Appendix A**).

The Principal Clerk reported that Rev. Joey Donahue, Rev. Mike Garvey, Rev. Gary Clowers, and Wilmont Green (ruling elder at Wood Avenue) had submitted requests for excused absences from the meeting of presbytery.

The following procedural motions were read to the court by the Clerk and adopted without objection:

- That each minister or ruling elder delegate who has contacted the clerk requesting an excused absence from this meeting of presbytery be granted an excused absence.
- That each minister and ruling elder delegate who must leave this meeting of presbytery before adjournment and who submits a request for an excused absence from the remaining portion of the meeting of presbytery, be granted an excused absence.
- That ministers of other presbyteries of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church or other Christian denominations, who have been registered with the clerk for this

meeting, may be seated as consultative members of the presbytery, in accordance with the FOG, Chapter XII.C.3.

- That clergy and/or laity who represent institutions or agencies related to the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church who have registered with the clerk for this meeting be invited to sit with the presbytery and be granted the privilege of the floor.

The minutes from the Summer and Fall 2011 meetings of presbytery were adopted.

There was no unfinished business.

Moderator Coburn gave the retiring moderator's address, reading from Ephesians 6:10-13, 19, and he spoke of the struggles of ministering in difficult contexts. He also challenged the presbytery to engage in spiritual warfare for the sake of the gospel.

Elder Larry Littlejohn was then introduced as the Moderator of Mississippi Valley Presbytery.

Moderator Littlejohn appointed a committee to examine the records of sessions: Rev. Bill Everett, Rev. Mike Yarman, Rev. David Storment, and the elders of the Gum Tree, Gospel of Grace, and Salem churches.

Rev. Bill Everett was appointed acting Reading Clerk for the spring meeting in the absence of Rev. Joey Donahue.

There being no further business for the evening, the meeting recessed until the following morning. Moderator Littlejohn closed with prayer.

Tuesday Morning, March 6, 2012

After a delicious breakfast served by the host church, Rev. Alex Coblentz led a morning devotion on Ephesians 3:14ff.

After a short break, Moderator Littlejohn reconvened the meeting and called on Rev. Meredith Cavin to open this portion of the meeting in prayer.

Mr. Lance Ragsdale, Director of French Camp Academy, spoke briefly about the ministry of the academy.

Under new business, a letter from the Covington ARP Church requesting an additional elder (Mr. Richard Moore) be appointed to the Covington session was read (see **Appendix B**). The request was approved by the presbytery.

A memorial from the Midlane Park Presbyterian Church was presented to the presbytery (see **Appendix C**). After several minutes of discussion, a motion was made to call for the question (seconded, passed). A motion to approve the memorial was made (seconded), and the memorial passed without any dissention.

A letter from Heber Springs Presbyterian Church was presented to the presbytery, along with an accompanying letter from Bishop Riola of the Communion of Anglican Churches (see **Appendix D**). After some parliamentary clarification from Moderator of Synod Andy Putnam, a motion was made to release Covenant to the Communion of Anglican Churches (seconded). Rev. T.J. Gentry also gave some background history of the Covenant church. A vote was taken and the motion passed.

The Treasurer's Report was presented to the presbytery and received as information, with grateful appreciation being expressed to the Treasurer for his diligent work (see **Appendix E**).

The Report of the Stewardship Committee was presented to the presbytery (see **Appendix F**). All four recommendations were taken up. The first item was approved without discussion. The second item was considered. A motion was made to appoint the Treasurer of MVP as the official signor. The third item was considered. Clarification was requested for this point and discussion took place, with the Stewardship chair providing explanation. The third recommendation passed. The fourth recommendation was then considered. A motion was made to amend the fourth recommendation to state the following: *That all churches make a better attempt to support the Presbytery financially and complete the required forms for both Presbytery and Synod.* The recommendation passed (as amended). The report was then adopted as a whole by the presbytery.

The report from the Minister and His Work Committee report was presented (see **Appendix G**). The three recommendations were considered individually. The first recommendation was considered. Mark Jones, a Student of Theology in First Presbytery, was presented to the presbytery. He spoke to the presbytery about his conversion and his sense of call to pastoral ministry. The recommendation was approved, and Mr. Jones was received as a Student of Theology of MVP. Moderator Littlejohn asked the questions from the Form of Government, which Mr. Jones answered in the affirmative. Mr. Littlejohn then led in prayer for Mr. Jones.

The second recommendation, to receive Rev. David Searfoss as a retired minister from the Central Kentucky Presbytery of the PC(USA), was considered. The recommendation was approved unanimously.

The third recommendation was considered. Chairman Charles Todd offered some explanation of the recommendation, and Rev. Dan Hazen also gave some explanation of his views on the law and his differences with the Westminster Standards, which included his rejection of the tripartite [i.e., three-fold] division of the law. At this point, Rev. Tim Phillips expressed concern with the statement in the report that Rev. Hazen's views were "within the bounds of the WCF" on the basis of his comments before the presbytery. There was much discussion. The order of the day was reached and discussion was suspended. Rev. David Stormont was called upon to close this portion of the meeting in prayer.

Recess for Committee Meetings (10 a.m.)

The meeting of presbytery reconvened at 11:05 a.m. Rev. Howard Wheeler opened this portion of the meeting with prayer.

Discussion on the report from the Minister and His Work Committee resumed. A motion was made by Rev. Howard Wheeler to amend Recommendation Three of the report as follows: *That presbytery accept the views of Rev. Dan Hazen, noting his exceptions to the Westminster Standards regarding the law.* The amendment was seconded and passed after discussion. The recommendation as amended was then discussed. A vote was taken and the motion passed.

Chairman Todd amended the report to include a request by the Helena Presbyterian Church to approve Rev. Leslie Rhodes to remain as stated supply of the church. This amendment to the report was approved by the presbytery, and the report as a whole was adopted.

The Report of the Committee on Nominations was presented to the presbytery (see **Appendix H**). The recommendations were considered and the report was approved as a whole.

The Outreach North America Committee report was presented to the presbytery (see **Appendix I**). The report was received by the presbytery and adopted as recommended.

The report of the Committee on Sessional Records was presented to the presbytery (see **Appendix J**). It was adopted by the presbytery.

Rev. Andy Coburn addressed the presbytery and asked for clarification concerning the appointment of a provisional session for the Wood Avenue and Hickory Springs churches. Rev. Coburn indicated that he had statistical forms and other information from the Hickory Springs church. A motion was made by Rev. Alex Coblenz: *That the presbytery function as the next court of jurisdiction in acting on this information* (seconded, passed). A report was read and approved by the presbytery.

The Moderator instructed the Principal Clerk to write a letter of encouragement to the Hickory Springs and Wood Avenue churches, and to include the addresses of these churches in the minutes of presbytery so that others can send notes of encouragement to the two churches. The addresses for the churches are:

Hickory Springs Presbyterian Church
P.O. Box 911
Warren, AR 71671

Wood Avenue Presbyterian Church
120 E. Ross St.
Monticello, AR 71655

The Director of Camp of the Rising Son gave a presentation about the camp to the presbytery. Rev. Dan Hazen then presented the Christian Education Committee report to the presbytery (see **Appendix K**). The five recommendations were considered individually. Recommendation one was considered and passed. Recommendation two was then considered. As information, Rev.

John Tucker informed the presbytery that Graceview would not be able to host the leadership training event in the future. The recommendation was then approved by the presbytery. The third, fourth, and fifth recommendations were each considered and all passed. The report as a whole was adopted by the presbytery.

At the order of the day, Charles Covington was called upon by the Moderator to close this session of the meeting in prayer.

Order of the Day (Lunch – noon)

After a season of prayer, business reconvened. Elder Marshall Snodgrass made a motion from the floor: *That the Wood Avenue and Hickory Springs churches be placed under the oversight of the ONA Committee for the purpose of encouragement, revitalization, sessional oversight, and prayer.* The motion was seconded and after brief discussion, the motion passed.

It was noted that the fall 2012 meeting of Presbytery was scheduled to meet at the Brighton Presbyterian Church, with the Graceview Presbyterian Church hosting in the spring of 2013. The New Albany Presbyterian Church offered to host presbytery in the fall of 2013, and this request was approved by the presbytery.

Being no further business, a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes and to adjourn was made (seconded, passed). The meeting of presbytery closed with the singing of “Christian Unity” and a closing prayer and benediction by Rev. John Tucker.

Stated Spring Meeting
Mississippi Valley Presbytery
 French Camp Presbyterian Church
 French Camp, MS

Worship Service - 7:00 p.m., March 5, 2012

Prelude & Call to Worship

**All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name (Diaspora)*

Hymn No. 16

*Unison:
 I will give thanks to Thee, O Lord, among the peoples;
 I will sing praises to Thee among the nations.
 For Thy steadfast love is great to the heavens;
 And Thy faithfulness to the clouds.
 Be exalted, O God, above the heavens;
 Let Thy glory be over all the earth.

**Be exalted, O God (Psalm 57:9-11)*

Hymn No. 32

**Invocation & Lord's Prayer*

A Word of Welcome

Message from God's Word

Rev. Andrew Putnam
 Moderator, ARP General Synod

Sermon: Eager to Preach the Gospel

Text: Romans 1:14-17

***Special Music: "Hope of the World"**

*Hope of the world, help to the heathen; a humble servant, Savior, Friend,
 God's only Son, sent to redeem us; hasten our prayer without end.
 Amazing love! How great a Savior! Christ comes to set the captive free.
 A love beyond all comprehension, the grace of God for all to see.
 Amazing love for you and me.*

*Jesus walked this loveless valley, He had to walk it by Himself;
 O, nobody else could walk it for Him, He had to walk it by Himself!
 Jesus walked this loveless valley, despised, rejected and alone.
 He carried our sorrows, griefs and burdens, He had to bear them all alone.
 Jesus bore them all alone.*

*Amazing love! How great a Savior! Christ comes to set the captive free.
 A love beyond all comprehension, the grace of God for all to see.
 Amazing love for you and me.*

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

**Glory to His Name*

Hymn of Consecration No. 493

**Benediction & Postlude*

*Please stand.

MVP Schedule March 5 & 6, 2012

Monday, March 5, 2012	
3:00 – 5:00 p.m.	Registration at French Camp Presbyterian Church
3:30 and 4:30 p.m.	Guided Tours of French Camp
6:00 – 6:45 p.m.	Dinner at the Lodge, Camp of the Rising Sun
7:00 – 8:00 p.m.	Worship and Communion at French Camp ARP Church
8:15 p.m.	Opening of Spring Meeting of MVP

The Constitution of Presbytery with Prayer

- Welcome and Greetings
- Constitution of the Roll
- Introductions
- Presentation of the Agenda
- Adoption of the Fall Minutes
- Unfinished Business
- Retiring Moderator's Address
- Induction of Moderator-elect
- Appointment of Moderator's Committee on Sessional Records
- Announcements
- Closing Prayer

Optional Event (15 minutes after the closing of MVP opening session)

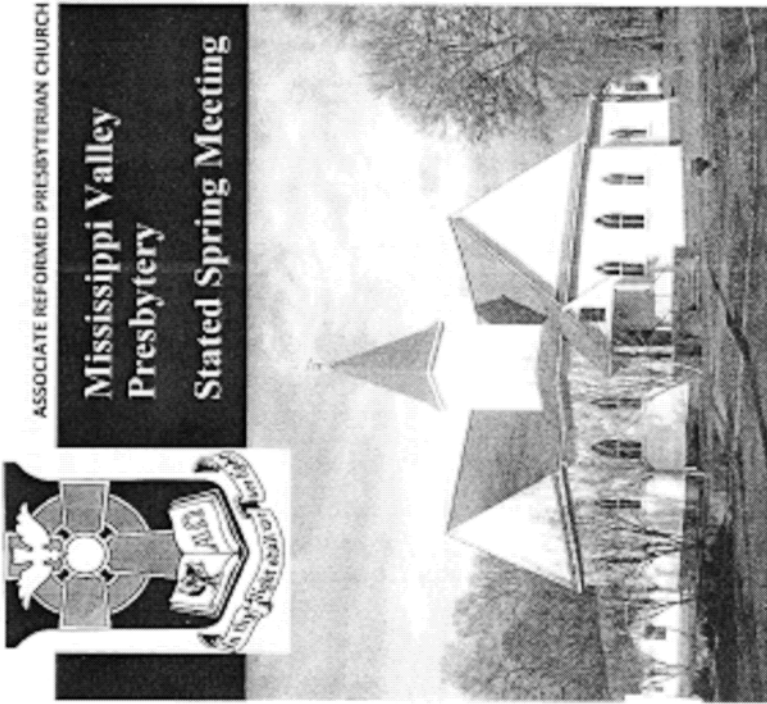
"The Heavens Declare the Glory of God" a presentation of Rainwater Observatory

There will be a special presentation in the sanctuary of French Camp ARP Church, by Mr. Edwin Fraughn, Managing Director of Rainwater Observatory. Following the presentation, weather permitting, the observatory will be open for any who may be interested in viewing the heavens.

Tuesday, March 6, 2012

- 7:00 – 8:30 a.m. Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall
- 8:00 - 8:20 a.m. Morning Worship
- 8:20 – 8:30 a.m. Brief Recess
- 8:30 – 10:00 a.m. Call to Order and Convening Prayer
Business
- *10:00 – 10:30 a.m. Recess for Committee Meetings
- 11:00 a.m. Business, Continued
- *12:00-12:45 p.m. Lunch in the Fellowship Hall
- 12:45 p.m. Season of Prayer
- 1:00 p.m. Afternoon Session
Business, Continued
- 2:15 – 2:30 p.m. Brief Recess
- 2:30 p.m. Closing Session
- Business, Concluded
- Selection of Meeting Place for Spring 2013
- Reading and Adoption of the Minutes
- Announcements
- Bible Song: Psalm 133, Christian Unity
- Adjournment with Prayer and Benediction

*Order of the Day



Hosted by

French Camp Presbyterian Church

March 5 – 6, 2012

Behold how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity;
For there the Lord has commanded the blessing, life forevermore.
(Psalm 133:1, 3)



Covington Associate Reformed
Presbyterian Church

133 W. Washington Ave
P. O. Box 217
Covington, TN 38019
(901) 476-2222

S. Matthew Heathman
Pastor

March 4, 2012

Whereas, one of the two ruling elders at Covington Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church has submitted his resignation, effective February 29, 2012.

Therefore, be it resolved that the congregation of Covington Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church petitions Mississippi Valley Presbytery to allow for Richard Moore to serve as an elder on the session at Covington Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church until the aforementioned elder feels he can resume his duties on the session and is duly re-elected to active service or another member of the Covington Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church is elected to the office of ruling elder.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'S. Matthew Heathman'.

S. Matthew Heathman
Moderator of the Session

Memorial on the Historicity of Adam

WHEREAS, the theory of evolution is a source of much debate and confusion in society, educational institutions, and churches today,

WHEREAS, the historicity of Adam has come under attack not only from secular groups and liberal churches, but also from professed evangelical individuals and institutions,

WHEREAS, the Old Testament Scriptures plainly teach that Adam and Eve, as the first man and woman, were the special creation of God, being made in His image (Gen. 1:27; 2:7, 22),


WHEREAS, the New Testament Scriptures confirm that Adam and Eve were real, historical human beings (e.g., Matt. 19:4-5; Luke 3:38; Rom. 5:12-14; 1 Cor. 15:45; 1 Tim. 2:13-14),

WHEREAS, the confessional standards of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church also affirm these truths about Adam and Eve (e.g., WCF 4:2, 7:2; WLC Q. 17; WSC Q. 10),

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Session of Midlane Park Presbyterian Church request that Mississippi Valley Presbytery hereby memorialize the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church to adopt the following affirmations and denials:

- 1) We affirm that Adam and Eve were special, unique, direct creations of God, created in His image, with Adam being formed from the dust of the ground and Eve being made from his side; as such, they were real human beings and the first man and woman;
- 2) We affirm that the account of creation as found in Genesis 1 and 2 is history;
- 3) We deny any teaching that claims that the account of creation as found in Genesis 1 and 2 is mythology;
- 4) We deny any theory that teaches that Adam and Eve descended from other biological life forms and that such a theory can be reasonably reconciled with either the Standards of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church or Holy Scripture.


Clerk of Session, Midlane Park Presbyterian Church


Pastor, Midlane Park Presbyterian Church

Appendix D

January 21, 2012

Mississippi Valley Presbytery
c/o Rev. Tim Phillips, Stated Clerk

Fathers and Brethren:

In light of Covenant Presbyterian Church's congregational vote on October 16, 2011 to withdraw membership from the Mississippi Valley Presbytery, and in keeping with the intention of that withdrawal for the purpose of joining the Communion of Anglican Churches, we, the members of the session of Covenant Presbyterian Church in Heber Springs, Arkansas respectfully request the following action of presbytery at the Spring 2012 Stated Meeting:

That any waiting period required or implied by the Form of Government is waived and that Covenant Presbyterian Church is released from the Mississippi Valley Presbytery and transferred to the oversight of the Communion of Anglican Churches.

We thank the presbytery for our years in peaceful affiliation and pray God's blessing upon the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.

Sincerely in Christ,



Keith Mercer, Elder



Richard Woodward, Elder

Appendix D

February 15, 2012

The Reverend Tim Phillips
Stated Clerk
Mississippi Valley Presbytery
Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church

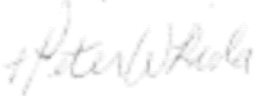
Dear Reverend Phillips:

On behalf of the College of Bishops of the Communion of Anglican Churches, I bid you warm Christian greetings!

Covenant Presbyterian Church of Heber Springs, Arkansas has requested to be received into our Communion, pending peaceful release from their current relationship with the Mississippi Valley Presbytery. As a duly authorized representative of the Communion of Anglican Churches, I am notifying you that our Communion stands ready to receive Covenant as soon as they are released. Further, we humbly request their release into our care, and stand ready to give due diligence to their continued oversight.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

In Christ,



The Right Reverend Peter W. Riola
Acting Liaison for Interdenominational Relations
Communion of Anglican Churches
(763)208-6212

Treasurer's Report – Mississippi Valley Presbytery

March 5-6, 2012

Our total fund balances decreased by \$ 1,394 during the year ended December 31, 2011 from \$613,845 to \$612,451. Of this total the general funds increased by \$5,720 while Parkway Place Funds decreased by \$7,114. Interest of \$12,953 were earned during the year 2011 compared to \$17,056 for the year ended December 31, 2010.

Receipts for the general fund from nineteen (19) of our twenty six (26) member churches were \$11,331 in 2011 compared with receipts of \$12,449 for the year 2010. A listing of receipts by church is shown on the enclosed budget report.

During 2011 the Havana Mission was provided \$31,412 of financial support - \$12,000 from Synod, \$18,615 from Presbytery and \$797 from Ross Explorations – Oil and Gas receipts.

All Presbytery funds are deposited in three local banks – Renasant Bank, BNA Bank and Bancorpsouth, with ninety Six (96%) percent of the funds placed in interest bearing accounts - \$590,091 at year end 2011. The effective interest rate for the year was 2.38%; however, we will see a decrease in interest in 2012 since all CD's are to be renewed in 2012.

Thanks for giving me the opportunity to continue to serve as your treasurer.

Respectfully submitted,

Gene Tate
Treasurer

Appendix E

Budget

Mississippi Valley Presbytery
Year 2011

	Budget	Collected Or Disbursed	Remaining Budget
Budgeted Receipts from Churches			
Bethany	\$ 350.00	\$ 400.00	\$ (50.00)
Brighton	\$ 1,360.00	\$ 910.00	\$ 450.00
Covenant Reformed	\$ 230.00		\$ 230.00
Covington	\$ 290.00	\$ 331.00	\$ (41.00)
Ebenezer	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00	\$ -
Elsberry	\$ 190.00	\$ 110.00	\$ 80.00
Faith Presbyterian	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ -
French Camp	\$ 750.00	\$ 800.00	\$ (50.00)
Graceview	\$ 620.00	\$ 840.00	\$ (220.00)
Gospel of Grace, Springfield MO		\$ 480.00	\$ (480.00)
Gum Tree	\$ 450.00	\$ 590.00	\$ (140.00)
Havana Mission	\$ -	\$ 150.00	\$ (150.00)
Helena	\$ 250.00		\$ 250.00
Hernando Reformed	\$ 300.00		\$ 300.00
Hickory Springs	\$ 40.00		\$ 40.00
Hopewell	\$ 350.00		\$ 350.00
Midlane Park	\$ 460.00	\$ 500.00	\$ (40.00)
Mt. Zion	\$ 360.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 60.00
New Albany	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,950.00	\$ 50.00
New Geneva	\$ 520.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 120.00
Pottsville	\$ 400.00	\$ 350.00	\$ 50.00
Providence	\$ 850.00		\$ 850.00
Richland	\$ 850.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 350.00
Salem	\$ 1,700.00	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 100.00
Sharon	\$ 220.00	\$ 220.00	\$ -
Wood Avenue	\$ 120.00		\$ 120.00
Total Budgeted Receipts	\$13,560.00	\$11,331.00	\$ 2,229.00
Interest income	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,696.81	\$ (496.81)

Appendix E

Total Receipts	\$ 14,760.00	\$ 13,027.81	\$ 1,732.19
Expenses			
Direct Support			
Dunlap Retirement Center	\$ 2,200.00	\$ 2,200.00	\$ -
MVP Christian Education	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -
MVP Annual Retreat	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ 500.00
Total Direct Support	\$ 7,700.00	\$ 7,200.00	\$ 500.00
Operating Expenses			
Administrative (supplies, postage, printing, e	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 490.54	\$ 2,009.46
Total Operating Expenses	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 490.54	\$ 2,009.46
Committee Operations			
Minister and His Works	\$ 400.00	\$ -	\$ 400.00
Stewardship	\$ 100.00		\$ 100.00
Nominations	\$ 200.00		\$ 200.00
Christian Education Ministries Committee	\$ 500.00		\$ 500.00
MVP ONA Committee	\$ 500.00		\$ 500.00
Committees and Officer Travel	\$ 800.00	\$ 259.90	\$ 540.10
Special Committees/Commissions Expenses	\$ 300.00		\$ 300.00
Contingencies	\$ 200.00		\$ 200.00
Total Committee Operations	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 259.90	\$ 2,740.10
Other Expenses			
MVP/ONA Revitalization Expenses	\$ 300.00		\$ 300.00
Total Expenses	\$ 13,500.00	\$ 7,950.44	\$ 5,549.56
Excess of receipts over (under) expenses	\$ 1,260.00	\$ 5,077.37	\$ (3,817.37)
Beginning fund balance		\$ 71,557.44	
Ending fund balance		\$ 76,634.81	

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY PRESBYTERY STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT FOR THE MARCH 5-6, 2012 MEETING AT THE FRENCH CAMP ARP CHURCH

At the fall stated meeting, October 3-4, 2011, held at the Providence Reformed Presbyterian Church, the Stewardship Committee was instructed to draft an application form to be used by any church or group wishing to apply for a loan from the Parkway Place Memorial Funds – Part B. A copy of the Revolving Loan Fund Application used by Synod's Outreach North America was obtained. Using it an application form for Mississippi Valley Presbytery has been developed and is attached to this report for approval. Upon approval, it will be available from the Presbytery Clerk for any group wishing to make application. As approved at the October 2011 meeting the group is to submit the application to the Presbytery ONA Committee for their recommendation to the Stewardship Committee who will in turn present it to the Presbytery for consideration at their next regular spring or fall meeting.

Each church in the Presbytery is expected to participate in the work and ministry of the Presbytery. The rules of the Presbytery state that *each church shall pay to the Presbytery the current fee for ordinary expenses of the Presbytery, based on the active membership reported in the minutes of Synod for the preceding year.* That fee is currently \$10.00 per member. This past year seven (7) churches did not follow the rules of Presbytery. Receipts were down over a thousand dollars. It's easy to forget so we encourage ministers and elder delegates to go back and ask your treasurer has the fee been paid. If no then please send it – if not for the previous year then send the 2012 amount due. It takes all churches paying their share to operate the Presbytery.

Funding for the Havana Mission work will end with the July 2012 payment from Presbytery. Expenditures for this work will have exceeded \$175,000.00 with over \$83,000.00 coming from the Parkway Place Memorial Funds.

Because of some problems that occurred in another Presbytery, at the 2011 Synod meeting the Stewardship Committee made several suggestions concerning church finance including: (1) Make sure deacons (or a receiving treasurer) count the offerings and make deposits. (2) Make sure receipts are given for all cash payment. (Note: Cash payments should be strongly discouraged, always pay by check.) (3) Have more than one person review bank statements. Have the bank statement mailed directly to a member of the congregation who has no authorization on the account....and this person should make sure that the bank statement balance agrees with internal reports that are generated for the congregation. (The list of recommendations is found on page 160 of the Minutes of Synod for 2011.) A written report of receipts and expenditures should be given to the congregation monthly. No treasurer wants to be put in a position of someone suggesting that funds are missing and it's the responsibility of the session to protect them from this happening.

For your consideration the following recommendations are made:

1. That the Parkway Place Memorial Funds – Part B Loan Application Form be approved.
2. That Presbytery designate the Presbytery officer who will sign the official Notice of Approval of a Parkway Place Memorial Funds – Part B loan. (ex. Moderator, treasurer)
3. That any church or committee wishing to apply to the Presbytery for funds to help with a project or for assistance send their request to the Stewardship Chairperson by August 15th.
4. That all churches try to support the Presbytery financially and complete the required reports for both Presbytery and Synod.

Martha Dees, Stewardship Committee Chairperson

**MISSISSIPPI VALLEY PRESBYTERY
PARKWAY PLACE MEMORIAL FUNDS – PART B
LOAN APPLICATION FORM**

NAME OF APPLYING CHURCH _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

NAME OF PASTOR OR MISSION DEVELOPER: _____

Name and contact information of person preparing application: _____

Telephone Number _____ Email address _____

Total Loan request: \$ _____ **Total project budget \$** _____

If the loan proceeds will be used for construction, attach a copy of plans and specifications and site plans and a copy of the construction contract.

Total amount being paid down by mission group \$ _____.

Source of funds for down payment (Offerings) _____ (Loan) _____ (Other) _____

If other please explain in detail the source of funds.

Appraised land value: \$ _____ If applicable appraised value of building: \$ _____

Date approved by Sessions _____

Signature of Moderator or Clerk _____

LOAN APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Parkway Place Memorial Fund Part B funds are available to a Mission Church or an organized church within five (5) years of being a mission church.

When did the group become an official MVP Mission Church? _____

If organized church, list official organization date _____.

The ability of the group to repay the Part B funds must be shown. Please attach:

- (1) a copy of your budget income from the previous year. (Year's end financial statement)
- (2) the current year's approved budget.

What is the current communicant membership? _____

What is the average worship attendance in the last two years? _____

Has there been an increase in attendance in the last year? _____

Will the group have at least 1/3 of the down payment to pay on the property? _____

What is the appraised value of the land where the property is located? _____

Will someone other than Presbytery have the first mortgage on the property? _____

If someone other than Presbytery will be the first mortgage holder explain who they are and why that is necessary.

(Attach explanation.)

Churches in the MS Valley Presbytery are expected to pay \$10.00 per communicant member to the Presbytery for the denominational ministry. Attach documentation that you have met this requirement and indicate your pledge to continue this in the future.

Attach a copy of the minutes of the group that show:

- (1) The group voted to make a formal request to the Presbytery to borrow Parkway Place Funds,
- (2) Who will sign the Promissory Note if additional borrowing is from a bank,
- (3) What the congregation's proposed plan of repayment is.

An appraisal of the property from a licensed appraiser must be attached to application. (Cost must be paid by the requesting group.)

If approval of Parkway Place Part B funds is given to the loan applicant the following apply:

- (1) A fire and extended coverage hazard insurance policy will be required of the group listing Mississippi Valley Presbytery as the lien holder.
- (2) If the property is located in a flood zone the group will be required to purchase a flood insurance policy listing the Mississippi Valley Presbytery as the lien holder. (Note: If the property is located in a flood zone strong consideration should be given to searching for property elsewhere.)
- (3) If there is any reason a clear, legal title to the property cannot be obtained, the Presbytery shall withdraw the offer of Parkway Place Part B funds to the group.

Other requirements are listed in the attached contract if the Presbytery agrees to offer the loan.

Date received by MS Valley Presbytery ONA Committee _____

Amount recommended for approval by ONA Committee: \$ _____

Date ONA Committee verified all documentation was presented for consideration and the application is being presented to the Stewardship Committee for presentation to the Presbytery _____

Signature of ONA

Chairman _____ Date: _____

Date received by MS Valley Presbytery Stewardship Committee _____

Amount recommended for approval by Stewardship Committee to Presbytery: \$ _____.

Signature of Stewardship

Chairman _____ Date: _____

(Sample of notice to be sent to applying group.)

Mississippi Valley Presbytery

Date:

- _____

At their regular (spring) (fall) meeting of the Mississippi Valley Presbytery held (date) at (name of church site), the Presbytery voted to approve a loan request from the _____ Church in the principal amount of \$_____, from Parkway Place Memorial Funds - Part B, upon the following terms and conditions:

Purpose:

The loan shall be used for [for the acquisition of _____ acres of land in _____ County, _____] [for the acquisition of _____ acres of land and a _____ building in _____ County, _____] [to finance a portion of Borrower's costs in the construction of a _____ (s.f.) church building on _____ acres of land in _____ County, _____]. The land with any improvements may be referred to herein as the Property.

Interest Rate: The loan shall be interest free.

Repayment:

Principal shall be repaid in its entirety within five years from the date of the grant. Repayment may be deferred for the first three years if needed by the group. After that the funds shall be paid back in at least monthly payments equal to an amount that will have the entire loan repaid by the end of the fifth year. There are to be no exceptions to this requirement.

Collateral:

The loan will be secured by a [first] [second] priority lien or security interest in the Property, all improvements now or hereafter constructed on the Property and all fixtures and equipment used in the operation of the improvements. [Mississippi Valley Presbytery acknowledges that Borrower has a commitment from an institutional lender for a loan in the amount of \$_____, to be secured by a first position against the Property. Borrower agrees that it will not further encumber the Property or increase the amount of its institutional loan.]

Financial Statements:

Borrower will provide to the Mississippi Valley Presbytery Treasurer, the MVP ONA Chairman and the MVP Stewardship Chairman financial statements and reports on a [monthly] [quarterly] basis in such detail that financial stability may be determined.

Conditions:

Appraisal report on the property and requirements of insurance are listed in the application.

Mississippi Valley Presbytery reserves the right to disburse construction funds based upon the work in place and completed according to plans and specifications. Mississippi Valley Presbytery may withhold from loan advances the amount of the retainage allowed under the Construction Contract.

Documents:

This commitment does not contain all the terms and conditions of the loan. Mississippi Valley Presbytery reserves the right to require such additional documents and impose such additional requirements as may be applicable under the circumstances. Borrower will execute the loan and security documents which will contain other terms and conditions not specifically set forth herein.

All costs and expenses incurred in connection with making and perfecting this loan shall be paid by the Borrower.

The Borrower is not to use the Property herein as collateral for any other loan other than the one listed in the application.

Please indicate your acceptance of this commitment by signing and returning one copy of this letter to _____, Treasurer, Mississippi Valley Presbytery.

Sincerely,

Moderator
Mississippi Valley Presbytery

Minister and His Work Committee
March 5, 2012 at French Camp ARP Church

Present: Rev Charles Todd Chairman, Kerry Regan, Milton Murphy, Richard Moore, Ed Dees, Rev TJ Gentry, Rev Don Watkins and Rev John Tucker

The Meeting was opened with prayer.

Mr Mark Jones, a Student of Theology under care of 1st Presbytery and a student at RTS requested to be transferred into MV Presbytery. Motion was made and passed unanimously that Presbytery receive Mr. Jones.

Rev David Searfoss of the Mid-Kentucky Presbytery of the PCUSA met with the committee and requested to transfer his membership to MV Presbytery. (The Committee met with Rev Searfoss in the fall.) Motion was made and passed unanimously to recommend that Rev Searfoss be received as a minister in MV Presbytery.

Rev Dan Hazen was instructed to respond to Dr Richard Belcher, Old Testament Professor at RTS Charlotte, on his understanding of the WCF's position on the Law, which he submitted 2 years ago.

The committee interviewed Rev Hazen and recommends that his view of the Law be accepted as within the bounds of the system of doctrine taught in the WCF. Motion was made and passed unanimously.

We as a committee are concerned that the presentation of these views lacked the necessary humility and deference to others expected of a minister of the Gospel. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was closed with prayer.

The Committee makes the following recommendations:

- That Presbytery receive Mr Mark Jones as a Student of Theology.
- That Presbytery receive Rev David Searfoss as a minister in good standing.
- That Presbytery accept the views of Rev. Dan Hazen on the Law as within the bounds of the WCF.

Respectfully submitted,
John Tucker Secretary pro tem



Report of the Committee on Nominations Mississippi Valley Presbytery

The Committee on Nominations met on Monday, March 5, 2012 at the French Camp ARP Church, French Camp, MS at 5:15 pm. Present were Chairman Howard Wheeler, Rev. Andy Coburn and Mr. Carl Patterson. The meeting was opened with prayer led by Mr. Carl Patterson. After discussion, the committee approved the following recommendations for Presbytery and adjourned after a closing prayer was offered by Rev. Wheeler.

Respectfully submitted,
Howard Wheeler, Chairman.

Recommendations:

1. That Rev. Meredith Cavin be the Mississippi Valley Presbytery representative on the ONA Board of Synod.
2. That the following recommendations for service be approved by Presbytery.

Name	Position of Service	Term
Rev. Alex Coblentz	CEM	2012-2015
Mr. John Moore	CEM	2012-2015
Rev. Zech Schiebout	Minister and His Work	2012-2016
Mr. Steve McCollum	Minister and His Work	2012-2016
Mr. Mike Thomason	Nominations	2012-2016
Mr. David Strock	Outreach North America	2012-2015
Mr. Marshall Snodgrass	Outreach North America	2012-2015
Rev. Don Watkins	Outreach North America	Imm.-2014
Mr. Gene Tate	Dunlap	2012-2016
	Dunlap	2012-2016
	Dunlap	2012-2016
	Dunlap	2012-2016

ONA Committee Meeting

The Outreach North America Committee of Mississippi Valley Presbytery met on Tuesday morning, March 6, 2012, at 10:12 am.

Present were the following committee members: Chairman T.J. Gentry, Meredith Cavin, Charles Bunner, and Tim Phillips. Also present were the following guests: Moises Chan, Benjamin Glaser, and Don Watkins. Rev. Watkins opened the meeting in prayer.

Rev. Moises Chan gave a brief update on his work with the Havana mission. A particular concern is the fear and distrust among the Anglos and Hispanics in the community, which he is working to alleviate. He recently completed a degree at Arkansas Tech and is seeking employment at local schools to support his work at the mission. He is also currently working toward the particularization of the congregation, although that is far off at this point. Attendance is averaging 14-23 most Sundays. Prayer was offered for Rev. Chan's work.

Rev. Benjamin Glaser spoke with the ONA Committee. Rev. Glaser mentioned that the Ellisville Presbyterian Church was still very interested in becoming a part of MVP. As of March 25, 2012, the church will have a completely new session. The church is also planning to receive five new members (including two new converts). The committee commended Rev. Glaser for his leadership at the Ellisville Presbyterian Church over the past year-and-a-half. Prayer was offered on behalf of Rev. Glaser and the Ellisville Church.

The work of revitalization was also discussed by the committee.

A motion was made to adjourn (seconded, passed). Charles Bunner closed the meeting in prayer.

Recommendation:

That congregations would regularly announce and pray for the work of home missions in MVP and in the ARP Church in general and even consider special offerings for the work of church missions, including direct support of church planters

Submitted,

Rev. T.J. Gentry

Committee on Sessional Records

The Committee on Sessional Records met during the spring meeting of MVP on March 6, 2012, at the French Camp Presbyterian Church and examined the Sessional records submitted at that meeting. The committee notes the following:

1. Sessional Records approved **without exceptions**:

- a. Midlane Park
- b. Covington
- c. Gospel of Grace
- d. New Albany
- e. Gum Tree

2. Sessional Records approved **with exceptions**:

- a. Graceview (No opening prayer recorded in called meeting on February 20th)
- b. Salem (No closing prayer recorded in called meetings on 10-3-11, 11-13-11, and 1-1-12)
- c. Faith (No opening prayer recorded for 4-28-11 meeting)
- d. Sharon (Failure to list those present at the Jan. 2012 meeting)
- e. Helena (May meeting omits approval of minutes, adjournment, and closing prayer. We recommend that the form they use for recording minutes be changed so as to include signatures by the "Moderator" and "Clerk" rather than using the terminology "Minutes Taken By" and "Minutes Approved By.")

We further commend them for the form used to record their meetings as it covers all required areas at a glance and provides room for narrative.)

The meeting was closed in prayer by the Rev. Mike Yarmen.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Everett

Appendix K

Christian Education Committee, March 6, 2012

Present: Dan Hazen, Charles Browning, Alex Coblenz, John Moore

Opened with prayer by Dan Hazen

Received report on Fall Youth Retreat. It was well attended – the largest fall retreat so far – over 50 people attended. Cost for presbytery was approximately \$1000.

Received report on Elder Deacon training. 65 men attended (and 35 women at the women's conference). No elder deacon training is planned by CEM next year.

As a token of our support for CEM we would like to reimburse them for the shortfall they incurred for the elder/deacon training this past January. Motion: Charles. 2nd: Alex. Passed.

We would like to plan a leadership training conference for the 3rd Saturday in January (the 19th) of 2013. Cost will be \$30 at the door, \$25 for early registration. We will invite the women's ministries to come and have their own leadership conference the same day.

Received report on Counselors' Retreat held February 2-3. The theme planned for camp this year is Biblical villains. Camp will be July 16-21, allowing for 80 attendees and 15 staff. Cost will be \$250 per camper. Discussed the need for counselors and especially female counselors.

Motion from John Moore to accept the CORS contract for \$20,250 and send the deposit of \$2025. 2nd: Alex. Passed.

We plan to have another Family Bible Conference and will coordinate with Graceview on selecting a date.

Closed with prayer by Dan Hazen.

Recommendations:

1. That we reimburse CEM for their shortfall from our January conference.
2. That we have leadership training in January 2013.
3. That we send the deposit for summer camp to CORS.
4. That we have a Family Bible Conference this year.
5. That presbytery commend John Tucker and the Graceview church for their hard work in supporting the work of Christian Education.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Hazen, chairman.

**HOST CHURCHES OF STATED MEETINGS OF MISSISSIPPI
VALLEY PRESBYTERY**

- 1991** – Graceview, Salem
- 1992** – Ebenezer, Midlane Park
- 1993** – Brighton, Parkway Place
- 1994** – Graceview, Covington
- 1995** – Pottsville, New Albany
- 1996** – St. Paul, Graceview
- 1997** – Brighton, Salem
- 1998** – Providence Reformed, Elsberry/Mt. Zion
- 1999** – Hopewell, Covington
- 2000** – New Albany, Graceview
- 2001** – Hopewell, Parkway Place
- 2002** – Pottsville, Richland
- 2003** – Providence Reformed, Covington
- 2004** – Salem, Brighton
- 2005** – New Albany, Graceview
- 2006** – Hopewell, Helena
- 2007** – Ebenezer, Dunlap/Sharon
- 2008** – Pottsville, Richland
- 2009** – Midlane Park, Mt. Zion
- 2010** – Gum Tree (*no Spring meeting in 2010*)
- 2011** – Hopewell, Providence Reformed
- 2012** – French Camp, Brighton
- 2013** – Graceview, New Albany

OFFICERS OF MISSISSIPPI VALLEY PRESBYTERY

- Moderator:** Mr. Larry Littlejohn
One Fine Place, French Camp, MS 39745
(H) 662-547-9419
(C) 662-816-9419
(E) *llittlejohn@frenchcamp.org*
(Fall 2012)
- Vice-Moderator:** Rev. Andy Coburn
808 Mimososa Dr., New Albany, MS 38652
(H) 662-534-2687
(O) 662-534-6010/6060
(C) 662-317-1700
(E) *napcyouth@gmail.com*
(Spring 2012)
- Principal Clerk:** Rev. Tim Phillips
4106 Roxbury Road, Louisville, KY 40218
(H) 502-671-2413
(O) 502-491-0269
(C) 502-741-5442
(E) *tjparp@gmail.com*
(Spring 2015)
- Reading Clerk:** Rev. Joseph Donahue
5444 Stage Road, Bartlett, TN 38134
(H) 901-386-5467
(O) 901-388-5885
(E) *providencereform@bellsouth.net*
(Fall 2013)
- Treasurer:** Mr. Gene Tate
102 East Main Street, New Albany, MS 38652
(H) 662-538-0558
(E) *genetate@ms.metrocast.net*
(December 2013)
- Parliamentarian:** Rev. Charles Todd
3310 Atoka-Idaville Rd, Atoka, TN 38004
(H) 901-837-8585
(O) 901-837-8210
(C) 901-568-1446
(E) *charlesandjudy@bigriver.net*
(Fall 2014)

STANDING COMMITTEES OF MISSISSIPPI VALLEY PRESBYTERY

Christian Education Ministries

Rev. Dan Hazen, Chairman (2014)
 Mr. Charles Browning (2013)
 Rev. Moises Chan (2013)
 Mr. Steve Rice (2014)
 Rev. Alex Coblentz (2015)
 Mr. John Moore (2015)
 Presbyterial Youth Chair – *Ex Officio*

Minister and His Work

Rev. Charles Todd, Chairman (2015)
 Mr. Milton Murphy (2013)
 Rev. T.J. Gentry (2013)
 Mr. Kerry Regen (2014)
 Rev. John Tucker (2014)
 Mr. Richard Moore (2015)
 Mr. Steve McCollum (2016)
 Rev. Zech Schiebout (2016)

Nominations

Rev. Howard Wheeler, Chairman (2014)
 Mr. Carl Patterson (2013)
 Rev. Andy Coburn (2015)
 Mr. Mike Thomason (2016)

Outreach North America

Rev. Meredith Cavin, Chairman (2014)
 Mr. Charles Bunner (2013)
 Rev. Tim Phillips (2013)
 Rev. Don Watkins (2014)
 Mr. Marshall Snodgrass (2015)
 Mr. David Strock (2015)
 Pres. Witness/Outreach Chair – *Ex Officio*

Stewardship

Mrs. Martha Dees, Chair (2015)
 Rev. Dan Hazen (2014)
 Rev. T.J. Gentry (2014)
 Rev. Charles Todd (2015)
 Mr. Gene Tate – *Ex Officio*
 Pres. Spiritual Life Chair – *Ex Officio*

Educational Fund Board of Trustees

Rev. Charles Todd, Chairman
 Mr. Randy Goulder
 Mr. Danny Hughes
 Mr. Russell McDaniel
 Mr. Jimmy Ramage

Trustees of Presbytery

Mr. Sloan Betts
 Mr. Charles Browning
 Mr. John Moffatt

Dunlap Board of Trustees

Ms. Denise Garner (2013)
 Mr. John Moore (2013)
 Ms. Linda Clark (2013)
 Mr. Timmy Honeycut (2013)
 Ms. Juanita Waits (2014)
 Mr. Steve Tynes (2014)
 Ms. Lisa Simpson (2014)
 Rev. Meredith Cavin (2014)
 Mr. Gene Tate (2016)
 _____ (2016)
 _____ (2016)
 _____ (2016)

Synod Board & Agency Representatives

Christian Ed.: Rev. Dan Hazen (2014)
 Dunlap: Mrs. Diane Clowers (2013)
 Exec. Board: Rev. Tim Phillips (2015)
 MaHW: Rev. Charles Todd (2015)
 Nom.: Rev. Howard Wheeler (2014)
 ONA: Rev. T.J. Gentry (2014)
 Stewardship: Mrs. Martha Dees (2015)

Students of Theology

Mark Jones

Missionaries

Rev. James Coad III

Chaplains

Rev. T.J. Gentry

Honorably Retired Ministers

Rev. Thomas Braithwaite (retired chaplain)
Rev. Ron Brunson (retired missionary)
Rev. Conrad Cheatham
Rev. W. Nale Falls
Rev. James Fee
Rev. Michael Garvey
Rev. Carl Geisik
Rev. Troy Pritt
Rev. Wayne Stanchfield
Rev. Mike Yarman (retired chaplain)

Churches Served by Stated Supplies

Bethany: Dale Whitlock
Ebenezer: Dr. Al Herrington
Gum Tree: Charles Covington
Helena: Rev. Leslie Rhodes
Hickory Springs and Wood Avenue: Rev. Mike Garvey
Elsberry and Mt. Zion: Rev. Conrad Cheatham
Sharon: Rev. Charles Todd

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY PRESBYTERY DIRECTORY

Betts, Sloan, 8860 Old Memphis Rd, Atoka, TN 38004. 901-837-6477.

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brithwat@bellsouth.net

Browning, Charles, 110 Magnolia, New Albany, MS 38652. 662-534-7057.

Brunson, Ron, 224 Woodland Ct, Black Mountain, NC 28711. 828-669-4301 (H)
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Clowers, Gary, 901-461-7171 (C), *Clowersclan@xipline.com*

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Covington, Charles, 662-869-2948 (C)

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Appendix O

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Woods, Steve, *macstevewoods@yahoo.com*

Yarman, Mike, 501-723-4883 (H) 910-527-4571 (C) *meyarman@gmail.com*

Schedule for Review of Minutes of Sessions

Spring Meeting

Covington

Faith

Gospel of Grace

Graceview

Gum Tree

Helena

Hernando

Hickory Springs

Midlane Park

New Albany

Salem

Sharon

Wood Avenue

Fall Meeting

Bethany

Brighton

Covenant Reformed

Ebenezer

Elsberry

French Camp

Havana

Hopewell

Mt. Zion

New Geneva

Pottsville

Providence Reformed

Richland