

**The Minutes
Of
Mississippi Valley Presbytery**

General Synod of the
Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church



Fall Stated Meeting

October 3-4, 2016

Richland Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church
Rosemark, Tennessee

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PROCEEDINGS
MISSISSIPPI VALLEY PRESBYTERY
Richland Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church
Rosemark, Tennessee

Fall Stated Meeting
October 3-4, 2016

The registration of delegates began at 4 pm. Following an evening meal provided by the host church at 6 p.m., the Fall 2016 Stated Meeting of Mississippi Valley Presbytery began at 7 p.m. with an opening worship service led by Rev. Kent Moorlach, pastor of the Richland ARP Church (see **Appendix A**). Mr. Charles Covington, an elder and the stated supply pastor of Gum Tree Presbyterian Church, preached a sermon on Psalm 22:1-8, entitled “By the Predetermined Plan and Foreknowledge of God.” Rev. Moorlach then led the presbytery in the celebration of the sacrament of the Lord’s Supper.

Following the worship service and a brief recess, Moderator Charles Browning called the meeting to order and opened the meeting with prayer. Rev. Kent Moorlach welcomed the members of presbytery to the meeting.

The stated clerk confirmed a quorum was present.

Ministers Present

Thomas Braithwaite (<i>E</i>)	Steve Hardy (<i>E</i>)
Ron Brunson (<i>E</i>)	Gary Jones (<i>A</i>)
Meredith Cavin	Matthew Heathman (<i>E</i>)
Moises Chan (<i>E</i>)	Mark Miller
Conrad Cheatham (<i>E</i>)	Kent Moorlach
Mike Chipman	Tim Phillips
Gary Clowers (<i>E</i>)	Troy Pritt (<i>E</i>)
James Coad III (<i>E</i>)	Zech Schiebout (<i>A</i>)
Alex Coblentz	Wayne Stanchfield (<i>E</i>)
Joey Donahue	David Storment
Bill Everett (<i>E</i>)	Charles Todd (<i>E</i>)
W. Nale Falls (<i>E</i>)	John Tucker
Michael Garvey (<i>E</i>)	Don Watkins
Jodie Gaston (<i>E</i>)	Howard Wheeler
Carl Geisik (<i>E</i>)	Robert White
Benjamin Glaser	Mike Yarman

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

Ruling Elders Present

Bethany – none	Hickory Springs – none
Brighton – Milton Murphy	Hopewell – Troy Graham
Ebenezer – none	Midlane Park – none
Ellisville – Michael Shotwell	Mt. Zion – none
Elsberry – none	New Albany – Steve McCollum
Faith – none	New Geneva – none
French Camp – Larry Littlejohn	Pottsville – none
Gospel of Grace – Paul Walley	Providence – David Strock
Graceview – Gene Adams	Richland – Mike Thomason
Gum Tree – John Robinson	Salem – Scott Fletcher
Helena – none	Sharon – Thorton Fee
Hernando – Steve Rice	Wood Avenue – none

Guests

Sandra McCollum, Phil Williamson (Moderator of General Synod), Kathy Tucker, Linda Strock, Susan Cavin, Charles Covington, Julie Covington, Erin Covington, Elizabeth Loden, Charlotte Reeves, Stephanie Moorlach

The following procedural motions were presented to the court by the Reading 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 honorably retired ministers not in attendance 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 agenda for the meeting was presented to the presbytery (see **Appendix A**). The agenda was amended to include a presentation by Alex Coblentz at 11:20 am on Tuesday. The agenda was approved by the presbytery.

The Spring/Summer 2016 Minutes were adopted by the presbytery.

Under unfinished business, a report from the Dunlap Commission was received by the presbytery (see **Appendix B**). It was noted in the discussion of the report that the amount paid to the Salem ARP Church was \$20,000 (not \$25,000). There was discussion about some “loose ends” that remained after the sale of the property (particularly with regard to the status of the Dunlap Board). It was recommended that the Dunlap Commission not be dissolved at this time. The report was received by the presbytery as information (with the commission not being dissolved).

Rev. John Tucker made a motion: *That \$10,000 of the money from the sale of the Dunlap property be donated to the Dunlap Orphanage Fund* (seconded). After discussion, the motion passed. Rev. Tucker made another motion: *That 75% of the remaining money after debts had been paid be designated for church planting in the presbytery and that 25% of the remaining money be designated for church revitalization in the presbytery* (seconded). There was discussion about the precise wording of the motion. A motion was made to table the matter until Tuesday so that better wording for the motion could be formulated (seconded, passed).

A request was made by the chairman of the Moderator’s Committee on Stated Supplies that a report from the committee be postponed until the Spring 2017 meeting (seconded, passed).

The report of the MVP Special Commission on Faith ARP Church was presented to the presbytery (see **Appendix C**). There was discussion on the report by members of the presbytery. Rev. Storment also spoke to the report and stated that he had not, in fact, sued his wife for divorce (he had only sought custody and fair visitation of his children in civil court). Rev. Mark Miller made a motion for a the language in the fifth paragraph of the report to be changed editorially as follows: *“On July 27th there was a motion filed in Greene County court by Rev. Storment and his lawyer. A summons for a Judgment of Divorce and Separate Maintenance and Custody with a court date of August 5th was served on Sarai Storment. In response to this filing Sarai and her lawyer counter-filed for divorce and eventually court was held on August 9th.”* [The rest of the paragraph continues as-is.] The motion was seconded and passed.

The recommendations in the report were considered individually. During discussion, Rev. Storment pointed out that he had been in counseling for several months. It was noted that there was not agreement between the Storments on acceptable counselors. Recommendation 1 was seconded and passed. Recommendation 2 was also seconded and passed.

A motion was made to postpone the remainder of the report until Tuesday morning (seconded, passed).

Moderator Browning appointed a committee to examine the records of sessions: Rev. Kent Moorlach, Mr. Mike Thomason, Mr. Milton Milton, Rev. Mike Yarman, and Mr. David Strock.

Rev. Mark Miller was nominated as Moderator-elect/Vice Moderator of Presbytery (seconded). There were no other nominations, and Rev. Miller was elected by acclamation.

The presbytery heard a report from Mrs. Susan Cavin, President of MVP Women's Ministries (see **Appendix D**).

There being no further business for the evening, the meeting recessed until the following morning. Rev. Don Watkins closed with prayer.

Tuesday Morning, October 4, 2016

The meeting of MVP reconvened at 8:00 a.m. Moderator Browning called upon Rev. Mike Chipman to open in prayer. Moderator of General Synod Phil Williamson led a morning devotion on 1 Peter 2:9 and the topic of evangelism.

As business resumed, the clerk informed the presbytery of a proposed change of the *Form of Government* 5:11.

The current reading of FoG 5:11 is as follows (sentence in bold to be replaced by sentence underlined):

*The congregational treasurer, who is entrusted with the regular offerings of the congregation, shall be responsible to the oversight of the diaconate. A monthly financial report of the congregational treasurer shall be included in the minutes of the diaconate. **An outside entity, someone not directly connected to the congregation, shall conduct a financial review to ensure full accuracy and disclosure of church finances. Such a review shall be paid out of the church's funds, made part of the sessional record, and made available to any member who wishes to view it. Such a review shall be conducted no less frequently than every third year.***

The proposed change reads as follows:

The congregational treasurer, who is entrusted with the regular offerings of the congregation, shall be responsible to the oversight of the diaconate. A monthly financial report of the congregational treasurer shall be included in the minutes of the diaconate. An objective and financially literate party, someone not directly connected to the maintenance of the financial records, or receipt and/or distribution of church funds, shall conduct an annual financial review. Such review shall be designed to provide at least limited assurance that (1) financial assets are properly safeguarded, and (2) the reported financial statements are complete and accurate.

This proposed change will be voted on at the Spring 2017 meeting of MVP.

A second reading of a proposed change to the Rules of Presbytery was made and voted on: *That a new subsection be added to the Rules of the Mississippi Valley Presbytery concerning the Minister and His Work Committee, so that it shall be the responsibility of the committee to act as a commission in situations that involve conflict in the local church.* The motion passed, and this change will now become an official part of the Rules of Presbytery.

The Treasurer's Report was distributed to the presbytery (see **Appendix E**). Mr. John Robinson, Treasurer of MVP, gave a thorough explanation of the report. The report was received as information.

The motion concerning the funds from the sale of the Dunlap property that was being discussed on Monday evening was withdrawn and a new motion was made by Rev. John Tucker: *That 75% of the Dunlap Funds from monthly note collection be designated for Church Planting and 25% be designated for Church Revitalization after debts incurred have been paid; with the first five payments going to the Dunlap Orphanage Board* (seconded). An amendment was made: [striking the words "with the first five payments going to the Dunlap Orphanage Board] *with the first five payments going to the General Fund as reimbursement for the \$10,000 given to the Dunlap Foundation and the shortage on advances made to Dunlap Retirement Center previously* (seconded). There was discussion. The amendment passed. The motion as amended was then voted on and passed.

The Stewardship Report was presented to the presbytery (see **Appendix F**). A brief explanation of the report was given by Stewardship Committee Chairman Mike Thomason. As part of discussion about the report, Rev. Mike Yarman encouraged members of the presbytery to consider writing to military chaplains to encourage and support them. The report was received as information by the presbytery.

The report of the Special Commission on Faith ARP Church taken up again by the presbytery. A motion was made to go into executive session (seconded, passed). In executive session, Recommendation 3 was discussed by the presbytery. It was noted that "court" in the recommendation referred to the civil court. A substitute motion was made: *That Mississippi Valley Presbytery through the Minister and Work Committee direct Faith ARP Church to exercise appropriate discipline on Sarai Storment with the goal of reconciliation with David and Sarai Storment* (seconded). There was discussion on the substitute motion, and the substitute motion was withdrawn. There was a motion to call the question (seconded, passed). Recommendation 3 was voted on. The recommendation failed.

The order of the day was reached and presbytery recessed for committee meetings.

Recess for Committee Meetings (10 a.m.)

The presbytery meeting reconvened at 11 a.m. Mr. Steve Nichols gave a presentation of the work of the ARP Foundation (see **Appendix G** for a handout of Mr. Nichols' presentation).

Rev. Alex Coblenz gave a brief report of a recent missions trip to Wales and spoke about the work of Rev. Jodie Gaston as he serves as a missionary in Wales (see **Appendix H** for a missionary letter from Rev. Gaston).

Rev. Mike Yarman, who serves on the World Witness Board, gave a brief oral report of the work of World Witness in Pakistan.

Business resumed at 11:45 a.m. with the presbytery still in executive session. Discussion of the commission report continued. Recommendation 4 was discussed. The question was called (seconded, passed). The recommendation was voted upon and passed.

Recommendation 5 was considered and the motion passed without discussion. Mr. Larry Littlejohn was called upon by the Moderator to pray for marriages.

Recommendation 6 was then considered. As a point of order, it was noted by a member of the court that the presbytery would need to come out of executive session in order to officially vote on the recommendations. A motion was made to come out of executive session (seconded, passed). A motion was made to sustain the actions which took place in executive session (seconded). After discussion, the motion was withdrawn. A vote was taken on Recommendation 3 (defeated). A vote was taken on Recommendation 4 (defeated). A vote was taken on Recommendation 5 (passed). A vote was taken on Recommendation 6 (passed). A motion was made to adopt the report as a whole (seconded, passed).

The order of the day was reached, and Rev. Kent Moorlach was asked pray for the meal.

Order of the Day (Lunch – noon)

Presbytery reconvened at 1 p.m. with a season of prayer.

The Moderator's Committee on Sessional Records reported that all churches that submitted their records had their records in order and without exceptions. Those churches were: Providence, Ebenezer, Bethany, Brighton, Hopewell, Richland, Pottsville, Ellisville, Redeemer, New Geneva, and French Camp.

The report of the MVP Education Fund Committee was presented to the presbytery (see **Appendix I**). The report was adopted by the presbytery. At the committee's request, the Nominations Committee submitted the name of the Rev. Robert White to serve as Chair of the MVP Educational Fund Committee. This recommendation was seconded and passed by the presbytery.

The Christian Educational Committee report was presented to the presbytery (see **Appendix J**). The report was adopted by the presbytery.

The report of the Minister and His Work Committee was presented to the presbytery (see **Appendix K**). Each of the recommendations in the report was discussed individually. Recommendation 1 was considered and was passed by the presbytery.

Recommendation 2 was considered and passed by the presbytery. Rev. Tim Phillips was examined of the floor the presbytery, and a motion was made to sustain the examination (seconded, passed). The terms of the pastoral call to the Brighton ARP Church were presented to Rev. Phillips and accepted by him (see **Appendix L**). The presbytery approved the call, and Rev. Phillips was extended the right hand of fellowship by the presbytery.

Recommendation 3 was considered and approved by the presbytery. Mr. Charles Covington was examined on the floor of presbytery. He was asked if the Westminster Confession of Faith was an expression of his own faith (answered in the affirmative). A question was asked about his interpretation of the expression “shake the dust off your feet.” A question was asked about the moral law of God and the application of the 4th commandment for today. A question was asked about his view of the Scriptures. Mr. Covington was asked to give a testimony of God’s grace in his life and ministry. A motion was then made to sustain Mr. Covington’s examination (seconded, passed). A vote was taken to approve the ordination of Mr. Covington under the extraordinary clause of the Form of Government (the vote was unanimous in favor of the motion). A call to the Gum Tree Presbyterian Church was presented to Mr. Covington, which he found acceptable (see **Appendix M**). The right hand of fellowship was then extended to Mr. Covington by the presbytery.

Recommendation 4 (the call of Mr. Covington to the Gum Tree Presbyterian Church) was approved by the presbytery.

Recommendation 5 was considered and passed by the presbytery.

Rev. John Tucker was asked to give some informational background with regard to Recommendation 6 and the call of Rev. Howard Wheeler to serve as a mission explorer in Little Rock, Arkansas (Rev. Wheeler will continue to serve as the pastor of the Pottsville ARP Church as he undertakes this new work). There was some discussion about the terms of the call. Rev. Wheeler spoke at length about his desire to see an ARP church again in the city of Little Rock. Rev. Wheeler was examined as to his theological views, and his examination was sustained. Rev. Wheeler was unanimously approved for this call by the presbytery (see **Appendix N**). He was offered the right hand of fellowship.

After a short break, presbytery reconvened and a motion was made by Rev. Mark Miller: *That the Minister and His Work Committee and Chairman Kent Moorlach be commended for their tireless labor and wise leadership in numerous situations throughout the Mississippi Valley Presbytery, and that they be counted worthy of a double honor by Mississippi Valley Presbytery* (seconded, passed).

Two reports from the ONA Committee were presented to the presbytery by ONA Chairman John Tucker (see **Appendix P**). The September 20th report was considered first and its recommendations considered. The recommendations were all approved by the presbytery and the report as a whole was adopted.

The October 3 report was considered next. All the recommendations were approved, and the report as a whole was adopted.

A motion was made: *That MVP send a delegate to the upcoming World Witness Board meeting* (seconded, passed). Rev. Mark Miller volunteered to represent the presbytery, and this was agreeable to the members of the court.

A motion was made: *That the Minister and His Work Committee and the ONA Committee work together to develop and implement a plan for church revitalization in the presbytery* (seconded). After some discussion, the motion was voted on. There was a call for division, and after a standing vote was taken. The motion passed by a vote of 11-10.

The principal clerk announced the following locations for upcoming meetings of MVP:

- Spring 2017, Gum Tree Presbyterian Church in Tupelo, Mississippi
- Fall 2017, Graceview Presbyterian Church in Southaven, Mississippi

The principal clerk noted that an offer had been extended by the Salem ARP Church to host the Spring 2018 meeting of presbytery. A motion was made to have the meeting at the Salem ARP Church (seconded, passed).

A motion was made to dispense with the reading of the minutes (seconded, passed).

A motion was made by Rev. Kent Moorlach: *That presbytery give David Storment the proper process to direct him and his wife during their separation in order to give them proper Christian counsel* (seconded). The motion passed 13-7.

Rev. Storment was permitted to address the presbytery concerning his situation and upcoming court case. After a time of discussion, Rev. Tim Phillips was called upon to pray for the situation.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting (seconded, passed). After the singing of Psalm 133 (“Christian Unity”), the Fall 2016 meeting of MVP was closed with a benediction by Rev. Kent Moorlach.

Mississippi Valley Presbytery
Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church
2016 Fall Stated Meeting

Richland ARP Church
 Rosemark, Tennessee
 October 3-4

Opening Worship Service

Preparation for Worship	Acts 2:23-24
Call to Worship	Ephesians 1:3-8a
*Hymn # 16	"Come, Let Us Sing unto the Lord"
*Invocation	
Special Music	"Take Time to Be Holy"
Scripture	Psalm 22:1-31
Sermon	Mr. Charles Covington
	<i>"By the Predetermined Plan and Foreknowledge of God"</i>
*Hymn # 247	"O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"
The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper	Rev. Kent Moorlach
*Hymn # 457	"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"
*Benediction	Rev. Moorlach
Postlude	Mrs. Susan Cavin
	*Congregation Standing

Fall 2016 Meeting Agenda
Monday, October 3

Registration	4 pm to 6 pm
Supper	6 pm
Opening Worship	7 pm
Opening of Business	8 pm
Constitution with Prayer	
Welcome and Greetings by Host Church	
Constitution of the Roll	

Introductions and Procedural Motions
 Presentation of the Program
 Adoption of Spring/Summer 2016 Minutes
 Unfinished Business
 Report from Dunlap Commission
 Report from Moderator's Committee on Stated Supplies
 Report from MVP Special Commission on Faith ARP Church
 Appointment of Moderator's Comm. on Sessional Records
 Nominations for Moderator of MVP
 Presentation by Mrs. Susan Cavin, President of MVP
 Women's Ministries
 Announcements
 Closing Prayer

Tuesday, October 4

Breakfast	7 am
Morning Devotion	8 am
	Mr. Phil Williams, Moderator of General Synod
Brief Recess	8:25-8:30 am
Business Resumes	8:30 am
Recess for Committee Meetings	10 am
Presentation by Mr. Steve Nichols, ARP Foundation	11 am
Business Resumes	11:20 am
Lunch	
Noon	
Season of Prayer	12:45 pm
Business Resumes	1 pm
Brief Recess	2:30 pm
Business Concludes	2:45 pm
Selection of Meeting Place for Spring 2018 meeting	
Reading and Adoption of Minutes	
Announcements	
The Singing of Psalm 133, "Christian Unity"	
Adjournment with Prayer and Benediction	



Mississippi Valley Presbytery
 Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church
2016 Fall Stated Meeting

Richland ARP Church

Rosemark, Tennessee
 October 3-4



Sesquicentennial Sunday at Richland ARP, October 23, 2016



Richland ARP Church

In the 1800s this area, known for its rich and fertile farm land, attracted settlers from the Carolinas, East and Middle Tennessee who were pioneering the "Great West." Associate Reformed Presbyterians (ARP) arrived and established Salem Church in Tipton County. In 1856, Salem fostered a mission station in a new community, now known as Rosemark, in Shelby County. ARP adherents from Litchfield County, Tennessee, soon followed and began worshipping in the home of Robert and Nancy McCalla, located one mile east of here. On August 16, 1861, fifteen men pledged to build both, "a church and a schoolhouse" on this site. The land had been donated by Robert McCalla. The convening families were Gragg, Hutchison, McCalla, McQuiston, Parkison, Raymond, Rogers, and Shorn. Delayed by the Civil War, their efforts resumed when Rev. J.H. Strong of Salem Church was called to organize the new congregation. In the fall of 1866, Memphis Presbytery formally recognized Richland ARP Church. The present structure, the third sanctuary, was completed in 1950 and the fellowship hall in 1993. The congregation has remained on this site throughout its history.

Appendix B

The Dunlap Commission is happy to announce that the Dunlap Retirement Home was sold to Lacy and Mary Ann Ennis for \$495,000 on July 8, 2016 in the office of Real Estate Agent Harold Morris in Covington, TN at 9:00am.

The selling price was \$495,000 with \$100,000 down payment. The \$395,000 being financed to the seller over 20 years. The first 10 years will be at 3% interest with an Annual Adjustment Rate yearly on the sales date beginning year 11 and not to exceed 6%. The buyer will have a phase 1 Environmental study.

Seller agrees to subordinate their second lien on the Covington ARP Church to Brighton Bank for the loan amount of \$420,000. The first payment will be 90 days after closing. The buyer says he plans to pay it off in 3 years.

The note ended up being for \$403,000 due to realtor reducing his commission. Out of the 100,000 we paid back Salem \$25,000 and paid realtor, legal, and other closing cost and ended up collecting about 42,000, which almost repaid the loans MVP had made to Dunlap during the liquidation and sale of the property.

Sale and Liquidation of Dunlap Retirement Center

Mississippi Valley Presbytery

Loans to Dunlap in 2015	\$33,637.48
Expenses Paid by MVP in 2015	\$4,741.42
Loans to Dunlap in 2016	\$11,000.00
Expenses Paid by MVP in 2016	<u>\$1,354.66</u>
Total Cash Outlay by MVP for Dunlap	<u>\$50,733.56</u>
Proceeds from Liquidation of Dunlap	<u>\$49,503.04</u>
Unrecovered Funds for Dunlap	<u>\$1,230.52</u>
Note Receivable over 20 Years 3% Interest \$2,235.03 Monthly	<u>\$403,000.00</u>
First Payment due October 1, 2016	
Note is Secured by First Mortgage on Property	
Concentration of Credit Risk: Both the Dunlap and Covington Notes have same debtor	
Action Needed by MVP:	
Designate where to put these funds when collected? ONA or General fund?	

The Dunlap Commission requests that it be dissolved, having accomplished its purpose.

Carl Patterson Chairman

John Robinson Treasurer

Kent Moorlach

John Tucker Secretary

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY PRESBYTERY, ARP Report of the MVP Special Commission, October 3, 2016

Fathers and Brothers,

This is an account regarding the work of the commission set up at the Spring Meeting of the Mississippi Valley Presbytery at Hopewell ARP Church on March 8, 2016 since the June meeting of Presbytery. The commission, consisting of Rev. Benjamin P. Glaser (chairman – Ellisville), Mr. Steve McCollum (New Albany), and Rev. Mark Miller (New Albany), was created in order to investigate and provide assistance to the situation surrounding the marriage of Rev. David Storment and his wife Sarai Storment and to inquire and deal with the effects of their separation on the Faith ARP Church of Leakesville, Mississippi and the French Camp ARP Church of French Camp, Mississippi.

After the conclusion of the called meeting of Presbytery in June the commission was tasked with overseeing the dissolution of the pastoral relationship of Rev. Storment and Faith ARP Church. To this end on June 24th we met at Faith ARP Church with the session and Rev. Storment. All parties were agreed to the steps the Presbytery took at the called meeting. Prayer was held for both Faith ARP and Rev. Storment. The commission, due to several providences and other reasons has not met with either Rev. Storment or Sarai in person since that time, but has remained in contact with both via text and phone.

On July 5th Rev. Glaser joined for the first time with the session of Faith ARP Church as their moderator. Rev. Glaser would meet with them again on July 22nd, August 3rd, August 26th, and September 23rd. As part of this work the Faith ARP Church has put together a pastoral search committee and is narrowing down applications at the writing of this report. Faith ARP Church has added four new members since August.

Concerning the situation with Rev. Storment and his wife Sarai, things have only declined since Presbytery. No positive measures have been seen on reconciliation. Sarai has told the commission that she is not willing to move forward with reconciliation until she has received assurances that Rev. Storment has entered counseling. Rev. Joey Donahue and Rev. Glaser have been working together to find agreeable biblical counseling options. Sarai has found work with a ministry in Ackerman, MS called “Broken Wings” and is residing near French Camp. The older daughter living with Sarai is attending French Camp Academy, the younger is attending French Camp Elementary School. Financial support by Faith ARP Church for Rev. Storment will continue until the end of the year, or when he is able to find full-time labor, whichever comes first. The frustration-levels and the disagreements between Rev. Storment and Sarai about the way forward, steps that should be taken by both parties, and even over the details of what has and is happening, remain very high.

On July 27th there was a motion filed in Greene County court by Rev. Storment and his lawyer for a Judgment of Divorce and Separate Maintenance and Custody with a court date of August 5th. The judge ruled this motion out of order and in response to this filing Sarai and her lawyer counter-filed for Divorce and eventually court was held on August 9th. At this time the judge ordered, for the time being, that the minor children be with Sarai and a visitation schedule was arranged by the presiding judge. As of the writing of this report this is the legal situation between the Storment’s. The next scheduled court date is for December 7th.

Regarding Sarai’s church membership and pastoral care, discussions are ongoing between Faith ARP Church and French Camp ARP Church sessions on how best to handle this. We believe that continued oversight can be conducted by these two sessions and the Minister and His Work committee, as needed.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. Benjamin P. Glaser, Chairman of the Moderator’s Commission
Rev. Mark Miller
Ruling Elder Steve McCollum

I. Recommendations of the Commission

- 1) That the following motion, postponed at the called meeting of Presbytery in June, be voted down: "That the Minister and His Work committee, working alongside the Commission, examine and reflect upon how and why that there was a failure to act in an appropriate time and manner, both at the October 2015 meeting of Presbytery, and for the last 16 years in the troubled marriage of a fellow minister, and that the Commission report back at the Fall meeting of Presbytery with recommendations."
- 2) That the following motion, postponed at the called meeting of Presbytery in June, be voted down: "That the moderator appoint a committee to develop a plan for and/or provide instruction to local sessions on how to deal and counsel with members of fellow ARP Churches who have come into the orbit of influence of other ARP Churches, and present the plan to the Fall 2016 meeting of Presbytery at Richland ARP Church in Millington, Tennessee."
- 3) That the questions surrounding the biblical nature of the court proceedings be referred to the Minister and His Work Committee for discussion.
- 4) That the Mississippi Valley Presbytery be tasked with developing a plan of assistance to provide prayer, mentorship, and support, including counseling services, for Rev. Storment and his wife.
- 5) That the Presbytery pause for a moment of prayer for all of our marriages and that the moderator assign a day of fasting and prayer for the Storment family and all of our marriages.
- 6) That the commission be dissolved.

Appendix D

Mr. Moderator, Members of Mississippi Valley Presbytery, thank you for the opportunity to bring remarks regarding Women's Ministries within our denomination and our presbytery. My purpose tonight is to ask for your help, your support, and your prayers as we seek to reconnect with women in our churches in Mississippi Valley.

I have been active in women's ministries since 1974, serving in five presbyteries and in seven congregations. During this time there have been many changes in our organization. Tonight, I want to share some of these with you.

About ten years ago, synod wide Women's Ministries began the process of reorganization. Strategic plans were designed to simplify the structure of our organization in hopes of involving our younger women. Specifically, terms of office were changed, a women's coordinator was hired, and our board was restructured. Women were encouraged to participate in denominational ministries through their churches rather than separating ourselves as women contributing and communicating through what we called cause secretaries.

Now we have a representative from Women's Ministries serving on each Board of Synod. These women faithfully pray, attend board meetings and report back to the board of Women's Ministries. They have become the points of connection for our local women. Simplifying the chain of communication, we are no longer working separately but are an integral part of denominational ministry. We do not have a women's coordinator currently, but have opportunities for leadership training and additional Bible Study through the use of Right Now Media. This online resource provided to our churches through CEM, is supported in part through Women's Ministry. If your church has not yet tried this resource, which can be used individually or for group study, please contact Judi Hodges through CEM. She will send you an email invitation to join. It is a wonderful library of videos from respected teachers and theologians as well as videos from our conferences.

The reorganization plan has been successfully communicated in some presbyteries, freeing women to be creative in ministry within their home church and community, but has also led to confusion and frustration in others. Tonight, I want to ask for your support for Women's Ministries here in Mississippi Valley. We have lost our connections.

The theme of the one hundredth meeting of Women's Ministries held in 2014 was "Connections." Delegates and representatives were given puzzle pieces to remind us that our strength is in our connections. Alone we see in part, together we make a beautiful picture. Our challenge in Mississippi Valley is to rebuild the connections we once had so that we can see a completed picture.

Foreign missions support has been an emphasis for women in our churches for over one hundred years. In addition to the missionaries we support through our local churches, Women's Ministries provides support for two missionary women through the Jubilee Offering. These women have been recommended through the Board of World Witness and their support is part of the budget for Women's Ministries. They must have specific ministries and a commitment to long term missionary service. Currently, we need additional offerings to meet our commitment to our Birthday Ladies, Sheila Osborne and Rebecca Carson. If your ladies have had a Jubilee Birthday Party the offerings should be sent directly to Administrative Services in Greenville, SC and designated as Jubilee Birthday Offering. Making this change has shortened the time

Appendix D

getting support to our missionary ladies and simplified bookkeeping for our local officers.

Since my election two years ago, I have attended Women's Ministry Board Meetings, the Women's Ministry Annual Meeting, and the Family Bible Conference. During the FBC, I featured the women's work of two of our churches. In 2015, the Covington Church closed. The women of this church had a long and significant ministry, including Ms. Sue Robeson's faithful service as President of Women's Synodical Union. I was able to showcase scrapbooks representing many years of service within their congregation and the Covington community. I wanted to honor their service. Items of historical importance to the congregation were delivered to the ARP Archives at Erskine College in Due West, SC. This year I shared items of historical significance and information about current events with the Richland ARP Church in recognition of our 150th Anniversary.

In conclusion, I have a few prayer requests:

- I will be attending the Women's Ministries Annual Meeting at BonClarKen October 7-8, 2016. I would appreciate your prayers for safe travel and for wisdom as we meet.
- We need to reconnect to our mission as women of Mississippi Valley Presbytery. Please pray for me as I seek to plan a reorganizational meeting for our women. If you are unable to supply me with contact information tonight, please give my telephone number, 803-242-3606, and my e-mail cavinrev@bellsouth.net to the appropriate women in your congregation.
- Currently, we are seeking a representative to serve on the Board of Outreach North America. This woman needs to have a heart for evangelism and mission churches and be available to attend board meetings twice a year in Greenville, SC. Please, prayerfully, consider this need, and, if you identify someone, let me know.
- Finally, I ask for your prayers. Corrie ten Boom said that there was no pit so deep that God's Love was not deeper still. I believe that if we see ourselves as pieces of this puzzle and work together, we can reconnect and rebuild our relationships. Please join me in prayer, asking God to guide our steps and keep us faithful for His purposes.
- And, please, if your ladies have not already done so, have a Jubilee Birthday Party.

Sincerely,

Susan Cavin
President Mississippi Valley Women's Ministries
October 4, 2016

General Fund Mississippi Valley Presbytery

For the Years 2015 and 2016

	1st Nine Months of 2016	All of 2015
Balance Beginning of Period	\$83,731.61	\$174,623.77
Receipts:		
Assessments from Member Churches	\$12,042.50	\$13,870.00
Interest Income	\$121.10	\$41.85
Liquidation of Dunlap after Sale	\$49,503.04	\$0.00
Proceeds from Covington's Remaining Bank account	\$0.00	\$21,137.48
Total Receipts	\$61,666.64	\$35,049.33
Disbursements:		
Contribution to Christian Education Fund	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Contribution to Dunlap Retirement Home	\$0.00	\$2,200.00
Printing, Postage, Supplies and Clerk's Stipend	\$1,036.09	\$572.59
Commission Expenses Leaksville	\$1,678.72	\$0.00
Transfer Covington Sale Proceeds to ONA	\$0.00	\$79,790.00
Loans to Dunlap – see attached	\$11,000.00	\$33,637.48
Appraisal Fee and Insurance paid for Dunlap	\$1,354.66	\$4,741.42
Total Disbursements	\$20,069.47	\$125,941.49
Excess Receipts	\$41,597.17	\$90,892.16
Balance End of Period	\$125,328.78	\$83,731.61
 General Fund Bank Accounts:		
Renasant Bank 2200123455	\$25,328.78	\$18,731.61
Bank of New Albany Certificate of Deposit	\$100,000.00	\$65,000.00
Total Bank Accounts	\$125,328.78	\$83,731.61

Christian Education Fund Mississippi Valley Presbytery

For the Years 2015 and 2016

	1ST Nine Months 2016	All of 2015
Balance January 1	\$5,846.07	
Receipts:		
Received from General Fund	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Received from Summer Campers	\$15,780.00	\$19,240.00
Received from Fall Retreat Campers	0	\$1,715.00
Total Receipts	\$20,780.00	\$25,955.00
Disbursements:		
Expenses of Summer Camp	\$17,423.00	\$21,068.41
Expenses of Fall Retreat	\$557.00	\$2,118.60
Camp Leadership retreat	0	\$388.00
Synrod CEM Reinbursement (cancelled flight in 14/Workshop)	0	\$473.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	0	\$110.26
Total Disbursements	\$17,980.00	\$24,158.27
Excess Receipts over Disbursements	\$2,800.00	\$1,796.73
Balance End of Period	\$8,646.07	\$5,846.07
 Christian Education Bank Account:		
Bank of New Albany 162026003	<u>\$8,646.07</u>	<u>\$5,846.07</u>

Outreach North America Funds Mississippi Valley Presbytery

For the Nine Ended September 30, 2016

Balance January 1, 2016				
Receipts:				
Collection on Covington Note (\$1,111.11 per month)				
Received from Synod ONA Endowment	\$1,907.00			
Interest Income and Ross Exploration				
Total Receipts	<u>\$1,907.00</u>			
Disbursements:				
Assessment fee and travel fo potential Little Rock Pastor		\$3,472.23		
Books for Church Revitalization		\$475.20		
Committee Meeting Expense		\$149.00		
Little Rock Church Plant Supply Pastor		\$2,700.00		
Total Disbursements		<u>\$4,796.43</u>		
Excess Receipts (Disbursements)		\$1,431.80		
Increase in Value for the year				
Balance September 30, 2016		<u>\$26,457.52</u>		
Annualized return on our accounts				
Return for the year to date				
ONA Accounts:				
Bank of New Albany 1620260-01 Checking		\$13,466.85		
Bank of New Albany 1620260-09 Money Market		\$40,792.00		
Bank of New Albany Certificate of Deposit		\$65,000.00		
Total in Banks		<u>\$119,258.85</u>		
ARP Investment Fund A (Moderate)		\$291,588.87		
ARP Investment Fund B (Conservative)		\$267,781.71		
Total in Managed Accounts		\$559,370.58		
Total in all accounts		<u>\$678,629.43</u>		

	Church Revitalization	Church Planting	ARP Invest- ment Fund A	ARP Invest- ment Fund B
	\$25,025.72	\$88,847.80	\$275,664.00	\$256,110.00
		\$9,999.99		
		<u>\$274.77</u>		
		<u>\$10,274.76</u>		
			<u>\$15,924.87</u>	
			7.70%	
			<u>\$291,588.87</u>	
			5.78%	
				<u>\$11,671.71</u>
				6.08%
				<u>\$267,781.71</u>
				4.56%

Schedule of Assessments Paid by Churches
 Mississippi Valley Presbytery
 For Year to date through September 30, 2016

Bethany, Guntown, MS(2014 and 2015)	\$400.00
Brighton, TN	\$1,020.00
Ebenezer, Blue Mtn., MS	\$400.00
Ellisville Presbyterian, Ellisville, MS	\$0.00
Elsberry, MO	\$90.00
Faith Presbyterian, Leakesville, MS	\$600.00
French Camp, MS	\$900.00
Graceview, Southhaven, MS	\$900.00
Gospel of Grace, Springfield, MO	\$0.00
Gum Tree, Tupelo, MS	\$710.00
Helena, Moss Point, MS	\$0.00
Hernando Reformed, Hernando, MS	\$0.00
Hickory Springs, AR	\$0.00
Hopewell, New Albany, MS	\$900.00
Midlane Park, Louisville, KY	\$300.00
Mt. Zion, Troy, MO	\$280.00
New Albany, MS	\$1,462.50
New Geneva, Paducah, KY	\$0.00
Pottsville, AR	\$300.00
Providence, Bartlett, TN	\$350.00
Richland, Rosemark, TN	\$1,540.00
Salem, Atoka, TN	\$1,600.00
Sharon, Brighton, TN	\$210.00
Wood Avenue, Monticello, AR	<u>\$80.00</u>
Total Receipts from churches	<u>\$12,042.50</u>

Note: Churches in bold have not paid this year

Sale and Liquidation of Dunlap Retirement Center
Mississippi Valley Presbytery

Loans to Dunlap in 2015	\$33,637.48
Expenses Paid by MVP in 2015	\$4,741.42
Loans to Dunlap in 2016	\$11,000.00
Expenses Paid by MVP in 2016	\$1,354.66
Total Cash Outlay by MVP for Dunlap	<u>\$50,733.56</u>
Proceeds from Liquidation of Dunlap	<u>\$49,503.04</u>
Unrecovered Funds for Dunlap	<u>\$1,230.52</u>

Note Receivable over 20 Years 3% Interest \$2,235.03 Monthly \$403,000.00
 First Payment due October 1, 2016

Note is Secured by First Mortgage on Property
 Concentration of Credit Risk: Both the Dunlap and Covington Notes have same debtor

Action Needed by MVP:
 Designate where to put these funds when collected? ONA or General fund?

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY PRESBYTERY

PROPOSED 2017 BUDGET – ALL FUNDS

GENERAL FUNDS for OPERATIONS

*Chapter I (v) of the MVP rules states: Each church shall pay to the presbytery the current fee of \$10.00 per member, as reported to Synod, for the ordinary expense of the Presbytery. Receipts from the Mississippi Valley Presbytery churches:

<u>Churches Location</u>	<u>Members</u>	<u>Payment</u>
Bethany, Ms.	25	\$400.00
Brighton, Tn.	195	\$1,020.00
Ebenezer, Blue Mtn., MS	59	\$400.00
<u>Ellisville Presbyterian, Ellisville, MS</u>	21	\$0.00
Elsberry, MO	56	\$90.00
Faith Presbyterian, Leakesville, MS	77	\$600.00
French Camp, MS	87	\$900.00
<u>Gospel of Grace, Springfield, MO</u>	54	\$0.00
Graceview, Southaven, MS	78	\$900.0
Gumtree	70	\$710.00
<u>Helena, Moss Point, MS</u>	55	\$0.00
<u>Hernando Reformed, Hernando, MS</u>	36	\$0.00
<u>Hickory Springs, AR</u>	23	\$0.00
Hopewell, New Albany, MS	37	\$90 0.00
Midlane Park, Louisville, KY	42	\$300.00
Mt. Zion, Troy, MO	56	\$280.00
New Albany, MS	245	\$1462.50
<u>New Geneva, Paducah, KY</u>	64	\$0.00
Pottsville, AR	81	\$300.00
Providence Reformed, Bartlett, TN	73	\$350.00
Richland, Rosemark, TN	207	\$1540.00
Salem, Atoka, TN	298	\$1600.00
Sharon, Brighton, TN	58	\$210.00
Wood Avenue, Monticello, AR	14	\$80.00
Total=	2011	\$12,042.5

The Purposed budget for MVP for 2016

MVP Christian Education		\$5250.00
Mississippi Valley Presbyterial women ministry		\$500.00
Minister & His Works Committee operations		\$400.00
Stewardship Committee		\$200.00
Nominations Committee		\$200.00
Christian Education Committee expense		\$200.00
MVP ONA Committee	Little Rock Plant	\$32,972.00
	Revitalization	\$10,000.00
MVP Administrative Expense ((supplies, postage)		\$2000.00
*PRCC (Chaplain Support Group start in 2017)		\$100.00
Officer (Moderator/clerk) & Committee Travel		\$400.00
Special Committee Expenses		\$400.00
	Total Expenditures: =	\$52,622.00

Recommendation:

The Stewardship committee recommends the budget for 2017 be approved as presented.

(* Synod has approved the increase from \$600 to \$1000 per Chaplain with each presbytery paying the difference \$100 per year for 4 years starting in 2017.)

Appendix F

LR Church Plant/Pastoral Support

MVP Pastoral Support	Amount
Salary	\$36,000.00
Health Insurance	\$0.00
Housing Allowance	\$12,000.00
SS Allowance	\$2,700.00
Retirement	\$6,084.00
Term Life & Disability	\$388.68
Subtotal	\$57,172.68


Ministry Expenses	Amount
Office Expense/Resources	\$2,000.00
Facilities	\$10,000.00
Internet	\$1,000.00
Cell	\$900.00
Promotion	\$3,500.00
Mileage Reimbursement	\$5,400.00
Education	\$1,000.00
Subtotal	\$23,800.00

Funding	Amount
2017 Mission Expense	\$80,972.68
2017 ONA Synod Funds	-\$18,000.00
Anonymous Gift for Little Rock	-\$30,000.00
MVP Support	\$32,972.68

Pottsville Pastoral Support	Amount
Salary	\$30,000.00
Health Insurance	\$14,541.12
Housing Allowance	\$0.00
SS Allowance	\$3,340.58
Retirement	\$5,310.00
Term Life & Disability	\$360.36
Subtotal	\$53,552.06

Howards time will be spent as follows


Location	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Pottsville	Half day			All Day	All Day		Half day
Little Rock	Half day	All Day	All Day			All Day	Half Day



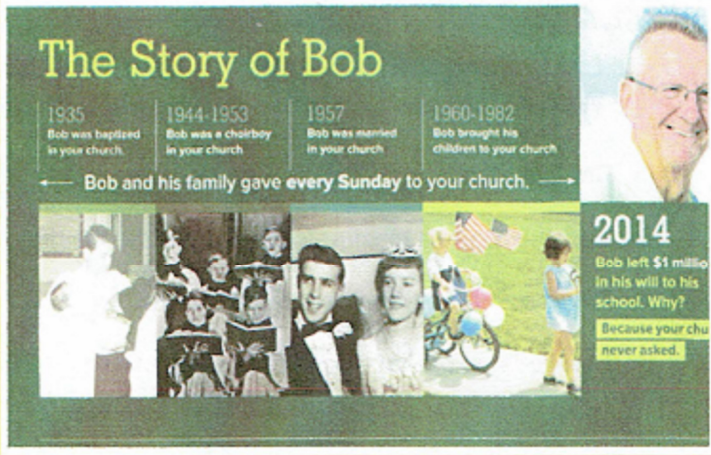
The ARP Foundation

Steve Nichols - Director of Gift Planning

- **Build the Kingdom by transforming assets into Ministry**
Estate Taxes, Capital Gains are Optional
- **Ministry of Synod**
Build Biblical Stewards in the Church
- **Serve Any Individual – Planned Gift and Estate Design**
 - *Minimize Taxes (\$0 Tax Strategies)*
 - *Provide for Family*
 - *Maximize Giving – donor priorities*



Unprecedented Opportunity




The Story of Bob

1935 Bob was baptized in your church.	1944-1953 Bob was a choirboy in your church.	1957 Bob was married in your church.	1960-1982 Bob brought his children to your church.
---	--	--	--

← Bob and his family gave every Sunday to your church. →

2014
Bob left \$1 million
in his will to his
school. Why?
Because your church
never asked.

 **Model Process for Any Giver:**

Church Treasurer

"I am Bob"

Sonny Bowers Estate \$1.8M –


"Call the Planned giving Guy"

Camille Jones TN/AL Nursing Endowment \$20K

Self-funded Professionals - Missionaries

Donor Advised Fund

Appreciated stock- Dialysis machine \$15K


 **New! Model Format for Local Churches:**

LifeStyle Giving Gift and State Design Service


Lake Wales ARP Church – pioneer platform

World Witness Dinners – Memphis Oct 21

- Design - Uniquely Christian World View
- Spiritual Before Mechanical – *God is the Owner*
- Relationships more important than money
- Everyone Benefits! Donors & families, Church, Ministries

 **Two valuable individual services – no cost**

- Comparative analysis: Charitable Solutions
IRA's, 401K's, Stocks, Homes, Life Insurance, Sale of B'ness
Timber, Land, Real Estate
- Confidential Estate Design:
First time design
- Update Existing Will/Trust – Documents in Order, HIPA...
- 2nd opinion from a Stewardship perspective – action plan

 **How Can You Receive These Services:**

Please provide the following confidential information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/state/zip: _____

Telephone: () _____ work: () _____

Cell: () _____ e-mail: _____

Church Affiliation: _____

- Confidential Estate Inventory & *LifeStyle Giving* Design
- Personal comparative analysis regarding the sale of: _____
- Please contact me concerning the planning of my estate
- Contact me about Hosting a "Turning Taxes in Treasure" event

New! Estate & Gift Design Seminar in your Church

- 1:15 Luncheon or Evening Format
- Practical help to members put their financial “House in Order”
- Professional Service as a Ministry of Synod – no cost
- Promotional materials provided
- For adults of any age
- Church is often first to benefit
- Valuable Individual Plan or 2nd Opinion

Contact:
 Steve Nichols
 Director of Gift Planning
 ARP Foundation
 864-326-5252 (cell)
 Snichols@arpsynod.org



The ARP Foundation - Estate and Gift Design Services

The ARP Foundation, Inc. now offers at no cost an individualized Estate and Gift Design service to help families find God’s plan of stewardship for their estates. As a ministry of Synod, we serve individuals, ARP churches and presbyteries by offering gift and Estate Design services from a Christian perspective. We recognize that God has given us all that we have and that we act as His stewards during our lifetimes.

We are able to help guide individuals and families through the estate

design process by using our Confidential Estate Inventory*. We help you highlight key decisions that need to be made no matter what stage of life you are in, or estate size – large or small. Critical issues addressed include providing for family, having a will in place, making guardianship decisions for minor children, planning for retirement, and avoiding taxes. We can work with your attorney or other professional advisors to be certain you have a will or trust that follows your desired plans.

We offer our experience with many sophisticated estate planning tools to help you reach your goals for providing for your family at death, reducing taxes, and giving to ministries you love. The ARP Foundation also acts as trustee for charitable trusts and offer charitable gift annuities in most states. For example, the ARP Foundation offer a flexible giving account known as a “Donor Advised Fund” to capture

charitable gifts of assets, securities or cash, distributed at the donor’s direction & timing. Because we regard estate planning as Spiritual before it’s mechanical, designs focus on interpersonal relationships especially within the family as more important than money.

The ARP Foundation through the Estate and Gift Design service can help guide you through the entire estate design process, whether it is the first time you have done a will or you need a review of your current plans. We provide as a no-cost ministry, personalized, confidential estate designs that can be used to implement your desired plans – without product sales or commissions. We are happy to consult with your personal advisers, such as attorneys or financial planners to help ensure that your plans are put into place.

The Estate and Gift Design service is supported by experienced staff and counsel who have worked with hundreds of families and enjoy watching God at work in the estate design process to fund Kingdom priorities.

864-326-5252 (M) 864-232-8298 (O) 864-271-3729 (F) snichols@arpsynod.org (email)

Individual Estate Design Process Overview:

1. *Complete Confidential Estate Inventory
2. Analysis & Design by Lifestyle Giving uniquely from a Christian perspective
3. Deliver your Personalized Plan
4. Review & Walk-through Design
5. Track Implementation Steps



Jodie and Tina Gaston
 Report of Missionary Activities to
 Mississippi Valley Presbytery

This summer our host church worked through the seven “I am” statements made by Jesus in the gospel of John. As I was preparing for one of the sermons I came across a great summary statement in a devotional guide that I shared with our small group. I also want to share it with you: “Who is Jesus? He is the Bread we feed upon, the Light we follow, the Door we enter, the Shepherd who guides us, the Resurrection we wait upon, the Way of salvation we trust, and the Vine upon which we abide.” Our greatest desire is for every person in Wales to have an opportunity to know Jesus. Most days, our task seems daunting and sometimes it is discouraging, but we know that the Christian walk (and missions in particular) is a marathon, which requires commitment and endurance.



Jodie, Tina, Hollis and Aedyn

It is hard to believe but it’s time to renew our work visas so that we can continue to serve in Wales. We are also using the process as a time to reflect on what we’ve accomplished so far and to dream and pray about what God would have us to do in the future. We wanted to briefly share some of the things that we’ve done over the last couple of years and to share some of our future plans.

So here are a few of the things we’ve accomplished so far:

- A women’s bible study in our home, where women (both believers and non-believers) gather together be disciplined, supported, encouraged and to pray for one another.
- A “Wise Owls” group for Christian girls (from a number of local churches) so that they can be disciplined and encouraged in their faith by older women in the church. It is difficult for Christian young people, because there are so few Christians among their schoolmates. Girls find it especially difficult because of the cultural norms regarding sexuality.
- A summer holiday bible study for children. This summer 20 children gathered each week for six weeks to study the book of Daniel (They even had homework!)
- Messy Church, an outreach ministry to unchurched children and their parents.
- Administrative support for the Hope Centre, a local food bank run by a partnership of local churches (spearheaded by the church we serve) that provides emergency food assistance to more than 5000 clients per year.
- Partnered with a number of churches in the community to re-launch our local chapter of Christians Against Poverty, an evangelical charity that shares the gospel while helping people get out of debt and teaching them to live within a budget.
- Partnered with a local church that had previously faced closing to revitalize and relaunch weekly services. This included significant refurbishment of the church building, including paint, carpets, and lighting. Jodie served as the project leader and grant writer. We began weekly services there the first Sunday in September.
- Taking on the role of Area Leader for Wales to recruit potential candidates and to provide leadership, development, and pastoral care for other missionaries in our organization (Greater Europe Mission).
- Five people baptized by profession of faith and a number of “de-churched” people coming back.

Appendix H

So, what do we hope to accomplish over the next three years? Here are a few of our dreams:

- Train others to lead and take full ownership of ministry initiatives that have already been established.
- Provide LifeCare training for church members who work with people dealing with emotional and relational difficulties. LifeCare is a Christian ministry started by a fellow missionary in Scotland that provides training for those who may counsel others in a non-clinical setting to help them offer biblically based, gospel centred support and encouragement.
- Provide more resources, support, and training to Christian parents to help them raise their children in godly homes
- Recruit and mobilise three other couples to partner with other churches in our valley that have expressed interest in hosting support workers.
- Relaunch a daughter church in Trevethin (a local council/public housing estate). Hill City Church was originally planted in Trevethin but had to move out of the neighbourhood when it outgrew the available facilities. There is a strong desire in the church to relaunch another church there.
- Convert a part of Emmaus Chapel into a community cafe. This will give us an inviting space to engage with the community and to provide food service training and work experience in a community that has an unemployment rate of more than 50%.

So how can you help?

1. **Pray for us.** I don't need to tell you — ministry is hard! And let me tell you, ministry in a different culture feels impossible most of the time. Pray for our ministry, but even more importantly, pray for our children. There are so few Christian families here and our children are constantly bombarded by all kinds of spiritual darkness. Our 10-year-old daughter once received an invitation to a birthday party where a fortune-teller would be present to read the children's palms. Another time another girl in her class told her that she was going to put a hex on her. Hollis is very spiritually aware and is sometimes afraid of these kinds of things.

2. **Stay in contact with us.** We know that you all are just as busy as us (if not more so), but letters of encouragement, notes, and cards are incredibly important to us. Our children love it when we are able share cards with them and let them know that other churches are praying for us. Perhaps you could encourage your church's women's ministries to "adopt" us. For example, the men's group from one church has adopted our son as their "missionary kid." They send him letters on occasion and pay for his football (soccer) fees each year. If you'd like to send cards or letters you can send them to: **Jodie and Tina Gaston, 46 Wainfelin Road, Pontypool, UK NP4 6DF.** Also, if you don't do so you can follow our Facebook page at facebook.com/gastonsinwales.

3. **Consider partnering with us financially.** As I said, it is time to renew our visas for the next three years. There has been a dramatic increase in the cost of our visa. The visas themselves are \$3475 and in the last year the UK government has implemented a \$3100 NHS surcharge (**\$6575 total**). These funds must be paid in advance for our visas to be approved. As you can imagine this will significantly impact our reserve funds. If our reserve falls too low we will be required to return to America until they are built back up to a sufficient level. In addition, we are currently underfunded by approximately \$1000 per month. We have been able to temporarily cover the shortfall with our reserve and Tina has taken on some part-time work, but neither of those options are sustainable long-term. We know that most the churches in our presbytery are small and budgets are tight, but every little bit helps. As you plan your budgets for next year, please consider if you might be able to partner with us in the coming year. If your church would like to partner with us, you can do so through World Witness or directly through our missions agency. You can just email me and I will be happy to help you. For those churches in the Presbytery that are currently supporting us, thank you so much. Without you, we wouldn't be here.

As World Witness cooperative missionaries and members of Mississippi Valley Presbytery we are your missionaries. Ultimately, we serve with your permission. As such, we are privileged to represent the ARP and Mississippi Valley Presbytery here in Wales. We want you to know how much we value your prayers, encouragement, and support.

In His Service - Jodie & Tina Gaston, Aedyn and Hollis

Appendix I

The annual meeting of the Mississippi Valley Presbytery Educational Fund was held on September 27th at 7:00 PM at the Brighton ARP church. Those in attendance were Danny Hughes, Jimmy Ramage, Russel McDaniel and Randy Goulder.

The meeting was opened in prayer by Russell McDaniel

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

The treasurers report was read and approved.

Business

- There are no request for loans at this time.
- Danny Hughes stated there is one outstanding loan of \$2,000 to Brad Robinson at this time.
- Discussion was held on how low rates of return are at this time on the CDs
- Jimmy Ramage made a motion seconded by Russell McDaniel to recommend Rev Bob Whites name to the nominations committee for a replacement for Rev. Charles Todd on the MVP Ed committee. Motion passed.
- Randy Goulder stated that the committee needed to elect a new chairman at the next meeting.

Danny Hughes made a motion to adjourn seconded by Russell McDaniel. Motion passed

Jimmy Ramage closed the meeting in prayer.

Randy Goulder

Committee on Christian Education

– Report to the Fall 2016 meeting of MVP –

The committee on Christian Education met at the Richland Church prior to the meeting of presbytery on October 3.

Present were: Joey Donahue (chm.), Charles Browning, Alex Coblintz, Mark Miller

The committee addressed a number of items, including:

- ⇒ a report on the fall meeting of the Board of Christian Education
- ⇒ a report on the Camp Joy Luncheon at Graceview
- ⇒ a report on the 2016 MVP Camp
- ⇒ an update on plans for the Fall retreat (to be conducted at French Camp Nov. 18-20)
- ⇒ plans for the 2017 MVP Camp

Motion: that we return to French Camp for the 2017 MVP Camp (passed)

Motion: that Kent Moorlach be director (passed)

- ⇒ discussion regarding failure to follow-up on an item approved at the spring meeting of presbytery that would have included a presentation on child protection by Judy Hodges (from the office of Christian Education in Greenville) at the current meeting, with the understanding that we extend the invitation to Judy Hodges to attend the spring meeting.
- ⇒ discussion about the possibility of conducting a leadership conference in the fall of 2017

The committee makes the following recommendations:

1. That we return to French Camp for our 2017 session of MVP Camp , and
2. That Kent Moorlach be designated as Director for the Camp

The meeting was closed with a season of prayer

Submitted by Joey Donahue, acting secretary

MVP Camp

2016

During the week of July 11-16 Mississippi Valley Presbytery conducted its annual Summer Camp, our eighth year at French Camp. (Note: MVP Camp follows five weeks of the *Camp of the Rising Son*, conducted by French Camp Academy, in which a small part of their staff is retained for the basic programs, with MVP providing counselors and teachers.)

Total camper enrollment was around 71 – eight of which were from EPC churches in the greater Memphis area. There were, in addition, around 20 counselors.

The theme of the week was “Be Prepared,” which was developed around the doctrine of eschatology. In contrast with previous years, the Bible lessons were conducted with the group as a whole, with follow-up sessions being broken down according to age. In those sessions the emphasis was on Bible memory. Joey Donahue opened with a general introduction, followed up with in depth teaching by Alex Coblitz, Kent Moorlach, and Meredith Cavin. Scott Fletcher led the worship sessions, with a good variety of Psalms, hymns, and praise songs. Overall leadership was provided by Kent Moorlach, who did an excellent job as Rirector.

In addition to Bible study and praise times, the kids (and adults!) enjoyed the activities that have come to make this such a special week, including swimming and canoeing, horse-back riding, the climbing wall, crafts, and team sports. A new tower has been added on the further side of the lake with a zip line going into the lake.

We continue to be blessed with quality leadership from our local churches in providing counselors who attend the kids 24/7, as well as staff from CRS (*Camp of the Rising Son*), many of which are ARPs. Each of these men and women display solid commitment to Christ and His Word, and provide a wonderful example of Christ-like character to the children and youth committed to our charge.

Report of the Minister and His Work Committee – October 3, 2016

Present – Rev. Kent Moorlach, Chairman
Rev. Benjamin P. Glaser, Secretary

Ruling Elder John Robinson Ruling Elder Larry Littlejohn Ruling Elder Steve
McCollum Ruling Elder Randy Goulder Rev. Don Watkins Rev. Mike
Chipman

Guests:

Paul Walley, Ruling Elder Gospel of Grace ARP Church
Rev. Randy Kolb, Stated Supply of Hopewell ARP Church
Rev. Tim Phillips, Pastor-Elect Brighton ARP Church
Rev. Howard Wheeler, Pastor Pottsville ARP Church

The Minister and His Work Committee began with prayer by Rev. Moorlach at 3:11pm

First order of business was to receive a report from Ruling Elder Paul Walley on the situation at Gospel of Grace, beginning with the issues concerning Rev. Schiebout back in the summer of last year, through his amicable departure in July of 2016.

The situation surrounding the lack of a moderator and other matters concerning Bethany ARP Church were discussed.

We received and approved Ebenezer ARP's request that Rev. Bill Everett remain as Stated Supply.

Next we went over the terms of call to Rev. Tim Phillips by the Brighton ARP Church. Rev. Mike Chipman moved that we approve the terms, seconded by Ruling Elder Steve McCollum, was passed unanimously.

Discussion was held over the call to Charles Covington by the Gumtree ARP Church as well as the session's request that Charles be considered for ordination. Ruling Elder Larry Littlejohn moved and Ruling Elder Randy Goulder seconded, that the call be approved pending an affirmative vote of Presbytery concerning the extraordinary ordination $\frac{3}{4}$ vote clause for Charles Covington.

An e-mail from Student of Theology Brad Robinson was brought before the committee. Mr. Robinson has withdrawn from Mid-America Reformed Seminary and is interested in returning to seminary at a later date. However, at this time he is also reconsidering his call to the ministry and will update later.

A motion from Rev. Glaser and seconded by Ruling Elder John Robinson to remove Brian Bol as a Student of Theology was approved.

Received a report from Rev. Gary Jones concerning his labors at Hernando ARP Church. The committee will contact him concerning his situation regarding insurance, etc.

Appendix K

Received an update from Rev. Mike Chipman about his work at Redeemer Community Church.

Discussed the Stated Supply situation in the Presbytery.

Met with Rev. Tim Phillips concerning his call from Brighton ARP Church, the dissolution of his relationship with Midlane Park ARP Church, and then examined him about his theological views and his willingness to receive the call from Brighton. It was moved by Ruling Elder Steve McCollum and seconded by Ruling Elder Randy Goulder that his examination be sustained. It was passed unanimously.

Received an update from Moises Chan about his work as a Chaplain for Tyson Foods.

Spoke with Rev. Glaser about his moderatorship at Faith ARP Church in Leakesville, MS.

The request of ONA about the Little Rock church plant was discussed. We met with Rev. Howard Wheeler and he informed the committee of his intentions and the plan going forward. It was moved by Ruling Elder Randy Goulder and seconded by Ruling Elder Larry Littlejohn that we approve the call to Howard Wheeler by the Presbytery to serve as Mission Explorer to Little Rock. Passed Unanimously.

It was moved by Ruling Elder John Robinson, seconded by Rev. Mike Chipman that Rev. Moorlach speak with the clerk of session at Hopewell ARP Church concerning Randy Kolb's situation.

There was a motion to adjourn by Rev. Don Watkins, seconded by Rev. Chipman, and passed.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Rev. Benjamin P. Glaser at 6:03pm.

Recommendations

- 1) That Rev. Bill Everett be approved as Stated Supply of Ebenezer ARP Church.
- 2) That after Presbytery examination that the call to Rev. Tim Phillips by Brighton ARP be approved.
- 3) That after examination by Presbytery, and a three-fourth's vote by Presbytery that Charles Covington be ordained under the extraordinary clause at a date and time to be determined by Presbytery.
- 4) That the call of Charles Covington to Gumtree ARP Church be approved.
- 5) That Brian Bol be removed from the Presbytery roll as a Student of Theology.
- 6) That after Presbytery examination we approve the call to Rev. Howard Wheeler from the Presbytery to serve as Mission Explorer in Little Rock, Arkansas.
- 7) That this report be adopted as a whole.

Brighton, Tennessee
Pastor's Call To Serve

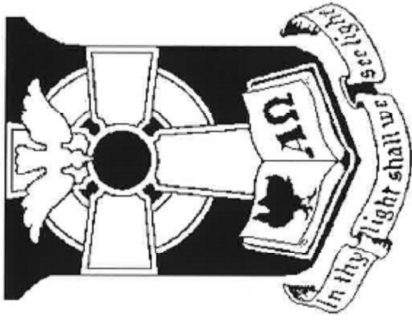
We the officers and members of the **Brighton Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church** of Brighton, Tennessee being well satisfied with your ministerial qualifications, and confident that we have been led to you by the Holy Spirit as one whose ministry will be profitable to our spiritual interest, do earnestly call you **Timothy Jerry Phillips** to undertake the call as a Pastor of the Brighton Associate Reformed Church. On the acceptance of this our call we promise you in the discharge of your duty all proper support, encouragement and obedience in the Lord.

That you may devote yourself to the Ministry of the Word as a Pastor and as you begin your ministry on the _____ day of _____, 2016, we promise and obligate ourselves to:

1. Basic Compensation:
 - a. Base Salary: \$37,500.00
 - b. Provide you and your family the free use of the manse with Utilities and Insurance Coverage that covers the actual replacement of the minister's contents.
 - c. Travel Allowance of \$ 200.00 per month
 - d. Cell Phone Allowance \$ 50.00 per month
 - e. Educational Allowance \$ 500.00 per year
2. Pay All Moving Expenses
3. Pay into the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Retirement Plan as Prescribed by General Synod.
4. Pay 100% of Synod's life, health, and dental insurance for the pastor and his family, with the following proviso that if that if a minister's spouse has group insurance that covers her and/or their dependents that it be permitted for the minister to participate and waive medical and /or dental coverage under the single rather than family category of insurance; and further, the minister may also elect to remain under his wife's policy if he is covered as a dependent.
 - a. _____ Provide Synod's life, health and dental insurance coverage under Synod's group policy for his family.
5. The Church provides the cost of Life, Long Term Disability, and

Accidental Death coverage provided by and required by the General Synod.

6. Grant you annual leave for evangelistic or other church related meetings of 1week per year.
7. Grant you an annual vacation time of three (3)weeks.
8. Expenses for the meeting of General Synod and Presbytery.
9. Review with you annually the adequacy of this compensation. As part of the review the congregation shall be encouraged to consider an increase to the previous years base compensation.
10. Other (List each Item)
11. In the event of total disability, as defined in the Synod's insurance program, we promise:
 - a. _____ To continue for a minimum of three months the provisions of this call awaiting commencement of benefits from the Synod's insurance program.
 - b. _____ If you are residing in the manse, and during the month following the terms outlined in "a" above, to assist in relocating and to continue a minimum of up to one month's base salary toward the relocation expenses.
 - c. _____ Other
12. In the event you should die during the terms of this call, we promise:
 - a. _____ To continue the provisions of this call dealing with annual salary, housing, and group insurance for your immediate family for a minimum of three months.
 - b. _____ If you are residing in the manse, and during the month following the term outlined in "a" above, to assist your immediate family in relocating and/or contribute a minimum of up to one month's base salary toward relocation expenses.
13. Other. (Attach)



A CALL

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY PRESBYTERY

**ASSOCIATE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

CALL FOR A Part Time PASTOR

We the officers and members of Gum Tree Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church of Tupelo, MS being well satisfied with your ministerial qualifications, and confident that we have been led to you by the Holy Spirit as one whose ministry will be profitable to our spiritual interest, do earnestly call you Charles Covington to undertake the call as Part Time Pastor of the Gum Tree Church. On the acceptance of this our call we promise you in the discharge of your duty all proper support, encouragement and obedience in the Lord. Your responsibilities to the congregation include but are not limited to: preaching the Word, Leading Wednesday Night Activities, administering the sacraments and performing the duties of a pastor.

That you may devote yourself to the Ministry of the Word as a Part Time Pastor (It being understood by both parties that you will continue your ministry as a Bible Teacher in Lee County Public Schools) and as you begin your ministry on the 2nd day of October, 2016, we promise and obligate ourselves to:

- 1) Total Compensation of \$24,300 which includes
 - a. Base Salary \$14,300
 - b. Housing Allowance \$10,000
- 2) You will waive participation in the ARP health and life plan and retirement plan as long as the school system provides you with adequate coverage that meets your and your family's needs
- 3) Time off as needed for Presbytery, Synod and other church related meetings.
- 4) Review with you annually the adequacy of this compensation. As part of the review the congregation shall be encouraged to consider an increase to the previous year's base compensation.
- 5) Grant you an annual vacation of 4 weeks.
- 6) Reimbursement for reasonable expenses for the meeting of General Synod and Presbytery.
- 7) Participate in the cost of scholarship program for RTS Seminary's tuition plan (Church pays 1/3, pastor pays 1/3, and 1/3 is forgiven)
- 8) In the event you should die or become totally disabled during the terms of this call, we promise:
 - a. To continue the provisions of this call dealing with annual salary and housing allowance **for a period of three months**

CONFIRMATION OF A CALL
MVP PRESBYTERY

I, John Robinson, having moderated the congregational meeting held in the Gum Tree Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, at Tupelo, MS on October 2, 2016 at which a call was extended to Charles Covington, for services as Part Time **Pastor**, certify that the call has been made in all respects according to the Form of Government of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church and the Rules of Procedure of the Mississippi Valley Presbytery, and that the persons who signed the call were Elders in good standing of the above-mentioned congregation.

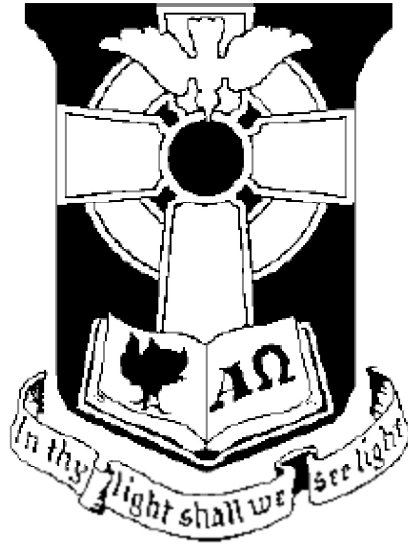
John
Moderator of Congregational Meeting
10-2-2016
Date

OFFICIAL VOTE:

In Favor 44 Opposed 0

RULING ELDERS:	
<u>John</u>	
<u>Charles Covington</u>	
<u>Paul Johnson</u>	
<u>Charles Covington</u>	

Margaret Buschman	Kirsten Hester
Don Griffin	Quintana Martin
Ruby Anderson	Bobby Aguirre
David W	Laurie Patterson
Toni K. Zell	Juni Smith
Katie Knight	Carla Watten
Bob C	Justin Watten
Edie Henderson	Jan Reedy
Hessie Johnson	Pat P.
Jane Patterson	Barbara F.
Katy Patterson	Maria Yarbey
Rogan Potts	Elizabeth H. Gordon
Dwight Potts	Shirley P.
Mike P	
Hyle Patterson	
Don Hester	
Dawn Hester	
DEACONS:	
Bobby Joe Reedy	
Samuel Knight	
Ann Potts	
Barf Aguirre	



A CALL
From
Mississippi Valley Presbytery

**ASSOCIATE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

**CALL FOR Rev. Howard Wheeler as Mission
Explorer for Little Rock, AR**

We the officers and members of Mississippi Valley Presbytery of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, being well satisfied with your ministerial qualifications, and confident that we have been led to you by the Holy Spirit as one whose ministry will be profitable to our spiritual interest, do earnestly call you Rev. Howard Wheeler to undertake the call as Mission Explorer for Little Rock, AR.

On the acceptance of this our call we promise you in the discharge of your duty all proper support, encouragement and obedience in the Lord. Your responsibilities to the Presbytery include but are not limited to: preaching the Word, administering the sacraments and performing the duties of a Mission Explorer.

That you may devote yourself to the Ministry of the Word as a Pastor and as you begin your ministry on the 1st day of January 2017, we promise and obligate ourselves to provide the Basic compensation:

MVP Pastoral Support	Amount
Salary	\$36,000.00
Health Insurance	\$0.00
Housing Allowance	\$12,000.00
SS Allowance	\$2,700.00
Retirement	\$6,084.00
Term Life & Disability	\$388.68
Subtotal	\$57,172.68

Ministry Expenses	Amount
Office Expense/Resources	\$2,000.00
Facilities	\$10,000.00
Internet	\$1,000.00
Cell	\$900.00
Promotion	\$3,500.00
Mileage Reimbursement	\$5,400.00
Education	\$1,000.00
Subtotal	\$23,800.00

Funding	Amount
2017 Mission Expense	\$80,972.68
2017 ONA Synod Funds	-\$18,000.00
Anonymous Gift for Little Rock	-\$30,000.00
MVP Support	\$32,972.68

Appendix N

Pottsville Pastoral Support	Amount
Salary	\$30,000.00
Health Insurance	\$14,541.12
Housing Allowance	\$0.00
SS Allowance	\$3,340.58
Retirement	\$5,310.00
Term Life & Disability	\$360.36
Subtotal	\$53,552.06

Howards time will be spent as follows

Location	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Pottsville	Half day			All Day	All Day		Half day
Little Rock	Half day	All Day	All Day			All Day	Half Day

Presbytery provides the cost of Life, Long Term Disability and Accidental Death coverage provided by and as required by the General Synod. {Required if works 30 hours per week or more}

Review with you annually the adequacy of this compensation. As part of the review the Presbytery shall be encouraged to consider an increase to the previous year's base compensation.

Grant you an annual vacation of 4 weeks.

Expenses for the meeting of General Synod.

Time for study and participation in Synod's ONA Training.

In the event of total disability, as defined in the Synod's insurance program, we promise:

To continue for a minimum of three months the provisions of this call awaiting commencement of benefits from Synod's insurance program.

In the event you should die during the terms of this call, we promise: To continue the provisions of this call dealing with annual salary, housing, and group insurance for your immediate family for a minimum of three months.

ALL OFFICIAL CALLS BY PRESBYTERY POSITIONS MUST BE SIGNED BY: All members of the Committee issuing the call and Pastors and Ruling Elders present. (See Attachment)

John Tucker

Mike Yarman

Troy Graham

Milton Murphy

Carl Patterson

"Exalt the Lord our God, and worship at his holy mountain; for the Lord our God is holy!"

*** ASSISTING IN THE SERVICE TODAY ***

5:30 PM INSTALLATION SERVICE FOR ROBERT WHITE August 14, 2016

THE DEVOTIONAL PRELUDE Silent Prayer & Meditation
THE PROCESSIONAL

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP Pastor & Congregation

*THE HYMN #103 (All) Holy God, We Praise Your Name

THE INVOCATION Rev. Michael Yarman

THE WELCOME

THE WORDS FROM THE MODERATOR Mr. Charles Browning

THE QUESTIONS FOR INSTALLATION Rev. Kent Moorlach

THE CHARGE TO THE PASTOR Rev. Joey Donahue

THE CHARGE TO THE CONGREGATION Mr. David Strook

THE PRAYER

THE HYMN #469 (All) How Sweet and Awesome Is The Place

THE SCRIPTURE Colossians 3: 12-17

THE SERMON Dr. William Graham McClain

THE RECEPTIONAL

*THE BENEDICTION Rev. Robert White

THE POSTLUDE

* Congregation stands

Rev. Michael Yarman:
Chaplain (LTC) USA (ret) Mike Yarman was ordained to the Gospel ministry in 1987 in the ARP and served as pastor of the Cleveland St. ARP Church in New Albany, MS from 1987-1990 and then served as a U.S. Army Chaplain from 1990-2012 serving in Bosnia, Iraq, and Afghanistan, as well as Germany, Japan and Ft. Bragg, N.C. CH Yarman now lives in Edgemont, AR and is involved with helping Tennessee Alabam Presbytery plant churches, and serves on the Board of World Witness. His wife Linda serves in ministry to women in the local area, and they have two sons, Michael Jr. And Stephen.

Mr. Charles Browning:
Charles is a Builder by Trade and a Ruling Elder at Hopewell ARP Church in New Albany, MS. He is the current Moderator of the Mississippi Valley Presbytery of ARP.

Rev. Kent Moorlach:
is the teaching elder at Richland ARP Church in Rosemark, TN., and the Chairman of the Mississippi Valley Presbytery's Minister and His Work Committee.

Rev. Joey Donahue:
Born and raised in Atlanta, Ga. Grew up in the Doraville ARP Church. Attended Columbia Bible College from 1975-1977. Began RTS in 77 and graduated without honors in 1981. Ordained in Second Presbytery in June of 1981 . . . served the Oak Ridge ARP Church in Lancaster county S.C. from 1981 - 1984 . . . have served the Providence Church since 1985.

Mr. David Strook:
Graduated Hamlet High 1954 and Erskine College 1958 AB Chemistry. Joined ARP in Bartow, FL 1968. United with Memphis ARP (later Westminster) 1966 and Providence 1999. Presently an elder and clerk of session at Providence.

Dr. William McClain:
is a retired ARP pastor having been ordained by the Tennessee/Alabama Presbytery in 1987. He served churches for twenty-two years, but now serves with Evangelism Explosion, Intl. as a representative to South Florida churches. He and his wife of forty years, Barbara, have four children and five grandchildren. A native of Kentucky, he received his B.S. degree from Ohio State University, his M.Div. degree from Reformed Theological Seminary, and his D.Min. degree from Knox Theological Seminary.

Everyone is invited to a reception in the Fellowship Hall following the service.

Appendix P

ONA Mississippi Valley Presbytery September 20, 2016

The ONA Committee of the MVP met by teleconference at 7:00pm, CDT, September 20, 2016. Present were: Chairman, Rev. John Tucker, Mr. Milton Murphy, Mr. Troy Graham, Rev. Mike Yarman, Rev. Howard Wheeler. Mr. Carl Patterson was unable to attend. The meeting opened with prayer offered by Rev. Mike Yarman.

The Committee began discussion with discussion regarding approval of Rev. Wheeler as a Mission Explorer to begin work of developing a mission church in Little Rock, Arkansas. Rev. Tucker reported to the committee that Rev. Wheeler had gone through the process of Church Planter Assessment and had been provisionally approved. The committee discussed salary and other expenses required to support Rev. Wheeler as Mission Explorer for the first year, 2017. The following call was proposed:

MVP Pastoral Support	Amount
Salary	\$36,000.00
Health Insurance	\$0.00
Housing Allowance	\$12,000.00
SS Allowance	\$2,700.00
Retirement	\$6,084.00
Term Life & Disability	\$388.68
Subtotal	\$57,172.68

In addition, there would be ministry expenses of approximately:

Ministry Expenses	Amount
Office Expense/Resources	\$2,000.00
Facilities	\$10,000.00
Internet	\$1,000.00
Cell	\$900.00
Promotion	\$3,500.00
Mileage Reimbursement	\$5,400.00
Education	\$1,000.00
Subtotal	\$23,800.00

Rev. Tucker noted the following regarding funding for the Little Rock work in the first year:

Funding	Amount
2017 Mission Expense	\$80,972.68
2017 ONA Synod Funds	-\$18,000.00
Anonymous Gift for Little Rock	-\$30,000.00
MVP Support	\$32,972.68

Appendix P

Rev. Wheeler will continue to provide pastoral ministry to the Pottsville ARP Church and would continue the support of his call as follows:

<u>Pottsville Pastoral Support</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Salary	\$30,000.00
Health Insurance	\$14,541.12
Housing Allowance	\$0.00
SS Allowance	\$3,340.58
Retirement	\$5,310.00
Term Life & Disability	\$360.36
Education Allowance	
Subtotal	\$53,552.06

Rev. Tucker also discussed the need for Rev. Wheeler to have the support of a Church Planting Mentor and Monitor. Rev. Tucker recommended that we approach Rev. Steve Sanford, a retired PCA church planter, to fill this role and approve some honorarium in support of this effort.

Rev. Wheeler was recused as the committee discussed whether to move that he be approved to begin this work. Upon completion of the discussion, Rev. Wheeler was recalled. The Committee moved that Rev. Wheeler be approved as a Mission Explorer to begin January 1, 2017 to determine the feasibility of planting an ARP Church in Little Rock, AR. The Committee approved funding the call and ministry related expenses as detailed above.

The Committee then began discussion regarding the proposal for funding an internship for Mr. Josh Walker at a PCA Church in Gilbert, AZ, pursuant to replanting an ARP Church at that location. Following discussion it was decided that, despite a consensus that such an internship is valuable, the committee would need a clear proposal of the internship that would include a detailed list of specific responsibilities and a clear definition of how his work would be assessed and reported to MVP. It was agreed that the committee will define the terms of such an internship before the Spring meeting of MVP in order to formalize an internship agreement.

The Committee reviewed the following report from Redeemer Community Church.

Report from Redeemer Church

Murray, KY

We currently have approximately \$45,000 in our bank account. We feel blessed to have those resources, as we have a small group of families. The summer months have been tough for attendance. We have had some visitors but with people away on vacation we have only averaged around 20 people. We've spent a great deal of time in the past 3 months working on refining our vision and also studying church planting together. Each Sunday we have a meal together after our service for fellowship and extended time with guests.

Appendix P

Mike's preaching has been great. We are working through the Gospel of John. In Sunday school, we've been studying church planting and on the weeks we skip that we are continuing our study in the Larger Catechism.

Our Wednesday morning men's ministry continues to go well. We are studying the book of Hebrews and have at various times had 50 unique souls at this study.

Prayer requests from an elder: pray for a meeting I am trying to set up with 2 families who are really interested in what we are doing. One is a guy I've been mentoring and his family. He owns a construction company, we do some business together, and he's met with me once to discuss this and would like to again. Another is a gentleman who is a new college professor and his family. He has some good theological background. He's come to the bible study may be interested in attending with us.

Andy French

The committee next discussed Church revitalization. It was recommended that MVP increase the amount of grants for revitalization conference attendance to \$1000 to include conference registration, lodging, food, and spousal attendance. Pastors wishing to receive these grants must request approval from the ONA chairman prior to submitting requests for reimbursement.

The committee proposed that we purchase for each pastor copies of "Preaching" by Tim Keller and "9 Marks of a Healthy Church" by Mark Dever. This proposal was approved by consensus.

Rev Tucker reported that he had met with Steve Rice of the Hernando Church and they discussed the situation in the Hernando Church and he recommended that the Hernando Church be involved in a revitalization program and the presbytery would assist.

Rev Tucker recommend the From Embers to a Flame Conference in Birmingham at Briarwood PCA Church. Birmingham, Alabama • January 19–22, 2017 for any Church seeking revitalization.

Fanning the Flame

They also offer a 14 month coaching ministry Fanning the Flame (FTF) which is built upon the ten strategies of biblical church health taught in the Embers to a Flame Conference. FTF is not a "program," it is a commitment by a church's leadership to continually seek to be a more healthy church. This is a lifelong journey. It is NOT something we can engage in for a season confident that we have arrived. It is a marathon, not a sprint.

The Japanese have a word for this, "Kaizen." It means having a heart for a continuous, unflagging commitment to incremental improvement. Just so, God's Word consistently calls us to be faithful, constant and obedient; in other words, we are to "... run with endurance the race that lies before us."

Appendix P

In order to accomplish this, we will diligently seek to achieve three major objectives through the FTF process:

- A review of all ten strategies for authentic biblical church health. We will explore all ten strategies and find ways, where appropriate, to "drip" them down into the life of the church. The goal, at the end of our journey, is to make sure that the leadership of the church has a thorough grasp on the essentials of the ten strategies.
- Drive down prayer as the most critical and essential element in the DNA of a local church. Martin Luther said that "prayer is the daily business of the Christian." John Calvin said "We see that nothing is set before us as an object of expectation from the Lord which we are not enjoined to ask of Him in prayer." John Wesley said, "There is nothing without prayer.... " Prayer is a constant focus throughout the 14 month period.
- After taking a church health survey and discovering the area that you need to address first, we will then develop a strategy to help you address the particular needs of that area. This process of identifying the area and then working on correcting the weakness is a lifelong process that you should make a part of the fabric of your church as you seek incremental improvement toward health.

Rev. Tucker requested that the Committee include the following report on the refugee crisis in our report to MVP.

The International Refugee Opportunity

One in every 113 people in the world is displaced or a refugee.” (Euronews, 6/20/16)

While not each of the 63 million refugees worldwide will be resettled in North America, some will. These are families originating from countries like Estonia and Burma and are often Christian families escaping persecution from Muslim or Hindu majorities. Others are political and war refugees who were caught in the ferocity of wars breaking out around them. However they may have become a refugee, what matters most is that each one is a person made in the image of our Creator.

At the 212th meeting of the General Synod of the ARPC, the Boards of World Witness and Outreach North America were asked to work together in joint ministry in the USA and Canada to meet the needs of these disenfranchised people as they arrive in our neighborhoods. We are excited to now share with you the next step in accomplishing this goal!

While acknowledging that immigration is a sensitive topic for many of our members and congregations, we recognize the Lord’s repeated call in Scripture to have compassion for the foreigner and the vulnerable. With that scriptural mandate, as well as the Synod’s support, ONA has created a full time ministry position to help our churches address the particular ministry opportunity presented to us by international refugees located in the USA and Canada. Our Refugee Ministry Coordinator (RMC) will be a full time staff person, based in Greenville, and available to all of our churches and presbyteries. Strategically, the primary goal of the RMC is to facilitate a two pronged ministry to refugees that every ARP church can implement: a ministry of helps and of words.

Ministry of Words

Ministry of Helps

Includes various means of service to refugee families through welcoming and hospitality. The RMC will help your congregation identify and equip volunteers to be the hands and feet of Christ through:

- befriending refugee families,
- helping to setup and furnish apartments,
- assisting in the cultural transition that refugees experience coming to a new country.

A longer term English as a Second Language (ESL) training program that gives your church the opportunity to give practical help to refugees as they learn their new language. Through ESL programs, ARPC congregations and individuals will be able to have weekly contact with refugees in the area. The RMC will be equipped to:

- train and resource your ESL volunteers,
- help you set up your program and facilities
- help you get the word out through the local NGO’s and refugee community that you are offering ESL services.

In August, after much prayer and guidance, the executive board of ONA voted unanimously to offer the position of Refugee Ministry Coordinator to Miss Elinor Griffin. Elinor, a recent graduate of Erskine College, has a passion for refugee ministry. She interned at World Relief in South Carolina as well as the International Rescue Committee in Baltimore. She has done mission work in Ethiopia and the UK, as well as ministering directly to refugees in Greece. Elinor will be joining the staff of ONA for a “trial” period of one year. She will spend an average of two weeks per month in Greenville where she will contact our churches and the local refugee ministries and

Appendix P

NGO's (non-government offices) to coordinate logistics and plan a refugee ministry for ARP churches in an area. She will also spend two weeks per month on the road working with churches across the Synod to assist congregation members in implementing the program at their church. If you would like to have Elinor work with your church to build a refugee ministry, please contact the ONA office.

We firmly believe that the current refugee crisis is a Gen. 50:20 moment. "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives." While we mourn the violence, danger, and threats that are forcing millions of refugees to flee their homes in search of safety, we praise of sovereign God for bringing the "afflicted and storm-tossed ones" (Isaiah 54:11) to us and giving us this opportunity to reach them with the love of Christ Jesus. Throughout Scripture and history, the Lord has used the movement of people for His purposes. We believe He is bringing those who don't yet know Him to a place where they are able to learn more of Him, be welcomed and served by His people, and to come to follow Him. We must position ourselves to choose to respond positively and with Godly enthusiasm to the call of Jesus who said, "I was a stranger and you welcomed me." Therefore, we urge much prayer as we proceed, praying specifically that the Lord will enable us to see each person – whatever their country of origin or immigration status – primarily as one who is made in the image of God, and one for whom Christ died. We pray that partisan discourse would not in any way blind us to this remarkable opportunity the Lord has set before His church in North America.

ONA is excited to offer this opportunity of ministry to every church in the ARPC!

The Committee agreed to meet at 4:00pm, Monday, October 3 at Richland ARP Church.

The Committee closed with prayer offered by Mr. Milton Murphy.

Recommendations:

1. That MVP extend a call to Rev. Howard Wheeler as a Mission Explorer to develop a mission work in Little Rock, Arkansas. See attached call.
2. That MVP approve a budget of \$12,400 for ministry expenses related to the development of a mission work in Little Rock, Arkansas.
3. That MVP increase the amount of grants for MVP pastors to attend a revitalization conference from \$700 to \$1000 to include conference registration, lodging, food, and spousal attendance.

**ONA Mississippi Valley Presbytery
October 3, 2016**

The Committee met at 4:00pm, October 3, 2016 at Richland ARP Church, Rosemark, TN. Present were Chairman, Rev. John Tucker, Mr. Milton Murphy, Mr. Troy Graham, and Rev. Mike Yarman.

The meeting was opened with prayer offered by Mr. Milton Murphy.

Rev. Wheeler presented the minutes of the ONA Meeting from September 20, 2016.

The committee reviewed the call approved at the previous meeting for Rev. Wheeler to serve as Mission Explorer in Little Rock, Arkansas. The Committee approved the call, amended to remove the line item regarding paying for expenses to attend Synod, as these are provided by the Pottsville ARP Church.

The committee reviewed a draft proposal for a Church Planting internship, specifically related to Dr. Josh Walker, a candidate for MVP Mission Developer. The committee offered specific recommendations. The committee agreed to continue to refine the details of the proposed internship to be implemented in 2017.

The committee discussed several proposals related to church revitalization, including the possibility of developing a revitalization conference in Memphis, during 2017.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer.

Recommendations:

1. That Presbytery approve the proposed call to Rev. Wheeler to serve as Mission Explorer for Little Rock, Arkansas.
2. That Presbytery encourage all pastors to read the free books related to revitalization provided by ONA at this meeting.
3. That Presbytery encourage all pastors to attend a Revitalization Conference during 2017 and take advantage of the \$1000 grants provide for pastors and their wives.
4. That all churches who desire revitalization and have a plan, apply for Synod's Dare to Dream Grants.
5. That Presbytery encourage churches that need revitalization to engage the ONA Committee for assessment and assistance.

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 due to called meeting of Synod*)
- 2011 – Hopewell, Providence Reformed
- 2012 – French Camp, Brighton
- 2013 – Graceview, New Albany
- 2014 – Ellisville, Gospel of Grace
- 2015 – French Camp, Providence
- 2016 – Hopewell, Richland
- 2017 – Gum Tree, Graceview
- 2018 – Salem

OFFICERS OF MISSISSIPPI VALLEY PRESBYTERY

- Moderator:** Mr. Charles Browning
110 Magnolia, New Albany, MS 38652
(C) 662-539-1485
(E) *hammerpecker@icloud.com*
(Spring 2017)
- Vice-Moderator:** Rev. Alex Coblentz
One Fine Place, French Camp, MS 39745.
(H) 662-547-6520
(C) 803-984-0678
(E) *alexcoblentz@gmail.com*
(Spring 2017)
- Principal Clerk:** Rev. Tim Phillips
57 Church St., Brighton, TN 38011
(O) 502-491-0269
(C) 901-451-7892
(E) *tjparp@gmail.com*
(Spring 2019)
- Reading Clerk:** Rev. Joseph Donahue
5444 Stage Road, Bartlett, TN 38134
(H) 901-386-5467
(O) 901-388-5885
(C) 901-287-9118
(E) *providencereform@bellsouth.net*
(Fall 2017)
- Treasurer:** Mr. John M. Robinson
1568 Sunflower Circle, Tupelo, MS 38801
(H) 662-840-8095
(C) 662-401-9934
(E) *johnr1568@att.net*
(December 2017)
- Parliamentarian:** Rev. Benjamin Glaser
East Ivy Street, Ellisville, MS 39437
(O) 601-477-3086
(C) 601-577-1359
(E) *pastor@ellisvillepres.org*
(Fall 2018)

STANDING COMMITTEES OF MISSISSIPPI VALLEY PRESBYTERY

Christian Education Ministries

Rev. Joey Donahue, Chairman (2017)
 Mr. Jerry Lyons (2017)
 Rev. Mark Miller (2018)
 Mr. Charles Browning (2018)
 Rev. Alex Coblentz (2019)
 Mr. John Moore (2019)

Minister and His Work

Rev. Kent Moorlach, Chairman (2018)
 Rev. Benjamin Glaser (2017)
 Mr. John Robinson (2017)
 Mr. Randy Goulder (2018)
 Rev. Don Watkins (2019)
 Mr. Larry Littlejohn (2019)
 Rev. Mike Chipman (2020)
 Mr. Shelby Lowery (2020)

Nominations

Rev. Gary Jones, Chairman (2019)
 Mr. Carl Patterson (2017)
 Rev. Tim Phillips (2018)
 Mr. David Strock (2020)

Outreach North America

Rev. John Tucker, Chairman (2017)
 Rev. Howard Wheeler (2017)
 Mr. Troy Graham (2019)
 Mr. Carl Patterson (2019)
 Rev. Mike Yarman (2020)
 Mr. Milton Murphy (2020)

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 Rev. Joey Donahue (2017)
 Rev.. John Tucker (2017)
 Rev. Kent Moorlach (2018)
 Mr. John Robinson – *Ex Officio*

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 Mr. Russell McDaniel
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 Dunlap: Rev. Bill Everett (2019)
 Exec. Board: Mr. Carl Patterson (2017)
 MaHW: Rev. Kent Moorlach (2018)
 Nom.: Rev. Tim Phillips (2018)
 ONA: Rev. John Tucker (2017)
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 Brad Robinson (Mid-America Reformed)

Missionaries

Jodie Gaston

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 Rev. Ron Brunson (retired missionary)
 Rev. Meredith Cavin
 Rev. Conrad Cheatham
 Rev. James Coad III (retired missionary)
 Rev. Bill Everett
 Rev. Michael Garvey
 Rev. Carl Geisik
 Rev. Troy Pritt
 Rev. Wayne Stanchfield
 Rev. Mike Yarman (retired chaplain)

Churches Served by Stated Supplies

Bethany: none
Ebenezer: Randy Kolb
Elsberry and Mt. Zion: Rev. Conrad Cheatham
Helena: Rev. Leslie Rhodes
Hickory Springs and Wood Avenue: Rev. Mike Garvey
Hopewell: Rev. Bill Everett
Redeemer Community Church: Rev. Mike Chipman

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MISSISSIPPI VALLEY PRESBYTERY DIRECTORY

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

Braithwaite, Thomas E., 1937 Croydon Circle, Birmingham, AL 35235. 205-854-7575 (H)
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)
ronlbrunson@gmail.com

Bunner, Charles, 2387 Hwy N, Foristell, MO 63348. *cbunner@centurytel.net*

Cavin, Meredith, 79 South Main St., Brighton, TN 38011. 901-476-9315 (H) 901-476-7233
(O) 803-242-3530 (C) *cavinrev@bellsouth.net*

Chan, Moises, 214 S Slay St, PO Box 219, Havana, AR 72842-0219. 479-476-2110 (H)
479-518-1438 (C) *havanaarpc@yahoo.com*

Cheatham, Conrad, 201 B Maple Street, Elsberry, MO 63343-1604. 573-898-5655 (H)
okete12000@sbcglobal.net

Chipman, Mike, *mikechipman37@gmail.com*

Click, Charles, PO Box 187, Brighton, TN 38011. 901-476-1718.

Clowers, Gary, 901-461-7171 (C), *Clowersclan@xipline.com*

Coad, James, III, 530 N. Highland Lake Road, Flat Rock, NC 28731. 864-344-7734 (C)
jimcoad3g@hotmail.com

Coblentz, Alex, One Fine Place, French Camp, MS 39745. 662-547-6520 (H) 803-984-0678
(C) *alexcoblentz@gmail.com*

Covington, Charles, 662-869-2948 (C), *charles.covington@leecountyschools.us*

Davenport, Fred, c/o French Camp Academy, One Fine Place, French Camp, MS 39745.
662-582-0500. *fdavenport@frenchcamp.org*

Dees, Ed and Martha, 1020 County Road 141, Blue Mountain MS 38610-9605. 662-534-
3514, *mbdees@hotmail.com*

Donahue, Joseph, 3545 Jenny Ln, Bartlett, TN 38135. 901-386-5467 (H) 901-388-5885 (O)
901-287-9118 (C) *providencereform@bellsouth.net*

Appendix T

Everett, Bill, 604 Valley View Dr, PO Box 906, New Albany, MS 38652. 662-534-7063 (H) 662-266-3610 (C) *wbeverett@gmail.com*

Garvey, Mike, 120 E Ross St, Monticello, AR 71655. 870-367- 3130 (H) *michael.owlman1940@sbcglobal.net*

Gaston, Jodie, *jodiegaston@gmail.com, Jodie.Gaston@gemission.org*

Geisik, Carl, 85 Woodstone Rd, Rockaway, NJ 07866. 973-627-2720 (H) *paca3738@peoplepc.com*

Glaser, Benjamin, 201 East Ivy Street, Ellisville, MS 39437, 601-477-3086 (O), 601-577-1359 (C), *pastor@ellisvillepres.org*

Green, Wilmot, P.O. Box 911, Warren, AR 71671. *wilmot.green@att.net*

Goulder, Randy, Rt. 2, Box 434-A, Brighton, TN 38011. 901-317-8556.

Heathman, Matthew, 080-2701-7732 (Duty Cell). 011-81-80-2701-7732 (Cell from U.S.). 315-255-3628 (DSN). *Matthew.heathman@usmc.mil*

Jones, Gary, 1367 Hwy 51 North, Nesbit, MS 38651. 662-920-8218 (C) *nesbpglj@gmail.com*

Littlejohn, Larry, One Fine Place, French Camp MS 39745. 662-816-9419 (C). *llittlejohn@frenchcamp.org*

Miller, Mark, 1304 S. Central Ave., New Albany, MS 38652. 662-534-6060 (O) 662-317-0496. *preachermark@outlook.com*

Mitchell, Bob, 2300 Fite Rd, Memphis, TN 38127. 901-353-2542, *rmitch10@bellsouth.net*

Moore, John, 1840 Woodlawn, Brighton, TN 38011 901-218-0628 (C). *jdiskmoore@bellsouth.net*

Moore, Richard, 2491 Nelson Rd, Brighton, TN 38011. 901-592-9074 (C). *porkie1@bellsouth.net*

Moorlach, Kent, 8658 Rosemark Rd, Millington TN 38053. 901-829-4105 (O). *kmoorlach@gmail.com*

Patterson, Carl, 670 CR 1460, Tupelo, MS 38804. 662-231-0073. *carlpcycle@yahoo.com*

Appendix T

Phillips, Tim, 57 Church St., Brighton, TN 38011. 901-476-7233 (O) 901-451-7892 (C), *tjparp@gmail.com*

Pitman, Scott, 901-553-4682 (C); *spitman@pitmanglass.com*

Pritt, Troy, 32 Pinewood Dr, Warren, AR 71671-9563. 870-226-2903 (H) *pritt.troy@att.net*

Regen, Kerry, 8786 Old Memphis Rd, Atoka, TN 38004. 901-626-6466 (H). 901-626-2525 (C) *regkb@aol.com*

Robinson, Brad, 1008 Harrison Ave., Apt. 5B, Dyer, IN 46311. 812-820-4611 (C). *robinsonb10@alumni.hanover.edu*

Robinson, John, 1568 Sunflower Circle, Tupelo, MS 38801, 662-840-8095 (H), 662-401-9934 (C), *johnr1568@att.net*

Schiebout, Zech, 2025 S. Link Ave, Springfield, MO 65804. 417-886-2129. *pastor@gospelofgracechurch.com*

Scott, John, 1238 Marshall Rd.. Brighton, TN 38011, 901-581-4780, *jscott@rebelmail.net*.

Snodgrass, Marshall, 834 Country View Road, Seymour, MO 65746, 417-655-2065 (C), *mtsnodgrassdds@gmail.com*

Stanchfield, Wayne, 400 Murphy Subdivision Rd, Stearns, KY 42647. 606-376-3650 (H) *wstanchfield@highland.net*

Storment, David, 512 Brewer Ave, Leakesville, MS 39451. 601-349-9683 (H), 601-394-2170 (O). *dmstorment@tds.net*

Strock, David, 2822 Morning Woods Dr, Cordova, TN 38016. 901-377-9263. *abc240z@hotmail.com*

Thomason, Mike, 901-848-9887 (C) *tbarfarms@rittermail.com*

Todd, Charles, *charlesandjudy@bigriver.net*

Tucker, John, 330 Clarington St, Southaven, MS 38671. 662-393-4082 (H) 662-349-0133 (O) 901-921-3523 (C). *jtucker51@gmail.com*

Watkins, Don, 354 Oakcrest Dr, Paducah, KY 42001. 270-554-0573 (H) 270-564-2949 (C) *pastordonwatkins@gmail.com*

Appendix T

Wheeler, Howard, 47 E Ash St, PO Box 318, Pottsville, AR 72858-0318. 479-890-6250 (H)
479-970-1384 (C) *pottsvillearp@centurytel.net*

White, Robert, 6749 Henredon Dr, Memphis, TN 38115. 901-366-7838 (H)

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

Ebenezer

Ellisville

Elsberry

French Camp

Hopewell

Mt. Zion

New Geneva

Pottsville

Providence Reformed

Redeemer

Richland