

**The Minutes
Of
Mississippi Valley Presbytery**

General Synod of the
Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church



**Spring Stated Meeting
March 6-7, 2017**

Gum Tree Presbyterian Church
Tupelo, Mississippi

CONTENTS

Proceedings of Spring Stated Meeting, March 6-7, 2017 (Gum Tree Presbyterian Church, Tupelo, MS)

Appendix A	Order of Worship and Meeting Agenda
Appendix B	Report from Moderator's Committee on Stated Supplies
Appendix C	Stewardship Report
Appendix D	Treasurer's Report
Appendix E	Report from Nominations Committee
Appendix F	Report from Havana Commission
Appendix G	Report Minister and His Work Committee
Appendix H	Report from Christian Education Committee
Appendix I	Report from ONA Committee
Appendix J	Letter of Recommendation from Richland Session
Appendix K	Recent Ordination and Installation Services
Appendix L	Presentation Materials from CEM on Child Protection
Appendix M	Host Churches of Stated Meetings of Mississippi Valley Presbytery
Appendix N	Officers of Mississippi Valley Presbytery
Appendix O	Standing Committees of Mississippi Valley Presbytery
Appendix P	Directory

Schedule for Review of Minutes of Sessions

PROCEEDINGS
MISSISSIPPI VALLEY PRESBYTERY
Gum Tree Presbyterian Church
Tupelo, Mississippi

Spring Stated Meeting
March 6-7, 2017

The registration of delegates began at 4 p.m. Following an evening meal provided by the host church at 6 p.m., the Spring 2017 Stated Meeting of Mississippi Valley Presbytery began at 7 p.m. with an opening worship service led by Rev. Charles Covington, the pastor of the Gum Tree Presbyterian Church (see **Appendix A**). Mr. Christopher Neiswonger preached a sermon from 1 Corinthians 2:2 entitled “To Know Nothing But Christ.” Rev. Covington led 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. Charles Covington welcomed the presbytery to the meeting.

The principal clerk confirmed that a quorum was present.

Ministers Present

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

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

Elders Present

Bethany – David Frazier	Hickory Springs – none
Brighton – Richard Moore	Hopewell – Troy Graham
Ebenezer – Edwin Dees	Midlane Park – none
Ellisville – Michael Shotwell	Mt. Zion – none
Elsberry – none	New Albany – Butch Cullums
Faith – none	New Geneva – none
French Camp – Larry Littlejohn	Pottsville – none
Gospel of Grace – Paul Walley	Providence – David Strock
Graceview – Jack Anthony	Richland – Mike Thomason
Gum Tree – J.D. Loden	Salem – none
Helena – none	Sharon – none
Hernando – Steve Rice	Wood Avenue – none

Guests

Christopher Neiswonger, Carl Patterson, Milton Murphy, Julia Moore, Blaine Falkens, Joe Yerby, Harry Fitzgerald, Barbara Cheatham, Ron Pierce, Judi Hodges, Aaron Whitfield

Several guests were introduced by members of the court, including Judi Hodges of Christian Education Ministries.

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 principal clerk informed the presbytery that Revs. Moises Chan and David Storment had requested excused absences for the meeting.

The agenda of the meeting was presented to the presbytery (see **Appendix A**). The report was amended to allow Rev. Mike Yarman to speak briefly on Tuesday about the work of the Board of World Witness.

The Fall 2016 Minutes were adopted by the presbytery.

Under unfinished business, a report by the Moderator's Committee on Stated Supplies was presented to the presbytery by Rev. Mark Miller, the chairman of the committee (see **Appendix B**). A supplement to the report was also presented to the presbytery as an explanatory note to the list of questions included with the report. The recommendations from the report were approved and the report was adopted by the presbytery.

Mr. Charles Browning delivered the Retiring Moderator's Address. He spoke about the providential work of God in the presbytery and in his own life. He thanked the presbytery for allowing him to be moderator.

Mr. Browning then introduced Rev. Mark Miller, pastor of the New Albany Presbyterian Church, as Moderator of MVP. Rev. Miller appointed a committee to examine the records of sessions: David Strock (chair), Tim Phillips, Paul Walley, Mike Thomason, Charles Covington, Gary Jones, and Alex Coblentz.

Rev. Bill Letchworth, a cooperative missionary with World Witness, gave a presentation to the presbytery about his plans to enter the mission field among the native peoples of northern Canada. After the presentation, Moderator Miller called upon Rev. Mike Yarman to pray for Rev. Letchworth and his ministry.

There being no further business for the evening, the meeting recessed until the following morning. Rev. Bill Everett was called upon to close this portion of the meeting with prayer.

Tuesday Morning, March 7, 2017

The spring meeting of MVP reconvened at 8:00 a.m. with worship led by Rev. John Tucker. The presbytery sang, "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross." Mr. Larry Littlejohn was called upon to pray, and Rev. Tucker preached from Romans 1:16-17, on being gripped by the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Following worship, Moderator Miller called the business portion of the meeting to order and opened in prayer.

A vote on the proposed change to the *Form of Government* 5.11 was taken. The vote was 24 in favor and 1 against the proposed change.

The Stewardship Report was distributed to the presbytery (see **Appendix C**). Mr. Mike Thomason, chairman of the Stewardship Committee, made some brief comments about the report and thanked the presbytery for its commitment to stewardship. The report was received as information. There was a recommendation in the report to give \$3,000 to the ONA Committee for operating expenses. The recommendation passed.

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

Mr. Charles Browning was called upon by the Moderator to pray for churches in the presbytery that are struggling financially.

The report of the Nominations Committee was presented to the presbytery (see **Appendix E**). The report was amended to include Mr. Michael Shotwell, an elder at the Ellisville Presbyterian Church, to serve on the Minister and His Work Committee. The report was adopted as amended, and the recommendations were passed by the presbytery.

A report from the Havana Commission was presented to the presbytery (see **Appendix F**). After a few questions concerning the report were answered, the report was received as information.

The report of the Minister and His Work Committee was presented to the presbytery (see **Appendix G**). The report was received by the presbytery and each recommendation was considered separately. Recommendation 1 was passed, and Mr. Larry Littlejohn was called up to pray for David and Sarai Storment. A question was asked about the recommendation and the current situation of the Storments, and Rev. Kent Moorlach (Chairman of Minister and His Work) provided some information with regard to the question. Recommendation 2 was then considered. A question was asked about the recommendation, and the chairman responded to the question. The recommendation passed, and recommendations 3 and 4 also passed.

Recommendation 5 was considered and passed, and Mr. Christopher Neiswonger was called before presbytery to answer the questions provided for in the *Form of Government*. Mr. Neiswonger answered the questions satisfactorily, and was received as a Student of Theology by the presbytery. Mr. Neiswonger then received a brief exhortation from Moderator Miller, and the Moderator prayed for Mr. Neiswonger. Mr. Neiswonger also gave his testimony of faith in Jesus Christ and his sense of call to the ministry.

Recommendations 6 and 7 were also considered and passed.

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

Recess for Committee Meetings (10 a.m.)

Business resumed at 11 am with a presentation by Ms. Judi Hodges of Christian Education Ministries. The presentation was on "The Safety and Protection of Children" in the church. An online version of the presentation may be viewed by visiting <http://arpcem.org/training/training-videos/online-webinars>

The Moderator's Committee on Sessional Records report was presented orally to the presbytery. The following churches were examined without exceptions: Mt. Zion, Elsberry, New Albany, Sharon, Hernando, and Gospel of Grace. The following churches were examined with exceptions: Faith (no introductory page), Gum Tree (no signature on the congregational meeting on September 25, 2016), Graceview (no signatures on the February 21st and October 23rd meetings), Salem (signature missing on a meeting). The following churches did not submit their records for examination: Hickory Spring, Midlane Park, Wood Avenue, Helena. The report was received as information by the presbytery.

Mr. Carl Patterson presented an item of information from the Dunlap Commission. He asked for permission to utilize up to \$1,500 to cover expenses dealing with draining of a lagoon found on the property. This was received as a motion and was seconded and passed by the presbytery.

Rev. Alex Coblenz introduced Rev. David Dennis, a pastor with PCA credentials, to the presbytery.

The order of the day was reached, and Rev. Conrad Cheatham was asked to pray for the lunch meal.

Order of the Day (Lunch – noon)

Presbytery reconvened at 12:45 p.m. with a season of prayer. After the season of prayer, Moderator Mark Miller called the meeting to order with the a capella singing of Psalm 100 (“All People That on Earth Do Dwell”) and prayer.

The meeting resumed with considering one remaining item from the Minister and His Work Committee's report: recognizing the honorable retirement of the Reverend Don Watkins. The presbytery rose to honor Rev. Watkins, and he was given the right hand of fellowship by the principal clerk and the moderator. Reading Clerk Joey Donahue then prayed for Rev. Watkins.

The Christian Education Committee was presented to the presbytery (see **Appendix H**). Rev. Kent Moorlach also spoke about MVP summer camp to be held at French Camp, with the theme of “Walking in the Truth.” The recommendation on the report to approve a leadership conference in Fall 2017 was passed by the presbytery. A motion for the presbytery to set aside up to \$2,000 to fund the leadership conference was also made (seconded, passed). The report as amended was then adopted by the presbytery.

The report from the ONA Committee was presented to the presbytery (see **Appendix I**). Rev. Howard Wheeler gave a presentation on the progress of work of the River City church plant in Little Rock, Arkansas. After the presentation, Rev. Benjamin Glaser was called upon to pray for Rev. Wheeler and the River City/Little Rock mission. Rev. Mike Chipman also gave a brief report about the Redeemer church plant in Murray, Kentucky. Mr. Carl Patterson was called upon to pray for Redeemer and Rev. Chipman.

The recommendations from the January 31, 2017, meeting of the ONA Committee were then considered. All recommendations passed. A motion was made to change the name of the Little Rock mission to River City Reformed Presbyterian Church (seconded, passed).

The March 6, 2017 ONA Committee report was then presented. The recommendations from the report were considered and all passed. The report as a whole was then adopted by the presbytery.

The order the day was reached, and there was a short break.

The meeting reconvened at 2:50 pm, and Rev. Mike Yarman gave a brief oral report about the work of the Board of World Witness. Mr. Steve McCollum was asked to pray for Rev. Yarman and the work of World Witness.

The Nominations Committee notified the presbytery that Charles Browning had agreed to chair the Christian Education Committee and that his name was being recommended as chairman to the presbytery. The presbytery approved the recommendation.

The Moderator opened the floor for discussions regarding upcoming meetings of MVP. The following meeting locations had already been approved:

- Fall 2017, Graceview Presbyterian Church in Southaven, Mississippi
- Spring 2018, Salem Presbyterian Church in Atoka, Tennessee

A motion was made by Mr. Richard Moore that Brighton Presbyterian Church in Brighton, Tennessee, host the Fall 2018 meeting of MVP (seconded, passed).

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

After a few announcements, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting (seconded, passed). After the singing of Psalm 133 (“Christian Unity”), the Spring 2017 meeting of MVP was closed with prayer and the benediction by Rev. Miller.

Appendix A

Mississippi Valley Presbytery Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church

Spring Stated Meeting
Gum Tree Presbyterian Church
Tupelo, Mississippi
March 6-7, 2017

Opening Worship Service

Call to Worship – Psalm 47	Rev. Charles Covington
Invocation	Rev. Covington
*Hymn # 89	“The God of Abraham Praise”
Scripture Reading – 1 Corinthians 2:2	Rev. Covington
*Hymn # 91	“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”
Sermon	Mr. Christopher Neiswonger
<i>“To Know Nothing But Christ”</i>	
Prayer	Mr. Neiswonger
*Hymn	“In Christ Alone”
The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper	Rev. Charles Covington
*Hymn	“In Christ Alone”
*Benediction	Rev. Covington

*Congregation Standing

Spring 2017 Meeting Agenda Monday, March 6

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 Fall 2016 Minutes
Unfinished Business
 Report from Mod’s Committee on Stated Supplies
Retiring Moderator’s Address Mr. Charles Browning
Introduction of Moderator-Elect Rev. Mark Miller
Appointment of Mod’s Committee on Sessional Records
Presentation by Rev. Bill Letchworth, Cooperative
 Missionary with World Witness
Announcements
Closing Prayer

Tuesday, March 7

Breakfast	7 am
Morning Devotion	8 am
Rev. John Tucker	
Brief Recess	8:25-8:30 am
Business Resumes	8:30 am
Vote on Proposed Change to <i>Form of Government</i>	
Recess for Committee Meetings	10 am
Special Presentation by Ms. Judi Hodges, CEM	11 am
Lunch	Noon
Season of Prayer	12:45 pm
Business Resumes	1 pm
CEM Committee Report and Presentation	
Brief Recess	2:30 pm
Business Concludes	2:45 pm

Selection of Meeting Place for Fall 2018 Meeting
Reading and Adoption of Minutes
Announcements
The Singing of Psalm 133, “Christian Unity”
Adjournment with Prayer and Benediction

Report from Moderator's Committee on Stated Supplies

At the stated meeting of MVP in the Fall of 2015, a motion carried asking the Moderator to “appoint a committee to study criteria for men serving as stated supply in ARP congregations in MVP, as well as what functions they may fulfill...”

The Moderator appointed Revs. Mark Miller, Kent Moorlach, Tim Phillips, and Howard Wheeler to serve on this committee.

In the Spring of 2016, the committee presented a proposed amendment to the Rules of MVP with respect to the duties of the Committee on the Minister and His Work for oversight of stated supplies and the congregations they serve.

The amendment passed on a first reading at the stated Spring 2016 meeting. It passed on second reading – and consequently went into effect – at the Fall 2016 meeting.

At the Spring 2016 meeting, the committee requested an extension of its service in order to prepare sample exam questions that could be used by the Committee on the Minister and His Work. The extension was granted. A further extension was granted in the Fall of 2016.

With this report, the committee has completed its assignment.

The appendix contains the sample exam questions.

Please note that this will not go into effect as a required exam. It is to serve as a guideline for the Committee on the Minister and His Work. These questions do not include standard questions about issues such as the authority of Scripture, subscription to the Westminster Standards, creation, etc. It is understood that the Committee on the Minister and His Work will have its own questions and procedures, and that this ground is already covered. This is not intended to replace that committee's work, but rather to serve as a supplemental aid. The Committee on the Minister and His Work is required to examine candidates for stated supply. This is to help that committee fulfill its task.

For your convenience, the rationale for many of the questions is stated in italics in parentheses after the question. Obviously this is not to be part of the question as it is put to the examinee.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Miller for the committee

Recommendations

1. That the appendix (less the explanatory notes) be approved as a supplemental aid (not a required exam) for the Committee on the Minister and His Work.
2. That the Moderator's committee on stated supplies be dissolved.

Appendix

Supplemental Aid for the Committee on the Minister and His Work for Examining Stated Supplies

1. What does the statement found in 1 John 4:18 and 4:16, that God is love, have to do with the Trinity, and the image of God in man?
(Is the Trinity central to His understanding of God?)
2. What do you understand Colossians 2:11ff to teach about Christian Baptism?
(Does he hold and can he articulate our position on baptism?)
3. What is your understanding of the Sabbath day and its proper observance? If a church member who had grown neglectful of Sabbath observance protested that you had no right to “judge” or question him based on Colossians 2:16ff, how would you respond?
(Does he hold our view of the Sabbath?)
4. What do you understand 1 Corinthians 10:16, which states that the bread and cup are a “participation” or “communion” in the body and blood of Christ, to say about the nature of the Lord’s Supper?
(Does he hold our view of the real spiritual presence as opposed to real [physical] presence or memorialism?)
5. What is your understanding of the authorship of Numbers 12:3 (which says that Moses was more meek than anyone else) and Deuteronomy 34 (which records Moses’ death and burial), and how do they fit into your understanding of the authorship of the Pentateuch?
(Does he hold to Mosaic authorship and inerrancy? Is his understanding of inerrancy too simplistic?)
6. What is your understanding of the original text of 1 John 5:7? If the explicit Trinitarian reference is not original, how does that fit with your understanding of inerrancy? How would you answer the common skeptical argument that if 1 John 5:7 is removed there is no explicit statement of the Trinity in Scripture?
(Does he have any familiarity with the textual traditions and English translations? (not looking for a Greek scholar... or even a novice) Does he understand how the Trinity is taught in Scripture, and does he realize that if 1 John 5:7 is an interpolation, that they already had derived the Trinity from other Scriptures? Is he able to defend the faith?)
7. What do you understand Romans 5:18-19 to teach with respect to the obedience of Jesus?
(Does he hold to the Imputation of the Active Obedience of Jesus Christ? [looking for Federal Vision tendencies])
8. What do you understand 1 John 5:3 to say about the use of the law in the Christian life?
(Does he hold the third use of the law? Antinomian tendencies?)
9. What, if anything, do you understand Acts 20:28, which says that God purchased the church with His own blood, to teach about the Person of Jesus Christ?
(Is his Christology Chalcedonian? Make sure he has thought a lot about the Person of Christ.)
10. What do you understand Luke 24:27, 44-47 to teach about the nature of the Old Testament (and its implications for all Scripture), and how does that affect your own preaching?
(Is he Christocentric? Does he view the OT as Christian Scripture? Does he preach from the OT?)

[I am looking to make sure he is Christocentric rather than Christotelic, and I want to know if he is able to preach the Historico-Redemptive nature of Scripture – not just end up giving a topical sermon on a theme in the text.]

11. What implications would Jesus' rebuke of the Pharisees use of the Old Testament in John 5:39-40 have for Christian preaching today?
(Is he careful not to extract the benefits [eternal life, justification, sanctification, etc.] from coming to the Person of Christ?)
12. What is your understanding of "the Israel of God" in Galatians 6:16?
(Looking for dispensationalism)
13. What is your view of the following motifs in Revelation 20?
 - A. Binding of Satan (1-3) *(looking for dispensationalism and overly optimistic postmillennialism [i.e., federal vision])*
 - B. Thousand years (1-6) *(What is his view of the millennium?)*
 - C. First Resurrection (4-5) *(1. Two physical resurrections; 2. Believers' regeneration and authority in this life; or 3. The intermediate state?)*
 - D. Release of Satan (7ff) *(If he is postmillennialist, do his views accommodate the "great apostasy"?)*
14. Do you hold to the "eternal generation of the Son," and what do you understand that to mean.
15. Does the Son have any subordination or submission to the Father strictly in terms of their divine, intra-Trinitarian relations?
(I want to hear an unequivocal "NO.")
16. Are there conditions in the covenant of grace?
(While it is popular in some circles to say the covenant of grace is "unconditional," WCF 7.3 says that faith is a requirement. WLC 153 and WSC 85 state faith and repentance as requirements of escaping God wrath and curse.)
17. What is your understanding of the phrases "covenant of grace" and "new covenant?"
(Knowledge of covenant theology)
18. What is the significance of the date October 31, 1517?
19. One of the issues that led to the formation of the Associate Presbytery in Scotland in the early 1700s is sometimes called "The Free Offer of the Gospel." What is your understanding of that phrase and why is it important for today?
20. Who were Arius and Pelagius and why would knowing about them be important for the church today?
21. Why aren't you a Roman Catholic?
22. What is your understanding of 1 Timothy 2:11-12? Does it have any relevance for the church today?

Stewardship Report March 6, 2017

Presented by Mike Thomason Stewardship Chairman

Attached is the DM History for 2016 for the MVP churches. The year ended with \$98,786 positive, the highest since 2009, Synod received \$2,625,093 vs the budget of \$2,526,307. The December amount of \$297,420 was 11% of the budget, the highest monthly % since 2011.

Also our MVP churches did a great job paying their church dues for 2016. I know we are working hard to have all church pay their dues in a timely manner for 2017.

At the fall meeting of 2016 we approved the MVP budget for 2017. We discovered that no money for operating expenses were approved for ONA. The normal amount for ONA is \$3000 so the stewardship committee recommends that this amount be added to the 2017 budget.

Appendix C

ARP General Synod Denominational Ministry as of 12/31/16							
Presb	ID#	Name	2016 Pledge	Actual Pledge to Date	Dec - 100% of the year		Gifts in Arrears
					% of Pledge	Pledge Balance	
MSV	M010	Bethany ARP Church	-	1,100	0.0%	-	-
MSV	M020	Brighton Presbyterian Church	21,800	21,800	100.0%	-	-
MSV	M040	Ebenezer ARP Church	1,100	1,100	100.0%	-	-
MSV	M048	Ellisville Presbyterian Church, ARP	250	250	100.0%	-	-
MSV	M050	Elisberry ARP Church	1,200	1,200	100.0%	-	-
MSV	M053	Faith Presbyterian Church	600	800	133.3%	-	-
MSV	M054	French Camp Presbyterian Church	1,800	1,800	100.0%	-	-
MSV	M055	Graceview Presbyterian Church	6,000	6,000	100.0%	-	-
MSV	M056	Gospel of Grace Church	8,400	6,300	75.0%	2,100	-
MSV	M058	Gum Tree Presbyterian Church	1,500	1,500	100.0%	-	-
MSV	M065	Helena Presbyterian Church	-	-	0.0%	-	-
MSV	M067	Hernando Presbyterian Church	-	-	0.0%	-	-
MSV	M070	Hickory Spring ARP Church	900	900	100.0%	-	-
MSV	M080	Hopewell ARP Church	300	300	100.0%	-	-
MSV	M110	Midlane Park ARP Church	3,300	3,300	100.0%	-	-
MSV	M120	Mount Zion ARP Church	2,200	2,200	100.0%	-	-
MSV	M130	New Albany Presbyterian Church	10,000	10,000	100.0%	0	-
MSV	M133	New Geneva Community Church ARP	-	2,380	0.0%	-	-
MSV	M160	Pottsville ARP Church	-	3,000	0.0%	-	-
MSV	M170	Providence Reformed Presbyterian Church	1,000	1,000	100.0%	-	-
MSV	M180	Richland ARP Church	4,200	4,200	100.0%	-	-
MSV	M210	Salem Presbyterian Church	29,204	29,204	100.0%	-	-
MSV	M230	Sharon ARP Church	2,000	2,000	100.0%	-	-
MSV	M260	Wood Avenue Presbyterian Church	200	-	0.0%	200	-

1/18/2017

4:28 PM

DM as of 123116.xlsx

General Fund
Mississippi Valley Presbytery
For the Years Ended December 31, 2015 and 2016

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Balance January 1	\$ 83,731.61	\$ 174,623.77
Receipts:		
Assessments from Member Churches	\$ 14,520.00	\$ 13,870.00
Interest Income	310.14	41.85
Liquidation of Dunlap following Sale	49,503.04	
Collections on Dunlap Sale Note	6,705.09	
Closing of Covington's Bank Account	-	21,137.48
Total Receipts	\$ 71,038.27	\$ 35,049.33
Disbursements:		
Contribution to Christian Education Fund	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
Contribution to Dunlap Retirement Home/Foundation	10,000.00	2,200.00
Printing, Postage and Clerk's Travel and Stipend	1,122.92	572.59
Commission Expense-Leaksville	1,678.72	
Pulpit Supply-Leaksville	4,350.00	
Chaplain Fund to General Synod (\$100 was refunded in 2017)	200.00	
Transfer Covington Sale Proceeds to ONA Investment Funds	-	79,790.00
Loans to Dunlap	11,000.00	33,637.48
Appraisal Fee and Insurance paid for Dunlap	1,354.66	4,741.42
Total Disbursements	\$ 34,706.30	\$ 125,941.49
Excess Receipts (Disbursements)	\$ 36,331.97	\$ 90,892.16
Balance December 31	\$ 120,063.58	\$ 83,731.61
 General Fund Bank Accounts:		
Renasant Bank 2200123455	\$ 20,063.58	\$ 18,731.61
Bank of New Albany Certificate of Deposit	100,000.00	65,000.00
Total Bank Accounts	\$ 120,063.58	\$ 83,731.61

Schedule of Assessments Paid by Churches
 Mississippi Valley Presbytery
 For Year Ended December 31, 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	\$1,200.00
Gospel of Grace, Springfield, MO	\$0.00
Gum Tree, Tupelo, MS	\$710.00
Helena, Moss Point, MS	\$250.00
Hernando Reformed, Hernando, MS	\$200.00
Hickory Springs, AR	\$50.00
Hopewell, New Albany, MS	\$1,300.00
Midlane Park, Louisville, KY	\$300.00
Mt. Zion, Troy, MO	\$280.00
New Albany, MS	\$1,950.00
New Geneva, Paducah, KY	\$640.00
Pottsville, AR	\$300.00
Providence, Bartlett, TN	\$500.00
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>\$14,520.00</u>

Note: Churches in bold did no pay for 2016

22 of our 24 churches (92%) paid their assessments

Christian Education Fund Mississippi Valley Presbytery

For the Years Ended December 31, 2016 and 2015

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Balance January 1	\$ 5,846.07	\$ 4,049.34
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 (net of refund)	1,275.00	1,715.00
Total Receipts	<u>\$ 22,055.00</u>	<u>\$ 25,955.00</u>
Disbursements:		
Expenses of Summer Camp	\$ 17,423.00	\$ 21,068.41
Expenses of Fall Retreat	1,832.39	2,118.60
Camp Leadership retreat		388.00
Synod CEM Reimbursement (cancelled flight in 14/Workshop)		473.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	-	110.26
Total Disbursements	<u>\$ 19,255.39</u>	<u>\$ 24,158.27</u>
Excess Receipts over Disbursements	2,799.61	1,796.73
Balance December 31	<u>\$ 8,645.68</u>	<u>\$ 5,846.07</u>
Christian Education Bank Account:		
Bank of New Albany 162026003	<u>\$ 8,645.68</u>	<u>\$ 5,846.07</u>

Outreach North America Funds Mississippi Valley Presbytery

For the Year Ended December 31, 2016

	Church Revitalization	Church Planting	ARP Invest- ment Fund A	ARP Invest- ment Fund B
Balance January 1, 2016	<u>\$ 25,025.72</u>	<u>\$ 88,847.80</u>	<u>\$ 275,664.00</u>	<u>\$ 256,110.00</u>
Receipts:				
Contribution from Individual for Little Rock Work		\$ 12,000.00		
Collection on Covington Note from Sale		13,333.32		
Synod ONA Endowment for revitalization		\$1,907.00		
Interest Income		167.98		
Received from Ross Exploration (Havana Church)		296.66		
Total Receipts	<u>\$ 1,907.00</u>	<u>\$ 25,797.96</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Disbursements:				
Assessment Fees and Travel for Candidate		\$ 3,472.23		
Books for Church Revitalization	\$ 475.20	-		
Committee Meeting Expense	-	149.00		
Little Rock Church Plant Supply Pastor	-	3,750.00		
Total Disbursements	<u>\$ 475.20</u>	<u>\$ 7,371.23</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Excess Receipts (Disbursements)	<u>\$ 1,431.80</u>	<u>\$ 18,426.73</u>	<u>\$18,083.00</u>	<u>\$9,242.00</u>
Increase in Account Value For 2017			<u>\$293,747.00</u>	<u>\$265,352.00</u>
Balance December 31, 2016	<u>\$ 26,457.52</u>	<u>\$ 107,274.53</u>	<u>\$6.56%</u>	<u>\$3.61%</u>
Net Return on Investment Accounts				
ONA Accounts:				
	Totals			
Bank of New Albany 1620260-01 Checking	\$ 27,924.93			
Bank of New Albany 1620260-09 Money Marke	40,807.12			
Bank of New Albany Certificate of Deposit	65,000.00			
Total in Banks	<u>\$ 133,732.05</u>			
ARP Investment Fund A (Moderate)	\$ 293,747.00			
ARP Investment Fund B (Conservative)	265,352.00			
Total in Managed Accounts	<u>\$ 559,099.00</u>			
Total in all accounts	<u>\$ 692,831.05</u>			
Support Commitment for Little Rock for 2017	\$ 80,972.68			
Less Reimbursement from Synod	18,000.00			
Net Commitment from MVP	<u>\$ 62,972.68</u>			

Nominations Committee Report

The Nominations Committee conferred multiple times via email in January, February, and March of 2017.

Those who have agreed to serve on the various MVP Committees are listed below:

Position	Class of	Name
Christian Ed (minister)	2020	Meredith Cavin
Christian Ed (elder)	2020	Bruce Hosket
Minister and His Work (minister)	2021	Howard Wheeler
Minster and His Work (elder)	2021	---
Nominations	2021	Joey Donahue
ONA Committee (minister)	2020	John Tucker
ONA Committee (minister)	2020	Robert White
Christian Ed Chair and CEM Board Representative	2020	---
ONA Chair and ONA Board Rep	2020	John Tucker
Presby. Rep to Executive Board	2021	Tim Phillips
Presby. Rep to Nominations Committee of Synod	2018	Joey Donahue (note: replacing Tim Phillips as MVP rep)
MVP Treasurer	2021	John Robinson
MVP Reading Clerk	2021	Joey Donahue

The Nominations Committee makes the following recommendations:

- 1) That the persons listed for service be approved by the presbytery.

- 2) That the Nominations Committee be allowed to make recess appointments for unfilled positions (an elder to serve on Minister and His Work Committee; Chairman and MVP Representative for Synod’s Christian Education Committee), with presbytery approving these appointments at its next meeting, if these positions have not be filled by the Spring 2017 meeting of MVP.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Phillips, secretary

[NOTE: This report was later amended by the presbytery with Mr. Mike Shotwell serving on Minister and His Work and Mr. Charles Browning serving as the chair of Christian Ed]

Report from the Havana Commission

March 7, 2017

Fathers and Brothers,

Little has happened in regards to the work of dissolving the Havana Church and disposing of its assets. The real estate agents handling the listing have noted some increase in interest in the property, but suggested reducing the asking price which the commission agreed to do at its December 2016 meeting, from \$74,999 to \$59,999.

There was one request during the Fall of 2016 by a private wedding venue to purchase the church's pews, but the Commission could not come to an equitable selling price with the potential buyer.

As of February 16, 2017, the bank balance for Havana stood at \$2941.89. The gas and water have been shut off. Lawn maintenance has been arranged at a cost of \$65 per mowing/weed eating. Insurance on the property is now \$190.25 and was paid in January 2017. At this rate, the balance in the account can meet the anticipated obligations for 12-18 months.

Respectfully,

Howard Wheeler, Chairman.

Minister and His Work Committee – March 6, 2017

Chairman – Rev. Kent Moorlach

Members Present – Rev. Benjamin P. Glaser, Rev. Don Watkins, Rev. Mike Chipman, Ruling Elder John Robinson, Ruling Elder Larry Littlejohn

Visitors Present – Christopher Neiswonger, Rev. Ron Pierce, Rev. Randy Kolb, Harry Fitzgerald, David Frazier, Paul Walley, Blaine Falkena

Meeting opened with prayer at 3:40pm by Rev. Kent Moorlach

The committee began considering old business concerning Rev. and Mrs. Storment. Information was received from the French Camp Session. After discussion it was agreed that Minister and His Work Committee did not fulfill its charge, “That Mississippi Valley Presbytery through the Minister and His Work Committee direct Faith ARP Church to exercise appropriate discipline on Sarai Storment with the goal of reconciliation with David and Sarai Storment” [pg. 6 of Fall 2016 Minutes].

The next order of business was a request from the Hopewell ARP Church that Rev. Randy Kolb transfer his credentials to Mississippi Valley Presbytery, ARP in order to be able to serve the Lord’s Supper and Baptism. It was decided after careful consideration of the qualifications and to all other factors involved that our committee will act as a commission to provide training for Rev. Kolb and all other interested parties regarding the Reformed view of the Sacraments and that after completion of this course Rev. Kolb be approved to administer the Sacraments at Hopewell and Ebenezer. It was also moved, seconded, and passed to motion the Hopewell session to come back to the next meeting of Presbytery with an explicit directive as to whether they would like Rev. Kolb to be called as an installed Pastor or as Stated Supply before we transfer his credentials into the Presbytery.

Discussion was held over the situation at our churches covered by a Stated Supply.

Next on the docket was a conversation about the Midlane Park ARP Church. It was moved, seconded, and passed to approve Rev. Dave Dively as Stated Supply, and name him as a provisional member of the session along with the current Ruling Elder Robert Flight.

We then met with Rev. Ron Pierce and asked him questions about his knowledge of Reformed theology, his work at Faith ARP Church, and his understanding of the duties of a Stated Supply. It was moved, seconded, and passed that Rev. Pierce be approved as Stated Supply of Faith ARP Church.

The committee met with Christopher Neiswonger who is interested in becoming a student of theology. He is a member of Richland ARP Church. We heard his knowledge of, and faith in, the saving work of Christ, a verification of his Christian character, and a sense of his call to ministry. It was moved, seconded, and passed that the Presbytery receive Christopher as a Student of Theology.

Appendix G

The session of Gospel of Grace ARP Church met with the committee and provided an update on their church and where they are in the search process. It was moved, seconded, and passed to form a Minister and His Work Commission to speak with a potential Stated Supply for Gospel of Grace.

The committee received a request from Rev. Don Watkins to be approved as honorably retired and in continuance of his service at New Geneva that when this takes place we will receive an updated call for Rev. Watkins from New Geneva.

We met with ruling elders from Bethany ARP about the situation at their church who asked for help from the committee for their search for a Stated Supply.

Received correspondence from Brad Robinson. He requested that he be taken off the rolls of Presbytery as a Student of Theology. It was moved, seconded, and passed that he be removed and prayer be given.

Updates were given on the situations with Rev. Zech Schiebout, Rev. David Storment, Rev. Gary Jones, Rev. Meredith Cavin, and Rev. Moises Chan.

It was moved, seconded, and passed to adjourn our meeting.

Closed in prayer by Rev. Mike Chipman at 5:50pm.

-
- 1) That Presbytery pause and pray for Rev. David Storment and Sarai Storment.
 - 2) That Presbytery permit Minister and His Work to organize a seminar/conference for all pastors, officers, and church members of MVP to provide a proper Biblical understanding of the Sacraments.
 - 3) That Presbytery approve Rev. Dave Dively as Stated Supply and as a provisional member of the Midlane Park ARP Church session.
 - 4) That Presbytery approve Rev. Ron Pierce as Stated Supply of Faith ARP Church.
 - 5) That Presbytery accept Mr. Christopher Neiswonger as a Student of Theology.
 - 6) That Presbytery approve the request of Rev. Don Watkins to be moved to honorably retired status.
 - 7) That Presbytery remove Brad Robinson as a Student of Theology and that prayer be offered for him and his family.

Committee on Christian Education

– Report to the Spring 2017 meeting of MVP –

The committee on Christian Education met at the Gumtree Church prior to the meeting of presbytery on March 6.

Present were: Joey Donahue, Charles Browning, and Alex Coblentz

After an opening prayer, the committee addressed a number of items, including:

- a a report on the fall meeting of the Board of Christian Education
- a an update on plans for Judy Hodges to make a presentation at the current meeting of presbytery
- a the 2017 MVP Camp
- a Report on local youth rallies
- a Report on a proposed Fall Leadership Conference featuring D. Leslie Holmes
- a mention of a possible Embers to Flame like conference involving Lynn Downing
- a mention of a 'Religion in 9/11 World' seminar proposed for the Richland and Providence churches in the upcoming months, to be led by Joey Donahue and Chris Neiswonger

Recommendations

- That Mississippi Valley Presbytery conduct a leadership conference for the men of the presbytery in the fall of 2017, and that Dr. Leslie Holmes be approved as the keynote speaker

Appendix I

Outreach North America Committee of MVP

January 31, 2017

The ONA MVP Committee met by teleconference at 7:00pm CST, January 31, 2017. Attending were Chairman, Rev. John Tucker, Mr. Carl Patterson, Mr. Milton Murphy, Mr. Troy Graham and Rev. Howard Wheeler. Rev. Mike Yarman was unable to attend.

The meeting was opened with prayer offered by Mr. Carl Patterson.

The Committee approved the minutes of the called teleconference meeting of December 27.

The Committee approved changes to Rev. Wheeler's call to make the following changes.

1. To change his designation from Mission Explorer to Mission Developer
2. To update the call amounts from \$57,172.68 to \$58,019.04 which is \$846.36 to correct SS Allowance and Synod's Term Life and Disability as follows.

<u>Original MVP Pastoral Support</u>	<u>Amount</u>
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
<u>Subtotal</u>	<u>\$57,172.68</u>

<u>Revised MVP Pastoral Support</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Salary	\$36,000.00
Health Insurance	\$0.00
Housing Allowance	\$12,000.00
SS Allowance	\$3,600.00
Retirement	\$6,192.00
Term Life & Disability	\$227.04
<u>Subtotal</u>	<u>\$58,019.04</u>

The Committee also approved the request of Rev. Wheeler to securing a credit card for budgeted expenses less than \$500 with a limit of \$2000. Finally the Committee approved the name of the Little Rock Mission as River City Reformed Presbyterian Church.

Appendix I

The Committee then received the following report from Rev. Wheeler regarding the work in Little Rock.

January Report from River City Reformed Mission, Little Rock, Arkansas

My first month on the field in Little Rock has been a busy one. The focus this month has been working on solidifying the mission and vision of the new work and in strengthening and growing the core group.

Our Bible Study has met three times during January and we are working to find a meeting place which meets the following criteria:

- 1. Provides a non-threatening , hospitable environment to which new attenders can be invited.*
- 2. Does not require significant expense, binding commitment or much setup.*
- 3. Will allow us the opportunity to meet weekly.*

We identified several potential spaces which met these criteria, but none of these were made available to us. We have identified several restaurants that would be acceptable, but perhaps have limited capacity for growth. Our goal at this point is to find a place to continue the core group Bible study, not to find a location to begin worship.

Our meetings in January averaged 15 individuals which represent 5 family groups. We had one addition to our group during this month. We are currently studying Genesis 1-11 with a view toward solidifying an understanding of our identity and purpose from a Christian Worldview in order to help our group engage the discussion of gender and personal identity which is pervasive in Little Rock.

I have established an initial identity for the church as River City Reformed Presbyterian and have developed a website, <http://rivercityarp.org> and a Facebook page. I have also produced some promotional material which includes our contact information so that we have something to give people when they ask for more information about the new church.

In terms of training, I attended the ONA Church Planters Retreat in Charleston, SC January 9-11. I have also begun working through the online training prescribed by ONA. Additionally, I am developing a list of resources to develop my knowledge and skill in different areas related to church planting. Finally, I have met several times with my assigned Church Planting mentor, Steve Sanford who has been very helpful to know how to clarify key goals and respond to certain personality dynamics within the core group. I also participated in a Missions Conference at New Albany ARP Church on January 27 to raise awareness and support for the River City Church.

Going forward, my goals for February are:

- 1. Weekly meetings with the existing core group in a regular, hospitable location.*
- 2. Planning and initiation of at least one new discussion group in a different part of the city.*
- 3. A focus on new contacts and "cultural exegesis."*
- 4. Identification of possible pastoral care outlets to make contacts and expand influence.*

Thanks for your prayers and support.

The Committee discussed the proposed internship job description for Mr. Josh Walker. Mr. Carl Patterson moved that Mr. Walker attend Spring MVP to meet with the MVP and ONA Committee as a prerequisite to considering approval of the internship. Rev. Wheeler seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Next, the Committee received the following report from Redeemer Church as information.

Redeemer is doing well. We have had the same faithful families every week and they continue to give and support the church with their time. We meet together regularly and are growing as a family. It is a good thing. That said, we aren't growing in numbers, and really haven't much since the beginning.

We have started assessing what's going on, and there are several conclusions. We think a lack of critical mass has scared away the visitors we have had. We also think there are a few areas that could use some work, particularly building awareness in the community about our church, and inviting folks to come.

As a part-time pastor, that is a struggle for me. I do well to get a sermon prepared from week to week. I maintain our sermon podcast and website, which is very little work, and I prepare our weekly liturgy. Really, my work in the church is about 15 hours/week, and that isn't nearly enough to start a plant.

So, we are considering a few options. We want to continue meeting on Sunday mornings, but we want to add a mid-week meeting that could serve as a "front door" for the church, where critical mass won't be as important and the setting would be casual. A bible study and some Q/A, along with a time of fellowship.

We also want to look around and see if there is anyone who might be willing to be a mission developer here. It would take someone who understood this area of the country, which isn't southern or northern but has elements of both. We plan to ask around through our contacts, so we don't want to advertise. We just wanted to make you all aware.

To be clear, the church is happy with me. (Andy, our other elder, has been CC'd) However, I'm a preacher/teacher type, not a planter. I'm with Redeemer for the long run, so I'll continue to preach/teach/serve this church until the Lord decides otherwise. We don't plan to leave Murray. We are done moving if the Lord is okay with that. We think someone who is full-time might be better in helping our church reach critical mass and begin seeing some growth. As always, we appreciate your prayers. This doesn't require any action on ONA's part, just information.

Mike Chipman

From Andy French, ruling elder of NGCC

Just to add some context to Mike's email, we are all very happy at Redeemer. As we were preparing to meet, a couple of families needed us to start a Sunday meeting or they were going to

need to plug in somewhere else. At the time we had a few others meeting with us (Audra Todd- a young woman with lots of church planting experience who moved to Louisville and the Trout family who was willing to join with us but went through some extreme health problems and have stayed put at New Geneva which is closer). We lost those folks right out of the gate. We've only added one dedicated tithing family in that time. We've had a few college students come and go, and they are hard to build a church around.

Like many church plants, our influence is bigger than our numbers. We still host a good men's bible study on Wednesday mornings. Our women have hosted 2 book studies. We have around \$60k in the bank. Our budget is lean and our giving is strong.

Mike, myself, and 2 other men in the church have felt a desire to evaluate and re-evaluate what we're doing, how we're doing it, and what we need to do differently. We've spent the last 2 years working on building our core group and connecting with others in the community. However, as Mike pointed out, we need to expand our core group to get "critical mass". We're going to back to the drawing board, which includes evaluating adding an additional night of teaching and fellowship. Mike's preaching has been good. I've met with families and asked them their thoughts on Mike's preaching and the feedback has been good. Mike and I have critiqued each other, our worship, our service, everything. We're trying to be good shepherds. I'm happy to report we've had no discipline issues to deal with and everyone seems happy.

Even so, we're humbled by church planting and leaving no stone left unturned means considering all options. Adding additional times to meet and building our group is important. Advertising our work is important. Hiring a full time pastor is an option. Moving to a different location is an option.

With the absence of another reformed church in our county (roughly 40k people) we are dedicated to making this work for our families. Expanding beyond our current families is the matter of prayer. We are reaching out to other folks we know for wisdom in planting a church like this in our area. Additionally, we are going to put some feelers out to see if there are any reformed ministers looking for a pastorate that we could connect with informally. Bringing them on might take some time and consideration.

Pray with us, Andy French

Next, Rev. Tucker reported on attendance from MVP to Embers to a Flame Conference at Briarwood Presbyterian in Birmingham, AL. The Committee discussed a request from the Nominations Committee to replace Rev. Howard Wheeler on the Committee because of his status as a Mission Developer under the authority of the Committee. No action was taken at this meeting.

The Committee discussed and approved the following motions:

1. That the Committee request \$3000 for ONA committee administrative expenses
2. That the Committee purchase 20 copies of the book, Evangelism: The Whole Church Speaks, to make available to pastors within Mississippi Valley Presbytery.

Appendix I

3. That the Committee meet at Gum Tree Presbyterian in Tupelo on Monday, March 6, 2017.
4. That the Committee approve a request from the Hernando Church for \$1000 for an ad campaign in the local newspapers pursuant to revitalization efforts.

The meeting was adjourned by prayer offered by Mr. Milton Murphy.

Respectfully

Howard Wheeler, Secretary

ONA Meeting, Gum Tree Presbyterian Church

March 6, 2017

The ONA Committee met March 6, 2017 at 4:00pm at Gumtree Presbyterian Church, Tupelo, MS. Present were chairman, Rev. John Tucker, Rev. Mike Yarman, Rev. Bob White, Mr. Carl Patterson, Mr. Milton Murphy, Mr. Troy Graham and Rev. Howard Wheeler. Meeting opened in prayer offered by Mr. Milton Murphy. Committee reviewed minutes from January 31, 2017.

Rev. Wheeler gave an update on the work of River City Reformed Presbyterian Church in Little Rock. There was discussion regarding the budget and expenses for the River City Church.

The Committee recommended an amendment to the budget for River City Reformed Church to reallocate \$5000 from facilities to mileage expense as mileage expense is greater than anticipated and there is presently no cost for facilities. Motion to recommend was approved.

The Committee reviewed the internship proposal for Josh Walker. Rev. Yarman moved that the ONA Committee investigate with Josh Walker the possibility of relocation to central Arkansas to pursue a church planting internship under the direction of a church planting mentor appointed by MVP.

The Committee discussed and agreed to recommend that the Presbytery invite Rev. Wayne Frazier, ONA's Church Revitalization Coach, to speak to pastors, elders and lay people at Graceview Presbyterian Church prior to the meeting of Fall Presbytery in October and that he be allowed to address the Presbytery.

The Committee also discussed and agreed to recommend that Presbytery invite Ms. Eleanor Griffin, Coordinator of Refugee Ministry for the Synod, to speak at our Fall Presbytery in October at Graceview. The meeting was closed in prayer offered by Mr. Carl Patterson.

Recommendations:

- That the Presbytery hear a report from Howard Wheeler about River City Reformed Church in Little Rock.
- That the budget for River City Reformed Presbyterian Church be amended to reallocate \$5000 from facilities to mileage expense as mileage expense is greater than anticipated and there is presently no cost for facilities.
- That Presbytery invite Rev. Wayne Frazier, ONA's Church Revitalization Coach, to speak to pastors, elders and lay people at Graceview Presbyterian Church prior to the meeting of Fall Presbytery in October and that he be allowed to address the Presbytery.
- That Presbytery invite Ms. Eleanor Griffin, Coordinator of Refugee Ministry for the Synod, to speak at our Fall Presbytery in October at Graceview.

Respectfully, Howard Wheeler, Secretary

Richland Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church
8658 Rosemark Road
Millington, Tennessee 38053
(901) 829-4105

March 6, 2017

TO: Mississippi Valley Presbytery
Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church

RE: Recommendation of Christopher Neiswonger as a Student of Theology

Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Session of Richland Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, we respectfully request Christopher Neiswonger be accepted to come under the care of the Mississippi Valley Presbytery as a Student of Theology. We believe in Chris's conviction to continue his education to further enhance his abilities and knowledge for the strengthening and the growth of Christ's Kingdom.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Yours in Christ,

Scott Pitman
Clerk of the Session

Appendix K

Ordination Service for Charles Covington, November 6th at 5:30pm, Gumtree Presbyterian, Tupelo, MS

Prelude	Peggy Robinson
Call to Worship	Kent Moorlach, Pastor of Richland ARP
Hymn	Rodney Reeves, Elder, Gum Tree ARP
Invocation	Kent Moorlach
Welcome and Statement of Purpose	Kent Moorlach
Scripture Readings	Darrel Maracle, former Elder, Gum Tree ARP
Hymn	Rodney Reeves
Charge to the Pastor	Bruce Hosket, Elder, French Camp ARP
Charge to Congregation	Bill Everett, former Pastor of New Albany ARP
Questions of Ordination	Charles Browning, Moderator, Mississippi Valley Presbytery
Laying on of Hands	Ordained Elders and Pastors
Prayer of Blessing	Bill Everett
Questions of Installation	Charles Browning
Hymn	Rodney Reeves
Benediction	Charles Covington, Pastor Gum Tree ARP
Reception to follow in Fellowship Hall	

Appendix K

BRIGHTON ASSOCIATE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Brighton, Tennessee

THE WORSHIP OF GOD
Sunday Evening ~ December 11, 2016
5 pm

Prelude
Welcome
Call to Worship and Invocation *Rev. Cavin*
*Bible Songs # 263 "God Shall Guard from Every Ill"
Special Music
Scripture Reading *John 20:24-31*
Sermon: "Doubting Thomas?" *Rev. Chipman*
*Bible Songs # 169 "Restore to Thy Grace"
The Service of Installation
Questions for Installation *Rev. Moorlach*
Questions to the Congregation *Rev. Moorlach*
Prayer of Installation *Rev. Donahue*
Pronouncement of Installation *Rev. Moorlach*
Charge to the Pastor *Rev. Miller*
Charge to the Congregation *Mr. Thomason*
*Hymn # 92 "Crown Him with Many Crowns"
*Benediction *Rev. Phillips*

A special welcome is extended to all present at the installation service of Brighton's new pastor, the Rev. Tim Phillips. Thank you for being a part of this special service.

Please join us for refreshments at a reception in the church's fellowship hall following the service. All are invited.

*All who are able please stand

Participating in This Installation Service

The Rev. Meredith Cavin
Honorably Retired Pastor

The Rev. Mike Chipman
Pastor, Redeemer Community Church
Murray, Kentucky

The Rev. Kent Moorlach
Pastor, Richland ARP Church
Rosemark, Tennessee

The Rev. Joey Donahue
Pastor, Providence Reformed Presbyterian Church
Bartlett, Tennessee

The Rev. Mark Miller
Pastor, New Albany Presbyterian Church
New Albany, Mississippi

Mr. Mike Thomason
Elder, Richland ARP Church
Rosemark, Tennessee

*"I will lift up my eyes to the hills—
From whence comes my help?
My help comes from the Lord,
Who made heaven and earth.
He will not allow your foot to be moved;
He who keeps you will not slumber.
Behold, He who keeps Israel
Shall neither slumber nor sleep."
Psalm 121:1-4*

Appendix K

The installation service for Rev. Tim Phillips was held at the Brighton ARP Church in Brighton, Tennessee, on December 11, 2016, at 5 pm. Rev. B.J. Maxwell, who had served as stated supply pastor at Brighton, gave the call to worship and invocation. Rev. Mike Chipman, pastor of Redeemer Community Church in Murray, Kentucky, preached a sermon from John 20:24-31. Rev. Kent Moorlach, pastor of Richland ARP Church in Rosemark, Tennessee, read the ordination questions, and Rev. Joey Donahue, pastor of Providence Reformed Presbyterian Church in Bartlett, Tennessee, gave the prayer of installation. The charge to the new pastor was given by Rev. Mark Miller, pastor of the New Albany Presbyterian Church (New Albany, MS) and the charge to the congregation was given by Mr. Mike Thomason, an elder at the Richland ARP Church. The service concluded with the benediction by Rev. Phillips, and a reception after the service was held in the Brighton ARP Church fellowship hall.

CHILD AND YOUTH PROTECTION PROGRAM Points to Consider

Use the following list to help your congregation consider its policy needs for the prevention of child abuse. Please use this form in conjunction with the Child and Youth Abuse Prevention Program.

1. We check references for all paid staff, including clergy, who have contact with minors.
2. We check references of all volunteers who will work with minors.
3. We conduct criminal background checks of all paid staff and volunteers who work with minors.
4. We train all volunteers and paid staff who work with children or youth to understand the nature of child abuse and methods of abuse prevention.
5. We train all volunteers and paid staff who work with children or youth in how to carry out our policies to prevent child abuse.
6. Our paid staff and volunteers are informed of state law requirements regarding child abuse and our responsibility for reporting incidents.
7. We have a reporting procedure for a suspected incident of child abuse that follows the requirements of our state law.
8. We have insurance coverage available in case a child abuse complaint occurs.
9. We have a defined response plan to be implemented in case an allegation of child abuse is made against someone in our organization.
10. We take our policies to prevent child abuse seriously, and we are committed to their enforcement for the safety and security of all of our children.

CHURCH MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY AND HERMES SARGENT BATES WISH TO POINT OUT THAT NO WARRANTY ATTACHES TO THESE DOCUMENTS AND IN FACT, THESE DOCUMENTS MAY NOT BE APPROPRIATE FOR THE SPECIFIC NEEDS OF A PARTICULAR ENTITY. THESE DOCUMENTS ARE NOT A SUBSTITUTE FOR GOOD PRACTICE, PROPER SUPERVISION, AND DILIGENT OVERSIGHT AND CONTROL. THERE IS NO GUARANTEE THAT THESE DOCUMENTS WILL PROTECT ANY FACILITY THAT CHOOSES TO USE THEM. BEFORE USING THESE DOCUMENTS OR ANY SIMILAR DOCUMENTS, YOU SHOULD CONSULT WITH YOUR OWN ATTORNEY TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT THE DOCUMENT YOU EVENTUALLY USE IS CORRECT AND CURRENT UNDER THE LAW OF YOUR PARTICULAR JURISDICTION AND THAT THE DOCUMENT MEETS YOUR NEEDS FOR YOUR PARTICULAR SITUATION.

FM.S874 (8-2008) HSB

The Safety & Protection of Children: An Overview of Recommended Child Safety & Protection Policies

Most victims know their abusers and he or she is a trusted family circle member.
80 % of child abuse can be avoided through one policy: the 2 non-related adult rule.

The following statements are accurate:

Churches with strict guidelines for volunteers are:

- More likely to have less difficulty to recruit volunteers
- Create an atmosphere of caring, openness and of trust
- Necessary! For everybody
- Comforting to parents concerned their children are safe
- Not difficult and inexpensive to enforce.

PRIMARY GOALS OF CSAP Training and Policies:

To move adults from Awareness to Advocacy through Education & Prevention.

1. To provide a safe and secure environment for all the children for whom we have responsibility
2. To help train adults on how to **prevent, recognize** and **respond** to child sexual abuse
3. To provide a process in the event of an accusation of child sexual abuse
4. To protect people from the dangers of false accusations
5. To discourage potential child abusers from attempting to join our organization.

CONSEQUENCES TO VICTIMS AND SOCIETY:

- Drug and alcohol dependence (70 – 80%)
- Depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, and anxiety (80 – 90%)
- Suicidal thoughts/attempts (20 – 30%)
- Difficulty forming long-term relationships
- Eating disorders
- Sexual risk-taking that leads to teen pregnancy (60%) and sexually transmitted diseases, including AIDS
- Prostitution (>90% have been sexually abused)

"WHAT" is child sexual abuse?

- The involvement of a child in sexual activity that he or she does not fully comprehend, is unable to give informed consent to, or for which the child is not developmentally prepared. It is activity between a child and an adult or another child who, by age or development, is in a relationship of responsibility, trust or power.

This may include:

PHYSICAL TOUCHING, VERBAL, and VISUAL:

CHILDREN OFTEN KEEP ABUSE A SECRET

Understand why children are afraid to tell:

- The abuser shames the child or tells the child it was his/her fault or their parents will be angry with the child
- The abuser often manipulates and confuses the child about what is right and wrong
- The abuser sometimes threatens the child or a family member
- Children fear disappointing their parents or disrupting the family
- Some children are too young to understand
- Many abusers tell the children the abuse is "ok" or a game

PROACTIVE, STRAIGHTFORWARD ACTIONS THAT ADULTS CAN TAKE TO PREVENT, RECOGNIZE, AND RESPOND RESPONSIBLY TO CSA:

- Learn the facts
- Minimize opportunity
- Talk about it
- Stay alert
- Make a plan
- Act on suspicions
- Get involved

PRACTICAL STEPS FOR ORGANIZATIONS:

- Have a clear policy and procedure for preventing, reporting and responding to child abuse
- Train all teachers, staff and volunteers about child abuse and engage them as advocates for protection and safety
- Get references
- Notify leadership in advance of any activity with children
- Utilize the "two non-related adult" rule
- Establish policies stating how adults and children can report unsafe, unwise actions
- High Visibility
- Eliminate isolation ... one on one
- Mutual accountability
- Informed parents
- Technology controls
- Supervision: observe and train new volunteers; regular, unannounced

PRACTICAL STEPS FOR PARENTS:

- Teach children a godly self-concept that helps them defend themselves from harm

- Teach children about sexuality as a part of how God made them
- Teach children clear and easy-to-understand concepts of sexual boundaries
- Teach children how to say "no" to sexual boundary violations
- Create an atmosphere of open dialog
- Listen to your child's concerns and pay attention to behavioral changes

Reporting of Abuse... Mandatory!

KNOWWho? When? To Whom?

Generally Child Protective Services of your state will have detailed information on this.

Usually: Oral and written reports must contain:

- The name, age, and home address of the child;
- The name and home address of the child's parent or party responsible for the child's care;
- The whereabouts of the child;
- The nature and extent of the abuse or neglect of the child;
- Any evidence or information available to the reporter concerning possible previous instances of abuse or neglect and;
- Any evidence or information that would help to determine the cause of the suspected abuse or neglect;
- The identity of any individual responsible for the abuse or neglect;
- Any observable, identifiable and substantial impairment of a child's mental or psychological ability function

FOUR COMMON MISTAKES:

- Forming conclusions about the truthfulness of the report before reporting
- Minimizing the seriousness of the actions
- Promising not to tell anyone
- Handling it on your own

REPORTING GUIDELINES

- Do not discuss details with anyone outside of proper reporting lines
- No supervisor or authority above you may prohibit or impede the reporting

- of child abuse or the suspicion of child abuse
- Do not attempt to investigate an accusation
- Have a plan for how the church will be informed
- Have a designated person who will handle any media enquiries or phone calls
- Have a professional counselor or counseling resource for those who need help with the trauma.

FIVE KEY RESPONSES:

- I AM VERY SORRY ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU.
- IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT.
- YOU'VE DONE THE RIGHT THING TO TELL ME.
- I WILL HELP AND SUPPORT YOU.
- WE NEED TO TELL ____ SO HE CAN HELP MAKE SURE YOU AND OTHERS ARE SAFE. ____ WILL TAKE IT SERIOUSLY AND GET THE PROPER HELP.

.....
SOME Resources for info:

(Your State's) Child Protective Services or Department of Human Resources

Reducing the Risk of Child Sexual Abuse in Your Church, Richard R. Hammer, Christian Ministry Resources, Matthews, NC

Background check organizations:

Shepherd's Watch, Nexus, Safe Church, Elexio

<http://www.top10bestbackgroundcheck.com/874057160&interest=&physical=9010601&feedid=&a=3000&ts=&topic=&gclid=CjKhmviWlcsCFVclgQody6IItA>

Darkness 2 Light: Stewards of Children www.d2l.org

(http://www.d2l.org/site/c.4d1Cj10kGcISE/b.6243681/k.86C/Child_Sexual_Abuse_Prevention_Training.htm)

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, Brighton

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STANDING COMMITTEES OF MISSISSIPPI VALLEY PRESBYTERY

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Mr. Charles Browning, Chairman (2018)
Rev. Mark Miller (2018)
Rev. Alex Coblentz (2019)
Mr. John Moore (2019)
Rev. Meredith Cavin (2020)
Mr. Bruce Hosket (2020)

Minister and His Work

Rev. Kent Moorlach, Chairman (2018)
Mr. Randy Goulder (2018)
Rev. Don Watkins (2019)
Mr. Larry Littlejohn (2019)
Rev. Mike Chipman (2020)
Mr. Shelby Lowery (2020)
Rev. Howard Wheeler (2021)
Mr. Michael Shotwell (2021)

Nominations

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Rev. Tim Phillips (2018)
M. David Strock (2020)
Rev. Joey Donahue (2021)

Outreach North America

Rev. John Tucker, Chairman (2020)
Mr. Troy Graham (2018)
Mr. Carl Patterson (2018)
Rev. Mike Yarman (2019)
Mr. Milton Murphy (2019)
Rev. Robert White (2020)

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Mr. Charles Browning (2020)
Rev.. John Tucker (2020)
Rev. Kent Moorlach (2018)
Mr. John Robinson – *Ex Officio*

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Christian Ed.: Mr. Charles Browning (2018)
Dunlap: Rev. Bill Everett (2019)
Exec. Board: Rev. Tim Phillips (2021)
MaHW: Rev. Kent Moorlach (2018)
Nom.: Rev. Joey Donahue (2021)
ONA: Rev. John Tucker (2020)
Stewardship: Mr. Mike Thomason (2019)

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Christopher Neiswonger (RTS-Jackson)

Missionaries

Jodie Gaston

Honorably Retired Ministers

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Rev. Ron Brunson (retired missionary)
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. Don Watkins
Rev. Mike Yarman (retired chaplain)

Churches Served by Stated Supplies

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

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Schedule for Review of Minutes of Sessions

Spring Meeting

Faith

Gospel of Grace

Graceview

Gum Tree

Helena

Hernando

Hickory Springs

Midlane Park

New Albany

River City

Salem

Sharon

Wood Avenue

Fall Meeting

Bethany

Brighton

Ebenezer

Ellisville

Elsberry

French Camp

Hopewell

Mt. Zion

New Geneva

Pottsville

Providence Reformed

Redeemer

Richland