The Minutes Of Mississippi Valley Presbytery

General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church



Spring Stated Meeting

March 4-5, 2019

French Camp Presbyterian Church French Camp, Mississippi

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PROCEEDINGS MISSISSIPPI VALLEY PRESBYTERY

French Camp Presbyterian Church French Camp, Mississippi

Spring Stated Meeting March 4-5, 2019

The registration of delegates began at 3 pm on Monday, March 4, 2019. Following an evening meal provided by the host church at 5:45 p.m., the Spring Stated Meeting of Mississippi Valley Presbytery began at 7 p.m. with an opening worship service led by Rev. Alex Coblentz, pastor of French Camp Presbyterian Church (see **Appendix A**). Dr. Leslie Holmes, Provost of Erskine Theological Seminary (and Moderator-elect of General Synod), preached a sermon from Luke 22:20, entitled "The Covenant Cup". Rev. Coblentz then led the presbytery in the celebration of the sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

Following the worship service and a brief recess, Moderator Mike Chipman opened the business portion of the meeting with prayer. Mr. Lance Ragsdale, an elder at the French Camp Presbyterian Church, welcomed the members of presbytery to the meeting and presented the agenda.

The stated clerk confirmed a quorum was present.

Ministers Present

Thomas Braithwaite (*E*)
Kyle Brent
Ron Brunson (*E*)
Meredith Cavin (*E*)
Moises Chan (*E*)
Conrad Cheatham
Mike Chipman
Gary Clowers
James Coad III (*E*)
Alex Coblentz
Charles Covington
Joey Donahue
Bill Everett (*E*)

Michael Garvey (*E*)

Jodie Gaston (*E*)

(A) = Unexcused Absence(E) Excused Absence

Steve Hardy (*E*)
Gary Jones
Matthew Heathman (*E*)

Waste Manufactum (L)

Kent Moorlach

Christopher Neiswonger (*E*)

Tim Phillips

Wayne Stanchfield (*E*) David Storment (*E*)

Brian Taylor Charles Todd (*E*) John Tucker Don Watkins Howard Wheeler Robert White Mike Yarman (*E*)

Ruling Elders Present

Bethany – none

Brighton – Richard Moore Ebenezer – Edwin Dees Ellisville – Michael Shotwell

Elsberry – none Faith – none

French Camp – Lance Ragsdale Gospel of Grace – Paul Walley

Graceview – Stan Carroll Gum Tree – Carl Patterson

Helena – none

Hernando – Steve Rice

Hickory Springs – none

Hopewell – Charles Browning Midlane Park – Dale Kleinjan

Mt. Zion – none

New Albany – Jerry Harmon

New Geneva – none Pottsville – none

Providence – David Strock Richland – Mike Thomason

Salem – none Sharon – none

Wood Avenue – none

Guests

John Robinson (Treasurer of MVP), Ron Pierce (stated supply minister), Stephen Ewing (Student of Theology), Troy Graham, Leslie Holmes (Moderator-elect of General Synod), Connor Hipps, Larry Littlejohn, Phillip Marphrus (Moderator of General Synod), Kathy Malphrus, Robert Leake, Jenni Leake, Charlie Turner, Marty Smithhart, Josh Walker

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 considered by the presbytery (see **Appendix A**). There were two amendments to the agenda: to allow Carrie Browning to speak about Camp of the Rising Son on Monday evening, and to extend the time for the Tuesday morning sermon. The agenda as amended was approved by the presbytery.

The Fall 2018 Minutes (including minutes of two called meetings) were adopted by the presbytery.

There was no unfinished business, but it was mentioned that the Moderator had formed a committee to revise the rules of presbytery. The work of that committee had not yet begun.

Moderator Chipman gave a retiring moderator's address. Mr. Paul Walley, an elder at the Gospel of Grace Church, was then introduced as Moderator of MVP.

Moderator Walley appointed a committee to examine the records of sessions: David Strock (chair), Brian Taylor, Gary Clowers, Mike Thomason, and Richard Moore.

Mr. Phillips Malphrus, Moderator of General Synod, addressed the presbytery. He reminded the presbytery of the Moderator's Challenge from 1 Corinthians 16:13: "Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong." He also pointed the presbytery to the next verse: "Let all that you do be done in love." Moderator Malphrus concluded his address by reading Paul's charge to Timothy from 2 Timothy 4:1-5. Mr. Malphrus also prayed for the meeting of presbytery.

Ms. Carrie Browning, Director of Camp of the Rising Son, spoke to the presbytery about the ministry of the camp. Rev. Kent Moorlach was asked to pray for the work of the camp.

As a point of personal privilege, Rev. Alex Coblentz addressed the court about the recent deaths of three French Camp students from India. Rev. Robert White was asked to pray.

After announcements, there being no further business for the evening, the meeting recessed until the following morning. Rev. Brian Taylor was called upon to close with prayer.

Tuesday Morning, March 5, 2019

The meeting of MVP reconvened at 8:00 a.m. Josh Walker preached a sermon from Romans 1:16-17.

Moderator Walley called the meeting to order and opened with prayer. Mr. Walker's sermon was critiqued by members of the court. A motion to sustain Mr. Walker's sermon was tabled until after hearing the report of the Minister and His Work Committee (seconded, passed).

The Principal Clerk reminded the members of the presbytery about the urgency of registering early for Synod 2019.

The Stewardship Report was presented to the presbytery by Chairman Mike Thomason (see **Appendix B**). There was a recommendation in the report that the presbytery consider donating an unspecified amount of money to a Memphis-area Camp Joy ("Camp Joy Tennessee"). The suggestion was made to deal with the recommendation after hearing the Treasurer's Report. The Stewardship report was adopted by the presbytery.

The Nominations Committee Report was presented to the presbytery (see **Appendix C**). The report was adopted by the presbytery. A motion was made to allow the Nominations Committee to made a recess appoint to fill the position of representative to the Dunlap Board and report this nomination to the Fall 2019 meeting of MVP (seconded, passed).

The Treasurer's Report was presented to the presbytery by Mr. John Robinson, the Treasurer of MVP (see **Appendix D**). The report was adopted by the presbytery.

A motion was made: That the presbytery, on an ongoing basis, donate \$5000/year to maintain the ministry of Camp Joy Tennessee (seconded). There was discussion about the amount of money, and when the funding would start. Suggestions were made to strike the word "ongoing" and to delay the onset of the funding to 2020. The motion was amended to change the amount to \$4000, to begin in 2019, and to consider the amount on an annual basis (seconded). There was discussion, and the amendment passed. The amended motion was voted on: That presbytery donate \$4000/year to Camp Joy Tennessee, beginning in 2019, and that amount be considered in the budget of presbytery on an annual basis. The motion as amended passed.

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

Recess for Committee Meetings (10 a.m.)

The presbytery meeting reconvened at 11 a.m. The report of the Moderator's Committee on Sessional Records report was presented orally to the presbytery. The following minutes were accepted without exception: Hernando and Gum Tree. The following minutes were accepted with exceptions: Pottsville, Midlane Park, Faith, Sharon, Elsberry, Gospel of Grace, Salem, Richland, Graceview. New Albany did not submit its minutes. After discussion the report was adopted by the presbytery.

The ONA Committee report was then presented to the presbytery. Rev. Howard Wheeler first gave an update of the work of the River City mission in Little Rock, Arkansas, and Mr. Connor Hipps also gave a presentation on the use of MissionInsite as a demographical and sociological tool for understanding local communities. The report was then presented to the presbytery (see **Appendix E**). All the recommendations in the report were approved, and the report was adopted by the presbytery.

Rev. John Tucker was called upon to pray for the items mentioned in the report.

The order of the day was reached, and Moderator Walley prayed for the meal.

Order of the Day (Lunch – noon)

Presbytery reconvened at 12:45 p.m. with a season of prayer.

Rev. Alex Coblentz spoke briefly about the work of the Christian Education Committee to the presbytery. There was a video presentation about the 40^{th} anniversary of Camp Joy. Mr.

Stephen Ewing, Director of MVP Camp, gave a presentation promoting MVP Summer Camp 2019. MVP Summer Camp will be held July 22-27, 2019. The theme for the camp will be "Transformed," with the Scripture text for the camp being Romans 12:1-2

(There was no written report and no recommendations given by the CE Committee).

The report of the Minister and His Work Committee was presented to the presbytery by Mr. Stan Carroll, a member of the committee (see **Appendix F**). The recommendations from the report were considered individually. Recommendation 1 from the report (that Rev. Charlie Turner be approved as stated supply for Ellisville) passed.

Recommendation 2 (that the Moderator appoint provisional elders for Ellisville) passed.

Recommendation 3 passed, and Rev. Kyle Brent prayed for Mr. Stephen Ewing's educational endeavors.

Recommendation 4 (that Marty Smithart come under care as a Student of Theology) was then considered by the presbytery. Marty Smithhart appeared before the presbytery and gave a statement of his faith in Jesus Christ and his sense of calling to the ministry. The recommendation to receive Mr. Smithhart as a Student of Theology passed. The Moderator read the formula of questions for candidates (*Form of Government* 9.20) and encouraged him in his duties to pursue gospel ministry. Mr. Smithhart was then offered the right hand of fellowship by members of the presbytery.

Recommendation 5 (that Josh Walker come under care as a Student of Theology) was then considered by the presbytery. A question was raised concerning whether Mr. Josh Walker was seeking to be received as a Student of Theology or as a Licentiate. After a long discussion, the question was called (seconded, passed). The recommendation was then voted on. There was a call for division with the vote. A standing vote was taken, and the recommendation passed 10-9.

A question was asked by Rev. Alex Coblentz about Mr. Walker's status as a member of an ARP Church in another presbytery. Rev. Kent Moorlach, Chairman of Minister and His Work, indicated that the committee would be contacting the session of the other ARP church to clarify the matter with them.

The Moderator read the questions from Form of Government 9.20 to Mr. Walker and urged him to faithfully pursue gospel ministry. Mr. Walker was extended the right hand of fellowship by members of the committee.

Recommendation 6 of the report (that Rev. Kyle Brent serve as moderator to Bethany) passed.

Concerned was expressed by the Principal Clerk about Mr. Walker's status and current church membership. There was much discussion, but some clarification on the matter was reached. It was noted that Mr. Walker's current membership would be taken up by the Minister and His Work Committee.

The report of then Minister and His Work was then adopted by the presbytery.

A motion was made to sustain the student sermon of Mr. Josh Walker (seconded, passed).

The Principal Clerk announced the following locations for upcoming meetings of MVP:

- Fall 2019, New Geneva Community Church in Paducah, Kentucky
- Spring 2020, New Albany Presbyterian Church in New Albany, Mississippi
- Spring 2021, Hopewell Presbyterian Church in New Albany, Mississippi

A motion was made for the Pottsville Presbyterian Church in Pottsville, Arkansas, to host the Fall 2020 meeting of presbytery (seconded, passed).

Rev. John Tucker introduced Lynn Downing to the presbytery, who spoke briefly about church revitalization.

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

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting (seconded, passed). After the singing of Psalm 133 ("Christian Unity"), the Spring 2019 meeting of MVP was closed with a prayer by Moderator Paul Walley and benediction by Rev. Tim Phillips.

Mississippi Valley Presbytery - Stated Spring Meeting

French Camp Presbyterian Church French Camp, MS

Worship Service - 7:00 p.m., March 4, 2019

Prelude

Welcome & Call to Worship

*Invocation & Lord's Prayer

*Hymn No. 101 – "All People That on Earth Do Dwell"

Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-33; Luke 22:14-20

Message from God's Word Rev. Dr. Leslie Homes

Provost, Erskine Seminary

Sermon: "This Covenant Cup!"

Text: Luke 22:20

*Hymn # 710 – "Jesus, Lover of My Soul"

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

*Benediction & Postlude

*(Please stand.)

There will be a brief recess before Presbytery convenes.

MVP Schedule

Monday, March 4, 2019

3:00 – 5:00 p.m.	Registration at French Camp ARP Church
	Find Lodging / Tour French Camp
5:45 – 6:45 p.m.	Dinner at French Camp ARP Church
7:00 - 8:00 p.m.	Worship at French Camp ARP Church
8:15 p.m.	Opening of Spring Meeting of MVP

The Constitution of Presbytery with Prayer

Welcome and Greetings by Host Church

Constitution of the Roll

Introductions and Procedural Motions

Presentation of the Agenda

Adoption of the Fall 2018 Minutes

Unfinished Business

Retiring Moderator's Address by Rev. Mike Chipman

Introduction of Moderator Paul Walley

Appointment of Moderator's Committee on Sessional Records

Greetings from Moderator of Synod, Mr. Phillip Malphrus

Address from Mrs. Susan Cavin, President of MVP Women's Ministries

Announcements

Closing Prayer

Tuesday, March 5, 2019

7:00 – 8:00 a.m.	Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall
8:00 - 8:20 a.m.	Morning Worship, Mr. Josh Walker Text: Romans 1:16-17 "Not Ashamed of the Gospel"
8:20 - 8:30 a.m.	Brief Recess
8:30 a.m.	Call to Order and Convening Prayer Reminder to Register for Synod 2019 Business
*10:00 – 10:50 a.m.	Recess for Committee Meetings
11:00 a.m.	Business Continues Presentation by Mr. Connor Hipps Presentation by Mr. Stephen Ewing
*12:00-12:45 p.m.	Lunch in the Fellowship Hall
12:45 p.m.	Season of Prayer
1:00 p.m.	Business Continues - Afternoon Session
2:15 – 2:30 p.m.	Brief Recess
2:30 p.m.	Business Concludes - Closing Session
	Selection of Meeting Place for Fall 2020
	Reading and Adoption of the Minutes
	Announcements
	Bible Song: Psalm 133, Christian Unity
	Adjournment with Prayer and Benediction

*(Order of the Day)

MVP STEWARDSHIP REPORT MARCH 4, 2019

The stewardship committee had a called meeting on February 22, 2019 no new request for funds at this time. All committee are going good and inside of their budgets. Thanks to ONA, Minister and His Works, Christian Education for doing a great job in setting their budget.

I attended the last Investment committee meeting and we all have a slow end to 2018 but the trend is on the upturn. As you can see in the Treasure's report and our Corner Stone people see an upturn because we changes some items we are using.

At the fall meeting we talked about Camp Joy and it status. I have talked with Bret Turner Chairman of Synod Christian Education and he stated we have the required amount of money to start our Camp Joy. The more money we have in the Camp Joy Tennessee account the better will be.

Recommendation: That MVP support Camp Joy Tn. by sending a donation (amount to be determine) Synod Christian Education Committee. Att. Brent Turner marked Camp Joy Tennessee.

Nominations Report

Committee	Class	Name
Christian Ed (M)	2022	Kyle Brent (Chair)
Christian Ed (E)	2022	Charles Browning
Minister and His Work (M)	2023	Tim Phillips
Minister and His Work (E)	2023	Larry Littlejohn
Nominations (E)	2023	Troy Graham
Nominations Chair (M)	2021	Joey Donahue
ONA (M)	2022	Brian Taylor
ONA (E)	2022	John Scott
Stewardship Chair	2023	Mike Thomason
Stewardship	2022	Kyle Brent
Dunlap Board Rep	2025	
	(6 yr term)	

The Nominations Committee recommends to MVP that this slate be adopted.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary L. Jones

Mississippi Valley Presbytery Financial Reports for 2018

Attachments:

General Fund Report

Schedule of Assessments by Churches

Christian Education Fund Report

Outreach North America Fund Reports (ONA Funds, Revitalization Funds, and Funds restricted for New Church Plant in Louisville KY)

Endowment Funds

2018 Financial Highlights:

- -Received payoff of note from sale of Covington Church Property
- -Received proceeds from sale of Havana Church Property
- -Transferred \$100,000 from these transactions to the Endowment Funds
- -Received \$150,000 from Midlane Park Church designated for starting a new church in Louisville KY
- -Provided Support of \$74,971 for River City Reformed Church in Little Rock with Synod providing \$18,000 of this amount. Synod's Support in 2019 is reduced to \$12,000. In early 2019, a CD matured which will be used fund the 2019 MVP support.
- -The December financial markets were unkind to the Endowment Funds but recovered well in January. The volatility seems to have settled down for now, but some uncertainty remains due to trade negotiations and the global economy. Long term view remains positive.

General Fund

Mississippi Valley Presbytery

	2018	<u>2017</u>
Balance January 1	\$123,627.93	\$120,063.58
Receipts:		
Assessments from Member Churches	14,180.00	\$12,358.00
Interest Income	945.00	750.00
Proceeds from Dunlap Sale	00	4,470.06
Total Receipts	\$15,125.00	\$17,578.06
Disbursements:		
Contribution to Christian Education Fund	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Printing, Postage and Clerk's Travel and Stipend	1,207.66	893.02
Committee Expenses	1,598.64	482.49
Pulpit Supply-Leaksville	-00	6,050.00
Chaplain Fund to General Synod	300.00	200.00
Books for Ministers	-00	293.79
Synod Committee Travel	-00	244.41
Expenses associated with closing Dunlap	70.00	850.00
Total Disbursements	\$8,176.30	\$14,013.71
Excess Receipts	\$6,948.70	\$3,564.35
Balance December 31	<u>\$130,576.63</u>	\$123,627.93
General Fund Bank Accounts:		
Renasant Bank 2200123455	\$30,576.63	\$23,627.93
Bank of New Albany Certificate of Deposit	100,000.00	100,000.00
Total Bank Accounts	\$130,576.63	\$123,627.93

Schedule of Assessments Paid by Churches

Mississippi Valley Presbytery

For Years Ended December 31, 2016, 2017 and 2018

	2018	2017	2016
Bethany, Guntown, MS	500.00	\$400.00	\$400.00
Brighton, TN	-00	\$1,040.00	\$1,020.00
Ebenezer, Blue Mtn., MS	400.00	\$400.00	\$400.00
Ellisville Presbyterian, Ellisville, MS	-00	\$250.00	\$0.00
Elsberry, MO	90.00	\$90.00	\$90.00
Faith Presbyterian, Leakesville, MS*	1,600.00	\$-00	\$600.00
French Camp, MS	900.00	\$900.00	\$900.00
Graceview, Southhaven, MS	1,200.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00
Gospel of Grace, Springfield, MO	500.00	\$430.00	\$0.00
Gum Tree, Tupelo, MS	810.00	\$790.00	\$710.00
Helena, Moss Point, MS	500.00	\$250.00	\$250.00
Hernando Reformed, Hernando, MS	200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00
Hickory Springs, AR	-00	\$-00	\$50.00
Hopewell, New Albany, MS	800.00	\$698.00	\$1,300.00
Midlane Park, Louisville, KY	300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00
Mt. Zion, Troy, MO	180.00	\$220.00	\$280.00
New Albany, MS	2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$1,950.00
New Geneva, Paducah, KY*	1,110.00	\$-00	\$640.00
Pottsville, AR	300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00
Providence, Bartlett, TN	500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
Richland, Rosemark, TN	500.00	\$500.00	\$1,540.00
Salem, Atoka, TN	1,600.00	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00
Sharon, Brighton, TN	190.00	\$210.00	\$210.00
Wood Avenue, Monticello, AR	-00	\$80.00	\$80.00
Total Receipts from churches	\$14,180.00	\$12,358.00	\$14,520.00

Names in bold indicate no 2018 payment

^{*} indicates 2017 and 2018 paid this year

Christian Education Fund Mississippi Valley Presbytery

	<u>2018</u>	2017
Balance January 1	\$6,856.10	\$8,645.68
Receipts:		
Received from General Fund	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Received from Summer Campers	17,040.00	16,380.00
Received from Fall Retreat Campers	1,840.00	1,530.00
Total Receipts	\$23,880.00	\$22,910.00
Disbursements:		
Expenses of Summer Camp	\$21,902.08	\$20,149.43
Expenses of Fall Retreat	2,811.29	2,083.50
Honorarium and Travel for Leadership Conference	-00	2,115.00
Synod CEM Travel Reimbursement	-00	351.65
Total Disbursements	24,713.37	\$24,699.58
Excess Receipts over/ (Under) Disbursements	\$(833.37)	\$(1,789.58)
Balance December 31	\$6,022.73	\$6,856.10
Christian Education Bank Account:		
Bank of New Albany 162026003	\$6,022.73	<u>\$6,856.10</u>

Outreach North America Funds Mississippi Valley Presbytery

	<u>2018</u>
ONA FUNDS:	
Balance January 1, 2018	\$80,456.01
Receipts:	
Contribution from Synod for Little Rock Mission	\$18,000.00
Collection on Covington Note including payoff	135,000.44
Sale of Havana Church Building/close account	41,410.83
Interest Income	384.84
Royalties from Ross Exploration	404.74
Total Receipts	\$195,200.85
Disbursements:	
Howard Wheeler Salary and Benefits	60,419.04
Howard Wheeler Mileage and Expense reimbursement	13,052.53
Donation in lieu of Rent	1,500.00
Committee Expense	1,219.90
Transfer to Synod Investment Funds	100,000.00
Matching Grant to Murray KY Church	35,000.00
	211,191.47
Balance ONA Funds December 31, 2018	\$64,465.39
Church Revitalization Funds:	
Balance January 1, 2018	\$27,514.80
Add: Received from Synod for revitalization funds	1,955.00
Less: Travel to Revitalization Seminar	(505.00)
Balance Church Revitalization Funds Dec 31, 2018	<u>\$28,964.80</u>
Restricted Funds:	
Donation received for Louisville KY New Church Plant	\$150,000.00
Interest earned	342.20
Balance in Restricted Funds	<u>\$150,342.20</u>
Combined ONA, Revitilization and Restricted Funds	\$243,772.39
ONA Bank Accounts:	
Bank of New Albany 1620260-01 Checking	\$27,185.52
BNA Bank 1620260-09 Money Market (Restricted)	150,342.20
Bank of New Albany Certificate of Deposit	66,244.67
Total in Banks	\$243,772.39

Mississippi Valley Presbytery

Endowment Funds

	Moderate ARP Invest-	Conservative ARP Invest-	
		ment Fund B	Total
Value of Accounts January 1, 2018	\$694,572.19	\$281,261.70	\$975,833.89
Additions to the account in 2018	100,000.00		100,000.00
Increase in value of Accounts during 2018	(42,909.64)	(4,450.93)	(47,360.57)
Value of Accounts December 31, 2018	<u>\$751,662.55</u>	\$276,810.77	<u>\$1,028,473.32</u>
Annualized return for 2018	<u>-6.18%</u>	<u>-1.58%</u>	<u>-6.47%</u>
Increase in Value since Inception	\$29,052.55	\$26,810.77	\$55,863.32
Initial Investment	\$200,000.00	\$250,000.00	\$450,000.00
Additional Contribution in 2015	79,790.00	-00	79,790.00
Additional Contribution in 2017	342,820.00	-00	342,820.00
Additional Contribution in 2018	100,000.00	<u>-00</u>	100,000.00
Total Invested	\$722,610.00	\$250,000.00	\$972,610.00
Value of Account on January 31, 2019	\$793,217.00	\$283,233.00	\$1,076,450.00
Increase in value since inception	\$70,607.00		\$103,840.00
percent increase in the month	8.90%		9.65%

ONA Meeting, MVP February 21, 2019

Those present: John Tucker, Chairman, Milton Murphy and Carl Patterson. Members Mike Yarman, Bob White and Mark Paris were not available.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Milton Murphy.

A short devotional was given by John Tucker with scripture from Psalm 96.

John advised that Conner Hips, ONA Director of Systems, would be available to meet with us at the Spring meeting of MVP. He advised that there is a program available that can be used by our churches to search areas nearby that will provide us with a history of religious activities, if any, which will be a great tool for each congregations outreach ministries. After learning of the potential in using this program, the committee agreed that we should invite all the folks attending MVP to hear and learn more from Conner regarding all the possibilities that this entails.

We reviewed the bulletin insert from ONA and all felt that we should expand on this important tool and make it available to all our churches.

We will be asking each of our churches to provide photos and a brief summary and put this in a "bulletin insert" and make it available to each church in order to better inform sister congregations throughout the MVP. This is not meant to place a burden, but to provide others with "what's working" for your church and possibly incorporate these activities at other locations to enhance each congregation's Worship.

We reviewed a report submitted by Andy French from the Redeemer Church in Murray, Ky. (insert)

Redeemer continues to do well, we have a consistent attendance with our last numbers, our regulars number around 30 with various visitors at different times. We will be adding mid-week services and other events throughout the week once we are in our new facility. Our men's bible study on Wednesday morning continues to do well with numbers and subject matters. There is a good deal of buzz about our new facility and we are renewing our efforts to invite folks to our new facility who have shown interest in the past. Our new website is also being updated with pictures of the new property and some new content.

Blessings:

- A local contractor provided us with a new roof, including materials, roughly \$25k+
- -A local contractor is providing us with stained concrete floors for free- roughly \$6k+
- -A local audio equipment store is giving us brand new equipment for 70% off of retail cost
- -Many other local contractors have been extremely generous with bid amount or simply performing work for whatever our budget for those items allows.
- All of those factors have allowed us to renovated every room of the building, which is something we did not think feasible initially.
- A good number of folks have committed to attend our mid-week worship, bible study, and Q & A, which we are very excited about.

Thanks for reaching out, we're working around the clock to get things ready to move in soon. Many thanks to everyone at Presbytery for their support and prayers.

ONA Meeting, MVP February 21, 2019

We also reviewed a report from Howard Wheeler of the River City Church in Little Rock.

January 2019 Report from River City Reformed Mission, Little Rock, Arkansas

Beloved ONA Committee, thanks for your prayer & support. My foci this January has been:

- 1. To expand the group participating in our weekly gatherings and focus on organic growth.
- 2. To secure liability insurance and open a River City bank account
- 3. To cultivate greater involvement by the core group through service and giving.
- 4. To plan and promote a Ladies Bible Study
- 5. To brainstorm new ways to reach additional groups of people.
- 6. To expand my personal and ministerial influence in Little Rock.

River City Reformed met for worship every Lord's Day this January at St. Andrews Anglican. These Lord's Day evening gatherings averaged 25 individuals. This represents an increase over the Fall of 2018 from 22 to 25 people.

Our Session met by teleconference on January 20 to review the status of the congregation, to plan the administration of the Lord's Supper on January 27 and to authorize purchasing liability insurance and opening a new bank account in River City's name. This account will be used to pay for the insurance and the terms of the pastoral call and will be used to receive tithes and offerings. We have begun receiving tithes and offerings in a regular manner. Though I am committed to the importance of an offertory during the liturgy, given the size of our group at this time and a desire to avoid awkwardness or the impression of compulsion, we are receiving gifts via a "gift box" which is placed on our hospitality table. This box is lockable, has a plexiglass sign built for an explanation of its purpose, and will be managed by the de facto treasurer, our provisional elder, Matt Wylie.

Giving is now also possible through online giving, using ONA's portal and also Tithe.ly as well as in person each week using our collection box. You can check out our online giving options at https://rivercityarp.org/partner-with-us-financially/. We have also set up AmazonSmile to deposit funds from their charitable giving into our account and will receive gifts from Kroger's Community Awards program in January. In December we made our 10% contribution to the denominational ministry fund in the amount of \$1388.

We continued our Men's Bible Study, which is walking through Don Whitney's book, Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life. This is giving me a good opportunity to set a discipleship baseline with some of our men. Two new men have joined us regularly during this study. We began in October and will wrap up by the middle of February. We typically have 4-5 men attend this study weekly. We are evaluating our next study topic.

We are currently in the planning phase for a Ladies Bible Study to being this winter. One of our ladies who is a BSF leader has agreed to lead a study in her home. She is very centrally located and outdoing and will do a good job. We have decided to utilize Phillip Ryken's Loving Like Jesus Loved for the study.

ONA Meeting, MVP February 21, 2019

We also received the gift of a portable sound system from a member in one of our MVP churches. This sound system will allow us to record services for posting on our website. This was one of the big ticket budget items, so this is a great blessing to us and to MVP as well.

Going forward, my goals for this winter are:

- 1. To grow our weekly gatherings to a solid average of 25-30.
- 2. To find ways to improve fellowship, relationship building and community within the core group.
- To plan and promote a core group development study based on "The Art of Neighboring" for the purpose of reaffirming our core strategy of organic, sphere of influence evangelism and discipleship.
- To implement a Women's Bible Study for the purposes of increased Bible knowledge, deeper fellowship among our ladies, and outreach.
- 5. To plan and promote a cycle of Christianity Explored in some venue, either in Downtown/Midtown Little Rock or possible at UALR among students.
- 6. To provide intentional pastoral care for core group members.
- 7. To work to evaluate and implement effective promotion and advertising.
- 8. To identity men who are biblically qualified for leadership and to begin leadership development.
- 9. Contacts! Contacts! Contacts!

The specific prayer needs for River City Reformed Presbyterian Church include:

- 1. Thanksgiving for the continued support of St. Andrew's Anglican Church, Little Rock for their gracious hospitality in allowing us to use space for our weekly worship gatherings.
- 2. Thanksgiving for the faithful ongoing support of ONA and the Mississippi Valley Presbytery.
- 3. Thanksgiving for the provision of A/V equipment including portable speakers and microphones
- 4. For the Lord to bring new families and younger singles and college students into our fellowship this fall. Last year we prayed for "50 somethings". The Lord has answered this prayer, but now we need some younger families as well.
- 5. For clarity about the logistics of beginning either Life Explored or Christianity Explored.
- 6. For wisdom to provide community outreach events that are effective.
- 7. For more opportunities to meet people in the community.
- 8. For the growth of hospitality and fellowship within our core group as we practice the "art of neighboring."
- For wisdom and discernment in identifying men to begin leadership development and for the Lord to bring a ministry co-laborer.

Some specific needs for River City Reformed Presbyterian Church include.

- Referrals the names and contact information of people that you know who live in Little Rock, North Little Rock, or Conway, Arkansas. Your referrals make a difference.
- For MVP pastors, elders and congregations to follow our website, rivercityarp.org, and to follow/like our facebook page and twitter feed, @RiverCityARP.
- For MVP pastors, elders and congregations to contribute financially to the work by direct gift (either through online giving or through your Session) and by selecting us as your supported

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non-profit through AmazonSmiles and through Kroger Community Rewards. Ask me and I will explain how to enroll in these programs.

4. Come and visit us on Lord's Day evenings.

Thanks for your prayers and support. Howard Wheeler

It's encouraging to see how God is at work in each of these Congregations. A new bible study was begun last night and Howard asked if we would pray for God's leading and we paused and Carl led the group in prayer for this new study.

John advised that the search for a "church planter" in the Louisville, Ky. Is back to square one. We will continue to pray for God's leading in this new endeavor.

John has met a young man named Job Dalomba, a Southern Baptist pastor that is interested in Reformed teaching and wants to get involved in leading a congregation. He is living in the Senotobia, Ms. area and we will see where this leads.

Recommendations:

That the Churches of MVP be aware of the valuable resources of ONA Available, including Missionsite. That the Churches of MVP supply the ONA Chairman with information about their ministries and programs and pictures.

That MVP continue to pray earnestly for a qualified and capable Mission developer for Louisville.

That MVP give thanks for God's great work at Redeemer and for the purchase of their new building.

That MVP continue to pray for Howard Wheeler's great work at River City and approve his recommendations.

Milton Murphy closed our meeting with prayer.

Submitted by Carl Patterson

Minister and His Work Committee March 4, 2019 French Camp Spring MS Valley Presbytery

In attendance Rev. Kent Moorlach, Chairman, Mr. Larry Littlejohn, Vice-Chairman, Rev. Don Watkins, Rev. Mike Chipman, Mr. Shelby Lowery, Rev. Howard Wheeler, Mr. Michael Shotwell and Mr. Stan Carroll. Visitors in attendance Rev. Kyle Brent, Stephen Ewing, Marty Smithart, Rev. Ron Pierce, Josh Walker and Rev. Charlie Turner.

The meeting was opened - in prayer by Larry Littlejohn and called to order at 3:37 p.m. Stan Carroll accepted the appointment of committee secretary.

The presented agenda was presented and approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

1A.

Recollection/confirmation of document from commission chaired by Rev. Mark Miller which focused on our qualifications for Stated Supply Ministers. According to our Principle Clerk, this document has undergone all revisions and readings and was adopted by MVP in the Fall of 2016.

1B. Ellisville ARP

Discussion/conversation with Rev. Charlie Turner regarding his current status with Ellisville ARP; continued discussion regarding the transfer of his credentials, future desires of Rev. Turner and acknowledgement that the Turner family is living in the Ellisville manse.

Motion made to examine Rev. Turner by Chairman Kent Moorlach, seconded by Vice-Chairman Larry Littlejohn. Motion passed.

Rev. Turner shared his testimony and background with the committee followed by a series of questions from committee members covering his future goals and his conformity to the Westminster Standards. Motion to end examination, passed.

Motion made to recommend for Presbytery to approve Rev. Turner as stated supply for Ellisville by Rev. Howard Wheeler, seconded by Rev. Mike Chipman. Motion passed.

2. Helena ARP

Received by email the following submitted correspondence from Les Rhodes,

"Greetings to you and your lovely family,

After considering the future of the church, I felt it was better for me to stay than have it fall into a state ending in closure. I was welcomed with open arms when I made the announcement making us feel special.

It is true that we may not be functioning by the letter of the law, however, everyone is in agreement that we can survive and do well. At this time Helena Presbyterian Church would like to retract its request for assistance as none is required at this time.

From a standpoint of finances, the church just simply cannot afford a full time minister. Over the past two years, I have been able to eliminate my salary and other monetary support from the church. When the agreement was made for me to reconsider and stay on as the pastor, I only agreed if the prior arrangements could be keep as they were. I have a great job that can support me and my wife financially and also aid the church. God has everything under control when it comes to our needs. The church is in the process of disposing of the manse which will aid greatly in the monthly financial arena.

We have seen a growth in attendance since the turn of the year, which is encouraging for all. This past Sunday we had 44 in attendance. We are excited by the prospect of future growth and expansion of ministry opportunities during this new year.

As far as the spring meeting, it is doubtful that Helena will have any representation as work schedules and health issues seem to plague us tremendously. We will certainly be praying and will attend in spirit.

Thank you again for your concern and your visit with the church. Our thanks to the MaHW committee for their prayers and support of Helena. As things progress I will keep you informed. In the meantime, Gods Rich Blessings and Grace to all.

Les Rhodes

The received report from Les Rhodes generated discussion/conversation on options and circumstances facing the local church, Helena ARP.

3. Update on MVP Student of Theology

Student Stephen Ewing is inquiring about his current educational track which "comes up short" on our MDiv requirements. Received an oral report from student Stephen Ewing relating to his current educational track requesting recommendations from the committee. Committee members offered support in assisting Ewing in his educational track. Recommendation for prayer and guidance as Ewing continues his educational endeavors and future plans with the Presbytery.

4. Rev. Moises Chan

Received by email the following submitted correspondence from Rev Moises Chan, "Rev. Morlach,

My prayers are with you and your family as well.

Since our last communication, I have requested membership as a Minister of Word and Sacrament in the PCUSA and accepted a parish Associate position helping the First Presbyterian Church of Springdale AR with a needs based outreach ministry to the local Hispanic community.

I will update you once my official status is confirmed at the PCUSA Presbytery meeting of Arkansas March 1st. & 2nd. 2019.

The Lord continue to bless you all.

In Christ,

Moises Chan

We are still waiting to receive the formal request to transfer credentials. Will pursue and coordinate with MVP Principle Clerk.

5. Josh Walker seeking alignment with ARP/MVP

Mr. Josh Walker is seeking alignment with ARP/MVP. Recalling previous conversations and documents, he is a well qualified "minister" at an independent Presbyterian church, a college instructor, PhD candidate, church staff member, member of First Columbia Church (ARP), and firmly committed to our standards. He is desirous of being ARP. As he is employed at a "confessionally Reformed Church." The Session of this church has provided us with a letter encouraging us to receive him as a student/licentiate. Mr. Walker participated in a phone conference where we "examined" his life and faith. The conclusion of the committee's work determined two things: a). He is a fit candidate for ministry, although requiring more knowledge of the ARP. b). The process to bring him "under care" of the MVP is "out of the ordinary," but manageable.

Motion made to accept Mr. Walker as a "Student of Theology" coming under of the care of Presbytery, by Rev. Don and seconded by Larry Littlejohn. Motion Passed.

6. Appointment of MaHW Representative to Synod Business Meetings

Chairmen of Standing Committees are automatically members of the Synod Board of Stewardship. Our present chairman has been unable to attend these meetings in Bonclarken. MVP has voted to send an appropriate proxy for our committee, Mike Thompson.

7. Splitting / Defining Roles for MaHW

Our MVP Rules for Standing Committees -- specifically for MaHW was circulated among our committee via email with notations for possible edits composed by Chairman Moorlach after a meeting with the MVP Clerk. The MVP Moderator, Elder Paul Walley, will appoint a special commission to work on this project.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. "Stated Supply" Nathaniel Johnson in MO.
- Please see this section of an email sent 02/05/19:
- "...As to ministerial duties at Mt. Zion ARP church:

I've been asked to preach the last two Sundays of the month. When I come to preach I'm also expected to lead the liturgy of the church. The elder Larry Buck already has the liturgy prepared, and he leads the music."

2. New Student of Theology

Martin (Marty) Smithhart shared his testimony and background along with his goals, aspirations and basis for seeking status, care and coverage from Presbytery as a "Student of Theology."

Motion was made to accept Martin (Marty) Smithhart as a student of theology and coming under the care of Presbytery by Rev. Mike Chipman and seconded by Rev. Don Watkins. Motion passed.

3. Job Dalomba

Mr. Dalomba recently contacted me by phone to express his appreciation on behalf of our local ARP Ministers for their concern for his future role as a minister, adding that he greatly appreciates the ARP denomination. However, he has been given strong indication from a PCA church that a future role of ministry exists there for him. He will pursue this opportunity at this time.

4. Update on Ministers/Ministries

Text (02/05/19) from presbyter and Military Chaplain, Rev. Matthew Heathman:

"Good Afternoon, I hope y'all are doing well. As of now (we have paper orders) we are heading back to Japan. We are due to head out there end Aug/early Sept. I'll be working at the Chapel at Atsugi Air Base, which is in the Tokyo area."

5. Communication from Stated Supply, Rev. David Dively (PCA)

We received a report from Rev. Dively of Midlane Park ARP in Louisville, KY. He, along with his session is overseeing the daily ministry of the church. They are praying for two actions related to their ministry: 1). To appoint a church planter to the area who will utilize funds from Midlane Park's savings, 2). To hire a pastor to revitalize the church (both objectives under the direction of MVP ONA). Rev. Dively has been ill and in need of a kidney transplant, and we will pray to that end. We are grateful that Elder Kleinjan and his wife are present with us at this presbytery meeting.

6. Report received from Rev. Ron Pierce

Report to Mississippi Valley Presbytery ARP, Ministerial Committee

3/4/2019

Faith Presbyterian Church ARP Progress Report

God has blessed the congregation at Faith Church in Leakesville tremendously in the year of our Lord 2018. The attendance in 2016 and early 2017 was twenty-five to thirty-five. Our attendance for 2018 was from fifty to seventy, with an average of sixty-one.

Our giving has more than doubled. We have already bought the supplies and hired a contractor to finish the construction of the upstairs that will contain the children's classrooms, bathrooms and storage. There will be no money borrowed. It is all paid for by God's people. This project has remained unfinished since the church was built some twelve years ago. The people are very excited watching God work.

We have started new outreach projects in the community as well. The Women of Faith have begun their own version of "Meals on Wheels". The men have taken it upon themselves to pass out brochures inviting their friends, co-workers, neighbors and family members to special events at the church. As an example: we had the largest crowd ever assembled at Faith for our Christmas program, 168 people attended. At the present moment we have the largest choir ever at Faith practicing for the Easter Cantata. Speaking of the choir, after many years of using an old piano with keys that didn't play and some that would stick, we now have a new baby grand piano that sounds like heaven.

As for the future plans for 2019, we want to restructure our budget to increase our givings for missions and benevolence. As we as a Church continue to find ways to answer the needs of the poor and the elderly in our community.

Respectfully Submitted

In the Name of Our Lord Jesus the Christ,

Rev. Ron Pierce

It is also the case that Faith ARP in Leaksville is in need of an official moderator of Session.

Further discussion regarding the proper constitution of a Session took place. We are exploring possible solutions for a "long distance" Moderator who could participate or oversee congregational concerns via electronic means.

7. Appoint Rev. Kyle Brent as moderator to Bethany ARP.

Recommendations:

- Recommend Rev. Charlie Turner (PCA) be approved as stated supply for Ellisville ARP.
- Recommend the MS Valley moderator appoint provisional elders to the session for Ellisville ARP.
- Recommendation for prayer and guidance as student Stephen Ewing continues his
 educational endeavors and future plans with the Presbytery.
- Recommendation for Presbytery to accept Martin (Marty) Smithhart as a "Student of Theology" and come under the care of Presbytery.
- Recommendation for Presbytery to accept Josh Walker as a "Student of Theology" and come under the care of Presbytery.
- Recommendation that Rev. Kyle Brent serve as moderator to Bethany ARP.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 5, 2019. Meeting was closed in prayer by Chairman Kent Moorlach.

Respectfully submitted, Stan Carroll

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
- 2019 French Camp, New Geneva
- 2020 New Albany, Pottsville
- **2021** -- Hopewell

OFFICERS OF MISSISSIPPI VALLEY PRESBYTERY

Moderator: Mr. Paul Walley

11802 N Farm Road 101, Willard, MO 65781.

417-872-2968

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(Spring 2020)

Vice-Moderator: Rev. Mike Chipman

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(Fall 2019)

Principal Clerk: Rev. Tim Phillips

57 Church St., Brighton, TN 38011

(O) 502-491-0269 (C) 901-451-7892 (E) tiparp@gmail.com

(Spring 2019)

Reading Clerk: Rev. Joseph Donahue

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(Fall 2021)

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(H) 662-840-8095 (C) 662-401-9934 (E) johnr1568@att.net (December 2017)

Parliamentarian: Rev. Howard Wheeler

47 E Ash St, PO Box 318, Pottsville, AR 72858-0318.

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(Fall 2018)

STANDING COMMITTEES OF MISSISSIPPI VALLEY PRESBYTERY

Christian Education Ministries

Rev. Alex Coblentz, Chairman (2019)

Rev. Charles Covington (2021)

Mr. Charles Browning (2019)

Mr. Stephen Ewing (2020)

Mr. Bruce Hosket (2020)

Rev. Christopher Neiswonger (2021)

Minister and His Work

Rev. Kent Moorlach, Chairman (2022)

Rev. Don Watkins (2019)

Mr. Larry Littlejohn (2019)

Rev. Mike Chipman (2020)

Mr. Shelby Lowery (2020)

Rev. Howard Wheeler (2021)

Mr. Michael Shotwell (2021)

Mr. Stan Carroll (2022)

Nominations

Rev. Gary Jones, Chairman (2019)

Mr. David Strock (2020)

Rev. Joey Donahue (2021)

Mr. Richard Moore (2022)

Outreach North America

Rev. John Tucker, Chairman (2020)

Rev. Mike Yarman (2019)

Mr. Milton Murphy (2019)

Rev. Robert White (2020)

Mr. Mark Paris (2021)

Mr. Carl Patterson (2021)

Stewardship

Mr. Mike Thomason, Chair (2019)

Rev. Alex Coblentz (2019)

Rev.. John Tucker (2020)

Rev. Kent Moorlach (2022)

Mr. John Robinson – Ex Officio

Educational Fund Board of Trustees

Rev. Robert White, Chairman

Mr. Randy Goulder

Mr. Danny Hughes

Mr. Russell McDaniel

Mr. Bill Lucado

Trustees of Presbytery

Mr. Charles Browning

Mr. Milton Murphy

Mr. Mike Thomason

Synod Board & Agency Representatives

Christian Ed.: Rev. Alex Coblentz (2019)

Dunlap: Rev. Bill Everett (2019)

Exec. Board: Rev. Tim Phillips (2021)

MaHW: Rev. Kent Moorlach (2022) Nom.: Rev. Joey Donahue (2021)

ONA: Rev. John Tucker (2020)

Stewardship: Mr. Mike Thomason (2019)

Students of Theology

Stephen Ewing (RTS-Jackson)

Marty Smithart (The North American

Reformed Seminary)

Josh Walker

Missionaries

Jodie Gaston

(NOTE: Membership of Standing Committees will change on July 1, 2019; see Nominations Report in Appendix C for new committee members assignments)

Appendix I

Honorably Retired Ministers

Rev. Thomas Braithwaite (retired chaplain)

Rev. Ron Brunson (retired missionary)

Rev. Conrad Cheatham

Rev. James Coad III (retired missionary)

Rev. Bill Everett Rev. Michael Garvey Rev. Carl Geisik

Rev. Wayne Stanchfield

Rev. Charles Todd Rev. John Tucker Rev. Don Watkins

Rev. Mike Yarman (retired chaplain)

Churches Served by Stated Supplies

Bethany: Pastor Larry Taylor Ebenezer: Rev. Bill Everett

Elsberry and Mt. Zion: Rev. Conrad Cheatham

Faith: Rev. Ron Pierce Helena: 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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Click, Charles, PO Box 187, Brighton, TN 38011. 901-476-1718.

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White, Robert, 901-491-2174. memphisrawhite@bellsouth.net

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

Schedule for Review of Minutes of Sessions

Spring Meeting Fall Meeting

Faith Bethany

Gospel of Grace Brighton

Graceview Ebenezer

Gum Tree Ellisville

Helena Elsberry

Hernando French Camp

Hickory Springs Hopewell

Midlane Park Mt. Zion

New Albany New Geneva

River City Pottsville

Salem Providence Reformed

Sharon Redeemer

Wood Avenue Richland