

# **The Minutes Of Mississippi Valley Presbytery**

General Synod of the  
Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church



## **Spring Stated Meeting**

**October 7-8, 2019**

New Geneva Community Church  
Paducah, Kentucky

## **Called Meeting**

**December 14, 2019**

Richland ARP Church  
Rosemark, Tennessee

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**PROCEEDINGS**  
**MISSISSIPPI VALLEY PRESBYTERY**  
**New Geneva Community Church**  
**Paducah, Kentucky**

**Fall Stated Meeting**  
**October 7-8, 2019**

The registration of delegates began at 4 pm on Monday, October 7, 2019. Following an evening meal provided by the host church at 6:00 p.m., the Fall Stated Meeting of Mississippi Valley Presbytery began at 7 p.m. with an opening worship service led by Rev. Don Watkins, pastor of New Geneva Community Church (see **Appendix A**). Rev. Charlie Turner, currently serving as the stated supply pastor of the Ellisville Presbyterian Church, preached a sermon from Genesis 28, entitled “Surely the Lord Is in This Place.” Rev. Watkins then led the presbytery in the celebration of the sacrament of the Lord’s Supper.

Following the worship service and a brief recess, Moderator Paul Walley opened the business portion of the meeting with prayer. Rev. Don Watkins welcomed the members of presbytery to the meeting.

The Stated Clerk confirmed a quorum was present.

**Ministers Present**

Thomas Braithwaite ( <i>E</i> )	Steve Hardy ( <i>E</i> )
Kyle Brent	Gary Jones ( <i>E</i> )
Ron Brunson ( <i>E</i> )	Matthew Heathman ( <i>E</i> )
Meredith Cavin ( <i>E</i> )	Kent Moorlach
Conrad Cheatham	Christopher Neiswonger ( <i>E</i> )
Mike Chipman	Tim Phillips
Gary Clowers ( <i>A</i> )	Wayne Stanchfield ( <i>E</i> )
James Coad III ( <i>E</i> )	Brian Taylor
Alex Coblentz	Charles Todd ( <i>E</i> )
Charles Covington	John Tucker ( <i>E</i> )
Joey Donahue	Don Watkins
Bill Everett ( <i>E</i> )	Howard Wheeler
Michael Garvey ( <i>E</i> )	Robert White
Jodie Gaston ( <i>E</i> )	Mike Yarman

(A) = Unexcused Absence

(E) Excused Absence

## Ruling Elders Present

Bethany – none	Hickory Springs – none
Brighton – Richard Moore	Hopewell – Charles Browning
Ebenezer – Edwin Dees	Midlane Park – Dale Kleinjan
Ellisville – Michael Shotwell	Mt. Zion – none
Elsberry – none	New Albany – none
Faith – none	New Geneva – none
French Camp – Larry Littlejohn	Pottsville – none
Gospel of Grace – Aaron Rozeboom	Providence – David Strock
Graceview – none	Richland – none
Gum Tree – none	Salem – none
Helena – none	Sharon – none
Hernando – Steve Rice	Wood Avenue -- none

## Guests

Alexander Kranda, Troy Graham, Rev. Ronald L. Pierce, Brenda Pierce, Marty Smithhart, Steve Carr, Stephen Ewing

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 approved by the presbytery (see **Appendix A**).

The Spring 2019 Minutes (including minutes of two called meetings) were adopted by the presbytery.

There was no unfinished business.

Moderator Walley appointed a committee to examine the records of sessions: David Strock (chair), Don Watkins, Mike Yarman, Edwin Dees, Richard Moore, and Joey Donahue.

Moderator Walley then gave a special address to the presbytery. He encouraged the members of the court to strive to “keep the faith,” citing Hebrews 11:16 – “God is not ashamed to call them brethren.” After his address, the Moderator prayed for the ministers and elders of the presbytery.

Rev. Kyle Brent, pastor of the New Albany Presbyterian Church, was nominated as Moderator-elect of presbytery. There were no more nominations, and Rev. Brent was elected by acclamation.

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

### **Tuesday Morning, October 7, 2019**

The meeting of MVP reconvened at 8:00 a.m. Rev. Don Watkins gave a devotion from Proverbs 3:5-6.

Moderator Walley called the meeting to order and opened with prayer. A report from the Nominations Committee was presented to the presbytery (see **Appendix B**). All the recommendations for service were approved.

The report from the MVP Educational Fund Committee was presented to the presbytery (see **Appendix C**). There was one recommendation from the report was considered by the presbytery (item # 2 -- the moving of \$10,000 in funds from a CD to the Moderate ARP Investment Fund). Discussion about the recommendation ensued. A vote was taken and the recommendation passed.

The Treasurer’s Report was presented to the presbytery (see **Appendix D**). The report was received as information and adopted by the presbytery.

There was no Stewardship Report. It was noted that the Stewardship Chairman Mike Thomason was recovering from recent surgery. Prayer was given for Mr. Thomason.

The report from the Minister and His Work Committee was presented to the presbytery (see **Appendix E**). The four recommendations from the report were considered individually. The first recommendation passed. The second recommendation was considered and passed. The third recommendation was then considered and passed, and Rev. Charlie Turner was brought before the court for examination.

Before the examination begin, a representative of the Minister and His Work Committee informed the court of the types of questions that had been asked when the committee had examined Rev. Turner. From the floor, Rev. Turner was asked how he would give a gospel application to his sermon from the previous evening on Genesis 28. A question was asked about evangelism and the last time Rev. Turner had shared the gospel with someone. A question was asked about whether Rev. Turner had read the ARP's position statement on sexual identity (he had not). A follow-up question was asked concerning whether sexual desire was sinful (affirmed by Rev. Turner). A question was about how he would help a member of the congregation struggling with assurance of salvation. A question was asked about original sin and the imputation of Adam's sin. A question was asked about the three different levels of church courts in the ARP. A question was asked about the application of the 4th commandment to the Christian life. The candidate was asked a question about Roman Catholicism. A motion was made to end questions and sustain the examination of Rev. Turner (seconded, passed).

Critiques for Rev. Turner's examination were offered to the presbytery. A motion was made to sustain the sermon (seconded, passed).

An explanation was given as to the rationale for recommendation 4 in the report. After discussion, the recommendation passed.

A question about the transfer of Rev. David Storment to a presbytery in the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) was raised. It was noted that the discussion would continue after the morning break.

Prior to the order of the day, the right hand of fellowship was given to Rev. Turner.

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

### **Recess for Committee Meetings (10 a.m.)**

The meeting of presbytery reconvened with a presentation from Mr. David Pendergrass of Erskine College. Rev. Mike Yarman also gave a presentation about the work of World Witness in Pakistan, and Rev. Kyle Brent gave a brief presentation on a mission opportunity in Wales.

The report from the Minister and His Work Committee was then adopted by the presbytery. As an addition to the committee's report to the presbytery, Student of Theology Stephen Ewing gave a brief presentation of the progress of his studies.

Rev. Alex Coblentz noted that Mr. Stephen Ewing had done an outstanding job as director of MVP's summer camp.

The report of the Moderator's Committee on Session Records was presented to the presbytery by Chairman David Strock. The following churches were approved without exceptions: Providence, Bethany, Ebenezer, Brighton, Mt. Zion, and Hopewell. The

following churches' records were approved with exceptions: Redeemer, French Camp, Elsberry, New Albany, New Geneva, Richland. Pottsville and Ellisville did not turn in minutes.

Discussion ensued over the thoroughness of reading through the minutes at presbytery.

The order of the day was reached, and Rev. Charles Covington prayed for the meal.

### **Order of the Day (Lunch – noon)**

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

A motion was made to allow the Moderator to appoint a special committee to consider how other presbyteries handle the reading of sessional records and report back to the Spring 2020 meeting of presbytery (seconded, passed). Mike Chipman, Aaron Rozeboom, David Strock, and Tim Phillips were appointed by the Moderator to serve on the committee.

The report from the Moderator's Committee on Sessional Reports was adopted.

The Outreach North America Committee report was presented to the presbytery (see **Appendix F**). After the report was presented, the recommendations from the report were then considered. Rev. Howard Wheeler addressed the presbytery regarding the River City mission and the need for an intern to assist with this work. After a time of discussion, a vote was taken and both recommendations were approved. The report was then adopted by the presbytery.

The Christian Education Committee report was presented to the presbytery (see **Appendix G**). Mr. Stephen Ewing gave a brief report about MVP Camp and Rev. Kyle Brent (Chair of the CE Committee) also spoke to the recommendations. Recommendation 1 was considered and passed after discussion. Recommendation 2 passed. Recommendation 3 passed after discussion. Recommendation 4 passed. Stephen Ewing was called upon to pray.

Rev. Kyle Brent also addressed the presbytery about the need to have a policy statement on human sexuality in place by the time presbytery meets in the spring. The report was then adopted by the presbytery.

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

- Spring 2020, New Albany Presbyterian Church in New Albany, Mississippi
- Fall 2021, Pottsville Presbyterian Church, in Pottsville, Arkansas
- Spring 2021, Hopewell Presbyterian Church in New Albany, Mississippi

A motion was made to accept the invitation of the Graceview Presbyterian Church in Southaven, Mississippi, to host the Fall 2021 meeting of presbytery (seconded, passed).

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 Fall 2019 meeting of MVP was closed with a prayer by Moderator Paul Walley and benediction by Rev. Joey Donahue.



**Mississippi Valley Presbytery**  
Called Meeting  
December 14, 2019

A called meeting of MVP was held on December 14, 2019 at the Richland ARP Church in Rosemark, Tennessee. The purpose of the meeting was to hear and act upon recommendations in a report from the Minister and His Work Committee regarding the dissolution of the pastoral relationship between the Rev. Kyle Brent and the New Albany Presbyterian Church, as well as conduct any business which may arise from the report.

Moderator Paul Walley was not able to attend the meeting, and in his absence Vice Moderator Kyle Brent called the meeting to order and opened the meeting with prayer. It was established that a quorum was present.

**Ministers**

Tim Phillips  
Bill Everett  
Kyle Brent  
Kent Moorlach  
Mike Chipman  
Charles Covington  
Joey Donahue  
Alex Coblenz  
Robert White

**Elders**

Mac Fennell, New Albany  
Charles Browning, Hopewell  
Edwin Dees, Ebenezer  
David Strock, Providence  
Larry Littlejohn, French Camp

Recommendation 7 from the November 19, 2019, Minister and His Work Committee report was considered first by the presbytery (passed). A motion was to nominate Rev. Charles Covington as Moderator of presbytery (seconded). There were no other nominations, and Rev. Covington was elected as Moderator-elect/Vice-Moderator by the presbytery. Rev. Brent then stepped down from moderating the meeting and Rev. Covington took the podium and prayed.

It was moved that the first two reports from the committee not be read (seconded, passed). The November 18, 2019 report was then presented to the presbytery.

Recommendation 1 from the report was considered. Rev. Kyle Brent was allowed to read a statement in consideration of the recommendation. A vote on the motion was taken by standing vote, and the motion passed 14-0. A motion was made to include the comments of Rev. Brent in the minutes (seconded, passed 12-0).

A question was asked about some of the comments made in Rev. Brent's statements. In the discussion, Rev. Brent made it clear that some of the accusations against him which he considered to be unfounded did not come from the New Albany session, but were made in private conversations with church members. Rev. Brent agreed to remove those comments his statement.

Recommendation 2 was presented and passed 13-0.

Recommendation 3 was presented and passed 13-1.

Recommendation 4 was considered by the presbytery. Discussion about the recommendation ensued. During the discussion, a letter from the New Albany session was read by Mac Fennell, an elder at the New Albany Presbyterian Church. After further discussion, Recommendation 4 passed 12-0, with one abstaining.

A motion was made to include the letter from the New Albany session in the minutes (seconded). There was discussion on the nature of the letter. A motion was made to call the question (seconded, passed). The motion then passed 12-0, with one abstaining.

As a point of personal privilege, Rev. Tim Phillips noted that he found the language of the letter to be objectionable and a personal offense.

Recommendation 5 was considered by the presbytery. Discussion ensued, and a substitute motion was made: *That the New Albany session pursue and engage in training on the Form of Government and general principles of faithful shepherding* (seconded, passed 12-0).

Recommendation 6 was presented. Discussion ensued, and the suggestion was made to define the terms of the recommendation more firmly. It was noted by members of the Minister and His Work Committee that the intention of the committee was to assign mentors for new ministers in the future, and Rev. Mike Chipman offered to work with Rev. Brent if the recommendation passed. A vote was taken and the recommendation passed 12-0, with one abstaining.

Recommendation 8 was considered and passed 14-0.

A motion was made that Rev. Kyle Brent resign as chairman of the Christian Education Committee (seconded). Members of the court spoke against the motion, and Rev. Brent expressed his wish to continue as chairman. The motion (and second) was withdrawn.

Recommendation 9 passed without objection.

During a time of announcements, prayer was requested for Richard Moore and John Scott, elders from the Brighton ARP Church, who had health concerns.

Rev. Bob White gave an update of the progress of Camp Joy-Tennessee.

A member of the New Albany session requested that two members of the session, Butch Collums and Jerry Harmon, be included in prayer because of health concerns.

A motion was made to adjourn (seconded, passed). The meeting was closed with a season of prayer.

## Minister and His Work Committee Meeting

October 21, 2019

The Minister and His Work Committee met on October 21, 2019, via phone conference. Present were committee members Kent Moorlach (chair), Mike Chipman, Larry Littlejohn, Shelby Lowery, Tim Phillips, Michael Shotwell, and Howard Wheeler. Also present as a guest was Rev. Kyle Brent. Committee member Stan Carroll was not present.

Rev. Moorlach opened the meeting in prayer.

Rev. Moorlach discussed the reason for the meeting: the dissolution of the pastoral relationship between Rev. Kyle Brent and the New Albany Presbyterian Church.

Rev. Brent was asked to speak to the committee, and he gave his account of the events surrounding the dissolution. Prior to a recent meeting of the New Albany session, concerns had been raised over Rev. Brent's visitation of members and availability during office hours. Rev. Brent had worked prior to the session meeting to resolve these issues and presented them at the meeting. After the adjournment of the session meeting, a statement was read requesting that Rev. Brent resign immediately. The reasons for calling for his resignation were complaints against him by members of the congregation, including: lack of visitation, objection to Christmas traditions of the church, preaching too much on the topic of sin, and requiring newly communing members to come before the session to give a testimony of their faith in Jesus Christ.

Several questions were asked of Rev. Brent. It was noted that several couples had joined the New Albany church while Rev. Brent served as pastor, as well as seven covenant children who had been baptized. *Form of Government* 9.57 was read to the committee, and it was noted that Rev. Brent had not received a copy of the session's desire to dissolve the relationship in writing. Also, it was confirmed that a congregation meeting had not been called to act on the request for Rev. Brent to resign as pastor.

It was acknowledged that an unofficial meeting of the session (with six of the eight elders on the session present) had taken place on the Monday evening prior to the Tuesday session meeting. It was also noted that some of the issues may have been influenced to some degree by the recent resignation of the youth director at New Albany.

A question was asked about Rev. Brent's current sense of call to gospel ministry. Rev. Brent expressed that his desire at this time was to remain in the ministry, but to leave New Albany and seek a call elsewhere. He also informed the committee that until the matter was resolved, he would continue to perform some of his duties as pastor (primarily visitation).

Rev. Brent was then dismissed from the meeting.

It was noted that there was widespread dissatisfaction among much of the New Albany congregation, and it would be difficult for Rev. Brent to have a fruitful ministry were he to remain as pastor.

A motion was made: *That the Minutes of the New Albany Presbyterian Church from October 15, 2019 to be included in the minutes of this committee meeting, along with the verbal statement asking for the resignation of Rev. Kyle Brent (seconded).* After discussion, the motion passed.

Chairman Moorlach excused himself from the meeting and the meeting continued with Vice Chairman Larry Littlejohn moderating.

A motion was made: *To direct the session of the New Albany Presbyterian Church to recognize Rev. Kyle Brent as the pastor of the New Albany Presbyterian Church and the moderator of the session (seconded, passed).*

A motion was made: *That the Minister and His Work Committee appoint a commission to investigate the call for the resignation of Rev. Kyle Brent and the activities of the session surrounding the request (seconded, passed).* It was agreed upon by the committee that the chairman would appoint the members of the commission.

A motion was made to adjourn (seconded, passed). Rev. Mike Chipman closed the meeting in prayer.

## Commission Meeting

November 1, 2019

A commission of the Minister and His Work Committee met at the New Albany Presbyterian Church on November 1, 2019. The meeting began at 11:15 a.m. Commission members present were Kent Moorlach (chair), Larry Littlejohn, and Tim Phillips. Members of the New Albany session were present, along with numerous guests from the New Albany congregation (see attached lists). Rev. Moorlach opened the meeting in prayer.

Chairman Moorlach began the meeting by reviewing the procedures that had taken place leading to the request for the dissolution of the pastoral relationship between Rev. Kyle Brent and the New Albany Presbyterian Church.

Questions were asked about the interview process when Rev. Brent was a candidate for the New Albany pulpit (a list of desired qualifications for pastoral candidates for the New Albany church is included with this report).. It was revealed that there were expectations that were made of Rev. Brent during the interview process that many in attendance felt had not been met during his time as pastor, including: involvement with youth (including Megalife, a youth community outreach), teaching a Sunday School class, visitation, and participation in Vacation Bible School (Rev. Brent had participated, but not at the expected level). Other examples included not holding to traditional worship practices of the congregation (e.g., Mother's Day recognition, Palm Sunday celebrations, Christmas-related services and decorations, children participation/special singing in worship). There were also complaints raised about Rev. Kyle's "arrogance" and "defying the session" on at least one occasion. It was also testified by one elder in attendance that when some of these matters were brought to Rev. Brent's attention, there was little remorse on his part. One of the guests in attendance mentioned that she had tried to encourage Rev. Brent to visit on different occasions (this was largely unsuccessful). Another described Rev. Brent as "unapproachable." There were also comments that Rev. Brent's sermons were "too academic." It was acknowledged by one member of the session that there "a lot of little things that added up." A list of complaints is included with this report.

It was mentioned by the chairman that no one from the church had reached out to the Minister and His Work Committee about these issues. It was acknowledged that the session of the New Albany Church had desired the dissolution of the pastoral relationship, but a request had been made (more than once) that Rev. Brent submit a letter of resignation so as not to harm future opportunities for him in pastoral ministry. It

was clarified during the discussion that Rev. Brent had submitted a letter of resignation, and the process would proceed according to Form of Government 9.56 (instead of FoG 9.57).

Chairman Moorlach commented during the discussion that the process followed by the New Albany session was out of accord with the standards found in the Form of Government. While the desire to protect Rev. Brent's future ministerial opportunities was appreciated, Rev. Moorlach noted that it ran the risk of possibly jeopardizing a future pastoral relationship between church and minister if the matters leading to the dissolution were not resolved (i.e., simply passing a minister onto another congregation when there were issues present was not the way to handle this matter). Mr. Littlejohn also commented during the discussion that the session of the New Albany Church needed to "trust the process" (i.e., the steps outlined in the Form of Government). That had not happened, which led to the situation being investigated by the committee.

The meeting was adjourned and closed in prayer by Rev. Moorlach

## Minister and His Work Committee

November 18, 2019

The Minister and His Work Committee of MVP met by video conference call on Monday evening, November 18, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. Present at the meeting were Chairman Kent Moorlach, Mike Chipman, Howard Wheeler, Larry Littlejohn, and Tim Phillips [Shelby Lowery notified the secretary after the conclusion of the meeting that he had tried to join the meeting but was not able to do so]. It was noted that a quorum was present. The meeting was opened with prayer by Rev. Moorlach.

Chairman Moorlach began the meeting by giving a brief update of his recent visit to the Wood Avenue and Hickory Springs congregations in Arkansas.

The visit by a commission of MaHW to the New Albany Presbyterian Church was discussed. A letter of communication written to the New Albany session and church had not been well-received, and this was discussed. The committee was in agreement that the letter was a necessary means of communicating the concerns of the committee to the New Albany church.

Several motions were made, seconded, and passed, and these all come as the following recommendations from the committee:

1. That the pastoral relationship between Rev. Kyle Brent and the New Albany Presbyterian Church be dissolved
2. That presbytery appoint Rev. Christopher Neiswonger as the moderator of the New Albany session
3. That presbytery recommend that the New Albany session utilizes a stated supply pastor for a period of not less than 12 months
4. That presbytery admonish the New Albany session for failure to follow process in the matter of the dissolution of the pastorate of Rev. Kyle Brent.
5. That training be provided on the *Form of Government* and general principles of faithful shepherding for the New Albany session
6. That the Minister and His Work Committee work with Rev. Kyle Brent regarding issues raised in complaints by the New Albany congregation .
7. That Rev. Kyle Brent resign as Moderator-elect of MVP and that presbytery elect another moderator to serve in his place
8. That Presbytery encourage sessions to seek the assistance of MaHW in matters of conflict involving pastors and the local congregation
9. That Presbytery pause to pray for the New Albany Presbyterian Church and Rev. Kyle Brent

A motion was made to adjourn (seconded, passed). Rev. Howard Wheeler closed the meeting in prayer.

### Address to Presbytery by Rev. Kyle Brent

Fathers and Brothers, as well as welcomed guests, of the Mississippi Valley Presbytery, I will try to be brief.

First of all, I hate that we have to gather together in this meeting for this occasion. This has been a hard and painful two months for me, as I know it has been for many of you. But this day is what I have least looked forward to since I was unexpectedly asked to resign as the pastor at New Albany Presbyterian Church on Oct 15th.

Second of all, I have sought the Lord, and asked for Him to root out all bitterness and anger against my brothers and sisters who may have wronged me. I stand before you all not in anger, not wanting revenge. I simply want God's will to be done in this matter. My prayer has been that all things here would be conducted decently and in order, that God would work all things here today for the good of my family, the good of my future ministry, and the good of New Albany Presbyterian Church, and that some sort of reconciliation will be accomplished by this meeting today.

Third, I want to confess to you my failure as a leader. Hindsight is 2020, and as I look back at my tenure at NAPC, I see, by God's grace, much fruit. I baptized children, young people became converted, several families joined the church. That is God's kindness to use a sinner like me for the furtherance of His kingdom. Yet that does not mean I have not failed in certain ways. Perhaps I was too young and immature to take the call as a lead pastor. Perhaps I should have taken a call to be an associate, to take time to learn under a faithful senior minister who I could respect and grow under. But God brought me to New Albany. And even though things have worked out this way, God has made no mistakes. God will receive the glory, and He will humble those who are His, and grow His people in holiness even as He disciplines them.

Fourth, I want to acknowledge that I do believe that there were ways in which the Session of NAPC has acted out of accord with both our Doctrinal Standards and our Form of Government, but I also want to acknowledge that I failed to lead them, as well as the congregation of NAPC, as I ought to have.

Fifth, this has been painful for me, and I do believe that there have been actions performed and words said, whether intentional or unintentional, that have hurt me and my reputation.

[REDACTED]. I believe that it was unnecessary for certain parties to compile a laundry list of previously unexpressed complaints against me only after I lodged a formal complaint against the Session and had formally resigned. This has caused great harm to me, especially since I have had no prior knowledge of the majority of these complaints, and I have had no opportunity to reply to the accusations leveled against me by certain members of the congregation.

Lastly, I want to thank the fathers and brothers of our presbytery for being here. It shows that you love Christ and His Church. But specifically it shows that you care about the Session and congregation of New Albany Presbyterian Church and that you care about me as a member of this court. I've prayed that God would give us wisdom and grace as we deliberate here today. Wisdom and grace has already been displayed in the recommendations before us. I pray these pass, including the ones concerning me. I will answer whatever questions you ask me. I trust the process.

Fathers and brothers, remember that Jesus Christ is the Head and King of His Church, and He has chosen to rule it through the ministry of men by the means of His Word and Spirit. You are doing His work today. May our Savior be honored today, and may His name be exalted as seek the peace, purity, and prosperity of His Church.



# New Albany Presbyterian Church

(Associate Reformed Synod)

605 Highway 15 South • P. O. Box 906 • New Albany, MS 38652  
(662) 534-6060

December 10, 2019

To the Fathers and Brethren of Mississippi Valley Presbytery:

We, the Session of the New Albany Presbyterian Church, would like to inform Presbytery of our concerns regarding the way the Committee on the Minister and His Work responded to a complaint they received regarding the process of dissolving the ministerial relationship of the Rev. Kyle Brent as minister of the New Albany Presbyterian Church.

Following the monthly meeting of the Session on Tuesday, October 15, 2019, the elders spoke 'off the record' with Mr. Brent, explaining their desire that he offer his resignation as pastor along with their reasons for making such a request. Mr. Brent then concurred with the request and told the Session he would submit his resignation in writing the following morning. It never came. They were then informed that they would have his letter by the end of the week. Again, it never came.

It should be noted that the rationale for meeting 'off the record' with Mr. Brent was to protect his reputation as much as possible, giving him the opportunity to resign as opposed to having his position with the New Albany Presbyterian Church terminated by action of the Session and church. It was the thinking of the Session that once a letter of resignation was received, they could act on this in an official meeting and follow the process outlined in the Form of Government. If, however, it is deemed by Presbytery that our meeting with Mr. Brent outside a duly called Session meeting was not in accord with our Form of Government, we humbly accept your admonishment and ask the court's forgiveness for this error in procedure.

All this being said, it is our belief that an admonishment of the Committee on the Minister and His Work by Mississippi Valley Presbytery is in order. The simple procedural error on our part could have been easily rectified by a single phone call to the New Albany Session from the chairman of the Committee on the Minister and His Work. Instead, a written communication from the chairman of the Committee on the Minister and His Work was sent to the Session and membership of the New Albany Presbyterian Church, not only informing them of a procedural error in the matter of the dissolution of the pastoral relationship, but also stating that the Minister and His Work Committee would be enacting a Special Commission to investigate the proceedings of the New Albany Presbyterian Session. Their stated goal: "to seek and ensure that a proper process is followed regarding the future relationship that Rev. Kyle Brent has among the saints of the New Albany Presbyterian Church."

The New Albany Presbyterian Church Session then met with Mr. Brent in a duly called meeting at which time Mr. Brent delivered a letter of resignation. It was received and adopted unanimously and a copy was sent to the Clerk of Presbytery as well as the chairman of the Committee on the Minister and His Work. The Session then moved to call a congregational meeting to act on said resignation. In our minds, we were back in accord with the Form of Government and were following due process.

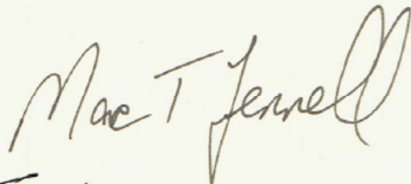
However, on November 1, 2019, the aforementioned 'Special Commission' came to New Albany and met with our Session and a large number of our church members. In this meeting which lasted about two hours and which had no basis for being called in the first place, our people were made to feel somewhat akin to being 'on trial' before a senate investigative committee that came looking to find dirt. Not only did our members feel hurt and insulted, the privacy and protection the Session had sought for Mr. Brent was undone and removed by the unnecessary questions brought forth by the Commission.

In addition, the communication sent from the chairman of the Committee on the Minister and His Work to the whole membership not only created confusion in the minds of many, but has caused damage both in the church and to the reputation of our church in the community.

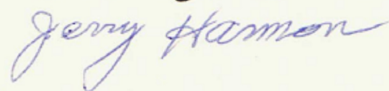
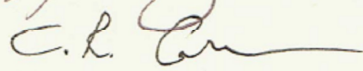
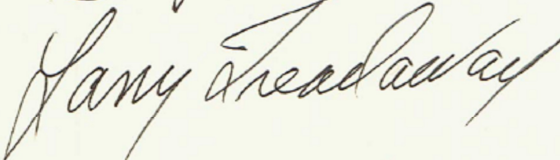
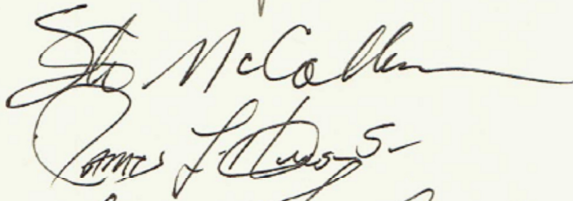
It is our prayer that these concerns which we have brought before Mississippi Valley Presbytery will be received as our humble, but earnest attempt to 'speak the truth in love' among the brethren, and that unity and love will flourish in Christ's church, all to the glory and honor of our great Head and Redeemer.

It is our desire that this letter be received by Presbytery for its consideration and that a copy be placed in the official minutes.

Respectfully,



The Session  
New Albany Presbyterian Church



# Mississippi Valley Presbytery

Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church

Fall Stated Meeting  
New Geneva Community Church  
Paducah, Kentucky  
October 7-8, 2019

## Opening Worship Service

Call to Worship	Rev. Don
Watkins	
Invocation	Rev. Watkins
<i>*Psalm</i>	“All People That on Earth Do Dwell”
Scripture	
Genesis 28	
Sermon – <i>“Surely the Lord Is in This Place”</i>	Rev. Charlie Turner
Prayer	
<i>*Hymn</i>	“How Sweet and Awful Is the Place”
The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper	Rev. Watkins
<i>*Hymn</i>	“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”
<i>*Benediction</i>	Rev. Watkins
<i>*Congregation Standing</i>	

## Fall 2019 Meeting Agenda

### Monday, October 7

Registration	4 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Supper	6:00-7:00 p.m.
Opening Worship	7
p.m.	
Opening of Business	8 p.m.
Constitution with Prayer	
Welcome and Greetings by Host Church	
Constitution of the Roll	

Introductions and Procedural Motions  
 Presentation of the Program  
 Adoption of Spring 2019 Minutes of Presbytery  
 Unfinished Business  
 Appointment of Moderator's Comm. on Sessional Records  
 Special Address to Presbytery by Moderator Paul Walley  
 Announcements  
 Closing Prayer

**Tuesday, October 8**

Breakfast	7 a.m.
Morning Devotion (Rev. Don Watkins)	8 a.m.
Brief Recess	8:25-8:30 a.m.
Business Resumes	8:30 a.m.
Recess for Committee Meetings	10 a.m.
Presentations	11 a.m.
Mr. David Pendergrass, Erskine College	
Rev. Mike Yarman, Missionary Work in Pakistan	
Rev. Kyle Brent, Wales Mission Trip	
Business Resumes	11:30 a.m.
Lunch	Noon
Season of Prayer	12:45 p.m.
Business Resumes	1 p.m.
Brief Recess	2:30 p.m.
Business Concludes	2:45 p.m.
Selection of Meeting Place for Fall 2021 Meeting	
Reading and Adoption of Minutes	
Announcements	
The Singing of <i>Bible Songs</i> # 280, "Christian Unity"	
Adjournment with Prayer and Benediction	

## Nominations Committee

### Report to Fall 2019 Mtg of MVP

At the spring meeting of presbytery a motion was made to allow the Nominations Committee to make a recess appointment to fill the position of representative to the Dunlap Board and report in the Fall. In response to this, Diane Clowers was asked, and has consented, to serve in this capacity.

In addition, Alex Coblentz has agreed to fill out John Tucker's term on the ONA Committee, and Brian Taylor has expressed his willingness to serve as chairman.

The committee recommends the approval of these actions.

Joe Donahue, chm.

## Appendix C

The annual meeting of the Mississippi Valley Presbytery Educational Fund was held on September 17th 2019 at 7:30 PM at the Salem ARP church. Those in attendance were Reverend Bob White, Russell McDaniel, Danny Hughes, Bill Lucado and Randy Goulder.

A quorum was noted

The meeting was opened in prayer by Rev. Bob White

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

The treasures report was read and approved.

Business

- There are no request for loans at this time.
- A motion was made, seconded, and approved to request permission from Presbytery to roll over 10,000 from a CD that matures in December to the Moderate ARP Investment fund.
- Discussion was held on the purpose of the fund and fact there have been no request for loans for several years. A motion was made, seconded, and approved for the committee to review the fund guidelines and determine if changes need to be recommended to better match the educational needs which pastors face in our current educational landscape. Randy Goulder will email the founding guidelines to the committee. If changes are recommended, they will be brought before Presbytery next year.
- There are no outstanding loans at this time.
- A note of communication – All request for loans should be sent to Reverend Bob White at [MemphisRAWhite@bellsouth.net](mailto:MemphisRAWhite@bellsouth.net) The committee will convene by email and phone to conduct business during the year if needed.
- The next annual meeting for the committee September 15<sup>th</sup> 2020.

Randy Goulder made a motion to adjourn seconded by Russell McDaniel. Motion passed

Danny Hughes closed the meeting in prayer.

Randy Goulder

## Mississippi Valley Presbytery

Financial Reports  
For the First Nine Months of 2019

I regret I am not able to be present to present this report and answer your questions. I offer the following comments and will follow up by email with any questions that members and delegates direct to me.

Please note that almost half of our churches have not made any payment in 2019 toward their ten dollar per member assessment. Please remind your church treasurer of this obligation.

The MVP summer camp had substantial growth in the number of campers this year which resulted in a larger loss than previous years. The General Fund contribution to the Christian Education Fund may need to be increased in 2020. Several years ago, MVP voted to commit the interest and dividends earned on the investments in the ARP investment funds to the work of the ONA committee. Because the ARP Funds were earning a higher interest that we could get on bank accounts and CDs, I have used the bank accounts to fund the ONA work and have not withdrawn any from the ARP Funds to date. In order to provide funds for the expected 2020 commitment to River City Reformed Church, I will need to withdraw from the endowment fund's earnings in the next few months and will do so with market conditions in mind.

Despite a shaky global economy, a trade war with China and a volatile equity market, our endowment funds have performed very well. The value has increased over 11% in the first nine months. This is an annualized return of almost 15%.

I am not aware of any financial issues needing Presbytery consideration or approval.

I can be reached by email at [JohnR1568@ATT.NET](mailto:JohnR1568@ATT.NET) or regular mail at 1568 Sunflower Circle, Tupelo, MS 38801.

John Robinson, Treasurer

**General Fund**  
**Mississippi Valley Presbytery**  
**Full Year 2018 and First 9 Months of 2019**

	<b>9 Months of 2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
<b>Balance January 1</b>	<b><u>\$130,576.63</u></b>	<b><u>\$123,627.93</u></b>
<b>Receipts:</b>		
Assessments from Member Churches	7,810.00	14,180.00
Interest Income	<u>1,230.00</u>	<u>945.00</u>
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b><u>9,040.00</u></b>	<b><u>\$15,125.00</u></b>
<b>Disbursements:</b>		
Contribution to Christian Education Fund	6,000.00	\$5,000.00
Printing, Postage and Clerk's Travel and Stipend	725.99	1,277.66
Committee Expenses	280.29	1,598.64
Camp Joy TN	4,000.00	-00
Chaplain Fund to General Synod	-00	300.00
Shared Mission Insite Demographic Tool	<u>1,000.00</u>	<u>-00</u>
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b><u>12,006.28</u></b>	<b><u>\$8,176.30</u></b>
Excess Receipts (disbursements)	<u>(2,966.28)</u>	<u>\$6,948.70</u>
<b>Balance End of Period</b>	<b><u>\$127,610.35</u></b>	<b><u>\$130,576.63</u></b>
 General Fund Bank Accounts:		
Renasant Bank 2200123455	\$27,610.35	\$30,576.63
Bank of New Albany Certificate of Deposit	<u>100,000.00</u>	<u>100,000.00</u>
<b>Total Bank Accounts</b>	<b><u>\$127,610.35</u></b>	<b><u>\$130,576.63</u></b>



**Schedule of Assessments Paid by Churches**  
**Mississippi Valley Presbytery**

For the nine months ended September 30, 2019  
and For Years Ended December 31, 2017 and 2018

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
<b>Bethany, Guntown, MS</b>	-00	500.00	\$400.00
Brighton, TN	500.00	-00	\$1,040.00
Ebenezer, Blue Mtn., MS	400.00	400.00	\$400.00
<b>Ellisville Presbyterian, Ellisville, MS</b>	-00	-00	\$250.00
Elsberry, MO	70.00	90.00	\$90.00
<b>Faith Presbyterian, Leakesville, MS</b>	-00	1,600.00	\$-00
<b>French Camp, MS</b>	-00	900.00	\$900.00
Graceview, Southaven, MS	900.00	1,200.00	\$1,200.00
Gospel of Grace, Springfield, MO	500.00	500.00	\$430.00
Gum Tree, Tupelo, MS	820.00	810.00	\$790.00
Helena, Moss Point, MS	250.00	500.00	\$250.00
<b>Hernando Reformed, Hernando, MS</b>	-00	200.00	\$200.00
<b>Hickory Springs, AR</b>	-00	-00	\$-00
<b>Hopewell, New Albany, MS</b>	-00	800.00	\$698.00
Midlane Park, Louisville, KY	300.00	300.00	\$300.00
Mt. Zion, Troy, MO	180.00	180.00	\$220.00
New Albany, MS	1,500.00	2,000.00	\$2,000.00
<b>New Geneva, Paducah, KY</b>	-00	1,110.00	\$-00
<b>Pottsville, AR</b>	-00	300.00	\$300.00
Providence, Bartlett, TN	600.00	500.00	\$500.00
<b>Richland, Rosemark, TN</b>	-00	500.00	\$500.00
Salem, Atoka, TN	1,600.00	1,600.00	\$1,600.00
Sharon, Brighton, TN	190.00	190.00	\$210.00
<b>Wood Avenue, Monticello, AR</b>	-00	-00	\$80.00
Total Receipts from churches	<u>7,810.00</u>	<u>\$14,180.00</u>	<u>\$12,358.00</u>

Names in bold indicate no 2019 payments have  
been received as of September 30

**Christian Education Fund  
Mississippi Valley Presbytery  
Full Year 2018 and 9 Months of 2019**

	<b><u>9 Months 2019</u></b>	<b><u>2018</u></b>
<b>Balance January 1</b>	<b><u>\$6,022.73</u></b>	<b><u>\$6,856.10</u></b>
<b>Receipts:</b>		
Received from General Fund	6,000.00	\$5,000.00
Received from Summer Campers (see note)	22,788.16	17,040.00
Received from Fall Retreat Campers	<u>-00</u>	<u>1,840.00</u>
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b><u>28,788.16</u></b>	<b><u>\$23,880.00</u></b>
<b>Disbursements:</b>		
Expenses of Summer Camp	28,163.71	\$21,902.08
Expenses of Fall Retreat	<u>-00</u>	<u>2,811.29</u>
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b><u>28,163.71</u></b>	<b><u>24,713.37</u></b>
Excess Receipts over/ (Under) Disbursements	<u>624.45</u>	<u>\$(833.37)</u>
<b>Balance End of Period</b>	<b><u>6,647.18</u></b>	<b><u>\$6,022.73</u></b>
 <b>Christian Education Bank Account:</b>		
Bank of New Albany 162026003	<b><u>6,647.18</u></b>	<b><u>\$6,022.73</u></b>

As of the date of this report, one church still owed for three campers

**Outreach North America Funds**  
**Mississippi Valley Presbytery**  
 Full Year 2018 and 9 Months of 2019

	<u>9 Months of 2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
<b><u>ONA FUNDS:</u></b>		
<b>Balance January 1</b>	<b><u>\$64,465.39</u></b>	<b><u>\$80,456.01</u></b>
<b>Receipts:</b>		
Contribution from Synod for Little Rock Mission	\$9,000.00	\$18,000.00
Collection on Covington Note including payoff	-00	135,000.44
Sale of Havana Church Building/close account	-00	41,410.83
Interest Income	327.25	384.84
Royalties from Ross Exploration	<u>301.94</u>	<u>404.74</u>
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b><u>\$9,629.19</u></b>	<b><u>\$195,200.85</u></b>
<b>Disbursements:</b>		
Howard Wheeler Salary and Benefits	\$45,314.28	\$60,419.04
Howard Wheeler Mileage and Expense reimburseme	11,403.88	13,052.53
Donation in lieu of Rent	-00	1,500.00
Committee Expense	498.90	1,219.90
Transfer to Synod Investment Funds	-00	100,000.00
Matching Grant to Murray KY Church	<u>-00</u>	<u>35,000.00</u>
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b><u>57,217.06</u></b>	<b><u>211,191.47</u></b>
<b>Balance ONA Funds end of Period</b>	<b><u>\$16,877.52</u></b>	<b><u>\$64,465.39</u></b>
 <b><u>Church Revitalization Funds:</u></b>		
<b>Balance January 1</b>	<b><u>\$28,964.80</u></b>	<b><u>\$27,514.80</u></b>
Add: Received from Synod for revitalization funds	-00	1,955.00
Less: MAHW Chairman Travel and Expense	<u>(1,066.00)</u>	<u>(505.00)</u>
<b>Balance Church Revitalization Funds</b>	<b><u>\$27,898.80</u></b>	<b><u>\$28,964.80</u></b>
 <b><u>Restricted Funds:</u></b>		
Donation received for Louisville KY New Church Plan	\$150,000.00	\$150,000.00
Interest earned since received	<u>902.01</u>	<u>342.20</u>
<b>Balance in Restricted Funds</b>	<b><u>\$150,902.01</u></b>	<b><u>\$150,342.20</u></b>
 <b>Combined ONA, Revitalization and Restricted Fur</b>	 <b><u>195,678.33</u></b>	 <b><u>\$243,772.39</u></b>
 <b>ONA and Revitalization Bank Accounts:</b>		
Bank of New Albany 1620260-01 Checking	\$44,776.32	\$27,185.52
BNA Bank 1620260-09 Money Market (Restricted)	150,902.01	150,342.20
Bank of New Albany Certificate of Deposit	<u>-00</u>	<u>66,244.67</u>
<b>Total in Banks</b>	<b><u>\$195,678.33</u></b>	<b><u>\$243,772.39</u></b>

# Mississippi Valley Presbytery

## Endowment Funds

	<b>Moderate ARP Invest- ment Fund A</b>	<b>Conservative ARP Invest- ment Fund B</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Value of Accounts January 1, 2019</b>	<b><u>\$751,662.55</u></b>	<b><u>\$276,810.77</u></b>	<b><u>\$1,028,473.32</u></b>
Increase in value of Accounts during 2019	<u>92,548.45</u>	<u>21,888.23</u>	<u>114,436.68</u>
<b>Value of Accounts September 27, 2019</b>	<b><u>\$844,211.00</u></b>	<b><u>\$298,699.00</u></b>	<b><u>\$1,142,910.00</u></b>
<b>Year to date return for 2019</b>	<b><u>12.31%</u></b>	<b><u>7.91%</u></b>	<b><u>11.13%</u></b>
<b>Annualized Return for 2019</b>	<b><u>16.42%</u></b>	<b><u>10.54%</u></b>	<b><u>14.84%</u></b>
Increase in Value since Inception	<b><u>\$121,601.00</u></b>	<b><u>\$48,699.00</u></b>	<b><u>\$170,300.00</u></b>
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	<u>100,000.00</u>	<u>-00</u>	<u>100,000.00</u>
Total Invested	<b><u>\$722,610.00</u></b>	<b><u>\$250,000.00</u></b>	<b><u>\$972,610.00</u></b>

**Minister and His Work Committee Meeting**

October 7, 2019

The Minister and His Work Committee of MVP met on Monday, October 7, 2019, at 3:45 p.m. Members present: Chairman Rev. Kent Moorlach, Mr. Larry Littlejohn, Mr. Michael Shotwell, Rev. Howard Wheeler, Rev. Mike Chipman, Rev. Tim Phillips. Guests present: Bro. Randy Kolb, Rev. Ron Pierce, Mr. Marty Smithhart, Mr. Alex Kranda, Rev. Charlie Turner

Rev. Charlie Turner was asked to open the meeting in prayer.

Chairman Moorlach noted that Rev. David Storment had transferred his credentials to a PCA presbytery in order to pastor a congregation in Philadelphia, MS. The chairman also gave information concerning the duties of the chair with regard to the PRCC (chaplaincy endorsing agency) and Synod's Board of Benefits.

Mr. Marty Smithhart gave an update to the committee as a Student of Theology. Mr. Smithhart informed the committee of the difficulties of dividing time between work and pursuing a theological education, as well as concerns with a NT distance education course being taken at Erskine Theological Seminary. Mr. Smithhart has also had a couple of opportunities to preach at churches in MVP (Brighton and Graceview). No reports had been received from Mr. Stephen Ewing and Mr. Josh Walker.

Rev. Matthew Heathman (Navy Chaplain) is now serving in Tokyo, Japan.

Ebenezer ARP Church has requested the services of Rev. William Everett as stated supply Brother Randy Kolb also serving when Rev. Everett's is absent. The committee also spoke with Bro. Kolb about his duties as stated supply.

Other stated supply requests:

- Leslie Rhodes -- Helena
- Bro. Larry Taylor -- Bethany
- Rev. William Everett -- Ebenezer
- Bro. Randy Kolb -- Hopewell
- Rev. Conrad Cheatham -- Elsberry and Mt. Zion
- Rev. Charlie Turner -- Ellisville
- Rev. Ron Pierce -- Faith
- Rev. David Dively -- Midlane Park
- Rev. Mike Garvey -- Hickory Springs and Wood Avenue
- Rev. Mike Chipman -- Redeemer

Mt. Zion is also using the services of students from Covenant Theological Seminary to fill the pulpit from time to time.

Rev. Dively is recovering from a recent kidney transplant.

Rev. Ron Pierce gave a brief report on his work as stated supply at Faith Presbyterian Church (report attached).

Rev. Howard Wheeler spoke briefly about the potential hiring of a church planting intern (this will be handled by the provisional session and will be part of the ONA Committee's report). Because the position is as an intern, there is not a need for the MaHW Committee to interview and examine him at this time.

Rev. Mike Chipman also gave an update about the work at Redeemer Community Church. A question was asked as to why Rev. Chipman is classified as a stated supply and not as a mission developer. A motion was made for the MaHW Committee to discuss with the ONA Committee the possibility of reclassifying Rev. Chipman as a mission developer for the Redeemer mission congregation (seconded, passed).

After a brief recess, guests were excused and the committee examined Rev. Charlie Turner with regard to his qualifications for pastoral ministry. The committee was convinced of Rev. Turner's qualifications, and a motion was made to sustain his committee examination and recommend him to the presbytery for a floor examination. A motion was also made to ask the presbytery to appoint the MaHW Committee to function as a commission for the receiving and approving of the call for Rev. Turner to the Ellisville Presbyterian Church (seconded, passed).

An update of Rev. Steve Hardy was given. He is laboring outside the bounds of presbytery and is currently serving as the stated supply pastor of the Iva ARP Church (Second Presbytery).

A motion was made to adjourn (seconded, passed). Rev. Howard Wheeler closed in prayer.

Recommendations:

- That the list of stated supply pastors be approved by the presbytery
- That the MaHW and ONA Committees work together to see if Rev. Mike Chipman can be reclassified as a mission developer for the Redeemer mission congregation
- That Rev. Charlie Turner be examined by the presbytery as to his qualifications for the ministry
- That the MaHW Committee be appointed as a commission to receive and approve the call for Rev. Turner to the Ellisville Presbyterian Church

## Appendix F

The MVP ONA Committee met for a called meeting Thursday evening 7:00 pm September 12 via Zoom.

Present:, Rev Bob White, Rev Dr Brian Taylor, Carl Patterson, John Scott

Absent: Mark Paris , excused for previous commitments.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Rev Brian Taylor.

### Agenda

1. Discussed The Progress of the Louisville Ky Work. We received a report from Rev Dave Dively Who is the current Stated Supply at Midlane Park ARP. - attached
2. Received an inquiry about the possibility of starting a new Work in Booneville, MS. Received this as information and will consider future information.
3. Received a report from Howard Wheeler, current Church Planter at River City Presbyterian , Little Rock , AR He highlighted the prospects of bringing an additional person ton board to enhances the prospects of the work utilizing funds that are available for this purpose.

The meeting was closed with prayer by John Scott.

### Recommendations:

1. That The attached proposal to add an additional intern at river city be approved
2. The the attached proposed 2020 River City Budget Be Approved

Respectfully submitted by Robert White Vice Chairman

## Appendix F

### 2020 River City Budget

<b>MVP Pastoral Support</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Salary	\$36,000.00
Dental/Vision Insurance	\$1,700.64
Housing Allowance	\$12,000.00
SS Allowance	\$3,600.00
Retirement	\$6,192.00
Term Life & Disability	\$185.76
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$59,678.40</b>

<b>Ministry Expenses</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<b>Pastoral Intern/Associate</b>	
Salary	\$32,000.00
SS Allowance	\$2,400.00
LTD	\$123.84
Retirement	\$4,128.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$38,651.84</b>
<b>Office Expense/Resources</b>	
Computer	\$0.00
Printer/Supplies/Maint.	\$750.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$750.00</b>
<b>Bible Study/Worship Resources</b>	
Bible Study Resources	\$800.00
Hymnals/Psalms	\$50.00
Sacrament Supplies	\$50.00
CCLI	\$100.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$1,000.00</b>
<b>Facilities</b>	
PO Box	\$135.00
Liability Insurance	\$1,000.00
Childcare	\$500.00
A/V Equipment	\$500.00
Hospitality Expenses	\$500.00
Misc Equipment	\$400.00
Rent Contingency	\$3,000.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$6,035.00</b>
<b>Internet</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>
<b>Cell</b>	<b>\$900.00</b>
<b>Promotion</b>	
Print Costs	\$200.00
Signage	\$500.00
Advertising	\$500.00
Conferences	\$500.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$1,700.00</b>
<b>Mileage Reimbursement</b>	<b>\$8,000.00</b>



**Appendix F**

<b>Denominational Ministry Fund</b>		<b>\$3,150.00</b>
<b>MVP Assessment</b>		<b>\$250.00</b>
<b>Community Support/Local Ministry</b>		<b>\$500.00</b>
<b>Education</b>		<b>\$500.00</b>
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>\$61,536.84</b>
<hr/>		
<b>Total Budget Expense</b>		<b>\$121,215.24</b>
<b>Income Sources</b>		
2020 ONA Support	\$6,000.00	
2020 ONA Intern Support	\$18,000.00	
2020 Local Projected Giving	\$31,500.00	
2020 Ministry Partner Giving	\$1,500.00	
<b>Local/Denominational Support</b>		<b>\$57,000.00</b>
<b>2020 Estimated MVP Support Needs</b>		<b>\$64,215.24</b>

**River City Reformed Church  
Proposal for an Associate Pastor/Pastoral Intern -- Executive Summary**

**1. Why River City needs an Associate Pastor**

*a. Need for increased engagement*

In the past year, River City Reformed has functioned effectively as a congregation with regular worship, fellowship, discipleship, and ministry to one another. The members and regular attenders have become increasingly committed to service and giving. But one area that needs expansion is our engagement of our community through hospitality, relationship building and evangelism. While Pastor Wheeler works intentionally to make connections, he lives at a distance. River City needs a local leadership *in Little Rock* that practices and models hospitality for the congregation, and can better mobilize the congregation to reach those in our target area. While Pastor Wheeler spends ½ of each week in Little Rock, River City needs someone “on the ground.”

*b. Need for shared ministry*

In the first 2-3 years of a church plant, the *normal* dimensions of pastoral care are less demanding. But the planning, promotion and logistics involved in church planting are consuming. The necessary use of social media consumes massive amounts of time and attention. While social media gives us greater reach than traditional advertising, it must be constantly managed. Add to this the normal work of preparing for teaching and preaching, orchestrating setup/breakdown, overseeing small group bible studies, and managing all the ministry and financial reporting necessary and you have a full plate. Pastor Wheeler needs someone who can:

1. Effectively promote River City Reformed to our community through social media and mobilize core team members to assist,
2. Mobilize our core team for more effective service, hospitality, and personal community engagement for evangelism,
3. Devote time to building personal connections with our community.
4. Share the load of preaching, teaching, and pastoral care under the mentoring of Pastor Wheeler.

*c. Need to prepare for future pastoral leadership*

- i. While the model of a yoked pastorate for Pottsville ARP and River City Reformed has been effective, it is not sustainable long-term. As the congregation and demands of River City grow, the yoked pastorate becomes a liability. As River City has not reached the critical mass for organization (i.e. insufficient local eldership and inability to be financially self-sustaining) a sudden change in pastoral leadership would be disastrous. Any plan for a transition of pastoral leadership must be intentional, methodical, and gradual. River City needs a younger, spiritually mature, pastor willing to serve as an Associate while:

1. Gaining practical pastoral experience with serving with Pastor Wheeler,
2. Bonding, pastorally, with the core group while there is continuity of care from Pastor Wheeler’s ministry, and
3. Transitioning pastoral care over a 2 – 3 year period.

### 2. What would an Associate Pastor do at River City?

- a. Promote River City Reformed to our community and congregation through social media. This would involve:
  - i. Website management and development,
  - ii. Developing and deploying an integrated social media environment to simplify publication and promotion,
  - iii. Expanding use of Instagram and Eventbrite,
  - iv. Expanding targeted promotion through FB and Instagram,
  - v. Completing access to Google Non-Profit status for advertising and SEO,
  - vi. Managing and expanding charitable giving infrastructure,
  - vii. Finding ways to reach new “Ministry Partners” who are willing to support us through prayer and regular giving, and
  - viii. Mobilizing members of the congregation to participate in River City’s social media management.
- b. Mobilize our core team for more effective service, hospitality, and personal community engagement for evangelism. This would include:
  - i. Exercising hospitality regularly to all our members and attenders. This is key for relationship building and spiritual gifts identification.
  - ii. Overseeing weekly setup/breakdown and mobilizing member involvement
  - iii. Overseeing A/V setup/management, service recording and mobilizing member involvement,
  - iv. Planning and implementing intentional worship hospitality (think greeters),
  - v. Practicing and modeling hospitality toward those outside the congregation and expanding the practice of hospitality in the congregation.
  - vi. Planning and implementing appropriate community engagement events: eg. Christianity Explored groups, parenting seminars, game nights, etc.
  - vii. Identifying and promoting opportunities for core team members to participate in meaningful community ministry.
- c. Devote time to building relationships within the community.
- d. Participate in preaching, teaching, and pastoral under the direction of Pastor Wheeler.

### 3. What are the necessary qualities for an Associate Pastor at River City?

- a. Likemindedness with our philosophy of ministry which centers around emphasis on the ordinary means of grace, traditional Reformed worship, and family-integrated worship, discipleship and ministry.
- b. Gifts in preaching and teaching
- c. Solid, supportive relationship with his wife and children.
- d. Good people skills.
  - i. Able to engage new people in a variety of settings.
  - ii. Proven track record of exercising hospitality toward strangers.
  - iii. Ability to communicate effectively with people of different backgrounds, ages, and circumstances.
- e. High-capacity for managing lots of different types of tasks. Small church pastors and church planters wear all the hats and carry all the keys. This means being well organized, able to take direction, and good at being self-directed.
- f. Ability to utilize social media effectively for promotion and engagement: Eg: Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, Eventbrite, etc.
- g. Willing and able to be self-supporting through bi-vocational ministry.

Fathers and brothers of the ONA and MaHW Committees of the MVP of the ARP,

Greetings in the Lord. Though I will not be with you physically when you meet in October, I will be with you in the Holy Spirit as I will be in prayer for you as you meet, as well as for your labors in conducting your business in advance of the meeting itself.

Some of you know that I had a living donor [my daughter] kidney transplant July 18. Everything has gone very well, except for a short rehospitalization due to dehydration.

Someone said I “now have a new lease on life”, to which I said “Yes, but it comes with a short leash”. For the first three months, I am seriously immune-suppressed to prevent rejection [that’s mid-July thru mid-Oct]. The second three months I will be on maintenance doses of the medicines, some of which I will take the rest of my life [that’s mid-Oct thru Jan-which is the first half of the flu season]. Which means I will need to be extra careful into next spring.

I won’t bore you with all the implications of that.

But the work of the Lord goes forth, and He often uses us in our weaknesses that the excellency of His power might be made manifest and we will not boast. Just before my transplant I was given a name by a friend in the PCA and right around the time of the transplant I was given a name by Mike Jones. It took me a while to be able to start working with these names, but I want to thank Bob White for his interest in Louisville and Midlane Park, beginning before the transplant with a visit and continuing after the transplant in various ways.

Where things are at right now are as follows. We are talking with one of the men about Midlane Park. He is currently a PCA teaching elder very interested in both the PCA and in Louisville. This man has planted a church, and he has served as an associate in a larger PCA church. He is

The second man is a possible candidate for the church planter role. The reason I am in the mix with this is our prayer has been that God would give us two men who could work as a team, while having their own ministries. In this case, the one man would be an ideal mentor and the other man is a very teachable man committed to team ministry.

We are not able to bring anything formally to presbytery from Midlane Park, and ONA can report what they feel is appropriate. Certainly, the approach will be Midlane Park would call her pastor, and Presbytery or ONA [depending on how you do it in ARP] will call the church planter. There is a lot of work still to do. But our faith is in a mighty God, and we would love to be part of re-establishing an ARP presence in this area in hopes that someday there might be a presbytery in this region.

### **PRAYER REQUESTS**

Prayers for my recovery and ability to re-enter the pulpit as soon as October 6. I have been told that I need to avoid crowds, and I said for more reasons than one Midlane Park could not be called a crowd. All in all, we are a well behaved bunch. I will have to take precautions, but as long as my voice is strong I intend on resuming the ministry of Word and Sacrament that Lord’s Day.

## Appendix F

Pray for me to be diligent in my stewardship of the new kidney, and to take sin in my life as seriously as I have to take germs....

Prayer for our visit from the pastor we are interested in as pastor at Midlane Park, that the Lord would allow it to go well and for all of us to sense His direction.

We thank God for the faithfulness of the past leadership of Midlane Park that preserved a special gift to the church for “such a time as this”, and pray that God will guide us as good stewards, yes of the money, but even more, good stewards of the opportunity. No, most of all GOOD STEWARDS AND SERVANTS OF THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST AND OF JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD HIMSELF.

If this man comes, he has told me that he believes that we must start strong-and that means on our knees. Every reviving of the work of God has begun with a burden for God and strong persistent prayer to the One Who must move in our hearts and minds and lives first, and then in our communities.

If there are any of you who have a burden for stirring up prayer in MVP, let me know. Perhaps together we can pray, and encourage the Lord’s people to pray, for all our churches more faithfully and specifically.

I remain committed to serving until the Lord provides new leadership at Midlane Park, and I am willing and hopeful of being involved moving forward as a member of the team.

Your fellow servant of the Triune God,

David Dively

Christian Education Committee of MVP  
10/8/2019

Present: Rev. Charles Covington, Rev. Kyle Brent, Elder Charles Browning,  
Stephen Ewing

Absent: Rev. Christopher Neiswonger, Elder Bruce Hosket

The Christian Education Committee of MVP recommends:

- 1) That presbytery increase funds for MVP Camp from \$5,000 to \$8,000 in light of our growing need for MVP Camp.
- 2) That presbytery encourage churches and pastors to organize regional youth events, like churches and pastors in the Memphis cluster are doing this fall.
- 3) That presbytery set aside \$1,500 for presbytery-wide elder and deacon training to be held in the second half of 2020.
- 4) That presbytery commend and offer a prayer of thanksgiving for all those who served at MVP Camp in 2019.

## 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, Graceview

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Rev. Charles Covington (2021)  
Mr. Stephen Ewing (2020)  
Mr. Bruce Hosket (2020)  
Rev. Christopher Neiswonger (2021)  
Mr. Charles Browning (2022)

**Minister and His Work**

Rev. Kent Moorlach, Chairman (2022)  
Rev. Mike Chipman (2020)  
Mr. Shelby Lowery (2020)  
Rev. Howard Wheeler (2021)  
Mr. Michael Shotwell (2021)  
\_\_\_\_\_ (2022)  
Rev. Tim Phillips (2023)  
Mr. Larry Littlejohn (2023)

**Nominations**

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Mr. David Strock (2020)  
Mr. Richard Moore (2022)  
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**Outreach North America**

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Rev. Robert White (2020)  
Mr. Mark Paris (2021)  
Mr. Carl Patterson (2021)  
Mr. John Scott (2022)

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Rev. Kyle Brent (2022)  
Rev.. Brian Taylor (2022)  
Rev. Kent Moorlach (2022)  
Mr. John Robinson – *Ex Officio*

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Dunlap: Diane Clowers(2025)  
Exec. Board: Rev. Tim Phillips (2021)  
MaHW: Rev. Kent Moorlach (2022)  
Nom.: Rev. Joey Donahue (2021)  
ONA: Rev. Brian Taylor (2022)  
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Rev. Michael Garvey  
Rev. Carl Geisik  
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  
Ellisville: Rev. Charlie Turner  
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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## 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