

**The Minutes
Of
Mississippi Valley Presbytery**

General Synod of the
Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church



Spring Stated Meeting

March 1-2, 2021

Hopewell Presbyterian Church
New Albany, Mississippi

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PROCEEDINGS
MISSISSIPPI VALLEY PRESBYTERY
Hopewell Presbyterian Church
New Albany, Mississippi

Spring Stated Meeting
March 1, 2021

The registration of delegates began at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, March 1, 2021. After a delicious meal prepared by the host church, the meeting began at 7 p.m. with an opening worship service led by Rev. Howard Wheeler. (see **Appendix A**). Rev. Wheeler preached a sermon from 2 Samuel 9, entitled “The King’s Table.” Rev. Bill Everett and Brother Randy Kolb then led the presbytery in the celebration of the sacrament of the Lord’s Supper.

Following the worship service and a brief recess, Moderator Covington opened the business portion of the meeting with prayer. Charles Browning, an elder at the Hopewell Presbyterian Church, welcomed the members of presbytery to the meeting.

The Principal Clerk confirmed a quorum was present.

Ministers Present

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

(A) = Unexcused Absence

(E) Excused Absence

Ruling Elders Present

Bethany – Harry Fitzgerald	Hickory Springs – none
Brighton – Milton Murphy	Hopewell – John Covington
Ebenezer – Ed Dees	Midlane Park – Dale Kleinjan
Ellisville – none	Mt. Zion – none
Elsberry – none	New Albany – Don Nichols
Faith – none	New Geneva – none
French Camp – Lance Ragsdale	Pottsville – none
Gospel of Grace – Paul Walley	Providence – David Strock
Graceview – Gene Adams	Richland – none
Gum Tree – Bobby Joe Reedy	Salem – none
Helena – none	Sharon – none
Hernando – Steve Rice	Wood Avenue -- none

Guests

Ron Pierce (stated supply), Brenda Pierce, Stephen Ewing (Student of Theology; Chair of Christian Education Committee), Marty Smithhart (Student of Theology), David Pendergrass (Erskine College), Heiko Burklin (World Witness), Aaron Rozeboom, Troy Graham, Seth Stark, David Stark, Mallie Fitzgerald, Carl Patterson, David Frazier, Charles Browning, Larry Littlejohn

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 Fall 2020 Minutes were adopted by the presbytery.

Under unfinished business, a motion postponed from the Fall 2020 meeting was considered by the presbytery: *To disband the MVP Education Fund Committee and transfer funds to MVP with oversight over the funds being taken up by the Minister and His Work Committee for Students of Theology.* After discussion, the motion passed.

Moderator Covington gave his Retiring Moderator's Address. Mr. John Scott, an elder at the Brighton ARP Church, was then introduced as Moderator of MVP.

A committee was appointed by the Moderator to examine session records: David Strock, Ed Dees, Gary Jones, Gary Clowers, Tim Phillips, Mike Chipman, Aaron Rozeboom, Milton Murphy, and Joey Donahue

A letter from Mrs. Susan Cavin, President of MVP Women's Ministries, was presented to the presbytery. A motion was made to include the letter in the minutes (seconded, passed; see **Appendix B**).

A letter from Moderator of General Synod Rob Roy McGregor III was presented to the presbytery. A motion was made to include the letter in the minutes (seconded, passed; see **Appendix C**).

During announcements, the recent death of Rev. Jack Ryan, a former clerk of MVP, was noted. Rev. Christopher Neiswonger was called upon to pray.

The meeting was then recessed for the evening with prayer by Rev. Don Watkins.

Tuesday, March 2, 2021 (8 a.m.)

The second day of presbytery began with a student sermon by Student of Theology Marty Smithhart on Exodus 17:1-7. The meeting was called back to order and Moderator Scott opened the business portion of the meeting in prayer. The Moderator of General Synod's address from the previous evening, along with his two requests to presbytery, was noted by the Principal Clerk. The appeal for statistical reports was mentioned, as was the request to see if MVP could help with funds for Synod's Retirement Fund. Discussion on this last item took place, and a motion was made for the Moderator of MVP to appoint a committee to look into the Moderator of Synod's request (seconded, passed). John Robinson, Paul Walley, and Tim Phillips were appointed to serve on this committee.

The draft of the *Directory of Private and Family Worship* was briefly mentioned. Votes were taken on the proposed *Book of Discipline* (22 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstaining). Votes were taken on the proposed change in Congregational Vows for Deacons (19 in favor, 6 against).

The report from the Committee on Nominations was presented to the presbytery (see **Appendix D**). After discussion, the report was adopted by the presbytery.

The Treasurer's Report was presented to the presbytery (see **Appendix E**). The report was received as information by the presbytery.

The Minister and His Work Committee report was presented to the presbytery (see **Appendix F**). There was discussion about the report, particularly concern over churches experiencing declining attendance and membership. Rev. Joey Donahue was called upon to pray for the churches of MVP. The two recommendations of the report were both approved.

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

Recess for Committee Meetings (10 a.m.)

After committee meetings had concluded, the meeting of presbytery resumed with presentations by Heiko Burklin (World Witness) and David Pendergrass (Erskine College).

Mr. James Ritchey was introduced to the presbytery and spoke of his faith in Jesus Christ and sense of call to the ministry.

The order of the day was reached, and Moderator Scott called upon Mr. Ritchey to pray for the meal.

Order of the Day (Lunch – noon)

Presbytery reconvened with a season of prayer.

The Minister and His Work Committee report was adopted by the presbytery. An opportunity was given for Mr. Marty Smithhart's student sermon from the morning to be critiqued. It was also noted for the court that Rev. Charles Covington was now serving as the Moderator of Session for the New Albany Presbyterian Church. It was also noted by Rev. Kent Moorlach that Rev. Covington was serving as the moderator of the Bethany session.

The report of the Committee on Session Records was presented to the presbytery (see **Appendix G**). The report was adopted by the presbytery.

The Outreach North America Committee report was presented to the presbytery (see **Appendix H**). Rev. Howard Wheeler gave a brief report about the work of the River City mission in Little Rock, Arkansas. An additional recommendation came from the ONA Committee in conjunction with their report and Mr. Wheeler's presentation: *That MVP request Synod's Board of ONA to provide a \$6000 MADF (Minimal Annual Distribution of Funds) grant for additional personnel for River City Reformed Church in Little Rock* (seconded, passed). Rev. Brian Taylor also informed the presbytery about changes taking place with Outreach North America at the Synod level. The report was then adopted by the presbytery.

The Christian Education Committee report was presented to the presbytery (see **Appendix I**). Chairman Stephen Ewing spoke briefly about MVP Summer Camp and Camp Joy Tennessee. The recommendation in the report for hosting MVP Summer Camp in 2021 was approved, and the report was adopted by the presbytery.

A motion was made to purchase a Zoom account for use by the presbytery (second, passed).

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

- Fall 2021 (October 4-5), Graceview Presbyterian Church in Southaven, Mississippi
- Spring 2022 (March 7-8), Providence Presbyterian Church in Bartlett, Tennessee
- Fall 2022 (October 3-4), Pottsville Presbyterian Church in Pottsville, Arkansas

A motion was made to accept the invitation of the French Camp Presbyterian Church in French Camp, Mississippi, to host the Spring 2023 meeting of presbytery and the invitation of the Heritage ARP Church in Springfield, Missouri, to host the Fall 2023 meeting (seconded, passed).

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

After announcements, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting (seconded, passed). After the singing of Psalm 133 (“Christian Unity”), the Spring 2021 meeting of MVP was closed with a prayer and benediction by Rev. Joey Donahue.

Appendix A

Mississippi Valley Presbytery Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church

Spring Stated Meeting
Hopewell Presbyterian Church
New Albany, Mississippi
March 1-2, 2021

Opening Worship Service

Call to Worship	Pastor Randy Kolb
Invocation	Pastor Kolb
Hymn # 11	"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"
Scripture Reading – 2 Samuel 9:1-13	Rev. Howard Wheeler
Sermon	<i>"The King's Table"</i>
Prayer	Rev. Wheeler
Hymn # 9	"The Lord's My Shepherd"
The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper	
	Rev. Bill Everett and Pastor Randy Kolb
Hymn # 200	"Amazing Grace"
Benediction	Rev. Everett

Spring 2021 Meeting Agenda Monday, March 1

Registration	4 pm to 6 pm
Supper	6 pm
Opening Worship	7 pm
Opening of Business	8 pm
Constitution with Prayer	
Welcome and Greetings by Host Church	
Constitution of the Roll	
Introductions and Procedural Motions	
Presentation of the Program	
Adoption of Fall 2020 Minutes	

Unfinished Business

Consideration of Postponed Motion from Fall 2020
(MVP Christian Education Fund Committee)

Retiring Moderator's Address Rev. Charles Covington
Introduction of Moderator-Elect Mr. John Scott
Appointment of Mod's Committee on Sessional Records*
Presentation from Susan Cavin MVP Women's Ministries
Greetings from Synod's Moderator Rob Roy McGregor III
Announcements
Closing Prayer

Tuesday, March 2

Breakfast	7 am
Morning Sermon -- Mr. Marty Smithhart	8 am
Brief Recess	8:25-8:30 am
Business Resumes	8:30 am
Synod Overtures: <i>Directory of Private and Family Worship, Book of Discipline, Deacon Vows in FOG</i>	
Recess for Committee Meetings	10 am
Presentations	11 am
Rev. Heiko Burklin, World Witness Mr. David Pendergrass, Erskine College	
Business Resumes	11:30 am
Lunch	Noon
Season of Prayer	12:45 pm
Business Resumes	1 pm
Brief Recess	2:30 pm
Business Concludes	2:45 pm
Selection of Meeting Place for Spring 2023 Meeting	
Reading and Adoption of Minutes	
Announcements	
The Singing of Psalm 133, "Christian Unity"	
Adjournment with Prayer and Benediction	

March 1, 2021

Report on Women's Ministry in Mississippi Valley Presbytery

Sometimes I feel a little like the Apostle Paul, in that I long to be with you, but find obstacles are blocking my way. I am sure that over the course of the last year (2020) many of you have felt the same way. As a result of political restrictions due to the uncertainty of the spread of COVID-19 in all of our communities, the outward appearance or “look” of ministry has undergone visible change. We have all experienced disappointment and frustration as our opportunities for meeting and gathering have been restricted and even prevented. But, instead of focusing on the negative, I want to encourage you, and focus on a few of the positive outcomes from this year.

As we enter 2021, I believe the Church is emerging stronger and more focused as we have been forced to sacrifice the “things of earth” and rely more and more on the “things of the Spirit” as we seek to serve and minister to the members of our congregations and to our extended communities.

Bible Study groups are meeting weekly, bimonthly, and monthly. The current Women's Ministry study book is ACTS. Please remind women of the availability of teaching videos on Synod' website through Christian Education and Women's Ministries as well as the videos many of our pastors are posting. Clint Davis, pastor of Chester ARP in Catawba Presbytery, is posting weekly Children's Lessons. We are not limited to time or place, but can listen, learn, and share God's Truth in ways we did not previously utilize. I know of two churches that have provided virtual VBS this past year.

We continue to focus on personal, private, and public prayer. While face to face meetings have been limited, the use of phone calls and cards continues, and we have rapid contact through the use of texts and social media to communicate and pray with and for one another.

Creative events to recognize and celebrate life events have included drive by, drop off, and even reverse parades to help people know they are not forgotten, loved, and connected. Gift cards have been given to minister to families when it is not possible to provide meals in person.

Missionaries need our financial and prayer support. If your church does not support a particular missionary already, please consider “adopting” someone and encourage your congregation to consider making any current support more personal through emails, cards, letters, and even “care packages”. Think of yourself as a “stranger in a strange land.” Contact World Witness to get on the mailing lists for different missionary families.

In conclusion, I need current contact information for the women in your congregation. I would like to communicate news regarding opportunities within our presbytery as well as our denomination. The Women's Ministry Board will be meeting March 12-13 and I will have information to share. I would also greatly appreciate someone from each congregation corresponding with me.

Faithfully and In Continued Service through Christ Alone,

Susan Cavin
PO Box 36 or 79 South Main Street
Brighton, Tennessee 38011
Home: 901-476-9315
Cell: 803-242-3606

Moderator's Greeting
Spring Stated Meeting of Mississippi Valley Presbytery
March 2021
Rob Roy McGregor III

Let me begin by thanking you for inviting me to address you at the spring 2021 stated meeting of Mississippi Valley Presbytery. I am sorry that I am not able to attend in person to enjoy times of fellowship and worship with you, but I appreciate this opportunity to share some remarks with your court. I look forward, Lord willing, to seeing a number of you when Synod meets in June, as scheduled, at Bonclarken.

I would like to highlight two matters that I wrote about in my Moderator's Challenge article for the January/February issue of *The ARP Magazine*. These are our statistical reports and open seats on our boards, committees, commissions, and agencies. We need to develop a clear picture and form a reliable assessment of the status and health of our denomination, and we are greatly aided in this process by timely and accurate statistical reports. I hope that

all of your sessions have already submitted the statistical reports that were due earlier this year.

We also need people who are qualified to serve on the boards, committees, commissions, and agencies of the General Synod. I encourage you as ministers and elders to give prayerful consideration to your own ability and willingness to serve at the Synod level. It would be useful if you would identify and encourage other ministers and elders of your acquaintance and members of your congregations who are qualified and who might be able and willing to serve the Synod. The Committee on Nominations, which is charged with identifying and nominating candidates for service, always needs your help to ensure that our denomination is served by capable and committed individuals.

I would now like to draw your attention to one of the special committees that Synod directed me to appoint, particularly the Special Committee on Net Assets Reallocation. This committee is charged with identifying at least \$3,000,000 from the net assets of Synod boards and agencies that might be reallocated to the ARP Retirement Plan Trust Fund. In connection with the work of this special committee, I have been reminded that Synod adopted a motion recommending that each Presbytery appoint or select a committee to examine its

funds to determine if any can be contributed toward the unfunded actuarial liability of the ARP Retirement Plan. It is incumbent upon me as Moderator to take advantage of this opportunity to encourage Mississippi Valley Presbytery to take up this recommendation, perhaps at this stated meeting.

Let me close by saying that my prayers are with you as leaders who serve in our challenging times. Let me also ask you to find ways to participate in the ongoing work of our denomination. May all that we do be done for the building up of the Church Universal and for the glory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

Thank you again for this opportunity to address you, and thank you for your attention to these matters.

Appendix D

Committee on Nominations

Report to the Spring 2021 meeting

Mississippi Valley Presbytery

The committee met on February 26, with Richard Moore, David Strock, and Joey Donahue present, and again on March 1, with Joey Donahue, Mike Chipman, and David Strock. The following are being recommended for service . . .

Christian Education

Charles Covington
Howard Wheeler

Minister & Work

Bill Holiman
Charles Browning

Outreach North America

Lance Ragsdale
Steve Rice

Nominations

Joey Donahue

Sessional Records

Ruling Elders (2)

David Strock
Ed Dees

Pastors (3)

Tim Phillips
Gary Jones
Gary Clowers

Representative to Executive Board of Synod ¹

Larry Littlejohn

¹ Must be a ruling elder this term

Appendix E

Treasurer's Report for 2020 Mississippi Valley Presbytery Spring Meeting 2021

Please find reports for the MVP General Fund, a Schedule of Assessments received from member churches, the Christian Education Fund, the Outreach North America Fund, and the MVP Endowment Investment Funds.

A summary of 2020 financial highlights:

- Our investment funds did quite well during the economic downturn due to the pandemic. The lower risk models that our managers implement produced an overall return of 9.63%.
- During 2020, \$90,000 was withdrawn from our investment funds to fund the Hernando Church mortgage payoff and the support for River City Reformed Church. The market value increased by a little over \$110,000 leaving our endowment funds with an increase over the year before.
- Additional withdrawals will be needed for 2021 commitments. The timing of withdrawals will depend on when an intern is hired for River City Reformed and any other needs that arise.
- Only three churches were unable to pay their \$10 a member assessment in 2020.
- There were no MVP Camps in 2020 due to the pandemic, therefore our 2021 Christian Education Fund is already adequately funded.

General Fund

Mississippi Valley Presbytery

For the Years 2019 and 2020

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Balance January 1	<u>\$131,403.76</u>	<u>\$130,576.63</u>
Receipts:		
Assessments from Member Churches	13,610.00	12,430.00
Interest Income	<u>1,701.83</u>	<u>1,734.11</u>
Total Receipts	<u>15,311.83</u>	<u>14,164.11</u>
Disbursements:		
Contribution to Christian Education Fund	6,500.00	6,000.00
Printing, Postage and Clerk's Travel and Stipend	1,131.83	1,025.99
Committee Expenses	22.20	910.99
Camp Joy TN	-00	4,000.00
Chaplain Fund to General Synod	400.00	400.00
Shared Mission Insite Demographic Tool	<u>-00</u>	<u>1,000.00</u>
Total Disbursements	<u>8,054.03</u>	<u>13,336.98</u>
Excess Receipts (disbursements)	<u>7,257.80</u>	<u>827.13</u>
Balance December 31	<u>\$138,661.56</u>	<u>\$131,403.76</u>
 General Fund Bank Accounts:		
Renasant Bank 2200123455	\$38,661.56	\$31,403.76
Bank of New Albany Certificate of Deposit	<u>100,000.00</u>	<u>100,000.00</u>
Total Bank Accounts	<u>\$138,661.56</u>	<u>\$131,403.76</u>

Schedule of Assessments Paid by Churches

Mississippi Valley Presbytery
For Years 2017 through 2020

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
Bethany, Guntown, MS	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$400
Brighton, TN	1,250	500	-00	1,040
Ebenezer, Blue Mtn., MS	400	400	400	400
Ellisville Presbyterian, Ellisville, M	-00	-00	-00	250
Elsberry, MO	70	70	90	90
Faith Presbyterian, Leakesville, MS	1,000	800	1,600	-00
French Camp, MS	1,000	1,000	900	900
Graceview, Southaven, MS	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200
Heritage ARP Springfield MO	500	500	500	430
Gum Tree, Tupelo, MS	820	820	810	790
Helena, Moss Point, MS	500	250	500	250
Hernando Reformed, Hernando, N	200	200	200	200
Hickory Springs, AR	100	-00	-00	-00
Hopewell, New Albany, MS	300	-00	800	698
Midlane Park, Louisville, KY	300	300	300	300
Mt. Zion, Troy, MO	180	180	180	220
New Albany, MS	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
New Geneva, Paducah, KY	-00	420	1,110	-00
Pottsville, AR	300	300	300	300
Providence, Bartlett, TN	600	600	500	500
Richland, Rosemark, TN	600	600	500	500
Salem, Atoka, TN	1,600	1,600	1,600	1,600
Sharon, Brighton, TN	190	190	190	210
Wood Avenue, Monticello, AR	-00	-00	-00	80
Total Receipts from churches	<u>\$13,610</u>	<u>\$12,430</u>	<u>\$14,180</u>	<u>\$12,358</u>

Names in bold indicate no 2020 payments were received

Christian Education Fund
Mississippi Valley Presbytery
For the Years 2019 and 2020

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Balance January 1	<u>\$6,647.18</u>	<u>\$6,022.73</u>
Receipts:		
Received from General Fund	\$6,500.00	\$6,000.00
Received from Summer Campers	-00	22,788.16
Received from Fall Retreat Campers	-00	-00
Total Receipts	<u>\$6,500.00</u>	<u>\$28,788.16</u>
Disbursements:		
Deposit on 2020 camp cancelled	2,262.00	-00
Expenses of Summer Camp	-00	28,163.71
Expenses of Fall Retreat	-00	-00
Total Disbursements	<u>2,262.00</u>	<u>28,163.71</u>
Excess Receipts over/ (Under) Disbursements	<u>4,238.00</u>	<u>624.45</u>
Balance December 31	<u>\$10,885.18</u>	<u>\$6,647.18</u>
 Christian Education Bank Account:		
Bank of New Albany 162026003	<u>\$10,885.18</u>	<u>\$6,647.18</u>

Outreach North America Funds Mississippi Valley Presbytery

For the years 2019 and 2020

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
<u>ONA FUNDS:</u>		
Balance January 1	<u>\$31,387.03</u>	<u>\$93,430.19</u>
Receipts:		
Contribution by Synod for River City Reformed Church	\$6,000.00	\$12,000.00
Received from Synod for Revitalization funds	1,996.00	1,996.00
Transfer from Investment Accounts	90,000.00	\$-00
Interest Income	-00	327.25
Royalties from Ross Exploration	<u>344.10</u>	<u>492.81</u>
Total Receipts	<u>\$98,340.10</u>	<u>\$14,816.06</u>
Disbursements:		
Howard Wheeler Salary and Benefits	\$60,419.04	\$60,419.04
Howard Wheeler Mileage and Expense reimbursemer	2,150.67	14,875.28
Committee Expense	-00	1,564.90
Payoff Mortgage for Hernando Church	<u>31,953.87</u>	<u>-00</u>
Total Disbursements	<u>\$94,523.58</u>	<u>76,859.22</u>
Balance ONA Funds December 31	<u>\$35,203.55</u>	<u>\$31,387.03</u>
Note: The commitment to River city Reformed for 2021 is \$45,184 for Rev. Wheeler And up to \$22,920 for an intern		
<u>Restricted Funds:</u>		
Balance Restricted for Louisville KY Church Plant	\$150,000.00	\$150,000.00
Interest earned to date	<u>1,530.09</u>	<u>1,160.48</u>
Balance in Restricted Funds	<u>\$151,530.09</u>	<u>\$151,160.48</u>
ONA and Bank Accounts:		
Bank of New Albany 1620260-01 Checking	\$35,203.53	\$31,387.03
BNA Bank 1620260-09 Money Market (Restricted)	<u>151,530.09</u>	<u>151,160.48</u>
Total in Banks	<u>\$186,733.62</u>	<u>\$182,547.51</u>

Mississippi Valley Presbytery

Endowment Funds

	Moderate ARP Invest- ment Fund A	Conservative ARP Invest- ment Fund B	Total
Value of Accounts January 1, 2020	\$889,689.00	\$305,120.00	\$1,194,809.00
Withdrawal in 2020	(90,000.00)	0	(90,000.00)
Increase in value of Accounts during 2020	<u>87,278.36</u>	<u>23,503.64</u>	<u>110,782.00</u>
Value of Accounts December 31, 2020	<u>\$886,967.36</u>	<u>\$328,623.64</u>	<u>\$1,215,591.00</u>
Return year to date	<u>10.33%</u>	<u>7.70%</u>	<u>9.63%</u>
Increase in Value since Inception	<u>\$254,357.36</u>	<u>\$78,623.64</u>	<u>\$332,981.00</u>
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	-00	100,000.00
Withdrawal in 2020	<u>(90,000.00)</u>	<u>-00</u>	<u>(90,000.00)</u>
Net Invested	<u>\$632,610.00</u>	<u>\$250,000.00</u>	<u>\$882,610.00</u>

Minister and His Work Committee Report

The Minister and His Work Committee met on March 1, 2021 at 3 p.m. Present were committee members Kent Moorlach, Don Watkins, Larry Littlejohn, Howard Wheeler, Paul Walley, and Tim Phillips. Rev. Moorlach opened the meeting in prayer.

Guests during the meeting: James Ritchey, Ron Pierce, Stephen Ewing, Marty Smithhart

Mr. James Ritchey was introduced to the committee by Howard Wheeler. Mr. Ritchey is interested in serving as a pastoral intern at the River City mission in Little Rock, Arkansas. Mr. Ritchey is also interested in pursuing ordination in the ARP Church. Mr. Ritchey spoke to the committee about his background and his faith in Jesus Christ. Mr. Ritchey was previously licensed in the PCA, but he is not currently licensed or under care of any Presbyterian body (his licensure has expired). The current plan would be for Mr. Ritchey to be hired as an intern at River City, with a goal for ordination exams to be administered in time for the October meeting of MVP. A motion was made to introduce Mr. Ritchey to the presbytery (seconded, passed). Rev. Moorlach then prayed for Mr. Ritchey and the Little Rock mission.

Rev. Ron Pierce gave a brief report about the Faith Presbyterian Church in Leakesville, Mississippi.

The committee discussed a question posed by Rev. Mike Yarmin. Rev. Yarmin is currently ministering among a United Methodist congregation and is seeking the counsel of the committee with regard to the appropriateness of administering the sacraments. There was discussion among the members of the committee, and the consensus of the committee was because of a difference in views of the sacraments, it was not recommended that Rev. Yarmin administer the sacraments at a non-NARPARC church.

There was discussion about the MVP Educational Fund Committee and the motion made at the Fall 2020 meeting of presbytery.

The committee discussed the current situation at the Ellisville Presbyterian Church. Rev. Charlie Turner still has not been installed as the pastor of the congregation, but at this time he feels as if the church may close soon, and he would like the opportunity to pursue a call elsewhere. At present, Rev. Turner is functioning in a capacity as the stated supply of the congregation.

The committee met with Stephen Ewing. The New Albany session is requesting that Mr. Ewing be allowed to serve as the stated supply of the New Albany congregation. Mr. Ewing also gave an update on his studies as a Student of Theology. After interviewing Mr. Ewing, a motion was made to recommend Mr. Ewing be approved as the stated supply for the New Albany Presbyterian Church (seconded, passed).

The committee met with Student of Theology Marty Smithhart. Mr. Smithhart gave an update of his studies and his labors at the Graceview ARP Church. Howard Wheeler prayed for Mr. Smithhart.

A motion was made to adjourn (seconded, passed). Larry Littlejohn closed the meeting with prayer.

Recommendations:

- That James Ritchey be introduced to the presbytery as a candidate for ministry
- That Stephen Ewing be approved as the stated supply for the New Albany Presbyterian Church

Sessional Records of Churches
Examined 3-2-2001

Without Exception

Hernando
Providence
Brighton
Hopewell
French Camp
Gospel of Grace/Heritage
Pottsville
Sharon
Richland
Gum Tree
Salem

With Exception

Midlane Park
Redeemer
New Albany
New Geneva
Ebenezer

MVP ONA Committee Minutes

Jan. 19th, 2021

Members Present: Brian Taylor, Bob White, Gary Clowers, Carl Patterson and John Scott
Guest: Howard Wheeler

- Opening Prayer: John Scott
- River City Report
 - Howard Wheeler was present to provide a report
 - The church has recovered its numbers from the Covid pandemic
 - The average attendance has been 28
 - Giving is good
 - A potential intern has materialized
 - A schedule is in place whereby this person will be introduced to the congregation, ONA committee and the Presbytery
- Louisville Report: No discussion
- Future Planning: The committee, with the aid of Rev. Wheeler, began to discuss how to provide future direction for the Presbytery regarding church planting and revitalization
 - Discussed three major issues:
 - Developing a list of potential church planters and revitalizers on the Presbytery level
 - Targeting locals for future plants
 - Developing Presbytery support, independent of synodical aid (mentioned, but not discussed)
 - It was decided to meet again at Presbytery regarding potentially providing recommendations for Presbytery as to the first item
- Close in Prayer: Gary Clowers
- Adjourn

No Recommendations at this time.

MVP Christian Education Committee
Meeting Minutes
3-2-2021

Present: Rev. Alex Coblentz, Rev. Charles Covington, Mr. Stephen Ewing (MVP Camp Director)

The meeting was opened by Mr. Ewing with a Scripture reading from Deuteronomy 6:4-9 and pray.

Mr. Ewing gave an update on the Officer Training Seminar that had been planned prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. Speaker, Dr. Charlie Wingard, was gracious and understanding upon learning of the cancelation of the seminar and volunteered to come teach if/when we choose to meet in the future.

Mr. Ewing opened a discussion about the viability of MVP Camp 2021 by giving a report from Mrs. Carrie Browning from Camp of the Rising Son (CRS). CRS will meet this summer, with the appropriate adjustments due to the ongoing pandemic. Mrs. Browning mentioned many of the new policies that will be in place and stated a willingness to put together videos and paper material for MVP to distribute to parents and students. After discussion on potential participation, the committee recommended that MVP Camp 2021 move forward, in association with CRS and the restrictions they put in place. The dates for MVP Camp will be July 19-24 at CRS in French Camp, MS.

The Committee discussed potential teaching topics before agreeing upon a series on the Parables of Jesus. Rev. Coblentz will reach out to Bruce Hosket to gauge his interest in teaching the High School group. The elementary age group will be split between Rev. Coblentz and Mr. Ewing.

Rev. Coblentz and Mr. Ewing will handle the music for worship time, as per MVP Camp 2020.

Given the COVID restrictions, the importance of quality counselors was discussed. The committee agreed on the necessity of counselor training *before* camp meets in July. This led to a discussion on how best to recruit and incentivize the needed number of counselors. Rev. Covington noted that counselor training and participation is as much a part of CE's role as recruiting campers. The opportunity to be a counselor is a wonderful opportunity for young adults to grow in their ability to share the Gospel and in their own faith in Christ. With this in mind, Mr. Ewing will begin advertising, not only for camp, but for counselor's immediately.

Appendix I

Camp Cost will be as Follows:

Early Bird – Before May 17 - \$250

Normal Registration – May 17 – June 14 - \$275

Late Registration – June 15 – July 5 - \$300

Mr. Ewing gave an update on Synod Level camps, particularly, Camp Joy TN/MS 2021. Horizon, Quest, and Family Bible Conference will move forward as normal (with the appropriate restriction). Appalachia is still uncertain. Camp Joy will not meet this summer, but there is still great enthusiasm for a Camp Joy in TN/MS in 2022.

Having no other business, the meeting was closed in prayer by Rev. Alex Coblenz.

Appendix J

A commission of Mississippi Valley Presbytery met on Sunday, March 7, 2021, at 4:45 p.m., at the Redeemer Community Church in Murray, Kentucky. The commission met for the purpose of conducting the organizational service for the Redeemer mission, as well as the installation of Rev. Mike Chipman as pastor of Redeemer.

Moderator of MVP John Scott prayed for the work of the commission. Members of the commission were Moderator Scott, Rev. Don Watkins, Rev. Brian Taylor, Rev. Tim Phillips, Elder Chris Myskowski, and Elder Kevin Myers. As part of the service, Rev. Mike Chipman was installed as the pastor of Redeemer, and Mr. Andy French and Mr. Todd Bohanon were installed as elders (Mr. Bohanon was also ordained to the office of elder).

The order of service is included as part of this report.

REDEEMER COMMUNITY CHURCH

SUNDAY, MARCH 7, 2021
SERVICE OF ORGANIZATION

Call to Worship - *Calling God's people to worship Him*
from Psalm 90

Leader: Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

People: **A thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past, or like a watch in the night. The days of our life are seventy years, or perhaps eighty, if we are strong.**

Leader: Teach us to count our days, so we may gain a wise heart.

People: **Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, so we may rejoice and be glad all our days.**

Leader: Let your work be manifest to your servants, and your glorious power to their children.

All: **Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and prosper for us the work of our hands — O prosper the work of our hands!**

Invocation - *Calling upon God to be with us and help us as we worship Him*

Praise and Adoration in Song - *Singing praises to our Lord Jesus Christ*

Corporate Profession - *Professing what we believe as one Church*
from the Heidelberg Catechism 1

Leader: What is your only comfort in life and in death?

All: **That I am not my own, but belong— body and soul, in life and in death— to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven; in fact, all things must work together for my salvation. Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.**

Sermon - *Hearing from God's Word* - "Pride and Joy" - 1 Thessalonians 2:17-20

Our Response to God's Word - *Responding to God in song.*

Organization of the Church

Vows for the Congregation

Rev. Brian Taylor

Ordination and Installation of the Elders

Vows for the Elders and Congregation

Rev. Tim Phillips

Laying on of Hands and Prayer

Declaration and Right Hand of Fellowship

Rev. Tim Phillips

Charge to elders

Rev. Tim Phillips

Installation of the Minister

Vows for the Minister and Congregation

Rev. Don Watkins

Charge to minister

John Scott

Charge to congregation

Chris Myskowski

Declaration of minister

Rev. Don Watkins

Closing Prayer

Kevin Myers

Benediction - *Receiving the Lord's blessings for His people*

Commission to Organize Redeemer from Mississippi Valley Presbytery:

Brian Taylor (minister and chair of ONA Committee)

Tim Phillips (minister at Brighton ARP)

Don Watkins (minister at New Geneva ARP)

John Scott (elder at Brighton ARP, Moderator of MVP, member of ONA Committee)

Chris Myskowski (elder at New Geneva ARP)

Kevin Myers (elder at New Geneva ARP)

HOST CHURCHES OF STATED MEETINGS OF MISSISSIPPI VALLEY PRESBYTERY

- 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, Providence (moved from Pottsville)
- 2021 – Hopewell, Graceview
- 2022 – Providence, Pottsville
- 2023 – French Camp, Heritage

OFFICERS OF MISSISSIPPI VALLEY PRESBYTERY

- Moderator:** Mr. John Scott
1238 Marshall Road
Brighton, Tennessee 38011
(C) 901-581-4780
jscott@rebelmail.net
(Spring 2021)
- Vice-Moderator:** Rev. Charles Covington
(C) 662-869-2948
(E) *charles.Covington@leecountyschools.us*
(Fall 2021)
- Principal Clerk:** Rev. Tim Phillips
57 Church St., Brighton, TN 38011
(O) 901-476-7233
(C) 901-451-7892
(E) *tjparp@gmail.com*
(Spring 2023)
- Reading Clerk:** Rev. Joseph Donahue
5444 Stage Road, Bartlett, TN 38134
(H) 901-386-5467
(O) 901-388-5885
(C) 901-287-9118
(E) *providencereform@bellsouth.net*
(Fall 2021)
- Treasurer:** Mr. John M. Robinson
1568 Sunflower Circle, Tupelo, MS 38801
(H) 662-840-8095
(C) 662-401-9934
(E) *johnr1568@att.net*
(December 2021)
- Parliamentarian:** Rev. Howard Wheeler
47 E Ash St, PO Box 318, Pottsville, AR 72858-0318.
(H) 479-890-6250
(C) 479-970-1384
(E) *hwheele@gmail.com*
(Fall 2022)

STANDING COMMITTEES OF MISSISSIPPI VALLEY PRESBYTERY

Christian Education Ministries

Mr. Stephen Ewing, Chairman (2023)
Mr. Charles Browning (2022)
Rev. Alex Coblenz (2022)
Mr. Bruce Hosket (2023)
Rev. Charles Covington (2024)
Rev. Howard Wheeler (2024)

Minister and His Work

Rev. Kent Moorlach, Chairman (2022)
Mr. Paul Walley (2022)
Rev. Tim Phillips (2023)
Mr. Larry Littlejohn (2023)
Rev. Don Watkins (2024)
Mr. David Jones (2024)
Rev. Bill Holiman (2025)
Mr. Charles Browning (2025)

Nominations

Rev. Joey Donahue, Chairman (2025)
Mr. Richard Moore (2022)
Rev. Mike Chipman (2023)
Mr. David Strock (2024)

Outreach North America

Rev. Brian Taylor, Chairman (2022)
Mr. John Scott (2022)
Rev. Gary Clowers (2023)
Rev. Robert White (2023)
Mr. Lance Ragsdale (2024)
Mr. Steve Rice (2024)

Stewardship

Mr. Paul Walley, Chair (2023)
Mr. Stephen Ewing (2023)
Rev.. Brian Taylor (2022)
Rev. Kent Moorlach (2022)
Mr. John Robinson – *Ex Officio*

Sessional Records

Mr. David Strock, Chairman (2023)
Rev. Gary Clowers (2023)
Mr. Ed Dees (2023)
Rev. Gary Jones (2023)
Rev. Tim Phillips (2023)

Trustees of Presbytery

Mr. Charles Browning
Mr. Milton Murphy
Mr. Mike Thomason

Synod Board & Agency Representatives

Christian Ed.: Mr. Stephen Ewing (2023)
Dunlap: Diane Clowers(2025)
Exec. Board: Mr. Larry Littlejohn (2025)
MaHW: Rev. Kent Moorlach (2022)
Nom.: Rev. Joey Donahue (2025)
ONA: Rev. Brian Taylor (2022)
Stewardship: Mr. Paul Walley (2023)

Students of Theology

Stephen Ewing (RTS-Jackson)
Marty Smithhart (Erskine)

Missionaries

Jodie Gaston

(Service for new committee members begins July 1, 2021)

Honorably Retired Ministers

Rev. Thomas Braithwaite (retired chaplain)
Rev. Ron Brunson (retired missionary)
Rev. Meredith Cavin
Rev. Conrad Cheatham
Rev. Gary Clowers
Rev. James Coad III (retired missionary)
Rev. David Dively
Rev. Bill Everett
Rev. Michael Garvey
Rev. Carl Geisik
Rev. William Holiman
Rev. Charles Todd
Rev. John Tucker
Rev. Don Watkins
Rev. Mike Yarman (retired chaplain)

Churches Served by Stated Supplies

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: Bro. Randy Kolb
Midlane Park: Rev. David Dively
New Albany: Mr. Stephen Ewing

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY PRESBYTERY DIRECTORY

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

Braithwaite, Thomas E., 1937 Croydon Circle, Birmingham, AL 35235. 205-854-7575 (H)
brithwat@bellsouth.net

Browning, Charles, 110 Magnolia, New Albany, MS 38652. 662-539-1485 (C).
hammerpecker@icloud.com

Brunson, Ron, 224 Woodland Ct, Black Mountain, NC 28711. 828-669-4301 (H)
ronlbrunson@gmail.com

Buck, Larry, 649 Barrett Rd, Elsberry, Mo 63343. 573-305-5866 (H), 620-262-0043 (C).
bucklarryray@gmail.com

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

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

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

Chipman, Mike, 240-298-9583. *mikechipman37@gmail.com*

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dively, Dave, *david@dively.org*

Donahue, Joseph, 3545 Jenny Ln, Bartlett, TN 38135. 901-386-5467 (H) 901-388-5885 (O)
901-361-8430 (C) *providencereform@bellsouth.net*

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

Ewing, Stephen, 662-316-1826, *napyyouth@gmail.com*

Falkena, Blaine, 4578 N. Farm Rd 125, Springfield, MO 65803. 417-655-2800
blainefalkena@gmail.com

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

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

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

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

Goulder, Randy, 359 Double Bridges Road, Munford, TN 38058. 901-317-8556.

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

Holiman, Bill, *bill.loralee.holiman@reagan.com*

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

Kleinjan, Keith, *kkleinjanemds@yahoo.com*

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

Moore, Richard, 2491 Nelson Rd, Brighton, TN 38011. 901-592-9074.
porkiel@bellsouth.net

Moorlach, Kent, 8658 Rosemark Rd, Millington TN 38053. 901-829-4105 (O)., 714-345-
052 (c), *kmoorlach@gmail.com*

Murphy, Milton, 901-476-2808, *cmurphy1124@att.net*

Neiswonger, Christopher. 901-453-5696. *graceviewpres@gmail.com*

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

Phillips, Tim, 57 Church St, Brighton, TN 38011. 901-451-7892. *tjparp@gmail.com*

Pierce, Ron, *Chaplain@mobileso.com*

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

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

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

Scott, John, 1238 Marshall Rd.. Brighton, TN 38011, 901-837-2275, *jscott@rebelmail.net*.

Shotwell, Michael, *meshotwell.ms2@gmail.com*

Smithhart, Marty, 901-240-3136, *smithhhart@gmail.com*

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

Taylor, Brian, 909 W Glenwood, Springfield, MO 65807. 417-849-4006. *pastorbltaylor@hotmail.com*

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

Todd, Charles, 300 South Dry Valley Rd., Cookeville, TN. 38506. 931-854-0506 (C) *charlesandjudy@bigriver.net*

Tucker, John, 901-921-3523. *jtucker51@gmail.com*

Turner, Charlie, *cturner@pcsk12.org*

Walley, Paul, 11802 N Farm Road 101, Willard, MO 65781. 417 872-2968 *missouriwalley@gmail.com*

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

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

White, Robert, 901-491-2174. *memphisrawwhite@bellsouth.net*

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

Schedule for Review of Minutes of Sessions

Spring Meeting

Faith
Graceview
Gum Tree
Helena
Heritage
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