

The Minutes Of Mississippi Valley Presbytery

General Synod of the
Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church



Fall Stated Meeting

October 4-5, 2021

Graceview Presbyterian Church
Southaven, Mississippi

Called Meeting

May 25, 2021

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PROCEEDINGS
MISSISSIPPI VALLEY PRESBYTERY
Graceview Presbyterian Church
Southaven, Mississippi

Fall Stated Meeting
October 4, 2021

The registration of delegates began at 4:00 p.m. on October 4, 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. Chris Neiswonger, the pastor of Graceview Presbyterian Church. (see **Appendix A**). Rev. Tim Phillips preached a sermon from Song of Solomon 5, entitled “The Greatest Song of All.” Rev. Neiswonger then led the presbytery in the celebration of the sacrament of the Lord’s Supper.

Following the worship service and a brief recess, Moderator John Scott opened the business portion of the meeting with prayer. Gene Adams, an elder at Graceview, welcomed the members of presbytery to the meeting.

The Principal Clerk confirmed a quorum was present.

Ministers Present

Thomas Braithwaite (*E*)
Ron Brunson (*E*)
Meredith Cavin (*E*)
Conrad Cheatham (*E*)
Mike Chipman
Gary Clowers (*E*)
James Coad III (*E*)
Alex Coblentz
Charles Covington
David Dively (*E*)
Joey Donahue
Bill Everett (*E*)
Michael Garvey (*E*)
Jodie Gaston (*E*)

Steve Hardy (*E*)
William Holiman
Gary Jones
Matthew Heathman (*E*)
Kent Moorlach
Christopher Neiswonger
Tim Phillips
Brian Taylor
Charles Todd (*E*)
John Tucker (*E*)
Don Watkins
Howard Wheeler
Robert White
Mike Yarman (*E*)

(A) = Unexcused Absence
(E) Excused Absence

Ruling Elders Present

Bethany – David Frazier	Hopewell – Charles Browning
Brighton – Milton Murphy	Midlane Park – Dale Kleinjan
Ebenezer – Ed Dees	Mt. Zion – none
Ellisville – none	New Albany – Don Nichols
Elsberry – none	New Geneva – none
Faith – Leslie McNeal III	Pottsville – none
French Camp – Lance Ragsdale	Providence – David Strock
Gospel of Grace – Paul Walley	Redeemer – Todd Bohannon
Graceview – Gene Adams	Richland – none
Gum Tree – Bobby Reedy	Salem – Scott Fletcher
Helena – none	Sharon – none
Hernando – Steve Rice	Wood Avenue -- none
Hickory Springs – none	

Guests

Marty Smithhart, Michael Friedman, Keith Speck, Scott Gregory, Howie Mays, James O. Weir II, Howard Douglas King, Ron Pierce, Brenda Pierce, Joshua Monson, Susan Cavin, Kenny Sheffield

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 Sprng 2021 Minutes were adopted by the presbytery.

A motion was made to nominate Rev. Kent Moorlach, the Pastor of the Richland ARP Church, as Moderator-elect of MVP (seconded). There were no other nominations, and the motion passed by acclamation.

Mrs. Susan Cavin, President of MVP Women's Ministries, gave a presentation to the presbytery. Rev. Robert White was called upon to pray for the work of Women's Ministries.

After announcements, the meeting was recessed for the evening with prayer by James Ritchey.

Tuesday, October 5, 2021 (8 a.m.)

The second day of presbytery began with a sermon by James Ritchie on 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1. After the sermon, the presbytery offered constructive comments on the content and delivery of the sermon. A motion was made to sustain Mr. Ritchie's sermon as his ordination sermon (seconded, passed).

The meeting was called to order and Moderator Scott opened the business portion of the meeting in prayer. The Principal Clerk briefly spoke about overtures from General Synod concerning a paper from Theological and Social Concerns on the role of the civil magistrate and corporate worship, the need for a representative from presbytery for Synod's Committee on Revisions, and an upcoming vote on the new *Directory for Private and Family Worship* at the Spring 2022 Meeting of MVP.

The report of the Committee on Sessional Report was presented by the Principal Clerk. The following church's minutes were approved without exceptions: Bethany, Brighton, Ebenezer, French Camp, Hopewell, Mt. Zion, New Geneva, Providence, Redeemer, and Richland. The following churches did not submit minutes for examination: Ellisville, Elsberry, and Pottsville. No churches had minutes with exceptions.

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

The Stewardship Report was presented to the presbytery (see **Appendix C**). A motion was made to receive the report (seconded, passed), and the two recommendations from the report were approved by the presbytery.

In order to facilitate the presentation of the ONA report, the decision was made to examine Mr. James Ritchie for ordination prior to the Minister and His Work report (this met with the presbytery's approval). Mr. Ritchie was introduced and then received questions from the floor.

Mr. Ritchie took no exceptions to the Westminster Standards, and he was asked to outline the Shorter Catechism. A question was asked about his views on the days of creation (he holds to a literal view of the days of creation and the historic Adam). A question was asked about issues in the PCA (Critical Race Theory, Revoice theology) and his stance on those issues. A

question was asked about practical counseling issues in the pastoral ministry. Mr. Ritchey was asked about the ways in which he had been gifted for the ministry and areas in which he needed to grow. A question was asked about his views on Scripture. A question was asked about the practical application of the Second and Fourth Commandments by Christian believers. A follow-up question was asked about the change in day of the Sabbath from Saturday to Sunday. A question was asked about the alleged differences between the views of Paul and James on justification. A question was asked about the historical reason for the formation of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. After questions, a motion was made to sustain Mr. Ritchie's floor examination (seconded, passed).

The report from the ONA Committee was then presented to the presbytery (see **Appendix D**). As part of the report, Rev. Howard Wheeler gave an update on the River City Mission.

The order of the day was reached, and the presbytery recessed for committee meetings. Rev. Mike Chipman was called upon to pray.

Recess for Committee Meetings (10 a.m.)

After committee meetings had concluded, Moderator Scott called the meeting back to order. Elder Milton Murphy was called upon to open this portion of the meeting in prayer.

The meeting of presbytery resumed with further discussion on the ONA Committee report. The call to Mr. James Ritchey was presented (see **Appendix E**). The presbytery approved the call, and Mr. Ritchey accepted it. Mr. Ritchey was offered the right hand of fellowship by the presbytery. All of the recommendations in the ONA Committee report were approved by the presbytery, and the report was adopted by the presbytery.

The Christian Education Committee report was presented to the presbytery (see **Appendix F**). Stephen Ewing, Chair of the Christian Education Committee, gave a brief update about MVP Camp and the reasons for canceling the 2021 camp due to issues with COVID-19. The current plan is to have camp again in the summer of 2022. There was discussion on the report. After discussion, the report was approved by the presbytery.

Rev. Joey Donahue, Chairman of Nominations, noted that the committee was recommending that Rev. David Dively serve as the presbytery representative for Synod's Committee on Revisions. This came to the floor of presbytery as a motion, and the motion was seconded and passed.

The order of the day was reached, and Moderator Scott called upon Elder Charles Browning 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 presented to the presbytery. (see **Appendix G**). Each of the recommendations was taken one at a time.

Mr. James Weir was presented to the presbytery by Scott Fletcher, an elder at the Salem Presbyterian Church. Mr. Weir spoke of his faith in Jesus Christ and his sense of call to the ministry. After a few questions from the floor, Mr. Weir was received as a Student of Theology. He was asked the questions from the *Form of Government* 9.20 by the Moderator, and then he was offered the right hand of fellowship by the presbytery.

Recommendation 2 had already been handled earlier in the meeting. Recommendations 3, 4, 5, and 6 all passed.

A motion was made to go into executive session (seconded, passed).

The presbytery came out of executive session.

After discussion, a motion was made to direct the Minister and His Work and ONA Committees come up with a plan for the determination of which churches in the presbytery are in need of revitalization (seconded, passed). The Minister and His Work report was then adopted by the presbytery.

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

- Spring 2022 (March 7-8), Providence Presbyterian Church in Bartlett, Tennessee
- Fall 2022 (October 3-4), Pottsville Presbyterian Church in Pottsville, Arkansas
- Spring 2023 (March 6-7, 2023), French Camp Presbyterian Church in French Camp, Mississippi
- Fall 2023 (October 2-3, 2023), Heritage ARP Church in Springfield, Missouri

There were no nominations to host future presbytery meetings at this time.

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

The honorable retirement of Rev. Robert White from the Salem ARP Church was recognized.

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

Called Meeting of Mississippi Valley Presbytery
May 25, 2021

A called meeting of MVP was held on Tuesday, May 25, 2021, beginning at 7 p.m. The meeting was conducted via Zoom. Present at the meeting:

Ministers

Tim Phillips
Brian Taylor
Bob White
Don Watkins
Bill Holiman
Dave Dively
Howard Wheeler
Mike Chipman

Elders

Scott Fletcher (Salem)
John Scott (Elder)
Ed Dees (Ebenezer)
Milton Murphy (Brighton)
John Robinson (Treasurer)
Carl Patterson (Gum Tree)

Guests

James Ritchey
Marty Smithhart
Tim Fite (Salem)
Charlie Turner

The meeting was called to order by Moderator John Scott and was opened in prayer by Rev. Brian Taylor.

It was established that a quorum was present.

Two items of business were on the agenda for consideration for the meeting:

- To approve the retirement of Rev. Robert White, effective November 1, 2021, as well as approving the severing of the relationship between Rev. White and the Salem Presbyterian Church on that date.
- To hear a recommendation from the special Moderator's Committee concerning the giving of funds from MVP to help with the ARP retirement fund.

The first item of business was considered by the presbytery. After some questions from the presbytery, the recommendation passed.

The second item of business was considered by the presbytery. Rev. Phillips was asked to speak briefly concerning the retirement fund and the request for help in dealing with the fund. Discussion ensued. A motion was made to pledge \$50,000 from the presbytery to the help fund the ARP Retirement Fund (seconded). A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

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

Appendix A

Mississippi Valley Presbytery Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church

Fall Stated Meeting
Graceview Presbyterian Church
Southaven, Mississippi
October 4-5, 2021

Opening Worship Service

Call to Worship		Rev. Chris Neiswonger
Invocation		Rev. Neiswonger
* <i>Psalter</i> # 44A	"O God, We Have Heard of Your Works"	
Scripture		Song of Solomon 5
Sermon – " <i>The Greatest Song of All</i> "		Rev. Tim Phillips
Prayer		
* <i>Psalter</i> # 51A	"God, Be Merciful to Me"	
The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper		Rev. Neiswonger
* <i>Hymn</i> # 242	"O, the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus"	
*Benediction		Rev. Neiswonger
*Congregation Standing		

Fall 2021 Meeting Agenda

Monday, October 4

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 2021 Minutes of Presbytery
Nominations for Moderator of MVP
Unfinished Business
Address from President of MVP Women's Ministries
Announcements
Closing Prayer

Tuesday, October 5

Breakfast	7 a.m.
Morning Sermon	8 a.m.
Mr. James Ritchey – 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1	
Brief Recess	8:40-8:45 a.m.
Business Resumes	8:45 a.m.
<i>Overtures from Synod</i>	
Recess for Committee Meetings	10 a.m.
Business Resumes	11 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 Spring 2024 Meeting	
Reading and Adoption of Minutes	
Announcements	
The Singing of Psalm 133, "Christian Unity"	
Adjournment with Prayer and Benediction	

Schedule of Assessments Mississippi Valley Presbytery For Years 2017 through 2021	Paid by	Churches	
	<u>2021 to date</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Bethany, Guntown, MS	0	\$500	\$500
Brighton, TN	375	1,250	500
Ebenezer, Blue Mtn., MS	400	400	400
Ellisville Presbyterian, Ellisville, M	0	-00	-00
Elsberry, MO	70	70	70
Faith Presbyterian, Leakesville, M	0	1,000	800
French Camp, MS	1,000	1,000	1,000
Graceview, Southaven, MS	900	1,200	1,200
Heritage ARP Springfield MO	700	500	500
Gum Tree, Tupelo, MS	850	820	820
Helena, Moss Point, MS	250	500	250
Hernando Reformed, Hernando, I	0	200	200
Hickory Springs, AR	0	100	-00
Hopewell, New Albany, MS	0	300	-00
Midlane Park, Louisville, KY	300	300	300
Mt. Zion, Troy, MO	160	180	180
New Albany, MS	1,500	2,000	2,000
New Geneva, Paducah, KY	420	-00	420
Pottsville, AR	0	300	300
Providence, Bartlett, TN	400	600	600
Richland, Rosemark, TN	0	600	600
Salem, Atoka, TN	1,600	1,600	1,600
Sharon, Brighton, TN	190	190	190
Wood Avenue, Monticello, AR	0	-00	-00
Total Receipts from churches	<u>\$9,115</u>	<u>\$13,610</u>	<u>\$12,430</u>

**It was noted by the Treasurer that both Faith and Bethany had sent in their assessments after this report was generated.*

General Fund
Mississippi Valley Presbytery
For the Years 2021 to date and 2020

	<u>2021 (to date)</u>	<u>2020</u>
Balance January 1	<u>\$138,661.56</u>	<u>\$131,403.76</u>
Receipts:		
Assessments from Member Churches	9,115.00	13,610.00
Transfer from Investment Fund	50,000.00	-00
Royalties from mineral interests	215.80	-00
Interest Income	<u>133.20</u>	<u>1,701.83</u>
Total Receipts	<u>59,464.00</u>	<u>15,311.83</u>
Disbursements:		
Contribution to Christian Education Fund	-00	6,500.00
Printing, Postage and Clerk's Travel and Stipend	608.79	1,131.83
Committee Expenses	557.64	22.20
Chaplain Fund to General Synod	-00	400.00
Contribution to Ministers Retirement Fund	<u>50,000.00</u>	<u>-00</u>
Total Disbursements	<u>51,166.43</u>	<u>8,054.03</u>
Excess Receipts	<u>8,297.57</u>	<u>7,257.80</u>
Balance end of period	<u>\$146,959.13</u>	<u>\$138,661.56</u>
 General Fund Bank Accounts:		
Renasant Bank 2200123455	\$46,959.13	\$38,661.56
Bank of New Albany Certificate of Deposit	<u>100,000.00</u>	<u>100,000.00</u>
Total Bank Accounts	<u>\$146,959.13</u>	<u>\$138,661.56</u>

**Christian Education Fund
Mississippi Valley Presbytery
For the Years 2021 to date and 2020**

	2021	2020
Balance January 1	<u>\$10,885.18</u>	<u>\$6,647.18</u>
Receipts:		
Received from General Fund		\$6,500.00
Total Receipts		<u>\$6,500.00</u>
Disbursements:		
Deposit on 2020 and 2021 camps cancelled		2,262.00
Total Disbursements		<u>2,262.00</u>
Excess Receipts over Disbursements		<u>4,238.00</u>
Balance end of period	<u>\$10,885.18</u>	<u>\$10,885.18</u>
 Christian Education Bank Account:		
Bank of New Albany 162026003	<u>\$10,885.18</u>	<u>\$10,885.18</u>

Note: There were no camps in 2020 or 2021 due to Covid
A deposit in amount of \$2262 remains with CRS

Outreach North America Funds Mississippi Valley Presbytery

For the years 2021 to date and 2020

	<u>2021 to date</u>	<u>2020</u>
<u>ONA FUNDS:</u>		
Balance January 1	<u>\$35,203.55</u>	<u>\$31,387.03</u>
Receipts:		
Contribution by Synod for River City Reformed Church	0	\$6,000.00
Received from Synod for Revitalization funds	0	1,996.00
Transfer from Investment Accounts	20,000.00	90,000.00
Royalties from Ross Exploration	<u>560.20</u>	<u>344.10</u>
Total Receipts	<u>\$20,560.20</u>	<u>\$98,340.10</u>
Disbursements:		
Contribution to River City Reformed for Pastor's package	\$33,887.97	\$62,569.71
Contribution to River City Reformed for Intern's package	19,887.17	2,150.67
Committee Expense	-00	-00
Payoff Mortgage for Hernando Church	<u>-00</u>	<u>31,953.87</u>
Total Disbursements	<u>\$53,775.14</u>	<u>\$96,674.25</u>
Balance ONA Funds end of period	<u>\$1,988.61</u>	<u>\$33,052.88</u>
<u>Restricted Funds:</u>		
Balance Restricted for Louisville KY Church Plant	\$150,000.00	\$150,000.00
Interest earned to date	<u>1,701.47</u>	<u>1,530.09</u>
Balance in Restricted Funds	<u>\$151,701.47</u>	<u>\$151,530.09</u>
ONA and Bank Accounts:		
Bank of New Albany 1620260-01 Checking	\$1,988.61	\$35,203.53
BNA Bank 1620260-09 Money Market (Restricted)	<u>151,701.47</u>	<u>151,530.09</u>
Total in Banks	<u>\$153,690.08</u>	<u>\$186,733.62</u>

Notes: Synod's support of River city Reformed went directly to the Church in 2021

A transfer will be made to ONA from either Investment Funds or the General Fund

Mississippi Valley Presbytery

Endowment Funds

	Moderate ARP Invest- ment Fund A	Conservative ARP Invest- ment Fund B	Total
Value of Accounts January 1, 2021	\$886,967.36	\$328,623.64	\$1,215,591.00
Withdrawals in 2021	(70,000.00)	0	(70,000.00)
Increase in value of Accounts during 2021	<u>110,074.02</u>	<u>13,321.27</u>	<u>123,395.29</u>
Value of Accounts August 31, 2021	<u>\$927,041.38</u>	<u>\$341,944.91</u>	<u>\$1,268,986.29</u>
Return year to date	<u>12.92%</u>	<u>4.05%</u>	<u>10.54%</u>
Increase in Value since Inception	<u>\$364,431.38</u>	<u>\$91,944.91</u>	<u>\$456,376.29</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
Withdrawals in 2020	(90,000.00)		(90,000.00)
Withdrawals in 2021	<u>(70,000.00)</u>	<u>-00</u>	<u>(70,000.00)</u>
Net Invested	<u>\$562,610.00</u>	<u>\$250,000.00</u>	<u>\$812,610.00</u>

Note: As of the preparation of this report about \$10,000 of the gains had been lost.

Appendix C

September 28th 7pm EST

Mississippi Valley Presbytery, ARPC

Committee Meeting - Paul Walley Moderating

In Attendance: Rev. Kent Moorlach, Mr. John Robinson (Ex Officio), Chairman Rev. Dr. Brian Taylor

Absent: Mr. Stephen Ewing,

Visitors: Rev. Tim Phillips

- I. Devotion: Paul Walley Luke 16:9
- II. Open in Prayer Rev. Moorlach
- III. New Business -
 - a. Ex Officio's suggestion to the agenda -
 - i. "ONA's recommendation, you add the \$51,413 as part of the Stewardship's overall Budget".
 - ii. The ONA bank account is down below \$2000 with a bank draft for the Little Rock support of \$3765 due on October 15. In the past I have transferred money from our MVP investment funds to meet this commitment. We now have over \$45,000 in our general fund checking plus a CD for \$100,000. I recommend that Presbytery authorize a transfer from the General fund to the ONA account of \$30,000 rather than from the investment funds. That will fund the rest of 2021 commitment to RCR as well as enough of 2022 to get us until March meeting of MVP. At that point we will probably want to transfer from the investment funds.
 - iii. **Motion: Rev. Moorlach Recommend to Presbytery for the authorization to transfer from the General fund to the ONA account of \$30,000 rather than from the investment funds. 2nd Rev. Taylor Passed**
 - b. Susan Cavin: I am still serving as president of the women of our presbytery. We have been inactive as a presbyterial for several years and are now trying to reach out and reconnect with all of our women. We are in the beginning stages of planning a meeting. securing a location, and designating our speaker for late January or February 2022. I am contacting you as chairman of the Stewardship Committee of MYP. At one point presbytery included women's ministries in the yearly budget. I would like to request that this be considered and allocated again this year. Mr. Robinson may remember through which committee it was directed. I thought the original amount may have been \$1,000.00. I would be grateful the committee's input and consideration.

Stewardship Committee response: Interested in seeing the revitalization of women's ministries, but want to keep that separate from presbytery. However, they can provide a specific proposal to Christian Education Committee.

2022 Budget approvals

- i. Review 2021 Budgets

Minister and His Work:	\$3000
ONA:	\$3000
Stewardship:	\$3000
Christian Education:	\$6500
Total:	\$15,500

ii. 2022 Budget proposal

Minister and His Work:	\$3000
ONA:	\$3000
	\$51,413 Little Rock
Stewardship:	\$3000
Christian Education:	\$0 (normally \$6,500)
Chaplin Fund	\$1000
Total:	\$61,413

iii. Motion: Rev. Taylor Recommend to Presbytery to accept proposed 2022 budget. 2nd Rev. Moorlach Pass

- IV. Reading of Minutes
- V. Closing Prayer Rev. Taylor
- VI. **Motion: Rev. Moorlach to accept the minutes as read Rev Taylor 2nd pass**

ONA Committee Meeting
Minutes 8/31/21

Attendance:

Members-Gary Clowers, Lance Ragsdale, Steve Rice, Bob White, John Scott, Brian Taylor
Guests: Rev. David Dively, Rev. Howard Wheeler, James Ritchey
Absentees: None

- Open in Prayer
- Missions Updates-
 - Rev. Wheeler and James Ritchey provided an update regarding River City
 - Rev. Wheeler apprised the committee regarding James Ritchey's status
 - Also spoke of Mr. Ritchey's character; Rev. Wheeler also informed the committee of their need to discuss and to possibly recommend to MVP that they issue a call to Mr. Ritchey as River City's Associate Pastor
 - Mr. Ritchey provided an update on the work at River City, including future plans for improving congregational life in regard to fellowship and evangelistic efforts
 - A time for questions, discussion and prayer followed the report
 - Rev. Dively spoke to the committee regarding the future Louisville church plant
 - Rev. Dively provided an overview of Midlane Park's current status
 - Shared reasons as to his transfer from the PCA to the ARP (provide accountability and demonstrate commitment to the local church)
 - As to potential plant:
 - Still desires the Lord to provide two men for Louisville: a church planter and a minister for Midlane
 - Spoke of the cultural changes which have taken place since he first began ministering in Louisville, which requires him to approach the work differently
 - Has sought assistance from ONA personnel to provide greater insight into ministering in a post-Christian culture
 - A time for questions, discussion and prayer followed the report
 - The committee then received and discussed the requested call of River City to James Ritchey
 - The motion was made, seconded and adopted that the ONA Committee receive the call as given from River City and to recommend MVP to issue the call to James Ritchey as the Associate Pastor for River City Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church (see attachment for call)
 - Rev. Wheeler provided an overview of River City's budget and request for financial support from MVP (see attachment)
 - Motion was made, seconded and adopted that the ONA committee recommend to MVP the acceptance of the proposed budget and financial support from MVP to River City
- ONA Committee discussed future plans regarding church planting

Appendix D

- Involved in these plans were potential ways by which the committee could provide recommendations for a church planting model to MVP
- The chairman of the committee informed the members of efforts by himself, Mr. John Scott and Rev. Howard Wheeler to meet, discuss and provide guidance to the committee regarding this model
- In view of these efforts, Rev. Wheeler and Mr. Scott addressed various topics, which included:
 - Identifying potential planters within churches of the MVP
 - Developing internships to prepare and support potential planters (an emphasis was made on the Mother/Daughter approach to church planting)
 - Focusing on areas closer to existing ARP churches
- A motion was made, seconded and adopted to ask Rev. Wheeler to develop a report to present to MVP with respect to future church planting efforts
- Rev. Gary Clowers spoke of the need for greater priority upon evangelism
 - Rev. Clowers provided the following recommendations:
 - That the churches of MVP have a cooperate prayer meeting for evangelism and sessional records account for evangelistic efforts each month
 - That ministers keep a record of evangelistic efforts
 - That church provide a 52 week course for new converts
 - That the ONA committee meet via zoom weekly or monthly for prayer (regarding evangelism)
 - The recommendations were received but no actions taken
- Closing Prayer
- Adjournment

Recommendations:

1. That MVP issue the attached call to James Ritchey as Associate Pastor of River City Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.
2. That MVP approve the attached 2022 Proposed Budget for River City Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.
3. That MVP provide financial support in the amount of \$51,413.91 for River City Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church as proposed in the attached 2022 River City Support Proposal.

Appendix D

2022 River City Budget

Pastoral Support	Amount
Pastor Wheeler	
Salary	\$12,000.00
Dental/Vision Insurance	\$0.00
Housing Allowance	\$0.00
SS Allowance	\$900.00
Retirement	\$1,548.00
Term Life & Disability	\$46.44
Subtotal	\$14,494.44
 Pastor Ritchey	
Salary	\$32,000.00
Housing Allowance	\$15,000.00
SS Allowance	\$3,525.00
Health Insurance	\$21,693.24
Dental/Vision	\$1,189.80
LTD	\$181.89
Term Life	\$186.00
Retirement	\$6,063.00
Subtotal	\$79,838.93
 Total Pastoral Support	\$94,333.37

Ministry Expenses	Amount
Office Expense/Resources	
Computer	\$500.00
Software: McAfee	\$100.00
Software: MS Office	\$100.00
Children's Bulletins	\$75.00
Zoom	\$0.00
Printer/Supplies/Maint.	\$500.00
Subtotal	\$1,275.00
 Bible Study/Worship Resources	
Bible Study Resources	\$500.00
Hymnals/Psalms	\$0.00
Sacrament Supplies	\$50.00
CCLI	\$200.00
Subtotal	\$750.00
 Hospitality/Fellowship	\$900.00
 Outreach	
Meeting Place Expenses	\$200.00
Outreach Hospitality	\$200.00
Community Engagement Events	\$200.00
Study/Discussion Resources	\$500.00
Subtotal	\$1,100.00
 Facilities	
PO Box	\$150.00
Liability Insurance	\$1,000.00
Childcare	\$400.00

Appendix D

A/V Equipment	\$500.00	
Misc Equipment	\$300.00	
Rent Contingency	\$0.00	
Subtotal		\$2,350.00
Internet		
WordPress Business	\$200.00	
Subtotal		\$200.00
Cell		\$900.00
Promotion		
Print Costs	\$200.00	
Signage	\$500.00	
Advertising	\$500.00	
Subtotal		\$1,200.00
Mileage Reimbursement		\$5,000.00
Denominational Ministry Fund		\$2,000.00
MVP Assessment		\$250.00
Community Support/Local Ministry		\$500.00
Education		\$0.00
Total Ministry Expense		\$16,425.00
Total Budget Expense		\$110,758.37
Income Sources		
2022 ONA Synod Intern Support	\$6,000.00	
2022 River City Giving/Savings	\$53,344.47	
Local/Denominational Support		\$59,344.47
2022 Estimated MVP Support Needs		\$51,413.91

Appendix D

2022 River City Support Proposal

MVP

Pastor Wheeler's Call	\$14,494.44	
1/2 of Pastor Ritchey's Call after ONA Grant	\$36,919.47	
Total MVP Support		\$51,413.91

Synod

Intern Grant	\$6,000.00	
Total Synod Support		\$6,000.00

River City

Ministry Expenses	\$16,425.00	
1/2 of Pastor Ritchey's Call after ONA Grant	\$36,919.47	
Total River City Local Support		\$53,344.47

Total Budget		\$110,758.37
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MISSISSIPPI VALLEY PRESBYTERY (ARP)
CALL FOR AN ASSOCIATE PASTOR FOR
RIVER CITY ASSOCIATE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

We the members of the Mississippi Valley Presbytery of Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church being well satisfied with your ministerial qualifications, and confident that we have been led to you by the Holy Spirit as one whose ministry will be profitable to the spiritual interest of River City Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, do earnestly call you, James Salem Ritchey, to undertake the office of Associate Pastor of River City Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.

On the acceptance of this our call we promise you in the discharge of your duty all proper support, encouragement, and oversight in the Lord.

That you may devote yourself wholly to Ministry of the Word, we promise and obligate ourselves to:

- a. Pay you an annual salary of **\$ 32,000.00** in at least monthly payments
- b. Pay you a social security allowance of **\$ 3,525.00** in at least quarterly payments.
- c. Provide you with a housing allowance of **\$ 15,000.00** in at least monthly payments.
- d. Pay into the Associate Reformed Presbyterian 403(b) plan as prescribed by the General Synod.
- e. Pay **100%** of the cost of your participation in Synod's insurance programs (life, dependent life, accidental death and dismemberment, and disability).
- f. Pay **100%** of the cost of your family's participation in Synod's health (**medical**) insurance program.
- g. Review with you annually the adequacy of this compensation.
- h. Grant you an annual vacation of three (3) weeks.

We desire also to express our commitment to you and to your family for events which could occur in the providence of God. Every effort will be made to assist and lovingly sustain and uphold you and/or your family should such an event occur.

- a. In the event of total disability, as defined by Synod's insurance program, we promise to continue the provisions of this call **at least during the prescribed waiting period for commencement of benefits** from Synod's insurance program.
- b. In the event you should die during the terms of this call, we promise to continue the provisions of this call dealing with annual salary, housing, and group insurance for a period of **at least six (6) months**.

October 5, 2021

MVP CEC Meeting

Present – Stephen Ewing, Rev. Charles Covington, Rev. Alex Coblenz

I. Meeting was opened in Prayer by Rev. Coblenz

II. Old Business

- Mr. Ewing gave a report concerning the cancelation of MVP Camp 2021. He plans to give a brief update to the Presbytery.

III. New Business

- MVP Camp 2022 was discuss and all agreed that the preparations made for 2021 camp would be appropriate for 2022.
- The Recommendation from ONA about the women’s ministry was discussed. It was agreed the committee would await the proposal from Mrs. Cavin.
- With the dissolution of CE at the Synod level, a discussion was had about what the role of CE MVP would be moving forward. Several items were discussed:
 - i. Officer Training
 - ii. Literature and resource recommendations
 - iii. Other youth activities
 - iv. Retreats (men’s, women’s, couples)

It was agreed that the committee needed to reassess, along with Presbytery’s guidance, the role of CE MVP.

- Mr. Ewing gave a brief update on Camp Joy. Brent Turner will come to New Albany the first week of November to assess

V. Closing Prayer: Rev. Coblenz

Minister and His Work Committee

April 27, 2021

The Minister and His Work Committee of MVP met at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 27, 2021. The meeting was conducted via Zoom. In attendance were committee members Kent Moorlach, Don Watkins, Tim Phillips, Howard Wheeler, and Paul Walley. Also in attendance was Dr. Ian Lamont and John Scott, the Moderator of MVP.

Chairman Moorlach opened the meeting in prayer.

Dr. Lamont is in consideration for a possible call to the Faith Presbyterian Church in Leakesville, MS. The chairman asked Rev. Lamont to introduce himself to the members of the committee. Members of the committee then asked questions of Dr. Lamont. After questions, Don Watkins was called upon to pray for Dr. Lamont and the Faith church.

Dr. Lamont left the meeting and the committee discussed his interview. It was decided that before the committee could move forward with considering Dr. Lamont, there needed to be contact with representatives from the Faith church, along with a follow up conversation with Dr. Lamont.

There was a discussion about beginning the process for administering ordination exams to James Ritchey. A motion was made to administer the ordination exams for Mr. Ritchey in mid to late May, with Howard Wheeler serving as the proctor for the exams.

Rev. Bob White's pending retirement at the Salem Presbyterian Church was discussed. Rev. Phillips will get in contact with the clerk of the Salem session to determine where the church is in this process.

After a motion to adjourn was seconded and passed, Rev. Howard Wheeler was called upon to close the meeting in prayer.

Minister and His Work Committee

May 11, 2021

The Minister and His Work Committee of MVP met on Tuesday, May 11, 2021, at 7 p.m. via Zoom. Present at the meeting: Kent Moorlach, Tim Phillips, Howard Wheeler, Don Watkins, Larry Littlejohn, and Paul Walley. Also in attendance was Ian Lamont and Moderator of MVP John Scott. Chairman Moorlach opened the meeting with prayer.

The committee engaged Dr. Ian Lamont with follow up questions from the previous meeting on April 27. After discussion with the committee, Dr. Lamont was dismissed from the meeting. Rev. Howard Wheeler prayed for Dr. Lamont and the Faith Presbyterian Church.

The committee discussed the retirement of Rev. Bob White at the Salem Presbyterian. It was noted that while there had been discussion with Rev. White and the Clerk of Session at Salem, no official paperwork had been received by the committee (no session minutes or minutes of the congregational meeting accepting the request for retirement). A motion was made to recommend to the presbytery to receive the retirement of Rev. Robert White effective November 1, 2021, and sever the pastoral relationship at that time, pending the receipt of the official request from the Salem session (seconded, passed).

A motion was made to adjourn (seconded, passed). Don Watkins closed the meeting in prayer.

Minister and His Work Committee Meeting

The Minister and His Work Committee of MVP met on Tuesday, July 13, 2021, at 7 p.m. via Zoom. Present were Rev. Kent Moorlach (chair), Rev. Tim Phillips, Mr. Paul Walley, and Mr. Charles Browning. Also present were Rev. Howard Wheeler and Mr. James Ritchey, along with Moderator of MVP John Scott. Chairman Moorlach opened the meeting in prayer.

The committee spoke with Mr. Ritchey. Mr. Ritchey is pursuing ordination in MVP, and he recently completed written examinations administered by the Minister and His Work Committee. Howard Wheeler spoke about Mr. Ritchey's work in assisting him at the River City mission in Little Rock, Arkansas. Rev. Moorlach asked Mr. Ritchey questions about the Westminster Confession of Faith, the interpretation of Scripture, the historicity of the opening chapters of Genesis. Other members of the committee also asked questions of Mr. Ritchey. Rev. Phillips asked questions on church history, church polity, and the role of the civil magistrate in Westminster Confession of Faith 23.3. Mr. Paul Walley asked about Mr. Ritchey's views on cessationism. Chairman Moorlach also commented on the language portions of the written examination, as well as his plans for future pastoral ministry and the challenges of pastoral ministry. He also asked Mr. Ritchey about his views on the frequency of the Lord Supper and working with sessions.

2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1 was assigned to Mr. Ritchey as the passage from which to preach before the presbytery. Mr. Ritchey will prepare a manuscript and exegetical paper in relation to the passage.

A motion was made to accept Mr. Ritchey's written and oral examinations before the committee and that Mr. Ritchey be presented to the presbytery to preach before the presbytery and be examined by the presbyter (seconded, passed).

A motion was made to adjourn (seconded, passed). The meeting was closed in prayer by James Ritchey.

Minister and His Work

October 4, 2021

The Minister and His Work Committee met on Monday, October 4, 2021, at 3:00 p.m. at Graceview. Present were committee members Kent Moorlach (chair), Don Watkins, Charles Todd, Paul Walley, and Tim Phillips. Also present were the following guests: Ron Pierce, Marty Smithhart. Rev. Moorlach opened the meeting in prayer.

Rev. Ron Pierce gave a brief update concerning his work as stated supply at Faith Presbyterian Church. Faith has had steady attendance, an increase in membership, and even has a church website now. Rev. Moorlach also visited the church recently. They are still in the process of looking for a minister.

Student of Theology Marty Smithhart gave an update on his studies to the committee. He is looking to transition to a new job to help relieve some of the difficulties in balancing time between work and study. He has also exhorted a few times at churches in the presbytery, and he is actively serving as an elder at the Graceview Presbyterian Church.

There was discussion about the former MVP Educational Fund, its current status, and ways to possibly implement the fund for Students of Theology in the presbytery. A suggestion was made about possibly making a scholarship to Erskine Seminary available to students in the presbytery. No action was taken at this time.

The Ellisville Presbyterian Church was discussed. Rev. Charlie Turner is no longer at the church, and they are currently being supplied by a PCA pastor. Elder Michael Shotwell is recovering from recent open heart surgery and is not able to attend the Fall Stated Meeting of MVP. Rev. Tim Phillips volunteered to get in contact with Ellisville to find out more information about the situation.

The committee met with Mr. James Weir, who has been recommended as a Student of Theology by the Salem ARP Church session. After interviewing Mr. Weir, a motion was made to recommend Mr. Weir to the presbytery as a Student of Theology (seconded, passed).

The chair informed the committee about the situation at the Mt. Zion and Elsberry churches.

The following churches are requesting their current stated supplies to continue: Hopewell: Randy Kolb; Ebenezer: Bill Everett (M, S, P)

An update was given on the progress of Mr. Stephen Ewing's work as a Student of Theology. A motion was made to extend Stephen Ewing's status as a Student of Theology another year (seconded, passed).

An issue involving the Bethany ARP Church was discussed by the committee. Elder David Frazier is planning to attend the committee meeting on Tuesday with more information for the committee.

The chairman suggested the committee organize a trip to RTS Jackson for a student orientation day. The presbytery would need to provide \$250 for food and drink for the occasion. A motion was made to organize the trip (seconded, passed).

The committee met with Mr. James Ritchie concerning his ordination exams and sermon manuscript. The ONA Committee has prepared a call for Mr. Ritchie to the River City mission. A motion was made to recommend Mr. Ritchie to the presbytery to be examined and approved for the office of minister (seconded, passed).

A motion was made to adjourn (seconded, passed). The meeting was closed with prayer by Don Watkins.

October 5, 2021

The committee met again at 10 a.m. Present were committee members Kent Moorlach (chair), Bill Holiman, Don Watkins, Charles Browning, Paul Walley, and Tim Phillips. Also present were guests Charles Covington (moderator of the Bethany ARP Session), John Scott (Moderator of MVP), and David Frazier. The meeting was opened in prayer by Kent Moorlach.

Charles Covington provided information about a situation involving the Bethany ARP Church. Rev. Covington has been serving as moderator of the session and has preached for the congregation a few times. The committee also spoke with David Frazier, an elder at the Bethany ARP Church, about issues in the congregation. No action was taken by the committee.

The topic of potential moderators for the Salem and Sharon sessions was discussed. The committee spoke with Rev. Bob White about his retirement and his role in moderating those sessions. A motion was to recommend Rev. Tim Phillips as moderator of the Salem session and Rev. Kent Moorlach as moderator of the Sharon session (seconded, passed).

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

Recommendations:

1. To receive James Weir as a Student of Theology
2. To examine and approve James Ritchie for the office of minister
3. To allow Randy Kolb and Bill Everett to continue serving as stated supply pastors at Hopewell and Ebenezer
4. To extend Stephen Ewing's status as a Student of Theology for another year
5. To approve \$250 for food and drink for a student orientation day at RTS Jackson
6. To appoint Tim Phillips as moderator of the Salem session and Kent Moorlach as moderator of the Sharon session

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

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- Principal Clerk:** Rev. Tim Phillips
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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)
Revisions Committee: Rev. David Dively

Students of Theology

Stephen Ewing (RTS-Jackson)
Marty Smithhart (Erskine)
James Weir (Third Mill)

Missionaries

Jodie Gaston

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. Robert White
Rev. Mike Yarman (retired chaplain)

Churches Served by Stated Supplies

Ebenezer: Rev. Bill Everett
Elsberry and Mt. Zion: Rev. Conrad Cheatham
Faith: Rev. Ron Pierce
Helena: Leslie Rhodes
Hickory Springs and Wood Avenue: Rev. Mike Garvey
Hopewell: Bro. Randy Kolb
Midlane Park: Rev. David Dively
New Albany: Mr. Stephen Ewing

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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