

**The Minutes  
Of  
Mississippi Valley Presbytery**

General Synod of the  
Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church



**Spring Stated Meeting**

**March 7-8, 2022**

Providence Reformed Presbyterian Church  
Bartlett, Tennessee

## CONTENTS

Proceedings of 2021 Spring Stated Meeting (Providence Reformed Presbyterian Church)

<b>Appendix A</b>	Order of Worship and Meeting Agenda
<b>Appendix B</b>	Treasurer's Report
<b>Appendix C</b>	Christian Education Report
<b>Appendix D</b>	Minister and His Work Reports
<b>Appendix E</b>	Nominations Committee Report
<b>Appendix F</b>	ONA Committee Report
<b>Appendix G</b>	Sessional Records Committee Report
<b>Appendix H</b>	Host Churches of Stated Meetings of Mississippi Valley Presbytery
<b>Appendix I</b>	Officers of Mississippi Valley Presbytery
<b>Appendix J</b>	Standing Committees of Mississippi Valley Presbytery
<b>Appendix K</b>	Directory
<b>Schedule for Review of Minutes of Sessions</b>	

**PROCEEDINGS**  
**MISSISSIPPI VALLEY PRESBYTERY**  
**Providence Reformed Presbyterian Church**  
**Bartlett, Tennessee**

**Spring Stated Meeting**  
**March 7, 2022**

The registration of delegates began at 4:00 p.m. on March 7, 2022. After a meal prepared by the host church, the meeting began at 7 p.m. with an opening worship service led by Rev. Joseph Donahue, the pastor of Providence Reformed Presbyterian Church. (see **Appendix A**). Rev. Christopher Neiswonger preached a sermon from Acts 20:28 entitled “Obtained with His Own Blood.” Rev. Donahue 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 called the business portion of the meeting to order and called upon Rev. James Ritchey to open the meeting with prayer. Mr. David Strock, an elder at Providence, welcomed the members of presbytery to the meeting.

The Principal Clerk confirmed a quorum was present.

**Ministers Present**

Thomas Braithwaite ( <i>E</i> )	William Holiman
Ron Brunson ( <i>E</i> )	Gary Jones
Meredith Cavin ( <i>E</i> )	Matthew Heathman ( <i>E</i> )
Conrad Cheatham ( <i>E</i> )	Kent Moorlach
Mike Chipman	Christopher Neiswonger
Gary Clowers ( <i>E</i> )	Tim Phillips
James Coad III ( <i>E</i> )	James Ritchey
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 ( <i>E</i> )	Howard Wheeler
Michael Garvey ( <i>E</i> )	Robert White
Jodie Gaston ( <i>E</i> )	Mike Yarman ( <i>E</i> )
Steve Hardy ( <i>E</i> )	

(A) = Unexcused Absence

(E) Excused Absence

## Ruling Elders Present

Bethany – none	Hopewell – Scott Gregory
Brighton – John Scott	Midlane Park – Dale Kleinjan
Ebenezer – none	Mt. Zion – none
Ellisville – none	New Albany – Shelby Lowery
Elsberry – none	New Geneva – none
Faith – none	Pottsville – none
French Camp – Dennis Cox	Providence – David Strock
Gospel of Grace – Aaron Rozeboom	Redeemer – none
Graceview – Marty Smithhart	Richland – Mike Thomason
Gum Tree – Bobby Reedy	Salem – Scott Fletcher
Helena – none	Sharon – none
Hernando – Steve Rice	Wood Avenue -- none
Hickory Springs – none	

## Guests

Howard King, Charles Browning, Stephen Ewing, Joshua Monson, Lee Shelnett, Susan Cavin, Alan Avera, Wayne Frazier, Aaron De Boer, Kenny Sheffield, Keith Speck, Daniel Marshall, Steve Carr, Danny Hughes, Joe McDaniel, Brenda Pierce, Ronald Pierce

Several first time guests were introduced to the presbytery.

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 2021 Minutes were adopted by the presbytery.



Under old business, Rev. Brian Taylor gave a brief update on the work of revitalization of churches in the presbytery. There are no recommendations from the ONA or Minster and His Work Committee at this time.

Mr. John Scott gave his Retiring Moderator's Address to the presbytery. After the address, Rev. Kent Moorlach was introduced as Moderator of MVP.

Mrs. Susan Cavin, President of MVP Women's Ministries, was welcomed by the presbytery. She gave a brief update of the health of her husband, Rev. Meredith Cavin, and she gave a presentation to the presbytery on the work of Women's Ministries within the presbytery.

After announcements, the meeting was recessed for the evening with prayer by Moderator Moorlach.

### **Tuesday, March 8, 2022 (8 a.m.)**

The second day of presbytery began with a devotion by Lee Shelnett on Ephesians 3:14-20. Rev. Shelnett also gave a presentation on The Barnabas Ministry, a ministry of World Witness.

The meeting was called to order and Moderator Moorlach opened the business portion of the meeting in prayer. The Principal Clerk presented overtures from Synod involving proposed changes and additions to the ARP Standards. Standing votes were taken on each item and the results were as follows:

- **FOG 8.8:** 25-1
- **FOG 9.3 and 9.23:** 24-1
- **FOG 9.54:** 25-0
- **FOG 11.24:** 27-0
- **FOG 14.8 and 14.9:** 27-0
- **Directory of Private and Family Worship:** 27-0

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

The Christian Education Committee was presented to the presbytery (see **Appendix C**). In discussion on the report, it was noted that Camp Joy Tennessee is planning to be held on July 8-9, 2022, at the For the Kingdom conference center near Memphis. A question was also asked about how the dissolution of Christian Education Ministries at the Synod level would affect the presbytery committee. It was noted that Mr. Stephen Ewing had resigned as chair of the CE Committee and as Director of MVP Camp. The report was received as information.

Two reports from the Minister and His Work Committee report were presented to the presbytery (see **Appendix D**). There were no recommendations on these reports; they were received as information and adopted by the presbytery.

The order of the day was reached, and the presbytery recessed for committee meetings with prayer by Moderator Moorlach.

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

After committee meetings had concluded, a presentation on church revitalization was given by Alan Avera and Wayne Frazier, both with Outreach North America. The order of the day was reached, and Rev. Frazier prayed for the meal.

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

Presbytery reconvened with a season of prayer.

The Minister and His Work Committee continued with an additional report that was presented to the presbytery (see **Appendix D**). There were two recommendations in the report that were considered individually.

Mr. Joshua Monson was presented to the presbytery by Mr. Paul Walley, an elder at the Heritage Associate Presbyterian Church, as a recommended Student of Theology. Mr. Monson spoke of his faith in Jesus Christ and his sense of call to the ministry. The recommendation to receive Mr. Monson as a Student of Theology was approved. 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 members of the presbytery

The second recommendation, concerning the formation of the Bethany Commission, was then presented to the presbytery. After discussion, the recommendation passed. The report as a whole was then adopted.

A motion was made to make a change to the Rules for Mississippi Valley Presbytery concerning the way reports are submitted to presbytery, as follows:

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### Chapter Six Standing Committees

The chairmen of standing committees must send the report of their committee and their recommendations to the Principal Clerk at least two (2) weeks prior to the Spring and Fall stated meetings of Presbytery so that they can be ~~mailed~~ distributed to the delegates. **Reports received within two weeks of the stated meetings cannot be presented to the presbytery.**

**Committee meetings held during the Fall and Spring stated meetings of presbytery are exempt from this rule. Standing committees are encouraged to finish their business before the stated meetings of presbytery.**

The chairmen of standing committees must also send the budget requests of their committee to the chairman of the Stewardship Committee at least one (1) month prior to the fall stated meeting of Presbytery.

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After discussion, there was a motion to call the question (seconded, passed). The motion to change the Rules passed, and the change will need to be voted on a second time at the Fall Stated meeting of MVP before it can take effect.

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

The report of the ONA Committee was presented to the presbytery (see **Appendix F**). There was an additional recommendation submitted by the committee: *The ONA Committee recommends to presbytery to request a personnel grant of \$6000 for River City* (seconded, passed). A presentation was given by Rev. James Ritchey, associate pastor of River City, on the progress of mission church. The report as a whole was then adopted.

The Sessional Records Committee presented a report (see **Appendix G**). The following records were received without exception: Heritage, Hernando, Midlane Park, New Albany, Salem. The following records were received with exception: Faith, Graceview, Gum Tree, River City.

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

- Fall 2022 (October 3-4, 2022), 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

A motion was made for Redeemer Community Church in Murray, Kentucky, to host the Spring 2024 of MVP (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 2022 meeting of MVP was closed with prayer and the benediction by Rev. Kent Moorlach.

## Appendix A

### Mississippi Valley Presbytery Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church

Spring Stated Meeting  
Providence Reformed Church  
Bartlett, Tennessee  
March 7-8, 2022

#### Opening Worship Service

Call to Worship	Rev. Joseph Donahue
Invocation	Rev. Donahue
* <i>Hymns of Grace</i> # 104	“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”
Scripture	Acts 20:28
Sermon – “ <i>Obtained with His Own Blood</i> ”	Rev. Chris Neiswonger
Prayer	
* <i>Bible Songs</i> # 242	“I Love the Lord”
The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper	Rev. Donahue
* <i>Psalm</i> (insert)	“The Lord’s My Shepherd”
*Benediction	Rev. Donahue

\*Congregation Standing

#### Spring 2022 Meeting Agenda Monday, March 7

Registration	4 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Supper	6:00-7:00 p.m.
Opening Worship	7 p.m.
Opening of Business	8 p.m.

Constitution with Prayer

Welcome and Greetings by Host Church  
Constitution of the Roll  
Introductions and Procedural Motions  
Presentation of the Program  
Adoption of Fall 2021 Minutes of Presbytery  
Unfinished Business  
*Church Revitalization Report*  
Retiring Moderator’s Address Mr. John Scott  
Introduction of Moderator-elect Rev. Kent Moorlach  
Address from President of MVP Women’s Ministries  
Announcements  
Closing Prayer

#### Tuesday, March 8

Breakfast	7 a.m.
Morning Devotion	8 a.m.
Rev. Lee Shelmutt, World Witness	
Missionary Presentation by Rev. Shelmutt	8:20-8:35 a.m.
Brief Recess	8:35-8:45 a.m.
Business Resumes	8:45 a.m.
<i>Overtures from Synod</i>	
Recess for Committee Meetings	10 a.m.
Presentation	11 a.m.
Rev. Wayne Frazier, Outreach North America	
Business Resumes	11:30 a.m.
Lunch	
Noon	
Season of Prayer	12:45 p.m.
Business Resumes	1 p.m.
Brief Recess	2:30 p.m.
Business Concludes	2:45 p.m.
Selection of Meeting Place for Spring 2024 Meeting	
Reading and Adoption of Minutes	
Announcements	
The Singing of Psalm 133, “Christian Unity”	
Adjournment with Prayer and Benediction	

**General Fund**  
**Mississippi Valley Presbytery**  
For the Years 2021 and 2020

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
<b>Balance January 1</b>	<b><u>\$138,661.56</u></b>	<b><u>\$131,403.76</u></b>
<b>Receipts:</b>		
Assessments from Member Churches	13,990.00	13,610.00
Transfer from Investment Fund	50,000.00	-00
Royalties from mineral interests	386.76	-00
Interest Income	<u>183.61</u>	<u>1,701.83</u>
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b><u>64,560.37</u></b>	<b><u>15,311.83</u></b>
<b>Disbursements:</b>		
Contribution to Christian Education Fund	-00	6,500.00
Printing, Postage and Clerk's Travel and Stipend	1,003.71	1,131.83
Committee Expenses	557.64	422.20
Transfer to ONA Fund	30,000.00	-00
Contribution to Ministers Retirement Fund	<u>50,000.00</u>	<u>-00</u>
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b><u>81,561.35</u></b>	<b><u>8,054.03</u></b>
Excess Receipts or (Disbursements)	<u>(17,000.98)</u>	<u>7,257.80</u>
<b>Balance December 31</b>	<b><u>\$121,660.58</u></b>	<b><u>\$138,661.56</u></b>
<b>General Fund Bank Accounts:</b>		
Renasant Bank 2200123455	\$21,660.58	\$38,661.56
Bank of New Albany Certificate of Deposit	<u>100,000.00</u>	<u>100,000.00</u>
<b>Total Bank Accounts</b>	<b><u>\$121,660.58</u></b>	<b><u>\$138,661.56</u></b>

## Appendix B

Schedule of Assessments Mississippi Valley Presbytery For Years 2017 through 2021	Paid by Churches				
	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
Bethany, Guntown, MS	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$400
Brighton, TN	750	1,250	500	-00	1,040
Ebenezer, Blue Mtn., MS	400	400	400	400	400
Ellisville Presbyterian, Ellisville, MS	-00	-00	-00	-00	250
Elsberry, MO	70	70	70	90	90
Faith Presbyterian, Leakesville, MS	900	1,000	800	1,600	-00
French Camp, MS	1,000	1,000	1,000	900	900
Graceview, Southaven, MS	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200
Heritage ARP Springfield MO	700	500	500	500	430
Gum Tree, Tupelo, MS	850	820	820	810	790
Helena, Moss Point, MS	500	500	250	500	250
Hernando Reformed, Hernando, M:	200	200	200	200	200
Hickory Springs, AR	-00	100	-00	-00	-00
Hopewell, New Albany, MS	-00	300	-00	800	698
Midlane Park, Louisville, KY	300	300	300	300	300
Mt. Zion, Troy, MO	160	180	180	180	220
New Albany, MS	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
New Geneva, Paducah, KY	840	-00	420	1,110	-00
Pottsville, AR	300	300	300	300	300
Providence, Bartlett, TN	600	600	600	500	500
Redeemer Murray KY	330	-00	-00	-00	-00
Richland, Rosemark, TN	600	600	600	500	500
Salem, Atoka, TN	1,600	1,600	1,600	1,600	1,600
Sharon, Brighton, TN	190	190	190	190	210
Wood Avenue, Monticello, AR	-00	-00	-00	-00	80
<b>Total Receipts from churches</b>	<b><u>\$13,990</u></b>	<b><u>\$13,610</u></b>	<b><u>\$12,430</u></b>	<b><u>\$14,180</u></b>	<b><u>\$12,358</u></b>

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

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
<b>Balance January 1</b>	<b><u>\$10,885.18</u></b>	<b><u>\$6,647.18</u></b>
<b>Receipts:</b>		
Received from General Fund		\$6,500.00
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b><u>\$6,500.00</u></b>
<b>Disbursements:</b>		
Deposit on 2020 and 2021 camps cancelled		2,262.00
<b>Total Disbursements</b>		<b><u>2,262.00</u></b>
Excess Receipts over Disbursements		<u>4,238.00</u>
<b>Balance December 31</b>	<b><u>\$10,885.18</u></b>	<b><u>\$10,885.18</u></b>
 <b>Christian Education Bank Account:</b>		
Bank of New Albany 162026003	<b><u>\$10,885.18</u></b>	<b><u>\$10,885.18</u></b>

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 and 2020

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
<b><u>ONA FUNDS:</u></b>		
<b>Balance January 1</b>	<b><u>\$35,203.55</u></b>	<b><u>\$31,387.03</u></b>
<b>Receipts:</b>		
Contribution by Synod for River City Reformed Church	0	\$6,000.00
Received from Synod for Revitalization funds	2,116.00	1,996.00
Transfer from General Fund	30,000.00	-00
Transfer from Investment Accounts	20,000.00	90,000.00
Royalties from Ross Exploration	<u>560.18</u>	<u>344.10</u>
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b><u>\$52,676.18</u></b>	<b><u>\$98,340.10</u></b>
<b>Disbursements:</b>		
Contribution to River City Reformed for Pastor's package	\$45,183.96	\$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>
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b><u>\$65,071.13</u></b>	<b><u>\$96,674.25</u></b>
<b>Balance ONA Funds December 31</b>	<b><u>\$22,808.60</u></b>	<b><u>\$33,052.88</u></b>
<b><u>Restricted Funds:</u></b>		
Balance Restricted for Louisville KY Church Plant	\$150,000.00	\$150,000.00
Interest earned to date	<u>1,757.53</u>	<u>1,530.09</u>
<b>Balance in Restricted Funds</b>	<b><u>\$151,757.53</u></b>	<b><u>\$151,530.09</u></b>
<b>ONA and Bank Accounts:</b>		
Bank of New Albany 1620260-01 Checking	\$22,808.60	\$35,203.53
BNA Bank 1620260-09 Money Market (Restricted)	<u>151,757.53</u>	<u>151,530.09</u>
<b>Total in Banks</b>	<b><u>\$174,566.13</u></b>	<b><u>\$186,733.62</u></b>

Notes: Synod's support of River City Reformed Church went directly to the Church in 2021  
MVP's Commitment to River City Reformed Church for 2022 is \$4,284.50 per month



# Mississippi Valley Presbytery

## Endowment Funds

	<b>Moderate ARP Invest- ment Fund A</b>	<b>Conservative ARP Invest- ment Fund B</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Value of Accounts January 1, 2021</b>	<b>\$886,967.36</b>	<b>\$328,623.64</b>	<b>\$1,215,591.00</b>
Withdrawals in 2021	(70,000.00)	0	(70,000.00)
Increase in value of Accounts during 2021	<u>124,768.89</u>	<u>14,004.95</u>	<u>138,773.84</u>
<b>Value of Accounts December 31, 2021</b>	<b><u>\$941,736.25</u></b>	<b><u>\$342,628.59</u></b>	<b><u>\$1,284,364.84</u></b>
<b>Rate of Return for the year</b>	<b><u>14.65%</u></b>	<b><u>4.26%</u></b>	<b><u>11.75%</u></b>
Increase in Value since Inception	<b><u>\$379,126.25</u></b>	<b><u>\$92,628.59</u></b>	<b><u>\$471,754.84</u></b>
Initial Investment	\$200,000.00	\$250,000.00	\$450,000.00
Additional Contribution in 2015	79,790.00	-00	79,790.00
Additional Contribution in 2017	342,820.00	-00	342,820.00
Additional Contribution in 2018	100,000.00	-00	100,000.00
Withdrawals in 2020	(90,000.00)	-00	(90,000.00)
Withdrawals in 2021	<u>(70,000.00)</u>	<u>-00</u>	<u>(70,000.00)</u>
Net Invested	<b><u>\$562,610.00</u></b>	<b><u>\$250,000.00</u></b>	<b><u>\$812,610.00</u></b>

Note: A withdrawal will need to be made about April to fund the Commitment to River City Reformed

February 17, 2021

MVP CEC Meeting

Present – Rev. Charles Covington, Rev. Alex Coblentz, Rev. Howard Wheeler, Mr. Bruce Hosket, Mr. Stephen Ewing

I. Meeting was opened with a Scripture reading from Psalm 25:4-10 and prayer by Mr. Ewing.

II. Previous Business

- Mr. Ewing gave an update on the recommendation from ONA that the WOC ministries fall under the purview of CE. No communication has been received from Mrs. Cavin or the WOC. Mr. Ewing will inquire further at the Spring Meeting.
- Mr. Ewing gave an update on Camp Joy MS/TN. There has been no communication at the Synod Level but Mr. Ewing has reached out to Brent Turner.

III. New Business

- MVP Camp 2022 was discussed and all agreed that the preparations made for 2021 camp would be appropriate for 2022. Camp will be held July 18-23 and the theme will be “The Kingdom: Understanding the Parables of Jesus.”
- With the dissolution of CE at the Synod level, a discussion was had about what the role of CE MVP would be moving forward. It was agreed that the committee should explore avenues to provide Curriculum, Christian Education Material, music, and training recommendations to the churches of MVP. Options included: hard copies to be distributed at Presbytery, a blog site where church leaders/teachers could post a review of the material they were currently using, or a social media/video platform. Mr. Ewing will discuss with other members of the committee and will bring back ideas at the Spring Meeting.
- Mr. Ewing asked if there was any further business to be considered. None was purposed.

V. Closing Prayer: Rev. Wheeler

### Minister and His Work Committee Meeting

The Minister and His Work Committee of MVP met via Zoom on Monday, December 13, 2021 at 7 p.m. In attendance were committee members Kent Moorlach (chairman), Tim Phillips, Bill Holiman, Charles Browning, Don Watkins, David Jones, and Larry Littlejohn. Also, in attendance were John Scott (Moderator of MVP), and Harry Fitzgerald (Elder at Bethany).

Kent Moorlach opened the meeting in prayer.

As a first item of business, Chaplain Matthew Heathman is considering entering the mission field. A recommendation is needed from the presbytery to move forward. A motion was made to recommend Rev. Heathman to the presbytery for service in the mission field.

As the second item of business, a letter has been received from Michael Shotwell, the clerk of session of the Ellisville Presbyterian Church, requesting that the church leave the presbytery and the ARPC (this has not yet happened in an official capacity – even though it was voted on at a congregational meeting on July 4, 2021, there was not a representative from MVP at the meeting). There was discussion from committee members on the matter. A motion was made: that the committee contact Michael Shotwell that a process to align with another Presbyterian denomination was in the works (seconded, passed).

As a third item of business, a situation at the Bethany ARP Church was presented to the committee. Harry Fitzgerald, an elder at Bethany, spoke with the committee. A group within the church has desired to “take over the church” and to have the church separate from presbytery. Also, a Student of Theology from MVP had attempted to preach at Bethany during the summer, and was told by someone (not on the Bethany session) not to come back to the church. It was suggested that Charles Browning could visit the Bethany congregation and meet with the session (along with Rev. Charles Covington) to discuss the situation with them and then report back to the committee.

A fourth item of business involved visiting Reformed Theological Seminary in Jackson, Mississippi, to meet with students who might be interested in the ARP Church. Chairman Moorlach will communicate the upcoming date for this visit with the committee and others who might be interested in attending.

After a few prayer requests, a motion was made to adjourn (seconded, passed). The meeting was closed in prayer by Rev. Bill Holiman.

### Minister and His Work Committee

The Minister and His Work Committee of MVP met via Zoom on Friday, February 25, 2022. Present were committee members Kent Moorlach (chairman), Tim Phillips, David Jones, Charles Browning, Bill Holiman, Don Watkins, Paul Walley, and Larry Littlejohn. Kent Moorlach opened the meeting with prayer.

A report was given on Bethany ARP Church. Three members of the committee (Kent Moorlach, Tim Phillips, Charles Browning), along with Moderator John Scott, had traveled to Bethany on January 22 to meet the Bethany session, along with a deacon of the congregation and Jerry Mayo, who is currently filling the pulpit. Although the meeting seemed to go well, some events had transpired since the meeting that were concerning. The committee agreed to wait until meeting with other individuals (including the moderator of the session and an elder of the church) at presbytery before making any recommendations to presbytery. In the meantime, a request for the minutes of the Bethany session will be sent the clerk of session, and Charles Browning will also seek to speak with Mr. Mayo about some of the concerns of the committee.

A letter from the New Albany Presbyterian Church session was discussed by the committee. The session of New Albany is requesting that Mr. Stephen Ewing be ordained by the presbytery under the extraordinary clause of the *Form of Government* (9.3.G). After discussion of the letter, a motion was made: *that the request for using the extraordinary clause to ordain Stephen Ewing be rejected* (seconded). After further discussion, the motion passed (the vote was 7 in favor, 0 against, 1 abstaining). Larry Littlejohn and Kent Moorlach will work on sending a letter to the New Albany session explaining the reasoning of the committee and offering to help support Mr. Ewing in his educational endeavors.

The chairman spoke briefly about the work of church revitalization in the presbytery. Investing in church revitalization in the same way the presbytery invests in church planting should be a consideration and resources could be provided to help with this.

The chairman gave a few brief updates on the Students of Theology in the presbytery, as well as mentioning a guest from Washington (state) who is planning to attend the spring meeting of presbytery. There were also updates on the pastoral searches at Salem and Faith. The chairman also gave updates on other churches in the presbytery.

There have been no requests for education funds at this time.

Some members of the committee are planning to travel to Reformed Theological Seminary in Jackson, Mississippi, in March or April to meet with students who may be interested in the ARP.

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

### Minister and His Work

The Minister and His Work Committee of MVP met at 4 p.m. on Monday, March 7, 2022. In attendance were committee members Kent Moorlach, David Jones, Charles Browning, Don Watkins, Bill Holiman, Paul Walley, and Tim Phillips. Also in attendance were Ron Pierce (supply minister at Faith ARP Church), Charles Covington, Joshua Monson, and John Scott (Moderator of MVP). Rev. Moorlach opened the meeting in prayer.

Rev. Ron Pierce gave a brief report on Faith ARP Church. The congregation is very close to calling a minister. The church is doing well, growing in membership and number of visitors.

Rev. Charles Covington gave a report on the Bethany ARP Church (Rev. Covington is serving as the presbytery-appointed Moderator of the Bethany session). There is currently a great deal of division within the session and the congregation. Charles Browning also gave an update to the committee; he had spoken at length with Jerry Mayo, who is functioning as the preacher for the congregation. Mr. Mayo was invited to attend the presbytery meeting, but he was not present to meet with the committee. It was noted that members of the Bethany congregation would be present at presbytery on Tuesday morning and would be available to meet with the committee.

Rev. Covington is also the moderator of the New Albany session and spoke with the committee about the session's recent recommendation of Stephen Ewing's ordination under the extraordinary clause.

The committee met with Joshua Monson, who is seeking to become a Student of Theology (Mr. Monson is being recommended by the Heritage ARP Church session, and is a student at Erskine Theological Seminary). Mr. Monson gave testimony of his background growing up in a missionary family, his faith in Jesus Christ, and his introduction to and growth in the Reformed faith. Mr. Paul Walley also spoke highly of Mr. Monson's Christian character. A motion was made to recommend Mr. Monson to the presbytery as a Student of Theology (seconded, passed). Rev. Moorlach then prayed for Mr. Monson.

The committee met with Students of Theology Stephen Ewing and Marty Smithhart.

The meeting was adjourned until 10 a.m. on Tuesday morning.



### Minister and His Work

The Minister and His Work met on Tuesday, March 8, 2022, at 10 a.m. Present were committee members Kent Moorlach (chairman), Tim Phillips, Paul Walley, Charles Browning, Don Watkins, and Bill Holiman. Also present were Charles Covington, Ann Frazier, and Harry Fitzgerald. Rev. Moorlach reconvened the meeting with prayer.

Paul Walley reported that he had examined the minutes of the Bethany session and gave a brief report of his findings. There was question as to whether certain members of the session had been ordained and installed according the Form of Government. Rev. Kyle Brent, who had previously served as the moderator of the Bethany session, was contacted via text to give his recollection of the ordination and installation of elders.

The committee spoke with Harry Fitzgerald, an elder at the Bethany ARP Church, and with Ann Frazier, a member of Bethany (widow of David Frazier). Mr. Fitzgerald showed a video taken during a Sunday morning at Bethany that was very troubling, showing a disdain for Presbyterianism from several in attendance. Mrs. Frazier also gave testimony confirming the discord and antipathy affecting the congregation. There are also apparently matters requiring church discipline that are not being adequately addressed by the current session. Mrs. Frazier also mentioned that many in attendance at Bethany are very loyal to Jerry Mayo, who is currently functioning as the weekly preacher for the congregation.

A motion was made: *That presbytery form a commission composed of Kent Moorlach, Charles Covington, Christopher Neiswonger, and Charles Browning, to deal with the dysfunctional nature of the Bethany ARP Church and its session and to explore various options, up to and including the temporary closure the Bethany ARP Church, should there be no cooperation from the leadership of Bethany* (second, passed).

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

Recommendations:

- That Joshua Monson be received as a Student of Theology
- That the formation of the Bethany Commission be approved.

## Nominations Committee

The Committee on Nominations met on Tuesday, March 8, 2022, at the Providence church in conjunction with the meeting of presbytery. There was discussion about outsourcing the work of the treasurer to minimize the work required, thus making the task more appealing.

The following are the names recommended to serve:

### Christian Education

James Ritchey – replacing Alex Coblentz  
Charles Browning  
Randy Goulder – replacing Stephen Ewing

### Minister & His Work

Mike Chipman (chm.) – replacing Kent Moorlach  
John Scott – replacing Paul Walley

### Nominations

Richard Moore

### ONA

Christopher Neiswonger (chm.) – replacing Brian Taylor  
Mark Paris – replacing John Scott

### Reading Clerk

Joey Donahue

### Trustee

Paul Walley – replacing Mike Thomason

### Treasurer

[none]

MVP ONA Committee Minutes  
Jan. 25th, 2022

Members Present: Brian Taylor, Bob White, Gary Clowers, John Scott, Steve Rice  
Guest: Howard Wheeler, James Ritchey, David Dively, Alan Avera, Wayne Frazier

- Opening Prayer: Bob White
- River City Report
  - Howard Wheeler and James Ritchey were present to provide a report
  - Highlights:
    - Rev. James Ritchey is now ordained and installed
    - Church is seeing more visitors (and is growing in membership)
    - Focus on reengaging the congregation in the practice of fellowship
    - More in-roads are being made into the community
    - Men's Bible study is going well
  - Challenges:
    - Latest Covid outbreak has affected the attendance
    - Ladies Bible Study is suffering from scheduling troubles
  - Future plans:
    - Start a prayer meeting
    - Planning out officer training
    - Looking for new meeting location (eventually) for a morning service
  - Finances:
    - While not substantial, giving has grown
    - Exceeded goal for money in bank at the end of last year
    - Working toward full time status for Rev. Ritchey
    - Will make request for ONA grant again this year (to aid Rev. Ritchey)
- Guests Presentations: Alan Avera (Interim Director of ONA Board) and Wayne Frazier (Church Vitality Coach)
  - Alan Avera shared information concerning the direction of ONA (including):
    - Plans for Church Planter Retreat (Rev. Ritchey will be participating)
    - Changes in ONA church planter assessment process (focus on Presbytery level involvement)
  - Wayne Frazier shared information about church revitalization and his role in the process
- Committee chair shared information concerning proposed Presbytery revitalization project (in conjunction with Minster and His Work committee)
  - The information focused upon the proposal put together by MaHW chairman, Rev. Kent Moorlach



- It was agree (by common consent) that the ONA chair will work with the MaHW chair as to any future recommendations to Presbytery regarding this project
- Close in Prayer: Gary Clowers
- Adjourn

No Recommendations at this time.

**Committee Report on Sessional Records**

The committee met on 3-7-22 at 4 p.m. and 3-8-22 at 10 a.m.

Present: David Strock, Gary Jones, Aaron Rozeboom

Absent: Ed Dees, Gary Clowers, Tim Phillips

Records Examined:

Without Exception

Heritage  
Hernando  
Midlane Park  
New Albany  
Salem

With Exception

Faith  
Graceview  
Gum Tree  
River City

Not Available

Helena  
Hickory Springs  
Sharon  
Wood Avenue

## 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
- 2024 -- Redeemer

**OFFICERS OF MISSISSIPPI VALLEY PRESBYTERY**

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(C) 714-345-052  
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- Vice-Moderator:** Mr. John Scott  
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(Fall 2022)
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(Fall 2025)
- Treasurer:** Mr. John M. Robinson  
1568 Sunflower Circle, Tupelo, MS 38801  
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(E) *johnr1568@att.net*  
(December 2021)
- Parliamentarian:** Rev. Howard Wheeler  
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(C) 479-970-1384  
(E) *hwheele@gmail.com*  
(Fall 2022)

**STANDING COMMITTEES OF MISSISSIPPI VALLEY PRESBYTERY**

**Christian Education Ministries**

Mr. Randy Goulder (2023)  
Mr. Bruce Hosket (2023)  
Rev. Charles Covington (2024)  
Rev. Howard Wheeler (2024)  
Mr. Charles Browning (2025)  
Rev. James Ritchey (2025)

**Minister and His Work**

Rev. Mike Chipman , Chairman (2026)  
Rev. Tim Phillips (2023)  
Mr. Larry Littlejohn (2023)  
Rev. Don Watkins (2024)  
Mr. David Jones (2024)  
Rev. Bill Holiman (2025)  
Mr. Charles Browning (2025)  
Mr. John Scott (2026)

**Nominations**

Rev. Joey Donahue, Chairman (2025)  
Rev. Mike Chipman (2023)  
Mr. David Strock (2024)  
Mr. Richard Moore (2026)

**Outreach North America**

Rev. Chris Neiswonger, Chairman (2025)  
Rev. Gary Clowers (2023)  
Rev. Robert White (2023)  
Mr. Lance Ragsdale (2024)  
Mr. Steve Rice (2024)  
Mr. Mark Paris (2025)

**Stewardship**

Mr. Paul Walley, Chair (2023)  
\_\_\_\_\_ (2023)\*  
Rev. James Ritchey (2025)  
Rev. Mike Chipman (2026)  
Mr. John Robinson – *Ex Officio*

\*currently there is no chairman for CE

**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. Paul Walley

**Synod Board & Agency Representatives**

Dunlap: Diane Clowers (2025)  
Exec. Board: Mr. Larry Littlejohn (2025)  
MaHW: Rev. Mike Chipman (2026)  
Nom.: Rev. Joey Donahue (2025)  
ONA: Rev. Chris Neiswonger (2025)  
Stewardship: Mr. Paul Walley (2023)  
Revisions Committee: Rev. David Dively

**Students of Theology**

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

**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