

The Minutes
Of
Mississippi Valley Presbytery

General Synod of the
Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church



Spring Stated Meeting

March 4-5, 2013

Graceview Presbyterian Church
Southaven, Mississippi

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PROCEEDINGS
MISSISSIPPI VALLEY PRESBYTERY
Graceview Presbyterian Church
Southaven, Mississippi

Spring Stated Meeting
March 4-5, 2013

The registration of delegates began at 5 pm. Following an evening meal at 6 p.m., the Spring 2013 Stated Meeting of Mississippi Valley Presbytery began at 7 p.m. with an opening worship service led by Rev. Mike Yarman. Rev. Yarman preached a sermon from 1 Kings 19:1-18, entitled “Rise Up, O Men of God.” (see **Appendix A**).

Following the worship service and a brief recess, Gene Adams, elder at Graceview, welcomed the presbytery.

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>)	Dan Hazen
Meredith Cavin	Gary Jones
Moises Chan	Matthew Heathman
Conrad Cheatham	Tim Phillips
Gary Clowers (<i>E</i>)	Troy Pritt
James Coad III (<i>E</i>)	Zech Schiebout
Alex Coblentz (<i>E</i>)	David Searfoss (<i>E</i>)
Joey Donahue (<i>E</i>)	Wayne Stanchfield (<i>E</i>)
Bill Everett	David Storment
W. Nale Falls (<i>E</i>)	Charles Todd
James Fee (<i>E</i>)	John Tucker
Michael Garvey	Don Watkins (<i>E</i>)
Jodie Gaston	Howard Wheeler
Carl Geisik (<i>E</i>)	Robert White
T.J. Gentry (<i>E</i>)	Steve Woods (<i>E</i>)
Benjamin Glaser	Mike Yarman

(A) = Unexcused Absence (E) = Excused Absence

Ruling Elders Present

Bethany – none	Covington – Milton Murphy
Brighton – Randy Goulder	Ebenezer – Edwin Dees
Covenant Reformed – none	Elsberry – none

Faith – none
French Camp – Larry Littlejohn
Gospel of Grace – Marshall Snodgrass
Graceview – Jack Anthony
Gum Tree – Carl Patterson
Helena – none
Hernando – Steve Rice
Hickory Springs – Wilmot Green
Hopewell – Troy Graham
Midlane Park – none

Mt. Zion – Charles Bunner
New Albany – Steve McCollum
New Geneva – none
Pottsville – none
Providence – David Strock
Richland – Bob Mitchell
Salem – Kerry Regen
Sharon – none
Wood Avenue – none

Stated Supply

Charles Covington
Al Herrington

Guests

Gene Tate (Treasurer of MVP and elder at New Albany), Gene Adams (elder at Graceview), Johnny Kelley (elder at Graceview), Michael Shotwell (elder at Ellisville), Charles Browning (elder at Hopewell), Kent Moorlach (minister in Northeast Presbytery), Martha Dees (Chair of Stewardship Committee), Lorraine Pritt, Joyce Mitchell, Carolyn Walker, Barbara Thomason, Howard King, Marion Bunner, Jerry Lyons, Jeanette Lyons, Joan Herrington, Stephanie Moorlach, Rebecca Jones, Jeanne Jones, Faith Moorlach, Windel Drane, Barbara Cheatham, Joanna Simonton, Mary Grace Simonton, Peter Schwab, Hershel Don Yancey

Several guests were introduced.

Elder Gene Adams presented the agenda for the meeting.

The following procedural motions were read 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 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 clerk noted the following ministers had submitted excuses: Rev. Don Watkins, Rev. Gary Clowers, and Rev. Alex Coblentz.

Rev. Troy Pritt made a motion that retired ministers be granted an excused absence to the meeting of presbytery (seconded, passed). The clerk noted that if it pleased the court, this could be added to the procedural motions for future meetings of the presbytery. There were no objections to this.

The minutes from the Fall 2012 meeting of presbytery were adopted.

There was one item of unfinished business: The Report of the Moderator's Committee to Review the Recommendation of Synod's Special Committee on Efficiency to Divide the Mississippi Valley Presbytery and Create a New Presbytery West of the Mississippi was presented to the presbytery (see **Appendix B**). During the discussion of the report, Rev. Meredith Cavin requested that all parts of the report be forwarded to Synod. Rev. Howard Wheeler also challenged the presbytery to consider the need for reformed churches west of the Mississippi River. The report was adopted by the presbytery.

There was discussion about keeping up with retired ministers of the presbytery. Rev. Howard Wheeler gave an update of Rev. Nale Falls (the oldest living ARP minister). Rev. Charles Todd gave a brief report of Rev. James Fee. Moderator Littlejohn called upon Rev. Conrad Cheatham to offer prayer for the retired ministers of the presbytery.

Moderator Littlejohn gave the retiring moderator's challenge to the presbytery, referencing Jesus' words from John 15:5, that the great need of our ministers and churches is to abide in Jesus and that we can only bear fruit by abiding in Him.

Rev. Mike Yarman was then introduced as the Moderator of Mississippi Valley Presbytery. He thanked Larry Littlejohn for his faithful service as moderator.

Moderator Yarman appointed a committee to examine the records of sessions: Carl Patterson, Rev. Benjamin Glaser, Milton Murphy, Rev. Zech Schiebout, and Kerry Regen.

An announcement was made about an ONA Revitalization Seminar that would be hosted by the Graceview Presbyterian Church. Rev. John Tucker encouraged the churches to attend the seminar. Rev. Conrad Cheatham also announced that Rev. Jim Coad's sister-in-law had recently passed away. Moderator Yarman called upon Rev. Charles Todd to pray for the Coad family as they travel back to Mexico for the funeral.

There being no further business for the evening, the meeting recessed until the following morning. Rev. Bill Everett closed with prayer.

Tuesday Morning, March 6, 2012

After enjoying a breakfast provided by the Graceview Presbyterian Church, the meeting of MVP reconvened at 8:30 a.m. Rev. Gary Jones led the presbytery in morning worship by preaching a sermon from John 14:6, entitled "The Gospel Ministry."

Moderator Mike Yarman called the meeting to order and opened with prayer.

A second vote was taken on the acceptance of Ellisville Presbyterian Church as a full member church of MVP. The vote was unanimous in favor of receiving the church. Ellisville Presbyterian Church was accepted as a full member church of MVP, and Rev. Benjamin Glaser (pastor of the church) and Mr. Michael Shotwell (ruling elder from the church) were given the right hand of fellowship by the presbytery. Moderator Yarman asked Rev. Robert White to pray for the Ellisville Presbyterian Church and its ministry.

A report from the Dunlap Retirement Center was presented to the presbytery (see **Appendix C**). Questions were asked about sources of funding for Dunlap. The recommendations from the report were all approved and the report as a whole was adopted. Moderator Mike Yarman asked Rev. Meredith Cavin to offer prayer for Dunlap. Mr. Gene Tate also commented on the financial status of Dunlap.

The Stewardship Report was presented to the presbytery (see **Appendix D**). The recommendation on the report was considered. There was discussion concerning setting limits on costs for Dr. Ken Priddy's revitalization program. The recommendation was amended to include lunch (seconded). The amendment passed. A show of hands was taken to see how many people were interested in attending the seminar on revitalization. The recommendation passed. The report as a whole was then adopted by the presbytery.

The Treasurer's Report was presented and was received and adopted by the presbytery (see **Appendix E**).

The Nominations Committee Report was presented to the presbytery (see **Appendix F**). The report as a whole was adopted by the presbytery.

The Minister and His Work Committee Report was presented to the presbytery (see **Appendix G**). Rev. Kent Moorlach was then examined by the presbytery. Rev. Meredith Cavin asked if Rev. Moorlach affirmed the Virgin Birth of Christ. Rev. John Tucker asked about Rev. Moorlach's commitment to the Westminster Confession of Faith and the authority of Scripture. Rev. Benjamin Glaser asked Rev. Moorlach why he was not a Roman Catholic. Rev. Robert White asked if Rev. Moorlach loved the Lord Jesus Christ. Rev. Joey Donahue asked a question about assurance of salvation. Rev. Zech Schiebout asked why Rev. Moorlach originally sought the pastorate and whether he was spiritually qualified to be an elder (based on 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1); Rev. Schiebout also asked about the role of public sin and repentance in the life of a pastor. Rev. Schiebout also asked a series of questions about original sin and Rev. Moorlach was also asked to critique the doctrine of presumptive regeneration. Rev. Moorlach was asked to give the difference between a moralistic or motivational speech and a Christian sermon. Rev. Moorlach was also asked how he would counsel an elder who might not be a true Christian. Rev. Tim Phillips asked a question about Rev. Moorlach's use of apologetics in Christian ministry. Rev. Joey Donahue asked a question about Rev. Moorlach's theological training. Rev. Moorlach answered the questions satisfactorily. The examination of Rev. Moorlach was sustained and it was also moved that he be granted membership into the presbytery by transfer of credentials

from Northeast Presbytery (seconded, passed). He was extended the right hand of fellowship by the members of the presbytery. Rev. Moorlach's call to the Richland Presbyterian Church was read and approved by the presbytery. The call was accepted by Rev. Moorlach. The Moderator asked Rev. Schiebout to pray for Rev. Moorlach and his work at the Richland Presbyterian Church.

Recess for Committee Meetings (10 a.m.)

After the conclusion of committee meetings, presbytery reconvened at 11:00 a.m. Rev. Jodie Gaston gave a presentation on his calling to do missionary work in the country of Wales. After the presentation, Rev. Benjamin Glaser was called upon to offer prayer for Rev. Gaston's family and his work in Wales. Rev. Zech Schiebout made a motion: *that a lump sum of \$10,000 be paid from the MVP ONA revitalization reserve fund to Jodie and Tina Gaston via World Witness in support of their work in Caerphilly, Wales, UK, for the next 12 months; this financial support to be renewable every 12 months at the request of Jodie and Tina upon approval by MVP* (seconded). There was debate on the motion, and Mr. Marshall Snodgrass moved that further discussion on the motion be tabled until the ONA Committee presented its report (seconded, passed).

The second item of the Minister and His Work Committee was tabled until the ONA Committee report was presented. The third item was approved. Rev. Dan Hazen was asked to pray for Rev. Bill Everett and the New Albany Presbyterian Church as they seek a new pastor upon Rev. Everett's retirement at the end of 2013. Mr. Charles Todd, Rev. Tim Phillips, and Mr. Carl Patterson all expressed thanks for Rev. Everett's ministry. The presbytery rose and expressed thanks to Rev. Everett by giving him a round of applause.

The fourth recommendation was considered and the terms of Rev. Howard Wheeler's new bi-vocational call at the Pottsville Presbyterian Church was read to the presbytery. It was noted that the request for the change in call was coming from the Pottsville congregation and was at its request (in addition to being agreeable with Rev. Wheeler). Rev. Wheeler addressed the presbytery and mentioned that he was taking a fulltime position with Arkansas Hospice as a chaplain. The recommendation was approved by the presbytery.

The Christian Education Committee report was presented to the presbytery by Chairman Dan Hazen (see **Appendix H**). The report was discussed. The order of the day was reached, and Mr. David Strock was called upon to pray.

Order of the Day (Lunch – noon)

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

The presbytery considered the recommendations from the Christian Education Committee report. The first two recommendations were considered and approved. The third item and fourth items were given as points of information. The third item was amended to give the Christian Education Committee approval to host a Family Building Conference in September of 2013 (seconded). There was discussion about the approximate cost of hosting such a conference (the chairman

estimated the cost, based upon past conferences, at approximately \$500). The amended motion passed. Recommendation 5 was then discussed. The motion passed. The report as amended was then adopted as a whole by the presbytery.

Mr. Charles Browning asked a question from the floor as to the best geographical location for leadership training workshops in the presbytery. There was much discussion in response to the question.

The ONA Committee report was presented to the presbytery along with additional documents (see **Appendix I**). Chairman Marshall Snodgrass first spoke about evaluation and utilization of websites for churches in the presbytery. Chairman Snodgrass also directed the presbytery to the handout entitled “Distinctive Characteristics of Incline, Recline, and Decline.” The report of the committee was then considered. Each of the three recommendations in the report was considered individually. The first two recommendations were approved. The third recommendation concerning the Hernando Presbyterian Church was discussed. The recommendation was amended so that the Hernando church would submit monthly reports to the ONA Committee concerning its progress in revitalization. The motion as amended was approved.

An addendum to the ONA report (a fourth recommendation) was presented by Chairman Snodgrass:

Our committee is called Outreach North America and is focused on working toward that end. We are not saying this ministry in Wales is not worthwhile. However, based on the limited funds available and the principles of church planting and church revitalization within our presbytery, the ONA Committee does not have available funds to support overseas mission work.

The report as amended was then adopted as a whole. There was some discussion about the approved recommendations and it was clarified that the funding to the Hernando church would be given in monthly payments to the treasurer of the Hernando church.

The motion from Rev. Schiebout concerning funding Jodie and Tina Gaston’s missionary work in Wales was amended to state that the funds for support would come out of the general funds of MVP and that the amount requested be \$7000 (seconded). There was discussion and the amendment failed. It was noted that Rev. Gaston would not need to raise all of his support until the end of 2013 and that he could report back to presbytery at the Fall Stated Meeting with an update. The original motion to fund the Gastons was then withdrawn.

Rev. Charles Todd rose to read a quote concerning importance of not losing sight of the central place of the cross of Christ in revitalizing churches:

Ever so subtly, we start to think that success more critically depends on thoughtful sociological analysis than on the gospel; Barna becomes more important than the Bible. We depend on plans, programs, vision statements – but somewhere along the way we have succumbed to the temptation to displace the foolishness of the cross with the wisdom of strategic planning. Again, I insist, my position is not a thinly veiled plea for

obscurantism, for seat-of-the-pants ministry that plans nothing. Rather, I fear that the cross, without ever being disowned, is constantly in danger of being dismissed from the central place it must enjoy, by relatively peripheral insights that take on far too much weight. Whenever the periphery is in danger of displacing the center, we are not far removed from idolatry. (D.A. Carson, *The Cross and Christian Ministry*, p. 26)

The report from the Minister and His Work Committee was taken up again. The call to Rev. Gary Jones was read. The call was approved by the presbytery and accepted by Rev. Jones. Rev. Jones was then offered the right hand of fellowship (although it was acknowledged that he was already a member of the presbytery).

As additional information with regard to the Minister and His Work report, it was noted that Rev. T.J. Gentry had transferred his ministerial credentials to the Communion of Evangelical Episcopal Churches and Rev. Steve Woods had transferred his credentials to Presbyterian Church in Western Australia, where he serves as the pastor of the Bicton Presbyterian Church.

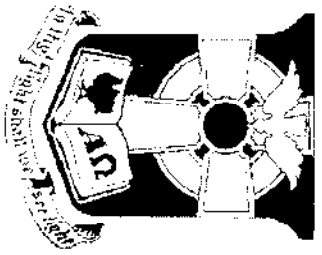
The report from the Committee on Sessional Records was presented (see **Appendix J**). The report was adopted.

Because of actions at this meeting of presbytery, a motion was made to amend the 2013 Budget of MVP to reflect the \$10,000 for the Hernando Presbyterian Church (seconded, passed).

It was announced that the Fall 2013 meeting would be held at the New Albany Presbyterian Church. The Ellisville Presbyterian Church offered to host the Spring 2014 meeting of presbytery (seconded, passed). There were no offers to host the Fall 2014 meeting at this time.

Mr. Marshall Snodgrass asked for permission to address the presbytery, which was granted to him by the Moderator. Mr. Snodgrass gave a strong exhortation urging the preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ in ARP churches (see **Appendix K**).

There were several announcements, including the report of the loss of ruling elders to death in the Helena and Sharon churches. Prayers for the churches and the families of the elders were given by Rev. Jodie Gaston and Rev. Gary Jones. A motion was made to adjourn (seconded, passed). The meeting closed with the singing of “Christian Unity,” followed by a closing prayer by Rev. Kent Moorlach.



Monday March 4

MVP Stated Spring 2013 Meeting
Graceview Church
Southaven, MS
Partners Together in the Gospel

3:00 pm Committee Meetings
5:00 Registration
6:00 Supper
7:00 Worship

Prelude

The Call to Worship & Opening Prayer

*The Hymn of Praise # 211 "Glorious Things" (1-4)

*The Apostles Creed (Inside cover of hymnbook)

The Responsive Reading: 1 Kings 19: 1-18

The Lord's Prayer and Pastor's Prayer

The Special Music: "All Praise to You Almighty King" The Choir

The Scripture Reading: Ephesians 6:10-20 p1824

The Message: "Rise Up O Men of God" Rev Mike Yarnman

The Communion Service

*The Hymn of Distribution # 372 "Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross" (1-2)

*The Hymn of Dedication # 372 "Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross" (3-4)

*God's Blessing *Denotes Standing

Interim Recess

Agenda for Presbytery Meeting
The Constitution of Presbytery with prayer Moderator Larry Little
John

Welcomed by the Host Church: Mr Gene Adams

Constitution of the Roll: Rev Tim Phillips, Principal Clerk

Instructions and Procedural Motions: Larry Littlejohn

Presentation of the Program: Mr Gene Adams

Adoption of the Minutes, Fall Stated Meeting

Unfinished Business

Reading Moderator's Address: Mr Larry Littlejohn

Introduction of the Moderator elect: Rev. Mike Yarnman

Federator's Committee on Sessional Records.

Announcements

Recess for the night

Closing Prayer

Tuesday Morning

7:30 am – 8:15 Breakfast

8:30 am Worship

"The Gospel Ministry" John 14:6 Rev Gary Jones

Call to Order: Moderator Rev. Mike Yarnman

Business

10:00 am Recess for Committee Work

11:00 am Resume for business

Rev. Lady Gaston: Prospective Church Planter to Wales

12:00 noon Lunch in the Fellowship Hall

12:45 Season of Prayer

1:15 Committee Reports

Selection of meeting place for Spring 2014

Announcements

Standing Committees

Minister and His Work: Classroom 9

Outreach North America: Classroom 8

Nominations: Classroom 7

Stewardship: Classroom 6

Sessional Records: Rec Room in the back

M. John Kelly will be available to type committee reports. Please leave them on pastor John's desk.

Minutes of the Moderator's Special Committee of Presbytery
January 22, 2013

The Moderator's Special Committee of Presbytery met Tuesday January 22 at 7:00 pm by Conference call with the Rev Howard Wheeler Chairman calling the meeting to order. Also present were Rev Meredith Cavin, Rev. David Storment, Rev John Tucker who was elected secretary, and ruling elders Robert Mitchell and Charles Bunner. The meeting was opened with prayer.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the motion presented by the Special Committee on Efficiency to divide MVP at the Mississippi River and form two Presbyteries. This motion was referred by Synod to the Mississippi Valley Presbytery for recommendation regarding this matter. Consequently, at its Fall Stated Meeting in October 2012, the Moderator of the Mississippi Valley Presbytery appointed this Committee to discuss the issue and present a recommendation that thoughtfully and accurately represents the opinion of the Churches of the Presbytery.

Several surveys were sent out to the Churches and a number of recommendations were received from several of the Churches of MVP. All were against the proposed division. After lively and substantial debate, the committee unanimous recommends that Synod not divide the Mississippi Valley Presbytery and form a new Presbytery consisting of all the churches west of the Mississippi River. Our rationale for this recommendation is described below.

Respectfully submitted

John Tucker Secretary

Recommendations from the Moderators Committee to Review the Recommendation of Synod's Special Committee on Efficiency to Divide the Mississippi Valley Presbytery and create a new Presbytery west of the Mississippi.

While we are very conscious both of the blessing of having churches planted west of the Mississippi River and also of the extreme need for more churches in the vast western United States, we believe that division of the Mississippi Valley Presbytery and the formation of a new Presbytery west of the Mississippi River is premature for the following reasons.

1. The relationships between the western churches of the MVP and the Presbytery are complex in terms of spiritual oversight, financial support and geographic distance. Stated Meetings for this new presbytery would significantly increase the existing financial burden for travel expenses on the churches in Missouri and Texas. This would be an unacceptable demand on both time and money for already struggling churches and represents poor stewardship of resources that would inevitably take away from the sustainability of the churches involved and reduce giving to the Denominational Ministry Fund.
2. Communion among churches in the Mississippi Valley Presbytery, essential to its healthy functioning and effective witness, would be broken. The leadership of churches which would be siphoned off for the newly formed presbytery would leave gaps in essential service within the existing Presbytery. Communion among the churches in the new Presbytery would be at a great disadvantage due to distance and the existing close knit relationships of the churches in Texas and Louisiana. The new presbytery would most probably become a de facto Texas-Louisiana Presbytery with a few satellite churches in Arkansas, Missouri, Colorado and Arizona.
3. Furthermore, the extreme size of the new Presbytery would reduce, rather than enhance, the likelihood of teaching and ruling elder involvement in the higher courts of the church -- a duty for both pastors and elders, as expressed in the Form of Government. Attendance at meetings of Presbytery would require a tremendous sacrifice of time for ruling elders as well as the many bivocational teaching elders. The time demanded for participation in the work of this new Presbytery, due to travel, makes it unlikely that this new Presbytery would function effectively or provide effective representation on the Boards, Committees and Commissions of the General Synod.
4. This division and realignment also disregards the work that has already taken place in Texas and Louisiana toward the formation of a new Presbytery and their concerns regarding developing a Presbytery whose geographic size encourages active participation by pastors and elders in this primary court of our church.
5. Additionally, this proposal fails to consider the ongoing complexities of our relationships with our Korean brothers. The role this new Presbytery will have regarding

Appendix B

these churches is undefined and must be carefully considered. Given that the Synod, through its Ecclesiastical Commission, has struggled to normalize relationships with these churches, it seems unreasonable to expect a newly formed Presbytery to succeed, especially since it will be composed primarily of new churches and churches in desperate need of revitalization.

6. This proposal also fails to take into account the relative weakness of the congregations proposed as members of this new Presbytery as balanced against the vast need for expansion into the cities in the western US. Dividing the Mississippi Valley Presbytery would not strengthen the witness and ministry of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church but, on the contrary, would greatly weaken and discourage the work of the Gospel. The purpose of division must be to strengthen and increase our mission in the world.

7. Finally, while we acknowledge the authority of Synod, as expressed in the FOG, to divide Presbyteries, we feel that the approach to this division disregards the primacy of the Presbytery by its unilateral action.

While we understand that new Presbyteries represent growth and expansion and we approve of this in principle, we believe that the proposed division of the Mississippi Valley Presbytery and the creation of a vast new Presbytery west of the Mississippi River will be a millstone and not a stepping stone to such expansion. For this reason, ***this Special Moderator's Committee of the Mississippi Valley Presbytery recommends that the Presbytery, at its Stated Meeting in March 2013, advise the General Synod of the ARP Church against the creation of a new Presbytery consisting of all the churches west of the Mississippi River as proposed by the Special Committee on Efficiency in its report to the 2012 General Synod.***

Dunlap Retirement Center
Annual Report
2011 & 2012

As most of you know the retirement center has been up and running since 1982. We are totally dependent upon the Lord as He would have us do nothing less.

There are times of ups & downs, like any other ministry, but God always brings Dunlap out on top.

We have beds for 29 residents, but last March we were forced to close on building, mostly because of the economy. The adult children in need of care for their elderly parents are keeping Mom/Dad home with them in order to make ends meet financially.

We only had 18 residents when we closed Hunter Hall so we consolidated everyone in to the other two buildings in March of 2012, which were 8 rooms. So far, praise God, and because of Him, we have been able to maintain the 18 with the exception of a week or two in between moving out and moving in.

In 2012 we had an average of 20.5 residents; we feel we have made the right decision to close the building temporarily. Although, we are still paying the state the \$800.00 per year for that building license in order to keep our "Grandfather status" so that we can reopen the building someday if needed, otherwise we would be forced to spend a large amount of money to get it up to code.

Attached are the fiscal year Profit & Loss for July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012 and also a financial statement prepared by Mr. Gene Tate for January 2012- January 2013.

Our Board Members are:

Linda Clarke...Brighton ARP...	Rotating off...	2013
John Moore... Brighton ARP...	"	2013
Tim Honeycutt...Salem ARP...	"	2013
Denise Garner...Quito UMC...	"	2013
Richard Delk...Holly Grove CP	"	2013
Meredith Cavin...Brighton ARP...	"	2014
Juanita Waits...Sharon ARP....	"	2014
Lisa Simpson... Salem ARP...	"	2014
Milton Murphy...Covington ARP....	"	2015
Gene Tate...New Albany ARP...	"	2015
Joe Yerby...Gum Tree ARP...	"	2015

The Dunlap Board of Directors has started a new donation system for those who would like to personally donate to our ministry for the elderly here at Dunlap on a regular basis. We are calling it "Friends of Dunlap". We are sending a letter with more information about how people can become "Friends of Dunlap". We are asking that you help us to get the word out to your congregations about this exciting endeavor. Thank you for your continued support.

The Board of Directors has the following recommendations:

- 1.) That the MVP continue its support and oversight of Dunlap Retirement Center
- 2.) That the MVP forward the "Friends of Dunlap" letter to the congregants of the Presbytery and encourage prayers and support of the ministry.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dunlap Retirement Center Board of Directors

Appendix C

Financial Statements

Dunlap Retirement Center, Inc.

Seven months ended January 31, 2013 and 2012

	2013	2012	Change Increase (decrease)	January 2013	January 2012	Change Increase (decrease)
Revenue	\$ 1,134,415.54	\$ 1,134,415.54	\$ (4,415.54)	\$ 1,134,415.54	\$ 1,134,415.54	\$ (4,415.54)
Cost of Revenue (Expense)						
Food and Beverage	\$ 111,471.03	\$ 111,471.03	\$ (111,471.03)	\$ 111,471.03	\$ 111,471.03	\$ (111,471.03)
Administrative	\$ 44,415.54	\$ 44,415.54	\$ (44,415.54)	\$ 44,415.54	\$ 44,415.54	\$ (44,415.54)
Total Cost of Revenue (Expense)	\$ 155,886.57	\$ 155,886.57	\$ (155,886.57)	\$ 155,886.57	\$ 155,886.57	\$ (155,886.57)
General and administrative Expenses	\$ 36,615.31	\$ 36,615.31	\$ (36,615.31)	\$ 36,615.31	\$ 36,615.31	\$ (36,615.31)
Profit (Loss) from operations	\$ (14,273.25)	\$ (14,273.25)	\$ (14,273.25)	\$ (14,273.25)	\$ (14,273.25)	\$ (14,273.25)
Other income	\$ 14,742.75	\$ 14,742.75	\$ (14,742.75)	\$ 14,742.75	\$ 14,742.75	\$ (14,742.75)
Net Income (loss)	\$ 469.50	\$ (3,169.03)	\$ 3,638.53	\$ 469.50	\$ (3,169.03)	\$ 3,638.53

Financial Statements Details

Dunlap Retirement Center, Inc.

Seven months ended January 31, 2013 and 2012

	2013	2012	Change Increase (decrease)	January 2013	January 2012	Change Increase (decrease)
Direct rental expenses						
Labor costs and fringes						
Restroom	\$ 101,641.35	\$ 101,641.35	\$ (101,641.35)	\$ 101,641.35	\$ 101,641.35	\$ (101,641.35)
Over time	\$ 213.83	\$ 213.83	\$ (213.83)	\$ 213.83	\$ 213.83	\$ (213.83)
Holidays and vacation	\$ 3,567.00	\$ 3,567.00	\$ (3,567.00)	\$ 3,567.00	\$ 3,567.00	\$ (3,567.00)
Workers compensation	\$ 4,690.00	\$ 4,690.00	\$ (4,690.00)	\$ 4,690.00	\$ 4,690.00	\$ (4,690.00)
Payroll taxes	\$ 9,626.54	\$ 9,626.54	\$ (9,626.54)	\$ 9,626.54	\$ 9,626.54	\$ (9,626.54)
Less fringes for Salaries personnel	\$ (2,890.89)	\$ (2,890.89)	\$ (2,890.89)	\$ (2,890.89)	\$ (2,890.89)	\$ (2,890.89)
Total Labor costs and fringes	\$ 116,947.83	\$ 116,947.83	\$ (116,947.83)	\$ 116,947.83	\$ 116,947.83	\$ (116,947.83)
Other direct rental expenses						
Food	\$ 11,703.13	\$ 11,703.13	\$ (11,703.13)	\$ 11,703.13	\$ 11,703.13	\$ (11,703.13)
Insurance	\$ 5,664.90	\$ 5,664.90	\$ (5,664.90)	\$ 5,664.90	\$ 5,664.90	\$ (5,664.90)
Repairs and maintenance	\$ 5,448.22	\$ 5,448.22	\$ (5,448.22)	\$ 5,448.22	\$ 5,448.22	\$ (5,448.22)
Utilities	\$ 25,531.74	\$ 25,531.74	\$ (25,531.74)	\$ 25,531.74	\$ 25,531.74	\$ (25,531.74)
Supplies	\$ 1,681.73	\$ 1,681.73	\$ (1,681.73)	\$ 1,681.73	\$ 1,681.73	\$ (1,681.73)
Taxes and licenses	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	\$ (250.00)	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	\$ (250.00)
Travel removal	\$ 1,963.17	\$ 1,963.17	\$ (1,963.17)	\$ 1,963.17	\$ 1,963.17	\$ (1,963.17)
Other	\$ 872.00	\$ 872.00	\$ (872.00)	\$ 872.00	\$ 872.00	\$ (872.00)
Total Other direct rental expenses	\$ 48,414.99	\$ 48,414.99	\$ (48,414.99)	\$ 48,414.99	\$ 48,414.99	\$ (48,414.99)

Financial Statements Details

Revenue	\$ 1,134,415.54	\$ 1,134,415.54	\$ (4,415.54)	\$ 1,134,415.54	\$ 1,134,415.54	\$ (4,415.54)
Cost of Revenue (Expense)	\$ 155,886.57	\$ 155,886.57	\$ (155,886.57)	\$ 155,886.57	\$ 155,886.57	\$ (155,886.57)
General and administrative Expenses	\$ 36,615.31	\$ 36,615.31	\$ (36,615.31)	\$ 36,615.31	\$ 36,615.31	\$ (36,615.31)
Profit (Loss) from operations	\$ (14,273.25)	\$ (14,273.25)	\$ (14,273.25)	\$ (14,273.25)	\$ (14,273.25)	\$ (14,273.25)
Other income	\$ 14,742.75	\$ 14,742.75	\$ (14,742.75)	\$ 14,742.75	\$ 14,742.75	\$ (14,742.75)
Net Income (loss)	\$ 469.50	\$ (3,169.03)	\$ 3,638.53	\$ 469.50	\$ (3,169.03)	\$ 3,638.53

Revenue	\$ 1,134,415.54	\$ 1,134,415.54	\$ (4,415.54)	\$ 1,134,415.54	\$ 1,134,415.54	\$ (4,415.54)
Cost of Revenue (Expense)	\$ 155,886.57	\$ 155,886.57	\$ (155,886.57)	\$ 155,886.57	\$ 155,886.57	\$ (155,886.57)
General and administrative Expenses	\$ 36,615.31	\$ 36,615.31	\$ (36,615.31)	\$ 36,615.31	\$ 36,615.31	\$ (36,615.31)
Profit (Loss) from operations	\$ (14,273.25)	\$ (14,273.25)	\$ (14,273.25)	\$ (14,273.25)	\$ (14,273.25)	\$ (14,273.25)
Other income	\$ 14,742.75	\$ 14,742.75	\$ (14,742.75)	\$ 14,742.75	\$ 14,742.75	\$ (14,742.75)
Net Income (loss)	\$ 469.50	\$ (3,169.03)	\$ 3,638.53	\$ 469.50	\$ (3,169.03)	\$ 3,638.53

Appendix C

1:19 PM
9/2/13/13
Cash Basis

William H. Dunlap Retirement Center, Inc.
Profit & Loss
July 2011 through June 2012

Jul '11 - Jun 12

Ordinary Income/Expense

Income

40000 · Rent Income	391,591.83
40100 · Interest Earned	96.17
40200 · Donations	8,478.76
40400 · Donations - Grandparent's Day	2,748.00
40600 · Donations - MVP	14,583.92
40700 · Donations - Spring Fund Raiser	2,553.00
40900 · Donations - T. Coop	100.00
41400 · Refunds (PATR)	88.69
41600 · Yard Sale Proceeds	1,347.00

Total Income

421,487.37

Expense

60500 · Advertising	4,417.41
60700 · Accounting Services	390.00
61100 · Bank Service Charges	5.00
61200 · Bookkeeping Fees	1,850.00
64900 · Depreciation Expense	4,719.00
65000 · Dues - 3 Star VFD	100.00
65100 · Education	300.00
66200 · Fuel	1,340.26
67000 · Groceries	24,168.63
67100 · Gifts	760.24
68500 · Insurance	12,713.69
68501 · Insurance - W/C	8,213.00
71001 · Labor - Holiday	4,291.00
71002 · Labor - Overtime	616.55
71003 · Labor - Salary	38,500.02
71004 · Labor - Vacation	3,517.25
71005 · Labor - Regular	220,324.83
71600 · Mileage	601.70
71700 · Maintenance	855.00
71800 · Meals	52.50
72000 · Office Supplies	2,356.21
73000 · Payroll Tax Expense	20,113.24
76500 · Pest Control	1,975.00
76600 · Placement Service	750.00
76700 · Postage	216.88
76800 · Professional Services	240.00
80200 · Repairs	11,937.61
80500 · Springfest Expenses	21.86
80600 · Supplies	5,446.91
80700 · State Taxes	270.00
80900 · State Licenses	2,243.00
81000 · Telephone	5,646.07
81600 · Trash Removal	2,956.21
81700 · TCCA Services	455.00
82000 · Utilities	53,296.80

Total Expense

435,544.77

Net Ordinary Income

-14,057.40

Net Income

-14,057.40

Page 1

Appendix D

Stewardship Committee Report to the MS Valley Presbytery Meeting at Graceview ARP Church, Southaven, MS March 4-5, 2013

From the treasurer's report you will see that MS Valley Presbytery was blessed in 2012 with sufficient revenue to operate the programs sponsored by the Presbytery. Our appreciation is expressed to Mr. Tate, our treasurer, for his diligence in carrying out the work of his office that led to having 96% of the churches pay assessments in 2012.

At the fall meeting of the Mississippi Valley Presbytery a motion from the ONA Committee was passed to present Dr. Ken Priddy's G.O.1 program to the entire Presbytery with the cost of travel and food expenses for Dr. Priddy being paid by the Presbytery. This item was not in the budget approved by the Presbytery in the fall.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Presbytery amend the 2013 budget to include a line item for the Dr. Ken Priddy's G.O. 1 program. Cost to be determined. (Is it necessary to set an amount limit?)

The Stewardship Committee would welcome suggestions for ways to assist with either local church needs or a special need of Presbytery.

Martha Dees
Stewardship Chairperson

[Note: A motion was made, seconded and passed to amend the recommendation to read:

That Presbytery amend the 2013 budget to include a line item for the Dr. Ken Priddy's G.O.1 program, including the cost of lunch for those in attendance. Cost to be determined.

The recommendation as amended passed.]

Treasurer's Report – Mississippi Valley Presbytery

March 4, 2013

Our total fund balances increased by \$9,534 during the year 2012 from \$612,451 to \$621,095. Of this total the general funds increased by \$8,553 while Parkway Place Funds increased by \$981. Interest of \$10,799 was earned during the year 2012 compared to \$12,953 for the year 2011.

Receipts for the general fund from twenty four (24) of our twenty five (25) member churches were \$13,190 in 2012 compared with receipts from nineteen (19) churches of \$11,331 in 2011. A listing of receipts by church for 2012 is shown on the enclosed budget report.

During 2012 the Havana Mission was provided \$12,566 of financial support - \$4,000 from Synod, \$8,000 from Presbytery and \$566 from Ross Explorations – Oil and Gas receipts.

All Presbytery funds are deposited in three local banks – Renasant Bank, BNA Bank and Bancorpsouth, with ninety six (96%) percent of the funds placed in interest bearing accounts - \$600,145 at December 31, 2012. The effective interest rate for the year 2012 was 2.16% and interest for 2013 is expected to be approximately .69%.

Since Dunlap Retirement Center is wholly owned by Mississippi Valley Presbytery, I have included in this report data comparing its operations for the seven months ended January 31, 2013 with 2012 and operational results for its year ended June 30, 2012, along with its balance sheet as of January 31, 2013.

Thanks for giving me the opportunity to continue to serve as your treasurer.

Respectfully submitted,


Gene Tate

Treasurer

Appendix E

Balance Sheet		31-Dec-12	
Mississippi Valley Presbytery			
	Assets		
	Cash and Certificates of Deposit	General Fund	Parkway Place Funds
			Totals
Cash			
Renaissant Bank, New Albany	\$ 20,196.79		\$ 20,196.79
BNA Bank, New Albany	\$ 1,642.80		\$ 1,642.80
Money Market Fund at BNA Bank, New Albany	\$ 30,145.47		\$ 30,145.47
Total Cash	\$ 51,985.06		\$ 51,985.06
Certificates of Deposit			
Renaissant Bank, New Albany, .75% due 10/17/2013	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 180,000.00	\$ 230,000.00
BNA Bank, New Albany, .8% due 03/14/2014		\$ 70,000.00	\$ 70,000.00
BNA Bank, New Albany, .55% due 08/1/2013		\$ 130,000.00	\$ 130,000.00
BANCORPSOUTH Bank, New Albany, .8% due 3/14/2014		\$ 140,000.00	\$ 140,000.00
Total Certificates of Deposit	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 520,000.00	\$ 570,000.00
Interfund Receivables (payables)	\$ 4,081.04	\$ (4,081.04)	\$ -
Investment in Dunlap Retirement Home - at book value 12/31/12	\$ 54,964.52		\$ 54,964.52
Total Assets	\$ 161,030.62	\$ 515,918.96	\$ 676,949.58
Fund Balances	\$ 161,030.62	\$ 515,918.96	\$ 676,949.58
Fund Balances without Dunlap	\$ 106,066.10	\$ 515,918.96	\$ 621,985.06

Appendix E

Report of the Treasurer of the City of New York Miscellaneous Year 2012									
Beginning	General Fund	Highway	The Park	Pla	Mem	Fu	Per	Total	All Funds
\$ 76,624.81	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 250						\$ 612,451.14	
Cash Recd:									
Fund Tran	\$ 13,190.00							\$ 13,190.00	
Presbyter								\$ 5,553.00	
General S								\$ 566.27	
Rose Exp								\$ 10,798.84	
Interest								\$ 30,123.11	
Total	\$ 15,808.05							\$ 50,670.22	
Cash Disb:									
Dunlap R	\$ 2,200.00							\$ 2,200.00	
Operating	\$ 422.92							\$ 422.92	
Committe									
Officers 1									
NYP Sur	\$ 5,000.00							\$ 5,000.00	
NYP WCH									
WPCOMAR	\$ 400.00							\$ 400.00	
Havana S								\$ 666.27	
Havana S								\$ 4,000.00	
Havana S								\$ 8,000.00	
Total	\$ 8,022.92							\$ 20,689.19	
Excess of	\$ 6,985.13							\$ 9,535.82	
Cash balai	\$ 83,618.94	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 250					\$ 621,985.06	

Appendix E

Budget Mississippi Valley Presbytery Year 2012

	Budgeted	Budget Changes	Revised Budget	Collected Or Disbursed	Remaining Budget
Budgeted Receipts from Churches					
Bethany	\$ 230.00		230.00	\$ 406.00	\$ (170.00)
Brighton	1,360.00		1,360.00	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 260.00
Covenant Reformed	200.00		200.00	\$ -	\$ 200.00
Covington	250.00		250.00	\$ 300.00	\$ (50.00)
Ebenezer	400.00		400.00	\$ 400.00	\$ -
Elsberry	190.00		190.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 90.00
Faith Presbyterian	250.00		250.00	\$ 700.00	\$ (450.00)
French Camp	520.00		520.00	\$ 800.00	\$ (280.00)
Graceview	620.00		620.00	\$ 840.00	\$ (220.00)
Gospel of Grace, Springfield MO	350.00		350.00	\$ 350.00	\$ -
Gum Tree	450.00		450.00	\$ 720.00	\$ (270.00)
Havana Mission	120.00		120.00	\$ 150.00	\$ (30.00)
Helena	250.00		250.00	\$ 500.00	\$ (250.00)
Hernando Reformed	300.00		300.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
Hickory Springs	40.00		40.00	\$ 50.00	\$ (10.00)
Hopewell	300.00		300.00	\$ -	\$ 300.00
Midlane Park	330.00		330.00	\$ 500.00	\$ (170.00)
Mt. Zion	300.00		300.00	\$ 280.00	\$ 20.00
New Albany	2,000.00		2,000.00	\$ 1,950.00	\$ 50.00
New Geneva	320.00		320.00	\$ 470.00	\$ (150.00)
Pottsville	450.00		450.00	\$ 350.00	\$ 100.00
Providence	650.00		650.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 150.00
Richland	840.00		840.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 340.00
Salem	1,600.00		1,600.00	\$ 1,600.00	\$ -
Sharon	210.00		210.00	\$ 190.00	\$ 20.00
Wood Avenue	120.00		120.00	\$ 140.00	\$ (20.00)
Total Budgeted Receipts	12,650.00	-	12,650.00	13,190.00	(240.00)
Interest income	-		-	1,818.06	(1,818.06)
Total Receipts	\$ 12,650.00	\$ -	\$ 12,650.00	\$ 15,008.06	\$ (2,058.06)
Expenses					
Direct Support					
Dunlap Retirement Center	\$ 2,200.00		2,200.00	\$ 2,200.00	\$ -
MVP Christian Education	5,000.00		5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -
MVP Annual Retreat	500.00		500.00	\$ -	\$ 500.00
Total Direct Support	7,700.00		7,700.00	7,200.00	500.00
Operating Expenses					
Administrative (supplies, postage, printing, etc)	2,000.00		2,000.00	422.92	1,577.08
Total Operating Expenses	2,000.00	-	2,000.00	422.92	1,577.08
Committee Operations					
Minister and His Works	400.00		400.00	\$ -	\$ 400.00
Stewardship	100.00		100.00	\$ -	\$ 100.00
Nominations	200.00		200.00	\$ -	\$ 200.00
Christian Education Ministries Committee	500.00		500.00	\$ -	\$ 500.00
MVP ONA Committee	300.00		300.00	\$ -	\$ 300.00
Committees and Officer Travel	400.00		400.00	\$ -	\$ 400.00
Special Committees/Commissions Expenses	400.00		400.00	\$ -	\$ 400.00
Contingencies	-		-	\$ -	\$ -
Total Committee Operations	\$ 2,300.00	\$ -	\$ 2,300.00	\$ -	\$ 2,300.00
Other Expenses					
MVP/ONA Revitalization Expenses	200.00		200.00	\$ 400.00	(200.00)
Total Expenses	12,200.00	-	12,200.00	8,022.92	4,177.08
Excess of receipts over (under) expenses	\$ 450.00	\$ -	\$ 450.00	\$ 6,985.13	\$ (6,235.13)
Beginning fund balance				\$ 76,634.81	
Ending fund balance				\$ 83,619.94	

Appendix E

Balance Sheet
Dunlap Retirement Center, Inc.
January 31, 2013

	Assets	
Cash		\$ 25,381.48
Property and Fixtures		
Land		\$ 24,500.00
Buildings and improvements		\$ 750,726.00
Furniture, fixtures and equipment		\$ 19,994.49
		\$ 795,220.49
Less accumulated depreciation		\$ (744,333.00)
Net property		\$ 50,887.49
Total assets		\$ 76,268.97
Liabilities and Equity		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable		\$ 482.31
Long-term Debt		
Note Payable Salem ARP Church		\$ 20,000.00
Total liabilities		\$ 20,482.31
Equity		
Beginning balance		\$ 55,317.16
Net income (loss) -cash basis		\$ 469.50
Ending balance		\$ 55,786.66
Total liabilities and Equity		\$ 76,268.97

Financial Statements
Dunlap Retirement Center, Inc.
Seven months ended January 31, 2013 and 2012

	2013	2012	Change Increase (decrease)	January 2013	January 2012	Change Increase (decrease)
Revenue	\$ 199,246.00	\$ 156,273.25	\$ 42,972.75	\$ 26,125.00	\$ 33,021.11	\$ 6,896.11
Less: direct rental expenses						
Rent costs and fringes	\$ 118,813.94	\$ 87,361.61	\$ 31,452.33	\$ 17,529.24	\$ 32,086.43	\$ (14,557.19)
Other direct rental expenses	\$ 53,077.28	\$ 22,167.08	\$ 30,910.20	\$ 7,374.53	\$ 9,227.80	\$ (1,852.27)
Total direct expenses	\$ 171,891.22	\$ 109,528.69	\$ 62,362.53	\$ 24,923.77	\$ 41,314.23	\$ (16,389.66)
Net rental income	\$ 27,354.78	\$ 46,744.56	\$ (19,389.78)	\$ 1,201.23	\$ (8,292.32)	\$ 9,493.55
General and administrative Expenses						
Indirects from operations	\$ 16,822.25	\$ 29,416.70	\$ (12,594.45)	\$ 4,592.42	\$ 6,335.98	\$ (1,743.56)
Other expenses	\$ 459.50	\$ 13,169.03	\$ (12,709.53)	\$ 829.37	\$ (7,542.99)	\$ 8,372.36
Net income (loss)						

Financial Statements
Dunlap Retirement Center, Inc.
Year ended June 30, 2012

	2012	%
Revenue	\$ 201,249.12	100.00%
Less: direct rental expenses		
Rent costs and fringes	\$ 127,065.63	63.14%
Other direct rental expenses	\$ 21,150,216	10.51%
Total direct expenses	\$ 148,215.83	73.65%
Net rental income	\$ 53,033.29	26.35%
General and administrative Expenses		
Indirects from operations	\$ 16,822.25	8.36%
Other expenses	\$ 459.50	0.23%
Net income (loss)	(\$9,338.40)	-4.66%



Report of the Committee on Nominations Mississippi Valley Presbytery

The Committee on Nominations met via email on February 19, 2013 to finalize recommendations for Presbytery.

Respectfully submitted,
Howard Wheeler, Chairman.

Recommendations:

1. That Rev. Mike Yarman be the Mississippi Valley Presbytery representative on the ONA Board of Synod.
2. That Mr. Marshall Snodgrass serve as Chairman of the ONA Committee.
3. That Rev. Bill Everett be the Mississippi Valley Presbytery representative to the Synod's Dunlap Board.
4. That Mr. Carl Patterson be the Mississippi Valley Presbytery representative to the Synod's Executive Board.
5. That the following recommendations for service be approved by Presbytery.

Name	Position of Service	Term
David Storment	CEM	2013-2016
Larry Treadaway	CEM	2013-2016
Ben Glaser	Minister and His Work	2013-2017
John Robinson	Minister and His Work	2013-2017
Carl Patterson	Nominations	2013-2017
Gary Jones	Nominations	Imm-2015
Charles Bunner	Outreach North America	2013-2016
Mike Yarman	Outreach North America	2013-2016
Matthew Heathman	Dunlap	Imm – 2014
Carolyn Strickland	Dunlap	Imm-2015
Don Tabb	Dunlap	2013-2016
Robert Simpson	Dunlap	2013-2016
Terry Griffith	Dunlap	2013-2016
Barbara McFarland	Dunlap	2013-2016

The Minister and His Work Committee Meeting

March 4, at Graceview Church

Present: Mr Milton Murphy, Rev Zech Schiebout, Mr Kerry Regen, Mr Steve McCollum, Rev John Tucker and Rev Charles Todd the chairman.

The meeting was opened with prayer.

The first order of business was to examine Rev Ken Moorlach. Rev Zech Schiebout and Mr Steve McCollum who were unable to attend the previous meeting examined Rev Moorlach. Motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to recommend that Rev Moorlach be transferred to the Presbytery.

Motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to approve his call.

The next order of business was to accept the call of Rev Gary Jones to be pastor of the Hernando Presbyterian Church and recommend that Presbytery approve the call.

Motion made and seconded to grant Rev Bill Everett his request to be relieved from his call from the New Albany Presbyterian Church effective Dec 31, 2013.

Motion made, seconded and passed unanimously to change the terms of Rev Howard Wheeler to the Pottsville Church at his request.

The meeting was closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted John Tucker secretary

RICHLAND ASSOCIATE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
PASTORAL CALL
January 27, 2013

We the officers and members for the Richland Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church of Mississippi Valley Presbytery being well satisfied with your ministerial qualifications, and confident we have been lead to you by the Holy Spirit as one whose ministry will be profitable to our spiritual interest, do earnestly call you, Kent Moorlach, to undertake the call as Pastor, effective on or before May 1, 2013.

On the acceptance of this our call we promise you in the discharge of your duty all proper support, encouragement, and obedience in the Lord. That you may devote yourself wholly to the Ministry of the Word, we promise and obligate ourselves to:

- a. Pay you the annual salary of \$ 33,500.00 , in at least monthly payments.
- b. Housing (Check one of the below):
 - 1) ☐ Provide you with the free use of a manse with utilities (housing allowance is **not** included).
 - 2) ☐ Provide you with the free use of a manse with utilities, temporarily, until you attain alternate housing. After you attain alternate housing, an annual housing allowance of \$ 14,400.00 , in at least monthly payments, shall be provided commencing (on a pro-rated basis) after you totally vacate the manse.
 - 3) ☒ Provide you with an annual housing allowance of \$ 14,400.00 , in at least monthly payments (if the above option #1 or #2, use of manse, is **not** chosen).
- c. Pay your moving expenses (amount to be determined and/or approved by the deacons).
- d. Grant you an annual travel allowance (or auto allowance) of \$ 4,800.00 , in at least monthly payments.
- e. Pay into the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Retirement Plan Fund as prescribed by the General Synod.
- f. Group Insurance/Medical Insurance (Check one of the below):
 - 1) ☒ Pay 100% , of the cost of your medical insurance, either in the participation in Synods' insurance programs or through an insurance carrier as approved by the deacons.
 - 2) ☐ Pay 100% , of the cost of your family's medical insurance, either in the participation in Synod's insurance programs or through an insurance carrier as approved by the deacons.
 - 3) ☐ Pay you the annual amount of \$ 15,809.00 , in at least monthly payments, allowing you to continue to purchase you and your family's "outside" medical insurance under present "cobra" insurance guidelines. The \$15,809.00 annual amount will be paid to you, no matter the cost(s) of this "outside" insurance. Any additional insurance costs over and above this stated amount, is your responsibility.
- g. Review with you annually the adequacy of this compensation.
- h. Grant you an annual vacation of 4 weeks.
- i. Pay expenses for Meetings at Presbytery and Synod.

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.

In the event of total disability, as defined by the insurance program in effect at the time of total disability, we promise:

- a. X , To continue the provisions of this call for a period not to exceed (3) Three months from the onset of total disability.

- b. N/A other (attach).
- In the event you should die during the terms of this call, we promise:
- X to continue the provisions of this call during dealing with annual salary, housing, and medical insurance for a period of (3) Three months.
 - N/A Other (attach).

In testimony whereof we have respectively subscribed our names this 27th day of January, 2013 A.D.

ALL OFFICIAL CALLS TO A CONGREGATION MUST BE SIGNED BY: Elders, Deacons and Congregation Members.

Signatures:

1.

Scott Pitman
Clerk of Session, Scott Pitman

Dale McDaniel
Elder Dale McDaniel

Keith Wilder
Elder Keith Wilder

Benny H. Billingsley
Elder Benny H. Billingsley

Robert Mitchell
Elder Robert Mitchell

2.

Finley Glenn
Deacon Finley Glenn

Garvin Robbittus
Deacon Garvin Robbittus

Mike Thompson
Deacon Mike Thompson

John Rountree
Deacon John Rountree

Billy Wayne Stroud
Deacon Billy Wayne Stroud

3. Member (fill in attached signature form)

CALL FOR A PASTOR

congregation. On the acceptance of this call we promise you in the discharge of your duty, proper support, encouragement, and obedience to the Lord.

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

1. Pay into the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Retirement Plan Fund as prescribed by the General Synod. (8.5% of total pay - \$3451)
2. Grant you an annual vacation of 4 (four) weeks.
3. Continue the provisions of this call for a period not to exceed 3 (three) months from the onset of total disability.
4. In the event of your death during the term of this call, to continue the provisions of the call for at least 3 (three) months.

Appendix H

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Spring 2013 Meeting

Tuesday, March 5, 2013

10:00 am

Members Present: Dan Hazen, Chairman, Randy Galloway (substitute), Charles Browning, Matthew Heathman (substitute), Michael Stratwell (elder substitute) and David Stormont.

Meeting Opened with Prayer by Dan Hazen, chairman.

#1 Report was made of the Summer Camp Planning Session held February 14 - 15, 2013. Counselors met and chose the theme "Who is Your Hero?" using 2 lessons on each of the four Gospels. Each teacher will take one gospel, and show Christ as Savior in that Gospel. CRS is not increasing their rates this year, so we should not need to increase our registration fees. Fees will remain \$250 per camper. MVP Camp will be held July 15 - 20, 2013. Speakers will be Matthew Heathman, Alex Coblenz and Scott Fletcher thus far. The Committee approved a change in the MVP Camp Registration Form, deleting the requirement of a Notary Public certification, requiring only a "Witness" signature by the Pastor, an Elder or a Deacon of the sponsoring church.

M/S/P to approve payment of required deposit to CRS to secure our reservation for the week of July 15 - 20, 2013.

#2 The committee discussed utilizing a video technician Mr. J. C. Rozier of Georgian to come to camp to film for the week and produce promotional DVDs for \$1500 plus travel expenses. The reason for the venture is to expand our current reach at MVP Camp. We have the potential to grow up to 50% at CRS. Dan has contacted the Communications Department of MSU in hopes of finding a film student who can do similar work for less money but has not received any responses yet. John Tucker and David Stormont knew potential contacts as well.

M/S/P to approve, conditionally, hiring Mr. Rozier to produce a promotional video of MVP Camp 2013. We propose a 30 day period to find another quality film producer who might donate their time or do the work for less money.

#3 The Committee has contacted CEM for a Family Building Conference in the Summer 2013 (September 15, location yet to be determined). Tentatively, the speaker will be a Professor from RTS who works with Great Commission Publications, whose services will be covered by GCP of the PCA.

#4 The Committee reported on the Officers Training Workshop & Women's Conference held January 13, 2013 at French Camp Presbyterian Church. Due to poor attendance (20 men and 10 women) there was a loss of \$800. CEM will run the conference in 2014. Dr. Derek Thomas has joined the staff and will be speaking.

#5 M/S/P to approve the budget as presented (see additional funding).

MSP to adjourn.

Meeting closed w/ prayer by Rev. Matthew Heathman.

Christian Education Budget

2012 Officer Training Seminar

CEM Administration: \$1000.00
Net: -\$1000.00

2012 Summer Camp:

Spring Planning Retreat: \$387.84
Camp of the Rising Son: 18795 + 2025 deposit: 20820.00
Southern Tees: 838.09
Spent: 22,045.93
Receipts: 22,364.39
Net: +318.46

2012 Disciplemaker's Conference

CEM: \$500.00
Net: \$500.00

2012 Fall Youth Retreat

CORS Feast: \$2,500.00 + \$236 deposit: \$2586.11
Food (Hopewell): 263.17
Speaker travel: \$331.93
Spent: 2974.50
Receipts: 1520.00
Net: -1454.50

2013 Officer Training & Women's Conference:

Speaker fees: \$1000.00
Speaker travel: \$100.00
Food: \$213.51
Spent: \$1313.51
Receipts: \$500.00
Net: -\$813.51

2012 expenditures: 26062.53

2012 Receipts (not counting \$5000 from Presbytery): 23884.39

2012 Net: -2177.74

2013 Expenditures to date: \$1650.26

2013 Receipts to date: \$500.00

2013 Net to date: -\$1150.26

Current Balance: 687.44

Presbytery gives CE \$5000 per year, as needed, to operate its events (last \$5000 deposit was 4/2012)

Appendix I

Mississippi Valley Presbytery ONA committee meeting January 28, 2013

Those present via Skype: Don Watkins, Meredith Cavin, Mike Yarman, Charles Bunner, David Strock, Larry Littlejohn, and Marshall Snodgrass

Marshall opened the meeting with the reading of the Nehemiah 1:1-2:1 and a short devotion from those verses. This was followed with prayer by Marshall.

The first topic discussed was the situation of Wood Avenue and Hickory Spring churches. Larry and Mike had visited these churches on January 13, 2013 for their congregational meeting. They both reported on their thoughts and findings. Questions from the committee members were entertained and it was agreed to table this discussion to allow further time for prayer and thought. These churches will be on the agenda for the spring 2013 MVP meeting.

The second topic of discussion was the request from the Hernando ARP session for funding in the amount of \$20000. One of the concerns expressed was that this was only a one year request and several voiced concern that more than one year would be needed for measureable results. The church statistics provided by elder Rice were reviewed. After different concerns and ideas were discussed a motion was made by Meredith to provide funding to Hernando at a rate of \$10,000 per year for a two year period and have Hernando provide additional funding from the increase in their net worth that occurred in the year 2012. This motion was seconded by Charles Bunner. A vote was taken and it passed unanimously.

The third topic of discussion was the church plant potential in Madison, MS. Mike Yarman and Meredith gave reports of their discussion with the two professors with whom they had spoken. Dr. Miles Van Pelt and ? will meet with the ONA committee on Monday at the 3 pm meeting which is the first day of Presbytery. It was pointed out they have 7 core families which bring about 25 people to worship. The worship services, which meet Saturday evenings, have had as many as 41 attending. It was brought out by both Meredith and Mike that the leaders of this church plant effort are encouraged that the ARP and in particular the MVP is interested in having them as a part of the presbytery.

The fourth topic of discussion was the Ken Priddy church revitalization presentation to be held April 6, 2013 at Graceview Presbyterian Church in Southaven, MS. Don pointed out the need to get a count so we would know how much food is needed and how many books Ken Priddy will need to bring. We discussed the possibility of doing a live feed from the seminar so that those who are not able to come could meet at their home church as a group of leaders and observe the presentation. Don brought up and the other members acknowledged receipt of a statement that describes the seminar which would be attached to the notice of the presentation. Don will send all the information to Tim Phillips so it can be sent to the rest of the Presbytery.

The committee discussed further use of "gotomeeting" for voice conferences. Marshall agreed to call ARP headquarters and speak with Leland (?) to learn how we can set this up without a cost.

Appendix I

The use of websites to help rebuild our churches and to encourage reaching out by our churches was discussed. Charles mentioned that the ONA Board had criteria by which a church can evaluate its website. Marshall reported on some statistics he had gathered by reviewing MVP websites. It was agreed that the ONA committee would present the information to the Presbytery. Marshall mentioned that Benjamin Glaser, (Pastor at Ellisville) who had used a free website builder from Google and used an inexpensive host server to launch a website in Ellisville was willing to give a short presentation and answer questions on how to get started to any that are interested.

The committee set two meetings for the Spring MVP Presbytery meeting. One was set for Monday at 3 pm and the other at the allotted time on Tuesday morning of Presbytery.

Don volunteered to do devotions and prayer at the beginning of the Monday meeting and Charles Bunner volunteered to close the meeting with prayer. Meredith volunteered to open Tuesday's meeting with devotions and prayer and David Strock agreed to close the meeting with prayer.

A motion to adjourn was made by Meredith and seconded by Mike.

Don closed the meeting with prayer.

Appendix I

ONA Committee Meeting March 4, 2013

Rev. Meredith Cavin opened the meeting with prayer and then and a devotion from Psalm 51.

1. An interview was held with Miles Van Pelt and Ben Gladd from Grace Reformed Church a church plant near Jackson, MS. They expressed their reasons for being interested in the ARP. The discussion centered on questions and answers with regard to their expectations. It was their intent to take the information they had garnered at the meeting with ONA back to their church leadership committee and if the decision to apply for affiliation with the MVP was made, they will fill out the information required in Appendix H and send it to Marshall Snodgrass. The committee will wait for further contact from Miles Van Pelt.
2. The committee next discussed issues affecting Wood Avenue and Hickory Spring. A motion was made by David Strock as follows, "Be it so moved that presbytery would remove the ONA committee as the provisional session and appoint two ruling elders to act as the session and have Mike Garvey act as the moderator. This provisional session would serve both churches." This motion was seconded by Meredith. Discussion followed and a vote was taken. The motion passed. It should be noted that the reason for this motion is based on the fact that the ONA committee consists of 3 pastors and that goes against the definition of a session based on what is written in the book of church order. It was noted that the ONA committee is still responsible for church revitalization and will need to work closely with the new provisional session. Rev. Mike Garvey and Wilmot Greene joined the meeting and answered questions regarding the two churches. Wilmot Greene agreed to serve as an elder for the two churches. Mike Yarman spoke with Larry Littlejohn and he agreed that French Camp would provide an elder for Wood Avenue and Hickory Spring and the elder from French Camp would serve a period from Stated Presbytery meeting until Stated Presbytery meeting. Meredith made a motion that the elder from French Camp would be compensated by the MVP for mileage. The motion was seconded by Mike Yarman. A vote was taken and the motion passed.

The meeting was recessed and closed with prayer by Charles Bunner.

ONA Committee Meeting March 5, 2013

Opening prayer was by Mike Yarman

1. The ONA committee reviewed the motion to fund Hernanado that was made in January and agreed to let it stand as it was made.
2. The ONA committee reviewed the website evaluation and agreed that it should be presented to the Presbytery as a whole.

Appendix I

3. The ONA committee reviewed the upcoming meeting for church revitalization with Ken Priddy. It was agreed that this again should be brought up on the floor of the Presbytery to support what Rev. John Tucker brought up at the business meeting on Monday night.
4. Discussion was again opened on Wood Avenue and Hickory Springs. The following proposal was suggested.
 - a. The two churches combine for the interim until a stronger church could replant the second church. Based on the financial reports given by both churches and taking into account a large sum of money will be needed for repair on Wood Avenue, that by combining the two churches they would have both the reserves and the offerings to support a pastor for up to three years.
 - i. A one year intern who is capable of long distance learning would be brought in to the two churches and he would be mentored for the 12 month period by Rev Mike Garvey who has agreed to do this. The intern would eventually be ordained and then he would take over the ministry of the church.
 - b. The goal at the end of three years is to have grown the church enough so that a replant could occur at the home of the second church. During the time that the churches were meeting together the second church could be rented out and the income used to cover expenses of the intern or pastor.
 - i. A second option would be to bring in a pastor who is already out of school and has been a pastor for a few years and has a desire and a heart for church planting and church revitalization. Rev. Mike Garvey has agreed to mentor this individual for a period of at least 3 months, and then fill in as he is needed. The pulpit would eventually be turned over to the new pastor who would need to complete ordination in the MVP before taking over as the pastor. This pastor would be supported from the reserves of money between the two churches.
 - c. The committee is in agreement that for the two churches to continue as they are will result in the demise of both churches. This is based in the observation that for both churches to continue doing what they are doing and expecting a different result will not produce any fruit. It simply is not working for them at this time and based on Sessional records does not appear to have changed in the last 5 years.
5. The ONA committee discussed the opportunity that has presented itself regarding a pastor who is interested in church planting and church revitalization. He had this desire coming out of school but providence has had him as pastor of an organized church of 130-140 people for the past three+ years. He is looking for the opportunity to do more outreach. He is interested in this serving in the ARP.

The closing prayer was by David Strock.

Respectfully submitted

Marshall Snodgrass,

Acting Clerk of the ONA committee

Recommendations:

1. The ONA committee be removed from acting provisional session.
2. Two elders would be appointed to act as a provisional session. Wilmot Greene agreed to serve as one of the elders. The second will come from French Camp.
3. That \$10,000 per year for 2 years be given as salary supplement to Hernando ARP.

Distinctive Characteristics of Incline, Recline & Decline

In considering Incline, Recline and Decline, it's helpful to note certain distinctive characteristics of each orientation:

Orientation

Inclining churches are Future-Oriented. Inclining leaders are always looking ahead, making decisions today based on their implications for tomorrow. Leaders of Inclining churches would never trade what is best for the future for what seems best for the present. There is a sense of destination and all energy, resources and focus are fixed on reaching that destination.

Reclining churches are Present-Oriented. Reclining churches are always looking at the present. Reclining churches are always looking at the present, trying to make the present as good as possible. Reclining churches are always looking at the present, trying to make the present as good as possible. Reclining churches are always looking at the present, trying to make the present as good as possible.

Declining churches are Past-Oriented. Declining churches are always looking back at the past. Declining churches are always looking back at the past, trying to make the past as good as possible. Declining churches are always looking back at the past, trying to make the past as good as possible. Declining churches are always looking back at the past, trying to make the past as good as possible.

Drive Inclining churches are Vision-Driven. Inclining leaders have discerned God's vision for their churches and are fully committed to that vision. All decisions are made in light of and for the benefit of the vision. The programming is the point of reference from which everything else flows.

Declining churches are Structure-Driven. Declining churches are living in a church world that is devoid of vision and devoid of effective programming. In light of this, declining churches are living in a church world that is devoid of vision and devoid of effective programming. In light of this, declining churches are living in a church world that is devoid of vision and devoid of effective programming.

Focus Inclining churches are Vision-Driven. Inclining leaders have discerned God's vision for their churches and are fully committed to that vision. All decisions are made in light of and for the benefit of the vision. The programming is the point of reference from which everything else flows.

Appendix I

Inclining churches are **Community-Focused**. Inclining leaders give priority to the group of people that is living in the community, as yet unreached by the church. These community residents are the objects to key Scripture passages such as the Great Commandment and the Great Commission. Who are the neighbors in the Great Commandment to love your neighbor as yourself? They are the people of the community. When the Great Commission commands us to go and make disciples, to whom are we to take the gospel? We are to take the gospel to the people of the community.

Reclining churches are **Congregation-Focused**. Reclining leaders give priority to the group of people that is inside the church, those already reached. Surely, a healthy church will focus on both community and congregation, but the natural inclination for leaders is to focus on the congregation at the expense of the community. Inreach has its own voice, but outreach needs an advocate. Otherwise the focus will be so heavily weighted toward the congregation that the community will be ignored. The church that fails to reach its community ultimately finds itself on the backside of the lifecycle.

Declining churches are **Core-Focused**. Declining leaders focus on a remnant of the declining church whose influence becomes stronger as the church grows smaller. Key influencers in this core often prove to be barriers to growth as they remain entrenched in their authority and hold the congregation hostage by means of that authority and influence. One key element that is leveraged in this way is money. Often the influencers in the core give significant percentages of the church's budget. Officers in the core believe that the church couldn't sustain without that income, so they acquiesce to the influencers' demands.

Finances

Inclining churches approach money like an **Investor**. Inclining leaders regard the finding that God has provided as money intended to produce the fruit of ministry, so they invest that money in ministry with the expectation that ministry fruit will result, thirty fold, sixty fold, a hundred fold.

Reclining churches approach money as a **Provider**. Reclining leaders are driven by the church's programming and see money as the financial provision to keep those programs running. The focus is on hosting program activities rather than on the fruit of ministry that might be produced.

Declining churches approach money as a **Preserver**. Declining leaders see the church's money as the financial means of the church's survival. The focus is on stretching the church's ability to stay alive as long as possible in the hope that God might unexpectedly move at some point to create more viable ministry that recaptures the past.

Leadership

Inclining churches are always seeking the development of New Leadership. Inclining leaders understand that for the church to continue to grow there is always the need for new leaders to move into existing and newly created ministries. This commitment to new leadership is reflected in aggressive disciplining toward leadership and the willingness to release leaders who are not growing or are not growing in the right direction.

Inclining churches are led by Established Leadership. A church's growth is coming, capacity and returning off, the leadership positions have been recruited and filled, leaving little room for the emergence of new leadership. Those who come into such a ministry with leadership giftedness and potential are unable to realize that giftedness and potential, so their growth is stunted or they migrate elsewhere to apply their leadership calling.

Declining churches are led by Incumbent Leadership. Declining leaders have often been in place for long stretches of time, perhaps even serving for decades in the same leadership position. Routine prevails as the same kinds of decisions are made the same way based on the same criteria with little change or progress being seen. The prevailing attitude is to do things the way we always have in the hope of a better future. As a result, the church is declining.

Growth

Inclining churches grow by Conversion. A significant percentage of growth can be attributed to people's coming to Christ and making professions of faith. Inclining leaders commit to the regular presentation of the good news of the Gospel and strategically provide opportunities for people to voice those professions.

Declining churches grow by Transfer. The declining church is preoccupied with the loss of members and is struggling to keep the church from losing more members. It is apparent to the declining church that the church is growing but the church is not growing. The declining church is always declining, declining leaders claim that they are losing church growth and miss the fact that significant conversion is not taking place. The church grows by transfer, but the kingdom of God does not grow when already-Christian people church hop.

Declining churches by definition experience No Growth, or perhaps negative growth. With no significant growth, the church is declining. The church is declining because it is not growing. The church is declining because it is not growing. The church is declining because it is not growing.

INCLINE	RECLINE	DECLINE
Future-Oriented	Present-Oriented	Past-Oriented
Vision-Driven	Program-Driven	Structure-Driven
Community-Focused	Congregation-Focused	Core-Focused
S = Investor	S = Provider	S = Preserver
New Leadership	Established Leadership	Incumbent Leadership
Conversion Growth	Transfer Growth	No Growth

Figure 7

Church Website Scorecard

Recent studies confirm that more than 70% of people looking for a church use the Web as part of their initial search. With that in mind, ONA has created this tool to help both new churches and established churches develop effective outreach minded Websites. Evaluate your Website in the 6 areas below, total your score, then compare with the scale provided.*

Note: The "Best Practices" Websites were chosen for the Website itself and not necessarily the theology or doctrine of the concerned site

.....	score
<p>1) Clean & simple: Keep in mind that the average new viewer of a church Website spends only 5 to 10 seconds on a given page (Emily Smith, user experience specialist). Does your Website make information easy to obtain within 10 seconds so that the visitor will choose to stay on your site? "Today people flip through Websites like they flip through TV channels" (Mark Avera, account executive at a global communications agency).</p> <p>Things to avoid:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • So many options for someone to click on that they choose to click off your page • Hard to read text/background combinations • So many distractions on your page that you confuse readers rather than giving them information about your church <p>Best Practices (churches who are doing this aspect well):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • citychurchsf.org • columbiacrossroads.org • bhbconline.org <p>Scale: 0-10 (0 is worst, 10 best)</p>	
<p>2) Focus on newcomers: Can people with no association with your church (maybe no connection to any church) easily find information they are seeking? Although a church Website is for the member as well as the newcomer, a new visitor will be less motivated to spend extra time on your site. You need to focus on the newcomer's ease of use. You should not only give a clear "Welcome," but also make it easy for the viewers to get the information they seek. Help them understand what to expect at your worship service.</p> <p>Things to avoid:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asking people to "fill out this form and we'll contact you." Most Website visitors don't want to do this • Using too much insider language that is hard for un-churched people to understand • Failing to consider what an un-churched person wants to know about your church <p>Best Practices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • midtowncolumbia.com • journeyon.net • ilovethischurch.com <p>Scale: 0 to 10</p>	
<p>3) Well-focused text enhanced by pictures and videos:</p> <p>"Text is very much still the bread and butter of online communication, but pictures and videos make it more digestible and easier to understand. Relevant images increase engagement with written content. Keep text concise, relevant and full of good content" (Emily Smith, user experience specialist). Consider enhancing text with images such as a short video testimony showing your church's gospel impact.</p> <p>Things to avoid:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Text overload creating a cluttered experience, or grouping text into traditional paragraph blocks. (Instead, break up text into short, bite-sized paragraphs) • Too many pictures or disconnected images leading to a messy design, or images without meaning to a visitor (captions or subtitles can help explain images) • Large image file sizes or an overabundance of images that slow load times <p>Best Practices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • summitrdu.com • fpcdallas.org • firstarp.org <p>Scale: 0 to 10</p>	

<p>4) Content: Once viewers have decided to give your church Website more than a 5 to 10 second glance, the content you convey is crucial. Does your Website convey the core beliefs of your church? Does it hold up Jesus Christ as the foundation and authority of your church? And, as mentioned before, is the language in your website understandable to people who have not attended church for years? It is good to have church-specific content such as sermons, a pastor's blog, or exclusive resources for visitors to your site.</p> <p>Things to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does a Christian family new to your community want to know about a church? • Many people want to listen to a sermon online <i>before</i> deciding to visit. <p>Best Practices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • citychurchsf.org • hopechapelgreensboro.org <p style="text-align: right;">Scale: 0 to 10</p>	
<p>5) Social: It may be time to consider using social media in addition to your Website. "Almost 72% of U.S. internet users are now on Facebook" (2011 statistic reported on thinkmarketing.org). Having social media sites associated with your church can be beneficial <i>only if</i> your church has the capacity to develop a <i>clear game plan</i> for social media and a <i>designated person</i> to update it.</p> <p>Things to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who is your target audience on social media, and where are they already spending time? • What type of content is your audience likely to consume and share on social media, and what resources are required to create it and keep it up to date? <p>Best Practices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fbccola.com • antiochraleigh.org • riversidearp.org <p style="text-align: right;">Scale: 0 to 5</p>	
<p>6) Mobile: Statistics on how often people use their mobile devices to conduct internet searches are staggering. Having a Website that is designed to be easily viewed on a mobile device is vital. Also, flash does not work on mobile devices, so keep this in mind with your videos and pictures. This is going to become more and more important as technology continues to move toward smaller devices.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Scale: 0 or 1</p>	
<p style="text-align: right;">Total</p>	

Scoring

0 ————— 15 ————— 29 ————— 37 ————— 46

terrible serious deficiency average significant strength excellent

Interpreting your score

0-28 you should give serious attention to your Website

29 your Website is just average

30-46 your Website is above average

Committee on Sessional Records

Attendance: Chairman, Rev Zerh Schepout, Rev Ben Glasser, Elders, Kerry Regen, Carl Patterson, Milton Murphy

Min. With exceptions

Fernando, Greentree Wood Ave, and Faith

Min without exceptions

Sharon, New Albany, Gospel of Grace, Salem, Covington, Gantree, Portaville (Fall) Havana (Fall), and Midland Park

No Min

Hickory Springs, and Helena

Let us open with prayer.

Fathers and Brothers of the Mississippi Valley Presbytery,

I have asked to stand before you to present a call to diligence which in the long term will help safe guard the future uniqueness of our beloved denomination. It saddens me to be standing here for two reasons. First, It would be my desire that what I am going to say was unnecessary and secondly that to be pointing out this issue is going to, at least from some, bring criticism such as “Who does he think he is?” I stand here humbly, not as one who declares himself superior in any way, but as one who speaks, and echoes what Paul wrote when in 2 Cor 12:11 he declared “even though I am a nobody.”

I want to open by reading from 1 Cor 1:20-24

²⁰ Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?²¹ For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not *come to* know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.²² For indeed Jews ask for signs and Greeks search for wisdom;²³ but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness,²⁴ but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.²⁵ Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

We are at a time where change is affecting the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. According to what I was told, the first report at the 2007 Synod was an alert to the fact that many of our ARP pastors are preaching sermons that would be more qualified as “moralism” rather than focus on Christ. Our moderator of 2011-2012 presented challenging statistics which should sober each one of us. We are a dying ember that was once on fire for our Lord and Savior. It is very possible we are like the church in Ephesus where in Rev2:4 it states “But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first.” This church was still keeping the truth, but Matthew Henry points out, “The sin Christ charged this church with is not having left and forsaken the object of the love, but having lost the fervent degree of it that at first appeared.” Oh, yes, there are a few bright sparks here and there, but they are few and far between. Fortunately, we are recognizing this is happening. There is still time to fan the coals, add a few twigs, and then bigger logs to again see the blazing fire of a group of believers doing what they have been called to do by the Word of God.

Our Presbytery is decreasing in numbers. We must confess that this is happening during our times of active preaching and shepherding our congregations. We are wise in that we do not want to look at ways that water down the Gospel message we are presenting in our churches each week. We do not want to go the way of the broader Evangelical churches with their liberal theology and their even more liberal liturgy. To do so would lend itself to turning our

back on our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. When people ask “What is the ARP” we can answer with pride, “We are among the last of the Gospel preaching, conservative Presbyterians!”

Around 1930 A W Pink wrote, “Comparatively few of those who occasionally read the Bible are aware of the awe-inspiring and worship provoking grandeur of the divine character. That God is great in wisdom, wondrous in power, yet full of mercy, is assumed by many to be common knowledge, but to entertain anything approaching an adequate conception of His being, His nature, His attributes, as those revealed in the Holy Scripture, is something which very, very few people in these degenerate times have attained unto. “

And

“How vastly different is the God of Scripture, from the “god” of the average pulpit!

Think about that statement from 82 years ago. What do you think Pink would say about the average pulpit today? In too many pulpits Christ is missing every Sunday. I wonder to myself, “Do saved Christians need the Gospel. I have been a believer from my youth. I am now 60. Why do I sit in the pews?” As of yet, I haven’t quit sinning, I still need encouragement, and I want to know that my repenting of the sin is being heard. I want to hear the good news. Yes, even confessing Christians need to hear the Gospel of Christ.

It was Donald Grey Barnhouse who described what a city under Satan’s control might look like:

“If Satan took control of Philadelphia, all of the bars would be closed, pornography banished, and pristine streets would be filled with tidy pedestrians who smiled at each other. There would be no swearing. The children would say, “Yes, sir” and “No, ma’am,” and the churches would be full every Sunday . . . *where Christ is not preached.*”

Does such a city describe our cities? More pointedly: does this describe our churches? Have our churches become mere hollow, Christ-less institutions filled with pastors and people going through the religious motions of empty, moralistic worship on a weekly basis? If this describes our churches, places absent of Christ, then we have great need of repentance and change.

We should ask ourselves questions such as, “How often is the Gospel message preached today?” Are pastors still preaching as Paul directed, “And we preach Christ crucified. Is this happening in your church? Sadly too many ministers will say yes without even thinking about it. The elders support what is happening because the message will be Scriptural and the message will have a good life lesson, but they do not recognize the loss of the good news of the Gospel of Christ.

One of the purposes of the ONA committee both on the Synod level and on the Presbytery level is to help with revitalization of our churches. We have too many of our churches that are dwindling. We can look at our circumstances and see demographic changes and blame demographic changes for the changes in our church. We can look at our neighboring churches and deduce that they have more resources and can offer great

entertainment and blame the lack of new faces to hear the Gospel on those attractions. We can see seeker friendly churches reaching out and point a finger at them for the way they are going about reaching the lost. And at this point, I ask myself, "Does that help us to be pointing fingers?" I actually hope that we will look at ourselves and ask, "How can we compete with them?" This is a wake-up call. D. L. Moody was quoted as saying after someone criticized his approach to evangelizing with the following, "I don't like it either, but I like my way of doing it better than your way of not doing it." Perhaps if we ask ourselves what we need to do different we will realize what we have that they do not offer. We have our own special offering to those elected to hear. It is called the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Some of us may pat ourselves on the back and say 'yes, yes' that happens in my church. But Fathers and Brothers, I challenge you to pick up a tape of your message and listen. The great sermons that the ARPC was founded on are going by the wayside.

In my short time of being in the ARP, I have heard 14 sermons preached at Synod and Presbytery and listened to several more on tape. To date, of the 20 sermons, I have only heard the good news of Christ crucified, standing in my place condemned, 6 times. Some have *come close* to preaching the gospel, and some have preached *about* the gospel, but only 6 have actually preached the gospel itself. If the lost do not hear the good news then how will they ever believe in Jesus Christ? God uses the ordinary means of the gospel preached to save people; are we providing the good news? Are we preaching the gospel?

I ask myself why am I not hearing Christ preached. Where is the good news to encourage me and to encourage my brothers sitting next to me? Perhaps it is because many of these sermons were being "preached to the choir". They were presented at Presbytery and at Synod and maybe the Fathers and Brothers of these meetings don't need encouragement and good news. To this line of thinking I would ask, "When do those who week in and week out present the Word of God to the congregations of the ARP not need to hear the words themselves? You know these words, "God had a plan before the foundation of the world. His plan presented a method by which we who are born sinners destined to a judgment that would rightfully result in our being cast into hell, might find salvation in the work of His only begotten son Jesus Christ." Do we not need to hear that all was completed on the cursed cross. That were it not for Jesus' sacrifice on the cross we would be suffering for our sin against the Holy God who is King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Our Savior Jesus stood in our place, was nailed to the cross, suffered the humiliation that is rightfully ours, suffered the wrath of a Holy God which we are in no way prepared to withstand and then He died on that cross in our place and was buried. On the third day He arose to eternity; declaring that all who call on His name will be saved. He paid it all on our behalf. We have hope now. God has justified us, forgiving all our sins and counting us perfect, blameless, and without spot! God is also sanctifying us in this life, and will eventually perfect our sanctification, giving us sinless bodies and bringing us into the New Heavens and New earth where there will be no more sin! God is now our Father; we are His children! This is good news, but it came at the expense of Christ: this we must never forget and endlessly proclaim! Declaring

the benefits of redemption is necessary; but we must never declare the benefits without declaring the cost of those same benefits, the cost of Christ crucified, the cost of Jesus humiliated and mocked and scorned and condemned in our place!

Yet, some of our pastors do not realize the need for this important message, not only to the Synod and to the Presbytery, but even to their own congregations. We must change that. There are many in the world today who are not yet saved. There may even be some in our own congregations who have come to church for years but yet do not know the Christ who gave His life for them. There are also many believers who do not have a church home but who would make your church their home if only they heard the good news every week! We can dare to be different by evaluating how the gospel message is preached to those who hear. We can encourage ourselves by stepping up and telling the good news to everyone listening. Ear-tickling sermons can be found everywhere, but what men and women in our towns and cities must come to know is that if they want to hear the good news of Jesus Christ preached every week, our churches are a place they can hear it!

Thomas Murphy wrote in his book *Pastoral Theology* the following, “The one great theme which the preacher must ever bring out from the word of God and present in the diversified forms it receives from all scriptural truth is Christ and him crucified.” As Vinet has most aptly expressed it, “In every sermon we must either start from Christ or come to him.” We have the training and we have the history of preaching Christ every single time a message is given. But even today, even to our pastors, preaching Christ crucified will be a stumbling block to some and foolishness to others. Let it be said from this day forward that the Pastor’s of the Mississippi Valley Presbytery preach Christ and Him crucified to all who hear, declaring to men the price God paid in His son to redeem fallen sinners from hell, and declaring what those fallen sinners must do to receive such a wonderful gift!

Let us pray

HOST CHURCHES OF STATED MEETINGS OF MISSISSIPPI VALLEY PRESBYTERY

- 1991** – Graceview, Salem
- 1992** – Ebenezer, Midlane Park
- 1993** – Brighton, Parkway Place
- 1994** – Graceview, Covington
- 1995** – Pottsville, New Albany
- 1996** – St. Paul, Graceview
- 1997** – Brighton, Salem
- 1998** – Providence Reformed, Elsberry/Mt. Zion
- 1999** – Hopewell, Covington
- 2000** – New Albany, Graceview
- 2001** – Hopewell, Parkway Place
- 2002** – Pottsville, Richland
- 2003** – Providence Reformed, Covington
- 2004** – Salem, Brighton
- 2005** – New Albany, Graceview
- 2006** – Hopewell, Helena
- 2007** – Ebenezer, Dunlap/Sharon
- 2008** – Pottsville, Richland
- 2009** – Midlane Park, Mt. Zion
- 2010** – Gum Tree (*no Spring meeting in 2010*)
- 2011** – Hopewell, Providence Reformed
- 2012** – French Camp, Brighton
- 2013** – Graceview, New Albany
- 2014** – Ellisville

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(Fall 2013)
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(December 2013)
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STANDING COMMITTEES OF MISSISSIPPI VALLEY PRESBYTERY

Christian Education Ministries

Rev. Dan Hazen, Chairman (2014)
 Mr. Steve Rice (2014)
 Rev. Alex Coblenz (2015)
 Mr. John Moore (2015)
 Rev. David Storment (2016)
 Mr. Larry Treadaway (2016)
 Presbyterian Youth Chair – *Ex Officio*

Minister and His Work

Rev. Charles Todd, Chairman (2015)
 Mr. Kerry Regen (2014)
 Rev. John Tucker (2014)
 Mr. Richard Moore (2015)
 Mr. Steve McCollum (2016)
 Rev. Zech Schiebout (2016)
 Rev. Benjamin Glaser (2017)
 Mr. John Robinson (2017)

Nominations

Rev. Howard Wheeler, Chairman (2014)
 Rev. Gary Jones (2015)
 Mr. Mike Thomason (2016)
 Mr. Carl Patterson (2017)

Outreach North America

Mr. Marshall Snodgrass, Chairman (2015)
 Rev. Meredith Cavin, Chairman (2014)
 Rev. Don Watkins (2014)
 Mr. David Strock (2015)
 Mr. Charles Bunner (2016)
 Rev. Mike Yarman (2016)
 Pres. Witness/Outreach Chair – *Ex Officio*

Stewardship

Mrs. Martha Dees, Chair (2015)
 Rev. Dan Hazen (2014)
 Mr. Marshall Snodgrass (2015)
 Rev. Charles Todd (2015)
 Mr. Gene Tate – *Ex Officio*
 Pres. Spiritual Life Chair – *Ex Officio*

Educational Fund Board of Trustees

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 Mr. Randy Goulder
 Mr. Danny Hughes
 Mr. Russell McDaniel
 Mr. Jimmy Ramage

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 Mr. Charles Browning
 Mr. John Moffatt

Dunlap Board of Trustees

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 Matthew Heathman (2014)
 Rev. Meredith Cavin (2014)
 Ms. Carolyn Strickland (2015)
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 Mr. Joe Yerby (2015)
 Mr. Milton Murphy (2015)
 Ms. Lisa Simpson (2015)
 Mr. Don Tabb (2016)
 Mr. Robert Simpson (2016)
 Mr. Terry Griffith (2016)
 Ms. Barbara McFarland (2016)

Synod Board & Agency Representatives

Christian Ed.: Rev. Dan Hazen (2014)
 Dunlap: Rev. Bill Everett (2019)
 Exec. Board: Mr. Carl Patterson (2017)
 MaHW: Rev. Charles Todd (2015)
 Nom.: Rev. Howard Wheeler (2014)
 ONA: Rev. Mike Yarman (2016)
 Stewardship: Mrs. Martha Dees (2015)

Students of Theology

None

Missionaries

Jodie Gaston

Honorably Retired Ministers

Rev. Thomas Braithwaite (retired chaplain)
Rev. Ron Brunson (retired missionary)
Rev. Conrad Cheatham
Rev. James Coad III
Rev. W. Nale Falls
Rev. Michael Garvey
Rev. Carl Geisik
Rev. Troy Pritt
Rev. David Searfoss
Rev. Wayne Stanchfield
Rev. Mike Yarman (retired chaplain)

Churches Served by Stated Supplies

Bethany: Dale Whitlock
Ebenezer: Dr. Al Herrington
Elsberry and Mt. Zion: Rev. Conrad Cheatham
Gum Tree: Charles Covington
Helena: Rev. Leslie Rhodes
Hickory Springs and Wood Avenue: Rev. Mike Garvey
Sharon: Rev. Charles Todd

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Schedule for Review of Minutes of Sessions

Spring Meeting

Covington

Faith

Gospel of Grace

Graceview

Gum Tree

Helena

Hernando

Hickory Springs

Midlane Park

New Albany

Salem

Sharon

Wood Avenue

Fall Meeting

Bethany

Brighton

Ebenezer

Ellisville

Elsberry

French Camp

Havana

Hopewell

Mt. Zion

New Geneva

Pottsville

Providence Reformed

Richland