

**Report of the Committee on Ministry
Presbytery of Transylvania
June 6, 2009**

The Committee on Ministry (COM) met on April 14th & May 12th. The COM makes the following report of Actions taken and Actions Recommended.

Actions taken by the COM:

1. Approved the BOP seminary debt assistance applications for Lynne Hardy and Doug Craven.
2. Approved the dissolution of the pastoral relationship between Tony Gilbert and First Presbyterian Church, Middlesboro effective 7/31/09.
3. Approved the dissolution of the PNC for the Community PC in Bellefonte.
4. Approved Fred Hood as supervisor for Emily Boyce, student pastor at United Ezel.
5. Approved extension of non-Presbyterian supply contract with Kerry Conlee and United Frenchburg through December 31, 2009.
6. Approved the interim contract with Victor L. Priebe and Pisgah Presbyterian Church, Versailles effective 5/1/09 – 4/30/10. Terms are as follows: Salary \$27,000, Social Security \$3,400, Travel \$1,200, Business/Professional expenses \$250, Housing \$20,000, Education \$1,500, Medical \$6,000, IRA \$4,800, Dental \$600.
7. Received Vic Priebe as a member of Presbytery from Mid Kentucky Presbytery effective 5/1/09.
8. Approved the part-time stated supply contract with Pete Jones and First Presbyterian Church, Lawrenceburg, effective 5/1/09-4/30/10. Terms are: 20-25 hours per week, Salary \$22,325, Social Security \$1,708, \$2,000 Pension, Travel \$1,000, CE \$1,000. It was noted that Richard Smith should supervise this situation since Pete is full-time presbytery staff at Burnamwood.
9. Approved the dissolution of the associate pastoral relationship with Darla Blatnik and Second Presbyterian Church. Darla has accepted a call to Westminster Church in Corsicana, Texas effective May 15, 2009 and dismissed her to Grace Presbytery.
10. Approved the formation of a Pastor Nominating Committee for an Associate Pastor at Second Presbyterian Church.
11. Approved the dissolution of the associate pastoral relationship with Lisa Eye Taylor and The Presbyterian Church of Danville, effective July 13, 2009.
12. Approved the changes in terms of call for Wayne Gnatuk and PCUSA. Terms are: Salary + Manse/Utilities Allowance \$56,165 effective 1/1/09.
13. Approved a Policy on Reference Checking for Pulpit Nominating Committees. (Appendix 1)
14. Approved the dissolution agreement between The Rev. Robert Hamilton and the Highland Presbyterian Church, Canada effective September 12, 2009.
15. Approved the request of the Cynthiana Church to elect a Pulpit Nominating Committee.

16. Approve the training of three elders to administer the sacrament of Holy Communion selected by Mike Ward, to be used as a last resort when it is not possible to secure an ordained minister, to preside at Normal Presbyterian Church.
17. Approved the request of the First Presbyterian Church, Lexington to elect a Pulpit Nominating Committee if and when the liaison and moderator agree to proceed.
18. Approved changes in the interim contract between Gary Huffman and First Presbyterian Church, Paris were approved. The terms are as follows:

Salary and Housing	\$43,320
Pension and Medical	14,275
Seca (1/2)	3,467
Vacation.....	Four weeks
Continuing Education.....	two weeks
Reimbursed auto expenses	\$275 per month, \$3090 per year

Recommendations for Presbytery Approval:

1. Recommend that the following moderators be appointed:
 - Bill Putman—First PC, Middlesboro
 - Jane Bond---Highland PC, Canada
 - Ron Reinhardt---First PC, Winchester

2. Recommend that in accordance with Book of Order, G.9.0503(4), the presbytery appoint a commission composed of seven members who shall be charged to visit the Greenbriar church, reported to be affected with disorder, and to inquire into and work to resolve the difficulties therein. The commission shall be considered a colleague in ministry with the church and shall specifically not be empowered to replace the Session by assuming original jurisdiction. It shall be the purpose of the commission to ascertain the severity of the problems besetting this church and to report to the Presbytery through the Committee on Ministry their findings and their recommendations for further action. Recommend the following members for the commission: Rusty Butler, Gary Huffman, Jackie Lindberg, Peggy Tudor, Rollin Tarter, Susanne Kazunas and _____.

3. Recommend approval of the interim contract between Jim Rucker, Jr. and First Presbyterian Church of Mt. Sterling, effective June 16, 2009 – June 15, 2010. Terms are: Salary \$39,000, Housing \$17,500, Mileage \$5,000 (flat rate), Social Security \$4,700, CE \$1,200, Optional death benefits \$180, Full Board of Pensions .

4. Recommend the elimination of the Associate Pastor position at The Presbyterian Church of Danville.

**COM POLICIES
REFERENCE CHECKING FOR PULPIT NOMINATING COMMITTEES**

As a PNC begins to narrow its search to the 3-10 candidates it wishes to engage in an interview, either by telephone or in person, the PNC chair will contact the General Presbyter to do Executive to Executive reference checks on those potential candidates. The General Presbyter will make those references check in a timely manner and report to the PNC chair the results. If a candidate is acceptable he or she will receive a green light and the GP may add comments about that candidate's skills, experience or gifts which might assist the PNC in their evaluation. If there are aspects in the GP reference checks that raise questions, the candidate may receive a yellow light. This should not eliminate a candidate for consideration but may raise questions or issues which the PNC ought to talk about with the candidate during an interview. The General Presbyter will share with the PNC the nature of any "yellow light" issues. If, in the reference check, the General Presbyter receives any information that might constitute a "red light," that will be communicated to the PNC chair, but the precise reason for that stop sign will likely be withheld for reasons of confidentiality. If a PNC persists in interviewing such a candidate, the General Presbyter shall communicate his/her concerns to the Committee on Ministry which has the authority to approve or disapprove any minister's membership in presbytery and call to any church. It is unlikely that a "red light" candidate would be approved.

Calling Individuals who are Candidates for Ordination. Candidates who are seeking their first call to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament pose a unique set of additional considerations. These women and men have been received by their home presbytery as candidates for ministry and certified by their Committee on Preparation for Ministry as ready to receive a call. They have completed all the steps for ordination with the exception of the actual receiving a call to a congregation, and, their final examination for ordination by the presbytery of call. If you are interested in interviewing a non-ordained candidate then it is very important to work with your COM liaison to contact the Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM) so that contact may be made with the candidate's CPM for an additional reference check and exchange of records to ensure that this candidate meets the requirements which Transylvania Presbytery has set for the ordination of candidates. We certainly encourage churches to consider first call pastors. These candidates typically bring a great enthusiasm for ministry. But the PNC needs to be aware of the additional steps in the process. If these steps are taken early in the initial interviews, it will help in avoiding last minute disappointments and/or delays in the process which the various committees and the presbytery prepare for interviews and examination.