

**Minutes of Meeting of Vestry of
St. Paul's Episcopal Church of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, Inc.**

Date of Meeting: April 19, 2022

Method of Meeting (i.e. virtual or in person): In Person

Vestry Members:

Vestry Member Name:	P = Present A= Absent
Bartsch, DeAnna	P
Burgess, Nick	P
Clayton, Don	P
Dieringer, Sharon	P
Felciano, Dan	P
Hay, Kristi	P
Kellerman, Allison	P
Kyriakoudes, Louis	P
Loucky, David	P
Miller, Brad	P
Owen, David	P
Sachs, Steve	P
Tolbert, Martha	P

Clergy Present:

Dr. Blaess

Rev. Whitnah

Thomas Becker

Staff Present:

Heather Studenberg

Others Present:

Jeanne Potter

Ted Goodman (clerk)

The Rev. Rick Stevenson

The Meeting was opened with a devotional by Kristi Hay

The Agenda was approved by acclamation. Motion to approve by Kristi Hay, seconded by Deanna Bartsch, unanimous.

Review of Minutes:

The minutes from February 15, 2022, were approved. Motion to approve by Brad Miller, seconded by Martha Tolbert, unanimous.

The minutes from March 15, 2022, were approved. Motion to approve by Don Clayton, seconded by Dan, unanimous.

Financial Report (Jeanne Potter):

We came out ahead of budget for the month. Our expenses were under budget and our income was ahead of budget. We ahead of budget (in the positive) by about \$16,000 year to date. For the first quarter we are about \$65,000 to the positive. Overall we are in great fiscal shape.

Motion to Approve Martha Tolbert, Second Brad Miller. Approved unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Finance and Administration Report (Martha Tolbert):

Nothing to add to the written report other than they are working on setting up a meeting with David Hall, CPA, to talk about unrelated business income to determine whether St. Paul's can save money on the income taxes on the Junior's building.

Stewardship Report (Nick Burgess):

Nothing to add this month.

Communications Report (DeAnna Bartsch):

The Epistle will move from four editions a year to three a year. The Spring edition should come out soon.

Arts, Design & Gifts Committee (Louis)

We are attempting to pay the Rood Cross artist, but, we are still waiting on him to return the W-9.

Worship and Music Report (Kristi Hay):

Nothing to add other than to thank the committee for their hard work to make Holy Week an extraordinary success.

Parish Life (Allison Kellerman)

Pentecost in the Park coming up. The welcome back supper will also be upcoming. The committee is looking at establishing some supper clubs and also hosting cooking classes. Alison is also considering getting the Youth Group and the Senior Citizens' Group together so that the youth can teach the seniors how to use technology and the senior citizens can share life wisdom.

Pastoral Care Report (Dan Felciano):

They have done several home visits with Eucharist and visiting some parishioners who have had surgeries.

Adult Discipleship Report (David Loucky):

David Rowe and Joyce Adkins are very excited that their Pilgrimage Graduates are taking on leadership and forming a new discipleship group. David said we should start asking as to whether we should start doing retreats.

Children's & Youth Discipleship Report (Sharon Dieringer):

Nothing to add to written report other than we had a great turnout for the Egg Hunt. We are seeing more children at Catechesis.

Outreach Report (Steve Sachs):

Nothing to add to written report.

Wardens' Reports

Jr. Wardens' Report (Brad Miller & David Owen):

Nothing to add to written report other than to get the parking lot re-striped and painted is \$1,157. It's the same company that did David Owen's office parking lot. Jeanne said that would fall under our budget that has already been approved by the Vestry so they can move forward with the striping of the parking lot and that no action by the vestry is necessary.

Sr. Warden's Report (Don Clayton)

Nothing to add.

Heather's Report

They plan to interview two people for the Sexton Position. The annual audit will start next week. New soap dispensers have been installed, so, that should make the soap supply more reliable and less labor intensive. The archives have been officially moved to the Wall building, so, that has opened up the Sewanee Room. The Church was recently gifted some nice office furniture including a cherry conference table which will be put in the Wise Room.

Clergy Report:

Associate Rector's (Rev. Whitnah):

We had four baptisms, three of whom were adults, at the Easter Vigil. We have four more baptisms in the pipeline. We had about 650 people on Easter. We had about 700 in 2019. So, that is wonderful. Parents' Group had a great St. Patrick's Day at the Poleskys.

Rector's Report (Dr. Blaess):

A grand thank you to everyone who worked to make the season of Lent and Easter. Kristine thanked many of the people that worked so hard to make the season a success. Kristine read the list below of the people she wished to thank:

Music and Choir, led by Angela Tipps
Acolytes and Verger – George Carlson
Altar Guild – Sue Koechlein and Martha Tolbert
Flower Guild – Sudi Luboniecki
Ushers – Sandy Gleaves
Readers and Eucharistic Ministers, Stations of the Cross – Richard and Carol Detmer
Baptism Shepherd – Jennifer Dickey
Bulletin production – Joe Cade
Soup Suppers – Organized by Allison Kellermann – thanks to the groups who sponsored weeks
Children's programming during soup suppers – Cindy Guevert, Cam Timmons, and our youth who led our children
Lenten Social media – Anna Stewart and Amanda O'Connor
Our incredible staff

Kristine said we have several people at St. Paul's who are discerning potential calls to the ministry in the Episcopal Church or the Anglican Communion. Kristine said Bishop John has given St. Paul's permission to put together a Congregational Discernment Committee along with Church of the Redeemer, Shelbyville. The purpose of the committee is to help discern whether Rick Stevenson has a call to the Episcopal Ministry to make a recommendation as to whether Rick should be nominated to the Dioceses. St. Paul's is acting as the sending church because Church of the Redeemer currently does not have a Rector, and thus cannot act as the sending church. So, St. Paul's has been asked by Bishop John to act in the role of sending church. Kristine asked Rick to introduce himself and talk about his calling to the Episcopal Church. Rick said he grew up in a Christian home going to Southern Baptist churches as a child. He went to Union University in Jackson, Tennessee, then to Southern Baptist Seminary. Rick served in several different churches and as a career Army Chaplain. Toward the end of his Army Career Rick was confirmed in an Episcopal Church. Rick wants to continue ministry and wants to pursue Episcopal Ordination. Rick serves on the Pastoral Care committee at Church of the Redeemer. Rick currently also serves as a supply pastor for Christ Lutheran Church in Shelbyville, Tennessee.

Executive Session:

The vestry did not hold an executive session.

Respectfully submitted,

Theodore W. Goodman
Clerk of the Vestry

Main Campus Operating Expenses & Revenues
Actual versus Budget by Major Categories

	One Month Ended March 31, 2022		Three Months Ended March 31, 2022					
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Prior Year	\$ Var CYTD	% Var CYTD	% Var PYTD
Expenses								
Clergy	\$ 22,807	\$ 23,806	\$ 67,861	\$ 71,418	\$ 62,969	\$ (3,557)	-5.0%	7.8%
Music	5,200	4,810	17,302	14,231	10,581	3,071	21.6%	63.5%
Church Programs	3,100	3,890	9,334	12,123	6,163	(2,789)	-23.0%	51.4%
Other Church Programs	1,317	1,783	2,540	4,857	1,574	(2,316)	-47.7%	61.4%
Youth Ministry	2,139	3,361	6,494	10,262	3,842	(3,768)	-36.7%	69.0%
Operations/Maintenance	10,308	11,834	27,508	33,397	30,740	(5,889)	-17.6%	-10.5%
Administration	20,336	16,031	53,540	46,922	39,555	6,617	14.1%	35.4%
Outreach	8,625	10,165	25,669	30,744	25,003	(5,075)	-16.5%	2.7%
Debt Service	999	1,009	3,250	3,235	17,924	15	0.5%	-81.9%
Total Expenses	\$ 74,831	\$ 76,687	\$ 213,499	\$ 227,188	\$ 198,352	\$ (13,689)	-6.0%	7.6%
Revenues								
Pledges	\$ 64,450	\$ 55,995	\$ 269,594	\$ 244,039	\$ 285,200	\$ 25,555	10.5%	-5.5%
Matching Gift	-	-	-	-	51,102	\$ -		
Unpledged Gifts	10,266	4,142	23,680	17,142	18,835	\$ 6,538	38.1%	25.7%
Other Income	1,162	1,396	1,804	4,095	4,084	(2,291)	-56.0%	-55.8%
Total Revenues	\$ 75,877	\$ 61,533	\$ 295,078	\$ 265,276	\$ 359,221	\$ 29,802	11.2%	-17.9%
Total Revenues w/o CTMC	\$ 75,877	\$ 61,533	\$ 295,078	\$ 265,276	\$ 308,119	\$ 29,802	11.2%	-4.2%
Net Income/(loss)	\$ 1,047	\$ (15,154)	\$ 81,579	\$ 38,088	\$ 160,868	\$ 43,492	114.2%	-49.3%
Net Income/(loss) w/o CTMC	\$ 1,047	\$ (15,154)	\$ 81,579	\$ 38,088	\$ 109,766	\$ 43,492	114.2%	-25.7%
Principal Repayment	\$ 6,575	\$ 6,572	\$ 19,472	\$ 19,459	\$ 18,832	\$ 12		
Net Cash Flow	\$ (5,528)	\$ (21,725)	\$ 62,107	\$ 18,628	\$ 90,934	\$ 43,479		

Net Impact on Operating Income versus Budget YTD

Expenses YTD	\$ 13,689
Revenue without matching YTD	29,802
Net Income/(Loss) YTD	\$ 43,492

Expenses 6% lower than budget primarily due to timing of programmatic expenses, change in YM funding, decreased Sexton hours. Unbudgeted expense of roof repairs, replacement music program laptop and feasibility study
income w/out CTMC 10.5% higher than budget
net impact w/o CTMC

323 Main Street Operating Expenses & Revenues
Actual versus Budget by Major Categories

	One Month Ended March 31, 2022		Three Months Ended March 31, 2022			
	Actual Month	Budget Month	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	\$ Var CYTD Vs Bud	% Var CYTD Vs Bud
Expenses						
Insurance	\$ 88	\$ 110	\$ 271	\$ 329	\$ (22)	-6.7%
Building Maintenance	-	-	\$ 852	\$ 852	\$ -	0.0%
Office Support Staff	663	670	2,003	2,011	\$ (7)	-0.4%
Office Support Supplies	44	173	391	520	\$ (129)	-24.9%
Property Taxes	560	692	2,166	2,075	\$ (131)	-6.3%
Service Fees	-	-	-	-	\$ -	0.0%
Debt Service	3,278	3,298	7,292	7,335	(43)	-0.6%
Total Expenses	\$ 4,633	\$ 4,943	\$ 12,976	\$ 13,123	\$ (333)	-6.7%
Revenues						
Rent Income	\$ 8,044	\$ 8,074	\$ 24,255	\$ 24,222	\$ (30)	-0.4%
Total Revenues	\$ 8,044	\$ 8,074	\$ 24,255	\$ 24,222	\$ (30)	-0.4%
Net Income/(loss)	\$ 3,411	\$ 3,131	\$ 11,279	\$ 11,099	\$ 280	8.9%
Principal Repayment	\$ 3,825	\$ 3,792	\$ 11,826	\$ 11,763	\$ 32	
Net Cash Flow	\$ (414)	\$ (661)	\$ (546)	\$ (664)	\$ 247	

Notes

1. Gifts received designated for 323 Main Street \$ 102,267

Cash Flow - St. Paul's Episcopal Church

	Main Campus Three Months Ended March 31, 2022	323 Main Street Three Months Ended March 31, 2022
Income (less CTMC & PPP)	\$ 295,078	\$ 24,255
Less Operating Expenses	<u>213,499</u>	<u>12,976</u>
Net Operating Income w/o CTMC Funds	\$ 81,579	11,279
Less Debt Principal Reduction from operating funds	19,472	11,826
Net After Principal Reductions	<u>\$ 62,107</u>	<u>\$ (546)</u>

Main Campus loan balance (3/31/2022)	\$ 524,027
323 E Main Loan Balance (3/31/2022)	<u>1,257,820</u>
	<u>\$ 1,781,847</u>

Cash Balance First Horizon (3/31/2022)	\$ 831,937
Total Cash Balance	<u>\$ 831,937</u>

Restricted/Designated funds	<u>\$ 328,894</u>
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323 East Main	\$ 102,267
Bishop's Discretionary Fd	(72)
Building Fund	12,197
Campus Improvement	43,614
Choir	2,701
Christian Ed	567
Columbarium	23,378
Connect Ministry	1,459
Continuing Education-Staff	(595)
Cursillo/Ultreya	2,363
Dandridge Trust/Coldest Nights	7,811
Daughters of the King	1,175
Episcopal Peace Fellowship	120
Flower Guild Operating Funds	7,542
Food Bank	25
Franklin Heights Center/Outreach	(12)
Fundraising Restricted Account	(6,803)
Haiti Mission Trip	135
Haitian Relief Fund	648
Library	50
Memorial Garden Project	16,977
Memorials	59,030
Missions/Designated	735
Music-Church Organ Fund	22,464
Outreach People & Need	(1,976)
Piano Fund	230
Priest's Discretionary Fn	8,214
Rector's Discretionary	5,507
Schneider Memorial	50
Stained Glass	467
Stevens Memorial	240
Troop Support	1,508
UTO	61
Women's Ministries	5,543
Youth Fundraisers	<u>11,272</u>
	<u>\$ 328,894</u>

Finance and Administration Report April 2022

Prepared by Martha Tolbert

Office Assistance: Jeanne, Heather and I continue to look for opportunities to become more efficient in our processes. We've closed the First Bank accounts which has reduced the number of bank reconciliations we do each month.

323 E. Main Tax Issues: As previously reported, we expected to incur taxes on unrelated business income generated from 323 E. Main, as that is not related to our tax-exempt status. In our due diligence process, we included the taxes in the proforma we developed as part of our evaluation of the property and reasonableness of the asking price. Jeanne and I are not experts in taxes, so have enlisted the help of David Hall, a fellow parishioner and CPA to advise us on the requirements of the IRS regulations. David has prepared a detailed analysis of the regulations and there are options for us to consider which could limit our tax exposure. Our next steps are 1) to have a small group consisting of Jeanne, me, Kristine, Don Clayton and Heather meet with David Hall for questions, 2) additional consultation with the Diocese and any other experts we deem necessary and 3) presentation to and discussion with the Vestry in order to make decisions around our options. We are hoping to complete these tasks in the next 60-90 days.

Planned Giving: My plan is still to have an outline of activities with help from Anne Davis during this year.

Outreach Ministries

Outreach Committee

April 2022 Report

We are looking at the option to sponsor a refugee family. The other activities have no significant change.

Steve

Worship Report April 2022

- **Organ Scholar**
 - Angela Tipps is working diligently through various contacts and organizational leads to find a qualified candidate for the Organ Scholar position.
 - Including emailing all colleges/universities with masters degrees in organ or sacred/church music, reaching out to other teachers and friends within the field, and posting on Facebook page.
- **Worship Team**
 - Communicated with all team leaders as liaison to identify any needs or items to report to Vestry. Each ministry continues with weekly service/responsibilities per usual.
 - Music - Angela Tipps
 - Verger/Acolytes – George Carlson
 - LEM/Lector/Intercessors – Richard & Carol Detmer
 - Ushers/Greeters – Sandy Gleaves
 - Altar Guild – Martha Worley and Sue Koechlein
 - Flower Guild – Sudi Luboniecki
 - Children’s Ministry – Cindy Guevart
 - Technology – Alex Hollis
- **Holy Week**
 - Palm Sunday – three scheduled services
 - Choristers at 8:45 and 11:00
 - Wednesday – 7am Eucharist in the Chapel
 - Maundy Thursday – 7pm service (streamed)
 - The Watch – Thursday 9pm to Friday 8am in the Nave
 - Good Friday – various services
 - Worship at St. Paul’s with the Downtown Churches 12pm
 - Stations of the Cross 6pm
 - Liturgy 7pm (streamed)
 - Holy Saturday – two services
 - Liturgy 10am
 - Easter Vigil 7pm (streamed)
 - baptisms
 - Easter Sunday – three scheduled services
 - Choir and Brass quartet at 8:45 and 11:00
 - Egg hunt 10am

Respectfully submitted,
Kristi Hay

Pastoral Care Ministry

Dan Felciano

April 16, 2022



Dan Felciano 5:48 PM (2 hours ago)

to me, dan

Ushers and Daughters of the King - Sandy Gleaves is almost back to a full staff of ushers. 4 ushers will be serving at the 11:00AM service May through July. Schedule for the summer months will be challenging with families traveling. Sandy is always looking for members to join this ministry.

Daughters of the King continues to meet monthly. No new programs are scheduled at this time.

Food and Delivery Team - Over the past month, the team has had no request for meals or deliveries.

Parish Nurse - Continues to see a church member every week to fix her pills for the week. The team of 4 ladies continue to work with Martha Worley with her pump for diabetes. John Workey is scheduled to arrive home on May 23rd. He is now in rehab in Murfreesboro.

Grief Ministry - Jerry is involved in many situations behind the scenes. Many bereavement situations included a funeral service for a daughter of current member, memorial service for a sibling of a current member and setting up and greeting for a reception of a private service for a former member. Funeral service and reception will be held for Tom VanDervort on Saturday, April 23rd.

Lay Eucharistic Visitors - No report at this time

Senior Ministries - No report at this time

From: David Loucky

To: St. Paul's Vestry

Date: 4/19/22

Re: Vestry Report: Adult Discipleship

Provided an entry for the upcoming Epistle regarding Discipleship

Adult Christian Education

Rector's Forum: Encountering Christ: Saints. Begins April 24. Lauren Gamble is talking about Doubting/Believing Thomas; Thomas Becker is talking about Stephen; and June McCash is doing Julian of Norwich.

Parent Group: Resuming study of Restless Devices: Recovering Personhood, Presence and Place in the Digital Age by Felicia Wu Song

Pilgrimage: Spring session completed. 3 adults will be baptized; 5 will be confirmed in June and 1 received. 2 are now ushers, and 4 have begun a discipling group with a fifth person joining with them. Another has been working with Cam in the youth program!

Meat and Potatoes: A group of 8, led by Michael Whitnah, will complete Year 1 on May 16.

9:50 a.m. (Monday-Friday)

Daily "bite-sized" Bible Study and Prayer. On going.

Discipleship groups ("African" Bible Study format)

Four groups meet weekly, led by David Rowe, Michael Whitnah, Scott Telford and Stacey and David Owen. New members may contact David Loucky to plug in. A new group of Pilgrimage participants will begin meeting via zoom, led by Rhonda Pendergrass. Members include Darren, Thomas Rowe, David Fowler, Helen Baynes and Bonnie Bartsch

Lectionary Bible Study: Wednesdays at 9 a.m. Meeting "hybrid" style. Led by Jerry Redditt

Lectio Divina: Thursdays at 10 a.m. in St. Andrew's Chapel

Anti-Racism Task Force: Visioning regarding next steps

Parish Life Report March 2022

Completed Events:

- Lenten Soup Suppers**
- held every Wednesday during Lent March 9th-April 6th
- averaged approximately 40-50 people each week
- Holy Week**
- Palm Sunday, downtown church services, etc.

Pending/Upcoming events:

- Pentecost in the Park**
- to be held June 5th AT THE CHURCH
- awaiting to hear back from Rachel Kirk to see if she will chair
- Morris Hamby has provided music in the past?
- Welcome Back Picnic**
- to be held August 13th 5-7
- Chair Person- Kelly Goodman

Future Events to Consider

- Supper Clubs**
 - Lance and Shirley Ikard and Louis Kyriakoudes and Lisa Eveleigh have expressed interest in helping to get this started
 - Cooking Classes**
 - Anna Stewart, Lynne Miller, James Rone, etc to discuss further after Easter
 - what if we invited the chefs behind some of our local eateries (the Alley, 5 Sense, Al Rayan, etc., places we have some relationships with already) to come to St. Paul's and do some sort of fun cooking class? We utilize our kitchen, our foodies have a blast, the restaurants get lots of publicity, and we all just have a ton of fun. And maybe we do it so that the registration fee cover all the ingredients (say, \$25/per), but the ticket is actually \$40 with an eye to supporting Journey Home.
- idea: "Adopt a Sr/ Jr":
- get the Cam Parham (% the youth) and anyone else who wants to participate and Tom Washer (% the Seniors) together to swap stories, advice, etc.

Jr Warden Report – April 2022

Completed Items:

- S&W Completed Campus Review on 4/12/22):
 - All lights campus-wide are working
 - Light fixtures above door leading to Sacristy
 - Simply touching the glass made the light start working
 - Try tapping the efix fixture from the floor to get lights to work
 - Trying to find a like model to replace problematic fixtures
 - Intermittent ceiling light in Gene Wise conference room - light is currently working
 - Adjusted timer switch in narthex women's bathroom to extend the time before the lights go off
- Fixed the mag locks on the double doors from narthex to parish hall
- Replaced water damaged ceiling tile from 2/25/22 plumbing leak and cosmetically enhanced 3 adjacent water damaged tiles
- Lawn maintenance contract renewed
- Scheduled "De-Winterizing" irrigation system with Top Line Irrigation
- Met w/ painters and received quote re: painting curbs & parking spaces in parking lot
- New awnings on St. Margaret's building – thanks to Heather Studenberg et al for driving this – awnings over stairs remain which insurance will partially cover

Current Projects:

- Finalize monthly campus maintenance guide. Received feedback and incorporating comments
- Address hanging door (chapel on to East Main)
- St. Margaret's HVAC enclosure - replace broken lock
- Fix the peeling laminate in the Nave women's bathroom
- Evaluate stall accessories in women's bathrooms in Nave (toilet paper holders) for adequate clearance/convenience
- Assess pointing deterioration of brick on St. Margaret's around the sills – schedule grout maintenance or repointing as appropriate
- Working on quotes to repair cracking linoleum on stairwell south side of Parish Hall - 3 locations
- Replace battery-powered soap dispensers on bathrooms with manual pumps
- Assess whether squirrels getting into parish hall through roof
- Schedule deep cleaning for parish hall kitchen
- Renew monthly dishwasher and disposal service
- Place sign on garbage area reminding people to place bags in the containers - Brad to investigate
- Shelf for AA Bibles in chapel as per donor request communicated by Don Clayton & Kristine Blaess on 2/23/22
- Placing paving stones around blessings box. Brad / David to solicit suggestions from Design Committee.
- Evaluate feasibility of adding basketball goal as per Polesky family request

Memo From Kristine

Subject: Rick Stevenson

To: Vestry Members

April 15, 2022

"We welcome Rick Stevenson to our April Vestry meeting. Rick is a retired army chaplain ordained in the Baptist Church. He is seeking ordination in the Episcopal Church. Bishop John has authorized the creation of a congregational discernment committee for Rick. The responsibility of this committee is to discern with Rick if there is enough sense of call to ordained ministry in the Episcopal Church to recommend further conversation and discernment at the diocesan level. In several months, the congregational discernment committee will make a recommendation to our vestry about whether to nominate Rick for the next step in the discernment process. Our time with Rick Tuesday evening is a chance to put a face to a name and for the vestry to get to know him just a bit."

Rev. Robert Richard Stevenson (Rick)
3032 Michalean Dr. Murfreesboro, TN 37128
robert.richard.stevenson@gmail.com

Military Ministry

2000 – 2020 Chaplain, United States Army

January 2018 – May 2020 Chief, Department of Ministry & Pastoral Care, William Beaumont Army Medical Center, Ft. Bliss, TX

- Department Chief providing ministry to a 110 bed Level III Medical Center
- Supervised three Hospital Chaplains, two Combat Support Hospital Chaplains, two Wounded Warrior Battalion Chaplains, four Chaplain Assistants, one Roman Catholic contracted Priest, and two Administrative Assistants

January 2016 – December 2017 Chief, Department of Ministry & Pastoral Care, Dwight D. Eisenhower Army Medical Center, Ft. Gordon, GA

- Department Chief providing ministry to a 93 bed Level III Medical Center
- Supervised three Hospital Chaplains, one Wounded Warrior Battalion Chaplain, four Chaplain Assistants, one Roman Catholic Contracted Priest, and one Administrative Assistant

January 2014 – December 2015 Group Chaplain, 902^d Military Intelligence Group, Ft. Meade, MD

- Provided ministry to 1500 Soldiers, Family Members, and Civilians encompassing Headquarter detachment, two Battalions and four Unit Attachments
- Supervised four Chaplains and two Chaplain Assistants
- Associate Pastor at Main Post Chapel

January 2011 – December 2013 Chaplain, Natick Soldier, Research, Development & Engineering Center, Natick, MA

- Provided ministry to two thousand Military Personnel, Family Members, and Civilians encompassing the Natick Soldier Systems Center; The Research, Development and Engineering Center; The United States Army Research Institute for Environmental Medicine, and seven attached units
- Supervised two Chaplain Assistants
- Liaison to the Chief of Chaplains for research development for Chaplain ministry throughout the United States Army
- Provided active representation with the Natick Ministerial Alliance
- Completed Command and General Staff College, and Chaplain Majors Course
- Represented Military Chaplains on denomination-wide search committee for Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) Ecclesiastical Endorser

January 2008 – December 2010 Regional Chaplain, United States Army Cadet Command, Ft. Knox, KY

- Provided ministry to 150 Soldiers, Family Members and Civilians throughout the year with an additional 2000 ROTC Cadets and Cadre for summer programs, as well as being responsible for coverage to 130 ROTC Battalions throughout the eastern United States
- Supervised one Chaplain and one Chaplain Assistant
- Designed internship program for fourteen seminarians to develop ministry skills for possible future use as an Army Chaplain at summer Leaders Training Course

July – December 2008 Student, United States Army Chaplain Captain Career Course, United States Army Chaplain Center & School, Ft. Jackson, SC

- Completed Advanced Training for career Chaplains
- Class Leader for thirty-five Chaplains

July 2005 – July 2008 Chaplain, 47th Combat Support Hospital, Ft. Lewis, WA

- Provided ministry to two hundred Combat Support Hospital Soldiers and Family Members
- Deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom
- Associate Pastor at Main Post Chapel

August 2004 – July 2005 Clinical Pastoral Care Resident, Brooke Army Medical Center, Ft. Sam Houston, TX

- Completed four Units of Clinical Pastoral Education

September 2000 – June 2004 Chaplain, 1-377 Field Artillery Regiment (AASLT), Ft. Bragg, NC

- Provided ministry to three hundred Field Artillery Soldiers and family members
- Deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom
- Provided coverage to four hundred additional Field Artillery Soldiers and family members in sibling Battalion for one year
- Deployed in support of Operation Task Force Warrior

June – August 2000 Student, United States Army Chaplain Officer Basic Course, United States Army Chaplain Center & School, Ft. Jackson, SC

- Completed introductory training as an Army Chaplain

Civilian Ministry

October 1993 – April 2000 Associate Pastor, First Baptist Church, Rockingham, NC

- Associate Pastor for 550-member county seat Cooperative Baptist Fellowship/ Southern Baptist church in Sandhills region of North Carolina
- Directed Bible Study ministries for Sunday School program averaging 211 attendees
- Directed youth program for thirty-five teenagers
- Selected to participate in Young Leaders Program sponsored by North Carolina State Baptist Convention
- Completed one unit of Clinical Pastoral Education at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center, Winston-Salem, NC

October 1991 – October 1993 Associate Pastor, First Baptist Church, Moweaqua, IL

- Associate Pastor for 200-member American Baptist congregation in rural central Illinois
- Ordained to the Gospel Ministry by Great Rivers Region of the American Baptist Churches, USA
- Directed Bible Study Ministries for Sunday School program averaging 110 attendees
- Directed Youth Program averaging twenty teenagers

Additional Ministry Positions

- September 1990 – May 1991 Supervised Ministry, Clifton Baptist Church, Louisville, KY
- April 1988 - August 1990 Minister for Youth, Eastern Heights Baptist Church, Jeffersonville, IN
- August 1985 – August 1986 Youth Pastor, Southside Baptist Church, Shelbyville, TN
- January 1984 – August 1985 Minister for Youth and Music, Old Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, Finger, TN
- June – August 1982 Southern Baptist Home Mission Board (now North American Mission Board) Greater Cleveland Baptist Association, Cleveland, OH

Education

- The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, KY, MDiv/CE June 1991
- Union University, Jackson TN, B.A., August 1985
Major: Social Work Minor: Religious Education

Hobbies

- Travel
- Movies
- Reading
- Hiking

Biography of Robert Richard (Rick) Stevenson

Rev. Rick Stevenson was born in Shelbyville, TN on February 11, 1963 into a Christian home. He is the only child of Audrey Stevenson and the late Bill Stevenson who were married fifty-eight years before Mr. Stevenson's death in 2017. Rick's father was the first in his family born in Tennessee when his parents moved from the Lawrenceville/Buford areas of Georgia while his mother was pregnant with him. He often claimed he was "Georgia bred and Tennessee fed". His mother's family has lived in Bedford County for at least five generations.

In 1966 Rick moved with his parents to Joliet, IL due to the availability of jobs for his father in that strong blue-collar town. While Shelbyville and middle Tennessee would always be "home", the multi-cultural environment of Joliet would heavily influence Rick's formation and it still continues to influence him today. Rick's mother became active in the Zion Baptist Church, a Southern Baptist congregation which became a spiritual home away from home for the many southerners seeking better employment opportunities in the area. Rick made a public profession of faith in Jesus Christ at the age of nine and was baptized on March 18, 1973. He also became active in the Laraway Public School district attending school from kindergarten to eighth grade. He was active in band, chorus, and was the manager of his school's track team. Never a tremendous scholar he was still proud to have made the Honor Roll twice in Junior High School and was recognized by the local American Legion chapter as the Outstanding Eighth Grade Boy.

Changing economic times in Joliet led Rick's parents to move back to Shelbyville in 1977, just in time for him to begin his freshman year at Shelbyville Central High School. During this time Rick learned the necessity of cultural adaptation as his more nasally Chicago based accent was transformed into the local speech of Shelbyville (pronounced "Shebvul"). He played trumpet in the SCHS band and is proud to have been in the band when they were first invited to participate in the Contest of Champions at MTSU. He was also very active in community and SCHS theater, the National Forensics League, and during his senior year the student council. He was also very active at First Baptist Church in Shelbyville.

Rick's membership at First Baptist provided a strong environment for his Christian discipleship and probably played an important role in his decision to enroll at Union University in Jackson, TN. During his time at the school, he felt a call to Christian ministry and began to prepare for it by serving as a summer missionary to Cleveland, Ohio through an organization which at that time was called the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. Actively involved at First Baptist Church in Jackson, TN he became the minister of music and youth at the Old Friendship Missionary Baptist Church in the rural community of Finger, TN which straddles the Chester and McNairy County border. Since he felt he would be attending seminary eventually, Rick decided to not major in religion at Union and focused on social work since he believed it would help him understand issues people encountered outside his own experience.

After graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree, Rick returned home for a year before enrolling at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, KY. This coincided during the height of the Southern Baptist Holy Wars and its focus on inerrancy. At the conclusion of his first semester Rick was involved in a car wreck which was his fault. Since he was underinsured to cover the damages to both vehicles involved in the accident, he took a full-time job with the Andy Frain agency while continuing his studies. Andy Frain stationed him at the Philip Morris plant, then located in the west side of the city. He considers his work at Philip Morris to have been the greatest learning laboratory of his life since it

created friendships and awareness's of human issues not typically encountered during normal theological training.

In addition to his seminary studies and work at Philip Morris, Rick also served as the part-time youth minister at the suburban Eastern Heights Baptist church in Jeffersonville, IN. He left this ministry position in order to do a seminary practicum at Clifton Baptist Church located in the heart of what was then described as an up-and-coming urban neighborhood.

Since the inerrancy controversy exposed Rick to an uglier side of Southern Baptist life, he was very open to explore ministry opportunities in other Christian denominational churches after graduation. This created an opportunity for him to return to Illinois to serve in his first post-seminary church as the first full time Associate Pastor at the First Baptist Church in Moweaqua, IL. This American Baptist Churches, USA, congregation, located in the heart of central Illinois' corn belt, provided a loving and encouraging environment for Rick to grow in ministry. It was here when Rick was ordained into the ministry on November 8th, 1992. It also exposed him to the realities of budgeting constraints. In the midst of church growth, an ugly episode developed when the congregation was forced to discipline a church member. This action, rightly taken, nevertheless left a stunned congregation with little motivation. The budget began to suffer and Rick began to sense an openness to explore new ministry opportunities.

In October 1993 Rick became the Associate Pastor of First Baptist Church in Rockingham, NC a dually aligned Cooperative Baptist/Southern Baptist congregation. An incredibly stable church, First Baptist was located in the county seat of Richmond County in the Sandhills section of the state. The church's senior pastor had ministered to the church (and the town) for seventeen years and the minister of music had been with them for almost as long. First Baptist had a healthy appreciation for Christian missions, education and work with youth and children. The music ministry was the finest in the county. It was also decisively "moderate" in its theological stance during the Holy War. It is believed First Baptist was the first church in the North Carolina Baptist Convention to elect a woman as chair of the deacons. The church was composed of many members who came from other denominations. It was a very unique Baptist church. It was also here when he secured a copy of the Episcopal Book of Common Prayer and began to use it as a resource for his devotional growth. Rick thrived in this church and during a twenty-seven-month interim period after the senior pastor left, he grew in his ability to "pastor" people. During this time, he befriended a retired US Army chaplain and Rick's thoughts began to grow outside ministry within a local church. In early 2000, Rick announced his resignation in order to become an army chaplain.

Rick would serve twenty years as an army chaplain, beginning in May, 2000. Like First Baptist Rockingham, ministry for him in the US Army was an overwhelmingly positive experience. While always expressing confidence in his abilities to minister, he also grew into the role of an army officer. The army is an incredibly diverse environment, much like the United States. Ministry in the army is carried out toward many who hold a different philosophical view than one's own. The successful chaplain learns early on he or she must hold a high level of respect toward those of not only different Christian denominational traditions, but also toward those holding the various religious viewpoints which are expressed by a minority of Americans. That also includes those who hold no religious convictions at all. Rick decided the answer to being a good army chaplain, while also upholding a strong witness to his faith in Christ, was to love his Soldiers regardless of their differences with his convictions.

The army opened Rick to a world many from his school days would never experience. Between 2000 and 2020 Rick was assigned to nine different locations which allowed him to live in Fayetteville, NC; San Antonio, TX; Tacoma, WA; Columbia, SC; Radcliffe, KY; Boston, MA; the Baltimore-Washington DC suburbs; Augusta, GA; and El Paso, TX. While Boston and El Paso were certainly his favorite places to live (he almost retired to El Paso), he came to appreciate something about each town and the people who inhabited each location. He deployed twice in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and once in support of Operation Task Force Warrior which sent him to Hungary for four months (in the winter!) during the build up to Iraq. He continues to stay in touch with many of the Soldiers and family members he served alongside. He retired in May 2020 at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

During a time of personal reflection, Rick understood his worldview had expanded during his time in the army. That Book of Common Prayer he secured in North Carolina stayed with him until one day when he loaned it to a fellow chaplain - who must have thought it was a gift because Rick never saw it again.

The greatest gift the army provided to him was the opportunity to grow in his faith and to instill an appreciation of life. Due to conversations with Episcopal chaplains, he has grown in his appreciation of sacramental theology and in the liturgy of the Episcopal church. Since his confirmation, his goal is to continue to develop in his Christian growth as an Episcopalian. He also misses the opportunity to serve as a minister in the kingdom of God. It is his wish to continue in the calling he experienced as a college student to serve as a minister and to now pursue Holy Orders toward ordination as a Priest. He is excited to have this opportunity given to him to begin conversations toward that goal.

Thank you for taking the time to read my biography. -Rick