

To: Teaching Elder and Ruling Elder Commissioners

Notice of Called Meeting of the Presbytery of Transylvania

At the request of the Pastoral Transitions Commission, the Coordinating Commission of the Presbytery of Transylvania has called a meeting of the presbytery for Thursday, October 8, 2020, at 7:00 PM via Zoom, for the purpose of examining a candidate for ordination. Pre-registration for all commissioners is required and the virtual meeting will open at 6:30 PM.

If you are unable to attend, please request an excused absence from the Stated Clerk.

Email: statedclerk@transypby.org.

Instructions for connecting to the virtual meeting (commissioners) are as follows:

Commissioners must register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0scu6oqDsjEtTUY6FPXnalsxqFFYHE4g2l>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Guests may connect via livestream at the Presbytery's YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCM4hms2XfaRKIYIf9QUipJA>

God's blessings to each one and see you soon.

The Rev. Jerry L. Utt, II
Stated Clerk

**Presbytery of Transylvania
Docket
October 8, 2020
Zoom Called Virtual Meeting**

6:30 PM	Registration and Gathering	
7:00 PM	Meeting Called to Order Opening Prayer	Moderator
	Declaration of Quorum Adoption of Docket	Stated Clerk
7:05 PM	Evening Devotional	
7:15 PM	Pastoral Transitions Commission Examination of Candidate for Ministry	Lisa Eye, Chair
7:55 PM	Announcements	Presbytery Executive
8:00 PM	Motion to Adjourn Closing Prayer	Stated Clerk Moderator

**Pastoral Transitions Commission Report
Called Meeting of Presbytery of Transylvania
October 8, 2020**

The Pastoral Transitions Commission presents Timothy S. (Scot) Robinson, candidate under care of the Presbytery of Transylvania, to be examined for ordination to the office of Teaching Elder/Minister of Word and Sacrament.

Scot has been certified ready for examination by the Commission on Preparation for Ministry, having completed all other requirements for ordination (G-2.06), and has been called as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Pikeville, KY. The Pastoral Transitions Commission approved the call and terms at its meeting on September 30, 2020.

Scot's Statement of Faith, Spiritual Autobiography, and sermon link are attached.

Spiritual Autobiography

Scot Robinson

9/22/2020

I was born in Pikeville, KY to a small family as the youngest of three siblings (two older sisters). I was blessed to grow up in the beautiful mountains of Pikeville where I have made many amazing friendships and experienced so many formative moments that have led me to the path I'm currently on. I grew up in a Southern Baptist church where my Nanny, who I always refer to as a self-made Appalachian theologian, taught Sunday school weekly and who made the church a big part of her life. It was in this church where I gained my spiritual formations and first encountered the person of Jesus. However, I didn't fully embrace my faith and my identity in Christ as my primary identity and guiding vocational compass until I found the Presbyterian church where I became an official member while I was attending college years later. I attended the University of Pikeville, an historic Presbyterian college, where I majored in Religious Studies. This was a result of my enthusiasm in studying ethics, philosophy, theology, and anthropology and I found the religious studies program combined many of these disciplines while also giving me an opportunity to learn about other religions in order to better understand my neighbors while also studying my own religious tradition in an academic setting. While my initial aspirations were to continue on a more strictly academic path, my new-found church home and opportunity through my studies to assess my own theology helped awaken a desire to become an inquirer and pursue an MDiv. I followed this nudge from the Spirit and was accepted to Vanderbilt Divinity School in 2016 and graduated in May of 2019. During my studies for my MDiv I have found that my academic and research interests include theology-based bioethics, the intersections of health care and theology, pastoral care in rural contexts, and practical programs for health ministries that respond to poverty in regions like Appalachia. Upon graduating in 2019 I have served at First Presbyterian Church Pikeville in a non-ordained pastoral role and during that time have had much discernment with the church wherein we have both found that this would be a suitable first call. At this time, I define my call as one to serve Christ to the best of my ability in a rural congregation. In doing so, my call is to teach the gospel that the church may live the gospel by fully committing to earnest efforts at exhibiting the Kingdom of heaven to the world through humble service which meets the unique needs of Appalachia. I, of course, could not achieve any of this without strong familial support and unwavering support from my caring and gracious wife, Kelli, who I met during my time at the University of Pikeville and married in 2017. Kelli has an unlimited amount of love for Appalachia and finds strength and her own calling in the opportunity to serve and work for Christ reflected renewal in the area.

Scot Robinson
Statement of Faith

Central to the Christian faith is the belief in a living God whose mystery is preserved in the doctrine of the Triune God. God, who is personal, works in three different ways simultaneously both in unity and distinction. This is achieved through the Creator/Father, the Son, and the Spirit who all make up the totality of work of the *one* God.

Humanity is in a state of brokenness and sin. This *sin* can manifest individually or through the harmful systems in which we construct and live under. Salvation and redemption for humanity is/was needed. The cross is symbolic of the subjecting of the incarnate Christ to the consequences of sin. The suffering of Christ *was* the suffering of God. On the cross, God takes on the sufferings of the world in order to redeem them. God suffers to overcome suffering. Christ is not our substitute but acts as God's first move in reconciling us to God. Through the victory of the resurrection, and through our faith by grace, we have the opportunity to become new creations. Realizing we are forgiven frees us for a new beginning with ourselves, others, and with God. We then heed the Spirit's direction in our journey of sanctification.

The foremost source of revelation in the Christian tradition is the Bible. Here we encounter God's work through history, in the lives of the inspired writers working through their own faith, and in the picture we get of God's relationship with humanity. It is a mark of the true church that the "word be rightly preached". Doing this "*rightly*" involves prayerful discernment of the text, seeking the Spirit's wisdom and illumination, and faithful exegesis that acknowledges the text's reflection of history, time, and place. The Bible's authority is in its capacity to be a vehicle for God's fresh address to the church today. We acknowledge historical context, but also bring new questions to texts and see them in light of new experiences guided by the Spirit. While scripture is the foremost source of revelation, we can also know about God through *reason, experience, and tradition*.

There is one God and one Spirit but a variety of vibrant communities with different gifts. Though our individual churches are earthly centers of worship and praise, as Jonathan Edwards notes, God's kingdom is one that has plenty of rooms for large numbers of people. As the church, we all take part in the mission that aims to make visible or active in history God's grace in the world. Or, as one of the great ends of the church states, "to exhibit the kingdom of heaven to the world".

As the church, we celebrate the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper as signs of the real presence and power of Christ and as symbols of God's activity. Through their observance God seals us in redemption as people of God marked for service. Though earthly unassuming mediums are used, we are yet spiritually nourished, renewed and encountered by the true presence of Christ who is in and around our observance of the sacraments.

Below is a YouTube link for one of my sermons from this summer. The video is of the whole service but the sermon takes place from 10:27-26:05.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2eDdb7wbA1s&t=4s>

Grace and Peace,
Scot Robinson