

February 2017

PRESBYTERY MEETING REFLECTION

By Sheppards & Lapsley Moderator, J. Shannon Webster

The Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley held its regular stated meeting on Friday, February 24th, 2017 at *Independent Presbyterian Church in Birmingham*, in tandem with the presbytery's Main Event.

Moderator Jim Toomey nominated Janet Bain, Church of the Covenant, to fill a vacancy on the Nominating and Representation committee, and she was elected.



Rev. Shannon Webster was installed as Moderator, and presented with cross and gavel, after Moderator Toomey gave a brief history of the Moderator's Cross. Ruling Elder Jane Clayton of Montevallo Presbyterian was installed as Vice-Moderator. Past

Moderator Toomey was given a gift, and great thanks for his excellent leadership the past year. Moderator Webster named to the Bills and Overtures committee Rev. Leeann Scarborough, Rev. Jonathon Yarboro and Ruling Elder Debbie Miller, of First United Presbyterian in Anniston.

Pastor of the host church, Rev. Bill Carl, graciously welcomed the presbytery, as did Main Event Chair



Jenny Thagard. IPC members were everywhere, welcoming and helpful. Following the presbytery meeting IPC hosted dinner and worship, with Rev. Tom Long preaching.



Some Presbytery Action Highlights were:

- 1) Major recommendations from the Executive Council were voted, including the formation of a Search Committee for the General Presbyter position (Nominating will present a slate at the May 2017 meeting), and a job description for that position. The presbytery also approved a 2-person staffing model and compensation package. Ruling Elder Frank James was recommended to the Nominating Committee for the Stated Clerk position.

- 2) Rev. Betty Angelini was introduced as new Executive Director for Living River, examined and approved for this validated ministry. Changes to the Living River bylaws were approved, as was the election of Drew Hamiter of First Presbyterian, Tuscaloosa to the Living River Board.

- 3) A Child & Youth Protection Policy was approved and will be followed at all Presbytery events, and congregations are strongly urged to develop their own official policies.

- 4) Rachel VanKirk Matthews, of First Presbyterian, Tuscaloosa, was examined and approved for candidacy for the ministry. A current student at Columbia Seminary, the former electrical engineer was given a charge by Rev.'s Kathy Wolf Reed and James Goodlet.



- 5) Teaching Elders new to us were examined and approved, including aforementioned Angelini: Rev. Patrick Harley, as Campus Pastor for UKirk-Birmingham; Rev. Dongouk Shin for Korean-Birmingham; and Honorably Retired pastor Rev. Jim Choomack.
- 6) The Stated Clerk led us through the Necrology Report – Elders who in the last year entered the Church Triumphant. We heard from the Transitional Presbyter, Montreat, Living River, Living Waters, Presbyterian Home for Children, and the Equip, Nurture & Connect team.

Even on a tight schedule we adjourned early – but not before conducting a lot of business, almost all of it propelling us into a future of holy possibility! Vice-Moderator Jane Clayton closed the meeting with prayer.

J. Shannon Webster, Moderator