

November 2016

# PRESBYTERY MEETING REFLECTION

By Sheppards & Lapsley Moderator, Jim Toomey



The Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley held its regular stated meeting on Thursday November 10, 2016 at 9:45 AM at First Presbyterian Church in Wetumpka, Alabama.

We were officially welcomed to the host church by Rev. Jonathon Yarboro. As I said in the meeting, The Presbyterians in Wetumpka really know how to host a Presbytery meeting! What an outstanding job they did. It takes many volunteers and much hard work to host a Presbytery meeting at your church. Thanks for all the effort! And, what a beautiful place Wetumpka is.



As always, our meeting included a Worship Service. The sermon was delivered by the Rev. Dr. Joe Scrivner. Joe is the Pastor at Brown Memorial PC in Tuscaloosa. What an inspiring message he

brought to us. Thank you Joe.

Some Presbytery Action Highlights were:

- Lin Veasey updated us on the developing Child Protection Policy for the Presbytery
- We had a presentation by Deborah Wright and Jim Kitchens. Deborah and Jim are partners in PneuMatrix, a consulting group working with churches and presbyteries implementing adaptive change and supporting pastors developing innovative forms of Christian community.



- Belinda Dickinson gave us an update on the exciting things happening in the Congo, specifically the completion of the new school that we help support financially
- Our Transitional Presbyter's report was primarily a thanksgiving for the career and work in our Presbytery of Robert Hay. Robert is retiring at the end of this year. **Thank you Robert! You have been a trusted adviser to us all!**

LUNCH! Did I mention the outstanding job done by the host church, FPC Wetumpka? The lunch was fantastic!

Our afternoon session in the brand new Fellowship Hall was kicked off by some outstanding music from the two man combo of the Reverends - Shannon Webster, FPC Birmingham and Jonathan Yarboro, FPC Wetumpka. If you missed it....well, you should have been there.



Continuing with Presbytery Action Highlights:

- Trustees Chair, Bill Stribling sought and received approval for the sale of University Presbyterian Church in Tuscaloosa for the sum of \$3,000,000, closing around the end of this year. Univ. PC and Covenant PC are in the final stages of merging the congregations to form the new PC in Tuscaloosa, Grace PC. Praise be to God!
- We elected new members to the Living River Board. They are, Nick Reed, Jimmy Griffin, Emily Roberts, Steven Ashworth, Kathryn Michael, and Jay Patton.

- The Nominating Committee presented a tremendous slate of willing and able nominees for the various committees of our Presbytery. And I, as moderator, nominated to the Nominating Committee, Mary Porter, Bill Christians, and Olympia McCrackin. And from the committee, Cathy Hoop as Chair.
- Presbyterian Home for Children President, Mark Howard, brought us greeting from the PHC
- Keener Hudson gave an update on Living River. What an amazing asset Living River is for our Presbytery and our State!
- Ben Arellano report on the Commission on Ministry included the approval of the Installation Commission for Michael Bailey, the approval of the Ordination Commission for Micah Nutter Dowling, and Joe Slane's retirement effective January 31, 2017.
- The Rev. Paul Sherwood led us in our Closing Prayer and the Benediction.



If you are not in the habit of attending these Quarterly Presbytery Meetings, you are missing out on an opportunity to connect with your fellow Presbyterians. Make every effort to attend the February 24, 2017 meeting at Independent Presbyterian Church in Birmingham, held in conjunction with the Main Event.

God is guiding us to be a gracious and hopeful Presbytery. Amen and Amen!

***Jim Toomey, Moderator***

