

THE PRESBYTERY OF SHEPPARDS AND LAPSLEY  
 PROPOSED DOCKET  
 MAY 17, 2018  
 FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - LIVINGSTON, AL

- 9:00 A.M. REGISTRATION
- 9:30 A.M. PRELUDE Dr. Chris Jenkins
- 9:45 A.M. OPENING PRAYER Moderator Jane Clayton  
 Organization-Declaration of a Quorum, Adoption of the Docket,  
 Seating of Corresponding Members, Welcome of First Time Commissioners,  
 Welcome of Visitors
- 9:50 A.M. WELCOME TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN Barrett Abernethy  
 VOLUNTARY SOLO Quincey White
- 9:55 A.M. CALL TO WORSHIP Terri Jones  
*We name you, O Spirit, as wind, power, force.*  
***We name you and you blow –***  
***blow hard, blow cold, blot hot, blow strong,***  
***blow gentle, blow new –***  
*Blowing the world out of nothing to abundance,*  
***Blowing the church out of despair to new life,***  
*Blowing to make things new that never were.*  
***So blow this day, wind,***  
***blow here and there, power,***  
***blow even us, force.***  
*Rush us beyond ourselves, rush us beyond our hopes,*  
***Rush us beyond our fears,***  
***until we enact your newness in the world.***  
*Come, Holy Spirit, come!*  
*Let us worship God!*
- †HYMN #128 "On Pentecost They Gathered"
- †CALL TO CONFESSION Leeann Scarbrough
- †PRAYER OF CONFESSION  
***Almighty and God, you sent the promised power of the Holy Spirit to fill disciples with power, but we confess that we are sometimes afraid of your power. We try to hold back the force of your Spirit among us; we are slow to serve you and reluctant to speak of you. We often act as if you do not exist and fail to see your work among those who are different from us. Loving God, forgive our fear, and blow through us this day! Give our young new visions and our old new dreams, enlivening your church once again. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.***
- †ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION	Barrett Abernethy
SCRIPTURE	Acts 2:1-21
SERMON	<i>"Interpreting the Tongues"</i>
OFFERING	50% of the offering goes to CPM for candidates and 50% is used as a Presbytery discretionary fund for pastoral care. Please give generously.
OFFERTORY SOLO	Kawanis Johnson
†DOXOLOGY	
PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING	Barrett Abernethy
INSTALLATION OF GENERAL PRESBYTER, JAY WILKINS	
Statement on the Ministry of the Church	Jane Clayton
Constitutional Questions to the General Presbyter	
Constitutional Questions to the Presbytery	Judy Rogers
Prayer of Installation	Jonathan Yarboro
Declaration of Installation	
Charge to the General Presbyter	Eva Carter
Charge to the Presbytery	Terry Newland
COMMISSIONING OF DELEGATES TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY (Mark Hopkins, Rev. Ed Hurley, Julie Potts-YAAD, Rev. Leeann Scarbrough, Deborah Thomas)	Jane Clayton

### THE LORD'S SUPPER

†HYMN #521	<i>"You Satisfy the Hungry Heart"</i>
INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE	Susan Clayton and Barrett Abernethy
GREAT THANKSGIVING	
<i>The Lord be with you.</i>	
<i><b>And also with you.</b></i>	
<i>Lift up your hearts.</i>	
<i><b>We lift them up to the Lord.</b></i>	
<i>Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.</i>	
<i><b>It is right to give our thanks and praise.</b></i>	
 <i>...therefore we extend our voices to praise your name...</i>	
<i><b>Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts, Heaven and Earth are full of thy glory.</b></i>	
<i><b>Glory be to Thee, O Lord Most High. Amen.</b></i>	<i>(Hymn #580)</i>
 <i>...confirming the great mystery of faith</i>	
<i><b>Christ has died,</b></i>	
<i><b>Christ is risen,</b></i>	
<i><b>Christ will come again.</b></i>	

LORD'S PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

*These are the gifts of God for the people of God.  
Thanks be to God.*

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

*Communion will be celebrated by the process of intinction. You are welcome to come down the center aisle with your hands cupped. The pastor will place the bread in your hands and then you are invited to dip the bread in either grape juice {outer stations} or wine {inner stations}. A gluten-free station is available by the baptismal font.*

*During communion the congregation is invited to sing Hymn #513, Let Us Break Bread Together.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

†HYMN #127

*“Come, O Spirit”*

MINISTRY WITHIN OUR PRESBYTERY

- 11:30 A.M. STATED CLERK REPORT AND OMNIBUS MOTION Tom Winter
1. To approve the minutes of the February 23, 2018, Presbytery meeting.
  2. To approve requests for absences for today’s meeting.
  3. To record the receipt of the minutes of the Administrative Commission to close the Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church.
- EXECUTIVE COUNCIL REPORT Eva Carter
1. Concerning the Child/Youth protection policy, the Executive Council moves to postpone fingerprinting based on national criminal history record check indefinitely and to give the task force appointed by Council until August to draft a new policy.
- ENC REPORT Neil McCarter
- NOON LUNCH WITH INSTRUCTIONS AND PRAYER Barrett Abernethy
- 1:00 P.M. RECONVENE WITH MUSIC LED BY JONATHAN YARBORO
- GOOD NEWS FROM OUR CHURCHES (5 One-Minute Reports)
- MISSION COORDINATOR REPORT Ralls Coston
- GENERAL PRESBYTER REPORT Jay Wilkins
- COMMISSION ON MINISTRY Jamie McLeod
1. Approve the terms of call and installation of the Rev. John Brock to First, Eufaula.
  2. Approve the terms of call and installation of the Rev. Dr. James D. McLeod, Jr. to Cahaba Springs.
  3. Examine and approve the terms of call and installation of the Rev. Dr. Sun Jae Kim to Korean, Tuscaloosa.

4. Examine and approve the terms of call and installation of the Rev. Dr. Tom Bryson to Southminster.
5. Approve the 2018 Annual Remuneration of Ministers.
6. Concur with the Rev. Jim Truesdell's request to be released from the exercise of ordained ministry and to remove him from the rolls as a minister member of Presbytery. BOO G-2.0507
7. Celebration of the ministry of the Rev. James Ephraim. Joe Scrivner
8. Memorial for the Rev. Alexander John Homer. Tom Winter

COMMISSION ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY

Joe Genau

1. Approve Kathy Wolf Reed to serve as an Ordination Exam Reader for the class of 2019.

NOMINATING

Patti Winter

TRUSTEES

Bill Stribling

1. Motion to accept the offer of \$625,000 by Joyful News Christian Church for the purchase of the Trinity property.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Belinda Dickinson

UKIRK BIRMINGHAM

Patrick Harley

LIVING RIVER

Leanne Pearce Reed

PRESBYTERIAN HOME FOR CHILDREN

Doug Marshall

NEW BUSINESS

3:00 P.M. †ADJOURNMENT WITH PRAYER AND BENEDICTION

**PLEASE SILENCE ALL CELL PHONES AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

†Please stand, if able

**AFTER THE MEETING, PLEASE TURN IN YOUR HANGING NAME BADGE.**

We wish to extend a special thank you to the staff, session, and congregation of First-Livingston for hosting today's Presbytery meeting. We also thank Reverend Barrett Abernethy for bringing the Word, Rev. Leeann Scarbrough, Rev. Jonathan Yarboro, Rev. Terry Newland, Rev. Susan Clayton, Terri Jones (First-Auburn), Jane Clayton (Montevallo), Judy Rogers (Montevallo), Eva Carter (Westminster-B'ham), soloists Quincey White, Kawanis Johnson and organist Dr. Chris Jenkins for participating in today's worship.

**NEXT STATED MEETING - AUGUST 16, 2018**

**KOREAN AUBURN-OPELIKA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

## COMMISSIONING SERVICE

### General Assembly Commissioners

#### SENTENCES OF SCRIPTURE

Moderator: For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

**All: There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.**

Moderator: Lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

**All: There is one body and one Spirit, just as we were called to the one hope of our calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.**

Moderator: We are called by God to be the church of Jesus Christ, a sign in the world today of what God intends for all humankind.

**All: The great ends of the church are the proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind; the shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God; the maintenance of divine worship; the preservation of the truth; the promotion of social righteousness; and the exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world.**

Moderator: The call of Christ is to willing, dedicated discipleship. Our discipleship is a manifestation of the new life we enter through baptism. Discipleship is both a gift and a commitment, an offering and a responsibility. The grace bestowed on you in baptism is sufficient for your calling because it is God's grace. By God's grace we are saved, and enabled to grow in the faith and to commit our lives in ways that serve Christ. God has called you to particular service. Commissioners and delegates, show your purpose by answering these questions.

Moderator: Who is your Lord and Savior?

**Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior.**

Moderator: Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his Word and showing his love?

**I will, with God's help.**

Moderator: Do you welcome the responsibility of this service because you are determined to follow the Lord Jesus, to love neighbors, and to work for the reconciling of the world?

**I do.**

Moderator: Will you serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love, relying on God's mercy and rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit?

**I will, with God's help.**

Moderator: Do we, members the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley, accept these women and men as commissioners and delegates to the 223rd General Assembly, chosen by God through the voice of the church, to guide us in the way of Jesus Christ?

**We do.**

Do we promise to support and encourage them as they seek to fulfill their responsibilities in this ministry?

**We do.**

#### COMMISSIONING PRAYER

**All: Almighty God, in Jesus Christ you called disciples and, by the Holy Spirit, made them one church to serve you. Be with members of the 223rd General Assembly. Help them to welcome new things you are doing in the world and to respect old things you keep and use. In their deliberation, bring about what is best for us and for all people. As they meet, let your Holy Spirit guide so that the whole church may be joined in love and service to Jesus Christ, who, having gone before us, is coming to meet us in the promise of your kingdom. Amen.**

#### CHARGE

Moderator: You are commissioned to service as commissioners and delegates of the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley to the 223rd General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God through him.

#### BLESSING

Moderator: May the God of peace make you holy in every way, and keep your whole being, spirit, soul, and body, free from every fault at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**All: Alleluia! Amen.**

Year: 2017 1 of 1  

## Presbytery Report 2017

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**Presbytery Number** 115642  
**Name** Sheppards And Lapsley

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**Address** 3603 Lorna Ridge Dr  
**City/State** Birmingham, AL 35216  
**Phone** 205-978-0320  
**Email** [psl@pslpcusa.org](mailto:psl@pslpcusa.org)  
**Web Site**  
**Fax** [205-978-0330](tel:205-978-0330)

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**Membership**

Prior Active Members 9678

Gains		Losses	
17 & Under	32	Certified	110
18 & Over	44	Deaths	148
Certified	106	Other	482
Other	79		
<b>Total Gains</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>Total Losses</b>	<b>740</b>

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**Total Active Members** 9199

Baptized 428  
Other Participants 128  
Total Adherents 10044  
Female Members 5336

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**Average Attendance** 3257**Affiliate Members** 122

Baptisms		Officers	
Child Baptisms	107	Male Session	219
Adult Baptisms	22	Female Session	212
		Male Deacons	50
		Female Deacons	85

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Age Distribution of Active Members		Male		Female
25 & Under	1032	406		480
26 - 45	1642	626		750
46 - 55	953	350		433

56 - 65	1271	433	604
Over 65	2545	840	1190
<b>Total Distribution</b>	<b>7443</b>	<b>2655</b>	<b>3457</b>

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**People with Disabilities**

Hearing	186
Sight	69
Mobility	175
Other	45

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**Christian Education**

Birth 3	192	Grade 7	71
Age 4	86	Grade 8	57
Kindergarten	89	Grade 9	68
Grade 1	49	Grade 10	78
Grade 2	66	Grade 11	53
Grade 3	65	Grade 12	69
Grade 4	82	Young Adults	176
Grade 5	53	Over 25	1401
Grade 6	81	Teachers/Officers	248
<b>Total</b>	<b>2984</b>		

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<b>Racial Ethnic Breakdown</b>	<b>Membership</b>	<b>Elders</b>	<b>Deacons</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>
Asian	9	0	0	4	4
Black	79	9	0	10	31
African American	319	22	8	126	188
African	20	1	0	10	10
Middle Eastern	0	0	0	0	0
Hispanic	11	0	0	4	6
Native American	4	0	0	2	2
White	5221	305	73	1234	1753
Other	3	0	0	2	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>5666</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>1392</b>	<b>1995</b>

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<b>Potential Giving Units</b>	<b>3,527</b>
<b>Budgeted Income</b>	<b>13,447,900</b>
<b>Budgeted Expense</b>	<b>14,029,744</b>

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**Receipts**

Regular Contributions	12,079,988	Bequests	133,800
Capital Building Fund	1,817,071	Other Income	1,240,961
Investment Income	1,137,524	Subsidy or Aid	22,443

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**Expenditures**

Local Program	13,649,438	Per Capital Apprt	139,253
Local Mission	507,281	Validated Mission	445,974
Capital Expenditures	3,036,413	Theological Fund	19,710
Investment Expenditures	312,043	Other Mission	249,406



Stated Clerk's Report to Council  
Re: Child Protection Policy  
April 9, 2018

The committee to develop process for implementation of the Presbytery's Child Protection Policy has the following recommendation:

1. Postpone fingerprint based national criminal history record check.
2. The committee be charged with editing the current policy to reflect a simpler and more easily understood policy, having that policy in place and fully functional by August 2018, when Youth Council retreats will begin.

Rationale: The committee met and discussed the implementation of the policy. Although the state of Alabama has implemented a program [Alabama Volunteer and Employee Criminal History System (ALVECHS) Program] allowing] child serving organizations to make a fitness determination to serve as a volunteer or employee based on national criminal history provided by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) through Alabama Law Enforcement Agency (ALEA), the committee suggests we not participate at this time. ALVECHS is, as this point, a voluntary, relatively new program in the state, and will most likely become more useful in the future, especially in light of the fact that Congress has just passed a law making it mandatory for all states to offer a program of this type (kudos to Alabama for being one of 30 states which have implemented this program already). As of now, there are no churches or governing bodies in the state of Alabama which are participating.

Other factors in this recommendation are the requirements of record keeping, privacy issues and determination of fitness necessitates an inordinate amount of time and organization by the stated clerk. Since none of our churches has a FBI criminal history requirement, all of the volunteer/employee background checks will have to be conducted by the Stated Clerk. The cost is \$36/request. The stated clerk has to be trained by ALEA in recordkeeping, interpretation and privacy issues.

Instead, because churches are the entities which send chaperones and leaders to presbytery events, the committee at this time feels we should focus on helping our churches develop their child protection policies which include having solid background check procedures through reputable third party background check companies and chaperone education through the churches and at presbytery events. In cases where churches cannot do this, the presbytery should be available to conduct these.

The Presbytery policy will be edited to include definitions, language consistent throughout the policy and language consistent with applicable state and federal law. Included also will be an easily understood process for how volunteers and employees will be screened and trained.

Because there are no events which would require Presbytery chaperones, etc. until the late summer, we feel we can have the process fully functioning by August.

**EQUIP, NURTURE, & CONNECT (ENC)**  
 April 19, 2018 Children's Fresh Air Farm

Present: James Goodlet (chair), Neeley Lane, Patti Winter, Betsy Murphy, Betty Angelini, Joe Genau, Catherine Goudreau, Neil McCarter, Jay Wilkins, Jenny Thagard.

**The Retreat**

The ENC met on Thursday, April 19 at Children's Fresh Air Farm from 10-2 for a retreat. At the retreat, we considered the role of the ENC and what our work would be moving forward. A few notes from the meeting:

1. Do we need to relook at Main Event— Instead of a scattershot of workshops, what if we focused on specific areas?
2. College— lots of transition in campus ministries; could be an opportunity to benefit from one another's wisdom. We are so focused on our own stuff, but not on the whole group.
3. There's a very real struggle getting people to come to things.
4. People associated with children's ministry are doers. Maybe not dreamers.
5. Communication is a PROBLEM in our presbytery.
6. We're good at protecting children, but are we giving them permission to talk?
7. Should we look at a sexuality retreat?
8. Playology— ENC sponsor a Playology Event. How can we (ENC) use what we have learned/heard? It'd be a ConEd event from ENC for all branches of the ENC. Perhaps that takes the place of Main Event for a year or two. How can we bring Montreat style events here?
9. At presbytery, how can we be connectional and relational in nature? How can we be instead of just do?
10. Church workers and attendees need Soul Tending time.
11. Questions: how do we move from doing to being?
12. There needs to be a commitment from the group to think big.
13. This group needs to help youth council and children's ministry of keynoters.
14. What is this presbytery known for? Leadership development.

The group decided to take some time to process the retreat, but we agreed Leadership Development is an area where we can really focus. It applies to all areas of the ENC: Small Church, Youth, Camp/Children, College, and Main Event.

**Items of Business**

1. The ENC will ask a member of presbytery to join the ENC. It was decided Neil needs help with the small church group, so the person being asked will assist him there.
2. The ENC approved a \$500 grant to Rev. Yoochang Bang to attend a national meeting of Korean pastors.
3. The ENC approved a motion from Patti Winter to pay scholarships for all campers at Tier Two levels, and to use a portion of the Camp budget (up to \$3000.00) to help pay expenses for Day Camps in Montgomery and Livingston.
4. The ENC will next meet on Thursday, August 9 in Tuscaloosa.

Class of 2018— Jenny Thagard, Patti Winter  
 Class of 2019— Joe Genau, Neil McCarter, Neeley Lane  
 Class of 2020— James Goodlet, Betsy Murphy

**Minutes of Meeting of Small Church Ministries**

Presbytery Office March 22, 2018, 11:30 AM

Members present: Chuck Kukal; Barrett Abernethy; Jeff Bonner; Sandra Vaughn; Jay Wilkins, Neil McCarter, Moderator.

Moderator Neil McCarter opened the meeting with prayer.

The first agenda item was to discuss evaluations of leadership training event at Living River on Jan. 6, 2018. Jay reported that he had received three positive verbal responses. Group agreed that continuation of the annual event should occur. The date for the 2019 event would be the first Saturday in January.

Suggestion to improve the event was to add a digital component to the format. This suggestion would necessitate moving the event to a site which has electronic accessibility. Living River does not have that capability. Another related matter was getting access to ZOOM and/or SKYPE to enable participation at remote sites.

Jeff Bonner asked about a follow-up on the participation of several other churches in the Pneumatrix training. Two change agents reported on what the churches with which they worked at the recent Presbytery meeting. The interest is in the change agents possibly working with other churches in the Presbytery.

The group agreed that an event to which leaders of small churches would be invited to hear the change agents tell their stories so that leaders would be better informed about requirements for participation in a Pneumatrix model for transformation. Jay would ask the change agents about their availability for their participation in such an event. He would also ask for suggestions from them about possible dates.

Barrett brought to the group the matter of "mystery worshippers." The idea came from his United Methodist colleague in Livingston. The UM minister's district (maybe the whole conference) is participating in this program. Mystery worshippers are comparable to "mystery shoppers." Mystery worshippers would worship at various churches to evaluate the worship service in various aspects: hospitality; user-friendliness of the worship experience; signage in the church. Mystery worshippers would be anonymous.

The group was quite interested in the idea. Positive ideas about this effort were expressed as well as precautionary notes were acknowledged. Jay asked the group two questions: 1. "What do want to learn from the effort?" 2. "Are we willing to learn from it?"

Ground rules for churches participation need to be developed. Precautionary notes were: Careful planning regarding the geographical pairing of churches needs to be done; who receives the feedback.

Barrett volunteered to secure more information about this effort from his colleague and he would pass it on to the members of the group. (Note: Barrett has provided to the members two resources which he received from his colleague in Livingston. He sent this info by e-mail a few weeks ago.)

The next meeting of the group was not set at this time. Meeting was adjourned with prayer.  
Respectfully submitted, Neil McCarter, Moderator

**Youth Council Report**

1. 8 nominees for Presbytery Youth Council have been sent to the Nomination Committee to seek approval at May Meeting
2. Betsy Murphy (2020) and Neeley Lane (2019) will now chair the Presbytery Youth Council.
3. PYC is working on setting our Fall Retreat date as well as leadership training for the upcoming year with PYC adults and youth!
4. PYC is seeking names for potential keynote speakers in the future. If you have any recommendations please send name/recommendation/contact information to [nlane@fpctusc.org](mailto:nlane@fpctusc.org).

**MAIN EVENT PLANNING TEAM MINUTES**

April 26, 2018

PRESENT: Patti Winter, Cathy Hoop, Pat Goodman, Barrett Abernethy, Jenny Thagard, Joe Genau, and Jay Wilkins

Excused: Catherine Oliver, Elizabeth Goodrich, Eva Carter, Patsy Chaney, Ben Acton and Daniel Killilea The meeting was opened with prayer by Jenny.

**Evaluation of the 2018 Main Event**

- Evaluations (Written and by the Planning team—in person and by e mail)
  - Good to have it in different place, but need to alternate with Birmingham.
  - Friday night worship was creative and meaningful.
  - Vendor tables were in a perfect location with high visibility.
  - Consider raising honorarium
  - Time of year worked well
  - Suggested Keynoters: Oprah Winfrey, Leanne Van Dyke, Rick Ufford Chase, Rev. Becca Stevens, Doug Pagitt, Mickey Scott, Nadia Boltz Weber, Philip Newell
- Attendance—approximately 85-90—down from previous year, but not by that much
- Finances—under budget, primarily not having to pay for keynote travel and other keynote expense
- Liked single pricing for early registration and day-of
- First Tuscaloosa building was a perfect set-up for this type of event.
- Liked having fewer workshops to make the ones we have larger
- Liked having a closing plenary instead of ending on a workshop
- Many, many thanks to Cathy Hoop for pulling together a very meaningful worship service for Friday night. Her creativity in incorporating the Film clip of Denise Anderson and creating the service on such short notice was phenomenal.
- Many, many thanks to Barrett Abernethy in making last minute arrangements with Rob Lee to be both the keynote presenter and plenary speaker with a week's notice were also incredible.

**Other business**--We realized we have not paid Terry Tingle for the keynote gifts for the past 2 years. Planning team authorized the payment. (\$100)

**Looking to the future**

- Discussion of purpose of Main Event
  - Develop leaders
  - Feed Pastors (spiritually)
- Consensus of planning team was to hold an event in conjunction with the winter 2019 Presbytery meeting. Jenny will send a request to Executive Council to hold winter Presbytery meeting at a Birmingham church large enough to host leadership training event.
- Presbytery needs a registration program with payment capability. Different programs were discussed. (PCUSA, WuFoo)
- More intentional marketing of the Main Event on the congregation level. Encourage congregations to send teams of individuals. (Daniel volunteered to continue in his role of publicity, marketing and AV.)
- Suggestion to the future leadership team to re-vision Main Event to be
  - focused on leadership training
  - intentional about training leaders among youth
  - theme based
- Joe will contact 2 others (to be named when they accept) to form a 3-person leadership team for this event. That leadership team will be in place by the end of May.

- Jenny will remain a part of the planning team until December 2018 when she rolls off of
- ENC.
- The new leadership team will call the next meeting. The meeting was closed with prayer by Jay.

## Mission Coordinator's Report for Presbytery, May 17, 2018

The Presbytery's Self Development of People Committee has awarded its first check. It was given to the Lily Baptist Community Center in Pine Hill, Wilcox County, for its program: Small Steps Leads To Big Rewards. We awarded \$3500 for the project, which is designed to help the local youth with afterschool enrichment programs.

Also, \$1500 from the Presbytery's grant awarded by the Presbyterian Hunger Fund is being given to C.E.T. Ministries in Marion, located in Perry County. C.E.T. Ministries operates a food pantry, prison ministry, clothes closet, and homeless shelter at Eagle Grove Missionary Baptist Church near Marion. In addition, \$500 from the Presbytery's Prison Ministry Fund is being given to C.E.T., to help with its project of providing a hot meal monthly to the prisoners at the Perry County jail.

A Communicator's Workshop was held at Southminster Presbyterian Church on April 24, from 9:00am to 3:00pm. Gail Strange and Mari Graham of the Presbyterian Mission Agency's Communications Network taught the workshop. The topics covered were: strategic communications planning, church websites, relations with the news media, and the use of social media. We have some extra packets of the Workshop. Please contact Ralls Coston, [rcoston@pslpcusa.org](mailto:rcoston@pslpcusa.org), if you want one.

We are raising funds for the Birmingham area Habitat for Humanity house. We are asking for Birmingham area churches to contribute money and/or volunteers for this build. The house construction is scheduled to begin September 13, 2018. The location of the house will be determined later.

Four thousand dollars from the Presbytery's Peacemaking Reserve was given to RECONCILE International. RECONCILE is an organization working to promote civic education, conflict transformation and trauma healing in the South Sudan. The Revs. Shelvis and Nancy Smith-Mather, PCUSA Mission co-workers, have been working with RECONCILE for several years. The Presbytery's Peacemaking Reserve funds come from the Presbytery's portion of the Peacemaking Offering.

**General Presbyter Report to the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley  
May 17, 2018**

I am honored and humbled by your call for me to serve as General Presbyter. We worked together for over two years, learning strengths and weaknesses, developing trust and taking risks, looking toward God's preferred future for this Presbytery. I give thanks to God for you as we seek to be faithful in serving Christ and our neighbors.

The search for a General Presbyter began in February 2017 with the adoption of a "position description." I include most of that description here as a reminder of what I am called to be and to do, and as a way to hold each other accountable for this ministry we share.

The position is established by the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley to lead the Presbytery in fulfilling "Our Statement of Purpose" as in our Standing Rules which confesses that "we are called by grace to life-giving service to our congregations, engaging, equipping, nurturing and empowering them in their collective witness to God's love for all people in Jesus Christ."

**PURPOSE:** We seek a General Presbyter who will lead the Presbytery as it:  
"commits, with God's help to:

- Support congregations both large and small by serving as a resource for and an enabler of their ministries in their communities and throughout the world.
- Equip our lay and ordained leaders, and partner with them, to create and sustain healthy and growing worshipping communities that are faithful and vital witnesses of Jesus Christ.
- Nurture and enhance the many and various gifts God has given the members of our congregations and engage those gifts in the service of the wider church and all God's people, which affirms the relational connection of the Presbyterian Church (USA).
- Empower our congregations and our leaders to be flexible in structure, dynamic in practice and imaginative in their service of the Gospel in a changing world. "To further these purposes, the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley will itself need to be transformed by the Holy Spirit as it creates new structures, redirecting its mission, reconnecting its members and refreshing its leaders to better serve God's people in this time and place." (From "Our Statement of Purpose")

These commitments have been summarized into this identity statement for the Presbytery:

**"partner with and equip present and emerging  
PC(USA) faith communities in central Alabama  
to serve Christ and our neighbors"**

**RESPONSIBILITIES:**

1. Leads the Presbytery in the implementation of the Presbytery's commitments, including faithful planning and use of resources available.
2. Coaches pastors and Sessions to develop leadership within congregations for service to Christ's church.
3. Provides primary staff support to Executive Council, Commission on Ministry, Commission on Preparation for Ministry, Nominating Committee, Trustees, and other committees and task forces as appropriate.
4. Collaborates with the Executive Council in ways to develop new partnerships in ministry and to equip congregations to serve Christ and neighbor.
5. With the Personnel Committee, oversees staff, and supervises, as head of staff, Presbytery paid staff and volunteers.
6. Plans with the Finance Committee for financial management and budget



development, in concert with Treasurer, Trustees, and Executive Council.

7. Participates with the COM in the pastoral care of minister members and congregations of the Presbytery, especially during times of crisis, pastoral vacancy, life transitions, and conflict.
8. Serves as an active member of the Board of Directors of Living River: a retreat on the Cahaba, Inc., and is an advocate for the relationship between the Presbytery and Living River as presented in the "Covenant" agreement.
9. Represents the Presbytery and the Presbyterian Church (USA) in ecumenical and interfaith relations, to the media, and, with the Stated Clerk, to civil authorities and agencies.
10. Serves as liaison between the Presbytery and Sessions, Synod, General Assembly and other bodies in relation to Presbytery. Coordinates for best effect the work of Synod and General Assembly staff within Presbytery bounds.

Recent developments include a partnership with North Alabama Presbytery and the Synod of Living Waters to host a Lombard Peace Center week-long workshop on managing conflict. Our partnership allows for a reduced fee for the training, and I hope will lead to a team of folks who can be called upon to intervene in difficult situations in congregations. See the brochure which follows this report.

We have reached out to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance leadership for support following the March 19 tornado in Jacksonville and Calhoun County. CRE Lin Veasey and Dr. Lesley Ann Earles, Jacksonville UKirk Director, have focused on responding to the needs of students who returned to campus to complete their education. They seek to meet basic needs such as housing, transportation, and counseling.

Our Commission on Ministry has reorganized itself into two teams in order to respond more effectively to pastoral and congregational care concerns. The teams meet for an hour to share reports, and then meet as a whole to address the business that is COM's ministry.

Some of the PneuMatrix agents of change are making themselves available for work with another congregation. The Executive Council has identified funds available to cover expenses and fees for coaching by the PneuMatrix consultants. A conversation is being planned for Tuesday, May 29, 5:30 PM, at the Presbytery office with video conference available -- send me your email and let me know of your interest, and I will send you a link to the Zoom conference.

Following the encouragement of some, I have started a blog on our Presbytery web site called "The Presbyter's Blog" where I will share reflections from recent readings and experiences, and welcome appropriate comments. This is a new spiritual discipline for me, so I ask your patience as I become more faithful in this practice.

I do welcome invitations to meet with your Session or be in church gatherings to listen to what God is doing in your community, and to explore how we might partner with and equip our congregations more faithfully.

*Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley*  
*partner with and equip present and emerging*  
*PC(USA) faith communities in central Alabama*  
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