

August 2018

PRESBYTERY MEETING REFLECTION

By Sheppards & Lapsley Moderator, Jane Clayton



The Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley met on August 16, 2018, at the Auburn-Opelika Korean Presbyterian Church in Opelika, Alabama.

Moderator Jane Clayton offered an opening prayer and welcomed all who

attended. The docket was adopted as presented.

Suhyun Suh, an elder from the host church, welcomed commissioners and visitors.



Worship followed, during which the **Reverend Junmo Jeong**, pastor of the host church, delivered the sermon entitled “Missional Church”.



Participants celebrated the Lord's Supper, led by the **Reverend J.C.Kang** and the **Reverend Yoo Chang Bang**.

Ministry reports began the next portion of the meeting. Lee Walthall shared a presentation on the successes and challenges at Living River. He stressed the need for two additions at Living River: an adult lodge and a swimming pool. Everyone is urged to find ways to support the building of these facilities before next summer.

Doug Marshall shared the exciting things happening at the Presbyterian Home for Children, including a development of tiny houses built on PHC property to accommodate graduates of the Alabama Institute for the Deaf and Blind. He also introduced Al Hill, Vice-Moderator of the PHC board, who spoke of the importance of the work being done there.

Ralls Coston, Mission Coordinator, described the opportunities for mission work that he is overseeing, such as Habitat for Humanity, the Pentecost CANpaign, the Cents-Ability Offering, and the Perry/Dallas County Fund.

Patrick Harley reported from UKirk Birmingham regarding the plans surrounding the beginning of school at the campuses served by this ministry. He listed events such as

Hero Monday's, UKirk UCook, and weekly worship and Bible Studies on the campuses.

Bill Stribling reported from the Trustees. Presbytery approved without objection the following actions:

- Approval for Grace Presbyterian Church, Tuscaloosa, to purchase property with house on Hargrove Road for \$85,000.
- Approval for First Presbyterian Church, Anniston, to lease the downstairs Sunday school wing, youth center, Fellowship Hall, and kitchen to The Life Center Ministries, Inc. to be used for daycare, summer camp, and regular worship.

Patti Winter proposed the following names for the Youth Council: Lilian Toriano and Clair Tucker from South Highland and Grace Ahnert from First Birmingham. All were approved without objection.



Presbytery examined and voted without objection to transfer the membership of Anna Owens-Sweeney from Whitewater Valley Presbytery and to approve her as Associate Pastor for Campus Ministry at First Presbyterian Church, Auburn. Presbytery examined and voted without objection to transfer the membership of Meg Shoeman, Chaplain at Children's Hospital of Alabama, from Carlisle Presbytery.

Cary Speaker reported on the sale of Presbyterian Manor Apartments. The proceeds were presented to the following ministries: Presbyterian Home for Children in Talladega - \$300,000; Presbyterian Community Ministry in Auburn - \$200,000; Living River - \$60,000; Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley - \$10,000.



“Many attendees complimented members of the host church on the delicious lunch they prepared and served.”

General Assembly Commissioners reported from their experience at the recent meeting in St. Louis. The Commissioners were Ed Hurley, Leanne Scarborough, Mark Hopkins, Deborah Thomas, and Julie Potts.



General Presbyter Jay Wilkins discussed the ongoing process by the Executive Council to envision a preferred future for the Presbytery, both short term and long range. He reported that congregations may apply for participation in the second round of the PneuMatrix process. Local presbyters trained as Adaptive Change Agents will lead the groups. Jay also discussed some new opportunities from the Board of Pensions: Pathways to Renewal; Healthy Pastors, Healthy Congregations; Minister Educational Debt Assistance Program Expansion; First Call, First Steps.

Jim Toomey presented the report from the Executive Council. The following actions have been approved by the EC:

- Approval of establishing a Perry/Dallas County Fund to support projects in those two communities under the oversight of the Mission Coordinator
- Approval of an expenditure of \$7,000, out of the King Trust, for first Presbyterian Church, Anniston, to fully review their financial situation. Council recommended that they should contact the Presbyterian Foundation first for help in reviewing their bequests and documents.
- Approval of expenditure for up to four people from the Anti-Racism Team to attend a two-night conference at Montreat offered by Crossroads from Chicago. The amount of \$290 per person was approved with funds coming from the General Presbyter travel expense.

EC has met with the Task Force on the Child and Youth Protection Policy. They presented a draft with the following changes:

- Definition of terms, only for this policy
- Shift of responsibility and accountability to the churches whose children attend events
- Performance of background checks, including criminal and sex offender national background for Presbytery staff, ministers, ruling elders, and Christian Educators every three years.

The draft continues to be revised by the Task Force. Any suggestions for revision should be sent to the Stated Clerk. The revised policy will be presented for vote at the November 8, 2018, Presbytery meeting.

The Madagascar Overture, which the Presbytery voted to co-sponsor in February, was approved at the 223rd General Assembly.

GA approved an increase in per capita from \$7.73 (2018) to \$8.95 per member (2019-2020).

Patrick Harley and Jay Wilkins are serving on a Synod Task Force to envision the future of our synod.

Joe Genau from the Commission on Preparation for Ministry presented two inquirers ready to move to candidacy: Samuel Turpen from Edgewood Presbyterian and Avery Smith from Grace Presbyterian in Tuscaloosa. Presbytery approved without objection.



Presbytery adjourned at 2:00 P.M., and Kathy Wolf Reed gave the closing prayer and benediction.



Respectfully submitted,
Jane Clayton, Moderator