MINUTES

Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley

Synod of Living Waters

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Stated Meeting

May 16, 2019

**GOD CALLS US TOGETHER**

The Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley of the Synod of Living Waters of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) met in the Stated Meeting on May 16, 2019 at Living River: A Retreat on the Cahaba. Throughout these minutes, Teaching Elders are indicated by an asterisk (\*).

The meeting was called to order at 9:45 a.m. by Moderator Susan Clayton, who opened the meeting with prayer.

# ORGANIZATION

On advice of the Stated Clerk, a quorum was declared by the Moderator.

**Corresponding Members**

# Adoption of the Docket (Appendix B-1)

The docket was adopted by common consent.

**Recognition of First Time Commissioners and Visitors**

**Teaching Elders**

Ministers Present (35) Excused (65) Absent (20)

Abernethy, Barrett E

Adams, Nan A

Atkerson, Rick P

Bailey, Michael P

Bang, Yoo Chang E

Bankson, John E

Becker, Lindsay A

Bell, Jerome A

Bird, Shelaine A

Booth, Ben HR E

Brock, John A

Broyles, Vernon, HR E

Bryson, Tom P

Bruchey, Wayne HR E

Burgess, Sid, HR E

Butler, Heather Jones A

Carl, Bill P

Carleton, Rhon HR E

Carter, Clyde HR E

Casey, Lydia P

Chaney, Patsy HR E

Chinula, Donald A

Cho, Timothy A

Choomack, Jim HR E

Clark, Molly HR P

Clayton, Susan P

Clendenin, Monty HR E

Coker, Jeff HR E

Crutchfield, Bob HR E Dantzler, Bill HR` E

Davis, Becky HR E

Davis, Lant E

Dippenaer, Vic E

Durham, Charles HR E

Durham, Erica E

Edwards, Robert A

Ephraim, James, HR P Feagin, Debbie P

Free, Zana A

Genau, Joe E

Goodrich, Cat P

Goodrich, Elizabeth E

Hamilton-Poore, Sam P

Hamilton Poore, Terri P

Hanna, Richard E

Harley, Patrick P

Harmon, Dawson HR E

Hay, Robert HR E

Hayes, Jeff A

Hibbard, Norman HR E

Hoop, Cathy P

Hurley, Ed E

Hurst, Clyce HR E

Inman, Robert F HR E

Jeong, Junmo P

Jones, Steve P Kelso, Hugh HR E

Kim, Sun Jae P

Kim, Sung Woong A

Kim, Young A

Laney, Susan HR E

Lays, Brian P

Mann, Becky E

McCarter, Neil HR P

McClendon, Bruce A

McClure, John E

McCormick, Mark E

McElrath, Pete HR E

McElveen, William HR E

McLaughlin, Wayne HR E

McKean, Mac HR E

McLeod, James P

Min, Leigh Ann P

Mylasingh, Emerson HRE

Newland, Terry HR P

Northern, Margaret E

O’Neill, Elizabeth E

Oh, Jyung Ho A

Oliver, Catherine A

Owens, Anna P

Patton, Finley HR E

Patton, Roger HR E

Pearce-Reed, Leanne P

Porter, Mary HR E

Price, Sandra HR E

Pyburn, Richard HR E

Rains, Tom HR E

Reed, Kathy E

Reed, Nick P

Rentz-Lane, Neely E

Scarbrough, Leeann P

Scrivner, Joe P

Scott, Christopher P

Scott, Kathy E

Seamon, David A

Seitz, Craig HR E

Sellers, Lou Ann P

Shelton, Jack HR E

Sherwood, Paul E

Shin, Dong Out E

Sims, Charles HR E

Slane, Joe HR P

Shoeman, Meg A

Speaker, Cary HR E

Stanford, Jim HR E

Stephens, Dan E

Stephens, Gerald HR E

Thompson, Ben HR E

Tingle, Terry, HR E

Turner, Lucy A

Wade, Lindsey P

Waters, Dana HR P

Watson, Cody A

Wells, Jim, HR E

Wilkins, Jay P

Wills, Bill HR E

Winter, Rachel E

Winter, Tom HR P

Winton, Carlton, HR E

Yarboro, Jonathan P

**Commission Ruling Elders with Vote**

Present (5) Excused (2) Absent (5)

Chuck Kukal P Emerick, Robert A

Arellano, Ben A Harrison, John A

Bonner, Jeff P Sauser, Bill E

Dodson, Beverly E Thomas, Roger A

Eich, Sharon A. A Veasey, Lin P

**Executive Council Members/Presbytery Officers w/Vote**

Present (7) Excused (1) Absent (0)

Judith Baldwin P Rick Reed P

Linda Burrowes P Judy Rogers P

Jane Clayton P Jean Russell P

Shirley Finley P Bill Stribling E

**Christian Educators, Presbyterian Women and Trustees Moderator w/Vote**

Jenny Thagard P Rush Watson P Dotty Lessley E

**Elders**

Number in parenthesis by church name indicates the number of commissioners authorized. “NR” indicates that the church did not have elder representation. There are sixty-eight churches in the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley. Twenty-seven Commissioners were present.

Alexander City First (1) NR

Annemanie Arlington (1) NR

Anniston Church of the Covenant Sissy Bain

Anniston Church of the Good Shepherd (1) NR

Anniston First (1) NR

Anniston First United (1) NR

Anniston Korean (1) Paul Jo

Auburn First (2) Beth Schwartz

Bessemer Good Hope (1) NR

Birmingham Bold Springs (1) NR

Birmingham Edgewood (1) NR

Birmingham Fairfield Highlands (1) NR

Birmingham First (1) Ann Gray Harvey

Birmingham First United of Forestdale (1) NR

Birmingham Five Mile (1) NR

Birmingham Independent (5) Steve Hunt

Caryl Privett Frank Sutherland

NR

NR

Birmingham Korean (1) NR

Birmingham Mountain Brook (1) Erskine Carmichael

Birmingham Oakmont Chapel (1) Brian Massengale

Birmingham Riverchase (1) NR

Birmingham Second Catherine Wilson

Birmingham Shades Valley (1) Diane Newland

Birmingham South Highland (2) Kathy Tracey

NR

Birmingham Southminster (1) Patick Riley

Birmingham Westminster (1) Darryl Love

Cuba Cuba (1) NR

Camden New Trinity (1) NR

Carbon Hill First (1) NR

Dadeville First (1) NR

Dadeville Woods (1) NR

Eufaula First (1) NR

Gardendale Gardendale (1) David Fancher

Goodwater First (1) NR

Green Pond Green Pond (1) Lynn Nelson

Jacksonville First (1) NR

Lafayette Lebanon (1) NR

Leeds Leeds (1) Charles Gabert

Livingston First (1) Carole Smith

Magnolia Rock Springs (1) NR

Marion Junction Marion Junction (1) NR

Montevallo Montevallo (1) Don Blakely

Montgomery Calvary NR

Montgomery Immanuel (1) NR

Montgomery Korean (1) NR

Montgomery Providence (1) NR

Moundville Saint James (1) NR

Northport Bethel (1) NR

Odenville Odenville (1) NR

Opelika Korean NR

Oxford Dodson Memorial (1) NR

Phenix City First (1) NR

Piedmont First (1) NR

Reform First (1) NR

Selma Northern Heights (1) NR

Selma Pisgah (1) NR

Selma Valley Creek (1) David Hodo

Springville Springville (1) NR

Sylacauga First (1) NR

Talladega First (1) Frank Hubbard

Troy Williams Memorial (1) NR

Trussville Cahaba Springs (1) Jon Scholl

Tuscaloosa Brown Memorial (1) Ben Winston

Tuscaloosa First (3) Ellen Potts

Jacqueline Morgan

NR

Tuscaloosa Grace (1) NR

Tuscaloosa Korean NR

Tuskegee Institute Westminster (1) NR

Union Springs Union Springs (1) Pam Salter

Wetumpka First (1) Linda Miller

We were warmly welcomed by Jenny Thagard.

Lou Ann Sellers led the Call to Worship on praising the Lord’s name. The body sang *“God of Grace and God of Glory”*

Jeff Bonner called us to confess our sins. Leanne Pearce Reed assured us of God’s salvation.

Joe Scrivner prayed the Prayer of Illumination and read Scripture Mark 2:23-28. He then preached the Sermon *“Don’t Miss It”.*

The body sang *“Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior”.*

Jamie McLeod asked for the offering. It was collected and will be divided equally between the Discretionary Fund and CPM for the use of the candidates. During the Offering, Byron Thomas played the Offertory music. The body sang the Doxology.

Judith Baldwin and Adrienne Royster invited the body to the Lord’s Table. We then sang “Lead Me to Calvary”. After we shared the bread and cup, Judith led us in prayer.

**Anti-Racism Team Report (Appendix B-2)** Lou Ann Sellers

A recorder was appointed by each table to take notes. The tables discussed questions given to them by the Team. People were also asked to share their experiences with their group. After the discussions, each table shared, Joe Scrivner offered a prayer.

**Blessing for Lunch –** We sang the Living River camp song.

We were welcomed back from lunch with music by Jonathan Yarboro and Jamie McLeod.

**Good News From Our Churches:**

**1. Cathy Hoop—**Thanks to First-Auburn, as they inspired Grace-Tusc to offer no interest loans (Peoples Loan Program) to help combat predatory loan programs in Tuscaloosa**.** It is an ecumenical group. .

**2.** **Doug Marshall—**He discussed the illnesses he has had recently and his support group. The children at the Home do not have that. Two girls in the Moderate Care House got into a fight. One girl went to the ER with possible broken hand. She was shocked when Doug showed up. But he expressed to her God’s love, the Home’s and his. Building 2 tiny homes for the deaf and blind.

Aug 15- Sweet Home Soiree at the Club, which is a fundraiser for the school.

**3. Leanne Pearce Reed.** Shades Valley iskicking off their farmer’s market next Wednesday from 3:00 to 6;00 p.m.

**4. Chris Scott**—His wife is in Afghanistan, serving as a chaplain with different denominations. First-Wetumpka—congregation is going through a visioning process and they are including the children and youth.

**5. Robert Newman**, Program Director at Southminster. They are starting a kickball league on Thursday nights, beginning June 13.

They are planning a memorial golf tournament for Bill Christians on June 10th.

**6. Terry-Hamilton Poore**—1st Birmingham has become a Morelight Congregation and an Earthcare Congregation.

**7. Lynn Nelson, Green Pond**—June 30 they have been given permission to hold an 18th century church meeting. They will dress in period dress.

**Vote on General Assembly Amendments**

**(All amendments, except 18-C, have been approved nationally)**

18-A G-2.0401 **Approved**

18-B.1 G-2.0509 **Approved**

18-C G-3.0104 **Not Approved**

18-D G-3.0306 **Approved**

18-E G-3.0307 **Approved**

18-F W-4.0202 **Approved**

18-G D-2.023b **Approved**

18-H.1 D-10.0401b **Approved**

18-H.2 D-10.0401c(1) **Approved**

18-B.2 D-10.0401d **Approved**

**Nominating Committee**  Patti Winter

We would like to nominate the following:

COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

Class of 2021 Sam Hamilton-Poore, Clergy

APPROVE NOMINATIONS TO YOUTH COUNCIL,

Name Church Grade 2019/2020 Class

David Allbright IPC 11th 2021

Maddy Crissey 1st Tuscaloosa 11th 2021

William Duin 1st Auburn 12th 2020

Lauren Gambrell 1st Tuscaloosa 11th 2021

Wheeler Garrett 1st Auburn 11th 2021

Connie Mitchell 1st Auburn 11th 2021

Emma Pope 1st Auburn 11th 2021

Anna Grace Smith 1st Tuscaloosa 11th 2021

Nathan Stewart 1st Auburn 11th 2021

Anna Cate Weeks South Highland 11th 2021

Wyatt Yost 1st Auburn 12th 2020

Adults

Robert Newman Southminster 2022

Suzanne Cornett South Highland/1st Tuscaloosa 2022

**Approved**

**Commission on Ministry** Jamie McLeod

For information:

1. COM voted without objection to dismiss J.C. Kang to San Joaquin Presbytery.

2. COM voted without objection to allow Goodwater Presbyterian Church to be free from the rotation of elders for one year.

3. COM was informed of the decision by Church of the Good Shepherd (Anniston) of their plans to close May 31.

4. COM voted without objection to dissolve the Response/Review Team for First Presbyterian Anniston.

5. COM voted to grant exemption of rotation of elders for the Union Springs Presbyterian Church.

6. COM approved without objection the Ministry Information Form for Montevallo.

7. COM received a report from the Administration Commission working with Center Point Presbyterian Church. Their final worship service was on April 28.

8.COM received word from Independent Presbyterian Church that had met as a congregation to dissolve the pastoral relationship between IPC and Bill Carl. This will be effect August 31, 2020. IPC will begin process of developing a job description in preparation for a search for his replacement. COM voted to concur with the dissolution of that pastoral relationship.

9. COM voted to concur with the dissolution of the pastoral relationship with Neely Rentz Lane and First Presbyterian Tuscaloosa effective June 15, 2019.

**For Action:**

1. Approve the annual remuneration of ministers. **(Appendix B-3**) **Approved**

2. A celebration of the ministry of the Rev. Terry Newland on the occasion of his retirement. (**Appendix B-4)** Eva Carter

**Stated Clerk Report and Omnibus Motion** Tom Winter

Omnibus Motion

* To approve minutes of February meeting.
* To approve requests for absence for today’s meeting.

To record the receipt of minutes of commissions to install Rev. Terry Hamilton-Poore as Pastor of First Presbyterian, Birmingham, and to ordain Mary Sellers Shaw to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament. **Approve**

Action

* To hear and act upon the report of the Administrative Commission to merge the Memorial and Westminster churches of Montgomery [Jonathan Yarboro].

**(Appendix B-5, B-6)**

On behalf of the Administrative Commission to close Center Point church, the Stated Clerk moves such closure, effective April 28, 2019.

* On behalf of the Administrative Committee to close Good Shepherd church, Anniston, the Stated Clerk moves such closure, effective May 26, 2019.

**Approved**

Information

* The 2018 Statistical Report is attached. **(Appendix B-7)**
* To record the review of Session minutes of Leeds, South Highland, Livingston, and First, Tuscaloosa.

Future review dates: May 11, Southminster, June 15, Wetumpka, and July 13, Jacksonville. Clerks of Session are also welcome to drop your minutes at the presbytery office or the SC will come to you. Clerks are asked to please fill out checklists for your own minutes before review.

* Per Capita! 44 of our 70 churches have paid or are paying their 2019 Per Capita. Thank you for your support of wider church! But that also means that 26 churches have not paid their Per Capita. Please prayerfully consider your commitment not only to the work of Presbytery, but also to Synod, General Assembly, and Campus Ministry.

**Living River Report (Appendix B-8)** Nick Reed

**Report from the Executive Council** Jane Clayton

Executive Council met on March 13, April 10, 2019 and May 8, 2019. Action items include the following:

1) Executive Council approved the Volunteer Nurture Coordinator Position and asked Pat Goodman to work through the end of 2019. She is currently serving in this position.

**Approved**

2) At the February meeting of Presbytery, Executive Council recommended an addition to the Standing Rules to be voted on at the May Presbytery meeting:

SR-4.0101 b. 7 When disciplinary charges are filed with the Stated Clerk between meetings of the Presbytery, the Moderator, with the consent of the Stated Clerk, has the authority to appoint an Investigative Committee of three to five persons (Book of Order D-10.0201b) to investigate an allegation and determine whether or not formal charges should be filed. The Stated Clerk will report the action at the next meeting of Presbytery.

**Approved**

3) EC recommends that Presbytery authorize the Living River Board to use funds previously allocated for the pool and adult lodge to be used as needed at the Living River Board’s discretion. These funds are:

1. 90% of the proceeds from the sale of Trinity property ($540,000 assuming proceeds are $600,000); 2. $100,000 loaned at an annual interest rate of 1% for 10 years (account #880100); 3. $60,000 from the Development Grant Fund (account #880200). **Approved**

4) Executive Council recommends the following motion to Presbytery:

 To agree to co-sign a loan of $10,000 from the Synod of Living Waters to

Westminster Presbyterian Church in Birmingham for renovation of their building.

**Approved**

**General Presbyter** Jay Wilkins

What does a General Presbyter do? I hear that question frequently as I visit in our congregations. So, I have looked back over the three months since our last Presbytery meeting in order to give an accurate description of where I have discerned God calling me to be engaged on your behalf. I am committed to being as transparent as possible with you so that you will share with our congregations what I am doing to partner with and equip our congregations to serve Jesus Christ and our neighbors.

Much of my time is given to be of support to our pastors as they seek to discern God’s calling for themselves and their congregations. I may meet for lunch, engage in telephone or email conversations. We might meet in my office, in their office, or in a third space that is safe. Most of these are solution focused, short term, seeking a path to a preferred future. I encourage some to seek a coach who can provide longer term and more skilled support.

I seek to partner with our congregations as they face transitions in mission and leadership, and search for new pastoral leadership. This may involve meetings with the Session of a congregation, congregational meetings to discern God’s calling, phone calls to strategize how best to respond to issues that come up, sharing documents and resources, coaching ruling elders on faithful responses to concerns that are being raised.

Working to support our committees, commissions, and teams, all filled with followers of Christ giving of their time and talents in service to Christ, engages a significant percentage of my ministry. I am blessed to share in this ministry with a great staff, paid and volunteer: Tammy Strickland, Tom Winter, Ralls Coston, Pat Goodman, Jean Russell, Linda Burrowes, and Patrick Harley. My joy is to serve with them, learn from them, and encourage the discernment of what God is up to in our communities and Presbytery.

I worship across the Presbytery and participate in some congregational programs when invited. Since our last meeting, I have been with 12 different congregations. Some ask if I have a “home church” and my answer is that I feel that all the congregations of the Presbytery are my home. My daughter and her husband are members of Independent Presbyterian Church, and my grandson was baptized there. So, when we are able to worship as a family, we worship at IPC.

Fostering good relationships with our partners in ministry is another aspect of my calling. By virtue of my office, I serve on the Board of Living River and on the Steering Team of UKirk Birmingham. We have welcomed Jonathan Ahern of the Presbyterian Home for Children into our offices. I am now taking my turn on the Permanent Administrative Commission of the Synod of Living Waters as we seek new leadership and live into a new organizational structure. I remain in contact with staff of the Presbyterian Mission Agency and the Office of the General Assembly as we seek the support and guidance of our connectional church.

I give thanks to God, and to this Presbytery, for this opportunity to partner with and equip present and emerging faith communities to serve Christ and our neighbors.

**New Business:**

1. Trustees of the Presbytery of Sheppard and Lapsley recommend that First Presbyterian Church of Talladega be given the approval to sell the manse on the Southwood Presbyterian Church property to Mr. Jack Bowden for $28,500.00. Proceeds from the sale will remain with First Presbyterian Church of Talladega. **Approved**

2. Park Grimmer spoke about how he has been working with Living River since the beginning.

**UKirk Birmingham (Appendix B-9)**

**Mission Coordinator’s Report (Appendix B-10)**

**Commission on Preparation for Ministry**

**FOR INFORMATION**:

INQUIRERS CHURCH INSTITUTION  
  
Emily Frandsen Independent, Birmingham Dubuque  
Beom Joseph Jung Auburn-Opelika Korean, Opelika Columbia  
Jack Key First, Livingston Columbia  
Patrick O’Connor Immanuel, Montgomery San Francisco

CANDIDATES

Bennett Alldredge First, Tuscaloosa Princeton   
Young Cecilia Chang Shades Valley, Birmingham Graduated  
Alexandra Hutson First, Tuscaloosa Columbia

Avery Smith Grace, Tuscaloosa Louisville  
Samuel Turpen Edgewood, Birmingham Columbia

**FOR INFORMATION:**

1. The commission approved the transfer of Cecilia Chang’s congregation of care and covenant from Korean Presbyterian in Pelham to Shades Valley Presbyterian. The commission further approved Cecilia to celebrate the Lord’s Supper with the worshiping community meeting at Shades Valley.

**Equip, Nurture and Connect**  **(Appendix B-11)**

**Revenues and Expenses (Appendix B-12)**

**Congo Team Report** **(Appendix B-13)**

**Trustees Report (Appendix B-14)**

**Synod Commissioners Report (Appendix B-15)**

**Closing Prayer and Blessing** Chuck Kukal

**Tom Winter Linda Burrowes**

**Stated Clerk Recording Clerk**