

PRESBYTERY REFLECTION

By Sheppards and Lapsley Moderator, Bill Stribling

FEBRUARY 2020

HOST: SHADES VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Highlights of the February Presbytery meeting



Rev. James Ephraim delivers the sermon



Bill Stribling receives the gavel and stole



Rev. Dr. Sue Westfall becomes a member of PSL



Rev. Joe Genau, Don Hagan & Doug Marshall PHFC fundraiser

Ministry within our Presbytery



On February 28th, 2020 a lovely early pre-spring day, Moderator Susan Clayton called the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley to order at 10 AM in the Sanctuary of Shades Valley Presbyterian Church in Birmingham, AL. The meeting was opened with prayer. Upon the revelation of a quorum and adoption of the Docket first time commissioners were recognized and self-introduced from the audience.

The first order of business as required by our Standing Rules was the election of Nominating and Representation members of the Class of 2022; Ruling Elder Sissy Bain, Covenant; Patti Winter, Moderator, and 2 vacant positions. These positions were approved by vote of the assembled commissioners.



Next, the Moderator and Vice Moderator were installed by the outgoing Moderator. Bill Stribling, Moderator and Debbie Feagin, Vice Moderator affirmed the vows and were ordained and installed. Susan Clayton made her remarks as outgoing Moderator and then presented the gavel and stole to Bill Stribling to moderate the remainder of the meeting. Susan was presented a gift in appreciation of her exemplary service.

The new moderator nominated three people to the Bills and Overtures Committee; Lynne Simmons, Independent; James Ephraim, First United Forestdale; and Lou Ann Sellers, First Tuscaloosa. They were elected unanimously by voice vote.



A warm welcome to the assembled commissioners was issued by Reverend Leanne Pearce Reed the minister of Shades Valley. Directions around the building were offered.

The Executive Council report was presented by Susan Clayton. She first introduced Rev. Dr. Sue Westfall as the Transitional Executive Presbyter and welcomed her into that position. Two items of business were generated by the Executive Council as follows: A professional boundary training program was proposed to the assembly who then discussed and approved the training for professionals under the care of Presbytery. With sincere regret, the dissolution of Rev. Patrick Harley's call as Campus Minister for UKirk of Birmingham was received. Both items were discussed and approved. Minutes of Committees which required no action were received for information.



Ministry Within our Presbytery



Partnership between the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley and the Presbyteries of Tshibashi and Nganza in the Congo was formalized by a vote of Commissioners after the presentation by Charles Nash.



The Hon. Carol Privett presented the Commission on Ministry report. She commissioned Francis “Frankie” Tatum and Dr. Lesley Ann Earles as Commissioned Ruling Elder. Elder Tatum will be on the stated supply list and Dr. Earles will serve First, Livingston. Another motion from the Commission on Ministry concerning modification of the Standing Rules was debated and per the motion of Terri Hamilton-Poore, and vote of Commissioners, returned to the

Commission on Ministry for restructuring and possible return to Presbytery at a later date.



Clerk of Presbytery Tom Winter presented a moving memorial for William A Dantzler who passed away last year. He also presented the necrology report remembering all the Teaching and Ruling Elders in the presbytery who died in 2019. In other business the Presbytery approved the minutes of the November 24, 2019 meeting, approved requests for absences from today’s meeting and to receive

and record the minutes of the Commission to Ordain and install Andrew Gorman Spaulding as Associate Pastor at First Tuscaloosa. On behalf of Trustees he made the motion to modify the Standing rules allowing Rush Watson to serve another year on that board while seeking a replacement to be Chair of Trustees.

Good news from the churches allowed Rev. Jonathan Yarboro the opportunity to update his fellow Presbyterians on the on-schedule progress of rebuilding the First Wetumpka building. He also extolled the benefits of proper insurance for churches. We heard from Edgewood and the effort of one of her members who is bicycling across the country in support of the Talladega Children’s Home.



Thanks to all the people who agreed to serve their Presbytery in the essential work of committees. Patti Winter presented nominations for the various committees including Committee for Preparation for Ministry, Commission on Ministry, Youth Council, Living River Board, Anti-Racism Committee and the 2020 General Assembly Delegate. In addition, we were informed that Patrick O’Connor has

been selected by Austin Theological Seminary to attend as a Seminary Delegate.

After hearing no new business the business portion of the meeting was concluded by singing “In the Bulb There is a Flower” followed by a blessing for our lunch by Rev. Leanne Pearce Reed.

After lunch the Main Event was commenced. This year’s event included a wide range of informative sessions lasting the remainder of Friday, Hymn singing and beer and then more sessions Saturday.

*Grace and Peace,
Bill Stribling, Moderator*

