MINUTES

Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley

Synod of Living Waters

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Stated Meeting

August 20, 2020

**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 August 20, 2020 on a Zoom meeting, hosted by First Presbyterian, Eufaula, AL.

Throughout these minutes, Teaching Elders are indicated by an asterisk (\*).

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Moderator Bill Stribling, who opened the meeting with prayer.

# Organization

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

**Corresponding Members**

**Recognition of First Time Commissioners and Visitors**

# Adoption of the Docket (Appendix C-1)

The docket was adopted by common consent.

**Teaching Elders**

Ministers Present (57) Excused (47) Absent (15)

Adams, Nan A

Atkerson, Rick P

Bailey, Michael P

Bang, Yoo Chang P

Bankson, John E

Becker, Lindsay A

Jerome Bell P

Bird, Shelaine P

Booth, Ben HR E

Brock, John P

Broyles, Vernon, HR P

Bryson, Tom P

Bruchey, Wayne HR E

Burgess, Sid, HR P

Butler, Heather Jones P

Carl, Bill E

Carleton, Rhon HR E

Carter, Clyde HR E

Casey, Lydia P

Chaney, Patsy HR P

Chinula, Donald E

Cho, Timothy E

Choomack, Jim HR E

Clark, Molly HR P

Clayton, Susan P

Clendenin, Monty HR E

Coker, Jeff HR E

Crutchfield, Bob HR E

Davis, Becky HR E

Davis, Lant P

Dippenaer, Vic A

Durham, Charles HR E

Durham, Erica E

Edwards, Robert A

Ephraim, James, HR P

Feagin, Debbie P

Free, Zana A

Genau, Joe P

Goodrich, Elizabeth P

Hamilton-Poore, Sam P

Hamilton-Poore, Terry P

Hanna, Richard P

Harley, Patrick E

Harmon, Dawson, HR E

Hay, Robert, HR E

Hayes, Jeff P

Hibbard, Norman HR E

Hoop, Cathy P

Hurley, Ed P

Hurst, Clyce HR E

Inman, Robert F. HR E

Jeong, Junmo P

Jones, Steve P

Kelso, Hugh, HR E

Kim, Sun Jae A

Kim, Sung Woong A

Kim, Young A

Laney, Susan, HR E

Lays, Brian E

Lays, Sunelle Standar E

Mann, Becky P

McCarter, Neil HR P

McClendon, Bruce A

McClure, John A

McCormick, Mark P

McElrath, Pete HR E

McElveen, William HR E

McLaughlin, Wayne, HR P

McKean, Mac HR E

McLeod, James P

Min, Leigh Ann P

Mylalsingh, Emerson HR E

Newland, Terry HR E

Northen, Margaret HR E

O’Neill, Elizabeth P

Oh, Jyung, Ho A

Oliver, Catherine P

Park, Daekeun A

Patton, Finley HR E

Patton, Roger HR E

Pearce-Reed, Leanne P

Porter, Mary HR P

Price, Sandra HR P

Pyburn, Richard, HR E

Rains, Tom HR E

Reed, Kathy P

Reed, Nick P

Scarbrough, Leeann P

Scott, Christopher P

Scott, Katherine P

Scrivner, Joe P

Seamon, David P

Seitz, Craig, HR E

Sellers, Lou Ann P

Shelton, Jack HR E

Sherwood, Paul P

Shin, Dong-ouk A

Shoeman, Meg E

Sims, Charles HR E

Slane, Joe, HR P

Son, Junqkyun A

Spalding, Andrew P

Stanford, Jim HR E

Stephens, Dan P

Stephens, Gerald HR E

Thompson, Ben HR E

Tingle, Terry, HR E

Turner, Lucy P

Wade, Lindsey A

Waters, Dana HR E

Watson, Cody P

Wells, Jim, HR E

Westfall, Sue P

Wilkins, Jay, HR P

Wills, Bill HR E

Winter, Rachel P

Winter, Tom HR P

Winton, Carlton, HR E

Yarboro, Jonathan P

**Commission Ruling Elders with Vote**

Present (4) Excused (1) Absent (6)

Arellano, Ben A Harrison, John A

Bonner, Jeff P Kukal, Chuck P

Dodson, Beverly E Sauser, Bill A

Earles, Lesley Ann P Thomas, Roger A

Eich, Sharon A. A Veasey, Lin P

Emerick, Robert A

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

Present (7) Excused (0)

Judith Baldwin P Rick Reed P

Linda Burrowes P Jean Russell P

Shirley Finley P Bill Stribling P

Kathy Tracey P

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

Jenny Thagard P Rush Watson P Kathy Tracey P Patti Winter P

**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-seven churches in the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley. Thirty-two (32) Commissioners were present.

Alexander City First (1) Marie Walker

Annemanie Arlington (1) NR

Anniston Church of the Covenant Sissy Bain

Anniston First (1) Thomas Richardson

Anniston First United (1) NR

Anniston Korean (1) NR

Auburn First (2) Amy Wells

Michael Williams

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) Tina Hughes

Birmingham Five Mile (1) NR

Birmingham Independent (5) Steve Hunt

Bill Horton

Caryl Privett

Lee Walthall

NR

Birmingham Korean (1) NR

Birmingham Mountain Brook (1) Norton Montague

Birmingham Oakmont Chapel (1) Pat Satterfield

Birmingham Riverchase (1) NR

Birmingham Second Phyllis Vaughan

Birmingham Shades Valley (1) John Liddle

Birmingham South Highland (2) Bob Hunter

Cort Gatliff

Birmingham Southminster (1) deNay Kirkpatrick

Birmingham Westminster (1) Eva Carter

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) NR

Goodwater First (1) NR

Green Pond Green Pond (1) NR

Jacksonville First (1) Carolyn Padgett

Lafayette Lebanon (1) NR

Leeds Leeds (1) Charles Gabert

Livingston First (1) Louise Watt

Magnolia Rock Springs (1) NR

Marion Junction Marion Junction (1) NR

Montevallo Montevallo (1) Jim Chomicz

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) Thomas Peavy

Piedmont First (1) NR

Reform First (1) NR

Selma Northern Heights (1) NR

Selma Pisgah (1) NR

Selma Valley Creek (1) NR

Springville Springville (1) NR

Sylacauga First (1) Francis Wildsmith

Talladega First (1) NR

Troy Williams Memorial (1) NR

Trussville Cahaba Springs (1) Lynda McLean

Tuscaloosa Brown Memorial (1) NR

Tuscaloosa First (3) Carl Jamison

Leslie Miller

NR

Tuscaloosa Grace (1) April Lane

Tuscaloosa Korean Duke Park

Tuskegee Institute Westminster (1) Judith Baldwin

Union Springs Union Springs (1) NR

Wetumpka First (1) Laura Unger

We were warmly welcomed by The Rev. John Brock

**Scripture** Proverbs 1:20-33 John Brock

**Homily** Utmost Seriousness

**Prayers of the Community**

**Musical Interlude** Praise the Lord! God’s Glories Show

**General Assembly Commissioners** -- **Appendix C-2, C-3, C-4, C-5, C-6**

Kathy Wolf Reed, Lou Ann Sellers, Lin Veasey, Rush Watson, Patrick O’Connor and Annabelle Beavers

A video was shown and each commissioner spoke.

**Board of Pensions** **Appendix C-7** Keenan Rodgers

**Executive Council** Susan Clayton

The Executive Council of the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley met by Zoom on June 10, July 8 and August 12, 2020. Council considered the following items of business:

1. **UKirk Birmingham:** The Council learned that The Rev. Patrick Harley, UKirk Birmingham Chaplain, had accepted a call to Evergreen Presbyterian Church in Memphis, TN and would be leaving his work as UKirk Birmingham Campus Minister at the end of June 2020. In July, the Council approved a job description presented by the UKirk Birmingham Steering Committee for a Part-Time UKirk Birmingham Ministry Coordinator and approved the Steering Committee moving ahead to find a person to fill that role. At a Called Meeting of Executive Council on July 29th, Executive Council approved hiring Emily Frandsen, a Candidate under care of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry and a member of Independent Presbyterian Church, to serve as Part-Time Ministry Coordinator for UKirk, Birmingham.
2. **General Assembly:** Council commissioned the Presbytery’s commissioners to General Assembly at its June meeting.
3. **Project Empathy:** Heard regular reports about this initiative to have the presbytery take part in paying off medical debt in the Black Belt area of Alabama. Project Empathy will launch publicly in August 2020 and all churches of the presbytery will be invited to participate.
4. **Volunteer Coordinator for African American Churches:** Council approved a proposal by The Rev. James Ephraim, Honorably Retired, to serve in this capacity for the Presbytery. Rev. Ephraim has already begun this work, focusing at this time on building relationships between Presbytery and our churches in the Black Belt of Alabama.
5. **Anti-Racism:** The Council engaged in discussion in the wake of the protests arising after the death of George Floyd, about how various churches in the presbytery are engaged in Anti-Racism work. At the July meeting, we heard from several people working in the Black Belt area of Alabama about ongoing ministries in that area of Alabama, and how the presbytery can be an active partner in those ministries. These conversations will continue in months ahead as we seek to build deeper relationships with one another and find ways to partner in ministry.
6. **COVID-19:** Council had ongoing conversations about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on our churches, discussed best practices, and discussed how we can be a resource for congregations during this difficult time. We are grateful to our Transitional Presbyter, The Rev. Sue Westfall, for her weekly Pandemic Ponderings newsletter filled with excellent resources for our congregations.
7. **Matthew 25:** Council regularly checks in about how we are accomplishing our ongoing work of education, resourcing and ministry as a Matthew 25 Mid-Council. We concluded that the most important emphasis for our presbytery to continue as a focus at this time is the work of Dismantling Structural Racism.
8. **King’s Cross:** Approved the grant application of the King’s Cross worshipping community to 1001 New Worshipping Communities
9. **Regular Reports:** Council heard regular reports at each meeting from Volunteer Mission Coordinator, Volunteer Nurture Coordinator, Volunteer Coordinator for African American Churches, Finance Committee, Living River Board, UKirk Birmingham Steering Committee, and Anti-Racism Committee.

**ITEMS FOR ACTION:**

**Upon Recommendation of the Anti-Racism Committee, the following two amendments to the Standing Rules be adopted:**

1. **Standing Rules amended by adding the document “Proposed Changes to the Standing Rules” Appendix C-8**

Change Item C (Book of Order F1.0403): **The Anti-Racism Committee shall be composed of a balanced number of members representing all races, ethnicity, age, sex, disability, geography, or theological conviction, when possible.**

1. **To make the specific changes to the current Standing Rules**

**Change SR-6.02: “with due consideration of gender…”(to be consistent)**

**Appendix C-9**

**Transitional Executive** **Appendix C-10** Sue Westfall

**Commission on Ministry** Jamie McLeod

**Informational**

1. The COM will partake in Boundaries Training on August 25th via zoom.
2. The COM celebrated the addition of Rev. James Ephraim to the staff of the presbytery.
3. The COM met with Board of Pensions representative, Keenan Rogers, about the offerings from the BoP for the coming year.
4. The COM had an exit interview with the Rev. Cat Goodrich and dismissed her to the Presbytery of Baltimore.
5. The COM had an exit interview with the Rev. Brian Lays and dismissed him to the Presbytery of St. Augustine.
6. The COM validated the ministry of Cecilia Chang at King’s Cross International Church (New Worshipping Community). **Appendix C-11, C-12, C-13**

**Action**

1. **Examine and approve Cecilia Chang for ordination as a Minister of Word and Sacrament. Approved Ordination Commission: Ministers Joe Genau, Edgewood; Leanne Pearce Reed, Shades Valley; Joe Scrivner, Brown Memorial; Junmo Jeong, Auburn Opelika Korean; Elders Terri Jones, First United Birmingham; Deb Baragona, Shades Valley; Hak Jae Kim, Korean Birmingham; Young Lee Il, Korean Birmingham. Date of Ordination to be given at a later time.**

**2.The COM recommends that the presbytery approves the Rev. Lucy Turner for**

**Honorable Retirement on October 31, 2020. Approved by Acclamation**

**Appendix C-14**

**Volunteer Mission Coordinator** **Appendix C-15** Ralls Coston

**Anti-Racism Committee**  Jeff Bonner

**1. Approve the Anti-Racism Policy Approved**

**Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley Policy on Racism and Training**

**Prepared by Anti-Racism Committee**

**Adopted January 24, 2020**

**Approved February 28, 2020**

**Approved by Acclamation**

**Anti-Racism Committee Mission Statement**

*The mission of the Anti-Racism Team of the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley is to learn about and address the historic, systemic, and individual racism found within our presbytery. We seek to encourage and equip our churches, presbytery staff and individuals to take part in training, relationship building, and active engagement in church and community efforts to repent for and dismantle racism in central Alabama.*

Adopted June 13, 2019

**Rationale**

*“Moreover, I am cognizant of the interrelatedness of all communities and states. I cannot sit idly by in Atlanta and not be concerned about what happens in Birmingham. Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.”*

**Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

**Letter from a Birmingham Jail; April 16, 1963**

*“There is a strength, a power even, in understanding brokenness, because embracing our brokenness creates a need and desire for mercy, and perhaps a corresponding need to show mercy. When you experience mercy, you learn things that are hard to learn otherwise. You see things you can't otherwise see; you hear things you can't otherwise hear. You begin to recognize the humanity that resides in each of us.”*

**Bryan Stevenson**

**Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption**

**Section I – Purpose**

To enact the Church-wide Anti-racism policy approved by the 222nd General Assembly (2016).

The Book of Order, Section G-3.0103, provides for councils of the church, including presbyteries, to address issues of racism. In partnership with General Assembly agencies, **presbyteries need to recruit, train, and commission presbytery-based anti-racism teams that shall work with congregations in establishing and supporting anti-racism programs and ministries.** Presbyteries need to provide for anti-racism training for their staff and committees.

**Section II – Assumptions**

The church and its people have been wounded by centuries of racism. The vestiges of racism are ever-present and continue to impact and impede joyful relationships, honest dialogue, thoughtful cooperation, and intentional inclusion in our churches and among its members.

**Section III – Assertions**

Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley, through its Anti-Racism Committee, is committed to upholding the edict approved by the 222nd General Assembly (2016) and added to the Book of Order Section G-3.0103 to provide training; to offer resources and educational opportunities; to organize opportunities for dialogue, interact with, and explore persons with different experiences and viewpoints; to present forums led by individuals and teams that focus on the history of racism within our church institutions and the communities in which we live; to highlight previous attempts to eradicate racism in those settings as we explore new avenues to address present-day racism in all of its subtleties.

Training shall be carried out with an undergirding of theological principals inherent in the Presbyterian tradition with social subtexts and from a historical perspective.

**Section IV – Approach**

Stated Clerk shall maintain a record of persons who complete training. This requirement shall be included in the terms of call.

1. Anti-Racism training shall be **required** at least once every three years for:

1. All Ministers of the Word and Sacrament who are serving as pastors to a congregation or otherwise engaged in a Validated Ministry are required to participate in a training program organized by the Anti-Racism Committee, within one year after this policy is adopted or within one year of assuming the role. This requirement shall be included in the terms of call.
2. All Certified Christian Educators are required to participate in a training program organized by the Anti-Racism Committee, within one year after this policy is adopted or within one year of assuming the role.
3. Commissioned Ruling Elders (CREs) and Ruling Elders elected to serve on Executive Council, the Commission on Ministry (COM) and the Commission on Preparation for Ministry (CPM) are required to participate in a training within one year of being commissioned (CRE) or elected to COM or CPM, Anti-Racism Committee, Permanent Judicial Commission, and Personnel Committee
4. All Candidates for Ministry are required to attend an anti-racism training program organized by the Anti-Racism Committee or alternative training (approved by the Anti-Racism Committee). If an alternative training is incongruent with the anti-racism mission and policy, it shall not be accepted as having met the requirement.
5. All Presbytery staff are required to attend within one year of the adoption of this policy or within one year of hire/election.
6. The Presbytery **strongly encourages** honorably retired teaching elders and ruling elders serving in leadership roles in the Presbytery, session members, youth directors, Christian educators, music leaders, and other congregational staff leaders to participate in approved and recommended anti-racism trainings

1. Required Training Schedule and Locations
2. Required anti-racism training shall be provided once per year at a location to be determined by the size of the class.
3. Remote alternate training shall be allowed for those unable to attend scheduled required training held within the perimeter of the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley.

1. Recommended Anti-racism Activities
2. Anti-racism activities are recommended at least annually for churches and members throughout the Presbytery using a variety of vehicles, including but not limited to listening sessions, workshops, book/video discussions, presentations involving speakers and panels, field trips, and other vehicles developed by or presented by the Anti-Racism Committee.
3. Youth throughout the Presbytery using a variety of vehicles developed by or presented by the Anti-Racism Committee that are age appropriate and meaningful. Parents/guardians shall give signed consent for youth to participate.
4. Recommended Anti-racism activities schedule and locations
5. Recommended Due to the size of the presbytery, anti-racism training activities should be offered four times a year in various regions of the presbytery including but not limited to Presbytery meetings, Main Event, youth retreats, churches or other locations to accommodate geographic church clusters based on the size of the attendance.
6. Remote alternate training may be available for those interested in diving deeper in the work of anti-racism of the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley.

**Section V – Administration and Oversight**

1. The office of the Stated Clerk is responsible for ensuring notation of Teaching Elder and Certified Ruling Elder participation is made in their permanent files and notifying them of compliance deadlines. The Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley shall communicate to Pastoral Nominating Committees and churches who are requesting references on the status of candidates with respect to this requirement.
2. Provision for Training Evaluation and Policy Review
3. The Presbytery shall review and adopt this policy during the 2020 calendar year

to become effective immediately.

**Section VI – Committee Leadership**

1. The Committee shall be co-chaired by members who are of diverse racial heritage. If possible, they should represent both clergy and lay.
2. Committee Chairs shall remain in effect for one year with the option to renew for a successive year.

**Section VII – Funding**

1. Funding shall include but not be limited to:
2. providing training opportunities and activities led by third-party organizations or consultants, included associated travel, lodging and meals for said presenters,
3. for members of the Anti-Racism Committee to attend continuing education training and activities to further its mission,
4. for Committee members to travel to meetings with partners, collaborators, PCUSA, Presbytery, anti-racism team-related anti-racism events,
5. building an anti-racism resource library,
6. enhancing the availability of anti-racism literature, links, and websites, and
7. for future uses that bring awareness of the anti-racism initiative.

**Volunteer Liaison for African-American Churches** James Ephraim

James is helping the African American churches become more involved in the Presbytery. He spends a lot of time in Wilcox County helping our members become more engaged in the ministry of the Presbytery.

**Stated Clerk Report**  Tom Winter

**Omnibus Motion**

**For Action:**

1. **Approval of minutes of the May 21, 2020, meeting**
2. **To approve requests for absences from today's meeting.**

**Approved by common consent**

1. **Report from Bills and Overtures Committee:**  Lou Ann Sellers

**that the overture from Southminster Church be approved and referred to Council for implementation. Recommend a committee be set up to oversee the process. Approved by common consent Appendix C-16**

**Information:**

Minister Transactions for 2020 **Appendix C-17**

Dates and places for 2021 meetings of Presbytery have yet to be determined (ordinarily the meetings are held in February, May, August, and November). If the way be clear to meet in person, please consider having your church host a meeting.

The Presbytery minutes for 2019 have been approved without exception by the Synod of Living Waters. A Big Thank You to Tammy Strickland and Linda Burrowes for a job well done!

**Moderator Nomination for Nominating Committee**  Bill Stribling

**Rev. James Ephraim Approved**

**Nominating and Representation** Patti Winter

**Commission on Ministry Darryl Love, Westminster, Birmingham**

**Class of 2022 (filling an unfinished term)**

**Youth Council Margaret Patton, First, Birmingham**

**Bibb Albright, Independent, Birmingham**

**Dylan Stokes; First United, Birmingham**

**Heleanna Scott New Trinity**

**Tramarian Wright, New Trinity**

**Wesley Ann Barnes, First, Auburn**

**Tyler Klugh, First Auburn**

**Adult Greg Byrd, Shades Valley, Birmingham**

**Adult Lauren Curter-Smith, First, Tuscaloosa**

**Adult Brenda Carson, New Trinity**

**Approved**

**Trustees** Rush Watson

**Recommendation #1. Trustees of the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley recommends the approval of Bold Springs Presbyterian church gives Birmingham Water Works an easement for the installation of 36” water line.** **Approved by Common Consent**

**Recommendation #2. Trustees of the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley recommends to approve the sale of the property of the former Church of the Good Shepard Anniston, AL to Sams Properties LLC for $300,000.00.** **Approved**

**Discussion:** Deed states property would revert to original owner if not used for church purposes. Lawyers serving on trustees discussed it is not our job to determine what the future use of the property will be. If the title search is not something the buyer can execute, they will go into a discussion with the buyer.

**Recommendation #3. Trustees of the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley recommends the proceeds from the sale of the former property of The Church of the Good Shepard to be used:**

1. **Pay off expenses incurred regarding the Good Shepard property.**
2. **Remaining proceeds divided in half, of that one half to be administered by the Trustees to pay for future expenses incurred in exercising the Trustees responsibilities with regard to property and second half to be used by the Presbytery Council for church related purposes and that a portion be contributed to the Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama.**

**SUBSTITUTE MOTION: The decision of where to allocate the proceeds of the sale of Good Shepherd, Anniston, AL., be sent back to the Trustees to reconsider, seek greater input and bring the motion back to the next Presbytery meeting.**  **Approved**

**Good News from Churches** Tom Winter

Joe Genau--Welcomed Emily Frandsen, UKirk Program Coordinator

James Ephraim—Thanks for the spirited debate. Lift up the importance of our visioning.

Terry Hamilton-Poore—Celebrate growing their relationship with Westminster-Bham

Rush Watson—PDA—Sept is preparedness month. Initiating a presbytery disaster assistance team.

Church of the Covenant—Lift up Stacation Bible School. Kids loved it.

Richard Hanna—Kirkwood is celebrating their 40th anniversary this year.

Carolyn Padgett—First-Jacksonville has a new steeple that illuminates through the city.

New Business None

Adjournment with Prayer Sue Westfall