

PRESBYTERY REFLECTION

By Sheppards and Lapsley Moderator, Bill Stribling

AUGUST

2020

HOST: FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, EUFAULA

Highlights of the August Presbytery meeting



Emily Frandsen
UKirk Coordinator



James Ephraim
Volunteer Liaison for
African American
Churches



Joe Genau
Zoom extraordinaire
CPM Moderator



Jamie McLeod
COM Moderator

Ministry within our Presbytery



In the midst of the Covid-19 virus pandemic, the work of the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley continued, electronically, from First Presbyterian Church of Eufaula, AL on August 20, 2020. After an opening prayer, a quorum was declared, the docket adopted, (4) first time commissioners and (3) visitors were welcomed.

From Eufaula, Rev. John Brock virtually welcomed the Presbytery for its scheduled meeting. After his scripture reading, homily and prayer there was a musical interlude with individuals encouraged to sing along with lyrics printed on the screen.



The business portion of the meeting commenced with a detailed report from General Assembly. The theme of the virtual gathering was, "From Lament to Action" Patrick O'Conner, Lou Ann Sellers, Kathy Reed, Annabelle Beavers and Rush Watson presented pre-recorded accounts of the event allowing for questions at the conclusion of the report.

Keenan Rodgers of the Board of Pensions spoke on the work of the board to include new benefits packages available for less than full time people, financial protection programs, pension increases and several technical items. He presented the Boards statement on Racial Justice.



News from the Executive Council was eloquently presented by Rev. Susan Clayton who updated Commissioners on progress of the work of the Presbytery including UKirk, response to Covid-19, the Matthew 25 initiative, approval of Kings Cross worshipping community and other topics that were covered later in greater detail. Two changes were proposed to the Presbytery's Standing Rules.

Those changes were heard, debated and perfected. In accordance with our bylaws the vote will be taken at the next meeting.

Rev. Sue Westfall, Transitional Presbytery Executive, delivered her report following a short break.



Two items for action came before the body from the Commission on Ministry: The examination of Cecilia Chang and subsequent approval for Ordination and the honorable retirement of Rev.

Lucy Turner. With equal parts sadness and joy, both were approved. A Commission on Ordination for Cecilia Chang was approved.



Ministry Within our Presbytery



Reports were received from the Volunteer Mission Coordinator on Project Empathy, from the Anti-Racism committee and the Volunteer Liaison for African American Churches.

An overture from Southminster Presbyterian Church concerning the Presbytery child protection policy after review by the Bills and Overtures Committee, was presented by the Stated Clerk. That overture was approved and referred to Council for action. Minutes of the May 21, 2020 meeting were approved.



Approval was given for the people submitted by the Nominating and Representation committee to serve on various committees as was a Moderator submitted representative to serve on the Nominating Committee.

Three items from Trustees concerning property matters were discussed. Approval for an easement at Bold Springs and sale of the property of defunct Church of the Good Shepard, Anniston was given. Debate on the dispensation of funds from the sale of Good Sheppard property was lively and a decision was made to have Trustees review and re-present another recommendation at a later date.

After Good news from churches and a call for new business, none heard, the meeting was adjourned with prayer by Rev. Sue Westfall. The next meeting is scheduled for November 12th at Immanuel Presbyterian Church, Montgomery.

*Grace and Peace,
Bill Scribbling, Moderator*

