MINUTES

Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley

Synod of Living Waters

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Stated Meeting

November 12, 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 November 12, 2020 on a Zoom meeting, hosted by Immanuel Presbyterian, Montgomery, 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.

**Recognition of First Time Commissioners and Visitors**

# Adoption of the Docket Appendix D-1

The docket was adopted by common consent.

**Teaching Elders**

Ministers Present (58) Excused 48() Absent (13)

Adams, Nan P

Atkerson, Rick P

Bailey, Michael P

Bang, Yoo Chang P

Bankson, John P

Becker, Lindsay A

Jerome Bell P

Barnett, Caroline 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

Chang, Cecelia P

Chinula, Donald E

Cho, Timothy E

Choomack, Jim HR P

Clark, Molly HR E

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 P

Laney, Susan, HR E

Lays, Sunelle Standar E

Mann, Becky E

McCarter, Neil HR P

McClendon, Bruce A

McClure, John A

McCormick, Mark P

McElrath, Pete HR E

McElveen, William HR E

McLaughlin, Wayne, HR E

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 E

Porter, Mary HR P

Price, Sandra HR E

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 A

Seitz, Craig, HR E

Sellers, Lou Ann P

Shelton, Jack HR E

Sherwood, Paul P

Shin, Dong-ouk P

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 E

Wade, Lindsey A

Waters, Dana HR P

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 (5) Excused (1) Absent (5)

Arellano, Ben A Harrison, John A

Bonner, Jeff P Kukal, Chuck P

Dodson, Beverly E Sauser, Bill P

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 ()

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-five (35) Commissioners were present.

Alexander City First (1) NR

Annemanie Arlington (1) NR

Anniston Church of the Covenant Sissy Bain

Anniston First (1) NR

Anniston First United (1) Debbie Miller

Anniston Korean (1) NR

Auburn First (2) Susan Fillippeli

Emmett Winn

Bessemer Good Hope (1) NR

Birmingham Bold Springs (1) Judith Lee

Birmingham Edgewood (1) Dargan Ware

Birmingham Fairfield Highlands (1) NR

Birmingham First (1) Ann Harvey Gray

Birmingham First United of Forestdale (1) NR

Birmingham Five Mile (1) NR

Birmingham Independent (5) Bill Horton

Amy McCain

Caryl Privette

Lee Walthall

Martha Reeves

Birmingham Korean (1) NR

Birmingham Mountain Brook (1) Karen Ogle

Birmingham Oakmont Chapel (1) Charlie Parks

Birmingham Riverchase (1) NR

Birmingham Second Phyllis Vaughan

Birmingham Shades Valley (1) Bruce Ludwig

Birmingham South Highland (2) Kathy Tracey

NR

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) Zoe Powell

Gardendale Gardendale (1) David Fancher

Goodwater First (1) NR

Green Pond Green Pond (1) NR

Jacksonville First (1) NR

Lafayette Lebanon (1) NR

Leeds Leeds (1) Charles Gabert

Livingston First (1) Allen Tartt

Magnolia Rock Springs (1) NR

Marion Junction Marion Junction (1) NR

Montevallo Montevallo (1) Vicky Hager

Montgomery Calvary NR

Montgomery Immanuel (1) NR

Montgomery Korean (1) NR

Montgomery Providence (1) Garland Padgett

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) Frankie Tatum

Sylacauga First (1) NR

Talladega First (1) NR

Troy Williams Memorial (1) NR

Trussville Cahaba Springs (1) Karen O’Brien

Tuscaloosa Brown Memorial (1) Charles Nash

Tuscaloosa First (3) Michael Stilson

Ross Vaughn

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) Lee Borders

We were warmly welcomed by The Rev. Elizabeth O’Neill.

**Scripture**

Deuteronomy 8:7-18 Elizabeth O’Neill

Psalm 65, responsively Heather Butler, Elizabeth O’Neill

**Sermon** *“What a difference a word makes…”*

**Prayers of the Community,** responsively

**Presbyterian Foundation Appendix D-2** Robert Hay, Jr.

**Musical Interlude/Break**

**Executive Council** Susan Clayton

The Executive Council of the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley met by Zoom on Sept 9, Oct 14 and Nov 11, 2020. Council considered the following items of business:

1. **Trustees:** The Council heard regular reports from the Board of Trustees of the presbytery related to the proposed sale of the Good Shepherd Church property in Anniston. The Trustees will bring an item for action related to that property to this meeting of presbytery.
2. **Project Empathy:** Council 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 launched publicly in August and fundraising activities and publicity continue. Every church is encouraged to participate in some way in Project Empathy.

1. **Anti-Racism Committee:** Council members participated in an Anti-Racism workshop put on by Crossroads, which was very meaningful to the participants. Council continues to get regular updates on the work of the Anti-Racism Committee.
2. **Matthew 25:** Council checks in at each meeting about how we are meeting our commitment to being a Matthew 25 Mid-Council as well as hearing about any new churches in our presbytery who choose to become a Matthew 25 church. Council is engaging in the Matthew 25 Bible Study made available by the PCUSA office. At our October meeting, Rev. James Ephraim led the Council in its first engagement with this bible study.
3. Referred the **overture from the Bold Springs** session to the Bills and Overture Committee.
4. **Regular Reports:** Council heard regular reports from the Volunteer Mission Coordinator, Volunteer Nurture Coordinator, and Volunteer Coordinator for African American Churches. We also heard regular reports from UKirk Birmingham, the Finance Committee, Living River Board and Presbytery Visioning Task Force.
5. **Executive Council voted yesterday, Nov. 11, to extend Sue Westfall’s contract for another year.**

**Items for Action:**

1. **Second Reading of the Changes to the Standing Rules of the Presbytery:**

**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.” Approved Appendix D-3**
2. **To make the following specific changes to the current Standing Rules**

**Approved Appendix D-4**

1. **Approve the 2021 Presbytery Operating Budget. Approved Appendix D-5**

Rick Reed discussed the changes in the budget and per capita budget.

**Treasurer Report – Appendix D-6**

**Personnel Report—Appendix D-7**

**Commission on Ministry** Jamie McLeod

Informational

1. The COM met with the PNC of First, Birmingham, and approved their MIF for an Interim Associate Pastor.
2. The COM met with the PNC of First, Phenix City, and approved their MIF for a Stated Supply Pastor.
3. The COM met with the PNC of Oakmont Chapel and approved their MIF for an Installed Pastor.
4. The COM released Margaret Shoeman to Carlisle Presbytery.
5. The COM appointed Paul Romjue to moderate the session at Mountain Brook.
6. The COM appointed Richard Hanna to moderate the session at Oakmont Chapel.
7. The COM approved the Ordination and Installation commission for Caroline Barnett at First, Auburn, on November 1st at 11:00 AM over YouTube. Ruling Elders: Bill Stribling, Judith Baldwin, Holly Mitchell. Teaching Elders: Rev. Heather Jones Butler, Rev. John Brock.
8. The COM elected Rev. John Brock to be moderator.
9. Approved the terms of call for Rev. Jay Wilkins, Interim Associate Pastor, at Independent Presbyterian, Birmingham. Salary: $24,000, Housing: $16,000, ½ SECA: $3,060, BOP: $4,800.

**Action**

1. **The COM recommends the Presbytery approves the Rev. Paul Sherwood for Honorable Retirement on November 30, 2020. Approved Appendix D-8**
2. **The COM recommends the Presbytery approves the Rev. Lant Davis for Honorable Retirement on November 22, 2020. Approved Appendix D-9**

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

**Stated Clerk**

**Report from Bills and Overtures Committee Appendices D-11 & D12 for full report**

The overture from Bold Springs Presbyterian Church, Birmingham dated September 12, 2020 **not** be adopted by the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley and that the Anti-Racism Committee be asked to educate the presbytery on the statement *On the Church in This Moment in History - Responding to the Sin of Racism and a Call to Action [00-29]* at the February 2021 meeting of presbytery.

**Motion to vote on overture. Approved**

**Approve report from Bills and overtures committee. Approved**

**Omnibus Motion**

* Receive and record the minutes of the Commission to ordain and install Cecelia Young Chang as Pastor of the King’s Cross International Worshiping Community on September 20, 2020. **Appendix D-13**
* Approve the minutes of the August 20, 2020, meeting of Presbytery,
* To approve requests for absence for today’s meeting.
* Approval of former Permanent Judicial Commission members to serve, if needed, to make a quorum: Leeann Scarbrough, Debbie Feagin, and Patti Winter.

**Approved**

**Other Action:**

* To approve dates and hosts for the 2021 meetings of Presbytery:

February 18: New Trinity, Arlington and Prairie Chapel

May 21: Westminster, Tuskegee, and (TBA)

August 19: Westminster, Birmingham, and First United, Forestdale

November 11: Presbyterian Home for Children

**Approved**

* To approve the Stated Clerk’s budget which includes the Per Capita for 2021. **Approved** **Appendix D-14**

Information:

Session minutes from South Highland and Green Pond have been received and approved.

Note to Clerks of Session: Because of the Covid Virus, clerks have been unable to do peer reviews of Session minutes. In place of the peer review, you are invited to bring your minutes by the Presbytery office or scan and send them to the Stated Clerk for review. The Stated Clerk’s email is: [statedclerk@pslpcusa.org](mailto:statedclerk@pslpcusa.org).

**Nominating and Representation** Patti Winter

2021 PRESBYTERY MODERATOR Debbie Feagin, Stated Supply, Dodson Mem

2021 PRESBYTERY VICE MODERATOR Peter Finley, Westminster, Birmingham

STATED CLERK Tom Winter, HR

RECORDING CLERK Linda Burrowes, Oakmont Chapel, Bhm

TREASURER Jean Russell, Oakmont Chapel, Bhm

2022 GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMMISSIONERS

Clergy Junmo Jeong, Korean Church, Auburn/Opelika

Joe Scrivner, Brown Memorial, Tusc

Elders Jim Toomey, First, Birmingham

Olympia McCrackin, Brown Memorial, Tusc

YAAD Trinity Stokes, New Trinity, Camden

2021 SYNOD COMMISSIONERS

Clergy Rachel Winter, Member at Large

Elder Sissy Bain, Covenant, Anniston

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

CLASS OF 2023 Debbie Feagin, Dodson Memorial

Judith Baldwin, Westminster, Tuskegee

Neil McCarter, HR

Sissy Bain, Covenant, Anniston

CLASS OF 2022 Peter Finley, Westminster, Birmingham

ANTI-RACISM COMMITTEE

CLASS OF 2023 Judith Baldwin, Westminster, Tuskegee

Adrienne Royster, Westminster, Bhm

Alicia Foster, New Trinity, Camden

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

CLASS OF 2023 Lin Veasey, CRE, Covenant, Anniston

FINANCE COMMITTEE

CLASS OF 2023 Jean Russell

COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

CLASS OF 2022 Darryl Love, Westminster, Birmingham

CLASS OF 2023 Caryl Privett, IPC

Brenda Toomey, First, Birmingham

John Brock, First, Eufaula

William Christian, Westminster, Tuskegee

Richard Hanna, Chaplain

Bill Horton, IPC

COMMISSION ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY

CLASS OF 2021 Andy Spaulding, First, Tuscaloosa

CLASS OF 2022 David Stephens, Southminster, Bhm

CLASS OF 2023 Joe Genau, Edgewood, Birmingham

Shelley Hancock, First, Tuscaloosa

Kathy Wolf Reed, First, Auburn

PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION

CLASS OF 2025 Lucy Turner, HR

LIVING RIVER BOARD

CLASS OF 2023 Brian Massengale, Oakmont Chapel, Bhm

Janet Ort, IPC

Allison Moore, First, Auburn

EQUIP, NURTURE, CONNECT

CLASS OF 2023 Joe Genau, Edgewood, Birmingham

Andy Spaulding, First, Tuscaloosa

Phyllis Ward, Immanuel, Montgomery

MISSION AGENCIES

GREATER BIRMINGHAM MINISTRIES Sara Brown, Southminster, Birmingham

WESTMINSTER APARTMENTS-Anniston Ethelyn Brown, First, Jacksonville

Schuessler Ware, 1st United, Anniston

Lin Veasey, Church of the Covenant, Anniston

Robert Sykes, 1st United, Anniston

Larry Dawson, Good Shepherd, Anniston

Nancy Whitley, Dodson Memorial, Oxford

Dan Mason, Church of the Covenant, Anniston

Karen Crockett, First, Anniston

Bobbie Clark, Church of the Covenant, Anniston

Monty Clendenin, ex officio, HR

**Trustees**

**Recommendation 1:**

Trustees recommend the lease/purchase contract on the Good Shepherd property as follows:

Buyer: 1-Church Inc.; Purchase Price: $399,500; Closing cost: Paid by Purchaser;

Closing: 10-1-2025;  Possession: 5 year lease.

Additional Provisions Purchaser pays:

Applicable taxes; Insurance full replacement on dwelling, $500,000. contents – Presbytery additional insured; All lawn maintenance and repairs during lease period

Rent $1000. per month to ERA King Real Estate Co (Management agreement 10%)

**Approved**

**Recommendation 2:**

Trustees  recommend to the Presbytery that the initial monthly rent pay back  the expenses incurred by the Good Shepherd property and that the Presbytery determine how best to use the remaining monthly payments and the eventual cash proceeds from the sale of the property.

**Motion: Table the Motion Approved**

This will return to the Trustees.

Amended Motion: 10% of rent payments go to Mission budget -- Not voted on as tabling the motion takes precedence.

**Stillman College**   **Appendix D-15** Mark McCormick

**Commission on Preparation for Ministry**  Joe Genau

INQUIRERS CHURCH INSTITUTION  
Abby Gatliff South Highland, Birmingham Beeson  
Cort Gatliff South Highland, Birmingham Graduate - Beeson  
Beom Joseph Jung Auburn-Opelika Korean, Opelika Columbia  
Patrick O’Connor Immanuel, Montgomery San Francisco  
Kendra Peeples Grace, Tuscaloosa Candler  
Madison Vaughn Grace, Tuscaloosa Columbia

CANDIDATES

Bennett Alldredge First, Tuscaloosa Graduate - Princeton   
Emily Frandsen Independent, Birmingham Dubuque

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

Barbara Tomek-White First, Auburn Graduate - Austin  
  
 **FOR INFORMATION**:

1. Jim Bannon (First, Auburn) and the Rev. Cathy Hoop will serve as Ordination Exam Readers for 2021. Rev. Rick Atkerson will serve as an alternate.

**FOR ACTION:**

1. The commission recommends that Inquirer Patrick O’Connor of Immanuel Presbyterian, Montgomery, be approved by Presbytery for Candidacy. **Approved**

**Appendices D-16, D-17**

Moderator Bill Stribling asked the questions. Lydia Casey offered the charge and prayer.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Commission on Preparation for Ministry:   
Rick Atkerson (2022), Jim Bannon (2020), Joe Genau (2020), Shelley Hancock (2020), Sheila Holland (2020), Cathy Hoop (2021), Gillie Presley (2022), Leanne Pearce Reed (2020), and Leeann Scarborough (2022).

**Volunteer Mission Coordinator** **Appendix D-18** Ralls Coston

**Good News from Churches** Tom Winter

Dana Waters—he commented on Paul Sherwood’s retirement. Paul’s contact with the Chapel in the Pines congregation aided in completing their merger with Oakmont.

Jonathan Yarboro—Everyone was invited to tour their restored facility when they are in Wetumpka.

Jeff Bonner—Gardendale is in a better place financially.

Paul Sherwood—Oakmont Chapel began meeting inside the first Sunday in October, with all safety precautions in place.

John Allen Bankson—Works at First Christian Church. Choir met last night. John offered

to help any church with help with their choir.

Doug Marshall—Spoke about Don Hagan’s bike ride.

Bill Horton—IPC started having inside church services. Reservation only.

Bill thanked Elizabeth O’Neill for hosting us today. He also thanked Joe Genau and his

team for the technology help today.

**Anti-Racism Committee Appendix D-19**

**Congo Partnership Team Appendix D-20**

**Living River Appendix D-21**

**UKirk Birmingham Appendix D-22**

**Presbyterian Home for Children Appendix D-23**

**Presbytery Audit Appendix D-24**

**Adjournment with Prayer** Cathy Hoop