

PRESBYTERY REFLECTION

By Sheppards and Lapsley Moderator, Debbie Feagin

NOVEMBER 2021

HOST: PRESBYTERIAN HOME FOR CHILDREN

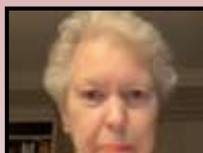
Highlights of the November Presbytery meeting



Tom Winter
Stated Clerk retirement



Frankie Tatum, CRE
Stated Clerk recognition



Susan Haskell
Vice Moderator



Debbie Feagin
Presbytery Moderator

Ministry within our Presbytery



The November 18, 2021, meeting of the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley, conducted via Zoom, was hosted by the Presbyterian Home for Children, Talledega, AL. Staff members introduced themselves to us, followed by an informative video, **“Light for the Children,”** introducing the various roles of staff members and the numerous programs and services they provide, including transitional housing for adult mothers and their children, family unification, housing and programing for girls 13-17, young adult programming for 19-24 year olds, the Ascension Leadership Academy, and a thrift store for the development of business skills and enhanced interaction with the community at large.

Worship was lead by Peter Finley and Leeann Scarbrough, who preached a very timely sermon based on Habakkuk 3:17-18, titled **“And Yet . . .”**, emphasizing that difficult circumstances don’t have to define or limit us. There is always plenty of reason for us to rejoice and do service in God’s name. We were left to ponder, **“In spite of everything, what are we being called to do?”**



The Presbytery approved the adoption of a statement denouncing racism, presented by the Anti-Racism Committee, and then broke into small groups to discuss things which we can do to promote anti-racism.



The General Presbyter Search Committee recommended the Rev. Dr. Sue Westfall for this position, along with terms of call. This recommendation was unanimously approved!

Rick Reed presented the proposed Presbytery budget for 2022, including a small increase in per capita. This was approved. Rick also encouraged congregations to increase Mission/Unified giving.

John Brock gave the Commission on Ministry Report, including two items for action. The relationship between Rev. Heather Jones Butler and Immanuel, Montgomery was dissolved and Rev. Jones Butler was moved to member-at-large status. Jim Truesdell was restored to full ordered ministry as a minister of the word and sacraments and as a minister member in the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley. He will be serving in validated ministry with Frontier Fellowship.

Sissy Bain reported for the Committee on Nominating and representation, and all nominees were approved by acclamation, including Susan Haskell to finish Peter Finley’s term as Assistant Moderator, due to his agreeing to serve as Stated Clerk. Susan will serve as Presbytery Moderator for 2022, and Ed Hurley was elected to serve as Vice Moderator, 2022.

Beverly Krannich gave the Trustee’s report, moving that Montevallo Presbyterian Church be granted permission to sell the **“Forbes House.”** The motion was approved.



Ministry Within our Presbytery

Jenny Thagard reported on Living River, including the provision of temporary housing to a family needing disaster relief, and 10 successful weekend retreats, generating an income of \$11,795. Several long overdue dedications were held, and more are upcoming.



Ralls Coston reported the completion of the Habitat house in Midfield, with nearly \$25,000 raised by the Presbytery for its support. The Perry-Dallas County **“Love Is What Love Does”** program is hoping to raise \$125,000 in grants and donations to refurbish a building to enhance food distribution and other programs.



Tom Winter gave his final Stated Clerk’s report prior to his retirement at year’s end, and his omnibus motion was approved. Chuck Kukal read a moving proclamation in gratitude for Tom’s lengthy, dedicated, and devoted service to the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley, and Sue Westfall presented him with a gift from members of the presbytery. Thanks be to God for the many ways that Tom has faithfully served this presbytery, and the many lives that he has deeply blessed!!!

Much good news was shared, including the celebration of Leeds Presbyterian Church’s **200th Anniversary!**

The next stated meeting will be hosted virtually by First Presbyterian Church, Birmingham, on February 17, 2022.

Special thanks to the staff of the Presbyterian Home for Children for their hosting this meeting, and once again to Joe Genau and Robert Newman, without whose generous Zoom expertise our virtual meetings would be hard-pressed to run so very smoothly!

Respectfully Submitted,

Debbie Feagin, Moderator

Additional highlights from the meeting

