

# PRESBYTERY REFLECTION

By Sheppards and Lapsley Moderator, Susan Haskell

FEBRUARY 2022

HOST: FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, BIRMINGHAM

Highlights of the February Presbytery meeting



Communion  
Rev. Terry  
Hamilton-Poore  
Rev. Sue Westfall



Susan Haskell  
Moderator



Rev. Chuck Kukal



Peter Finley  
Stated Clerk

## Ministry within our Presbytery

The first meeting of 2022 was held at First Presbyterian, Birmingham in a hybrid format for the first time. The leaders and tech volunteers were at the church, other attendants were on Zoom.

Rev. Debbie Feagin, moderator called the meeting to order at 9:00 and opened with prayer. She took care of the first items on the agenda including elections to the class of 2024 of the Nomination and Representation Committee.

She gave gracious and appreciative words on her year as moderator before installing the next moderator, Susan Haskell, vice moderator Rev. Ed Hurley and Rev. Sue Westfall as General Presbyter.

Ms. Haskell then called for election of the Bills and Overtures Committee for 2022.

Revs Terry Hamilton-Poore, Pastor and Nicole Newton, Associate Pastor at First Presbyterian, Birmingham then welcomed us all to their church with a very informative history of the congregation.

Worship followed with Rev. Hamilton-Poore preaching. An opportunity for offering and communion were included.

The Anti-Racism Committee reported focusing on the Racial Justice Pilgrimage planned for March 17-19.

After the Executive Council report a motion to transfer the mortgage balance and an additional loan through the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program for Immanuel PC was passed.

The new General Presbyter mentioned the existence of COVID as a challenge still in our midst, thanked those who were rotating off committees and commissions and welcomed the new members. She welcomed Peter Finley who is the Transitional Stated Clerk and thanked the presbytery for the retirement gift for Tom Winter who had retired as Stated Clerk.

Doug Marshall from the Presbyterian Home for Children featured the Sweet Home Soiree planned for April 2.

Ralls Coston reported on the success of Project Empathy which raised over \$96,000 to eliminate over \$10 million of medical debt in 22 Alabama counties. Nine churches donated to the Habitat House built in Midfield and completed in November 2021. Also the Executive Council has approved a donation of \$500 from the Peacemaking Reserve to RECONCILE.

The Living River report, given by Jenny Thagard covered programs, past and future, named the board of directors and noted that 2021 ended with an excess of revenue over expenses. Payments from the congregation which purchased the Trinity Presbyterian property are adequate to pay the mortgage of Living River. Living River was also a site providing housing for 20 refugees from Hurricane Ida for several weeks.

## Ministry Within our Presbytery

Mr. Finley gave the Stated Clerk's report including the Omnibus Motion which was passed unanimously. Church minutes which have not been reviewed are requested. Commissioners to the 225th General Assembly will be the Rev. Junmo Jeong, Rev. Joe Scrivner and Ruling Elders Jim Toomey and Olympia McCrackin. The next presbytery meeting will be May 19 at First Wetumpka.

He gave a very moving Necrology of the presbytery's ruling elders who died since last February.

Keenan Rodgers reported for the Board of Pensions, noting the Assistance Program and benefits available.

The COM report was given by John Brock. Two motions from the commission were passed, approving an Administrative Commission to First, Anniston and reinstating the Rev. Chuck Kukal as a Minister of Word and Sacrament in the PC (USA) and a member of the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley. He will serve Bold Springs Presbyterian Church as stated supply.

Rev. Westfall adjourned the meeting with prayer at 11:55.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Susan Haskell, Moderator**