

Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley
Synod of Living Waters
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Stated Meeting
August 17, 2023

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 17, 2023, hosted by Immanuel Presbyterian Church, Montgomery, AL.

Throughout these minutes, Ministers of the Word and Sacrament are indicated by an asterisk (*).

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

Organization

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

Welcome Dr. Yolanda Page, President of Stillman College.
Rev. Joe Scrivner spoke about Dr. Page's background before introducing her.
She is the eighth President of Stillman College.

Adoption of the Docket Appendix C-1

The docket was adopted by unanimous vote.

Recognition of First Time Commissioners and Visitors

OMNIBUS MOTION

- 1. To approve the minutes of the May 18, 2023, meeting**
- 2. To approve the requests for absences from today's meeting**
- 3. To adopt an "Electronic Meetings Rule" for this meeting so that virtual attendees seeking recognition from the Chair be allowed to unmute themselves and call for the attention of the Moderator for recognition and obtaining the floor.**
- 4. To receive and record the minutes of the Commission to install Rev. In Chan Bae as Pastor of Korean Presbyterian Church of Birmingham on August 13, 2023.**
- 5. To approve the dates and locations for meetings of the Presbytery: November 16, 2023, at Presbyterian Home for Children in Talladega; February 15, 2024, at Northern Heights Church in Selma.**

Approved

Ministers of the Word and Sacrament
Ministers Present (46) Excused (54) Absent (22)

Adams, Nan	A	Genau, Joe	P
Atkerson, Rick	P	Goodrich, Elizabeth	E
Bae, In Chan	P	Hamilton-Poore, Sam	P
Bailey, Michael	P	Hamilton-Poore, Terry	P
Bang, Yoo Chang	P	Hanna, Richard	E
Bankson, John	P	Harmon, Dawson, HR	E
Barnett, Caroline	P	Hay, Robert, HR	E
Brady Becker, Lindsay	A	Hayes, Jeff	A
Bell, Jerome	P	Hibbard, Norman HR	E
Bird, Shelaine	P	Hurley, Ed	P
Booth, Ben, HR	E	Hurst, Clyce HR	E
Brock, John	P	Inman, Robert F, HR	E
Broyles, Vernon, HR	E	Jeong, Junmo	A
Bryson, Tom	P	Jo, Jae Seon	P
Bruchey, Wayne, HR	E	Jones, Steve	P
Burgess, Sid, HR	E	Kim, Samuel	P
Butler, Heather Jones	A	Kim, Sun Jae	A
Carleton, Rhon, HR	E	Kim, Sung Eun	A
Carter, Clyde, HR	E	Kim, Sung Woong	A
Casey, Lydia	E	Kim, Young	P
Chaney, Patsy, HR	P	Kukal, Chuck	P
Chang, Cecelia	P	Laney, Susan, HR	E
Cheong, Ta Ho	A	Long, Kevin	P
Chinula, Donald	E	McCarter, Neil, HR	P
Cho, Timothy	E	McClendon, Bruce	P
Choomack, Jim, HR	E	McClure, John	A
Clark, Molly, HR	E	McCormick, Mark	A
Clayton, Susan	E	McElrath, Pete, HR	E
Clendenin, Monty, HR	E	McLaughlin, Wayne, HR	E
Coker, Jeff, HR	E	Rachel Mathews	P
Crutchfield, Bob, HR	E	Mylalsingh, Emerson, HR	E
Davis, Becky HR	E	Newton, Nicole	A
Davis, Lant	E	Newland, Terry, HR	E
Dippenaer, Vic	E	Northen, Margaret, HR	E
Durham, Charles, HR	E	O'Neill, Elizabeth	P
Durham, Erica	E	Oh, Jyung, Ho	A
Edwards, Robert	A	Oliver, Catherine, HR	E
Ephraim, James, HR	P	Park, Daekeun	A
Feagin, Debbie, HR	P	Patton, Finley, HR	E
Frandsen, Emily	P	Patton, Roger, HR	E
Free, Zana	A	Pearce-Reed, Leanne	P
Gatliff, Abby	P	Ponder, Luke	E
Gatliff, Cort	P	Porter, Mary, HR	E

Price, Sandra, HR	E	Sprik, Petra	A
Pyburn, Richard, HR	E	Stephens, Gerald, HR	E
Reed, Kathy	P	Thurman, Michael	E
Reed, Nick	P	Tingle, Terry, HR	E
Roberts, Madison	P	Truesdell, Jim	P
Scarbrough, Leeann	E	Turner, Lucy, HR	E
Scott, Katherine	E	Turpen, Sam	A
Scrivner, Joe	P	Wade, Lindsey	A
Seamon, David	A	Waters, Dana, HR	P
Seitz, Craig, HR	E	Watson, Cody	E
Sellers, Lou Ann	P	Wells, Jim, HR	E
Shelton, Jack, HR	E	Westfall, Sue	P
Shin, Dong-ouk	A	Wilkins, Jay, HR	P
Sims, Charles, HR	E	Wills, Bill HR	E
Slane, Joe, HR	P	Wilson, Ron	A
Son, Junqkyun	P	Winter, Rachel	P
Spalding, Andrew	E	Winton, Carlton, HR	E
Speaker, Cary	P	Yarboro, Jonathan	P

Commission Ruling Elders with Vote

Present (2) Excused (2) Absent (4)

Bonner, Jeff	E	deNay Kirkpatrick	P
Dodson, Beverly	E	Harrison, John	A
Eich, Sharon	A	Sauser, Bill	A
Emerick, Robert	A	Veasey, Lin	P

Executive Council Members/Presbytery Officers w/Vote

Present (7) Excused () Absent ()

Sissy Bain	P	Jean Russell	P
Judith Baldwin	P	Deborah Thomas	P
Linda Burrowes	P	Donna Winn	P
Susan Haskell	P		

Christian Educators, Presbyterian Women, and Anti-Racism Moderators w/Vote

Jenny Thagard P Kathy Tracey P Alicia Foster 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-three (63)

churches in the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley. Forty-one (41) Commissioners were present.

Alexander City	First (1)	Rhonda Hodgson
Annemarie	Arlington (1)	NR
Anniston	Church of the Covenant	Sissy Bain
Anniston	First (1)	NR
Anniston	First United (1)	NR
Anniston	Korean (1)	NR
Auburn	First (3)	Susan Stanley
		Sarah Hill
		NR
Bessemer	Good Hope (1)	NR
Birmingham	Bold Springs (1)	NR
Birmingham	Edgewood (2)	Richard Galbraith
		NR
Birmingham	Fairfield Highlands (1)	NR
Birmingham	First (2)	Carl Martin
		Brenda Toomey
Birmingham	First United of Forestdale (1)	Terri Jones
Birmingham	Five Mile	NR
Birmingham	Independent (4)	Caryl Privett
		Susan Haskell
		Bev Krannich
		NR
Birmingham	Korean (1)	NR
Birmingham	Mountain Brook (2)	Karen Ogle
		Judy Wilson
Birmingham	Oakmont Chapel (2)	Judy Mann
		Janet Barnes
Birmingham	Riverchase (1)	NR
Birmingham	Second	Catherine Rodenhauser
Birmingham	South Highland (3)	Lee Cooper
		Mark Garner
		Kathy Tracey
Birmingham	Southminster (2)	Charles Edwards
		Bruce Ludwig
Birmingham	Westminster (1)	Linda Harris
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
Goodwater
Green Pond

Gardendale (1)
First (1)
Green Pond (1)

Cherie Fancher
NR
David Lyons

Jacksonville
Lafayette
Leeds
Livingston

First (1)
Lebanon (1)
Leeds (1)
First (1)

Carolyn Padgett
NR
Charles Gabert
Dustin Prine

Magnolia
Marion Junction
Montevallo
Montgomery
Montgomery
Montgomery
Montgomery

Rock Springs (1)
Marion Junction (1)
Montevallo (1)
Calvary
Immanuel (1)
Korean (1)
Providence (1)

NR
NR
Jim Chomicz
NR
Jon Broadway
Dong-Yop Oh
Kathryn Sweezey

Northport
Odenville
Opelika

Bethel (1)
Odenville (1)
Korean (2)

NR
NR
NR

Oxford
Phenix City
Piedmont
Reform
Selma
Selma
Sylacauga

Dodson Memorial (1)
First (1)
First (1)
First (1)
Pisgah (1)
Valley Creek (1)
First (1)

NR
Joan Gatewood
NR
NR
NR
NR
NR

Talladega
Troy
Trussville
Tuscaloosa
Tuscaloosa

First (1)
Williams Memorial (1)
Cahaba Springs (1)
Brown Memorial (1)
First (4)

NR
NR
Jennifer Smith
Angela Wright
Leanne Spencer
Lillian Beavers
Jill Cilimberg
NR

Tuscaloosa

Grace (2)

April Lane
NR

Tuscaloosa
Tuskegee Institute
Union Springs
Wetumpka

Korean
Westminster (1)
Union Springs (1)
First (1)

Duke Park
Judith Baldwin
NR
John Mitchell

Order of Worship

Music for Gathering #39

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Welcome by Host Church

Elizabeth O'Neill

Remembering our Baptism

Jade Hayes

Rev. Elizabeth O'Neill led us in the Call to Worship. We sang Hymn #79, *Light Dawns on a Weary World*. Kimble Forester gave the Call to Confession, led the body in the Prayer of Confession, gave the Words of Assurance, and the Passing of the Peace.

The body sang Hymn #389, *Come and Sing the Praise of the Lord*. Rev. Sam Hamilton-Poore gave the Prayer of Illumination and read the Scripture of Psalm 133. Ms. Wanda Battle sang *I'm Gonna Eat at the Welcome Table*. Rev. Elizabeth O'Neill read Genesis 45:1-15; then preached the sermon "*Call to Community – Call to Reconciliation*."

The body sang Hymn #769, "*For Everyone Born*."

Rev. Elizabeth O'Neill and Rev. Lisa Winston invited the body to the Lord's Table and led us in the Prayer of Communion. The Communion of Empty Hands was led and explained by Rev. O'Neill and Steve Trawick. **Appendix C-2**

Kimble Forrister asked for the Tithes and Offerings. During the Offering, Ms. Wanda Battle sang *We Walk in Love*. Rev. Winston gave the Prayer of Dedication and led us in the Lord's Prayer.

Rev. Sam Hamilton-Poore led the body in the Affirmation of Faith (The Confession of 1967). For the Closing Hymn, we sang Hymn #538, *Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises*

Rev. O'Neill gave the Charge and Blessing. Ms. Wanda Battles sang the Sending Music of Hymn #741, *Guide My Feet*.

Anti-Racism Committee

1. Reading Review Presbyterian History
We approved the name Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley on January 11, 1988, at First Presbyterian in Selma. It honors William Sheppard, Lucy Sheppard and Samuel Lapsley, who were missionaries in the Congo. Debra Love
2. Preaching Panel discussed their thoughts and experiences about preaching on race
Joe Genau, Elizabeth O'Neill, Joe Scrivner
3. Post panel discussion, for questions from Presbytery

Lunch -- Deborah Thomas led us in the blessing for lunch

Good News from Churches:

1. Legacy of Shades Valley – **Appendix C-3**
2. First Livingston—their 190th anniversary was today.
3. Rachel Winter—talked about the movie recently filmed at Oakmont Chapel.
4. Anti-Racism committee will be having a workshop on Monday, at Mountain Brook Presbyterian **Appendix C-4**
5. Moderator Ed Hurley talked about a movie filmed at SHPC based on Richard Scrushy. Mod. Hurley talked about his trip to Lebanon. They were supposed to go to Syria, but the borders were closed, so they went to Poland, instead.

Report from the Board of Pensions Appendix C-5

Keenan Rodgers

The Board is restructuring the Benefits Plan. 70% of churches with fewer than 150 members do not have installed pastors. The cost of medical benefits is going to keep increasing.

They are introducing a new plan for retirees. The pensions plan continues to be funded at 145%.

General Presbyter Appendix C-6

Sue Westfall

Commission on Ministry

John Brock

Information:

1. Recommended to the Trustees that Leeds be allowed to sell their manse.
2. Approved the Ministry Discernment Profiles for South Highland, Birmingham, and Grace, Tuscaloosa.
3. Approved the Rev. Richard Hanna to moderate a congregational meeting of Oakmont Chapel, Hoover, on July 23, 2023.

Action Items:

1. Examine and approve the Rev. Sharon Schuler to transfer her membership to the Presbytery as honorably retired. **Appendix C-7, 8 Approved**
2. Examine and approve the Rev. Rachel Winter as the installed pastor at Oakmont Chapel, Hoover. Effective Salary, \$56,595; Professional Development, \$4,000; Vacation, 4 weeks; Study Leave, 2 weeks. Installation will be September 10 at 4:00 pm. Installation Commission will be approved at the November presbytery meeting. **Approved**
3. Approve the request of First, Phenix City, to begin the process of moving from Sheppards and Lapsley to Flint River Presbytery. **Approved**
4. Appoint an Administrative Commission to Second, Birmingham. Members: Sam Hamilton-Poore, Rachel Winter, Bill Stribling, Mary Clyde Teague, TJ Holmes. **Approved**
5. Approve the Installation Commission for the Rev. Nicole Newton at First, Birmingham on August 20, at 3:00 pm. Rev. Lydia Casey, Rev. Dr. Ed Hurley, Rev. Dr. Joe Scrivner, Carl Martin, deNay Kirkpatrick, and visiting member Rev. Lindsey Clifton (Lehigh Presbytery) **Approved**

Memorial for Rev. Hugh Kelso

Appendix C-9

Jay Wilkins

Executive Council Appendix C-10

Finance Committee Appendix C-11

Tom Bryson

They will start working on the budget for 2024 and they need the budgets from the committees.

Small Church Committee

Neil McCarter

Neil talked about the General Assembly Resource, "The Vital Signs of a Healthy Congregation."

Mission Update Appendix C-12

Ralls Coston

Ralls talked about the Pentecost campaign and Cents-Ability. 8,829 cans of food were donated, which is down from last year. He also discussed Cents-Ability and how the funds are used. The Birmingham Habitat House will begin in September.

Prayer for Mission Partners

Jim Trusdell

Living River Appendix C-13

Rachel Mathews

Trustees

Jay Wilkins

For Action

Leeds Presbyterian Church has requested that the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley consent to the listing and sale of its manse, which has not been occupied by a minister for 50 years and presents growing maintenance issues. The proceeds of the sale will be used to maintain the historic church and to fund various missions of the church and the Presbytery.

The Presbytery's Commission on Ministry has met with representatives from Leeds Presbyterian Church and has considered the church's reasons for selling the property. The Commission on Ministry, taking into account the full mission and ministry of the church, has recommended to the Presbytery Trustees that the church's request to sell the property should be approved.

The trustees recommend and move as follows:

- 1. That the Presbytery authorize and approve the listing and sale by Leeds Presbyterian Church of its manse (the "Property");**
- 2. That the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery be, and he hereby is, authorized and directed in accordance with section G-4.0206a of the Book of Order to communicate, through the session of the church, the written permission of the Presbytery to the sale of the Property; and**

3. That the trustees of the Presbytery are authorized to take such other actions on behalf of the Presbytery as they deem necessary and appropriate to the sale of the Property. Approved

The Trustees recommend and move as follows: Appendix 14, 15

1. That the Presbytery authorize and approve the application for, and the closing of, the Loan from the Synod of Living Waters to Westminster Birmingham, which Loan shall be evidenced by loan documents ("Loan Documents") in standard form used by the Synod of Living Waters;
2. That the appropriate officers of the Presbytery be, and they hereby are, authorized to execute and deliver on behalf of the Presbytery such of the Loan Documents as may be necessary to evidence the Presbytery's guaranty of the Loan; and
3. That the trustees of the Presbytery are authorized to take such other actions on behalf of the Presbytery as they deem necessary and appropriate to the closing of the Loan.

The trustees recommend and move as follows: Appendix 16, 17

RESOLVED, the South Highland Presbyterian Church ("Church") located at 2035 Highland Ave., S, Birmingham, AL 35205 has applied for a loan as follows from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Investment and Loan Program, Inc. ("Lender"):

Amount of Loan: \$2,100,000.00

FURTHER RESOLVED: The Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley, Incorporated, an Alabama nonprofit corporation, ("Presbytery") having received and reviewed the Loan application of the Church, a member in good standing of this Presbytery, approves the Loan application, and guarantees the repayment of principal and interest on the loan to the Lender as described above. The officers of the Presbytery as listed on the attached Certificate of Incumbency marked Exhibit A are authorized to sign a guarantee and any and all documents of this loan as authorized agents of the Presbytery. Approved

Nominating Committee

Rick Atkerson

For action:

The Committee nominates the following to fill unexpired terms as indicated:

**Permanent Judicial Commission (2027) - Tom Buck - South Highland, Birmingham
Approved**

For information:

Please be in prayerful consideration for the opportunities for service in the various committees and commissions that will be available as members of the classes of 2023 complete their terms. Some will be eligible for an additional term and some will be required to roll off.

If you are interested in any position, or wish to recommend someone, please contact any member of the Committee on Nominating and Representation:

Stated Clerk

Omnibus Motion:

1 . Reports of Administrative Commissions

For Action: In 2020, the Presbytery formed an Administrative Commission for the Springville Presbyterian Church, and its final report is included. The following actions are needed: Appendix C-18

On behalf of the AC, I move that the Presbytery (1) approve the transfer of the property and funds from the church to the Springville Historical Preservation Society, (2) dissolve the Springville Presbyterian Church, and (3) dismiss the Administrative Commission with thanks for their faithful service. Approved

MOTION: For Presbytery to authorize the Five Mile AC to approve, once all legal documentation has been created and reviewed by Presbytery Trustees, separation of the single parcel of land deeded to Five Mile Presbyterian Church into two parcels. Parcel 1 will be conveyed as a donation to The Five Mile Presbyterian Church Foundation. Five Mile Presbyterian Church will continue to hold record title to Parcel 2 pending the later sale of parcel 2 to an as yet undetermined purchaser, which later sale will also require Presbytery approval. Approved

For information: At the May 18, 2023, meeting of Presbytery, the Commission on Ministry reported the formation of Administrative Commissions for the following congregations: First, Anniston; Five Mile; Fairfield Highlands; Odenville; and, Reform. When an AC is approved by the Presbytery, the AC reports to the Presbytery through the Stated Clerk since the AC are commissions of the Presbytery. Our Presbytery policy calls for ACs to report at each meeting of the Presbytery.

First, Anniston reports that information is being sought to guide the use of the trust funds held by the congregation. Report follows. **Appendix C-19**

Five Mile reports that the legal work proceeds to establish a cemetery foundation which requires a redrawing of property lines. **Appendix C-20**

Fairfield Highlands is seeking to secure the deed to the property and to dissolve the congregation.

Odenville is clarifying details of an agreement to dissolve the congregation as a PC(USA) church since it does not wish to be dismissed to a Reformed denomination. Report follows. **Appendix C-21**

Reform wishes to be dismissed from the PCUSA to join another Reformed denomination, and the AC is in communication with the clerk of Session to plan a meeting.

Second, Birmingham has voted to close the congregation, is reconstituting its Session, and exploring merger options. Report follows. **Appendix C-22**

2. Review of Session Minutes

The minutes from the following churches have been read and approved this year:

Alexander City, First	Birmingham, Oakmont Chapel
Birmingham, Riverchase	Birmingham, Second
Birmingham, South Highland	Birmingham, Southminster
Birmingham, Westminster	Carbon Hill, First
Gardendale Presbyterian	Goodwater Presbyterian
Green Pond Presbyterian	Jacksonville, First
Montgomery, Providence	Northport, Bethel
Oxford, Dodson Memorial	Trussville, Cahaba Springs
Tuscaloosa, First	Tuskegee, Westminster
Wetumpka, First	

The Stated Clerk gives thanks for the congregations which hosted gatherings of clerks and pastors this summer for the sharing and reading of their minutes. Other gatherings will be planned. The Stated Clerk is happy to continue to review minutes that can be delivered to the Presbytery office. The review sheet follows this report so that clerks may begin the process. Clerks are to complete the review sheet for their minutes, and deliver the minutes and review sheet to the Stated Clerk. **Appendix C-23**

3. Per Capita: The ministries of the Stated Clerk, of the Assistant to the Stated Clerk, and of the Recording Clerk, are supported by our Per Capita Assessment which is \$27.00 per person this year. This figure is based on the costs of office expenses, meeting expenses, and salaries. This Presbytery pays the per capita due to the Synod and General Assembly, and asks congregations to pay their fair share. Many thanks to 45 congregations which have supported Per Capita! Much encouragement to those 18 congregations who have yet to give.

4. Background Checks are being done by the Stated Clerk according to our Child and Youth/Vulnerable Protection Policy. The policy calls for such background checks to be on an every three year cycle. The only exemption is for those who are no longer engaged in ministry or who have had a "BGC" within the last three (3) years. Please contact the Stated Clerk with any questions or concerns you have in regards to Background Checks.

5. Hosts for Presbytery Meetings are needed for the following dates:
May16, 2024 August15, 2024 November 14, 2024

Contact the Stated Clerk to offer your invitation to the Presbytery: call 205-978-0320; or email statedclerk@pslpcusa.org.

Presbyterian Home for Children Appendix C-24
Talked about Alumni Day and showed a video.
Sept. 13, 2:00, there will be a dedication of 6 cottages for the AIDB

Doug Marshall

Commission on Preparation for Ministry Appendix C-25

UKirk Birmingham Appendix C-26

Presbyterian Women Appendix C-27, 28

Adjournment with Prayer

Ed Hurley

Walter J. Wilkins, Stated Clerk

Linda Burrowes, Recording Clerk

PRESBYTERY OF SHEPPARDS AND LAPSLEY

*partner with and equip present and emerging
PC(USA) faith communities in central Alabama
to serve Christ and our neighbors*



**Summer Stated Meeting
August 17, 2023**

**Immanuel Presbyterian Church
Montgomery, AL**

THE PRESBYTERY OF SHEPPARDS AND LAPSLEY
PROPOSED DOCKET / AUGUST 17, 2023
IMMANUEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MONTGOMERY

Please silence all cell phones and electronic devices

9:00 AM Registration

9:30 AM Call to Order and Opening Prayer Moderator Ed Hurley
Organization-Declaration of a Quorum, Adoption of the Docket, Seating of Corresponding
Members, Welcome of First Time Commissioners, Welcome of Visitors, Requests for New
Business in writing to the Stated Clerk by 11:00 AM

Welcome Dr. Yolanda Page, President of Stillman College

Joe Scrivner & Mark McCormick

Omnibus Motion:

1. To approve the minutes of the May 18, 2023 meeting
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4. To receive and record the minutes of the Commission to install Rev. In Chan Bae as Pastor of Korean Presbyterian Church of Birmingham on August 13, 2023.
5. To approve the dates and locations for meetings of the Presbytery: November 16, 2023, at Presbyterian Home for Children in Talladega; February 15, 2024, at Northern Heights Church in Selma.

Order of Worship

For Silent Reflection: *It is because we long for peace that we pray. It is because we hope for wholeness that we hunger. It is because we need forgiveness that we seek new beginnings. So we come, entering the depths of our souls to plead for peace, to summon wholeness, to beg forgiveness of ourselves and one another, and thus of You, Soul within our soul, Light within our longings.*

Be still and aware

Music for Gathering #39

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

FAITHFULNESS

10:00 AM

Welcome

Rev. Elizabeth O'Neill

Remembering Our Baptism

Jade Hayes

***Call to Worship**

Rev. Elizabeth O'Neill

God calls us to this place. We come from many different places and we carry with us many different needs and challenges. Whatever it is that we carry on our hearts this day, we know this:

God is with us. God is Love. Love will stir our hearts to hope and promise.

God calls us to this place. We cross boundaries that divide us by ages and stages, ethnicities and genders, hurts and disagreements. Whoever we are, however we show up, we know this:

God is with us. God is love. Love will stir our hearts to reconciliation and unity.

God calls us to this place. Let us open our eyes to see one another in community. Let us open our hearts to discover the One who is within us and beyond us.

God is with us. God is Love. Love empowers us to worship as one, in spirit and truth.

God is with us, stirring among us, calling us to hope and promise and new life. Let us call upon God's name. Let us listen together in wonder, to hear how our Lord is speaking to us this day. Come, let us worship God!

***Hymn #79**

Light Dawns on a Weary World

TEMPLE OF PEACE

Call to Confession and Prayer of Confession

Kimble Forrister

Not because we are living in the light; not because we have made peace this day; not because we have treated others as ourselves; not because we have walked the world with reverence –

but because there is mercy, because there is grace; because God's Spirit has not been taken from us, we come thirsting for peace, longing to love, hungering for wholeness.

Let us confess our brokenness and the brokenness of the world. Let us pray.

God, we confess that we prefer particular things to unfold in ways to our own liking. We do not like being unsettled or uncomfortable; we do not like it when our world is turned upside down. We would rather ignore conflicts than to deal with them. We justify our actions and reactions; we blame others for our anxieties and fears, our discomforts and disagreements. But You challenge us to a more excellent way. Encourage us with your love, and support us in our efforts to walk with compassion and grace. Hear us as we pray.

Silence

Amen.

Words of Assurance

Kimble Forrister

Friends, this is the good news: We are all – each and every one of us – God's beloved;

in God's holy wisdom and with an abundance of grace, we are nurtured, cared for, and offered the fullness of life.

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Please turn to your neighbor and offer a word of peace!

Response to Grace #389** ***Come and Sing the Praise of the Lord

HAL'LUHU

Prayer for Illumination

Rev. Sam Hamilton-Poore

A Reading from the Psalter: Psalm 133 (Page 575)

Rev. Sam Hamilton-Poore

The Word in Song

I'm Gonna Eat at the Welcome Table

African American Spiritual
Ms. Wanda Battle, soloist

A Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures: Genesis 45.1-15 (Page 42)

Rev. Elizabeth O'Neill

Sermon

Call to Community – Call to Reconciliation

Rev. Elizabeth O'Neill

***Hymn of Response #769**

For Everyone Born

FOR EVERYONE BORN

Invitation to the Table and the Prayer of Communion

Rev. Elizabeth O'Neill and Rev. Lisa Winston

This is the table, not of the Church, but of the Lord. We gather here – at this table of grace – to celebrate the goodness of God and the abundance of God's love. In a spirit of unity, come, you who have much faith and you who have little, you who have been here often and you who are here for the first time, you who have tried to follow Jesus and you who have failed. Come as God's beloved, beautiful and blessed.

We come to this table thankful, for the abundance of God's world; thankful that there is more than enough food and grace to go around. We come, thankful that Jesus came to show us the way – the way of steadfast love and compassion, the way of forgiveness and unity. We come, thankful that the Spirit is alive in us and among us. We need to be at this table because there are wounds in the Body of Christ that need healing. There are members in this body who are hurting. There are neighbors who suffer – sisters and brothers, sons and daughters who do not have enough to eat or access to clean water. As we gather together in spirit, let us remember the tenacity of God's Love and the creative power of God's Spirit brooding over the face of the earth.

Let us pray: Merciful God, we give thanks for all of the rich treasures of your creation: for tiny seeds and giant trees, for grain, yeast, salt, and water, for fruit, soil and sunshine, for the things we grow and the mysteries of life, for the wonders and surprises in nature that startle us into gratitude.

Loving Christ, we give you thanks for all the treasures of relationships: for those who have gone before us in faith and courage, for family memories passed down, for the stories we tell in church that help us to see your goodness, for the Biblical narrative that sets the pattern for each of our lives and our life together.

Holy Spirit, we give you thanks: for the gift of this table around which we gather; for all who make nourishment and clean water possible; for this community that connects us in ever widening circles; and for the hope and vision of a time and place where everyone will have enough to eat and drink, and we will all sit at table as one body.

Silence

Amen.

***The Communion of Empty Hands**

Rev. Elizabeth O'Neill and Steve Trawick

Friends, here we gather for a communion of empty hands. The absence of a common loaf reflects a world of profound food insecurity; the absence of a cup filled to the brim reflects a world where water has become a precious commodity.

We gather in solidarity with all of God's children in need around the world – those who are hungry and have no food, those who are thirsty and have no access to clean water. We gather as truth-tellers, mindful of the stories that challenge injustice, inequality, racism and poverty. We gather remembering the stories that empower the powerless.

Here we gather remembering this story: On the night of his betrayal and arrest, Jesus sat at table with his followers and friends and shared a meal. After the meal, Jesus took bread, blessed it and broke it, and invited all to take eat and remember. He took the cup, blessed it and invited all to take, drink and remember.

Now as we share in the communion of empty hands, we remember the church – breaking bread as Jesus did, pouring the wine and inviting all to taste and see that the Lord is good. We remember that the gifts of God are for all of the people of God.

Let us enact this holy meal in a spirit of unity: breaking the bread, and dipping the bread in the cup as Jesus did; sharing the feast as one.

Communion liturgy adapted, "Visions of a World Hungry", by Thomas Pettepiece

***Presentation of Tithes and Offerings**

Kimble Forrister

50% of the Offering Goes to CPM for candidates and 50% is used as a Presbytery Discretionary Fund for pastoral care.

Donations of non-perishable food items will be distributed through our partnership with the Episcopal Church of the Holy Comforter Food Pantry in Montgomery. As we receive the offering of special music, please bring your offerings forward and place them in the baskets at the front of the sanctuary.

We are called to be the church; in a spirit of gratitude, we are called to return to God a portion of God's gifts to us, that the fullness of life might be manifest in the world. The morning offering will be received.

Special Music*We Walk in Love*Deanna Witkowski and Lemuel Colon
Soloist: Ms. Wanda Battle**Prayer of Dedication and The Lord's Prayer**

Rev. Lisa Winston

Affirmation of Faith *The Confession of 1967Inclusive Language Text
Rev. Sam Hamilton Poore

From the Preface: God's reconciling work in Jesus Christ and the mission of reconciliation to which he has called his church are the heart of the gospel in any age. Our generation stands in peculiar need of reconciliation in Christ. Accordingly, this Confession of 1967 is built upon that theme.

To be reconciled to God is to be sent into the world as God's reconciling community. This community, the church universal, is entrusted with God's message of reconciliation and shares God's labor of healing the enmities which separate people from God and from each other. Christ has called the church to this mission and given it the gift of the Holy Spirit. The church maintains continuity with the apostles and with Israel by faithful obedience to his call.

The life, death, resurrection and promised coming of Jesus Christ has set the pattern for the church's mission. His human life involves the church in the common life of all people. His service to men and women commits the church to work for every form of human well-being. His suffering makes the church sensitive to all human suffering, so that it sees the face of Christ in the faces of persons in every kind of need. His crucifixion discloses to the church God's judgment on the inhumanity that marks human relations, and the awful consequences of the church's own complicity in injustice. In the power of the risen Christ and the hope of his coming, the church sees the promise of God's renewal of human life in society and of God's victory over all wrong. The church follows this pattern in the form of its life and in the method of its action. So to live and serve is to confess Christ as Lord.

Closing Hymn #538 *Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises* HALELUYA! PELO TSA RONA**Charge and Blessing**

Rev. Elizabeth O'Neill

May the love of life, fill our hearts.

May the love of earth bring joy to heaven.

May the love of self, deepen our souls.

May the love of neighbor heal our world.

As nations, as peoples, as families, this day may the Great Lover of Life heal our world. The blessing of God – our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer – rest upon our hearts and attend our way this day and always. Amen, and amen.

Liturgy and Prayers adapted, "Praying with the Earth; A Prayer Book for Peace" by John Philip Newell, p. 52-53; "Seasons of the Spirit", August 20, 2023 and Communion Liturgy for the Season of Pentecost; Thomas Pettepiece, "Visions of a World Hungry"; Iona Abbey Worship Book; A Declaration of Faith, Inclusive Language Text

Special Music: Justice Choir Songbook

With Special Thanks to Mike Keeling, Music Ministry Coordinator, Immanuel Presbyterian Church and Wanda Battle, Freedom Singer and our friend in community

Ministry Within Our Presbytery

11:00 AM	Anti-Racism Committee (page 8)	Alicia Foster and Madison Roberts
	1. Reading Review Presbyterian History (Debra Love)	
	2. Preaching Panel to discuss their thoughts and experiences about preaching on race. Joe Genau, Leanne Scarborough, Elizabeth O'Neill, Joe Scrivner	
	3. Post panel discussion, for questions from whole Presbytery	
12:00 PM	Lunch	
12:50	Good News from Churches: Legacy of Shades Valley (page 9)	Jay Wilkins
1:00	Board of Pensions (page 12)	Keenan Rodgers
1:05	General Presbyter (page 13)	Sue Westfall
1:15	Commission on Ministry (page 15)	John Brock
	1. Examine and approve the Rev. Sharon Schuler to transfer her membership to the presbytery as honorably retired. (statements page 16-17)	
	2. Examine and approve the Rev. Rachel Winter as the installed pastor at Oakmont Chapel, Hoover. Effective Salary, \$56,595; Professional Development, \$4,000; Vacation, 4 weeks; Study Leave, 2 weeks. Installation will be September 10 at 4:00 pm. Installation Commission will be approved at the November presbytery meeting.	
	3. Approve the request of First, Phenix City, to begin the process of moving from Sheppards and Lapsley to Flint River Presbytery.	
	4. Appoint an Administrative Commission to Second, Birmingham. Members: Sam Hamilton-Poore, Rachel Winter, Bill Stribling, Mary Clyde Teague, TJ Holmes	
	5. Examine and approve the Rev. Bohye Choi to serve as part-time associate pastor for King's Cross, Birmingham, and for temporary membership in the presbytery. (statement page 18)	
	6. Approve the Installation Commission for the Rev. Nicole Newton at First, Birmingham on August 20, at 3:00 pm. Rev. Lydia Casey, Rev. Dr. Ed Hurley, Rev. Dr. Joe Scrivner, Carl Martin, deNay Kirkpatrick, and visiting member Rev. Lindsey Clifton (Lehigh Presbytery)	
	Memorial for Rev. Hugh Kelso	Charles Sims
1:40	Finance Committee	Tom Bryson
1:50	Small Church	Neil McCarter

2:00	Mission Coordinator (page 21)	Ralls Coston
2:10	Prayer for Mission Partners	Jim Truesdell
2:15	Living River (page 22)	Rachel Van Kirk Mathews
2:25	Trustees (page 26)	Lant Davis

The trustees recommend and move as follows:

- 1. That the Presbytery authorize and approve the listing and sale by Leeds Presbyterian Church of its manse (the "Property");**
- 2. That the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery be, and he hereby is, authorized and directed in accordance with section G-4.0206a of the Book of Order to communicate, through the session of the church, the written permission of the Presbytery to the sale of the Property;**
- 3. That the trustees of the Presbytery are authorized to take such other actions on behalf of the Presbytery as they deem necessary and appropriate to the sale of the Property.**

The trustees recommend and move as follows:

- 1. That the Presbytery authorize and approve the application for, and the closing of, the Loan from the Synod of Living Waters to Westminster Birmingham, which Loan shall be evidenced by loan documents ("Loan Documents") in standard form used by the Synod of Living Waters;**
- 2. That the appropriate officers of the Presbytery be, and they hereby are, authorized to execute and deliver on behalf of the Presbytery such of the Loan Documents as may be necessary to evidence the Presbytery's guaranty of the Loan; and**
- 3. That the trustees of the Presbytery are authorized to take such other actions on behalf of the Presbytery as they deem necessary and appropriate to the closing of the Loan.**

2:35	Nominating (page 27)	Rick Atkerson
	The Committee nominates the following to fill unexpired terms as indicated:	
	1. Permanent Judicial Commission (2027) - Tom Buck - South Highland, Birmingham	

2:40	Stated Clerk (page 28)	Jay Wilkins
	For Action: In 2020, the Presbytery formed an Administrative Commission for the Springville Presbyterian Church, and its final report is included. The following actions are needed:	
	On behalf of the AC, I move that the Presbytery (1) approve the transfer of the property and funds from the church to the Springville Historical Preservation Society, (2) dissolve the Springville Presbyterian Church, and (3) dismiss the Administrative Commission with thanks for their faithful service.	

Motion: For Presbytery to authorize the Five Mile AC to approve, once all legal documentation has been created and reviewed by Presbytery Trustees, separation of the single parcel of land deeded to Five Mile Presbyterian Church into two parcels. Parcel 1 will be conveyed as a donation to The Five Mile Presbyterian Church Foundation. Five Mile Presbyterian Church will continue to hold record title to Parcel 2, pending the later sale of Parcel 2 to an as yet undetermined purchaser, which later sale will also require Presbytery approval.

New Business (Action Items Only)

2:50 Presbyterian Home for Children (page 38)

Doug Marshall

3:00 PM Adjournment with Prayer

Moderator Ed Hurley

†Please stand, if able

After the meeting, please turn in your hanging name badge.

We wish to extend a special thank you to Rev. Elizabeth O'Neill, the staff, and the volunteers of Immanuel Presbyterian Church for hosting today's Presbytery meeting. We would also like to thank Jade Hayes, Kimble Forrister, Rev. Sam Hamilton-Poore, Rev. Lisa Winston, and Steve Trawick for leading the worship service, also Soloist, Wanda Battle and Pianist Mike Keeling for participating in today's worship. As always, our Tech Team helpers, Robert Newman, Carl Martin and Madison Vaughn.

**Next Stated Meeting – November 16 , 2023
Presbyterian Home for Children, Talladega, AL**

About the Communion of Empty Hands – Our Story

The communion table at Immanuel curves wide open in welcome, reflecting our sense of calling to *be* a sanctuary of welcome for all people. It is truly the Table of the Lord, where we share a common story, a common loaf, and a common cup. It is the place where the differences between all people are gathered and held together; where we embody our oneness. Celebrating communion by intinction each week for over 30 years at Immanuel has been a deeply formative experience for those who gather.

Over 20 years ago, when I first met with the Pastoral Search Committee, one of the members of the committee asked me how I felt about officiating communion on a weekly basis. I don't remember the exact words I used in responding to her question, but I do clearly recall her response to me. "I am so glad to hear that. Not all of our candidates have been so affirming or enthusiastic. Celebrating Communion each week is really important to us at Immanuel, because we are a welcoming and inclusive congregation and we are not all alike. We do not all think alike, and we don't always agree about a lot of things, but when we come to the table each week, we are one." I remember observing the other members of the committee nodding their heads in agreement. I was both deeply touched and stunned all at the same time.

Over the past few years, as wave after wave of the pandemic swept over our lives, we live-streamed worship from the sanctuary, breaking bread at table and in our homes in front of computer screens and remembering the church gathered. It was a long, hard stretch. Then, as we began to prepare to return to in-person worship, a major concern for the congregation was our weekly practice of Communion by Intinction, alongside a call for best and safe practices in a new time. We all knew that when we returned to worship in the sanctuary, we would not feel safe returning to the practice of sharing a common loaf and a common cup. We also knew what forms of communion we were not willing to put in its place and why. We struggled to imagine how to reshape our sacramental practice in a way that reflected the power of the story and our experience of welcome and unity.

It was early in the Spring when the session marked an early Fall date to shift from live-streaming to a hybrid style worship. We began planning for ways to encourage safe-distancing, and best practices for returning to the sanctuary. The question of Communion was left unanswered. How? We did not know. We researched and prayed and talked and prayed some more and kept coming up with more questions than answers. Someone suggested that maybe we don't celebrate Communion for a while. That did not seem a faithful option.

It was Palm Sunday and my heart was heavy. The next morning during prayer and meditation, I picked up the Devotional book I was using at the time, "A Guide to Prayer for Ministers and Other Servants" and began reading. The assigned scripture text for that particular Monday morning was the story from Mark's gospel about Mary anointing the feet of Jesus – pouring out that precious, costly, sweet perfume... When her action was questioned, Jesus spoke: "The poor you will always have with you, but you will not always have me."

The next reading in the "Guide to Prayer..." was an excerpt from a book entitled, "Visions of a World Hungry" by Thomas Pettepiece*. The reading opened with the words, "Today is Resurrection Sunday. My first Easter in prison..." and then it continued, "There is not a single cup. But a score of Christian prisoners experienced the joy of celebrating communion – without bread or wine. The Communion of empty hands. 'We have no bread, nor water to use instead of wine', I told them, 'but we will act as though we had. This meal in which we take part', I said, 'reminds us of the prison, the torture, the death and the final victory of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The bread is the body which he gave for humanity. The fact that we have none represents very well the lack of bread and the hunger of so many millions of human beings. The wine, which we don't have today, is his blood and represents our dream of a united humanity, of a just society, without difference or race or class'."

One Easter Sunday, in prison, and not so very long ago, a man named Thomas Pettepiece celebrated a Communion of Empty Hands while in prison, in solidarity with those who were imprisoned by poverty. As I sat with those readings – the gospel narrative and the words from a man in prison – I found myself thinking that, while the journey through a global pandemic was not like being in prison, it was nonetheless severely confining. Our actions were restricted. Our resources

were limited. And the reality was – and is – that we would still be confined and limited in the days and weeks and months ahead. We would have to learn to be a worshipping community in new ways.

What if we had no bread and no wine? I wondered. I began to reflect on the possibility of enacting the sacrament as one, and in solidarity with neighbors near and far, who are food insecure and have no access to clean water. Shaping the words for a communion liturgy, I began to think of our most sacred story – Jesus at table with his disciples – as spiritual bread and wine. I imagined a communal response: giving of ourselves, for the sake of the poor who we always have with us in an unjust world, in the form of an embodied prayer after Communion. I pictured the congregation coming forward to the table as one body, to give an offering of non-perishable food items in grateful response for all we have been given. The sacrament suddenly took on a deeper, sacrificial tone that seemed powerfully consistent with the Gospel narrative. “This is my body, broken... This is my blood, poured out.”

A few days later I met with our Worship Elder and we drafted a proposal for a return to worship in person that included a celebration of a Communion of Empty Hands, to be presented at our next Session meeting. A few weeks later, the Immanuel session unanimously approved the proposal. We agreed to use a Worshipful Work model for the agenda at our next monthly meeting, and to include the Communion of Empty Hands as part of our Morning Worship. We also decided to invite our deacons to join us for that meeting.

The agenda was shaped and the deacons were invited and all were asked to bring a non-perishable food item/s to the meeting. Following the morning worship with the session and deacons, one of the Immanuel elders came up to me with tears in his eyes. “This was such a powerful experience”, he said. “Maybe the most powerful experience of Communion that I’ve ever known. I was struck by the fact that just as the church is not the building, the sacrament is not the elements. It also occurred to me that giving and receiving are all part of the same fabric.”

We decided to introduce the Communion of Empty Hands to the congregation alongside a series of listening sessions where we invited participants to share their experiences and understanding of the sacrament. We shared our concerns for safe re-entry practices and the story from “Visions of a World Hungry” by Thomas

Pettepiece, whose written experience initially stirred our thinking. The gatherings were well attended and provided positive experiences of conversation and connection.

Fast forward now many months. The Immanuel session discerned that for the present time (that is, 2023) we would continue the practice of the Communion of Empty Hands, and celebrate Communion with Elements only on the first Sunday of each month. Currently we use individually prepared cups of grape juice set on trays, and small portions of bread on plates. The congregation comes forward to the table to receive the elements and return to the pews. After everyone has been served, we share the bread and juice as one. The remaining Sundays each month, we celebrate the Communion of Empty Hands and receive non-perishable food items as both an act of unity and solidarity. This rhythm and practice reflect our long corporate experience of coming together at table on a weekly basis. But we have also come to understand and appreciate our rhythm and practice as relevant to, and consistent with, our call to be both a Matthew 25 Church and an Earth Care Congregation.

We appreciate the opportunity to share both our story and our practice of table fellowship with the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley, through a Communion of Empty Hands.

*Thomas Pettepiece, author and activist, was an ordained Methodist Pastor who served for many years as the Southwest Regional Director for Bread for the World. He served on the National Board of Directors for the U.S. Committee for UNICEF and established an organization committed to peace and justice efforts around the world called PeaceExpo. He died in 1995 at age 50.

THE LEGACY OF SHADES VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

It is with great sadness that Shades Valley Presbyterian had to shutter its doors, but with great jubilation that, through the guiding hand of God, as a result of our merger with Southminster, our commitment to the love of Christ flowing through us continues. It flows from our previous investments— materially through the sale of the property on Montevallo Road and spiritually through the values evidenced in all our relationships.

The sale of the property generated a significant Legacy for Shades Valley. As Presbyterians, we trust that all that we have comes from God and belongs to God. The proceeds of the property sale are resources entrusted to us by God to serve God's mission in the church and the world. The Session of Shades Valley established a Property Proceeds Stewardship Committee to bring recommendations for the faithful use of the proceeds. After several months of diligent deliberations, the committee made and the Session approved its recommendations. The plan, as adopted, involves two facets: An initial "First Fruits" Major Gifts and secondly Long Term Giving through endowed funds.

First Fruits: Initial Major Gifts

In the ancient tradition of giving from the “first fruits,” Shades Valley has made immediate initial gifts to seven of our long-term mission partners. We consulted with each partner and listened to their current needs and priorities. The projects identified will have a significant and transformative impact. These gifts reflect the deep values of our congregation and the strength of our relationships with our mission partners. All of these gifts totaling \$1,075,000 have been distributed as follows:

Stillman College \$250,000 This gift supports the Winsborough Living and Learning Center, a restoration of historic Winsborough Hall. Winsborough Hall was the first dormitory for women at Stillman and was funded by the Presbyterian Women. The Center will provide apartments for low-income seniors who will benefit from interacting with Stillman students, faculty and staff in a unique social and cultural learning environment.

Firehouse Ministries \$190,000 This gift was to support the purchase of property across the street from the current shelter for the Safe Sleep Initiative. Safe Sleep was to provide space for those who cannot engage with the existing homeless shelter system, including micro shelters that would allow homeless families to remain united. **Update** The owner of the desired property, once found, would not sell; therefore a modification to the plan was made whereby the Firehouse Board and Staff submitted a group of eight other desperately needed projects which are primarily facility enhancements or quality of life enhancements for the residents. This change was approved by the Southminster Session. We also encouraged them to continue pursuing the purchase of a suitable property for the Safe Sleep Initiative.

Greater Birmingham Ministries \$175,000 This gift will allow GBM to pay off the mortgage on its property, freeing up funds to hire new staff and add new programs. It will also provide for updating failing HVAC systems with energy efficient heat pumps, resulting in savings of over \$11,000 annually. **Update** The mortgage has been paid off!

Living River \$150,000 This gift will support the updating of the Shades Valley/Terry Newland Adult Lodge, a popular retreat destination that sleeps 16. Improvements will include adding a small playground, updating flooring, light fixtures, and furnishings, and interior and exterior painting. **Update** This work is virtually complete and the Lodge looks magnificent. It is currently in use during the summer camp sessions. The plan is to rededicate the facility during the Fall Open House.

Presbyterian Home for Children \$150,000 This gift will enable the building of tiny homes at Union Village, an innovative program at PHC that provides affordable, secure housing for disabled adults in partnership with the Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind (AIDB). The housing will be affordable for residents in need yet will provide perpetual income to help fund PHC's core mission of caring for at risk and homeless children.

Christian Medical Institute of Kasai in Tshikaji, Democratic Republic of Congo (IMCK) \$110,000 This gift will enable the IMCK health center to purchase a vehicle to support rural health services, drill a well to provide clean drinking water, and make improvements to the hydroelectric system. The IMCK health center includes the Good Shepherd hospital, nursing and medical technology schools, a nutrition center, outpatient clinics, and more. **Update** About half of these funds have been spent most significantly for some new computers to strengthen the unit's overall computer system. The purchase of the vehicle will be made soon when it can be ordered directly from the factory at a reduced cost, and the well and hydroelectric system work is awaiting technical support.

Habitat for Humanity \$50,000 This gift will support family sponsorship and new home construction for one house build. It will have a long-term impact by allowing a low or moderate income family to access affordable, comfortable, safe housing for life. We actively participated in the build as volunteers. **Update** The Habitat house build is complete. The ground breaking was held on March 16th with the dedication taking place on June 21st. The happy homeowner is Xaiver Burch and her family.

Long-term Giving: Endowed Funds in excess of \$5,200,000

Recently the Session of the merged church adopted the policy for the Legacy Endowment Funds Ministry. Three funds have been established and will be overseen by the Southminster Session. An annual spending formula will be approved designating the amount of money that will be drawn from the funds for the subsequent year as a distribution and spent according to the restrictions of the funds. The funds have been invested in a manner with the goal to achieve a long term annual return that outpaces the spending formula over time and that targets growing the corpus of the funds in order to at least keep up with inflation. The funds and their percentage investment are:

Mission and Benevolence Endowment Fund – 50% This fund will be invested in perpetuity to support annual benevolence and mission giving by Southminster. In addition to the funds from the Mission and Benevolence Endowment, the merged church will continue to support mission giving from pledges and from the funds of the combined Southminster and former Shades Valley foundations.

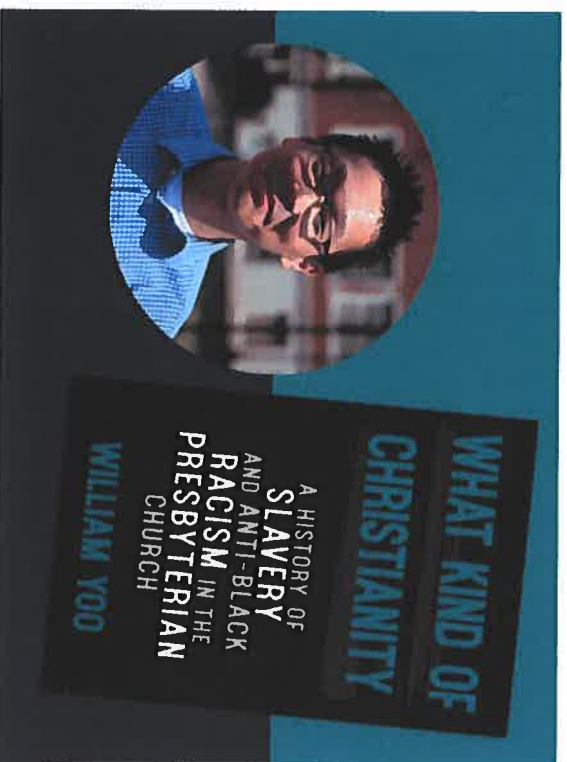
Southminster Ministry Endowment Fund – 30% This fund will also be invested in perpetuity and will support the ministry of the church in growing disciples. Funds will be used to support ministries of the church including such areas as worship and music, Christian education, evangelism, etc.

Capital Facilities Endowment and Reserve Fund – 20% This fund will be treated as both an endowment and as a reserve fund. In normal years, only the earnings will be available for use. However, in the case of major capital needs, the corpus of this fund may be drawn on with the approval of the Session. This fund may be used for projects to maintain and improve the physical plant, aesthetics, and safety of the buildings and grounds. Southminster's existing capital reserve fund will be combined with this fund.

To God be the glory!

Through changes and challenges over 78 years as a congregation, God has been faithful to Shades Valley. We give thanks for all that has come before and for the Spirit's leading us into the future of a shared life with Southminster. While a new chapter begins for us as part of the merged congregation, the legacy of Shades Valley Presbyterian Church will live on. Through our immediate and long-term gifts, the love of Christ we have come to know within the walls of the place we called Shades Valley Presbyterian Church will continue to be shared.

Please join the Antiracism Committee of the
Presbytery of Shepards and Lapsley for a
Antiracism Retreat featuring:



Dr. William Yoo, Associate Professor of
American Religious and Cultural History
at Columbia Theological Seminary



Rev. Gregory Bentley, Co-moderator
of the 224th General Assembly
and Pastor of Fellowship Presbyterian
Church in Huntsville, AL

When: August 21, 8:30 am - 3:00 pm

Where: Mountain Brook Presbyterian Church, Birmingham, AL

Details and Registration at pslpcusa.org

This retreat counts as PC(U.S.A.) pastor's Antiracism training for this year.



Appendix C-5



Keenan Rodgers
Church Consultant

m: 215-341-8143

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Summer 2023

We at the Board are working hard to support our ministers and employees of the Presbyterian Church (USA) in new and creative ways. If you have other ideas about how we can help, please let me know. I am happy to meet with presbytery and church committees to listen to your thoughts and hopes of how we can strengthen the benefits offered to those who serve the Church.

The Board of Pensions is a national agency of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), offering a broad range of benefits to PC(USA) churches, agencies, and mid councils, as well as affiliated employers.

Member/Employer Services: 800-773-7752, M-F 8:30 am to 6:00 pm ET

A Season of Rebuilding

At the Board of Pensions, we are committed to assessing and restructuring the Benefits Plan of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to meet the needs of a changing Church and to serve the most people possible. The Board has entered a season of rebuilding in which our goal is to make necessary changes to provide great flexibility and cost control for congregations as they care for the well-being of their pastoral leadership. Our vision is for all ministers ordained in the PC(USA) to be plan members. [Read more.](#)

Medicare Advantage plan to replace Medicare Supplement Jan. 1, 2024

The new Humana Group Medicare Advantage PPO plan will provide retirees more services and benefits than are available through Medicare Supplement, and at lower costs. These will include medical, dental, vision, and hearing aid benefits, prescription drug coverage, and other wellness support, including SilverSneakers, the popular fitness program for older Americans. Retired members will pay no subscription fees for the new plan for the first four years. Current Medicare Supplement participants will be automatically enrolled in the Humana plan for 2024 coverage, unless they choose to opt out. [Read more.](#)

Other important information:

The Assistance Program: As part of our commitment to mutual care and wholeness, the Board of Pensions has once again expanded access to the Assistance Program to serve more ministers, employees, retirees, and surviving spouses who have financial need. The latest Assistance Program expansion includes broadened eligibility, increased grant amounts, and two new grants. [Read more.](#)

Directors grant experience apportionment: The Board of Directors granted a 4.2 percent experience apportionment for the Defined Benefit Pension plan. Effective July 1, 2023, this apportionment will result in an increase in retirement and survivor pensions benefits for pension plan members and survivors as well as an increase in the pension credits accrued as of December 31, 2022, for active and vested terminated members of the pension plan. [Read more.](#)



Report of the General Presbyter
Sue Westfall
August 2023

Greetings in these dog days of August! The summer has found many of our pastors and other leaders headed across the pond, to the beach or mountains, or at least enjoying some kind of vacation. If this applies to you, I applaud your sabbath-keeping. The Bible is clear that sabbath is not just a good idea. It's the law. :)

- And, meanwhile, our congregations are holding Vacation Bible Schools, our youth are going to camp (both senior camp at Montreat and middle-school camp at Maryville), churches are hosting church family get-togethers of many kinds, putting themselves to work in community gardens, and gathering for Bible studies and worship with vitality and enthusiasm. Many of our preachers are working their way through the lectionary offerings of Matthew and the brave ones are even selecting the Romans passages.
- The Nominating Committee will soon begin its work of nominating people for all the commissions and committees of the presbytery. It's really rewarding to work on the presbytery's entities because you get to meet and work with a lot of very cool people from all around the presbytery. If you are feeling a nudge – or would like to nudge someone else - shoot me an email and I'll be sure to get the names to the Nominating Committee. swestfall@pslpcusa.org
- The Administrative Commissions you elected at our May meeting are hard at work as they attend to the sacred task of helping churches close with dignity, thanksgiving, and legacy. And sometimes the work of closing takes a surprising twist when, instead of closing, a church takes a creative look at a possible merger! The sessions of 2nd Presbyterian Church and Edgewood Presbyterian Church have both voted to explore the possibility of just such a merger. Keep them in your prayers!
- I hope you will join me and the Anti-Racism Committee for a special time of learning and discussion with renown author, Dr. William Yoo. Dr. Yoo is a professor at Columbia Theological Seminary. His book, *What Kind of Christianity* is well summed up by the book's subtitle: *A History of Slavery and Anti-Black Racism in the Presbyterian Church*. Former moderator of the PCUSA, the Reverend Gregory Bentley will be on hand to facilitate our discussion. (You do not have to have read the book to benefit from this presentation.) Originally planned for an overnight at Living River, it quickly became clear that a larger venue was needed. The event is Monday, August 21st from 8:30am to 3:00pm at Mountain Brook Presbyterian Church, 3405 Brookwood Rd. Lunch will be \$10. This satisfies the required anti-racism training for this year.
- Boundary Training is scheduled for Tuesday, October 17 at 11:30am. More details to follow but we are recording this training to make it available for subsequent trainings.
- Faith in Action Alabama hosted a clergy conference in June which was excellent! The Executive Director, Daniel Schwartz and local organizer, JaiGregory Clarke

met with our Executive Council to forge a partnership so that the presbytery can have a more significant impact on matters of state.

- We have the joy of installing two new minister members of the presbytery. Nicole Newton will be installed as the Associate Pastor for First Presbyterian, Birmingham on Sunday, August 20 at 3:00pm. And In Chan Bae will be installed pastor of Korean Presbyterian Church, 7814 Helena Rod, Pelham on August 13 at 4:30PM. It is a joyous occasion to welcome these new colleagues!

God is doing many good things in and through the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley. Thanks be to God!

**Sharon A. Schuler
Statement of Personal Faith**

I believe in the one triune God. I trust that the Father and Creator of all things is active and present in the world today as always. I personally accept the saving grace freely offered to me through the crucified and risen Christ Jesus, Son of God and Son of humankind, whom I confess as my Lord and Savior, my salvation and hope. I claim the power of the Holy Spirit as comforter, counselor, advocate, and guide in my life daily.

I believe the God of creation continues to re-create the world and its people. This YHWH is the almighty and omnipotent master architect of all that was, is, and ever shall be. In God's covenant promises of abundant life, people of every time and place are assured of God's loving care and God's righteous judgment. In majesty and sovereignty, the Lord God wills and decrees all things in heaven and on earth as part of God's eternal being and plan for the salvation and reconciliation of all creation.

I believe that in the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God's holy plan for all of creation was consummated. Fully human, fully divine, the person of Jesus of Nazareth of the New Testament is the Christ, the Messiah. In Christ's life, Christians have a model for understanding and living into the kingdom of God. In Christ's death and resurrection, God's perfect will for all was made complete, and God's forgiveness was made available for all who believe. In Christ, we people who live in darkness are beckoned out of the shadows of sin into the light of wholeness through the grace of the cross.

I believe the Holy Spirit, who was present, at work, and as one together with the Father and the Son at the very beginning of time, is still at work among God's people and God's creation today. Standing with, for, beside, and in all believers, the Holy Spirit leads the way toward the glory of life lived in the light of God's love. Even in the midst of our flawed human lives, this Holy Spirit guides people along the path of sanctification transforming us as we travel life's journey of faith here on earth.

I believe in the authority of scripture as the Word of God. The written Word which has survived and thrived over the centuries in the inspired words of the Biblical writers, is the sourcebook for all who would be faithful disciples of the Living Word, Jesus Christ. Just as God's presence continues to will and work within this world, so the words of scripture continue to call, engage, correct, and encourage people who have eyes to see and ears to hear.

As a Reformed and Presbyterian Christian, I believe the church is the visible, earthly gathering of those who are members of the body of Christ. Together with believers of every time and place, I believe that as members of this body, we proclaim one faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior; share one baptism by water and by the power of the Holy Spirit; partake, with the communion of saints throughout the ages, of the sacred bread and cup as signs of the body and blood of Christ; and pray without ceasing for peace, justice, and restoration. As a beloved child of God, I rejoice that there is nothing in life or in death that can separate me from the love of God in Christ Jesus my Lord.

Sharon A. Schuler – Faith Journey

I cannot remember a time when I did not know myself to be a beloved child of God. Blessed to be born into a Christian family, my parents and I helped start two new churches in what was then known as the Birmingham Presbytery: Huffman and Oakmont.

I was baptized as an infant in 76th Street Presbyterian Church in Birmingham, Alabama. Nurtured by parents and a dedicated church family, I grew in the Biblical stories of the Old and New Testament in Sunday School classes and Vacation Bible School. During my teenage years I was active in youth group at Oakmont before moving my church membership to Shades Valley to be near my high school friends.

One of the most formative opportunities I experienced was to serve as one of two youth representatives to the World Missions Conference at Montreat. I have returned to that beautiful setting time and time again to soak in the sacred atmosphere fostered in that place. Experiencing Montreat with my young sons was a special time of bonding with them in the presence of the holy.

I have taught every age group in Sunday School and Bible study. It was in teaching that I found myself being called to share God's Word in a different way. After resisting the call to more formal ordained ministry. I have served as a deacon and an elder in the local congregation, and participated in the Lay Pastor Training offered by the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley in 2000. I served as Commissioned Lay Pastor for Carbon Hill Presbyterian and for Center Point Presbyterian, thinking that part-time pastoral ministry was where my future lay, especially since I was older – a “second career” student as they graciously say. Yet, God's claim on my life continued to demand more. In July 2004 I resigned my full-time job in the construction industry and packed my bags for Columbia Theological Seminary. This has been a life-changing experience and I've never looked back.

Whether teaching or preaching, I give all the glory to the Holy Spirit for continuing to work in my life as a person and as a pastor. The Spirit has enabled me to serve churches in Monticello, Florida and Fort Walton Beach, Florida. I found a supportive and challenging home in Florida Presbytery where I served as Moderator 2019-2020. I was a volunteer for OGA during two General Assemblies which broadened my understanding. Of the connectional nature of our denomination. Every opportunity for ministry and mission has brought me closer to the love of Jesus Christ and solidified my faith in his grace and mercy. Now, in retirement, I am still hungry to hear and share God's Word in any way I can.

I would be terribly remiss if I did not include my husband, John Schuler, as an integral part of my ministry. We met at seminary and were married there in 2006. We have been partners in ministry ever since. Also, I thank God for my sons, Andy and Ben Acton, who have followed the call to ordained ministry in the local parish. They are an inspiration to me and a source of challenge and comfort.

There is no doubt that in my faith journey, I have found *“The place God calls [me] to is the place where [my] deep joy and the world's great hunger meet.”* (Frederick Buechner).

Memorial Moment for Rev. Hugh Kelso
Presbytery Meeting – August 17, 2023

Appendix C-9

In these brief moments...we honor our friend and colleague Rev. Hugh Kelso, who passed away on July 8. I have said on such occasions as this—that no person, be their vocabulary inexhaustive, and their eloquence unquestioned, can speak adequately, and in summary of a life lived long and well.

In the 90th Psalm we are told that the days of our lives are seventy years, and perhaps eighty, if we are strong; even then their span is only toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away.” Hugh was granted 28 years beyond the 70...and during his long and good life accomplished some remarkable things, as well as an enduring legacy that continues to enrich and inspire our lives.

He was a devoted husband to Dorothy for 77 years! (It was said that during those years they never had a cross word, but that you could hear them discussing their differences from the city limits.) From that union came three sons, six grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, one great-great grandchild.

Hugh served in World War II...and after his discharge he graduated from Bethel College in McKenzie, TN, and later Memphis Theological Seminary. He was ordained on April 4,

1961. Hugh joined the Army Reserve in 1955, and was called to active duty in 1961. He served as Chaplain in the Army for 20 years, after which he served a number of churches in Alabama.

Today we remember and honor Hugh Kelso, one of God's good and faithful servants. It is stated in Acts 11:14 of Barnabas..."He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit, and a great many people were brought to the Lord." I firmly believe that the same tribute can be paid to Hugh Kelso. He leaves us a legacy of devoted and faithful service to the Lord and His Church.

He often spoke about how important the love of God was as being the great motivator of his ministry...indicated by his comments that "The love of God we share makes burdens lighter. It makes you stronger, so that you can reach out and become involved in life in ways you dare not risk alone. The love of God is not possessive; it is liberating; it sets you free to become your best self."

So we say to Hugh: "Well done! Well Done! Good and faithful servant, take your rest from all your labors...enter now in the joy of the Lord...for you have kept the faith...you have run a good race. Thanks be to God! In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Amen.

**Executive Council Report to Presbytery
August, 2023**

Class of 2023

Sissy Bain
Judith Baldwin
Susan Haskell
Neil McCarter*

Class of 2024

Tom Bryson*
Ed Hurley*
Donna Winn
Terri Jones

Class of 2025

Terry Hamilton-Poore*
Lee Ann Scarbrough*
Joe Scrivner*
Deborah Thomas

The Executive Council met June 14 and July 12. At the June meeting a task force was appointed to write a policy on harassment required by the BOO. Pat Goodman will lead the group. A committee to write Guidelines for Distribution of Funds Received from the Dissolution or Dismissal of Congregations was named. Leann Scarbrough and Terri Jones will co convene.

In July Daniel Schwartz and JaiGregory Clark from Faith in Action Alabama were invited to speak. They explained the mission of the organization, to honor God working with congregations to dismantle systemic racism. The council voted to invite Mr. Clark and Mr. Schwartz to speak at a future presbytery meeting.

Date : 07/31/2023
Time : 11:53:24 AM

Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley
Analysis of Revenues & Expenses - Summary
January to June 2023

Appendix C-11

Accounts	MTD Actual (This Year)	MTD Budget (This Year)	YTD Actual (This Year)	YTD Budget (This Year)	YTD Budget/Actual (This Year)	Annual Budget (This Year)
Revenues						
General Fund	\$11,020.03	\$21,183.49	\$119,247.30	\$127,100.94	(\$7,853.64)	\$254,202.00
NCD Assistance	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Mission Giving-Income	\$531.19	\$1,851.92	\$12,216.19	\$11,111.52	\$1,104.67	\$22,223.00
Per Capita Income	\$8,259.89	\$16,420.92	\$130,981.93	\$98,525.52	\$32,456.41	\$197,051.00
Total Revenues	\$19,811.11	\$39,456.33	\$262,445.42	\$236,737.98	\$25,707.44	\$473,476.00
Expenses						
Council						
Council Expenses-Other	\$0.00	\$793.75	\$9,500.00	\$4,762.50	(\$4,737.50)	\$9,525.00
Salaries & Allowances						
Executive Presbyter	\$10,108.81	\$10,469.67	\$62,277.42	\$62,818.02	\$540.60	\$125,636.00
Missional Development Exec	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Administrative Salaries	\$900.00	\$300.00	\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00	\$0.00	\$3,600.00
Benefits - Administration	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Staff Expenses	\$0.00	\$350.00	\$230.28	\$2,100.00	\$1,869.72	\$4,200.00
Total Salaries & Allowances	\$11,008.81	\$11,119.67	\$64,307.70	\$66,718.02	\$2,410.32	\$133,436.00
Council Vocation Committees	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Council	\$11,008.81	\$11,913.42	\$73,807.70	\$71,480.52	(\$2,327.18)	\$142,961.00
Development	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Equip, Nurture, Connect						
Other ENC Expenses	\$4,774.00	\$1,916.67	\$10,393.07	\$11,500.02	\$1,106.95	\$23,000.00
Total Equip, Nurture, Connect	\$4,774.00	\$1,916.67	\$10,393.07	\$11,500.02	\$1,106.95	\$23,000.00
Mission	\$0.00	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$300.00
UKirk Birmingham	\$2,658.57	\$2,460.84	\$18,322.32	\$14,765.04	(\$3,557.28)	\$29,530.00
Trustees	\$4,496.85	\$4,867.66	\$29,400.12	\$29,205.96	(\$194.16)	\$58,412.00
Anti-Racism	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Presbytery Per Capita Expenses						
Stated Clerk & Moderator	\$1,708.33	\$2,186.65	\$12,947.03	\$13,119.90	\$172.87	\$26,240.00
Presbytery Commissions	\$300.00	\$516.66	\$321.21	\$3,099.96	\$2,778.75	\$6,200.00
Asst.to Stated Clerk/Ofc Mgr	\$5,040.52	\$4,982.83	\$30,243.12	\$29,896.98	(\$346.14)	\$59,794.00
Total Presbytery Per Capita Expenses	\$7,048.85	\$7,686.14	\$43,511.36	\$46,116.84	\$2,605.48	\$92,234.00
Per Capita-Expenses	\$4,388.07	\$8,734.75	\$69,584.16	\$52,408.50	(\$17,175.66)	\$104,817.00
Mission Giving-Expenses	\$531.19	\$1,851.92	\$12,216.19	\$11,111.52	(\$1,104.67)	\$22,223.00
Total Expenses	\$34,906.34	\$39,456.40	\$257,234.92	\$236,738.40	(\$20,496.52)	\$473,477.00
Net Operating Total	(\$15,095.23)	(\$0.07)	\$5,210.50	(\$0.42)	\$5,210.92	(\$1.00)
Other Revenues						
Designated Income (Loss)	\$5,511.78	\$0.00	\$6,257.59	\$0.00	\$6,257.59	\$0.00
Gain on Debt Forgiveness	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Other Revenues	\$10,551.07	\$0.00	\$21,388.64	\$0.00	\$21,388.64	\$0.00
Other Expenses						
Total Other Expenses	\$2,792.89	\$0.00	\$17,192.34	\$0.00	(\$17,192.34)	\$0.00
Net Total	(\$7,337.05)	(\$0.07)	\$9,406.80	(\$0.42)	\$9,407.22	(\$1.00)

Report of the Mission Coordinator for Presbytery, August 2023

1. The Pentecost Can-paign for this year has been completed. The Pentecost Can-paign is a hunger program, in which participating churches collect cans of food or money to be given to the hunger programs of the churches' choice. Each dollar given counts as one can of food. This year's Can-paign ended on July 30. The churches' total donations will be announced at the Presbytery meeting Aug. 17.
2. This Presbytery also participates in the Cents- Ability Offering. Cents-Ability is a year-round hunger campaign in which participating churches collect money each month. Their collections are sent to the local hunger programs of their choice. The churches also may send a portion of their collections to the Presbytery. This Presbytery uses this portion to support hunger programs in the Presbytery.
3. Birmingham area churches are supporting the construction of a Habitat for Humanity house again this year. Construction will begin Thursday, September 14, 2023. We, of course, will need volunteers to help build the house and money to help pay for the house. Recipients of Habitat houses have mortgages to repay Habitat. They are not given a house. The money we give helps to start the process. Also, Southminster/Shades Valley have completed the Habitat house they sponsored. The house was completed and dedicated June 21.
4. The Dallas County Long Term Recovery Group continues to work on helping people repair and replace the damage from the January tornado. About 600 homes were destroyed or damaged by the tornado. This Presbytery is a member of the Alabama Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (ALVOAD) and therefore I have been attending the Dallas LTRG meetings. Organizing the Group, contacting those who need help, directing them through case management takes time. The LTRG has begun approving cases to replace furniture and some interior repairs. Major repair projects will be coming. I request that churches or individuals who wish to give money to send it to the Black Belt Community Foundation. As we get closer to major repair work I will be advertising for volunteer groups to go to Selma to work.

LIVING RIVER

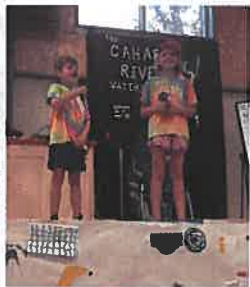
A RETREAT ON THE CAHABA

**August 2023
Newsletter**



Summer Camp 2023 Memories

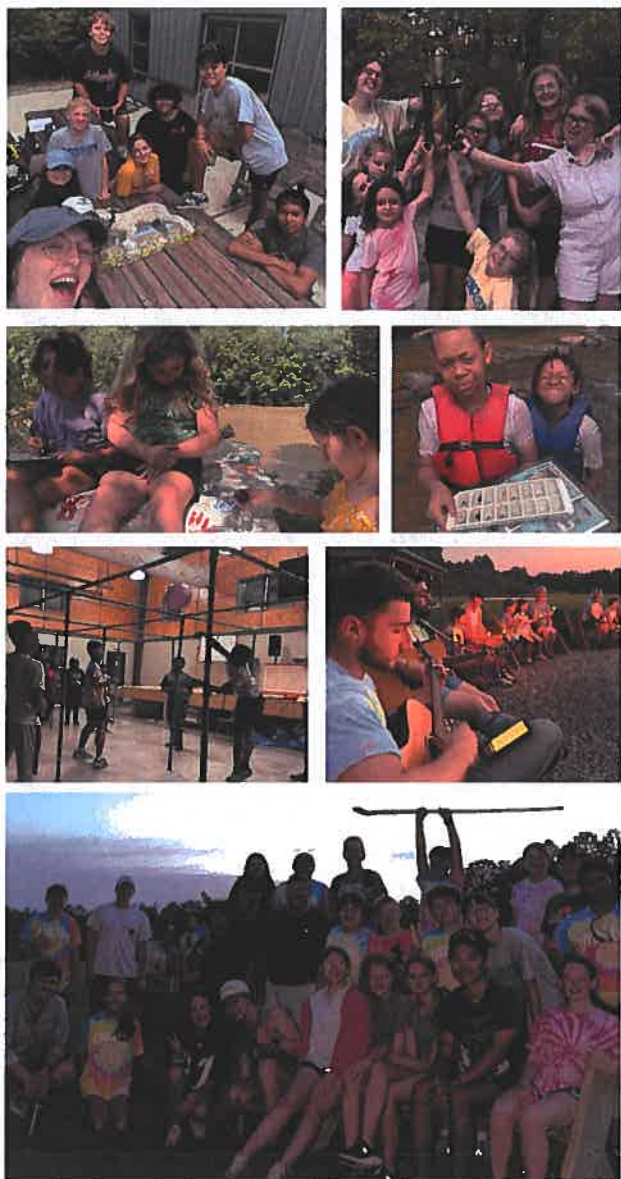
Thanks be to God for another great Summer at Living River!



Summer 2023 Camp Summary

- 5 Summer Camp Sessions
- 112 campers
- 9 awesome counselors
- 21 adult volunteers
- 13 Presbytery of Shepherds and Lapsley churches represented
- 26 first-time at Living River Summer Camp campers plus 16 campers for a partner camp with Mentoring in New Dimensions (Wilcox Co.) and the Presbyterian Home for Children





From our Counselors

"Living River has held a special place in my heart for many years. I grew up going to Summer Camp and then transitioned into a counselor of soon-to-be four years. I have seen every inch of the meaningful work Living River does to inspire and nurture children and youth inside of God's creation at Living River. My experiences of being inspired in my faith as a young camper by the counselors and then inspiring campers myself have shaped who I am! **I count all of my experiences at Living River as a blessing to be shared with others.** The love of God is clearest for me at Living River. **I will always carry the leadership lessons, humility, independence, and faithfulness that I've learned, as well as the beautiful scenery of the Cahaba River that flows by the camp we love, with me forever!"** -Abby Bunn, Head Counselor

"Being a counselor at Living River is a rewarding experience. **Not only did I find friends, but I got to create bonds with the campers that I hope helped them grow closer to God.** During our small group time on the last day of Elementary Camp, the kids were asking all sorts of deep, interesting questions. I was amazed that they were so interested in understanding what we were talking about. **Being a Summer Camp counselor at Living River helped me confirm for myself that I'm meant to work with children.**" -Bel Marshal, First-time Counselor

Environmental Partners & Outreach

Living River Continues Environmental Education through Partners

A huge thank you to our environmental partners, especially Cahaba Riverkeeper, the Cahaba River Society, and the Alabama Forestry Commission for all their help in redeveloping our mission and providing environmental programs for field trips and Summer Camp this year! We look forward to hosting more groups of children and youth at Living River to learn from our partners.

Living River joins the Alabama Rivers Alliance!

The Alabama Rivers Alliance says, "Membership in the Alliance means being part of a statewide network of organizations that are all working toward the common goals of protecting Alabama's rivers, environment, and communities." It is important because of our location on the Cahaba River that we are participating in environmental work in our state and are a good resource for individuals and groups wanting to engage, too. As just one example of the many current, exciting projects relevant to the Cahaba, the Corp of Engineers and Nature Conservancy are working to reconnect the Cahaba, Coosa, and Alabama Rivers to the Gulf! This could be the, "most ecologically significant river reconnection project in the history of the United States," says the conservancy. We hope you'll want to learn and be a part of stewarding the Cahaba and our state of Alabama well with us!



Alabama Rivers Alliance
Water Is Life



Upcoming at Living River

Fall Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley Youth Retreat, Oct. 7-8

All 6th-12th graders are welcome! More details will come from the Presbytery's Youth Council.

October Open House, Oct. 22, 2-5 pm

We hope you'll join us for an afternoon of Fall activities and fellowship at Living River including a pumpkin trail, live music, and environmental partners.

Fall Elementary Retreat, Veterans Day Weekend, Nov. 9-11

All K-5th graders are welcome to Living River's Fall Elementary Retreat. Bring a friend! It'll be a weekend packed with camp fun. Stay tuned for details and registration.

Financial Health and How You Can Help

Budget Report			
Sources of Funds	Year-to-date 06/30/2023		2023 Annual Budget
Program	51,340	84%	61,000
PSL - Trinity Property	16,757	50%	33,504
Donations	39,770	16%	250,000
Grants	48,000	100%	48,000
Other	2,236	149%	1,500
Total	\$ 158,103	40%	\$ 394,004
Uses of Funds			
Personnel & Fees for Services	106,776	49%	219,813
Program Expenses	25,156	75%	33,451
Facilities	50,146	58%	86,285
Mortgage Payments	15,078	45%	33,504
Administration	6,148	39%	15,809
Total	\$ 203,304	52%	\$ 388,862

Statement of Financial Position		
	6/30/2023	12/31/2022
Assets		
Operating Account	\$ 119,541	\$ 247,098
Capital Account	232,293	234,082
Other Current Assets	312	7,067
New Covenant Endowment Fund	398,862	362,358
New Covenant Scholarship Fund	7,422	6,743
Fixed Assets - Net	7,043,547	6,939,245
Total Assets	\$ 7,801,977	\$ 7,796,593
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	\$ 23,106	\$ (1,632)
Program Deposits	4,300	6,700
Payroll Liabilities	5,068	4,503
Oakworth Mortgage	142,997	158,048
Total Liabilities	175,471	167,619
Net Assets		
Net Assets	7,626,506	7,628,974
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 7,801,977	\$ 7,796,593

Financial Highlights:

- The biggest need at Living River continues to be regular, annual donors. Right now, just 4% of Presbyterians in Central Alabama support Living River. Your support is necessary for the ministry of Living River to continue.
- Living River's mortgage sits at just \$142,997.

Become a Bedrock Sustaining Donor



Living River's Bedrock of Sustaining Donors give to cover operational costs so other revenue sources are freed to grow its ministry. **Become a Living River Bedrock donor by giving a minimum of \$25 a month or \$300 annually, strengthening Living River's foundation!** Donations can be made online or by mailing a check to the camp. Sustaining Donors will be recognized annually. Thank you!

Other ways to support Living River:

- Volunteer or organize a group to volunteer.
- Share about Living River with families you know.
- Buy/dedicate a new campfire bench for just \$60!**

Executive Director's Corner

The Fruit of the Spirit's not a Coconut! ...or a banana, or a watermelon, or a lemon, or a cherry, or a grape! That was the soundtrack of our summer camping season as our campers, counselors, and leaders explored the fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. It is a unique privilege to witness our counselors and campers grow in faith, lead worship, set and achieve goals, swim, canoe, form community, learn about our unique biodiversity, play, laugh, and make memories that will last a lifetime.

We have a quality summer camping program at Living River, and we need your help for more lives to be touched. Here are a few concrete things you can do to support the summer camping program at Living River: reach out to a college-age young adult and let them know that you think they have the gifts to be a summer camp counselor; reach out to parents of children and youth and encourage them to register for summer camp, and bring a friend.

"Come then wherever you may be. Come to the river that's flowing free. The three in one is calling you and me to the banks of the river that's flowing free." -Jenny Thagard

Thank you to...

Camp Support and Leadership: Grace Daniels, Joe Genau, Robert Newman, Robert Hay, Ben Flowers, Karin Bell, Joan and Ed Reisinger, Kathy Wolf Reed, Emily Fransden, Lauren Curtner-Smith, Jill Hightower, Patrick Riley, Meagan Westbrook, Kyle Henderson, Nicole Newton, Lois Palecek, Laura Bannon, Pat Goodman, Melanie Jourdan, Charlie Durham, Mike Henderson, and our Facilities Director, Brett Melton. **And special thanks to our chefs, Jeff Wilson and Becky Price.**



LIVING RIVER

A RETREAT ON THE CAHABA

2000 Living River Parkway

Montevallo, AL 35115



Supplemental Trustees' Report
Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley
August 17, 2023, Assembly

The Trustees have one additional item for action at this assembly.

For Action

Westminster Presbyterian Church (Birmingham) ("Westminster") has requested that the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley (the "Presbytery") consent to Westminster's application for, and closing of, a loan (the "Loan") from the Synod of Living Waters (the "Synod"). Westminster's congregation approved the Loan in a meeting held on August 6, 2023. The Loan will be in the principal amount of \$14,000, with interest to accrue at the rate of 1% per annum, and with a payment term of four years. The Loan proceeds, along with \$10,421 of Westminster's ready funds, will be used to purchase new carpet, new upholstered pew cushions, and new upholstered pulpit chair cushions in Westminster's sanctuary, for a total project cost of \$24,421. Westminster has no other outstanding indebtedness, other than \$2,000 owed to the Synod in respect of an earlier loan. Westminster currently has liquid assets sufficient to cover the repayment of the Loan. The Loan will be made by the Synod from its Small Church Renovation Fund. As is standard practice, the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley guarantees repayment of loans made by the Synod to the Presbytery's member churches.

The trustees recommend and move as follows:

That the Presbytery authorize and approve the application for, and the closing of, the Loan from the Synod of Living Waters to Westminster, which Loan shall be evidenced by loan documents ("Loan Documents") in standard form used by the Synod of Living Waters;

That the appropriate officers of the Presbytery be, and they hereby are, authorized to execute and deliver on behalf of the Presbytery such of the Loan Documents as may be necessary to evidence the Presbytery's guaranty of the Loan; and

That the trustees of the Presbytery are authorized to take such other actions on behalf of the Presbytery as they deem necessary and appropriate to the closing of the Loan.

In support of this motion, the Trustees submit documentation provided by Westminster, including the following: (a) Synod Church Loan Fund Application Form, (b) Bid #1 and Bid #2 of Hammond Church Interiors and Solutions Group LLC, (c) Westminster Budget for the year ending December 31, 2022, and (d) Westminster Budget for the current year.

Respectfully submitted by:

Lant Davis, Moderator
Bill Stribling
Shelaine Bird
Beverly Krannich, Secretary
Terry Newland

Katherine Michael
Krysten Scrivener
John Tally
Charles Griffin

**Please print
or type**

Synod of Living Waters
24 CR 231
Oxford, MS 38655
Phone: 615/216-4008; Fax 615/370-0632
greg@goodwiller.org / ellen.synodlw@gmail.com

Appendix C-15

Church Loan Fund Application Form

Name of Borrower Westminster Presbyterian Church

Presbytery Sheppards and Lapsley

Borrower's Address 20-6th Avenue South West, Birmingham, AL 35211

Phone 205.322.0161 Fax N/A

E-mail Address: westminsterpresby2@yahoo.com

Minister Rev. Jerome F. Bell Clerk of Session Elder Eva O. Carter

Bank Wells Fargo

Address 420 Montgomery Street, San Francisco, CA 94104

Bank Regions Bank

Address: 1304 Tomahawk Road, Birmingham, AL 35214

Current Balance of Checking Account(s) Date July 26, 2023 \$ 58,234.77

Current Balance of Savings Account(s) Date July 26, 2023 \$ 19,759.24
Date _____ \$ _____

Other Investments _____ CDs \$10,271.69
(Or Special Accounts) Money Market Accounts and Building Fund \$66,285.73
Total Investments: \$76,557.47

Description of Project/Purpose of Loan : To purchase new carpet in the Sanctuary, reupholster 25 pew cushions, and reupholster 3 Pulpit chairs.

Total cost of Project \$ 24,421.00

Amount of Loan Requested from Synod \$ 14,000.00

Other Funding Sources Funds from Westminster Presbyterian Church
(Amount and Source) Business Money Market Account for \$10,421.00

Following documents:

- X Copy of Church Budget and Income/Expense Statement for Current Year
- X Copy of Church Budget and Income/Expense Statement for Last Year
- X Copy of Minutes of Congregational Meeting Approving Request to Borrow
- X Copy of Minutes of Presbytery Agreeing to Co-Sign for Loan
- X Statement of Other indebtedness - The only indebtedness Westminster has is to the Synod of Living Waters in the amount of \$2,000.00.

**WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
PROJECTED BALANCED BUDGET
FOR
JANUARY 1, 2023 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2023**

Balance Brought Forward from November 30, 2022 Bank Statement (INCLUDES DESIGNATED FUNDS of \$37,818.33)	\$50,442.90
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Projected Income from Pledge Cards	\$128,925.00
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Projected Income contributed for Christian Growth and Nurture by Church Members	\$5,507.31
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Projected Income contributed for Witness and Evangelism by Church Members	<u>\$2500.00</u>
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TOTAL PROJECTED INCOME FROM ABOVE SOURCES	\$187,375.21
---	---------------------

TOTAL PROJECTED INCOME MINUS DESIGNATED FUNDS OF \$37,818.33	\$149,556.88
--	---------------------

TOTAL PROJECTED INCOME FOR 2023	\$149,556.88
---------------------------------	---------------------

TOTAL PROJECTED INCOME FOR 2023 USING A SIMPLIFIED NUMBER		\$150,000.00
---	--	---------------------

Investments

Business Money Market Account (9907)-----	\$41,946.34
---	-------------

Certificate of Deposit (9735)-----	\$10,270.14
------------------------------------	-------------

Building Fund (6112)-----	\$ 8,730.89
---------------------------	-------------

Premium Money Market/Scholarship Fund (2336)	\$17,517.32
--	-------------

*TOTAL INVESTMENTS/SCHOLARSHIP FUND	\$78,464.69
-------------------------------------	-------------

TOTAL PROJECTED EXPENDITURES FOR 2023 USING A SIMPLIFIED NUMBER		\$150,000.00
--	--	---------------------

* INVESTMENTS NOT COUNTED TO PAY REGULAR EXPENDITURES

**Westminster Presbyterian Church
PROPOSED EXPENDITURE BUDGET
for
2023**

I. ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES

Accountant Charges	\$1,275.00	
Alabama State Tax	346.83	
Federal Payroll Taxes	2,012.66	
City of Birmingham Taxes	53.32	
		\$3687.81

Building and Grounds Insurance		
State Farm Insurance		\$3,029.94

Salaries

Chancel Choir Musician	\$9,600.00	
Church Secretary	\$10,400.00	
Financial Secretary	\$2,100.00	
Media Director	\$2,400.00	
Stated Supply Pastor		
Housing Allowance	\$12,350.00	
Salary	<u>\$12,350.00</u>	
Total Supply Pastor	\$24,700.00	
Treasurer	\$2100.00	
Total Salaries		\$51,300.00

Dex Imaging	\$828.18
-------------	----------

Great America Financial Service	\$2,017.10
---------------------------------	------------

Office Depot	
Office Supplies	\$2243.69

Pitney Bowes, Inc.	\$2,085.04
--------------------	------------

Sam's Club		
Cleaning Supplies	\$689.36	
Sam's Club – other	\$420.00	
Total Sam's Club		\$1,109.36

Page 2 Proposed Expenditure Asking Budget for 2023

Miscellaneous Administration Expense	<u>\$5,500.00</u>
TOTAL ADMINISTRATION EXPENSE	\$75,867.10

II. CHRISTIAN GROWTH AND NURTURE

Benevolence Fund	\$586.68
Evening Circle	\$523.19
Presbyterian Men	\$1392.50
Presbyterian Women	\$46.53
Sunday School	
Presbyterian Publishing Corp	\$678.70
Sunday School – Other	\$350.00
Total Sunday School	\$1028.70
Miscellaneous Christian Growth and Nurture Expense	<u>\$3000.00</u>
TOTAL CHRISTIAN GROWTH AND NURTURE	\$6577.60

III. CLERK OF SESSION

Per Capita Assessment	\$2079.00
Books of Order, Books of Confession, & Planning Calendars	\$200.00
Stillman College Scholarship	\$100.00
Miscellaneous Clerk of Session Expense	<u>\$2500.00</u>
TOTAL CLERK OF SESSION	\$4879.00

IV. FACILITIES AND GROUNDS

*Activity House	
Alabama Power	\$234.36
AT &T	\$702.85
Fire Extinguisher	\$ 99.00
Sewer and Water	\$660.48
Activity House Security System	

Page 3 Proposed Expenditure Asking Budget for 2023

Protection One	\$284.82	
Total Activity House		\$1981.51

Facilities and Grounds Continued for Sanctuary

*Alabama Power Company		
Church Building		\$5067.17
*Alagasco		
Church Building		\$1685.82
*AT & T		
AT&T Mobility	\$211.50	
AT &T Other	\$203.80	
Total AT &T		\$1758.37
*Brighthouse/ Spectrum		
Church- Cable TV & Internet		\$3428.80
Lawn Service		\$3380.80
*Protection One – Church Building		\$548.53
*Sewer & Water		
Church Building		\$591.60
Walmart		\$594.10
Water Way		\$720.51
Miscellaneous Building and Facilities Expenses		<u>\$15500.00</u>
TOTAL ACTIVITY HOUSE, FACILITIES AND GROUNDS		\$35,257.21

V. WITNESS AND EVANGELISM

Backpack Buddies	\$7529.03
CCAP	\$50.00
Children's Village	\$185.00
Presbyterian Mission	\$0.00

Page 4 Proposed Expenditure Asking Budget for 2023

Presbytery of Sheppards & Lapsley Remittances

2 Cent A Meal	\$120.00	
Campus ministries	\$60.00	
Christmas Joy Offering	\$10.00	
Peacemaking Offering	\$82.50	
Pentecost Offering	\$82.00	
Total Presbytery of Sheppards & Lapsley		\$355.00
St Paul Lutheran Food Bank		\$0.00
Miscellaneous Witness and Evangelism Expense		<u>\$ 6000.00</u>
TOTAL WITNESS AND EVANGELISM		\$14119.03

VI. WORSHIP AND PLANNING

Chancel Choir		\$1400.00
CCLI Rehearse License # CRL063125		\$304.44
Communion Material		\$211.42
Easter Sunday		
Cloth for Cross	\$52.00	
Flowers	\$506.01	
Total Easter Sunday		\$558.93
Guest Minister		\$1200.00
Guest Musician		\$125.00
Guest Speaker		\$150.00
Hatcher Florist		\$388.00
Video Services		\$250.00
Miscellaneous Worship and Planning Expense		<u>\$6000.00</u>
TOTAL WORSHIP AND PLANNING		\$10587.79

Page 5 Proposed Expenditure Asking Budget for 2023

VI. COMMITMENT

Printing Pledge Cards and Letters	\$450.00
Miscellaneous Commitment Expense	1050.00
TOTAL COMMITMENT BUDGET	\$1500.00

VII. FINANCE COMMITTEE

Miscellaneous Finance Expense	\$1212.27
TOTAL FINANCE	\$1212.27

GRAND TOTAL OF ALL EXPENDITURES FOR ASKING BUDGET FOR 2023 **\$150,000.00**

I. ADMINISTRATION	\$75,867.10
II. CHRISTIAN GROWTH AND NURTURE	\$6,577.60
III. CLERK OF SESSION	\$4,879.00
IV. COMMITMENT	\$1,500.00
V. FACILITIES AND GROUNDS	\$35,257.21
VI. FINANCE	\$1212.27
VII. WITNESS AND EVANGELISM	\$14,119.03
VIII. WORSHIP AND PLANNING	\$10587.79
	\$ 150,000.00

The Trustees have another additional item for action at this assembly.

For Action

South Highland Presbyterian Church (Birmingham) (the "Church") has requested that the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley (the "Presbytery") consent to the Church's application for, and closing of, a loan (the "Loan") from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Investment and Loan Program, Inc. (the "Lender"). The Church's congregation approved the Loan in a meeting held on August 13, 2023. The Loan will be in the principal amount of \$2,100,000, with a payment term of two years. The Loan proceeds, along with \$393,000 of the Church's ready funds, will be used for construction, repair, and refurbishment projects at SHPC, for an estimated total project cost of \$2,402,375. SHPC intends to repay the Loan with the proceeds of contributions being solicited from the congregation in a capital campaign. As is standard practice, the Presbytery guarantees repayment of loans made by the Lender to the Presbytery's member churches.

The trustees recommend and move as follows:

RESOLVED, the South Highland Presbyterian Church ("Church") located at 2035 Highland Ave. S, Birmingham, AL 35205 has applied for a loan as follows from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Investment and Loan Program, Inc. ("Lender"):

Amount of Loan: \$2,100,000.00

FURTHER RESOLVED, The Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley, Incorporated, an Alabama nonprofit corporation, ("Presbytery") having received and reviewed the Loan application of the Church, a member in good standing of this Presbytery, approves the Loan application, and guarantees the repayment of principal and interest on the loan to the Lender as described above. The officers of the Presbytery as listed on the attached Certificate of Incumbency marked Exhibit A are authorized to sign a guarantee and any and all documents of this loan as authorized agents of the Presbytery.

In support of this motion, the Trustees submit the Loan Application provided by the Church.

Respectfully submitted by:

Lant Davis, Moderator
Bill Stribling
Shelaine Bird
Beverly Krannich, Secretary
Terry Newland

Katherine Michael
Krysten Scrivener
John Tally
Charles Griffin

Exhibit A to the Resolution
Officers for Incumbency Certificate

<u>Office</u>	<u>Office currently held by:</u>
Moderator	Edwin Hurley
Vice-Moderator	Deborah Thomas
Stated Clerk	Walter J. Wilkins
Recording Clerk	Linda Burrowes
Treasurer	Jean Russell



**Investment &
Loan
Program Inc.**

PRESBYTERIAN INVESTMENT & LOAN PROGRAM

100 Witherspoon Street * Louisville KY 40202-1396

(800) 903-7457 * website: pilp.pcusa.org

email: loan.help@pcusa.org

LOAN APPLICATION

DATE (MM/DD/YYYY) _____

SECTION A: GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT BORROWER

South Highland Presbyterian Church

BORROWER'S NAME AS LISTED ON ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OR LATEST AMENDMENT TO ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

2035 Highland Ave. S. Birmingham Alabama 35205
STREET ADDRESS CITY ST ZIP

MAILING ADDRESS IF DIFFERENT THAN STREET ADDRESS CITY ST ZIP

(205) 933-0790 Jefferson 1891
PHONE FAX COUNTY CHARTER DATE (MM/YYYY)

\$2,100,000 2 years August 15, 2023 August 1, 2023 September 1, 2023
LOAN AMOUNT REQUESTED LOAN TERM (YEARS) DESIRED CLOSING DATE CONSTRUCTION BEGINS FUNDS NEEDED BY

If church, whose name is on the title to the church property? ☒ CHURCH ☐ PRESBYTERY

If church, will church property serve as collateral for the loan? ☐ YES ☒ NO

Estimated value of land and buildings 23,428,548 Number of acres _____

PURPOSE OF LOAN (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

NEW CONSTRUCTION	RENOVATIONS/REPAIRS	PURCHASE	REFINANCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SANCTUARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SANCTUARY	<input type="checkbox"/> EXISTING BLDG	<input type="checkbox"/> EXISTING MORTGAGE
<input type="checkbox"/> CHRISTIAN ED SPACE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CHRISTIAN ED SPACE	<input type="checkbox"/> LAND/SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOND ISSUE
<input type="checkbox"/> MULTI-PURPOSE BLDG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MULTI-PURPOSE BLDG	<input type="checkbox"/> NCD SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSTRUCTION LOAN
<input type="checkbox"/> ENERGY EFFICIENCY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENERGY EFFICIENCY		
<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBILITY	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBILITY		
	<input type="checkbox"/> SAFETY & TECHNOLOGY		
	<input type="checkbox"/> DISASTER RELIEF		

☐ OTHER PURPOSE OF LOAN _____

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

DATE RECEIVED

PIN NUMBER

PRESBYTERY NAME

SYNOD NAME

PASTOR/LEADERSHIP INFORMATION

Edwin Hurley

October 1, 2001

PASTOR/LEADERSHIP

START DATE

(205) 933-0790

Ehurley@southhighland.org

PHONE

EMAIL

How many head pastors have served this church (exclude interims and associates)? _____

If current tenure less than 5 years, list previous call:

CHURCH, CITY, ST

FROM (YYYY)

TO (YYYY)

CHURCH, CITY, ST

FROM (YYYY)

TO (YYYY)

CONTACT FOR LOAN APPLICATION

Lee Cleveland

Clerk of Session

NAME

TITLE

(205) 585-1046

leecleveland@hotmail.com

PHONE

EMAIL

CLERK OF SESSION

Lee Cleveland

NAME

(205) 585-1046

leecleveland@hotmail.com

PHONE

EMAIL

APPLICANT'S ATTORNEY INFORMATION

APPLICANT'S ATTORNEY

MAILING ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

PHONE

FAX

EMAIL

☐ CHECK HERE IF YOU WOULD LIKE COPIES OF LEGAL DOCUMENTS SENT TO YOUR ATTORNEY FOR REVIEW.

BORROWER'S INSURANCE INFORMATION

Cobb Allen Hall, Inc.

Megan Stone

AGENCY NAME

AGENT'S NAME

(205) 874-1269

(205) 414-8105

mstone@cobballen.com

PHONE

FAX

EMAIL

SECTION B: COMMUNITY DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Factors expected to contribute to the growth or decline of your parish/community's population and economy.

South Highland is located in the 5 Points South area of Birmingham. This is a densely populated area of the city with a mix of commercial, residential and mixed use buildings. South Highland is not far from the University of Alabama Birmingham campus and UAB Hospital, along with several other regional hospitals. South of South Highland are residential suburban communities. The area is expected to grow in population as residential construction is occurring. Downtown Birmingham and the major bank offices are close by.

CHURCH DEMOGRAPHICS - CHECK ALL THAT APPLY

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> NEW CHURCH DEVELOPMENT <10 YEARS OLD | <input type="checkbox"/> RURAL/SMALL TOWN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SUBURBAN | <input type="checkbox"/> FEDERATED/UNION CHURCH |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> URBAN | <input type="checkbox"/> MATTHEW 25 CHURCH/GROUP |

PREDOMINANT ETHNICITY OF MEMBERS - STATISTICAL PURPOSES ONLY

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> AFRICAN-AMERICAN | <input type="checkbox"/> MIDDLE EASTERN | <input type="checkbox"/> KOREAN-AMERICAN |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CAUCASIAN | <input type="checkbox"/> NATIVE AMERICAN | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER ASIAN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> HISPANIC/LATINO | <input type="checkbox"/> MULTI-CULTURAL | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER |

SECTION C: CHURCH STATISTICAL INFORMATION

If your church participates in the General Assembly's Annual Statistical Report each year, the historical data for membership and average weekly attendance may be found on line at <https://church-trends.pcusa.org/church/search/>. From this page you can find your congregation. On subsequent page you have an option to view statistical information about your church if it has been submitted.

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP		AVERAGE WEEKLY ATTENDANCE	ESTIMATED MEMBERSHIP BY AGE CATEGORIES	
2017	<u>657</u>	2017	<u>240</u>	% UNDER 45 <u>37</u>
2018	<u>641</u>	2018	<u>239</u>	% 45 TO 65 <u>30</u>
2019	<u>630</u>	2019	<u>234</u>	% OVER 65 <u>33</u>
2020	<u>617</u>	2020	<u>226</u>	
2021	<u>606</u>	2021	<u>204</u>	

What year was the membership roll last purged? 2022

PLEDGE INFORMATION - OPERATING BUDGET

	2 YEARS AGO	LAST YEAR	CURRENT YEAR
Number of potential pledging units in church			
Number that actually pledge	<u>204</u>	<u>218</u>	<u>182</u>

SECTION D: SOURCES OF REPAYMENT AND OTHER DEBT

BUILDING FUND CAMPAIGN

1. Total pledged to capital campaign _____ over _____ years. Number of pledges _____
2. Pledges will be paid over what period? from Jan 1, 2024 to Dec 31, 2026
3. Was your capital campaign directed by a professional campaign service? ☒ YES ☐ NO
4. If yes, what campaign service was used? _____
5. Are future building fund campaigns planned? ☐ YES ☐ NO
6. If yes, what are the dates? from _____ to _____
7. In prior capital campaigns, what percent of money pledged was actually received? 102%
8. If you have not had a campaign recently, please check this box. ☐

PROJECTED NEW LOANS TO FUND THIS PROJECT (If exact information is not known, use anticipated information.)

LENDER	AMOUNT	LOAN RATE	TERM OF LOAN (years)	MONTHLY PAYMENT
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
TOTALS:	<u>\$0</u>			<u>\$0</u>

CURRENT DEBT - LIST ALL CURRENT LOANS (Check any loans to be paid by new ILP loan.)

LENDER	ORIGINAL AMOUNT	CURRENT BALANCE	MONTHLY PAYMENT	MATURITY DATE	LOAN RATE
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
TOTALS:	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>		

SECTION E: SITE LOAN DATA (fill in only if loan request is for land purchase)

SELECT ONE:

- ☐ NEW CHURCH DEVELOPEMENT SITE ☐ RELOCATION SITE (ATTACH EXPLANATION REGARDING DISPOSITION OF CURRENT PROPERTY) ☐ ADDITION TO CURRENT SITE

HOW WILL SITE BE USED?

REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS - SITE LOAN ONLY

1. SOIL TEST RESULTS FOR COMPACTION AND PERCOLATION
2. CONTRACT OF SALE (IF AVAILABLE)
3. REAL ESTATE CLOSING DOCUMENTS (IF PURCHASE HAS BEEN COMPLETED, FORWARD CLOSING STATEMENT, DEED)
4. PROOF OF ZONING COMPLIANCE
5. APPRAISAL WILL BE REQUIRED BEFORE LOAN CAN BE CLOSED

SECTION F: FINANCIAL PLAN - PROJECT COSTS & SOURCES

FOR PURCHASE OF A SITE OR EXISTING BUILDING

1. PURCHASE PRICE OF BUILDING/SITE

1. _____

a. AMOUNT OF SQUARE FOOTAGE IN BUILDING

a. _____

b. NUMBER OF ACRES OF SQUARE FOOTAGE OF LAND

b. _____

c. APPRAISED VALUE - ATTACH COPY OF APPRAISAL

c. _____

FOR CONSTRUCTION, RENOVATIONS OR REPAIRS

SIZE - IN SQ. FT. _____ COST PER SQ. FT. _____

1. CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT PRICE ☒ ESTIMATED ☐ FIRM

1. \$1,921,900

2. ARCHITECT'S FEES

2. _____

3. FURNISHINGS, EQUIPMENT, PARKING, PAYMENT & PERFORMANCE BONDS, INSURANCE - 10% OF CONTRACT PRICE SUGGESTED

3. \$192,190

4. CONTINGENCIES - 15% OF CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT PRICE SUGGESTED

4. \$288,285

5. OTHER ANTICIPATED EXPENSES _____

5. _____

6. TOTAL PROJECT COST

6. \$2,402,375^{\$0}

RESOURCES TO FUND PROJECT

CHURCH'S CASH & PLEDGE RESOURCES

1. CASH ON HAND FROM CAPITAL CAMPAIGN PLEDGES

1. _____

2. CASH ON HAND FROM OTHER SOURCES - SPECIFY SOURCE

Foundation

2. \$393,000

3. CASH ALREADY EXPENDED ON THE PROJECT

a. FROM CAPITAL CAMPAIGN PROCEEDS

3a. _____

b. FROM OTHER RESOURCES

3b. _____

4. ADDITIONAL FUNDS FROM CAPITAL CAMPAIGN TO BE SPENT DURING CONSTRUCTION

4. _____

GIFTS & GRANTS

5. PRESBYTERY GIFTS & GRANTS

5. _____

6. SYNOD GIFTS & GRANTS

6. _____

7. OTHER GIFTS & GRANTS _____

7. _____

OTHER LOANS TO FUND THIS PROJECT

8. PRESBYTERY LOAN _____ YEARS @ _____ INTEREST _____ MO/PMT

8. _____

9. SYNOD LOAN _____

9. _____

10. BANK (COMMERCIAL) MORTGAGE _____

10. _____

11. OTHER LOANS _____

11. _____

SPECIFY LENDER _____

12. TOTAL RESOURCES - TOTAL ITEMS 1 - 11

12. \$393,000^{\$0}

13. LOAN AMOUNT NEEDED (TOTAL PROJECT - TOTAL RESOURCES)

13. \$2,009,375

14. GRAND TOTAL RESOURCES (LINE 12 PLUS 13 - SHOULD EQUAL PROJECT COST LINE 6)

14. \$2,402,375^{\$0}

SECTION G: AUTHORIZATION

CHURCH/BORROWER

We, the undersigned, hereby certify that all statements made herein, are applicable to the organization for which we are signing and are true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief. We further certify that this application is submitted with the full knowledge and approval of the official governing board we represent.

We also grant permission to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Investment and Loan Program, Inc., if the loan is funded in whole or in part by investor funds, to use our name and loan information in the production of the Presbyterian Investment & Loan Program's informational brochures and promotions, including but not limited to, interviews with the press and list sent to the investors or potential investors.

We also agree to periodically place in the congregation (or governing body) newsletters, bulletin inserts and other communication vehicles material promoting the Presbyterian Investment & Loan Program that will include information provided by or preapproved by the Program.

IT IS REQUIRED THAT A COPY OF THIS LOAN APPLICATION BE FORWARDED TO YOUR
PRESBYTERY AND SYNOD, WHEN APPLICABLE.

[Signature]
AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE
John H. Goff
TYPED OR PRINTED NAME AND TITLE
Trustee
7/26/23
DATE

[Signature]
CLERK OF SESSION OR AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE
Lee Cleveland
TYPED OR PRINTED NAME AND TITLE
7-24-2023
DATE

PRESBYTERY

RE: LOAN APPLICATION FOR _____

ON _____ (DATE) THE PRESBYTERY OF _____ IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE
POLICIES OF THE INVESTMENT & LOAN PROGRAM AND ITS OWN PROCEDURES:

- * REVIEWED AND APPROVED THIS PROJECT AS TO ITS MISSION FOR THE BORROWER AND/OR THE GOVERNING BODY
- * REVIEWED AND APPROVED THE FINANCIAL PLAN AS FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE:
- * AGREED TO MONITOR THE APPLICATION OF THE EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY POLICY OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AS APPROPRIATE TO THIS PROJECT:
- * HAS/WILL AGREE (D) AT ITS LAST/NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING HELD ON/TO BE HELD ON _____ (DATE) TO
GUARANTEE/CO-SIGN THE LOAN (S) AND TO ASSUME REPAYMENT RESPONSIBILITY IN THE EVENT OF LOAN DEFAULT.

PRESBYTERY EXECUTIVE/STATED CLERK

DATE

SYNOD - Not required in Synods of Mid-Atlantic, Northeast, South Atlantic, or Trinity

ON _____ (DATE) THE SYNOD OF _____ ENDORSED THIS APPLICATION
FOR FUNDING AS REQUESTED (SYNOD ENDORSEMENT IS REQUIRED FOR ALL LOAN APPLICATIONS INCLUDING LOANS TO PRESBYTERIES,
EXCEPT AS STATED ABOVE).

SYNOD EXECUTIVE/STATED CLERK

DATE

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION SUMMARY REPORT

Springville Presbyterian Church

July 7, 2023

In February 2020, the membership of Springville Presbyterian Church suspended worship. The session reached out to the Commission on Ministry. Representatives from the COM first met with Springville's session at the end of that month to begin the process of dissolving the congregation while leaving the historic property in the hands of those best equipped to honor its purpose and maintain its condition.

An Administrative Commission was formed. Carl Martin was tasked by the COM to moderate both the AC and the Springville session.

Initially, there was hope that an arrangement could be reached with another church in the area to take ownership of the property, but those efforts fell through.

After many months of diligent work by all parties involved, an agreement was reached with Springville's Historical Preservation Society through which ownership of the property, as well as the funds of the Springville Presbyterian Church Foundation, were transferred to the Preservation Society.

The funds from the Foundation (in excess of \$50,000) will assist the Preservation Society as they maintain and care for the property going forward. The agreement provides that Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley can re-claim ownership of the property should there be a desire to use the building once again for a church or should the Preservation Society fail to properly maintain or honor the property.

At a called meeting of the congregation on December 21, 2021, the members unanimously agreed to the proposed transfer and to the dissolution of the worshipping body. Presbytery endorsed the agreement at its November 2022 stated meeting.

As of May 2023, all necessary documents have been executed and the new deed recorded in St. Clair County. All property not remaining with the building has been donated to other area churches or to the Presbyterian Home for Children.

The session of the Springville Church worked diligently and tirelessly for more than three years to make this happen. I thank God for their service as well as the work of those who served with the Administrative Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

Carl G. Martin

Administrative Commission Members

Charles Griffin

Richard Hanna

Sue Westfall

Jonathan Yarboro

Carl Martin, Chair

Elders on Session

Nancy Carlisle

Charles Griffin

Frankie Tatum, Clerk

**Report to Stated Clerk, Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley
First Presbyterian – Anniston, Administrative Commission
10 July 2023**

Actions taken and planned for the First Presbyterian Church, Anniston re: Administrative Commission:

- Written agreements that guide the use of the trust funds of the FPC-Anniston have been requested several months ago, but not received to date.
- A conversation I had Friday, July 7, 2023 with Stated Clerk Jay Wilkins clarified for me the next steps needed to move the Anniston process forward.
- As Moderator of the Anniston Session, I requested a date for the next regular stated meeting of the Session. Clerk Margaret Report responded July 9 that one has not been set, and she will notify me when that is scheduled.
- At the next Session meeting I plan to discuss how the Session plans to move forward through the end of 2023 and into 2024, including evaluating membership of the Session.
- This information was e-mailed to the Administrative Commission Friday, July 7, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,
Frankie Tatum

Moderator of FPC Anniston Session and Administrative Commission

Report of the Administrative Commission
Five Mile Presbyterian Church
August 17, 2023

The Administrative Commission for Five Mile Presbyterian Church has been working since our last report. The commission is charged with assisting the Session of Five Mile with the closing of the church. The final worship service was held on May 7, 2023. Members of the church have worshipped at Leeds PCUSA and Cahaba Springs PCUSA since that time.

The AC is awaiting final legal documentation regarding the establishment of the Five Mile Foundation, a 501c3 entity charged with providing perpetual care for the historic sanctuary and cemetery. This work was begun by the Five Mile Session and approved by the congregation almost a decade ago. The final, legal documentation for the foundation is nearly complete, and the AC will proceed with a recommendation to dissolve Five Mile Presbyterian Church as soon as that happens.

The AC requests to be given the specific authority to authorize separation of the deeded property into two parcels: one containing the cemetery and historic sanctuary and one containing the remaining church buildings and land. Session set aside funds for the foundation years ago, and those funds will be transferred as soon as the 501c3 is established.

Motion: For Presbytery to authorize the Five Mile AC to approve, once all legal documentation has been created and reviewed by Presbytery Trustees, separation of the single parcel of land deeded to Five Mile Presbyterian Church into two parcels. Parcel 1 will be conveyed as a donation to The Five Mile Presbyterian Church Foundation. Five Mile Presbyterian Church will continue to hold record title to Parcel 2, pending the later sale of Parcel 2 to an as yet undetermined purchaser, which later sale will also require Presbytery approval.

Rationale:

At the first meeting of the Five Mile AC, it was determined that extensive work had been done previously by Session and the congregation, including designation of endowment funds, to provide for the perpetual care of its historic cemetery and sanctuary. The AC determined to see that work through to its final and legal status, which includes legal establishment of the 501c3 foundation and survey and appraisal of the existing property, before proceeding with the congregation's desire to be dissolved. Once this action takes place, the AC will request that Presbytery dissolve the congregation and proceed with sale of the remaining property, which will require Presbytery approval.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Jonathan Yarboro
Chair / Five Mile Administrative Commission
Pastor / First Presbyterian Church of Wetumpka

AC Members:
Sharon Eich
David Knox
Daryl Love
John Tally
Jonathan Yarboro - Chair

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION REPORT

Odenville Presbyterian Church

August 2023

In September 2022, Odenville Presbyterian Church communicated to Sheppards and Lapsley its desire to no longer affiliate with the PC(USA). Following several exploratory conversations with church leadership, it was determined that the only constitutional option available in this case was to dissolve the congregation as a church of the PC(USA). In called meetings moderated by Carl Martin, both the session and the congregation of Odenville affirmed their desire to dissolve the relationship.

An Administrative Commission was formed in November 2022, and the group met on December 6, 2022, to discuss and discern the best path forward. Both Odenville Presbyterian Church and Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley were represented by counsel. All parties agreed to pursue a mutually satisfactory arrangement. Ideally, albeit regrettably, such an agreement should result in dissolution of the relationship between Church and Presbytery while still honoring the century-long covenant partnership of Odenville Presbyterian Church with the members and ministries of Presbytery.

We believe that such an agreement has been reached. It is being drafted for final review and execution.

Respectfully submitted,
Carl G. Martin

Administrative Commission Members

Anthony Banks
Lant Davis
Jay Wilkins
Carl Martin, Chair

Administrative Commission—Second Presbyterian Church
7/17/23

The commission is chaired by Rev. Rachel Winter (COM), and consists of Rev. John Brock (COM), Rev. Sam Hamilton-Poore (COM), Ruling Elders Mary Clyde Teague and TJ Holmes (Second Church), Rev. Steve Jones (Stated Supply, Second Church), Ruling Elder Bill Stribling (Trustees), and Rev. Sue Westfall (General Presbyter).

When Second got in contact with the presbytery in February 2023, the session and congregation had already voted to close the congregation because of concerns over the age of the membership, financial concerns, the small size of membership, and the ability to take care of the building (the heating/AC unit has failed, among other concerns).

The Administrative Commission met with the session in March, as well as with other members who were interested. We talked, shared history, discussed grief, and talked about other possibilities for the future of the congregation. The session then talked about the possibility of looking into merging with another congregation, then voted at their next meeting to take closing off the table, looking into a merger instead. The minister and an elder then approached Edgewood to look into a merger there, and both congregations are currently exploring the possibility. Both sessions have met and are still exploring the possibility. The congregations worshiped together on 7/9/23, and it was a great experience for all.

In these discussions, we also realized that Second has only installed elders for the class of 2023 and not beyond. This happened for several reasons, but mainly because the congregation thought it would close, so the election of ruling elders would not be necessary. In June and July, that has been rectified through the election of a ruling elder nominating committee, the election of a ruling elder each for the class of 2024 and 2025, and the installation of those elders on 7/16/23.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Rachel Winter

THE PRESBYTERY OF SHEPPARDS AND LAPSLEY

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Annual Review of Session Records – Checklist

TO THE CLERK OF SESSION AND MODERATOR: Thank you for your important service in maintaining accurate records. The purpose of this list is to aid you and the reader in finding some items to be verified in minutes, rolls, and registers. Please complete this checklist *before* the review and by including date and page numbers where appropriate. For items that occur regularly (e.g., opening and closing with prayer), the date and page# column may simply give a single representative example. *You do not need to list every occurrence of the item.*

If events, such as regularly scheduled observances of the Lord's Supper or election of a clerk for more than a one-year term, have been approved by previous sessions and no change has been made, check the "N/A" column, and under "Date and Page #," either note the reference from when the action was last taken (if it is in the same minute book), or write "Prior Action." If the authorization of such events is by rule in the session's *Manual of Administrative Operations*, then write "Manual" in the "Date and Page #" column.

Congregation Name: _____

Dates Covered in Review: _____

	Requirement	YES	NO	N/A	DATE AND PAGE #
1	Stated meetings were held at least quarterly with the date, time, and place of meeting being recorded. [G-3.0203]				
2	Minutes record whether meetings were special (called) or regular (stated), and the purpose for which special meetings were held is stated. [G-3.0203]				
3	Meetings were opened and closed with prayer. [G-3.0105]				
4	Minutes record the approval of minutes from the previous meeting either as distributed/read or as corrected. [G-3.0107]				
5	Minutes are signed by the clerk for the meeting				
6	The session authorizes all observances of the Lord's Supper, which is celebrated at least quarterly. [W-3.0410]				
7	The session authorizes all baptisms, which are appropriately recorded in minutes, rolls, and registers. [G-3.0204, G-1.0401]				
8	Minutes record the reception and dismissal of members and by what method they were received or dismissed (profession, reaffirmation, transfer, removal), and these actions were duly recorded in rolls and registers. [G-3.0201c, G-3.0204a]				
9	Minutes record the approval of all marriages performed in the church's facilities. [W-4.06]				
	Requirement	YES	NO	NA	DATE AND PAGE #
10	The session reviewed the roll of active members and counseled				

	with those who neglected membership responsibilities. [G-3.0201c]				
11	Names were appropriately deleted from the roll or moved to an informal list of inactive members. [G-3.0204a]				
12	Commissioners to were elected for presbytery meetings, and they report to the session after the meetings. [G-3.0202a]				
13	Special offerings were approved by the session. [G-3.0205]				

14	Those responsible for various congregational funds reported to the session at least annually. [G-3.0205c]				
15	A Treasurer was elected for a specific term. [G-3.0205]				
16	An annual audit or review of financial records was conducted. [G-3.0205, G-3.0113]				
17	New ruling elders and deacons were trained and examined. [G-3.0201c]				
18	The ordination and installation of ruling elders and deacons – and was recorded in minutes, rolls, and registers. [G-3.0201c, G-3.0204]				
19	A Clerk of Session was elected for a specific term. [G-3.0104]				
20	At least one congregational meeting was duly called by the session and held. [G-1.0501, G-1.0502]				
21	A budget was adopted. [G-3.0113]				
22	The work of the deacons was reviewed. [G-2.0202]				
23	Terms of call for all ministers were reviewed at least annually. [G-2.0804]				
24	Property and liability coverage was obtained. [G-3.0112]				
25	The annual statistical report was completed. [G-3.0202f]				

These items must be recorded in congregational meeting minutes:

	Requirement	YES	NO	N/A	DATE AND PAGE #
26	Minutes of congregational meetings are signed by the secretary of the meeting.				
27	A Nominating Committee was elected. [G-2.0401]				
28	Church members were elected for ordered ministries (Ruling Elders, Deacons) [G-2.0404, G-2.0401]				
	Requirement	YES	NO	N/A	DATE AND PAGE #
29	The congregation approved any decisions to buy, sell, or mortgage real property [G-1.0503d]				

30	All matters related to the calls of installed pastors were approved by the congregation. [G-1.0503c]				
31	Minutes of congregational meetings were approved by either the congregation or an entity designated by the congregation.				
32	An annual Congregational Meeting was held, with public notice given and a quorum established. [G-1.0501]				
33	Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws have been adopted and conform to the Form of Government of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). [G-4.0101 and G-4.0102]				

REVIEWED BY:

Name _____

Date _____

COMMENTS: _____

EXCEPTIONS: _____

(Use Additional Page If Needed)

BOOK STAMPED BY: _____

SOWING SEEDS OF HOPE SINCE 1868

== 155 YEARS ==



Providing Healing & Hope

The Presbyterian Home for Children, a ministry of the Presbyterian Churches of Alabama, cares for teenage girls who have experienced abuse and/or neglect, and boys and girls of all ages and their female caregivers who find themselves homeless because of poverty, abuse, or abandonment.

The Home, located in Talladega, Alabama, continues to support children and families in need for 155 years with a path of hope through our innovative and life-affirming programs including Moderate Care for Girls, Secure Dwellings, Transition to Adult Living, Temporary Supportive Housing, Family Bridges, and Ascension Leadership Academy.

OUR AWARDS



PHFC is accredited by Social Current, the leading accrediting organization for social services in the U.S. and Canada; and EAGLE, the world's only faith-based accrediting body for ministry to children. Our ministry has been recognized by major awards, including a Four-Star Rating – their highest possible rating – from Charity Navigator, the world's largest and most trusted nonprofit evaluator. The Home also achieved the Gold Seal of Transparency from Candid, a national nonprofit that tracks spending by other nonprofits. The Home was recognized as a Top-Rated Nonprofit for the third year in a row by GreatNonprofits, the leading provider of user reviews for charities and nonprofits.



CAMPUS ADDRESS | 905 Ashland Hwy, Talladega, AL 35160

MAILING ADDRESS | P.O. Drawer 577, Talladega, AL 35161

PHONE | 256-362-2114

EMAIL | Info@phfc.org

WEBSITE | www.phfc.org



OUR PROGRAMS

The **Moderate Care Residential Therapeutic Program** provides restorative services to teen girls who have experienced extreme trauma and/or neglect and who are often dealing with emotional and behavioral challenges. Program staff tailors the therapeutic services to each youth's unique needs by helping them develop life and academic goals that will one day allow them to return to living in a home or community setting.



The **Secure Dwellings Program** provides safe transitional housing on the Home's campus to homeless boys and girls along with their legal female caregiver. The program offers a variety of services meant to empower the caregiver — including employment assistance, life skills training, and government assistance — while allowing the child to have a safe environment in which they can rest, grow, play, and learn.

Temporary Supportive Housing is offered to children and youth with their female caregiver who has graduated from the Secure Dwellings Program. Meant to aid them in breaking the cycle of homelessness, this supportive housing environment encourages a higher level of self-sufficiency, offering further vocational and life skills development along with financial support.

The **Transition to Adult Living** program helps women ages 19-24 who are having difficulties transitioning to independent living by providing a safe residential environment in which they can grow, increase life skills, and achieve self-sufficiency.

Family Bridges is an in-home services program that seeks to reunite, preserve, or strengthen families experiencing crises such as divorce, illness, homelessness, and violence. Program staff meet with families in their homes to provide parenting techniques, counseling, crisis intervention, and more with the overarching goal of helping families stay together.

Ascension Leadership Academy is a Cognia-accredited, college-preparatory school offering a premier, faith-based education to children and youth being served by the Home's residential programs and its Temporary Supportive Housing Program as well as children and youth in the surrounding area. Founded by the Presbyterian Home for Children, the academy features small class sizes, flexible programs, and enrichment opportunities that help children of all backgrounds thrive.



OTHER INITIATIVES



The Presbyterian Home for Children is a proud mission partner since 2020 with Mentoring In New Dimensions (M.I.N.D.) to reach children and youth in Wilcox and Marengo counties — two of the state's poorest counties. The Home has hosted many special events every year and has given away food, gifts, blankets, winter coats, and even professional school photos. Wilcox County teens have participated in summer camp at Camp Maranatha on Lake Guntersville and Living River Retreat on the Cahaba River.



Presbyterian Home for Children has partnered with the Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind since 2017 to offer Union Village, a large and tiny cottage development for the deaf, blind, and multi-disabled. The supportive housing community serves some of the state's most vulnerable citizens, and rental income from Union Village provides an additional stream of support for PHFC's programs for children and youth.

The Presbytery Of Sheppards And Lapsley
Report Of The Commission on Preparation For Ministry — August 2023

<u>INQUIRERS</u>	<u>CHURCH</u>	<u>INSTITUTION</u>
Annabelle Beavers	First, Tuscaloosa	Union (Richmond)
Kendra Grace-Love	Grace, Tuscaloosa	Louisville
Daniel Killilea	South Highland, Birmingham	Louisville
Theodore Longlois	Independent	Princeton
Madison Vaughn	Grace, Tuscaloosa	Graduate - Columbia

<u>CANDIDATES</u>		
Bennett Alldredge	First, Tuscaloosa	Graduate - Princeton
Avery Arden	Grace, Tuscaloosa	Graduate - Louisville
Peyton Chandler	Independent, Birmingham	Vanderbilt
Patrick O'Connor	Immanuel, Montgomery	San Francisco
Barbara Tomek-White	First, Auburn	Graduate - Austin

FOR INFORMATION:

No information items at this time.

FOR ACTION:

No action items at this time.

Submitted on behalf of the Commission on Preparation for Ministry:

Rick Atkerson (2025), Caroline Barnett (2024), Jim Bannon (2024), Joe Genau (2023), Shelley Hancock (2023), Sheila Holland (2024), Jeff Johnson (2025), Nicole Newton (2025), Kathy Wolf Reed (2023), Andy Spaulding (2024), Adrienne Stokes (2025), and Lee Walthall (2023).

Respectfully,

Rev. Dr. Kathy Wolf Reed, Moderator

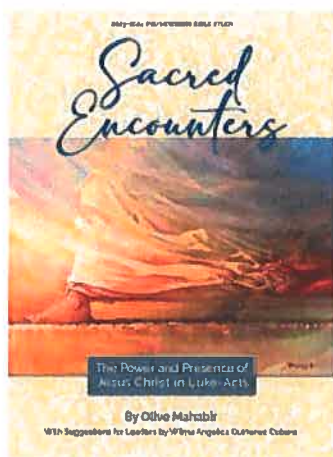
Rev. Nicole Newton, Vice-Moderator

UKirk Birmingham August 2023 Report

We have had a successful summer of Home Kirkin's at various board members' houses. We have been gearing up for the start of the fall semester. We are excited to be going to all the student organization fairs at the local colleges; UAB, BSC, and Samford University. We are also reaching out to multiple churches in the surrounding areas to connect with any incoming students to the colleges that we serve. In preparation for this coming academic year, if you know any college students in the Birmingham area looking for a great community to be a part of please refer them to our website (ukirkbirmingham.org) or they can email Madison, our Ministry Coordinator, at madison@ukirkbirmingham.org. Also, if you are interested in providing a dinner for one of our UKirk Thursday you can also reach out to Madison. Thank you all for your support and prayers.

Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley

July 2023



Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley attended the **AL/MS Conference**, held in Mobile, Alabama, July 13th – 15th at Spring Hill Presbyterian. Dr. Olive Mahabir, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care and Adult Spiritual Growth at Northminster Presbyterian Church in Roswell, Georgia, is the author of the PW Bible Study, *Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke - Acts* and was the keynote speaker. Workshops on Grief, healthy immune diets, mission emphasis, glass-blowing, Eugenia Anne Gamble talking about a new book and promoting a sequel to the Ten Commandments, and, of course, Dee Koza with insights into these Sacred Encounters. The Sheppards & Lapsley ladies who stayed for the ending worship enjoyed every minute!

Come August and September, women across the presbytery are holding Fall Gatherings as we move forward into our new normal. South Highland will hold her Fall Gathering on August 26th and is opening her doors to all who come. Rev. Larry and Kathryn Michael will expand on the encounters in Luke – Acts. See attached flyer.

The Coordinating Council for the PW in our Presbytery is still looking for interested women to assist in renovating the thrust of PW. If anyone is interested in re-forming and re-energizing Women in the Presbytery, please let me know!



For God's Glory

Kathy Tracey

Moderator, PW [PS&L]

August 26th

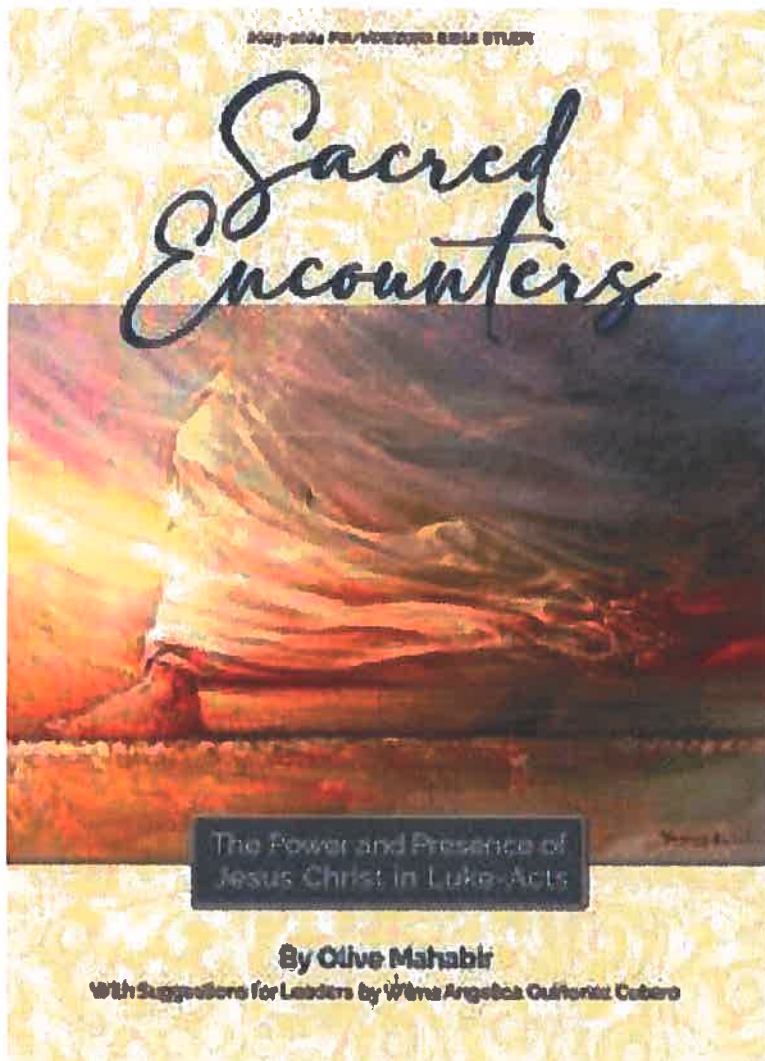
BIRMINGHAM FALL GATHERING

South Highland Presbyterian Church

9:30 a.m. Fellowship & Registration

10:00 a.m. Kathryn & Larry Michael

JOIN THE FUN IN THE DAVIS FAMILY HALL!



08-26-2023

10:00 - noon

**Bring Your
Friends!**

**Overview of Bible
Study**

Refreshments

Fellowship

**SOUTH HIGHLAND
PRESBYTERIAN**

2035 Highland Avenue

southhighland.org

205-933-0790

