

Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley
Synod of Living Waters
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Stated Meeting
February 15, 2024

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 February 15, 2024, hosted by the Anti-Racism Committee at Northern Heights Presbyterian Church in Selma, Alabama.

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 the reading of a Psalm and a prayer.

Organization

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

Adoption of the Docket Appendix A-1

The docket was adopted by unanimous vote.

Recognition of First Time Commissioners and Visitors

OMNIBUS MOTION

1. To approve the minutes of the November 16, 2023, meeting
 2. To approve the requests for absences from today's meeting
 3. To approve the dates and locations for meetings of the Presbytery:
May 16, 2024, at Oakmont Chapel; August 15, 2024, at Mountain Brook Church,
November 21, 2024, at Cahaba Springs Church.
- Approved**

Ministers of the Word and Sacrament

Ministers Present (32) Excused (61) Absent (28)

Adams, Nan	A	Bird, Shelaine	A
Atkerson, Rick	P	Brock, John	E
Bae, In Chan	E	Broyles, Vernon, HR	E
Bailey, Michael	P	Bryson, Tom	P
Bang, Yoo Chang	P	Bruchey, Wayne, HR	E
Bankson, John	E	Burgess, Sid, HR	E
Barnett, Caroline	A	Butler, Heather Jones	A
Brady Becker, Lindsay	A	Carleton, Rhon, HR	E
Bell, Jerome	A	Carter, Clyde, HR	E

Casey, Lydia	E
Chaney, Patsy, HR	P
Chang, Cecelia	A
Cheong, Tae Ho	P
Chinula, Donald	E
Cho, Timothy	E
Choomack, Jim, HR	E
Clark, Molly, HR	E
Clayton, Susan	E
Clendenin, Monty, HR	E
Coker, Jeff, HR	E
Crutchfield, Bob, HR	E
Davis, Becky HR	E
Davis, Lant	A
Dippenaer, Vic	E
Durham, Charles, HR	E
Durham, Erica	E
Edwards, Robert	A
Ephraim, James, HR	P
Feagin, Debbie, HR	P
Frandsen, Emily	E
Free, Zana	A
Gatliff, Abby	E
Gatliff, Cort	P
Genau, Joe	P
Goodrich, Elizabeth	E
Hamilton-Poore, Sam	P
Hamilton-Poore, Terry	P
Hanna, Richard	P
Harmon, Dawson, HR	E
Hay, Robert, HR	E
Hayes, Jeff	A
Hibbard, Norman HR	E
Hurley, Ed	P
Hurst, Clyce HR	E
Inman, Robert F, HR	E
Jeong, Junmo	P
Jo, Jae Seon	A
Kim, Samuel	A
Kim, Sun Jae	P
Kim, Sung Eun	A
Kim, Sung Woong	A
Kim, Young	E
Kukal, Chuck	P
Laney, Susan, HR	E
Long, Kevin	A

McCarter, Neil, HR	P
McClendon, Bruce	E
McClure, John	A
McCormick, Mark	P
McElrath, Pete, HR	E
McLaughlin, Wayne, HR	E
Mathews, Rachel	P
Mylalsingh, Emerson, HR	E
Newton, Nicole	P
Newland, Terry, HR	E
Northen, Margaret, HR	E
O'Neill, Elizabeth	E
Oh, Jyung, Ho	A
Oliver, Catherine, HR	E
Park, Daekeun	A
Patton, Finley, HR	E
Patton, Roger, HR	E
Pearce-Reed, Leanne	P
Ponder, Luke	A
Porter, Mary, HR	P
Price, Sandra, HR	E
Pyburn, Richard, HR	E
Reed, Kathy	P
Reed, Nick	P
Roberts, Madison	E
Scarbrough, Leeann	P
Schuler, Sharon, HR	E
Scott, Katherine	E
Scrivner, Joe	E
Seamon, David	A
Seitz, Craig, HR	E
Sellers, Lou Ann	P
Shelton, Jack, HR	E
Shin, Dong-ouk	A
Sims, Charles, HR	E
Slane, Joe, HR	P
Son, Junqkyun	A
Spalding, Andrew	E
Speaker, Cary	E
Sprik, Petra	E
Stephens, Gerald, HR	E
Thurman, Michael	A
Tingle, Terry, HR	E
Truesdell, Jim	A
Turner, Lucy, HR	E
Turpen, Sam	A

Wade, Lindsey	A	Wills, Bill HR	E
Waters, Dana, HR	E	Wilson, Ron	A
Watson, Cody	P	Winter, Rachel	E
Wells, Jim, HR	E	Winton, Carlton, HR	E
Westfall, Sue	P	Yarboro, Jonathan	P
Wilkins, Jay, HR	P		

Commission Ruling Elders with Vote

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

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

Executive Council Members/Presbytery Officers w/Vote

Present (5) Excused (1) Absent (2)

Sissy Bain	P	Jothany James	A
Jean Russell	E	Terri Jones	P
Judith Baldwin	P	Deborah Thomas	P
Linda Burrowes	P	Donna Winn	A

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

Jenny Thagard	P	Kathy Tracey	P	Carl Martin	P	Deborah Love	P
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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-one (61) churches in the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley. Thirty-three (33) Commissioners were present.

Alexander City	First (1)	Rhonda Hodgson
Annemanie	Arlington (1)	NR
Anniston	Church of the Covenant	Tara Bunn
Anniston	First (1)	NR
Anniston	First United (1)	NR
Anniston	Korean (1)	NR

Auburn	First (3)	Holly Mitchell NR NR
Bessemer	Good Hope (1)	NR
Birmingham	Bold Springs (1)	NR
Birmingham	Edgewood (2)	Richard Galbraith Don Hagan
Birmingham	Fairfield Highlands (1)	NR
Birmingham	First (2)	Carl Martin NR
Birmingham	First United of Forestdale (1)	Gloria Lee
Birmingham	Five Mile	NR
Birmingham	Independent (4)	Caryl Privett Doc Feagin Lee Walthal Georgia Miller
Birmingham	Korean (1)	NR
Birmingham	Mountain Brook (2)	NR NR
Birmingham	Oakmont Chapel (2)	Charlie Parks John Parks
Birmingham	Riverchase (1)	NR
Birmingham	Second	Catherine Rodenhauser
Birmingham	South Highland (3)	Bill Stribling Suzanne Cornett Kathy Tracey
Birmingham	Southminster (2)	Augusta Voss Janet Nebrig
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	Gardendale (1)	NR
Goodwater	First (1)	NR
Green Pond	Green Pond (1)	NR
Jacksonville	First (1)	Carolyn Padgett
Lafayette	Lebanon (1)	NR
Leeds	Leeds (1)	NR
Livingston	First (1)	NR

Magnolia	Rock Springs (1)	NR
Marion Junction	Marion Junction (1)	NR
Montevallo	Montevallo (1)	Dorothy Grimes
Montgomery	Calvary	NR
Montgomery	Immanuel (1)	NR
Montgomery	Korean (1)	NR
Montgomery	Providence (1)	Kathryn Sweezey

Northport	Bethel (1)	NR
Opelika	Korean (2)	NR
Oxford	Dodson Memorial (1)	NR
Phenix City	First (1)	NR
Piedmont	First (1)	NR
Selma	Pisgah (1)	NR
Selma	Valley Creek (1)	David Hodo
Sylacauga	First (1)	NR

Talladega	First (1)	Allen Scarbrough
Troy	Williams Memorial (1)	NR
Trussville	Cahaba Springs (1)	Karen O'Brien
Tuscaloosa	Brown Memorial (1)	Charles Nash
Tuscaloosa	First (4)	Les Fowler

Tuscaloosa	Grace (2)	Jill Cilimberg
		NR
		NR
Tuscaloosa		April Lane
Tuskegee Institute	Korean	Nancy Payne
Union Springs	Westminster (1)	NR
Union Springs	Union Springs (1)	Judith Baldwin
Wetumpka	First (1)	NR
		Tom Wallace

Welcome from the Host

James Ephraim

Order of Worship

Call to Worship*

James Ephraim

Hymn*

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

Prayer

Tom Bryson

Scripture

Matthew 25:31-41

Terri Jones

Selection

Byron Thomas

Mr. Thomas shared this is the church where he grew up. He then played and sang a beautiful spiritual hymn.

Historical Reflection

Deborah Love

Selection

Byron Thomas

Introduction of the Speaker
Reflections

James Ephraim
Mayor Rev. James Perkins

Communion
Communion Hymn*

Tom Bryson and James Ephraim
Let Us Break Bread Together

Offering
Necrology **Appendix A-2**

Jay Wilkins

Installation of Moderator and Vice Moderator **Appendix A-3**

Ed Hurley

Presentation of stole, gavel and cross

Words from Retiring Moderator

Ed spoke about what an honor it was to serve the Presbytery.

Deborah gave Ed a token gift thanking him for his service to the Presbytery last year.

Words from New Moderator

Deborah Thomas

Closing Hymn*

Lift Every Voice and Sing

Election of Bills and Overtures Committee 2024

Moderator Deborah Thomas

Nick Reed*, Committee Chair

Linda Suttle Harris, Westminster-Birmingham

Allen Scarbrough, First-Talladega

Approved

General Presbyter Appendix A-4

Sue Westfall

Council Report Appendix A-5

1. Approve: "Guidelines for Distribution of Funds." Appendix A-6

MOTION TO AMEND: Distribution will be as follows if there is not an active session
Approved

MOTION TO AMEND: Remove: for use by the congregation/session distributed to
Presbyterian causes **Approved**

MOTION TO AMEND: Add: In order that all would have equal access, establish a
fund that would use the money for reparative action efforts **Motion Fails**

MOTION: Approve the Guidelines for Distribution of Funds as Amended
Approved

2. **Approve: Presbytery will elect a Commission of five members consisting of two elders, two teaching elders (one from Executive Council, one from COM) and one at-large member which will be nominated by the Nominating Committee. Those elected must have a working knowledge of the Presbytery. The Commission will clarify the Guidelines. Approved**
3. **Concur with the Overture from Santa Fe Presbytery to amend the Book of Order by adding G-1.0104 "Other Forms of Corporate Witness (Small Worshipping Communities, etc.)" Approved Appendix A-7**

Commission on Ministry

Carl Martin

Information:

1. Approved the Rev. Joe Genau to moderate a congregational meeting of Second Presbyterian Church, Birmingham, on January 28, 2024. Approved
2. Approved the Rev. Richard Hawk of Dothan to serve as moderator of First Presbyterian, Eufaula.
3. Approved the Interim Pastor Agreement between the Rev. Sam Henderson and South Highland Presbyterian Church. **Appendix A-8**
4. Approved the 2023 Annual Report of Commissioned Ruling Elders. **Appendix A-9**

Action Items:

1. **Approve the Rev. Ed Hurley to be declared Honorably Retired. Approved**
Cort Gatliff spoke about Ed. Cort then offered a prayer for Ed.
2. **Examine and approve the Rev. Caroline Kelly as the installed pastor at Grace Presbyterian, Tuscaloosa, according to the following: Approved**
Appendix A-10, A-11
 - a. Effective Salary, \$80,000; Professional Development, \$4,000.00; Vacation, 4 weeks; Study Leave, 2 weeks; Sabbatical, 3 months (summer) after 4 years. (Correct Terms of Call) ½ SECA, Benefits \$31,200, Total Compensation \$121,320
 - b. Installation to occur on March 3, 2024, at 4:00 pm.
 - c. Installation commission members: Deborah Thomas, Natalie Adams, Carl Martin, Charles Nash, Rev. Lou Ann Sellers, Rev. Rachel Winter, Rev. Joe Genau, and the following visiting members: Rev. Bradley Schmeling (ELCA, St. Paul, MN); Marci Bozeman (Greater Atlanta Presbytery); Mary Sidney Kelly Harbert (Greater Atlanta Presbytery).
3. **Approve the Supply Relationship List for 2024. Approved Appendix A-12**

Living River Appendix A-13

Jenny Thagard

Mission Coordinator Appendix A-14

Presbyterian Home for Children

Doug Marshall

The Home is full, but they are expanding. The Moderate Program, due to lack of funds, is being closed. Staff that worked with the Program have been laid off. They are starting a new program called Caminos, which will be caring for unaccompanied immigrant children.

Stated Clerk

Jay Wilkins

Omnibus Motion:

1. To approve the minutes of the November 16, 2023, meeting
2. To approve the requests for absences from today's meeting
3. To approve the dates and locations for meetings of the Presbytery: May 16, 2024, at Oakmont Chapel; August 15, 2024, at Mountain Brook Church, and November 21, 2024, at Cahaba Springs Church.

Information

- The **Synod of Living Waters** has approved our 2022 Presbytery minutes with "no exceptions." Give thanks to Linda Burrowes and Tammy Strickland for their skill in preparing the minutes.
- If **your Session's minutes** from 2020 (or older) have not been reviewed, [1] you may drop them off at the presbytery office. Or, [2] call the Stated Clerk to plan to send/bring them to the office. Or, [3] you may do a check list of your own minutes, print, sign, scan, and email them to statedclerk@pslpcusa. The check list follows this report. Invitations from churches willing to host a Saturday morning "swap and read" will be announced. **The next gathering is on May 11 at 9:30 AM in Bethel Church of Northport.** Others will be scheduled quarterly. **Appendix A-15**
- **Per Capita** - Of the \$206,064.00.00 budgeted for 2023, \$190,011.79 was received from 54 Churches. Many thanks to those who have supported Per Capita! Much encouragement to those who have yet to give!
- Our Per Capita Assessment for 2024 has not increased! It remains \$27.00.
 - \$9.80 of this goes to the General Assembly,
 - \$3.98 to Synod of Living Waters,
 - \$12.22 to Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley and
 - \$1.00 to Campus Ministry.
- The Stated Clerk continues implementing the **Background Check** requirement of our Child and Youth Protection Policy which requires background checks to be run every three years. The only exemption is for those who are no longer engaged in ministry or who have had a check within the last three (3) years. Please contact the Stated Clerk with any questions or concerns. The Stated Clerk is also tracking participation in **anti-racism and boundary training** which are now required by the Book of Order G-3.0106

- End of Year Summary

Ministers as of 01/01/2023	<u>111</u>
Ordained	<u>2</u>
Received, Presbytery	<u>4</u>
Received, Denomination	<u>2</u>
Restored	<u>0</u>
Dismissed, Presbytery	<u>1</u>
Removal from Rolls	<u>1</u>
Death	<u>3</u>

Churches as of 01/01/2023	<u>64</u>
Loss, Dissolution	<u>3</u>
Churches as of 01/01/2024	<u>61</u>
Ministers as of 01/01/2024	<u>114</u>

Numerical Parity of Ruling Elders and Ministers of Word & Sacrament: Standing Rule 3.01.04 requires the Stated Clerk to seek numerical parity of representation in our Presbytery meetings. In 2023, the four meetings averaged 38 Ministers of Word & Sacrament and 39 Ruling Elders with vote.

- **Annual Statistical Report:** The churches' deadline to enter statistics with the Office of the General Assembly is today, February 15, but the Presbytery can enter the information for you if you contact us no later than March 1, 2024. Please contact Tammy Strickland for assistance at 205-978-0320 or tstrickland@pslpcusa.org
- Administrative Commissions Reports:
 - Anniston, First **Appendix A-16**
 - Birmingham, Fairfield Highlands
 - Birmingham, Five Mile **Appendix A-17**
 - Birmingham, Second

For Action: Dismiss the Odenville Administrative Commission with thanks for their service. Approved

Good News:

Rush Watson, representing PDA. Would like churches to send mission groups to the PDA sites.

Joe Genau: Main Event will be holding roundtable discussions on breathing new life into your Pentecost worship with Columbia Seminary professors on Friday, March 8th at Southminster Presbyterian from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Nominating and Representation

Rick Atkerson

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

Commission on Ministry - Class of 2026: Richard Hanna* Approved

For information:

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

New Business from Bills & Overtures

Recommend the overture from Montevallo Church, "Removal of investments in and subsidies for fossil fuels," be turned over to the Executive Council with a called meeting by May 2. Appendix A-18, 19

Commission on Preparation for Ministry

FOR INFORMATION: No information at this time.

FOR ACTION: No action items at this time.

The PSL Finance Report for 2023 Appendix A-20

Revenues & Expenses Appendix A-21

UKirk Birmingham Appendix A-22

Board of Pensions Appendix A-23

**Please join the Anti-Racism Committee at By The River-Center for Humanity
Appendix A-24**

Adjournment with prayer

Moderator Deborah Thomas

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*



**Winter Stated Meeting
February 15, 2024**

**Northern Heights Presbyterian Church
Selma, AL**

**THE PRESBYTERY OF SHEPPARDS AND LAPSLEY
PROPOSED DOCKET / FEBRUARY 15, 2024
NORTHERN HEIGHTS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, SELMA, AL**

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 to the Stated Clerk in writing by 10:30 AM., Request to share Good News from Churches to Stated Clerk by 10:30 A.M.

Omnibus Motion:

- 1. To approve the Minutes of the November 16, 2023 Stated Meeting.**
- 2. To approve the requests for absences from today's meeting.**
- 3. To approve the dates and locations for meetings of the Presbytery: May 16, 2024, at Oakmont Chapel; August 15, 2024, at Mountain Brook, and November 21, 2024, at Cahaba Springs, Trussville.**

10:00 A.M. Welcome from the Host

Rev. James Ephraim

Order of Worship

†Call to Worship

Rev. James Ephraim

†Hymn 700

I Want To Live So God Can Use Me

(Included in worship folder)

Prayer

Rev. Tom Bryson

Scripture

Matthew 25:31-41

Elder Terri Jones

Selection

Byron Thomas

Historical Reflection

Elder Debra Love

Selection

Byron Thomas

Introduction of the Speaker

Rev. James Ephraim

Reflections

Mayor Rev. James Perkins

Communion

Rev. Tom Bryson and Rev. James Ephraim

†Communion Hymn

Let Us Break Bread Together

Necrology

Rev. Jay Wilkins

Installation of Moderator and Vice Moderator (Included in worship folder)

Rev. Ed Hurley

Presentation of stole and gavel

Words from Retiring Moderator

Words from New Moderator

Moderator Deborah Thomas

†Closing Hymn 339

Lift Every Voice and Sing

(Included in worship folder)

Ministry Within Our Presbytery

10:30 AM	Election of Bills and Overtures Committee 2024: Nick Reed, First (Auburn) will serve as the committee chair; Linda Suttle Harris, Westminster (Birmingham); Allen Scarbrough, First (Talladega)	Moderator Deborah Thomas
10:45 AM	General Presbyter (pages 7-8)	Sue Westfall
11:00 AM	Executive Council (page 9) 1. Approve: "Guidelines for Distribution of Funds" (attached) 2. Approve: Presbytery will elect a Commission of five members consisting of two elders, two teaching elders (one from Executive Council, one from COM) and one at-large member which will be nominated by the Nominating Committee. Those elected must have a working knowledge of the Presbytery. The Commission will clarify the Guidelines. 3. Concur with the Overture from Santa Fe Presbytery to amend the Book of Order by adding G-1.0104 "Other Forms of Corporate Witness (Small Worshipping Communities, etc.)" (pages 12-13)	Susan Haskell
11:20	Commission on Ministry (page 14) 1. Approve the Rev. Ed Hurley to be declared Honorably Retired. 2. Examine and approve the Rev. Caroline Kelly as the installed pastor at Grace Presbyterian, Tuscaloosa according to the following: a. Effective Salary, \$80,000; Professional Development, \$4,000.00; Vacation, 4 weeks; Study Leave, 2 weeks; Sabbatical, 3 months (summer) after 4 years. b. Installation to occur on March 3, 2024, at 4:00 pm. c. Installation commission members: Deborah Thomas, Natalie Adams, Carl Martin, Charles Nash, Rev. Lou Ann Sellers, Rev. Rachel Winter, Rev. Joe Genau, and the following visiting members: Rev. Bradley Schmeling (ELCA, St. Paul, MN); Marci Bozeman (Greater Atlanta Presbytery); Mary Sidney Kelly Harbert (Greater Atlanta Presbytery). 3. Approve the Supply Relationship List for 2024. (page 27)	Carl Martin
11:40	Living River (pages 28-31)	Jenny Thagard
11:50	Mission Coordinator (page 32)	Ralls Coston
12:00	Presbyterian Home for Children	Doug Marshall
12:10	Stated Clerk (page 33) 1. Dismiss the Odenville Administrative Commission with thanks for their service.	Jay Wilkins
12:15	Nominating and Representation (page 40) 1. The Committee nominates Richard Hanna to Commission on Ministry class of 2026.	Rick Atkerson
12: 20	New Business from Bills & Overtures (included in worship folder)	
12:30	Adjournment with prayer	Moderator Deborah Thomas
	Lunch	

†Please stand, if able

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

We wish to extend a special thank you to the Anti-Racism Committee for hosting today's Presbytery meeting. We would also like to thank James Ephraim, Joe Scrivner, Tom Bryson, Terri Jones, Byron Thomas, Debra Love and Mayor James Perkins for participating in today's worship service.

**Next Stated Meeting – May 16, 2024
Oakmont Chapel Presbyterian Church, Birmingham**

**Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley
2023 Necrology**

Teaching Elders

**Rev. Jim Stanford – May 15
Rev. Hugh Kelso – July 8
Rev. Benjamin “Ben” Booth – November 21**

Ruling Elders

**Cahaba Springs
Janet Nichols – May 7**

**Church of the Covenant
Yonnie Fletcher – December 18**

**Dodson Memorial
Mary “Dot” Cline – April 14**

**Edgewood
Patti Winter – October 9
Carol Forehand – June 27**

**First, Alexander City
Marion Scott Cecil – January 12
Walter E. Gowan – July 15**

**First, Auburn
Phillip Dean Garrett – October 31**

**First, Wetumpka
Martha Estes – February 5
Pat Ivins – May 2**

**Grace
Ruth Creamer Dixon – May 8**

Leeds

Lanny Littleton, Sr. – April 15
Rebecca (Becky) Russell – October 7

Montevallo

William Donald Clayton, Sr. – September 1
Carter Wayne Beaty – December 9

Mountain Brook

Walter “Smokey” Neely Denton, Sr. – March 31

Riverchase

Jay Dorrance – June 5
David Winborn – October 22

Second

Miriam Blackburn – March 9

Westminster, Birmingham

Leola Cowan Smith – February 27

Installation of Moderator and Vice Moderator of Presbytery

As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer males and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. Lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as we were called to the one hope of our calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP

We are called by God to be the church of Jesus Christ, a sign in the world today of what God intends for all humankind. The call of Christ is to willing, dedicated discipleship. Our discipleship is a manifestation of the new life we enter through baptism. Discipleship is a gift and a commitment, an offering and a responsibility. **Deborah and Jonathan** the grace bestowed on you in baptism is sufficient for your calling because it is God's grace. By God's grace we are saved, and enabled to grow in the faith and to commit our lives in ways which *serve* Christ. God called you to a particular service. Show your purpose by answering these questions.

Who is your Lord and Savior?

Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior.

Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his word and showing his love?

I will with God's help.

Do you welcome the responsibility of this service because you are determined to follow the Lord Jesus, to love your neighbors, and to work for the reconciling of the world?

I do.

Will you serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love, relying on God's mercy and rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit?

I will, with God's help.

Do, we the members of the presbytery confirm the call of God to Deborah and Jonathan as Moderator and Vice Moderator in the service of Jesus Christ?

We do.

Will you support and encourage them in this ministry?

We will.

INSTALLATION PRAYER

Faithful God, in baptism you claimed us; and by your Holy Spirit you are working in our lives, empowering us to live a life worthy of our calling. We thank you for leading **Deborah and Jonathan** to this time and place. Establish them in your truth, and guide them by your Holy Spirit, that in your service they may grow in faith, hope, and love, and be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen

CHARGE AND BLESSING

Deborah and Jonathan you are installed to service as Moderator and Vice Moderator in the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley. Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God through Him. May the God of peace make you holy in every way, and keep your whole being, spirit, soul, and body, free from every fault at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen

Report of the General Presbyter of the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley
Sue Westfall
January 2024

Greetings to you in this new year! For this meeting of the presbytery we are meeting at the historic Northern Heights Presbyterian Church in Selma. There is no longer a worshipping congregation in this building but the presbytery has retained the property and is seeking partners to ensure a Presbyterian presence in this historic city facing so many challenges. The Anti-Racism Committee has taken on the role of the host church and we thank them for their hard work on this. The presbytery will conduct its business in the morning, share lunch, and then there is the opportunity to take part in an interactive simulation experience led by Afriye We-kandosis at By the River. I can assure you it is a powerful experience and I hope you will participate. And thank you in advance for your flexibility and spirit of learning and adventure in what will be a unique presbytery meeting.

Meanwhile, here is a glimpse of what I am seeing around the presbytery:

- We continue to lean into our commitment to be a Matthew 25 presbytery. The presbytery's Anti-Racism Committee provides opportunities to come to terms with our own racism and with our partner, Faith in Action Alabama, we take steps to dismantle structural racism in our state. The Presbytery's Main Event Committee offers opportunities to increase the vitality of our congregations with workshops on dynamic preaching, building deeper community, and developing innovative relationships with partners in mission. Congregations throughout the presbytery continue to chip away at eradicating systemic poverty which is so prevalent here in Alabama and around the world with housing programs, food programs, and legislative action.
- This is the season of the year during which much of our presbytery leadership "passes the mantle" to new leadership. Welcome with me Deborah Thomas (RE, First Auburn) as our new Moderator (her father was the moderator of this presbytery in 1991), and Vice Moderator, Jonathan Yarboro (TE, First Presbyterian, Wetumpka). Thank you to Ed Hurley, recently retired TE from South Highland, Birmingham, for his leadership as our moderator this past year and as he now moderates the presbytery's Executive Council. Thank you to Susan Haskell (RE, IPC) who has faithfully concluded her three-year cycle of serving as Vice-Moderator, Moderator of Presbytery, and Moderator of Council. Thank you for your leadership, Susan! Thank you to all members of the presbytery's committees and commissions who are rotating off and thank you to all who are coming on! The new presbytery directory will be available late February so check it out to find out who these new leaders are! We are blessed with remarkable leaders in this presbytery and our witness and work are more faithful and effective because of it.
- We had the joy this past year of welcoming new clergy colleagues – Rachel Winter, installed as pastor at Oakmont Chapel (Birmingham), In Chan Bae,

installed as pastor of Korean Presbyterian of Birmingham, and Caroline Kelly at Grace Presbyterian who we will examine for membership in the presbytery today.

- At this meeting we will also remember and honor all the saints of our presbytery who entered the church triumphant this past year. We build on their legacy of faith and dedication with profound thanksgiving.
- Just as individuals have a life-cycle so do congregations and we are facing the closure of some of our congregations. Administrative Commissions to close or merge churches are currently in place for Five Mile, Fairfield Highlands, and 2nd Presbyterian. One of the items the presbytery will vote on today is a plan for the disposition of the sale of the properties of closed churches. The bulk of the sale will go to new church development and revitalization. In such a distribution these closing churches plant seeds of new life to the church at large.

As we move through 2024, we give thanks for all the beauty, justice, love, and delight with which God imbues the world. The wonders are manifold and we do well to be amazed daily! At the same time, our world, our nation, our state, and our communities are dying and dealing death. How much this world needs the witness and work of the church toward the shalom envisioned in Matthew 25.

**Executive Council Report to Presbytery
February, 2024**

Class of 2024	Class of 2025	Class of 2026
Tom Bryson*	Terry Hamilton-Poore*	Sissy Bain
Ed Hurley*	Lee Ann Scarbrough*	Jothany James
Donna Winn	Joe Scrivner*	Neil McCarter*
Terri Jones	Deborah Thomas	Jonathan Yarboro*

The Executive Council met December 13 and January 10. Reports from the Finance Committee, Volunteer Mission Coordinator, Volunteer African American Churches Coordinator and Volunteer ENC Coordinator were received at both meetings.

The updated Personnel Manual was approved.

Guidelines for Distribution of Funds was approved.

A proposal for funds for improvements to Northern Heights was accepted and sent to the Trustees for their approval. The funds (\$23,356.00) will be taken from money available in the Selma Fund from the exit of First, Selma from the PCUSA (\$75,000). The Trustees approved the request. This will enable the improvements to be made before the February Presbytery meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Haskell

Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley
Guidelines for Distribution of Funds Received from the Dissolution/Dismissal of
Congregations
December 13, 2023

The property of the Presbyterian Church (USA), of its councils and entities, and of its congregations, is a tool for the accomplishment of the mission of Jesus Christ in the world. (G-40201)

All property held by or for a congregation, a presbytery, a synod, the General Assembly, or the Presbyterian Church (USA), whether legal title is lodged in a corporation, a trustee or trustees, or an unincorporated association, and whether the property is used in programs of a congregation or of a higher council is retained for the production of income, is held in trust nevertheless for the use and benefit of the Presbyterian Church (USA). (G-4.0203)

Seeking, as a presbytery, to be faithful to the mission of Jesus Christ in the world, the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley adopts the following policy that shall ordinarily apply to the dissolution or dismissal of a congregation noting that this policy does not automatically apply to congregations which were exempted from the Trust clause(G-4.0203) following the reunion of the Presbyterian Church in the United States and the United Presbyterian Church in the United States of America to form the Presbyterian Church (USA). The presbytery office keeps a record of all the congregations that duly took the "Southern Option." (G-4.0208)

This policy is in effect for the net proceeds of the property. Net proceeds are any monies remaining from the sale of any real estate owned by a church which has been closed after (a) all financial obligations of the church have been paid; (b) Presbytery has been reimbursed for any funds disbursed on behalf of the congregation during or after the dissolution process. In the event that the property is leased with or without an option to purchase, proceeds will become available when the rental is received and/or the full purchase amount is received.

Distribution will be as follows:

- 10% - a first fruit offering for use by the congregation/session distributed to Presbyterian causes and institutions that have been meaningful to the life of the congregation and/or local ecumenical and benevolent causes that have been meaningful to the life of the congregation.
- 10% to the operating fund. Intended to help support the total ongoing presbytery ministry funded by the annual Operating Budget.
- 70% to Church Development and redevelopment/revitalization funds. Intended to promote new church development opportunities, new worshipping communities, and the redevelopment of existing congregations and ministries that are purposefully pursuing plans designed to encourage and enhance vitality and growth of congregations.

- 10% to Reparative Justice. Starting with our specific history of complicity in actions that have favored certain communities over others, establish a fund that would use the money for reparative action efforts:
 1. Reparative action within the Presbytery community
 2. Reparative action beyond the Presbytery community
 3. Matching grants for congregations doing reparative action

From the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (2020)

“Encourage presbyteries to account for histories of race-based injustice when making choices about the disposition of properties when they are being sold or reallocated, attending to the wisdom of reparative justice and questions about, e.g., the origins of those properties, the means by which they were maintained, their potential use, the presence of historically marginalized communities in the area, and the impact of those properties on those communities.”

Respectfully submitted,

Task Force on Distribution of Funds Received from the Dissolution/Dismissal of
Congregations:

Susan Haskell, Lant Davis, Tom Bryson, John Brock, Sue Westfall, Jay Wilkins

~~Proposed Overture to the 226th General Assembly (2024) passed w.o. dissent on 6-17-2023~~

An Overture to the 226th General Assembly (PCUSA) from the Presbytery of Santa Fe

The Presbytery of Santa Fe respectfully overtures the 226th General Assembly (2024) to approve and send to the presbyteries for ratification the following new paragraph to the Form of Government, following G-1.0103:

G-1.0104 *Other Forms of Corporate Witness (Small Worshipping Communities, etc.)*

In circumstances where the formation of a traditional ecclesiastically and legally organized congregation is not desired or deemed appropriate, but a worshipping community nonetheless wishes to exist and function in relationship to The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), presbyteries and congregations may work together with such a group to provide supervision and support. Such recognized groups shall be under the mutually agreed upon oversight of a minister of the Word and Sacrament approved by the presbytery, shall include at least one ruling elder in their chosen leadership, and shall function under the financial, legal, and disciplinary sponsorship of an ecclesial council (either a session or a presbytery). The sponsoring council shall, in consultation with the worshipping community, authorize any celebrations of the sacraments within the group in accordance with the Directory for Worship. Membership records for group participants desiring to be formally enrolled as baptized, active, or affiliate members in the PCUSA shall be maintained by the sponsoring council. Such groups shall not hold property, and may not undertake any financial, legal, or contractual obligations, apart from their sponsoring council. They shall adhere to the sponsoring council's required policies on sexual misconduct, harassment, child and youth protection, and antiracism. Presbyteries shall determine appropriate means of representation and participation of such groups in and through the sponsoring councils (session and/or presbytery).

Rationale:

1. The intention of the proposed amendment is to provide a minimal, flexible and adaptable, level of historic Reformed polity for small worshipping communities that wish to identify with the larger church in worship and formation, discipleship and mission. The wording is intended to be adaptable to current constitutional provisions and/or to whatever recommendations may emerge from the Task Force to Explore the Theology and Practice of Ordination.
2. There is currently no constitutional provision in The Book of Order of basic organizational guidance for small worshipping communities wishing to relate to the PCUSA, but not organized as a congregation. But, as is recognized in the establishment of the Task Force to Explore the Theology and Practice of Ordination, there is a broadly felt need for such.
3. From the PCUSA web-page on New Worshipping Communities: "Living out the Gospel demands ministry which engages today's cultures (John 1:14). New ways of joining Christians together for contextual ministry will use current and historic ways of "being church" as

springboards for creative innovation (Matt 9:17)."

<https://docs.google.com/file/d/0Bzgch04BtNAjbluaTFyZXczQWc/edit>

4. From the PCUSA web-page on New Worshipping Communities: "As distinct yet connected expressions of the body of Christ, NWCs have local leadership arising from their own community of faith (Exodus 18:21). Pastoral leadership, facilities, and programs are all appropriately structured in order to demonstrate good and faithful stewardship."

<https://docs.google.com/file/d/0Bzgch04BtNAjbluaTFyZXczQWc/edit>

5. This vision encompasses varying types of small worshipping communities, such as:

- a. New Worshipping Communities which are not at a place to be organized as congregations.
- b. Small churches no longer deemed viable or sustainable as organized congregations but which may be able to continue in ministry and service under sponsorship.
- c. Intentional small worshipping communities (fellowships, house churches, etc.) that desire to identify and be connected with the larger church without the burden of formal organization or legal incorporation.
- d. Groups with a particular need or emphasis (linguistic and cultural, minority, recovery, differently abled persons, residents of retirement communities, etc.) that wish to focus ministry on those needs as distinct worshipping communities, but also identify and be connected with the larger church.

6. The role of the sponsoring council (session or presbytery) would basically be that of an "umbrella organization" with oversight of financial, legal, and disciplinary matters as needed.

The principal body responsible for discerning the appropriateness of any such groups and their activities in relationship to the PCUSA would be the presbytery, in consultation with any sponsoring congregation, acting under the authority of Scripture, guided by The Book of Confessions, and governed by The Book of Order.

Sam Henderson: Faith Statement

I believe in God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

I believe God created the world and all that is and called it good. God created human women and men in God's image to share in the community, reflect the glory and live in the fellowship of the trinity.

I believe we humans have lost our way and thus fall short of the divine glory for which we were created. We sin in choosing to live by our own wisdom and going our own way rather than trusting and obeying God, the source of our life. I believe idolatry, violence, exploitation, ignorance, abuse, brokenness and alienation are the result of sin—alienation from God, God's creation, others and our very selves.

I believe in Jesus Christ, and that Jesus embodied both the glory of God and God's glorious intentions for humanity. I believe God shows God's love for us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us, taking the brokenness of the world into himself. I believe Jesus was and is a friend of sinners (all of us who have lost our way), proclaiming and demonstrating the power of God's kingdom and inviting us to be collaborative partners in God's kingdom purposes. I believe the invitation of Jesus to every person is an invitation from the King to be released from a domain of darkness and to enter with joy into the kingdom of light.

I believe in the Holy Spirit who inspires scripture, convicts of sin (brokenness), quickens hearts, expresses the presence of Christ with and among God's people, gives gifts for ministry and empowers the Church in worship, proclamation, nurture and service.

I believe in "the Holy Catholic Church", those called out in the name of Christ to follow his command to go, making disciples of all peoples. I believe the church discovers, shares in and continues Jesus' ministry as we witness to and foster the love and justice of God's kingdom for all, especially the lost, last and least. I believe the church is by its life to be a provisional demonstration of the kingdom of heaven, and that the truth of our proclamation is to be seen in our love for one another, and the hope and hospitality we demonstrate toward all.

I believe in the resurrection from the dead and life beyond this life. I believe Christ who came once as savior will come again as Lord of all, at which time all idolatries will be exposed and even "mustard seeds" of faith in God vindicated. I believe the mysteries of God's redemptive purposes will be revealed, that we shall see God face to face and that every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the father. I believe that people from every race, tongue, tribe and nation will be united in proclaiming that salvation belongs to our God and to "the lamb who sits on the throne".

With God's help I try to live every day in faithful and joyful anticipation of that day.

Amen.

**Interim Pastor Agreement
Between
South Highland Presbyterian Church
and
Sam Henderson**

(Guidelines Recommended for Use by Churches – rev. 2018=adapted)

(Note Book of Order, G-20504b. which states, "Temporary pastoral relationships are approved by the presbytery." The Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley Commission on Ministry has this responsibility.

The following agreement between South Highland Presbyterian Church (SHPC), and Sam Henderson (Witnessed and approved by the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley COM) is for the purpose of providing part time (approximately 60% of full time) interim/transitional Ministry Leadership to SHPC.

Broad Goals for this ministry include:

1. Maintenance of a healthy congregational life
2. Continuity of leadership
3. Continued development of congregational self-awareness, vision and missional priorities
4. Preparation of the congregation for the arrival of its next called Pastor/Head of Staff

The Interim Pastor and the Pastoral Search

It is understood by all parties to this covenant that the Interim Minister comes to do interim work, not to be a candidate for the vacant installed pastoral position, and, further, that the Congregation, through its Pastor Nominating Committee, assumes complete responsibility for the search for and calling of a Pastor. The Interim Pastor will have no role in suggesting or evaluating candidates.

The Interim Pastor will have no direct involvement with the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) or its pastor search. The Interim/ PNC relationship will be indirect, for administrative and communication purposes only. This indirect role will include such matters as, seeing that the PNC has and utilizes opportunities to make appropriate reports to appropriate bodies, as named below.

The Interim Pastor may, upon request (and in coordination with the Session, and/or the COM):

- be a mission study consultant in cooperation with the PNC and the presbytery liaison, documenting congregational conversations in ways that may serve the congregation, pastoral candidates, and/or future church leadership.
- serve as an adjunct consultant in adaptation of the Ministry Information Form
- will seek in every way to prepare the congregation for the coming of an installed Pastor.
- will make arrangements with the Pastor Nominating Committee for regular reports as needed to the Session, Congregation, and COM at appropriate times.
- Serve as an additional collegial reference for late-stage candidates, bearing witness to God's work in the congregation.
- The Interim Pastor will continue to be Pastor to the Pastor Nominating Committee Members.

Agreement and Pastoral Work

The Interim work and Session governance will be carried out in partnership, with the Interim Pastor praying for, encouraging and supporting the work of the Session, and the Session praying for, supporting and encouraging the work of the Interim Pastor in all matters requested of him.

This agreement is for the period from January 15, 2024 until December 31, 2024, but is terminated when the called Pastor arrives. The agreement may be renewed for additional periods of time of up to twelve (12) months, which will also be terminated when the called Pastor arrives. If the called Pastor arrives or if the Session provides notice of termination of the relationship with the Interim Pastor before the agreement period ends, the contracted compensation will continue for an additional two (2) months beyond the notice of termination, or until the end of the agreement period, whichever is less. The Interim Pastor may be expected to and agrees to continue to serve the church during this period as determined by the Session. If the Interim Pastor terminates the contract before the Agreement period ends, compensation does not extend beyond the termination date.

The following agreement between the Session of South Highland Presbyterian Church and The Rev. Sam Henderson is for the purpose of providing part time (approximately 60% of full time) interim pastoral service to the Church during its search for an installed Pastor.

This agreement will begin on January 15, 2024 and will end on December 31, 2024.

THE INTERIM PASTOR:

Will not seek to become/is a member of this Presbytery.

Will be asked to serve as Moderator of the Session.

Will not assist in preparation of the Church Ministry Information Form.

All Ministry Work by the Interim.

THE BASIC AND ONGOING FUNCTIONS OF THIS MINISTRY WILL BE:

1. Lead worship and preach two Sundays out of four in a typical month.
2. Work with staff and lay leaders to facilitate needed caring ministries
3. Officiate at weddings and funerals as requested and available.
4. Plan and moderate Session and congregational meetings.
5. Work with committees to assist them in carrying out their assigned tasks.
6. Train newly-elected officers.
7. Perform other administrative and pastoral duties as requested.
8. Support colleagues and the Personnel Committee as a supportive Interim Head of Staff

THE SPECIALIZED FUNCTIONS OF THIS MINISTRY WILL BE:

1. Help this congregation examine their history and work through the grief process which usually follows the loss of a minister.
2. Enable the Session to identify and act appropriately on current opportunities and challenges.
3. With a Session Task Group, lead Session and Congregation in a three-part mission study, as needed, with a final report available to the Congregation, PNC, pastoral candidates, and future leaders.
4. Help to identify helpful pastoral qualities and congregational resources and commitments to partnership in a shared journey of faithful change with a next called Senior Pastor, as needed.
5. Examine linkage with Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly, and identify resources that might be available from each of them.
6. Prepare the congregation for the arrival of a new minister.

POLICIES OF THE COMMISSION ON MINISTRY:

During the length of the agreement, the Interim Pastor will be accountable to this Presbytery through the Commission on Ministry (COM). A brief one-page report will be made to the COM on the status of the work at least quarterly. At the end of the agreement, the Session agrees to provide evaluation of the interim pastorate for the COM.

NOTE: When an Interim Associate Pastor is employed, appropriate changes in the wording of this agreement should be made, especially regarding the duties of the Minister. After the agreement is approved, any changes require the approval of the COM.

TERMS OF CALL:

If the Interim Pastor is employed on a part-time basis (approximately 60% of full time), appropriate compensation should be negotiated. Normally, the Interim Pastor will be compensated for interim pastoral services as follows (all amounts presented on annual basis):

Distance Interim Compensation and Professional Allowances*

Salary/Housing	\$72,000	Compensation	\$72,000
Distance Interim Travel	\$6,000	Professional Allowances	
Continuing Education Fees and Travel Expense	\$4,000		
Professional Expenses (subscriptions, meals, etc.)	\$2,000		
Distance Interim Field Expenses (per diem, etc.)	\$21,000		\$33,000
		Total Interim Compensation	\$105,000
Church Expense - Vacancy dues, BOP (No benefit to Interim)	\$14,689 (estimated)		

Study Leave.** Two weeks annually, pro-rated, including financial assistance consistent with the congregation's provision for the last installed Pastor, or according to Presbytery's standards. There will be no compensation for unused study leave.

Vacation.** To be earned at a rate of one week per quarter and used or accumulated as agreed upon.

*Professional Expense accounts are 100% available to the pastor as accountable reimbursement upon presentation of expense documentation, or as additional taxable income if no documentation is provided. If any professional expense account is exceeded for the year, that amount may be deducted from the pastor's taxable (W-2) salary for that year. Professional Allowance Accounts may flow into one another. Any documented overspending of the Professional Allowances annual or pro-rated total is subtracted from Salary and W-2. Any annual or pro-rated residual balances are paid as taxable income and are added to final W-2.

** Four (4) vacation weeks and two (2) study leave weeks prorated for the portion of the year served. Unused vacation may be taken at end of covenant period.

AGREEMENT ENTERED INTO ON December 18, 2023.

Arnold Anderson Interim Pastor

Lee C. [Signature] Clerk of Session

APPROVED: [Signature] Chair, Commission on Ministry

1. **Banyon Allison – Supply for Leyden Hill Chapel. Attended annual continued education class, “The Bible and Poverty: Recent American History led by Dr. Joe Scrivner.**
2. **Jeff Bonner – CRE for Gardendale Presbyterian Church for past 12 years. Small church but financially solid. Continuing education extensive reading and study. Reading included: Devotions for Pastors by Stan Toler, The Pandora Problem (Facing Narcissism in Leaders and Ourselves) by E James Wilder; Accidental Saints by Nadia Bolz-Weber; Make Your Bed (Little Things That Can Change Yours life and Maybe the World) by Admiral William H. McRaven; The Minister as Shepherd by Dr. Charles Edward Jefferson; The three Days and Three Nights by Kevin Conner; Halftime, Changing Your Game Plan from Success to Significance by Bob Buford, Bullies and Saints – An Honest Look at the Good and Evil of Christian History by John Dickson.**
3. **Beverly Dodson – CRE for Green Pond Presbyterian Church. Prepared bulletin, liturgy and conducted worship all but five Sundays in 2023. Attended those Sundays but allowed David Lyons to preach. Attendance greatly decreased past two years due to five deaths and three members moving away and two homebound. Since COVID, local participation in our community outreach programs has been greatly reduced. During 2023 conducted three Outreach gatherings with moderate attendance. Our 197th Memorial Day Celebration had about fifty attendees which is much less than previous years. Green Pond sponsors Mission Programs of our Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly offerings: PHFC; First Light, Living Waters for the World, Habitat for Humanity; participates in the Cents ability offering, One Great Hour of Sharing and Joy Gift. Locally, members prepare and deliver Wednesday lunches to 50 to 60 shut-ins in the community and provides school clothing and Christmas gifts to local children. Others in need are helped monetarily and with transportation. Secured leadership, arranged for and attended the annual CRE continuing education class with Dr. Joe Scrivner. Additionally, I read extensively in preparation for weekly sermons.**
4. **Robert Emerick – CRE for Riverchase Presbyterian Church. – Out a couple of weeks in November with knee replacement surgery. Three deaths in 2023 but membership remains steady. Substantial gifts from church friends keeps budget sound. Ministry highlights: Completed 4th year of Narrative Lectionary cycle including series on Isaiah and the Apostles Creed; Mission highlight -women met weekly to hand-tie over 100 lap blankets delivered to the YWCA. Ministry will resume with focus on producing blankets for veterans.; Member Care Team conducted the Lunch Bunch monthly gathering at area restaurants with coordinated outreach/care to homebound members. Mission giving focused on a school suppliers drive for Safehouse of Shelby County. Donations to Living River and PHFC, several initiatives for Oak Mountain Missions Ministries (coat and can drives plus Christmas toy and gift care drive; PCUSA disaster relief and farm animal programs. Attended annual CRE training.**
5. **Ernie Haynes – Filled pulpits for Cahaba Springs, FPC Annison, Gardendale, Leeds thirteen times in 2023. Served Communion at Cahaba Springs and to the Birmingham Emmans Community February 23 meeting as requested by Board. Attended the annual CRE training event conducted by Dr. Joe Scrivner; Further study and readings included: Bruce Gore (1st Presbyterian of Spokane, Wa). televised YouTube bible studies of the Old and New Testament; Imitation of Christ by Thomas A. Kempis; Paul by N.T. Wright; Matthew for Everyone by N. T. Wright; Surprised by Joy by C.S. Lewis; The Jewish Gospel of John by Eli Litzorkin-Eyzenberg; part of Orthodoxy by G.K Chesterton. Other activities:**

Presbytery Nominating Committee and Registrar and Board Member for the Birmingham Emmaus Community.

- 6. Cal Holt – Preached at Bethel Presbyterian in October; Member of First Tuscaloosa where he taught Young Couples Sunday School class, Chair of Board operating UPerk Coffee Shop; officiated funeral for long time church member; continue daily devotional readings and study; participant in Men's Prayer Breakfast twice per month.**
- 7. deNay Porter Kirkpatrick – CRE for Cahaba Springs Presbyterian Church – Member of Southminster Presbyterian; Attended all Presbytery Meetings since commissioned; will serve on COM class of 2026; Attended annual 2023 CRE continuing education with Dr. Joe Scrivner.**
- 8. David Lyons – During 2023 preached at Dodson Memorial 27 times (now their supply four Sundays a month); First Jacksonville – 6 times; Green Pond – 5 times; Leeds – 1 time. Conducted one funeral during 2023. Presently commissioned as chaplain to the Alabama Section of the Pinhoti Trail. (Separate report)**
- 9. Olympia Hines McCrackin – Served as pulpit supply three times in 2023 and attended three Presbytery Meetings by Zoom. Member of Brown Memorial and the immediate past moderator of Presbyterian Women. Presbytery treasurer for Presbyterian Women. On the national level – member of the Diversity, Equity and inclusion Committee for Presbyterian Women, Inc. Continuing education: 2-21-23 Zoom Book study-What Kind of Christianity; A History of Slavery and Anti-Black Racism in the Presbyterian Church by William Yoo (Synod of the Northeast.); 2-23-23, Webinar – Breaking the Myth of Presbyterian Fear of the “E” Word by Rev. Cheri Khonje (Leader Formation PCUSA.org.); 4-27-23 – Webinar – Reclaiming Our Calling for the Care of Souls (OGA); 8-2-23, Webinar – Standing in the Breach: Preaching and Conflict with Aimee Moiso (Synod of the Covenant); 11-16-23 Webinar – Leading by Listening (Leader Formation PCUSA. org.)**
- 10. William Sauser, Jr. Commissioned to Union Springs Presbyterian Church for past 26 years. Preached and led worship 40 times; served communion on Maundy Thursday, Easter Sunday, and World Communion Sunday. 2023 sermons focused primarily on the Epistles of Paul (all posted on church website and YouTube. Moderates by-monthly session meetings; extensive church renovations during 2023. Church is both financially and organizationally sound. Church provides financial support to several local and international charities. Church had one death and one new member. Conducted a “Blessings of Marriage Service” for niece and wife with permission of Presbytery; funeral service for Mother-in-Law. Pastoral care and visitations through letters and notes, telephone calls and emails in addition to face-to-face, home and hospital visits. Has published Volume I of his sermons, “Learning from the Lord; The Gospels. Volume 2 Acts – Epistles -Revelation is currently under editorial review by Christian Faith Publishing. Attended annual CRE training with Dr. Joe Scrivner in August. Also read Matthew Desmond's “Poverty, By America.”**
- 11. Frankie Tatus -Created liturgies for bulletins and preached 34 times at FPC Anniston, Dodson Memorial, and Leeds Presbyterian. Officiates at communion on the first Sunday of each month at FPC Anniston. Assists Terry Tingle one Saturday a month receiving donations for PHFC.; Participated In the installation of Rev. Rachel Winter at Oakmont Presbyterian; Moderates the Administrative Commission of FPC Anniston and Moderator of their Session. This involves extensive time and duties. Auxiliary reading includes “Celtic Spirituality, a daily devotional and two devotional studies by Jan Richardson.**
- 12. Roger Thomas – Has moved to Duncanville, Al (near Tuscaloosa) and is willing to supply in that area. Did not preach during 2023 during relocation and health problems of self and wife.**

13. **Lin Veazey – Commissioned to Church of the Covenant in Anniston for past 12 years. Her 2023 work week is presently set at 15 hours for Covenant and five hours for First Presbyterian Jacksonville (moderate session for both churches) but is not representative of her workload which is more 20 hours for Covenant and ten for First Jacksonville. Hopes the hours will be restored to the more accurate level in 2024. Along with sermons, weekly Bible study preparation, creating the bulletin and monthly newsletter, pastoral activities include visitation and counseling. Additionally, preached twice at Leyton Hill and twice for FPC Anniston.; led the combined services for Covenant and FPC Jacksonville on Ash Wednesday with Communion and Maundy Thursday and separate Christmas Eve services for both congregations. completed two years of service on COM and just finished a three-year term on the Personnel Committee. Attended all four Presbytery meetings, Anti-Racism training and the annual continuing education with Dr. Joe Scrivner. Spent a large amount of time with the Westminster Apartment's Board. This evolving ministry should provide Presbyterians in Calhoun County a very rich field for mission activities in the upcoming decade. Highlight of 2023 was celebrating Covenant's 50 years supported by Presbytery staff. Care of the church building takes a good bit of my time but is my unmentioned part of ministry.**
14. **Carl Martin – Preached 28 times in 2023 at Oakmont Chapel, First Jacksonville, First Livingston, Leeds, First Birmingham, Dodson Memorial, Bethel, First Anniston, First Albertville, Mountain, Brook, Grace, Shepards and Lapsley stated meeting. Assumed the role of Director of Finance and Planned Giving at the PHFC and will be the COM moderator for the year. Continuing education Read Dr. Scrivner's teachings on Poverty and Race and how they should and do shape our faith; Studied America's Original Sin: Racism, White Privilege and the Bridge to a New America by Jim Wallis; Unbroken and Unbowed: A History of Black Protest in America by Jimmie R. Hawkins.**
15. **Carl Hughes – Commissioned to First United Forestdale – Church offers live streaming services each Sunday. Modified worship during 2023 – will be transitioning back to per-Covid order of worship during 2024. Conducted a 26 week in depth study of the twelve disciples of Jesus; started a 51-week bible study of Revelations. Continuing education includes: Personal studies into the bible each week preparing for Sunday sermons. Spent 4 to 5 hours each week for Bible study preparation and approximately 8-10 hours for sermon preparation. Study books included: A Commentary, Critical, Experimental and Practical on the Old and New Testaments by Brown, Fausset, and Jamieson; Matthew- John Vol. V; Jesus Christ: His Disciples, vol 5, Studies of the Savior, Revelation: Unlocking the Scriptures for You, Standard Bible studies by Lewis Foster and Journey into Following Jesus: A Study of the Twelve Disciples by Tommy Hagle; Treasures from Revelation by Hagle; Treasures from Revelations by Rod Mattoon; New Testament Questions for Adults; The Bible Exposition Commentary, vol 1 by Warren Wiersbe.**
16. **Sharon Eich -Was commissioned to Five-Mile Presbyterian Church until it closed May 7, 2023. She and five of the remaining members are attending Leeds Presbyterian as a group. She has been asked to preach the first Sunday of each month in 2024. Preached once at Gardendale Presbyterian during 2023. Had surgery in November. Still working full time. On Presbytery supply list for 2024.**

Note: Cherrie Fancher will be taking her last course with Dubuque this Spring. As soon as I receive her final grade and completion certificate, I will request date for COM final interview with her preaching for the Committee and approval for commissioning.

Prepared and submitted by Bev Dodson

Caroline M. Kelly

Faith Journey

My earliest memory of a relationship with God occurred around the time of my younger sister's birth. My parents would sit with my brother and me each night before bedtime, while we said our prayers. We would ask God to bless everyone and everything we could name and, in 1969, I added my petition for a sister. For my six-year-old self, my sister's birth on December 6, 1970, confirmed that God was real!

Though I was in church with my family every time the doors opened, it was not until an encounter with my grandmother when I was 17 that I began to understand how God was working in my life. During my last semester of high school, I was suspended for participating in an off-campus adventure that involved alcohol.

My parents responded to the news of my suspension as I expected, and I felt embarrassed and ashamed. However, my grandmother (who was the daughter of a Presbyterian minister) and who I assumed was straight as an arrow and would be angry with me, responded to my confession with laughter and a hug instead. I have carried that experience of God's grace with me ever since.

Had you asked me when I was a child what I wanted to be when I grew up, I would never have dreamed that I would become a Presbyterian pastor. I pursued a career in politics and then law before I discerned that God was calling me to something different. While I enjoyed the intellectual challenge and the opportunities to network with leaders in the community afforded me through the law firm, it did not take long to realize that it was not the environment in which I was going to thrive or, more importantly, use my skills in a way that would make a difference in the world.

I was not a leader at the law firm where I worked. When the real estate practice group would gather for lunch and share what we were working on, I was barely able to speak. I was a good advocate for my client on the phone in the privacy of my office, but a mess when it came to speaking in front of all the partners. And I was terrified of making a mistake.

God bless him, one of the younger partners took me under his wing. And while he didn't make me a great lawyer, God used him to launch me on the trajectory that brings me where I am today, another encounter I carry in my memory.

"Caroline," he said to me during one of my particularly anxious days, "there are very few mistakes you can make that can't be fixed. Don't forget that." Coming from someone who helped protect GE Capital's interest in some high-stake loans back in the 1990's, I found him very convincing. Again, a word of grace.

After that I started to trust my own judgment and intuition. I was skilled at listening to those around me and learning to live up to their expectations, so it took me a while to learn to hear God's voice. Eventually I heard that voice calling me to seminary.

Leaving my job and the security of a good salary was one of the hardest (but best) things I ever did. It was equally liberating and terrifying, the way I imagined it would feel to jump from an airplane and float weightlessly over a vast expanse of land with a whole new view of the world, but without a clue about how to land. That feeling, I decided, was a sign of the freedom proclaimed by the gospel.

After seminary, I stayed in Atlanta for 12 more years, serving at a downtown church across from the Georgia State Capitol where people experiencing homelessness and state legislators occupied the same

block. From there, I could see the building where I had practiced law, but it was altogether a different world. I was still using my advocacy skills, but for an altogether different purpose.

I am a fourth-generation Presbyterian pastor on my mother's side, steeped in the southern tradition but raised in a university church in Charlottesville, Virginia. Its dual mission serving university students and seeking social justice shaped my early understanding of the gospel as a means of drawing people into relationship with God and co-creating with God a world in which all people can flourish.

During my 23 years as a pastor, I have served churches located in downtown Atlanta, Western Maryland, and Central Kentucky. Having lived 21 years in Atlanta, including meeting and marrying my husband, Jim Mooney, there, I feel as though I am coming home, both geographically and theologically, to Grace. I am excited about being invited to share in ministry with a congregation that has a clear sense of identity and mission in the community - especially with those who have been excluded or harmed by the church – and look forward to offering my leadership to the next phase of its life as a congregation.

Caroline M. Kelly
Statement of Faith

I believe in the Triune God, revealed in Scripture and known most fully in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

I believe in God the Creator

Who fashioned and made everything that was and is and is yet to be.
Who is beyond our knowing and yet knows and loves us even before we are born.
Who calls us from separation to relationship, from brokenness to wholeness.
Who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love even when we are anything but.

I trust in God the Son

Who loved us enough to come into the world to live as one of us.
Who could have had anything he wanted but instead gave up everything for us.
Whose love for us could not be defeated, not even by death.
Who is known to us in the breaking of bread and sharing of cup, at the bedside of the dying, in the feeding of the hungry, in the welcome of the stranger.

I hope in God the Holy Spirit

Who calls us, in our baptisms, to be disciples of Jesus.
Who helps us discern how and where God is working among us and in the world.
Who empowers us to join God's ministry of love and peace and justice.
Who walks with us through the valleys of despair and death and along the peaks of joy and health.

I believe that Scripture is the authoritative source for our faith and life in this God. I am fascinated by the ways in which it continues to speak to us in changing times and different contexts.

What is revealed to us about God's grace in Scripture, we experience in the sacraments. In baptism, we are called into a new relationship with God and one another. In communion, we experience a vision of community where all are welcome, and we are strengthened and nurtured for discipleship in the world.

I believe that the Church is called to demonstrate God's love in the world by welcoming all who seek to know and love God, by offering compassion to those in need, by resisting oppressive structures and systems, and by working for peace in our families, our communities, and our world.

The Session of Grace Presbyterian Church approved the Terms of Call for Caroline Kelly as follows:

Basic Pay:

Salary + Housing	\$80,000.00
1/2 SECA	6,120.00

Benefits:

39% Total Basic Pay	33,587.00
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Reimbursements:

Travel	1,500.00
Continuing Education	1,500.00
Professional Expenses	1,000.00

Total Compensation	\$123,707.00
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Vacation: 4 weeks

Continuing Education: 2 weeks

Sabbatical after 4 years for 3 months, to be taken during summer months

Approved September 28, 2023

Appendix A-12

Churches requesting permission to continue supply relationships for 2024:

- a. **Arlington** requests permission to continue their relationship with Cervelma Jones. Terms \$450
- b. **Bethel** requests permission to continue their relationship with Neil McCarter. Terms \$24,000 yr.
- c. **Bold Springs** requests permission to continue their relationship with Chuck Kukal. Terms \$12,600 yr.
- d. **Cahaba Springs** requests permission to continue their relationship with deNay Kirkpatrick. Terms \$24,500 yr.
- e. **Calvary** requests permission to continue their relationship with Lisa Winston.
- f. **Church of the Covenant** requests permission to continue their relationship with Lin Veasey. Terms \$8520
- g. **First, Carbon Hill** requests permission to continue their relationship with Ron Wilson. Terms \$15,000 yr.
- h. **First, Dadeville** requests permission to continue their relationship with Sandra Crosslin. (independent Methodist) \$210 per Sunday
- i. **First, Jacksonville** requests permission to continue their relationship with Shelaine Bird, Terry Tingle, David Lyons.
- j. **First, Piedmont** requests permission to continue their relationship with Gary Black. Terms \$175 week
- k. **First, Sylacauga** requests permission to continue their relationship with Charles Sims, Terms \$31,100 yr.
- l. **First United, Anniston** requests permission to continue their relationship with Sean McClellan.
- m. **Gardendale** requests permission to continue their relationship with Jeff Bonner. Terms \$17,160
- n. **Good Hope** requests permission to continue their relationship with Vanessa Nelson. Terms \$500 monthly
- o. **Goodwater** requests permission to continue their relationship with Pete McElrath with limited hours.
- p. **Green Pond** requests permission to continue their relationship with Beverly Dodson.
- q. **Marion Junction** requests permission to continue their relationship with Dr. George Wood.
- r. **Montevallo** requests permission to continue their relationship with Wayne McLaughlin. Terms \$270 per Sunday
- s. **New Trinity** requests permission to continue their relationship with Cervelma Jones. Terms \$400 1st and 3rd Sunday
- t. **Pisgah** requests permission to continue their relationship with Ira Blanchard. Terms \$3500 yr.
- u. **Riverchase** requests permission to continue their relationship with Robert Emerick. Terms \$1854 monthly
- v. **Union Springs** requests permission to continue their relationship with Bill Sauser. Terms \$9600 yr.
- w. **Valley Creek** requests permission to continue their relationship with David Hodo.
- x. **Westminster, Birmingham** requests permission to continue their relationship with Jerome Bell.
- y. **Westminster, Tuskegee** requests permission to continue their relationship with Michael Thurman. Terms \$250 per month, 4 paid vacation Sundays.
- z. **Woods** requests permission to continue their relationship with David White.



**February 2024
Newsletter**

Living River Annual Report, 2023



Living River's Impact

- Over 160 children and youth participated in retreats and Summer Camp in 2023!

Campers in 2023 included new friends from Wilcox Co. who experienced Living River through their own camp session! Presbyterians have a long history and many connections in Wilcox Co. This year, they are comfortable with attending our regular youth or elementary sessions, but we need full scholarships. Independent Presbyterian has donated enough for 10 elementary campers! **Help us bring more campers from Wilcox Co. to Living River for Summer Camp 2024 with individual donations or donations from your church or organization to a dedicated scholarship fund.** The cost of a scholarship is \$400 for an elementary camper and \$500 for a youth camper.

- During Living River's first annual Cahaba Lily Retreat, six adults heard from guest speakers Beth Stewart, Cahaba River Society, and Scot Duncan, AL Audubon, visited the Cahaba Lily Festival and Refuge, hiked, rested, and connected with God.
- Over 200 visitors participated in activities like fossil hunting with the AL Paleontological Society and live music at Fall River Fest!
- Rental groups from diverse faith backgrounds and organizations enjoyed Living River's facilities.
- The University of Alabama continued mussel monitoring and Cahaba Riverkeeper continued regular water testing.

Thank you to our 2023 donors!

Every donation of time, talent, and resources is what made Living River's ministry possible last year! Bolded names are **Bedrock Sustaining Donors**. Bedrock Program details are on Living River's website.

Barrett Abernethy	Tom & Ashley Bryson	Charles & Sandy Durham	Mary Grant Dalrymple
Robert & Ree Almon	Derry Bunting	Larry & Kathleen Dutton	Gene & Dorothy Grimes
Tambra Angle	Mark & Leigh Ellyn Byars	John & Susan Edwards	Susan Grimmer
Ruth and Chuck Ash	John & Jane Childers	Marylyn Eubank	Ted Halley
Steve & Carolyn Ashworth	Willie & William	Mark & Elizabeth Ezell	Dexter & Shelley Hancock
Rick & Beth Atkerson	Christian, Sr.	Terry Falkner	Benga Harrison
Jim and Susan Bannon	Linda Cicero	Kimble Forrister &	Wyatt & Susan Haskell
Janet Barnes	Molly & Coke Clark III	Calli Patterson	Robert Haubein
Karin and Sam Bell	Gretchen Cloud	Amy Frasier	Kevin and Julie Hay
J and Heather Benoit	Robert & Carolyn	Jane French	Robert & Morgan Hay Jr.
Lee Benoit	Collins, III	John & Pam Gam	Robert & Janice Hay
Suzanne Benton	Ralls & Denise Coston	Yvonne Gauntt	Scott & Angie Hayes
Don & Mary Blakeley	Susan Davenport	Pat & Charles Goodman	Mike Henderson
John Bridges	Glenn & Chris Davis	Michael & Elizabeth	Sarah Hewitt
E.T. & Caroline Brown	Elizabeth Deslattes	Goodrich	Norman & Helene Hibbard
Vernon Broyles III	Doug Deslattes	Michael & Gillian	Jill Hightower
Charles & Nancy Bryson	Paul Dimick	Goodrich	Tommi Holsenbeck
David Bryson	Marilee Dukes	Mike & Suzanne Graham	Cathy Hoop

Kent & Lisa Howard
Tony & Lora Hubbard
Keener & Hilda Hudson
 Steven & Stephanie Hunt
 Whitney Jamison
Kara Kilpatrick & Jeno Smith
 Christian Johnson
 Ray & Cynthia Jouret
 Heather Kaiser
 Lili Kane
Sara Kaylor
Helen Keller
Leland & Marty Keller
 DeNay & Will Kirkpatrick
 Deborah Laws
Melinda & Norris Leavelle
 Linda LeBron
 Terry & Mari Ley
 Debra Love
Bruce & Jeannine Ludwig
Virginia MacRae
Brian & Chris Anne Massengale
Rachel & Wes Mathews
 Kristin Matt
Weese Matthews

Olympia McCrackin
David & Ann McGiffert
Price & Elizabeth McGiffert
Henry McPherson
George & Bess Miller
 Faye Mills
Ira & Anne Mitchell
Len Mitchell
 Allison Moore
 Kit Moss
Betsy & Bill Murphy
Al & Janet Nebrig
Robert Newman
Barbara & Robert Nicol
 Janet Ort
 Lois Palecek
 Ed & Gail Parrish
Jay & Ellen Patton Jr.
Lee Ann & Preston Peyton
 Michael & Joan Pickett
Ellen & Daniel Potts
John Powell
Jim Prince
Charlie & Lil Pritchett
Caryl Privett

Karen Rainwater
Nick & Kathy Reed
Leanne Reed
Natalie Reed
Rick & Judy Reed
Mallory & Martha Reeves
Emily Roberts
 Apollo Sanders
 Chris Sarkowski
Ed Senter & Jessica Germany
Paul & Barb Shell
 Jim & Katherine Shepherd Jr.
Anita Sherman
 Joe & Krista Slane
Jack & Anne Smalley
 Andy Spaulding
Alan & Linda Speaker
Alan & Leanne Spencer
Jim & Sue Stapleton
 Frank & Fairy Sutherland
Allen Tartt
 Frankie Tatum
 Mary Clyde Teague
Sharon & Les Thagard

Jenny & George Thagard
 Leona Thomas
 Kristi Thomson
 Steve & Cindy Tilghman
 Allison Todd
 Hannah Tucker
Wendy & James Tucker
Marilyn Tucker-Marek & Ken Marek
Steve and Laura Underhill
 Lin & Lawson Veasey
Myrna Walker
 Howard Walthall Sr. & Family
Lee Walthall
 Suzanne & Phillip Ward
Dana Waters
 Nancy Watkins
 Thomas Watkins
 Thomas Wells
Meagan Westbrook
Sue Westfall
Jay Wilkins
Bill & Frances Woodruff
 Jonathan Yarboro

Thank you to Patti Winter and her family.



Pictured is Patti Winter surrounded by colleagues at one of the first retreats held at Living River. She's holding Charlotte Kaylor, now 9 years old. Sara Kaylor shared, "At the time, I hemmed and hawed about going. Was it unprofessional to bring a baby to a planning retreat? Babies make noise and have to be breastfed. I didn't want that to distract from the day. When I shared my concerns, **Patti told me, 'Bring that baby— Living River is for ALL God's children, from the cradle to the grave.'** Since then, Living River has never turned down my kids, even when not planned or convenient. Charlotte was welcome to tag along for Kathryn's You-And-Me Camps, no questions asked. Then, Kathryn was welcomed as a "counselor in training" when she aged out but it was Charlotte's turn for You & Me Camps. Living River is a special place in my family's life, and as a single mom I owe MUCH to our time and experiences there."



Those in the picture were volunteers and pastors from across the presbytery who were dedicated to youth ministry and gathered to imagine what Summer Camp at Living River could look like. **Thank you Patti for your love, dedication, encouragement, and joy.** Thank you to Patti's family and all who loved Patti who donated to Living River in her memory last year. We hope to truly honor her as we follow God's Spirit and love all of God's people we meet through the ministry of Living River.

Thank you to our 2023 organizational donors!

Thank you to The Independent Presbyterian Church Foundation which renewed a grant for a development staff position. Dedicated staff attention to development and programming is essential For Living River's growth as we near financial stability.

Thank you to the Southminster Presbyterian Church

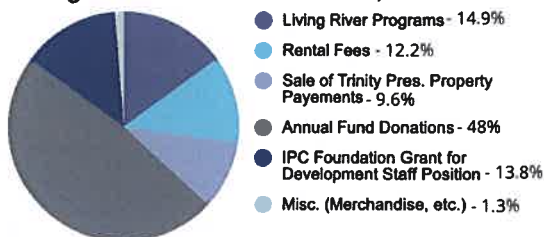
Foundation which gave a grant to purchase updated commercial kitchen equipment.

Thank you to First Pres. Wetumpka who gave a donation that funded solar panels on the Dining Hall, leveraging a federal tax rebate!

Brown Memorial Presbyterian Women
Community Foundation of Greater Bham
Edgewood Presbyterian Church
E L Spencer Foundation
First Presbyterian Church Birmingham
First Presbyterian Church Tuscaloosa
First Presbyterian Church Wetumpka
Grace Presbyterian Church Pres. Women
Grace Presbyterian Church Tuscaloosa
Independent Presbyterian Church
McGiffert and Associates, LLC
Montevallo Presbyterian Church
Mountain Brook Presbyterian Church
Presbyterian Ministries United Appeal
Riverchase Presbyterian Church
Southminster Presbyterian Church
Timberland Construction

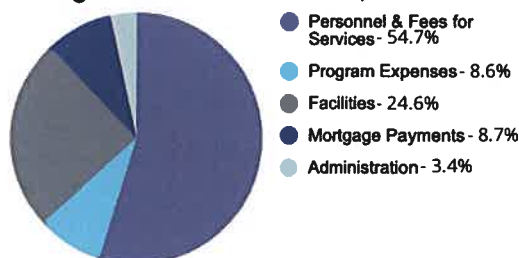
Living River's Financial Health

Living River Sources of Funds, 2023



Total 2023
Operating Revenue:
\$347,419

Living River Uses of Funds, 2023



Total 2023
Operating Expenses:
\$383,766



Important Financial Notes

- Living River's mortgage is now just \$131,007 on 12/31/23, down from almost half a million just four years ago.
- Donations to the Annual Fund for operations were up 15% from 2022.
- Program Revenue was up 20% from 2022.
- Living River's endowment, the Living River Legacy Fund grew 13% to \$416,066. **Please consider bequests to the Living River Legacy Fund in your will.** One day, we hope the endowment will support Living River's operations.

2024 Living River Calendar

For more details about a specific event, visit our website!

April 19-21 You & Me Retreat

May 11-19 Cahaba Lily Adult Retreat
(ft. speakers and lilies excursion)

May 18 Spring River Fest

May 28-June 7 Counselor Training

June 9-14 Youth Mission Camp

June 17-21 Elementary Camp

June 23-27 Creative Camp

June 26-30 You & Me Camp

October 20 Fall River Fest

November 9-11 Elementary Retreat

Other Opportunities at Living River

Be a Counselor in Training (CIT) or share the opportunity with a high schooler. High schoolers can be CITs at any elementary camp. It's a great opportunity to learn and build friendships!

Volunteer to help with administrative tasks, maintenance projects, or for Summer Camp. We are a small staff at Living River and can use help with mailings, regular or special facilities projects, and adult leadership or nursing for Summer Camp!

Canoe, hike, or visit us at Living River. We have 4.5 miles of Cahaba River shoreline and hiking trails! If you've never been to Living River, come for a day by yourself or organize a group!

Email office@livingriver.org with any questions about.

Executive Director's Corner

Anniversaries are important. They are a time to look back and reminisce and a time to look forward to possibility. **This year, Living River celebrates 2 very significant anniversaries.** In 2004, the New Marvel Slab located at what is now the Williams Access to the Cahaba River was removed. In 2014, Living River was opened for business with infrastructure and buildings. **The 20 years that the river has had to heal has brought significant restoration to the biodiversity of our stretch of the Cahaba. The 10 years of programming have brought a significant impact on the lives of individuals and groups who have benefited from the ability to retreat from the every day to learn, worship, and gather in this sacred place.** Look out for more information about celebrating these milestones!

As we look forward, we do so with renewed energy. Our Living River Board of Directors met for an overnight retreat in January to participate in training on how to make strategic decisions for Living River's future. We sought to define our mission and vision and establish criteria for future decision-making to ensure that we live into our mission and vision as we grow.

As we begin 2024, we have 59 campers registered for Summer Camp, compared to 32 registered this time last year. We have 9 camp counselors either hired or in the process of being hired, compared to none this time last year. We have 12 weekends booked for rental groups between January and the beginning of Summer Camp. Our solar panels on the Dining Hall are generating power and saving money, thanks to First Presbyterian, Wetumpka. The Shades Valley Lodge renovation is 90% complete. And, we have received a grant from the Southminster Foundation for needed kitchen equipment. Thank you for your support! **I would love to talk with you about how you can continue to support the mission of Living River.** Please help us spread the word about Living River Summer Camp and its availability as a great location for all kinds of groups retreats!



LIVING RIVER

A RETREAT ON THE CAHABA

2000 Living River Parkway

Montevallo, AL 35115



There are 12 campfire benches left that can be dedicated for \$60! Fill out the online donation form with your dedication information. Email office@livingriver.org with any questions.

Report of the Mission Coordinator for Presbytery, February 2024

This is my report to the Presbytery. As usual, members and churches of this Presbytery are active in showing God's love.

1. The Birmingham area churches have completed the house construction in Pleasant Grove. This is the house sponsored by the Birmingham area churches in 2023. Contributions from area churches totaled about \$21,000. We will send \$20,000 to the Birmingham Habitat for Humanity. I will keep you informed about a possible house sponsorship for 2024. Also, do not forget that the Tuscaloosa chapter of Habitat for Humanity is very active in building houses. Ellen Potts is the Executive Director for the Tuscaloosa Habitat for Humanity.
2. We are planning to contribute \$1,500 to RECONCILE, from the Presbytery's Peacemaking Reserve. RECONCILE is an organization in South Sudan, working to reconcile groups that have fought each other. The Peacemaking Reserve is funded by contributions from Presbytery churches.
3. The Dallas County LTRG (Long Term Recovery Group) is working on various recovery projects in Selma and Dallas County. We have been attending the LTRG meetings and have contributed or committed money to four family projects. Three of these projects were to replace furniture and appliances for three families. We committed funds for the fourth project to help with the costs of building a 2-bedroom house. So far, this Presbytery has given or committed a total of \$12,345 for these projects. The money used has come from a \$7,500 grant from Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and \$4,845 from the Presbytery's Perry/Dallas County Fund. The Perry/Dallas County Fund was set up in 2017 to help combat poverty in the two counties. Churches contribute to the Fund. To donate, make a check out to Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley and, in the lower left corner, designate it for the Perry/Dallas County Fund. One may also donate to the Black Belt Community Foundation.
4. The Congo Mission Network will be holding its annual meeting at Charleston Atlantic Presbytery in North Charleston, SC on March 14-16. The meeting will be in-person and by Zoom. To register, please go to the Network's website: congopartners.org. The Network is comprised of churches and presbyteries around the US who are committed to working with our Presbyterian partners in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Our Presbytery has an active Congo Mission Team. Please join us.

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: _____

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION – FPC, ANNISTON
Report for Presbytery February 2023

16 Nov 2023	Presbytery met today at PHFC, Talladega. The proposal presented by the AC to approve the MOU between Community Foundation of NE Alabama and the church was approved, with 7 Nay votes.
15 Dec 2023	<p>The deed for the FPC Anniston property was signed Dec. 14, 2023, completing the transaction making the CFNEA the new owner of the church property. Interviews are being arranged with Anniston publications to share the news of the FPC Anniston-CFNEA partnership.</p> <p>CFNEA and the Presbytery released a press release to Anniston outlets regarding the partnership between the Presbytery and CFNEA.</p>
20 Dec 2023	Principals from the CFNEA, members of the FPC Anniston Session, and Moderator of the AC met with the Anniston Star reporters. The Star published an article, Dec. 20, 2023, to report on the partnership between the Presbytery and the CFNEA that would continue the legacy of the church while advancing the mission of the Presbytery.
21 Jan 2024	CEO of CFNEA Jennifer Maddox met with the congregation of FPC Anniston to outline plans for the partnership going forward. The stories of the church will be preserved; future changes to the building and grounds were discussed; and Ms Maddox invited the congregation to share their dreams and hopes for the future of the church.

**Report of the Administrative Commission
Five Mile Presbyterian Church
February 15, 2024**

The Administrative Commission for Five Mile Presbyterian Church has not met since our last report, but work towards closing the church continues. 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.

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 had been completed. This work was begun by the Five Mile Session and approved by the congregation almost a decade ago. The last piece of that work involves replating the church property into two separate properties. Once that work is signed off on by governing municipalities, the separation will be complete.

At the August meeting or Presbytery, approval was given to the AC to deed the portion of the Five Mile property containing the cemetery and historic sanctuary to the Five Mile Foundation once the proper legal documentation is completed. As soon as that property separation takes place, the remaining property will be listed for sale. A contract offer for the remaining property has been received. It will be reviewed by the AC and Presbytery Trustees and hopefully presented for Presbytery approval at the May 2024 meeting.

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

Dear Jay --

Attached to this email is an overture to the 226th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Our Session at Montevallo Presbyterian Church voted unanimously to send this overture to the next meeting of the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley for discussion and approval. I hope you will find everything in order and will forward this to Bills and Overtures to be included in new business at the next meeting on February 15.

This overture was drafted by the Advocacy Committee of Presbyterians for Earth Care and is being considered for adoption and referral by other presbyteries. Our Earth Care Team at Montevallo presented it to our Session last night (February 4) for its approval, and now the Session sends it to the presbytery for its approval and referral to the General Assembly.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns. If at all possible, I hope this overture can be emailed to commissioners in advance of the meeting.

Thank you for your assistance.

Wishing you Christ's peace,
Sam

cc: Jane Clayton, Clerk of Session, Montevallo Presbyterian Church

Rev. Dr. Samuel Hamilton-Poore, Pastor
he/him/his
Montevallo Presbyterian Church
510 Shelby Street
Montevallo, AL 35115
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Overture: Removal of investments in and subsidies for fossil fuels.

The Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley overtures the 226th General Assembly (2024) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to:

1. DECLARE that continued support of the exploration, development, funding, and exploitation of fossil fuels through investment of PC(USA) funds, violates the equitable welfare of all life and our biblical charge as humanity to care for creation, and is irretrievably incompatible with the mission and goals of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).
2. DECLARE that all publicly traded companies whose primary source of income is derived from the exploration, development and production of fossil fuels are to be placed on the General Assembly's list of prohibited securities.
3. STRONGLY ENCOURAGE all congregations, presbyteries, synods, the Board of Pensions and the Presbyterian Foundation, as well as Church-related educational institutions and individual church members, to align their investment decisions with this declaration with all due speed and diligence.
4. CALL ON all PC(USA) members and institutional investors to seek out investments in clean renewable energy companies.
5. REQUEST reports from the Board of Pensions and the Presbyterian Foundation and other investing entities at the next General Assembly on the steps taken to align their investment decisions with the intent of this overture.
6. CALL ON the U.S. government to end all subsidies for the development and production of fossil fuels.

Rationale:

Our Values: Past General Assemblies have repeatedly stated the vocation of earth care as an essential mark of Christian discipleship and the Church's mission and ministry. Our responsibilities as a faith institution are clear: God created the earth, and it is sacred. The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it. We are a part of and not independent of the created order and are meant to be caretakers and protectors of creation and our neighbors.

Our Reality: We are in the midst of a climate crisis that is primarily caused by the production and burning of fossil fuels which release greenhouse gases, such as methane and carbon dioxide that are warming the planet. The scientific consensus, established over many years and with increasing levels of certitude, is that the

warming of our atmosphere beyond 1.5 degrees Celsius over pre-industrial temperatures will undermine the entire web of life on the planet with catastrophic consequences.

The Solution: In order to avoid this, the Intergovernmental (scientific) Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reported in March 2023, that the nations of the world must cut our carbon emissions by 48% from 2019 levels by 2030 and reach net-zero carbon emissions by 2050, but last year, as in previous years, these emissions continued to climb. And while the U.S. has recently taken action to bring down its own emissions, we now produce and export more fossil fuels than ever in history. The U.S. also subsidizes the fossil fuel industry with estimates ranging from \$10-50 billion per year, while our northern neighbor, Canada and several other fossil fuel producing countries have announced that they are ending their subsidies.¹

The world has to change the path it is on, but it requires two huge changes. The most critical change is a “fast, full and fair” phase out of fossil fuel production and usage. The second is the rapid expansion of sources of renewable energy. The church’s investments have power and influence which can contribute to these changes and bear witness to the world that we acknowledge the climate crisis, the suffering it is causing and its link to the burning of fossil fuels.

The Denomination is Responding to the Climate Crisis: The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has long recognized its obligation to take actions as faithful stewards of God’s Creation to respond to climate change. The General Assembly actions in 1981, 1998, 1999, 2003, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018 and 2022 acknowledge the realities of global warming and its effect on the “least of these” throughout our world.

The Mission Agency has raised the importance of earth care to a matter of high priority for every part of its programming and the work of our Presbyterian Hunger Program and Earth Care Congregations program are exemplary in their efforts to inform and lead the church in the fulfillment of its mission. In addition, our Office of Public Witness became a sponsor of an initiative, to be called the Fossil Fuel Non-proliferation Treaty, launched by the governments of several South Pacific island nations (among the most vulnerable of our brothers and sisters). This initiative is calling for the phase-out of both new and existing sources of fossil fuels.

The Denomination’s Response is Inconsistent: Such educational and advocacy efforts on behalf of our denominational commitment to earth care are undermined by institutional strategies which continue to seek profit from investment in the fossil fuel industry. This practice is hypocritical at a minimum and potentially endangers our evangelistic message and leadership within the ecumenical community of church

¹ <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2023-12-09/us-opts-out-of-dutch-plan-to-end-fossil-fuel-subsidies-at-cop28?leadSource=verify%20wall>

bodies. While the percentage of total investments is small, (3.4% for The Foundation as of December 2023), the dollar value is in tens of millions of dollars. MRTI has begun a company by company divestment review, but the climate crisis is getting worse faster than our actions can bring about significant change.

Further, these PCUSA directed entities not only have a fiduciary duty to conserve and protect the church's assets and return an increase through the investment process, but are also obligated to duties of loyalty and obedience to our mission and established values to the extent allowed by secular law related to such.

Existing Policy Provides Option for Removal of Funds from an Entire Class of Firms: The original founding document from 1984 upon which our Mission Responsibility Through Investment (MRTI) is based, "Divestment Strategy: Principles and Criteria", clearly states that divestment of holdings can be in a particular "firm or class of firms" and that this is both part of the normal management of funds and potentially an occasion for Christian witness to God's call for justice and renewal of society. (Paragraph 25.202) It also states that divestment is a conscious decision to dispose of any current financial stake in an enterprise or 'class of enterprise' because of policy or practice in regard to a social issue and to prohibit future stake so long as the offending situation holds. (Paragraph 25.261) [emphasis and quotation marks added]"

Existing Policy also Provides for Proscription of a Class of Firms: Furthermore, that document identifies that there are some classes of investments which should not be considered because of their nature which is fundamentally and irretrievably incompatible with the nature and purpose of the church. Thus, there is a list of such classes of economic activity which are excluded or "proscribed". This list excludes from our investment portfolio, investment in companies whose primary activity is in production of tobacco products, nuclear weapons, for-profit prisons and a few others.

The Presbyterian Foundation is Moving in the Right Direction: The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has a long history of aligning our corporate investment decisions with our values and enabling our members to do so. In fact, according to our Presbyterian Church Foundation's New Covenant Trust Company's website description for their "Fossil Free Strategy" they have established an instrument specifically "[f]or investors concerned with fossil fuel emissions and climate impact" which "can be configured to exclude the entire energy sector and other firms with a high carbon footprint."

The Path Forward for the Whole Denomination is Not Easy: We understand that the modern world and each of our lives are deeply intertwined with the fossil fuel industry and cannot be easily divorced from it. We live on the continuum between purity of moral conviction and the pragmatic exigencies of the current patterns and practices of the modern world. Yet we must act and act quickly, acknowledging the destructive nature of our fossil fuel investments.

In doing so, we refer the reader to the actions of our last General Assembly in support of communities where the loss of fossil fuel industry jobs will present hardship.

We Must Change: We understand and appreciate the role of our MRTI in encouraging enterprises to alter their practices to align more nearly with our values. However, we also know that there are some enterprises which are fundamentally such that no amount of change in practice will ever bring them into alignment. We feel it is past time for us to name the fossil fuel industry as one of these and existing policy provides for this.

For the sake of the integrity of our denomination's Christian witness, our purpose within the created order, the maintenance of the web of life upon which all humanity depends and our children's children, we must act quickly to withdraw all our resources, regardless of their size, either in dollar amount or percentage of those used, from the production of fossil fuels and to identify fossil fuels as a proscribed class of investments.

THE PRESBYTERY OF SHEPPARDS & LAPSLEY FINANCE REPORT FOR 2023

The year 2023 was a fairly stable, uneventful financial year for the Presbytery of Sheppards & Lapsley. Let us start with :

OPERATING INCOME-

Actual revenues were \$460,060 or (\$13,416) less than plan of \$473,476. This revenue reduction resulted from a combination of a reductions - (\$14,640) in Per Capita Income, a (\$8,926) reduction in Mission Giving accounts, and a (\$4,369) in Birmingham UKirk revenues. Partially offsetting these reduced revenues were unbudgeted lease revenues of \$17,605.

Operating Expenses were \$474,509 or right in line with the plan of \$473,477. Total Council Expenses were higher than plan by (\$8,757) but were offset by lower ENC expenses, which were \$12,185 better than plan.

Operating net income at Year End 2023 was a loss of (\$14,449) due primarily to the lower revenues mentioned above.

OTHER REVENUES AND EXPENSES-

Below Operating revenues and expenses are Other Revenues of \$30,147 in Notes Receivables interest and \$24,747 in Investment income revenues. Year-end Investments balance was \$1,109,179. Other expenses included Legal fees of \$570 and Living River donations of \$33,515.

Adding this Other income and expenses to Operating Income nets a total bottom line of \$6,360.

During 2023, as we do every year, our finance group also updated Appendix II of the Standing Rules, the Manual of Financial and Accounting Procedures. We looked at the original purpose and history of our restricted funds to identify which funds, based on their original intent and history, could be available for Presbytery growth needs.

Date : 01/31/2024

Time : 9:17:56 AM

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

Appendix A-21

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	\$38,797.04	\$21,183.61	\$252,843.30	\$254,202.00	(\$1,358.70)	\$254,202.00
NCD Assistance	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Mission Giving-Income	\$2,908.28	\$1,851.88	\$24,929.82	\$22,223.00	\$2,706.82	\$22,223.00
Per Capita Income	\$10,943.37	\$16,420.88	\$182,411.34	\$197,051.00	(\$14,639.66)	\$197,051.00
Total Revenues	\$52,648.69	\$39,456.37	\$460,184.46	\$473,476.00	(\$13,291.54)	\$473,476.00
Expenses						
Council						
Council Expenses-Other	\$10,500.00	\$793.75	\$20,000.00	\$9,525.00	(\$10,475.00)	\$9,525.00
Salaries & Allowances						
Executive Presbyter	\$10,185.57	\$10,469.63	\$124,433.91	\$125,636.00	\$1,202.09	\$125,636.00
Missional Development Exec	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Administrative Salaries	\$900.00	\$300.00	\$3,600.00	\$3,600.00	\$0.00	\$3,600.00
Benefits - Administration	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Staff Expenses	\$3,453.85	\$350.00	\$3,684.13	\$4,200.00	\$515.87	\$4,200.00
Total Salaries & Allowances	\$14,539.42	\$11,119.63	\$131,718.04	\$133,436.00	\$1,717.96	\$133,436.00
Council Vocation Committees	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Council	\$25,039.42	\$11,913.38	\$151,718.04	\$142,961.00	(\$8,757.04)	\$142,961.00
Development	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Equip, Nurture, Connect						
Other ENC Expenses	\$0.00	\$1,916.63	\$10,814.64	\$23,000.00	\$12,185.36	\$23,000.00
Total Equip, Nurture, Connect	\$0.00	\$1,916.63	\$10,814.64	\$23,000.00	\$12,185.36	\$23,000.00
Mission	\$0.00	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00
UKirk Birmingham	\$1,843.99	\$2,460.76	\$32,124.33	\$29,530.00	(\$2,594.33)	\$29,530.00
Trustees	\$3,877.12	\$4,867.74	\$57,302.28	\$58,412.00	\$1,109.72	\$58,412.00
Anti-Racism	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Presbytery Per Capita Expenses						
Stated Clerk & Moderator	\$4,132.84	\$2,186.85	\$27,950.62	\$26,240.00	(\$1,710.62)	\$26,240.00
Presbytery Commissions	\$0.00	\$516.74	\$3,590.70	\$6,200.00	\$2,609.30	\$6,200.00
Asst.to Stated Clerk/Ofc Mgr	\$5,094.37	\$4,982.87	\$60,540.09	\$59,794.00	(\$746.09)	\$59,794.00
Total Presbytery Per Capita Expenses	\$9,227.21	\$7,686.46	\$92,081.41	\$92,234.00	\$152.59	\$92,234.00
Per Capita-Expenses	\$14,458.18	\$8,734.75	\$105,550.56	\$104,817.00	(\$733.56)	\$104,817.00
Mission Giving-Expenses	\$2,908.28	\$1,851.88	\$24,929.82	\$22,223.00	(\$2,706.82)	\$22,223.00
Total Expenses	\$57,354.20	\$39,456.60	\$474,521.08	\$473,477.00	(\$1,044.08)	\$473,477.00
Net Operating Total	(\$4,705.51)	(\$0.23)	(\$14,336.62)	(\$1.00)	(\$14,335.62)	(\$1.00)
Other Revenues						
Designated Income (Loss)	\$14,896.62	\$0.00	\$24,746.88	\$0.00	\$24,746.88	\$0.00
Gain on Debt Forgiveness	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Other Revenues	\$17,391.35	\$0.00	\$54,893.60	\$0.00	\$54,893.60	\$0.00
Other Expenses						
Total Other Expenses	\$2,792.89	\$0.00	\$34,084.68	\$0.00	(\$34,084.68)	\$0.00
Net Total	\$9,892.95	(\$0.23)	\$6,472.30	(\$1.00)	\$6,473.30	(\$1.00)

UKirk Birmingham February 2024 Presbytery Report

UKirk had its first UKirk Thursday back since the holidays on 1/25 and it was a Spirituality (worship) night led by Rev. Joe Genau. We have many upcoming UKirk Thursdays and other events this semester, and we are still in need of dinner sponsors. To see a full list of what we have planned visit our instagram by following the appropriate QR code below. Additionally, if you would like to provide for one of our UKirk Thursday meetings there is also a QR code below that will direct you to the sign-up website. If you have any questions or have any service opportunities UKirk could be involved in please reach out to Madison Vaughn, Ministry Coordinator, at madison@ukirkbirmingham.org. Thank you for all of your continued support of this important campus ministry.



Instagram



Dinners Sign-Up



Keenan Rodgers
Church Consultant

m: 215-341-8143

krodgers@pensions.org

January/February 2024

Appendix A-23

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

The Board of Pensions is assessing and restructuring the Benefits Plan of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to meet the needs of a changing Church. Our goal is to provide more flexibility and cost control for congregations as they care for the well-being of their pastoral leadership. Our hope is for all ministers and employees in the PC(USA) to be plan members. The Board of Directors will vote on a new Benefits Plan structure in early March. [Read about recommendations for the new plan.](#)

New Benefits Connect system now available

The new Benefits Connect system offers enhanced features and updated design and navigation to benefit church employers as well as individual members, both active and retired. Every user must register a new login for the new Benefits Connect. We encourage members and church employers to do so as soon as possible. Any who need assistance with the new system should contact Member or Employer Services, at 800-773-7752. An updated [employer guide for Benefits Connect](#) is available.

Other important information:

The Assistance Program: As part of our commitment to mutual care and wholeness, the Board of Pensions continues to expand access to the Assistance Program to serve more ministers, employees, retirees, and surviving spouses who have financial need. [Read about potential grant opportunities.](#)

Remember to update Effective Salaries for the new year: Any changes to effective salaries must be reported to the Board of Pensions via Benefits Connect within 60 days of the effective date. Details about forms of compensation included in effective salary are found in [Understanding Effective Salary.](#)

New Medicare Advantage Plan with Humana has launched: The new plan replaced the former Medicare Supplement Plan for retired members, effective January 1, 2024. We anticipate potential expansion of eligibility in January 2025. [Read more about the Medicare Advantage Plan.](#)



*Please join the Anti-Racism Committee
at*

**By The River-Center for Humanity
1306 Water Avenue
Selma, Alabama
February 15, 2024
2:00 PM**

**CONVERSATIONS OF TRUTH, HOPE & LOVE
HEART TO HEART SOUL TO SOUL EXPERIENCE
We Cannot HEAL What We Are Not Willing To Talk About.
\$15 Per Person**



Using sound, movement, and performance Afriye is able to create an unconventional-healing space to guide participants through the spiritual and emotional releases that can suddenly surface and go unattended during an academic study of the topics of slavery. Each experience ends with an open forum where groups of different races, nationalities, religions, traditions, and ages can talk about the intense pain of slavery and the effects it has on us even today and the spiritual healing of not just African Americans but Humanity itself.