

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*



**Spring Stated Meeting
May 9, 2024**

**Oakmont Chapel Presbyterian Church
Birmingham, AL**

THE PRESBYTERY OF SHEPPARDS AND LAPSLEY
PROPOSED DOCKET / MAY 9, 2024
OAKMONT CHAPEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, BIRMINGHAM, AL

Please silence all cell phones and electronic devices

9:00 AM Registration

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

Omnibus Motion:

1. Approve the minutes of the February 15, 2024, meeting
2. To approve the requests for absences from today's meeting
3. To adopt an "Electronic Meetings Rule" for this meeting so that virtual attendees seeking recognition from the Chair be allowed to unmute themselves and call for the attention of the Moderator for recognition and obtaining the floor.
4. To receive and record the minutes of the Commission to install Rev. Caroline Kelly as Pastor of Grace Presbyterian Church of Tuscaloosa on March 3, 2024.

9:45 AM Welcome from the Host Church Rev. Rachel Winter

Order of Worship

Prelude

†Call to Worship Richard Galbraith

One: In Christ, we are made new

All: And filled with hope.

One: In God, we belong to a new community,

All: Discovering we are friends, sisters and brothers in Christ,

One: In Christ, the old ways have lost their glitter and appeal,

All: For we have turned toward the new light.

One: In God, we receive a new name and a new call;

All: We are God's beloved, and we carry on the ministry of reconciliation.

One: In Christ, we are a new creation.

All: The old is passed away, and we live as signs on reconciliation and love.

†Hymn #14 "For the Beauty of the Earth"

Call to Confession Janet Barnes

Know that the Lord is God. The Lord made us, and we belong to God. We are God's people, the sheep of God's pasture. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

Prayer of Confession

God our shepherd, we confess that we have not followed you faithfully. You gather up the lost and least while we scatter the poor to the margins. You claim them as beloved people while we hide from neighbors in need. You strengthen those who are weak while we neglect the most vulnerable. Forgive us, God of grace. Lead us in right paths and restore us to your flock and fold where love and justice reign; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Assurance of God's Forgiveness

Friends, hear this Good News: the love of God is beyond measure, and we are included in that love. Know that we are forgiven and thus freed to love and serve. Alleluia! Amen.

†Passing of the Peace

Prayer for Illumination

Moderator Deborah Thomas

God of glory, enlighten our hearts. Reveal your holy Word to us by the power of your Spirit, that we may trust in your promises and share your abundant grace with all; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Anthem

"Amazing Grace"

arr. Walters

Jonathan Brown, piano/Louise Rose, clarinet

Scripture Sermon

Matthew 7:21-27

Rev. Lukata Mjumbe

"A One Point Sermon"

†Hymn #507

"Come to the Table of Grace"

†Affirmation of Faith—excerpts from the Confession of Belhar

Rev. Rachel Winter

We believe

- **that God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ; that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker, that the church is witness both by word and by deed to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells.**
- **that God's lifegiving Word and Spirit has conquered the powers of sin and death, and therefore also of irreconciliation and hatred, bitterness and enmity, that God's lifegiving Word and Spirit will enable the church to live in a new obedience which can open new possibilities of life for society and the world;**
- **that the credibility of this message is seriously affected and its beneficial work obstructed when it is proclaimed in a land which professes to be Christian, but in which the enforced separation of people on a racial basis promotes and perpetuates alienation, hatred and enmity;**
- **that any teaching which attempts to legitimate such forced separation by appeal to the gospel, and is not prepared to venture on the road of obedience and reconciliation, but rather, out of prejudice, fear, selfishness and unbelief, denies in advance the reconciling power of the gospel, must be considered ideology and false doctrine.**

Invitation to the Offering

Richard Galbraith

We have a glorious inheritance among the saints through the generosity and grace of God. Let us share this great abundance with others, sharing our gifts with those in need and offering our lives in Christ's service.

Prayer of Dedication

Moderator Deborah Thomas

We give you thanks, O God, that you are at work among us—lifting up those who are poor, casting down the power of evil, and raising the dead to life. Strengthen us in faith, that we may rejoice in hope and live to share your love; through Christ, who is all in all. Amen.

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Rev. Rachel Winter and Rev. Lukata Mjumbe

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Communion of the People

Prayer After Communion

†Hymn #757

"Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples"

Service of Commissioning to 226th General Assembly

Moderator Deborah Thomas

Ruling Elder Debra Love, Teaching Elder Nick Reed, and YAAD Abby Bunn

†Benediction

Rev. Lukata Mjumbe

Ministry Within Our Presbytery

10:45 AM Executive Council (pages 7-14)

Referral from Bills and Overtures Committee: Linda Harris, Nick Reed, Allen Scarbrough

a. Vote whether to concur with overture [OVT-013] "On removal of investments in and subsidies for fossil fuels"; Montevallo Session and Susquehanna Valley Presbytery; (pages 9-12)

b. Vote whether to concur with [OVT-016] "On Amending Book of Order G-2.1002 on Use of Commissioned Pastors" from Palo Duro Presbytery. (pages 13-14)

11:45 AM Report from representatives to Synod of Living Waters Judith Baldwin & Sharon Schuler
(pages 15-16)

12:00 AM Lunch & more Good News from Churches

1:00 PM Commission on Ministry (pages 17-53) Carl Martin

Action Items:

- 1. Approve the Rev. Bruce McLendon to be declared Honorably Retired.**
- 2. Approve the Rev. Richard Hanna to be declared Honorably Retired.**
- 3. Approve terms of call for the Rev. In Chan Bae, installed pastor of Korean Presbyterian Church of Birmingham. (pages 18-19)**
 - a. Effective Salary, \$45,000.00; Board of Pensions Dues, \$17,550.**
 - b. At its May 2023 stated meeting, this body examined and approved the Rev. Bae to serve as pastor for the Korean Presbyterian Church of Birmingham; however, the COM neglected to present terms of call at that time.**
 - c. Rev. Bae was installed on August 13, 2023.**
- 4. Examine and approve the Rev. Lukata Mjumbe, Executive Director of the Alabama African American Civil Rights Heritage Sights Consortium, for Validated Ministry within Sheppards and Lapsley. (pages 50-53)**

1:35 PM Commission on Preparation for Ministry (pages 56-61) Nicole Newton

For Action:

The CPM recommends that Inquirers Teddy Vaughn and Daniel Killilea be advanced to the Candidacy stage of the ordination process. (statements pages 57-61)

1:50 PM	Mission Coordinator (pages 62-63)	Ralls Coston
2:00 PM	Anti Racism Committee (pages 64-65)	Tom Bryson
2:10 PM	Presbyterian Home for Children	Cindy Fisher
		Director of Communication and Mission Outreach
2: 20 PM	Living River (pages 66-69)	Rachel VanKirk Mathews
2: 25 PM	Presbyterian Women (pages 70-72)	Kathy Tracey
2: 35 PM	Nominating (page 73)	Rick Atkerson

The Committee nominates the following to fill terms as indicated:

- 1. Commission on Ministry - unexpired term Class of 2024: Lee Cleveland, South Highland**
- 2. Permanent Judicial Commission - full terms (six years) Class of 2029: Robert Posey, Independent; James Tucker, FPC Tuscaloosa**

2:50 PM	Stated Clerk (pages 74-81)	Jay Wilkins
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For action: from the AC for Five Mile Presbyterian Church:

The Administrative Commission for Five Mile Presbyterian Church requests permission to accept, if the way be clear, a cash offer of \$200,000 for the remaining portion of the Five Mile property. The potential buyer is Pentecostal Temple, LLC, who plans to constitute a worshipping congregation on the site as well as a day care / pre-school. The property is perfectly suited to continue to serve families in the neighborhood. The AC requests permission to have all documents related to sale and closing reviewed by PSL Trustees and be given the authority to execute the contracted sale if the way be clear. (page 75)

New Business from Bills and Overtures

3:00 PM	Adjournment with Prayer	Moderator Deborah Thomas
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†Please stand, if able

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

We wish to extend a special thank you to Rev. Rachel Winter, the staff, and the volunteers of Oakmont Chapel for hosting today's Presbytery meeting. We would also like to thank Richard Galbraith, Janet Barnes, Jonathan Brown, Louise Rose, Rev. Lukata Mjumbe, and Deborah Thomas for participating in today's worship service. As always, our Tech Team helper, Robert Newman.

**Next Stated Meeting – August 15, 2024
Mountain Brook Presbyterian Church, Birmingham**

**Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley
COMMISSIONING SERVICE
226th General Assembly Commissioners
Ruling Elder Debra Love
Teaching Elder Nick Reed
Young Adult Advisory Delegate Abby Bunn**

SENTENCES OF SCRIPTURE

Moderator: For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

All: There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.

Moderator: 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.

All: 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.

Moderator: 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.

All: The great ends of the church are the proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind; the shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God; the maintenance of divine worship; the preservation of the truth; the promotion of social righteousness; and the exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world.

Moderator: The call of Christ is to willing, dedicated discipleship. Our discipleship is a manifestation of the new life we enter through baptism. Discipleship is both a gift and a commitment, an offering and a responsibility. 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 that serve Christ. God has called you to particular service. Commissioners and delegate, show your purpose by answering these questions.

Moderator: Who is your Lord and Savior?

Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior.

Moderator: Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his Word and showing his love?

I will, with God's help.

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

I do.

Moderator: 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.

Moderator: Do we, members the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley, accept these women and men as commissioners and delegates to the 226th General Assembly, chosen by God through the voice of the church, to guide us in the way of Jesus Christ?

We do.

Do we promise to support and encourage them as they seek to fulfill their responsibilities in this ministry?

We do.

COMMISSIONING PRAYER

All: Almighty God, in Jesus Christ you called disciples and, by the Holy Spirit, made them one church to serve you. Be with members of the 226th General Assembly. Help them to welcome new things you are doing in the world and to respect old things you keep and use. In their deliberation, bring about what is best for us and for all people. As they meet, let your Holy Spirit guide so that the whole church may be joined in love and service to Jesus Christ, who, having gone before us, is coming to meet us in the promise of your kingdom. Amen.

CHARGE

Moderator: You are commissioned to service as commissioners and delegate of the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley to the 226th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God through him.

BLESSING

Moderator: 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.

All: Alleluia! Amen.

Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley Anti-Racism Committee

Statement on DEI Law in Alabama

On March 20, 2024, Governor Kay Ivey signed into law Senate Bill 129. This new state law prohibits Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) offices in the state's universities. It will become effective on October 1, 2024.

As Christians in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), serving in Central Alabama, we humbly and prayerfully submit that this law is a regrettable overreaction to genuinely difficult questions about history, race, and equality. Whatever the real complications involved, those issues can be addressed without the overreach of outlawing and defunding DEI offices. Indeed, we cannot escape the conclusion that this law is political scapegoating providing instead of political leadership for tackling the deep, historic challenges of economic, racial, and gender equality in our state. These challenges continue to be exacerbated by our state's unwillingness to invest in underserved, under-resourced communities.

As believers in Christ committed to obey our Lord's command for care of the least of these (Matthew 25:31-46), we call on our elected officials in Alabama to reject pandering, partisan politics. Instead, we pray for careful consideration of policies that will withstand the Judgment Seat of Christ (1 Corinthians 3:10-15; 2 Corinthians 5:10).