

Presbytery of
Sheppards and Lapsley
COMMISSIONER PACKET



Winter Stated Meeting
February 20, 2025

*First Presbyterian Church
100 West Bridge Street
Wetumpka, AL 36092*

(334) 567-8135

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR THE UPCOMING FEBRUARY PRESBYTERY MEETING

This Presbytery meeting will be a Hybrid meeting (in person/zoom) at First Presbyterian Church, Wetumpka, AL. **We strongly encourage you to attend in person. It is our intent to provide a hybrid meeting through zoom. We cannot guarantee internet access but, we do expect it to work.**

Below are important details regarding registration link, link for the Presbytery meeting and packet link.

Information for ALL Presbytery meeting participants

Presbytery Registration (No later than Friday, February 14, 2025)

Please use the link below to register for the meeting. It is very important that you register by February 14th, no later than noon. This is so we can get an accurate number for a quorum, lunch reservations and so that admission from the waiting room goes smoothly.

<https://forms.gle/q5K4Q7BLfGZsFjii6>

Packet Link

Ministers and Commissioners, please download and read the presbytery packet before the meeting. Click the following link for the packet: <http://pslpcusa.org/meetings/>

Scroll to the bottom of the page and click the links for the packet and the previous meeting minutes.

A Worship folder will be sent out the day before the meeting.

Information for Zoom participants only

Presbytery meeting Zoom link - We strongly encourage you to attend in person.

For the day of Presbytery, February 20th beginning at 9:00 AM (see link below) The actual meeting will begin at 9:30 AM. (As you enter, you will start in the "waiting room." Please be patient - you'll be brought into the main room as soon as possible.)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84538560426?pwd=cd56BJQVPcsabS2R8U26bQuBiMEmlb.1>

Meeting ID: 845 3856 0426

Passcode: 330056

You may also join us via telephone call. To call in, dial - 1 312 626 6799

In person participants – please review pages 2-3

ATTENDING A PRESBYTERY MEETING

As a Commissioner to the Presbytery, we welcome you! When you arrive, there will be a registration area for those that did not register online. **(Please fill out a registration card even though you registered online)** Worship folders and nametags will be available for pickup.

The meeting time of Presbytery is 9:30 AM until 3:00 PM., with registration beginning at 9:00 a.m. All the business of the Presbytery is contained in this packet.

The packet will detail items that you, as a commissioner, will need to take action upon and items for your information. Some items will have discussion, and some items will be contained within an omnibus motion. All items in the omnibus motion are voted on at one time, during the Clerk's report. As a commissioner, if you desire to ask a question or debate any item you need to stand at the time of the motion's presentation and request that item be extracted. The item will then be removed and voted upon separately. Information items come from various committees and entities of the Presbytery that wish to inform you of things they are working on or committee actions they are empowered to take.

On the day of the meeting, a worship folder will be distributed. This worship folder will contain, in order, all the items that will be presented to the commissioners. The difference between the packet and the worship folder is that the worship folder will not have supplemental material, such as faith statements, addendum and resource items. The packet and worship folder are meant to go hand in hand to help you with the flow and business of the meeting.

Please read the introductory items in the packet. These items contain information about parking, directions to the meeting, how to make motions if you wish, and information on parliamentary process.

The meetings of Presbytery have been designed to provide opportunities for the community to worship and discuss issues together, as well as do the business that is before it for consideration.

Again, welcome!

GUIDELINES FOR PARTICIPATING IN PRESBYTERY MEETINGS

1. When speaking at Presbytery, please address the Moderator and not the body. (Zoom: Raise your hand)
2. Introduce yourself, by stating your name, church and role.
3. Our rules are that each speaker during debate has up to two minutes to address the issue to which they are speaking. The Moderator may give a 30-second warning, so that you may conclude your remarks.
4. Only enrolled commissioners are authorized to vote on issues. Corresponding members are entitled to address the Presbytery.
5. Any motion made from the floor (be it a new motion, a substitute motion or an amended motion) must be given to the Stated Clerk in writing, at the time the motion is made. (Zoom: Through Chat room)
6. Any new business must be placed in the hands of the Stated Clerk, **before** the approval of the docket. (Zoom: through the chat room by 11:00 AM)

SAVE THE DATES FOR 2025 PRESBYTERY MEETINGS

February 20	First, Wetumpka Presbyterian Church	9:30 AM – 3:00 PM
May 15	Grace Presbyterian, Tuscaloosa	9:30 AM – 3:00 PM
August 21	First, Birmingham Presbyterian Church	9:30 AM – 3:00 PM
November 20	Edgewood Presbyterian Church	9:30 AM – 3:00 PM

GENERAL NOTES FOR THIS MEETING

1. The offering for this meeting will go to the **Commission on Preparation for Ministry's scholarship fund and the Presbytery Pastoral Care fund**. Please make checks payable to *Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley* or you may use the *QR code to the right*. Please indicate your donation as "*Presbytery offering*".
2. Requests for an **excused absence** from today's meeting should be addressed to the Stated Clerk, Jay Wilkins at statedclerk@pslpcusa.org or 205-978-0320, ext. 305.
3. Please contact Tammy Strickland at tstrickland@pslpcusa.org by Friday, February 14, 2025 to reserve **display space (tables) for this meeting**.



Scan. Pay. Go.

Please turn in your hanging name badge when the meeting is concluded.

STAY CONNECTED

If you would like to receive the Presbytery newsletter, please contact Tammy at tstrickland@pslpcusa.org. For more information about the Presbytery, please visit our website at <http://www.pslpcusa.org>.

LUNCH

First Presbyterian Church, Wetumpka is graciously preparing lunch (\$10) for attendees of this meeting (**cash or check only**). Please purchase tickets during registration. Make checks for lunch payable to **First Presbyterian Church, Wetumpka**.

DIRECTIONS to FIRST, WETUMPKA

You can GPS to the address below
First Presbyterian
100 West Bridge Street, Wetumpka, AL 36092

From the South:

Take US Hwy 231 North towards Wetumpka
Turn left onto South Main Street
Cross the river bridge and the church is immediately on your right

From the North:

Take I – 65 South towards Montgomery
Take exit 205 at Clanton
Turn left onto US Hwy 31 South
After 7 miles, turn left onto AL Hwy 143 South
After 7 miles, turn left onto AL Hwy 111 South
Drive 16 miles and the church will be on your right

From the East:

Take US Hwy 231 South towards Montgomery
Turn right onto US Hwy 14 West
Turn Left onto AL Hwy 111 / North Bridge Street
Church will be on your right at the end of North Bridge Street

From the West:

Take US Hwy 14 East towards Wetumpka
At the flashing caution light, stay straight onto West Bridge Street
Church will be on your left as you approach the bridge

PARKING

There are parking lots from North Bridge Street and from West Bridge Street. Both lots have handicapped access to the building. Please park in either lot and follow the signs for meeting registration.

**Proposed Presbytery Meeting Docket
February 20, 2025
First Presbyterian Church of Wetumpka, AL**

9:00 AM Registration

9:30 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. To approve the minutes of the November 21, 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 approve the minutes of the Commission of the Presbytery to install the Rev. Joe Genau as Pastor of the new Edgewood Presbyterian Church on February 16, 2025.
5. To accept these invitations to host meetings of the Presbytery: on May 15, 2025, at Grace Church of Tuscaloosa; on August 21, 2025, at the First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham; and on November 20, 2025, at Edgewood Church

9: 45 Welcome from Host Church Jonathan Yarboro
Service of Worship and Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
Necrology
Installation of Moderator Jonathan Yarboro and Vice Moderator Terry Hamilton-Poore
Presentation of stole and gavel
Words from Retiring Moderator Deborah Thomas
Words from New Moderator Jonathan Yarboro
Election of Bills and Overtures Committee 2025: Jonathan Yarboro

11: 00 Executive Council Deborah Thomas

1. Good News from Matthew 25 Congregations: FPC Bham
The Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley is a Matthew 25 Presbytery where:
We do hereby commit to become a Matthew 25 mid council. We pledge to encourage 20% or more of our congregations to become Matthew 25 churches and embrace these areas of focus: Building congregational vitality; Dismantling structural racism; Eradicating systemic poverty. We promise to keep track of the impact of our ministry and share our stories with the PC(USA) from time to time.

11:30 2. Anti-Racism Committee

11:50 Report of Commissioners to the Synod of Living Waters Judith Baldwin & Sharon Schuler

12:00	Lunch	
1:00 PM	Bills & Overtures Committee	Nick Reed
1: 30	General Presbyter's Report	Sue Westfall
1: 40	Commission on Ministry	Carl Martin
2:00	Mission Congo Mission Partnership & Network Conference	Ralls Coston
2:15	Nominating	Rick Atkerson
2:25	Living River	Jenny Thagard
2:35	Presbyterian Home for Children	Doug Marshall
2:45	Stated Clerk Reports from Administrative Commissions: Anniston FPC; Birmingham, Second; Montgomery, Providence New Business from Bills & Overtures	Jay Wilkins
3:00 PM	Adjournment with Prayer	Moderator Jonathan Yarboro

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. **Jonathan and Terry** 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 Jonathan and Terry 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 **Jonathan and Terry** 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

Jonathan and Terry 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



PRESBYTERY OF SHEPPARDS AND LAPSLEY EXECUTIVE COUNCIL REPORT

Class of 2025

Leann Scarbrough*
Joe Scrivner*
Deborah C. Thomas

Class of 2026

Jothany James
Neil McCarter*
Wendy Tucker
Jonathan Yarboro*

Class of 2027

Tom Bryson*
Terri Moon Jones
Donna Winn
Terry Hamilton-Poore*

The Executive Council met on January 21, 2025.

After reviewing the duties and responsibilities of the executive council and conducting an annual review of accomplishments in the previous year, strategic goals for 2025 were identified. The Executive Council also affirmed the Presbytery's commitment to the **Matthew 25 Initiative** and identified opportunities for ecumenical growth.

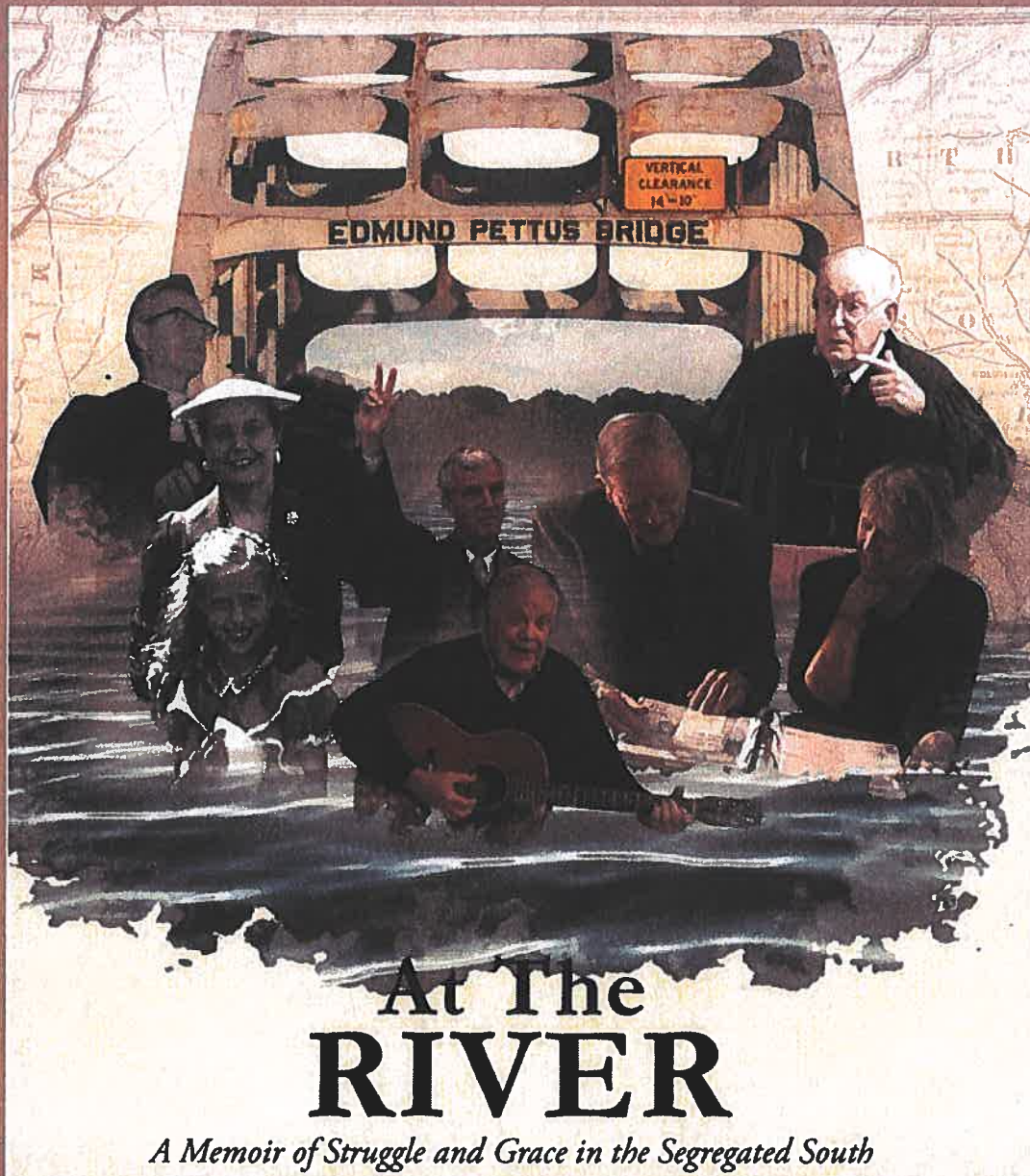
Strategic Goals for 2025 that were approved by the executive council include the following action items.

- Schedule Bills and Overtures Informational Webinar (The Presbytery will vote at the February Meeting.)
- Receive Recommendations from the Transition/Search Committee for a Transitional Plan (General Presbyter and Stated Clerk).
- Receive Recommendations from New Commission (Management of Property Assets).
- Receive Recommendations on the Reimagined Framework for UKirk of Birmingham.
- Fill Vacancy for Living River Board of Directors.
- Identify strategic priorities for the Matthew 25 Initiative.
- Schedule a Pastors Retreat.
- Participate as a sponsor of the Congo Partnership Conference at Stillman College in October.
- Support mission initiatives (Habitat for Humanity and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance).
- Support strategic priorities identified by the Wilcox County Task Force.
- Provide online training for the Anti-Racism Initiative.
- Coordinate Youth Retreats (February and Summer)

The Executive Council approved Leann Scarbrough to serve on the Living River Board of Directors, beginning January 2025.

Deborah C. Thomas, Executive Council Moderator

Hosted by the Anti-Racism Committee
of Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley



At The RIVER

A Memoir of Struggle and Grace in the Segregated South

Sunday, April 6th

3pm

Southminster Presbyterian Church

Dinner and Discussion to Follow

Dinner: \$10/person

To register, email betsy@southminsterpcusa.org or call (205)

822-1124

Attendance counts towards the Presbytery's anti racism training.

**SYNOD OF LIVING WATERS
2025 ANNUAL MEETING
January 27, 2025 at First Presbyterian Church, Franklin, TN**

The meeting was called to order with prayer by the Moderator, the Rev. Dr. Ann Laird Jones. Worship and the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was led by **the Rev. Dr. Victor Aloyo, President of Columbia Theological Seminary, preaching.** Dr. Aloyo brought an inspiring sermon about the power of the Holy Spirit working in our congregations today in many and different ways.

After worship the meeting continued with two corporate workshops. The first, **"Budget and Stewardship as Mission"** was presented by Rev. Dana Waters, Ministry Relations Officer with the Presbyterian Foundation. Dana made the facts and figures come alive for those of us in attendance! He focused on "Cultivating Generosity in the Church" through telling our stories, giving interesting suggestions for successful outcomes, reaching beyond the often mundane discipline commonly named "stewardship" in the church. He included helpful checklists for telling our stories well, ways to make it easy for people to give, keys to success, budget best practices, and starting a Legacy Giving Program. We have secured a copy of Dana's power point slide presentation which will be available from the Presbytery Office. We encourage all sessions and congregations to use this presentation in planning for generous giving in your churches. Even better, invite Dana to present this workshop in person to your congregation - it will be well-worth the time!

The second workshop, **"Disaster Preparedness"**, was presented by Rev. Nell M. Herring, Associate for Volunteer Ministries of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.
(Report from Judith Baldwin)

The business meeting portion of the day began with greetings from General Assembly Entity Representatives:

- Keenan Rodgers and Clark Simmons, Board of Pensions: Highlighted a Shared Ministry Program to ease the transition in dues for small churches over a five-year period, and a new mental health association with "no dues on dues" for Presbyters and Stated Clerks.
- Lauren Rogers, PCUSA: There will be a reduction in the number of special offerings in 2026 from four down to three.
- Tanner Pickett, Montreat Conference Center: After the hurricane damage, regular programming has resumed; prayers and donations are still needed as they work with a long-term recovery group.

And from Covenant Partners:

- Rev. Julie Bailey, Columbia Theological Seminary: Ministry to students focusing on trauma counseling.
- Doug Marshall, Presbyterian Home for Children: Caminos program for refugee resettlement; Union Village for deaf and blind.
- Rev. Beatrix Weil, Rhodes College: Interfaith conversations about democracy.

- Dr. Burton Webb, University of Pikeville: Established a dental school in Eastern, KY; Work has begun on a wellness clinic and athletic park on campus.
- Kathleen Farnham, Maryville College: 1st college in America (50 years) teaching American Sign Language which is now recognized as a high school language choice in TN.
- Dr. Mark McCormick, Stillman College: Class exchange with University of Alabama; Host for the Congo Mission Conference in October.

Reports of Officers and Entities:

- Moderator, Rev. Dr. Ann Laird Jones:
 - Lifted up the Virtual Voice focus on “Recovery, Restoration, and Rebirth”.
 - Virtual Voice is looking for reporters from each presbytery.
- Stated Clerk, Rev. Dr. Gregory Goodwiller: Written report attached.
- Financial Administrator, Vicki Schramm: the 2024 end of the year financial report was received.
- Presbyterian Women, Rev. Kirsten King:
 - Over 800 attended the Churchwide Gathering in St. Louis, MO.
 - Mission Haven, established in 1951 jointly by the Synod of Living Waters and the Synod of South Atlantic, may face some changes due to cut-backs on mission workers.
 - 2025 Triennial Gathering at St. Simon’s Island, GA will be a joint meeting of the two synods on October 17-19, 2025.
- Living Waters for the World, Steve Young:
 - 32 years, 2600 people trained by CWU, 1100 communities in 28 nations served.
 - Whole church curriculum for all ages available.
 - Legacy Funding opportunity: 5% to LWW.
- Administrative Board, Susan Sumrall:
 - Adoption of the 2025 Synod Budget, including a 2 ½% increase in staff salaries.
 - Election of Stated Clerk: Rev. Dr. Gregory Goodwiller elected to an initial three-year term.
 - No change in synod per capita rate for 2025; remains \$3.98.
 - The next meeting of the Synod of Living Waters is set for January 26, 2026 to be held electronically via Zoom or other appropriate technology.
- Nominations and Representation Committee, Rev. Lina Hart:
 - Election of Carol Raby Copeland as the Moderator of the Synod.
 - List of other offices filled attached.

Outgoing Moderator, Rev. Dr. Ann Laird Jones, installed the new Moderator and Stated Clerk.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer by new Moderator, Carol Copeland.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Sharon Schuler, HR
Presbytery Commissioner to Synod

Synod of Living Waters 2025 Proposed Budget

	2022 Year End	2023 Y/E	2024 Budget	2025 Proposed	
Income					
Giving					
1-4100 Per Capita Giving	\$254,382.69	\$235,709.00	\$255,070.00	\$247,640.00	-7,430.00
1-4105 Unified Giving	\$54,550.05	\$44,492.00	\$60,000.00	\$53,000.00	-7,000.00
1-4110 Prior Yr Per Capita & Unified	\$5,071.53	\$22,088.00	\$20,000.00	\$25,000.00	5,000.00
1.4150-61 Interest, Dividends, Unrealized, Transfers	\$46,494.81	\$49,375.00	\$49,000.00	\$50,000.00	1,000.00
Total Giving	\$360,499.08	\$351,664.00	\$384,070.00	\$375,640.00	
Expense					
Council Expenses					
1-5001 Synod Meeting	\$352.62	\$3,759.00	\$500.00	\$3,800.00	3,300.00
1-5003 Permanent Judicial Commission	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	
1-5004 Corporation Renewal	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$23.00	\$23.00	
1-5010 Minutes Printing	\$376.60	\$380.00	\$350.00	\$0.00	
1-5011 Executive Hosting and Gathering	\$7,162.75	\$6,566.00	\$7,000.00	\$7,000.00	
1-5012 Administrative Board	\$0.00	\$1,073.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	
1-5013 Executive Hosting	\$946.52	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
1-5020 Leadership Formation - Pres Execs	\$7,962.50	\$250.00	\$5,000.00	\$2,500.00	-2,500.00
1-5099 Contingency	\$4,653.00	\$1,500.00	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	
Total Governing Body	\$21,453.99	\$13,528.00	\$17,873.00	\$18,323.00	
Office					
1-5101 Telephone	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
1-5102 Insurance	\$2,271.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
1-5103 Postage	\$74.81	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
1-5104 Audit Fees	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
1-5105 Equipment	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
1-5106 Bank Fees and Expenses	\$459.23	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
1-5107 Miscellaneous	\$3,218.20	\$380.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	
1-5108 Office Operations	\$2,467.23	\$3,951.00	\$4,000.00	\$4,500.00	500.00
1-5110 Technology and Services	\$894.00	\$1,877.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,000.00	-500.00
Total Office	\$9,384.47	\$6,208.00	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	
Synod Ministries					
1-5210 Presbyterian Women	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00	
1-5301 East TN. Campus Ministry	\$17,528.76	\$17,529.00	\$17,529.00	\$17,529.00	
1-5302 Holston Campus Ministry	\$8,349.60	\$8,350.00	\$8,350.00	\$8,350.00	
1-5303 Mid-South Campus Ministry	\$14,364.00	\$14,364.00	\$14,364.00	\$14,364.00	
1-5304 Mid-KY Campus Ministry	\$15,800.40	\$15,800.00	\$15,800.00	\$15,800.00	
1-5305 Mid-TN Campus Ministry	\$26,416.92	\$26,417.00	\$26,417.00	\$26,417.00	
1-5306 Mississippi Campus Ministry	\$8,618.40	\$8,618.00	\$8,618.00	\$8,618.00	
1-5307 N. Alabama Campus Ministry	\$928.20	\$928.00	\$928.00	\$928.00	
1-5308 S&L Campus Ministry	\$41,669.28	\$41,670.00	\$41,670.00	\$41,670.00	
1-5309 S. Alabama Campus Ministry	\$11,715.96	\$11,716.00	\$11,716.00	\$11,716.00	
1-5310 St. Andrew Campus Ministry	\$21,500.88	\$21,501.00	\$21,504.00	\$21,504.00	

1-5311	Transylvania Campus Ministry	\$15,800.40	\$15,800.00	\$15,800.00	\$15,800.00	
1-5312	W. KY Campus Ministry	\$15,800.40	\$15,800.00	\$15,800.00	\$15,800.00	
Total Synod Ministries		\$202,993.20	\$202,993.00	\$202,996.00	\$202,996.00	
Advocacy Groups						
1-5317	Cultural Affinity Group	\$1,500.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	
Total Advocacy Groups		\$1,500.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	
Presbytery Partnerships						
1-5397	General Presbytery Partnership Funding	\$0.00	\$3,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$6,000.00	-1,000.00
Total Presbytery Partnerships		\$0.00	\$3,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$6,000.00	
Personnel						
1-5401	Synod Executive Salary	\$42,400.00	\$42,408.00	\$42,400.00	\$43,460.00	1,060.00
1-5403	Synod Executive FICA Salary	\$3,243.92	\$3,244.00	\$3,244.00	\$3,325.00	81.00
1-5404	Synod Executive BOP	\$15,688.06	\$16,570.00	\$15,688.00	\$4,346.00	-11,342.00
1-5406	Synod Executive Travel	\$6,729.86	\$7,677.00	\$10,000.00	\$12,000.00	2,000.00
1-5407	Synod Executive Gatherings/Conferences	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
1-5409	Synod Executive Continuing Education	\$97.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	
1-5421	Stated Clerk Services	\$3,180.00	\$3,180.00	\$3,180.00	\$0.00	-3,180.00
1-5426	Stated Clerk Travel	\$386.12	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	-1,000.00
1-5436	Treasurer Travel	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
1-5441	Administrative Contract Services	\$15,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$35,000.00	\$35,000.00	
1-5461	Financial Administrator Salary	\$36,045.00	\$30,324.00	\$30,320.00	\$31,078.00	758.00
1-5463	Financial Administrator FICA	\$2,779.11	\$2,320.00	\$2,319.48	\$2,377.00	58.00
1-5464	Financial Administrator BOP	\$8,887.20	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
1-5469	Financial Adm. Continuing Edu	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
1-5495	Medical Reimbursement Plan	\$1,561.89	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$4,200.00	3,200.00
1-5496	Staff Development	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Total Personnel		\$135,998.16	\$130,723.00	\$145,151.48	\$136,786.00	
Total General Budgeted Expenses		\$371,329.82	\$359,452.00	\$383,520.48	\$374,605.00	
1-5499	Non Budgeted Misc. Exp.	\$1,400.00				
Net Surplus (Deficit)		(\$12,230.74)	(\$7,788.00)	\$549.52	\$1,035.00	

SYNOD OF LIVING WATERS

Nominations and Representation Committee

Report to Synod – January 27, 2025

The Nominations and Representation Committee will place the following names in nomination for offices and terms as listed. The committee's recruitment process is ongoing, and additional names are expected to be brought to the meeting.

1. **Moderator:** Elder Carol Copeland

Carol Raby Copeland was born in Athens, Alabama where she now resides with her husband of 60 years, Steve. She is the mother of one son Matthew and Gigi to two grandsons. Her hobbies include cooking, flower arranging, boating on Elk River, reading and listening to Americana music. Upon graduating from the University of Tennessee School of Social Work, she embarked on her professional career in social work first in the public sector and then in private practice. She just renewed her social worker license to continue a part time practice specializing in adoption.

A cradle Presbyterian, PC(USA) activities include member and Ruling (resting) Elder at First Presbyterian Church, Athens, Alabama. Carol served as moderator of North Alabama Presbyterian Women for ten years. She served as Moderator of NAP for a term in 2020 and was Moderator of the Mission Haven Board, Decatur, Georgia in 2021. Also in 2021, she served as President of the Board of Trustees for the Alabama Presbyterian Home for Children in 2021 and remains on that Board, presently serving as Secretary. Carol was the organizing moderator for the Tennessee Valley Presbyterian Cursillo. She has NAP's Ruling Elder Commissioner to the Synod of Living Waters for several years.

2. **Vice-Moderator:** *vacant*

3. **Administrative Board Moderator:** Rev. Ann Laird Jones (St. Andrew)

4. **Administrative Board At-Large Members:**

1. Karen White
2. Rev. Anne McKee
3. Hardie Frankel
4. Rev. Brad Palmer
5. Rev. Eugenia Gamble
6. Rev. David Kling

5. **Permanent Judicial Commission, Class of 2026:**

Class of 2026

St. Andrew	Barry Schuster
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Class of 2030

Transylvania:	Anne Chestnut
Mississippi:	Mack Forsyth
East Tennessee:	Rev. Mark Curtis
South Alabama	Rev. Sarah Erickson

6. Nominations and Representation Committee**Class of 2026**

Mid-Kentucky:	Vince Patton
Mid-South:	v
Middle Tennessee:	Rev. Andy Gay

South Alabama:	v
Transylvania:	v

Class of 2028

East Tennessee:	Carrie Nicely
Holston:	v
Mississippi:	v
St. Andrew:	Kevin Magee
Shepp. & Lapsley:	Debbie Feagin
Western Kentucky:	Rev. Matthew Covington

7. Nominations and Representation Committee Moderator:

Rev. David Kling (North Alabama)

SYNOD OF LIVING WATERS

Stated Clerk's Report

January 27, 2025

Items for Information

1. There was one remedial complaint filed in 2024. Following the preliminary ruling issued by the synod's permanent judicial commission officers, the complaint was withdrawn by the complainant.
2. The Synod's 2022 and 2023 minutes have been reviewed by the General Assembly and approved without exception.
3. The Administrative Board (Board) took the following actions at its meetings during 2024:
 - At its meeting on April 11, 2024, the Board approved inviting Dr. Victor Aloyo to preach at the opening worship service of the synod's 2025 annual meeting.
 - Also at the April 11 meeting, the Board endorsed a collaborative partnership between the Synod and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to work in the long term recovery process in Haiti.
 - At its meeting on July 10, 2024, the Board endorsed a Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program (PILP) loan to Springdale Presbyterian Church in Louisville, KY and approved designating up to \$120,000 of its funds invested in PILP for a line of credit that the Buckhorn Home for Children has requested for a "bridge loan" until their federal funding is processed. This designation results in a 1% reduction in the loan rate they are charged.
 - At the July 10, 2024 meeting the Board also approved holding the January 27, 2025 annual meeting of the synod at First Presbyterian Church, Franklin, pending sessional approval.
 - At the October 17, 2024 meeting the Board approved a \$2,500 sponsorship of the Association of Partners in Christian Education (APCE) event that will be held in Memphis TN in January 2025.
 - At its December 5, 2024 meeting the Board authorized the establishment of a transitional ministry training program in the synod, with a planning team composed of James Gale, Wendy Neff, Anne McKee, and Ann Laird Jones, with Greg Goodwiller serving as staff. It is understood that the planning team will develop a budget including funding needs for presentation to the Board at a future meeting.
 - At its December 5, 2024 meeting the Board approved a proposed 2025 budget to recommend for adoption by the synod at its annual meeting, and approved the

recommendation of the Personnel Committee that Greg Goodwiller be elected for an initial three year term as Stated Clerk as presented by the Board in its report.

Item for Action

That the synod concur with the peer reviews of 2023 minutes of the synod's presbyteries and approve them as follows:

East Tennessee – approved without exception

Holston – approved without exception

Middle Tennessee – approved without exception

Mid Kentucky – approved without exception

Mid South – approved without exception

Mississippi – approved without exception

North Alabama – approved with the following exceptions:

1.h. Some of the minutes were labeled "draft" and not signed. Stated Clerk has verified that all were in fact approved in this form at a subsequent presbytery meeting. Final minutes with draft label removed and signed by current clerk are to be submitted to Synod following this report.

2.g. Summary of statistical report not found.

2.j. Reports of commissioners to GA or Synod not found.

St. Andrew – approved without exception

Sheppards & Lapsley – approved without exception

South Alabama – approved without exception

Transylvania – approved without exception

Western Kentucky – approved without exception

BOOK OF ORDER AMENDMENTS RECOMMENDED BY
THE 226TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
AND PRESENTED TO PRESBYTERIES FOR THEIR
AFFIRMATIVE OR NEGATIVE VOTE

SUMMARY

(Full text is available with meeting papers)

AMENDMENT NUMBER	BOO SECTION TO BE AMENDED	SUMMARY
24-A	F-1.0403	The categories <i>gender identity, sexual orientation</i> , be included as protected classes in the Unity in Diversity section of Foundations of Presbyterian Polity
24-B*	G-1.0104	Adds guidelines for other forms of corporate witness (New Worshiping Communities, Immigrant Fellowships etc.) within an adaptable framework rooted in Reformed polity.
24-C	G-2.0104b	Adds Historic Principles of Church Order (F-3.01) and principles of participation and representation (F-1.0403) to required areas for examination for ordination.
24-D	G-2.0504b	Lengthens maximum terms of service for temporary pastoral relationships from twelve months to 36 months
24-E	G-2.0504b	Prohibits non-disclosure agreements at the end of a temporary pastoral relationship
24-F	G-2.0601	Confidential details about a candidate for ministry should be omitted in communicating to the presbytery the need for the approval of alternate means to determine readiness for ministry in areas usually covered by ordination exams
24-G	G-0901	Prohibits non-disclosure agreements when an installed pastoral relationship is dissolved
24-H	G-3-0106	Adds <i>and adults with vulnerabilities</i> to the required child and youth protection policy
24-I	G-3.0302d	Eliminates the need for a concurrence from another presbytery to have business brought before GA (concurrences are still allowed but not required)
24-J	G-3.0501	Revises the formula for determining the number of commissioners presbyteries are to send to GA
24-K	D-7.0501	Makes explicit that, when an allegation of offense is made to a clerk of session or stated clerk, the mandates to report to civil authorities in G-4.0302 must be followed
24-L	D-7.0902b	Mandates that administrative leave be paid

Report of the General Presbyter of the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley February 2025

January is a month of the “changing of the guard” as our committees and commissions welcome new members and, in some cases, elect new moderators. It is a transitional month and I am pleased to report that our presbytery commissions and committees are now up and running to serve the mission of the presbytery. Thank you to all who have said yes to these leadership positions!

In the vein of transitions, at the presbytery meeting in February, we will have the pleasure of thanking our moderator, Deborah Thomas, for her steady hand guiding our work together in 2024. At the conclusion of her Moderator-of-the Presbytery duties, she will spend another year moderating our Executive Council. Meanwhile, we will install our 2025 Moderator, Jonathan Yarboro and vice-moderator, Terry Hamilton-Poore. We are blessed to have such talented and willing leaders!

At the November presbytery meeting, the presbytery created the “New Commission” which is a commission to determine guidelines and processes for congregations to receive funding from the new fund we have developed from the 70% of the proceeds from the sale of church buildings dedicated to the mission of local congregations. By the time of the presbytery meeting, this new commission, moderated by Joe Genau, will have met and be up and running. Stay tuned for developments.

And still in the realm of transitions, with the election of the final nominees at this presbytery meeting, the Transition Team will begin its work. As you recall, the Transition Team (which will elect its moderator at its first meeting) is charged with:

- Conducting a thorough mission study on the presbytery including staffing models, office procedures, committee/commission structure and function, and bylaws as necessary.
- Writing a Ministry Discernment Profile for the presbytery’s approval
- Conducting a national search for a new presbytery leader(s)
- Presenting the candidate(s) for presbytery approval with a hoped for start date of February 2026.

The Transition Team will work with due haste yet do their work thoughtfully and deliberately with the luxury of having Jay Wilkins and myself still very much serving the presbytery until the new leadership is in place.

We have an exciting year ahead of us as we faithfully live out our Matthew 25 mission to “Partner with and equip present and emerging PC (USA) faith communities in central Alabama to serve Christ and our neighbors”.

As ever in prayer,

Sue Westfall

Commission on Ministry Report

Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley

February 2025

Information Items:

1. Thanked the Rev. Sam Hamilton-Poore, Pastor Frankie Tatum, and Pastor Lin Veasey for their years of faithful service to the COM.
2. Approved CRE Carl Martin to serve communion as follows: First of Alexander City on December 1, 2024, December 24, 2024, and February 2, 2025; Southminster on December 29, 2024.
3. Approved the Rev. Rachel Winter, the Rev. Rachel Mathews, and Pastor deNay Kirkpatrick to serve communion at Living River for the Confirmation Retreat on January 25, 2025.
4. Conducted exit interview with the Rev. Nicole Newton who served as Associate Pastor at First of Birmingham prior to accepting a call as Associate Pastor at Independent Presbyterian Church.
5. Elected the Rev. Rachel Winter to serve as COM Clerk.
6. Elected Pastor deNay Kirkpatrick to serve as COM Vice Moderator for 2025 (subject to Executive Council's approval of an amendment to the Standing Rules).

Action Items:

1. Approve the Rev. Chuck Kukal to be declared Honorably Retired.
2. Review and approve revised minimum Terms of Call.
3. Approve the Supply Relationship List for 2025.
4. Approve transfer of the Pinhoti Trail Chaplain ministry from a Validated Ministry of the presbytery to a ministry of Dodson Memorial Presbyterian Church. Pastor David Lyons currently serves as both Trail Chaplain and Pastor of Dodson Memorial.
5. Examine John Schuler, Commissioned Ruling Elder (resume, faith statement, faith journey and letter from Presbytery of Florida attached) and
 - a. welcome his move from Florida Presbytery to Sheppards and Lapsley and
 - b. approve him to serve in Validated Ministry as Co-Director of the CRE Ministry with his spouse, Rev. Sharon Schuler (HR) and
 - c. commission John and Sharon as Co-Directors of the CRE Ministry.
6. Review and approve Terms of Call and installation of the Rev. Joe Genau as the pastor of Edgewood Presbyterian (formed by the merger of Edgewood and Second Presbyterian Churches):
 - a. Effective Salary, \$70,266; Total Cost to Congregation, \$95,989. (Complete Terms of Call included as part of this report.)
 - b. Installation occurring on February 16, 2025, at 4:00 pm.
 - c. Installation commission members: Rev. Jonathan Yarboro, Moderator, Rev. Cecilia Chang, Rev. Dr. Sue Westfall, Rev. Leanne Pearce Reed, Rev. Elizabeth Goodrich, Rev. David Seamon, Ruling Elder Kathy Tracy, Ruling Elder Richard Galbraith, Ruling Elder Mary Clyde Teague, Robert Newman (seated with the commission).

Respectfully submitted,

Carl G. Martin

Moderator

Churches requesting permission to continue supply relationships for 2025:

- a. **Arlington** requests permission to continue their relationship with Cervelma Jones. Terms \$450 each Sunday
- b. **Bethel** requests permission to continue their relationship with Neil McCarter. Terms \$30,000 yr.
- c. **Bold Springs** will not continue their relationship with Chuck Kukal. They will pursue rotating Pulpit Supply
- 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 \$11,100
- g. **Dodson Memorial** requests permission to continue their relationship with David Lyons. Terms \$350 each Sunday
- h. **First Carbon Hill** requests permission to continue their relationship with Ron Wilson. Terms \$15,000 yr.
- i. **First Sylacauga** requests permission to continue their relationship with Charles Sims. Terms \$31,800 yr.
- j. **First United Anniston** requests permission to continue their relationship with Sean McClellan.
- k. **First United Forestdale** requests permission to continue their relationship with Carl Hughes. Terms \$13,00 yr.
- l. **Garden dale** requests permission to continue their relationship with Jeff Bonner. Terms \$17,160 yr.
- m. **Good Hope** requests permission to continue their relationship with Vanessa Nelson.
- n. **Green Pond** requests permission to continue their relationship with Beverly Dodson. Terms \$150 week
- o. **Marion Junction** requests permission to continue their relationship with George Wood.
- p. **Montevallo** requests permission to continue their relationship with Wayne McLaughlin. Terms \$270 each Sunday
- q. **Pisgah** requests permission to continue their relationship with Ira Blanchard. Terms \$3,250 yr.
- r. **Riverchase** requests permission to continue their relationship with Robert Emerick. Terms \$22,248 yr.
- s. **Union Springs** requests permission to continue their relationship with Bill Sauser.
- t. **Valley Creek** requests permission to continue their relationship with David Hodo.
- u. **Westminster, Birmingham** requests permission to continue their relationship with Jerome Bell. Terms \$22,230 yearly.
- v. **Westminster, Tuskegee** requests permission to continue their relationship with Michael Thurman. Terms \$325 per Sunday
- w.

Request to Transfer Ministry

The Session of Dodson Memorial Presbyterian Church, Oxford, AL hereby request the transfer of the ministry of *Trail Chaplain to the Alabama Pinhoti Trail* from a validated ministry of the Presbytery to a ministry of Dodson Memorial Presbyterian Church.

Rationale

- Oxford is located close to the half-way point of the approx. 180-mile-long Alabama Pinhoti Trail.
- The Section closest to Oxford is also the busiest section by far. Section 6 runs through the Cheaha Wilderness Area and through part of Cheaha State Park. These public lands attract a substantial number of visitors from the Birmingham and Atlanta MSAs and from around the US and beyond.
- In the 2023/2024 season, worship services using the name “Church on the Pinhoti” were conducted at various locations along the trail. These services were well attended and attracted a diverse group of participants. Given the length of the trail, some participants could not attend all the worship services because of the distance. The plan for the 2024/2025 season is to target the worship services to a more focused area in the hope of gathering a regular group of worshippers. If the Holy Spirit is willing, the next step would be to encourage the formation of a New Worshipping Community.
- Dodson Memorial Presbyterian Church continues to explore innovative ways to ensure our ministry to this community since the 1850s is sustainable for future generations. Some of the options being explored, such as a dedicated monthly Iona Service and Earth Care ministries, would be relevant to any New Worshipping Community.
- The Trail Chaplain is also the CRE who leads regular weekly worship at Dodson.
- Regular contact with the Session at Dodson enhances the level of accountability to the Trail Chaplain.

If the request is granted:

- The Trail Chaplain and associated ministries will become ministries of Dodson Memorial Presbyterian Church.
- The Trail Chaplain continues to be a volunteer role.
- The Trail Chaplain will continue to bring a ministry of presence to the entire length of the Alabama portion of the trail through section-hiking the whole trail in the fall and spring and will respond to issues as they arise.
- The Trail Chaplain is accountable to the Session of Dodson Memorial Presbyterian Church.
- This arrangement will be reviewed annually.

Signed: Linda Crow, Clerk of Session
Dodson Memorial Presbyterian Church

Date: September 26, 2024

Service for Commissioning of Co-Directors of the CRE/CLP Program

John Schuler, CRE

Rev. Sharon Schuler

Moderator: 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 male and female;

People: for all are one in Christ Jesus.

Moderator: We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us; prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness. (Romans 12:5-8)

People: 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. (Ephesians 4:1-6)

Moderator: Upon recommendation of the Commission on Ministry, the Presbytery has approved John Schuler and Rev. Sharon Schuler for commissioning as Co-Directors of the Commissioned Ruling Elder Program.

Moderator asks the constitutional questions

Moderator: John and Sharon, 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 – to encourage, to teach, to support, and to shepherd those who have been called to serve others. Show your purpose by answering these questions.

Moderator: Who is your Lord and Savior?

John/Sharon: Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior.

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

John/Sharon: 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?

John/Sharon: 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?

John/Sharon: I will, with God's help.

Addresses Presbytery...

- Moderator: Do we, commissioners of Sheppards and Lapsley, confirm the call of God to John and Sharon as Co-Directors of the Commissioned Ruling Elder program, chosen by God through the voice of this presbytery to serve in the name of Jesus Christ?
- People: We do.
- Moderator: Do we promise to support and encourage them as they seek to fulfill their responsibilities in this ministry?
- People: We do.

Commissioning Prayer

- Moderator: Let us pray together.
- People: God of grace, in baptism you have called us to a common ministry as ambassadors of Christ, trusting us with the message of reconciliation. Give us courage and discipline to follow where your servants rightly lead us, that together we may declare your wonderful deeds and show your love to the world; through Jesus Christ, the Lord of all. Amen.
- Moderator: On behalf of the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley, I welcome you to this ministry. May God's Holy Spirit empower you as you share the Good News of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
- And all the people said: Amen.

John W. Schuler
 6088 Terrace Hills Drive
 Birmingham, AL 35242
 (850)218-0660
jwschuler48@gmail.com

Resume

Employment

Presbytery of Florida

8/2013 – 11/2013

Chipley, FL

Interim Administrator/Head of Staff

Serve as Head of Staff; in consultation with the Stated Clerk, implement Presbytery policies, strategies, and programs and communicate, interpret and coordinate with the Stated Clerk of the presbytery the programs, policies and actions of the synod and General Assembly; in consultation with Budget, Finance & Stewardship Team and the treasurer to administer and monitor the budget and contracts; maintain communication with churches in the presbytery, synod, and General Assembly, related ecumenical/interfaith agencies and the general public; check e-mails regularly and forward as appropriate;

Navarre Presbyterian Church

6/2012 – 8/2015

Navarre, FL

Commissioned Ruling Elder

Responsible for all aspects of Sunday worship including but not limited to: weekly sermons, bulletins, hymn selections, sacraments, power point presentation, etc. Pastoral care, counseling, moderate the session, visitation.

EaglesWings – Food Pantry

11/2010 – 11/2011

Monticello, FL

Founder

Filled the need for a community food pantry. I developed a coalition between 3 different local churches for staffing and food donations. Kept track of all aspects of the food pantry: keeping shelves stocked, data base of clients, participation in Second Harvest of the Big Bend, etc.

Presbyterian University Center @ FSU

5/2011 – 7/2011

Tallahassee, FL

Interim Minister

Responsible for maintaining the operations of the Presbyterian University Center during the sabbatical of the full time minister. General administrative duties, contact with students, 'Listening Point' Thursday evening program and other duties as needed.

First Presbyterian Church

9/2006 – 4/2007

Bremen, GA

Supply Pastor

Responsible for all aspects of Sunday worship including but not limited to: Sermons, bulletins, hymn selections, etc. Pastoral care, counseling, moderate meetings, visitation. Short term & long range planning

First Presbyterian Church

6/2005 – 8/2005

Leadville, CO

Supply Pastor

Responsible for all aspects of Sunday worship including but not limited to: Sermons, bulletins, hymn selections, etc. Pastoral care, counseling, visitation, moderate committee meetings. Short term and long range planning

Southwest Iowa Parish

6/2004 – 8/2004

Lenox, IA

Student Pastor/Supervised Ministry

I worked with 5 pastors and 8 churches assisting with Sunday worship, weddings, funerals, visitations and anything that the pastors were involved in doing. I also preached numerous times.

Wellshire Presbyterian Church

1/2003 – 6/2003

Denver, CO

Interim Youth Director

Responsible for the development and implementation of weekly youth group meetings, including lessons and activities. Also helped with all phases of mission trip to Mexico for 50 adults and youth.

First Presbyterian & Calvary Episcopal Churches

9/2001 – 5/2002

Golden, CO

Interim Youth Director

Responsible for the development and implementation of weekly youth group meetings, including lessons and activities.

Responsible for combining two church youth groups into one cohesive youth group respecting and honoring the tradition of two different denominations.

Started with approximately 12 youth (ages 11 to 18) with no mailing list or history. Within 9 months, the program had expanded into two youth groups (15 - Junior High - ages 11 to 13) & (20 - Senior High - ages 14 to 18) and a combined mailing list of over 75.

Service to the Church**PC(USA)**

General Assembly	COLA Committee	2002 & 2003	Participant
General Assembly	Office of General Assembly	2004, 2006 & 2008	OGA Volunteer Staff
Middle Governing Body Financial Network		November 2010	Attendee

Columbia Theological Seminary

Administrative Assistant to the President; Coordinated events for the President and Board of Trustees; Housing Committee; Student Coordinating Council Leadership Retreat; Middler Class President; Student Coordinating Council President; Preaching Tour to Savannah Presbytery

Denver Presbytery

Committee on Local Arrangements General Assembly 2003

Florida Presbytery

Pulpit Supply List; Commissioned Ruling Elder; Budget, Finance & Stewardship Committee; Fiscal Health Task Force; Permanent Judicial Commission; Personnel Committee

Local Church

Ordained Deacon; Ordained Elder; Long Range Planning Committee; Worship, Building & Grounds, Parish Staff Committees; Sunday School Teacher; Developed and wrote Confirmation Class Curriculum

Education

Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, GA	M.Div.	2006
Regis University, Denver, CO	B.S.	1992
Business Administration		

References

Rev. Jerry Long	Valdosta, GA	229-560-6168	office@firstpresvaldosta.org
Rev. Leigh Jones	Conyers, GA	770-289-1925	pcres@bellsouth.net
Linda Hunihan	Frisco, TX	972-832-3360	lhunihan@gmail.com
Jill Sorsen	Emporia, KS	620-757-5982	jill@sorsen.com
Bill Niles	Estes Park, CO	970-237-0313	theniles@aol.com

John W. Schuler
CLP Exam

November 9, 2010

Question 1 – Personal Faith

A. Write a brief statement of faith. (*No more than one page.*)

I believe in one true God who created everything known and unknown. I believe in Jesus Christ as wholly and completely human and wholly God. I believe that through God's love Jesus Christ died for our sins. I believe that we are born sinners and through the love and grace of Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven. I believe that God's Word is delivered and revealed to us through the Holy Spirit and in the life of Jesus Christ the Word incarnate. God continues to reveal the Word through the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit continues to work within and through God's creation.

Jesus Christ is the head of the Church and will lead all who truly believe in Jesus Christ to everlasting life. As believers in God, we celebrate our relationship with God through two sacraments. The sacrament of Baptism signifies God's grace and the placing of God's mark on God's followers to signify unity and to remind us of God's grace. The sacrament of Holy Communion is the way we can commune together at a common table with all believers and saints. Holy Communion reminds us of the sacrifice Christ made to forgive our sins. It also gives us the opportunity to celebrate with the living Christ in unity with all believers and a hope for the fulfillment of God's kingdom.

The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit make up the triune God. We are brought closer to God through our ongoing relationship with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit acts to guide us to focus on God's will and to do God's work here on earth. Through the gift of Jesus Christ, those who truly believe and live that belief through their lives will receive the gift of eternal life.

We are a broken people in a broken world. The Gospel calls on us to reach out to accomplish the love, healing, peace, and justice of Jesus Christ here on earth.

God created humanity in God's own image. God sought out a close relationship with humanity and we continually turn away from God. God seeks us out and wants us to live with each other and to live for God, so that God might enjoy us and that we might worship and enjoy God.

John W. Schuler
CLP Exam

November 9, 2010

B. Write a brief description of how your journey of faith has brought you to this stage in life, culminating in your sense of call to this type of ministry. *(No more than one page.)*

I was born and raised in the church. I have been involved in Sunday school as both a student and teacher; singing in choirs, youth groups and served on numerous church committees. I am an ordained Deacon and an ordained Elder. I have served the church as an interim youth director several times.

When I first heard God's call for me to enter the ministry, I discerned that call as a call to youth ministry. I had a heart and love for this type of ministry for many years and always enjoyed teaching and working with youth. My style of youth ministry is building relationships with the youth and teaching them the importance of a personal relationship with God.

Over my time at seminary and ever since, I have experienced God's call in my life in many different ways. In seminary, classes introduced to me other forms of ministry that I had not considered. God seemed to be calling me to experience small church ministry. So as my first year of seminary (2003-04) came to an end and I entered into my field education summer, I sought out an internship that would introduce me to and submerge me into small church ministry.

I spent the summer in deep prayer with God about my call. I had thirteen weeks in Southwest Iowa where I had the very unique experience of working with five ministers and their eight different congregations. Throughout the summer I kept my eyes open to the small church experience and my ears and heart open to God's voice and call. God's call on my life changed over that summer. God was calling me toward small church ministry.

The following summer (2005) I spent the summer serving First Presbyterian Church of Leadville, CO. Here again, I spent the summer in deep thought and prayer listening for God's call. Once again, I heard God calling me toward small church ministry.

After I graduated, the small church was still where God was calling me to serve. For eight months (2006-07) I served a small church in Bremen, GA. I was their pastor in every sense. I felt God provided this church so I could have more experience in this form of ministry.

After my wife, Sharon, accepted her call to First Presbyterian Church in Monticello, FL, I continued to try to find ways to continue to be involved in ministry. I have joined and am active in the life of that church. I have become involved in the Presbytery by serving as a commissioner, and as a member of the Budget, Finance and Stewardship committee. I am on the Presbytery Pulpit Supply List and have preached at several different churches.

The call to be a Commissioned Lay Pastor is a way to fulfill the strong call to ministry in a small congregation church setting. I feel this is where and what God is calling me to do at this time. I am still listening and discerning how God continues to work in my life.



PRESBYTERY OF FLORIDA

*The Vision of the Presbytery of Florida is
to be a presbytery of strong, healthy, energetic congregations advancing the
ministries of Jesus Christ.*

*The Mission of the Presbytery of Florida is
to provide guidance, training, and assistance to our congregations to attain that Vision.*

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ENABLER
PAM MCVETY
CARING FOR CREATION
ENABLER

January 9, 2025

To whom it may concern:

This letter is to affirm that John Schuler was duly trained to serve as a Commissioned Ruling Elder in the Presbytery of Florida. His first commission began in April 2012 at the Navarre Presbyterian Church where John did an admirable job leading the congregation and faithfully serving our Lord.

When he and his wife, the Rev. Sharon Schuler, moved from northwest Florida, it was a tremendous loss on our part, but a blessing where they landed.

If you have specific questions, please feel free to be in touch.

Sursum Corda,

Mark Broadhead

Rev. Mark R. Broadhead
Stated Clerk/Acting General Presbyter

Rev. Joe Genau

Proposed Terms of Call at Edgewood Presbyterian Church

	2024	Proposed 2025
Salary	32,490	41,656
Housing Allowance	28,610	28,610
[Total Effective Salary for BOP]	61,100	70,266
Medical/Dental	18,115	11,243
Pension	5,193	5,973
Death and Disability	917	1,054
SECA Tax Allowance	2,485	2,858
Continuing Education	1,000	1,000
Discretionary	400	400
Travel	1,500	1,500
Library	375	375
Cell Phone	1,320	1,320
Total cost to congregation:	92,405	95,989
4 weeks vacation, 2 weeks study leave	4 weeks vacation, 2 weeks study leave	4 weeks vacation, 2 weeks study leave
Paid sabbatical leave of 3 months after 6 years of service	Sabbatical taken in 2024, after 10 years of service	6 weeks of sabbatical leave in each of 2026 and 2027

Mission Coordinator's Report to Presbytery February 20, 2025

1. The Presbytery will be hosting the annual meeting of the Congo Mission Network in Tuscaloosa, October 23-25, 2025. Planning for the Conference is underway. It is planned for the meeting to be hybrid, with both in person sessions and Zoom. French-English translation will be provided. Please plan on attending this Conference. Presbyterians from central Alabama, William Sheppard and Samuel Lapsley, were the first Presbyterian missionaries to Congo in 1891. We have a long history with the Congo church in service to our Lord, Jesus Christ.

2. This Presbytery has sent \$1,500 to RECONCILE, a peacemaking ministry in South Sudan. We have been sending our Peacemaking Offering money to RECONCILE for the past several years.

Reverend Shelvis and Reverend Nancy Smith-Mather have been working with RECONCILE for several years, working in South Sudan. They are now in the United States, but are still involved with RECONCILE. RECONCILE works on reconciliation between ethnic groups that had been fighting. It has offered trainings and counseling in conflict zones for 750 leaders in the past year. Also, RECONCILE operated sports tournaments aimed at establishing trust and confidence among eight different communities, with over 1,000 people attending. These are only a portion of RECONCILE's work in 2024.

If you want to contribute to RECONCILE, you may send a check to Presbytery, marked for Peacemaking Reserve. Or, you can donate directly to Presbyterian Missions-RECONCILE-E052032.

3. The Habitat for Humanity house for the Birmingham area for 2024 has been built. We collected about \$18,000 for the house from Birmingham area churches. This will be sent to Habitat for Humanity, Birmingham. Our donations were down from the past couple of years. The donations had been running \$20,000-25,000. Thank you to all the churches and volunteers who helped a family get an affordable house.

4. Presbytery will be sending \$5,000 to the Dallas County Long Term Recovery Group to help build a house in Selma. This house is a rebuild of a family's house that was destroyed in the tornado of 2023. Over the past two years, this Presbytery has contributed about \$45,000 to help 7 families in Selma, replacing appliances, furniture and building houses.

Committee on Nominating and Representation
Report to PSL Stated Meeting - February 20, 2025

For action:

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

Executive Council
Class of 2025 (unexpired):
John Schuler, CRE

Transition/Search Committee for General Presbyter and Stated Clerk
Elizabeth Goodrich*

Respectfully submitted,
Rick Atkerson
Moderator

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:

Class of 2025
Debra Love
Jenny Thagard
Rick Atkerson*

Class of 2026
Madison Roberts*
Kathy Tracey
Lee Walthall

Class of 2027
Caroline Kelly*
Jim Holland
Ron Parsons



February 2025 Newsletter

Living River Annual Report, 2024



Living River's Impact

- Living River served over 390 kids and youth in 2024:
 - Living River's retreats and Summer Camp served 195 kids and youth.
 - Field trips served 199 kids and youth.
- The second annual Cahaba Lily Adult Retreat drew a diversity of longtime Living River friends and first-time visitors. **Join others this May for an adult retreat and visit to the Cahaba Lilies.**
- Over 200 visitors participated in Fall River Fest again in 2024 and enjoyed a variety of activities from an Alabama Wildlife Center animal show to a commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the Marvel Slab Dam removal from the Cahaba with a number of environmental partners.
- A diversity of rental groups booked and enjoyed 37 weekends at Living River with many more.
- The University of Alabama Atkinson Mussel Lab, the Alabama Aquatic Biodiversity Center, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services continued monitoring and testing species and Cahaba Riverkeeper continued regular water testing.

Thank you to Living River's 2024 donors!

All donations of time, talent, and resources of every size made Living River's ministry possible last year! Bolded names are **Bedrock Sustaining Donors**. Bedrock Program details are on Living River's website.

Mark Aldridge	Chis & Alice Christenson	Jean Folsom	Kent & Anna Hartzog
Robert & Ree Almon	Linda Cicero	Les & Amanda Fowler	Kevin and Julie Hay
Tambra Angle	Gretchen Cloud	Kimble Forrister & Calli Patterson	Robert & Morgan Hay Jr.
Steve & Carolyn Ashworth	Frank & Jo Ann Cobb	Amy Frasier	Robert & Janice Hay
Rick & Beth Atkerson	Noah Coleman	Jane French	Scott & Angie Hayes
Jim and Susan Bannon	Robert & Carolyn Collins, III	John & Pam Gam	Mike Henderson
Janet Barnes	Ralls & Denise Coston	Yvonne Gauntt	Sarah & Alan Hewitt
Karin and Sam Bell	Frank Covington	Edward Gilmore	Norman & Helene Hibbard
Susan Benke	Deborah and Scott Crumpton	John Glover	Thomas & Peggy Hill
J and Heather Benoit	Mary Dalrymple	Pat & Charles Goodman	James Howard
Lee Benoit	Glenn & Chris Davis	Michael & Gillian Goodrich	Kent & Lisa Howard
Suzanne Benton	Doug Deslattes	Cleo Gorman	Tony & Lora Hubbard
Don & Mary Blakeley	Paul & Trish Dimick	Gene & Dorothy Grimes	Keener & Hilda Hudson
Emmett and Margaret Bowman	Sam & Paige Drummond	Park & Ann Grimmer	Steven & Stephanie Hunt
John & Kimberly Bridges	Marilee Dukes	Susan Grimmer	Calvin & June Hyer
Vernon Broyles III	Pat Dunbar and Annabel Stephens	Sam and Terry Hamilton-Poore	Christian Johnson
om & Ashley Bryson	Charles & Sandy Durham	Dexter & Shelley Hancock	Allen & Lindsay Jones
Julie Bucy, Len Evert, and Pam Pierson	Larry & Kathleen Dutton	Alice Harding	Heather Kaiser
Derry Bunting	Gail Edwards	Benga Harrison	Lili Kane
Mark & Leigh Ellyn Byars	John & Susan Edwards		Sara Kaylor
John & Jane Childers			Helen Keller
			Kara Kilpatrick & Jen Smith

Leland & Marty Keller	Robert Newman	Emily Roberts	Allison Todd
Carolyn King	Barbara & Robert Nicol	Ronald & Judith Sawyer	Hannah Tucker
Shelley King	Ives Ort	Sandy Schrohenloher	Wendy & James Tucker
deNay & Will Kirkpatrick	Janet Ort	William Scott	Marilyn Tucker-Marek &
Harvey & Dottie Kline	Lois Palecek	Marilyn Seier	Ken Marek
Mark Landers	Jay & Ellen Patton Jr.	Ed Senter &	Steve and Laura Underhill
Deborah Laws	Joe and Amy Perkins	Jessica Germany	Lin & Lawson Veasey
Melinda & Norris Leavelle	Lee Ann & Preston	Jim & Katherine	Todd Vick
Linda LeBron	Peyton	Shepherd Jr.	Myrna Walker
Shereka Lewis	Ruby Pfaff	Anita Sherman	Howard Walthall Sr. &
Bruce & Jeannine Ludwig	Michael & Joan Pickett	Andy Spaulding	Family
Virginia MacRae	Mary Porteer	Alan & Linda Speaker	Lee Walthall
Brian & Chris Anne	Ellen & Daniel Potts	Alan & Leanne Spencer	Mike & Phyllis Ward
Massengale	Julie Potts	Sandra Spencer	Dana Waters
Rachel & Wes Mathews	John Powell	Jim & Sue Stapleton	Nancy Watkins
Weesa Matthews	Jim Prince	Bill & Jera Stibling	Thomas Watkins
David & Ann McGiffert	Caryl Privett	Frank & Fairy Sutherland	Thomas Wells
Price & Elizabeth	Natalie Reed	Allen Tartt	Meagan & Blake
McGiffert	Nick & Kathy Reed	Mary Tartt	Westbrook
Henry McPherson	Leanne Reed	Frankie Tatum	Sue Westfall
George & Bess Miller	Rick & Judy Reed	Mary Clyde Teague	Lydia Wilfong
Ira & Anne Mitchell	Mallory & Martha	Jenny & George Thagard	Clyde & Sue Wills
Kit Moss	Reeves	Sharon & Les Thagard	Bill & Frances Woodruff
Betsy & Bill Murphy	David Renaker	Anthony Thomas	Denise Yanaura
Al & Janet Nebrig	Joe & Bonnie Rives	Kristi Thomson	

Special Thanks to 2024's Grant Giving Foundations and Churches

Thank you to The Community Foundation Of Greater Birmingham for a grant to build two pavilions at the sites along the Cahaba River that are most used by Living River's research partners.

Thank you to The Daniel Foundation for a grant to build a restroom facility on Living River's recreation field, an enhancement that will greatly improve field trip and recreational experiences at Living River!

Thank you to Disc Golf Birmingham, Inc. for funding Disc Golf educational material and youth disc golf discs.

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 for a grant to fix the foundation of the Shades Valley Lodge.

Thank you to Living River's 2024 church and organizational donors!

**Calhoun Presbyterian Apartments
Foundation, Inc.**

Church of the Covenant Presbyterian Church

Edgewood Presbyterian Church

E L Spencer Foundation

First Presbyterian Church Auburn

First Presbyterian Church Tuscaloosa

Grace Presbyterian Church Tuscaloosa

Immanuel Presbyterian Church

Independent Presbyterian Church

**Mike and Gillian Goodrich Charitable
Foundation**

Montevallo Presbyterian Church

Mountain Brook Presbyterian Church

Oakmont Chapel Presbyterian Church

Presbyterian Ministries United Appeal

Riverchase Presbyterian Church

Presbyterian Women of FPC Tuscaloosa

Presbyterian Women of The Presbytery

South Highland Presbyterian Church

Southminster Presbyterian Church

Swift Presbyterian Church

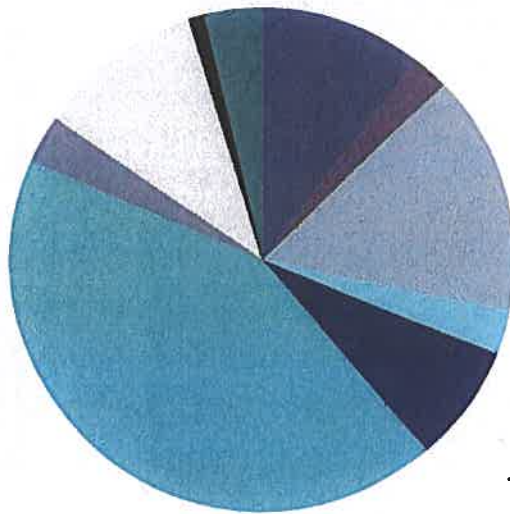
Thank you to the former Second Presbyterian Church



After 142 years of ministry to their community, caring for one another, and discerning the call of the Holy Spirit, Second Presbyterian Church merged with Edgewood Presbyterian and sold their property in 2024. The remaining members of Second who merged with Edgewood are Hazel Bowdon, Pat Donaldson, Marilyn Gross, Larry & Liz Hicks, T.J. Holmes, Catherine Rodenhauer, Barbara Spitzer, Mary Clyde Teague, Vince Van Deventer, Phyllis Vaughan, and David Wininger. They continue to

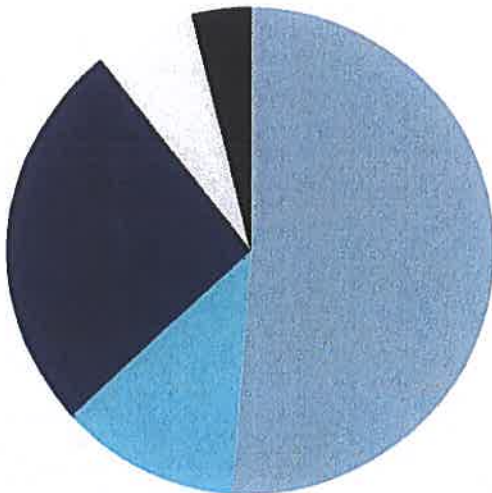
follow God's Spirit as they steward the proceeds of Second's property sale. Thank you to them for their faithfulness, compassion, love, generosity, and wisdom. Thank you from Living River for the their donation of \$100,000 in 2024 which was board designated as a capital improvement fund, an invaluable resource as Living River's buildings turn 10 years old!

Living River's Sources of Funds, 2024



Total 2024 Operating Revenue: \$447,323

Living River's Uses of Funds, 2024



Total 2024 Operating Expenses: \$449,467

Important Financial Notes

- Living River's mortgage is now just \$104,240 (12/31/24), down from \$1.1 million in 2019!
- Donations to the Annual Fund for operations were up 15% in 2024 from 2023.
- Summer Camp Revenue was up 34% in 2024 from 2023.
- Living River's endowment, the Living River Legacy Fund, grew 10% in 2024 to \$458,695 (12/31/24). **Please consider bequests to the Living River Legacy Fund in your will.** A 4% annual endowment draw supports Living River's operations. Imagine what will be possible as the Living River Legacy Fund grows!

2025 Living River Calendar

April 11-13 You & Me Retreat
May 16-18 Cahaba Lily Adult Retreat (ft. a speaker and lilies excursion)
May 27-June 6 Counselor Training
June 8-13 Youth Mission Camp
June 16-20 Elementary Camp
June 22-26 Creative Camp
June 27-29 You & Me Camp
Sept. 6-7 Counselor Alumni Retreat
October 19 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

Rachel and I have just returned from the APCE (Association of Partners in Christian Education) conference in Memphis, Tennessee. APCE is an organization that includes members from the PC(USA), Presbyterian Church in Canada, Reformed Church in America, and the Moravian Church. We had a Living River display in the marketplace where we interacted with hundreds of participants. **We shared information encouraging pastors and educators to bring groups to stay at Living River while experiencing Alabama's Civil Rights Trail. In the past year we have hosted groups from Wisconsin, Georgia, Idaho, Connecticut, and Texas.** Our hope is that by sharing the good news of Living River, more groups will have the opportunity to participate in these impactful experiences. We also had the opportunity to spend time with leaders from other camp and retreat centers who shared ideas and practices that will benefit Living River. Thank you for your support that allows us to share the good news of Living River. -Jenny Thagard



Christ & Holy Trinity Episcopal Church of Westport, CT at Shades Valley Lodge during their week-long Civil Rights Pilgrimage with Living River as their home base.



University of Wisconsin-Madison students with the campus ministry Pres House visiting Selma during their six-day Civil Rights Pilgrimage staying at LR.



LIVING RIVER

A RETREAT ON THE CAHABA

2000 Living River Parkway

Montevallo, AL 35115



Presbyterian Home *for* Children

Raising hopes, growing confidence and nurturing faith since 1868

Post Office Drawer 577 • Talladega, Alabama 35161

Telephone: 256.362.2114 • Fax: 256.362.6265 • E-mail: info@phfc.org • Website: www.phfc.org



MR. DOUG MARSHALL
President/CEO

February 3, 2025

Dear Friends in Christ:

We are incredibly grateful to the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley for your prayers, encouragement and support of the Presbyterian Home for Children. For 157 years, we have been caring for at-risk and homeless children and families from across Alabama at a faith-based safe haven where we can nurture, educate and equip children, youth, young adults and moms in need to become the fully functioning persons whom God created them to be. Because of you and others in Alabama, the rest of the Synod of Living Waters, and beyond – together in a shared calling – the Home continues to provide healing and love on a path of hope so these precious ones can have a safe and secure future. Thanks to our donors, this recent Christmas season was truly a special and wonderful time for the children, youth and individuals served by the Home.

Our Board and Staff are very excited about the latest developments happening on and off campus. We completed renovations of two cottages on our historic campus to open up more long-term transitional housing with full wrap-around program support on campus for homeless moms with children in our Secure Dwellings program. Renovations of Whitfield and Robinson Cottages have put us in a position to double capacity for moms and children in need in our Secure Dwellings program, which is our core ministry in Talladega. More of these families in need can be referred from churches and presbyteries in Alabama, Tennessee, Mississippi and Kentucky as a result of our covenant agreement with the Synod of Living Waters.

We also have a nearly full roster in our Transition to Adult Living program, which provides long-term transitional housing to young female adults aged 19-24 in another historic building on our Talladega campus, Johnson Hall. These young women are also referred by our church relationships.

Our Caminos® program launched in 2024 to serve unaccompanied immigrant minors living in Alabama, the Southeast and beyond with both home studies and case management services to help provide family reunification and protection for these minors from abuse, exploitation and trafficking. We are also thrilled to have our Caminos® office located at the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley office in Birmingham with the best neighbors ever.

Our innovative Family Bridges program is growing again. The State of Alabama Department of Human Resources recently awarded the Home an expanded contract that allows the program to serve 16 families in need in East Central Alabama, a growth of 23%. As the need arises, the Home will be hiring an additional family support specialist.

The second semester for Ascension Leadership Academy has begun. Ascension, located at First Presbyterian Church of Talladega, is where we provide a personalized learning environment for K-12 students from our Secure Dwellings program in addition to students from the community. During 2024, Ascension achieved reaccreditation through 2030 from Cognia through a very rigorous

evaluation process. Ascension received a score of 326 on Cognia's Index of Educational Quality. A score above 300 indicates the institution meets Cognia's expectations for accreditation. Ascension also scored 100 points above the national average of 253. Ninety percent of Ascension's standards rated above the network average, and the school's rating on the summaries for each of the four Key Characteristics exceeded the Cognia Network average.

The Home also grew its outreach mission ministry in 2024 in partnership with a small nonprofit serving children in poverty in Pine Hill, Alabama. The Home, along with M.I.N.D. Mentoring in New Dimensions, started a Weekend Backpack program in September that sends two meals and healthy snacks home with 40 children in the most need at FS Ervin Elementary School in the Wilcox County Schools system every week. It is part of an effort to expand our impact on children and families living in poverty in the poorest region in Alabama located three hours from our Talladega campus.

We are so appreciative of two large gifts from within the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley: \$280,000 over three years from the Calhoun Presbyterian Foundation for deferred maintenance on our historic campus and \$300,000 from Second Presbyterian Church for a new duplex now under construction at Union Village, our permanent supportive housing community with full wrap-around program support from the Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind for adults who are deaf, blind, deafblind and multi-disabled. Both of these gifts will greatly expand our ability to serve vulnerable individuals entrusted to our care.

Since 2017, the Presbyterian Home for Children has held the highest standard for a faith-based organization, the EAGLE accreditation. We were reaccredited for the prestigious honor in 2020. Since accreditation is renewed on a four-year cycle, it's that time again for PHFC to go through the process to keep our honored accreditation status with Educational Assessment Guidelines Leading toward Excellence (EAGLE), the only faith-based accrediting body in the United States for ministry to children and older adults. 2025 will be a busy year as our staff continue to prepare for the arduous documentation to maintain the accreditation title. We go through this process because EAGLE focuses on the organization's long-term sustainability and establishes responsible stewardship over physical and financial assets. Other accreditation agencies do the same thing, but EAGLE also assures the organization is operating in a manner that is representative of their faith foundation. EAGLE challenges organizations not just to compete in a challenging human services environment, but to soar above the competition while living their faith values.

As President, I feel like a mirror reflecting the love, compassion, and professionalism of our amazing Board and Staff.

Be blessed with continuing peace.

Doug Marshall

Stated Clerk Report February 20, 2025

Omnibus Motion:

1. To approve the minutes of the November 21, 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 approve the minutes of the Commission of the Presbytery to install the Rev. Joe Genau as Pastor of the new Edgewood Presbyterian Church on February 16, 2025.
5. To accept these invitations to host meetings of the Presbytery: on May 15, 2025, at Grace Church of Tuscaloosa; on August 21, 2025, at the First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham; and on November 20, 2025, at Edgewood Church

Information

1. The **Synod of Living Waters** has approved our 2024 Presbytery minutes with "no exceptions." Give thanks to Linda Burrowes and Tammy Strickland for their skill in preparing the minutes.
2. **Session Minutes** should be reviewed every two years. If they have not been reviewed recently, [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.org. The check list follows this report. The following churches have had their Session minutes read in the past year:

Alexander City, First	Green Pond
Birmingham, Edgewood	Montgomery, Immanuel
Birmingham, Oakmont Chapel	Northport, Bethel
Birmingham, Riverchase	Oxford, Dodson Memorial
Birmingham, Second	Trussville, Cahaba Springs
Birmingham, Westminster	Tuscaloosa, Grace
Gardendale	Tuskegee, Westminster

3. **Per Capita** - Of the \$199,233.00 budgeted for 2024, \$190,527.68 was received from 51 out of 57 Churches. Many thanks to those who have supported Per Capita! Much encouragement to those who have yet to give!
Our Per Capita Assessment for 2025 is \$28.42. Of this \$10.84 goes to the General Assembly; \$3.98 to the Synod of Living Waters; \$12.60 to the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley; and \$1.00 to Campus Ministry.
4. 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

5. End of Year Summary

a. Ministers as of 01/01/2024	<u>114</u>	Churches as of 01/01/2024	<u>61</u>
b. Ordained	<u>1</u>	Dissolved, Dismissed	<u>4</u>
c. Received, Presbytery	<u>3</u>	Churches as of 01/01/2025	<u>57</u>
d. Restored	<u>0</u>		
e. Dismissed, Presbytery	<u>4</u>		
f. Removal from Rolls	<u>0</u>		
g. Death	<u>1</u>		
6. Ministers as of 01/01/2025	<u>113</u>		

7. **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 2024, the four stated meetings averaged 40 Ministers of Word & Sacrament and 50 Ruling Elders with vote.

8. **Annual Statistical Report:** The churches' deadline to enter statistics with the Office of the General Assembly is/was February 15, but the Presbytery can enter the information for you if you contact us no later than March 1, 2025. Please contact Tammy Strickland for assistance at 205-978-0320 or tstrickland@pslpcusa.org

9. **Administrative Commissions Reports:**

Anniston, First
Birmingham, Second
Montgomery, Providence

For action: (1) Dismiss the Second Presbyterian Church Administrative Commission with thanks for their service.
(2) Approve the Administrative Commission for Providence with the powers described in the following report.

Administrative Commission Report**FPC-Anniston****Presbytery Meeting, February, 2025****DECEMBER, 2024**

- December 1 - The congregation of FPC-Anniston met immediately following worship. Moderator Frankie Tatum called the meeting to order. Session member Robert Downing explained that the dwindling congregation is financially unable to continue worshipping as the FPC-Anniston. Discussion included alternative places to worship and the inability to replace Session members whose terms are complete. The congregation voted unanimously that Sunday, December 22, would be their final day of worship. They voted to close the F&M, Anniston, bank account and disburse remaining funds.
- December 12 – The Session met with CEO of the Community Foundation of NE Alabama to announce the suspension of worship on Dec. 22. Several items of business concerning finances and removal of church property were discussed.
- December 16 – Work began in the Fellowship Hall to sort, purge, or save files and property belonging to the church. The Moderator and some congregation members will work until this is completed.
- December 22 – Ernie Haynes, CLP, led the congregation in its final service. His sermon inspired them to move forward as faithful people of God. Thirty people were in attendance, including former members who had moved away. A check for Dr. James Woodward, longtime organist, was presented to him expressing gratitude for his many years of faithful service.
- January, 2025 – The Moderator and church volunteers will continue to sort and purge church files to be delivered to the Presbytery Office for subsequent transfer to the PCUSA Historical Library. The Session will meet to consider closing the church's bank account, settling any and all debts, and disbursement of funds.

Respectfully submitted

Frankie Tatum, CLP

Moderator of Administrative Commission and the Session

Administrative Commission Report to Presbytery
Providence AC
February 20, 2025

The Providence Presbyterian Church Administrative Commission had its first meeting October 31, 2024. Rev. Jonathan Yarboro was elected Chair of the AC. Providence Pastor Nan Adam was invited to sit with the commission. The commission was appointed by presbytery at the request of Providence Session to assist with developing a plan for dissolution. During the initial meeting, the scope of work for the AC was identified. Rev. Nan Adams was asked to serve as an Ex-Officio member of the commission moving forward and accepted.

Due to the confirmed fact that Providence as a PCUSA Congregation functions under the "Southern Option" regarding property, the AC will serve in an advisory capacity only regarding possible sale of the church property. The AC will focus its attention on identifying legacy ministries Providence wishes to fund and / or support with any proceeds from the sale of its property. Providence Session has sought the advice and guidance of both The Presbyterian Foundation and its real estate wing, Foundry Commercial, and those resources will aid the AC in its work.

It is the intention of the AC to develop a plan for dissolution to be presented to Session and the congregation by the end of March.

Respectfully submitted,

Krysten Holloway Scrivner – Elder, Westminster Birmingham
Wes Padgett – Elder, Providence
Jerry Sailor – Elder, Providence
Sue Westfall – General Presbyter, PSL
Jonathan Yarboro – Pastor, First Wetumpka

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: _____

The Presbytery Of Sheppards And Lapsley

Report Of The Commission on Preparation For Ministry — February 2025

INQUIRERS

Theodore Longlois
Abby Bunn

CHURCH

Independent
Church of the Covenant

INSTITUTION

Princeton
Columbia

CANDIDATES

Annabelle Beavers
Peyton Chandler
Patrick O'Connor
Barbara Tomek-White
Daniel Killilea
Teddy Vaughn

First, Tuscaloosa
Independent, Birmingham
Immanuel, Montgomery
First, Auburn
South Highland, Birmingham
Grace, Tuscaloosa

Union (Richmond)
Graduate - Vanderbilt
Graduate - San Francisco
Graduate - Austin
Louisville
Graduate - Columbia

FOR INFORMATION:

The Presbytery's Finance Committee has consented to oversee the investment of the Shades Valley funds that were donated to the CPM. These funds were designated for the benefit of candidates and inquirers and will be used to provide assistance as needed in order to support their health and wellness while under care. CPM is working to create an application process in order to make funds available.

FOR ACTION:

Submitted on behalf of the Commission on Preparation for Ministry:

Rick Atkerson (2025), Jeff Johnson (2025), Nicole Newton (2025), Kathy Wolf Reed (2026), Adrienne Stokes (2025), Lee Walthall (2026), Luke Ponder (2026), Henry Kline (2026), Cort Gatliff (2026), Emily Frandsen (2027), Clay Price (2027), and Angela Wright (2027).

Respectfully,

Rev. Nicole Newton, Moderator

THE PRESBYTERY OF SHEPPARDS & LAPSLEY FINANCE REPORT FOR 2024

The year 2024 was a fairly stable financial year for the Presbytery of Sheppards & Lapsley. Let us start with:

OPERATING INCOME-

Actual revenues were \$459,149 or (\$9,130) less than plan of \$468,279. This revenue reduction resulted from a combination of a reductions - (\$19,554) in Per Capita Income, a (\$11,707) reduction in Mission Giving accounts, and (\$20,419) in reduced Birmingham UKirk revenues. Mostly offsetting these reduced revenues were unbudgeted lease revenues of \$14,175 and Closed church operating giving of \$21,350.

Operating Expenses were \$462,966 or less than the plan of \$471,209 by \$8,243. Total Council Expenses were in line with than plan but were offset by lower ENC expenses, which were \$7,677 better than plan.

Operating net income at Year End 2024 was a loss of (\$3,817) compared to a planned loss of (\$2,930).

OTHER REVENUES AND EXPENSES-

Below Operating revenues and expenses are Other Revenues of \$29,682 in Notes Receivables interest and \$87,234 in Investment income revenues. Due to the sale of churches, a gain on Property Contribution was \$117,900. Year-end Investments balance was \$1,261,765. Other expenses included Living River donations of \$33,515.

Adding this Other income and expenses to Operating Income nets a total bottom line income of \$197,486.

During 2024, 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.

Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley
Analysis of Revenues & Expenses - Summary
January to December 2024

Accounts	MTD Actual (This Year)	MTD Budget (This Year)	YTD Actual (This Year)	YTD Budget (This Year)	YTD Budget Actual (This Year)	Annual Budget (ThisYear)
Revenues						
General Fund	\$30,462.76	\$21,183.61	\$263,094.95	\$254,202.00	\$8,892.95	\$254,202.00
Mission Giving-Income	\$2,513.15	\$1,851.88	\$23,753.39	\$22,223.00	\$1,530.39	\$22,223.00
Per Capita Income	\$9,962.83	\$15,987.87	\$172,300.25	\$191,854.00	(\$19,553.75)	\$191,854.00
Total Revenues	<u>\$42,938.74</u>	<u>\$39,023.36</u>	<u>\$459,148.59</u>	<u>\$468,279.00</u>	<u>(\$9,130.41)</u>	<u>\$468,279.00</u>
Expenses						
Council						
Council Expenses-Other	\$10,000.00	\$806.25	\$10,000.00	\$9,675.00	(\$325.00)	\$9,675.00
Salaries & Allowances						
Executive Presbyter	\$10,994.47	\$10,771.87	\$130,832.18	\$129,262.00	(\$1,570.18)	\$129,262.00
Administrative Salaries	\$1,050.00	\$349.89	\$4,200.00	\$4,200.00	\$0.00	\$4,200.00
Staff Expenses	\$3,453.85	\$350.00	\$3,453.85	\$4,200.00	\$746.15	\$4,200.00
Total Salaries & Allowances	<u>\$15,498.32</u>	<u>\$11,471.76</u>	<u>\$138,486.03</u>	<u>\$137,662.00</u>	<u>(\$824.03)</u>	<u>\$137,662.00</u>
Total Council	<u>\$25,498.32</u>	<u>\$12,278.01</u>	<u>\$148,486.03</u>	<u>\$147,337.00</u>	<u>(\$1,149.03)</u>	<u>\$147,337.00</u>
Equip, Nurture, Connect						
Other ENC Expenses	(\$14.63)	\$1,683.26	\$12,522.84	\$20,200.00	\$7,677.16	\$20,200.00
Total Equip, Nurture, Connect	<u>(\$14.63)</u>	<u>\$1,683.26</u>	<u>\$12,522.84</u>	<u>\$20,200.00</u>	<u>\$7,677.16</u>	<u>\$20,200.00</u>
Mission	\$0.00	\$12.50	\$0.00	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$150.00
UKirk Birmingham	\$0.00	\$2,460.76	\$20,355.77	\$29,530.00	\$9,174.23	\$29,530.00
Trustees	\$4,848.40	\$4,787.38	\$66,345.40	\$57,449.00	(\$8,896.40)	\$57,449.00
Presbytery Per Capita Expenses						
Stated Clerk & Moderator	\$2,998.41	\$2,234.35	\$26,374.17	\$26,810.00	\$435.83	\$26,810.00
Presbytery Commissions	\$0.00	\$375.22	\$616.67	\$4,500.00	\$3,883.33	\$4,500.00
Asst.to Stated Clerk/Ofc Mgr	\$5,285.09	\$5,110.74	\$62,828.73	\$61,328.00	(\$1,500.73)	\$61,328.00
Total Presbytery Per Capita Expenses	<u>\$8,283.50</u>	<u>\$7,720.31</u>	<u>\$89,819.57</u>	<u>\$92,638.00</u>	<u>\$2,818.43</u>	<u>\$92,638.00</u>
Per Capita-Expenses	\$15,440.77	\$8,473.50	\$101,682.62	\$101,682.00	(\$0.62)	\$101,682.00
Mission Giving-Expenses	\$2,513.15	\$1,851.88	\$23,753.39	\$22,223.00	(\$1,530.39)	\$22,223.00
Total Expenses	<u>\$56,569.51</u>	<u>\$39,267.60</u>	<u>\$462,965.62</u>	<u>\$471,209.00</u>	<u>\$8,243.38</u>	<u>\$471,209.00</u>
Net Operating Total	<u>(\$13,630.77)</u>	<u>(\$244.24)</u>	<u>(\$3,817.03)</u>	<u>(\$2,930.00)</u>	<u>(\$887.03)</u>	<u>(\$2,930.00)</u>
Other Revenues						
Designated Income (Loss)	\$74,545.73	\$0.00	\$87,234.47	\$0.00	\$87,234.47	\$0.00
Property Contributions	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$117,900.00	\$0.00	\$117,900.00	\$0.00
Total Other Revenues	<u>\$77,001.04</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$234,817.41</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$234,817.41</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
Other Expenses						
Total Other Expenses	<u>\$2,792.89</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$33,514.68</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>(\$33,514.68)</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
Net Total	<u>\$60,577.38</u>	<u>(\$244.24)</u>	<u>\$197,485.70</u>	<u>(\$2,930.00)</u>	<u>\$200,415.70</u>	<u>(\$2,930.00)</u>

Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley

January 2025



Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Sheppards & Lapsley are greeting the new year with a better understanding of God's creation and our commitment to stewardship of all creation through our study of "Let Justice Roll Down" by Dr. Patricia Tull.

We ended the year 2024 with generous outpouring for missions, both within our Presbytery and beyond. 2024 Birthday Offering, Disaster Relief Assistance, Least Coin [global], 2024 Thank Offering, various mission pledges – they all reached beyond our region and touched lives of many in need.

Greater Birmingham Ministries, Presbyterian Home for Children, Living River on the Cahaba, and Stillman College [through the Blessing Box offering] were our Presbytery supports. Causes near and dear to the women of our region were recipients of our offering also – John Knox Manor, Mission Haven, and the Columbia Friendship Circle.

\$18,642.51 was disbursed to all these worthwhile causes. 2024 saw several women in individual churches honored with an Honorary Life Membership for their commitment to furthering the mission of Christ's church.

Recruiting!

1. Jan Albert of Bowling Green Presbyterian Church in Kentucky is our region's representative on the PW Churchwide Search Committee. Earlier, her letter to all was shared a recent Newsletter blast; I have attached a copy for sharing with the PW groups.
2. We continue to look for a representative to the *Columbia Friendship Circle / Mission Haven*. Attached is the January Newsletter. Please me know if you or someone you know would love to support this effort. It's really a very low maintenance, but vital, Ambassadorship...sharing a few email newsletters and reminding the Presbytery to hold the CFC up in prayers as it continues to bless our future pastors and their families!
3. Coordinating Council for the PW in our Presbytery is still looking for interested women to assist in reforming PW at the presbytery level.

If anyone is interested in re-forming and re-energizing Women in the Presbytery - please let me know!

For God's Glory

Kathy Tracey, Moderator, PW [PS&L]



What's New?

- Annual Meeting
- Coat of Paint
- Maintenance
- Springtime Visit
- Board Spotlight
- Money Matters



Barbara Bordeneux
President 2025

HAVEN HAPPENINGS

Housing ~ Hospitality ~ Clothing ~ Prayer

Mission Haven Newsletter When God's People Are In Need, Be Ready To Help Them. Always Be Eager To Practice Hospitality. — ROMANS 12:13



Meeting Highlights *Fiscal Year 2024*

Our Board of Trustees (and guests) met for two days on October 24 & 25, 2024. We identified property improvements, highlighted major repairs, and discussed maintenance of our 3 houses, 6 apartments, and community building. We introduced new volunteers on our Management Team. We prayed for our brothers and sisters who were affected by the hurricanes. We discussed the recent reduction of mission co-workers in the PCUSA and considered the pros and cons of downsizing our property versus promoting our ministry to non-PCUSA mission agencies. We acknowledged that our next Executive Director should not also perform Property Management. We listened to the successes and challenges of our state representatives. We reviewed our finances and approved a budget for 2025. We elected and installed new leadership. Please pray for us as we minister to our mission co-workers and discern our future.



Clothes Closet

Coat of Paint

The interior has been painted for the first time since it was built in 1962. With a fresh coat of alabaster, the overall appearance is much brighter and cleaner. Most of the work was done over Christmas break, when we were closed. We are now back to our 4-day a week schedule with CTS students. In addition, four volunteers help me on Wednesday mornings.

--- Susan Adle



Gratitude *Maintenance Rocks!*

Our acting Executive Director ensures that we have "PW worthy" accommodations: discarding outdated and broken items, bargain hunting for replacements, overseeing regular and unexpected maintenance, and directing renovations when needed.

We welcome two new contractors, Tyson and Alejandro, who have quickly become indispensable to improving our aged properties. They are great listeners, they take initiative, and they know how to fix things! In addition, Martin, a CTS student from Ghana, will assist us with cleaning duties.



Springtime Visit

Save the Date

Columbia Friendship Circle will host Come See Columbia Day on Thursday, April 24th. We invite you to arrive a day early, on Wednesday, April 23rd for a special visit to Mission Haven.



Welcome *Board Spotlight*

Our new President, Barbara Bordeneaux, is an active member at First Presbyterian Church in Bradenton, Florida, where she has taught Sunday school, served as a PW moderator, sings in the choir, and participates in a sewing group. Since retiring after 30 years as an elementary teacher's aide, Barbara enjoys traveling, baking, volunteering with Girl Scouts and the Grange. *Welcome, Welcome, Welcome!*

Mission Haven is supported and operated by Presbyterian Women in the Synods of South Atlantic and Living Waters. We rely on YOUR contributions to maintain 3 houses and 6 apartments.

Visit us at www.missionhaven.net and "like" us on Facebook

Money Matters *Remembrance*

A generous supporter included Mission Haven in her will, and bequeathed a sizable gift to us. Her contribution — along with yours — will enable us to perform needed renovations in 2E and 167.



Dear Presbyterian Woman,

I would like to thank you for taking the time to read the following. I am Jan Albert, your representative to the Search Committee for the Board of Directors of Presbyterian Women.

I was elected to this position in August 2024 and will serve until the Business Meeting in 2027. I have been given the opportunity to reach out to all PC(USA) women in the Synods of the Mid-Atlantic, South Atlantic and Living Waters. As your representative, I am available to answer questions about the process of finding women who feel called to serve Presbyterian Women (PW) at the national level. I am available to answer your questions (317-679-5040 or jtalbertky@gmail.com) about the various positions available and the process related to searching for the dedicated women who want to serve. I will be reaching out directly to the leadership teams within your synod and presbytery. I hope to have the opportunity to meet you in the future.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you or someone you know is interested in serving at the national level.

Jan Albert, January 2025



Keenan Rodgers
Church Consultant

m: 215-341-8143

krodgers@pensions.org

January/February 2025

We at the Board of Pensions are working hard to serve our churches, ministers, and employees of the Presbyterian Church (USA). I am here to support you and your congregation should you have any questions about the Board's benefits and programs. I look forward to our continued partnership in the new year.

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

Shared Ministry Program

The new Shared Ministry Program encourages two or more Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) congregations to covenant to create sustainable pastoral positions for ordained ministers. Participating congregations enter into a five-year dues subsidy program with the Board to receive a subsidy of the cost of benefits for pastors. Shared Ministry is not a merger of churches; rather, it is multiple, individual congregations sharing a minister with a living wage and benefits that helps ministry flourish and be sustained for the long term. [Learn more about the program](#), including key considerations and how to get started.

Assistance Program Updates

As part of our commitment to mutual care and wholeness, the Board of Pensions continues to expand access to grants through the Assistance Program to serve more ministers, employees, retirees, and surviving spouses who have financial need. In 2024, the Assistance Program distributed over 2,500 grants for a total of approximately \$8.5 million in funds. [Read about potential grant opportunities.](#)

Other important information:

Employee Assistance Plan (EAP): Effective Jan. 1, 2025, Spring Health replaced Cigna as the provider for the EAP. Spring Health offers mental health care navigation with a broader network of providers in addition to the EAP services with which members are familiar. [Learn more about Spring Health.](#)

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 30 days of the effective date. Details about forms of compensation included in effective salary are found in [Understanding Effective Salary.](#)

Call to Health well-being program begins a new year: Call to Health is a well-being program that focuses on self-care in all areas: spiritual, health, financial, and vocational. It offers members in the medical plan the opportunity to reduce their medical deductible(s) and earn Tango cards, which can be redeemed for gift cards or used to make charitable donations. [Learn more](#) and start today.



PRESBYTERY CALENDAR – 2025

FEBRUARY

5	Presbytery Staff meeting, via Hybrid, 10:00 AM
11	COM, via Hybrid, Presbytery office, 10:00 AM
18	Executive Council, via Hybrid, 9:30 AM
20	Presbytery meeting at First, Wetumpka, 9:00 AM
21	Presbytery office closed
21-23	Jr/Sr. Winter Retreat at Living River
24	CPM, via Hybrid, 10:00 AM
25	Anti-Racism, via Zoom, 10:00 AM
26-28	Synod Lader meeting at Orange Beach

MARCH

5	Presbytery Staff meeting, via Hybrid, 10:00 AM
11	COM, via Hybrid, Presbytery office, 10:00 AM
18	Executive Council, via Hybrid, 9:30 AM
25	Anti-Racism, via Zoom, 10:00 AM

APRIL

2	Presbytery Staff meeting, via Hybrid, 10:00 AM
8	COM, via Hybrid, Presbytery office, 10:00 AM
13	Palm Sunday
15	Executive Council, via Hybrid, 9:30 AM
18	Presbytery office closed in recognition of Good Friday
20	Resurrection of the Lord/Easter
29	Anti-Racism, via Zoom, 10:00 AM

MAY

7	Presbytery Staff meeting, via Hybrid, 10:00 AM
13	COM, via Hybrid, Presbytery office, 10:00 AM
15	Presbytery meeting at Grace, Tuscaloosa, 9:00 AM
16	Presbytery office closed
20	Executive Council, via Hybrid, 9:30 AM
26	Presbytery office closed in recognition of Memorial Day
27	Anti-Racism, via Zoom, 10:00 AM