Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley Synod of Living Waters Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Stated Meeting May 15, 2025

GOD CALLS US TOGETHER

The Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley of the Synod of Living Waters of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) met in the Stated Meeting on May 15, 2025, hosted by Grace Presbyterian Church in Tuscaloosa, AL.

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

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

Organization

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

Adoption of the Docket Appendix B-1

The Docket was adopted by unanimous consent.

Recognition of First Time Commissioners and Visitors

Omnibus Motion:

- 1. To approve the minutes of the February 20, 2025 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. Nicole Newton as Associate Pastor of the Independent Presbyterian Church on March 2, 2025.
- 5. To accept these invitations to host meetings of the Presbytery: on August 21, 2025, at the First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham; on November 20, 2025, at Edgewood Church.

Approved

Ministers of the Word and Sacrament
Ministers Present (33) Excused (51) Absent (32)

Shelton, Jack, HR	E	Vanek, Daniel	Р
Sims, Charles, HR	Ε	Wade, Lindsey	Α
Slane, Joe, HR	Р	Waters, Dana, HR	Ε
Son, Jungkyun	Α	Watson, Cody	E
Speaker, Cary	Р	Wells, Jim, HR	Ε
Sprik, Petra	Α	Westfall, Sue	Р
Stephens, Gerald, HR	E	Wilkins, Jay, HR	Р
Thurman, Michael	Α	Wills, Bill HR	E
Tingle, Terry, HR	E	Wilson, Ron	Α
Truesdell, Jim	Α	Winter, Rachel	Р
Turner, Lucy, HR	E	Winton, Carlton, HR	Ε
Turpen, Sam	Α	Yarboro, Jonathan	Р

Commission Ruling Elders with Vote

Present (5) Excused (4) Absent (9)

Allison, Banyon	Α	Hughes, Carl A
Arellano, Ben	Α	Kirkpatrick, deNay P
Bonner, Jeff	E	Lyons, David P
Dodson, Beverly	E	Martin, Carl P
Eich, Sharon	Α	McCrackin, Olympia A
Emerick, Robert	Α	Sauser, Bill E
Fancher, Cherie	E	Tatum, Frankie A
Haynes, Ernie	Р	Thomas, Roger A
Holt, Cal	Α	Lin Veasey P

Executive Council Members/Presbytery Officers w/Vote

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

Linda Burrowes	Р	Wendy Tucker	Α
Jothany James	E	Jean Russell	Ε
Terri Jones	E	Donna Winn	Α
Deborah Thomas	Р	John Schuler	Ε

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

Jenny Thagard P Kathy Tracey P Debra Love P

Elders

Number in parentheses by church name indicates the number of commissioners authorized. "NR" indicates that the church did not have elder representation. There are fifty-six (56) churches in the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley. Thirty-six (36) Commissioners were present.

Alexander City Annemanie Anniston Anniston Anniston Auburn	First (1) Arlington (1) Church of the Covenant First United (1) Korean (1) First (3)	NR NR Melissa O'Brien Debbie Miller NR Brooke Myers Susan Bannon Karen Myers
Bessemer Birmingham Birmingham	Good Hope (1) Bold Springs (1) Edgewood (2)	NR NR Don Hagan Catherine Rodenhauser
Birmingham	First (2)	Carl Martin
Birmingham Birmingham	First United of Forestdale (1) Independent (4)	Brenda Toomey NA Paul Romjue Susan Haskell Georgia Miller Lee Walthall
Birmingham Birmingham	Korean (1) Mountain Brook (2)	NR Karen Ogle NR
Birmingham	Oakmont Chapel (2)	Judy Mann John Parks
Birmingham Birmingham	Riverchase (1) South Highland (3)	NR Bryan Kelley Suzanne Cornett NR
Birmingham	Southminster (2)	John Liddle Charles Edwards
Birmingham	Westminster (1)	Linda Harris
Cuba Camden Carbon Hill Dadeville Dadeville	Cuba (1) New Trinity (1) First (1) First (1) Woods (1)	NR NR NR NR NR

Eufaula	First (1)	NR
Gardendale Goodwater Green Pond Jacksonville Lafayette Leeds Livingston Magnolia Marion Junction Montevallo	Gardendale (1) First (1) Green Pond (1) First (1) Lebanon (1) Leeds (1) First (1) Rock Springs (1) Marion Junction (1) Montevallo (1)	NR NR Carolyn Padgett NR NR Terry Roswell NR NR
Montgomery Montgomery Montgomery Montgomery	Calvary Immanuel (1) Korean (1) Providence (1)	NR Pam Tidwell NR Kathryn Sweezey
Northport Opelika	Bethel (1) Korean (2)	NR NR NR
Oxford Piedmont Selma Selma Sylacauga Talladega Troy Trussville	Dodson Memorial (1) First (1) Pisgah (1) Valley Creek (1) First (1) First (1) Williams Memorial (1) Cahaba Springs (1)	NR NR NR NR NR NR NR NR NR
Tuscaloosa Tuscaloosa	Brown Memorial (1) First (3)	Charles Nash Lillian Beavers Brake Gaines Edward Hubbard
Tuscaloosa Tuscaloosa Tuskegee Institute Union Springs	Grace (2) Korean Westminster (1) Union Springs (1)	April Lane Millie Jackson Duk Park Judith Baldwin NR
Wetumpka	First (1)	Scotty Kirkland

Welcome from the Host Church

Caroline Kelly

Caroline talked about the merger of Covenant and University to form Grace. They have a food pantry across the street. In 2011 the church was damaged by a tornado. The only thing left hanging was the cross. They give no-interest loans to people that would not be able to obtain one.

Order of Worship

Worship began with a Prelude and Choral Introit "In the Midst of New Directions." Charles Nash led the body in the Call to Worship and The Opening Prayer, followed by the congregation singing "O For a World."

Emily Frandsen gave the Call to Reconciliation followed by the Prayer of Confession and the Assurance of God's Pardon. The body sang "Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me."

The Prayer for Illumination was given by Charles Nash, followed by the Old Testament Reading of Ezekiel 34:11-24. The Presbytery Choir sang "God Has Called Us." The Gospel Reading of Matthew 25:31-48 was read by Caroline Kelly and followed by the Sermon.

Caroline Kelly and Emily Frandsen gave the invitation for the Offering, followed by the Offertory "Gift of Finest Wheat." The body sang the Doxology, and the Prayer of Dedication was given.

We were invited to Christ's Table by Caroline Kelly and Emily Frandsen. The body joined in a responsive reading for the Great Thanksgiving, followed by The Lord's Prayer. The body received communion by intinction. During communion we sang "Come to the Table of Grace." Emily gave the prayer after communion, followed by the Hymn "In the Midst of New Dimensions." Caroline gave the Charge and Benediction. The Congregational Benediction was "Show Us Christ in One Another."

Ministry Within Our Presbytery

Transition/Search Committee

Jane Clayton

Since both Sue Westfall and Jay Wilkins are retiring, a Transition/Search Committee has been selected to study and make recommendations for their replacements. This committee consists of Jane Clayton, chair; Elizabeth Goodrich, clerk; David Seamon, James Ephraim, Darryl Love, Joe Spransy, and Cecilia Chang. This group has met three times thus far and will be meeting regularly until the search is completed. Jay's term of service ends in 2025, and Sue's in early 2026. We are aware that we have much work to do, but our goal is to recommend new staff at the November Presbytery meeting.

The team has met with both Sue and Jay to learn about the jobs as they currently exist. Both job descriptions will be assessed with opportunity for input from various groups or

individuals in the Presbytery. The team plans to meet with the volunteer coordinators as well as Tammy Strickland in early May. We also plan to meet with the Executive Council as well as the Commission on Ministry to receive any input they might have. Our team will be preparing a Mission Development Profile for approval by the Executive Council prior to beginning an active search. To provide opportunities for Presbytery members to express thoughts or concerns they have about Presbytery staffing, we plan to host two Zoom meetings for which you will receive notice.

My email is <u>janeclayton106@gmail.com</u>, or you can always reach me through Tammy at the presbytery office. I welcome your thoughts as well as your prayers for this committee's work.

Executive Council Appendix B-2

Deborah Thomas

Stated Clerk's recommendations for edits to our Standing Rules: 3/3/2025 *additions in bold italic:* deletes strikethrough.

FYI -- I have been communicating with our Trustees who are realizing that they do not have an avenue to report to the Executive Council. I have two recommendations (1 & 2 below) for including the Presbytery Committees (as they are titled in the Standing Rules) in the regular work of the EC.

The third suggestion comes from confusion over wording in the Standing Rules regarding quorum for our meetings, and from shrinking numbers of churches. Pat Goodman did a lot of research comparing quorums from many Presbyteries! A reminder -- the process for changes in the Standing Rules is described in the Rules: SR-2.01.03 These Standing Rules may be amended as follows: A proposed amendment shall be presented in writing to the Executive Council, which in turn shall present the proposal to the next meeting of Presbytery with its recommendations. To become effective, an amendment must be approved by two-thirds of the votes cast at one meeting of Presbytery and adopted without further revision by two-thirds of the votes cast at the next meeting.

- 1) on page 12: SR-6.01.01.03 The Executive Council shall ordinarily meet monthly and on the call of the moderator of the Executive Council. *At each meeting, the Executive Council shall invite and receive reports from the Presbytery Committees: Trustees, Nominating and Representation, and Anti-Racism*.
- 2) on page 16: SR-6.01.03 Presbytery Committees

 A representative from each of the Presbytery Committees (Trustees,
 Nominating and Representation, Anti-Racism) shall be invited to report to the
 Executive Council at its meetings.
- 3) on page 6: SR-3.01.05 A quorum of a stated meeting of the Presbytery shall be 20 Ministers of Word and Sacrament and 20 ruling elders, representing at least 20 congregations. A quorum of a called meeting of the Presbytery shall be 15 Minister of Word and Sacrament and 15 ruling elders, representing at least congregations.

shall be no fewer than three ministers of the Word and Sacrament who are members of the Presbytery and three ruling elder commissioners from three different congregations. (Book of Order G-3.0304) This permits Administrative Commissions to function as the Presbytery.

Motion: The first amendment was received as a first reading. Approved

Motion: The second amendment was received as a first reading. Approved

Motion: The third amendment was received with a corrected error as a first

reading. Approved

Anti-Racism Committee

Tom Bryson

On April 6, they hosted "By the River" at Southminster, which is a documentary by Carolyn Crowder. 100 people attended. If you were unable to attend, contact them and they will send you a link to stream it. A Zoom meeting with Carolyn Crowder will be scheduled at a later date. They want to gather more stories from the Presbytery.

Wilcox County Task Force

Terry Hamilton-Poore

The United Presbyterians of Wilcox County still own the closed school buildings. They want to develop those buildings into places the people can use today. They applied for a grant and will receive \$600,000. The next step is for The United Presbyterians of Wilcox County to develop a more detailed plan for the Lilly Foundation. The money should become available in 2026.

Pine Hill Community Tornado Appendix B-3

James Ephraim

Two tornadoes hit Pine Hill and Sand Hill Communities a few months ago. These are the poorest communities in Wilcox County. Many of the congregants that attend two of our churches were hit. James asked for people to give their extra funds to help with the cleanup. Several of the children in those communities will be attending Living River this summer.

Good News from our Churches:

Livingston's Campus Ministry

Luke Ponder

Their college ministry is very active with the congregation. They cleaned up after a tornado together. They loan the students' bikes for the year and help those that have food insecurity. There are a lot of international students, and they come from different faiths and beliefs. Luke meets with students who have never been to church.

Grace's Table of Grace

Caroline Kelly

Their food pantry has grown since the church merger. The building was designed for the people to choose their food with dignity. They built the building across the street from the Sanctuary. It is open on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday afternoons. 30,000 pounds of food is given out every month. They have received grants for a garden to supplement their food pantry.

Southminster—They will be having kickball on Thursdays in June from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and serving hotdogs and hamburgers.

Lunch--The lunch blessing was given by Jonathan Yarboro

Linda Sharp – Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program, Inc.
They are one of the six agencies of the Presbyterian Church USA. In 1843, some wealthy Presbyterians donated funds for loans to churches that didn't have the resources to build on their own. Thirty years ago, they developed a second source of funding which comes from the sale of investments. When a church loan is funded, they ask the church to invest 20 percent of the loan balance with them. They do not charge any fees, and their interest rates are lower than banks. They do give Matthew 25 churches a lower rate.

General Presbyter's Report A

Appendix B-4

Sue Westfall

Commission on Ministry Information Items:

Carl Martin

- 1. Approved CRE Carl Martin to serve communion as follows: Edgewood Presbyterian Church on February 23 and March 9, 2025; First of Alexander City on April 6, 2025.
- 2. Approved CRE Sharon Eich to serve as Moderator of Session at Leeds Presbyterian Church.
- 3. Approved CRE Cherie Fancher to continue laboring outside the bounds of Sheppards and Lapsley as temporary pulpit supply for First Presbyterian Cullman (North Alabama).
- 4. Approved new informational and promotional materials for the revitalized CRE/CLP program. (Recommendations for candidates and inquiries can be directed to program co-directors, Rev. Sharon Schuler and CRE John Schuler.)
- 5. Conducted exit interview with the Rev. Lydia Casey. At her request and with regret, released her from her ministry as a Minister of Word and Sacrament of the Presbyterian Church (USA). We ask God's blessing upon Rev. Casey's calling to minister through her work in health care.

Memorial for Rev. Robert S. Crutchfield Appendix B-5

Terry Hamilton-Poore Carl Martin

Retirement of Rev. Chuck Kukal Appendix B-6

Ed Hurley

Mission Coordinator's Report Appendix B-7 Charles Nash & Ralls Coston Charles shared information on the Congo Conference to be held in Tuscaloosa October 23-25. Our Presbytery has built two of the 10 schools in the Congo, paid tuition for seminary students, paid for teacher training, school supplies, benches for classrooms, provided hospital support and even motorcycles for people to get around.

The background to this requested action is contained in a letter dated December 1, 2024, and its attachments, from Larry E. Caver, President of the Old Autauga Historical Society, to Sue Westfall, General Presbyter of the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley, a copy of which letter and attachments are presented to this meeting as a part of this report.

The trustees recommend and move as follows:

That, for nominal consideration, the appropriate officers of the Presbytery are authorized to execute and deliver a Quitclaim Deed to property of the former Vine Hill Presbyterian Church situated in Autauga County, Alabama, substantially in the form presented at this meeting; and that the trustees and officers of the Presbytery are authorized to take such other actions on behalf of the Presbytery as they deem necessary and appropriate to the sale of such property.

Approved

Nominating
Anti-Racism Committee Class of 2026 Rev. Sam Hamilton-Poore
Approved

Living River Appendix B-9 Rachel Matthews They will be celebrating 10 years of camping this summer. Their summer t-shirts will reflect this.

Presbyterian Home for Children Appendix B-10

Cindy Fisher

Stated Clerk Appendix B-11, 12, 13 For Action:

Jay Wilkins

- 1. First Presbyterian, Anniston: The Session of FPC-Anniston respectfully requests (1) that the appointed Administrative Commission be dissolved, effective May 15, 2025; and (2) that the Presbytery concur with the request of the congregation's vote on December 1, 2024, to be dissolved, effective May 15, 2025. The Session is grateful for the faithful service and sound advice of the Commission. Approved
- 2. The Administrative Commission of Providence Presbyterian Church of Montgomery requests that the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley approve dissolution of the congregation, if way be clear, once the real estate transaction and all legal matters pertaining to dissolving the church are completed. Approved

Providence is operating as a southern option church; the Presbytery has nothing to say regarding the sale of their church. They are asking for our blessing on the closing of their church as soon as it is sold. There is a contract on the building, which will result in a \$2 million investment through the Presbyterian Foundation

to continue supporting Providence's ministries. One of their ministries is Meals on Wheels. They make several thousand meals each month. After the sale, they will be looking for a new kitchen to continue cooking for Meals on Wheels.

Statistical Report Appendix B-14

Equip, Nurture, Connect Appendix B-15

Commission on Preparation for Ministry Appendix B-16

Presbyterian Women Appendix B-17

Summary of Revenue and Expenses Appendix B-18

Adjournment with Prayer

Jonathan Yarboro

PRESBYTERY OF SHEPPARDS AND LAPSLEY

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



Spring Stated Meeting May 15, 2025

Grace Presbyterian Church Tuscaloosa, AL

THE PRESBYTERY OF SHEPPARDS AND LAPSLEY PROPOSED DOCKET / MAY 15, 2025 GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, TUSCALOOSA, AL

Please silence all cell phones and electronic devices

9:00 AM Registration

9:30 Call to Order and Opening Prayer

Moderator Jonathan Yarboro

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 February 20, 2025 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. Nicole Newton as Associate Pastor of the Independent Presbyterian Church on March 2, 2025.
- 5. To accept these invitations to host meetings of the Presbytery: on August 21, 2025, at the First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham; on November 20, 2025, at Edgewood Church.

9: 45 Welcome from Host Church

Caroline Kelly

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE "Prelude and Fugue in G Major, BWV 550"

J. S. Bach

CHORAL INTROIT "In the Midst of New Directions"

Julian B. Rush

† CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

Charles Nash

We come, for God gathers us here, with that community called faith:
where the hungry are served first,
where the thirsty drink life's water.
We come, for God welcomes us here
into that home called grace:
where the naked are clothed in robes of hope;
where the stranger is embraced as the long-lost prodigal.

[†] You are invited to rise in body or in spirit.

We come, for God reunites us here, sisters and brothers in that family called love:

where the imprisoned model justice, where the sick are cradled in God's peace.

†OPENING PRAYER

†HYMN #372

"O For a World"

AZMON

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

Emily Frandsen

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

God of all people, you have called us to walk humbly before you and to share in the struggle with the least of these, yet we have failed to live up to this call. Today, we come before you asking your Spirit to empower us to be agents of transformation for the world. Make us a chalice from which all the oppressed can find the living waters of God, who calls us to live a life of service, of humility, and of reconciliation with you, with creation, and with the world.

(Time for silent prayer)

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S PARDON

†GLORIA #582 "Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me" GLORY TO GOD

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING Ezekiel 34:11-24

This is the Word of God for the People of God. Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

"God Has Called Us"
Combined Presbytery Choir
Marjorie Johnston, Director

Robert Hobby

GOSPEL READING Matthew 25:31-48 (as paraphrased by the Iona Community)

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON Caroline Kelly

WE OFFER OUR THANKS TO GOD

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

(50% of the offering goes to CPM for candidates and 50% is used as a Presbytery discretionary fund for pastoral care. Please give generously.)

OFFERTORY

"Gift of Finest Wheat"

Jeffrey Honoré

†DOXOLOGY

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God, whose image we all bear.
Praise Christ, whose mercy we all share. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise Spirit making justice grow.
One God through whom all blessings flow. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

†PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)

God of justice, we have received so much from you, and we gladly respond with the abundance of our giving. Receive what we offer as a sign of our commitment to support all who do ministry in your name, loving and serving the Christ we meet in all people. Amen.

INVITATION TO CHRIST'S TABLE

GREAT THANKSGIVING (Responsive)

God is with you. And also with you. Lift up your heart. We lift them up to God. Let us give thanks to the Holy One, our God. It is good and beautiful to give God our praise.

.... We witness now to you, now joining our voices together and remembering your reign of peace and love and justice.

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

... as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

.... so we might be your people, proclaiming to others your kin-dom.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Mother and Father God, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kin-dom come thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kin-dom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

(We receive communion by intinction, coming forward to one of two stations for bread and juice. The communion bread we serve is gluten-free, so that all may share in the one loaf, a sign of our oneness in Christ.)

SONG DURING COMMUNION #507 Come to the Table of Grace

TABLE OF GRACE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

WE GO OUT IN GOD'S NAME

†HYMN #315

"In the Midst of New Dimensions" NEW DIMENSIONS (1: All; 2: Pulpit, 3: All; 4: Lectern; 5: All)

†CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

†CONGREGATIONAL BENEDICTION "Show Us Christ in One Another" arr. Lloyd Larson

Show us Christ in one another. Make us servants strong and true. Give us all your love of justice, so we do what you would do. Let us call all people holy. Let us pledge our lives anew. Make us one with all the lowly. Let us all be one in you.

POSTLUDE "Improvisation on 'The King of Love My Shepherd Is'"

Leading Worship:

Michael Delfín, Organist, Grace Presbyterian Church Emily Frandsen, Associate Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Tuscaloosa Marjorie Johnston, Director of Music, First Presbyterian Church, Tuscaloosa Caroline Kelly, Pastor, Grace Presbyterian Church Charles Nash, Ruling Elder, Brown Memorial Presbyterian Church John Sikes, Ruling Elder, Grace Presbyterian Church Combined Presbytery Choir

Assisting in worship:

Ruling Elder April Lane, usher and communion preparer, Grace Presbyterian Church Ruling Elder Ralph Lane, usher and communion bread baker, Grace Presbyterian Church

Ministry Within Our Presbytery

11: 00	Transition/Search Committee (page 7)	Jane Clayton
11:15	Executive Council (pages 8-9) 1. Good News from Matthew 25 Congregations: The Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley is a Matthew 25 Preserved We do hereby commit to become a Matthew 25 mid council. We encourage 20% or more of our congregations to become Mattand embrace these areas of focus: Building congregational visual structural racism; Eradicating systemic poverty. We promise impact of our ministry and share our stories with the PC(USA) 2. Anti Racism Committee 3. Wilcox County Task Force Telescopic Community tornado (page 10) 5. Action Item recommended by Council: (see page 11 for a first)	Ve pledge to hew 25 churches tality; Dismantling to keep track of the) from time to time. Tom Bryson erry Hamilton-Poore James Ephraim
	Approve three edits to the Presbytery's Standing Rules. a. Page 12: SR-6.01.01.03 Agencies of Presbyter b. Page 16: SR-6.01.03 Agencies of Presbytery c. Page 6: SR-3.01.05 Meetings and Organizatio	
11:40	Good News from our Churches: Livingston's campus ministry Grace's Table of Grace	Luke Ponder Caroline Kelly
12:00	Lunch	
1:00 PM	Greetings from Linda Sharp of the Presbyterian Investment and	Loan Program, Inc.
1: 15	General Presbyter's Report (pages 12-13)	Sue Westfall
1:30	Commission on Ministry (addendum in worship folder) Memorial for Rev. Robert S. Crutchfield Retirement of Chuck Kukal	Carl Martin
1:45	Mission (page 15) Congo Mission Partnership & Network Conference	Ralls Coston Charles Nash
2:00	Trustees (pages 16-28) The trustees recommend and move as follows: 1. That, for nominal consideration, the appropriate office	Lant Davis

property of the former Vine Hill Presbyterian Church situated in Autauga County, Alabama, substantially in the form presented at this meeting; and that the trustees and officers of the Presbytery are authorized to take such other actions on behalf of the Presbytery as they

Presbytery are authorized to execute and deliver a Quitclaim Deed to

2:15	Nominating (page 29)	Rick Atkerson
2.10	1. The Committee nominates the following to Anti-Racism Committee	
	Class of 2026 Sam Hamilton-Poore*	
2:25	Living River (pages 30-33)	Rachel Mathews

Presbyterian Home for Children (pages 34-37) 2:35

Cindy Fisher

Stated Clerk (page 38-39) 2:45

Jay Wilkins

For action: Administrative Commission Reports:

- 1. First Presbyterian, Anniston: The Session of FPC-Anniston respectfully requests (1) that the appointed Administrative Commission be dissolved, effective May 15, 2025; and (2) that the Presbytery concur with the request of the congregation's vote on December 1, 2024, to be dissolved, effective May 15, 2025. The Session is grateful for the faithful service and sound advice of the Commission. (page 40)
- 2. The Administrative Commission of Providence Presbyterian Church of Montgomery requests that the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley approve dissolution of the congregation, if way be clear, once the real estate transaction and all legal matters pertaining to dissolving the church are completed. (page 41)

New Business from Bills & Overtures

3:00 PM Adjournment with Prayer Moderator Jonathan Yarboro

†Please stand, if able

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

We wish to extend a thank you to Rev. Caroline Kelly, the staff, and the volunteers of Grace Presbyterian Church for hosting the Presbytery meeting today. We would also like to thank Michael Delfín, Organist, Grace Presbyterian Church; Marjorie Johnston, Director of Music, First Tuscaloosa; Emily Frandsen, Associate Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Tuscaloosa; Charles Nash, Ruling Elder, Brown Memorial Presbyterian Church; John Sikes, Ruling Elder, Grace Presbyterian Church; Ralph and April Lane, Grace Presbyterian Church and the Combined Presbytery Choir for participating in today's worship service.



PRESBYTERY OF SHEPPARDS AND LAPSLEY EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

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*

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL REPORT – MAY 2025

The Executive Council has held two meetings since the February Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley. The meetings were held on March 18, 2025, and April 22, 2025.

Items approved:

- Approved all repairs, painting, and carpeting at the Presbytery Office required due to water damage, not to exceed the amount paid by the UCC Insurance Board. (Trustees)
- Approved exterior painting of the Presbytery Offices and all related repairs not to exceed \$4,000. (Trustees)
- Approved contact with Linda Sharp of the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program, Inc. to speak at the May Presbytery Meeting. (Stated Clerk)
- Approved postponement of the executive council meeting from April 15 to April 22, 2025, in respect of Holy Week.
- Approved Financial Appeal at the May Stated Meeting of Presbytery to support the Pine Hill Community (Wilcox County) in response to tornado damage.
- Approved the proposed docket for the Presbytery Meeting on May 15, 2025.

Action Item recommended by Council:

- Approved three edits to the Presbytery's Standing Rules. (Stated Clerk)
 - o Page 12: SR-6.01.01.03 -- Agencies of Presbytery (Executive Council)
 - Page 16: SR-6.01.03 Agencies of Presbytery (Presbytery Committees)
 - o Page 6: SR-3.01.05 Meetings and Organization (Quorum)

^{*}Ministers of the Word and Sacrament

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL REPORT – MAY 2025

Page 2

Informational Items:

- Received updates from the Trustees (Bill Stribling on behalf of Lant Davis).
- Received updates from the Committee on Ministry regarding the status of congregations (Carl Martin).
- Received updates on planning for the Congo Mission Network Conference and the needs from the Presbytery as a conference sponsor (Charles Nash).
- Received updates on required documentation of training per the Children and Youth Policy (Equip, Nurture, and Connect Report).
- Received preliminary information regarding the planning of a seminar to support perspectives on congregational vitality (Equip, Nurture, and Connect Report).
- Received details related to the receipt of a Lilly Grant for Wilcox County (Wilcox County Task Force Report).
- Received an overview of an event (Anti-Racism Committee Report) that was presented as anti-racism training. A viewing of the film, "At the River", followed by discussion was presented at Southminster Presbyterian Church in Birmingham on April 6, 2025.
- Received an update on the status of the Transition/Search Committee Process. (Executive Presbyter)

Announcements

- 1. An event held on April 26, 2025, at First Presbyterian Church in Birmingham focused on structural racism and was led by D. Danielle Thomas. (Unpacking Kendrick Lamar's Super Bowl Half-time Show)
- 2. The General Presbyter, the Stated Clerk, the Moderator of the Presbytery, and the Moderator of the Executive Council represented the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley on Sunday, April 27, 2025, at Providence Presbyterian Church in Montgomery, Alabama, during the congregation's last worship service before vacating the building.

Deborah C. Thomas, Executive Council Moderator

Help needed for our siblings in Wilcox County! Appendix B-3

On April 9, 2025 a tornado touched down in Camden and Arlington, Alabama in the Pine Hill area of our presbytery. This is in the Black Belt and is home to two of our African American congregations - Annemanie in Arlington and New Trinity in Camden - and members of both congregations were personally affected though the church buildings themselves were not damaged. There were many downed trees and much debris from shattered structures. Wilcox County, in which these towns are located, is one of the most depressed counties in the state. What the county did was to remove all the downed trees and other debris from the road and pile it up on the edge of people's property but have not removed it from the property nor did they help with the removal of debris that struck and damaged houses. This leaves many people with the task of either removing the debris themselves (though few have the heavy equipment necessary to do so) or hiring someone to remove the debris from their yards. In some of the affected properties, the homeowners did not have insurance. At its meeting last Tuesday, the **Executive Council set up a relief fund and is asking you to help out.**

This is the link for the information about the tornado itself: https://www.waka.com/2025/04/09/action-8-update-survey-team-confirms-two-tornadoes-hit-wilcox-county/

The United Presbyterians of Wilcox County are coordinating the effort of debris clean up. The presbytery is receiving the donations from our congregations. Please send your donations to the Presbytery Office marked "Pine Hill Tornado" 3603 Lorna Ridge Drive, Birmingham, AL 35216 or online with the link below making sure you earmark for "Pine Hill Tornado": https://pslpcusa.org/online-giving-paypal/



Report of the General Presbyter of the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley Sue Westfall May 2025

Greetings in this Eastertide! Eastertide is a season of claiming the potent promise of redeemed and resurrected life even before it is fully realized in the world or in our own congregational or personal lives. It is the stunning and reassuring hope that, come what may, God has the last word and it is a word of mercy, grace, and new life. From some years ago I remember the hymn, *Every Sunday is Easter Sunday from Now On!*:

Every Sunday is Easter Sunday from now on!
Every Sunday is Easter Sunday from now on!
And though the day may be filled with pain
And the tears may fall like rain
I know that my God will hold me in His hand
He'll be the strength that I'm looking for, understand
He's my king and I'm gonna sing
Every Sunday is Easter Sunday from now on!

So we move into the future with confidence and eager anticipation! The future, of course, is already unfolding in the present. In this presbytery, the presbytery's elected Transition/Search Team is up and running and provide their own report in these pages as they seek new leadership for the presbytery.

Sociologist William Bridges has done ground-breaking work on **change and transition**. He notes that change is a process of an ending, a neutral time, and a new beginning. We are in the neutral time. Here's a quick guide to his model:

Endings

Transition starts with an ending. This is paradoxical but true. This first phase of transition begins when people identify what they are losing and learn how to manage these losses. They determine what is over and being left behind, and what they will keep. These may include relationships, processes, team members or locations.

Neutral Zone

The second step of transition comes after letting go: the neutral zone. People go through an in-between time when the old is gone but the new isn't fully operational (you are here). It is when the critical psychological realignments and repatternings take place. It is the very core of the transition process. This is the time between the old reality and sense of identity and the new one. People are creating new processes and learning what their new roles will be. They are in flux and may feel some amount of confusion or even distress. The neutral zone is the seedbed for new beginnings.

New Beginnings

Beginnings involve new understandings, values and attitudes. Beginnings are marked by a release of energy in a new direction – they are an expression of a fresh identity. Well-managed transitions allow people to establish new roles with an understanding of their purpose, the part they play, and how to contribute and participate most effectively. As a result, they feel reoriented and renewed.

This presbytery has a great reservoir of good will and trust and we all, and your new future leaders, will be buoyed by that and prompted by the Holy Spirit as we move through this neutral zone into God's future.

In other news, it was a joy, on Earth Day, to convene a group of 13 people who represent this presbytery's earth care congregations. Earth Care Congregations is a support program of the PCUSA to aid churches in their efforts to "walk lightly" upon the earth. So many of our congregations (whether they have declared themselves Earth Care Congregation or not) are making efforts to reduce their footprint on the earth such as:

- Not using styrofoam for coffee cups
- Offering fairly traded coffee for fellowship times
- Replacing lights with more energy efficient LED models
- Reducing their use of paper products
- Incorporating earth care into their liturgy, hymns, and sermonic themes
- And much more.

The Reverend Sam Hamilton Poore is a member of the Presbyterians for Earth Care steering committee. Check the website for Earth Care Congregations here: https://pcusa.org/about-pcusa/agencies-entities/interim-unified-agency/ministry-areas/hunger-program/sustainable-livingearth-care-c.

And in a final note, Sunday, April 27, saw the last worship service for Providence Presbyterian Church in Montgomery with Dr. Deborah Thomas representing the presbytery (later joined by Jonathan Yarboro whose support of that congregation spans decades). The sanctuary was full, the choir in full voice, and Nan Adams' message so fitting and reassuring. The building is under contract and it is the congregation's intent to use the proceeds of its sale to fund mission in perpetuity.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, we belong to God!

As ever in prayer,

Sue

Thanksgiving for the life and service of Rev. Dr. Robert Salley Crutchfield Obituary

The Rev. Dr. Robert Salley Crutchfield died peacefully on May 4 at the age of 93.

Dr. Crutchfield was born in Orangeburg, South Carolina. He was educated at Davidson College in North Carolina and Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, Virginia (later returning to earn a doctorate in theology at Emory University in Atlanta). Following assistantships in Raleigh, North Carolina and Staunton, Virginia, he was ordained to the pastorate of the Tinkling Spring Presbyterian Church (Fishersville VA) and its rural sister congregation, Hermitage Presbyterian, in 1958. He moved to Newport News in 1966 as pastor of Hilton Presbyterian Church, and then to Birmingham, Alabama in 1983 as pastor of First Presbyterian Church, where he continued until his retirement in 1995, returning shortly afterwards to live in Newport News.

He was active in the civic life of all these communities. He played a leadership role in several mental-health initiatives, including a church-sponsored coffeehouse for recovering drug users and a telephone counseling line for those in crisis. In Birmingham he oversaw the establishment of a church-operated shelter for women and children [this is the shelter we now know as First Light].

Alongside his pastoral work Dr. Crutchfield led a long life on the operatic stage, stretching from tenor leads in Gilbert and Sullivan while still in high school to an appearance as the Old Emperor in Puccini's *Turandot* in 2008. In between he sang more than two dozen roles with the Virginia Opera Association, the Peninsula Civic Opera, and the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, while appearing as a soloist in concert and oratorio with the Atlanta Symphony, the main orchestras of Virginia and Alabama, and choral societies in several states.

He was married for 68 years to Elisabeth Lewis ("Libby") Crutchfield (1931-2022), who played an active role in all the churches he served as minister, and with whom he enjoyed a long retirement filled with travel. He is survived by their four sons, as well as four grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews. A memorial service is planned for September at Hilton Presbyterian in Newport News.

Carl's reflection:

"Through Jesus Christ, you are forgiven." Those are the first words I recall hearing the Rev. Dr. Crutchfield speaking.

Those words expressing the concept of God and God's forgiveness being embodies in Jesus Christ are not uncommon -- especially for Christians. We heard similar words of assurance this morning as we Presbyterians do in every worship service. However, not all denominations include a statement of forgiveness as part of their order of worship.

The Southern Baptist Church which I attended as a child addressed sin and forgiveness differently.

In the fall of 1986, as a college freshman, I was hired to sing in the choir at First Presbyterian Birmingham. On that first Sunday, as I looked over the bulletin, I was unprepared for words such as "confession" and "pardon" and "affirmation," but I was excited for the new experience and the opportunity to be part of the choir's beautiful music.

We prayed the communal confessional prayer, sang a beautiful *Kyrie*, then, with his arms raised and hands outstretched as if to confer a special blessing on all assembled, he said: "Through Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Hallelujah! Amen."

Dr. Crutchfield didn't say the words. He didn't speak the words. He *proclaimed* the words so that they became more than words, more than language, even. In that moment, I heard the Good News of God's eternal love. Instead of focusing on all the ways I had disappointed God and would continue to do so, I heard that Jesus loved me enough to forgive me. Hearing those words in that context forever changed the way I think about God and faith.

I continued to sing at First throughout college, and I considered Dr. Crutchfield my pastor. I did not know him especially well, although I wish I had taken the opportunity to do so. But the Good News he shared on my first Sunday marks a special waypoint along my faith journey.

Dr. Crutchfield never failed to share the Good News every Sunday at First, and no doubt he did so from the pulpit of every church where he served. I, however, am most especially thankful for that Sunday in 1986 when I heard him share the Good News.

Terry's reflection:

Several years ago I asked Tom Winter about his time serving First Presbyterian as Associate Pastor under Bob Crutchfield. Tom told me that, prior to Crutchfield's pastorate, the church had still been struggling with the impact of the events of 1963—which is another story; and that, as a result of that trauma, they had turned inward, licking their wounds. But Tom said that when the PNC was interviewing Crutchfield, Crutchfield told them that if they weren't interested in reaching out to the surrounding community, they should not call him.

Of course, they *did* call him, and his time there ushered in a sea change. Very quickly they started reaching out, including delivering Meals on Wheels to some of the poorest areas in town. And Crutchfield hadn't even been there a year when a winter cold spell caused the deaths of several women who had been living in the streets near the church. Under his leadership, the church responded by opening a shelter in the church

basement. They thought the shelter was temporary, but when Crutchfield retired twelve years later it was still there, and remained there until it finally moved into its separate space and became what is now called the First Light Shelter.

After those years of doldrums, opening and then running the shelter reignited the congregation's passion for ministry and for welcome—a passion that remains all these years later. It was as if Crutchfield reshaped the DNA of the congregation. I can't imagine a better legacy than that as a pastor, and I am deeply grateful to be a beneficiary of his extraordinary pastoral work that continues to bear fruit today.

Prayer

Loving and generous God, thank you for the life of your servant, Robert Crutchfield. For his length of years and his life-long commitment to Christian service and Godly justice, we lift our hearts and voices in joy. For the grief his loss places upon his family and close friends, we ask for mercy and comfort. May they feel the loving embrace of your Holy Spirit expressed through the hands and the hugs of those closest to them.

For the lives he touched, for the ministries in which he served, and for the legacy he left in Sheppards and Lapsley and at First Birmingham, thanks be to God. Through Christ we pray. Amen.

Presented in gratitude,

Rev. Dr. Terry Hamilton-Poore Carl Martin Remarks upon the Honorable Retirement of The Rev. Charles F. "Chuck " Kukal

May 15, 2025 Dr. Ed Hurley

Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley at Grace Presbyterian Church, Tuscaloosa, AL

Today we celebrate the life and ministry of the Rev. Charles F. "Chuck" Kuykal who recently entered honorable retirement after nine years serving as Pastor of the Bold Springs Presbyterian Church in Birmingham. Chuck is married to his lovely wife Lyn, and both of them are twins! (Not of each other!) This coming June they will celebrate their 58th wedding anniversary. They are blessed with four children, three boys and a girl.

Chuck grew up in Linden, New Jersey and was baptized along with his twin sister at the Third Presbyterian Church of Elizabeth, New Jersey. As he writes in an autobiographical essay,

"We lived in the house that my grandfather built along with my fraternal grandmother whom I was very close to. She taught me the Czech language, some of which I remember to this day.

Although I grew up in the church... attending faithfully every Sunday morning at Sunday School and Church, where through the ministry of that church, I received the Biblical foundation for later coming to faith in Jesus Christ... the reality of my need for Christ to be my personal Savior did not come until I was about 16 or 17. It was while attending a summer Synod camp that I was confronted with the gospel of Christ. I saw myself as a sinner before Almighty God, and it became clear to me, by the working of the Holy Spirit in my heart that Christ was the only Mediator between God and man; that Jesus was the only Way, the Truth and the Life and that by his death on the cross for me, I had the promise of forgiveness of all my sins and through faith in Him I had the gift of eternal life.

There was great joy and peace in my heart that night. It was as if a great weight of guilt and burden of sin had been lifted from my back. I now knew I was a Christian and wanted to live for and serve Christ. Looking back I can see God's covenant promises in my baptism being brought to fruition in my life. "

Chuck went to college at Bloomfield College, a Presbyterian-related school, and to seminary at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Illinois,

Chuck's first pastorate was as pastor of Calvary Presbyterian Church in the former UPCUSA, in Baltimore, Maryland. During his time there the church quadrupled in size. At the same time Chuck served on the Clergy Pastoral Staff at Johns Hopkins

Hospital in Baltimore. before traveling South, spending many years in various ministry roles in Monroe, Louisiana, (where it happens I was pastor at a neighboring church during part of the time Chuck was there.) Chuck became the organizing pastor of the New Life Presbyterian Church there. After a number of years there, participating in the church's substantial growth Chuck felt led by the Lord to develop a chaplains ministry for the Louisiana State Police Troop F and also Chaplain to the City Police of Monroe, while also serving as an interim pastor in both PCUSA and PCA congregations.

Besides official ministry service in a number of congregations and chaplaincy ministries, Chuck 's ministry took form in less conventional work, where the light of Christ continued to shine through him. After a short time in Florida, serving on the staff of the Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church, Chuck returned to Monroe at the request of the Chief of Police to become a full-time police officer with responsibilities as chaplain. There he also taught Stress Management in the Police Academy and became a certified licensed Paramedic and a nationally certified EMS instructor for 10 years.

Later Chuck and Lyn moved back north to New York where they were licensed as full-time care-givers taking patients into their home, one who had Parkinsons and another who had osteoporosis and two who had the beginnings of Alzheimers. They later followed their daughter and son-in-law to Birmingham. Here for the past nine years Chuck has been the much loved pastor of one of the oldest historic congregations in our Presbytery. Bold Springs, if you have not been there you should go, is a beautiful tranquil oasis in the midst of the urban Birmingham community. The stone sanctuary is situated on Lake Purdy with I would guess 20 acres of well manicured land. The congregation has maintained steady worship and ministry throughout Chuck's service there.

Today we salute you Chuck. We thank you most sincerely for your service for Christ and Christ's Church, your outreach service as a Chaplain and EMT official, and all the many unique ways God has used you. We wish for you and Lyn every blessing of joy and happiness as you continue to grow and who knows, get certified in yet some other special work! Well done, good and faithful servant!

Mission Coordinator's Report to Presbytery, April 25, 2025

- 1. The Congo Mission Network Conference, hosted by this Presbytery, will be on October 23-25, 2025, at Stillman College and Brown Memorial Presbyterian Church. Planning for the Conference is continuing. We are getting close to making arrangements with a hotel in Tuscaloosa for rooms. Also, it is planned to make the Conference to be hybrid, with in-person meetings and Zoom. People from the US and the DR Congo will be able to attend the Conference virtually. It is likely that we will need churches and volunteers to help provide meals, transportation, etc.
- 2. The Birmingham Habitat House construction will begin Thursday, May 8. The house will be built for the Jasmene Jones family. The house is at 4016 Morninghope Drive, Bessemer. Construction should take 6-8 weeks. If you church or individuals wish to volunteer, contact Ralls Coston or go online at habitatbirmingham.org.
- 3. This Presbytery is a member of Alabama VOAD (Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster). VOAD is comprised of churches, secular organizations, government agencies (county, State and Federal). It is focused on disaster response and long-term recovery. ALVOAD meets quarterly and shares information about needs and resources. The Presbyterian Church USA focuses on long-term recovery from disasters. This is what we have been doing in Selma since the 2023 tornado.
- 4. A tornado has done damage in the Pine Hill community in Wilcox County. Much of the damage consists of blown-down trees that need to be removed from people's property. If you want to contribute to help with this need, please send your check to the Presbytery office, marked for Wilcox Tornado Recovery, or you may send your check to the United Presbyterians of Wilcox County.

Grantee: Old Autauga Historical Society P.O. Box 622 Autaugaville, AL 36003 Grantor: Appendix B-8
Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley
3603 Lorna Ridge Drive
Birmingham, AL 35216

Tax Exempt

STATE OF ALABAMA COUNTY OF AUTAUGA

QUITCLAIM DEED

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, that for and in consideration of ONE (\$1.00) Dollar, in hand paid to the undersigned, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, the undersigned, PRESBYTERY OF SHEPPARDS AND LAPSLEY, Grantor, (hereinafter referred to as Grantor), quit claims and conveys to OLD AUTAUGA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Grantee, (hereinafter referred to as Grantee), any right, title, interest and claim it holds in or to the following described real estate, situated in Autauga County, Alabama, to wit:

The approximately 1 acre lot known as the Parsonage lot and/or church property on the Map of Vine Hill Land Company, as said Map appears of record in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Autauga County, Alabama in Deed Book 44 at Page 364, re-recorded in Map Book 1, Page 24, and re-recorded again in Map Book 2 at Page 231. Said property identified as Tax Parcel 05-04-20-0-000-001.003. To the extent necessary, this deed conveys the remainder of the property owned by Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley and Vine Hill Presbyterian Church in Autauga County.

This property was previously owned by Vine Hill Presbyterian Church. Presbytery of Sheppard and Lapsley is the successor-in-interest to Vine Hill Presbyterian Church.

Subject to covenants, restrictions, reservations, easements and rights of way appearing of record affecting subject property.

THIS DEED PREPARED WITHOU	T BENEFIT OF TITLE.	
TO HAVE AND TO HOLD to said GR	ANTEE forever	
Given under my hand and seal, this the	day of	, 2025
	PRESBYTERY OF SHI	EPPARDS AND LAPSLEY
	By: Walter Jeter Wilkins,	III
	Its: Stated Clerk	

STATE OF ALABAMA COUNTY OF AUTAUGA

(SEAL)

I, the undersigned authority, a Notary Public in and for said County, in said State, hereby certify that Walter Jeter Wilkins, as stated clerk for the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley., whose name is signed to the foregoing conveyance, and who is known to me, acknowledged before me on this day, that, being informed of the contents of the conveyance, he, executed the same voluntarily on the day the same bears date.

day of _

NOTARY PUBLIC
My Commission Expires:

This instrument prepared by: KYLE SHIRLEY McDOWELL, FAULK & SHIRLEY, L.L.C. 145 W. Main St. Prattville, Al. 36067 (334) 365-5924 File No.2025-097-RE-4

Given under my hand and official seal on this the

2024 Board Members

Old Autauga Historical Society P.O. Box 622 Autaugaville, Alabama 36003

December 1, 2024

Presbytery of Sheppards & Lapsley Sue Westfall 3603 Lorna Ridge Drive Birmingham, Alabama 35216

Re: Vine Hill Presbyterian Church

I am writing regarding the historic Vine Hill Presbyterian Church (1887) located in Northwestern Autauga County near Jones. The church was originally established after the Civil War by the Lapsley Family. The church closed in the early-1990s. The church and cemetery (5.9 acres) were deeded by the Presbytery to former members under the name of Frank E. Bagby Cemetery Association. Many of the former church

Alabama Historical Commission (AHC) and the Mid-South RC & D Council to replace the interior floors, foyer, and belfry tower. The church and cemetery are now on the state historic register, and are marked as such by a state roadside historic marker. The church building is NOT used for any church services. All surviving members of the church are members at Jones Baptist Church, Pleasant Valley Methodist Church, etc. OAHS holds periodic historic meetings at the church as well as an annual blue grass gospel event every November. The church is a museum to the former members of the church and Vine Hill community.

The old church never had indoor restrooms, and they can not be added to the historic structure. OAHS wants to raise funds (grants) to build a detached restreets.

members are now gone. Back in 2020, Old Autauga Historical Society (OAHS) became guardian of the property under an agreement with two surviving members, David Bagby and Danny Blue. The old church was in great need of repair as the floors had rotted out. OAHS raised private funds (\$17,000) and secured additional state grants from the

The old church never had indoor restrooms, and they can not be added to the historic structure. OAHS wants to raise funds (grants) to build a detached restroom (s) that will operate on county water and a septic system. However, based on the geography of the ridge, there is no place to install a septic tank. Apart from the drive to church, church building and cemetery, the remaining property slops downhill (bowl shape). It does not appear the bowl or drop off in front of church will perc for a septic tank.

The local probate judge and the local revenue commissioner of aware of the situation. We have recently learned that at the time the deed was executed to the Frank Bagby Cemetery Association (church/cemetery) that the old parsonage lot (1.3 acre lot) was NOT deeded over to the association, and that it remains in the name of Vine Hill Presbyterian Church (see enclosed copies).

Larry E. Caver, President

Jone Dennis, Vice-President

Linda Walker, Secretary

Lynn Langston Burrell, Treasurer

Jeannie R. Johnson, Board member Southwest Autauga County

Heather S. Conner, Board member Northwest Autauga County

Barbara Ware Russell, Board member Northeast Autauga County

Shelly Wainwright, Board member Southeast Autauga County

David Whitehead, Board member Chilton County

Michele Washatka, Board member Elmore County

Beth DeBusk, Member-at-large

I am writing regarding this 1.3 acre lot as it is flat and would be our best option to ever be able to build a modern day outhouse (with septic tank) for the special events we hold at the site. It is listed as parsonage lot but there is no surviving structure on the lot, which is now overgrown and wooded.

We are a 501 (c) (3) public charity with IRS and the State of Alabama. We rely primarily upon annual membership dues, private donations and some public funding when available. We are not able to use public funds (grants) to buy the lot. We do not have a lot of private funds on hand to offer to purchase this lot. However, we are asking and praying that the Presbytery will consider selling or donating this 1.3 acre lot to OAHS. We will pray hard and sell lots of cakes if needed to raise the funds. If the presbytery would consider donating it, we will gladly pay for all legal/closing fees.

We do not see that another Presbyterian Church would flourish in this area. Most of the area rural churches (Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, etc.) are struggling to stay open themselves. However, we believe the history of the Lapsley Family, Vine Hill Church, etc., are worthy of preserving and sharing.

Thank you and the Presybtery in advance for consideration of this request. If you need any additional information, feel free to contact me.

Larry E. Caver, President Phone (334) 318-2568

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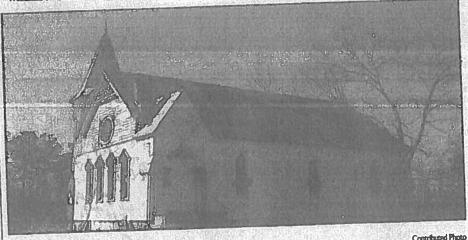
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LEADER: Vine Hill Prebysterian Church in Autauga County will host an Old Autauga Historical Society Christmas exhibit this month.

Vine Hill Presbyterian Church to host Christmas Exhibit during the month

By James Jones The Selma Times-Journal

A church near the Dallas County line will host an old fashion Christmas exhibit this month.

Old Autauga Historical Society will host an old fashion Christmas exhibit at Vine Hill Presbyterian Church on County Rd 22, near Jones, Autauga County.

Hours are: Sunday, Dec. 5, Noon-4 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 11, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Sunday, Dec 12, Noon- 4 p.m

Tuesday, Dec. 14, Noon-1 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 19, Noon-4 p.m.

Vine Hill Presbyterian Church was established in the 1870's by Rev Robert Lapsley and family of Selma. The family made Vine Hill, which sits on the Dallas- Autauga County lines, their summer home.

Other families settled in the area on a more permanent basis. The Lapsleys and a few other

members of the old First Presbyterian Church of Selma established Vine Hill Church.

The first church structure was small and later used for the Vine Hill School. Around 1887, the congregation began building the current building which is made of native heart pine throughout.

The tongue and groove walls in the sanctuary arch upwards to form the center of the ceiling.

The church structure has survived many years and most of the original heart pine is still rock hard and solid. The congregation flourished into the 1900s, but by the late-1980s, the congregation dwindled until it was finally closed about 1990.

The church sat empty for years, with descendants of the original families visiting the old structure and cemetery. In 2019, the church was locked to prevent entry due to detoriating floors inside and out of concerns that someone could get hurt. Old Autauga Historical Society (OAHS) adopted the old church and began restoring the precious structure.



Selma Times Journal Dec 4, 2021



ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

468 South Perry Street P.O. Box 300900 Montgomery, Alabama 36130-0900 334-242-3184 / Fax: 334-240-3477 Lisa D. Jones
Executive Director
State Historic Preservation Officer

November 26, 2021

Larry E. Caver, President Old Autauga Historical Society P.O. Box 622 Autaugaville, Alabama 36003

RE: Vine Hill Presbyterian Church, Autauga County Road 22, Plantersville, Alabama

Dear Friends:

It is my pleasure to present to you the certificate for the above referenced property in honor of its listing in the Alabama Register of Landmarks & Heritage.

Thank you for your dedication to preserving Alabama's historic resources.

Best Regards,

Rebekah Reader

Coordinator, Alabama Register of Landmarks & Heritage

(334)230-2699

Rebekah.Reader@ahc.alabama.gov

Rebekah Reader

Enclosure



ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

468 South Perry Street P.O. Box 300900 Montgomery, Alabama 36130-0900 334-242-3184 / Fax: 334-240-3477

Lisa D. Jones
Executive Director
State Historic Preservation Officer

November 10, 2021

Attention: Larry E. Caver, President Old Autauga Historical Society (OAHS) P.O. Box 622 Autaugaville, AL 36003

RE: Vine Hill Presbyterian Church Cemetery, County Road 22, Plantersville, Autauga County, Alabama

Dear Mr. Caver:

It is my pleasure to present to you the certificate for the above referenced cemetery in honor of listing on the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register.

Thank you for your dedication to preserving Alabama's historic resources.

With warm regards,

Leanne Waller-Trupp

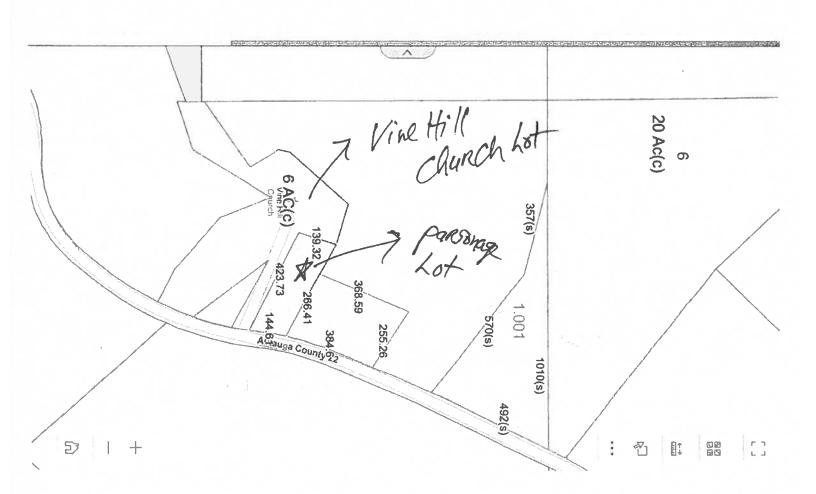
Cemetery Programs Coordinator Alabama Historical Commission

334-230-2653

Leanne.Trupp@ahc.alabama.gov

Enclosure

CRES0003 PLANTERSVILLE AL 36758 **Mailing Address** Owner: Neighborhood: **4223 COUNTY RD 22** VINEHILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Fee ... Year: 2024 **Total Paid** Market Value Total Due Assessed Value Appraised Value Total Land Value Total Improvement Value Total Tax School District: 02 Range: 12E Section: 20 Township: 19N Acreage: 1.320 \$9,700 NOT DEFIND Subdivision: Appraised Value: \$0.00 \$9,700 \$9,700 05 04 20 0 000 001.003 Parcel #: \$0.00 \$0.00 \$0.00 \$1,940 \$9,700 \$0 No image available



Owner:

VINEHILL PRESBYTERIAN

CHURCH

Mailing Address

4223 COUNTY RD 22

PLANTERSVILLE AL 36758

Neighborhood:

CRES0003

NOT DEFIND **Subdivision:**

Acreage: 1.320

Township: 19N

Range: 12E

Section: 20

05 04 20 0 000 001.003 Parcel #: Appraised Value: \$9,700

Tax Year

2024

Property Class

N

Exempt Code

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Municipality

04 - COUNTY DIST

N

02

School District

Over 65 Code

Disability Code

Total H/C Area

Metes and Bounds: PARSONAGE LOT OF THE VINE HILL PREBYTERIAN 2005-7562 AND BOUNDARY TAKEN FROM SURVEY WO CRISSOM CHURCH LOT ALL MEASUREMENTS ESTIMATED LESS AND EXCEPTED OUT OF

hunch + Cenefep

Owner:

BAGLEY FRANK E

CEMETARY ASSOCIATION

Mailing Address

1480 COUNTY RD103

PLANTERSVILLE AL 36758

Neighborhood:

CRES0003

Subdivision:

NOT DEFIND

Acreage: 5.900 Section: 20

Township: 19N Range: 12E

Parcel #:

Appraised Value: \$48,100

Tax Year

2024

Property Class

N

Exempt Code

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Municipality

01 - COUNTY DIST

School District

2

Disability Code

Over 65 Code

Total H/C Area

0 Sqft

Metes and Bounds: CEMETARY

Send Ad Valorem Tax Notice To:

Frank E. Bagby Cornetery Association, Inc. John D. BLUE 1480 CO. RD 103 PLANTERSVILLE

36758

DF D# OC THE

-4003

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-(I) X -64 070

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Proba

STATE OF ALABAMA)) **COUNTY OF AUTAUGA**

OUITCLAIM DEED

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS: That for and in consideration of the sure of Ten Dollars and other good and valuable consideration, in hand paid to the undersigned, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, the undersigned, PRESBYTERY OF SHEPPARDS AND LAPSLEY, hereby remises, releases, quitclaims, grants, sells, and conveys unto FRANK E. BAGBY CEMETERY ASSOCIATION, an Alabama corporation, without any warranty or representation of any kind, all of their right, title, interest and claim in or to the following real estate situated in Autauga County, Alabama to wit:

Begin at an old stone monument marking the Southeast corner of Lot 241 according to the Map of Vine Hill Land Company recorded in the Probate Office of Autsuga County, Alabama; thence run South for 92.0 feet to an old stone monument; thence run North 71 degrees East for 191.0 feet to a corner; thence run North 31 degrees 23 minutes 06 seconds East for 345.29 feet to an old stone monument; thence run South 22 degrees 06 minutes 26 seconds East for 209.02 feet to a corner; thence run South 49 degrees East for 260.0 feet to a corner; thence run South 63 degrees East for 170.0 feet to a corner on the West margin of an Old Road; thence run Northeasterly, along said Road margin, for 145.0 feet to a corner; thence run North 37 degrees 30 minutes West, along the South line of Lot 104 of said Vine Hill Land Company, for 362.0 feet to a corner; thence run South 61 degrees 30 minutes East, along the North line of said Lot 104, for 294.0 feet to a corner on the West margin of an Old Road; thence run Northerly, along said Road margin, for 210 feet to a corner; thence run North 61 degrees 30 minutes West for 396.0 feet to a corner; thence run North 73 degrees West for 160.0 feet to a corner; thence run South 41 degrees 15 minutes West for 295.5 feet to a corner; thence run South 12 degrees West for 47 feet to a corner; thence run South 31 degrees East for 127 feet to corner, thence run South 54 degrees 30 minutes West for 299.0 feet to the point of beginning.

The above described property contains 7.0 acres, more or less, less and except the 1.0 acre Parsonage Lot, and lies in the East half of the Northwest Quarter of Section 20, T 19 N, R 12 E, Autauga County, Alabama.

According to a map of a retracement survey of said property as shown on the Vine Hill Land Company Map, as recorded at RLPY 0133, page 0530 in the Probate Office of Autauga County, Alabama

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD unto the said FRANK E. BAGBY CEMETERY ASSOCIATION forever. The undersigned are executing this Deed in their role as Trustees only and incur no personal liability as a result thereof.

B AWM 677907 vt 1030664-000020 07/11/05

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, two of the Trustees of the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley have hereunto set their hands and seals, this the Aday of July, 2005. Trustee for Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley Trustee for Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley STATE OF ALABAMA **COUNTY OF JEFFERSON** I, Zively G Town , a Notary Public, in and for said County in said State, hereby certify that Anne W. Mitchell, whose name as Trustee of Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley, is signed to the foregoing conveyance, and who is known to me, acknowledged before me on this day that, being informed of the contents of the conveyance she, as such officer and with full authority, executed the same voluntarily for and as the act of said Corporation. Given under my hand this the 10 day of ___ . N 11 11. My Commission Expires: STATE OF ALABAMA COUNTY OF JEFFERSON I, TVELOU 9 70000, a Notary Public, in and for said County in said State, hereby certify that JERRY VANDEGRIFT, whose name as Trustee of Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley, is signed to the foregoing conveyance, and who is known to me, acknowledged before me on this day that, being informed of the contents of the conveyance he, as such officer and with full authority, executed the same voluntarily for and as the act of said Corporation. Given under my hand this the 12 day of July My Commission Expires: REY COMMISSION DOTHER MONEYARE 29, 2003

This instrument prepared by (without benefit of a title search) Anne W. Mitchell, Hsq. Baker Donelson Bearman Caldwell & Berkowitz, P.C. 420 No. 20th St. Ste 1600 Birmingham, Alabama 35203



SOUTHTRUST TOWER 420 TWENTIETH STREET NORTH SUITE 1600 BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA 35203 PHONE: 205.328.0480 FAX: 205.322.8007

www.bakerdonelson.com

ANNE W. MITCHELL Direct Dial: 205.250.8308 Direct Fax: 205.488.3708

E-Mail Address: amitchell@bakerdonelson.com

August 18, 2005

Mr. Jerry Vandegrift 3432 River Bend Road Birmingham, Alabama 35243

Re: Deed to Vine Hill Church Property

Dear Jerry:

Enclosed for your records is a photocopy of the Deed from the Trustees to the Frank E. Bagby Cemetery Association, showing the recording information.

Sincerely,

Anne W. Mitchell

AWM:kls

B AWM 682334 v1 1030664-000001 08/17/2005



May 2025 Newsletter



The Transformative Power of Summer Camp

As Living River prepares for Summer Camp, one of our biggest tasks is to create an effective schedule for counselor training, full of hands on practice, meaningful learning, and outside experts on topics ranging from archery to child development. In meeting with Jermaine Wall, a licensed social worker and therapist, to prepare for his upcoming time with Living River's counselors during their training, he said, "What you're trying to do is create a little slice of heaven on earth for kids and youth..." He gets it! Yes! Living River prays, in the same way Jesus taught us, that "God's kingdom will come, and that God's will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." And, we may be biased, but we really believe in the unique ability of Summer Camp to help achieve, "generations assured of God's love for them and caring for creation" (Living River's vision).

The ACA (American Camp Association) vision is, "Building a world of belonging and growth." They explain, "The heart of the camp experience is built on a foundational expectation that we all deserve the opportunity to feel like we belong. Camp is about fostering a safe environment where every camper feels valued, accepted, and celebrated for who they are. In a world that often emphasizes differences, camps have been a sanctuary where they're viewed as strength."

At Living River, campers experience:

- Consecutive days without screens and most technology
- An abundance of time in nature
- Opportunities to build confidence like- managing one's belongings, becoming a part of a small group community, and trying new skills
- Unique camp traditions that turn into lifelong memories and reminders about their belonging to this world and God's love for them
- New friendships and lots of fun like-canoeing, archery, disc golf, hiking, fossil hunting, swimming, fishing, games, crafts, and more!







Summer Camp is right around the corner!

Please share about the opportunity and impact of Living River Summer Camp with your grandchildren, neighbors, friends, and family. Living River needs your help growing its Summer Camp program and reaching more families. All kids and youth are welcome!

<u>There are only a few scholarships left through the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley.</u> They are first come, first serve. Additional scholarship is available through Living River.

Visit www.livingriver.org for more information and to register.

THANK YOU to all who donated to Living River's Scholarship Fund for Summer Camp 2025-

Independent Presbyterian Church, the Presbyterian Women of South Highland, Michael and Gillian Goodrich, and other individual donors. The Scholarship Fund will fund up to 24 campers from Wilcox Co. and provide additional scholarship to any camper family who may need it.

Rising high school juniors or seniors can be a Counselor in Training (CIT)! High schoolers can be CITs at any Elementary or Creative Camp. It's a great opportunity to learn, build confidence, make new friends, and form lasting memories! Visit our website for more information.

Save the Date! Fall River Fest, 2025- Sunday, Oct. 19

A day of fellowship, recreation, environmental partners, worship, and creative opportunities! Fall River Fest is a great opportunity for congregations to experience Living River together- benefiting from time in creation and community building together and across the presbytery. In years past, some congregations have canceled their normal worship in order to experience Fall River Fest together while others have joined the festivities after normal worship is over. This event is free and open to the general public!









Join us this year for Living River's annual Cahaba Lily Adult Retreat for outdoor, spiritual, and creative exploration, May 16-18!





Or, for the first of Living River's new Open Days on May 17.

Once a month, starting in May, Living River will be totally open to the public for general recreation. Find all the dates and more information at www.livingriver.org.

Living River's Financial Health Year-to-date

Bud	lget Rep	ort			
Sources of Funds	3	/31/2025			25 Annual Budget
Program		33,030			132,800
PSL - Trinity Property		8,379	25%		33,504
Donations		31,057	15%		207,000
Designated gifts for camp		3,500	20%		17,600
Grants		48,000	100%		48,000
Other		1,136	5%		24,390
Total	\$	125,102	27%	\$	463,294
Uses of Funds					
Personnel & Fees for Services		49,748	20%		245,377
Program Expenses		2,829	5%		52,800
Facilities		40,150	37%		109,228
Mortgage Payments		7,539	23%		33,504
Administration		5,393	27%		19,797
Total	\$	105,659	23%	\$	460,706
Sources minus uses	\$	19,443		\$	2,588

	3/31/2025		1	12/31/2024	
Assets					
Operating Account	\$	102,275	\$	100,220	
Capital Account		353,670		316,959	
Other Current Assets		-		8,349	
New Covenant Endowment Fund		449,695		458,695	
New Covenant Scholarship Fund		8,796		8,971	
Fixed Assets - Net		6,670,357		6,670,358	
Total Assets	\$	7,584,793	\$	7,563,552	
Liabilities					
Accounts Payable	\$	2,377	\$	2,490	
Program Deposits		8,080		6,080	
Payroll Liabilities		3,895		4,630	
Oakworth Mortgage		97,803		104,212	
Total Liabilities		112,155		117,412	
Net Assets					
Net Assets		7,472,638		7,446,140	
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$	7,584,793	\$	7,563,55	

Living River needs Bedrock Sustaining Donors

Did you know Living River's income comes 75% from its programs and annual donations. Living River depends on its generous donors to sustain and grow its programs each year. Will you consider becoming an annual donor to Living River? Could you increase your annual giving?

Living River stewards a sacred place, 440 acres and its facilities on one 4.5 miles of one the most biodiverse rivers in North America, the Cahaba River. You can help care for this corner of creation and welcome more of our neighbors for transformational, spiritual experiences.

Become a Bedrock Donor by giving a minimum of \$25 a month or \$300 annually, strengthening Living River's foundation!

Donations can be made online or by mailing a check. Sustaining Donors will be recognized annually, first-time donors with a beautiful glass piece like the one pictured right by artist Sherri Van Pelt. You can find more information about the Bedrock

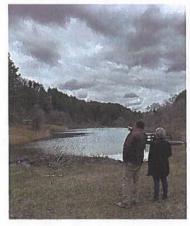
Donor program on Living River's website under "Donate."





Southern Pine Beetles Hit Living River

Living River's property was a mining operation in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. As a part of mine reclamation, the state aerial seeded pine over much of Central AL. Living River's pine stand had been in need of thinning, therefore, it was very vulnerable when the Southern Pine Beetle epidemic hit Alabama last Fall. Today, Living River's Southern Pine Beetle infestation is under control. Thank you for supporting Living River and the work it takes to responsible steward its property!





Executive Director's Corner

Spring is that time of the year in the camp and retreat world when time speeds up. We're barreling toward Counselor Training and Summer Camp, and I've never been more excited. We have had the full summer staff in place since March 3, with 10 out of the 12 counselors hired before Christmas. Rachel and I had a productive planning weekend with our two head counselors, Brooke Satterfield and Thomas Reed, both of whom are former campers and counselors. We are excited and ready to see the amazing ways that God will be at work with our campers and counselors this summer.

Our retreat guests have continued to find renewal and enrichment at Living River. **January through May has brought 17 different organizations to Living River for retreats** including the following: FPC Auburn Women, Presbyterian House University of Wisconsin, Madison; Central Presbyterian, Atl.;

FPSL Confirmation Retreat, Living River Board Retreat, Bama Catholic, PSL Youth Council Retreat, Alabama Meditation Network, Restorative Yoga, Levine Academy, Dallas, TX; Edgewood Presbyterian Women, LR Spring You and Me Retreat, Kairos Outdoors, Peace at Any Pace, California; Cahaba Lily Retreat, Cahaba Riverkeeper Environmental Leadership Retreat for High School students, and Shepherd of the Valley Presbyterian Church (ECO), McCalla.



Please continue to spread the word with those you know about the summer camp and retreat possibilities at Living River. You are our greatest asset in sharing with others about Living River.





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



April 25, 2025

Dear Friends in Christ:

Again and again, we are deeply grateful to the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley for your prayers, encouragement and support of the Presbyterian Home for Children. Each day, lives are being impacted at and through the Home. Thank you all for helping make that happen!

By the time of the Presbytery Meeting, we would have opened the Robinson Family Unity Center on campus as an extension of our Secured Dwellings Program. This Cottage will house single moms who have lost their children to DHR due to unsuitable housing. We are going to work with these moms to get their children back so that these families can live in our other Secured Dwellings Cottages or live in safe and affordable housing off campus. Sharon Moore, VP of Transitional Housing and Family Services recently met with the County DHR offices for Talladega, Calhoun and St. Clair Counties. Housing for these moms is a huge need, and we were warmly received for this new extension of our ministry.

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. Please keep us in your prayers as we navigate the new directives coming out of Washington.

Ascension Leadership Academy is one of 200 schools which qualify for Choose Funding beginning this next school year. While this new Choose Funding won't completely fund the operations of Ascension, it could still be a very important component of our cash flow in addition to dedicated fundraising to support the life changing work that happens through our fully Cognia accredited K-12 school. We always welcome guests to come visit Ascension and the Home. Please reach out to Suzanne Cornett, Senior Manager of Development and schedule a visit.

As you are aware, the Home 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 now starting a Caring Closet at FS Erwin with plans to expand to the other two elementary schools in Wilcox County. The Caring Closet will include extra uniform shirts, pants, underwear, undershirts, socks, washcloths, soap, deodorant, and toothbrushes along with a new washer and dryer. On May 8th, we will have given away hundreds of new Nike shoes (that we secured FREE) at the Wilcox middle and high schools to strengthen the relationship with the community. On the following day of May 9th, we will have our end of the year school party in Pine Hill.

Again, we are so grateful for the 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 completed 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.

We have just featured Sharon Moore for her 40 years of serving children and families in our Spring Beginnings Newsletter. I have included that article here. Please help us celebrate Sharon Moore as we thank God for her being such a special part of the Home!

Blessings

Doug Marshall



SHARON MOORE CELEBRATES HELPING CHILDREN FOR 40 YEARS AT PHFC

The role of the Presbyterian Home for Children has changed over the last four decades, and Sharon Moore's career as a social worker changed with it. But one thing hasn't changed.

"I love the Home," Moore said. "I love it." She will mark her 40th year at the Presbyterian Home for Children on Oct. 31.

Moore came to the Presbyterian Home for Children "fresh out of college" with a bachelor's degree from Alabama State University. She started out working with adolescent girls, and after earning her master's degree in social work from The University of Alabama, she became a supervisor. She worked in several programs at the Home during her career, and she now serves as Vice President of Transitional Housing and Family Services and the Director of Family Bridges Program for the Home.

When she started, the Home continued to provide residential care for decades to children in custody of the Alabama Department of Human Resources and was always known as the "Cadillac" among group homes. About 10 years ago, many of the kids required more intensive care than the Home could

provide, and DHR moved toward placing children with families rather than in group homes like PHFC.

In response to these changing circumstances, the Home pivoted from residential care for children to what Moore described as "serving single moms and female caregivers with children that need safe and secure housing with program supports."The Home has been providing hope and healing to moms and children through the Secure Dwellings program for those same 10 years, and the program has expanded to take up to 40 children and 24 female caregivers at the Talladega campus.

"It's another set of population," Moore said. "It was sad to see the old program go, but we had to change to meet the new and pressing needs of children and families."

The Home's previous mission remains alive with the annual Alumni Day reunion of children - now adults - who once called the Home home. Every summer, the alumni come back to

> campus to reminisce, sift through old photos, play games, and see what new projects are helping children in need at Home of today.

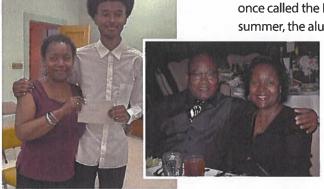
Whether serving children removed from troubled homes as in the past or its current mission of helping families seeking housing and care, the Home's clients have one thing in common: trauma. And for over a century, the Home's trained social workers - like Sharon have worked hard to give what they all need: safety, security, and love.

"It's traumatic for a child to be moved to a place you've never been to and to trust that strangers will take care of you when the people you loved didn't do it," Moore said.

Mothers and their children sometimes come to the Home after living in their car or after staying at the homes of families and friends.

"It's traumatic to lose your house and to live in a car or to be couch surfing," Moore said. "People will only put up with you for so long, especially if you have children. It works on your self-esteem."

Moore said, "Trauma affects behavior. Social workers help clients manage some behaviors. I say social workers are more focused, more aware of trauma." And social workers know how to help their clients access resources from DHR and nonprofits.





Homelessness has always been a problem, but Moore said it seems to be a growing issue because it costs more for a family to survive.

Through it all, there have been many success stories. Moore recalled working with a young client who was "a fighter. He'd fight at the drop of a hat." During a counseling session, he revealed that he was beaten often in his youth. "He said, 'Nobody's ever going to beat me again. I'll go down fighting.' We were able to start a meaningful conversation. He went on to be successful and a great dad."

A young lady graduated from the Home and went on to work in her field of study and is doing quite well. Another went on to own her own place, and her daughter earned a master's degree.



"Your heart does a tap dance when you had a small part of someone's success, when you saw where they came from," Moore said. "You had a small part. They did the work, but you provided some resources, some guidance. Your heart just does a tap dance."

In her 40th year at the Home, Moore said she is happy with her career choice. "I wanted to be in some helping profession," she said. "This is where I landed, and I love it. I have a passion for it. It requires a lot of 'above and beyond.' It would be very difficult for me if I didn't have a good support system."

PHFC President Doug Marshall said the Home has been blessed to have Moore on staff for four decades, bringing her leadership, wisdom and experience to the Home's critical, life-changing programs.

"Sharon is heart driven and is one of the most genuine and caring individuals that I have ever worked with in my entire career," Marshall said.

As a career social worker, Moore said she would recommend the field to anyone, "but not if you're coming because you think you'll make a lot of money," she



joked. "Social work is good if you want to make a change in someone's life and be impactful, and you want to try to change the world. But don't be disappointed if you can't save everybody. If you can save one person, that's a success."

"Why some overcome their circumstances, and others do not is in God's hands," Moore said. "But some people have a problem relating to God. They wonder why God let these bad things happen to them. It comes down to whether the resolve is in the person to make them want to do better."

PRESBYTERIAN HOME FOR CHILDREN NEW HIRES



Darea Whitson Lebon rejoined the Presbyterian Home for Children as Transporter and Assistant to Sharon Moore, Vice President of Transitional Housing and Family Services. Lebon previously worked for the Home in the Moderate Care program from 2017-2021. Lebon is a Talladega native who enjoys helping her community and others.



Marco Wissner has joined the Home as Lead Case Manager in the Caminos® program. Wissner has seven years of experience working as a case manager with the U.S. Office of Refugee Resettlement under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, which oversees the Home's Caminos® contract. Wissner is originally from Hermosillo, Sonora, Mexico and earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Sonora in 2012. He began his career as a Social Worker at the Sonora State Youth Detention Center before relocating to Tucson, Arizona, in

2017. In March 2018, he started working as an ORR Case Manager in Phoenix. In October 2023, Wissner moved to Greensboro, NC, where he worked as a Case Manager at an ORR Emergency Shelter. In June 2024, he transitioned into ORR Post-Release Services case management in North Carolina, which is what he does now at the Home. Wissner said he is passionate about helping clients access the resources and support they need and is excited to bring his experience to PHFC and make a positive impact with the team.

Stated Clerk Report May 15, 2025

Omnibus Motion:

- 1. To approve the minutes of the February 20, 2025 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. Nicole Newton as Associate Pastor of the Independent Presbyterian Church on March 2, 2025.
- 5. To accept these invitations to host meetings of the Presbytery: on August 21, 2025, at the First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham; on November 20, 2025, at Edgewood Church.

For Information:

1. The Stated Clerk continues to review Session minutes, and is planning gatherings of clerks and pastors for reading and support. If your Minutes have not been reviewed, [a] you may drop them off at the presbytery office or, [b] call the Stated Clerk to initiate conversations a how to send or bring them to the office. Or, [c] you may use the attached form and do a check list of your own minutes, print, sign, scan, and email them to: statedclerk@pslpcusa.org

The following Session minutes have been read this year:

Westminster, Tuskegee; Westminster, Birmingham;

Church of the Covenant, Anniston; First Presbyterian, Jacksonville;

Valley Creek Church, Selma; First United, Forestdale.

Riverchase, Birmingham Oakmont Chapel, Birmingham

South Highland, Birmingham Green Pond
First-Tuscaloosa

- 2. 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. What difference does your per capita giving make? It makes possible our quarterly meetings where the well-being of the church is addressed, where ministers are received, where the mission of our congregations is celebrated, where connections with Living River, the Presbyterian Home for Children, and the Congo Partnership are renewed.
- 3. Our policies call for background checks, boundary training, and anti racism training to be done every three years. The only exemption is for those who are no longer engaged in ministry or who have a documented background check within the last three (3) years. Please contact the Stated Clerk with any questions or concerns you have in regards to background checks.
- 4. Important news for every Session: The PC(USA) approved a change in our Book of Order which applies to all of our sessions: "All councils shall adopt and implement the following policies: a sexual misconduct policy, a harassment policy, a child and youth protection policy,

Administrative Commission Report

FPC-Anniston

Presbytery Meeting, May, 2025

 January, 2025 – The CEO of the Community Foundation of NE Alabama, Moderator of the Session, and church volunteers met throughout the month of January to review church historical documents and church possessions.

Church paraments and other pieces used in the sanctuary were distributed to various churches within the Presbytery. Furnishing and office furniture will be donated to community not-for-profits. Pew Bibles had been distributed during the construction process. Hymnals are the older versions and not requested by others.

- February, 2025 Purging continued throughout the month, concentrating on floral pieces
 and containers that had been used in worship. These materials will also be offered to notfor-profits. The CEO, Moderator, and a volunteer thoroughly reviewed historical
 documents. Many were donated to the Anniston Library. The remainder were sorted
 according to directions from the PCUSA Historical Library in Philadelphia, PA.
- March, 2025 Sorting and re-sorting continued to be certain that all pertinent documents were being retrieved. Relevant documents per the Historical Library's guidelines were placed in sturdy shipping boxes and labeled. Five (5) boxes were sealed and delivered to UPS to be shipped on to the Historical Library. A Session member delivered the boxes and donated the cost of shipping to the church account.
- The Session of FPC-Anniston respectfully requests that the appointed Administrative Commission be dissolved, effective May 15, 2025. The Session is grateful for the faithful service and sound advice of the Commission.
- The Session will meet in early May to determine recipients of remaining funds. The Session will plan a "garden party" at the church for members and friends.

Respectfully submitted
Frankie Tatum, CLP
Moderator of Administrative Commission and the Session

Administrative Commission Report to Presbytery Providence AC May 15, 2025

The Providence Presbyterian Church Administrative Commission has had several meetings since our last report. The AC has been a sounding board for Providence Session as they proceed with plans for final worship and closing of the church. The final worship service was held on Sunday, April 27, 2025.

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

The following represent the plan for dissolution approved by Providence Session and the congregation respectively:

- ➤ The congregation approved dissolving Pastoral Terms of Call with Rev. Nan Adams effective April 30, 2025. COM will appoint a Moderator for Session beginning May 1st.
- ➤ The Providence Day School will be permanently closed on the last day of the semester, which is May 23rd. Staff are assisting parents with identifying other options for Day School services for the fall. Staff will all be paid a bonus at the time of closing.
- > Session and Rev. Adams are contacting all remaining members of Providence to discuss options for worship and transfer of membership following dissolution.
- > Session approved the establishment of a Line of Credit with their existing bank in order to maintain a positive cash flow, if needed, during the time period of finalizing the property sale.
- The congregation voted to empower Providence Session to proceed with two separate offers for the real property and to see the best offer through to closing. The proceeds of the sale will settle all remaining financial obligations of Providence Presbyterian Church and all remaining proceeds will be distributed as legacy ministry funding to recipient organizations / ministries as directed and approved by Session.

MOTION: The Administrative Commission of Providence Presbyterian Church of Montgomery requests that the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley approve dissolution of the congregation, if way be clear, once the real estate transaction and all legal matters pertaining to dissolving the church are completed.

Respectfully submitted,

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

2024 Presbytery Statistical Report

Appendix B-14

Presbytery	Sheppards And Lapsley	ppards And Lapsley				
Address						
Phone	205-978-0320	Fax 205-978-0330				
Email	psl@pslpcusa.org		(USA)			
Web Site	pslpcusa.org					
Membership						
Prior Active Members	6671	Adjusted membership	6672			
Gains		Losses				
Certificate	110	Certificate	36			
Youth Professions	49	Deaths	106			
Professions & Reaffirmations	82	Deleted for any Other Reason	200			
Total Gains	241	Total Losses	342			
Total Ending Active Members	6571					
Baptisms		Average Weekly Worship Attendance	2128			
Presented by Others	59	Friends of the Congregation	299			
At Confirmation	7	Ruling Elders on Session	318			
All Other	9	Do you have Deacons? Yes / No	10/26			
Age Distribution of Active Members	3	People with Disabilities				
17 & Under	184	Hearing impairment	172			
18 - 25	394	Sight impairment	36			
26 - 40	742	Mobility impairment	141			
11 - 55	775	Other impairment	196			
56 - 70	1213					
Over 70	1711	Gender Distribution				
Total Age Distribution	5019	Women	3218			
		Men	2366			
		Non-Binary	9			
Youth in Congregation						
Age 4 and under	260	Middle School (6th - 8th grade)	119			
Elementary School (K-5th grade)	297	High School (9th – 12th grade)	210			
		Total Youth	886			
Racial Ethnic						
Asian/Pacific Islander/South Asian	105	Native American/Alaska Native/Indigenous	6			
Black/African American/African	233	White	5260			
Middle Eastern/North African	4	Multiracial	16			
Hispanic/Latino-a	9					
		Total Racial Ethnic	5633			
Budgeted Income	15,719,373					
Budgeted Expense	16,251,909					
Receipts						
Regular Contributions	12,592,285	Bequests	329,736			
Capital Building Fund	1,195,385	Other Income	1,908,381			
Investment Income	2,765,146	Subsidy or Aid	52,445			
Expenditures						
Local Program	12,823,979	Investment Expenditures	195,555			
Local Mission	1,760,436	Per Capital Apprt	213,356			
Capital Expenditures	1,893,077	Other Mission	410,330			

Equip, Nurture, Connect Committee Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley March 7, 2025

Present: Jenny Thagard, Sue Westfall, Pat Goodman, Robert Newman

The meeting was opened with a devotion from the D365 Daily Devotional. D365 is a daily devotion written for youth and adults that is available by their app or email. The devotion follows a five-step format – Pause, Listen, Think, Pray, Go; and has musical accompaniment. PCUSA, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, and the Episcopal Church work together to support this ministry.

The following ministries are under the ENC umbrella: Main Event, Youth Council, Children's Ministry, UKirk, and Small Church.

In the area of smaller-church ministries, Pat Goodman brought our attention to a series of articles in the Presbyterian Outlook by Phillip Blackburn. He is the director of the Thriving Rural Ministry Program at the University of the Ozarks in Clarksville, Arkansas; and he and his wife, Tasha, co-pastor First Presbyterian, Fort Smith, Arkansas. We discussed bringing Phillip to our Presbytery for a workshop or retreat.

Robert Newman reported that Youth Leaders will have a Continuing Education event coming up. He also reported on the success of the Confirmation Retreat that was jointly held at Living River for churches with a small number of confirmands.

The issue of Child Protection Policies was discussed.

Next step tasks:

- 1. Recruit more members to the ENC Committee, and establish a class rotation.
- 2. In the area of Smaller Membership Churches, it was decided to contact Phillip Blackburn and check on his availability. As of the writing of these minutes he has been contacted, and is interested. We are talking about date and format.
- 3. Re-visit the Main Event as a vehicle to equip, nurture and connect volunteers and church professionals in our congregations.

The next meeting will be held prior to the August Presbytery Meeting when the majority of committee members can be present.

The meeting was adjourned for lunch fellowship at a local restaurant.

(If you are reading these minutes in your Presbytery packet, and this sounds like your kind of committee, reach out to Jenny Thagard at jthagard@livingriver.org.)

The Presbytery Of Sheppards And Lapsley

Report Of The Commission on Preparation For Ministry — May 2025

INQUIRERS	<u>CHURCH</u>	<u>INSTITUTION</u>
Theodore Longlois	Independent	Princeton
Abby Bunn	Church of the Covenant	Columbia

CANDIDATES

CITIODIDITIES		
Annabelle Beavers	First, Tuscaloosa	Union (Richmond)
Peyton Chandler	Independent, Birmingham	Graduate - Vanderbilt
Patrick O'Connor	Immanuel, Montgomery	Graduate - San Francisco
Barbara Tomek-White	First, Auburn	Graduate - Austin
Daniel Killilea	South Highland, Birmingham	Louisville
Teddy Vaughn	Grace, Tuscaloosa	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:

None at this time.

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



Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley

April 2025



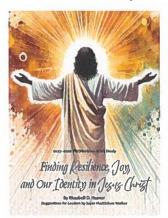
As we wind down our study of environmental justice, covering most aspects of modern life interpreted through the lenses of the Old Testament witnesses of God's creation, we begin looking forward to the study for 2025-2026. Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ by Rhashell D. Hunter will bring a renewed focus on Jesus through Scripture. Here is a description from the Bible Study page of the Presbyterian Women website:

"In this Bible study, we will explore resilience. This is modeled for us by several biblical characters, gospel and epistle writers, as well as Jesus. The Bible study is also about joy. How do we find joy in a chaotic world? Christian joy may be different from how a lot of people define joy. We will also seek to rediscover our identity."

We are exploring possibilities of bringing Rhashell Hunter to Sheppards & Lapsley for a day of study, encouragement and celebration in August. Stay tuned!

Recruiting! [still!]

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]



Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley Analysis of Revenues & Expenses - Summary January to March 2025

Appendix B-18

Accounts	MTD Actual (This Year)	MTD Budget (This Year)	YTD Actual (This Year)	YTD Budget (This Year)	YTD Budget/Actual (This Year)	Annual Budget (This Year)
Revenues						
General Fund	\$11,282.57	\$18,789.33	\$62,910.44	\$56,367.99		\$225,472.00
Mission Giving-Income	\$1,115.64	\$1,851.92	\$7,004.05	\$5,555.76		\$22,223.00
Per Capita Income	\$11,153.69	\$15,318.67	\$50,641.13	\$45,956.01	\$4,685.12	\$183,824.00
Total Revenues	\$23,551.90	\$35,959.92	\$120,555.62	\$107,879.76	\$12,675.86	\$431,519.00
Expenses						
Council						
Council Expenses-Other	\$0.00	\$931.25	\$0.00	\$2,793.75	\$2,793.75	\$11,175.00
Salaries & Allowances						
Executive Presbyter	\$10,516.07	\$10,146.59	\$30,390.24	\$30,439.77		\$121,759.00
Administrative Salaries	\$1,125.00	\$375.00	\$1,125.00	\$1,125.00	\$0.00	\$4,500.00
Staff Expenses	\$0.00	\$350.00	\$0.00	\$1,050.00		\$4,200.00
Total Salaries & Allowances	\$11,641.07	\$10,871.59	\$31,515.24	\$32,614.77		\$130,459.00
Total Council	\$11,641.07	\$11,802.84	\$31,515.24	\$35,408.52	\$3,893.28	\$141,634.00
Equip, Nurture, Connect						
Other ENC Expenses	\$6,023.01	\$1,266.66	\$8,587.59	\$3,799.98	(\$4,787.61)	\$15,200.00
Total Equip, Nurture, Connect	\$6,023.01	\$1,266.66	\$8,587.59	\$3,799.98	(\$4,787.61)	\$15,200.00
Mission	\$0.00	\$12.50	\$0.00	\$37.50	\$37.50	\$150.00
UKirk Birmingham	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Trustees	\$9,599.98	\$5,478.57	\$22,496.23	\$16,435.71	(\$6,060.52)	\$65,743.00
Presbytery Per Capita Expenses						
Stated Clerk & Moderator	\$2,308.52	\$2,546.25	\$6,468.56	\$7,638.75	\$1,170.19	\$30,555.00
Presbytery Commissions	\$0.00	\$333.32	\$0.00	\$999.96		\$4,000.00
Asst.to Stated Clerk/Ofc Mgr	\$5,435.55	\$5,435.50	\$16,306.65	\$16,306.50	(\$0.15)	\$65,226.00
Total Presbytery Per Capita Expenses	\$7,744.07	\$8,315.07	\$22,775.21	\$24,945.21	\$2,170.00	\$99,781.00
Per Capita-Expenses	\$6,041.58	\$8,279.42	\$27,430.60	\$24,838.26		\$99,353.00
Mission Giving-Expenses	\$1,115.64	\$1,851.92	\$7,004.05	\$5,555.76		\$22,223.00
Total Expenses	\$42,165.35	\$37,006.98	\$119,808.92	\$111,020.94	(\$8,787.98)	\$444,084.00
Net Operating Total	(\$18,613.45)	(\$1,047.06)	\$746.70	(\$3,141.18)	\$3,887.88	(\$12,565.00)
Other Revenues	(\$10,010.40)	(41,011.00)	ψσ., σ	(40,)	4 2,22 00	(4,,)
Designated Income (Loss)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$174.91	\$0.00	\$174.91	\$0.00
Property Contributions	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	•	\$0.00
Total Other Revenues	\$2,445.06	\$0.00	\$7,520.37	\$0.00		\$0.00
Other Expenses						
Total Other Expenses	\$2,792.89	\$0.00	\$8,378.67	\$0.00	(\$8,378.67)	\$0.00
Net Total	(\$18,961.28)	(\$1,047.06)	(\$111.60)	(\$3,141.18)	\$3,029.58	(\$12,565.00)