



NAP News

October 2024



Do you have news you'd like to have included? Send submissions to adminoffice@napcusa.org by the 25th of each month.

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North Alabama Presbytery Staff

Executive Presbyter

Dr. Tom Lovell

execpresbyter@napcusa.org
615-975-5693 (C)

Stated Clerk

Rev. Tom Lewis

statedclerk@napcusa.org
256-468-0383 (C)

Administrative Assistant

Krista Lovell

adminoffice@napcusa.org
615-516-7011 (C)

NAP Email:

adminoffice@napcusa.org

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 4031 Huntsville, AL 35815
Phone: 256-883-0855

www.napcusa.org

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MATTHEW 25

As we bid farewell to the warmth of summer and welcome the crisp days of fall, a familiar rhythm returns. Kids are back in school, and our routines shift with the changing seasons. This transition is a time of renewal, not just for our families but for our congregations as well.

In the spirit of renewal, we're reminded of the deep connection between congregational vitality and how we use our church properties. Our buildings are more than just places for Sunday worship; they can become vital hubs for the community, breathing new life into our ministry and mission.

Imagine your church property as a beacon of hope, a place where needs are met, and relationships are nurtured. From offering affordable housing to creating spaces for education, health services, or simply a gathering place for neighbors — our physical spaces hold the potential to be a blessing far beyond the walls of the sanctuary.

As we move into this new season, let's embrace the opportunity to reimagine how our church properties can serve our communities. When we align our ministry with the needs of those around us, we embody the true essence of congregational vitality. It's about more than numbers in the pews; it's about being a tangible expression of Christ's love in the world.

In the latest Matthew 25 newsletter, available at pcusa.org/matthew25, we explore stories and congregations that have transformed their spaces to serve as community hubs and provide new resources on aligning mission and money for social enterprise! These examples inspire us to think creatively about using our resources to make a lasting impact. Whether it's a small step or a bold initiative, every effort contributes to the flourishing of our communities and the vitality of our congregations.

As the leaves begin to change and we settle into the rhythms of fall, let's consider how we can make this season one of growth and renewal for our churches and our communities. The opportunities are abundant, and the time to act is now. Let's work together to build vibrant, thriving congregations that are at the heart of their communities.

Blessings to you as we embark on this journey together.

DeEtte Decker

Vision Integration & Constituent Services Manager
Presbyterian Mission Agency



Unleash Innovation and Imagination: Transform Your Church Property with the Good Futures Accelerator

Are you ready to turn your church property into a vibrant hub for mission and ministry? The Good Futures Accelerator is here to help you do just that. This innovative program is crafted to help congregations like yours creatively repurpose church buildings and land, aligning your financial strategies with your mission for a more impactful future.

So, what's the Good Futures Accelerator all about?

Developed in partnership between Rooted Good and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the Good Futures Accelerator is a self-guided journey that empowers your congregation to:

Leverage Your Property: Find inventive ways to use your church spaces to serve the community and generate income.

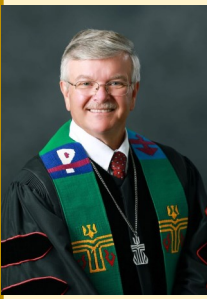
Align Money with Mission: Make sure your financial decisions support and enhance your congregation's mission, paving the way for lasting impact.

Build Financial Resilience: Discover how to optimize your resources and create sustainable revenue streams that align with your values and objectives.

Innovate with Confidence: Access practical tools and frameworks that encourage you to experiment, learn, and grow.

Check out our video to learn more about the Good Futures Accelerator and how it can transform your church's approach to ministry. <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/office-of-innovation>





From our Executive Presbyter, Dr. Tom Lovell...

Dear Colleagues in Ministry,

Over the better part of the past three years, I have had the honor and privilege of serving as your Executive Presbyter, visiting each of the 26 churches within North Alabama Presbytery. During this time, I have seen, first-hand, the many ways our congregations are bearing witness to the love and grace of Jesus Christ within their communities and beyond. I have seen the dedication and commitment of pastors who love their churches and who are working tirelessly and selflessly to care for their congregations and lead their churches in ministry in the midst of a difficult ecclesiastical climate. I have seen Ruling Elders who are providing outstanding leadership in congregations, especially in churches which do not have regular pastoral leadership. I have seen a Presbytery which had been struggling for several years with significant conflict as well as the impact of the COVID pandemic, emerge from that struggle with a new sense of care and concern for one another and a renewed desire to be a community of Christ’s disciples. While there will certainly be more struggles as we seek to respond to our call to serve Christ in the weeks, months, and years ahead, I am confident that God will provide all that North Alabama Presbytery will need not only to confront those struggles, but to push through them in ways that give God glory and praise.

It has truly been a joy to serve as the Executive Presbyter of North Alabama Presbytery for the past three years, but the time has come for me to relinquish that position. One of the reasons that Krista and I decided to retire from full-time ministry in 2021 was to spend more time with our grandchildren, and our part-time work with the Presbytery has allowed us to do that. However, three of those grandchildren will soon be moving to Virginia as our daughter has accepted a call to serve as Pastor of The Presbyterian Church of Fredericksburg. With our youngest son and his family living in the Baltimore area, Krista and I have decided to begin the process of selling our home in Huntsville and moving northward that we might live in close proximity to them. As I shared with the Executive Commission, I will gladly continue to serve the Presbytery as its Executive Presbyter until we move or until another Executive Presbyter is in place.

Both Krista and I have greatly enjoyed working with getting to know and the saints of North Alabama Presbytery and have appreciated the love and support you have extended to us. We have every confidence that God will provide new leadership for the Presbytery that it may continue to bear a bold witness to the love and grace of Jesus Christ.

Dr. Lovell’s Schedule

- October 20—First, Huntsville
- October 22—Westminster, Decatur Session
- October 27—Faith, Huntsville

**Grace & Peace,
Tom**

Welcome Eucharistic Elders!

The following Ruling Elders have completed their training process and have been approved by COM as Eucharistic Elders:

- Beth Clements, Karen Malone, David Mann, Richard Martin, Lauretta Moore, David Stumbaugh, Jerry Witt.



Attention Clerks!

GA Per Capita rates are going up!

2025 GA Per capita—\$10.84 (based on 2023 membership)

2026 GA Per Capita—\$11.26(based on 2024 membership)

SO.....NOW IS THE TIME

to take a good look at your membership rolls to ensure that your numbers reflect your active membership! The Statistical Reports that you file in January 2025 will be used for your 2026 Per Capita.

Attention Treasurers!

IT’S TIME TO CHANGE SOME OLD HABITS.

In an effort to streamline the work of the NAP Administrative Assistant and Bookkeeper, AND be in keeping with good practices, **you are asked to begin submitting special offering collections for PCUSA and Mission Agencies DIRECTLY to those agencies.**

PCUSA Special Offerings

(One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost, Peace, Christmas Joy) should be sent to:

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

PO Box 643700

Pittsburg, PA 15264-3700

Mission Offerings

(Medical Benevolence Foundation, Presbyterian Home for Children, Living Waters for the World, and others) should be sent directly to them. Their addresses can be found on their individual websites.

Per Capita, Unified Giving, and NAP invoices should continue to be submitted to North Alabama Presbytery at

PO Box 4031, Huntsville, AL 35815

Contact adminoffice@napcusa.org
if you have any questions

October NAP Events

Commission on Ministry

Carol Copeland, Moderator

Thursday, October 3 @ 6:00 pm

via zoom

Business Affairs & Personnel Team

Parker Moore, Chair

Thursday, October 10 @ 4:00 pm

via zoom

Executive Commission

Robin Palmer, Moderator

Monday, December 2 @ 10:00 am

via zoom

Fall Stated Meeting of NAP

Tripp Brogdon, Moderator

Tuesday, October 15 @ 8:30am

Maranatha Camp & Conference Center



The Peace & Global Witness Offering draws Presbyterians together as active peacemakers, working together to address systems of injustice in our own communities and across the world.



2025 Important Dates

NAP Winter Stated Meeting

Saturday, February 22, 2025

Copeland Presbyterian Church, Athens

Meeting includes: Worship with Communion, 2024 Necrology, Installation of Moderator & Vice Moderator, Voting on GA Constitutional Amendments, Adoption of budget, Receive Related Ministry reports of membership

NAP Summer Stated Meeting

Tuesday, June 10, 2025

First Presbyterian Church, Huntsville

Meeting includes: Annual Parity Report, Election of NAC member-at-large, Commission/Committee reports

NAP Fall Stated Meeting

Tuesday, October 21, 2025

Maranatha Camp & Conference Center, Scottsboro, AL

North Alabama Presbytery Fall Stated Meeting

October 15, 2024

Maranatha Camp & Conference Center

1091 Jeffrey Road, Scottsboro, AL 35769

8:30 am Registration and Fellowship

8:45 am Orientation for New Commissioners

9:00 am Worship (Rev. Bob Phelps preaching)

Offering Recipient:

Committee on Preparation for Ministry

Inquirers/Candidates Fund

10:00am Meeting begins

Reports from the Stated Clerk, Presbytery Units (EC, NAC, BAPT, COM)

Passing of the Peace Dove, Matthew 25 Celebrations

12:00pm Lunch

(\$13 due at registration)

1:00pm Meeting resumes

Reports from GA Commissioners, CORN, Ministry Teams and Mission Partners, and Executive Presbyter

2:00pm Meeting adjourns

Clerks: Please register your commissioner

Pastors & Visitors: Please register yourself

adminoffice@napcusa.org

SAVE THE DATE

A “First Conversation” Roundtable Discussion

Hosted by Covenant Presbyterian about Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

When: October 26, 2024 from 9AM – 11AM

Where: Covenant Presbyterian Fellowship Hall at 301 Drake Ave SE, Huntsville, AL 35802

Who’s invited: Ministers and Elders of North Alabama Presbytery

Cost: Free!

RSVP: Elder Richard Martin at rgm0491@yahoo.com or 256-783-4584 (but if you forget, just come on over!)

What to Expect: Enjoy breakfast, make friends, share different views, listen respectfully



Rationale: At the February 22, 2025 Winter Stated meeting the Presbytery will be asked to vote on two amendments to the Book of Order that touch on the important topic of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity. Covenant would like to offer an opportunity for prayer, fellowship, and respectful discussion of our differing views on this topic. We all seek to understand God’s Word with clarity and apply that understanding faithfully. All views will be welcomed and listened to respectfully as siblings in Christ. The goal for this event is just to host a friendly “first conversation” on these topics for any interested ministers and elders and to deepen our connections with one another as colleagues.

Why Should Men Gather Together?

Hebrews 10:24-25 instructs us to not forsake gathering together as if for no other reason than to “provoke unto love and to good works”. The primary purposes of the NAP Presbyterian Men is to gather for a meal and a presentation that will build our faith through the witness of others and to collect donations for a Christian cause. Sometimes, we get together to just have fun in the name of Jesus! However, we are open to ideas and suggestions about faith building activities or speakers.

Brother, YOU are invited to help the officers answer God’s calling by providing YOUR answers to the following questions: What church do you attend? When is the best time and day of the week to meet? How can we contact you?

Your answers can be emailed to President Michael Bowe at mbbowe@memphisseminary.edu, Vice-President Ted Dixie at dxemanagement@gmail.com, or Secretary Tom Meier at tmeier1611@yahoo.com.

Thank you and blessings!



Please keep these congregations in your prayers as they search for their next Pastor:

- ◆ First, Athens—Pastor
- ◆ Westminster, Decatur—Pastor
- ◆ First, Florence—Pastor
- ◆ Westminster, Florence—Pastor
- ◆ First, Huntsville—Associate Pastor





Highlights from the PWP Fall Gathering:

Our speakers were Eddgra Fallin – Mission Haven; Doug Marshall - Presbyterian Home for Children; Micah Beard – Maranatha; and Jessica Maudlin via video – Presbyterian Tree Fund part of the Presbyterian Hunger Program

Dr. Beth Watkins Cape, Faith Huntsville, gave the meditation. She draws illustrations to scripture passages “Words for a Woman’s Heart” – bethcape.com. They are gorgeous!

· The new Horizons Bible study “Let Justice Roll Down” was introduced by PWP Vice Moderator Patti Andrews followed by an introductory video.

· Introduced were Karen Madison, the new PWP Treasurer, and Linda Grissom, the new TIS Coordinator.

Our guest pianist was Linda Webster, St. Andrew Decatur.

· Highlights from the PW Churchwide Gathering were shared by Harriet Bibb, Carol Copeland, Joanne Horn, and Janis Williams. They took our large basket, filled with local items from North Alabama, for the silent auction. Stella Wilson was the alternate voting representative.

· Former PWP Treasurer Krista Lovell was presented with an Honorary Life Membership and pin for her extensive work while treasurer including setting up a new accounting program. Dr. Tom Lovell, Krista’s husband, and Colleen Story, her aunt were present for the presentation. Vases of roses were given to both Krista and Aunt Colleen.

