



North Alabama Presbytery

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The Fall Stated Meeting of North Alabama Presbytery will be held at Maranatha Camp and Conference Center, 1091 Jeffrey Road, Scottsboro, AL 35769 on Tuesday, October 15, 2024.

Registration opens at 8:30AM in the Lakeside Lobby and Vice Moderator Anita Raby will lead a brief orientation for first time commissioners at 8:45AM.

The Presbytery meeting will begin at 9:00 AM in the Lakeside Common Room. The Reverend Bob Phelps will be preaching, and an offering will be collected for the North Alabama Presbytery's Commission on Ministry Candidate Fund.

Lunch will be provided at a cost of \$13. Reserve your lunch with Krista Lovell at adminoffice@napcusa.org. Please make all checks payable to North Alabama Presbytery.

The Presbytery agenda and reports are attached. Please note that reports are numbered to correspond with the agenda. Any additional reports will be forwarded as received. If you have a question about a report, you can contact the commission moderator/committee chair, whose phone number and email is listed on the report.

We will hear reports from our Stated Clerk, Executive Commission, Business Affairs and Personnel Team, Commission on Ministry, Nominating Appointment Committee, and Committee on Representation and Nominating. We will have a first reading on proposed changes to our Manual of Administrative Operations, removing some redundancies and clarifying our relationship with our partner ministry groups and mission agencies.

We will be examining one of our inquirers for candidacy, hearing reports from our GA Commissioners, and passing the Peacemaking Dove to a new congregation. We will also celebrate some stories of congregational vitality from our churches.

We will celebrate the ministries of our partners, Camp Maranatha, Presbyterian Home for Children, Presbyterian Women, and hear special greetings from our Synod Executive, the Reverend Dr. Greg Goodwiller.

Sadly, we will be acting to create an Executive Presbyter Nominating Committee. After more than a decade of faithful service to North Alabama Presbytery, the Reverend Dr. Tom Lovell has decided to retire. We wish him God speed with our profound thanks.

Please contact Executive Presbyter Tom Lovell (615-975-5693) or Stated Clerk Tom Lewis (256-468-0383) if you have any questions. We look forward to seeing you on October 14th!

Teaching Elder Tripp Brogdon
2024 Moderator

Teaching Elder Tom Lewis
Stated Clerk

NORTH ALABAMA PRESBYTERY
FALL STATED MEETING

OFFERING RECIPIENT:
COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY

PROVIDING FINANCIAL SUPPORT
FOR INQUIRERS
AND
CANDIDATES FOR MINISTRY

TYPES OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE NEEDED:
CLINICAL PASTORAL EDUCATION
CAREER TESTING & COUNSELING
SEMINARY TUITION

**NORTH ALABAMA PRESBYTERY- FALL STATED MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2024
MARANATHA CAMP AND CONFERENCE CENTER- SCOTTSBORO, ALABAMA**

- 8:30** **1. Registration-** Lakeside Lobby
- 8:45** **2. Orientation for New Commissioners-** RE Anita Raby
- 9:00** **3. Call to Order-** TE Tripp Brogdon
- 9:10** **4. Worship-** The Reverend Bob Phelps, preaching
 The Reverend Robin Lambert, liturgist
 Offering- Committee on Preparation for Ministry Candidates Fund
- 10:00** **5. Break**
- 10:15** **6. Reconvene-** TE Tripp Brogdon
 a. Declaration of a Quorum
 b. Introduction of First Time Commissioners
 c. Seating of Corresponding Members
 d. Welcome from Maranatha Camp and Conference Center
 e. Adoption of Agenda *Action*
- 10:25** **7. Stated Clerk's Report-** TE Tom Lewis
 a. Correspondence
 b. Approval of Minutes, Stated Meeting of June 6, 2024 *Action*
 c. Session Minutes Review
- 10:35** **8. Executive Commission Report-** TE Robin Palmer
 a. Proposed dissolution of the Church Development Foundation *Action*
 b. First Reading of proposed changes to Manual of Administrative Operation *Action*
 c. Election of Executive Presbyter Nominating Committee
- 10:45** **9. Nominating Appointment Committee-** RE Anita Raby
 a. Nomination of CORN members *Action*
- 10:50** **10. Business Affairs and Personnel Team-** RE Parker Moore
 a. Financial Report
- 11:00** **11. Commission on Ministry-** RE Carol Copeland
 a. Examination of Inquirer Laurretta Moore for Candidacy *Action*
 b. Proposed changes in minimum terms of call for 2025 *Action*
- 11:30** **12. Peacemaking/Matthew 25**
 a. Passing of the Peacemaking Dove – RE Krista Lovell
 b. Stories of Congregational Vitality- TE Tom Lovell
 1. Big Cove Presbyterian Church – TE Kim Mitchel
 2. First Presbyterian Church, Athens – RE Carol Copeland
- Noon** **13. Lunch**
- 12:45** **14. Reconvene**
- 12:50** **15. Presbyterian Home for Children-** Doug Marshall
- 1:00** **16. General Assembly Commissioners Report**
 RE Mark Icenogle
 TE Tom Lewis
 YAAD Avy Elmore

- 1:15 17. **Maranatha Camp and Conference Center**- RE Kathy Gilmore
- 1:20 18. **Presbyterian Women**- RE Barbara Allen
- 1:25 19. **Committee on Representation and Nominating**- TE Jaina Glaze *Action*
- 1:30 20. **Synod of Living Waters Executive/ Stated Clerk** – TE Greg Goodwiller
- 1:35 21. **EP Report**- TE Tom Lovell
- 1:40 22. **Unfinished Business**
- 1:45 23. **Celebrations and Announcements**
- 1:50 24. **Adjourn**

**THE WINTER STATED MEETING OF NORTH ALABAMA PRESBYTERY
WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2025,
AT COPELAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, ATHENS**

Information:

I have received a copy of the proposed changes to the Book of Order. These are actions taken by the General Assembly awaiting ratification by the Presbyteries. The document has been transmitted to the members of the Bills and Overtures Committee for their review.

Admit to Record:

- The minutes of the Presbytery from calendar year 2023 have been submitted to the Synod of Living Waters for review.
- Session minute review meetings were conducted on August 17, 2024, at Faith Presbyterian Church, Huntsville and August 24, 2024, at Westminster, Florence. Two additional session minute review meetings were conducted by Zoom on September 9, 2024, and on September 16, 2024. As of right now 17 of our 26 churches have participated. For the most part, the minutes of all churches were found to be in order. No serious violations of the PC(USA) constitution were uncovered.

Here is a list of the participating churches:

1. Albertville, FPC
2. Athens, Copeland
3. Athens, FPC
4. Belgreen, Mountain Home
5. Brownsboro, Big Cove
6. Cullman, FPC
7. Decatur, St. Andrew
8. Florence, FPC
9. Ft. Payne, FPC
10. Guntersville, FPC
11. Huntsville, Covenant
12. Huntsville, FPC
13. Huntsville, Fellowship
14. Huntsville, Faith
15. Huntsville, Hope
16. New Market, New Market
17. Sheffield, FPC

Two churches requested exemptions which were granted.

- Two training Sessions for Eucharistic Elders have been held. There have been sixteen Elders trained to celebrate the Lord's Supper under the direction and with the authorization of the COM.
- The Stated Clerk's portal is still experiencing a backlog related to rolls and registers.
- There are currently no judicial matters pending before the Presbytery.

**North Alabama Presbytery
Stated Meeting, June 18, 2024
Faith Presbyterian Church, Huntsville, Alabama**

The Presbytery was called to Order at 9 AM by the Reverend Tripp Brogdon, Moderator of North Alabama Presbytery. The Presbytery immediately celebrated a time of worship, led by the Reverend Greg Bentley, Pastor of Fellowship Presbyterian Church, Huntsville. The Reverend Bentley was ably assisted by the Ruling Elder Laretta Moore, Inquirer from Fellowship Presbyterian Church, Huntsville, serving as liturgist, and by musicians Stephen Sivley, Leah McKinney, Sally Priester and Margaret Allen of Faith Presbyterian Church, Huntsville. The Reverend Bentley shared the gospel from Luke 10:25-37 and delivered a message entitled "Left for Dead".

At the conclusion of worship, the business portion of the Presbytery Meeting was convened. A quorum was declared by the moderator. The Reverend Brogdon requested that those people who were attending as first-time commissioners stand and be recognized. The Reverend Brogdon then asked if there were any corresponding members who needed to be seated. Stated Clerk, the Reverend Tom Lewis requested that five individuals be seated as Corresponding members. There being no objection, those individuals were seated by order of the Moderator. The names of those seated are included with the rolls for this meeting.

The Reverend Brogdon called upon the Reverend Dr. Michael Bowe, pastor of Faith Presbyterian Church, to offer a welcome from the host church. Following the welcome, the moderator called for a motion to adopt the agenda for the meeting. Such a motion was made and seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The Moderator called upon the Reverend Tom Lewis, Stated Clerk, to deliver the Stated Clerk's report. The Reverend Lewis reported that he had received no correspondence that needed to be shared with the Presbytery. He further requested that the Minutes of the Stated Meeting held on Saturday, February 24, 2024, be read and approved. A motion was made to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

The Stated Clerk reported that both he and his predecessor, former Stated Clerk Therese Howell, had presented some statistical information related to the Presbytery. Plans are currently in motion to review the minutes of Sessions within the Presbytery. The Reverend Dr. Michael Bowe has agreed to ask Faith Presbyterian Church to host one of those meetings. The Reverend Lewis also plans to ask one of the churches in the Shoals area to host a similar meeting, and to host an additional meeting on Zoom. All these meetings are tentatively planned for late summer.

In addition, the Reverend Lewis reported that the Reverend Dr. Michael Bowe had been duly installed by an Administrative Commission of the Presbytery on February 26, 2024. The minutes of the Commission have been received by the Stated Clerk and filed appropriately. The Stated Clerk requested that those minutes be formally received by the Presbytery and that the Commission be dissolved with thanks to God for their excellent work. A motion to that effect was made and seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Finally, the Reverend Lewis reported that he had attended the Mid Council Leaders Orientation as was a requirement of his employment.

Next the Moderator called upon the Reverend Robin Palmer, immediate past moderator, to deliver the executive commission report. The Reverend Palmer began her report by announcing that she had four items to admit to the record. There being no objection, the Reverend Brogdon ordered those items admitted. She then offered the second reading of a proposed change to the Presbytery's Manual of Administrative Operations. On behalf of the Executive Commission, she moved to approve those changes as presented. The motion coming from the Executive Commission needed no second. The motion passed unanimously.

The Reverend Palmer also nominated Ruling Elder Jerry Witt, of First Presbyterian Church, Athens to serve on the CORN (Committee on Representation and Nominations). Mr. Witt is to serve out the unexpired term of Ruling Elder Newell Witherspoon. The motion was made on behalf of the Executive Commission, and thus the motion needed no second. The motion passed unanimously.

The Reverend Palmer also nominated Ruling Elder Ian Sanford, of First Presbyterian Church Sheffield, to serve on the NAC (Nominating Appointment Committee). The motion was made on behalf of the Executive Commission, and thus the motion needed no second. The motion passed unanimously.

Following this the Moderator called upon Ruling Elder Parker Moore of St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, Decatur, to deliver the report of the Business Affairs and Personnel Team (BAPT). Mr. Moore offered copies of the financial reports for the Presbytery. A copy of the financial statements submitted by Mr. Moore is appended to this set of minutes

Mr. Moore reported that the following grants had been issued on the recommendation of the BAPT. A list of those grants follows:

1. Fellowship, Huntsville – \$25,000 Grant for mold repair + \$5,000 Grant for college ministry with UA&M.
2. First, Florence – \$5,000 Grant for college ministry with UNA + \$25,000 Grant for A/V systems in Fellowship Hall.
3. First, Ft. Payne – \$15,000 Grant for upgrades and repairs to Sanctuary + \$5,000 Grant for salary support.
4. First, Guntersville – \$25,000 Grant for roof and building repairs.
5. Westminster, Florence – \$25,000 Grant for audio/video systems in Sanctuary.
6. First, Cullman – \$10,000 Grant for exterior painting and maintenance.
7. Faith, Huntsville – \$5,000 Grant for Camille Committee project.
8. Montreat NAP Group – \$2,000 Grant for scholarship assistance for youth and adults attending MYC2024.

Mr. Moore reported that quarterly contribution statements had been sent to each church's Clerk of Session, Treasurer, and Pastor. Per capita and unified giving payments were sent to the General Assembly and Synod in April. The payments reflected money received from churches in the first quarter of this year. Mr. Moore further reported that Mrs. Krista Lovell was hired as the Presbytery's Administrative Assistant.

On behalf of the BAPT Mr. Moore moved that the Presbytery approve a request from Grace Presbyterian Church, Madison, that they be allowed to extend their mortgage for several years in order to undertake some needed repairs. Coming from the BAPT the motion required no second. The motion passed unanimously.

The Reverend Brogdon called upon Ruling Elder Carol Copeland to deliver the Commission on Ministry report (COM). Mrs. Copeland reported that Covenant Presbyterian Church, Huntsville has begun their search for an Associate Pastor. The Committee had examined and approved the Reverend Robin Lambert as temporary Supply Pastor at First Presbyterian Church Cullman. The Reverend Bob Phelps of First Presbyterian Church, Albertville has agreed to serve as the moderator of the Session at the request of the COM.

Mrs. Copeland further reported that the Reverend Susan Parker had begun working as the temporary Supply Pastor at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Florence and that Mr. Frank Broyles had begun serving as the temporary Supply Pastor at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Decatur. The Reverend Laura Lemley has been serving as Pulpit Supply Pastor at First Presbyterian in Guntersville.

Ruling Elder Lauretta Moore has been approached by First Presbyterian, Guntersville about serving as the temporary supply pastor there. She has been negotiating a contract with them. She is an Inquirer with the Presbytery and anticipates enrolling in seminary in the spring.

Candidate Stacey White has been approved to search for a call. She is talking with several churches now.

The COM has adopted a new dissolution policy which is included in the updated COM Manual. The dissolution policy was included in the packet for information only.

Finally, the Reverend Brandon Miles has tendered his resignation as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Florence. He has received a call to serve another church.

The Moderator called upon the Reverend Dana Waters to give a report regarding the Presbyterian Foundation. The Reverend Waters is a Ministry Relations Officer for the Presbyterian Foundation. As a point of interest, the Presbyterian Foundation was founded in 1799 making it the second oldest charitable organization in the United States. The Reverend Waters is the primary point of contact for the Presbyterian Foundation in the Southeast Region.

Among the services offered by the Presbyterian Foundation are congregational stewardship resources and materials, including a program called stewardship kaleidoscope. They also offer investment solutions for congregations.

The Reverend Waters spoke extensively on Project Regeneration. This is a free consultation service offered by the Presbyterian Foundation to congregations. He described the service as a consultation tool. The process involves three meetings held with consultants from Presbyterian Foundation either virtually or in person. Included in the process is an analysis of the financial analysis of the church and a discernment process surrounding the book Sailboat Church by Joan Gray. The Reverend Waters gave an example of two churches in Tuscaloosa, Alabama that had merged to become a thriving church, using the process of Project Regeneration.

The Reverend Brogdon called upon Ms. Cindy Fisher to give a report for the Presbyterian Home for Children. She reported on the programs being conducted by the home. These include: the secure dwellings program which serves to house, educate and train homeless women with children; Hope Academy, the private school run by the Home; the Caminos Program which is providing home studies for unaccompanied immigrant children who are being housed in the foster care system; and the Family Bridges Program which is providing social workers to work with families in distress.

The Reverend Brogdon called upon Ruling Elder Lin Veasey, Serving as Commissioned Ruling Elder at the Church of the Covenant, Anniston, Alabama was invited to give a report from the Calhoun Presbyterian Apartments Foundation. The Calhoun Apartments are a HUD facility for the elderly originally opened by the North Alabama Presbytery back when Anniston was within the boundaries of the Presbytery. The Presbytery boundaries have since been redrawn and Anniston is now within the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley. In November of 1980 the Westminster Apartment building, containing 100 housing units, began with an initial investment of \$10,000 from North Alabama Presbytery.

Due to declining membership within the Presbytery of Shepherds and Lapsley, and the need to seek loans for refurbishing and updating the building, the building was sold to a corporation that will manage it and the proceeds were used to create the existing Foundation. Ms. Veasey presented a check of \$10,000 to the North Alabama Presbytery, returning the initial investment. The check was received by the Presbytery's Stated Clerk, the Reverend Tom Lewis. She also stated that the foundation had pledged an additional \$10,000 per year for the next four years with the request that the money be used to support housing in North Alabama Presbytery.

The Reverend Brogdon called upon Kathy Gilmore to give a report from the Maranatha Camp and Conference Center. She reported that the camp had 224 campers in Day Camp, 205 in overnight camp, 18 in adventure camp, and 17 in Timothy Leadership Camp. The camp is flourishing with the renovations that have been made. Maranatha has received a certificate of occupancy for the dining hall just in time for the summer camping season. The next big thing is climate control for the dining hall. In addition, they have finished redecking the dock, and they have also finished enlarging the bathhouse. A new shed has been built close to the dock to store life jackets.

Maranatha is now working with a new accounting firm. At a time when it is difficult to recruit kids to work on camp staff, a high-quality staff has been recruited for the summer. Ms. Gilmore concluded her remarks by asking us to pray for the camp, to pray that campers' lives will be changed, and to pray for the bus driver.

The Reverend Brogdon recognized Ruling Elder Barbara Allen who gave a report on the Presbyterian Women. She reported that there were seven circles and 155 active members in North Alabama Presbytery. Ten members hold additional positions at the Presbytery level. One member holds a position at the Synod level. Eight women have received Lifetime Achievement Awards in 2023-24.

The PW-NAP have gathered local items into a Silent Auction Basket that will be presented to the National PW Gathering this July in St. Louis. These baskets will be auctioned off to raise money for the national PCUSA PW.

At a recent meeting of the PW Harriet Bibb and Linda Faulk were recognized for their service.

The Reverend Brogdon called upon the Reverend Dr. Michael Bowe to deliver a report for the Presbyterian Men. The men have met twice this year. The first meeting was at First Presbyterian Church, Athens. The second was at the Trash Pandas ballpark where they were joined by Doug Marshall from the Presbyterian Home for Children. They are currently searching for a location to hold their summer meeting.

The Reverend Brogdon called upon the Reverend Jaina Glaze to give a report on behalf of the CORN. She presented the Parity Report and gave the Presbytery thanks for electing Ruling Elder Jerry Witt to the CORN. She announced that they are seeking nominees for the fall.

The Reverend Glaze continued with a report on the Montreat Youth Conference. She announced that for many years the Presbytery has enabled youth to attend this annual conference. In particular, she pointed out that children that have no youth group to which they can belong have been able to connect with this ministry and go to Montreat. She made an appeal to churches, saying that even if a church has only one kid, their kids can benefit.

At the conclusion of the Reverend Glaze's report, the Presbytery recessed for lunch with grace delivered by the Reverend Dr. Michael Bowe.

When the Presbytery reconvened, it did so with prayer by the Moderator the Reverend Tripp Brogdon. As the Presbytery reconvened the Reverend Brogdon announced that the Presbytery had received \$607 from the offering in its morning worship. The Reverend Greg Bentley was asked to talk about the recipient of that offering- Sleep in Heavenly Peace. That charity provides beds to low-income children who don't have one.

The Reverend Brogdon called upon Ruling Elder, Krista Lovell to present the Peacemaking report. Mrs. Lovell made a link between Peacemaking and the Matthew 25 initiative. As a Presbytery, we are reconfiguring things to match the initiative. She lauded the visionary work of Ruling Elders Newell and Mary Witherspoon. She even read a portion of the history written by Mary Witherspoon. Our Presbytery was one of the first Presbyteries to join the commitment to peacemaking when it was written years ago. At the conclusion of her report, the peacemaking dove was passed from First Presbyterian Church, Albertville to Fellowship Presbyterian Church, Huntsville.

The churches who have signed the commitment to peacemaking were recognized. The following is a list of those churches: Athens, Copeland; Athens, First; Decatur, St. Andrew; Decatur, Westminster; Florence, First; Florence, Westminster; Gadsden, Trinity; Guntersville, First; Hartselle, First; Huntsville, Covenant; Huntsville, Faith; Huntsville, Fellowship; Huntsville, First; Huntsville, Hope; Madison, Grace; Mt. Hope, Rock Springs-Mitchell Memorial; Toney, Madison Crossroads.

The Reverend Brogdon called upon the Reverend Dr. Tom Lovell who led an extended discussion on the Matthew 25 initiative. The initiative has three foci: Building Congregational Vitality, Dismantling Structural Racism, and Eradicating Systemic Poverty. On this day, we focused as a Presbytery on the second pillar. The Reverend Lovell made the point that Racism ventures beyond color. Racism is emotionally and politically charged. Confronting racism is not only a Matthew 25 initiative, but each Presbytery is also required by the Constitution of the PCUSA to draft and maintain its own Anti Racism Policy.

The Reverend Dr. Tom Lovell led the Presbytery in a group discussion regarding the definition of Race and Prejudice. Some of the following definitions for race arose from the discussion. Race can be ancestral, geographical, and genetic. It is a separator. It is not a choice. It is a social construct. Racism equals racial hierarchy + prejudice+ power.

Some of the definitions for prejudice arose from the discussion. Prejudice is making use of race as a separator. Prejudice is judging people in ways that they don't deserve. It's about power that we sometimes don't realize that we have. Prejudice is how we respond to that choice. It is judging without knowledge or based on assumptions. Prejudice is how you treat someone when you are afraid of them. Prejudice means to prejudge.

Members of the group were encouraged to share their experiences of racism. The Reverend Dr. Lovell ended the discussion with some suggested resources on the subject of Racism. Here is a partial list of referenced bible verses: Psalm 8; Genesis 1:26-31; Acts 10:9-23; Amos 5:14-15; 21-24; Micah 6:6-8. The following is a list of suggested resources on the subject of racism: the Matthew 25 initiative website; the Confession of Belhar; [Waking Up White](#); [White Fragility](#); [America's Original Sin](#).

The Reverend Dr. Lovell concluded his remarks with an appeal to members of the Presbytery to consider serving on a task force to write an antiracism policy as required by the Book of Order. The discussion was closed with a closing litany recited by the entire council.

After concluding the Matthew 25 report, the Reverend Dr. Lovell continued with the Executive Presbyter's Report. He reported that he is enjoying the job and that he is getting around to all the churches. He told the Presbytery that he is available to preach upon request.

He reminded people that Keenan Rogers will conduct a Board of Pension Orientation on the upcoming plan changes. He also encouraged people to consider attending the Eucharistic Elder training coming up on July 27. This program is offered to train Ruling Elders to provide Communion, and Elders trained to do this by the COM to provide communion in certain circumstances. Finally, the Reverend Dr. Lovell reminded the Presbytery the General Assembly was approaching and to be in prayer for the commissioners and the assembly itself.

The business of the Presbytery having been completed a motion was made and seconded to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was closed with prayer by the Reverend Tripp Brogdon as members of the Presbytery laid hands upon the Presbytery's commissioners to General Assembly.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Lewis

Stated Clerk, North Alabama Presbytery

Appendix I: Attendance Rolls

Church	Ruling Elders Present - VOICE + VOTE		Teaching Elders Present		Teaching Elders Excused	
	First	Last	First	Last	First	Last
	* First time commissioner					
Big Cove			Kim	Mitchel		
Copeland	Carol	Barts*	Tom	Lewis		
Covenant - 1	Richard	Martin*			David	Kling
Covenant - 2	Mary	Griffin*				
Faith	Rob	Preece*	Michael	Bowe		
Fellowship	Randall	Bunley*	Greg	Bentley		
First Albertville	Pat	Bishop	Bob	Phelps		
First Athens	Stephen	Ware*				
First Cullman	Karen "Cricket"	Harrison				
First Florence	Randy	Pettus*			Brandon	Miles
First Ft. Payne	Karen	Malone				
First Guntersville	John	McClendon				
First Hartselle						
First Huntsville - 1	Leigh	Brown*			Tara	Bulger
First Huntsville - 2	Harriet	Bibb			Brett	Gudeman
First Sheffield	Richard	Deal	Jaina	Glaze		
Grace			Robin	Palmer		
Hope	Debbie	Adsit	Christie	Ashton		
Madison Crossroads					Kerry	Holcombe
Mountain Home						
New Market	Angie	Austin				
Old Brick						
Rock Springs						
St. Andrew	Linda	Grissom	Tripp	Brogdon		
Trinity Gadsden	Keith	Johnson*				
Westminster, Decatur						
Westminster, Florence						
Williams Chapel						
HR			Charles	Ayers		
HR - NAP Exec Presbyter			Tom	Lovell		
HR					Rosemary	McMahan
HR					Linda	Post
HR					Judy	Rich
VM					Amanda	Ragland
VM					Jack	Ragland

MAL			Les Anderson		Brad	Hall
MAL					Traci	Loveman
CRE						
Working w/I bounds	VOICE - NO VOTE				Tom	Martin
Working w/I bounds	VOICE - NO VOTE				Theresa	Martin
Working w/I bounds	VOICE - NO VOTE		Robin	Lambert		
Fellowship-Inquirer	VOICE - NO VOTE?		Lauretta	Moore		
St. Andrew - Candidate	VOICE - NO VOTE?		Stacey	White		
Ruling Elders	VOICE + VOTE					
Vice Moderator	Anita	Raby				
COM Moderator	Carol	Copeland				
BAPT Moderator	Parker	Moore				
Presbyterian Women	Barbara	Allen				
Corresponding	VOICE - NO VOTE					
Administrative Assistant	Krista	Lovell				
PHFC	Cindy	Fisher				
Maranatha CCCI	Kathy	Gilmore				
Calhoun Presbyterian Apartments Foundation Board	Karen Lin	Veasey				
Presbyterian Foundation	Rev. Dana	Waters				
Visitors	NO VOICE + NO VOTE					
Big Cove	Ralph	Mitchel				
Calhoun Presbyterian Apartments Foundation Board	Jerry	Parris				
Calhoun Presbyterian Apartments Foundation Board	Sonja	Parris				
Covenant	Mark	Icenogle				
First, Cullman	Shawn	Woodard				
First, Huntsville	Janice	Williams				
Trinity Gadsden	Sissy	Bain				
Westminster, Decatur	Kelly	Elmore				

Appendix II: Financial Information

INFORMATION

- 1) The Executive Commission (EC) ordinarily meets monthly via Zoom except for the months there is a Stated Meeting of the Presbytery.
- 2) The EC regularly receives reports from the Executive Presbyter, the Stated Clerk, and Moderators of the Business Affairs and Personnel Team, the Commission on Ministry, the Committee on Representation and Nomination, and Maranatha Camp and Conference Center, Inc.

ADMIT TO RECORD

- 1) The EC approved the Rev. Dr. Tom Lovell signing the covenant renewal form to renew the covenant between North Alabama Presbytery and the Presbyterian Home for Children.
- 2) The EC accepted an invitation from Copeland Presbyterian Church in Athens to host the Winter Stated NAP meeting in 2025.
- 3) The EC appointed the following people to serve on the Bills and Overtures Committee, which will report at the Winter Stated NAP meeting in 2025: TE Greg Bentley, TE Tara Bulger, RE Mark Icenogle, Alternate: TE Bob Phelps.
- 4) The EC accepted an invitation from First Presbyterian Church in Huntsville to host the Summer Stated NAP meeting in 2025.
- 5) The EC agreed by consensus to designate the offering received during the Fall Stated NAP meeting to the presbytery's candidate fund.
- 6) The EC voted to destroy existing hard copies of NAP records, as all records are stored digitally in three locations: the NAP OneDrive account, on an external hard drive kept in the fire-proof safe at the Stated Clerk's home, and on the Office Administrator's desk top computer hard drive.
- 7) The EC agreed by consensus to remove the physical addresses of individuals from the NAP Directory.
- 8) The EC approved the agenda for the Fall Stated NAP meeting.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- a) The EC recommends the dissolution of the Church Development Foundation Board.
- b) The EC recommends the proposed changes to the Manual of Administrative Operations (1st reading). **The MOA is included as a separate document to the packet for clarity.**
- c) The EC recommends the election of the following individuals to form an Executive Presbyter Search Committee after receiving 60 days' notice from Executive Presbyter Tom Lovell: TE Greg Bentley, TE Tripp Brogdon, RE Beth Clements, RE Randy Pettus, RE Anita Raby.

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
NORTH ALABAMA PRESBYTERY CHURCH DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION**

A special meeting of the Board of Directors of **North Alabama Presbytery Church Development Foundation** (the "Corporation"), was held via Zoom video conference at 10:00 o'clock A.M., on the 13th day of September, 2024, at the call of all of the directors of the Corporation. Directors present were: The Rev. Christie Ashton, Dr. Thomas Lovell, Bob Copous, Bob Ludwig, Harriett Bibb, Kim Mitchel, and Karen Madison.

Rev. Christie Ashton was appointed "Acting President, and acted as Chairman of the meeting and **Dr. Thomas Lovell** acted as Secretary thereof.

The Chairman stated that notice of the time, place, and purpose of the special meeting had been given to all the members of the Corporation's Board of Directors. The Chairman stated that a quorum was present and that the meeting was open for the transaction of business. The Chairman further announced that the purpose of the meeting was the consideration of the dissolution of the Corporation and the distribution of all its assets to **North Alabama Presbytery, Inc. ("NAP")**, a nonprofit corporation with goals and activities similar to those at the dissolving Corporation, to be used for church development.

WHEREAS, it has been proposed that the Corporation be liquidated and dissolved and that its assets be distributed to NAP; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Corporation are of the opinion that it would be advisable and for the benefit of the Corporation that the Corporation be liquidated and dissolved; Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously adopted, it was resolved as follows:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Directors of the Corporation that the following Plan of Distribution (hereinafter called the "Plan") is adopted for the purpose of effecting the complete liquidation and dissolution of the Corporation in accordance with the Alabama Nonprofit Corporation Law, as amended, pursuant to the following resolutions; and it is

RESOLVED FURTHER, by the Board of Directors of the Corporation that the actions provided for in the foregoing resolution providing for the complete liquidation and distribution of the Corporation's assets to NAP be performed as soon as practical and that its Acting President, the Rev. Christie Ashton and the Secretary, Dr. Thomas Lovell, and each of them be, and they are hereby, authorized, directed and empowered to distribute all assets of the Corporation as soon as practicable to NAP; and it is

RESOLVED FURTHER by the Board of Directors of the Corporation that the said Acting President and the Secretary, and each of them be, and they are hereby, authorized, directed and empowered to do or cause to be done such other acts and

things as they may deem necessary or proper in order to carry out the liquidation and dissolution of the Corporation and to fully effectuate the purpose of the Plan and these resolutions; and it is

RESOLVED FURTHER by the Board of Directors of the Corporation that this Corporation be dissolved; and that after all known debts, liabilities and obligations of the Corporation have been paid and the remaining property and assets have been distributed as herein provided, the Acting President and the Secretary, and each of them be, and they are hereby, authorized, directed, and empowered to execute for and on behalf of the Corporation and file in the office of the Judge of Probate of Madison County, Alabama, the Articles of Dissolution pursuant to Section 10A-3.7.01 et seq., Code of Alabama (1975), as amended; and it is

RESOLVED LASTLY, by the Board of Directors of the Corporation that the Acting President and the Secretary, and each of them be, and they are hereby, authorized, directed and empowered to execute for and on behalf of the Corporation, all instruments, documents, assignments, bills of sale, checks, and certificates, to fully consummate the execution of each of the foregoing resolutions relating to this dissolution.

And we do further certify that the above resolutions have not been in anywise rescinded, annulled or revoked, but are still in full force and effect.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, the same was duly adjourned.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto fixed our hands and seals this the 13th day of September, 2024.



Acting President, **The Rev. Christie Ashton**



Secretary, **Dr. Thomas Lovell**

Anita Raby, NAC
Araby123@bellsouth.net
256-777-1026

**Nominations Appointment Committee
Report to North Alabama Presbytery
October 15, 2024**

9

The NAC recommendations for service on the Committee on Representation and Nominating (CORN) are:

Class of 2027

TE Traci Loveman
Member at Large

RE Bill Valentine
Westminster PC, Florence

Information:

The Business Affairs and Personnel Team meets on the second Thursday of each month via zoom to review financial reports, review Ministry Grant applications and conduct other business as needed.

The Administrative Assistant provides financial reports and meets with the Team to answer questions.

The Executive Presbyter meets with the Team as an Ex-Officio member to provide guidance.

As Trustees of the Presbytery, The Team received a request from First Presbyterian, Sheffield to sell a residential lot given to them by a church member. The request was approved by the Team on September 12, 2024, and by the EC on September 23, 2024.

Admit to Record:

1. Financial Reports (Statement of Financial Position & Budget vs. Actuals) are reviewed each month showing a strong financial situation for the Presbytery.
 - a. The financial reports ending September 30, 2024, are included with this report.
2. Ministry Grants have been awarded to the following during July – September
 - a. Albertville, First - \$6045.41 to repair storm damage to exterior and stained glass
 - b. Cullman, First - \$15,000 to replace HVAC in Fellowship Hall
 - c. Huntsville, Faith - \$5,000 to facilitate an international adoption
 - d. Huntsville, Faith - \$25,000 to replace fire alarm systems campus-wide
 - e. Huntsville, First - \$25,000 to assist in narthex renovation as part of building expansion
 - f. Madison, Grace - \$25,000 to make repairs and paint exterior of sanctuary
 - g. Decatur, Presbyterian Towers - \$3,000 to purchase 5 benches for elevator waiting areas
3. Personnel
 - a. Administrative Assistant
 - i. The Team is continuing interviews with interested applicants and will have someone in place before Krista leaves.

**North Alabama Presbytery
Statement of Financial Position
As of October 4, 2024**

ASSETS

Current Assets

Bank Accounts

1110 PNC Bank Checking (5455)	16,763.49
1120 Synovus Bank MM	231,077.62
1121 Synovus Bank CD	424,542.16

Total Bank Accounts	\$ 672,383.27
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Total Current Assets	\$ 672,383.27
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TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 672,383.27
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LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Other Current Liabilities

2330 Special Offerings

2330-001 Christmas Joy Offering	0.00
2330-002 One Great Hour of Sharing	10.00
2330-003 Peacemaking Offering	0.00
2330-004 Pentecost Offering	6.00
2330-005 NAP Meeting Offerings	0.00

Total 2330 Special Offerings	\$ 16.00
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2340 Church Background Checks	17.90
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2360 Benevolence Giving

2360-001 PHFC Presbyterian Home for Children Gifts	0.00
2360-003 MBF Medical Benevolence Foundation Gifts	208.35
2360-004 PDA Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Gifts	0.00
2360-005 Missionary Support	166.65
2360-006 Living Waters for the World	0.00

Total 2360 Benevolence Giving	\$ 375.00
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Direct Deposit Payable	0.00
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Payroll Corrections	0.05
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Payroll Liabilities

2205 Taxes Payable (Federal Taxes (941/943/944))	122.40
2220 State Taxes Payable	0.00

Total Payroll Liabilities	\$ 122.40
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Total Other Current Liabilities	\$ 531.35
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Total Current Liabilities	\$ 531.35
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Total Liabilities	\$ 531.35
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Equity

3205 NAP Office Capital	12,470.16
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3210 Central PC Desig	56,168.27
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3211 Trinity, Huntsville Legacy Fund	261,542.59
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3212 Calhoun Housing Grants	7,000.00
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3215-100 CPM		461.00
3220 Congregation Dev		37,685.91
3222 Pastor Development		
3222-100 Barnabas Program		4,031.92
3260-900 Lombard MCP		3,958.90
Total 3222 Pastor Development	\$	7,990.82
3225-100 Peacemaking Task Force		1,837.07
3240 Campus Ministries		12,801.87
3250 Montreat Youth Conference		0.00
3255 NAP Discretionary		3,137.20
3256 Prepaid Contributions		0.00
Opening Balance Equity		234,895.50
Retained Earnings		9,908.61
Net Revenue		25,952.92
Total Equity	\$	671,851.92
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$	672,383.27

North Alabama Presbytery
Budget vs. Actuals FY24 P&L
January - September 2024

	Actual	Budget	Remaining
Revenue			
4020 BUDGETED INCOME			
4030 Unified Income	65,719.60	93,000.00	27,280.40
4038 PCUSA Per Capita Income	18,393.70	21,000.00	2,606.30
4039 Synod per capita Income	7,474.02	9,000.00	1,525.98
4040 NAP Per Capita Income	11,258.15	13,000.00	1,741.85
Total 4020 BUDGETED INCOME	\$ 102,845.47	\$ 136,000.00	\$ 33,154.53
4200 UNBUDGETED INCOME	1,182.20		-1,182.20
4431 NAP Meeting Inc	1,344.00		-1,344.00
Total 4200 UNBUDGETED INCOME	\$ 2,526.20	\$ 0.00	-\$ 2,526.20
4500 INTEREST INCOME	3.89		-3.89
4510 Banking Interest	24,619.91	8,000.00	-16,619.91
Total 4500 INTEREST INCOME	\$ 24,623.80	\$ 8,000.00	-\$ 16,623.80
4600 MISCELLANEOUS INC			0.00
4620 Miscellaneous Income	378.09		-378.09
Total 4600 MISCELLANEOUS INC	\$ 378.09	\$ 0.00	-\$ 378.09
4801 TEMP RESTRICTED RELEASE			0.00
4823 2023 Surplus		9,908.61	9,908.61
Total 4801 TEMP RESTRICTED RELEASE	\$ 0.00	\$ 9,908.61	\$ 9,908.61
Total Revenue	\$ 130,373.56	\$ 153,908.61	\$ 23,535.05
Gross Profit	\$ 130,373.56	\$ 153,908.61	\$ 23,535.05
EXPENSES			
5060 Executive Presbyter			0.00
5061 EP Salary	6,374.97	8,500.00	2,125.03
5062 EP Housing	15,000.03	20,000.00	4,999.97
5063 EP 1/2 SECA	2,036.22	2,300.00	263.78
5069 EP Professional Expenses	3,359.60	5,000.00	1,640.40
5070 EP Flexible Spending	1,988.94	3,200.00	1,211.06
Total 5060 Executive Presbyter	\$ 28,759.76	\$ 39,000.00	\$ 10,240.24
5100 Stated Clerk			0.00
5111 Stated Clerk Salary	12,808.35	15,600.00	2,791.65
5119 Stated Clerk Expenses	1,108.26	1,800.00	691.74
Total 5100 Stated Clerk	\$ 13,916.61	\$ 17,400.00	\$ 3,483.39
5130 Executive Staff Training			0.00
5131 Executive Presbyter Leaders Conference	1,514.02	4,625.00	3,110.98
5132 Stated Clerks Conference	175.00	3,625.00	3,450.00
Total 5130 Executive Staff Training	\$ 1,689.02	\$ 8,250.00	\$ 6,560.98
5150 SUPPORT STAFF			0.00
5155 Administrative Assistant	7,200.00	9,600.00	2,400.00
5411 Administrative Assistant Mileage		100.00	100.00
5415 Staff Training		100.00	100.00

Total 5150 SUPPORT STAFF	\$ 7,200.00	\$ 9,800.00	\$ 2,600.00
5300 EMPLOYER EXPENSES			0.00
5305 Payroll Taxes	799.43	2,000.00	1,200.57
5310 Workers Comp Insurance	458.00	800.00	342.00
Total 5300 EMPLOYER EXPENSES	\$ 1,257.43	\$ 2,800.00	\$ 1,542.57
5420 SERVICES			0.00
5423 Bookkeeping Services	3,550.00	4,750.00	1,200.00
Total 5420 SERVICES	\$ 3,550.00	\$ 4,750.00	\$ 1,200.00
5430 OFFICE EXPENSES			0.00
5435 Office Supplies	97.30	50.00	-47.30
5440 Postage	68.00	50.00	-18.00
5445 Memberships & Dues	175.00	150.00	-25.00
5450 Bank Charges		20.00	20.00
5455 Comprehensive Insurance	4,128.00	4,500.00	372.00
5460 Meeting Expense	159.90	150.00	-9.90
5465 Printing Expense		50.00	50.00
5499 Miscellaneous Admin		100.00	100.00
Total 5430 OFFICE EXPENSES	\$ 4,628.20	\$ 5,070.00	\$ 441.80
5515 PHONES			0.00
5517 Office Phone	202.63	216.00	13.37
Total 5515 PHONES	\$ 202.63	\$ 216.00	\$ 13.37
5550 INTERNET EXP			0.00
5555 Website	299.87	300.00	0.13
Total 5550 INTERNET EXP	\$ 299.87	\$ 300.00	\$ 0.13
5570 COMPUTER EXPENSES			0.00
5572 Computer Hardware		200.00	200.00
5574 Computer Software	2,320.87	2,500.00	179.13
Total 5570 COMPUTER EXPENSES	\$ 2,320.87	\$ 2,700.00	\$ 379.13
5580 LEASED EQUIPMENT			0.00
5585 Post Office Box Rental	232.00	226.00	-6.00
Total 5580 LEASED EQUIPMENT	\$ 232.00	\$ 226.00	-\$ 6.00
6000 EXECUTIVE COMMISSION EXP			0.00
6010 Executive Commission		50.00	50.00
6011 Moderators Conference		700.00	700.00
6013 Youth Young Adult Ministry Team		0.00	0.00
6014 Montreat Youth Conference	2,297.85	2,000.00	-297.85
6015 YYAMT Background Checks	102.15	400.00	297.85
Total 6000 EXECUTIVE COMMISSION	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 3,150.00	\$ 750.00
6100 BUSINESS AFFAIRS & PERSONNEL TEAM			0.00
6110 Business Affairs & Personnel Team		50.00	50.00
6112 BAT Audit Exp		1,000.00	1,000.00
Total 6100 BUSINESS AFFAIRS & PERSONNEL TEAM	\$ 0.00	\$ 1,050.00	\$ 1,050.00
6124 BAT - Staff Background Checks	68.50		-68.50
6200 COMMISSION ON MINISTRY EXP			0.00
6210 Commission on Ministry	483.42	1,000.00	516.58
6214 COM Minister Background Checks		300.00	300.00
6219-100 Inquirer/Candidate /CRE Assistance	500.00	0.00	-500.00
Total 6200 COMMISSION ON MINISTRY EXP	\$ 983.42	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 316.58

6218 COM Other Exp	22.20		-22.20
6300 GOVERNMENT UNITS			0.00
6350 Permanent Judicial Commission (PJC)		1,000.00	1,000.00
Total 6300 GOVERNMENT UNITS	\$ 0.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
6430 PRESBYTERY MEETING			0.00
6438 NAP Meeting Expense	1,712.40	1,009.45	-702.95
Total 6430 PRESBYTERY MEETING	\$ 1,712.40	\$ 1,009.45	-\$ 702.95
6480 PER CAPITA			0.00
6481 PCUSA Per Capita Expense	17,649.80	27,655.60	10,005.80
6482 Synod Per Capita	7,167.98	11,231.56	4,063.58
Total 6480 PER CAPITA	\$ 24,817.78	\$ 38,887.16	\$ 14,069.38
6490 OTHER ECCLESIAL EXPENSE			0.00
6491 General Assembly Expense	1,359.95	5,000.00	3,640.05
Total 6490 OTHER ECCLESIAL EXPENSE	\$ 1,359.95	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 3,640.05
6700 MISSION EXPENSE			0.00
6751 Maranatha Support	9,000.00	12,000.00	3,000.00
Total 6700 MISSION EXPENSE	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
Total Expenditures	\$ 104,420.64	\$ 153,908.61	\$ 49,487.97
Net Operating Revenue	\$ 25,952.92	\$ 0.00	-\$ 25,952.92
Net Revenue	\$ 25,952.92	\$ 0.00	-\$ 25,952.92

FOR INFORMATION

The COM meets on the first Thursday of each month at 6:30pm via zoom to hear reports from Church Liaisons, the Stated Clerk, and the Executive Presbyter, and the Committee on Preparation for Ministry.

The COM consists of 12 members, who are Teaching Elders Ruling Elders representing NAP churches.

ADMIT TO RECORD

- The COM has received and approved a job description for a transitional pastor from First Presbyterian Church, Florence.
- The COM has received and approved a request from Westminster Presbyterian Church to extend the contract of Transitional Preacher the Reverend Frank Broyles for one more year.
- The COM has granted permission for the Reverend Michael Stanfield to labor within the bounds of North Alabama Presbytery. The Reverend Stanfield is working for the Vine Pastoral Counseling Center as a Pastoral Counselor. He will be formally received at the February 22, 2025, Winter Stated Meeting.
- The COM has approved several individuals to serve as Eucharistic Elders. These individuals are Ruling Elders who have been trained to celebrate the Lord's Supper under the supervision and with the approval of the COM. The following individuals have been trained: Beth Clements (First, Ft. Payne), Carol Copeland (First, Athens), Ted Dixie (Fellowship, Huntsville), Karen "Cricket" Harrison (First, Cullman), Karen Malone (First, Ft. Payne), David Mann (Covenant, Huntsville), Richard Martin (Covenant, Huntsville), Laretta Moore (Fellowship, Huntsville), Anita Muse (Fellowship, Huntsville), Randy Pettus (First, Florence), Linda Rass (Faith, Huntsville), John Rogers (Westminster, Huntsville), Cindy Saseen (Copeland, Athens), Susanne Slaten (Copeland, Athens), Patrick Smith (First, Sheffield), David Stumbaugh (Covenant, Huntsville), Jerry Witt (First, Athens)

ACTION

- a. The COM requests that Ruling Elder Laretta Moore be examined by the Presbytery for candidacy. Her Statement of Faith and Faith Journey are included in the packet.
 - a. If the examination is sustained, we further request that she be received as a Candidate for ministry.
- b. The COM recommends the proposed changes to the Presbytery's minimum terms of call that are included in the packet.

At differing points along life's journey, I have felt, learned, and come to believe a great many things. This is my Faith Statement, a testament to my belief in God is the Father, creator and ruler of heaven and earth. There is but one God, regardless of the name, title, or reference that various denominations, entities, and individuals ascribe to Him. There is but one true religion, and religion cannot be solely defined by denomination or affiliation. The one true religion is that which resonates within the heart and mind of the believer who fervently seeks an intimate relationship with God through his son Jesus Christ. I believe God grants all human beings' freedom of choice; therefore, I refrain from arguing with individuals who are convinced that unless you convert to their faith, you are doomed for destruction. I am confident that I do not serve a God that seeks to mystify or destroy. That is the role of the enemy. Just as I acknowledge and reverence the presence of the Lord, I recognize Satan and his predatory and manipulative ways; the opposite of everything good, holy, and sacred. That I may resist the wiles of the evil one, and face the inevitability of Last Things, with courage and optimism, I am intentional about strengthening my relationship with the triune God by actively studying His Holy Word, enriching my prayer life, and dedicating time in service to His church and His people.

As a Personal Statement of Faith, I believe Jesus Christ is the physical manifestation of God, presented as His son, in sacrificial offering that mankind might be redeemed after consistently demonstrating arrogance, ignorance, ungratefulness and unworthiness. While we are all descendants, Jesus Christ is the sole heir to the throne of grace and mercy. I am a firm believer in John 14:6 that states that He "is the truth, the way and the life" and "there is but one way to the Father," and it is not through the church, but instead "through the Son." I believe the church to be a great many things, including an assembly for worshipers, a refuge for believers and non-believers alike, a clearinghouse for the broken, an institution for formal education of disciples and advocates, a lighthouse in a sea of darkness that it may (through ministries and missions) provide essentials and services for those least able to help themselves. I believe that in the physical structure we call the church, or in any space deemed sacred, all who believe may partake of the sacrament of communion, the symbolic body and blood of Jesus. We do this in remembrance of Him and the ultimate redemptive sacrifice and demonstration of unconditional love. Yet, the church is merely a man-made structure; we are the temple—we are Christ's hands and feet, and we are (as stated in I Corinthians 12:27) the body of Christ, each with an individual role. I am prepared to do my part.

I believe in the Holy Trinity, comprised of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit; God in three persons. I was initially convinced that The Holy Spirit had eluded me. In retrospect, long before I was certain I believed in God, it was the Holy Spirit that resonated within me as a still, small, or sometimes resounding voice; it was that gut feeling; that unexplainable action or decision that perhaps contradicted my plans but turned out alright in the end, even in the midst of wrongdoing. Throughout my life, the Holy Spirit has allowed me to feel protected in times of perceived danger and calm despite raging storms. Spirit has kept me sane when insanity literally surrounded me. The Holy Spirit has typically outwardly manifested through the outpouring of tears. For many years I was resentful because tears are often misconstrued, and at least in my mind, symbolized weakness. I now recognize how trauma-based that logic was, and I embrace tears as courageous, cleansing, purging, and sometimes an expression of unspeakable joy. I believe in the salvation of my soul that is promised in the scriptures, that outline holiness and experiences of Jesus Christ, as communicated by his disciples.

By faith, I am committed to serving God's church as an active member of Fellowship and Temporary Supply Pastor of First Church Guntersville (PCUSA). I am further committed to mission work and bearing witness to the gospel. As I continue to explore my vocational calling to ministry, I will further my education at Union Presbyterian Seminary. I am committed to thoroughly examining my life and daily striving to weed out habits and learned behaviors that stifle the overarching goal of leading a Christ-centered life. I will accomplish all of that to which I have committed through Christ who strengthens and fortifies me.

Carol Copeland, Moderator
carolelk@aol.com
256-366-3786

**North Alabama Presbytery
Commission on Ministry
Proposed change in Minimum Terms of Call for 2025
Re: Board of Pensions (BOP) Benefits**

11b

Rationale:

Beginning January 1, 2025, the dues structure of the medical insurance portion of the Board of Pensions benefits plan will change dramatically. These changes will provide a variety of options for medical insurance coverage based upon the needs of the pastor and her/his family with the cost dependent upon the coverage selected. In the past, the church was required to cover the entire cost of medical insurance. However, the new dues structure requires that the church only cover the cost of medical insurance for the pastor (16% of effective salary). In the new plan, the responsibility of the cost of medical insurance for a spouse and/or dependents is to be negotiated between the pastor and congregation.

The Commission on Ministry is committed to making sure that our pastors and their families are provided with quality medical insurance as we transition to the new dues structure. Since there are a number of variables within the new dues structure and a relatively short time for pastors and churches to make important decisions, **the Commission on Ministry has determined that the Minimum Terms of Call for Installed Pastors for 2025 will require that the church provide and bear the cost of medical insurance through the Congregational Pastors Package or the Transitional Pastors Participation Package for the pastor as well as their spouse and/or children (if needed).**

For some congregations, these changes will result in a decrease in the cost of providing medical insurance for their pastor. In other congregations, these changes will increase the cost of providing medical insurance for their pastor and their spouse and/or children. Each pastor and church should determine the coverage options which are most appropriate and submit the requisite forms to the Board of Pensions. If the most appropriate coverage results in a cost increase that is burdensome for the church, the church is encouraged to apply for a Congregational Ministry Grant from the Presbytery. (Application forms can be found on the Presbytery website at www.napcusa.org or by emailing the Administrative Assistant at adminoffice@napcusa.org.)

A detailed explanation of the 2025 Benefits Plan can be found at www.pensions.org. The Board also has a guide for making insurance decisions at <https://www.pensions.org/decision-guide/>. You may also contact our BOP Church Consultant, Keenan Rodgers at krodgers@pensions.org. Our Presbytery Executive, Dr. Tom Lovell, is also available to assist.

Summary of the 2025 Medical Benefits Plan

Congregational Pastors Package

Pension, Death, Disability 10% of Effective Salary

Medical Coverage

Pastor only 16% of Effective Salary

Additional coverage

Spousal coverage \$11,000 + 16% of Effective Salary

Dependent coverage \$8,950 + 16% of Effective Salary

Family coverage \$20,600 + 16% of Effective Salary

Transitional Pastors Package

Same as current Pastors Participation Package which includes

Pensions, Death, Disability

Full family medical Coverage

Cost: 43% of Effective Salary

**General Assembly Report
To North Alabama Presbytery
By Teaching Elder, Mark Icenogle**

The 226th General assembly
of the Presbyterian Church USA

In Salt Lake City, two blocks from Temple Square, for five days, the General Assembly (GA) met to conduct the business of the PCUSA. I wasn't sure what to expect, this being my first time at the GA. I was the "Ruling Elder" for North Alabama Presbytery. This seems like a title that didn't fit and wasn't deserved for me, but asked to serve, I have a difficult time telling my pastor no, so there I was.

I was one of about 420 commissioners tasked with voting on items of business. I never missed one vote. I even showed up early and on one day got drafted to serve communion with 47 other Elders to probably over 600 people. I held the cup of salvation.

I've been to large business conferences in my past career, but without question this was the most diverse group ever. Everyone was represented, Black, White, Asian, Hispanic/Latino, LGBTQIA+. Now if you embrace the PCUSA progressive, non-discrimination agenda, as I do, you would be proud of your denomination.

The meeting was conducted without any hitches. The newly elected co-moderators did a fantastic job along with the stated clerk. The technology was top-notch and without glitches. Very smooth and lots of people you didn't see made it happen.

My advice to you, if asked, accept this assignment. I was reluctant, feeling not up to the task but now forever grateful for the opportunity. My report of some of the business agenda and the vote results will be presented at the next meeting of our Presbytery. See you there.

Mark Icenogle

**General Assembly Report
To North Alabama Presbytery
by The Reverend Tom Lewis**

It was an honor to serve as the Teaching Elder Commissioner of the North Alabama Presbytery. I bring news to you of a denomination that is actively seeking the will of God in our midst. It would be easy for me to focus on one or two actions taken by the General Assembly. However, that would miss the important work that is being done to minister in the name of Jesus Christ in the midst of changing times.

The week began with the election of our two new Co-moderators: CeCe Armstrong and Tony Larson. It's clear to me that they are spirit filled leaders who have a vision for what the Presbyterian Church can be and should be.

During the course of the week, the General Assembly took action on matters such as Faith Formation, Gun Safety, Clean Energy, Solitary Confinement, White Nationalism, A new funding model to replace per capita, and many more things. I saw good Christian People striving together to hear and discern God's will. It's gratifying to see that the church still has a voice to preach even in today's world.

Some of the decisions we made were controversial. Those decisions generated a lot of discussion. But the atmosphere remained cordial. Steps were taken to preserve Freedom of Conscience and differences of opinion were handled in a loving, Christian Manner.

You may wonder what any of this has to do with the local church. Frankly I have asked myself that on a number of occasions throughout my life. But I saw lots of concern for the local church out there. Perhaps the one thing that I saw that excited me the most was the property seminar on Wednesday morning. It was exciting to see all the innovative ways that churches are using their property to do the work of the Kingdom.

In short, the church is alive and well. Perhaps, the comment I heard that summed things up best was, "The church is not dying; it is changing." I for one am excited to be part of the change.

**Report on General Assembly
To North Alabama Presbytery
By Youth/Young Adult Delegate, Avy Elmore**

This July I was blessed to attend the General Assembly meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah as a Young Adult Advisory Delegate, or YAAD. When Rev. Jaina Anderson Glaze asked me about my interest in this commitment, I excitedly accepted her invitation to attend GA as a YAAD. Leading up to the event I was nervous but eager to step into my role as a first time GA attendee and YAAD on the Polity committee. Each committee held meetings over Zoom the week before the in-person portion of GA and voted on many items. In my Polity meetings, I was really happy to have the privilege to approve POL-1, which added gender identity and sexual orientation to the list of rich diversity reflected in the church's membership, and I was overjoyed to see it pass with such support during plenary.

I felt that the YAADs I met were true ambassadors of Christ in their willingness to speak up for themselves and to open their hearts to hear others' truths. I met some beautiful friends that I hope to know for my lifetime. We were by no means always in agreement, but I felt God's grace acting through us as we shared in fellowship a love for the church and a fervor for its future. Us YAADs were constantly encouraged to speak our minds. We were reminded that not only are we the future of the church, but its present, too. I believe we all felt a sense of gratitude for the opportunity to commune and learn from one another and our commissioners during the lengthy process of preparing ourselves for voting for items and simply getting through each plenary session. I would like to thank Rev. Tom Lovell, Rev. Tom Lewis and Mr. Mark Icenogle for supporting me as North Alabama Presbytery's YAAD. Your guidance and understanding much needed and deeply appreciated.

I will admit that when I agreed to attend, I didn't quite know what I was getting in to. It was an eye-opening experience to witness and be a part of the work that is done by our national church to represent its members to its best ability. Attending General Assembly reinforced my confidence in identifying as a Presbyterian within the PCUSA and showed me the true heart of our church. I am so extremely grateful for the opportunity, and I hope to one day return to GA as an elder of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Decatur.

Peace and blessings, Avy Elmore

Excerpts from Micah Beard's report to the board.

Summer Camps:

Overnight Camp -	2024-239 campers	2023-266 campers
Day Camp -	2024-251 campers	2023 -267 campers
Adventure Camp -	2024-18 campers	2023-32 campers
TLT -	2024-19 campers	2023-14 campers

Program:

- We are working on a theme for next summer.
- We are hoping to open registration on September 23rd.
- We need to look at a price increase for 2025. see attached.

Outdoor Education:

- We had our first Outdoor Education group on August 25th. First Presbyterian Church brought some kids from the children's ministry to camp. They had lunch, learned some science, and went on a hike. It was great.

Summer Staff:

- We are going to 3 summer camp recruiting fairs this fall. Union University - September 30, Samford University - October 2 and Mississippi College - October 29.
- We are working on a couple more recruiting trips for the fall.

Dining Hall Renovation:

- The front doors to the dining hall were completed last week.
- The last two items on our list is having the roofers come look at the roof and getting all the close out documents. The roof is a little low in one spot and is allowing the water to go over the side of the building. The drains are on the roof and the water should all go to the drains.
- The next item to look at for the dining hall is the AC/Heat. The power for the heaters was abandoned when they did the renovation. We need to look at getting heat back for the building and AC for the summertime.

Retreats:

- We are having a lot of groups in September, October, and November. We have 8 groups using the bunkhouse cabins compared to 2 last year at this time.

Site Survey and Master Plan:

- Roland, Brandon, and Micah met with WGI, the company that is going to do the survey for camp. It was a great meeting. After touring the camp, we have decided to do the survey at the end of the fall or early winter to get better points of our buildings due to the tree canopy that we have at camp. We will probably be able to get this done around the middle of November. After that, it will take them about 4 weeks to finish the survey. This topographical survey will form the basis and starting point for our long-term site plan.

Projects:

- Please see the list of projects on the attached sheet and estimated costs. These are things that we would like/need to do but have not been prioritized.

Finances:

- Bob Copous and Micah have started the initial phase of getting the budget together for 2025.
- City Gate Accounting works well for our bookkeeping. They have incorporated several new automated processes that have resulted in improved efficiency and accuracy.
- Our budget is tracking according to plan, and it is anticipated that we will have a negative operating cash flow of approximately \$50,000 at year end. We have reserves available to make up for this imbalance for now.
- Micah presented some comparative prices of other camps in the area and found that we were at or near the bottom of the least expensive. We are going to increase the prices so that we are in the mid-range. From feedback that we are getting, our facilities and programs warrant this change when we are compared with other camps in the area

Rev. Jaina Glaze
CORN Moderator
256-206-1855
rev.jainaanderson@gmail.com

**Committee on Representation and Nominating
(CORN)
Report to North Alabama Presbytery
October 15, 2024**

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CORN presents the following slate to the NAP for your consideration:

IMMEDIATE PAST MODERATOR, 2025: Rev. Tripp Brogdon, St. Andrew

MODERATOR, 2025: Anita Raby, RE, Copeland

MODERATOR ELECT, 2025: Greg Bentley, TE, Fellowship

SYNOD COMMISSIONERS

Class of 2026: Carol Copeland, RE, Athens FPC and David Kling, TE, Covenant

BUSINESS AFFAIRS AND PERSONNEL TEAM (BAPT)/TRUSTEES

Class of 2027: Parker Moore, RE, St. Andrew Decatur; Dag Rowe, RE, FPC Huntsville

COMMISSION ON MINISTRY (COM)

Class of 2024: Michael Bowe, TE, Faith; Bob Phelps, TE, Albertville.

Class of 2027: Jaina Glaze, TE, Sheffield FPC; Joyce Pettis-Temple, RE, Fellowship; Michael Bowe, TE, Faith; Bob Phelps, TE, Albertville.

PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION (PJC)

Class of 2030: Keith Fraser, RE, Florence FPC; Rosemary McMahan, TE; Christi Robinson, RE, Faith

PRESBYTERIAN HOME FOR CHILDREN (PHFC)

Board of Trustees:

Class of 2025, Robin Palmer, TE, Grace to complete the unexpired term of Brandon Miles.

Class of 2027: Tara Bulger, TE, FPC Huntsville; Tom Lewis, TE, Copeland.

Tom Lovell
 Executive Presbyter
execpresbyter@napcusa.org
 615-975-5693

Executive Presbyter's Report
North Alabama Presbytery
October 15, 2024

We are all familiar with these word of the teacher/preacher known in the Hebrew as Qohelet, which we find in the Book of Ecclesiastes. *"For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven..."* (Ecc: 3:1) This wisdom reminds us that our lives are filled with a wide variety ebbs and flows, with "seasons," with a variety of events which call us to respond and adapt accordingly. As "the Preacher" tells us, there is *"a time to be born and a time to die, a time to break down and a time to build up, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, a time to keep silence and a time to speak."* We know that in our own lives as well as in the life of our churches and our Presbytery, there have been and will continue to be times of struggle and difficulty as well as times of progress and growth; there will be times of sorrow over old patterns, systems, or traditions that must fade away as well as times of joy over new beginnings and new opportunities; there will be times when we need to and want to celebrate the ministries in which we have been engaged as well as times when we need to seek out and embrace new ways and new opportunities to answer God's call upon us in our rapidly changing society. While we often joke that Presbyterians struggle with the concept of change, I'm not sure that is entirely true. As people of faith, we worship and serve a God of newness and change and who calls us to be "reformed and always being reformed." The whole of scripture is filled with stories of how God guided God's people to new adventures of faith which deepened their relationship with God and with one another. Through the prophet, Isaiah, God told the people of Israel, *"Do not remember the former things or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth; do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."* (Is. 43:18-19)

Three years ago, when I accepted the call to serve as the Executive Presbyter of North Alabama Presbytery, the Presbytery was in the midst of a season where things were breaking down. There was struggle and conflict, as well as the uncertainty and confusion of navigating a global pandemic. It was a difficult season to say the least, but through God's grace and presence our Presbytery was given the strength to persevere and emerge from that difficult season and embrace a new season of renewed relationships with one another, of a renewed clarity in the Presbytery's structure for mission (which is still being tweaked), a new commitment to serve the least of God's children as a Matthew 25 Mid-Council, and a sense of hope and promise for the Presbytery's future. Having endured what might be called a season where things were breaking down, I fully believe North Alabama is in the midst of a season of building up, and I pray God's blessing upon us as we live into this season and seek out new ways of working together to bear witness to the love and grace of Jesus Christ.

Of course, we also traverse through different seasons in our personal lives and as you have probably heard, Krista and I have made the decision to move from North Alabama to live closer to our children and grandchildren. We will continue to serve the Presbytery until we move or until a new Administrative Assistant and Executive Presbyter is in place. We have greatly enjoyed this season of our lives as our work with you has resulted in some wonderful friendships and the opportunity to witness, first-hand, the deep commitment our pastors and congregations have for Christ's ministry. It has been an honor to serve with you and I have every confidence that as you continue to embrace this season of building up, God will provide all you need to bear a bold witness to the good news of Christ's gospel.

Grace & Peace,
 Tom Lovell

David Kling, Pastor
Covenant , Huntsville
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941-961-0121

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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 2025 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.