

# NORTH ALABAMA PRESBYTERY

Synod of Living Waters

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

**CALLED MEETING**

**Minutes**

**Saturday, March 10, 2007**

**9:30 a.m.**

## **Call to Order**

Elder Billy Bell, Vice-Moderator of the Presbytery, called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. in the sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church in Athens.

## **Opening Prayer**

Vice-Moderator, Billy Bell, opened the meeting with prayer and then called on the Rev Sam Hobson to welcome the Presbytery.

## **Welcome from Host Church and Devotional**

Rev. Sam Hobson, First Athens, welcomed all to the meeting and gave a brief overview of the church.

Rev. Jaina Anderson, First Athens, gave a devotional, reflecting from Corinthians 3:1-15 and closing with the hymn "*They Will Know We Are Christians By Our Love*".

## **Declaration of Quorum and Purpose of Meeting**

Elder Richard Borie, Stated Clerk, declared a quorum present. Elder Borie then read the purpose of the meeting from the notification sent to all NAP ministers and commissioners.

The purpose of this meeting is to respond to the actions of Central Presbyterian Church of Huntsville, AL, which include the Session, Trustees, and Pastor, and to take any actions necessary that pertain to the aforementioned.

The docket (*Appendix A*) was presented to presbytery and **approved**.

## **Enrollment**

The enrollment for this meeting of Presbytery is recorded as follows:

### **Roll of Churches**

<u>CHURCH</u>	<u>MINISTER</u>	<u>ELDER</u>
Albertville, First	Ed Hamlett, Stated Supply EXCUSED	EXCUSED
	Lyndall Hamlett, Parish Associate, EXCUSED	
Athens, First	Sam Hobson	Don Payne

Athens, First	Jaina Anderson	Charlotte Lyle
Athens, Copeland	Tom Lewis	Tommy Hutton
Athens, Nebo	VACANT	NOT PRESENT
Belgreen, Mountain Home	Philip Faris	NOT PRESENT
Brownsboro, Big Cove	Rosemary McMahan, EXCUSED	Tom Jones
Cullman, First	Terry Tingle	Gus Lowry
Decatur, First	Don Haas	Betty Pickell
		Doris Sundback
Decatur, St. Andrew	Steve Arndt	Margaret Marsh
		Philip Gilbert
		NOT PRESENT
Decatur, Westminster	David Rollins	John Rogers
		Andy Matthews
Elkmont, Beulah	VACANT	NOT PRESENT
Florence, First	Sam Pope, NOT PRESENT	Sibley Thomas
		Martha Anne Hardiman
Florence, Westminster	John McKell	Paula Hammond
		EXCUSED
Fort Payne, First	Jerry Davis EXCUSED	EXCUSED
		EXCUSED
Gadsden, Trinity	Jerry Keeling EXCUSED	Les Anderson
Guntersville, First	Scott Jeffreys	Lee Matthews
		Shay Griggs
Hartselle, First	VACANT	Marilyn Haynes
		Curtis Taylor
Huntsville, Central	Randy Jenkins NOT PRESENT	NOT PRESENT
Huntsville, Covenant	Hal Oakley	Jim Tower
	Robert Seitz NOT PRESENT	Hugh Comfort
	Mark Looyenga	Leon Trotter
	Leigh Ann Looyenga EXCUSED	
Huntsville, Faith	Steve Stager	Susan Lockridge
Huntsville, Fellowship	John Herndon	George Grayson
		Lula Jones
Huntsville, First	William Cockrill	Bunny Hovater
	Libby Rollins	Mary Romer
	Luke Ponder	Harriet Bibb
Huntsville, Hope	Jim Roberts	Bob Lord
		NOT PRESENT
Huntsville, Korean	VACANT	NOT PRESENT
Huntsville, Trinity	Carol Byrd	Doug Fee
Madison, Grace	Robin Palmer	Martie Heaston
		Marita Durham
Mount Hope, Rock Springs-Mitchell Mem.	Philip Faris	NOT PRESENT
New Market, New Market	Bradley David Hall	NOT PRESENT
Muscle Shoals, Old Brick	VACANT	EXCUSED
Sheffield, First	Van Edington	NOT PRESENT
Toney, Madison Cross Roads	Jim Matthews, Temp Supply, EXCUSED	EXCUSED
Trenton, Trenton	VACANT	NOT PRESENT
Valley Head, Winston Memorial	VACANT	NOT PRESENT
Waterloo, Williams Chapel	Robert Lawton, CLP	Danny Scott

**Other ministers on roll, present**

Warner Durnell, Bill Allen, John Bush, Wallace Faris, Houston Hodges, Luther Kramer, Bill McWeeny, James Nash, William Shouse, Mel Strain, James Thompson

**Other ministers on roll, EXCUSED**

Perry Brackin, David Palmer

**At Large/Retired ministers on roll, EXCUSED**

Donald Kaller; Amanda Ragland, Jack Ragland, Paul David Reynolds, Irving Rudolph

**Retired ministers on roll, NOT PRESENT**

Edward Babcock, John Bolton, John Bush, Robert Dobbins, Joseph Gamble, Edward Gartrell, Robert Grigsby, Chris Hauer, Washio Ishii, John Johnston, John Sadler, Robert McGehee, Roy Miller, James Pruden, , Charles Van Devender,

**Presbytery Personnel**

Billy Bell, Vice-Moderator

Richard Borie, Stated Clerk

Linda Griffis, Secretary and Recording Clerk

Marja Brock, Bookkeeper

**Visitors**

Lucile Adams, FPC Huntsville; Mamie Jones, FPC Huntsville; Charlotte Hudson, Hope, Huntsville; Linda Hobson, FPC Athens; Virginia White, FPC Hartselle; Frances Bell, Trinity, Huntsville; Sarah Ford, Fellowship Huntsville; Tina Scott, Williams Chapel; Ruth Vinz, Covenant; Frank Vinz, Covenant; Sylvia Townsley, Covenant; Diana Gibson, Covenant; Meagan Kish, Covenant; Dan Kish, Covenant; Mary Ann Enlow, Covenant; Tennent Lee, Big Cove; Doug Elgin, Hope; Maurice

## **Executive Presbyter's Report**

Rev. Warner Durnell, EP for North Alabama Presbytery, reviewed the circumstances leading up to this called meeting.

## **Committee on Ministry**

Elder Patrick Smith, COM Moderator, reviewed COM's involvement with Central Presbyterian Church as background for action taken by his committee.

The Committee on Ministry of North Alabama Presbytery (the "Presbytery") makes the following recommendations to the Presbytery:

- 1) An Administrative Commission (the "Commission") be erected to manage our defense and legal counsel in the cases brought against the Presbytery by Central Presbyterian Church, Huntsville, Alabama ("Central Church") and any other legal matters arising there from;
- 2) The commission consist of the following individuals:
  1. Rev. Dr. William Cockrill (First, Huntsville)
  2. Rev. Dr. John Herndon (Fellowship, Huntsville)
  3. Rev. Dr. John Bush (HR, Decatur)
  4. Elder Patrick Smith (First, Sheffield)
  5. Elder Phil Mitchell (Westminster, Decatur)
  6. Elder Leanne Pasker (Trinity, Huntsville)
  7. Elder Marita Durham (Grace, Madison)

- 3) The Commission be further empowered to visit Central Church for the purpose of inquiring and making determination whether the Pastor and/or the Session of Central Church has violated the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and violated vows which each took upon ordination and installation into office.
- 4) The Commission be further empowered, in accordance with G-9.0504a.(4) of the *Book of Order*, to take whatever measures are required to restore the peace, unity and purity of the church, including (a) dissolving the pastoral relationship between the Rev. Dr. Randall T. Jenkins and Central Church and, (b) assuming original jurisdiction of Central Church by dissolving the session.
- 5) Having been warned by Rev. Mr. Warner Durnell, Executive Presbyter, by letter on March 8, 2007 (*Appendix B*), that proceeding to moderate the improperly called congregational meeting of Central Presbyterian Church called by its session to follow the worship service on Sunday, March 11, 2007 would likely be deemed by the Committee on Ministry as “not approved work” as embodied in the *Book of Order* Section G-6.0502, that North Alabama Presbytery acknowledge that this letter constitutes “consultation and notice” under that provision, and further deem the Rev. Dr. Randall T. Jenkins to have renounced the jurisdiction of the PC(USA) under that provision if he so moderates this meeting on that, or any other, date.
- 6) That North Alabama Presbytery remove the Rev. Dr. Randall T. Jenkins from the Committee on Ministry, Class of 2008, effective immediately, and notify the Nominating Committee that a vacancy has thus been created which they should move to fill.

After lengthy discussion, the presbytery approved the motion by 51 yes, 12 no, 1 abstention.

Rev. David Rollins moved that:

Randy Jenkins name be removed from the roll of ministers of North Alabama Presbytery, that he be stripped of his ordination, and that he cease all contact with Central Presbyterian Church, Huntsville, AL effective immediately.

**This motion was seconded and after considerable discussion, Rev. Rollins requested that his motion be withdrawn. By common consent, the motion was withdrawn.**

Rev. Sam Hobson of First Athens moved that:

The Presbytery of North Alabama go on record declaring that seeking membership in any denomination not named in the Book of Order as being in communion with our denomination is unacceptable and the minister has renounced jurisdiction of the church and ordination shall be removed.

**The motion was seconded and discussed. On standing vote, the motion failed.**

### **Adjournment with Prayer**

With no other business to attend to, a motion to adjourn was made, seconded and approved. The meeting was adjourned, with prayer led by Rev. James Nash, at 12:10 p.m.

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_

Stated Clerk

Date approved by Presbytery: \_\_\_\_\_

**NORTH ALABAMA PRESBYTERY  
CALLED MEETING  
MARCH 10, 2007  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
ATHENS, ALABAMA**

- 9:00 am      **REGISTRATION**
- 9:30 am      **CALL TO ORDER**  
                Elder Billy Bell – Vice Moderator
- HOST CHURCH WELCOME**  
                Rev. Sam Hobson
- 9:35 am      **DEVOTIONAL**  
                Rev. Jaina Anderson
- 9:45 am      **PREPARATORY BUSINESS**  
                Elder Dick Borie – Stated Clerk
- Declaration of a Quorum
  - Purpose of the Meeting
  - Adoption of the Docket
- 9:50 am      **EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER REPORT**  
                Rev. Warner Durnell
- 9:55 am      **COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY**  
                Elder Patrick Smith – Moderator
- 10:50 am     **DISCUSSION/ACTIONS**
- 11:00 am     **ADJOURNMENT AND PRONOUNCEMENT OF APOSTOLIC  
BENEDICTION**

# North Alabama Presbytery

3330 L & N Drive, Suite D • Huntsville, Alabama 35801 • Office: 256 883-0855  
 Fax: 256 883-8707 • email: nap@napresbytery.org

Thursday, March 08, 2007

The Rev. Dr. Randall T. Jenkins  
 Central Presbyterian Church  
 406 Randolph Avenue, SE  
 Huntsville, Alabama 35801



Dear Randy,

Greetings, brother! As I shared with you via email and telephone messages a few weeks back, this litigation that has Central Presbyterian Church and North Alabama Presbytery entangled certainly is grievous to me. At times my heart as literally ached over this matter of being thrust into civil court in order to find resolution to differences held by brothers and sisters in the faith. Yes, it is true, as you have reminded me, "His grace is sufficient" in such trying times.

Equally grievous to me is the news that came my way last night, and confirmed late morning today, that the Session of Central Presbyterian Church has called for a Congregational Meeting for this coming Sunday, March 11, 2007 for the purpose of acting on recommendations pertaining to the disassociating with North Alabama Presbytery and the PCUSA in favor of being released to another Reformed body. It may be that you and members of Central Church have come to a place in your individual and collective journey to where a parting of ways with the PCUSA is how God is leading you. However, the session's call for a Congregational Meeting for such a purpose is improper, constitutionally speaking, and is out of compliance with the Book of Order in this matter [Dr. Dick Borie, Stated Clerk of NAP, has written you and the Clerk of Session of Central Church a letter citing the constitutional references regarding the improper nature of how the meeting for Sunday was called].

In my capacity as the Executive Presbyter of North Alabama, and after consulting with the Moderator of the Committee on Ministry, I am compelled to apprise you that in all likelihood the Committee on Ministry of NAP will declare your moderating a Congregational Meeting on this Sunday at Central Church for the purposes as stated in the session letter of March 2, 2007 to be "not approved work." Thus, for you to proceed in moderating this meeting means that you would knowingly be in violation of the constitution of the PCUSA and risk having the Presbytery declare you to have renounced the jurisdiction of the PCUSA.

Should you wish to dispute my judgments in this matter, you certainly are invited to do so by addressing the Special Called Meeting of North Alabama Presbytery on this Saturday, March 10, 2007 at First Presbyterian Church, Athens, starting at 9:30 AM. Confident that you will do, as you feel led, I am;

Sincerely,

Warner R. Durnell

Cc: Dr. Richard Borie, Stated Clerk of North Alabama Presbytery  
 Mr. Patrick Smith, Moderator of the Committee on Ministry