

**Presbytery of Mid-Kentucky**  
**Stated Meeting**  
**November 8, 2025**  
**John Knox Presbyterian Church**  
**AGENDA**

**Moderator: Ruling Elder Alicia Bloos**

**Vice-moderator: Teaching Elder Joel Weible**

**Stated Clerk: Teaching Elder Jerry Van Marter**

**Recording Clerk: Teaching Elder Andrew Hartmans**

8:30 a.m.    **Registration & refreshments**

**Peer Review of Session Minutes:** Jerry Van Marter

10:00 a.m.    **Welcome, Prayer and Convene:** Alicia Bloos

- Welcome to our first time Members, Commissioners and Guests
- Welcome and seating of any Corresponding Members
- Welcome from John Knox Presbyterian Church – Susan Barnes
- Declaration of a quorum and approval of the docket.

10:10 a.m.    **Worship** – Worshipful Work Committee

- Preaching: the Rev. Susan Barnes, pastor, John Knox Presbyterian Church.
- Offering Recipient: Eastern Area Community Ministries and Santa's Little Helpers

10:40 a.m.    **Report of the Interim General Presbyter:** Marian McClure Taylor

10:50 a.m. **Consent Agenda:** Jerry Van Marter

- Approve the minutes of the September 15, 2025 stated meeting.

10:55 a.m. **General Presbyter Search Committee report:** Nolan Huizenga/Jenny Edlin

11:00 a.m. **Final Report of the Shawnee Administrative Commission** – Emily Odom

**FOR ACTION:** Dissolve the Administrative Commission and reconstitute the Session of Shawnee Presbyterian Church.

11:10 a.m. **Coordinating Commission report:** Joel Weible

**FOR ACTION:** election of at-large members to the Nominating/Representation Committee

**Finance Committee** – Tom Hughes

**FOR ACTION:** Approval of the 2026 presbytery budget.

**Church Growth and Transformation Committee:** Angela Johnson

11:40 a.m. **Personnel Committee report:** Betty Muse

- Interim Stated Clerk search report

11:50 a.m. **Nominations and Representation Committee:** Sara Sutphin/Pam Clinger

**FOR ACTION:** election of the slate of nominees to begin serving in 2026.

Noon **Lunch**

12:45 a.m. **Announcements:** Announcements should be no more than one minute in length.

12:55 p.m. **Commission on Ministry report:** Marissa Galvan-Valle

- Summary of actions taken since last presbytery meeting
- Welcome new members; farewell to departing members
- Recognition of ordinations

1:10 p.m. **Kentucky Council of Churches report:** Brad Palmer

1:20 p.m. **Standing Rules Revision work group:** Jerry Van Marter, Marian Taylor

1:35 a.m. **Report from the Stated Clerk:** Jerry Van Marter

1:40 a.m. **New Business**

1:45 p.m. **Installation of Moderator and Vice-Moderator:** Alicia Bloos

2:00 p.m. **Adjournment**

*2026 stated meetings: Saturday, February 21, 2026 at Anchorage*

*Monday, May 18, 2026 at Shelbyville-First (tentative)*

*Monday, August 31, 2026 at Cedar Ridge Camp (tent.)*

*Saturday, November 7, 2026 at Beechmont (tent.)*

**Report of the Nominations and Representation Committee for the November 8, 2025  
Presbytery Meeting. Co-chair Sara Sutphin and Pamela Clinger reporting.**

The following teaching, ruling elders and congregation members were asked and accepted our committee/commission request.

For Presbytery approval:

Vice- Moderator 2026 – Betty Muse, RE, Trinity

Commissioners to the 2026 General Assembly  
YAAD Mr. Lawson Zaring, Deacon, Shelbyville First

Coordinating Commission (Class of 2028)  
Ms. Dianne White, RE, Shawnee  
Rev. Nolan Huizenga, TE

Commission on Ministry (Class of 2028)  
Mr. Greg Cohen, RE, Springdale

Commission on Preparation for Ministry (Class of 2028)  
Rev. Camille Williams-Neal, TE, Presbytery of Muskingum Valley laboring in our bounds

Personnel Committee (Class of 2028)  
Rev. Whit Malone, TE, Presbytery of Western North Carolina laboring in our bounds

Mission Committee (Class of 2028)  
Rev. Mark Eldred, TE  
Patti Etheridge, RE, Bardstown

Christian Education (Class of 2028)  
Rev. Al Earley, TE

Cedar Ridge Camp, Inc. Board of Directors (Class of 2028)  
Rev. Mark Baridon, TE  
Ms. Anne Hughes, RE, Harvey Browne  
Mr. Brian Pollack, RE, Harvey Browne  
Ms. Kim Phelps, RE, Anchorage

For Information: Racial Justice Committee  
Class of 2026 Nominee from Personnel Rev. Candisu Cubbage, TE  
Class of 2026 Nominee from Nomination Mr Vince Patton, RE

**Report to Mid-Kentucky Presbytery**  
**Commission on Ministry**  
November 8, 2025

The Commission on Ministry continues its work supporting the wellbeing of ministers and congregations across the Presbytery.

**Pastor's Retreat**

We want to extend deep gratitude to all thirty people who attended and all who made the recent clergy retreat a meaningful and restorative experience. The retreat was blessed with beautiful weather, enriching conversation, a thoughtful presentation by the Rev. Dr. John McClure, and strong participation in small group discussions. This time of fellowship and renewal could not have happened without the work of many hands. We are especially thankful to those who gave their time, shared their ideas, and contributed in ways both large and small to care for the ministers of this presbytery.

**Commision Approval**

In other actions, the Commission approved:

- The appointment of an Administrative Commission to install Rev. Barrett Abernethy as pastor of Second Presbyterian Church on October 19, 2025. Clay Kannapell was added as a non-voting participant on this Commission, replacing RE Allison Duncan.
- Rev. Dave Bush's work as a volunteer chaplain with the Civil Air Patrol was validated as a ministry.
- The minutes of the Installation Commission to install Barrett Abernethy as pastor of Second Presbyterian Church on October 19, 2025.
- The Commission voted to add one check-off box to the terms of call document -- "At the pastor's request, provide an annual letter certifying hours worked per average week, for purposes of enrollment in the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program for which the PCUSA provides free coaching." The Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) Program is a federal program managed by the U.S. Department of Education. It forgives the remaining balance on Direct Loans after an individual has made 120 qualifying monthly payments under a qualifying repayment plan while working full-time for a qualifying public service employer. Sandra Duverge is a PC(USA) staff person whose work focuses on "financial aid for service," which includes guiding ministers, church staff and volunteers on student loan issues—including the PSLF. Through that office, the PC(USA) offers coaching and resources to help eligible persons in ministry settings understand and apply for loan-forgiveness benefits

**Conflict Training**

Several members of the Commission on Ministry (COM) participated in the "**Conflict Transformation Skills for Churches**" training presented by Rev. Jay Wittmeyer of the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center on October 18, 2025. This training emphasized biblical

foundations for reconciliation and introduced practical strategies for addressing and transforming conflict in church settings.

Key themes included:

- **The biblical call to reconciliation** (2 Corinthians 5:18; Ephesians 4), highlighting the church's role as a reconciling body.
- **Understanding the nature and role of conflict** as a normal and potentially transformative part of community life.
- **Common patterns of conflict escalation**, including personalization of issues, polarization, and communication breakdown.
- **Conflict management strategies** such as negotiation, mediation, and arbitration, with a particular focus on Matthew 18's step-by-step approach.
- **Personal communication styles** under stress and in calm, using the Friendly Style Profile to help leaders understand and improve their interpersonal dynamics.
- Emphasis on **constructive vs. destructive conflict behaviors** and the spiritual practice of "turning toward" others in humility, empathy, and truth.

This training aligns with the COM's role in caring for church professionals and supporting congregations through times of transition and challenge. Members reported that the session was both enriching and practically applicable.

#### **Ordiversaries for the 4th Quarter:**

##### **1 Year**

Ashia Stoess in November

##### **45 Years**

Marcia Myers in October

##### **10 Years**

Chelsea Benham in December

##### **50 Years**

Theo Gill in November

##### **20 Years**

Paul Seebeck in October

##### **55 Years**

John Mulder in November

##### **25 Years**

Heeja Han in November

Rodney Spencer in November

##### **30 Years**

Brenson Bishop in October

Respectfully submitted,

Marissa Galván-Valle  
COM Chair

**Shawnee Administrative Commission  
Presbytery of Mid-Kentucky  
FINAL REPORT  
November 8, 2025**

God gives us signs.

And nowhere has this been more evident than in the nearly three years that the Shawnee Presbyterian Church Administrative Commission has been in place.

The very Sunday after the Presbytery of Mid-Kentucky had approved an action<sup>i</sup> at its February 2023 stated meeting to appoint a six-member Administrative Commission with original jurisdiction for Shawnee, the Revs. Emily and John Odom (Mid-Kentucky's immediate past general presbyter) walked into Shawnee's sanctuary, unknowingly a few minutes late for worship.

As we entered the church that morning, Ruling Elder Dianne White was in the midst of announcing that an administrative commission (AC) had been appointed by the presbytery. Turning to me and John, she invited us to explain the meaning of an AC with original jurisdiction to those gathered for worship. Later Dianne would say that she saw our presence that day as a sign.

The first of many.

In preparing this report, I invited both current and former AC members to contribute their thoughts for inclusion. At our last AC meeting on September 10, 2025, current member, Nancy Troy, asked that the report begin with the fact that Shawnee *invited* the presbytery to name an administrative commission.

In a written statement, ruling Elder and AC member, Dianne White, reiterated that point:

As I reflect on our time with the AC in place at Shawnee, I immediately think fear and hesitation. ***Even though we asked for this help, people were of the mindset that ACs were assigned to help churches transition into nonexistence. Experience with the AC proved that mindset was faulty.***

The AC listened to our conversations about our future and helped us to create goals that were attainable. This experience has been phenomenal from start to finish and we were encouraged to step out in faith and to navigate the difficult situations with kindness and compassion. (Having to let a part-time staff person and church member leave his position.)

We were encouraged to look at our assets and develop the most feasible ways to use our gifts to the best of our ability. Hospitality seemed to be one of our greatest gifts. This gift inspired our Sunday Dinners held every 4th Sunday.

The connectional structure of our denomination is something to be uplifted. Our presbytery has played an integral part in keeping Shawnee alive. We are continually working on the "well" piece. (Alive and well.)

The recent article published in the Courier Journal about our Sunday Dinners is indicative of the connectional church in action. Thanks to the members of the AC for their time and support given to Shawnee.

## Timeline

The first meeting of the Shawnee AC was convened on April 27, 2023, at the Shawnee Presbyterian Church with the following members having been appointed in accordance with the presbytery's motion: Emily Odom (Church Growth & Transformation), Paul Seebeck (Church Growth & Transformation), Tom Hughes (Finance), Dianne White (Shawnee), Nancy Troy (COM), Jenny Edlin (COM), Allana Thompkins (Shawnee); staff present were John Odom (general presbyter) and Jerry Van Marter (stated clerk).

Although the approved motion called for a six-person AC, because the Spirit called not one but two representatives from the presbytery's Church Growth & Transformation Committee, the AC has always numbered seven.

Among the AC's first tasks were two difficult matters where Shawnee's congregational leaders felt challenged to cope with persons who were not respecting boundaries. In the ensuing months, the AC was helpful in resolving both issues peacefully and amicably.

On May 16, 2023, Emily Odom was unanimously approved as the AC moderator. At the same meeting, the first of several significant infusions of unexpected income to Shawnee was reported as Dianne White shared a May 11, 2023, email the church had received from David M. Dobson, President and Publisher, Presbyterian Publishing Company.

In the email, Dobson explained that as part of the PPC's repentance and its mission in the work of Jesus Christ, the PPC had decided to donate the amount that would have been royalties for every African American spiritual or Indigenous People's song included in the *Glory to God* hymnal, all of which were in the public domain. As a result of its reparation effort, Shawnee received a check for \$10,000.

On Sept. 20, 2023, Shawnee was informed that they were among the recipients of the PW Birthday Offering in the amount of \$150,000, a grant that would be designated to completely renovate Shawnee's kitchen toward, in part, resurrecting its community outreach ministry, Café Gingko, which had ceased operating during COVID.

In November of 2023, the AC initiated the process of enrolling Shawnee in the presbytery's payroll service to help the small-membership congregation in paying its two part-time staff and preparing the corresponding tax documents.

Change – amidst perseverance and hope – was a hallmark of the AC in its second year.

Approximately a year into the AC's service, the Rev. Jenny Edlin resigned from the AC due to her impending parental leave. Not long after the presbytery had elected the Rev. Tom Vandergriff in June 2024 to replace her, Jenny and her wife welcomed their twin boys into the world!

It is worth noting that each of Mid-Kentucky's four historic, African American churches has a "White ally" congregation with whom they are partnered. These partnerships are about more than giving money, they also serve to cultivate volunteers to come alongside the members of our four congregations with support and human resources.

In 2024, Harvey Browne Presbyterian Church, Shawnee's "sister church," announced and publicized its 2024 "Service Worship Sunday," a special, annual observance where HBPC members, instead of attending their "usual" worship service, are instead called to volunteer to do something either onsite or



offsite. One of the offsite options was to worship at Shawnee. Some 22 people attended Shawnee on HBPC's 2024 Service Worship Sunday, resulting in an offering to Shawnee that exceeded \$2,000.

Also in 2024, Shawnee hosted a Juneteenth celebration, an auspicious and highly successful event that continued to presage the church's hopeful future.

The idea of holding a Juneteenth celebration was first raised at the March 2024 AC meeting when John Odom brought up the idea of a "pop-up presbytery event" at Shawnee on June 15. Following the luncheon, described here in detail, <https://pcusa.org/news-storytelling/news/2024/6/17/louisville-congregation-welcomes-mid-kentucky-presbytery-family-celebrate-juneteenth>, not only bellies but also the church's coffers were full.

Later in 2024, more change would befall the AC as John Odom announced that he had accepted a call to serve the Presbytery of Genesee Valley effective October 2024, that he would be leaving Mid-Kentucky, and that he and Emily would be relocating to Rochester, New York, in late September.

Because remote work and hybrid meetings have become both easier and more commonplace since COVID, the AC was successful in convincing Emily Odom to continue as AC moderator following the Odoms' move in September 2024. In October 2024, the Rev. Dr. Marian McClure Taylor, named as Mid-Kentucky's interim executive presbyter, stepped in to staff the AC alongside Jerry Van Marter.

In 2025, as work on the kitchen renovation continued along with a variety of successful mission outreach programs, the AC engaged in deep, generative conversations on the church's – and the Shawnee AC's – future.

After two years of an AC with original jurisdiction, was Shawnee getting any closer to constitute its own session?

For the May 2025 meeting, Emily Odom asked Jerry Van Marter to research and outline four possible options for moving forward, which were:

1. Continue the current AC with original jurisdiction model – divide the commission into classes.
2. AC without original jurisdiction – would result in the Shawnee session being reconstituted.
3. No AC, with an augmented session – Shawnee and Harvey Browne members.
4. No AC, Shawnee session resumes governance of the congregation.

In each of these models, the moderator and clerk would be appointed by the presbytery.

The models generated much discussion. Dianne White and Allana Thompkins, the two ruling elders from Shawnee serving on the AC, expressed an initial preference for model 4. After the rest of AC had also endorsed model 4, the following motion was made and unanimously approved:

**FOR ACTION:** Moved (Dianne White)/Seconded (Allana Thompkins)/Carried (unanimously) to request the presbytery at its November 8, 2025 meeting to:

1. Dissolve the Shawnee Presbyterian Church Administrative Commission, effective November 8, 2025.

2. Appoint a moderator and clerk of session to serve the Shawnee session, effective November 8, 2025.

If the above action is approved, the AC will have had its last meeting on September 10, 2025, at which Shawnee leaders were assured that the presbytery would always be available as a resource to help them navigate any challenging situations in future.

In the intervening time, Emily Odom wrote another feature story about Shawnee for the Presbyterian News Service focused on Shawnee's revival of the "Sunday Dinner" tradition: <https://pcusa.org/news-storytelling/news/2025/8/4/easy-lemon-ice-box-pie>

At one of the "Sunday Dinners," a member from Harvey Browne asked if Shawnee could use a baby grand piano. She told Dianne White that she had a friend who had one to donate and that all Shawnee had to do was to pay to have it moved. The friend wanted the piano to land in a happy place and it did.

Because Emily Odom thought that the "Sunday Dinner" story needed to be shared with a wider audience, she pitched it to Courier Journal reporter, Maggie Menderski, whom she had met previously while handling media relations for a Louisville event. Maggie's email response was quick and positive, writing, "I like this story a lot, and I think it might be a good fit for our inspiration page." Later, when her editor greenlighted the story, Maggie took the lead and adopted it as her own with an extensive feature appearing in the September 24 edition of the newspaper.

Dianne White later shared that the piano was delivered to Shawnee the morning of the scheduled interview with Maggie. "When Maggie asked if I ever get discouraged," said Dianne, "my response was yes, but then I think baby grand."

Another sign.

Since its publication, not only has the story in the Courier Journal attracted the attention of the greater Louisville community, but it has also yielded real benefit for the church in the form of readers volunteering to offer Shawnee a variety of goods and services to help ensure its future.

With God's help.

### **Conclusion**

This final report, while not intended to be exhaustive, is designed to provide you with a glimpse into the AC's journey – our highlights and accomplishments – and a sense of Shawnee's hopeful future.

As a matter of personal privilege, I see the dissolution of the AC – should the way be clear – as both a beginning and an inclusio at this moment in my ministry.

As a newly ordained pastor in my first presbytery of membership, Long Island, I was similarly asked to serve on an Administrative Commission.

Thirty-five years ago, I initially subscribed to the same mindset that Dianne White described, namely ***"that ACs were assigned to help churches transition into nonexistence."*** That the presbytery entered, unbidden, into conflicted or troubled churches to close them down.

That was not the case then, as the Long Island Presbytery AC undertook the task of commissioning the remaining members of the last existing "house church" in the PC(USA) to go forth to be salt and light in

other congregations throughout the presbytery as their church – joyfully – concluded its ministry. For a young pastor, it was an eye-opening, inspiring and transformational experience.

And for this longtime pastor, approaching my retirement years, this experience has been much the same. Eye-opening, inspiring and transformational.

It's a sign.

And now, as I prepare to transfer my membership to the Presbytery of Genesee Valley and bid Godspeed to the AC's current and former members, our presbytery staff, our siblings at the Shawnee Presbyterian Church and all the ministry colleagues who have walked alongside us on this journey, I do so with deep joy and profound gratitude to God and each of you.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Emily Enders Odom, moderator, Shawnee AC:

Rev. Paul Seebeck, Ruling Elder Tom Hughes, Ruling Elder Dianne White, Rev. Nancy Troy, Ruling Elder Allana Thompkins, Rev. Tom Vandergriff; Rev. Dr. Marian McClure Taylor, Rev. Jerry Van Marter.

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<sup>i</sup> The motion, part of the consent agenda at the February 2023 stated meeting of Mid-Kentucky Presbytery, read as follows: "The [Coordinating] Commission requests the presbytery to appoint a six-member Administrative Commission with original jurisdiction to provide needed oversight of the ministry of Shawnee Presbyterian Church. Shawnee has designated session members Dianne White and Allana Thompkins to serve; Finance Committee has designated Tom Hughes to serve; we need one designated representative from the Church Growth and Transformation Committee and two representatives from the Commission on Ministry to complete the commission."

# MID-KENTUCKY PRESBYTERY 2026 BUDGET

November 8, 2025

## SOURCES OF INCOME

### Churches Contributions

Shared Mission:	\$235,000	
Per Capita:	\$142,514	
Subtotal:	\$377,514	
Minus	(114,360)	distribution to PC-USA & Synod
Remainder	<b>\$263,154</b>	<b>available for MKP operations</b>

### Draws from MKP Funds (October 31 balance)

New Church Development (\$539,310):	\$142,000
Meadowview (\$2,570,195):	\$88,106
Reserve Fund (\$279,810):	\$40,000
Quisenberry (\$153,802):	\$8,000
PYC (\$47,838):	\$7,091
<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>\$285,197</b>

### Other

Goodness Grows Income and Grants:	\$73,500
Finance Services to churches:	\$44,076
Calvin Contribution;	\$38,012
Other misc:	\$33,400
<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>\$188,988</b>

**GRAND TOTAL INCOME FOR MKP: \$737,339**

## USES OF INCOME

MKP Personnel Expenses	\$367,425
Goodness Grows	\$213,500
Preston Hwy Ministry	\$48,129
MKP Committees	\$34,500
Cedar Ridge	\$30,000
MKP Operations	\$26,000
Ukirk Ministry	\$22,291
Covenant Community	\$19,500

**GRAND TOTAL EXPENSES:        \$761,345**

**NET BALANCE FOR 2026 BUDGET: (24,006)**