

To: Teaching Elder and Ruling Elder Commissioners

**Notice of Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Transylvania**

The Presbytery of Transylvania will meet on Tuesday, February 27, 2024, via Zoom technology. The meeting begins at 10 AM. Items of business include an examination for ordination, reports from Living Waters from the World and Board of Pensions, as well as reports from the presbytery's commissions and ministries. The meeting docket and business items will be posted to the [presbytery's website](#).

Please use the registration link that follows and indicate either your anticipated presence or excused absence request.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZiId--prz8iGtd-knp3s4g24deNDpUI0ImE>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

If you have other questions or need more information, please contact me at [statedclerk@transyby.org](mailto:statedclerk@transyby.org).

The Rev. Jerry L. Utt, II  
Stated Clerk

**Docket  
Presbytery of Transylvania  
Stated Meeting  
February 27, 2024**

9:45 AM	Registration and Zoom Link Opens	
10 AM	Call to Order and Opening Prayer Installation of Moderator John Leggett	Moderator Susan Bradish
	Declaration of Quorum Approval of Docket (all new business must be submitted at this time) Introduction of First-Time Commissioners and Guests	Jerry L. Utt, II, Stated Clerk
	Comings and Goings	Philip Lotspeich, General Presbyter
10:20 AM	Board of Pensions Church Consultant	Keenan Rodgers
10:35 AM	Living Waters for the World Executive Director	Steve Young
10:50 AM	Consent Agenda Stated Clerk's Report Minutes of November 10-11, 2023, Annual Meeting Exemption Request from Session of Mt. Horeb, Lexington Coordinating Commission Report Commission on Preparation for Ministry Report Synod of Living Waters Commissioner Report Church Revitalization and Development Report Commission on Representation Report Leadership Development Report	Stated Clerk
10:55 AM	Pastoral Transitions Report Candidate Bio and Statement of Faith Examination	Juanita Spangler
11:25 AM	Administration Commission/Treasurer's Report	Bill Reed
11:45 AM	Faith, Morehead Mission Request	Philip Lotspeich
11:50 AM	Congregational Issues Report	Mike Ward
11:55 AM	Urban Village Executive Director Report	Beth Garrod-Logsdon
12:00 PM	Presbyterian Women Report	Karen May

12:05 PM	Mission Ministry Report	Brad Napier
12:10 PM	Burnamwood Report	Joel Stanley
12:15 PM	General Presbyter Report	Philip Lotspeich
12:25 PM	New Business (if any)	
12:30 PM	Closing Prayer and Adjournment	



## Keenan Rodgers Church Consultant

m: 215-341-8143

[krodgers@pensions.org](mailto:krodgers@pensions.org)

### January/February 2024

We at the Board are working hard to support our ministers and employees of the Presbyterian Church (USA) in new and creative ways. If you have other ideas about how we can help, please let me know. I am happy to meet with presbytery and church committees to listen to your thoughts and hopes of how we can strengthen the benefits offered to those who serve the Church.

*The Board of Pensions is a national agency of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), offering a broad range of benefits to PC(USA) churches, agencies, and mid councils, as well as affiliated employers.*

**Member/Employer Services:** 800-773-7752, M-F 8:30 am to 6:00 pm ET

## A Season of Rebuilding

The Board of Pensions is assessing and restructuring the Benefits Plan of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to meet the needs of a changing Church. Our goal is to provide more flexibility and cost control for congregations as they care for the well-being of their pastoral leadership. Our hope is for all ministers and employees in the PC(USA) to be plan members. The Board of Directors will vote on a new Benefits Plan structure in early March. [Read about recommendations for the new plan.](#)

## New Benefits Connect system now available

The new Benefits Connect system offers enhanced features and updated design and navigation to benefit church employers as well as individual members, both active and retired. Every user must register a new login for the new Benefits Connect. We encourage members and church employers to do so as soon as possible. Any who need assistance with the new system should contact Member or Employer Services, at 800-773-7752. An updated [employer guide for Benefits Connect](#) is available.

## Other important information:

**The Assistance Program:** As part of our commitment to mutual care and wholeness, the Board of Pensions continues to expand access to the Assistance Program to serve more ministers, employees, retirees, and surviving spouses who have financial need. [Read about potential grant opportunities.](#)

**Remember to update Effective Salaries for the new year:** Any changes to effective salaries must be reported to the Board of Pensions via Benefits Connect within 60 days of the effective date. Details about forms of compensation included in effective salary are found in [Understanding Effective Salary.](#)

**New Medicare Advantage Plan with Humana has launched:** The new plan replaced the former Medicare Supplement Plan for retired members, effective January 1, 2024. We anticipate potential expansion of eligibility in January 2025. [Read more about the Medicare Advantage Plan.](#)



**Report of the Stated Clerk  
Presbytery of Transylvania  
February 27, 2024**

Recommendations for Presbytery Action:

1. Move that presbytery accept requests for excused absence.
2. Move that presbytery seat corresponding members and grant privilege of floor (voice).
3. Move that presbytery approve minutes of November 10-11, 2023, annual meeting.

Information:

- The portal for reporting 2023 year-end statistics has closed for churches. Thanks to each clerk and session that has entered the requested information. The portal remains open to presbyteries for a few more weeks. Clerks can contact the presbytery office and we can enter the information for you if you missed the deadline. The administrative review forms are still requested and can be accessed on the presbytery's website. Staff will follow-up with those churches/sessions that haven't completed the review forms. If you have any questions at all, Robyn and I are willing to help.

Request from Mt. Horeb Presbyterian Church

From: **Alison Thompson** <[eachai@mac.com](mailto:eachai@mac.com)>  
Date: Tue, Feb 13, 2024 at 1:19 PM  
Subject: Mt. Horeb Presbyterian Congregation Meeting Minutes  
To: <[statedclerk@transypby.org](mailto:statedclerk@transypby.org)>

Rev. Utt,

On behalf of the Mt. Horeb Presbyterian Church, I am requesting that the Transylvania Presbytery grant an exception to the terms of the Session members. Know the Congregation approved the extensions. Attached are the minutes from Mt. Horeb Pres.'s congregational meeting last November. Please add this to this month's agenda, or as soon as practical thereafter.

Kindly confirm receipt of this request.

Thank you,  
Alison Thompson  
Clerk

Mt. Horeb Presbyterian Church  
Minutes of the  
Congregational Meeting  
November 12, 2023

The Congregational meeting of the Mt. Horeb Presbyterian Church was called to order with prayer at 12:12 p.m. in the church sanctuary at 2793 Ironworks Pike, Lexington, K.Y. The meeting was moderated by Rev. Dr. Lisa Culpepper. Congregational members present constituted a quorum. The Congregation approved the extension of the terms for Elders, Robin Downing, and Mike Owens.

The meeting was closed in prayer and adjournment at 12:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alison M. Thompson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Alison Thompson, clerk

**Coordinating Commission Report  
Presbytery of Transylvania  
February 27, 2024**

Since the November 10-11, 2023, annual meeting, the Coordinating Commission has met two times: November 30, 2023, at First Presbyterian Church, Lexington, KY, and January 31, 2024, via Zoom technology.

The Coordinating Commission has taken these actions:

- Accepted resignations of William Banks as Synod of Living Waters ruling elder commissioner, Caroline Kelly from Pastoral Transitions Commission, and Scott Cervas from Church Closings and Dismissals Commission.
- Affirmed to the Presbyterian Foundation a relationship with Appalachian Ministries Educational Resource Center (AMERC), based in Berea, KY, so that AMERC can receive designated funds from the Presbyterian Foundation.
- At the request of Commission on Representation, elected Joanie Lukins as Synod of Living Waters ruling elder commissioner; ruling elder Penny Lamb to Commission on Preparation for Ministry, class of 2026; ruling elder James Dougans to Commission on Preparation for Ministry, class of 2025; and teaching elder Kathy Riley to Church Closings and Dismissals Commission, class of 2025.
- Authorized the expenditure of \$14,000 for the purpose of upgrading, redesigning, and increasing the functionality of the presbytery's website.
- Due to scheduling conflicts, changed the date of the August 29, 2024, presbytery meeting to August 22, 2024.
- Discussed the upcoming General Assembly and the process for approving overture concurrences for the 226<sup>th</sup> assembly.
- Reviewed the workings of the various ministries and commissions of the presbytery.
- Chose the fourth Wednesday of each month at 1 PM as a standing meeting date and time for 2024.



## Commission on Preparation for Ministry

February 2024

- At the December 2023 CPM meeting Ginny Shanda was elected to serve as moderator pro tem during the period of CPM Moderator Linda Kurtz Burch's sabbatical. (December 2023-February 2024)
- Also, in December the final assessment of Mikkel Hampton was conducted, and the CPM certified Mikkel's ready to be commissioned as a Commissioned Pastor. The Pastoral Transitions Commission was notified of Mikkel's readiness. CPM gives many thanks to Diehl Ackerman for serving as Mikkel's shepherd through the preparation process.
- At its January meeting the CPM interviewed Greg Cooper, a Commissioned Pastor, accepted him into the program, and welcomed him under the care of the CPM. Scot Robinson will serve as Greg's CPM shepherd.
- The CPM also at its January meeting conducted the final assessment of ordination-track candidate Sarah Smith and determined her readiness to seek a call pending her examination by the presbytery. These actions were relayed to the Pastoral Transitions Commission. CPM gives many thanks to Griffin Ryan for serving as Sarah's shepherd through the preparation process, and looks forward to
- Over the last few months, the commission has reviewed and revised the Commissioned Pastor application form, and at its February approved the final version.
- The CPM viewed and discussed the Examinee Support webinar, provided by the Presbyteries' cooperative Committee on Examination for Candidates, and will be instituting some of the suggestions made in the video.
- Assuming a positive presbytery examination of Sarah Smith, this commission will then have two ordination-track candidates and two commissioned pastor candidates under its care.
- The CPM has also expressed its deep gratitude for its outgoing members, Diehl Ackerman, Madeline Flannery, David Whiteman, and Missie Wood, and joyfully welcomed its new members Jim Dougans, Penny Lamb, and Jennifer Powell.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ginny Shanda, CPM moderator pro tem

Annual Meeting of the Synod of Living Waters  
January 22, 2024

The annual Meeting of the Synod of Living Waters was held via Zoom, on January 22, 2024. The meeting was opened in prayer by the Rev. Ann Laird Jones, moderator of the synod. Worship included a message from the Rev. Dr. Andrew Pomerville, president of Louisville Presbyterian Seminary.

Reports were received from the Moderator, the Stated Clerk, the Treasurer, and the Synod Executive. In addition, a report was received from Steve Young, Director of Living Waters for the World, introducing the idea of a Legacy Fund to receive gifts from churches within the Synod that are planning for closure. Joanie Lukins introduced a newly released Vacation Bible School created by LWW, available immediately.

The business meeting included reports from the Moderator, the Stated Clerk, the Treasurer and the Synod Executive. Highlights from these reports:

- Approved the results of the 2022 peer review of minutes of the twelve Presbyteries.
- Per capita for 2024 will remain at \$3.98.
- Going forward, synod meetings will be held virtually in even numbered years, in person in odd numbered years.
- Accepted with gratitude the resignation of Synod Stated Clerk Charlie Evans effective 1/31//24. Moderator named Greg Goodwiller to be Acting Stated Clerk until new Stated Clerk is elected.
- Approved change of name of the “Permanent Administrative Commission (PAC)” to “Administrative Board” (Board).
- Set date of next meeting of the Synod of Living Waters for 1/25/25, place TBD.
- Announcement of actions taken by the Permanent Administrative Commission, which included:
  - Changed insurance carrier from Guide One to Insurance Board.
  - Elected Joanie Lukins as one of the three representatives to the Board of Living Waters for the World (LWW).
  - Approved negotiating covenant partnership with Presby. Homes for Children.
  - Created a Special Committee to revise the *Manual of Administrative Ops.*
  - Authorized training for GA Commissioners, April 21-22, 2024.
  - Supported candidacy of Marian McClure Taylor (Mid-KY presbytery) to stand for Moderator of next General Assembly, June/July 2024.
  - Approved renewal of covenant relationship with King University, and created of new covenant with Presbyterian Home for Children.
  - Approved proposed 2024 budget be sent for adoption at Synod meeting.
  - Approved creation of a long-term legacy fund to support the future of Living Waters for the World.
  - Approved staff cost of living increase of 4.0% for 2024.

- Approved overture to GA to move First Presbyterian Church of Phenix City, AL, from Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley to the Presbytery of Flint River in the Synod of South Atlantic.
- Numerous revisions to the Manual of Administrative Operations were approved, most regarding the name change from “Permanent Administrative Commission (PAC)” to “Administrative Board (Board)” and the structure of the Synod and its committees.

The body received reports from:

- General Assembly Entities, including Board of Pensions, PMA, Columbia Seminary, Pikeville University, and Rhodes College
- Covenant partnerships, including King University, Presbyterian Home for Children, and Maryville College.
- Presbyterian Women
- Communications and Technology Commission
- Budget and Finance Commission.
- Nominations and Representation Committee

The meeting was closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joanie Lukins, Ruling Elder, Commissioner from Transylvania Presbytery

## **Report of the Church Revitalization and Development Ministry**

**February 2024**

The Church Revitalization and Development Ministry exists to work with current churches engaging in revitalization and transformation efforts and to promote and encourage the development of new worshipping communities. We are currently developing strategies to work with existing congregations by helping them identify their hopes, dreams, gifts and talents, and to understand the needs of the communities they serve. The goal is to help revitalize churches by taking what we learn from the church family, and through providing guidance and resources, help them utilize their gifts and talents to meet the needs of their community. This might be through new outreach ministries, building partnerships with other churches or community organizations, or transformation in a new worshipping community.

We plan to create an internal “consulting” group who will be trained in listening and drawing from conversations with congregations and their community, the important and necessary information to help guide churches toward revitalization. We will also compile a “toolbox” of resources which can be used by the congregations to help them achieve their dreams and goals.

We are also working with the presbytery to understand how we can support the current efforts to create new worshipping communities.

Respectfully submitted,

Keith Benze

Commission on Representation (COR)  
Report to the Presbytery  
Feb. 3, 2024

The COR moves that the following people be elected to the offices indicated. These people have been provisionally elected by the Coordinating Commission since the last presbytery meeting in November of 2023. Now the COR seeks the endorsement of the full presbytery.

**Jim Dougans** Ruling Elder (Commissioned Pastor, Maysville) to Commission on Preparation for Ministry, class of 2025

**Penny Lamb**, Ruling Elder, Wilmore Presbyterian, to Commission on Preparation for Ministry, class of 2026

**Kathy Riley** Teaching Elder (validated ministry) to Closing Commission, class of 2025

**Joanie Lukins**, Ruling Elder Commissioner to the Synod of Living Waters, Class of 2024

**Bill Reed**, Alternate Ruling Elder Commissioner to the Synod of Living Waters, Class of 2024

We will continue to work to fill positions, as we now have an opening on the PTC due to Caroline Kelly's resignation, and still have an opening on the Closing Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Reed  
Chairperson, COR

## **Leadership Development Ministry**

January 15, 2024

1:00 p.m.

**Members Present:** John Leggett, Beth Garrod Logsdon, Hannah McIntyre (vice chair), Melissa Sevier, Sarah Wilson (chair)

**LDM-Sponsored Activities This Period:** CPR Training for Urban Village staff members and the “How Are You Doing, Really?” meeting at Berea for church leaders.

**Commissioned Pastor Training Update:** no new information to report.

**Leadership & Fellowship Offerings:** The LDM want to bring the “Human Connection” back with in-person offerings throughout the year as needed/desired. We’ll be looking to our members for suggestions on things they would like to see. Our first sponsored event, “How Are You Doing, Really?” was successful and brought many leaders together for a day of connection and conversation, sharing understanding and support.

**Healthy Boundaries/SMPP:** Trainings will continue in 2024 with one in-person and one Zoom training on Healthy Boundaries for pastors to be scheduled. We will also be working to establish a teaching plan/curriculum/template for Healthy Boundaries for our Sessions, as well as Elder Training Sessions which focuses on the operations of the Session within your congregation. In addition, we will be creating a template for individual churches to refer to as they create/revise their congregation’s SMPP policy as required by the Presbytery’s SMPP policy

Next Meeting February 19, 2024 @ 1 pm on Zoom

Respectfully submitted, Sarah Wilson

## Biography

Sarah Smith-Candidate for Ministry

“*For as long as I shall live, I will testify to love, I’ll be a witness in the silences, when words are not enough...*” I sang along with Wynona Judd on repeat. When I was 8 or so, my grandmother had a CD player in her kitchen with the *Touched by an Angel* soundtrack. While we lived in Florida, we made regular trips to Pikeville to visit, and this was one of those visits. Of all the lines in all the songs on that CD, that one gave me goosebumps. In hindsight, it was an apt description of my calling as a chaplain, one who bears witness to exactly those moments.

I would not have been able to describe it then. I grew up an ecumenical mutt, baptized Episcopalian, raised in and out of Catholic parochial schools, bumming rides to youth groups because while Christian, regular church attendance was not a thing in my family. They took bets early on that I would become a nun. I took offense at being offered the children’s service and did things like establish a “prayer club” at kindergarten recess, so we could move souls from purgatory. When I could drive, I chose a nondenominational church where I could easily slip in and out. By high school, most of my theological engagement was intellectual, the relationship part more transactional. I prayed to God for things I wanted, worked hard, got the things I wanted, and the formula would not be challenged until graduate school. I could, and did, spend hours in the religion section of Barnes and Noble. My early Catholic education had given me a solid foundation in tradition, reverence, mystery, and hymns. It did not, however, give me many ideas for what I might “do,” with any of it.

Theology remained my “backup plan,” so it was not until after a few states, changes in major, and a bad breakup, that I finally gave it some serious thought. I took a single course so I could maintain the illusion that I had any idea what I was doing with my life. *Classical Texts of Judaism* sounded fun. I didn’t know I’d be the only female or the only Christian. After the first exam, the rabbi thanked me for “getting it,” and it was my first affirmation that there were a lot of things about theology that I “got,” even if still undirected.

By the next semester I jumped at an opportunity to move back to Tennessee as a nanny for a family member, and in the process met my ex-husband. He encouraged me to go back to school to finish my bachelor’s degree. A move to Pikeville, where I could live in the same house as that old CD player and attend UPike seemed like the most efficient way to do that. I found mentors in my professors and can trace the building realization that I was Presbyterian. It is a

Presbyterian birthed college. The chaplain encouraged me to give my first sermon and later performed my wedding in the same First Presbyterian Church that would later host me for a summer internship and support me through ordination. One of my three religion professors was a woman, a Presbyterian minister who read from the Hebrew when she questioned a translation and struck me as magical as a unicorn. I didn't know the conglomeration could exist: college professor, female minister, wife, and mother. If she could, then just maybe I could, too.

I soon learned even with a B.S. in religion, there is not suddenly something to "do" with all of that knowledge, and I would need a higher a degree. I gave God my list of requirements (somewhere in the south, Vanderbilt specifically, and a scholarship), and it happened. It became a time of intense deconstruction, both intellectually and personally. The end of the first semester was also the too-early end to my first pregnancy, and the beginning of the route to chaplaincy. When I was ready to walk back in church, it was an Ash Wednesday service at the hospital. Soon after, I found an unexpected home at Glendale Baptist, a progressive group of wonderful humans who didn't mind me being furious with God. It was like they let me hide there and loved me while we worked things out. I spent three years and entered conversations about ordination before admitting I might be Glendale, but I still wasn't Baptist.

CPE was the next step in my chaplain career, which meant a residency year. Before that year would start in August, I had the spring to fill, which is when I returned to FPC Pikeville and stood in for a few months. They were gracious, encouraging, this beautiful mix of traditional and formal while also not blinking as I led services with a toddler on my hip. It was "home," on many levels, and meant starting the lengthy process of ordination post-M.Div. The ordination process continued in parallel with my CPE training, witnessing everything from the first wave of the pandemic in ICU's to the end of my marriage. The last 4 years, especially my time in the liminal spaces of the hospital, have reinforced both things I learned early on and the things I picked up as a Presbyterian: appreciation for mystery and reverence, the comfort and reassurance of liturgy, and the most recent addition, something about providence and releasing the pressure. I'm not responsible for praying souls out of purgatory, the number of things I do not control is immeasurable, and shockingly, all of that is okay. As that quote from the Talmud says, I'm not obligated to complete the work, but neither am I free to abandon it. My vocation is to bear witness in the silences and teach others how to do the same.



Statement of Faith Sarah Smith-Candidate for Ministry

It is difficult to state what I believe without also feeling the need to explain it, which is even harder. As C.S. Lewis said, “besides being complicated, reality, in my experience, is usually odd. It is not neat, not obvious, not what you expect.” In that vein, it makes perfect sense to say the one, monotheistic God I believe in is also triune, that God became incarnate among us in Jesus who was both fully human and fully divine and sustains us through the Holy Spirit.

I believe in God, the creator of everything, who did not stop at Genesis but continues to create. There is “God” and “not God,” and all the things “not God,” still reflect the One who created them. This comes with implications, things like responsibility to one another and to the environment we share. It means the line between sacred and profane is a blurry one. We do in fact have to love our neighbors, and even the most challenging people have something to say about God. It means when I respond to a trauma page for an incoming victim of child abuse, I still provide care for the adult on scene whether I know if they were the perpetrator or not. It means if you exist then you have worth, because whether I can see it or not, you bear the image of the divine. It means whatever my patient has done or not done, believes or does not believe, if they are on my census then they are mine to care for because they are God’s first.

I believe in Jesus, the Son of God, born to Mary, Emmanuel, God with us. The totality of Jesus’ life matters, it is the life, death, and resurrection combined that elicit the praise we give, and serve to right our relationship to God. I believe when Jesus claims to be the way, the truth, and the life, Richard Rohr is onto something when he calls it descriptive rather than prescriptive. I don’t have the ideas of substitutionary atonement all reconciled in my mind, but I do believe that through Jesus, it all works. In becoming man, “God with us,” Jesus gives me a leg to stand on when I talk with patients who insist God wasn’t supposed to give them more than they could handle. God didn’t promise that, but God does not abandon us in the middle of it. Showing up matters to God, and God proved it as intimately as possible by taking on skin and suffering.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, thanks to the Holy Spirit. The Spirit stays busy, the source of wisdom and creativity, bringing us to faith and helping us to live it out. When I say a prayer of thanks for happening to be in the right place at the right time with the right patient or uttering

just the right phrase during a bedside prayer, it is the Holy Spirit I credit. I picture Her somehow as this flour-stained apron wearing matriarch within the Godhead, meddling in our personal lives and calling everyone home for dinner.

The Spirit is also concerned with salvation and scripture, present and guiding the writing of God's words by imperfect hands. The Spirit testifies to their worth despite all the ways humans mess them up, guiding us to meet the Holy within their pages.

Sacraments are "outward signs of invisible grace," with baptism and communion being the two we observe. Baptism happens once, in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, in community, a sign of the new covenant and entry into Christ's church. It is the beginning of the journey. Communion, or the Lord's Supper, happens much more often, bread for the journey, the provision of grace and nourishment as we carry on. The Lord's supper is the family supper where the Spirit reminds us of what we know, that everything gained in Christ's life, death and resurrection are ours, too, in the sacrament as we partake.

I believe it is not coincidence that Godself is a relationship, and that we humans are also made to be in relationship, as inconvenient as that may be at times. We are accountable to God and one another, and it is our involvement in the life of the church helps us to do that. It provides community, accountability, means for growth and sustenance, and a means by which together, as a force greater than a single individual, we can act as the "hands and feet" of Christ in the world.

**Report to Presbytery**  
**Treasurer's Report/Administration Commission/Trustees**  
**February 27, 2024**

**Information:**

- The Treasurer's Report as of December 31, 2023, is attached.
- Also attached is a per capita and unified giving spreadsheet as requested by Presbytery.

**Operating Budget**

1. Total Revenue in 2023 was \$489,089 as compared to \$497,232 in 2022. This is a decrease in revenue of \$8,142.
2. Presbytery Unified in 2023 was \$108,139 as compared to \$116,908 in 2022. This is a decrease in unified revenue of \$8,769.
3. Presbytery Per Capita in 2023 was \$120,112 as compared to \$143,122 in 2022. This is a decrease in revenue of \$23,010.
4. Total Personnel Expense in 2023 is \$265,815 as compared to \$229,466 in 2022. This is an increase in expense of \$36,349.
5. Total Committee Expense in 2023 is \$184,831 as compared to \$180,823 in 2022. This is a decrease in expense of \$4,008.
6. Total Expense in 2023 is \$501,265 as compared to \$468,075 in 2022. This is an increase in expense of \$33,189.
7. Total Net for the operating budget in 2023 is (\$12,175) as compared to \$29,156 in 2022.

**Burnamwood**

1. Total Burnamwood revenue in 2023 was \$126,782 as compared to \$117,015 in 2022. This is an increase in revenue of \$9,767.
2. Total Burnamwood expense in 2023 is \$123,013 as compared to \$120,301 in 2022. This is an increase in expense of \$2,712.
3. Total Net for Burnamwood in 2023 is \$3,769 as compared to (\$3,286) in 2022.

**Urban Village**

1. Total Urban Village revenue in 2023 is \$121,013. This includes a transfer of \$50,000 in June from the Presbytery's Chase Bank account to the Urban Village Chase Bank Account.
2. Total Urban Village expenses in 2023 are \$115,930.

**Actions Taken by Administration Commission since September presbytery meeting:**

1. Year-to-date financial reports as of December 31, 2023, were reviewed and approved including reserves, foundation accounts, unified mission, and per capita contributions.
2. Approved a motion to disburse \$48,000 as budgeted for 2023 from the General Foundation Account and send to the Chase Operating Bank Account.
3. Approved a motion to recommend to the November presbytery meeting that the 2024 Operating Budget of \$595,225 be adopted. The budget included the following updates:
  - a. 3% salary increase for staff for 2024.
  - b. The Presbytery's portion of total per capita per member be set at \$25.51 per member for 2024. The total per capita per member is \$39.29. This is an increase of .19 cents per member from 2023 due to the increase in GA's portion of the per capita.
  - c. The distribution of Unified Mission Giving for 2024 be as follows:
    - Transylvania Presbytery 78% (same as 2023)
    - Synod of Living Waters 5% (same as 2023)
    - General Assembly 17% (same as 2023)
4. Approved a motion to sell the Cranks Presbyterian Church property for \$1,000. Funds have been received.
5. Approved a motion to accept the \$10,000 dissolution agreement of the Anna C. Brush Presbyterian Church that Presbytery approved at the September 9<sup>th</sup> presbytery meeting. Funds have been received.
6. Approved a motion to auction the United Presbyterian Church of Frenchburg property. The church was closed at the September presbytery meeting. Auction was held in November and the property sold. Net proceeds of \$88,883 have been received.
7. Approved a motion to contract with Floyd Realty to list the Normal Presbyterian Church property for sale. The church was closed at the September presbytery meeting. An appraisal has been received.
8. Approved a motion to extend the repayment of the May 2, 2023, loan to Graham Memorial Presbyterian Church to January 1, 2025.
9. At the August meeting, Administration affirmed the appointment of Rev. Beth Garrod-Logsdon as interim director of the Urban Village in addition to her role as Pastor of Wilmore Presbyterian Church and asked that Rev. Garrod-Logsdon, the Wilmore Session and the Urban Village Steering Team work with Rev. Phillip Lotspeich, on behalf of the Presbytery, to ensure that Rev. Garrod-Logsdon's dual yet overlapping ministries are clearly defined, communicated, and fairly compensated. This includes retroactive compensation for Rev. Garrod-Logsdon once the formal relationship is

defined. A motion was approved to pay Rev. Garrod-Logsdon \$7,500 plus supplement for social security tax of \$574 for the work at Urban Village from August – December.

10. Approved a \$20,000 grant for 2024 to be issued to Wilmore Presbyterian Church to compensate Rev. Beth Garrod-Logsdon for her work on behalf of the Presbytery at Urban Village. The grant will be paid in monthly increments in 2024.
11. Approved a motion to sell the Perryville church property at auction. The property has sold and net proceeds of \$88,883 was received in January 2024.
12. Approved a motion to sell the First Presbyterian Church of Pineville property. Net proceeds of \$180,000 have been received. Approved a motion to donate \$5,000 of the proceeds to the Appalachian Children's Home to honor the legacy of First Presbyterian Church of Pineville.
13. Approved a motion to adjust 2023 per capita revenue numbers by transferring \$2,189.60 from the designated account, "Proceeds from Sale of Church Property" to the operating budget to cover the per capita for churches that closed in 2023.
14. Approved a motion to adjust 2024 per capita revenue numbers by \$1,846.53 from the designated account, "Proceeds from Sale of Church Property" to the operating budget to cover the per capita for churches that closed in 2023. ***Motion approved.***
15. Approved a motion to transfer \$300,000 from the Chase Operating Bank Account to the General Money Market account at the Foundation. ***Motion approved.***

<b>Presbytery of Transylvania</b>				
<b>Treasurer's Report</b>				
<b>December 31, 2023</b>				
	<b>2023</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2023 ACTUAL</b>
	<b>ANNUAL</b>	<b>REVENUE</b>	<b>REVENUE</b>	<b>COMPARED TO</b>
	<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2022 ACTUAL</b>
<b>INCOME</b>				<b>(decrease in revenue)</b>
<b>BENEVOLENCES</b>				
FLOOD RELIEF EAST KY	-	30,946	122,516	(91,570)
DISASTER RELIEF-DESIGNATED FUND	50,000	37,027	(58,329)	95,355
<b>TOTAL BENEVOLENCES</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>67,973</b>	<b>64,187</b>	<b>3,786</b>
<b>UNIFIED GIVING - Presbytery Share</b>	<b>125,000</b>	<b>108,139</b>	<b>116,908</b>	<b>(8,769)</b>
<b>PER CAPITA</b>	<b>154,922</b>	<b>120,112</b>	<b>143,122</b>	<b>(23,010)</b>
<b>OTHER RECEIPTS</b>				
TRUST FUNDS	150,000	163,437	154,830	8,607
OTHER RECEIPTS/DESIGNATED ACCTS	28,200	29,429	18,185	11,244
<b>TOTAL OTHER RECEIPTS</b>	<b>178,200</b>	<b>192,866</b>	<b>173,014</b>	<b>19,851</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>508,122</b>	<b>489,089</b>	<b>497,232</b>	<b>(8,142)</b>
	<b>2023</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2023 ACTUAL</b>
	<b>ANNUAL</b>	<b>EXPENSE</b>	<b>EXPENSE</b>	<b>COMPARED TO</b>
	<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2022 ACTUAL</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>				<b>(decrease in expenses)</b>
<b>COMMISSIONS AND MINISTRIES</b>				
ADMINISTRATION	5,000	20,274	4,161	16,113
BURNAMWOOD	50,000	50,000	50,000	0
CHRISTIAN FORMATION	21,900	8,200	102	8,098
CHURCH DEVELOPMENT/REDEVELOPMENT	8,000	2,738	2,530	208
CONGREGATIONAL ISSUES	2,000	387	0	387
COORDINATING COMMISSION	5,000	1,193	3,714	(2,521)
LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT	12,000	10,444	12,998	(2,554)
MISSION MINISTRY	57,000	74,514	75,329	(815)
PASTORAL TRANSITIONS COMMISSION	16,000	15,652	14,326	1,325
PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY	15,000	1,396	11,021	(9,624)
REPRESENTATION	200	0	0	0
YOUTH MINISTRY	10,000	34	6,642	(6,609)
<b>TOTAL COMMISSIONS/MINISTRIES</b>	<b>202,100</b>	<b>184,831</b>	<b>180,823</b>	<b>4,008</b>
<b>SUPPORT FUNCTIONS</b>				
PERSONNEL	251,122	265,815	229,466	36,349
OFFICE OPERATIONS	32,000	24,260	34,694	(10,434)
COMMUNICATIONS	1,000	4,887	887	4,000
PRESBYTERY OFFICES	7,900	11,221	8,979	2,243
<b>TOTAL SUPPORT FUNCTIONS</b>	<b>292,022</b>	<b>306,184</b>	<b>274,026</b>	<b>32,158</b>
<b>OTHER</b>				
KY COUNCIL OF CHURCHES	5,000	4,000	4,200	(200)
PRESBYTERY MEETINGS	6,000	3,250	6,027	(2,777)
PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN	3,000	3,000	3,000	0
<b>TOTAL OTHER</b>	<b>14,000</b>	<b>10,250</b>	<b>13,227</b>	<b>(2,977)</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>508,122</b>	<b>501,265</b>	<b>468,075</b>	<b>33,189</b>
<b>INCOME YEAR-TO-DATE</b>	<b>508,122</b>	<b>489,089</b>	<b>497,232</b>	
<b>EXPENSES YEAR-TO-DATE</b>	<b>508,122</b>	<b>501,265</b>	<b>468,075</b>	
<b>DIFFERENCE</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(12,175)</b>	<b>29,156</b>	

<b>Camp Burnamwood Subsidiary Budget</b>				
<b>December 31, 2023</b>				
	<b>2023</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2023 ACTUAL</b>
	<b>ANNUAL</b>	<b>REVENUE/EXPENSE</b>	<b>REVENUE/EXPENSE</b>	<b>COMPARED TO</b>
	<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2022 ACTUAL</b>
<b>INCOME</b>				<b>(decrease in revenue)</b>
Unified for Burnamwood	50,000	50,000	50,000	-
Burnamwood Gifts	30,000	24,772	20,907	3,864
Burnamwood Summer Camp Fees	20,000	0	14,309	(14,309)
Burnamwood Youth Retreat Fees	2,000	0	822	(822)
Burnamwood Rentals	30,000	35,560	24,276	11,284
Burnamwood Special Events	0	0	672	(672)
Burnamwood Appalachian Ministry	8,000	3,950	0	3,950
BW from Presby Youth Ministry	0		6,028	(6,028)
BW Surplus from Previous Year	0	12,500	0	12,500
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>140,000</b>	<b>126,782</b>	<b>117,015</b>	<b>9,767</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>				<b>(decrease in expense)</b>
ADMINISTRATIVE	10,300	8,543	8,506	37
PERSONNEL	48,930	47,556	52,978	(5,422)
FACILITIES	70,000	62,058	49,309	12,749
SUMMER PROGRAM	10,000	0	7,866	(7,866)
RENTALS	0	4,009	1,180	2,828
RETREATS	1,000	0	462	(462)
BAM EXPENSE	3,000	848	0	848
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>143,230</b>	<b>123,013</b>	<b>120,301</b>	<b>2,712</b>
INCOME YEAR-TO-DATE	140,000	126,782	117,015	
EXPENSES YEAR-TO-DATE	143,230	123,013	120,301	
<b>DIFFERENCE</b>	<b>(3,230)</b>	<b>3,769</b>	<b>(3,286)</b>	

<b>Urban Village Subsidiary Budget</b>		
<b>December 31, 2023</b>		
	<b>2023</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
	<b>ANNUAL</b>	<b>REVENUE/EXPENSE</b>
	<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>INCOME</b>		
Urban Village Fundraising Events	12,000	304
Urban Village Facility Use Fees	10,000	597
Transfer from Nicholasville Foundation acct	50,000	52,089
Urban Village Participant Fees	30,000	7,177
Urban Village Merchandise	1,000	-
Urban Village Grants	0	5,000
Urban Village Gifts	5,000	5,847
Transfer from Presbytery Reserve Funds	0	50,000
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>108,000</b>	<b>121,013</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Nicholasville Expense	0	0
Administrative Expenses	12,600	9,190
Facility Expenses	47,400	47,112
Personnel Expenses	84,624	59,628
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>144,624</b>	<b>115,930</b>
<b>INCOME YEAR-TO-DATE</b>	<b>108,000</b>	<b>121,013</b>
<b>EXPENSES YEAR-TO-DATE</b>	<b>144,624</b>	<b>115,930</b>
<b>DIFFERENCE</b>	<b>(36,624)</b>	<b>5,084</b>



<b>RESERVES</b>	
<b>December 31, 2023</b>	
<b>Designated Accounts for Specific Purposes</b>	
Caldwell Campbell for First Presbyterian of Richmond	42,214
Greenway funds	1,159,938
Harmony Cemetery	9,975
John F White fund to be used for Whites Memorial and indigent ministers	687,157
Mec Lona Davis to be used for Guerrant Memorial	280,005
Urban Village Operating Account	5,084
Campus Ministry funds held by Foundation	190,325
<b>Total Designated Accounts for Specific Purposes</b>	<b>2,374,698</b>
<b>Undesignated Accounts</b>	
General Fund	308,231
General Money Market Fund	389,329
412 Rose Street (Proceeds from Sale of Rose Street Property)	-
Chase Operating Account	440,362
<b>Total Accounts Available for Operating and Reserves</b>	<b>1,137,922</b>
Designated Funds that are in General Accounts	763,378
<b>Total Undesignated Presbytery Reserves</b>	<b>374,544</b>
Estimate of Needed Operating Reserves (4 Months of Expenses)	169,374
<b>SPECIAL OFFERINGS</b>	
<b>December 31, 2023</b>	
<b>GENERAL ASSEMBLY CAUSES</b>	<b>Amount Received from Churches</b>
GA Disaster Assistance	7,590
GA Hunger	4,470
GA Joy Gift	13,145
GA Missionaries/Extra Commitment Opportunities	17,900
GA One Great Hour	23,541
GA Peace & Global Witness	4,326
GA Pentecost	5,925
GA Theological Education	2,250
<b>TOTAL GA CAUSES</b>	<b>79,148</b>
<b>SYNOD CAUSES</b>	
SLW Living World Offering	2,500
SLW Living Waters Transy Team Fund	12,000
SLW Louisville Seminary	2,600
SLW Peace & Global Witness	1,114
<b>TOTAL SYNOD CAUSES</b>	<b>18,214</b>
<b>PRESBYTERY CAUSES</b>	
Bellewood	513
Buckhorn Children & Family Services	12,645
Presbytery Flood Relief	30,946
Westminster Village	1,500
<b>TOTAL PRESBYTERY CAUSES</b>	<b>45,604</b>
<b>TOTAL SPECIAL OFFERINGS</b>	<b>142,966</b>

## Unified and Per Capita Spreadsheet

CHURCH	LOCATION	2023 PER CAPITA	PER CAPITA RECEIVED 12/31/23	2023 UNIFIED PLEDGE	UNIFIED RECEIVED 12/31/23	2024 Per Capita Assessment
Community Presbyterian Church-Bellefonte	Ashland	782.00	50			628.64
First Presbyterian Church	Ashland	4,301.00	4,301			4,007.58
Normal Presbyterian Church	Ashland	977.50	489		978	982.25
Augusta Presbyterian Church	Augusta	1,994.10				1,414.44
Sharon Presbyterian Church	Augusta	469.20				471.48
McGuire Memorial Presbyterian Church	Beattyville	664.70	665	335	335	667.93
White's Memorial Presbyterian Church	Berea	586.50				589.35
Doermann Memorial Presbyterian Church	Blackey	1,094.80				1,100.12
Cow Creek Presbyterian Church	Booneville	1,446.70				1,453.73
First Presbyterian Church	Booneville	3,010.70				3,025.33
Buckhorn Lake Area Presbyterian Church	Buckhorn	1,720.40	1,720	2,400	2,400	1,728.76
Highland Presbyterian Church	Canada	821.10				825.09
Carlisle Presbyterian Church	Carlisle	1,759.50	1,760			1,768.05
Cawood Presbyterian Church	Cawood	664.70				667.93
Corbin Presbyterian Church	Corbin	2,971.60	2,972			2,907.46
Cynthiana Presbyterian Church	Cynthiana	5,943.20	5,943		5,000	5,932.79
The Presbyterian Church	Danville	11,065.30	11,065		9,000	10,765.46
United Presbyterian Church	Ezel	1,094.80	1,095			785.80
First Presbyterian Church	Flemingsburg	782.00				785.80
United Presbyterian Church	Frenchburg	664.70				667.93
First Presbyterian Church	Georgetown	5,356.70	5,357		1,250	5,304.15
Bayless Memorial Presbyterian Church	Grayson	625.60				628.64
Greenup Presbyterian Church	Greenup	1,251.20				1,257.28
First Presbyterian Church	Harlan	1,055.70				1,060.83
United Presbyterian Church	Harrodsburg	2,228.70	2,808			2,239.53
First Presbyterian Church	Hazard	1,955.00	4,155			1,964.50
Anna C. Brush Memorial Presbyterian Church	Hyden	703.80				707.22
Isom Presbyterian Church	Isom	1,055.70				1,060.83
Guerrant Memorial Presbyterian Church	Jackson	1,251.20	2,482			1,257.28
First Presbyterian Church	Lancaster	2,072.30	2,072	1,000	1,000	1,768.05
First Presbyterian Church	Lawrenceburg	625.60	654			589.35

## Unified and Per Capita Spreadsheet

CHURCH	LOCATION	2023 PER CAPITA	PER CAPITA RECEIVED 12/31/23	2023 UNIFIED PLEDGE	UNIFIED RECEIVED 12/31/23	2024 Per Capita Assessment
Beaumont Presbyterian Church	Lexington	4,926.60	4,927		1,500	4,518.35
Bethel Presbyterian Church	Lexington	469.20	469			471.48
Eastminster Presbyterian Church	Lexington	1,173.00	1,173			1,178.70
First Presbyterian Church	Lexington	24,554.80	24,555			24,674.12
Hunter Presbyterian Church	Lexington	5,395.80	5,200		10,000	5,186.28
Korean Presbyterian Church	Lexington	2,150.50				2,514.56
Maxwell Street Presbyterian Church	Lexington	19,628.20	19,878			19,723.58
Meadowthorpe Presbyterian Church	Lexington	1,955.00	1,500		2,500	1,846.63
Mt.Horeb Presbyterian Church	Lexington	1,564.00	1,564		200	1,532.31
Second Presbyterian Church	Lexington	27,057.20	27,058	57,571	57,571	27,345.84
Walnut Hill Presbyterian Church	Lexington	5,786.80				5,972.08
First Presbyterian Church	London	1,955.00	2,553			2,003.79
Mays Lick Presbyterian Church	Mayslick	156.40				157.16
First Presbyterian Church	Maysville	4,574.70		3,000		4,518.35
First Presbyterian Church	Middlesboro	742.90				746.51
Midway Presbyterian Church	Midway	2,854.30	2,854		4,000	2,868.17
First Presbyterian Church	Millersburg	664.70				667.93
Faith Presbyterian Church	Morehead	860.20	1,231		269	864.38
First Presbyterian Church	Mt.Sterling	4,379.20	4,379		1,806	4,204.03
Old Paint Lick Presbyterian Church	Paint Lick	664.70	1,319			667.93
First Presbyterian Church	Paris	2,033.20				2,082.37
Hopewell Presbyterian Church	Paris	2,072.30				2,082.37
Perryville Presbyterian Church	Perryville	351.90				0.00
First Presbyterian Church	Pikeville	1,368.50				1,296.57
First Presbyterian Church	Prestonsburg	3,362.60				2,318.11
First Presbyterian Church	Richmond	8,680.20	8,680		30,000	7,150.78
New Providence Presbyterian Church	Salvisa	782.00				785.80
First Presbyterian Church	Somerset	7,116.20	6,266			7,425.81
Pisgah Presbyterian Church	Somerset	1,016.60				1,021.54
Stanford Presbyterian Church	Stanford	3,988.20	3,988			4,007.58
Pisgah Prebyterian Church	Versailles	8,445.60	8,310			8,172.32

## Unified and Per Capita Spreadsheet

CHURCH	LOCATION	2023 PER CAPITA	PER CAPITA RECEIVED 12/31/23	2023 UNIFIED PLEDGE	UNIFIED RECEIVED 12/31/23	2024 Per Capita Assessment
Troy Presbyterian Church	Versailles	3,128.00	3,128	5,074	5,074	3,143.20
Versailles Presbyterian Church	Versailles	9,931.40	8,276			9,429.60
Graham Memorial Presbyterian Church	Whitesburg	3,597.20				3,614.68
Wilmore Presbyterian Church	Wilmore	2,228.70	2,230	1,000	1,000	2,121.66
First Presbyterian Church	Winchester	5,943.20	5,943			4,832.67
Salem Presbyterian Church	Winchester	899.30	886		900	903.67
Receipts from Individuals					3,771	
<b>Grand Totals</b>		<b>237,454</b>	<b>193,955</b>	<b>70,380</b>	<b>138,554</b>	<b>231,064</b>
Presbytery Portion		154,922	120,112		108,139	150,024

**The Pastoral Transitions Commission received a request from the Session of Faith Presbyterian Church Morehead, that the Presbytery establish an Administrative Commission to:**

- **Oversee the implementation of a new vision in downtown Morehead**
- **Assume all responsibilities for Faith Presbyterian Church vested in the Session by the Book of Order.**

**The Pastoral Transitions Commission recommends that the Presbytery:**

**Establish an Administrative Commission for a three-year term, composed of no less than 5 elders and no more than 9 elders, to oversee the implementation of a new vision in downtown Morehead and to serve as the Session for Faith Presbyterian Church. This commission will annually report to the presbytery an evaluation of the emerging leadership of the new mission and their capacity to resume decision-making. The Pastoral Transitions Commission further moves that the Presbytery Moderator be authorized to appoint the members of this commission.**

## **FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MISSION PLAN OVERVIEW (Edited for brevity)**

**January 2024**

### **Introduction**

Phila Group was hired in March 2023 to work with a Discernment Team from Faith Presbyterian Church to pursue a potential new mission in Morehead, KY. This congregation had made a courageous decision to sell their church building and property and were in the process of considering what the next season of their mission might look like. After an in-person meeting with the congregation and several phone calls and virtual meetings with the leadership, a Discernment Team committed to explore the unique opportunities for mission and ministry before them, with the hopes of developing a viable mission plan that could be pursued by Faith Presbyterian Church.

**Faith Presbyterian Church Discernment Team:** April Adkins, Sara Adkins, Diehl Ackerman, Allie Secor, Amy Monday, Carolyn Moore.

After months of prayer walking, conversations with residents and local leaders, Bible study, and group discernment, the Faith Presbyterian Discernment Team is excited to move forward with a mission plan in the heart of downtown Morehead meant to connect with those in the community who traditional, primarily conservative congregations are not currently reaching. The Discernment Team is willing to invest finances, time, and energy into a business/mission hybrid in which a storefront presence opens the door to safe space and a natural gathering place for those who might never step through the doors of an existing church. They look forward to a new expression of church that will embody the radical hospitality and heart of Jesus in the Morehead community.

The pursuit of this vision presumes the following actions:

- Develop a compelling business that both provides an entryway for people to be engaged by the mission (or new worshiping community) and provides a future income stream to the mission. The first year of the mission would include the exploration of business possibilities and the development of a specific business plan.
- Hire a Mission Developer/Evangelist to lead-up the mission or new worshiping community.
- Establish an Administrative Commission of the Transylvania Presbytery to provide leadership, oversight, and support to this new mission for a period of 3 years.
- Establish a Core Planning Team made up of people chosen by Missionary Lead to assist in refining and implementing the mission plan discussed below.

### **Why Morehead, KY?**

Faith Presbyterian Church has been a faithful witness to the good news of the gospel in the town of Morehead since 1964. Now, the desire is to focus on what a 21<sup>st</sup> century PCUSA witness could look like in the Rowan County area. The initial question to be explored was this: is there a need for a new church in Morehead, and if so, what unique mission does not currently exist that could be the opportunity for a new gospel community to take root? Church facilities and (mostly small) congregations dot the landscape of the county. However, it is notable that:

- There is a prevailing theology that does not connect with those who feel unwelcome or pushed away by the church.
- Except for Faith Presbyterian, there is no other PCUSA witness in the local area.
- Morehead appears to be on a trajectory of growth, with new restaurants and development happening in the heart of the downtown corridor, as well as significant demand for housing that indicates an influx of population and investment in the community.
- Morehead is a regional center for medical care and education in eastern KY, as well as a tourist destination for outdoor enthusiasts.

These trends and data points lead us to believe that it is worth investing in mission and ministry in the Morehead area.

## Background Information

Faith Presbyterian Church, through the Presbytery of Transylvania in Kentucky, approached Phila Consulting Group with the desire to determine the best path forward for them subsequent to the sale of their church property. Faith Presbyterian had seen a decline in their congregation. That, combined with the condition of their church building and an attractive offer from a neighboring business to purchase their property, made the sale of the church property a prudent decision. While Faith Presbyterian Church continues to exist, meeting in a temporary space elsewhere in the Morehead area, they are looking at alternatives, (1) to expand their ministry in the local area, and (2) to ensure they are being good stewards of the financial resources that came to the church as a result of selling their property. This had led Faith Presbyterian to seek professional assistance in considering the wide variety of alternatives on how best to proceed.

## The Morehead Kentucky Context

Morehead, Kentucky is the county seat of Rowan County, a city of approximately 7,000 residents in a county of 24,000. It is located in a picturesque and culturally rich setting, just off of Interstate Highway 64, about 60 miles east of Lexington in the foothills of the Daniel Boone National Forest.

The population of Rowan County has grown by 5.7% since 2020. The median household income is approximately \$35,000 with approximately 20% of the population living below the poverty line, including about 20% of those under age 18 and 15% of those age 65 or over. The largest industries in Rowan County, KY are Health Care & Social Assistance, Educational Services, and Retail Trade; while the highest paying industries are Utilities, Transportation & Warehousing, and Construction.

Rowan County, KY is an area with excellent educational opportunities. The local schools evidence modern/upgraded facilities and have a strong reputation for providing quality education to their students. The city of Morehead is home to Morehead State University, a medium-sized university of approximately 8,800 students, including 600 graduate students. Setting Morehead State apart from other state universities is its relationship with NASA; MSU is a NASA Space Grant University. Space Grant is a national network of colleges and universities working to expand opportunities for Americans to understand and participate in NASA's aeronautics and space projects by supporting and enhancing science and engineering education, research, and public outreach efforts.

Downtown Morehead boasts a Conference Center and an active chamber of commerce. Long time restaurants and university hangouts co-mingle with local businesses, new restaurants, and a brewery. While there are empty storefronts, a developing entertainment district continues to

unfold. Plans for a new hotel are on hold, though the city is actively in conversation with the hotel group to either move the existing or an alternative redevelopment forward.

Rowan County has been a political swing county since 2000, voting red (Republican) in the 2000, 2012, 2016, and 2020 presidential elections and blue (Democrat) in 2004 and 2008. In 2015, Rowan County became a flashpoint around the issue of gay marriage and religious accommodation, with the county clerk refusing to issue marriage licenses to gay couples due to her religious beliefs. While the courts upheld the couple's right to marry and the clerk lost a subsequent election, this political chapter in the county cast a negative light on church and church people among those who were already sensing a disconnect from more conservative forms of church.

Rowan County is home to many Christian churches across a wide spectrum of the faith. In addition to these existing churches, there are church outreach missions in and around the University campus.

We sense that there is an opportunity for a mission/worshiping community that seeks to connect with individuals and families in the Morehead area who have felt excluded from, ostracized, or pushed-away from church. This would not be a program-centered attractational church, but rather an incarnation of Jesus-centered community that develops through relational connections among existing personal networks, a compelling business that fosters relational intersections, and invitational opportunities into participating in initiatives of justice and contagious goodness.

## **The Process of Discernment**

The Faith Presbyterian Church Discernment Team consists of these members: April Adkins, Sara Adkins, Diehl Ackerman, Allie Secor, Amy Tudor, Carolyn Moore. Phila Group consultants Shannon Kiser, Brian Clark and Gary Mears met with this team over a period of 10 months for five face-to-face meetings to discern the best path forward. These gatherings invited the team to dig deeply into Bible study and prayer, giving sway to the movement of the Holy Spirit in this discernment endeavor. We broke bread (and cookies) together as we shared life and fellowship. Each meeting included robust conversations, differing points of view, and holy times of convergence and clarity. These conversations, in conjunction with community listening, provided the primary process of discernment.

The Discernment Team and Phila Consultants prayer-walked the community, met in local establishments, and spoke with local business leaders, nonprofit leaders, church leaders, educators, and residents. We worked with existing networks and connections, as well as forging new connections. We met with a commercial real estate agent to explore specifics related to the Morehead commercial market and met with community business leaders and merchants to explore the art-of-the-possible. Through conversation, Bible exploration, prayer, and deep



listening, the Team has narrowed the wide variety of alternatives and is close to crystalizing a theological identity for a new mission (or new worshipping community), a vision for the mission, a potential mission plan, and a missionary leader for the mission.

After some initial discernment teamwork with Phila, the session of Faith Presbyterian Church met to prayerfully determine whether they wished to continue solely as an existing traditional worshipping community or if they wished to continue working on discerning how God might be calling them into a new form of ministry in the Morehead community. With Session's vote to move forward in discerning a new mission, the Discernment Team continued to pursue a variety of potential ideas and networks.

Hearing that a partnership with the Episcopalian congregation might be a possibility, Phila consultants met with the assistant to the Bishop to explore possibilities. In that conversation, it became clear that the existing Episcopal congregation would not add any significant energy to this mission, nor would the Diocese be investing financial resources into the existing congregation, although the possibility of a partnership between the PCUSA and Episcopal Church into a new thing still exists.

Other ministry and partnership possibilities were put on the table, including the potential to partner with Kiju games, a business that has become a place for game enthusiasts and an LGBTQ+ safe place. Again, it became clear that partnership in the business is not a viable option, but with this business possibly closing, it may be possible to build on the concept of game playing as a way to provide a natural gathering place for the community, a stream of income for the mission, and a non-churchy atmosphere in which to explore faith community.

Ultimately, the mission plan that is emerging represents the ideas and energy that have risen to the front burner. The discernment process leads us to believe that this is a viable path forward for Faith Presbyterian Church and can best leverage the unique passions and gifts of this congregation for mission impact and a new form of Christian community in Morehead.

## **The Theological Identity Undergirding the Mission**

How often in the church do we assume a shared theological starting point, yet come to find out we are on very different pages? Any new worshipping community needs to be built upon a strong sense of shared identity and vision among those who will be its champions. The early work of the Discernment Team was to wrestle with the theological identity that would undergird this mission. This shared identity will be the heartbeat of the mission and will help the team to work together towards a common purpose. Exploring the questions below helped to develop that shared identity:

WHO IS JESUS?

Jesus is the one who teaches us and models to us how we are to live with others and with God. Jesus is God's presence with us, in the hard times and the joyous times. Jesus is a light to our path and invites us to take steps in the direction that he leads. Jesus is our "song in the night" . . . when we simply don't know what to do, we can reach out for peace.

### WHAT IS CHURCH?

Church is a community of people trying to follow Jesus, gathering together and sharing in God's work and God's Word together. It is a fellowship that recharges us for life and mission. It is a community of worship, steeped in the awe and wonder of God, God's beauty, and God's creation. It is a system of support and love wrapped in the Word of God. . . so much more than just friends! It gives us meaning and purpose. It inspires us to consistently rethink and reframe. Church requires something of us and invites us to commit to God and to others. And as we commit ourselves to love and serve in the way of Jesus, we become an embodiment of the presence of Jesus in this world. Like the great cloud of witnesses that have gone before us, we too we are part of the rich tapestry that is God is weaving.

### WHAT IS SALVATION?

Salvation is preservation or deliverance from harm, ruin, or loss. It is knowing that we will see our Savior and one day, all our questions will be answered. Jesus is the source of salvation, saving us from our hard heartedness and the choices we tend to make. He keeps us and holds us, even in our fears and uncertainties. In light of God's saving love, we can be ever more fully present and connected with God and with one another. Salvation is a gift, but it is also a choice to move towards God. We reject the ways that religious people have often used "salvation" as a tool to judge people or stoke the fear of hell. Salvation is so much more than a destination after we die but is something we can joyfully experience here and now.

### WHAT IS JUSTICE?

Justice is ultimate fairness. It is when we all have enough to eat, a home to lay our head, and all are treated with respect. It is when everyone is treated as if they really are God's child — no picking or choosing who's in and who's out. It is the lifting of the veil where evil is exposed to the light. Justice is removing the barriers and taking away the unfair and unequal. It is being in harmony with each other and being allowed to be who God made us to be. Justice is not a passive hope, but a God-shaped longing that drives us to action.

## **The Vision (The "Who" of this Potential Mission)**

*Developed through community presence, conversation, and Bible Study as a Discernment Team*

The people group that God has place on the hearts of the Discernment Team as they considered a mission in Morehead, KY are:

- People who feel outside of the mainstream: politically, socially, or economically
- LGBTQ+ young people and allies who lack safe spaces in the community
- Those who don't know that they have an invitation to God's love
- Those who have a viscerally negative reaction to the prevailing theology of the county's predominately conservative churches

While the vision is to be fully inclusive of LGBTQ+ individuals, the desire is not to be *exclusively* LGBTQ+. This is a mission meant for a much broader community of the left out, forgotten, and judged – a community in which all can find a safe space for welcome, community, grace, hope, and spiritual home.

## A Review of Options and Discernment Team Decisions

Over the last 10 months, the Discernment Team has looked at a number of alternatives, seeking the best way to move forward. Through a series of prayerful conversations, the Discernment Team initially reduced the alternatives to two options:

- Option A: Faith Presbyterian Church continues, with all the responsibilities of maintaining the governance of the church, while starting a new mission with a compelling business.
- Option B: Faith Presbyterian Church, as it currently exists, ceases to meet for Sunday worship, but remains constituted as a PCUSA church -- using its resources and funding to begin to work on a new worshipping community with a compelling business and the church members agreeing to dedicate their energies toward this endeavor.

Through further discussion and prayer, the Discernment Team committed themselves to Option B. In this way, Faith Presbyterian Church would orient all its focus and energy on this new mission:

- Discontinue Sunday morning pulpit supply and gathering
- Discontinue current lease and orient all ministry gatherings to a storefront space to be obtained as part of the Mission Plan
- Gather for Bible study/faith exploration around a shared meal
- Provide appropriate leadership and support to Mission Developer search and the mission as it unfolds

## The Mission Plan: What Could this Mission Look Like?

Connecting with the “Who” of this mission will require a different kind of church than currently exists in Morehead. There are already traditional worshipping congregations that position themselves as inclusive, though they are small in number (and a minority) of the church landscape in town. If the people of the Vision wish to find a traditional Sunday morning worship

service, it does exist. What does not exist is meaningful safe space to foster relationships that can help people experience God's love, to taste and see that God is good. This is the unique opportunity that the Discernment Team feels a call to press into.

The Team is convinced that the mission plan being developed would best be served by creating a compelling business that would serve as both a natural doorway into safe space that fosters relationship and community AND a source of income that would help to sustain the mission's long-term viability.

What do we mean by compelling business? It is a business that would provide perceived value to the residents of Morehead, something that people would be excited about whether they are church people or not. It would be a business that locals would want to frequent and would provide a reasonably affordable environment that fosters relational connection, even as customers receive the products and services that are being offered. The business intersection would provide the opportunity for natural relational engagement with people in a non-threatening space, allowing for opt-in opportunities to wrestle with faith and engage in service, Bible Study, and worship.

What could this look like? This is the idea that seems to be rising to the top for the Discernment Team:

Picture a Main Street (or Main Street adjacent) storefront Game Lounge and Snack Bar for all ages. The vibe is warm and welcoming, with some music playing in the background and a wall of shelves filled with a vast library of various board games. Game tables dot the landscape, welcoming groups to grab a game and enjoy some time together. A snack counter is stocked with bagged snacks, cold drinks, and fresh popcorn for patrons to purchase and enjoy, as well as a few specialty game items for sale. The back of the store boasts an Escape Room experience that revolves to a new adventure every few months.

In the front room board game space, a modest entrance fee would include a drink and a snack with game play. This regular drop-in unstructured play opportunity would allow patrons to select games to play from the large selection of board games housed in the Lounge, or game players could bring their games from home. We envision this being a hangout space for all ages — families, teens, college students, and adults looking for alcohol free venues to gather (or who just love to play games!).

In addition to unstructured play, the mission developer and team would offer regular events, targeting a variety of interests, to draw community residents into the Game Lounge for enjoyment and relationship building. Throughout the month, there would be times and tournaments for select games, such as Mah Jongg, Settlers of Catan, Dominoes, Bridge, Euchre, etc. From time to time there would also be times promoted for specific age groups: kids game

time or teen game time. These opportunities would foster and build on natural connections where there is affinity and peer connection.

Aware of the existence of two other collectible card game stores, this Game Lounge would not specialize in the collectible card game arena, not wishing to create competition with neighboring businesses in Morehead. Dungeons and Dragons, Magic the Gathering, Pokeman, etc. would NOT be emphasized in this Game Lounge, though individual groups creating their own campaigns who wish to meet in the Lounge could do so.

The Escape Room, an immersive 60-minute group challenge experience made up of puzzles to be solved, would be housed in the back of the space or in an upstairs location. In this space, teams of players discover clues, solve puzzles, and accomplish tasks to try to unlock the room before time runs out. An Escape Room would be unique to Morehead, and could be marketed for:

- Corporate team building
- Birthday parties
- Tourist activity
- Teen activity

The Escape Room not only offers a unique addition to entertainment options in Morehead, it offers a cost-effective aspect to the business (low set up cost and low overhead) and would create a great team building opportunity for volunteers and staff as they work together on some DIY projects to add charm and character to the Escape Room environments.

The Snack Bar would offer simple food and beverages. We envision fountain drinks, including seltzers, canned specialty drinks, healthy snacks, fresh popcorn from a popcorn machine, and a few unique pre-packaged items. Pedestrians in the local area would be welcome to drop into the snack bar, whether they intend to stay for game play or not.

Beyond open play and game events, the mission developer would also provide a regular opportunity for faith conversation. For example, Tuesday nights twice a month might be “God Games, and Grace,” a one hour long gathering for middle school and high school students. Friday nights once a month might be a different “God, Games and Grace,” a one hour long gathering for families to explore faith together through playful experiences. Once a month, “Safe Escape,” a safe space for LGBTQ+ could gather for sharing, encouragement, and prayer together. And each week, Thursday nights could be “Dinner and Deep Dive,” which would be a shared meal, Bible study, and life-on-life sharing and prayer. This Thursday night group would become the forming worshipping community, and as the conversations deepen, new opportunities for worship and service would likely emerge.

The Discernment Team believes that this kind of setting would be the most effective way to both bless the Morehead community by providing a safe space and an additional entertainment

venue in the entertainment district (one that can be enjoyed by all ages) AND provide an on-ramp for those who most need to discover that they are loved by God and by God's people.

## The Compelling Business

The Board Game Lounge and Escape Room with a snack bar seems to be a viable compelling business to accompany this mission in Morehead for these reasons:

- It does not compete with other ministries or businesses in the area
- It provides ongoing — not one-off — opportunities to connect with a variety of ages and peoples in the Morehead area
- It provides an environment where relationships and friendships can naturally develop
- The build out and set up costs for a game lounge, escape room, and snack bar are relatively low-cost
- The business can start small and add staff as the business grows
- This business fits the “entertainment district” aspirations of the city
- It provides an entirely different kind of worshiping community than currently exists in Morehead

In running the business concept by community leaders, there seems to be resonance and excitement among the church and unchurched segment of Morehead. Some have resonated with the safe space concept, recognizing that teens, recovering addicts, and others need safe places to gather and connect. Some have resonated with the possibility that families and young people will have a place to go to “get off video games” and have face-to-face interaction. Some are excited about ministry that connects with people in non-traditional ways. Yet others are simply excited about the addition of something new to do in Morehead.

Ideally, this business would exist in a downtown location, as envisioned in the previous section of this document. Realtors have already been consulted and the Discernment Team is actively pursuing leasing options in the Main Street area of Morehead.

A mission developer will need to be hired to run point on both the business and discipleship gatherings. **Staffing will be the great challenge for this mission.** Most likely it will take a year or more to identify and hire a full-time mission developer. Having the right staff person who is entrepreneurial, and a Jesus follower will need to be the initial focus of the Search Team

These following actions will be needed for a hybrid mission/compelling business vision to be actualized:

- As discussed above, Faith Presbyterian Church will conclude its Sunday morning worship (and accompanying expenses).

- FPC will gather instead for a weekly evening dinner and Bible Study. This will begin to reorient the church to its dedicated time and energy into this new form of community-building and shared spiritual life together.
- Continue to pursue the appropriate rental space in the desired location and once identified, secure the lease
- Form a Search Team made up of a combination of Faith Presbyterian and Presbytery of Transylvania members. Building on the job description found in this report, develop a job listing for a mission developer that can be circulated in PCUSA circles, as well as other networks and job-hunting sites.
- Begin actively working relationships, networks, and organizations to pursue potential candidates for this new position. The ideal Mission Developer/Evangelist candidate would be:
  - a lover of Jesus who is passionate about embodying the kingdom of God and the character of Christ in the everyday spaces and places of life.
  - an entrepreneur who is excited about establishing a business/social enterprise as a point of entry for connection and building community with local individuals, as well as a funding source for the Mission
  - a ministry leader who sees the church as a Christ-centered, diverse community reaching out to those who have felt pushed-away by the institutional church
  - a leader who has (or can make) connections with the neighborhoods and community networks in Morehead to bring people together.
  - a dreamer who would be excited about joining an emerging conversation about developing a loving community that looks a lot different from the churches which already exist in Morehead.
- Informed by the discernment work that has already been done, a more in-depth business plan will need to be developed that can best leverage the gifts and skills of the leadership and core team towards a compelling business that both provides an entryway for people to be engaged by the mission (or new worshiping community) and provides a future income stream to the mission. The first year of the mission would include the development of this in-depth business plan, to include:
  - Buildout plan and implementation
  - Financial goals and objectives
  - Detailed business and accounting plan
  - Point of sale research and implementation
  - Scheduling plan
  - Staffing plan
  - Ministry plan
- Establish an Administrative Commission of Transylvania Presbytery to provide oversight and support to this new mission for a period of 3 years. This Administrative Commission would have at least two current members of Faith Presbyterian Church serve on it.
- Establish a Core Planning Team made up of people chosen by the Mission Developer to assist in the developing and implementing the mission plan.

## Leadership: How Would This Mission be Staffed?

As stated above, hiring the right Mission Leader will be vitally important. The process of hiring the right person **might** be a two-step process of first hiring a part time Mission Developer who can begin the work and lead the search for the full time Lead Missionary. If the right full time Mission Lead is identified, then there would be no need to first hire a part time Mission Developer. The two positions:

- Part Time Mission Developer (10-20 hours per week)—This supposes that there is preliminary work to be done to prepare for this business/mission hybrid even while searching for the primary mission lead for this initiative. Potential responsibilities of this part time initial position could be:
  - Chair/moderate/facilitate the search team for a full time Missional Leader
  - Work with the Steering Team to fine tune the compelling business plan
  - Oversee the renovation of the facility to house the new mission fulfilling the compelling business plan for an escape room board game center.
  - Oversee the Opening of the compelling business, the Board Game and Escape Room – soft opening – 20 hours a week.
    - Hire very part time staff.
    - Organize volunteers.
    - Run a weekly discipleship gathering with a core team open to the larger community
    - Oversee the inventory, sales, staff of compelling business.
- Full Time Lead Missionary—Ultimately, a full time Lead Missionary gives the initiative the best chance success, and is built into the 10 year budget of the project. Responsibilities of this full-time position are as follows:
  - Work with the Steering Team to fine tune the compelling business plan for an Escape Room and Board Game center.
  - Oversee the renovation of the facility to house the new mission fulfilling the compelling business plan.
  - Network with existing community leaders and locals to build trust and relationship and reputation for the sake of the mission
  - Develop marketing/communication plan for the new business
  - Oversee the Opening of the compelling business – soft opening – 40 hours a week
    - Organize volunteers.
    - Run weekly discipleship gatherings, possibly “Dinner and Deep Dive” for adults, “God, Games, and Grace” for Middle Schoolers and High schoolers, and a “God, Games and Grace” for elementary children and their families.



- Oversee the inventory, sales, staff of the compelling business.
- Cast vision for the overarching ethos of the mission among stakeholders, core team, and (future) employees

## Governance and Oversight

### What are the finances required for an effective mission?

- The business plan includes a full time Mission Developer at a salary of \$60,000 plus benefits. The Mission Developer would be the point leader for this initiative.
- Additional business staffing would be considered as usage and income rises, to meet the demand
- The financial model assumes active volunteer support by Faith Presbyterian and other like-minded people in the Morehead community (to help with teen events, etc.)
- Phila Consulting has developed a conservative 10-year timeline to achieve a break even business

At the current projections, there is more than adequate funding in Faith Presbyterian's accounts to carry out the full 10-year timeline.

### What would be the relationship between Faith Presbyterian and this new mission?

Faith Presbyterian Church would orient all of its focus and energy toward this new mission:

- Discontinue Sunday morning pulpit supply and gathering
- Discontinue current lease and orient all ministry gatherings in the storefront space
- Gather for Bible study/faith exploration around a shared meal, possibly Dinner and a Deep Dive
- Participate and invite to the board game lounge and its programs
- Provide appropriate leadership and support to Mission Developer search and the mission as it unfolds

### What is the projected governance structure going forward?

Faith Presbyterian Church will continue as a chartered church in the Presbytery of Transylvania. However, for this new mission to have the best chance for success, it is recommended that the governance be structured as follows:

- The Presbytery would elect an Administrative Commission (AC) for a period of 3 years to replace the FPC Session
  - 3 key people from Faith Presbyterian Church
  - 2 key people from Presbytery with specific skill sets (business, entrepreneurship, etc.)
- This structure would still give Faith Presbyterian Church the majority vote over any and all issues related to mission and ministry, while bringing in expertise from the greater community

- This structure would provide 3 years of stability (i.e. no rotating terms) during a crucial period of starting the compelling business
- This structure would be able to provide the nimble decision making that will be needed for a new business
- At the end of 3 years, the AC would stand down and a new Session would be convened that (hopefully) includes some new people who are engaging with the new worshiping community

### Assumptions for Mission Plan and Financial Projections:

In developing the financial projections for this Mission Plan a set of assumptions has been made, these assumptions include:

- The mission/compelling business approach is, we believe, the most viable path to ongoing sustainability for a ministry presence in Morehead. Below are the assumptions we are making towards income streams and financial projections: The Escape Room and Board Game Lounge will charge for participation that will provide a steady stream of income that will fund the mission.
  - Board Game Lounge would have game play entry fees for game play with accompanying soft drink.
  - Tournament nights would have entry fees for participation.
  - Escape Room would have entry fees for 1-hour sessions.
- Some specialty board games, and merchandise may be available for purchase.
- A basic portfolio of non-alcoholic beverages and snack option will be available for purchase. Drop-in patrons, as well as game players, could also purchase snacks items.
- The compelling business of an Escape Room and Board Game Center will provide the basic resources for a new mission, but that income will be supplemented by donations from those engaged as Faith Presbyterian Church gathers around three key activities, a “God, Games and Grace” for elementary students and their families, a “God, Games, and Grace” program for middle and high school students, and some sort of dinner and discipleship offering.
- The compelling business should provide, by year 14, enough income that the business breaks even AND the congregation will have a healthy amount of assets remaining (over \$180,000) to provide for future projects and expansion.
- This Mission Plan assumes the dinner church community would grow to 40-50 people who are giving to this project.
- It is our expectation that the FPC congregation would become the core group that is creating the critical mass to seed this new mission.

### Final Thoughts

Phila Group looks forward to seeing where God leads and remains strongly convinced that there is a need to a Christian mission to those in the Morehead community who feel excluded from, ostracized by, or pushed-away from church. Such a mission, complemented and supported by a compelling business, will be an exciting alternative to what exists today and for years to come.

We have been encouraged and inspired by the wisdom and the giftedness of the Discernment Team, as well as the participation and investment of each of them to this process. Given the information above and other factors, the Discernment Team and the Session of Faith Presbyterian Church must prayerfully consider their best path forward.

## Appendix 1 - Position Description

### SEEKING AN ENTREPRENEURIAL MINISTRY LEADER For a New Mission in Morehead, Kentucky

Looking for...

- a lover of Jesus who is passionate about embodying the kingdom of God and the character of Christ in the everyday spaces and places of life
- a Disciple whose heart breaks for those who don't know they have an invitation to God's love
- a ministry leader who sees the church not as an institution to be managed, but a Christ-centered community to live out rhythms of living, loving, serving, and worshipping together.
- an entrepreneur who sees not just the business potential but mission potential in marketplace ministry and wants to roll up their sleeves to give it a go.
- a dreamer who would be excited about joining an on-going conversation and developing a mission that looks a lot different than the churches which already exist in Rowan County, KY

The Presbytery of Transylvania (Presbyterian Church USA) and Faith Presbyterian Church have gathered a discernment team who have spent the last year praying, listening, and dreaming about the potential for a new mission in Morehead, KY. Just as the Apostle Paul had a vision for the Macedonian, this team has begun to glimpse an emerging vision for this mission. The people of this vision include:

- People who feel outside of the mainstream: politically, socially, or economically.

- LGBTQ+ young people and allies who lack safe spaces in the community.
- Those who have a viscerally negative reaction to the prevailing theology of the county's predominately conservative churches.

While the vision is to be fully inclusive of LGBTQ+ individuals, the desire is not to be *exclusively* LGBTQ+. This is a mission meant for a much broader community of the left out, forgotten, and judged – a community in which all can find a safe space for welcome, community, grace, hope, and spiritual home.

Connecting with the “Who” of this mission will require a different kind of church than currently exists in Morehead. Today, if the people of this vision wish to find a traditional Sunday morning worship service, they can do that -- it does exist. What does not exist is meaningful safe space to foster relationships that can help people experience God’s love -- to taste and see that God is good.

The Team is convinced that this mission plan would best be served by creating a compelling business that would serve as both a natural doorway into safe space that fosters relationship and community AND a source of income that would help to sustain the mission’s long-term viability. We seek to hire a full-time Entrepreneurial Ministry Leader would lead the mission and manage the business, hiring staff as needed and budget allows.

In Summary:

- The Presbytery/Church have financial resources to put to this project.
- The Presbytery/Church have a commitment to a new kind of mission.
- The Presbytery/Church believe that a business/ministry hybrid is likely the most viable mission strategy.
- The Presbytery/Church have a team of people who would support this mission, though none of them are the missionary leader for this project.
- The Presbytery, led by an experienced church planter and ministry entrepreneur, can provide great oversight and support.

We believe that God is already raising up a person with a heart and a passion and a calling for this ministry opportunity. We believe that person might just be a student or emerging leader who would be excited to be in a conversation *now* that could lead to their ministry position -- and that YOU might be that person.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, we’d love to schedule a time to connect and hear your passions, interest, and ideas. Please **contact XXXXXXXXXXXX** at **emailXXXXXXXXXX** if you would like to connect for a conversation.

**CONGREGATIONAL ISSUES COMMISSION**  
**REPORT TO PRESBYTERY**  
**FEBRUARY 27, 2024**

The Congregational Issues Commission (CIC) has begun 2024 thinking about “preventive health,” actions congregational leaders can take to prevent problems and conflicts that can disrupt ministry. In the spirit of preventive health...

...We are in early stages of exploration with the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center (LMPC) to sponsor a *Healthy Congregations* workshop for congregational leaders. One of LMPC’s regular program offerings, the *Healthy Congregations* workshop “is designed to equip leaders to respond to the presence or potential threat of anxiety in a congregational system in ways that prevent destructive conflict and help the church stay focused on its unique mission and purpose.” Watch for more details and let us know of your interest and possible willingness to help.

...We are encouraging congregations to conduct **annual ministry reviews** with their pastors/congregational leaders. Regular and intentional review conversations with congregational leaders can provide encouragement, support, and guidance for ministry, as well as help prevent misunderstandings, frustration, and conflict. To support congregations that do not already have a practice of annual reviews, we are working to gather resources that can be used in local ministry settings. If your congregation has such resources and would be willing to share them, please contact the CIC.

...We are offering two scholarships for persons who would be interested in attending an online webinar on May 16 titled *Restorative Conversations*. One of LMPC’s regular programs, the *Restorative Conversations* webinar “introduces church leaders to the key concepts of circle processes and ways in which circles can be used within their congregations. Restorative conversations are useful when working through difficult or polarizing topics, processing shared painful experiences, building community, and dealing with certain levels of conflict in the church setting.” Contact Mike Ward for more details.

Preventive health measures notwithstanding, ministry disruptions and conflicts can happen. As in many types of relationships, early attention to a problem can lead to a better outcome for all concerned. Congregational leaders are encouraged to reach out to the CIC regarding potentially disruptive issues in your congregations. We will come alongside in a confidential way, offering resources and support to help your congregation, its leaders, and your ministry return to health and wholeness.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Congregational Issues Commission  
Mike Ward, moderator  
Candace Purdom  
Jennifer Marsh  
Katherine Redmond  
Roger Dermody

Contact Mike Ward at [obxward57@gmail.com](mailto:obxward57@gmail.com) or 859-537-3008

## Urban Village

February 2024

Let me begin by thanking the congregations of the Presbytery of Transylvania who gave financially supported the mission and ministry of Urban Village in 2023:

Beaumont Presbyterian Church  
First Presbyterian Church (Lexington)  
Stanford Presbyterian Church  
Versailles Presbyterian Church

Eastminster Presbyterian Church  
Mt. Horeb Presbyterian Church  
United Presbyterian Church (Harrodsburg)  
Wilmore Presbyterian Church

Without the generous gifts of these congregations and many individuals, we would not be able to serve the community of Nicholasville and Jessamine County. I hope to see this list grow in 2024, as the mission and ministry of Urban Village grows and develops, garnering more support from our siblings in Christ.

Urban Village ended 2023 with much momentum. In November and December we hosted our first four birthday parties, hired and made plans for our After School Program, and continued to see our Sunday evening youth group grow. The week between Christmas and New Year's a great crew of Urban Village staff, church members, presbyterian folks, and Urban Village families volunteered many hours to make some much needed updates and repairs. We knocked down a wall, painted, cleared off the back loading dock, and painted, deep cleaned, and painted, repaired and replaced equipment...and did I mention, we painted? This work has really given a brighter and more inviting facelift to the building. We were happy that we could donate some of our excess wood and equipment to a Girl Scout Gold Award project and to some families in the community.

In January we began our After School Program as a way to offer safe and affordable after-school care to our community. We currently have 10 students enrolled in this program, and more who are interested if we could provide transportation. Anyone have a church bus or van they'd like to donate to Urban Village for this purpose? Also in January we hosted a CPR/First Aid class. This class was attended by Urban Village staff and several others from the presbytery. Thank you to the presbytery's Leadership Development Ministry for helping to cover the cost of that training for the Urban Village staff!

As we look ahead to what's coming up...

We are on the brink of our first anniversary! Watch the e-news and social media for ways you can help us celebrate!

We are still working to finalize the purchase of the building - please lift this up in your prayers!

We are forming a board of Urban Village participants to help with programming and fundraising.

We are also working on our summer program! Would your congregation be interested in hosting, sponsoring, or helping with a week of Urban Village camp or doing a week of Vacation Bible School at Urban Village? Let me know!

Finally, I would LOVE to see more of our congregations taking advantage of the space we have at Urban Village. If you haven't visited us yet, come and see. If you would like someone to speak at a worship service or fellowship event, let me know!

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Beth Garrod-Logsdon, executive director/mission developer

*You are invited to the Annual Spring Gathering  
of Transylvania Presbyterian Women*

Saturday, April 13, 2024

@ First Presbyterian Church, Richmond, KY

Theme: Food Insecurity



**Our keynote speaker: Mr. Jim Embry, Richmond, KY**

*Mr. Embry is nationally known and recognized for his interest in food insecurity. He co-founded The Good Food Co-op in Lexington and was involved in starting Glean, KY.*

- There will be information about the activities of Presbyterian Women in our Presbytery and opportunities to learn about mission projects that might be of interest for women in your church.
- During our worship time, we will hear Scripture and a message from a women Teaching Elder (TBA) and participate in the Lord's Supper.
- We will announce the **6 winners of the Mary Scott Moore Scholarships for the Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women, Aug. 8-11, 2024 in St. Louis.** *Each scholarship is \$450 for registration and some car expense reimbursement (see below for more info)*
- We will commission the women going to the Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women, Aug. 8-11, 2024 in St. Louis.
- And we will **elect new members to the Transylvania PWP Coordinating Team** *(Will this be you? Open positions include Social Justice Coordinator, Recording Sec'y, Cluster leaders for 3 clusters – including the Lexington churches, & Search Comm. Coordinator. Your wisdom and talents are needed! Positions can be shared! Coordinating Team meets 4-5 times/year and always via zoom. Contact Karen (below) for more info!!*

Fellowship and coffee time begins at 9:30 a.m., the Gathering will start at 10. After the program, there will be a box lunch at noon. *We will then go back to our churches on (hopefully) winged feet filled with enthusiasm for the work of women in our churches!*

The cost will be \$15 per person, which includes lunch and coffee time.

- ▶ *Advanced registration is required and registration forms will be on the Presbytery Newsletter site and sent to churches very soon. Deadline for registration is Friday, April 5, 2024. Thanks to The Rev. Dr. Curtis Christian, we will be able to ZOOM this gathering to individuals or groups. More info to come!*

*All women are invited, whether you have a women's group in your church or not!  
It's amazing what folks working together can accomplish in the name of Jesus Christ!*

● **Information about the 2024 PW Churchwide Gathering** can be found at [www.presbyterianwomen.org/gathering](http://www.presbyterianwomen.org/gathering) and by contacting Karen May, [karen@the2mays.net](mailto:karen@the2mays.net) and Emily Carroll, [ecarroll1@roadrunner.com](mailto:ecarroll1@roadrunner.com). ● Scholarship applications for the Churchwide Gathering are on the Transylvania Friday Newsletter or contact Emily or Karen.

♪♪ Please publicize this fun event in your church and come to Richmond on April 13<sup>th</sup>!

*“Do everything in love”*

2024 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women



August 8-11, 2024

St. Louis, Missouri



*Women from all over the world gather for worship; hear inspiring national speakers & music; attend workshops; learn about the 2024-25 PW Horizons Bible study from the author, Rev. Patricia Tull; share the ministries, resources, needs and strengths of women in their church and community; discover the amazing width and breadth of PW global mission; and share fellowship with women committed to the theme, “Do everything in love.” (1 Corinthians 16:13-14)*

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**Who** is invited? All women who participate in or are members of a PC(U.S.A.) church.

**Why** attend? To meet women who care about and desire to share the love of Jesus in creative ways everywhere! To have Fun! And to learn about Presbyterian Women’s commitments to Bible study, mission, justice and peace, ending hunger, empowering women’s leadership and fostering inclusive communities locally, in the presbyteries, synods, “churchwide” (nationally), and internationally.

**When** is the 2024 PW CW Gathering? Thursday, Aug. 8 through Sunday morning, Aug. 11.

**Where** will the 2024 PW CW Gathering be held? St. Louis Convention Center & Marriott St. Louis Grand.

**What happens** there? *Women in faith share spirit-led worship, uplifting music, & inspired preaching. In large-group (plenary) sessions learn from nationally known speakers on everything from Bible study to advocacy and mission. Forums and workshops on key issues of the world today and also on your areas of passion. See many exhibits, a marketplace, a bookstore, and celebrate newly elected officers to the PW national board.*  
*Visit sites & fun in St. Louis.*

**What** is the cost? Registration is \$450. One-day \$150. Online \$150 to most of event. Hotels \$185 +tx /night for 1-4 persons. Some scholarships available. **TRANSY WOMEN** – see below↓

▶▶▶ **SIX (6) SCHOLARSHIPS for Transylvania women (\$450 + some car expense) will be awarded at the APRIL 13, 2024 Transylvania PWP Spring Gathering @ 1<sup>st</sup> PC, Richmond.**

▶▶ **Applications** for Transy scholarships available from Emily Carroll, her contact [ecarroll1@roadrunner.com](mailto:ecarroll1@roadrunner.com)

▶ **DEADLINE applications due by MARCH 1, 2024 to Emily (above).**

→→ Contact Karen May, [karen@the2mays.net](mailto:karen@the2mays.net) or Emily (above) for more information!

And go to [www.presbyterianwomen.org/gathering](http://www.presbyterianwomen.org/gathering) for even more about this great opportunity!



**APPLICATION for the MARY SCOTT MOORE SCHOLARSHIP  
to the 2024 Presbyterian Women Churchwide Gathering  
August 8-11, 2024, St. Louis, MO**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street/PO Box, City, State, Zip)

**Cell phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Home phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Your Church** \_\_\_\_\_

**Church address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Church phone:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street/PO Box, City, State, Zip)

I plan to attend the PW Churchwide Gathering in St. Louis, Aug. 8-11, 2024

I understand this scholarship in the amount of \$450.00 per person is for registration and will be paid directly to the Churchwide Gathering by the PWP Treasurer.

I understand this scholarship will cover car transportation only if the driver of a carpool (a "carpool" consists of the driver plus at least two women CWG participants) submits the odometer mileage report to the PWP Treasurer, Emily Carroll, upon return from the Gathering. The reimbursement at the current IRS rate of \$0.655 will cover mileage from the hometown of the driver to St. Louis and back.

I understand that if I am unable to attend the Gathering, I will notify the PWP Treasurer *immediately*. Her information is: Emily Carroll, 931-216-0528, [ecarroll1@roadrunner.com](mailto:ecarroll1@roadrunner.com).

I agree to participate in the entire event.

I agree to share my experience at future Transylvania PW events, with women in my church, and other churches in my cluster. *[form revised 9/5/2023, ksm]*

*[Please check all items above]*

**SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE** \_\_\_\_\_

**► THIS SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY PERSON ENDORSING APPLICANT:**

*(may be PW Church Moderator, PW Cluster Leader, Pastor, or Church Elder)*

**Name of Person Endorsing Applicant:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Position/Title** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Church/City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Church Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Church Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**(Reasons for endorsement, including leadership potential and/or involvement in PW):**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to: ► PWP Treasurer, Emily Carroll, 409 Cheyenne Trail, Georgetown, KY 40324,  
by March 1, 2024. The drawing for scholarships  
will be held April 13, 2024 at the PWP Spring Gathering @ 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church, Richmond.**

*For use by PWP Cluster Leader and PWP Treasurer only:*

Date application received by Cluster Leader \_\_\_\_\_; Date received by Treasurer: \_\_\_\_\_.

Is scholarship awarded Y/N \_\_\_\_\_.

If scholarship is awarded, date registration check sent to PW CWG by Treasurer \_\_\_\_\_.

**GUIDELINES for Mary Scott Moore Scholarship to the  
2024 Presbyterian Women Churchwide Gathering (CWG)  
August 8-11, 2024, St. Louis, MO**

*By submitting my application to the CWG, I agree to the following guidelines:*

1. Mary Scott Moore scholarships are for any Presbyterian Woman\* in Transylvania Presbytery to attend this 2024 Churchwide Gathering. There is no age restriction. Applicants must fill in the application completely with her signature as well as the signature of the endorser. The application must be sent to the PWP\*\* Treasurer (Emily Carroll) by **March 1, 2024**.  
*\*a woman who is a member of or participates in a PC(U.S.A) church in Transylvania Presbytery.  
\*\*PWP →Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery [of Transylvania]*
2. Mary Scott Moore scholarships are for Churchwide Gathering registration fee only (\$450.00) and will be sent directly to the CWG.
3. Transportation reimbursement for Scholarship recipients and the PWP Coordinating Team: The driver of a carpool (*a carpool consists of the driver plus at least two women CWG participants*) may be reimbursed at the current IRS rate of \$0.655 per mile from her hometown to St. Louis and back. The driver must submit the odometer mileage report to the PWP Treasurer (Emily Carroll) upon return from the Gathering to be reimbursed.
4. The number of scholarships awarded for this Churchwide Gathering will be six (6). The PWP Coordinating Team will have a drawing to select the winners. The winners will be notified. Their names will be announced, and the scholarships awarded at the *Spring Gathering of Transylvania PW's on Saturday, April 13, 2024 at the First Presbyterian Church, Richmond*. The winners are encouraged to be present at the Spring Gathering for the commissioning service.
5. For information about the Churchwide Gathering go to the PW website:  
[presbyterianwomen.org/gathering](http://presbyterianwomen.org/gathering).

***This scholarship was established to honor the memory and the service of Mary Scott Moore, past PW Presbytery Moderator and longtime Coordinating Team member. Her participation in PW and mission work at her church (Maxwell St. PC, Lexington) in the Presbytery and beyond have set a challenging example for those of us who follow in her footsteps.***

*[form revised 9/5/2023, ksm]*

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