

IDLEWILD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

TW@I Session Minutes

August 20, 2025 5:15PM

The Session gathered at 5:15PM for dinner and fellowship. Rev. Powers opened the meeting with prayer. Quorum was determined. Following dinner, confirmands Margaret Colley, Beklin Johnson, and Lily Jane Robertson were introduced by their mentors Elizabeth Rouse, Frances Lawhead and Julie Markham. Margaret, Beklin and Lily Jane presented their faith statements. They were examined by the Session. A motion was made to accept them into the congregation, the motion passed unanimously. Confirmands, their families and mentors, departed the meeting. Rev. Powers led the Session in spiritual practice. Rev. Powers presented the agenda. Visitors Caroline Skees, Farley Ezekiel, Steve Turner, Elizabeth Zanca and Whitney Getman were recognized. A motion was made to give them voice, and the motion passed unanimously.

Margaret Apple mentioned the Stated Minutes from the June 18, 2025 Session meeting, the Called Session Minutes from July 20, 2025 and the July Statistical Report. Julie Nanny made a motion (second: T. Grimes) to accept the minutes, the motion passed unanimously. One Letter of Transfer for Dave Darnell was received, he is now living in Ocean Springs, MS. Tom Grimes made a motion (second: S. Jones) to dismiss Dave Darnell by Letter of Transfer to Ocean Springs Methodist Church, the motion passed unanimously. Margaret stated that Captain Charles Smith of the Salvation Army is conducting research on, and requesting Idlewild historical Session documents pertaining to, the life and ministry of Dr. Gipsy Smith, Jr. Dr. Smith was an evangelist who immigrated from the United Kingdom to the USA in 1906 and passed away on August 24, 1951. Captain Smith said he is specifically seeking additional documentation related to Dr. Smith Jr.'s visits to Idlewild on November 13, 1927; February 1933; and April 2-16, 1944. The specific Session documents were researched by Elizabeth Zanca and included in the Session Packet. Tom Grimes made a motion (second: S. Jones) to allow Captain Smith to use these Session documents for his research, the motion passed unanimously.

Rev. Gale reminded Session that Kick Off Sunday will be September 7, 2025. She invited all Elders to be present for the kick off of the programmatic year. Following the 11:00 o'clock worship service the Ministry Fair will take place in the gym. She encouraged all church leaders to be present. She reminded Elders that Adult Formation newsletters go out every Tuesday. She noted that the Presbytery of the Mid South is making a dedicated move toward becoming a

beloved community offering frank conversations about race and faith. Additionally the Presbytery has partnered with the Episcopal Diocese to bring Dr Catherine Meeks back to Memphis on September 24 through 26th where she is leading a spiritual pilgrimage retreat titled Wisdom Then and Now, from Embers to Fire. To close Rev. Gale mentioned that Jane Anderson was celebrating her 100th birthday. She passed around a card for Elders to sign.

Rev. Narcisse gave thanks for Rev. Courtney Veazey and Rev. Mary Gale for the way they worked together through Rev. Power's Sabbatical. He noted that staff devotional included meditating on the Psalms in July.

Rev. Powers gave thanks for the addition of Elizabeth Zanca to the staff. Elizabeth will be serving as Executive Assistant to Pastor and Head of Staff. Rev. Powers also gave thanks for his Sabbatical and the rest and revitalization he experienced.