

IDLEWILD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

TW@I Session Minutes
February 25, 2026 5:30PM Zoom

The Session gathered at 5:30PM by Zoom. Quorum was determined and Rev. Powers opened the meeting with prayer and led the Session in worship. Rev. Powers presented the agenda with the following edit: the addition of a request from Use of Facilities to be included before the Budget and Finance report. Ellis Haddad made a motion (second: T. Grimes) to approve the agenda with this edit. All were in favor. Rev. Powers recognized visitors Elizabeth Zanca and Tanjia Wilkerson, Anna McCrerey, Gib Wilson and John Lawrence, joining later in the meeting to give a report from the Sanctuary Committee. John Jones (second: O. Hansmeyer) made a motion to give visitors voice, all were in favor and the motion passed. Rev. Powers presented the consent agenda. Rev. Powers led the Session in spiritual practice and Elders participated in breakout groups.

Clerk of Session Margaret Apple noted the January Session Minutes from 1/21/26. She thanked John Jones, Stephanie Jones and Anne Bradley Thomas who will join her at the 3/3/26 Presbytery meeting in Huntingdon, TN. Margaret made a motion to approve the 2025 Statistical Report for Presbytery that was shared by email prior to the meeting. Rev. Powers called for a second (S. Jones) to approve the 2025 Statistical Report and all were in favor.

Rev. Gale reported robust attendance at the Lectio Divina Groups. The groups are combining scripture with art and images as they spend time in silence and contemplation listening for the work of the Spirit in their midst during this season of Lent. Rev. Gale mentioned that she and Rev. Powers will begin a Philippians class which will run the entire month of March. She encouraged Elders to join them. Rev. Gale stated that the Connections team of the Diaconate began gathering information about launching supper clubs for new members. Approximately 20 people have responded with interest, plans to launch this program are in progress.

Rev. Powers shared that he will be preaching through Easter and co-teaching a Philippians class with Rev. Gale. He reported that a summer sermon series is already mapped out. The plan, as last year, is to move to one worship service from Memorial Day to Labor Day, which staff and the congregation generally liked. This schedule supports a strong fall kickoff on the first Sunday after Labor Day. Rev. Powers reported that the search committee to hire a new organist has been meeting weekly or more with candidates. They are narrowing to finalists and planning to bring several candidates to Memphis for in-person interviews and organ bench time. Rev. Powers asked for prayers through March for wisdom, good conversations, and sustained energy to finish the search. Rev. Powers is preparing a State of the Church preview for the Cornerstone Society at his home and he thanked Elizabeth Zanca, Keith Cole, and Elizabeth Rouse for coordinating that

gathering. Rev. Powers mentioned that Ben Wilkins, Director of Outreach Ministry, has accepted a full-time position with Memphis River Parks Partnership and will be leaving his part-time role at Idlewild. He has agreed to continue 8–10 hours/week through the end of May to support continuity and transition. Personnel will restart a search committee, likely with many of the same members as before. Rev. Powers acknowledged Ben's strong addition to Idlewild, and appreciated him for ensuring a smooth transition for the next director.