

IDLEWILD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Stated Session Meeting Minutes

August 19, 2026 5:15PM Montgomery Hall

The Session gathered at 5:15PM in Montgomery Hall. Rev. Powers opened the meeting with prayer. Quorum was determined. Elders and visitors enjoyed dinner and fellowship, and gathered for worship. After worship, Rev. Powers presented the agenda, Tom Grimes made a motion (second: M. Redd) to approve the agenda. All were in favor.

Rev. Powers recognized visitors Elizabeth Zanca and Tanjia Wilkerson, and introduced Idlewild's new Director of Communications, Kimberly Morris. Tom Grimes (second: J. Hood) made a motion to give visitors voice, all were in favor and the motion passed. Rev. Powers presented the consent agenda.

REPORTS FROM CLERK, PASTORS, AND TREASURER

Clerk's Report

Stephanie Jones noted the minutes from the June Session meeting, New Member Meeting on 6/17/26 as well as the Called Congregational meeting on 8/9/26. One transfer of membership was reported, for Sunny Ross to Shady Grove Presbyterian Church, Memphis, Tennessee.

She also announced the semi-annual Presbytery Meeting, coming up on October 27 at LeMoyne-Owen College. Anne Bradley Thomas and Pat Neely indicated an interest in attending along with Stephanie.

Pastor's Reports

Rev. Gale

Rev. Gale shared that efforts are all very focused, with great excitement, on Kick-Off Sunday, September 13th, when the new Formation year programming begins. She also announced she has the honor of throwing the first pitch at the Memphis Redbirds baseball game on September 11th. The Gales will be traveling to drop their oldest daughter, Ainsley, at Agnes Scott College this weekend, and appreciate everyone's prayers around that trip and milestone.

Rev. Powers

Rev. Powers reported a recent planning meeting at ArtsMemphis to map out the coming fall and winter programming in ink instead of pencil. He announced that Idlewild is fully staffed with the hiring of Kimberly Morris as Director of Communications, and the Session introduced themselves to Kimberly.

Rev. Powers has been very pleased with the great worship attendance lately at the combined 10am service, and with the great numbers of members worshipping online.

He shared that the Presbyqueerians & Allies group has proposed that Idlewild explore joining the Covenant Network of Presbyterians, a national network that supports groups like our Presbyqueerians & Allies. We have been active in the network, and have hosted regional and national gatherings of the CNP in the past, but have not officially joined. A proposal for this action, which falls under the umbrella of Fellowship & Recreation, is in the works.

This Sunday, Rev. Powers will wrap up his I Pledge Allegiance sermon series, and the following Sunday, August 30th, we will welcome Dr. Catherine Meeks back to the pulpit.