

Summary of Administrative Commission – First Presbyterian Church, Bushnell, IL  
August 17, 2023

Submitted by Rev. Dr. René Whitaker, Chair

Stated Supply: Rev. Mark Merrill (ministry concluded July, 2023)

COM Rep.: Rev. Kay Daniel

Committee Members: Dean Bidney, Larry Lawson, Edwin Brinklow, Pam Moore

In March 2022, I was asked to be part of the Administrative Commission (AC) for FPB, Bushnell. Initially, we hoped to assist them in doing ministry with the Bushnell Methodist Church. This seems like a good possibility until the Methodist's General Meeting later that Spring which pointed the United Methodist denomination in the direction of division over whether LBGT persons could become ordained clergy. As this was developing we did meet with the Methodist pastor who was very supportive of this proposal. It became apparent by early Summer 2022 that this was not going to be a viable option.

In February, 2023, the area of authority for the Commission was expanded because it was reported that the Congregation had not been able to find people to serve as Elders. At their March, 2023 after a time of Fellowship and Visioning a Congregational Meeting was held and three Elders were elected to join the Session to make a Session of five Elders. They were subsequently installed at that same meeting.