The Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley

Proposed Docket / August 21, 2025

First Presbyterian Church, Birmingham, AL

*Please silence all cell phones and electronic devices*

9:00 AM Registration

9:30 Call to Order and Opening Prayer Moderator Jonathan Yarboro

Organization – Declaration of Quorum, Adoption of Docket, Seating of Corresponding Members, Welcome of First Time Commissioners, Welcome of Visitors, Requests for New Business to the Stated Clerk in writing by 11:00 AM

**Omnibus Motion:**

1. **To approve the minutes of the May 15, 2025 meeting**
2. **To approve the requests for absences from today’s meeting**
3. **To adopt an “Electronic Meetings Rule” for this meeting so that virtual attendees seeking recognition from the Chair be allowed to unmute themselves and call for the attention of the Moderator for recognition and obtaining the floor.**
4. **To accept the invitation to host meetings of the Presbytery: on November 20, 2025, at Edgewood Church; February 19, 2026, at First Presbyterian Church of Talladega. Hosts are needed for stated meetings of May 21 & August 20 & November 19, 2026.**

9: 45 Welcome from Host Church Terry Hamilton-Poore

**WE GATHER IN GOD’S NAME**

Prelude Great Is Thy Faithfulness arr. Pam Gervais

Dr. Hyesook Jung

Call to Worship Darryl Love

At sunrise, God calls us: a voice crying in the wilderness!

**“Make the roads straight for everyone,**

**and set your lives upright again!”**

At noon, God calls us,

“Step out of what is expected and prophesy!”

**“Let righteousness hound the ears of royalty,**

**and justice overturn the schemes of the greedy!”**

In the evening, God whispers to us

like a breeze that shimmers still water.

**“Love is the soil you were born from,**

**and mercy the breath of your life.”**

With righteousness and justice,

in love and mercy,

**Let us worship God.**

†Hymn 13 *The Mighty God with Powers Speaks*

†Time of Confession Darryl Love

We come before God not as despised sinners but as beloved children. With the confidence of children of God, let us confess our sin.

**Holy One, you made us your children and called us to serve you faithfully, yet we have forsaken you. We participate in unjust systems that oppress the poor, victimize the stranger, and devastate creation. We claim to follow your Son, yet we lavish praise on those who are rich in things but spiritually bankrupt. Forgive us, we pray.**

**Purify us, O God. Renew our commitment to your vision of transformative justice, that all may finally live in the true peace of your holy realm.**

*~Silent Confession~*

†Sung Confession 288 *Spirit of the Living God*

***Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.***

***Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.***

***Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me.***

***Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.***

†Assurance of Forgiveness Terry Hamilton-Poore

†Sung Response 582 *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me*

***Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,***

***and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,***

***and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.***

***As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.***

Prayer for Illumination Jothany James

**Gracious God, by whose Breath we live, send your Spirit to search us out! We are lost in the rant and cackle, in the sniping chatter and hateful bluster of these days. Our tongues are tied with anxiety and foreboding;**

**our breath is choked with outrage and sorrow; and our halls of justice swelter in the hot babble of prejudice, division, and fear. Send your fiery wind to kindle your Living Word in our hearts. Let our words and our lives burn, unquenchable, with your Joy, your Peace, and your Love,**

**so that all your children will hear and know the Powerful Intention**

**of your Grace. Amen**

First Reading Amos 7:7-15

This is the Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

Anthem My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

David Bryson, Jim Carnes, and Jim Toomey, Trio

Second Reading Mark 6:14-29

For the Word of God in Scripture,

for the Word of God among us,

for the Word of God within us,

**thanks be to God.**

Sermon “The Good News of Courage” Terry Hamilton-Poore

†Affirmation of Faith from “The Confession of 1967” Jothany James

The new life in Christ finds its direction in the life of Jesus, his deeds and words, his struggles against temptation, his compassion, his anger, and his willingness to suffer death.

**The teaching of apostles and prophets guides human beings in living this life, and the Christian community nurtures and equips them for their ministries.**

The members of the church are emissaries of peace and seek the good

of all in cooperation with powers and authorities in politics, culture, and economics.

**But they have to fight against pretensions and injustices when these same powers endanger human welfare. Their strength is in their confidence that God’s purpose, rather than human schemes, will finally prevail.**

Life in Christ is life eternal.

**The resurrection of Jesus is the sign that God will consummate the work of creation and reconciliation beyond death and bring to fulfillment the new life begun in Christ.**

Invitation to Generosity and Prayer of Dedication Carl Martin

**We give you thanks, O God, that you have set a plumb line in the midst of your people, showing us what is just and right. Use our gifts to strengthen your people in service and justice. Use our lives to make things right. Wake us from comfortable slumber that we may hear your people cry, and, in hearing, may respond with courage and compassion. All this we ask in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

Offertory *Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus* Helen H. Lemmel

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AI-generated content may be incorrect.(50% of the offering goes to CPM for candidates and 50% is used as a Presbytery discretionary fund for pastoral care. Mail checks to the Presbytery office or donate online at: <http://pslpcusa.org/online-giving-paypal> Please give generously.)

†Doxology 607 *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;***

***praise Christ, all creatures here below;***

***praise Holy Spirit evermore;***

***praise Tri-une God, whom we adore. Amen.***

Invitation to the Table Elizabeth Cole Goodrich

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving Terry Hamilton-Poore

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to God.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

The Lord’s Prayer (debts/debtors)

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

*Please come forward by the center aisle in two lines. Receive a piece of bread (the small dish on the plate holds gluten-free bread) and dip it into the cup before eating. If it is difficult for you to come forward, please hold up your hand and a server will come to you.*

Prayer after Communion

Hymn 307 *God of Grace and God of Glory*

*Please begin the singing seated, standing (and remaining standing) when we come to the verse that calls to you most strongly in these times.*

†Charge and Benediction

Postlude *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms* arr. Paul Johnson

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Liturgical sources: Call to Worship and Prayer for Illumination, and Invitation to the Table, Rick Shelton; Prayer of Confession, Terry Hamilton-Poore; Great Prayer of Thanksgiving, *The Book of Common Worship ©2018.*

Leading Worship:

Dr. Hyesook Jung, Director of Music, First Presbyterian Church, Birmingham

Darryl Love, Ruling Elder, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Birmingham

Jothany James, Ruling Elder, Southminster Presbyterian Church, Birmingham

Men’s Trio, First Presbyterian Church, Birmingham

Terry Hamilton-Poore, Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Birmingham

Carl Martin, Ruling Elder, First Presbyterian Church, Birmingham

Elizabeth Cole Goodrich, Minister Member at Large

Serving Communion: Ruling Elders Jothany James, Darryl Love, Jim Carnes and Jim Toomey

**Ministry Within Our Presbytery**

10:45 AM Greetings from Dr. Yolanda Page, President of Stillman College

11: 00 Enrichment Workshops (page 7)

1. Beverly Thorn, psychologist specializing in care for the care-giver (on Zoom & in sanctuary)
2. Cort Gatliff on Proverbs and Wisdom literature
3. Jay Wilkins on changes in our new Book of Order, 2025-2027, and implications for churches

12:00 PM Lunch

1: 00 Transition/Search Committee (page 8) Jane Clayton

1. **To approve the job description for the Stated Clerk.** (in the worship folder)
2. **Authorize Executive Council to approve the Ministry Discernment Profile.**

1: 15 Executive Council (pages 9-10) Deborah Thomas

1. Good News from our Churches & Matthew 25 Congregations:

First Presbyterian, Birmingham, and First Light Jonathan Yarboro

The Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley is a Matthew 25 Presbytery where:

We do hereby commit to become a Matthew 25 mid council. We pledge to encourage 20% or more of our congregations to become Matthew 25 churches and embrace these areas of focus: Building congregational vitality; Dismantling structural racism; Eradicating systemic poverty. We promise to keep track of the impact of our ministry and share our stories with the PC(USA) from time to time.

2. Anti Racism Committee (page 11) Tom Bryson and Debra Love

3. Response to Pine Hill Community tornado James Ephraim

1:30 General Presbyter's Report (pages 12-13) Sue Westfall

1:40 Commission on Ministry (pages 14-26) Carl Martin

* 1. Board of Pensions Summer Report (page 27) Keenan Rodgers

1. **Approve the Terms of Call for Pastors for 2025.** (Spreadsheet included in packet - pages 15-17)
2. **Examine John Schuler, Commissioned Ruling Elder/CP** (resume, faith statement, faith journey and letter from Presbytery of Florida in packet -pages 20-26) **and**
3. **welcome his move from Florida Presbytery to Sheppards and Lapsley and**
4. **approve him to serve in Validated Ministry as Co-Director of the CP Program Ministry with his spouse, Rev. Sharon Schuler (HR).**
5. Commission John and Sharon Schuler as Co-Directors of the CP Program.(pages 18-19)

2:00 Mission (page 28) Ralls Coston

Congo Mission Partnership & Network Conference Charles Nash

2:10 Main Event (page 29) Joe Genau

2:15 Finance Kevin Long

2:25 Nominating (page 30) Rick Atkerson

**The Committee nominates the following to fill new terms as indicated:**

**Commissioners to the 227th General Assembly, 2026**

**Rick Atkerson\***

**Joe Genau\***

**Darryl Love, Westminster, B’ham**

**Adrienne Royster, 1st United, B’ham**

**YAAD - TBD**

**Alternate:**

**April Lane, Grace**

**Robert Posey, IPC**

**Board of Directors, PHFC**

**Class of 2028**

**Brittany Dennis-Hancock, 1st Auburn**

**Joe Rives, Southminster**

2:35 Living River (pages 31-34) Jenny Thagard

2:40 Presbyterian Home for Children (pages 35-40) Suzanne Cornett

2:45 Stated Clerk (pages 41-44) Jay Wilkins

Unfinished Business

**Approve Proposed Amendments to PS&L Standing Rules** (page 43)

New Business from Bills & Overtures

3:00 PM Adjournment with Prayer Moderator Jonathan Yarboro

†Please stand, if able

**After the meeting, please turn in your hanging name badge.**

We wish to extend a thank you to Rev. Terry Hamilton-Poore, the staff, and the volunteers of First Presbyterian Church for hosting the Presbytery meeting today.  We would also like to thank Dr. Hyesook Jung, Director of Music; Ruling Elders: Darryl Love, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Birmingham, Carl Martin, First Presbyterian Church, Birmingham, Jim Carnes, First Presbyterian Church, Birmingham and Jim Toomey, First Presbyterian Church, Birmingham; Men’s Trio, First Presbyterian Church, Birmingham and Rev. Elizabeth Goodrich for participating in today’s worship service.

**Next Stated Meeting – November 20, 2025**

**Edgewood Presbyterian Church, Birmingham, AL**