

PRESBYTERY OF SHEPPARDS AND LAPSLEY

*partner with and equip present and emerging
PC(USA) faith communities in central Alabama
to serve Christ and our neighbors*



**Fall Stated Meeting
November 20, 2025**

**Edgewood Presbyterian Church
Birmingham, AL**

Please silence all cell phones and electronic devices

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	

- 1. To approve the minutes of the August 21, 2025 stated meeting, and of the October 3, 2025 called 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. Approval of the former Permanent Judicial Commission members to serve if needed, to make a quorum: Lee Cleveland, Debbie Feagin, Mike Mastin, Mary Porter, Lucy Turner, Janelle Ahnert, Charlie Durham.**
- 5. 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	Joe Genau
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WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

Prelude	Of the Father's Love Begotten	Michael Larkin
	Amanda Klimko	

Call to Worship Mary Clyde Teague

O Wisdom, coming forth from the mouth of the Most High,
pervading and permeating all creation,
you order all things with strength and gentleness:
Come now and teach us the way to salvation.
Come, Lord Jesus.
O Adonai, Ruler of the house of Israel,

you appeared in the burning bush to Moses
and gave him the law on Sinai:

Come with outstretched arm to save us.

Come, Lord Jesus

God of grace,
ever faithful to your promises,
the earth rejoices in hope of our Savior's coming
and looks forward with longing to his return at the end of time.

**Prepare our hearts to receive him when he comes,
for he is Lord forever and ever.**

†Hymn 307

God of Grace and God of Glory

†Time of Confession

Deborah Thomas

We have come here with burdens too great to bear alone. We have come seeking authenticity and honesty and to join in the redemption of a world filled with brokenness and fear. To live as part of that redeeming work, we stand boldly before our God and humbly tell the truth — because we know our God is filled with grace and love.

With the confidence of children of God, let us confess our sin:

**Great God, so often we fail to recognize you,
yet you abide with us.**

And so we thank you for your presence—

**when we have known it and when we have not,
when we recognized you and when we did not.**

**Grant us the wisdom and the expectancy
to see you showing up in our lives,
in our homes, our schools, our work,
in our relationships, our celebrations, our sorrows.**

**Continue showing up, O God, until we understand—
that you are the God who is with us and who goes before us,
the God who meets us here in worship,
the God to whom we open our hearts in silence...**

~Silent Confession~

†Assurance of Forgiveness

Joe Genau

Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven, and restored to new life!

†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.

World without end, without end. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.

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

Prayer for Illumination

Jay Wilkins

First Reading

Isaiah 2:1-5

This is the Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 24:36-44

El Evangelio del Señor.
Te alabamos, Cristo Señor.

Sermon

"Awake"

Joe Genau

Anthems

The Stillman College Choir

Witness

arr. Jack Halloran

Soon Ah Will Be Done

arr. William L. Dawson

Even Me

arr. Patrick Lundy

Words of Gratitude

Terry Hamilton-Poore
James Ephraim
Michael Bailey

Invitation to Generosity and Prayer of Dedication

Mary Clyde Teague

Offertory

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

Michael Larkin

(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

Sue Westfall and Joe Genau

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

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

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Please come forward by the center aisle in two lines. Tear a piece of bread and dip it into the cup before partaking of the elements as you return to your seat via the side aisle. The gluten-free station will be to the far right.

If it is difficult for you to come forward, please hold up your hand and a server will come to you.

Communion Music

Be Thou My Vision

Michael Larkin

Prayer after Communion

†Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Liturgical sources: Call to Worship, *The Book of Common Worship* ©2018

Leading Worship:

Amanda Klimko, Director of Music, Edgewood Presbyterian Church, Birmingham

Michael Bailey, Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Tuscaloosa

Mary Clyde Teague, Ruling Elder, Edgewood Presbyterian Church, Birmingham

Jay Wilkins, Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley

Joe Genau, Pastor, Edgewood Presbyterian Church, Birmingham

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

James Ephraim, Minister Member at Large

Sue Westfall, General Presbyter of the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley

The Stillman College Choir, Jocqueline K. Richardson, Director of Choral Activities

Serving Communion: Ruling Elders Jessica Germany and Alice Morgan

Honoring the life and ministry of the Rev. Joseph Slane

Nick Reed

MINISTRY WITHIN OUR PRESBYTERY

11:00 Executive Council (pages 7-8)

Deborah Thomas

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.

11:30 Transition Search Committee (page 9)

Jane Clayton

12:00 PM Lunch

1:00 General Presbyter's Report (pages 10-11)

Sue Westfall

1:15 Commission on Preparation for Ministry (page 12)

Nicole Newton

The CPM requests approval of the following individuals to serve as ordination exam graders in 2026: Teaching Elder - Emily Frandsen, Ruling Elder - Jeff Johnson, Alternate (Ruling Elder) - Lee Walthall

Action Items:

1. **Approve the Terms of Call for Rev. Cort Gatliff (included in packet).**
2. **Approve Change in the Terms of Call for Rev. Abby Gatliff from full time to part time (included in packet).**
3. **With great regret that the changes in the Board of Pensions has increased the burden on small churches, approve Change in the Terms of Call for Rev. Young Kim from Installed to Stated Pastor.**
4. **With grateful acknowledgement for their service to our presbytery and prayers for a fruitful retirement, approve the designation Honorably Retired for:**
 - a. **The Reverend Rick Atkerson effective January 1, 2026, to be honored at our February 2026 Presbytery meeting.**
 - b. **The Reverend Sue Westfall effective February 1, 2026, to be honored at our November 2025 Presbytery meeting.**

1: 30	Congo Mission Partnership & Network Conference Report Mission Coordinator (page 18)	Charles Nash Ralls Coston
1: 40	Finance Committee (page 19) 1. Approve the 2026 budget for the Presbytery (pages 20-23)	Wendy Tucker
1: 50	Nominating (pages 26-27) 1. The Committee nominates the following people (pages 26-27 and addendum in worship folder) to fill new and unexpired terms as indicated in the packet 2. Election of Nominations and Representation (Class of 2028): Judith Baldwin – Ruling Elder / Westminster Tuskegee Caryl Privett – Ruling Elder / Independent Presbyterian Church Jonathan Yarboro – Teaching Elder / First Wetumpka Caroline Kelly – Teaching Elder / Grace Tuscaloosa Moderator for 2026	Rick Atkerson Moderator Jonathan Yarboro
2: 00	Trustees (see written report on page 32)	Lant Davis
2: 02	Presbyterian Women: Julianne Tharp of Mission Haven (page 33)	Kathy Tracey
2: 07	Presbyterian Home for Children (pages 34-39)	Doug Marshall
2: 12	Living River	Jenny Thagard
2: 17	Stated Clerk (pages 40-45) Administrative Commission Reports:	Jay Wilkins

When an AC is approved by the Presbytery, the AC reports to the Presbytery through the Stated Clerk since the AC are commissions of the Presbytery. Our Presbytery policy calls for ACs to report at each meeting of the Presbytery:

“The Legacy Fund for Enduring Witness” (page 44)

Joe Genau

FOR ACTION:

1. The LFEW Commission recommends the following motion:

That the Commission for the Legacy Fund for Enduring Witness be composed of five members (two or three ruling elders and two or three teaching elders), with one member coming from Executive Council and one member coming from COM.

Providence (page 45)

Jonathan Yarboro

Elizabeth Deibert of Presbyterian Association of Musicians

Five Mile

1. Committee on Representation

Approve Committee on Representation report (page 28-31)

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 special thank you to Rev. Joe Genau, the staff, and the volunteers of Edgewood Presbyterian Church for hosting the Presbytery meeting today. We would also like to thank Amanda Klimko, Michael Bailey, Mary Clyde Teague, Jay Wilkins, Terry Hamilton-Poore, Sue Westfall, Jessica Germany, Alice Morgan, and The Stillman College Choir, Jocqueline K. Richardson, Director of Choral Activities for participating in today's worship service.

**Next Stated Meeting – February 19, 2026
First Presbyterian Church, Talladega, AL**

Committee on Nominating and Representation
Report to PSL Stated Meeting - November 20, 2025 - ADDENDUM

For action:

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

Commission on Ministry - deNay Kirkpatrick, CRE, Moderator for 2026
Class of 2028:

(RE TBD)
(RE TBD)

Anti-Racism Committee - TBD / TBD - Co-Moderators for 2026

Class of 2026 (unexpired):
Laura Chapman, South Highland

Class of 2028:

(RE/Member TBD)
(RE/Member TBD)

Trustees - Lant Davis* - Moderator for 2026
Class of 2028:

(RE TBD)

Permanent Judicial Commission - TBD - Moderator
Class of 2031 (6-year-term):

Kevin Patton, Edgewood

Respectfully submitted,
Rick Atkerson
Moderator

For information:

If you are interested in any position, or wish to recommend someone, please contact any member of the Committee on Nominating and Representation:

Class of 2025
Debra Love
Jenny Thagard
Rick Atkerson*

Class of 2026
Madison Roberts*
Kathy Tracey
Lee Walthall

Class of 2027
Caroline Kelly*
Jim Holland
Ron Parsons