

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*



**Summer Stated Meeting
August 20, 2026**

**First Presbyterian Church
Tuscaloosa, AL**

THE PRESBYTERY OF SHEPPARDS AND LAPSLEY
PROPOSED DOCKET / AUGUST 20, 2026
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, TUSCALOOSA, AL

Please silence all cell phones and electronic devices

9:00 AM Registration

9:30 AM Call to Order and Opening Prayer

Vice Moderator Jothany James

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 21, 2026 stated 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 give voice to all ministers from other denominations currently serving a member congregation or ministry in a pastoral capacity;
5. To accept the invitation of Independent Presbyterian Church of Birmingham to host the meeting of the Presbytery on November 19.

A Note About How Commissioners Participating Online May Address the Body: At this stated meeting the stated clerk will be monitoring the electronic meeting for those wishing to address the body. The stated clerk will indicate to the Moderator that there is a commissioner participating online who wishes to speak, and then turn on the microphone for the online participants. In case of technical difficulties, the commissioner may need to type their remarks into the chat, and the stated clerk will read them to the body gathered in person.

9:45 AM Welcome from Host Church

The Rev. Michael Bailey

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

9:50 AM Chiming of the Hour

Mr. Jason Pedeaux

†Call to Worship

Rev. Lou Ann Sellers

Leader: When the day of Pentecost had come, the disciples were all together in one place.

People: And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.

Leader: Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them.

People: All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Leader: At this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked,

Women: "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?
Men: And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language?
Leader: But Peter raised his voice and addressed them,
 "In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
Alabama: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
Auburn: and your young ones shall see visions,
Other: and your old ones shall dream dreams.
Leader: Even upon my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy.
ALL: Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."
 Let us worship God! Acts 2

†Hymn 305 Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!

†Prayer of the Day Elder Tony Hubbard

†Prayer of Confession Elder Ellen Potts

Almighty God, you poured your Holy Spirit upon gathered disciples creating bold tongues, perceptive ears, soft hearts and a new community of faith open to all. We confess that we seek to contain the power of your Spirit among us. We seek to bridle unfamiliar words, silence dissenting voices and conform all differences. Have mercy on us, O God. Forgive us our sin. Reform us by the power of your liberating Spirit. Then send us on our way rejoicing.
(A pause for silent individual confession follows.)

†Assurance of Pardon

†Gloria Patri Hymn 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.

†Passing of the Peace Elder Ellen Potts

The Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer for Illumination 288 Spirit of the Living God

SUNG BY THE CONGREGATION:

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. Amen.

Scripture Numbers 11:24-30 Dr. Yolanda Page

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon A Little Pentecost Rev. Michael R. Bailey

†Hymn 287

Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading

Offering

Rev. Emily Frandsen

Offertory

Have You Not Known?

K. Lee Scott

(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.)



The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Rev. Emily Frandsen

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The Lord's Prayer

The Words of Institution

Rev. Lou Ann Sellers

The Communion of the People

When the ushers indicate, you are invited to come forward by way of the center aisle, take a piece of the bread, dip it into the cup and then partake. You are asked to return to your seat by way of the outside aisles. If you are unable to come forward, please signal to one of the ushers, and communion will be brought to you. Gluten-free elements will be available at the Baptismal font.

Prayer After Communion

Rev. Lou Ann Sellers

†Sending Hymn 379 We Shall Overcome

†Charge and Benediction

Rev. Michael R. Bailey

MINISTRY WITHIN OUR PRESBYTERY

11:00 AM Stillman President

Dr. Yolanda W. Page

11:15 AM Anti-Racism Enrichment (pages 8-9)

12:15 PM Lunch

1:15 PM Commission on Ministry (pages 10-16)

Nick Reed

1. **Dissolve the relationship between Rev. Joe Scrivner and Brown Memorial Presbyterian Church and dismiss Rev. Scrivner to Hudson River Presbytery.**
2. **Approve there be no changes this year to the 2026 Minimum Terms of Call (keep the terms the same as 2025).**
3. **Examine elder Sharon Stewart and commission her to serve as commissioned ruling elder at Carbon Hill Presbyterian Church. (pages 11-14)**

4. Approve the 2026 Minister Terms of Call Report for Installed Pastors (pages 15-16)

- 1:30 PM Living River “Good News” Moment Rachel Mathews
- 1:35 PM Executive Council (page 17-19) Jonathan Yarboro
The Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley is a Matthew 25 Presbytery. We pledge to encourage our mid council and congregational ministries to embrace the following areas of focus:
- *Building congregational vitality; Dismantling structural racism; Eradicating systemic poverty.*
 - *We further pledge to keep track of the impact of these ministries and share our stories with one another and throughout the denomination.*
- 1:40 PM GA Commissioners Report (pages 20-22)
Rick Atkerson, Joe Genau, Darryl Love, Adrienne Royster and YAAD McClain Robinson
- 2:10 PM Living Waters for the World presentation Elder Bill Barret, First-Eufaula
- 2:20 PM Board of Pensions (page 23) Keenan Rodgers
- 2:30 PM The Legacy Fund for Enduring Witness (page 24) Joe Genau
- 2:33 PM General Presbyter’s “Good News” Moment (page 25) Mark McCormick
- 2:40 PM “Good News” Moment Mission Coordinator (page 26) Ralls Coston
- 2:45 PM Presbyterian Home for Children “Good News” Moment (pages 27-30) Doug Marshall
- 2: 48 PM Stated Clerk (pages 31-33) Marilyn McKelvey Tucker-Marek
1. Polity Training for Commissioned Pastors, non-PCUSA pastors serving congregations in the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley, and clerks of session.
 2. No Reports from Administrative Commissions.
 3. There is no new business from Bills & Overtures.
 4. Announcements for the Good of the Whole.
- 3:00 PM Adjournment with Prayer Vice-Moderator Jothany James

†Please stand, if able

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

We wish to extend a special thank you to Rev. Michael Bailey, the staff, and the volunteers of First Presbyterian Church, Tuscaloosa for hosting the Presbytery meeting today. We would also like to thank Rev. Lou Ann Sellers, Elder Tony Hubbard, Elder Ellen Potts, Dr. Yolanda Page, Rev. Emily Frandsen and First Presbyterian’s organist Mr. Jason Pedeaux and Choir director Ms. Marjorie Johnston for participating in today’s worship service.

**Next Stated Meeting – November 19, 2026
Independent Presbyterian Church, Birmingham, AL**

**SERVICE FOR COMMISSIONING OF
COMMISSIONED PASTORS
SHARON STEWART**

MODERATOR: We, who are many, are one body in Christ,

PEOPLE: and individually we are members one of another.

MODERATOR: We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness. (Romans 12:5-8)

PEOPLE: Lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as we were called to the one hope of our calling. One Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. (Ephesians 4:1-6)

MODERATOR: Upon recommendation of the Commission on Ministry, the Presbytery has approved Sharon Stewart for commissioning as Commissioned Pastor within the Presbytery as requested (Moderator asks the required Constitutional questions.)

MODERATOR: Prayer

PEOPLE: God of grace, in baptism you have called us to a common Ministry as ambassadors of Christ, trusting us with the message of reconciliation. Give us courage and discipline to follow where your servants rightly lead us, that together we may declare your wonderful deeds and show your love to the world; through Jesus Christ the Lord of all.

MODERATOR: On behalf of the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley, I welcome you to this ministry. May God's Holy Spirit empower you in the Ministry of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.