

Presbytery of
Sheppards and Lapsley
COMMISSIONER PACKET



Summer Stated Meeting
August 20, 2026

*First Presbyterian Church
900 Greensboro Avenue
Tuscaloosa, AL 35401
205-752-3531*

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR THE UPCOMING AUGUST PRESBYTERY MEETING

This Presbytery meeting will be a Hybrid meeting (in person/zoom) at First Presbyterian Church, Tuscaloosa, AL. **We strongly encourage you to attend in person. It is our intent to provide a hybrid meeting through zoom. We cannot guarantee internet access but, we do expect it to work.**

Below are important details regarding registration link, zoom link for the Presbytery meeting and packet link.

Information for ALL Presbytery meeting participants

Presbytery Registration (No later than Friday, August 14, 2026)

Please use the link below to register for the meeting. It is very important that you register by August 14, no later than noon. This is so we can get an accurate number for a quorum, lunch reservations and so that admission from the waiting room goes smoothly.

<https://forms.gle/GWdQghHfo257GjJfA>

Packet Link

Ministers and Commissioners, please download and read the presbytery packet before the meeting. Click the following link for the packet: <http://pslpcusa.org/meetings/>

Scroll to the bottom of the page and click the links for the packet and the previous meeting minutes.

A Worship folder will be sent out the day before the meeting.

Information for Zoom participants only

Presbytery meeting Zoom link - We strongly encourage you to attend in person.

For the day of Presbytery, August 20th beginning at 9:00 AM (see link below) The actual meeting will begin at 9:30 AM. (As you enter, you will start in the "waiting room." Please be patient - you'll be brought into the main room as soon as possible.)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84994671906?pwd=3fBt3qDUMk4H4xJcntZMMFR34gZTvb.1>

Meeting ID: 849 9467 1906

Passcode: 186977

You may also join us via telephone call. To call in, dial - 1 312 626 6799

In person participants – please review pages 2-3

ATTENDING A PRESBYTERY MEETING

As a Commissioner to the Presbytery, we welcome you! When you arrive, there will be a registration area for those that did not register online. **(Please fill out a registration card even though you registered online)** Worship folders and nametags will be available for pickup.

The meeting time of Presbytery is 9:30 AM until 3:00 PM., with registration beginning at 9:00 a.m. All the business of the Presbytery is contained in this packet.

The packet will detail items that you, as a commissioner, will need to take action upon and items for your information. Some items will have discussion, and some items will be contained within an omnibus motion. All items in the omnibus motion are voted on at one time, during the Clerk's report. As a commissioner, if you desire to ask a question or debate any item you need to stand at the time of the motion's presentation and request that item be extracted. The item will then be removed and voted upon separately. Information items come from various committees and entities of the Presbytery that wish to inform you of things they are working on or committee actions they are empowered to take.

On the day of the meeting, a worship folder will be distributed. This worship folder will contain, in order, all the items that will be presented to the commissioners. The difference between the packet and the worship folder is that the worship folder will not have supplemental material, such as faith statements, addendum and resource items. The packet and worship folder are meant to go hand in hand to help you with the flow and business of the meeting.

Please read the introductory items in the packet. These items contain information about parking, directions to the meeting, how to make motions if you wish, and information on parliamentary process.

The meetings of Presbytery have been designed to provide opportunities for the community to worship and discuss issues together, as well as do the business that is before it for consideration.

Again, welcome!

GUIDELINES FOR PARTICIPATING IN PRESBYTERY MEETINGS

1. When speaking at Presbytery, please address the Moderator and not the body. (Zoom: Raise your hand)
2. Introduce yourself, by stating your name, church and role.
3. Our rules are that each speaker during debate has up to two minutes to address the issue to which they are speaking. The Moderator may give a 30-second warning, so that you may conclude your remarks.
4. Only enrolled commissioners are authorized to vote on issues. Corresponding members are entitled to address the Presbytery.
5. Any motion made from the floor (be it a new motion, a substitute motion or an amended motion) must be given to the Stated Clerk in writing, at the time the motion is made. (Zoom: Through Chat room)
6. Any new business must be placed in the hands of the Stated Clerk, **before** the approval of the docket. (Zoom: through the chat room by 11:00 AM)

SAVE THE DATES FOR 2026 PRESBYTERY MEETINGS

November 19 Independent Presbyterian Church, Birmingham 9:30 AM – 3:00 PM

GENERAL NOTES FOR THIS MEETING

1. The offering for this meeting will go to the **Commission on Preparation for Ministry's scholarship fund and the Presbytery Pastoral Care fund**. Please make checks payable to *Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley* or you may use the QR code to the right. Please indicate your donation as "Presbytery offering".
2. Requests for an **excused absence** from today's meeting should be addressed to the Stated Clerk, Marilyn McKelvey Tucker-Marek at statedclerk@pslpcusa.org or 205-978-0320, ext. 305.
3. Please contact Tammy Strickland at tstrickland@pslpcusa.org by Friday, August 14, 2025 to reserve **display space (tables) for this meeting**.



Scan. Pay. Go.

Please turn in your hanging name badge when the meeting is concluded.

STAY CONNECTED

If you would like to receive the Presbytery newsletter, please contact Tammy at tstrickland@pslpcusa.org. For more information about the Presbytery, please visit our website at <http://www.pslpcusa.org>.

LUNCH

First Presbyterian Church is graciously preparing lunch (\$15) for attendees of this meeting (**cash or check only**). Please purchase tickets during registration. Make checks for lunch payable to **First Presbyterian Church, Tuscaloosa**.

Directions to First Presbyterian Church, Tuscaloosa

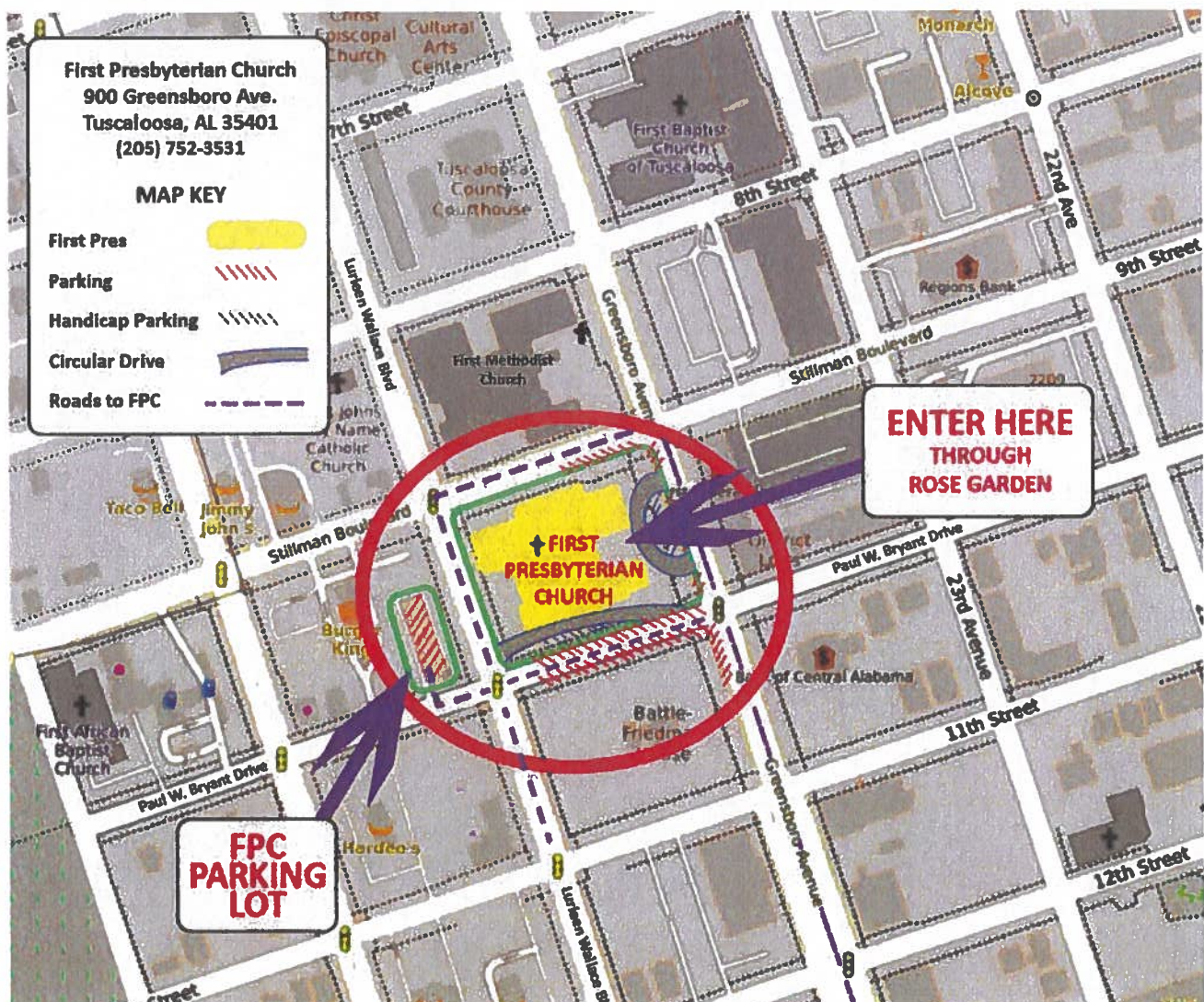
900 Greensboro Avenue, Tuscaloosa, AL 35401

We suggest parking in FPC's lot across Lurleen Wallace Blvd. from the church.

Enter through the Rose Garden on Greensboro Avenue.

For Parking:

- FPC's parking lot is at the corner of Paul W. Bryant Drive and Lurleen Wallace Blvd N. (next to Burger King). It will be on your left and the church on your right as you approach downtown Tuscaloosa on I-359N/Lurleen Wallace Blvd N. Turn **Left onto Paul W. Bryant Drive**, and then Turn Right into the parking lot.
- There is limited parking available along Paul W. Bryant Drive, Stillman Blvd, and Greensboro Avenue, all of which surround the church. **Warning:** Parking next to the church is free and unlimited. Parking on Greensboro across from the church is limited to two hours and strictly enforced.
- There is handicapped access to the building using the semi-circular drives on Paul W. Bryant and Greensboro Avenue.



From I-20/59:

- Take Exit 71B to merge onto I-359N for approximately 2 miles
- I-359N turns into Lurleen Wallace Blvd. N. and remains a one-way street
- **For the parking lot, Turn Left at Paul W. Bryant Drive (10th Street) and immediately Turn Right into the parking lot**
- For other parking or to reach the entrance to the church, Turn Right onto Stillman Boulevard (9th Street)
- At the end of the block, Turn Right onto Greensboro Avenue and the church is on your right

Using Hwy 82W from Montgomery:

- After passing through Duncanville, Turn Left onto Old Montgomery Hwy/State Hwy 215N at the Coca-Cola Bottling Plant.
- Continue on Greensboro for approximately 5 miles.
- 215N turns into Greensboro Avenue after you cross over Skyland Boulevard
- First Presbyterian will be on your left between Paul W. Bryant Drive (10th Street) and Stillman Blvd (9th Street)
- **For the parking lot, Turn Left onto Paul W. Bryant Drive (10th Street). Cross over Lurleen Wallace Blvd N. and Turn Right into the parking lot**

Using McFarland Blvd/Hwy 82W if already in Tuscaloosa:

- Turn Left onto 15th Street and travel for 2.2 miles
- Turn Right onto Greensboro Ave. and travel .4 miles
- First Presbyterian will be on your left between Paul W. Bryant Drive (10th St.) and Stillman Blvd (9th St.)
- **For the parking lot, Turn Left onto Paul W. Bryant Drive (10th Street). Cross over Lurleen Wallace Blvd N. and Turn Right into the parking lot**

* For assistance, call the First Presbyterian Church Office at (205) 752-3531.

Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley

Proposed Presbytery Meeting Docket

August 20, 2026

Hosted by First Presbyterian Church, Tuscaloosa, AL

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

9:50 AM Service of Worship and Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Sermon – Rev. Michael Bailey

11:00 AM Stillman President

Dr. Yolanda W. Page

11:15 AM Anti-Racism Enrichment

12:15 AM Lunch

1:15 PM Commission on Ministry

Nick Reed

Commissioning of Sharon Stewart, CP

- 1:30 PM Living River “Good News” Moment Rachel Mathews
- 1:35 PM Executive Council 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
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 Keenan Rodgers
- 2:30 PM The Legacy Fund for Enduring Witness Joe Genau
- 2:33 PM General Presbyter's “Good News” Moment Mark McCormick
- 2:40 PM “Good News” Moment Mission Coordinator Ralls Coston
- 2:45 PM Presbyterian Home for Children “Good News” Moment Doug Marshall
- 2: 48 PM Stated Clerk 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



COMMITTEE REPORT: ANTI-RACISM COMMITTEE PRESBYTERY OF SHEPPARDS AND LAPSLEY

August 2026

Having convened in three work sessions and two committee meetings since the Presbytery Meeting in May 2026, the Anti-Racism Committee has confirmed strategic goals that will direct the committee's work over the calendar year. The goals are aligned with emphases on continuing education, partnerships, allocation of funds for reparative justice (Legacy Fund for Enduring Witness), position statements for approval by the Presbytery, and frameworks for the assessment of action items.

In alignment with the goals for continuing education, the Executive Council has approved an enrichment session to be facilitated by the Anti-racism Committee during the August Presbytery Meeting.

The enrichment session is open to all Presbyters and will incorporate the following agenda items.

- Overview of the General Assembly Report from the Special Committee on the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and Race
- Alignment of the Following Documents:
 - Recommendations Cited in the Report from the Special Committee on the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and Race
 - Mission Statement for Presbyterian Life and Witness
 - Mission Statement for the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley's Anti-racism Committee
- Video Presentation of the Civil Rights Movement in Tuscaloosa (Bloody Tuesday)
- Panelists/Presenters/Speakers: Civil Rights Movement in Tuscaloosa
- Reflection Questions for Further Study
- Closing Prayer

In addition to this report, the Anti-racism Committee is providing a flyer announcing the play, *Buried Voices*, that will be presented in Birmingham, Alabama over August 15-16, 2026. Melanie van Batten Jeffcoat wrote the world premiere staged reading, *Buried Voices*, that spotlights voting rights stories never told. Members of the Presbytery are encouraged to attend the play.

Lou Ann Sellers and Deborah C. Thomas, Co-moderators



The Montgomery Advertiser.
VOLUME 1886
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA, THURSDAY, AUGUST 15, 1901
**THE CITIZENS OF ALABAMA DECLARE FOR
WHITE SUPREMACY AND PURITY OF BALLOT**
The Putrid Sore of Negro Suffrage Is Severed From the Body
Politie of the Commonwealth.



BURIED VOICES

The Most Inspiring Voting Rights Story Never Told

A new play by Melanie van Betten Jeffcoat

A WORLD PREMIERE STAGED READING

Saturday August 15th and Sunday August 16th at 6:30

Each followed by panel discussions on voting rights in America

John Archibald
Two-time Pulitzer
Prize Winning
Journalist



Senator Merika Coleman
District 19
Alabama



John Paul Taylor
Advancement
Project
Washington, D.C.



Faya Rose Touré
Voting Rights
Museum and
Institute in Selma



Melanie van
Betten Jeffcoat
Playwright

Terrific New Theatre

2112 5th Avenue North Birmingham, AL

*TICKETS: www.terrificnewtheatre.com

*All proceeds benefit the
Alabama African American Civil Rights
Heritage Sites Consortium

POLL TAX
For the Year

Committee: Commission on Ministry

Committee Chair(s) and members with class:

Moderator: The Reverend Nick Reed

Members:

Class of 2026

Baldwin, Judith
Feagin, Debbi
Hanna, Richard B
Kirkpatrick, deNay
Miller, Georgia
Winter, Rachel

Class of 2027

Cleveland, Lee
Gatliff, Abby
Haynes, Ernie
Kim, Young
Sellers, Lou Ann
Shaw, Stephen
Watson, Rush

Class of 2028

Fritsma, Margaret
James, Frank
Love, Darryl
Mathews, Rachel Vankirk
Reed, Nick
Roberts, Madison

Meeting date(s) since last stated Presbytery Meeting: June 9, July 14, July 24 (electronic meeting)

Summary of Subjects discussed and/or Actions Taken:

1. Held an exit interview with Rev. Joe Scrivner.
2. Approved the term Stated Supply Pastor to include commissioned pastors and any non-called installed pastors.
3. Approved Rev. James Sutton as Westminster's stated supply pastor.
4. Approved Marilyn Tucker-Marek to lead Stated Supply Pastor Training in the fall.
5. Accepted deNay Kirkpatrick's request to relinquish her role as Co-Moderator of COM. She will continue to serve on the Commission as a member.
6. Approved Montevallo Presbyterian Church's Transitional Pastor Agreement.

Actions Items to be presented for Presbytery Approval:

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.
4. Approve the 2026 Minister Terms of Call Report for Installed Pastors (see attachment)

Sharon Johnson Stewart

I spent the first 55 years of my life in North Carolina where I was born, educated, worked (and retired), and reared my two children. My mother, son, daughter-in-law, and two grandsons still live there. My daughter and her husband live in Decatur, Georgia. I have two “bonus” sons who live here in Alabama.

I describe my faith journey as Quaker-Metha-terian. As a young child, I attended a Society of Friends (Quaker) Meeting with my grandmother. As a pre-teen and teenager, I attended a United Methodist church where my organ teacher was the organist. While there I sang in the choir and played the organ on occasion. After college, when I began dating my first husband I began attending First Presbyterian Church, Norwood, NC with him. I joined the church by baptism in 1988, became a Deacon in 1995, and was ordained as an Elder in 1996. During my 30+ years at Norwood FPC, I served in a variety of roles including: choir, handbell choir member and director, musician, youth Sunday school teacher, Sunday school director, youth choir director, Presbyterian Women, deacon, elder, grant writer, newsletter producer, church Facebook page administrator, mission liaison, sabbatical congregational activity coordinator, liturgist, and confirmation mentor.

After two years of dating long distance. in November, 2017, I moved to Alabama, started a new job, and got remarried. My husband, Scott, resigned from his position as the pastor of a Southern Baptist church rather than have any controversy or division within his congregation over his remarriage. The first Sunday after we were married, he asked me if I would like to go to Carbon Hill First Presbyterian Church, the only PC(USA) church in our county. I know this was an attempt to make me feel more at home in my new home. The church was welcoming and loving. We visited a different church the next week and then were traveling for a couple of weeks. When the time came to decide where to go to church the next Sunday we were in town, we both felt drawn back to Carbon Hill First.

In early 2018, as part of our conversations about where we wanted to worship, there was much discussion about theology, liturgy, and worship styles. Even though I have been a member of a PC(USA) congregation for 30 years and was an active elder when I moved, I found that there were questions that I could not adequately answer and explanations about why we believed or did things a particular way in the PC(USA) that I could not articulate clearly. Carbon Hill FPC was without a minister so we didn't have that resource to call upon. Being a librarian by vocation and after learning about CRE/CLP through the presbytery, I began to research the Certificate in Congregational Leadership program at the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary and it spoke to me. I wanted to use this program to deepen my knowledge of The Bible and grow in my Christian faith. I completed this program and received my certificate in May, 2020.

Carbon Hill FPC was without a pastor and Scott a pastor without a pulpit so, it wasn't long until he was asked to preach, which he has done at Carbon Hill FPC off and on since. In December,

2019, Scott and I joined Carbon Hill FPC by reaffirmation of faith. We worked with the worship leader to put church services online via Facebook streaming during COVID.

We were away from Carbon Hill FPC for a time while Scott fulfilled calls to other churches. Now that we are back home at Carbon Hill FPC, I hope that I can use what I learned to serve the church in Carbon Hill much like I did my church in North Carolina.

Sharon Johnson Stewart
Statement of Faith

I believe in one triune God: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. God the Father created all things, seen and unseen. God created all humankind equally in God's own image.

I believe that because sin entered the world and separated us from God, Jesus Christ was sent to earth, fully human and fully divine, to proclaim the reign of God, preach the good news, heal, and teach by word and deed what it looks like in the Kingdom of God. Jesus Christ was unjustly condemned and crucified. After three days he rose from the dead and in his resurrection and ascension broke the power of sin and death to provide for our salvation.

I believe that God is with us today through the power of the Holy Spirit, our comforter and sustainer. The Holy Spirit is with us through the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper. I believe that the Holy Spirit calls men and women to all ministries of the Church.

The Holy Spirit gave guidance to the writing of the Scriptures and illuminates them for us today. We must understand that the Scriptures, although guided by the Holy Spirit, are words of men in a particular place and a particular time in history. The Bible is to be interpreted "in the light of its witness to God's work of reconciliation in Christ." (The Confession of 1967, 9.29)

I believe that I belong to God and was loved by God even before I was capable of loving and am loved by God even when I rebel against God. God shows me his love, mercy, and grace and I should respond in praise and with gratitude. I live out God's love, mercy, and grace as I strive to follow the commandment Jesus gave to love the Lord with all our hearts and soul and mind and to love our neighbors as ourselves. (Matthew 22:37-39 paraphrase)

**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.

ANNUAL REPORT ON REMUNERATION OF MINISTER MEMBERS -- 2026

This chart contains the name of all active members who have terms of call in this Presbytery and shows their remuneration configurations for 2026.

Note: If Travel, CE, not vouchered for actual expense, it is income and part of Effective Salary.

MINISTER-WORK	EFFECTIVE SALARY	BOARD OF PENSIONS	TRAVEL VOUCHERED	CONT. ED VOUCHERED	OTHER CHURCH EXP	TOTAL PACKAGE
In Chan Bae, Korean Pelham	60,000				4,800	64,800
Michael Bailey, First-Tuscaloosa	137,696	43,794		1,700	11,034	194,224
Tom Bryson, Southminster						
Susan Clayton, Independent	107,853	30,146		3,000	8,211	149,210
Emily Frandsen, First-Tuscaloosa	73,869	32,563		2,000	6,150	114,582
Abby Gatliff, South Highland	37,678	18,450			17,093	73,221
Cort Gatliff, South Highland	100,069	27,246			25,026	152,341
Joe Genau, Edgewood						
Terry Hamilton-Poore, First-Birmingham	92,000	26,726			5,000	123,726
Junmo Jeong, Auburn-Opelika Korean						
Jae Seon Jo, Montgomery Korean	39,200	24,352		1,300	18,750	83,602
Caroline Kelly, Grace						
Samuel Kim, Auburn-Opelika Korean						
Sun Jae Kim, Korean Tuscaloosa	43,200			1,000	1,000	45,200
Sung Eun Kim, Auburn-Opelika Korean						
Young Kim, Korean Anniston						
Kevin Long, Independent	235,520	67,924		3,000	14,817	321,261
Neil McCarter, Bethel SS	28,600					28,600
Mark McCormick, Member-at-Large						
Nicole Newton, Independent	97,000	35,779		3,000	7,421	143,200

MINISTER-WORK	EFFECTIVE SALARY	BOARD OF PENSIONS	TRAVEL VOUCHERED	CON. ED VOUCHERED	OTHER CHURCH EXP	TOTAL PACKAGE
Elizabeth O'Neill, Immanuel	42,526	12,556		1,000	7,702	63,784
Daekeun Park, Auburn Opelika Korean						
Luke Ponder, First-Livingston						
Kathy Wolf Reed, First-Auburn	79,720	27,173			15,445	122,338
Leanne Pearce Reed, Southminster	105,500	27,364	1,000	2,275	13,567	149,706
Nick Reed, First-Auburn	77,149	36,859			16,630	130,638
Madison Roberts, Mountain Brook	92,227	25,362			11,055	128,644
Leeann Scarbrough, First-Talladega						
Joe Scrivner, Brown Memorial	44,444					44,444
David Seamon, Independent	107,802	50,593		3,000	8,207	169,602
Lou Ann Sellers, First-Tuscaloosa	77,805	31,346		2,500	6,452	118,103
Charles Sims, First-Sylacauga	33,600		1,300		1,200	36,100
Jungkyun Son, Auburn Opelika Korean						
Michael Thurman, Westminster Tuskegee	15,700					15,700
Rachel Winter, Oakmont Chapel	56,180	16,541			12,848	85,569
Jonathan Yarbboro, First-Wetumpka	52,000	11,300	6,600	1,800	11,325	83,025

Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley
Executive Council report to Presbytery
August 20, 2026

Class of 2026

Debra Love
Neil McCarter*
Wendy Tucker
Jonathan Yarboro*

Class of 2027

Tom Bryson*
Terry Hamilton-Poore*
Terri Moon Jones

Class of 2028

Leeann Scarbrough*
Jothany James
John Sculer CP

Action Items: None

Information Items:

The Executive Council of PSL held regular, monthly meetings in June and July 2026. EC received a revised job description for the position of Recording Clerk from Personnel. The job description was approved, and EC empowered Personnel and PSL Staff to proceed with advertising the position and filling it. Linda Burrowes tendered her resignation from the position effective December 31, 2026 at the latest. EC commended Linda for her many years of invaluable service to PSL in a variety of capacities.

The Anti Racism Committee took responsibility for the Opportunities Enrichment portion of today's meeting. The ENC has taken responsibility for the same during the November meeting of presbytery. Work continues in earnest at the school site in Annemanie. The Wilcox County Task Force and Volunteer Mission Coordinator are sharing management of the grant process there. Additional resources are being identified and made available to support ministry revitalization efforts in that community.

EC is beginning to have conversation about what it means for presbytery to be active in Christ's ongoing ministry of reconciliation. The topic will be discussed further in September and will include conversations with those who have experienced harm and / or restriction in ministry and witness due to previous limitations originated by our polity.

In January, priorities for EC 2026 were solidified. They are:

1. EC will facilitate Opportunities for Enrichment at each Presbytery meeting in 2026.
2. Emphasizing and enhancing connectional nature with smaller congregations.
3. Encourage congregations to designate Pentecost Offering 2026 to the Congo Partnership Scholarship program.
4. Follow and empower redevelopment of UKirk B'ham.
5. Future connection for some congregations with Rooted Good and Project Regeneration.
6. Continued advocacy and support for Matthew 25 Initiative.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Yarboro - Moderator / PSL Executive Council 2026

How does *per capita* and mission giving benefit my church?*

Has your church ever:

- Searched for a new pastor?
- Consulted with presbytery leadership for guidance or support?
- Had a member who sensed a call to ministry or entered the discernment process?
- Referenced or appealed to the Book of Order when Session is making decisions?
- Sent a member to a Presbytery meeting or to General Assembly?
- Sent a child or youth to Living River for summer camp?
- Participated in the Main Event?
- Had a youth member of the Youth Council?

If you answered yes to any one of these questions, you and your congregation have benefitted from the dollars you have contributed to per capita and to Mission Giving.

*adapted from William McConnell, "Per Capita: What's in it for Me?"
(<https://pcusa.org/per-capita-whats-in-it-for-me>)

Per Capita rates per member	2027
General Assembly	\$13.04
Synod Of Living Waters - AL, MS, TN, KY, AR, MO	3.98
Presbytery of Sheppards & Lapsley	15.60
PSL Campus Ministry	1.00
Total Per Capita	\$33.62

How we engage with our presbytery

- ◆ Ruling Elder and Pastors serve as commissioners at Presbytery meetings.
- ◆ Participate in enrichment events offered by the Presbytery.
- ◆ Host a Presbytery meeting at your church.
- ◆ Support the mission of the Presbytery to partner & equip by congregational support for the Presbytery beyond per capita.
- ◆ Encourage children to attend summer camp at Living River.



The mission of the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley is to "partner with and equip present and emerging PC(USA) faith communities in central Alabama to serve Christ and our neighbors."

Partnering with the United Presbyterians of Wilcox County as they restore the property of the Annemanie School.



What is *per capita*?

Being a congregational church means that we share in the work of the church at all council levels.

- ❖ Local Congregation
- ❖ Presbytery of Sheppards & Lapsley – central Alabama
- ❖ Synod of Living Waters – Southeast US
- ❖ General Assembly – USA

Each congregation pays a flat amount per member (per capita) to help fund this work.



Why give to *per capita* and mission giving?

By participating in this way, your congregation joins & supports the work of the church beyond your congregation.

- ❖ build relationships
- ❖ share joint mission opportunities
- ❖ provide resources & educational opportunities
- ❖ listen for God's call

What is mission giving?

Per capita funds only about 44% of the Presbytery's budget.

Mission giving is one way local churches participate in our shared mission as a presbytery – the work of partnering with and equipping present and emerging PCUSA faith communities to serve Christ and our neighbors.

Impact of Your Generosity

Because of your generosity, PSL is able to:

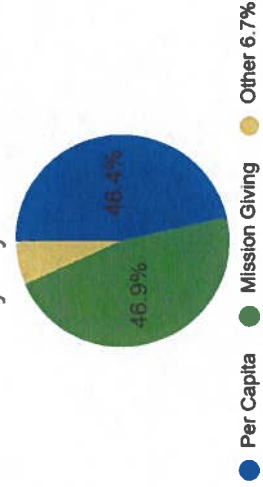
- ❖ Support the work of the General Presbyter.
- ❖ Support the work of committees and volunteer coordinators.
- ❖ Provide enrichment opportunities for church leaders.
- ❖ Provide a space for committees and staff to do the work of the Presbytery.
- ❖ Fund summer camp scholarships for children and youth.



CPM advances Annabelle Beavers to the Candidacy stage of the ordination process.

2027 PSL Draft Budget	
	Draft Proposed 2027 Budget
Revenue	
Per Capita Income(minus Campus Ministry)	208,279
Mission Giving	210,313
Lease Revenue	25,495
Other Income	4,600
Total	448,687
Expenses	
Per Capital Expenses - Stated clerk, moderator, office manager, commission budgets and per capita to GA Synod	214,314
Mission giving share to GA/Synod	9,955
General Presbyter, volunteer coordinators	123,980
Property	73,913
Equip, nurture, connect, council, committees	26,525
Total	448,687

Presbytery Revenue



Commissioner Report to Presbytery
on the 227th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley
August 2026
Rev. Joe Genau
Vice-moderator, Committee on Constitutional Interpretation

I strive to be thought of as a member of presbytery who takes the work of the Church far more seriously than he takes himself. Serving as a Commissioner to GA this summer was thrilling, maddening, exhausting, deeply fulfilling, and a whole lot of nerdy fun.

I am grateful to my fellow Sheppards and Lapsley Commissioners; Adrienne Royster, Daryl Love, and Rick Atkerson were incredible, thoughtful friends to have seated close by. We might have laughed just a bit. Young Adult Advisory Delegate McClain Robinson was a joy to work with, incredibly engaged, and offered us much wisdom.

Our outgoing Co-Moderators, the Revs. CeCe Armstrong and Tony Larson, did an outstanding job (again) leading the Assembly through long stretches of discernment and polity wrinkles, always reminding us to breathe, and that we were there to seek the will of Christ. I invite you to join me in deepest prayer for the Rev. Marta Pumroy-Cordero and the Rev. Dr. Kristopher Schonelmeyer as they serve as Co-Moderators for the next two years.

So much consequential action was taken by the Assembly, but I must start with my experience as a committee leader. It was an honor to be asked to be a vice-moderator and I gained a fantastic new friend in CRE Miriam Hollar of South Louisiana Presbytery. We gelled instantly this spring and, with a ton of help from the rest of our committee leadership, managed to work our committee through some staggering business with trust, equity, thoughtfulness, and prayer. Constitutional Interpretation tackled two of the issues that defined the larger Assembly for me, and I am proud of the work we did. I thoroughly enjoyed working behind the scenes and with so many stellar denominational leaders.

I am happy to go into a ton of detail about specific overtures with any presbyter or congregant who cares to do so. In this report I'll simply state that two major issues ran through the entire assembly. The most obvious one to those watching or reading at home was the denomination's handling of World Mission restructuring over the past year-plus. The decision to dismiss Mission Co-Workers brought plenty of grief and confusion on its own, but the manner in which it was enacted has caused a breach in trust between Presbyterians and Louisville. I went into the Assembly feeling ambivalent — heartbroken for our Mission Co-Workers, but aware that stories are often more complicated than they appear. Then I witnessed certain denominational leaders lie to my committee, and my disappointment guided my votes. An investigation will likely turn up more ugliness. It will take something greater, with God's help, for trust to be rebuilt and for the PC(USA) to cast a new vision for international mission.

The second issue that flavored the 227th GA was less obvious from afar. Presbyterians for the Kingdom clearly viewed GA 227 as its coming out party to the denomination. I will not argue with particular points of theology here. I encourage you to see their website, where PftK is very clear about what they believe. I believe these siblings in Christ are misguided in their work, wrong about

the direction of the PC(USA), and are likely learning some lessons about mutual forbearance and reputability. I am a firm believer that honest questions and debate are healthy for our church. That said, my committee, and then the Assembly, was handed a meaningless and unserious overture crafted to cause trouble. Thanks be to God, both Constitutional Interpretation and the General Assembly found a wiser path.

I was deeply encouraged to see all Climate Justice overtures pass on the Consent Agenda, to find messy, very Presbyterian attempts at justice at every turn, and to join in a resounding "YES!" (after some contention in committee work) to bringing the 228th General Assembly to San Juan, Puerto Rico. My mom's Puerto Rican family in New York is rejoicing, even if they still don't quite know what a Presbyterian is.

Seeing friends from decades ago, hugging former Sheppards and Lapsley pastors, inquirers, and candidates, making a ton of new friends, and worshiping with all of them was a genuinely holy experience. I am grateful for your trust in asking me to serve. I am eager to make it to another General Assembly in some capacity soon. Thanks for getting me hooked, PSL!

The Peace of Christ be with you,

Rev. Joe Genau

Reflections on GA227

It was an honor and a privilege to serve as a commissioner to the 227th General Assembly on behalf of the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley.

Having followed many of the issues from GA226, I was somewhat prepared for the long days and for several of the matters that would come before us. What was new for me was experiencing the General Assembly process firsthand. I was impressed by the orderly way commissioners could express very different opinions, deliberate together, and ultimately make decisions under Robert's Rules of Order.

The three days of virtual committee meetings also helped prepare us for the larger Assembly and gave us an opportunity to begin building relationships with fellow commissioners.

The Assembly considered a wide range of issues, including environmental and racial justice, gender and sexuality, ordination, and the continuing restructuring of the denomination. Some of the most difficult conversations centered on that restructuring, particularly changes involving world mission. At times, disagreement became tense enough that the moderators had to remind us of the importance of treating one another with kindness.

I served on the Theological Education and Ordination Committee, which considered sixteen overtures. One action that particularly interested me was the creation of a team to study a more collaborative approach to ordered ministry. I believe this could eventually offer creative opportunities for smaller congregations to share pastoral leadership and other resources.

There were certainly challenging moments at GA227, but there were also moments of celebration, enthusiasm, and even dancing in the aisles. What impressed me most, however, were the ecumenical partners who addressed the Assembly. Their messages reminded me that our ministry extends beyond our denomination and that, even amid disagreement, we are part of a much larger community of faith.

I am grateful for the opportunity to have served, to have listened, and to have participated in the work of the wider church.

Darryl F. Love



THE BOARD OF PENSIONS
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)

2027 Benefits Plan Subsidies and Updates

Support for congregations and ministers with dependent children

To help congregations care for their pastoral leaders, and to promote wholeness for ministers and their families, the 2027 Benefits Plan introduces expanded support.

- **An additional dues subsidy** will be available to congregational pastoral leaders enrolled in the Congregational Pastors Package to help alleviate the cost of dependent child medical coverage. Effective Jan. 1, 2027, the subsidy will be 50% of the national, community-rated coverage cost for dependent children. This subsidy will reduce the flat rates for both Child(ren) and Family coverage levels.
- **Transitional Pastor's Participation** and its inherent subsidies will be extended through 2029, giving congregations and ministers already enrolled in this package two more years to transition to the Congregational Pastors Package.

2027 dues for the Congregational Pastors Package and Transitional Pastor's Participation will be available in July.



New Child Care Support grant

Effective April 1, 2026, this new grant through the Assistance Program helps offset the cost of child care for children ages 0-6 years. Child Care Support provides \$500 per child per month (up to \$1,500 per family per month) to eligible PC(USA) ministers of the Word and Sacrament and commissioned pastors during the initial pilot phase of this grant.

Additional Medical Plan options

For staff not enrolled in benefits through the Congregational Pastors Package or Transitional Pastor's Participation, three additional Medical Plan options have been introduced: a second PPO, EPO, and HDHP. These options will be available in addition to the three options currently offered, for a total of six options, effective Jan. 1, 2027. More details will be shared this summer.

Ministers and dependents enrolled in the Congregational Pastors Package or Transitional Pastor's Participation will continue to be offered the current PPO plan.



For more information about these benefits and Assistance Program updates, visit pensions.org/2027resources or scan this QR code.

This is not a full description of benefits and limitations of the plan. If there is any difference between the information presented here and the provisions of the Benefits Plan of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the plan terms will govern.

**Report of the Commission for the
Legacy Fund for Enduring Witness. (LFEW)
August 2026**

Members:

Lee Cleveland, Joe Genau*, Leanne Pearce Reed*, Adrienne Royster, Jonathan Yarboro*,

For Information:

We voted to fund a proposal from Montevallo Presbyterian Church for \$31,000 from our Church Development/Revitalization Fund to help fund **Project PRISM (Project Rebirth: Inclusion, Student Engagement, & Ministry)** – helping with student scholarships and programming, and **Project Threshold** – a community arts program – for two years.

Dear church leaders:

We want to hear from you! If you have projects or ideas that connect to:

1. new church development opportunities or new worshipping communities;
2. plans designed to encourage and enhance vitality and growth of your ministry or congregation

Come have a conversation with the LFEW.

We have intentionally chosen not to have a formal written grant process, preferring to take proposals on a case-by-case basis.

Requests will be evaluated according to their relevance to the above criteria and the availability of funds.

Contact LFEW Moderator Joe Genau with inquiries:

pastor@edgewoodpc.org, 205.718.9832

Respectfully Submitted,
Joe Genau
Moderator

*"Praise God from whom all blessing flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost."*

We do indeed have magnificent reasons for praising and giving thanks to God in the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley! In the past two plus months, as summer sweltered into central Alabama, commissions and committees of this presbytery have gathered in their stated meetings to pray, discern, examine, plan, counsel, pray, write, imagine, draft, laugh, eat, pray, cry, console, and pray as they respond to the call of God upon their lives to be the body of Christ. We will experience some of the results of this ministry in the enrichment event led by the Anti-Racism Committee today!

Moreover, the Executive Council has met, heard from its committees and learned about the dynamic renewal of life and energy that the Holy Spirit is blowing into Wilcox County, the planning and desire of the ENC committee to reinvigorate its mission to plan and deliver educational and spiritual enrichment opportunities for the Presbytery, the important work of the finance committee as it plans for budgeting for 2027, and a unique opportunity for reconciliation that has the potential to expand our worship into new experiences of forgiveness and grace.

The Commission of the Legacy Fund for Enduring Witness continues to respond faithfully to opportunities to pay forward the faithfulness of dissolved churches into new ministry and service to the call of Christ. The ministry of council and its committees and of Presbytery commissions and committees is powered by these faithful responses to the call of God to serve and spread the Gospel and Grace of Jesus Christ and by the generous support of churches through their giving.

We also learned this summer that Linda Burrowes has decided to step away from serving as Recording Clerk, effective no later than December 31, 2026. We posted a newly approved position description in the newsletter and I will say more about our process during my report in the meeting. We look forward to receiving interested applicants with the promise from Linda to assist in the transition. We give thanks to God for Linda Burrowes' faithful service and sharing of her skills and knowledge for over three decades! Thank you, Linda, and may God continue to bless you and keep you as you enter a new stage of a blessed life!

AMEN.

Report of the Mission Coordinator to Presbytery, August 20, 2026

1. The AnneManie project is progressing. The roof of the Principal's house has been replaced. The pavilion has been built, with the plumbing stubbed in. Most of the electrical wiring has been installed and power is connected. Most of the interior walls have been sheet rocked. The construction company, RD Squared LLC, has received three draws of grant funds. The three draws total \$180,000. On July 14, Keri Burns and Traci Hanrahan of Samford and a videographer, Rev. Ephraim, Alicia Foster and I met for lunch in Camden and then visited the Principal's house. The construction work was videoed and Rev. Ephraim spoke on camera about the former schools in Wilcox County. Programming has begun, with a Vacation Bible School being done at Arlington Presbyterian Church. Some of the program workers have been hired and paid. It was found that the children in the area needed transportation to the VBS and any other programs. Southminster Presbyterian Church donated an unused van to the project to solve this problem.
2. The Congo Pentecost Offering has received \$6,000 to date. The Congo Mission Team decided to send \$8,000 to Durable Solutions Congo. Larry Streshley works with this organization. Of the Team's contribution, \$3,000 was given to Streshley's work on the Ebola outbreak. The other \$5,000 was sent to pay for a consultant and specialists to train and deliver services as needed.
3. We sent \$1,000 from the Perry/Dallas County fund to Sowing Seeds of Hope to help them with its back-to-school event in Marion.
4. We also obtained a \$5,000 grant from Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for the Korean Presbyterian Church in Montgomery. The church suffered storm damage in May.
5. We are planning to sponsor the construction of a Habitat for Humanity house in the Birmingham area in the autumn. More details will follow.

Presbyterian Home *for* Children

Raising hopes, growing confidence, and nurturing faith since 1868

Post Office Drawer 577 ♦ Talladega, Alabama 35161

Telephone: 256.362.2114 ♦ Fax: 256.362.6265 ♦ E-mail: info@phfc.org ♦ Website: www.phfc.org



MR. DOUG MARSHALL
President/CEO

July 31, 2026

Dear Friends in Christ,

At the Presbyterian Home for Children, every day is centered on helping children and families build stronger futures. We are grateful to share three examples of that mission in action: the launch and early success of our Robinson Family Unity Center as an expansion of Secure Dwellings, continued progress on the Journey Capital Campaign to strengthen our campus for future generations, and another outstanding year of academic achievement at our fully accredited private school, Ascension Leadership Academy. Together, these ministries reflect the Home's commitment to providing hope, healing, education, and opportunity through the faithful support of Presbyterian churches and generous friends.



The Presbyterian Home for Children's Journey Capital Campaign continues to make significant progress as we restore and improve our historic campus to better serve children, young adults, and families for generations to come.



Over the decades, the Home's cottages, chapel, and campus buildings have provided places of healing, hope, and transformation. Today, those facilities continue to support programs that help mothers reunite with their children, young adults prepare for independent living, and families find stability.

The \$1.7 million Journey Capital Campaign, which began in 2025 and continues through 2027, is funding renovations to residential cottages, the campus chapel, and other critical infrastructure improvements that directly support our ministry.



We are deeply grateful for the generosity of Presbyterian churches and faithful supporters who have invested in this effort. Providence Presbyterian Church in Montgomery designated \$611,100 to the Home when the congregation closed, and the restored chapel will be named in honor of Providence Presbyterian Chapel so its ministry will continue through the lives touched on our campus. Additionally, we have renamed Gabbie Cottage in Union Village to Westminster Memorial Cottage to reflect the faithful legacy of Westminster Presbyterian Church and Memorial Presbyterian Church. The campaign has also been blessed by a \$280,000 investment from the Calhoun Presbyterian Apartments Foundation, along with gifts from alumni, foundations, grants, and other donors. We were also successful in selling a cell phone tower for \$200,000 to help support our campus investments.



Recent improvements include the completion of major renovations to Westminster Memorial Cottage, a new playground and pavilion for families in our Secure Dwellings program, campus sidewalk improvements, and renovations to several residential cottages and supporting infrastructure. Future projects include restoring the historic chapel as a center for worship, prayer, Bible study, and counseling, along with continued renovations to Johnson Hall, home to our Transition to Adult Living program for young women.

Thanks to the generosity of God's people, the remaining need for the Journey Capital Campaign has been reduced to \$423,600. Every gift helps ensure that the Presbyterian Home for Children remains a safe, welcoming, and Christ-centered place where vulnerable children and families can find hope, healing, and a brighter future.

We are grateful to the congregations and individuals throughout the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley whose faithful support continues to strengthen this ministry.

One of the Presbyterian Home for Children's newest ministries is already making a meaningful difference for families working toward reunification.

The Robinson Family Unity Center serves mothers whose children have entered foster care through the Alabama Department of Human Resources (DHR) because they lacked suitable housing or faced other barriers to providing a stable home. PHFC's program provides safe housing, case management, advocacy, and individualized support while mothers work to meet court and DHR requirements necessary to regain custody of their children.



This spring, one Robinson mother named Faith successfully regained custody of her children after working with Home staff to secure employment, establish stable housing, and demonstrate her readiness to provide a safe home. Our staff member Shandra Thomas, who came to the Home

more than a decade ago with seven children in need of housing and today is a PHFC social worker, advocated for Faith before a judge in court and her testimony led to Faith getting custody of her children back.

Once mothers are reunified with their children, they may transition into PHFC's Secure Dwellings program, where they continue building toward long-term independence. Secure Dwellings provides housing and ongoing support for up to two years while mothers pursue education or employment, strengthen parenting skills, and work toward financial stability.

Children in the Secure Dwellings program attend our private school, Ascension Leadership Academy, that also serves children in the Talladega area community.

This May, Ascension celebrated another successful school year marked by academic achievement and student success.

The Class of 2026 graduated four seniors who collectively earned a record \$240,000 in college scholarships, helping open the door to higher education and bright futures. Damian Brown was named valedictorian, while Maddie Parker was recognized as salutatorian.

The school also celebrated the recognition of Assistant Director Charles Ponder as Private School Teacher of the Year by the Chamber of Talladega, Lincoln and Munford, honoring his commitment to student success and excellence in education.

Academically, ALA students continued to perform well on national assessments, with 64% meeting or exceeding the national average in reading, 70% in language usage, and 62% in mathematics. In addition, the elementary school was named an Imagine Learning School of Excellence, placing it among just 293 schools nationwide recognized for outstanding student growth and innovative use of educational technology.

These accomplishments reflect the Presbyterian Home for Children's ongoing commitment to providing a Christ-centered, accredited education that prepares students for success in college, careers, and life.

As always, we thank you for your continued prayers, encouragement, and partnership in this ministry. Because of your support, the Presbyterian Home for Children is able to restore families, educate young people, and provide safe places where lives are transformed. We are grateful for the congregations of the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley and invite you to continue sharing our ministry with families who may need our services and with others who feel called to support this important work.

Thanks be to God!





Doug Marshall

President and CEO

Friends and Colleagues,

This calendar year the Commission on Ministry has had the privilege of interviewing pastors who are not members of the PCUSA, but who have been called to serve congregations within the bounds of the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley. At our upcoming stated presbytery meeting the COM will be presenting a Ruling Elder for Commissioning, and we have many faithful Commissioned Pastors serving within the Presbytery.

In order to provide some training, continuing education, and on-going support to these leaders, and anyone else interested, I am pleased to present the following Polity Training Events. The outline below includes the dates, times, topics, recommended reading, and facilitators for each event. If you would like to participate, and these dates/times do not work for you, please let us know. With feedback, we may either shift the time, or create recordings of these events to share.

Please RSVP to Tammy for the events in which you plan to participate, so we know who to expect.

Grace and Peace,

The Rev. Marilyn McKelvey Tucker-Marek

Stated Clerk

Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley

3603 Lorna Ridge Drive

Birmingham, Alabama 35216

334-202-2004 (cell)

Polity Training

Timeframe: 2nd Thursdays 6-7pmCT, via Zoom

Join Recurring Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87000376509?pwd=yaYHdpe42uSluJYbjJhaoAaRxs6O8Q.1>

Meeting chat link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/jc/87000376509>

Meeting ID: 870 0037 6509

Passcode: 270471

Thursday, September 10, 2026

1st Gathering: Book of Order: The Presbyterian Form of Government

facilitated by Stated Clerk Marilyn Tucker-Marek

Topics:

- Presbyterian Governing Structure: Congregation, Session, Presbytery, (briefly cover Synod & GA);
- responsibilities of the pastor;
- responsibilities of the session;
- responsibilities of session and pastor together;
- How to Moderate a Session;
- Basics of Roberts Rules, the hows and whys;
- majority rule, consensus building, and “other forms of discernment.”

Recommended Reading – The Book of Order: Foundations of Presbyterian Polity, the Form of Government

Thursday, October 8, 2026

2nd Gathering: Worship and the Book of Order

Facilitated by Stated Clerk Marilyn Tucker-Marek

Topics:

- required parts of worship;
- optional parts for which the Book of Order provides guidance;
- responsibilities of the pastor;
- responsibilities of the session;
- responsibilities of session and pastor together.

Recommended Readings from The Book of Order:

all of The Foundations of Presbyterian Polity;

The Form of Government: G-1.01; G-1.05; G-2.0301-G-2.0405; G-2.0501; G-2.0504; G-3.01-3.03;

Thursday, November 12, 2026

3rd Gathering: Church Discipline,

“the part of the book you hope you never need”

Facilitated by Teaching Elder Madison Roberts

- Overview of Remedial and Disciplinary Cases
- A summary of steps in a disciplinary case
- Responsibilities of clerk of session, in a disciplinary case
- When to call the Stated Clerk and/or General Presbyter

Recommended Readings from The Book of Order:*

D-1.01-D-2.04; D-4.0101-D-4.0102; D-4.0201-D-4.0204a; D-4.0206, D-7.01-D-7.06; D-7.0901; D-7.10; D-7.14-D-7.16;

**Subject to change*

Thursday, December 10, 2026

Clerk of Session Training Proposal

Facilitated by Ruling Elder Lee Cleveland

Topics

- Overview of What Minutes shall/should include
- How the Clerk supports the work/discernment of the session
- “The Annual Checklist”
- Rolls and Reporting

*Recommended Reading from the Book of Order: G-3.02**

**Subject to change*

Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley
Report of Trustees to Presbytery Assembly
August 20, 2026

Trustees: Tom Adams (2028), Tom Bryson (2028), Lant Davis (2027) [Moderator], Steve Deal (2027), Krysten Holloway (2026), Katherine Michael (2026), Terry Newland (2026), Allen Sydnor (2027), and Lin Veasey (2028).

Meetings: The Trustees have not met nor taken any actions by unanimous written consent since their last report to the Presbytery Assembly on May 21, 2026.

For information:

- **Property formerly owned by Church of the Good Shepherd (Anniston):**

On June 30, 2026, this property, situated at 461 Choccolocco Road, Anniston, Calhoun County, Alabama, was sold to New Hope Ministries, Inc., for a purchase price of \$350,000 cash, less closing expenses, netting proceeds to The Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley, Incorporated, in the amount of \$326,188.59. The property was conveyed in accordance with the terms of a Contract of Sale approved by the Presbytery in its assembly held on May 21, 2026.

- **Property formerly owned by Center Point Presbyterian Church (Birmingham):**

This property, situated at 2650 Center Point Parkway, Center Point, Jefferson County, Alabama, is currently subject to a Commercial Sales Agreement between The Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley, Incorporated, as seller, and Minerva Hernandez and Pedro Valeriano, as purchasers, for a purchase price of \$300,000 cash. This Commercial Sales Agreement was approved by the Presbytery in its assembly held on May 21, 2026, contingent on the purchasers providing evidence that they will be able to obtain financing for their purchase. The purchasers now have provided copies of letters from financial institutions satisfying this condition. (We have been advised that the rights of the purchasers under this Agreement may be assigned to a business that is owned by Mr. Valeriano—JV Steel Erectors LLC—as would be allowed by the terms of the Commercial Sales Agreement.) Closing was originally scheduled for July 24, 2026, but has been postponed until August 17, 2026, to allow additional time for the appraisal report to be issued and to be evaluated by the purchaser's lender. We continue to hope that the sale will be closed as anticipated by the Commercial Sales Agreement.

Commission on Preparation for Ministry (CPM) August, 2026

Commission on Preparation for Ministry Members:

Leeann Scarbrough, moderator, (2028), Kathy Wolf Reed (2026), Lee Walthal (2026), Luke Ponder (2026), Harvey Kline (2026), Cort Gatliff (2027), Emily Frandsen (2027), Clay Price (2027), Angela Wright (2027), Jeff Johnson (2028), Nicole Newton (2028), Brenda Toomey (2028).

The CPM met June 15 and July 27. The next meeting is September 28.

Items for Information:

Daniel Killilea is certified ready to receive a call. Lori Maxey and Marshall Wade were received as Inquirers.

Item for Action:

None.

Please continue to pray for those preparing for ministry:

Inquirers:

Dallas Knight, South Highland, Birmingham (Beeson graduate)

Emily Knight, South Highland, Birmingham (Beeson graduate)

Barbara Tomek-White, First, Auburn (Austin graduate)

Candidates:

Annabelle Beavers, First, Tuscaloosa (Union graduate)

Abby Bunn, Church of the Covenant (Columbia)

Peyton Chandler, Independent, Birmingham (Vanderbilt graduate)

Daniel Killilea, South Highland, Birmingham (Louisville graduate)

Teddy Vaughn, Grace, Tuscaloosa (Columbia graduate)

Respectfully submitted, Leeann Scarbrough, Moderator

Congo Partnership Team met June 12. At that time we had received approximately \$5100 from the Congo Pentecost Offering Hopefully more will come in later.

Since we had a little over \$8000 n in our accounts

we voted to send \$5000 to IMCK to support a 6 month residency by Dr. Naomi Boyd (daughter of Jeff and Christy Boyd) at the hospital to improve ER, Pediatrics etc and provide training. We also sent \$3000 to Dr. Larry Sthreshley, Durable Solutions, toward a fund for Ebola response.

We are hopeful that we will receive more money from our churches as our partners will soon be requesting funds for tuitions for students from our partner presbyteries to study at IMCK (Christian Medical Institute of the Kasai) and at the University of Sheppard and Lapsley.

Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley
Analysis of Revenues & Expenses - Summary
January to June 2026

Accounts	MTD Actual (This Year)	MTD Budget (This Year)	YTD Actual (This Year)	YTD Budget (This Year)	YTD Budget/Actual (This Year)	Annual Budget (This Year)
Revenues						
General Fund	\$17,013.98	\$18,898.17	\$133,503.89	\$113,389.02	\$20,114.87	\$226,778.00
Mission Giving-Income	\$1,078.33	\$1,727.67	\$8,302.79	\$10,366.02	(\$2,063.23)	\$20,732.00
Per Capita Income	\$6,015.62	\$16,887.50	\$86,125.48	\$101,325.00	(\$15,199.52)	\$202,650.00
Total Revenues	\$24,107.93	\$37,513.34	\$227,932.16	\$225,080.04	\$2,852.12	\$450,160.00
Expenses						
Council						
Council Expenses-Other	\$0.00	\$931.25	\$0.00	\$5,587.50	\$5,587.50	\$11,175.00
Salaries & Allowances						
Executive Presbyter	\$13,413.06	\$9,756.75	\$59,176.55	\$58,540.50	(\$636.05)	\$117,081.00
Administrative Salaries	\$1,158.75	\$386.25	\$2,317.50	\$2,317.50	\$0.00	\$4,635.00
Staff Expenses	\$0.00	\$350.00	\$0.00	\$2,100.00	\$2,100.00	\$4,200.00
Total Salaries & Allowances	\$14,571.81	\$10,493.00	\$61,494.05	\$62,958.00	\$1,463.95	\$125,916.00
Total Council	\$14,571.81	\$11,424.25	\$61,494.05	\$68,545.50	\$7,051.45	\$137,091.00
Equip, Nurture, Connect						
Other ENC Expenses	\$1,600.00	\$1,266.66	\$10,465.87	\$7,599.96	(\$2,865.91)	\$15,200.00
Total Equip, Nurture, Connect	\$1,600.00	\$1,266.66	\$10,465.87	\$7,599.96	(\$2,865.91)	\$15,200.00
Mission	\$0.00	\$12.50	\$0.00	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$150.00
UKirk Birmingham	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Trustees	\$5,759.30	\$6,080.92	\$35,126.45	\$36,485.52	\$1,359.07	\$72,971.00
Presbytery Per Capita Expenses						
Stated Clerk & Moderator	\$1,899.00	\$2,598.24	\$14,026.61	\$15,589.44	\$1,562.83	\$31,179.00
Presbytery Commissions	(\$105.00)	\$333.32	\$1,919.16	\$1,999.92	\$80.76	\$4,000.00
Asst.to Stated Clerk/Ofc Mgr	\$5,867.68	\$5,888.58	\$35,206.08	\$35,331.48	\$125.40	\$70,663.00
Total Presbytery Per Capita Expenses	\$7,661.68	\$8,820.14	\$51,151.85	\$52,920.84	\$1,768.99	\$105,842.00
Per Capita-Expenses	\$2,976.79	\$8,345.17	\$42,335.66	\$50,071.02	\$7,735.36	\$100,142.00
Mission Giving-Expenses	\$1,078.33	\$1,727.67	\$8,302.79	\$10,366.02	\$2,063.23	\$20,732.00
Total Expenses	\$33,647.91	\$37,677.31	\$208,876.67	\$226,063.86	\$17,187.19	\$452,128.00
Net Operating Total	(\$9,539.98)	(\$163.97)	\$19,055.49	(\$983.82)	\$20,039.31	(\$1,968.00)
Other Revenues						
Designated Income (Loss)	\$7,502.68	\$0.00	\$7,256.50	\$0.00	\$7,256.50	\$0.00
Property Contributions	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Other Revenues	\$7,502.68	\$0.00	\$21,681.97	\$0.00	\$21,681.97	\$0.00
Other Expenses						
Total Other Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$13,964.45	\$0.00	(\$13,964.45)	\$0.00
Net Total	(\$2,037.30)	(\$163.97)	\$26,773.01	(\$983.82)	\$27,756.83	(\$1,968.00)

PRESBYTERY CALENDAR – 2026

AUGUST

20	Summer Stated Presbytery meeting, First Tuscaloosa, 9:00 AM
21	Presbytery office closed
24	CPM, via hybrid, 10:00 AM
26	Anti-Racism, via Zoom, 10:00 AM
27	Personnel, via Zoom, 9:30 AM

SEPTEMBER

2	Presbytery Staff meeting, via Hybrid, 10:00 AM
7	Presbytery office close in recognition of Labor Day
8	COM via hybrid, 10:00 AM
14-17	Mid Council Leaders Orientation
15	Executive Council, via Hybrid, 10:00 AM
17	Finance, via hybrid, 3:00 PM
23	Anti-Racism, via Zoom, 10:00 AM
24	Personnel, via Zoom, 9:30 AM
28	CPM, via hybrid, 10:00 AM

OCTOBER

7	Presbytery Staff meeting, via Hybrid, 10:00 AM
13	COM via hybrid, 10:00 AM
15	Finance, via hybrid, 3:00 PM
20	Executive Council, via Hybrid, 10:00 AM
21-24	Presbytery Exec. Forum, Orange Beach
22	Personnel, via Zoom, 9:30 AM
26	CPM, via hybrid, 10:00 AM
28	Anti-Racism, via Zoom, 10:00 AM

NOVEMBER

4	Presbytery Staff meeting, via Hybrid, 10:00 AM
10	COM via hybrid, 10:00 AM
17	Executive Council, via Hybrid, 10:00 AM
19	Fall Stated Presbytery meeting, Independent Presbyterian, 9:00 AM
	Finance, via hybrid, 3:00 PM
20	Presbytery office closed
23	CPM, via hybrid, 10:00 AM
25-27	Presbytery office closed in recognition of Thanksgiving
	Anti-Racism, via Zoom, 10:00 AM
26	Personnel, via Zoom, 9:30 AM