

PRESBYTERY REFLECTION

By Sheppards and Lapsley Moderator, Terry Hamilton-Poore

MAY 2026

HOST: SOUTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, BIRMINGHAM

Highlights of the May Presbytery meeting



Ministry within our Presbytery

Commissioners to the May 21 meeting:

- enjoyed a worship service that included
 - the installation of our new General Presbyter, Dr. Mark McCormick, and hearing an inspiring sermon from him;
 - celebrating the ministry of the Rev. Dr. Sam Hamilton-Poore on his Honorable Retirement;
 - commissioning our commissioners to the upcoming 227th General Assembly;
 - and giving thanks for the lives and ministries of Rev. Monty Clendenin and Commissioned Pastor Ben Arellano;
- Examined and approved Inquirer Abby Bunn to move to Candidacy;
- Elected RE Judith Baldwin to the Anti-Racism Committee and CP Lin Veasey to Trustees;
- were enriched through two learning options: A session on different programs for congregational discernment and redevelopment that included a presentation by Angela Johnson of Rooted Good and a presentation by Dana Waters of the Presbyterian Foundation on the Foundation's Project Regeneration; and a separate session led by General Presbyter Mark McCormick on sermon preparation and the upcoming lectionary texts;



Ministry Within our Presbytery

- approved the sale, if the way be clear, of the properties of the former Church of the Good Shepherd in Anniston and Center Point Presbyterian Church in Birmingham; dissolved the Administrative Commission that guided Providence Presbyterian Church of Montgomery through its closure; and celebrated the ongoing impact of those church's ministries through the disciples they sent out into the world and their resources that are now strengthening so many different ministries and missions (see next item);
- learned of the disbursement from the Legacy Fund for Enduring Witness of nearly \$34,000 to Cahaba Springs Presbyterian Church for building projects and \$48,000 to the Northeast Community YMCA in Roebuck (**other congregations, take note of this opportunity!**);
- rejoiced in the progress of the Wilcox County revitalization efforts at the former Presbyterian school at Annemanie;
- were encouraged to give generously to the Pentecost Offering for the Congo Mission Network;
- heard good news from the Presbyterian Home for Children and Living River as they each continue to grow in programming and impact (and as the debt for Living River now drops down into the \$60,000's!);
- and gave thanks for the gracious hospitality of our host congregation, Southminster Presbyterian Church.



Upcoming Meetings:

August 20 at First Presbyterian Church, Tuscaloosa

November 19 at Independent Presbyterian Church, Birmingham

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Hamilton-Poore/ 2026 PSL Moderator

Additional Highlights from the Meeting

