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 19, 2026

Independent Presbyterian Church
Birmingham, AL

THE PRESBYTERY OF SHEPPARDS AND LAPSLEY
PROPOSED DOCKET / NOVEMBER 19, 2026
INDEPENDENT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, BIRMINGHAM, AL

Please silence all cell phones and electronic devices

9:00 AM Registration

9:30 AM Call to Order and Opening Prayer Moderator Terry Hamilton-Poore

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 August 20, 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 use the chat feature of the Zoom meeting to seek 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. **Approval of former PJC members, if needed, to make a quorum: Courtney Brown, Tina Hughes, Tom Buck, Madison Roberts, Robert Posey, James Tucker, Caroline Kelly, Cary Speaker and Kevin Patton**
6. **To accept the invitation of Living River to host the meeting of the Presbytery on February 18, 2027.**

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 or read comments typed into the chat of the Zoom meeting. The stated clerk will read messages posted in the chat by a commissioner to the body gathered in person, as requested.

9:45 AM Welcome from Host Church Rev. Kevin Long

9:50 AM Presentation by Personnel Committee Jane Clayton and Rev. Susan Clayton

9:55 AM *** Call to Worship**† Rev. Kevin Long

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come.
Jesus will reign forever.
Every eye will see him.
Jesus will reign forever.
Every ear will hear the promise: I am the Alpha and the Omega.
Jesus will reign forever.

*** Opening Prayer†** Rev. Kevin Long

Image of the invisible God, firstborn of all creation, Prince of peace, Word through whom all things were made, rule our minds and hearts with justice born of righteousness and mercy born of love. Guide us to participate in your kingdom, where all God's people have a share in the strength that comes from God's glorious power. Amen.

Hymn GtG 263** ***All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name CORONATION

Call to Confession† Rev. Susan Clayton

In humility we are called to confess our sin, reaching out in penitence to our Lord and Savior. Trusting in the merciful love of God, let us pray together.

Prayer of Confession† Rev. Susan Clayton

Let us make our confession.

Savior, through your incarnation you embraced solidarity with the poor, the oppressed, and the suffering. We know your story, and still we blame the poor, participate in systems that oppress, and mock the suffering. Forgive us. We deserve your righteous condemnation.

– a pause for silent confession –

Yet even from the cross,

in your greatest moments of pain and humiliation, you offered words of grace and love, forgiveness and restoration. May we trust the promise of your Kingdom, and the power of your coming reign. Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness† Rev. Susan Clayton

The Lord gives light to those who dwell in darkness and guides our every step in the path of salvation. In the name of Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Amen.

Gloria Patri

GtG 582 Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me GLORY TO GOD

The Word

Scripture Reading: Psalm 93 Rev. Susan Clayton

Scripture Reading: Luke 23:33-43 Rev. Madison Roberts

Scripture Reading Response:

The word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

The Proclamation of the Word Rev. Madison Roberts

Responding to the Word

Hymn GtG 100** ***My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout STAR OF COUNTY DOWN

***Affirmation of Faith** *Nicene Creed* Rev. David Seamon

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Offering
(*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.)

PayPal
Scan. Pay. Go.

Doxology GtG 608 ***Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow***

PRAISE GOD (HOPSON)

The Eucharist

Invitation to the Table Rev. Nicole Newton

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.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God:
You have raised up a mighty Savior for us
from the house of your servant David
to lead us in righteousness and peace.

Therefore we praise you, joining the song
of the universal church and the heavenly choir:
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosannah in the highest!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Blessed is Jesus Christ, our Savior:

Dying on a cross of shame,
Jesus rose again to reign in glory.
The crucified one is our living Lord.

On the night before he died, our Lord took bread,
and when he had given thanks,
he broke it and gave it to them, saying,
This is my body, which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.
And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying,
This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.
Do this in remembrance of me.

Remembering your goodness and grace,
we offer ourselves to you with gratitude
as we share this joyful feast.
Great is the mystery of faith:
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and cup;
make us one in the body and blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Strengthen us in our hope and faith
and hold us in the body of Christ,
the one in whom all things hold together.

Through the Lord Jesus Christ, in the unity of the Spirit,
we bless you, God of glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

Communion
At this time, if you are participating online we invite you to share in this holy sacrament by partaking of the elements you have prayerfully prepared. All are welcome to Christ's table, regardless of age, ability of understanding, or denominational affiliation.

Prayer after Communion† Rev. Nicole Newton
God our hope, we give you thanks that you have given us this foretaste of the justice, righteousness, and peace of your promised new creation. Strengthen us with this heavenly food as we seek to serve your holy realm. Lead us to live in joyful expectation of the coming again in glory of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession Rev. David Seamon
Holy God, Lord of All Creation, Inspirer of the Church, We come before you humbly this morning, And pray for the work of our presbytery. Bless and guide our discernment today. May the decisions we make, as minister members and elder commissioners, be faithful enactments of your holy will. Lord of life, **hear our prayer.**

We pray this morning for the work of the committees and commissions of our presbytery:
The Executive Council,

The Personnel Committee,
The Finance Committee,
The Commission on Ministry,
The Committee on Preparation for Ministry,
The Permanent Judicial Commission,
The Legacy Fund for Enduring Witness Committee,
The Trustee Committee,
The Nominating Committee,
The Committee on Representation,
The Equip, Nurture, and Connect Committee,
And the Anti-Racism Committee.
Guide their leaders in the preparation,
and guide their members in their discernment.
Lord of life, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the land and communities within which our Presbytery works,
Guide us to treat the soil, water, and air as gifts to steward with gratitude.
Guide us to seek to know the needs, celebrations, and sorrows
Of all the communities within our bounds,
That we, as disciples of Jesus,
May answer the call to love our neighbors.
Lord of life, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the congregations and campus ministries
within Sheppards and Lapsley,
Guide all pastoral leaders to lead the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love.
Guide all the Christian communities to live your love boldly and bodily,
So that the grace and providence of God
May be made visible in their lives and works.
Lord of life, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for political leaders, in our nation, state, and communities,
and we pray for all those newly elected around our country.
Guide them in your grace, bless them with your wisdom.
For those of us disappointed with the election results,
for those of us delighted with the election results, grant us holy hope,
and the grace to speak and act with compassion and kindness
towards those with whom we disagree.
Lord of life, **hear our prayer.**

The Lord's Prayer — Rev. David Seamon

. . . and we pray as Christ taught us, saying,

Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our debts,

as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Hymn GtG 305** ***Come Sing, Or Church, in Joy! DARWALL'S 148TH

***Charge and Benediction** Rev. Madison Roberts

Postlude

† "Call to Worship: Liturgy, Preaching, Music and the Arts" Vol. 58.1. 2024-2025, Year A. published by the Office of Theology and Worship of the PCUSA and the Presbyterian Association of Musicians.

MINISTRY WITHIN OUR PRESBYTERY

11:05 AM Living River "Good News" Moment (pages 7-10) Rev. Rachel Mathews

11:10 AM General Presbyter's "Good News" Moment (page11) Rev. Dr. Mark McCormick

11:15 AM "Good News" Moment Mission Coordinator (page 12) Elder Ralls Coston

11:25 AM COM (page 13) Rev. Nick Reed

1. **COM recommends the presbytery examine Daniel Killilea for ordination and membership into the presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley.** (statements attached / pages 14-19)
2. **If the way be clear, COM recommends approval of the ordination service for Daniel Killilea on Saturday November 21st at 2pm at South Highland Presbyterian Church.**
3. **If the way be clear, COM recommends approval of the following to serve on the ordination commission for Daniel Killilea:** to be announced
4. **If the way be clear, the COM recommends that Daniel Killilea be given permission to serve outside the bounds of our presbytery as pastor at St. Luke's UCC Church in Jeffersonville, IN.**

11:40 AM CPM (page20) Rev. Leeann Scarbrough

CPM presents Ordination Exam Readers for election by the Presbytery. (names will be announced)

11:45 AM Executive Council (page21) Rev. Jonathan Yarboro

EC presents a proposal for PSL approval regarding the distribution of the funds from the sale of the property formerly used by the Congregation of the Good Shepherd, in Anniston, AL. (pages 22-23)

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.*

12:00 PM Finance presents the 2027 Budget (pages 24-30) Elder Wendy Tucker

1. **The finance committee with the support of the Executive Council recommends approval of the Presbytery 2027 Proposed Budget.**

12:05 PM Nominating (pages 31-34) Rev. Caroline Kelly

1. **The Committee nominates the following people to fill new or unexpired terms as indicated in your packet.** (pages 31-34)
2. Election of Nominations and Representation Moderator Terry Hamilton-Poore

<u>Class of 2029:</u> Lee Walthall – Ruling Elder, Independent; Teaching Elder Madison Roberts*, Mountain Brook; Kathy Tracey – Ruling Elder, South Highland; Teaching Elder Caroline Kelley*, Grace Tuscaloosa

12:10 PM Committee on Representation Report (page 35) Stated Clerk, Rev. Marilyn McKelvey Tucker-Marek

12:15 PM Lunch

1:15 PM Enrichment Marilyn M. Tucker-Marek

The Stated Clerk will present an overview of the amendments proposed by the 227th General Assembly. We will vote on these amendments at the stated meeting in February, 2027. (Amendments were attached in the email sent with your packet and also available on the presbytery's website under meetings)

2:00 PM Stated Clerk (pages 36-38) Rev. Marilyn McKelvey Tucker-Marek

1. Per Capita Report;
2. No Reports from Administrative Commissions;
3. There is no new business from Bills & Overtures;
4. Announcements for the Good of the Whole.

2:20 PM Adjournment with Prayer Moderator Terry Hamilton-Poore

†Please stand, if able

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

We wish to extend a special thank you to Rev. Kevin Long, the staff, and the volunteers of Independent Presbyterian Church, Birmingham for hosting the Presbytery meeting today. We would also like to thank Rev. Madison Roberts for preaching the sermon, Rev. Keving Long, Rev. Susan Clayton, Rev. David Seamon, Rev. Nicole Newton, Rev. Madison Roberts and Independent Presbyterian's Director of Music and Fine Arts, Dr. Jeff McLelland for participating in today's worship service.

Next Stated Meeting – February 18, 2027
Living River a Retreat on the Cahaba