Minutes of Stated Meeting of Session Preston Hollow Presbyterian Church

noon Sunday, August 23, 2026

Youth House

THOSE PRESENT AND CONSTITUTING A QUORUM

Elders: Elizabeth Beshear, John Carver, Danya Casey, Joy Ellis, Brooklyn Freisen, Chuck Fuquay, Mike Gelhausen, Caroline Homan, Kyle Lewis, Lesley Martinelli, Jim Meyer, Susan Raye, Julie Richard, Reagan Rothenberger

Elders Absent: Alan Deichler, John Holcomb

Pastoral Staff: Revs. Mark Brainerd, Caroline Grindrod, Matthew Ruffner and Elizabeth Snyder

Staff: Ashlee Hueston, Mary K Isaacs

Clerk of Session: David Scott

CALL TO ORDER

Rev. Ruffner called the meeting to order and opened in prayer. The clerk declared a quorum.

CHURCH HEADLINES

Joys of the Day

The Summer Choir

Children with their backpacks

Piero Centurian, tenor soloist

Children's time in the Chapel (and returning on their own!)

Sunday School attendance was great

Parent volunteers for Fall activities

Flow of service (announcements and throughout)

- *Rev. Matthew Ruffner noted staff anniversaries*
- *Rev Ruffner noted the recent Memorial Service for Don Nelson Sr and the joyful gifts of the operational and pastoral staff in preparing for the service*
- *Rev. Caroline Grindrod shared summer activities of youth-VBS, Montreat, and many others. She also noted the 600 Coffee project nearly met its goal, totaling 476 meetings. The lower number was partly due to staff vacancies, but the project was still very successful in connecting with church members*

outside of Sunday activities.

- *Ashlee updated on the Capital Campaign and Building projects, including hiring Echelon for the Project Manager and OmniPlan as architect. General Contractor interviews are ongoing and should be completed soon. Marketing plans are ongoing and are being prepared to share with congregation.*
- *Matthew shared that we will host another Camino trip next year, June 1-15, 2027. Registration will be announced in September.*

MOTIONS FOR APPROVAL

Session called a Congregational Meeting for Sept. 13 in order to consider pastoral Terms of Call.

Session approved calling a meeting December 13 at 10:00 in order to examine the Communicant's Class

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes and consent agenda reviewed and approved.

FINANCE REPORT & REVIEW

Mary K shared information for the first month of the operating year. Joyfully, ALL committees and ministry areas are under budget for the month. She also explained that year-end receipts and accounting were not available in time to be included in the report received by Session, but will be updated and shared next month. She also led Session through the Balance Sheet. Questions regarding specific lines and uses were clarified.

Matthew entertained a **MOTION** to receive the finance report as given. Seconded and passed.

LOOKING FORWARD

Matthew asked Session to review the 3-Year Picture as outlined in the Staff VTO and led discussion of how that picture and the Four Pillars of the coming campaign interact and inform each other. Further discussion included focus on the "Uniques" and the desired Congregant Profile, including Demographics, Psychographics, and Geographics.

Rev Grindrod shares the overview of ministry for the coming year, including theme, "Common Character." Supporting materials include: a digital devotional; a new Sunday School class, "Faith Journeys;" the Gathering, an opportunity to provide connections to members and guests, particularly those who do not fit in a specific age- or life-stage grouping; and a podcast focused on Peter.

She also mentioned Mission Beyond our Walls, including opportunities with Forest Forward, MLK Arts Academy, Vickery Meadow Literacy Achieves, NowForward , and discerning potential partnerships with international opportunities.

Neighborhood offerings planned include: Pecan Grove Caroling; Ashes to Go; potential New Year's Blessings; a "Fat Saturday 5K; (fundraiser for the Youth Iona trip). Other ideas in planning include "Drops of Delight (coffee pop ups, balloon drops, bouquet making, just to mention a few.)

Mathew challenged us to "Lead by joining in the culture of 'Yes'" and to be curious of possibilities and opportunities in ministries and outreach

Rev. Brainerd led Session through the Session Manual, specifically pointing to committee assignments and responsibilities, dates for meetings throughout the year, and responsibilities and opportunities to both new member and communicant class examinations and meetings of higher bodies of the church.

MANUAL OF OPERATIONS

Ashlee Hueston noted that the Manual of Operations is in final stages of preparation and that it will be sent out next week. She asked for Session input over the coming weeks so that the final document can be discussed and acted upon at the September meeting. Most of the document is codifying current processes, not creating new policies or processes.

ADJOURNMENT AND PRAYER

A **MOTION** to adjourn was seconded and passed unanimously. The meeting closed in prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

David Scott, Clerk of Session

Attest: Rev. Matthew Ruffner, Moderator

Date Approved: 9/27/26