

IN THE CHANCERY COURT FOR SUMNER COUNTY, TENNESSEE
AT GALLATIN

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF
HENDERSONVILLE,
Petitioner,
v.
UNKNOWN HEIRS AND NEXT OF KIN OF
UNKNOWN DECEDENT,
Respondents.

NO.

PETITION FOR AUTHORITY TO REMOVE AND REINTER REMAINS

COMES NOW Petitioner, FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF

HENDERSONVILLE, states as follows:

1. Petitioner is a Tennessee nonprofit religious corporation that owns real property located at 172 West Main Street, Hendersonville, in Sumner County, Tennessee.
2. On the 20th of February 2026, human skeletal remains were discovered on the property in an area not currently marked or maintained as a lawful cemetery, while preparing the Church grounds for a new construction project on the property.
3. The human skeletal remains were located outside the cemetery located on the Church's property.
4. Petitioner has notified appropriate authorities, and the remains are not associated with any known criminal investigation.
5. The identity of the decedent and their next of kin are unknown.

6. Pursuant to Tennessee law, including Tenn. Code Ann. § 46-4-101 et seq., removal of human remains requires proper authorization when consent cannot be obtained.

7. Petitioner proposes that the remains be carefully disinterred by qualified professionals and reinterred at Church's cemetery, located on the property at 172 West Main Street, with appropriate dignity and respect. A marker or memorial will be placed.

8. Petitioner has contracted with New South Associates, who have conducted a manual penetrometer survey to assess and for documentation. A proposal has been made for First Presbyterian Church of Hendersonville would reinter the unknown remains within the Church's cemetery.

9. Petitioner will provide notice to any interested parties as directed by the Court, including by publication if necessary.

WHEREFORE, Petitioner respectfully requests that this Court:

1. Authorize the disinterment and removal of the human remains located on the property;
2. Approve the proposed reinterment plan;
3. Authorize service by publication upon unknown heirs; and
4. Grant such further relief as the Court deems appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,

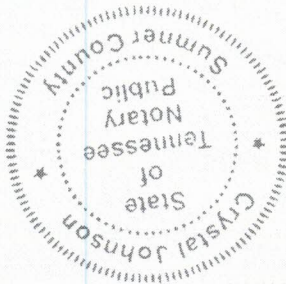
Jason B. Ellison # 024409
113 East Main Street
Gallatin, TN 37066
(615) 362-5680

STATE OF TENNESSEE
COUNTY OF SUMNER

_____ being first duly sworn, make oath that the facts contained in the foregoing Petition are true to the best of his/her knowledge and belief, and that the Petition is not made out of levity or in collusion with any person, but in sincerity and truth, for the causes mentioned in the Petition.

Alana Buchanan
President
First Presbyterian Church of Hendersonville Session

Subscribed and sworn to before me on this the 29th day of April, 2026.



Crystal Johnson

Exp. 4/2/2029