

227TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMMISSIONER NOMINEES BIOS

TE Karen Brown

Karen is currently the chairperson of the Baltimore Presbytery Commission on Reconciliation and Pastor of Hope Presbyterian in Arbutus. Karen was ordained in 1994 in the Baltimore Presbytery as Associate Pastor of Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church. She simultaneously served as the Executive Director of the Madison Avenue Family Life Center, a vital community hub that provided daily services to over 150 families.

Her commitment to justice and reconciliation is evident throughout her service in the Presbytery of Baltimore, where she has served on numerous committees. She currently serves as Co-Convener of the Westside Story Ministry Group, Chair of the Commission on Reconciliation, and a member of Cabinet.

A trailblazer in theological and ecclesiastical leadership, Karen was the founding president of the Union Theological Seminary Black Caucus in 1999 and the inaugural president of the African American Clergy Women's Caucus of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Her national leadership includes serving as Vice President and board member of the National Black Presbyterian Caucus, Chair of the National Self-Development of People Committee, and currently a member of the Next Generation Initiative of the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic.

TE Mary Speers

Mary currently chairs the Commission on Ministry for Baltimore Presbytery. She transferred her membership from New York City Presbytery following her retirement but then took the position of interim pastor at Faith Presbyterian. She has served as a GA commission from other presbyteries: Orlando (1993) and Syracuse (1997). In previous presbyteries she has served on COM, CPM, Trustees, Property Management and overture advocate for a couple of different Gas. She has often attended GA as an observer and welcomes the opportunity to serve as a commissioner for the first time in 29 years.

RE William Blair Curtis

Bill was raised in central New York and has been a life-long Presbyterian.

He's served the church as an Elder, Deacon, and for many years as Clerk of Session-the title he holds today.

Bill has worked for the National Park Service for four decades and counting, serving in a variety of roles interpreting and protecting parks and their resources.

Bill has a long-standing interest in history and natural history and is certified as a Maryland Master Naturalist and Beaver Believer. Volunteers for several organizations and has helped organize green infrastructure projects and tree plantings. He is a Director in the Cromwell Valley Park Nature Council.

Bill is happily married and the proud father of two.

RE Kristofer Stinson

Kris is a student at Princeton Theological Seminary and an Inquirer under the care of Baltimore Presbytery. He will be examined for Candidacy status at this presbytery meeting, and you can read his biography in the meeting papers as a supporting document for the recommendation to move him to Candidacy.

TE Ronnie Hankins, Alternate

Ron is currently the Interim Pastor of Govans Presbyterian Church. Beginning in February 2026 he will be serving as Temporary Supply Pastor of Knox Presbyterian. Ron spent a large part of his ministry serving as the pastor/head of staff at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Baltimore, from August 2003 to January 2019. He served as Moderator of the Presbytery of Baltimore 2010-2011 and is currently a member of the COM.

He was ordained as pastor/head of staff at Woodville Presbyterian in Richmond VA in January 2000. Pastor Ron is a retired military chaplain, having completed a total of 23 years of military service which included 13 years in the U.S. Marine Corps (Enlisted), six years in the U.S. Naval Chaplain Corps, and four years with District of Columbia Air National Guard as a Reserve Air Force chaplain.