

**Minutes of the 882<sup>nd</sup> Gathering of the Presbytery of Baltimore**  
**10:00 AM Thursday, February 14, 2019**  
**Northminster Presbyterian Church**  
**Reisterstown, Maryland**

**OPENING AND WORSHIP**

Vice-Moderator Guy Moody called the Gathering to order at 10:00 AM, and led in prayer. The call was in order and a quorum was present. Host Pastor Rev. Janna VanderWoude then offered a welcome and necessary directions for moving about the church facilities.

Stated Clerk, Rev. John Carlson, then moved the adoption of the docket including addenda which were added after the docket was first published. With a proper second, the motion was **approved**.

New pastors and Ruling Elder Commissioners attending for the first time were introduced by Rev. Jacqueline Taylor, General Presbyter. Rev. Jill Duffield, Editor of *Presbyterian Outlook* and a member of the Presbytery of the James, was seated as a corresponding member.

RE Chrystie Adams lifted our commitment to recognizing the Native Americans who occupied the lands we were meeting on long before the Presbytery arrived; some individuals who had been invited to bring greetings were not able to attend at the last minute.

The presbytery then moved to **worship** with the Rev. Jill Duffield preaching, followed by the celebration of the Lord's Supper, with the Revs. Ray Meute and Rev. Cathy Bashore presiding at the Table. During the observance of the Sacrament, the Necrology of Ministers of Word and Sacrament and Ruling Elders for 2018 was read.

Following worship, Rev. Jill Duffield led Bible Study for the Presbytery on the theme of Self-Care, exploring the "I AM" statements from the Gospel of John.

Before we adjourned for lunch, Catherine Lynch from the Presbyterian Loan and Investment Program presented rebate checks to the following churches which have had loans with PILP: Ark and Dove; First and Franklin; First of Howard; St. Andrews.

We also heard from Revs. Amy Carlson and Joel Strom about the Presbytery's plans to participate in the 2019 Youth Triennium and about an upcoming suicide prevention workshop entitled "Soul Shop" sponsored by the Spiritual Leader Development Commission.

Rev. Carrie Finch Burriss, Chairperson of the Committee on Local Arrangements for the 224<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, highlighted the work of the various subcommittees and solicited volunteers.

**Lunch** was served at 12:15; Vice Moderator RE Guy Moody led in thanks for the hospitality of the volunteers from Central Church who have served the Presbytery today.

After lunch, the Presbytery convened in small groups for **Open Space** discussions.

## **DISCERNMENT AND DECISIONS**

The Presbytery reconvened in plenary at 2:15 pm with prayer by Vice-Moderator Moody.

He then introduced General Presbyter Jackie Taylor, who reported on a hate crime at Maryland Presbyterian Church, their inclusivity signs having been vandalized. She announced they are sponsoring a Rally Against Hate this Sunday, Feb. 17, at 10 a.m. Members of the presbytery are invited to attend.

## **STATED CLERK'S REPORT**

Stated Clerk Jack Carlson gave his report; no items were requested to be moved from the **Consent Motion**. There was no new business presented. He then moved the following consent motion, which was **approved**:

The Stated Clerk recommended:

- THE APPROVAL of the minutes of the 881st Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Baltimore, November 10, 2018, as posted on the Presbytery website ([www.baltimorepresbytery.org](http://www.baltimorepresbytery.org)).
- THAT the Commission to install Rev. Michele Ward on January 13, 2019, as Associate Pastor at Brown Memorial Presbyterian Church be dismissed, as Rev. Ward was duly installed. Minister members of the commission were: Rev. David Norse Thomas (moderator); Rev. Andrew Foster Connors; Ruling Elder members were: Taylor Steward (Brown Memorial), Vivian Smith (Hunting Ridge), and Greg Wright (Light Street). Corresponding members: Rev. Rebecca Blake (Beacon Church, Presbytery of Philadelphia) and Rev. Keri Olson (East Falls Church, Presbytery of Philadelphia).
- THAT the Administrative Commission for the Govans-Brown Memorial (Woodbrook) merger be dismissed with thanks, the final report of the AC having been received, and their work successfully completed. Members of the Commission were: *Rev. Dr. Ron Hankins (Trinity PC), Rev. Tom Harris (Govans PC), Rev. Randy Clayton (Brown Memorial Woodbrook PC), Elder Anne Heuisler (Brown Memorial Park Ave PC), Elder Robert Latshaw (Towson PC). Advisory members were: Trustee Brooke Schumm Esq. (Mt. Hebron PC), Rev. Christa Burns (Faith PC), Rev. Dr. Rob Hoch (1<sup>st</sup> & Franklin PC) and Rev. Alison Halsey (Retired).*

The Committee on Preparation for Ministry recommends:

- That Hans Killius (Cumberland) be removed from CPM Rolls.

## **GENERAL PRESBYTER'S REPORT**

General Presbyter Jacqueline Taylor made her report to the Presbytery, reporting that she has now concluded a first round of visitation to churches, either for worship or some other event. She lifted up the variety and vitality of worship across the presbytery; the

warmth and hospitality of our churches, and the breadth of mission being carried out. She also lifted up some things in churches that visitors would notice, but that members might not see, offering tips on answering machines, web pages, etc., and on meeting, greeting and informing visitors.

## **REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON RECONCILIATION**

The annual report of the Commission on Reconciliation was presented by Commission Chair RE Lisa Beacham. Details of the report are found in Appendix B.

## **VOTING ON AMENDMENTS TO THE BOOK OF ORDER**

The Presbytery then moved to vote on Amendments to the Book of Order as approved by the 223<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly (St. Louis) and sent to the presbyteries. The Amendments, and the Presbytery's vote are as follows:

18-A. Election of Ruling Elders and Deacons On Amending G-2.0401 (Item 06-11).

The Presbytery voted to **approve**.

18-B. Renunciation of Jurisdiction. The Presbytery voted to **approve**.

18-B.1. On Amending G-2.0509 (Item 06-09) The Presbytery voted to **approve**.

18-B.2. On Amending D-10.0401d (Item 06-09) The Presbytery voted to **approve**.

18-C. Officers On Amending G-3.0104 (Item 06-16) The Presbytery voted to **disapprove**.

18-D. Membership of Presbytery On Amending G-3.0306 (Item 06-05) The Presbytery voted to **approve**.

18-E. Pastor, Counselor, and Advisor to Its Pastors and Congregations On Amending G-3.0307 (Item 06-02) The Presbytery voted to **approve**.

18-F. Welcoming to the Table On Amending W-4.0202 (Item 14-03) The Presbytery voted to **approve**.

18-G. Disciplinary Offense On Amending D-2.0203b (Item 06-04) The Presbytery voted to **approve**.

18-H. Time Limit On Amending D-10.0401 (Item 06-24) The Presbytery voted to **approve**.

18-H.1. Shall D-10.0401b of the Rules of Discipline be amended. The Presbytery voted to **approve**.

18-H.2. Shall D-10.0401c(1) of the Rules of Discipline be amended. The Presbytery voted to **approve**.

## **REPORT FROM THE CENTER**

The Moderator called on Rev. Tim Hughes Williams, Chair of the Center Steering Committee, who introduced several persons to talk about the work of the Center. Michael Moore reported on a mural that had been painted in the neighborhood; RE Chrystie Adams, Brown Memorial, who discussed learning camps sponsored by their church; Rev. David Norse Thomas, who talked about the efforts of their congregation to bring children into the life of the church. All these efforts were supported by the Center. "Hands and Feet" Fellows Liv Thomas and Mel Lowry spoke of their efforts to reach out to churches in the Presbytery, inviting partnership between the churches and the Center.

### **STEERING CABINET REPORT**

RE Adrienne Knight gave the report of the Steering Cabinet, moving the following changes to the Manual:

- That the Manual be revised by replacing the old statement of purpose for the Commission on Reconciliation with a new statement as follows: 9.6.1 The Commission on Reconciliation encourages and facilitates the work of reconciliation by raising awareness and building our congregations' capacity to engage in their neighborhoods and the world. The Commission embodies the Presbytery's shared witness to reconciliation through Presbytery partnerships, The Center, the Self Development of People program and initiatives that challenge and support congregational leaders in their efforts to dismantle racism, alleviate suffering and bear public witness to the reconciling love of Christ. (Approved by COR on November 28, 2018)

This replaces the old language as follows: 9.6.1. Purpose: To facilitate the work of reconciliation through the current Presbytery partnerships and by building the capacity of congregations to engage in advocacy in the Public Square and to offer congregational leaders concrete methods in which they can engage in reconciliation in their neighborhoods and the world.

The motion was **approved**.

- That the Manual of Presbytery be revised as follows:
  1. Add The Center to the List of Agencies (Section 6.3)
  - 2. Add a new Section 12 to the Manual and renumber all sections following 12 The Center
    - 12.1 The Center is an Agency of Presbytery whose mission is "to inspire and equip churches and individuals to engage boldly with their neighborhoods - to get involved where Christ's love and justice are already at work." As it fulfills its own mission, The Center also supports the Presbytery's mission and vision.
    - 12.2 The Center's program and budget will be under the authority of its own Steering Committee.
      - 12.2.1 A majority of the members of the steering committee must be members of Presbytery or congregations of the presbytery
      - 12.2.2 The Center's Steering Committee will nominate its members, and will submit nominees annually to the Steering Cabinet for approval.
    - 12.3 The Center is accountable to the Presbytery's

mission and vision through the Steering Cabinet 12.3.1 The Executive Director sits on the Steering Cabinet ex-officio 12.3.2 The Executive Director will be a staff member of the Presbytery. Other required staffing will be accountable to the Center Steering Committee and included in The Center's budget. 12.3.3 The Center will make a full report of its finances, program and success markers to the Presbytery annually.

12.4 The budget and finances of The Center will be developed by the Center Steering Committee and will be submitted annually to the Steering Cabinet for approval. The Center's budget will be supported through program fees, fund raising, grants, etc. with the exception of the compensation of the Executive Director, which will be part of the staff budget of the Presbytery. 12.4.1 The Center's financial statements will be audited as part of the Presbytery's annual audit. 12.4.2 The Presbytery may provide additional financial support for The Center (beyond the Executive Director's compensation) through its annual budget process. 12.4.3 Before purchasing or encumbering any real property or borrowing money or entering into any lease or rental obligation of greater than 24 months, The Center must first obtain the written approval of the Presbytery. 12.4.4 The Center must obtain the prior approval of the Steering Cabinet before conducting any capital campaign, but otherwise has the authority to solicit grants and contributions towards its annual programming without such approval. 12.5 With approval of the Steering Cabinet and advice of legal counsel, The Center may incorporate as a non-profit subsidiary of the Presbytery.

The motion was **approved**.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

### **CLOSE OF BUSINESS**

There being no further business, without objection, prayer was offered by Vice-Moderator Guy Moody and the presbytery was **adjourned** at 3:55 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Attest:

John V. Carlson  
Stated Clerk

Mary D. Gaut  
Deputy Stated Clerk

Appendices:

- A. Attendance Detail
- B. Reports – Stated Clerk, Steering Cabinet, Committee on Ministry, Trustees
- C. Report from the Administrative Commission on the Govans-Brown Memorial (Woodbrook) merger

Addendum: Report of Commission on Reconciliation

## Appendix A: Attendance Detail

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Category	Present	Excused	Absent	Total
Teaching Elders Serving Churches	45	5	13	63
Resident Specialized Clergy and H.R.	10	5	10	25
New Worshiping Community Leaders	0	0	4	0
Ruling Elder Members of Presbytery's Steering Cabinet and Commissions	3	0	5	8
Continuing Corresponding Members	1	0	0	1
Ruling Elder Commissioners	30	0	40	70
Youth Advisory Delegates	0	0	0	0
Presbytery Program Staff (w/o vote)	2	0	0	2
Guests and Presbytery Staff	19	0	0	19
Commissioned Ruling Elders	3	0	6	9
Certified Lay Employees with vote	0	1	0	1
Former Ruling Elder Moderators	2	1	10	13
Former Ruling Elder Stated Clerks	1	0	2	3
Candidates and Inquirers	1	0	0	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>216</b>

### Teaching Elders serving churches:

Present: Terrence Alspaugh; Kimberly Secrist Ashby; Thomas Blair; Dorothy Boulton; Amy Carlson Rob Carter; Laura Carihfield; Susan DeWyngaert; Jennifer Di Francesco, Amy Duiker; Phyllis Felton; Carrie Finch-Burriss; Andrew Foster Connors; Andrew Gathman; Jeanne Gay; Matthew Glasgow; Jeong Hoon Han; Mark Hanna; Morton Harris; Sue Lowcock Harris; Scott Hoffman; Thomas Harris; Rob Hoch; Tim Hughes; Mary Ka Kanahan; Ken Kovacs; Edwin Lacy; Jessie Lowry; Renee Mackey; Shannon Meacham; Eric Myers; Adrian Pratt; Elizabeth McLean; Stephen Melton; Daniel Melton; Ray Meute; Michael Moore; Andrew Nagel; Jonathon Nelson; David Norse; Keith Paige; John Schmidt; Tim Stern; Joel Strom; Laurel Underwood; Janna VanderWoude; David Willerup.

Absent and Excused: Jennifer Barchi; Rebecca Crate; Teresa Martin-Minnich; Deborah McEachran; Heather Shortlidge.

Absent: David Bleivik; Leonard Hornick; John Kazanjian; Nancy Lincoln-Reynolds; Lisa Rzepka; Mark Sandell; Todd Smith; Tanya Wade;

#### Resident Specialized Clergy

Present: Catherine Bashore; Katherine Foster Connors; Jacqueline Taylor; Charles Thomas.

Absent and Excused: Richard Jones; S Kay Myers; John Myhill; Jennifer Williams

Absent: Brandon Brewer; Karen Brown; Tanya Denley; Sarah Diehl; Stephen Mann; Stacy Martin; Edward Richardson; Sr,.

#### Honorably Retired

Present: Christa Burns; John Carlson; Doris Cowan; Mary Gaut; Jack Hodges; Roger Rice.

Excused: Walt Peters.

#### Ruling Elder Members of Presbytery's Steering Cabinet and Commissions

Present: Chrystie Adams; Deborah Baer; Guy Moody; Susan Moody; Cindy Prevatte; Rob Smith; Reid Spearman

Absent:; Lisa Beacham; Judy Hardy; Yvette McEachern; JoAnne Torrie; Audrey Trapp; Jaime Wilkins; J. Wright Witcher

Corresponding Members: Jill Duffield, Presbytery of the James

#### Ruling Elder Commissioners from Congregations:

Present: Ark and Dove, Ellen Makar; Brown Memorial Park Avenue, Gayle Barney; Catonsville, Cheryl Thurber; Central, Debbie Dininno, Luci Davis; Chestnut Grove, Caroly Nabet; Christ Our King, Joanne Kokie; Churchville, Bonnie Jones;; Dickey Memorial, Julie Edwards; Faith, Audrey Trapp; Fallston, Fred Stokes; First, Annapolis, Betsy Stewart, Helen Krone; First Bel Air, Van Reiner; First Cumberland, Robin Bissell; First of Westminster, John Wilson; Good Shepherd, Cindy Prevatte; Govans, Lisa Beacham; Grace, Veronica Yates; Hamilton, Ronald Helmick; Harundale, Lewis Shell; Havre de Grace, Greg Smith; Highland, Claudia Scarborough; Hunting Ridge, Elaine McDowell; Madison Avenue, Jean Owens; Maryland, Carol Mason; Northminster, Brian Cumer;, Cindy Collins; Springfield, Robert Stappling; St. John United, Susan Moody; Woods Memorial, Julia Erickson, Karen Straube, Holly Albrecht.

Congregations without Elder representation: Ashland; Babcock, Barrelville, Bethel, Cherry Hill; Christ Memorial; Christ Our Anchor; Covenant; Emmitsburg; First and Franklin; First, Bel Air; First, Frostburg, First Howard County; Franklinville; Frederick, Glen Burnie Korean; Granite; Grove; Hagerstown; Hancock; Havenwood; Hope; Hughes Memorial; Kenwood; Knox; Korean United; Light

Street, Lochearn; Mt. Hebron, Mount Paran; Perry Hall; Prince of Peace; Roland Park; Second; Towson; Trinity.

#### Commissioned Ruling Elders

Present: Jay Garvin; Ledonia Kimball; Donna Lea; Ed Terry;

Excused:

Absent: Joan Berry; Anita Bishop-Johnson; John Brewington; Greg Seltzer; Cleoda Walker

#### Candidates and Inquirers:

Present: McKenna Lewellen

Youth Advisory Delegates Present: None

Certified Lay Employees with vote: None

Former Ruling Elder Moderators: Adrienne Knight; Jim Schroll

Former Ruling Elder Stated Clerks Present: Catherine Blacka

Presbytery Program Staff Present (without vote): Debbie Schmidt; Susan Krehbiel.

19 guests and Presbytery staff were also present.

## APPENDIX B: Reports

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### **Stated Clerk's Report**

The Stated Clerk reports the following resignations:

- The Rev. Caroline Kelly from the position of Moderator of the Presbytery, as she has accepted a call to the Presbyterian Church of Danville, KY.
- The Rev. Amy Duiker from the Glen Burnie Korean Presbyterian Church Administrative Commission.
- The Rev. Ron Hankins from the Committee on Ministry and from the Permanent Judicial Commission.
- The Rev. Jeanne Gay from the Committee on Ministry and the Personnel Committee.

### **Steering Cabinet Report**

The Steering Cabinet reports that a first-ever joint meeting with the Board of Trustees took place on December 11, 2019, so the two bodies could discuss matters of mutual concern and shared responsibility. A second meeting will be held in March.



### **Commission on Reconciliation**

The Commission Reconciliation reports that: It has rewritten its Statement of Purpose and has recommended that Steering Cabinet bring to Presbytery a revision in the Manual as follows:

The Commission on Reconciliation encourages and facilitates the work of reconciliation by raising awareness and building our congregations' capacity to engage in their neighborhoods and the world. The Commission embodies the Presbytery's shared witness to reconciliation through Presbytery partnerships, the Self Development of People program and initiatives that challenge and support congregational leaders in their efforts to dismantle racism, alleviate suffering and bear public witness to the reconciling love of Christ. (Approved by COR on November 28, 2018)

### **Commission on Spiritual Leader Development**

The Commission reports that (acting on behalf of the Presbytery) it has approved the recommendation from the Nominating Committee electing the following people to serve:

On the Committee on Ministry:

Andy Nagel (Central) – Class of 2021

Susan DeWyngaert (Woods Memorial) – Class of 2019

On the Commission on Thriving Congregations:

Tim Hughes Williams (Light Street) – Class of 2021

### **Commission on Thriving Congregations**

The Commission on Thriving congregation reports that: Holy Cow is training CAT Interpreters for Baltimore Presbytery. Dates are 1/24-25. The first assessment with our local interpreters will be 1/266 at Churchville. On Feb 9 HRPC will use a local interpreter, as well. Local interpreters will provide considerable savings to the churches and Presbytery in most future assessments, even with offering a small honorarium.

Total CAT interpretations done or scheduled exceed 20 churches. We will be getting a Presbytery dashboard in the first quarter documenting these churches and their characteristics. (Further Report: see below, Appendix D)

### **Committee on Ministry**

The Committee on Ministry reports that: It has approved on 02/06, 2019, the following transfers:

Linda Nepstad to John Knox Presbytery

Robin White to Foothills Presbytery

Caroline Kelly to Transylvania Presbytery

Ron Hankins to Tres Rios Presbytery

It has received the following new members of the Presbytery:

Keith Wynne Roberts from Philadelphia, to serve as pastor at Good Shepherd, start date 2/17, approved by Credentials on 12/10/2018

D. Kerry Slinkard from Donegal, to serve as interim pastor at Babcock, start date 2/1, approved by Credentials on 1/24/2019.

It has approved the request of Amy Duiker to labor outside the bounds of the Presbytery.

## Appendix C: Govans-BMW AC Final Report

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### MEMORANDUM

Date: February 8, 2019

From: Reverend Dr. Ronnie A. Hankins, Moderator, Administrative Commission for the merger of Govans Presbyterian Church of Baltimore, MD., and Brown Memorial Woodbrook Presbyterian Church of Baltimore, MD.

To: The Presbytery of Baltimore.

Subject: **FINAL REPORT REGARDING THE MERGER OF GOVANS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AND BROWN MEMORIAL WOODBROOK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.**

1. The Administrative Commission for the merger of Govans and Brown Memorial Woodbrook was appointed by the Steering Cabinet of the Baltimore Presbytery who was moderated at that time by Elder James Parks. The Administrative commission was given a very specific charge to help facilitate and provide assistance as well as provide ecclesiastical support to these two congregations seeking to merge. After the ecclesiastical merge of the congregations, the administrative commission would continue to monitor and provide support during the sale of the Brown Memorial Woodbrook properties, reviewing all aspects of the sale and approving the final proposal on behalf of the Presbytery of Baltimore. The members of the commission were *Rev. Dr. Ron Hankins (Trinity PC)*, *Rev. Tom Harris (Govans PC)*, *Rev. Randy Clayton (Brown Memorial Woodbrook PC)*, *Elder Anne Heuisler (Brown Memorial Park Ave PC)*, *Elder Robert Latshaw (Towson PC)*, *Trustee Brooke Schumm Esq. (Mt. Hebron PC)*, *Rev. Christa Burns (Faith PC)*, *Rev. Dr. Rob Hoch (1<sup>st</sup> & Franklin PC)* and *Rev. Alison Halsey (Retired)*. Also present and observing at some of the meetings as were *Rev. Jack Carlson (Stated Clerk)*, *Rev. Mary Gaut, (Deputy Stated Clerk)* and *Rev. Dr. Jacqueline Taylor (General Presbyter)*. All meetings were held at the Baltimore Presbytery office.

2. **January through August 2017.** The administrative commission met three times in early

2017 and had a number of discussions which focused primarily on the scope and charge of the commission - whether the commission would play an active role in determining the feasibility of the merger, or whether the commission would simply facilitate and support the process. After some discussion with the leadership of presbytery including the steering committee who formed the commission, it was determined that the commission's role would focus more on supporting and facilitating the merger process, given the fact that the two congregations had already accomplished more than a year's worth of effort in preparing themselves for this future merger.

In previous months, the leadership of both church congregations had consulted with the presbytery's Committee on Ministry led by Elder Jim Schroll, the Commission on Thriving Congregations led by Rev. John Schmidt, as well as with Associate General Presbyter Rev. Bill Nichols concerning the merger. The AC was informed that these discussions were fruitful, resulting in positive support for the merger by all three offices of presbytery leadership with whom the merger was discussed.

3. Other important discussions during the spring of 2017 involved examining other successful merger models that have already taken place around the denomination, as well as the appropriate pace to which the merger process of the two congregations should take. Pastors Harris and Clayton had expressed their desire for the ecclesiastical component of the merger (meaning the two congregations physically joining and worshiping as one congregation) to be considered for approval at the September and November 2017 Presbytery gatherings. After a period of discussion and debate including some concerns regarding the seemingly fast pace of the of the merger from a number of commission members, it was agreed that the measure would be submitted for an initial review at the September 2017 presbytery gathering and voted upon and decided at the November 2017 presbytery gathering.

4. **September through December 2017.** At the September presbytery gathering, the plan for merger proposal was submitted to the presbytery for their initial reading of the document. At this gathering, Reverend's Tom Harris and Randy Clayton explained the process components of the merger, as well providing the presbytery with a tremendous testimony of the positive energy and synergy experienced by members of both congregations during this pre-merger process. At the December Presbytery Gathering the measure returned to the presbytery for further discussion and was overwhelmingly passed at presbytery. The ecclesiastical component of the

merger was now approved and confirmed by Presbytery and the newly merged congregation of Govans Presbyterian church celebrated their first official worship service on December 3, 2017.

5. **January though June 2018.** The AC met in in the spring of 2018 to listen to Rev. Harris' testimonial of the initial results of the ecclesiastical merger since the presbytery vote in November, as well as discuss steps of the sale of the Woodbrook church property. It was also reported at this meeting that Rev. Randy Clayton had accepted a new call to a church in Delaware and would be leaving Baltimore. Although stunned by this turn of events, the administrative commission agreed that the process was still continuing successfully under the leadership of Rev. Tom Harris and that the majority of the congregation was still very motivated and excited about the direction in which the church was heading.

A number of very reasonable bids were offered from many viable candidates within the community, however in the end - a proposal for the sale of the Brown Memorial Woodbrook property to the Cambridge Christian School of Baltimore, Maryland was submitted to and approved by the administrative commission. The sale of the property was completed in June of 2018. Since the sale of the Woodbrook property, the session leadership of new Govans Presbyterian Church has been working to diligently close out any remaining incorporated entities of associated with the former Brown Memorial Woodbrook ministry and was in still the process of completing those final tasks through the close of 2018.

### **Future Considerations.**

Areas for thought and consideration regarding the future merging of churches include:

- Developing a clearer understanding of the role of the Administrative Commission assigned to the process of churches merging. What exactly is their mandate and what are the parameters of their authority? There were times during this process where it was unclear as to whether the AC was leading the discussion of the merger between Govans and Woodbrook, or was the AC merely a supporter and facilitator of the process? In the case of the latter, for future cases, perhaps a liaison from the Steering Cabinet may be appointed to provide support for the process on behalf of the Steering Cabinet in contrast to a formal administrative commission. However, if an administrative commission is to be utilized for future mergers, will the AC be physically involved with interviewing leaders and congregants from both congregations? Should the AC alone determine the viability of the

merger and report these findings back to the steering cabinet and how much further involvement should the AC be in the early stages of the process?

- There should be as much professional brevity in the selection of AC members as possible. The development of the AC should include individuals with expertise in a number of key areas such as an attorney, as well as someone with expertise in commercial real-estate; an accountant or other tax law professional.
- Also in the future, I sense it would be wise not to include on the commission the pastors who are involved in the merger itself. It impacts the objectivity of the AC and affects the ability for AC members to speak openly without disappointing or upsetting the pastors who have everything to gain in the success of the proposed merger.
- Mergers are a long and tedious process which require much discernment and planning, as well as tremendous organization. The presbytery can play a very important role by leading the discussion of mergers for potential congregations, as well as other possible avenues for congregations as they consider their futures.  
The development of a possible checklist or timeline for potential merger candidates to review may prove to be a helpful tool for congregations, as well as future administrative commissions.
- After the dissolution of the administrative commission, the development of a *follow-up team* to monitor the progress of the merged churches may prove beneficial. The follow team can observe whether or not earlier established benchmarks are being achieved, as well as provide counsel and assistance in the event of any unforeseen challenges faced by the newly merged congregation.
- One question to consider is *should there be a contract in place for pastors to stay with a newly merged congregation for an agreed period of 12 to 18 months?* A pastor leaving after such a short period of time during a season of new church development can be potentially devastating to a newly merged congregation.

In conclusion, this administrative commission reports the merger of the new Govans Presbyterian Church to be a great success. I truly hope and pray that the Spirit of the Lord

will continue to bless this new congregation with continued success as they enter into their new future of ministry to their community.

In the Service of Christ...

Reverend Dr. Ronnie A. Hankins

Chairperson & Moderator.



# ADDENDUM

## Commission on Reconciliation 2018 in Review

In 2018, the Commission on Reconciliation continued to provide a forum for the programs under its mandate to grow and deepen our mutual understanding of what it means to be apostles for reconciliation in all its expressions. The Commission began the year by reflecting on the Presbytery's vision statement and ended the year discussing its own purpose. As a result, a revised purpose statement is being presented for approval by the Presbytery at the February 14th, 2019 Gathering:

***Revised Purpose:*** *The Commission on Reconciliation encourages and facilitates the work of reconciliation by raising awareness and building our congregations' capacity to engage in their neighborhoods and the world. The Commission embodies the Presbytery's shared witness to reconciliation through Presbytery partnerships, the Self Development of People program and initiatives that challenge and support congregational leaders in their efforts to dismantle racism, alleviate suffering and bear public witness to the reconciling love of Christ.*

2018 proved to be a year of transitions and succession planning. Principal among these was saying farewell to Deb Milcarek after 13 years of service to the Presbytery and the key staff liaison with the Commission since its inception. Fortunately, Susan Krehbiel was ready and able to step in and continue vital staff support on an interim basis while long term staffing needs are determined.

Another type of transition was the result of the significant growth and expansion of The Center as a ministry of the Presbytery. After six years, it was clear that The Center was much more than another "partnership" as it was initially conceived. The Commission, along with the Steering Cabinet, Trustees, General Presbyter and The Center Director have been working diligently to establish the best support and reporting structure to continue The Center's ministry and work within the Presbytery. Even as reporting mechanisms shift in the future, the Commission expects to continue to have close ties with The Center.

### **Partnerships and The Center**

As part of its oversight responsibilities, the Commission reviewed and approved the budgets, committee memberships and Principles of Reconciliation for each of the Partnerships (Cuba, Guatemala and Baltimore-Dakota Learning Camps) and The Center. "Principles of Reconciliation" is a document that outlines the membership and operations for each of the steering committees. The Commission ensures that these Principles are consistent with the values and approach established by the Commission for Presbytery mission engagement. A central principle for all three partnerships is **mutuality**, exemplified in the way in which plans and budget decisions are made and in the commitment to support travel exchanges in both directions.

The partnerships and The Center also revised their own child protection policies and guidance to reflect the new Presbytery policy and ensure that we are providing the safest environment possible for all children and youth involved.

### **The Cuba Partnership**

The Cuba Partnership is the oldest of the three Presbytery partnerships, celebrating 20 years of fellowship, support and friendship with the El Centro Presbytery.

In January, a Pastor's Retreat for pastors and partners/spouses from Baltimore, Central Florida and El Centro Presbyteries was held in Cuba with seven participants from Baltimore. Eight churches and approximately 35 individuals traveled to Cuba for church-to-church partnership visits, including First of Annapolis who signed a new 5-year partnership agreement with Caibarien.

The U.S. government's decision to close the U.S. Embassy in Havana has had a direct impact on the Cuban people. Without any way for Cubans to apply for a U.S. Visa, only Cubans with an existing five-year visa are able to travel to the U.S. We were very fortunate to be able to welcome 5 Cuban visitors in 2018 to Baltimore.

The Partnership ended the year planning for the 2019 Cuba Encuentro, a bi-annual event to encourage new participants and exploration of new partnerships between the churches in Baltimore and El Centro Presbyteries. Please pray for the 42 Encuentro participants of both presbyteries for their time together February 15-22, 2019.

Marty Clayton, Chairperson

Bill Smith, Treasurer

Deb Baer, Vice-chair

Betty Schroll, Secretary

Audrey Trapp, Steering Committee member, PCUSA Cuba Partnership Network

### **The Dakota Partnership: Baltimore Dakota Leaning Camps (BDLC)**

The Dakota partnership is focused on the organizing of summer learning camps. There were four Learning Camps in 2018, staffed by 74 adults, youth and children from the Presbytery of Baltimore and 225 Lakota and Dakota campers. Through the camp experience new relationships were built and existing ones were rekindled.

- Ihanktonwan Learning Camp – First of Cumberland and Cedar Church
- Pejuhutazizi Family Learning Camp – Brown Memorial Park Avenue, Hunting Ridge and Pejuhutazizi Presbyterian Church and the Upper Sioux Community Center
- Porcupine Bible Camp – Highland, Fallston, Christ Our King and Porcupine Church



- The new Sisseton Family Learning Camp – Chestnut Grove, Govans, First and Franklin and Long Hollow, Ascension, Good Will, Buffalo Lake, Mayasan and Lake Traverse Churches and the Veterans Memorial Youth Center

2018 was a year of bringing our learning and experience to our local context in 2 ways:

- BDSC joined the NATIVE AMERICAN BOARDING SCHOOL HEALING COALITION (NABS) and BDSC Chair, Chrystie Adams, attended the first NABS Annual Conference in Carlisle, PA. There were 99 boarding school survivors in attendance at the conference and they were honored in many ways throughout the 3-day conference. Workshops centered around understanding of the traumatic history of the boarding school movement in America and Canada.
- BDSC developed and advocated for a new Presbytery Policy related to the Doctrine of Discovery, which will allow our Presbytery to start each Gathering with an acknowledgement of the Indigenous people whose lands we now occupy and call our Presbytery of Baltimore. The BDSC also hosted a Talking Circle that focused on the Doctrine of Discovery so that members of our Presbytery can learn more about the tragic history of our Native American brothers and sisters.

BDSC Chair:	Chrystie Adams, Brown Memorial Park Ave.
Vice Chair:	Robert Stepling, Springfield (September 2019)
Recording Secretary:	Marla Holt, First and Franklin
Budget Analyst:	Judi Forrester, Havenwood

### **Guatemala Partnership:**

The Guatemala Partnership has continued to develop its relationship with CEDEPCA (Center for Pastoral Education) which this last year included:

- Two trips organized for Baltimore Presbytery participants, one in January on the theme of Marginalized Communities (11 participants from 6 congregations) and one in October on the theme of Women in Ministry and Leadership (10 participants from 4 congregations)
- Over \$6,000 raised for relief, going to support CEDEPCA's efforts to provide ongoing spiritual/psycho-social care to those displaced by the eruption of the Fuego volcano.
- Over 100 people reached monthly with our Guatemala prayer letter
- Provided a grant of up to \$10,000 to CEDEPCA to offer organization-wide staff conference, planned for 2019
- Representation on the CEDEPCA-USA Board

We invited four people onto our leadership team: Rev. Amy Duiker, Sher Atkinson, Sheila Breuer, and Susan Krehbiel (staff liaison). And we dismissed with gratitude for their service four people from our leadership team: Betsy Jenkins, Bonnie Clark, Amy Duiker, and Deb Milcarek (staff liaison)

As we look ahead in 2019, we are busy planning a spring trip for April 29-May 5 on the theme of Transformation through Education.

Chair: Andy Gathman, Chestnut Grove  
Treasurer: Sheila Breuer, Woods Memorial

### **The Presbytery Committee on Self Development of People**

The local SDOP went into hiatus in the wake of Deb Milcarek's departure and high turnover in the local committee. The Committee has struggled in recent years with very few applications that meet SDOP criteria. The future of a local SDOP committee will be a question for the Commission in 2019.

### **Dismantling Racism Team**

Anti-racism was a growing area of focus in 2018 beginning with an ad hoc Dismantling Racism Team established early in the year. Based on this Team's work, the Commission assisted with the promotion and adoption of a Dismantling Racism policy in September, the approval of a formal Team and the launching of a pilot "Dismantling Racism" training.

The Pilot Dismantling Racism training was held on Friday, November 30, 2018 at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Baltimore City, returning to the location where a Presbytery prayer service was held following the death of Freddie Gray in 2015. There were 28 participants representing both staff and members of the Presbytery.

Three trainings have been scheduled for 2019: January 21, May 20<sup>th</sup> and October 19<sup>th</sup> with different locations throughout the Presbytery.

#### **2018 Team Members:**

TE Tom Harris, Govans  
CRE Ledonia Kimball, Trinity  
TE Ken Kovacs, Catonsville,  
TE Migde Lucas, Annapolis/Harundale  
TE Ray Meute, Highland, Co-Chair  
TE Michael Moore, Knox, Co-Chair  
RE James Park, Hunting Ridge  
TE Laurel Underwood, First of Frostburg

**Enduring Witness Fund Grants**

At the end of 2018, the Commission began developing guidance for a new grant making program, The Enduring Witness Fund “Community Engagement Grant”, in order to launch this new grant program in early 2019. Through this program, the Commission will provide grants to congregations engaged in community organizing and/or community engagement efforts. The total amount of funds available for 2019 is \$25,000. Information on the formal guidelines and application process will be forthcoming.

**Commission on Reconciliation Members (Classes of 2019-2021):**

Lisa Beacham (Chair)	Yvette McEachern
Chrystie Adams	Joanne Torre
Deb Baer	Audrey Trapp
Andy Gathman	Janna Vanderwoude
Adrienne Knight	Susan Krehbiel (staff)
Kate Foster-Connors (staff)	

Thanks to Alice Haskins, Bill Hathaway and Tim Hughes Williams who ended their service on the Commission in 2018.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lisa Beacham, Chair