

**Minutes of the 883rd Gathering of the Presbytery of Baltimore
4:00 pm, Thursday, May 9, 2019
Chestnut Grove Presbyterian Church
Phoenix, Maryland**

OPENING

Vice-Moderator Guy Moody called the Gathering to order at 4:00 pm, and led in prayer. The call was in order and a quorum was present. Host Pastor Rev. Andrew Gathman 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 Moderator Moody. Rev. Warren J. Lesane, Jr., Synod Executive of the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic, and a member of the Presbytery of Charlotte, 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; Dr. Dennis Seymour of the Baltimore American Indian Center welcomed the Presbytery and made comments about the many tribes who were present in the years before European settlement.

DISCERNMENT AND DECISIONS

STATED CLERK'S REPORT

Stated Clerk Jack Carlson gave his report, adding a few new items to the Consent motion, noted below in these minutes; no items were requested to be moved from the **Consent Motion**. He then moved the following consent motion, which was **approved**:

The Stated Clerk recommended:

- THE APPROVAL of the minutes of the 88nd Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Baltimore, February 14, 2019, as posted on the Presbytery website (www.baltimorepresbytery.org). You may download the minutes to an electronic device or print the minutes, if you desire a paper copy.

The Committee on Ministry recommended:

1. That Presbytery APPROVE the 2019 terms of call for pastors, attached as **Appendix E**, posted on the website, and printed as a separate document.
2. That Presbytery approve the retirement of Rev. Jack Myhill effective June 4, 2019, and grant him the status of Honorably Retired.
3. That Presbytery approve the transfer of the Rev. Amy Duiker to the Presbytery of Miami Valley.

The Nominating Committee recommended:

4. That Presbytery elect the following persons to the agencies indicated:
 - a. TE Jennifer Barchi (Dickey Memorial to the Commission on Thriving Congregations class of 2022 and be elected Chair class of 2020
 - b. RE Susan Moody (St. John United) to the Commission on Thriving Congregations class of 2022
 - c. RE Van Reiner (First Bel Air) to the Commission on Thriving Congregations class of 2022
 - d. TE Michele Ward (Brown Memorial) be elected to the Commission on Thriving Congregations class of 2021
 - e. TE Jessie Lowry (Christ our Anchor) to the Commission on Spiritual Leader Development
 - f. TE Becca Crate as chair of the Commission on Spiritual Leader Development class of 2020
 - g. RE Lisa Beacham to the Commission on Reconciliation class of 2022 and be elected as Chair class of 2020.
 - h. TEs Susan DeWyngaert (Woods) and Matthew Glasgow (First Westminster) to Committee on Ministry class of 2022.
 - i. RE Bill Daniel (Woods) as chair of COM class of 2020
 - i. TE Eric Meyers (Frederick) to the Committee on Preparation for Ministry class of 2022
 - j. RE Lesley Owsley (Second) to Committee on Preparation for Ministry class of 2022
 - k. TE David Willerup (Havenwood) to the Committee on Preparation for Ministry class of 2022
 - l. TE David Norse-Thomas (Maryland) to Committee on Preparation for Ministry class of 2022
 - m. TE Heather Shortlidge (First Annapolis) as chair of Committee on Preparation class of 2020
 - n. TE Christa Burns to Trustees class of 2020
 - o. TE Andy Gathman to a second term on the Commission on Reconciliation, Class of 2022
 - p. RE Robert Stepling (Springfield) to Commission on Reconciliation (representative of Dakota Partnership) Class of 2022
 - q. RE Robin Bissell (Cumberland) to Commission on Reconciliation, Class of 2020 (fulfilling unexpired term of JoAnn Torrie)

The Committee on Preparation for Ministry recommended:

- That Blake Collins (First of Howard County) be enrolled as an Inquirer.

(This is the end of the Consent Motion)

STEERING CABINET REPORT

Steering Cabinet Moderator Adrienne Knight moved the following series of changes in the Presbytery Manual (A full description of the changes is included as Appendix D):

MOTIONS RELATED TO MANUAL CHANGES

(All motions assume necessary renumbering of manual sections)

1. Rename the Committees on Ministry (Section 11.7) and Preparation for Ministry (Section 11.9) to COMMISSIONS and move the descriptions to the section on Commissions (Section 9) and renumber accordingly¹
2. Move the Descriptions of the Property & Loan Commission (Section 14), Administrative Commissions (Section 17) and the Permanent Judicial Commission (Section 15) to the section on Commissions and renumber as necessary.
3. Remove “Committees of the Steering Cabinet” (Section 8) and classify the Committees on Administration and the Gathering Team as Standing Committees of the Presbytery (Section 11) with representation on the Steering Cabinet.² Classify the Personnel Committee as a sub-committee of the Committee on Administration.³ Renumber as necessary.⁴
4. Abolish the Appointments Committee (Section 8.2) and task the Nominating Committee with nominating persons to the Nominating Committee.⁵
5. Change the following paragraph (13.6.5) in “Trustees” as follows:
 - i. After the obligations as required by each particular sale have been met, the Trustees are to place 66% of the net proceeds into the Enduring Witness Fund. They shall conserve the remaining monies from the sale by investing these funds as they deem prudent and advisable to realize a continuing return on the investment consistent with current investment experience; and as part of the pooled investment fund. ~~an appreciation in the value of the invested funds consistent with sound investment experience.~~⁶
6. Replace Section 9.1-9.3 Commissions of the Presbytery with new text that better aligns with the Book of Order definition of commissions
7. Replace Section 9.4 Commission on Thriving Congregations with new text (attached)
8. Replace Section 9.5 Commission on Spiritual Leader Development with new text (attached)
9. Replace Section 9.6 Commission on Reconciliation with new text (attached)
10. Replace Section 11.9 Committee on Preparation for Ministry with new text (attached) rename as Commission

Deputy Stated Clerk Rev. Mary Gaut then explained the changes and the rationale for them. Without objection, Presbytery agreed to vote on all ten items together as a whole. After discussion, the motion was **approved**.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioned Pastor John Brewington, reporting for the Nominating Committee, placed in nomination the following persons to serve in the program year 2019-20:

- For Moderator, RE Guy Moody (St. John United), and

¹ This recognizes that these agencies are, in fact, commissions according to the Book of Order definition

² This will not change the make-up of the Cabinet as the Chair of Administration as the Chair of Administration already sits on the cabinet as does the chair of the Gathering Team who is the vice-moderator of presbytery and sits on cabinet ex-officio.

³ Personnel is currently classified as a standing committee of Administration

⁴ This eliminates the two-tiered bureaucracy which has caused unnecessary confusion and complexity

⁵ This is no longer needed since the Cabinet committees have been changed to standing committees of presbytery

⁶ This brings the manual into conformity with the Enduring Witness policy passed on 9/13/2018

- For Vice-Moderator, Rev. Michael L. Moore (Knox).

There being no further nominations, the nominations were closed and Ruling Elder Moody and Rev. Moore were **elected unanimously**.

COMMISSION ON MINISTRY REPORT

Chair Rev. Deborah McEachran brought a motion on behalf of the newly re-named Commission on Ministry that: Presbytery examine Candidate Jacob Snowden (Palo Duro Presbytery) on his statement of faith (Appendix C) and call to serve as Associate Pastor at Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church. Following comments by the Candidate, Rev. Tom Blair asked the first question. After the Presbytery had a chance to ask further questions, on proper motion, the examination was arrested, Candidate Snowden was excused. On proper motion the Presbytery voted to sustain the examination and approve him ready to receive a call. The candidate returned to a standing ovation.

Rev. McEachran then moved that Presbytery APPROVE the call of the Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church to Jacob Snowden to serve as Associate Pastor, with the following terms of call:

- | | |
|---|---------------|
| ○ Annual cash salary | \$35,000 |
| ○ Housing, utility and furnishings allowance | <u>35,000</u> |
| ▪ Total Effective Salary | \$70,000 |
| ○ Board of Pensions Medical and Pension Dues | \$25,900 |
| ○ Professional development, study leave, books | 3,000 |
| ○ 7.65 SECA | 5,335 |
| ○ Professional Expenses | 2,000 |
| ○ Auto allowance | 2,500 |
| ▪ Total additional | \$38,755 |
| ○ Study leave: two weeks | |
| ○ Vacation: One Month | |
| ○ Sabbatical: Three months after seven years of service, then serve one additional year | |
| ○ Moving expenses not to exceed \$3,000. | |

The motion was **approved**. Rev. Susan DeWyngaert then led the Presbytery in prayer.

Rev. McEachran then invited Commissioned Pastor Greg Seltzer, Hamilton Presbyterian Church, and RE Janice Howard, Clerk of Session, to come forward to celebrate Greg's retirement effective the end of June, 2019. RE Howard spoke glowingly on his behalf, lifting up his pastoral skills and church leadership. Rev. McEachran then led the Presbytery in prayer.

STORIES AND CELEBRATIONS

Rev. Keith Page and Commissioned Pastor Ed Terry, Commissioners to the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic, made their report to the Presbytery on the most recent Synod Assembly, Marcg, 2019. On behalf of the Synod, Rev Paige presented a check to Rev. Michael Moore, Knox Church, for development of a media center in the church. RE Terry reported on several activities of the Synod,

The Moderator then introduced Rev. Warren Lesane, Jr., Executive and Stated Clerk of the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic, who brought greetings. The Synod is the largest in the denomination, and has the largest African American population in the PCUSA.

RE Barbara Yancy Co-Chair of the Committee on Local Arrangements for the 224th General Assembly, gave an update on COLA events, focusing on people, money, and prayer. The GA will convene in Baltimore June 20-27, 2020; 2500 persons are expected. Volunteers are needed to help prepare for the event. Teams are already formulated; they are seeking new members. She also introduced Sonce Reece who will be the Executive Coordinator for COLA, serving on the staff of GA, but working out of the Presbytery Office.

Sue Shay, of the Presbyterian Homes project at Carsin's Run/Eva Mar spoke of the project, a continuing care retirement community, offering independent senior living, continuing care, and memory care. They will be offering an Open Space discussion.

The Presbytery then adjourned to meet in small groups for **Open Space** discussions, after which a barbecue supper was enjoyed by all.

WORSHIP

After supper the Presbytery reconvened for worship at 7:15 pm, with the Rev. Amy L. Carlson preaching. The service featured commissioning of delegates and advisors for Presbyterian Triennium, meeting at Purdue in July.

There being no further business, without objection, prayer was offered by Moderator Guy Moody and the presbytery was **adjourned with prayer** at 8:15 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. Statement of Faith, Jacob Snowden
- D. Manual Changes
- E. 2019 Terms of Call

Appendix A: Attendance Detail

Category	Present	Excused	Absent	Total
Teaching Elders Serving Churches	33	13	16	62
Resident Specialized Clergy and H.R.	9	3	5	17
New Worshiping Community Leaders	0	0	0	0
Ruling Elder Members of Presbytery's Steering Cabinet and Commissions	4	0	6	10
Continuing Corresponding Members	1	0	0	1
Ruling Elder Commissioners	39	0	34	69
Youth Advisory Delegates	0	0	0	0
Presbytery Program Staff (w/o vote)	2	0	0	2
Guests and Presbytery Staff	20	0	0	20
Commissioned Ruling Elders	6	0	3	9
Certified Lay Employees with vote	0	1	0	1
Former Ruling Elder Moderators	3	0	1	4
Former Ruling Elder Stated Clerks	1	0	0	1
Candidates and Inquirers	1	0	0	1
Totals	119	17	65	197

Teaching Elders serving churches:

Present: Terrence Alspaugh; Kimberly Secrist Ashby; Jennifer Barchi; Thomas Blair; Amy Carlson; Susan DeWyngaert; Jennifer Di Francesco, Andrew Gathman; Jeong Hoon Han; Mark Hanna; Thomas Harris; Rob Hoch; Leonard Hornick; Mary Ka Kanahan; John Kazanjian; Edwin Lacy; Melissa Lopez; Renee Mackey; Teresa Martin-Minnich; Deborah McEachran; Elizabeth McLean; Stephen Melton; Ray Meute; Michael Moore; David Norse Thomas; Adrian Pratt; Keith Roberts; Mary Speers; Tim Stern; Joel Strom; Laurel Underwood; Janna VanderWoude; Tanya Wade; Michele Ward; David Willerup; James Young.

Absent and Excused: Dorothy Boulton; Carrie Finch-Burriss; Andrew Foster Connors; Morton Harris; Sue Lowcock Harris; Scott Hoffman; Nancy

Lincoln-Reynolds; Shannon Meacham; Jonathon Nelson; Keith Paige;
John Schmidt; Heather Shortlidge.

Absent: David Bleivik; Rob Carter; Rebecca Crate; Laura Crihfield; Phyllis
Felton; Matthew Glasgow; Tim Hughes Williams; Ken Kovacs; Jessie
Lowry; Daniel Melton; Eric Myers; Andrew Nagel; Lisa Rzepka; Mark
Sandell; Kerry Slinkard; Todd Smith;;

New Worshiping Community Leaders: (Jenn DiFrancesco)

Resident Specialized Clergy

Present: Katherine Foster Connors; Richard Jones; Edward Richardson, Sr;
Charles Thomas; Jennifer Williams.

Absent and Excused: Karen Brown; John Myhill; Jacqueline Taylor;

Absent: Catherine Bashore; Brandon Brewer; Tanya Denley; Sarah Diehl;
Stephen Mann, S Kay Myers.

Honorably Retired

Present: John Carlson; Doris Cowan; Mary Gaut; Walt Peters; Roger Rice.

Excused:

Ruling Elder Members of Presbytery's Steering Cabinet and Commissions

Present: Chrystie Adams; Guy Moody; (Susan Moody); (Cindy Prevatte); Rob
Smith;

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

Corresponding Members: Warren Lesane, Presbytery of Charlotte.

Ruling Elder Commissioners from Congregations:

Present:, Brown Memorial Park Avenue, John Walker;; Chestnut Grove, Carolyn
Nabet; Christ Our King, Joanne Kokie; Churchville, Darlene Seippel; Dickey
Memorial, Lauren Barchi; Faith, Audrey Trapp; Fallston, Sharon Tyler; First,
Annapolis, Betsy Stewart, Helen Krone; First and Franklin (Jim Schroll); First Bel
Air, Van Reiner; First Howard County (Catherine Blacka); Good Shepherd, Cindy
Prevatte; Govans, Kathy Stanton; Grace, Anthony Wade; Granite, Michael H----;
Grove, Carroll Fitzgerald; Hamilton, Ronald Helmick; Hancock; , Alice Gerber;
Harundale, Lewis Shell; Havenwood, Judy Binkley; Highland, Claudia
Scarborough; Hunting Ridge, Johnnie Summers; Knox (Adrienne Knight); Light
Street, Colleen Seremet; Lochearn, Judie Hardy; Madison Avenue, Jean Owens;
Maryland, Carol Mason; Mount Paran, Danielle Owusi; Northminster, Brian Cumer;
Perry Hall, Molly Hall ; Prince of Peace, Bill McWhirter; Roland Park, Ginny
Rutherford; Second, Scott Silverwood; Springfield, Marla Keamey; St. John United,
Susan Moody; Towson, Phyllis Gray; Woods Memorial, Jenny Henny, Gale
Gillespie, Ed Lambert, Mary Jo Greenley, Karen Kissam.

(Names in parentheses are Ruling Elders who are also signed in under another
category, such as former Moderator or Stated Clerk or Commission member.)

Congregations without Elder representation: Ark and Dove; Ashland; Babcock, Barrelville, Bethel, Catonsville, Central, Cherry Hill; Christ Memorial; Christ Our Anchor; Covenant; Emmitsburg; First, Bel Air; First Cumberland; First of Westminster; First, Frostburg, Franklinville; Frederick, Glen Burnie Korean; Hagerstown; Havre de Grace; Hope; Hughes Memorial; Kenwood; Korean United; Mt. Hebron, St. Andrew, St. Andrew's, Trinity.

Commissioned Ruling Elders

Present: Anita Bishop-Johnson; John Brewington; Jay Garvin; Donna Lea; Greg Seltzer; Ed Terry;

Excused:

Absent: Joan Berry; Ledonia Kimball; Cleoda Walker

Candidates and Inquirers:

Present: McKenna Lewellyn

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: None

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

20 guests and Presbytery staff were also present.

APPENDIX B: Reports

Stated Clerk's Report

The Stated Clerk reports as required on the **Redress of Imbalance of Ministers and Elders:**

These churches are entitled to additional elder commissioners due to the number of members on their rolls:

Church	Total Membership As of 12/31/2018	Number of Elder Commissioners
Woods Memorial	2189	5
First of Annapolis	646	2
Central	529	2

First of Howard County	587	2
Towson	506	2
Total		13

The computations involved in determining the redress of the imbalance between Ministers and Elders, as found in the Presbytery Manual 2.5, are represented in the following tables. Counts are as of 12/31/2018.

Ministers on the Roll	153
Ministers who are Non-Resident	20
Ministers who are Honorably Retired, not attending	48
TOTAL (A - (B + C))	85

All churches	65
Additional Elders from churches with > 500 members	8
Elder Officers and Commission members	12
Certified Christian Educators	1
Commissioned Ruling Elders	9
Former Moderators attending	3
Former Stated Clerks attending	1
TOTAL	99

85 – 99 is less than zero, therefore **no additional elders are needed.**

The Stated Clerk also reports the resignation of RE JoAnn Torrie (Ashland) from the Commission on Reconciliation.

Steering Cabinet Report

The Steering Cabinet reports the following:

- Cabinet acted in February to propose a change in the membership of the nominating committee to consist of 6 members and the Moderator ex-officio;
- Cabinet requested that Trustees approve up to \$15,000 for a consultant to guide initial planning for a Capital Fund Campaign for the Center, and that they also provide up to \$10,000 to establish the Center as a 501c3, if the Center Steering Committee deems it advisable.

Cabinet acted in March to approve changes in the Staff Design

Commission on Reconciliation

The Commission on Reconciliation reports that the next Dismantling Racism Trainings will be: May 20th, to be held at Chestnut Grove, and October 19th, to be held at a location more accessible to churches in western part of the Presbytery.

Commission on Spiritual Leader Development

The Commission reports that a successful workshop “Soul Shop” on suicide prevention was held March 30; Triennium scholarships have been approved.

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: Pam Carter (RE), Class of 2021

Commission on Thriving Congregations

The Commission reports:

Regarding New Worshiping Communities:

- 3 Hispanic leaders for Comunidad are providing for worship and other leadership. Meeting at First Pres in Annapolis. Friday night prayer meetings happening in conjunction with agricultural project.
- Slate: MOU will be signed with other denominational partners. Conversation about the possibility of supporting Jenn DiFrancesco in street ministry as part of the Slate commitment.

Regarding Church re-development:

- CAT Training has been completed. Four local interpreters have been trained and approved for Baltimore Presbytery: Rob Smith, Susan Moody, John Schmidt, Julia Schaeffer.

Commission approved a new cost sharing scale for Presbytery Churches; Commission approved honoraria for local interpreters. 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. Since the Discipleship team of the CTC is not functioning, the CTC approved allowing Spiritual Leader Development Commission to access funds budgeted through CTC Discipleship account 02-500035-01 to do similar ministry for the Presbytery.

Committee on Ministry

The Committee on Ministry reports that: It has approved on 05/01/19, the following transfers:

Amy Duiker to Presbytery of Miami Valley

It has received the following new members of the Presbytery:

Melissa K. Lopez from Mackinac Presbytery, to serve as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Bel Air.

Rev. Jose Lopez from the Presbytery of Mackinac, Member at Large

Rev. Sunjin Kim from Atlantic Korean American Presbytery, Temporary Supply at Glen Burnie Korean Presbyterian Church

Rev. James Young, Presbytery of Nevada, Interim at First of Cumberland

Appendix C:

Appendix C: Statement of Faith, Candidate Jacob Snowden

As Euthyphro says to Socrates, ideas of the holy “dance around” and do not stay nailed in place. In the way my faith and its articulation has changed and will continue to change, I say proudly that I am both reformed and always reforming. I believe the Reformed tradition understands if not celebrates this fact. Nevertheless, a sense of God’s call to a ministry of love and grace has persisted with me.

Jesus’ life and ministry are the embodiment of God’s love and grace. The same spirit of love and grace that animated Jesus moves and breathes life into and ahead of the church. I hope also to be caught and led by that same spirit whose fruit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, and self-control. I believe God’s action in the world is reconciling and unifying action; therefore, to be reconciled to God is to be sent into the world as a member of God’s reconciled and reconciling community. The church is just such a community, having received a ministry of reconciliation (even as it can confess that theology has been a source of division rather than unity).

I believe God, in God’s providence, has given people to one another. The first mention of something amiss in Eden was that Adam would be alone. The church is a community of suitable helpers, one for another—a community that bears one another’s burdens, a rope of three strands that is not easily broken.

I believe in the Trinitarian mystery, which demonstrates that at the core of a divine reality is a community. I believe in the mystery of God’s presence, especially in communion. I believe the divine mystery holds justice and mercy together. I believe the Word of God is more than ink on a page, but is mysteriously present in the study, preaching, and response to scripture. I believe faith is not only what Christians believe but also how Christians live. God’s sovereignty reaches to all the ways people live—economically, socially, politically, spiritually, at work, at play, and in the life of the mind. God’s sovereignty and grace have allowed great liberty in these arenas of life so that unity may be a more beautiful (if more challenging) thing than uniformity. I believe Jesus has come to liberate creation from the bondage of sin and to make creation whole in its relationships with God and in itself.

Appendix D

Manual Changes

MOTIONS RELATED TO MANUAL CHANGES

(To be voted on together as one motion unless there is a motion to remove one or more for separate consideration. All motions assume necessary renumbering of manual sections)

11. Rename the Committees on Ministry (Section 11.7) and Preparation for Ministry (Section 11.9) to COMMISSIONS and move the descriptions to the section on Commissions (Section 9) and renumber accordingly⁷
12. Move the Descriptions of the Property & Loan Commission (Section 14), Administrative Commissions (Section 17) and the Permanent Judicial Commission (Section 15) to the section on Commissions and renumber as necessary.
13. Remove “Committees of the Steering Cabinet” (Section 8) and classify the Committees on Administration and the Gathering Team as Standing Committees of the Presbytery (Section 11) with representation on the Steering Cabinet.⁸ Classify the Personnel Committee as a sub-committee of the Committee on Administration.⁹ Renumber as necessary.¹⁰
14. Abolish the Appointments Committee (Section 8.2) and task the Nominating Committee with nominating persons to the Nominating Committee.¹¹
15. Change the following paragraph (13.6.5) in “Trustees” as follows:
 - ii. After the obligations as required by each particular sale have been met, the Trustees are to **place 66% of the net proceeds into the Enduring Witness Fund. They shall** conserve the remaining monies from the sale by investing these funds as they deem prudent and advisable to realize a continuing return on the investment consistent with current investment experience; and as part of the pooled investment fund. ~~an appreciation in the value of the invested funds consistent with sound investment experience.~~¹²
16. Replace Section 9.1-9.3 Commissions of the Presbytery with new text that better aligns with the Book of Order definition of commissions
17. Replace Section 9.4 Commission on Thriving Congregations with new text (attached)
18. Replace Section 9.5 Commission on Spiritual Leader Development with new text (attached)

⁷ This recognizes that these agencies are, in fact, commissions according to the Book of Order definition

⁸ This will not change the make-up of the Cabinet as the Chair of Administration as the Chair of Administration already sits on the cabinet as does the chair of the Gathering Team who is the vice-moderator of presbytery and sits on cabinet ex-officio.

⁹ Personnel is currently classified as a standing committee of Administration

¹⁰ This eliminates the two-tiered bureaucracy which has caused unnecessary confusion and complexity

¹¹ This is no longer needed since the Cabinet committees have been changed to standing committees of presbytery

¹² This brings the manual into conformity with the Enduring Witness policy passed on 9/13/2018

19. Replace Section 9.6 Commission on Reconciliation with new text (attached)
 20. Replace Section 11.9 Committee on Preparation for Ministry with new text (attached)
 rename as Commission

Appendix D, Table of Manual Changes

Before changes:	After changes:	Brief rationale:
1-"Ministry" and "Preparation for Ministry" were committees	Both committees will become commissions	Brings manual into conformity with BOO
2-Descriptions of all commissions were scattered throughout the manual	Commission descriptions will be collected in Section 9	Better organization; mainly an editorial change
3- Eliminates "Committees of Steering Cabinet"	Gathering and Administration committees now become Standing committees of Presbytery; Personnel becomes sub-committee of Administration	Doesn't change make-up of cabinet; helps eliminate two-tiered bureaucracy
4-Appointments Committee nominates Nominating committee	"Appointments" is abolished, Nominating nominates Nominating	Reduces bureaucracy and number of volunteers needed
5-Did not take into account Enduring Witness Fund	Takes into account the new Enduring Witness Fund	Brings manual in line with a policy we have already approved.
6-Old description of Commissions	New Description of Commissions	Better aligns with BOO definitions of Commissions; basically a housekeeping measure
7-10 Old sections on Commissions	New wording	Brings manual up to date with activities of Commissions as they have developed over the years

Appendix D: Manual Changes, Continued

Additional Supporting Material for Items 6-10 Above

6. Recommended Changes to Manual Description of Commissions: Replace Current Section 9.1-9.3 and renumber as necessary

1. COMMISSIONS OF THE PRESBYTERY

- 1.1. Administrative Commissions are designated to consider and conclude matters in accordance with BO 3.0109b and to fulfill other responsibilities as assigned by the presbytery and defined in this manual. The Permanent Judicial commission is empowered to consider and decide cases of process according to the Rules of Discipline.¹³
- 1.2. Election. Members of Commissions shall be ruling elders and ministers of the Word and Sacrament in numbers as nearly equal as possible. Other members may be invited and/or elected to facilitate the work of the Commission but do not have a vote on matters that would otherwise require action by the Presbytery. Members are elected in classes for three-year terms, with a two consecutive term limitation. **Usually members are elected prior to the beginning of the program year which starts September 1. Vacancies may be filled at other times as needed according to the provisions of (section number TBA).**¹⁴
- 1.3. Chairs. The Presbytery elects the Chairs of Commissions for **one year terms. Chairs ordinarily may serve two consecutive terms and may be reelected for a maximum of three consecutive terms.**¹⁵
- 1.4. The Chairs of each Commission ~~may, and~~ are encouraged to consult with the Nominating Committee to recommend potential Commission members.

¹³ All commissions, including the PJC, will be brought into the section on commissions

¹⁴ The current manual specifies elections in May but the reality is that nominations usually continue through the summer with election in September. This change allows for that flexibility. The commission on Spiritual Leader Development is powered to elect on behalf of presbytery between presbytery meetings if needed.

¹⁵ The current manual specifies two year terms for chairs of commissions and one year terms for chairs of committees that currently include CPM and COM. It is also the case the occasionally a member in his/her last year is elected as chair for that year. We have, on several occasions, "put aside the manual" to elect someone to a third term as chair. This change allows necessary flexibility.

Appendix D: Manual Changes, Continued

Additional Supporting Material for Items 6-10 Above

7. Recommended Manual Revision for Thriving Congregation Commissions: Replace current Section 9.4 with the following and Renumber as Necessary:

- 1.1. COMMISSION ON THRIVING CONGREGATIONS (CTC)
 - 1.1.1. Purpose: **To act on behalf of presbytery as empowered to do so in this manual** and to increase the number of congregations in Baltimore Presbytery that are clear about their purpose, equipped with competent leadership, intentional about Christian formation of members, celebrating with joyful, relevant worship, welcoming an increasing number of new Christians and worshippers, growing in generosity and stewardship, and comfortable with practicing evangelism.
 - 1.1.2. Membership: At least nine members, including the Chair of the Commission and one staff member, ex-officio.
 - 1.1.3. Officers: The Presbytery elects the chair for a one-year term. The chair appoints the Secretary and any other officers deemed necessary
 - 1.1.4. Empowerment:
 - 1.1.4.1. **To develop immigrant fellowships and new worshipping communities¹⁶**
 - 1.1.4.2. **To provide for congregational assessments and interpretation¹⁷**
 - 1.1.5. Other responsibilities
 - 1.1.5.1. To form working groups.
 - 1.1.5.2. To distribute funds as granted by the Presbytery.
 - 1.1.5.3. To support and work through the ministry groups.
 - 1.1.6. The Commission reports to the Presbytery of Baltimore and is represented on the Steering Cabinet.

¹⁶ Reflects current practice and is a responsibility of the presbytery in the BoO

¹⁷ Reflects current practice and allows for determination of funding and follow-up

Appendix D: Manual Changes, Continued

Additional Supporting Material for Items 6-10 Above

8. Recommended Manual Revisions for Spiritual Leader Development: Replace current Section 9.5 with the following and renumber as necessary

9.5 COMMISSION ON SPIRITUAL LEADER DEVELOPMENT (CSLD)

9.5.1 Purpose: To act on behalf of presbytery as empowered to do so in this manual, and to equip, encourage, and support Christian leaders, especially Teaching Elders, Ruling Elders, and Deacons, to develop a deeper sense of the divine and understanding of their faith; to enhance their skills in nurturing and sustaining thriving and reconciling congregations; and to foster a culture of spiritual renewal, ongoing learning, and vibrant growth in ministry.

9.5.2. Membership: At least ~~one~~ ^{six}¹⁸ members, including the Chair of the Commission ~~and one deacon, one ruling elder, one person each from the Committees on Ministry and Preparation for Ministry, and one staff member ex-officio.~~¹⁹

9.5.3. Officers: Presbytery elects the chairperson for a one year term. The chair appoints the secretary and other officers deemed necessary.

9.5.4. Empowerment:

9.5.4.1 – To plan for worship at Presbytery Gatherings, in coordination with the Gathering Team, and authorize the celebration of the Lord's Supper at Gatherings and other presbytery-wide events.

9.5.4.2 At the request of the Nominating Committee to act between presbytery stated meetings to elect members of presbytery agencies.²⁰

9.5.5. Additional responsibilities include

9.5.5.1. To form working groups.

9.5.5.2. To distribute funds as granted by the Presbytery

9.5.5.3. To support and work through the ministry groups.

9.5.5.4. To plan and lead events, workshops, retreats, and other opportunities to facilitate spiritual growth and skills development among congregational leaders.

9.5.5.3. To award scholarships²¹ available through presbytery and administrate the ongoing operation of ~~the advertisement for and selection of persons to receive any~~ scholarships available through the Presbytery, including the ongoing operation for the Herbert D. Valentine Millennium Fund and maintenance of the Guidelines. The Commission will report annually to the Trustees regarding grants awarded during the past year.

¹⁸ Approved by CSLD

¹⁹ Brings membership into conformity with the definition of a commission in the BoO

²⁰ Both empowerments reflect current practice and simplify the current Manual descriptions

²¹ A more straightforward description of what is currently in the Manual

9.9.6 The Commission reports to the presbytery and is represented on the Steering Cabinet.

Additional Supporting Material for Items 6-10 Above

9. Recommended Manual Revisions for Commission on Reconciliation: Replace current Section 9.6 with the following and renumber as necessary.

1.1. COMMISSION ON RECONCILIATION

- 1.1.1. Purpose: **To act on behalf of presbytery as empowered to do so in this manual** and to facilitate 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.
- 1.1.2. Membership: At least **eight** members: the Chair of the Commission, **one representative from each partnership and the remaining at-large**, and one staff member ex-officio.
- 1.1.3. Officers: The Presbytery elects the chair for a one-year term. The chair appoints the secretary and any other officers deemed necessary.
- 1.1.4. Empowerment:
 - 1.1.4.1. **To** appoint Overture Advocates to the General Assembly.
 - 1.1.4.2. Shared Witness: The Commission supports the Presbytery's shared witness in areas such as self-development, the alleviation of hunger, and congregational advocacy.
 - 1.1.4.3. To oversee and support the Presbytery's Partnership relationships, encouraging congregational participation.
 - 1.1.4.3.1. Partnerships are required to have a statement of purpose approved by this Commission, and, if appropriate, a written statement of agreement.
 - 1.1.4.3.2. The establishment of, substantial change in, the extension of, or ending of a Partnership agreement must be approved by a vote of the Commission. The Commission will report the end of a Partnership to the Presbytery, and will make decisions regarding any funds for that Partnership upon the dissolution. The Commission may refer the establishment or ending of a Partnership to the Presbytery.
- 1.1.5. Other Responsibilities
 - 1.1.5.1. To form working groups.
 - 1.1.5.2. To distribute funds as granted by the Presbytery.
 - 1.1.5.3. To support and work through the ministry groups Work with congregations: The Commission is charged with developing ways congregations can connect with their communities in ministry and mission.

1.1.5.4 Make recommendations on policies and practice within the Presbytery as we seek to be apostles for reconciliation as a corporate body.

- 1.1.6. The Commission reports to the Presbytery of Baltimore and is represented on the Steering Cabinet.

Additional Supporting Material for Items 6-10 Above

10. Recommended Manual Revisions for Committee on Preparation for Ministry:

Replace Current Section 11.9 with the following, move to Section 9 and renumber accordingly.

COMMISSION ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY (CPM)²²

- 1.1.1. Purpose: **To act on behalf of Presbytery in matters as empowered in this manual**, to oversee the process of preparation for ordination of Ministers of Word and Sacrament and to enroll and supervise the process of commissioning of Ruling Elders to the office of Commissioned Pastor.
- 1.1.2. Membership: At least nine²³ teaching and ruling elders elected by the Presbytery in classes for three-year terms and one staff member ex-officio.
- 1.1.3. Officers: The Presbytery elects the chair for a one-year term. The chair appoints the Secretary and any other officers deemed necessary.
- 1.1.4. Empowerment
- 1.1.4.1. **To enroll persons as Inquirers²⁴** and report such action to the Presbytery
- 1.1.4.2. **To elect elder and minister readers of examinations²⁵** for candidates for ordination at the request of the Presbyteries' Cooperative Committee on Examinations for Candidates
- 1.1.4.3. When requested by the calling presbytery, to establish Administrative Commissions to ordain candidates of this presbytery who have calls in another presbytery, in accordance with Manual 15 and 20.
- 1.1.4.4. To be the agency charged with the care and supervision of inquirers and candidates according to BO G-2.06. and perform other mandated functions unless specifically assigned to the presbytery in the BO or elsewhere in this manual.
- 1.1.5. Other Duties and Responsibilities:
- 1.1.5.1. To recommend to the Presbytery those to be examined by the Presbytery for admission into candidacy
- 1.1.5.2. To present candidates to the Presbytery for Examination in accordance with the requirements of G-2.0607 and "provisions for

²² By making CPM a Commission they can be empowered to act on behalf of presbytery in certain matters

²³ This number is adequate and allows for an increase if needed.

²⁴ Empowerment to enroll Inquirers was requested by CPM.

²⁵ Empowerment to carry out this function results in greater efficiency

the Examination of Candidates” (section number TBA) in this manual

- 1.1.5.3. To maintain and publish a manual of operations for the Commission that will establish internal procedures for carrying out these duties and responsibilities.
- 1.1.5.4. To receive applications from elders of the particular churches of the Presbytery to be Commissioned Pastors, maintain a roll of elders who have applied; supervise their preparation; examine them as to personal faith, motives for seeking the commission, and on the areas of instructions [G-2.10]; present candidates in person to the Presbytery for examination by the presbytery as to personal faith, motives for seeking the commission, and any areas of instruction determined by the Presbytery.
- 1.1.5.5. To review annually the status of Elders who are certified but have not yet been commissioned. After three years of non-commissioned status, ruling elders certified ready for commissioning will be deleted from the list of ruling elders certified ready for commissioning.
- 1.1.6. The Commission reports to the Presbytery and may be represented on the Steering Cabinet.