

**Minutes of the 885th Gathering of the Presbytery of Baltimore**  
**10:00 am, Saturday, November 16, 2019**  
**First Presbyterian Church**  
**Annapolis, Maryland**

**OPENING**

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. Lisa Rzepka then offered a welcome and necessary directions for moving about the church facilities. Volunteers from First of Annapolis were thanked with a round of applause.

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**.

The Presbytery then entered into Morning Prayer, led by Revs. Jose Lopez and Melissa Lopez. Following our time of worship, Rev. Lisa Rzepka introduced the speaker for the day, the Rev. Dr. Jonathan Walton, Dean of the Divinity School at Wake Forest University. Dr. Walton's presence was part of a partnership with the "The Courtenay and William Bass Lecture Fund" at First of Annapolis. Following Dr. Walton's presentation, he entertained questions and led discussion.

New pastors and Ruling Elder Commissioners attending for the first time were introduced by Rev. Dr. Jackie Taylor, General Presbyter. She recognized the Rev Fern Cloud, Dakota Presbytery, and the Rev. Rob Bohnsack, Presbytery of Florida; on proper motion, they were seated as corresponding members.

RE Chrystie Adams lifted our commitment to recognizing the Native Americans who occupied the lands we were meeting on long before there was a Presbytery of Baltimore; she then introduced Rev. Fern Cloud, Stated Clerk of Dakota Presbytery, who welcomed the Presbytery. The Presbytery was then dismissed with prayer for lunch.

**STORIES AND CELEBRATIONS**

Following lunch, the Presbytery heard an update from the Rev. Carrie Finch-Burris, Chair of COLA for GA224; Rev. Roger Rice, who brought a message from Spiritual Leader Development Commission on the clergy family retreat planned for August, 2020; and from Martha Reisner, who updated the Presbytery on the work of the Board of Pensions. After these reports, Presbytery moved into Open Space discussions

**DISCERNMENT AND DECISIONS**

At 2:00 pm, the Presbytery reconvened with prayer by the Moderator.

## **STATED CLERK'S REPORT**

Stated Clerk Jack Carlson gave his report, noting that no new items had been added to the Consent motion after it had first been published and that no items were requested to be moved from the **Consent Motion**. He then moved the following consent motion, which was **approved**:

### **From the Stated Clerk:**

THE APPROVAL of the minutes of the 884th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Baltimore, September 12, 2019, as posted on the Presbytery website ([www.baltimorepresbytery.org](http://www.baltimorepresbytery.org)).

### **From the Nominating Committee :**

That Presbytery elect the following persons:

- a. RE Ed Gilliss (Second) as member of the Trustees, class of 2022
- b. Rev. Jacob Snowden (Woods) as member of Commission of Spiritual Leadership Development, class of 2021.
- c. RE Jamie Wilkins (Hunting Ridge) as a member of the Synod Committee on Representation, Class of 2022
- d. Rev. Jacob Snowden (Woods Memorial) as a member of the Synod Nominating Committee, class of 2020

### **From the Commission on Ministry:**

That Presbytery grant to the Rev. Renee Mackey and the Rev. Jennifer Williams the status of Honorably Retired, with thanks for their many years of service to this Presbytery and to the PCUSA. (We will publicly recognize Rev. Williams' retirement on the floor of today's meeting, and Rev. Mackey's retirement in February.)

### **From the Administration Committee:**

That Presbytery APPROVE the Manual changes listed in Appendix C.

**(This is the end of the Consent Motion)**

## **ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE REPORT**

Rev. Jackie Taylor summarized budget issues, and moved on behalf of the Administration Committee that Presbytery APPROVE the Budget for 2020 as presented for a first reading in September. Following questions and discussion, the motion was APPROVED.

## **NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT**

Rev. Deborah McEachran, Chair of the Nominating Committee, was recognized to place in nomination the following persons to serve as Commissioners, Alternates, and Youth Advisory Delegate to the 224<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in June, 2020:

To serve as Commissioners:

Rev. Kimberly Secrist Ashby (Fallston)  
Rev. Doris Cowan HR  
RE Darcel Glenn Cooper (Cherry Hill)  
RE Robert Stepling (Springfield)

To serve as Young Adult Advisory Delegate to the 224<sup>th</sup> General Assembly:  
Emma Kate Lander (First Annapolis)

To serve as Alternates:

Rev. Amy Carlson (Second)  
RE Keith Reagan (Christ Our King)

There being no further nominations from the floor, a motion was made for the Clerk to cast a unanimous ballot; the motion was APPROVED, and the slate was elected.

### **RETIREMENT OF REV. JENNIFER WILLIAMS**

Rev. Thomas Harris was recognized to make remarks on the retirement of Rev. Jennifer Williams. Following his remarks, Rev. Williams was invited to speak. Rev. Harris led the Presbytery in prayers of thanksgiving for Rev. Williams' service to the church.

### **TRUSTEES REPORT**

Rev. Morton Harris, President of the Board of Trustees was recognized to give the annual report from the Board. Following his report, Rev. Harris moved: THAT 17% of the funds which accrue to the Presbytery as the result of the sale of church properties be directed to an "Emergency Assistance Property Repair Fund" to assist congregations with emergency repair needs, described as follows. No second was required; following discussion, the motion was APPROVED.

### **REPORT OF THE GENERAL PRESBYTER**

General Presbyter Jacqueline Taylor was recognized for her report; she presented a short entertaining and humorous video related to stewardship.

### **PROGRESS REPORT FROM THE CENTER**

Moderator Moody invited Vice-Moderator Michael Moore to assume the chair, in order for the Moderator to make a progress report from the Center work group (attached as Appendix D).

There being no further business, without objection, prayer was offered by Vice-Moderator Michael Moore and the presbytery was **adjourned with prayer** at 2:55 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Attest:

John V. Carlson  
Stated Clerk

Mary D. Gaut  
Deputy Stated Clerk

**Appendices:**

- A. Attendance Detail
- B. Reports
- C. Final Report, Taneytown Administrative Commission
- D. Manual Changes

## Appendix A: Attendance Detail

---

Category	Present	Excused	Absent	Total
Teaching Elders Serving Churches	55	0	7	62
Resident Specialized Clergy and H.R.	12	2	7	21
New Worshiping Community Leaders	1	0	0	1
Ruling Elder Members of Presbytery's Steering Cabinet and Commissions	4	0	6	10
Continuing Corresponding Members	2	0	0	2
Ruling Elder Commissioners	35	0	41	76
Youth Advisory Delegates	0	0	0	0
Presbytery Program Staff (w/o vote)	2	0	0	2
Guests and Presbytery Staff	37	0	0	37
Commissioned Pastors	3	6	3	9
Certified Christian Educators with vote	0	1	0	1
Former Ruling Elder Moderators	4	0	0	4
Former Ruling Elder Stated Clerks	1	0	0	1
Candidates and Inquirers	2	0	0	2
<b>Totals</b>	158	7	64	228

Teaching Elders serving churches:

Present: Terrence Alspaugh; Jennifer Barchi; Rob Carter; Susan DeWyngaert; Jennifer Di Francesco, Carrie Finch-Burriss; Matthew Glasgow; Mark Hanna; Morton Harris; Sue Lowcock Harris; Thomas Harris; Rob Hoch; Melissa Lopez; Renee Mackey; Deborah McEachran; Elizabeth McLean; Ray Meute; Michael Moore; Jonathon Nelson; David Norse Thomas; Keith Paige; Adrian Pratt; Lisa

Rzepka; Kerry Slinkard; Jacob Snowden; Tim Stern; Joel Strom; Janna VanderWoude; Michele Ward; James Young; Jeffrey Young.

Absent and Excused: Kimberly Secrist Ashby; Thomas Blair; Dorothy Boulton; Amy Carlson; Rebecca Crate; Phyllis Felton; Tim Hughes Williams; Ken Kovacs; Jessie Lowry; Shannon Meacham; Stephen Melton; John Schmidt; Mary Speers; Tanya Wade;

Absent: David Bleivik; Rob Carter; Andrew Foster Connors; Andrew Gathman; Jeong Hoon Han; Scott Hoffman; Leonard Hornick; Mary Ka Kanahan; John Kazanjian; Sungjin Kim; Edwin Lacy; Nancy Lincoln-Reynolds; Teresa Martin-Minnich; Daniel Melton; Eric Myers; Andrew Nagel; Keith Paige; Keith Roberts; Mark Sandell; Todd Smith. Laurel Underwood; David Willerup;

New Worshiping Community Leaders: Jose Lopez.

#### Resident Specialized Clergy

Present: Catherine Bashore; Brandon Brewer; Karen Brown; Katherine Foster Connors; Richard Jones; Charles Thomas; Jacqueline Taylor; Jennifer Williams.

Absent and Excused: S Kay Myers;

Absent: Sarah Diehl; Stephen Mann; Edward Richardson, Sr;

#### Honorably Retired

Present: John Carlson; Doris Cowan; Mary Gaut; Alison Halsey; Bill Hathaway; Jack Hodges; Dottie LaPenta; Caroline Price-Gibson; Stephen Price-Gibson; Roger Rice; James Riddell; John Shedwick.

Excused: Mary Gaut, Susan Haugh

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

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

Audrey Trapp; (Bob Stepling) (Betsy Stewart)

Absent; Deborah Baer; Lisa Beacham; Yvette McEachern; Rob Smith; JoAnne Torrie;

Excused: Bill Daniel

#### Corresponding Members:

Rev. Fern Cloud (Dakota), Rev. Rob Bohnsack (Florida).

#### Ruling Elder Commissioners from Congregations:

Present: Cynthia Schwanz; Carolyn Nabet; Christ Our King, Joanne Kokie; Churchville, Bonnie Jones; Dickey Memorial, Lauren Barchi; Faith, Audrey Trapp; First, Annapolis, Betsy Stewart, Helen Krone; First and Franklin Paula Crews; First, Bel Air; Sally Campbell; First Howard County, (Catherine Blacka); First of Westminster, John Wilson; Franklinville, Ed Stuebing; Frederick, Kathy House; Good Shepherd, Cindy Prevatte; Govans, Karen Ceanfajlin; Alice Gerber; Harundale, Sheila Brewer; Havenwood, Judy Binkley; Highland, Claudia Scarborough; Hunting Ridge, Annette Snyder; Knox (Adrienne Knight); Light Street, Christopher Watson; Madison Avenue, Gina Sammons; Maryland, Carol Mason; Mt. Hebron, Judy Sheldon; Mount Paran, Anilta Bishop-Johnson; Prince of

Peace, Matthew Tibbits;, Ginny Rutherford; Second, Scott Silverwood, Emily Inglis; Springfield, Diana Stepling; St. John United, Susan Moody; Woods Memorial, Mark Bohlman, Bill Hadley, Phil Henry, Gale Gillespie, Linda Cramblett

(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, Brown Memorial Park Avenue, Catonsville, Central, Cherry Hill; Chestnut Grove, Christ Memorial; Christ Our Anchor; Covenant; Emmitsburg; Fallston, First Cumberland; First, Frostburg, Grace, Granite, Grove, Hagerstown, Hamilton, Hancock; Glen Burnie Korean; Havre de Grace, Hope; Hughes Memorial; Kenwood; Korean United; Lochearn, Northminster, Perry Hall, Roland Park; St . Andrew, St. Andrew's, Towson, Trinity.

Commissioned Pastors

Present: Anita Bishop-Johnson; Donna Lea;

Excused: Ledonia Kimball; Ed Terry.

Absent: Cleoda Walker John Brewington; Jay Garvin;

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: Catherine Blacka

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

23 guests and Presbytery staff were also present.

## APPENDIX B: Reports

---

### Steering Cabinet Report

The Steering Cabinet reports the following:

- Cabinet has begun setting aside time at each regular Cabinet meeting for the work of visioning, as prescribed by our Manual.
- Cabinet approved in October the guidelines for Ministry Group Reserve Fund grants.

### **Commission on Reconciliation**

The Commission on Reconciliation reports:

The proposed schedule for the Enduring Witness Grant Community Engagement Application for 2020:

- Application forms will be available on line by 2/6/20 and at 2/13/20 Presbytery meeting
- Applications due by 4/1/20
- Applications reviewed and funding decision made during April & May COR meetings
- Notification of awardees and funding to be made in June

Dismantling Racism Training

- Reminder that all TEs need to complete training by end of 2020.
- On COR request, Dismantling Racism Team representatives will join our December meeting to discuss plans for training in 2020 and beyond, especially in regards to hiring trainer v. bringing training "in-house".

Partnership Renewals

- All three Presbytery Partnerships (Cuba, Guatemala and Dakota) are all up for renewal in 2020. Partnership teams are in conversation with partners about renewal process.
- COR will work with partnership teams and Gathering Team on bringing this before Presbytery Gathering next Fall with expectation of involving representatives from each of the partner groups.

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

The Commission reports:

- one of the major DREAM-BIG items, is an all family retreat (pastors, spouses/partners, children, etc.) that branches further from the clergy retreat. We will be continuing this discussion and discernment at our next meeting in October.

### **Commission on Thriving Congregations**

The Commission reports:

- Rev. Jose Lopez has begun work as pastor of the Comunidad congregation
- The commission is beginning to put together a "toolkit" of resources utilized by leaders within the presbytery.

### **Commission on Preparation for Ministry**

The Commission reports that:

- It has enrolled Hyiwot Teshome (Christ Memorial) as an Inquirer.

### **Commission on Ministry**

The Commission reports that it has approved the following transfers:

- Jeanne Gay to Maumee Valley
- Peter Nord to Twin Cities
- Lindley DeGarmo to Hudson River

The Commission on Ministry reports it has approved the ecclesiastical status of the following persons:

## Validated Ministries 2020

MINISTERS SERVING IN VALIDATED MINISTRIES			
NAME	Validated Ministry	Parish Associate	Report Status
Bashore, Catherine	Nurse Chaplain, Medstar Good Samaritan Hospital	Havenwood	Received
Boulware, John M.	Staff Chaplain, University of Kansas Health System	Not Required	Received
Brewer, Brandon	Dir of Patient Experience & Hospice Chaplain at Seasons Hospice & Palliative Care of Maryland	Waived	Received
Brown, Karen	Resources Developer, Intersection of Change, Baltimore	Grace Presbyterian	Received
Diehl, Sarah T.	Psychotherapist, Private Practice	BMPK	Received
DiFrancesco, Jennifer	Slate Ministries	Not required	Received
Foster Connors, Katherine	Director, The Center	BMPK	Received
Jones, Richard G.	Chaplain, Anne Arundel Medical Center	First of Annapolis	Received
Lopez-Chapa, Jose	Pastor, Comunidad Presbiteriana La Trinidad	Not Required	Received
Martin, Stacy	VP, Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Services	Christ Lutheran	Approved 2018-2019
Myers, Kay	Dir Pastoral Care, Frederick Hospital	Frederick	Received
Richardson, C. Edward	Chaplain, Springfield Hospital Center	BMPK	Received
Smart, Valerie Easter	Pastor, Currie Kirk, Currie, Scotland	Not Required	Received
Taylor, Jacqueline	General Presbyter	Not Required	Received

## Members at Large 2020



MEMBERS AT LARGE				
NAME	Basis for Status	Parish Associate	Status Since	Report Status
Crihfield, Laura	Seeking a Call		2019	
Denley, Tanya	Graduate Study	Not Required	2016	Received
Mann, Stephen L.	Graduate Study	Not Required	2017	Received
Thomas Sr., Charles E.	Illness or Disability	Madison Avenue	2018	Received

## Inactive 2020

NAME	Status Since	Remove from Roll	Report Status
------	--------------	------------------	---------------

### Administration Committee

The Administration Committee reports that it has elected Rev. Jack Hodges to a one-year term as chair of the Committee.

## APPENDIX C

### SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDED MANUAL CHANGES FOR PRESBYTERY APPROVAL

#### Membership:

- Add Commissioned Pastors to the list of continuing members
- Remove sections that have already been designated to and included in COM authority
- Reword section 2.7: Attendance. Ministers with un-excused absences will be so noted in the minutes of the meeting.

#### Meetings:

- Remove references to specific meetings for election of GA Commissioners (GA Commissioners must be elected at a time to conform to GA deadlines)

#### Agencies

- Remove language concerning agencies acting on behalf of presbytery “only if urgency mandates this.” This language has been removed in the commission descriptions. Commissions are given authorization to act on behalf of presbytery in their commission descriptions not contingent on “urgency)

- Remove all but the first sentence of 6.4.2.2 and remove reference to this section in section 7.5.6 (which authorizes the Steering Cabinet to act on matters referred to it by an agency or sub-agency)
- Move section 6.4 on quorums to Section 3 “Meetings”

#### **Special Committees, Task Forces, and Advisory Committees**

- Eliminate this section which is redundant with section on Agencies except for the section on term limits of special agencies.
- Move the provision of automatic term limit of special agencies and sub-agencies to Section 6 “Agencies”

#### **Commissioners to Synod and General Assembly**

- Remove this section as a dedicated section.
- Move relevant and/or mandatory sections on nominations and elections to the section on Representation/Nominating
- Move the requirement for a report documenting the commissioners from the past five years to the job description of stated clerk

#### **Sessions**

- Remove this section as Sessions are Councils covered by the Book of Order.
- Move section on which mandates sessions have copies of their bylaws and articles of incorporation on file with the Presbytery to the requirement for overseeing session record reviews in the stated clerks’ job description

#### **Committees on Representation and Nominating**

- Combine into one committee “Representation and Nominations” retaining the responsibilities of each in the new committee (Recommended unanimously by the Nominating Committee)

**Other Editorial changes will be made to eliminate redundancy or clarify wording under the authority of Section 23.3 *“The Stated Clerk, acting with the concurrence of the Moderator of the Administration Committee, is empowered to make necessary editorial changes in this Manual to correct grammar, correct obvious wording errors, eliminate redundancy, and correct inconsistencies with the Book of Order.”***

## **APPENDIX D. PROGRESS REPORT FROM CENTER WORK GROUP**

### **Center-Presbytery Workgroup Progress Report November 16, 2019**

#### **WORKGROUP MEMBERS:**

Chuck Brawner Christa Burns, Jack Carlson, Kate Foster Connors, McKenna Lewellen, JT Paulk, Guy Moody, Tim Stern, Jackie Taylor, Tim Hughes Williams

**ISSUE:**

The Presbytery of Baltimore (POB) recognizes that The Center will need a new facility to house dormitories, office, meeting, and supporting space, beginning no later than 12/31/2022. The following progress report represents the current thinking of the Center-Presbytery Workgroup regarding how The Center and the Presbytery might put together financing for a new facility for The Center. The Workgroup has been meeting regularly since the September Gathering, and will continue meeting until a workable motion is ready to bring to Presbytery for discussion and vote.

**PROGRESS TOWARD A WAY FORWARD:**

The Center-Presbytery Work Group now hopes to present a motion in February petitioning the Presbytery for funds from its endowment up to, but not to exceed, one-third of the amount needed for the building project. One third of this amount will be provided annually to The Center for each of the first three years beginning after a building plan is finalized. In addition, the Center-Presbytery Work Group will request POB to secure a loan from the Presbyterian Church (USA) Investment and Loan Program Inc. (PILP) for a sum not to exceed two-thirds of the cost of the project, to be repaid by The Center. The Center and the Presbytery will raise any additional funds necessary for completion of a building through a capital campaign, grants, and in-kind donations from a partner church.

**POTENTIAL PROCESS:**

As a ministry of the Presbytery of Baltimore, The Center Steering Committee pledges to be judicious in the use of any funds provided, being careful stewards of Presbytery funds committed to the project. The Center will seek a new dormitory and meeting space within a specified geographic zone wherein The Center can carry out its ministry most effectively. The Center will explore the cost and feasibility of securing a new facility in the following three ways:

1. Retrofit existing space within a church in POB
2. Build new space on property owned by a church in POB; or
3. Find an existing building located within the specified geographic zone;

Within two weeks of approval of this resolution by a vote of the Presbytery, The Center will distribute a Request of Information (RFI) to congregations within the specified geographic zone. This will provide congregations the opportunity to express interest in housing the Center within their existing facilities or in a new building on their properties. Interested congregations will need to provide information about their properties which will enable The Center to make the best possible decision on how to proceed. Any church responding will have an opportunity to express how they might wish to apply their own resources to the project, given the established boundaries of Presbytery support.

The Center Steering Committee will present its final plans, including a breakout of total costs, to the POB Steering Cabinet and Board of Trustees before any funds are dispersed. The Cabinet must approve the plan before funds are dispersed. The Center Steering Committee will base its decision on sound fiduciary responsibility and potential impact in terms of the community where The Center will be housed. This will be in keeping with The Center's longstanding commitment to be in relationship with its neighbors and to be a blessing to the community.

In the event that The Center does not need the full amount of funding from the Endowment or PILP loan, The Center will return unspent funds if already dispersed.