



The Docket for the 888th Gathering
Presbytery of Baltimore
 Zoom Electronic Meeting Platform
 September 10, 2020

Called to community by God, disciplined by Jesus Christ, enlivened by the Holy Spirit, Baltimore Presbytery encourages, challenges and equips our congregations to thrive spiritually and be apostles for reconciliation.

9:15	Registration		Online check in of preregistrations
9:30	Orientation		Jack Carlson, Stated Clerk Amy Carlson, Technical crew

Stories and Celebrations...

10:00	Call to Order Opening Prayer	Action Item #	Moderator
10:05	Adoption of the docket	1	Rev. Jack Carlson, Stated Clerk
10:10	Introductions—new Pastors, first time Ruling Elder Commissioners; seating corresponding members Remembrance of Native Americans		Rev. Dr. Jackie Taylor, General Presbyter
10:20	Election of Moderator and Vice Moderator	2, 3	Rev. Deborah McEachran, Chair of Nominating Committee
10:25	Worship, Installation of Officers, Celebration of the Lord's Supper		Rev. Arnolando Aguilar, preaching
11:25	Retirements of Rev. John Schmidt, Deborah Schmidt and Rev. Mary Speers		Bill Daniel, Chair of COM
11:40	Life in the Presbytery and Beyond <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report from GA Commissioners • Youth Rising Coalition 		TEs Kimberly Secrist-Ashby and Amy Carlson; REs Darcel Glenn-Cooper and Robert Stepling; YAAD Emma Kate Lander Rev. Dr. Karen Brown

12:00 BREAK

Discernment and Decisions

12:30	Discernment and Decisions	Item #	
	Report of the Stated Clerk Adjust the Docket, if needed Consent Motion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve minutes • Other Reports 	4-9	Rev. Jack Carlson, Stated Clerk
12:35	Report of the General Presbyter		Rev. Dr. Jackie Taylor
12:45	Renewal of Guatemala and Cuba Partnerships		Commission on Reconciliation

1:00	Report from The Center		McKenna Lewellyn, Staff, The Center
1:10	Report of the Commission on Ministry • Approve Compensation Policy	10	RE Bill Daniel, Chair of COM
1:20	Report of the Commission on Preparation for Ministry: • Advancement of Inquirer Hyiwot Teshome to Candidacy • Examination of Candidate Jeremiah Seepersad	11-14	Rev. Eric Myers, RE Leslie Owsley
1:50	Election of General Presbyter Election of Acting Stated Clerk	15-16	Personnel Committee, RE Betsy Stewart Chair
2:00	Items pulled from Consent Motion New Business; Adjournment		
2:10	Adjourn with Prayer		

- The documents that make up the Meeting Papers are available online.
- New Business must be given to the Stated Clerk by 12:00 p.m.
- New main motions and amendments must be pre-filed in writing with the Stated Clerk
- Minutes of the last gathering may be found on www.baltimorepresbytery.org -> Gatherings -> May 14,2020, OR <http://www.baltimorepresbytery.org/septembergathering>

Motions

Adoption of the Docket

The Stated Clerk recommends:

1. THAT the Docket be approved as printed (and as it may have been modified by announcement of the Moderator and/or Stated Clerk prior to its adoption).

Election of Moderator and Vice-Moderator

The Nominating Committee places in nomination:

2. For Moderator, 2020-21, Ruling Elder Audrey Trapp (Faith).
3. For Vice-Moderator, 2021, Rev. Sue Lowcock Harris (First of Howard).

Consent Motion

The Stated Clerk recommends:

4. THE APPROVAL of the minutes of the 887th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Baltimore, May 14, 2020, 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 Commission on Ministry recommends:

5. That Presbytery approve the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for 2021 as 0.75%. The COLA is mandatory for those earning the minimum salary of their factor.

The Nominating Committee recommends:

6. That Presbytery elect the following persons:
 - a. RE Rob Smith (Central): Thriving Class of 2023 and CHAIR
 - b. TE Rebecca Crate (Springfield): SLD class of 2022
 - c. TE Roger Rice, HR: COR class of 2023
 - d. TE Mary Speers, HR: COM class of 2022
 - e. TE Karen Brown (Hope): COR class of 2023
 - f. TE Janna Vanderwoude (Northminster): Thriving class of 2022
 - g. TE Christa Burns, HR: Admin class of 2023
 - h. RE Jim Gyolai (First of Bel Air): Nominating, class of 2021
 - i. TE Shannon Meacham (Ashland): CPM, class of 2021
 - j. TE Melissa Lopez (First of Bel Air): Thriving, class of 2022
 - a.

The Administration Committee recommends:

7. That Presbytery APPROVE the Per Capita amount for 2021 as \$25.93.
8. That Presbytery APPROVE the Manual Changes listed in “2020-09-10 - Report of Administration Committee to Presbytery” posted with the meeting papers for today.

The Trustees recommend:

9. That their annual report to Presbytery be postponed until the November gathering in order to accommodate the auditors' schedule.

This is the end of the Consent Motion.

Motions for Action on the Floor of Presbytery

The Commission on Ministry recommends:

10. That Presbytery approve the revised Compensation Plan for the Presbytery, as posted with the meeting papers on the Presbytery website.

The Commission on Preparation for Ministry recommends:

11. That Presbytery advance Inquirer Hyiwot Teshome (Christ Memorial) to the status of Candidate.
12. That Presbytery waive the requirement for a transcript of satisfactory grades at a regionally accredited college (BoO G-2.0607 b.) for Candidate Jeremiah Seepersad. (This requires a $\frac{3}{4}$ vote of the Presbytery.)

13. That Presbytery examine Candidate Jeremiah Seepersad on his readiness to receive a call in the Presbyterian Church USA. (His Statement of Faith is included in the meeting papers posted on the website.)
14. That Presbytery sustain the examination of Jeremiah Seepersad (Havre de Grace) and approve him as ready to receive a call.

The Personnel Committee recommends:

15. That Presbytery elect the Rev. Dr. Jacqueline E. Taylor to a second term (five years) as General Presbyter of the Presbytery of Baltimore.
16. That Presbytery elect the Rev. Mary D. Gaut to be Acting Stated Clerk of the Presbytery through March 31, 2021.

Reports

Stated Clerk's Report

The Stated Clerk reports the following resignations:

Roger Rice from Spiritual Leader Development; Jack Hodges from Administration; Michael Moore from Moderator-elect of the Presbytery; Rev. Ray Meute from Dismantling Racism Task Force;

Steering Cabinet Report

The Steering Cabinet reports the following:

- a. Jackie Taylor had been evaluated and will be nominated to serve a five-year term as General Presbyter.
- b. Mary Gaut has accepted Nomination to the position of Acting Stated Clerk, for a six-month term ending March 31, 2021.
- c. Cabinet voted to hold both September and November Gatherings online; Open Space discussions will for the time being also be held online, but at a different time from Gatherings.

Administration Committee

The Administration Committee reports that the First Reading of the Budget for 2021 is available on the Presbytery website; questions should be addressed to Rev. Jack Hodges, Chair. A second reading will be available at the November Gathering.

Commission on Thriving Congregations

The Commission reports:

- In the last month, Thriving had a joint meeting with SLD, identifying “beams and posts”-posts being the issues that each commission focuses on individually and beams being those items that crossover between the two. We are developing a plan to facilitate faster and nimbler communication between the two commissions and will meet again next week.
- The chairs of CTC, SLD, COM, and MG conveners met to discuss how best to communicate about congregations so that we might offer support before there is a crisis. We also began to address the issue of mental health among church leaders and the need for increasing attention to be paid to this vital topic.

- Thriving is investigating the possibility of joining the denomination's Vital Congregations program.
- The commission is following up with churches that received tech grants in an effort to assess where churches are on the technology front and what their needs might be moving forward.
- We have identified websites as another place that Thriving might investigate offering support, as these are now the front door for most of our congregations.
- Thriving is coordinating a conversation between CTC, COM, Trustees, and the Vandersall Collective to further discuss parish properties.

Commission on Spiritual Leader Development

The Commission reports recognition that there is a need to get someone immediately to guide assist the Commission in evaluating and granting scholarship aid; the Commission points out the need for better communication options, including "Slack" electronic platform; the current pandemic is providing some opportunities to connect with the western churches a little more effectively.

Commission on Reconciliation

The Commission on Reconciliation report to the Presbytery Gathering September 10, 2020

Partnership Reports & Updates

Cuba

- All visits canceled including the *Fall Encuentro* for the Cuba Partnership Network. A virtual *Encuentro* is being considered for a potential future option.
- Plans for a *Youth Encuentro* this year was cancelled because of COVID.
- In June, Cuba celebrated the 130th Anniversary of the Presbyterian Church in Cuba.
- COVID Impact—severe shortage of food, fuel and medicine in Cuba
- Presbyterian Mission Agency is looking to get money to our partners

Guatemala

- CEDEPCA's work has been impacted by COVID, curfews, and more limited access to some villages and remote areas.
- Despite challenges, staff spirits remain high and they continue to request our prayers.
- CEDEPCA is excited to be joining Baltimore Presbytery in worship at the September gathering through virtual measures

Baltimore Dakota Learning Camp

- All learning and Bible camps have been canceled due to COVID.
- The Baltimore group's priority is to maintain and build relationships through the partnership. Will be listening to the Dakota Group to learn more about what they see as their needs and wants.
- Science kits and art kits were sent to our partners to be distributed to the children of *Pejutazizi* camp. Videos of how to use the kits were posted to the website.
- Games, crafts and snacks were sent to Porcupine Bible campers.

- *Fallston Presbyterian Church* is creating a mosaic in memory of a 12 year old Porcupine camper that committed suicide.
- Dakota Presbytery fall meeting has been canceled due to COVID. They will meet in the spring of 2021.

Partnership Renewals and Revisions

Cuba

- Minor tweaks have been made for the Presbytery to Presbytery Agreement, including language that addresses the current COVID pandemic environment and inability to travel yet acknowledges continued support, as well as language that charges both Presbyteries to develop plans together on a year by year basis and agreeing to evaluate the partnership in 2021, 2023, and 2025. Church to Church Partnerships continue have their own agreements.
- The partnership will continue to look for greater ways for mutuality. Important to continue to share resources and supplies as access to goods continues to dwindle in Cuba.
- The partnership agreement has been agreed to by both parties and will be signed at September gathering.

Guatemala

- Both Baltimore and CEDEPCA continue to feel good about the ways things are progressing. Minor tweaks have been made.
- The partnership will examine ways to interact with CEDEPCA outside of trip planning process (e.g., periodically meet via Zoom to discuss issues of concern).
- Will ask, “how can we continue to lift the gifts that each side brings and to be in partnership.”
- The partnership agreement has been agreed to by both parties and will be signed at September gathering.

BDLC

- Want to be careful not to use the partnership to impose our will on the native people. “We receive so much more than we give.”
- Working to identify where camps will be in the future. The Sisseton Camp is no longer viable.
- The partnership agreement is being worked on and will be presented at the November gathering.

Dismantling Racism Team

- The Team led online worship service, *Reform to Transform* an August 19th, with small group breakouts—it was well attended.
 - The next foundational training will be on line for 4 Tuesdays in a row, 2 hours each -- 9/29, 10/6, 10/13, 10/20.
 - The COR is looking to prepare policy recommendations for training design beyond 2020 for presbytery review at the November gathering. Issues currently being considered by the team include:
 - How often to offer the foundational training

- Reducing costs by preparing in-house trainers to provide the trainings instead of using an outside contractor
- Creating an additional menu of trainings beyond the basics (theme/issue focused)
- COR approved request from Rev. Ray Meute take a one year leave of absence
- **COR approved to allow people that were required to take this training by December 2020 to extend their timeline due to COVID**

Youth Rising Coalition

- Rev. Dr. Karen Brown spoke to COR about partnering with Youth Rising Coalition (YRC)
 - Young people are full of initiatives with the following priorities:
 - Youth empowering network
 - Marketing and access to markets
 - Financial support
 - Mentors and consultants
- They have raised \$48,747.86 through General Assembly special offering
- They are partnered with Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA)
- COR is excited about this partnership. COR has asked them to create Principles of Reconciliation to be addressed by the group in order to align with COR's work on reconciliation. Additionally, it is COR's hope to have a youth serve on COR to help strengthen partnership.

Community Engagement Grants

- COR finalized Community engagement grants from the Enduring Witness Fund in June and a total of \$25,000 was given to 6 different applicants:
 - Faith PC was given \$4,000 for Family Engagement Nights partnered with Walter P. Carter Elementary/Middle School. \$3,300 from 2019 went unused due to COVID19; COR approved their request to keep those funds in addition to 2020 funds to offer same program in 2020-2021 school year.
 - Fallston PC was given \$2,000 to support 2 projects: *Kids SOAR* - monthly community engagement/service activities for children with local ministry organizations & *Blessing Bus* - surprise appreciation for ministry staff/leadership around Harford County.
 - Hunting Ridge PC was given \$6,000 for the *Rosemont Community Interfaith Coalition Summer Camp* - 5 week program. Funds will pay for Artist in Residence and support other enrichment activities. Due to COVID, Hunting Ridge did not use their funds this summer and COR approved that they hold them to use for their program in 2021.
 - Knox PC was given \$4,500 for *YouSpeak* - to continue anti-bullying educational program for elementary children with the Dawson Center. \$2,000 from 2019 went unused due to COVID19; COR approved their request to keep those funds in addition to 2020 funds to continue program as soon as safe practices allow.

- Maryland PC was given \$7,500 for *Emergency Food Pantry* - shelving, equipment, supplies.
- St. John United PC was given \$1,000 for the *Bryant Woods Elementary School partnership* - sports and wellness program with students and parents, includes new soccer teams and parent/teacher appreciation events. \$6,000 from 2019 unused due to COVID. COR approved SJU to keep those funds to offer program in 2020-2021 school year.

Emergency Hunger Grants totaling \$3,500

The COR approved emergency hunger grants, funding that would allow churches to expand their hunger and food shortage services due to the rising demand during COVID and due to loss of other income.

- *Brown Memorial*: \$500 - new food program with school/neighborhood where we have after school & summer programs
- *Christ Our King*: \$500 - to support annual Thanksgiving food baskets
- *Havre de Grace*: \$500 - to support existing food pantry
- *Faith*: \$500 - to support annual Thanksgiving food baskets
- Interfaith Task Force (Maryland Presbyterian): \$500 - new food program to impacted neighborhoods
- Harundale: \$500 - For on-going ministry; for needed supplies because of Covid-19
- First of Howard: \$500 – new; paying restaurants to deliver food to persons in need

COR Members

- The Commission on Reconciliation would like to recognize and thank Robin Bissell, Janna Van der Woude, Yvette McEachern, and commission chair Lisa Beacham for their hard work and dedication. They have completed their terms on the Commission and we are truly grateful for their service and the gifts they shared with us.
- The COR is also grateful to Yvette McEachern and Lisa Beacham for agreeing to serve another term!

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. José H. López-Chapa

Commission on Ministry

The Commission on Ministry reports that the recommended COLA increase is 0.75%, according to the CPI.

The Commission reports the revised Compensation Plan for the Presbytery of Baltimore is available as posted with the meeting papers on the Presbytery website.

The Commission on Ministry reports that That the status of Honorably Retired has been granted to:

- i. The Rev. John Schmidt (Central)
- ii. The Rev. Mary Speers (Interim, Faith)
- iii. The Rev. Kay Myers (Chaplain, Frederick Health Hospital)

Property and Loan Commission

The Property and Loan Commission reports that,

1. By email vote on June 17-19, it gave approval to Glen Burnie Korean Presbyterian Church to apply for a \$60,500 SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) at a 2.75% interest rate over 30 years with a payment deferral of 12 months following disbursement, to compensate for the loss of rental income during the pandemic lockdown. The loan is secured by the church property.
2. By email vote on August 24, 2020, the Commission approved the sale of two small lots off Hamilton Ave. which are currently an unneeded small parking lot. The Church provided the commission with copies of the Hamilton Presbyterian Church Plat, 5532 Harford Road, Baltimore 21214, Section 27, Block 5412, Lot 21, 2920 Hamilton Avenue, Baltimore, 21214, along with photographs of the property which is not needed as Hamilton has another parking lot sufficient for their needs.