

Minutes of the 888th Gathering of the Presbytery of Baltimore
10:00 am, Thursday, September 10, 2020
Via Zoom Electronic Meeting Platform

OPENING: WORSHIP, STORIES AND CELEBRATIONS

Retiring Moderator Guy Moody called the 888th Gathering of the Presbytery of Baltimore, meeting via Zoom Electronic platform, on Thursday, September 10 2020, to order at 10:00 am and led in prayer. The call was in order and a quorum was present.

The Moderator called on Stated Clerk, Rev. John Carlson, who moved the adoption of the docket, with the following changes: (1) there is a substitute for the section on Ministry Groups in the proposed changes to the manual (Appendix G); the previously posted section is pulled from the Consent Motion, and the substituted motion (Appendix H) will be docketed for 2 pm; (2) the COM report should include the notation that COM approved the dissolution of the pastoral relationship between Havenwood Church and the Rev. David Willerup. With a proper second, the motion was **approved**.

Rev. Dr. Jackie Taylor, General Presbyter, offered a welcome, and recognized Ruling Elders attending for the first time. She also noted the presence of several pastors new to the Presbytery.

The Moderator then noted our commitment to recognizing the Native Americans who occupied the lands of the presbytery in centuries past and introduced a brief video as a remembrance; the video was used at the 224th General Assembly.

Moderator Moody then called on Rev. Deborah McEachran, Chair of Nominating Committee, for the election of the new Moderator and Vice Moderator. She noted that a new election was required since Rev. Michael Moore, who was previously elected Moderator in May, has received a new call to serve the PCUSA in the denominational offices in Louisville. She then placed in nomination the name of Ruling Elder Audrey Trapp (Faith) for Moderator, 2020-21. There were no further nominations, and Ruling Elder Trapp was elected. Rev. McEachran then placed in nomination the name of Rev. Sue Lowcock Harris as Vice Moderator; there being no further nominations, Rev. Lowcock Harris was elected.

The Presbytery then moved to worship, with the Rev. Arnolito Aguilar, from CEDEPCA preaching, and Revs. Jose Lopez and Melissa Lopez celebrating the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Retiring Moderator Guy Moody installed the new Moderator and Vice Moderator, RE Audrey Trapp and Rev. Sue Lowcock Harris. It was an inspiring service, with representatives from all our partnerships participating. Music was provided by RE Chrystie Adams, Rev. Andy and Eileen Gathman, and videos from representatives from our partnerships.

Following worship, newly elected and installed Vice Moderator Sue Lowcock Harris assumed the chair; Moderator Audrey Trapp was still recovering from a recent hospitalization. Our "Stories and Celebrations" continued, and the Moderator recognized COM Chair Bill Daniel to celebrate three retirements, Rev. John Schmidt (Central), Rev. Mary Speers (Interim, Faith), and Deborah Schmidt (presbytery staff). RE Rob Smith (Central) spoke on behalf of Rev. Schmidt, Rev. Mark Tammen (Long Island) on behalf of Rev. Speers, and Rev. Mary Gaut (Deputy Stated Clerk) on behalf of Debbie Schmidt. Following the testimonials, each retiree was given the opportunity to speak briefly, and the Moderator closed with prayer.

The Moderator then recognized the Commissioners and Young Adult Advisory Delegate to the 224th General Assembly, RE Darcel Glenn-Cooper (Cherry Hill), RE Robert Stepling (Springfield), Rev. Amy Carlson (Second), Rev. Kimberly Secrist-Ashby (Fallston), and Emma Kate Lander (First Annapolis), to give their report on the Assembly. The report was pre-recorded, and was introduced by Rev. Secrist-Ashby. There also are links to several blog posts available on request.

Following the Commissioners' report, the Moderator called on Rev. Karen Brown (Hope) for a report on the Youth Rising program and offering, which totals \$48,747.86 through General Assembly special offering

Following a period of announcements, the Moderator then adjourned the meeting with prayer for lunch.

DISCERNMENT AND DECISIONS

Following the lunch break, the Gathering was reconvened with prayer by Vice Moderator Sue Lowcock Harris. The Presbytery then entered into a period of "Discernment and Decisions," attending to the following items of business:

STATED CLERK'S REPORT AND CONSENT MOTION

Stated Clerk Jack Carlson gave his report, noting the previously announced change to the Consent motion after it had first been published and that no other items were requested to be removed 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 887th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Baltimore at via Zoom, on May 14, 2020, as posted on the Presbytery website (www.baltimorepresbytery.org).

From the Commission on Ministry:

- 1) 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.

From the Nominating Committee:

- 2) 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

From the Administration Committee:

- 3) That Presbytery APPROVE the Per Capita amount for 2021 as \$25.93.
- 4) That Presbytery APPROVE the Manual Changes listed in “2020-09-10 - Report of Administration Committee to Presbytery” posted with the meeting papers for today (minus the section removed at the time of the adoption of the Docket).

From the Trustees:

- 5) 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.

REPORT OF THE GENERAL PRESBYTER

Rev. Jackie Taylor gave her report, highlighting her vision of where we are with the strategic plan undertaken ten years ago. She points out the need for adaptive planning going forward. A good example would be what has been undertaken by the Center in light of the challenges of COVID. She also lifted up the need for agility in our planning, as for example in the development of the COVID 19 funds for use by local churches. She also addressed pastors who are struggling with the challenge of being leaders in a pandemic, encouraging good self-care. She emphasized the need for civil discourse in dealing with deep disagreements.

RENEWAL OF PARTNERSHIPS

The Moderator then called on RE Lisa Beacham, Retiring Chair of the Commission on Reconciliation, for the signing of the renewal of the Presbytery's Cuba and Guatemala partnerships. RE Beacham pointed out that our agreements with our partners have evolved as our relationships have evolved over the years. For example, our English and Spanish agreements are bilingual, both translations appearing side by side, rather than English first, followed by Spanish. Renewing our partnerships in the time of pandemic is a testimony to the strength of those relationships which continue even while we cannot travel and be with one another. Also present via Zoom was Judith Castenada from CEDEPCA. (The Partnership Agreements are attached as Appendices D and E) Following videos from our partners the partnerships were signed on behalf of Baltimore Presbytery Moderator RE Audrey Trapp and COR chair Lisa Beacham.)

REPORT FROM THE CENTER

The Rev. Kate Foster Connors, Director of the Center, and McKenna Lewellyn, Program Director, and Board Member J. T. Paulk gave the report from the Center. They highlighted the expanded and online learning programs being developed. J T Paulk also updated the presbytery on the status of questions about the location of the Center. They are talking with several churches which may be interested in being a home for the Center.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

The Moderator called on RE Bill Daniel, to present the report of the Commission on Ministry. He called attention to the Revised Compensation Policy for the Presbytery (Appendix F), and moved its

approval. No second was required; after considerable discussion about the policy's provision for Parental Leave for new parents, it was moved to refer the policy back to the Commission on Ministry. The motion to refer was **approved**, and the policy was referred.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY

The Moderator called on Rev. Eric Myers and RE Leslie Owsley to present the report of the Commission on Ministry. Rev. Myers moved that the Presbytery approve moving Inquirer Hyiwot Teshome to the status of Candidacy. After he made a brief statement of his experience of Christian grace and call to the ministry, he stood for questions, and was then excused while the Presbytery discussed the motion. The motion was then **approved**, and Candidate Teshome was welcomed back into the meeting, and prayer was offered by Rev. Jon Nelson.

RE Leslie Owsley then brought Candidate Jeremiah Seepersad (Havre de Grace) for examination on his readiness to receive a call. He is a graduate of McGill University and Princeton Theological Seminary. RE Owsley then moved that the Presbytery waive the requirement of having in hand a transcript from McGill University, which is in Canada and not regionally accredited by an accrediting body in the United States, and is closed due to COVID restrictions. The motion, which required a $\frac{3}{4}$ majority to pass, was approved with only one negative vote. RE Owsley then moved that the Presbytery proceed to examine Candidate Seepersad (Havre de Grace), who has passed all the required PCUSA Ordination Exams, on his readiness to receive a call in the PCUSA. His statement of faith (Appendix J) is available at <file:///C:/Users/Owners/Dropbox/Minutes%20&%20Meeting%20Papers/2020/888/Seepersad%20-%20Statement%20of%20Faith.pdf> and was available to all the commissioners of the Presbytery. The motion to examine was approved. Following a period of question and answer, it was moved and seconded to arrest the examination and to excuse the Candidate while the Presbytery discussed the examination. The motion was approved, and the candidate was excused. It was then moved and seconded to sustain the examination. Following discussion, the presbytery voted in the affirmative to **sustain** the examination, with Susan Moody abstaining, and the Candidate was invited back into the meeting. Rev Rob Hoch offered prayer for the Candidate.

REPORT OF THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

RE Betsy Stewart was then called on to present the report of the Personnel Committee. She moved that the Presbytery elect Rev. Dr. Jacqueline Taylor to a second term of five years. The motion was **approved**, and Dr. Taylor was elected.

RE Stewart then moved that the Presbytery elect Rev. Mary Gaut to a six-month term as Acting Stated Clerk. The motion was **approved**. The Steering Cabinet has formed a four person Stated Clerk Nominating Committee to nominate a permanent Stated Clerk and to report back to the presbytery in March, 2021.

ITEMS PULLED FROM CONSENT MOTION

One item had been pulled from the Consent Motion, a revised section for Manual Changes dealing with Ministry Groups. It was moved and seconded that the new section (Appendix H) be approved; the motion was **approved**.

NEW BUSINESS

Rev. Tom Harris raised a question about the dissolution of the pastoral relationship between Rev. David Willerup and Havenwood Presbyterian Church. It was reported by the Stated Clerk that the Presbytery's policy on dissolution and severance was adhered to.

There being no further business, without objection the meeting was adjourned with prayer by the Vice-Moderator, Rev. Sue Lowcock Harris, at 2:43 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Attest:

John V. Carlson
Stated Clerk

Mary D. Gaut
Deputy Stated Clerk

Appendices:

- A. Attendance Detail
- B. Reports
- C. Biographical sketches of Moderator and Vice Moderator
- D. Partnership Agreement with CEDEPCA
- E. Partnership Agreement with El Centro Presbiterio
- F. Proposed Compensation Policy
- G. Proposed Manual Changes
- H. Replaced Section of Manual Changes concerning Ministry Groups
- I. 2021 Budget
- J. Seepersad statement of faith:
<file:///C:/Users/Owners/Dropbox/Minutes%20&%20Meeting%20Papers/2020/888/Seepersad%20-%20Statement%20of%20Faith.pdf>

Appendix A: Attendance Detail

| Category | Present | Excused | Absent | Total |
|---|----------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|
| Teaching Elders Serving Churches | 58 | 0 | 11 | 69 |
| Resident Specialized Clergy and H.R. | 7 | 0 | 3 | 10 |
| New Worshiping Community Leaders | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Ruling Elder Members of Presbytery's Steering Cabinet and Commissions | 10 | 0 | 1 | 11 |
| Continuing Corresponding Members | 1 | | | 1 |
| Ruling Elder Commissioners | | | | |
| Youth Advisory Delegates | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Presbytery Program Staff (w/o vote) | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Guests and Presbytery Staff | 29 | | | 29 |
| Commissioned Pastors | 4 | | 2 | 6 |
| Certified Christian Educators with vote | | | | |
| Former Ruling Elder Moderators | 3 | | | 3 |
| Former Ruling Elder Stated Clerks | 1 | | | 1 |
| Candidates and Inquirers | 3 | | | 3 |
| Totals | | | | |

Teaching Elders serving churches:

Present: Terrence Alsbaugh; Thomas Blair; Dorothy Boulton; Amy Carlson; Rob Carter; Rebecca Crate; Susan DeWyngaert; Jennifer Di Francesco, Carrie Finch-Burris; Phyllis Felton; ; Andrew Gathman; Andrew Foster Connors; Matthew Glasgow; Catherine Goodrich; Mark Hanna; Morton Harris; Sue Lowcock Harris; Thomas Harris; Rob Hoch; Tim Hughes Williams; Jack Hodges; Scott Hoffman; Mark Hutton; Mary Ka Kanahan; Billy Klutz; Mihee Kim-Kort; Andrew Kort; Ken Kovacs; Edwin Lacy; Nancy Lincoln-Reynolds; Melissa Lopez; Jessie Lowry; Deborah McEachran; Elizabeth McLean; Shannon Meacham; Stephen Melton; Daniel Melton; Ray Meute; Michael Moore; Eric Myers; Andrew Nagel; Jonathon Nelson; David Norse Thomas; Keith Paige; Adrian Pratt; John Schmidt; Kimberly Secrist Ashby; Todd Smith; Jacob Snowden; Mary Speers; Tim Stern; Joel Strom; Laurel Underwood; Janna VanderWoude; Tanya Wade; Michele Ward; James Young; Jeffrey Young.

Absent and Excused:

Absent: David Bleivik; Jeong Hoon Han; Leonard Hornick; John Kazanjian; Sungjin Kim; Teresa Martin-Minnich; Keith Roberts; Lisa Rzepka; Mark Sandell; Kerry Slinkard; David Willerup;

New Worshiping Community Leaders: Jose Lopez-Chapa.

Resident Specialized Clergy

Present: Jennifer Barchi; Cathy Bashore; Karen Brown; Katherine Foster Connors; Tanya Denley; Richard Jones; Jacqueline Taylor.

Absent and Excused:

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

Honorably Retired

Present: John Carlson; Doris Cowan; Mary Gaut; David Harris; William Hathaway; Dorothy LaPenta; Renee Mackey; Walter Peters; Roger Rice; John Schmidt; Mary Speers; Gretchen van Utt; Jennifer Williams

Excused: Jim Riddell

Ruling Elder Members of Presbytery's Steering Cabinet and Commissions

Present: Chrystie Adams; Deborah Baer; Lisa Beacham; Bill Daniel Yvette McEachern; (Susan Moody); Audrey Trapp; (Bob Stepling) (Betsy Stewart) Rob Smith

Absent; JoAnne Torrie;

Excused:

Corresponding Members:

Fern Cloud

Ruling Elder Commissioners from Congregations:

Present: Julie Hanks, David Lasclu, Brown Memorial Park Avenue; (Cleo Walker), Cherry Hill; Chestnut Grove, Carolyn Nabet; Christ Our King, Joanne Kokie; Churchville, Bonnie Jones; Faith, Michael Billings; Fallston, J. Perry, First, Annapolis, Helen Krone; First and Franklin, Sonce Reese; First Cumberland, Janet Hendershot; First Howard County, Charles Yarborough (Catherine Blacka); Franklinville, Ed Stuebing; Good Shepherd, (Bill Starke); Govans, Tanya Morrel; Grace, Tony Wade; Granite, Michael Kahn; Harundale, Sheila Breuer; Havenwood, Shelly Dori; Havre de Grace, Pat Allingham; Highland, Claudia Scarborough; Hunting Ridge, Jill Harrison; Kenwood, Ann Carlson; Knox, Brenda Alston; Light Street, Carol Eshelmann; Madison Avenue, Gina Sammons; Maryland, Carol Mason; Mt. Hebron, Judy Sheldon; Mount Paran, Pam Carter; Prince of Peace, Cory Gimperling; Ginny Rutherford, Roland Park; Second, Leslie Owsley; Springfield, Sharon Pappas; St. John United, Susan Moody; Woods Memorial, Gale Gillespie, Peggy Newman, Doug Irminger, Penny Moore.

(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, Christ Memorial; Christ Our Anchor; Covenant; Dickey Memorial; Emmitsburg; First, Bel Air; First of Westminster; First, Frostburg, Frederick; Glen Burnie Korean; Grove; Hamilton; Hagerstown, Hancock; Hope; Hughes Memorial; Korean United; Lochearn, Northminster, Perry Hall, St. Andrew, St. Andrew's, Towson, Trinity.

Commissioned Pastors

Present: Anita Bishop-Johnson; Donna Lea; Ed Terry, Cleoda Walker.

Excused:

Absent: Jay Garvin; John Brewington;

Candidates and Inquirers:

Present: McKenna Lewellyn, Jeremiah Seepersad; Hyiwot Teshome

Youth Advisory Delegates Present: None

Certified Lay Employees with vote: None

Former Ruling Elder Moderators: Adrienne Knight; Guy Moody; William Starke

Former Ruling Elder Stated Clerks Present: Catherine Blacka

Presbytery Program Staff Present (without vote): Susan Krehbiel

29 guests and Presbytery staff were also present.

APPENDIX B: Reports

The 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.

Commission on Reconciliation

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* on 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)

The Commission reports it has approved the dissolution and severance agreement between Rev. David Willerup and Havenwood Presbyterian Church.

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.

Appendix C:

Biographical sketches

About RE Audrey Trapp

Audrey is known to say that she has been a Presbyterian since before she was born! Her parents met at a post-high school group at Sherwood United Presbyterian Church in West Philadelphia and married there during WWII. She was raised in the near suburbs of Philadelphia, attended Maryville College and graduated from Temple University with a BA in Sociology and Religion. Her parents' values inspired and supported her in civil rights activism in the 60's and her continued involvement in social justice issues. She earned a MS in Counseling at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and completed additional course work in clinical counseling at Hopkins. As a career counselor working with adults in higher education and consulting settings, she was involved with career and employment coaching, management development, workplace communication and conflict resolution, and diversity training.

After college, she married and lived in Wisconsin, then moved to Baltimore in 1978. She joined Faith Presbyterian Church in 1983 and has been an active member ever since. A Ruling Elder since 1985, she has chaired and been a member of various committees. She currently heads Faith's Cuba Partnership team and is a member of the Social and Environmental Justice Committee. Her service to Baltimore Presbytery includes current membership on the Presbytery Cuba Partnership team, the Commission on Reconciliation and the Committee on Local Arrangements for the 2020 General Assembly. She is also a member of the Steering Committee of the national Cuba Partners Network.

Now retired, Audrey is the parent of an adult son and daughter and five grandchildren, all of whom live in Baltimore. She is married to John Trapp, parent of three adult children and five grandchildren - making a grand total of ten grandchildren, ages 2 - 21! She enjoys yoga, book clubs, cooking, theatre, travel, jazz and classical music, and time with family and friends.

About Rev. Dr. Sue Lowcock Harris

Sue Lowcock Harris has served as one of the Co-Pastors of the First Presbyterian Church of Howard County since 2005.

After receiving her Doctor of Ministry degree from Union Theological Seminary in Virginia (now Union Presbyterian Seminary,) Sue was ordained in 1983 and has served congregations, middle governing bodies, and university campuses in diverse roles as interim pastor, chaplain, project coordinator, and faculty, in urban, rural and suburban settings.

She holds undergraduate degrees from the University of California, Irvine (history) and Old Dominion University (flute performance).

Raised in a somewhat unconventional branch of Christianity, Sue describes herself as "tripping over her shoelaces" into the Presbyterian Church as a college student – which is what saved her from theological anarchy.

Her work has focused on what it takes to create beloved community: contextual, flexible, sustainable common life that is accessible, open, honest and humble, broad and deep, and works for the repair of the world.

For the last decade or so, Sue has been thinking about the church as a community of reverence, and how justice and beauty interact with belief and attentiveness to form us into a *reverent* people. She is a member of, and past President of the Board of Directors for Bridges to Housing Stability. She is an Associate Member of the Iona Community.

Appendix D: Partnership Agreement with CEDEPCA

A Partnership between the Presbytery of Baltimore, PC(USA) and CEDEPCA (The Protestant Center for Pastoral Studies in Central America)

Called by God's grace into one family, commissioned by Christ to bear witness to God's reconciling love in the world, and empowered by the Holy Spirit to live out and carry forth this reconciliation, the Presbytery of Baltimore and CEDEPCA hereby enter into a covenant relationship, seeking to partner with one another in our work of reconciliation.

Believing in the power of the Gospel to transform lives, the purpose of this partnership is to support and learn from one another in our common efforts to address issues of justice related to gender, race, ethnicity and class through biblical and theological education, compassionate accompaniment, and the provision of safe spaces for reflection and growth. The Presbytery of Baltimore recognizes that in order to enter into a joint ministry we rely heavily on CEDPCA's experience, knowledge and time to orient us and guide us.

Specifically, we make the following mutual commitments:

- We will pray for one another
 - Remembering one another in our corporate and individual prayers
 - Sharing specific joys and concerns as they arise
- We will visit one another
 - Sending a delegation from Baltimore to CEDEPCA at least annually
 - Sending a delegation from CEDEPCA to Baltimore at least bi-annually
 - Deciding together on specific travel plans according to our mutual goals
- We will communicate with one another
 - Sharing stories of life and faith for the sake of mutual encouragement
 - Reading one another's newsletters as they are made available
 - Setting aside time for face-to-face business meetings every other year to evaluate and plan together and on-line meetings at least once a year.
- We will advocate for one another
 - Supporting our mutual goals by reaching out to our local networks, partner organizations, denominational agencies, and governmental entities
- We will be transparent with one another
 - Sharing upon request relevant financial documents
 - Discussing regularly specific areas of focus for the partnership
- We will support one another
 - Maintaining an active partnership team with the Presbytery of Baltimore

- Agreeing annually during our joint business meetings about specific goals for financial support from the Baltimore Presbytery
- Being open to new ways in which we might share and learn from each other

This Partnership shall be extended for five (5) years beginning on this day, September 10, 2020. At the conclusion of this term, we agree to enter into a period of mutual discernment to seek God's guidance about the continuation of this partnership. We enter into this agreement freely, praying that by God's grace our relationship will be characterized above all by friendship, mutuality, transparency, and love.

Lisa Beacham
Commission on Reconciliation Chair
Presbytery of Baltimore

Judith Casteñeda
General Coordinator
CEDEPCA

Audrey Trapp
Moderator, Presbytery of Baltimore

Appendix E: Partnership Agreement with el Centro Presbiterio

A partnership between the Presbytery of Baltimore, PC(USA) and the Central Presbytery of the Synod of the Presbyterian Reformed Church in Cuba

We are united in one mission proclaiming the Gospel, maintaining love, hope, and mutual respect. We recognize that it is a commitment and a privilege to form this partnership and that our faith is strengthened by it.

Our two presbyteries commit ourselves to the following activities as manifestations of our partnership and our unity in spirit and mission:

- We will continually pray for one another
- We will each name a Partnership Committee that will promote work and relationships between and across our presbyteries.
- We will continue to deepen our ties by sharing information about projects, life, mission of the churches, Bible studies and special activities during the liturgical calendar we both celebrate
- We will, whenever possible, visit each other for the purpose of getting to know one another and to dialogue about current topics within and outside of the Church.
- We will be collaborators in doing the work entrusted to us; sharing and interacting with each other in areas related to leadership development, resources and

worship with pastors, ruling elders and other congregational leaders, always with the approval of both Presbyteries and in consultation with both Partnership Committees.

- We will share our life experiences.

Un Hermanamiento entre el Presbiterio de Baltimore, PC(USA) y el Presbiterio del Centro del Sínodo de la Iglesia Presbiteriana Reformada en Cuba

Estamos unidos en una misma misión de proclamar el evangelio, manteniendo el amor, la esperanza y el respeto mutuo. Reconocemos que es un compromiso y un privilegio formar este hermanamiento y que nuestra fe esta fortificada por ello.

Los dos presbiterios nos comprometimos a las siguientes actividades como manifestaciones de nuestro hermanamiento y nuestra unidad en espíritu y misión:

- Oremos continuamente unos por otros.
- Nombramos un comité de hermanamiento para promover el trabajo y las relaciones entre los 2 presbiterios y dentro de los mismos.
- Seguiremos profundizando nuestros lazos compartiendo información sobre proyectos, vida, misión de las iglesias, estudios Bíblicos y actividades especiales durante el calendario litúrgico que ambos celebramos.
- Nos visitaremos, cuando sea posible, con el propósito de conocernos mejor y dialogar sobre temas actuales dentro y fuera de la Iglesia.
- Seremos colaboradores en cumplir la tarea encomendada a nosotros; compartiendo e intercambiando en áreas pertinentes al desarrollo del liderazgo, recursos, y adoración con pastores, presbíteros y otros líderes en

nuestras congregaciones, siempre con la aprobación de ambos presbiterios y en consultación con ambos Comités del Hermanamiento.

- Compartiremos nuestras experiencias de vida.
- Church-to-Church partnerships will be encouraged through the discernment of local Sessions and with the approval of both Presbyteries.
- Our renewed Partnership will be in effect for five (5) years as of the 10th of September 2020. One or either of the Presbyteries may elect to end the Partnership after informative discussion.
- The two Presbyteries will develop plans together on a year by year basis. We agree to evaluate our partnership in 2021, 2023 and 2025.
- We renew this agreement in the midst of a worldwide pandemic, trusting in God to guide us in this continuing Partnership that it may always be to the glory of God.
- Los Hermanamientos entre Iglesias siempre serán fomentados con los consistorios locales y aprobados por los dos presbiterios.
- Nuestro Hermanamiento renovado tendrá una duración de cinco (5) años comenzando el 10 de septiembre de 2020. Uno u otro de los Presbiterios puede elegir terminar el Hermanamiento después de un discurso informativo.
- Los presbiterios establecerán un plan de trabajo anualmente. Nos comprometemos hacer una evaluación del hermanamiento en los años 2021, 2023 y 2025.

- Renovamos este acuerdo en medio de un pandémico mundial, confiando que Dios nos

guie en la continuación de este Hermanamiento que así sea siempre para la gloria de Dios.

Yoanny Marrero Aguila, Secretario Ejecutivo
El Centro Presbiterio

Fecha

Edelberto Valdes Fleites, Moderador
El Centro Presbiterio

Fecha

Lisa Beacham, Commission of Reconciliation Chair

Date

Audrey Trapp, Moderator
Presbytery of Baltimore

Date

https://baltimorepresbytery.org/wp-content/uploads/Policy_on_Pastoral_Compensation.pdf



Baltimore Presbytery Policy on Pastoral Compensation

TERMS OF CALL

All pastoral calls approved by the Presbytery must **be consistent with the values and requirements of the Pension Plan of the PCUSA and conform** to the *Presbytery's Factoring Guide for Professional Positions* (attached as an addendum) for determining minimum compensation. Each of these separately and together insure adequate and just compensation and the benefits necessary for the well-being of the pastor and pastor's family.

The Compensation Plan, and *Factoring Guide* apply to all installed and temporary pastoral positions and to Certified and Associate Certified Educators.

For purposes of calculating salary ranges the Presbytery will use a minimum salary [BO G-2.1103b, G-2.0804] for a fully qualified professional (factor of 520) representing an effective salary that is at least 80% of the moderate standard of living for a family of four in our areaⁱ. Salary adjustments will be based on the average of the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers and all wage earners for the region defined by the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics to include Baltimore and surrounding areas for the latest of the months of May, June or July of the prior yearⁱⁱ.

Because ministers must pay the full amount of Social Security taxes, a church shall provide a reimbursement for SECA. Such an amount would equal the amount that would have been paid if the church were required to pay the employer's share. The amount will be separately itemized and be included in the Terms of Call. However, it will neither be included in effective salary as defined by the Board of Pensions nor be used to meet the minimum salary requirements of the Presbytery of Baltimore. *The SECA reimbursement is taxable income for the minister and included as salary on the W-2 Tax form each year.*

If a pastor has opted not to be covered by Social Security, the church may provide for an amount that would be equal to the amount of FICA taxes that would have been paid if the church were required to pay the employer's share. Such pay will be deposited in a retirement account by the church. The amount will be separately itemized and be included in the Terms of Call. However, it will neither be included in effective salary as defined by the Board of Pensions nor be used to meet the minimum salary requirements of the Presbytery of Baltimore. Neither the Church nor the Presbytery will be held liable should the minister later seek redress because he or she feels that his or her retirement or disability benefits are inadequate due to his or her non-participation in Social Security.

Clergy Couples. A clergy couple sharing the equivalent of one full-time pastoral position may be called as co-pastors and compensated at the sole pastor minimum. The couple will be splitting both the compensation and benefits package based on one position.

Part-time and Tentmaking Pastorates. The position of pastor is to be considered full-time unless otherwise approved by the session and the Presbytery. The Presbytery will determine if the compensation package offered by the church meets the minimum requirements according to the percentage of time worked. Pastors wishing to supplement their income by working outside the church must have approval of the session

Exceptional Cases. If a church is unable to compensate its pastor at the required levels, or if the required level is greater than 50% of the income of the church, the church should consult with the COM, which may recommend an exception to the compensation requirements, which must be approved by the Presbytery.

BENEFITS

Pension Plan All pastoral calls approved by the Presbytery, must provide for participation in the Pension Plan of the PCUSA. Full participation in the *Pastor's Participation Plan* is normative. Participation in an alternative form of enrollment in the Pension Plan (Such as *Pathways to Renewal*) will be considered on a case by case basis and must be approved by the Board of Pensions and the Commission on Ministry. Professional educators and other professionals should either be enrolled in the Pension Plan or receive comparable benefits under an alternative plan. ~~In the case of non-payment by a particular church of the Presbytery, the Presbytery guarantees to each member the full payment of all pension plan contributions for a period not to exceed one year.~~

Supplementary Benefits. All pastoral calls approved by the Presbytery, including all changes in call, must--and other professional calls should--additionally provide:

Automobile mileage vouchered and at the current IRS rate.

At least four full weeks, including four Sundays, **vacation** per year.

Reasonable **moving expenses** to the field. *This amount is taxable for the pastor.*

Continuing Education. All pastoral calls approved by the Presbytery, including all changes in call, must--and professional calls should--additionally provide for at least two weeks study leave. The COM will provide and publish *Guidelines for Continuing Education* as part of its manual.

Sabbatical Leaves. Sessions are encouraged to grant sabbatical leaves when appropriate. *The COM maintains a policy on sabbatical guidelines.*

Sick Leave is ordinarily not included in terms of call. We encourage sessions to develop a sick leave policy for their staff members, including pastors.

Childbearing/Childrearing Policy. All pastoral calls approved by the Presbytery of Baltimore must – and professional calls should – adhere to this Childbearing/Childrearing policy: The addition of children to a family is a gift and blessing of God. The church recognizes and agrees to accommodate to the special needs of pastors and professionals who are parents. While under

a physician's care for childbirth without serious complications, pastoral/professional compensation and all terms of call continue. The following specific guidelines will apply:

New parents (including adoptive parents) will be granted at least 6 weeks of family leave, with 4 weeks to be paid leave, with the option of also using the current year's vacation time, but not study leave. Leave should be taken within the first 12 months after the birth or adoption but need not be taken consecutively. In the case of adoption, some of the leave may be taken in the 12 months before the adoption takes place.

~~Minimum leave will be: Maternity Leave: 8 weeks; Paternity Leave: 8 weeks; Adoptive Parent Leave: 8 weeks.~~

The need for longer leaves will be upon the recommendation of the physician and will be subject to the same procedures as apply to extended sick leave.

Sessions will make adequate provisions for the continuation of pastoral/professional functions during the leave period.

Pastors/professionals will inform their sessions and the COM as early as possible regarding the need for leave.

Childbirth brings risks of complications, unexpected needs, and other uncertainties. It is the duty of the pastor/professional and the session to deal with these issues in an open and caring relationship.

LOANS

Loans to pastors by congregations. All loans to pastors by congregations shall be considered a term of call. The congregation and the COM on behalf of the presbytery must approve each such individual loan. Loans made to assist the pastor in obtaining or maintaining a home shall be recorded as a second mortgage or as a shared equity arrangement between the pastor and the congregation and so recorded in the mortgage. The COM strongly recommends consultation with a lawyer and/or accountant, for tax and legal implications, before finalizing such loans.

AMENDING THIS POLICY

The Compensation Plan, by its adoption here, becomes a policy of this Presbytery, and may be amended by majority vote of those present and voting at a Presbytery meeting. This Plan will incorporate recommendations for the compensation of all professionals in the Presbytery and its particular churches.

¹ The initial salary was set using information from the U.S. Government Bureau of Labor Statistics. The BLS no longer provides this data. We have been adjusting the basic salary using the Consumer Price Index every year.

¹ The factoring system was initially the United Presbyterian Compensation Plan, approved by the 188th General Assembly of the United Presbyterian-Church (USA) (1976), and amended by this Presbytery, including the salary adjustment figures based on the average of the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers and for all wage earners, both for the Washington-Baltimore region. We used the CPI for July of the prior year until 2018, when the Bureau of Labor Statistics changed the areas and the months. They now do the CPI for Washington-Arlington-Alexandria for the odd numbered months and for Baltimore-Columbia-Towson for the even numbered months. In 2018 COM chose to use Baltimore-Columbia-Towson and to change from July to June. For 2019 we did an 11-month comparison (June 2018 to July 2017).

Appendix G

Proposed Manual Changes

https://baltimorepresbytery.org/wp-content/uploads/888_Admin_Report_Manual_Changes.pdf

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE REPORT

The Administration Committee recommends that Presbytery approve the following Manual Changes:

- Add to the end of 4.1 (Officers of Presbytery) Two persons may serve in a single office as co-officers. If one resigns or is removed from office the other remains in that office serving singly.
- Add to 8.6.4.2 (Representation and Nominations) Two persons may be nominated to fill a particular office of chair of a commission or committee, serving as co-officers or co-chairs. If one resigns or is removed from office the other remains in that office serving singly.
- Replace the current Manual Section 10 on Ministry Groups with the following

(Note: The version below is the correct version which was approved by Presbytery. It replaced the incorrect version which was in the meeting papers and subsequently removed from the consent motion to be voted on separately)

MINISTRY GROUPS

Definition. A Ministry Group is a regional grouping of congregations that send representatives to periodic gatherings committed to nurturing the wellbeing and faithfulness of the congregations and leaders of their region. Their ministry will seek to work within the context of the vision of the Presbytery of Baltimore.

Purpose: To further, among a region's congregations, the Presbytery's mission of encouraging, challenging and equipping its congregations to thrive spiritually and serve effectively as apostles of reconciliation.

Membership and Staff: Each congregation may designate at least one ruling elder and its teaching elders to participate in the Ministry Group. The Presbytery staff will also provide staff support as able.

Meetings: Each Ministry Group will ordinarily meet at least three times annually

Convener: Each Ministry Group will elect a convener or conveners for an initial two-year term, with the possibility of annual re-election. Election will be in terms consistent with the Presbytery leadership election cycle.

The convener will be responsible for
Planning and leading Ministry Group meetings,
Welcoming new teaching elders who are called to member congregations,
Providing pastoral care to all teaching elders within the Ministry Group, and
Other duties as detailed in the Ministry Group Convener Job Description.

Ministry Group Conveners' Board

Periodically, the Ministry Group Conveners gather as the Ministry Group Conveners' Board, meeting with Presbytery staff as appropriate.

The Board will elect a chair or co-chairs to lead the Conveners' Board and represent the Ministry Groups on the Presbytery Steering Cabinet. Election will be in terms consistent with the Presbytery leadership election cycle.

Changes in Membership: A church may petition the Steering Cabinet to move from one Ministry Group to another. Such a request shall also require the concurrence of the Ministry Groups involved.

Funding: Ministry Groups will generally be given freedom to spend funds assigned to them in ways that further the vision of the Presbytery. Requests for additional funds or programs that exceed \$9,999 will require approval of the Steering Cabinet.

Evaluation and Accountability: Annually, the Ministry Group Conveners' Board will report to the Steering Cabinet regarding their progress in advancing the vision of the Presbytery and how funds were spent.

Appendix H

Replaced section of Manual Changes

<https://baltimorepresbytery.org/wp-content/uploads/CORRECTED-VERSION-OF-MINISTRY-GROUP-MANUAL-CHANGES.pdf>

MINISTRY GROUPS

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Evaluation and Accountability: Annually, the Ministry Group Conveners' Board will report to the Steering Cabinet regarding their progress in advancing the vision of the Presbytery and how funds were spent.

Appendix I

2021 Budget

https://baltimorepresbytery.org/wp-content/uploads/2021_Proposed_Budget.pdf

Appendix J

Jeremiah Seepersad Statement of Faith

<https://baltimorepresbytery.org/wp-content/uploads/Seepersad-StatementOfFaith.pdf>

A STATEMENT OF FAITH

1. I believe in the one true God who is infinite in being and perfection. God exists eternally
2. as three persons: Father, Son and the Holy Spirit, who are of one substance and equal
3. in power and glory. God has created and preserved all things and including humans in
4. his own image to glorify and enjoy God forever, I believe that God sent his only
5. begotten Son, Jesus Christ into the world. Jesus became incarnate without a human
6. father. He was fully human and fully divine. Jesus lived a sinless life and sacrificed it
7. on the cross for our sins. He rose again in order to consummate God's plan of salvation.
8. I believe in God's Holy Spirit, the third person of our triune God. The Spirit was
9. bestowed upon us at our baptism by Jesus Christ to intercede for and guide us in our

10. daily lives. The Spirit dwells within all persons and works to create a right relationship
11. with God by justification. By helping us to discern God's will for us, the Spirit works
12. to sanctify us so that our nature is constantly being renewed.

13. I believe that the Church is Christ's gift to fulfil his mission on earth. The Church is
14. empowered by the Holy Spirit to spread the good news of Jesus Christ to the world and
15. to establish his kingdom through Christ's message of love and reconciliation. The
16. Church is a community of faith that is welcoming to all persons including the stranger.
17. Therein, all come for nourishment of body and soul, for healing and for fellowship.

18. I believe that God speaks to us in Holy Scripture. Scripture, known as the Holy Bible,
19. is the only infallible guide for our faith and practice. It is God's story of creation and
20. provision for all peoples until the time of the consummation of his will and purpose
21. through salvation. Our faith is enriched and transformed through the work of the Holy
22. Spirit in our reading, study and proclamation of Scripture when we discern that Jesus
23. Christ is himself the Living Word. Scripture reveals to us God's steadfast love and his
24. desire to be in a right relationship with his creation. The Scriptures instruct us to love 25.
God and to love neighbor just as Jesus loved God and neighbor.

26. I believe that our two Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper are a visible
27. manifestation of the covenant of God's grace and love for his Church. Both covenants
28. are signs and seals of this covenant. The Sacrament of Baptism is administered only
29. once to a person while the Lord's Supper is an ongoing practice in the Church that
30. contributes to our spiritual nourishment and growth. In Baptism, our triune God acts
31. graciously on our behalf in its cleansing waters. In Infant Baptism, God acts lovingly
32. and graciously on the children's behalf before they can respond. It is a sacred covenant
33. in which children are ingrafted into Christ's body by the Holy Spirit and into the
34. community of faith. Parents and the congregation accept responsibility for their
35. spiritual nourishment and growth. For older persons, I believe that the outward washing
36. with water in baptism is a sign of the inward cleansing of one's sin through faith in
37. Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

38. I believe that at the Lord's Supper, instituted by Christ himself, we commune together
39. as members of his family. It is an act of God's grace, love and mercy contributing to
40. our spiritual growth and nourishment. It is also a joyous act of thanksgiving as we show
41. forth Jesus' death by the symbolic eating of his 'body' and drinking of his 'blood'. The
42. bread and cup remind us that Jesus is our source of nourishment and spiritual food
who
43. by his death and resurrection offers us grace and restores our relationship with God
and
44. with all creation. It is a divine mystery as we await and celebrate in glorious hope for
45. his return.
