



**Minutes of the 891st Gathering
of the Presbytery of Baltimore
10:00 am, Thursday, May 13, 2021
Via Zoom Electronic Meeting Platform**

OPENING: STORIES AND CELEBRATIONS and WORSHIP.

Moderator Audrey Trapp called the 891st Gathering of the Presbytery of Baltimore, meeting to order via Zoom Electronic platform, on Thursday, March 11, 2021 at 10:05 AM and led in prayer. The call was in order and a quorum was present.

The Moderator called on Stated Clerk, Rev. Mary Gaut, who moved the adoption of the docket as amended by the addendum which had been posted. With a proper second, the motion was APPROVED.

In the absence of Rev. Dr. Jackie Taylor, General Presbyter, who was excused to attend a funeral, the Stated Clerk offered a welcome, and recognized new Teaching Elder, Rev. Glen Misik, Temporary Supply at Babcock Presbyterian and Ruling Elders attending for the first time. She also welcomed Rev. Warren Lesane, Executive and Stated Clerk of the Synod of Mid-Atlantic and a member of Charlotte Presbytery. He was seated as a corresponding member.

The Moderator called on RE Robert Stepling, Chair of the Baltimore Dakota Learning Camps Steering Committee, who led the Presbytery in acknowledging our commitment to recognizing the Native Americans who occupied the lands of the Presbytery in centuries past.

The Presbytery then moved to Morning Prayer, led by Vice-Moderator Sue Lowcock Harris and TE Morton Harris who serves with Sue as co-pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Howard Co.

DISCERNMENT AND DECISIONS

Following worship, the Gathering was reconvened with an Update from RE Guy Moody and RE Charese Jordan Moore on the Implementation of the Presbytery's Dismantling Racism policy. Beginning in the Fall of 2021, the Presbytery's Dismantling Racism Team (DRT) will share new opportunities for members, staff and leaders in the Presbytery to meet their continuing education requirements under the Dismantling Racism Training policy. The DRT will offer 2 ways for Teaching Elders, staff and other Presbytery leaders, who have completed the first Dismantling Racism Training, to meet the continuing education requirement. The DRT will use a 10-point scale to assign Continuing Education Units, with 10 units needed every 3 years. Like CEUs in other professions, the amount of credit for a given activity will depend upon the time and investment put into the activity.

- DRT will organize at least one training/program per year. The DRT will assign credits for all of the events it organizes and promotes.
- Individuals can also submit a proposed course or activity for evaluation by the DRT to meet their individual goals.

More information is included in the full report (Appendix C)

STATED CLERK'S REPORT AND CONSENT MOTION

Stated Clerk Mary Gaut moved the following consent motion:

Consent Motion

The Stated Clerk recommends:

- 1) THE APPROVAL of the minutes of the 890th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Baltimore, March 11, 2021,

The Commission on Ministry recommends:

- 2) That the 2021 Terms of Call be approved (Appendix D)

The Nominating Committee recommends:

- 3) That Presbytery elect the following persons to the positions indicated:

Thriving Congregations:

Class of 2024— TE Tim Hughes Williams (Light Street); TE Michele Ward (Brown)
Chair: RE Rob Smith (Central)

Spiritual Leader Development:

Class of 2022- TE Amy Carlson (Second);
Class of 2023 - RE Heather Russell (Westminster); RE Peter McCallum (Highland)
Class of 2024 - RE Bill Daniel (Woods); TE Joel Strom (Towson); TE Jacob Snowden (Woods)
Chair: TE Becca Crate (Springfield)

Reconciliation:

Class of 2024 RE Chrystie Adams (Brown), TE Barbara Renton (HR)
Chair: TE Karen Brown (Hope)

Commission on Ministry:

Class of 2024 - RE Neil Nemser (Faith); RE Carol Eshelmann (Light St.); TE Jack Carlson (HR); TE Mihee Kim-Kort (First, Annapolis); TE Andy Nagel (Central); TE Kimberly Secrist-Ashby (Mt. Hebron)
Chair: TE Matthew Glasgow (Westminster)

Commission on Preparation for Ministry:

Class of 2024 - TE Cat Goodrich (Faith); TE Shannon Weston (Ashland); CRE Anita Bishop-Johnson (Mt. Paran)
Chairs: TE Eric Meyers (Frederick), RE Leslie Owsley (Second)

Property and Loan:

Class of 2024 TE Elizabeth McLean (Prince of Peace); RE Paul Martin (Havre de Grace)
Chair: RE Claudia Scarborough (Highland)

Personnel:

Class of 2024 – RE Deborah Dixon (First of Annapolis)

Administration:

Class of 2023-- TE Morton Harris (First of Howard)

Nominating/Representation:

Class of 2024-- RE Sarah Walker (Knox); RE Barbara Yancy (Lochearn)

PJC:

Class of 2026 - RE Doug Irminger (Woods)

Trustees:

Class of 2023 – TE Dorothy LaPenta (HR)
Class of 2024-- TE Andy Kort (First, Annapolis); TE Carrie Finch-Burriss (Kenwood), RE Beth Seeley (First and Franklin)

SYNOD:

Representative, Jubilee Fund:

Synod Nominating Committee, Class of 2023: TE Jacob Snowden (Woods)

Synod PJC, Class of 2027: TE Anita Hendrix (HR)

The Administration Committee recommends:

5. that the Presbytery Manual 7.11.5.1.3 (COM empowerments) be amended to include approval of temporary contracts.

Upon proper second the Consent Motion was APPROVED by common consent.

The Stated Clerk then read the Decision of the PJC 2021-1 (March 26, 2021) as required by D-11.0701. (Appendix E). She prefaced it with a reading from a section of the Preamble of the Rules Discipline (D-1.0101) describing the purpose of Church discipline.

REPORT OF THE GENERAL PRESBYTER

General Presbyter Jackie Taylor, who was excused from the meeting, addressed the presbytery through a pre-recorded video. She titled her remarks “What’s in it for you” and addressed some of the ways that the presbytery is supporting congregations as they begin to slowly reopen for in-person gatherings. She referenced a reopening plan crafted by Hope UCC and shared with permission on the POB website as an example of considerations which should guide congregations in their unique circumstances. She also reminded the presbytery of the Covid-relief grants that can be used to assist congregations with changes or improvements to make their buildings safer and better equipped. And she encouraged everyone to get the covid vaccination when they are able.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Committee Chair, TE John Schmidt, presented three recommended changes to the Trustees section of the Presbytery Manual:

Section 8.7.5.2.2 to read “Presbytery staff compensations are approved, *and the Trustees present an oral report on the content of the audited financial statement for the previous calendar year [Manual 9.5.10]* at the second meeting of the program year. (new text in italics). The motion was APPROVED by common consent.

Replace the wording of Section 9.4 “Authority” with the following (to reflect the language of the Trustees Bylaws, and renumber as 9.2:

The corporate charter grants to the Trustees certain powers.

9.2.1. The corporation may provide in its bylaws for the number, tenure, election, and qualification of the Trustees.

9.2.2 The corporation “shall have the power to pass such rules, regulations or by-laws as shall not be repugnant to any provision of the Constitution or Laws of this State or of the United States;”

9.2.3. The corporation “shall have full power and authority to acquire, take and hold by subscriptions, contributions, legacies, devises or any other method, money or real or personal property, of every kind and description for its said corporate purposes, and the same to invest, and the proceeds to apply for the said corporate purposes as shall from time to time be most expedient;”

9.2.4 The corporation “shall have the right to sell, grant, dispose of, alien or demise all said property in such manner and upon such terms as it shall deem proper.”

9.2.5. *The corporation is limited in that, "...nothing herein contained shall enlarge, restrict or in any manner affect the power or authority which said Presbytery of Baltimore now hath, or may exercise or claim over the churches in connection with said Presbytery or the members thereof...."* The motion was APPROVED by common consent.

Delete Section 9.7 "Funds." (The current description of various funds and fund names in which the Trustees are to hold assets is overly prescriptive, out of date, and has not been the actual practice for quite some time). The motion was APPROVED by common consent.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY

Commission Chair RE Leslie Owsley first called on TE Jack Carlson, chair of the COM Credentials Team, to give an overview of the Book of Order references to commissioning of ruling elders. Commissioning should always be done as a response to a need identified by the Presbytery's mission strategy. He explained that RE Paul Martin, previously ordained in the Roman Catholic tradition but a member of the PCUSA since 1992, has a contract to provide regular preaching and pastoral care at Havre de Grace and that the COM recommended him for commissioning to officiate the sacraments there during the term of his contract as a way to enable the church to celebrate the Lord's Supper regularly in the absence of an installed or interim pastor.

The CPM chair then described the instruction and evaluation which was conducted by the commission which then certified RE Martin to be examined on his faith journey and reason for seeking the commission.

Following his statement and a period of questioning RE Owsley moved that RE Martin be commissioned to officiate the sacraments at Havre de Grace during the term of his contract. The motion did not require a second. After a few questions and affirmations of this process as a way of supporting small congregations, the motion was APPROVED.

RE Owsley then introduced Inquirer Blake Collins for examination on his sense of call. He shared that, as a student at McCormick Theological Seminary, he has partnered with the McCormick Solidarity Building Initiative working with incarcerated persons at Cook Co. Jail. As part of the learning experience, they are reading from the letters of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. who spoke about the difficulty we have of hearing "difficult truths." Blake spoke to the difficult truths he feels the church is called to respond to including the shifting demographics in the church and society, the continued racism and poverty, and the church's own complicity in these. He also expressed his belief that the church is uniquely able to address these issues with messages of grace and love that are transformative, which is why he feels called to ministry so that he may share these gifts which the church is called to offer to the world.

Following a period of questions which included an affirmation of his gifts for ministry RE Owsley moved, on behalf of the CPM, that Inquirer Blake Collins be advanced to candidacy. The motion did not require a second and was APPROVED.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION AND NOMINATIONS

Committee Chair, TE Deborah McEachran placed in nomination the name of Vice-Moderator Sue Lowcock Harris (First Presbyterian of Howard Co.) to be Moderator of Presbytery 2021-2022. The motion did not require a second and was APPROVED. She then placed in nomination the name of RE Cecil Phillips (Dickey Memorial) to serve as Vice-Moderator of the Presbytery 2021-2022. The motion did not require a second and was APPROVED. Biographical statements for both candidates are attached (Appendix F).

NEW BUSINESS:

The chair of the Committee on Representations and Nominations presented an additional candidate for election: RE Betsy Stewart (First of Annapolis) to serve on the Committee on Administration class of 2024. The motion was APPROVED by common consent.

ITEMS PULLED FROM THE CONSENT MOTION: None

There being no further business, without objection, the meeting was closed with prayer by the Vice-Moderator, Rev. Sue Lowcock Harris and adjourned by the Moderator.

Respectfully Submitted,

Attest:

Mary D. Gaut
Acting Stated Clerk

Appendices:

- A. Attendance Detail
- B. Reports
- C. Necrology
- D. Job Description: Assistant Director of the Center
- E. 2021 Budget
- F. Report of the Stated Clerk Nominating Committee

Appendix A: Attendance Detail

Category	Total	Excused	Absent	Total
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	Present			Voting Members Present
Teaching Elders Serving Churches	35	1	24	35
Specialized Clergy	5	1	9	5
Honorably Retired Clergy	9	--	--	9
New Worshipping Community Leaders	1	0	0	1
Ruling Elder Members of Presbytery's Steering Cabinet and Commissions	5	--	--	5
Ruling Elder Commissioners from congregations	22	--	--	22
Commissioned Pastors	1	0	1	1
Former Ruling Elder Moderators	3	--	--	3
Former Ruling Elder Stated Clerks	1	--	--	1
Corresponding Members	1	--	--	1
Presbytery Staff and Guest (w/o vote)	18			
Candidates and Inquirers (w/o vote)	3			
TOTAL	104			83

Teaching Elders serving churches:

Present: Jon Nelson, (Ark& Dove); Glen Misik (Babcock, Andrew Connors, Michele Ward (Brown); Ken Kovacs, Dorothy Boulton (Catonsville); Andy Nagel (Central); Keith Paige (Cherry Hill); Jessie Lowry (Christ Our Anchor); Jeff Young (Christ Our King); Catherine Goodrich (Faith); Melissa Lopez (First Bel Air); Sue Lowcock Harris, Morton Harris (First of Howard); Andrew Kort, Mihee Kim-Kort (First of Annapolis); Eric Myers (Frederick), Laurel Underwood (Frostburg); Billy Klutz (Govans); Edwin Lacy (Harundale); Jenn DiFrancesco (Havenwood); Deborah McEachran (Hunting Ridge); Carrie Finch-Burriss (Kenwood); Tim Hughes Williams (Light Street); Phyllis Felton (Madison Ave.) David Norse Thomas (Maryland); Kimberly Secrist Ashby (Mt. Hebron), Janna Vanderwoude (Northminster), Elizabeth McLean (Prince of Peace); Mark Hannah (Roland Park); Amy Carlson (Second); Mary Ka Kanahan (St. John United); Joel Strom (Towson); Matthew Glasgow (Westminister); Jacob Snowden (Woods).

Absent and Excused: Ray Meute (Highland), Jackie Taylor (Specialized)

Absent: Terrence Alspaugh (Granite), Karen Brown (Hope), Rob Carter (Towson), Rebecca Crate (Springfield); Susan DeWyngaert (Woods), Andy Gathman (Chestnut Grove), Jeong Hoon Han (Korean United); Laura Batten Hart (Covenant), Thomas Harris (Govans); Scott Hoffman (Christ Memorial); Leonard Hornick (Hughes Memorial); Mark

Hutton (Central); Christian Iosso (First & Franklin), Sungjin Kim (Glen Burnie Korean), Dan Melton (St. Andrew's), Teresa Martin-Minnich (Hancock); Stephen Melton (Churchville), Nancy Lincoln-Reynolds (Woods), Mark Sandell (St. Andrew), Kerry Slinkard (Good Shepherd); Todd Smith (Bethel), Tim Stern (Ark & Dove), Tanya Wade (Grace), Shannon Weston (Ashland)

New Worshiping Community Leaders: Jose Lopez-Chapa.

Resident Specialized Clergy

Present: Jennifer Barchi; Cathy Bashore, Katherine Foster; Janine Zabriskie

Absent: Tom Blair; Brandon Brewer, Sarah Diehl; Richard Jones; Stephen Mann; Edward Richardson; Keith Roberts; Charles Thomas, Sr.; David Willerup

Nonresident Specialized Clergy: Tanya Denley

Honorably Retired

Present: John Carlson; Mary Gaut; Alison Halsey, Anita Hendrix; Walt Peters; Roger Rice; John Schmidt; Mary Speers; Jennifer Williams

Corresponding Member: Warren Lesane, Charlotte Presbytery (Synod of Mid-Atlantic executive)

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

Present: Chrystie Adams (COR), Lynn Carlson (COM); Audrey Trapp (Moderator); Robert Stepling (COR); Leslie Owsley (CPM)

Ruling Elder Commissioners from Congregations:

BROWN, Bill Sheridan; CHRIST OUR KING, Keith Reagan; FAITH, Neil Nemser; FIRST OF ANNAPOLIS, Betsy Stewart, Deborah Dixon; FIRST OF CUMBERLAND, James Stickler; FIRST OF HOWARD CO., Kathy Robie-Suh; GOVANS, Karen Ceanfaglione; HAVENWOOD, Shelly Dori; HAVRE DE GRACE, Paul Martin; HIGHLAND, Claudia Scarborough; HUNTING RIDGE, Jill Harrison; KNOX, Charese Jordan Moore; MARYLAND, Sam Erdman; PRINCE OF PEACE, Bill McWhirter; SECOND, Gene Leber; ST. JOHN UNITED, Susan Moody; WOODS, Mark Bohlman, Julia Erickson, Mary Jo Greenley, Philip Henry.

Congregations without Elder representation:

Ark and Dove, Ashland; Babcock, Barrelville, Bethel, Catonsville; Central, Cherry Hill; Chestnut Grove, Christ Memorial; Christ Our Anchor; Churchville, Covenant; Dickey Memorial; Emmitsburg; Fallston, First of Bel Air; First of Westminster; First and Franklin; Franklinville, Frederick; Frostburg, **Good Shepherd**, Grace, Granite, Grove, Glen Burnie Korean; Hamilton; Hagerstown, Hancock; Harundale; Hope; Hughes Memorial; Kenwood; Korean United; Light Street, Lochearn, Madison Ave., Mt. Hebron, **Mt Paran**, Northminster; Perry Hall, Roland Park, St. Andrew; St. Andrew's; **Springfield**, Towson; Trinity.
Churches listed in ORANGE had elders present but listed in a different voting category.

Commissioned Pastors

Present: Anita Bishop-Johnson.

Excused:

Absent: John Brewington.

Candidates and Inquirers:

Present: Blake Collins, McKenna Lewellyn, Heather Russell

Youth Advisory Delegates Present: None

Certified Lay Employees with vote: None

Former Ruling Elder Moderators (with vote): Adrienne Knight; William Starke; Guy Moody

Former Ruling Elder Stated Clerks (with vote) Catherine Blacka

Other Presbytery Staff and Guests (without vote): Lauren Barchi (Dickey Memorial), Virginia Callegary, Woody Collins, Amy Curran, Caroline Smith, Marla Youkers, (all from First of Howard Co.), Judy Binkley (Havenwood), Patricia Allingham (Havre de Grace), Chuck Brawner (Staff); Susan Krehbiel (Staff); Frank Perrelli (Staff); Felicia Scott (Staff); Debbie Schmidt (retired staff); Lillian Van Rompay (Prince of Peace), Julie Evans (Second), Emily Park (Second), Barbara Jarvis & Kathleen Matava (Roland Park)

APPENDIX B: Reports

Stated Clerk's Report

The Stated Clerk reports that

- The Stated Clerk reports the redress of imbalance between Teaching and Ruling Elders as follows

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

Church	Total Membership As of 12/31/2020	Number of Elder Commissioners
Woods Memorial	1777	4
First of Annapolis	639	2
First of Howard County	573	2
Total		8

The computations involved in determining the redress of the imbalance between Ministers and Elders, as found in the Presbytery Manual 2.3, are represented in the following tables. Counts are as of 12/31/2020.

Ministers on the Roll	157
Ministers who are Non-Resident	18
Ministers who are Honorably Retired, not attending	41
TOTAL (A - (B + C))	98

All churches	65
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Additional Elders from churches with > 500 members	5
Elder Officers and Commission members	20
Certified Christian Educators	1
Commissioned Ruling Elders	4
Former RE Moderators attending	4
Former Stated Clerks attending	1
TOTAL	100

98 < 100, therefore **no additional elders are needed.**

- That the Permanent Judicial Commission has rendered a decision in a disciplinary case which will be read to the presbytery and entered into the Minutes as required by The Rules of Discipline D-11.0701.

Commission on Ministry

The Commission on Ministry reports that,

- They approved the interim contract between TE Kerry Slinkard and Good Shepherd Presbyterian effective May 1, 2021
- They approved a contract between RE Paul Martin as “Standing Pastoral Supply” and Havre de Grace Presbyterian effective March 17, 2021.
- They recommend commissioning RE Paul Martin to officiate the Sacraments at Havre de Grace during the term of his contract pending certification by CPM and approval of the Presbytery.
- They dismissed TE Lisa Rzepka to National Capital Presbytery effective April 1, 2021
- Rev Sungjin Kim was installed as the pastor of Glen Burnie Korean Presbyterian Church on April 25, 2021.

Commission on Preparation for Ministry

The Commission reports that

- It has enrolled Adena Moulton as inquirer. She is a member of Dickey Memorial PC and is currently studying at Yale Divinity School.
- It has enrolled Julie Finch as an inquirer. She is a member of First Presbyterian of Annapolis and studying at Fuller Theological Seminary.

APPENDIX C: Report of the Dismantling Racism Team

Dismantling Racism Continuing Education Update to Commission on Reconciliation May 13, 2021

Beginning in the Fall of 2021, the Presbytery's Dismantling Racism Team (DRT) will share new opportunities for members, staff and leaders in the Presbytery to meet their continuing education requirements under the Dismantling Racism Training policy. Learning and working to dismantle racism can happen in many ways. In addition to organizing our own events, there are a number of Presbyterian offices and other faith-based organizations offering excellent conferences, workshops and other opportunities that are consistent with the Presbytery's goals.

The DRT, therefore, will offer 2 ways for Teaching Elders, staff and other Presbytery leaders, who have completed the first Dismantling Racism Training, to meet the continuing education requirement. The DRT will use a 10-point scale to assign Continuing Education Units, with 10 units needed every 3 years. Like CEUs in other professions, the amount of credit for a given activity will depend upon the time and investment put into the activity.

1. DRT will organize at least one training/program per year. The DRT will assign credits for all of the events it organizes and promotes.
2. Individuals can also submit a proposed course or activity for evaluation by the DRT to meet their individual goals.

Here are the educational opportunities that the DRT is currently planning:

- Dismantling Racism Part-2 Workshop and Support for Pastors & Congregational Leaders (Organized by DRT into 2 sessions) - 10 credits – delve more deeply into specific skills and resources for the work of dismantling racism within your congregation. Participants will be asked to present work they are doing in their own context. The workshop will take place in two sessions to allow time for reflection and practice.
- Dismantling Racism Affinity Group Meetings for People of Color Only (3 meetings minimum organized by DRT) - 10 Credits. DRT members are in the early planning stages for this facilitated group experience for African American pastors and congregational leaders.

Examples of activities offered by other groups that can be arranged individually:

- NEXT Church Anti-Racism Clergy Coaching (credits to be assigned) - <https://nextchurch.net/antiracism-work/antiracism-coaches-and-facilitators/>
- The Center 4-part training "Antiracist Community Engagement" for congregations (credits to be assigned) - This series is an introduction to how churches can engage responsibly in their communities, with a particular focus on antiracist practices. Cost \$600 for the series. <https://www.thecenterbaltimore.org/learn>