

Minutes of the 898th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Baltimore

March 9, 2023, at 10:00 am
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Moderator, Cecil Phillips, called the meeting of the Presbytery of Baltimore to order at 10:04 AM. He opened the meeting with prayer. A quorum was present.

He called on the Stated Clerk, Mary Gaut who moved the adoption of the Docket. It was seconded and **APPROVED** by common consent.

General Presbyter, Jackie Taylor, welcomed first time ruling elders and guests including Catherine Lynch of the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program, David Stanianus from the Presbyterian Historical Society and Jennifer Newman, Certified Educator from Pittsburgh Presbytery, along with Rev. Hal Bennett and Rev. Kim Nofel, both new members of Presbytery.

RE Bob Stepling led the remembrance of the Native Americans on whose land we reside. A video greeting was shown from Rev. Fern Cloud, General Presbyter of the Dakota Presbytery, and details offered about the upcoming Dakota Learning Camps.

Catherine Lynch was recognized by the Moderator. She presented rebate checks (rebate on a portion of the interest on a loan as a result of supporting investments) to Ark and Dove, First and Franklin and St. Andrews Presbyterian Churches. She reminded the presbytery that loans to churches are dependent on investments made with PILP and that currently 15-month notes are paying 3.15% interest.

The Moderator recognized David Stanianus who brought greetings from the Presbyterian Historical Society and invited congregations to use their resources for archiving and digitalizing permanent records. He also reported that PHS is working to publish digital content in ways that bring attention to the voices and stories of groups that historically have been marginalized.

Morning devotions were presented by the Ministry Group Conveners Group and included a time of remembrance of ministers and ruling elders who died in 2022 (see appendix B).

STATED CLERK'S REPORT AND CONSENT MOTION

Following devotions, the Moderator called upon the Stated Clerk who presented the consent motion. The motion included the approval of the minutes of the 897th stated meeting and Book of Order proposed amendments 22-C through 22-S, and the 2023 compensations of installed pastors (see Appendix C). No motions were removed from the consent motion, and it was seconded and **APPROVED** by common consent.

The Stated Clerk then congratulated RE Joshua Gilhart (First Presbyterian Church of Cumberland) for achieving the status of Christian Education Associate, reminding the presbytery that he had been an alternate ruling elder commissioner to the 225th GA.

REPORT OF THE STEERING CABINET

Rev. Amy Carlson reported for the Steering Cabinet on the progress of the strategic planning process, facilitated by consultants from the Design Group International. She reviewed briefly the process itself and how it began with listening groups across the presbytery. She admitted some frustrations when the anticipated structural changes did not seem to be emerging, but also acknowledged the emerging realization among Cabinet members that the process was hopefully leading to a transformation of *how* things are done as well as the structural changes that will facilitate *what* is done.

REPORT OF THE GENERAL PRESBYTER

General Presbyter Jackie Taylor continued the report on the planning process. She shared a video of a choir performing a lively rendition of “Wade in the Water,” encouraging congregations to bring an openness to what God is doing in the moment in our history.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE:

The Moderator called on Rev. John Schmidt for the report of the Administration Committee. He moved, on behalf of the committee, that the 2023 Budget (Appendix D), as presented, be approved. The motion did not require a second. Questions were raised about the impact of the strategic plan on the budget. Rev. Schmidt responded that some of the staff positions included have not yet been filled but provide flexibility within the budget to shape a staff that would adequately support the emerging strategic priorities. The motion was **APPROVED**.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

Rev. Jack Carlson, chair of the Credentials Team of the COM was recognized. He moved that the position of Communications and Operations Manager at Catonsville Presbyterian Church be approved as a validated ministry. The motion did not require a second. Rev. Michael Cuppett spoke about his approach to the position as a true ministry of the church and Rev. Carlson reported that the Credentials Team was impressed with the possibilities that had been discovered in the process of Rev. Cuppett’s coming on staff. The motion was **APPROVED**.

Rev. Carlson then moved that the request of Havre de Grace Presbyterian for a waiver of session term limits under the provisions of G-2.0404 be granted. The motion was **APPROVED**.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY

The moderator recognized Rev. Christa Burns, chair of the Commission on Preparation for ministry. She moved, on behalf of the commission, that Inquirer Elizabeth Cahoon be examined on her sense of call and, if sustained, be advanced to the status of candidate. She spoke about her enduring calling to ministry focused primarily on youth. Following questions, she was moved to the waiting room. And the motion that she be advanced to candidacy was

APPROVED. Ms. Cahoon was brought back from the waiting room and Rev. Randy Bush, pastor of Woods Memorial, offered a prayer.

Rev. Burns then moved, on behalf of the commission, that Inquirer Adena Moulton be examined on her sense of call and, if sustained, be advanced to the status of candidate. She spoke about her sense of call, responding to a question about her decision to join the PCUSA after growing up in the Church of Latter-Day Saints. After she was moved to the waiting room. The motion to be moved to Candidacy was **APPROVED.** Ms. Moulton was also welcomed back and Rev. Essie Koenig-Reinke, pastor of Dickey Memorial, offered a prayer of blessing.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON RECONCILIATION

The moderator called upon RE Guy Moody and Rev. Jessie Lowry to report from the Dismantling Racism Team. RE Moody described the new initiative of creating “Anti-Racism for Faithful Leadership Cohorts” for leaders “called to go deeper in racial justice ministry and embrace the promise more fully.” Rev. Lowry shared what the Dismantling Racism team is doing to explore restorative justice.

RE Keith Syler reported on the Cuba Partnership. He reported that partners in Cuba are eager for us to advocate for an end to the 60-year embargo. He urged congregations to consider becoming partner churches and reported on the plans for the next group travel to Cuba in November or December 2023. He concluded with a plea for volunteers to assist in the Nationwide Cuba Partnership Network annual meeting which will be held at Sandy Cove October 23-27.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SPIRITUAL LEADER DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

The Gathering Team has requested that each of the programmatic commissions (Thriving Congregations, Reconciliation and Spiritual Leader Development) report to presbytery on an annual basis, its current initiatives along with any actions taken on behalf of the entire presbytery. Rev. Amy Carlson, chair of the commission, reported on its behalf. She explained that the commission was comprised of three teams: Disciple Formation, Executive Leadership Training and Scholarships.

Through its Disciple Formation the commission offers online elder training every third Thursday of the month from 7-8pm. Videos are then posted on the Presbytery YouTube page. Scholarships are described on the presbytery website. The Dialogue for Peaceful Change conflict resolution trainings will (hopefully) be offered in May and September of 2023 and January 2024. The commission is also recognizing the ordination anniversaries of ministers in the presbytery.

THE CLOSING OF NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN

After making the motion that Northminster Presbyterian Church be closed at the congregation’s request, effective March 9, 2023, the chair of the administrative commission, Carl Wilton, gave a

brief report of the process of discernment that led to the decision to close. A slideshow contained photographs showing some of the history of the church.

The moderator restated the motion, and the motion was **APPROVED**. Rev. Wilton offered a prayer of thanksgiving for the faithful ministry of the church and for the members as they settle into new congregational homes. (Appendix E)

ITEM PULLED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA: None

OLD BUSINESS

The Stated Clerk was recognized to present the item pulled from the consent motion in November and postponed until this meeting. Proposed amendment 22-BB, as corrected by the OGA, was moved. Needing no second it was **APPROVED** by common consent.

There was no new business. Upon a motion and second, the meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 1:10PM and closed with prayer by the Moderator.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Gaut, Stated Clerk

APPENDIX A
Attendance Detail

Category	Present	Excused	Absent
Teaching Elders Serving Churches	39	4	11
Specialized Teaching Elders. (non-resident permanently excused)	9	7 6 Non- resident	6
New Worshiping Community Leaders	2	-	0
Honorably Retired Teaching Elders	13	-	-
CREs & Commissioned Pastors	2	0	5
Ruling Elder Commissioners (Including officers and Commission members)	27	-	61
Former Ruling Elder Moderators	3	-	-
Former Ruling Elder Stated Clerks	1	-	-
Certified Educators	1	-	-
<i>Subtotal voting members</i>	97	10	83
Corresponding Members	1	-	-
Youth Advisory Delegates (Non-voting)	0	-	-
Guests and Presbytery Staff (Non-voting)	18	-	-
Candidates and Inquirers (Non-voting)	2	-	-
<i>Subtotal non-voting attendees</i>			
TOTAL PRESENT	118	10	83

TEACHING ELDERS SERVING CHURCHES:

PRESENT: Tim Stern, (Ark& Dove), Andrew Connors, Michele Ward (Brown);, Dorothy Boulton (Catonsville); Andy Nagel (Central); Keith Paige (Cherry Hill); Scott Hoffman (Christ Memorial) Jessie Lowry (Christ Our Anchor); Jeff Young (Christ Our King); Steve Nofel (Churchville & Granite), Essie Koenig-Reinke (Dickey Memorial), Edwin Lacy (Fallston), Catherine Goodrich (Faith); Alison Peters (First Cumberland), Andrew Kort. Mihee Kim-Kort (First of Annapolis); , Melissa Lopez (First Bel Air);; Matthew Glasgow (First Westminister); Sungjin Kim (Glen Burnie Korean),; Thomas Harris, (Govans); Tanya Wade (Grace), Harold Bennett (Grove), Teresa Martin-Minnich (Hancock), Ray Meute (Highland), Deborah McEachran (Hunting Ridge); Tim Hughes Williams (Light Street); Phyllis Felton (Madison Ave.), McKenna Lewellen (Maryland) Amy Carlson(Mt Hebron), Elizabeth McLean (Prince of Peace); Mark Hannah (Roland Park); Eric Koenig-Reinke (Second), Rebecca Crate-Price (Springfield), Mark Sandell

(St. Andrew), Dan Melton (St. Andrew's), Rob Carter and Joel Strom (Towson), Randy Bush, Nancy Lincoln-Reynolds (Woods),

ABSENT AND EXCUSED: Ken Kovacs (Catonsville), Sue Lowcock Harris, Morton Harris (First of Howard), Billy Kluttz (Govans).

ABSENT: Caroline Price-Gibson, Stephen Price-Gibson (Ark & Dove), Todd Smith (Bethel), Andy Gathman (Chestnut Grove), Eric Myers (Frederick), Kerry Slinkard (Good Shepherd), Karen Brown (Hope), Carrie Finch-Burriss (Kenwood) Jeong Hoon Han (Korean United); Randy Clayton (Second), Mary Ka Kanahan (St. John United);

NEW WORSHIPING COMMUNITY LEADERS:

PRESENT: Jennifer DiFrancesco (Slate and Havenwood); Jose Lopez-Chapa (Comunidad)

ABSENT:

RESIDENT SPECIALIZED CLERGY

PRESENT: Jennifer Barchi; Michael Cuppett, Katherine Foster; Richard Jones, Jackie Taylor, Janna Vanderwoude, Shannon Weston, Janine Zabriskie

Excused: Kim Nofel

Absent: Cathy Bashore, Brandon Brewer, Sarah Diehl; Stephen Mann; Charles Thomas, Sr., David Willerup, ,

NONRESIDENT SPECIALIZED CLERGY:

PRESENT: Tanya Denley

ABSENT AND EXCUSED: Tom Blair, John Boulware, Rob Hoch, Christian Iosso, Stacy Martin, Michael Moore

HONORABLY RETIRED

PRESENT: Christa Burns, John Carlson, Joe Condro, Doris Cowan, Mary Gaut, , Laura Hollister, Walt Peters, Claire Pula, Barbara Renton, Roger Rice, John Schmidt, Mary Speers, Carlos Wilton

EXCUSED:

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS: Susan Boucher (Presbytery of Denver)

RULING ELDER OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF PRESBYTERY'S STEERING CABINET AND COMMISSIONS

PRESENT: Bob Stepling (Springfield), Cecil Phillips (Dickey Memorial)

RULING ELDER COMMISSIONERS FROM CONGREGATIONS:

BROWN, Courtland Robinson; CATONSVILLE, Cynthia Schwartz; CHRIST OUR KING, Joanne Kokie; CHURCHVILLE, Bonnie Jones; FAITH, Bobby Hall,; FIRST OF ANNAPOLIS, Helen Krone; FIRST OF CUMBERLAND, Joshua Gilhart; FIRST AND FRANKLIN, David Pierson; GROVE, Carroll Fitzgerald; HAMILTON, Janice Howard; HARUNDALE, Lawrence

Breuer; HAVRE DE GRACE, Patricia Allingham; HIGHLAND, ,Pete McCallum; HUNTING RIDGE, Johnnie Summers; KNOX, Charese Jordan Moore; LIGHT STREET, Keith Skyler; PRINCE OF PEACE, Lillian Van Rompay; SECOND, Scott Silverwood; SPRINGFIELD, Sharon Pappas; ST. ANDREW'S, ST., Anne Bryant; JOHN UNITED, Susan Moody; WOODS MEMORIAL, Pamela Blumenthal, Stephen Haines, Lillian McGraw, Peggy Newman.

CONGREGATIONS WITHOUT ELDER REPRESENTATION Churches listed in ORANGE had elders present but listed in a different voting category:

ASHLAND, BABCOCK, BARRELVILLE, BETHEL, CENTRAL, CHERRY HILL, CHRIST MEMORIAL, CHESTNUT GROVE, CHRIST OUR ANCHOR, DICKEY MEMORIAL, EMMITSBURG, FALLSTON, FIRST OF BEL AIR, FIRST OF HOWARD CO., FIRST OF WESTMINSTER, FREDERICK, FRANKLINVILLE, FROSTBURG, GOOD SHEPHERD, GOVANS, GLEN BURNIE KOREAN, GRACE, GRANITE, HAGERSTOWN, HANCOCK, HAVENWOOD, HOPE, HUGHES MEMORIAL, KENWOOD, KOREAN UNITED, LOCHEARN, MADISON AVE, MARYLAND, MT. HEBRON, MT PARAN, PERRY HALL, ROLAND PARK, ST. ANDREW, TOWSON, TRINITY

COMMISSIONED RULING ELDERS

PRESENT: Anita Bishop-Johnson (Mt Paran), Ed Terry (Hamilton),

EXCUSED:

ABSENT: John Brewington (Lochearn), Stanley Howes (First Frostburg-Huntingdon Presbytery), Donna Lea (Mt Paran), Paul Martin (Havre de Grace), Cleoda Walker (Knox)

CANDIDATES AND INQUIRERS: Elizabeth Cahoon (Woods), Adena Moulton (Dickey Memorial), Kathy Smith (Central)

YOUTH ADVISORY DELEGATES: None

CERTIFIED LAY EMPLOYEES WITH VOTE: Kat Green (Woods)

FORMER RULING ELDER MODERATORS (with vote): Adrienne Knight (Knox), Guy Moody (St John United), Audrey Trapp (Faith)

FORMER RULING ELDER STATED CLERKS: Catherine Blacka (First of Howard)

OTHER PRESBYTERY STAFF (without vote): Chuck Brawner, Susan Krehbiel, Laura Mullen, Frank Perrelli, Felicia Scott,

GUESTS (without vote): Chrystie Adams (Brown), Brenda Alston (Knox), Mark Chaplik (formerly of Northminster), Bill Curtis (Faith), Marla Holt (First & Franklin). Catherine Lynch (Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program), Jenny Newman (Presbytery of Pittsburgh), Emily Park (Second), Keith Reagan (Christ Our King), Debbie Schmidt (Chestnut Grove), Joanne Smith (Mt Hebron), David Staniunas (Presbyterian Historical Society), James Stickler (First Cumberland),

Note on Attendance Detail: The number of TEs with vote includes all active pastors and resident specialized ministers plus retired ministers who attended a presbytery meeting at least once in the past year. The number of REs with vote includes elder commissioners from churches, former and current RE moderators and clerks, and RE members of COM, CPM, Thriving, SLD, Reconciliation, Steering Cabinet, Administration & Personnel. (See Manual section 2). Each year a calculation is run to be sure

there is a balance of ruling and teaching elders on the roll. The number of absent RE commissioners is calculated by subtracting ALL eligible voting elder commissions from the number present. At this meeting, TEs outnumbered REs almost 2 to 1. ALL eligible ruling elder members are urged to attend to mitigate this imbalance.

APPENDIX B NECROLOGY

Brown Memorial
Ellen Carter Cooper
Donald P. McPherson, III

Central Presbyterian Church
Scott Corey
Don Gatewood
Mark Harp
Bob Huber
Suzanne Swift

Christ Our King Presbyterian Church
Bill Cyr
Howard Dail
John Stewart

Churchville Presbyterian Church
Patricia Hathaway

Christ Memorial Presbyterian Church
Alfreda Gill

First Presbyterian Church Howard Co.
Vivian Corbett "Millie" Bailey
Doris Ann Rocha

Franklinville Presbyterian Church
Jean Reider

Frederick Presbyterian Church
Robert "Bob" Wales

Govans Presbyterian Church
Thomas Eastman
Lyndell Smith

Granite Presbyterian Church
George "Jim" Farmer
Jim Higgs
Ruby Kosko

Grove Presbyterian Church
Elizabeth Cameron
Cliff Giles

Havre de Grace Presbyterian Church
Sandra Matthews

Hunting Ridge Presbyterian Church
Andrew Paige
Elaine McDowell

Maryland Presbyterian Church
Bruce Layton

Mt. Hebron Presbyterian Church
James Hawes

Roland Park Presbyterian Church
Mary Ellen Thomsen

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church
Jean Harr
Ken Howser
Bill Reedy
Paul Swartz

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
Craig Meraklis
Rose Ann Parenteau

Pastors
Rev. Johannis Mol
Rev. Marie Sheldon
Rev. Ted Durr