

Minutes of the 899th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Baltimore

May 11, 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 gave a detailed explanation of the process for seeking recognition on the “floor” and for voting.

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 Rev. Susan Boucher from Denver Presbytery. She moved that Rev. Boucher be seated as a corresponding member. The motion was seconded and **PASSED** by common consent.

RE Bob Stepling invited the presbytery to remember the Native Americans on whose land we reside in accord with our standing rule to begin each meeting with such a remembrance.

Commissioned Ruling Elder Ed Terry was recognized to give a report on the 221st meeting of the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic, emphasizing the Matthew 25 initiatives that were shared. He reported that Rev. Carlos Wilton, also a Synod commissioner, shared information on the partnership between Govans and Knox Presbyterian.

The Moderator then called on Rev. Carl Wilton, to present the Synod Small Church Grant of \$5,000 to Hamilton Presbyterian. The grant was awarded by the Synod to help with the costs of floor replacement in the church.

The Presbytery then moved into Morning Devotions planned by the Commission on Thriving Congregations. It introduced the practice of Visio Divina, reflection on the pairing of the reading of the story of Nicodemus (John 3:1017) with a work of art titled *Renacimiento* by Carmelle Beaugelin.

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 898th stated meeting and Book of Order proposed amendments 22-DD, 22-EE and 22-FF. No motions were removed from the consent motion, and it was seconded and **APPROVED** by common consent.

She moved GA proposed amendment 22-CC to amend D-3.0106 which was **APPROVED**.

She then moved GA proposed amendment 22-GG which would replace the current “Rules of Discipline” with a new section “Church Discipline. This amendment was also **APPROVED**.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION AND NOMINATIONS:

Rev. Deborah McEachran, chair of the committee, was recognized by the moderator. She moved that the slate of commission and committee members, as presented in the committee report, be approved. The motion did not require a second and there were no nominations from the floor. The motion was **APPROVED**.

She moved that Ruling Elder Soung Hee Baranowski (Havre de Grace) be elected Vice-Moderator for the program year 2023-24. There were no nominations from the floor and the motion was **APPROVED**. (Elder Baranowski was not present).

Finally, she moved that Rev. Andrew Connors (Brown Memorial) be elected Moderator for the program year 2023-24. There were no nominations from the floor and the motion was **APPROVED**.

The Moderator turned the gavel over to the Vice-Moderator, Andrew Connors.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

Rev. Mary Speers, chair of COM was recognized. She moved that the position of Assistant Theology Professor/Director of Theology Graduate Program at Loyola University be approved as a validated ministry. The motion did not require a second. After a brief explanation of Validated Ministries, the motion was **APPROVED**.

Rev. Speers then moved that Candidate Nicole Reibe be examined on her sense of call to the validated ministry at Loyola University and, if sustained, that she be approved for ordination. Following a brief period of questions, Dr. Reibe was moved to the waiting room. The motion was **APPROVED** as presented. Dr. Reibe was returned from the waiting room and a prayer of blessing was offered by Rev. McKenna Lewellen, pastor of Maryland Presbyterian Church.

REPORT OF THE GENERAL PRESBYTER

Rev. Jackie Taylor was recognized by the Moderator for her report. She spoke about the values of the Presbytery as identified in the strategic planning process: Promoting Justice, Practicing Inclusivity, and Prioritizing Churches and Leaders to Thrive.

The gavel was returned to Moderator RE Cecil Phillips.

There was no old or new business. The meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 11:39AM and closed with prayer by Rev. Jackie Taylor.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Gaut, Stated Clerk

APPENDIX A
Attendance Detail

Category	Present	Excused	Absent
Teaching Elders Serving Churches	37	1	14
Specialized Teaching Elders. (non-resident TEs are permanently excused)	5	2	7
New Worshiping Community Leaders	DiFrancesco Present in another category		1
Honorably Retired Teaching Elders	9	-	-
CREs & Commissioned Pastors	2	-	5
Ruling Elder Commissioners (Including officers and Commission members)	28	-	60
Former Ruling Elder Moderators	4	-	-
Former Ruling Elder Stated Clerks	1	-	-
Certified Educators	0	-	-
<i>Subtotal voting members</i>	80		
Corresponding Members	1	-	-
Youth Advisory Delegates (Non-voting)			
Guests and Presbytery Staff (Non-voting)	8	-	-
Candidates and Inquirers (Non-voting)	2		
<i>Subtotal non-voting attendees</i>	11		
TOTAL PRESENT	92	2	87

TEACHING ELDERS SERVING CHURCHES:

PRESENT: Andrew Connors, Michele Ward (Brown); Dorothy Boulton and Ken Kovacs (Catonsville); Andy Nagel (Central); Scott Hoffman (Christ Memorial) Jessie Lowry (Christ Our Anchor); Jeff Young (Christ Our King); Steve Nofel (Churchville & Granite), Essie Koenig-Reinke (Dickey Memorial), Catherine Goodrich (Faith); Andrew Kort. Mihee Kim-Kort (First of Annapolis); Melissa Lopez (First Bel Air); Sue Lowcock Harris, Morton Harris (First of Howard), Matthew Glasgow (First Westminster); Eric Myers (Frederick), Harold Bennett (Grove), Teresa Martin-Minnich (Hancock), Jennifer DiFrancesco (Havenwood and *Slate*); Ray Meute (Highland), Deborah McEachran (Hunting Ridge); Carrie Finch-Burriss (Kenwood), 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); Randy Clayton and

Eric Koenig-Reinke (Second), Dan Melton (St. Andrew's), Mary Ka Kanahan (St. John United), Joel Strom (Towson), Randy Bush, Nancy Lincoln-Reynolds (Woods),

ABSENT AND EXCUSED: Edwin Lacy (Fallston),

ABSENT: Tim Stern, (Ark& Dove), Todd Smith (Bethel), Keith Paige (Cherry Hill); Andy Gathman (Chestnut Grove), Alison Peters (First Cumberland), Sungjin Kim (Glen Burnie Korean),; Kerry Slinkard (Good Shepherd), Thomas Harris, (Govans); Tanya Wade (Grace), Karen Brown (Hope), Jeong Hoon Han (Korean United); Rebecca Crate-Price (Springfield), Mark Sandell (St. Andrew), Rob Carter (Towson)

NEW WORSHIPING COMMUNITY LEADERS:

PRESENT: *Jennifer DiFrancesco (Slate. Listed under Havenwood)*

ABSENT: Jose Lopez-Chapa (Comunidad)

RESIDENT SPECIALIZED CLERGY

PRESENT: Jennifer Barchi; Cathy Bashore, Michael Cuppett, Jackie Taylor,

Excused: Kim Nofel

Absent: Brandon Brewer, Sarah Diehl; Richard Jones, 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: John Carlson, Joe Condro, Mary Gaut, Walt Peters, Claire Pula, 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: Rob Smith (Central), Cecil Phillips (Dickey Memorial), Betsy Stewart (First Annapolis), Michael Kahn (Granite), Tina Coleman (Harundale), Lynn Carlson (Highland), Bob Stepling (Springfield),

RULING ELDER COMMISSIONERS FROM CONGREGATIONS:

CHRIST OUR KING, Joanne Kokie; FALLSTON, Sharon Tyler; FIRST OF ANNAPOLIS, Helen Krone; FIRST OF HOWARD CO., Nan Miller and Becky Torrance; FRANKLINVILLE, Ed Stuebing; GROVE, Carroll Fitzgerald; HAMILTON, Janice Howard; HAVENWOOD, Stephen Plano; HAVRE DE GRACE, Patricia Allingham; HIGHLAND, Martha Durand; HUNTING RIDGE, Johnnie Summers;

KNOX, Charese Jordan Moore; LIGHT STREET, Keith Skyler; MARYLAND, Carol Mason; PRINCE OF PEACE, Jennifer McLean; SECOND, Barbara Matheson; SPRINGFIELD, Sharon Pappas; ST. ANDREW'S, Anne Bryant; WOODS MEMORIAL, Dawn Eggen-Mona and David Hilder.

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

ASHLAND, BABCOCK, BARRELVILLE, BETHEL, BROWN, CATONSVILLE, CENTRAL, CHERRY HILL, CHRIST MEMORIAL, CHESTNUT GROVE, CHRIST OUR ANCHOR, CHURCHVILLE, FAITH, DICKEY MEMORIAL, FIRST OF CUMBERLAND, EMMITSBURG, FIRST OF BEL AIR, FIRST OF WESTMINSTER, FIRST AND FRANKLIN, FREDERICK, FROSTBURG, GOOD SHEPHERD, GOVANS, GLEN BURNIE KOREAN, GRACE, GRANITE, HAGERSTOWN, HANCOCK, HARUNDALE, HOPE, HUGHES MEMORIAL, KENWOOD, KOREAN UNITED, LOCHEARN, MADISON AVE, , MT. HEBRON, MT PARAN, PERRY HALL, ROLAND PARK, ST. ANDREW, St. JOHN UNITED, TOWSON, TRINITY

COMMISSIONED RULING ELDERS

PRESENT: Ed Terry (Hamilton), Paul Martin (Havre de Grace),

EXCUSED:

ABSENT: John Brewington (Lochearn), Stanley Howes (First Frostburg-Huntingdon Presbytery), Anita Bishop-Johnson (MT Paran), Donna Lea (Mt Paran), Cleoda Walker (Knox)

CANDIDATES AND INQUIRERS: Nicole Reibe (Maryland), Troy Bailey (Fallston)

YOUTH ADVISORY DELEGATES: None

CERTIFIED LAY EMPLOYEES WITH VOTE: None

FORMER RULING ELDER MODERATORS (with vote): Adrienne Knight (Knox), Audrey Trapp (Faith), James Schroll (First and Franklin), William Starke (Good Shepherd)

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

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

GUESTS (without vote): Debbie Schmidt (Chestnut Grove), Jeff Kollar (Harundale), Melissa Patterson (Maryland), Emily Park (Second),

***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.*

APPENDIX B

Stated Clerk's Report

The Stated Clerk reports

Redress Of Imbalance Report 2023 (Based on 2022 Statistics)

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

Church	Total Membership As of 12/31/2022	Additional Number of Elder Commissioners
Woods Memorial	1162	2
First of Annapolis	661	1
First of Howard County	570	1
Total		4

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 12/31/2022.

Ministers on the Roll	154
Ministers who are Non-Resident	18
Ministers who are Honorably Retired, not attending	46
TOTAL (A - (B + C))	90

All churches	64
Additional Elders from churches with > 500 members	4
Elder Officers and Commission members	25
Certified Christian Educators	1
Commissioned Ruling Elders	7
Former RE Moderators attending	5
Former RE Stated Clerks attending	1
TOTAL	107

The number of ruling elders enrolled in the membership of presbytery in 2022 exceeds the number of enrolled ministers and therefore no additional elders from congregations are needed.

APPENDIX C

Steering Cabinet

At its most recent meeting (4/26/2023), the Steering Cabinet continued to work on implementing the new strategic priorities of the presbytery:

- strong, sustainable, resourced congregations.
- an inclusive, just organization where all have equal voice and access.
- an energized, adaptive presbytery, ready to witness to the movement of the Spirit.
- healthy pastors with resources for spiritual, mental and emotional health.
- a culture of coaching and learning for clergy and lay leaders.

We discussed potential new models for presbytery team ministries, and heard proposals about interesting new initiatives including a strategic plan to support the work and ministries of small congregations, and a proposal for a Leadership Academy for Pastors and Congregations. The Cabinet also continued its discernment about the way presbytery can best act to encourage, challenge and equip leaders and congregations in the areas of youth and young adults and community engagement in the next decade. Cabinet will recommend to Presbytery at its September 16th meeting the removal of The Center as an entity of the Presbytery and make all required changes to the manual to facilitate this move. Congregations will receive a communication from Steering Cabinet with a more detailed look at this action this summer. We celebrate what we as a presbytery have learned from the years of our partnership with The Center, and we look forward to deepening and broadening our commitment to youth, young adults and community engagement across the Presbytery of Baltimore in the future.

APPENDIX D

The Committee on Representation and Nominations Reports

The Committee on Nominations and Representation recommends:

1. The following as members on commissions and committees:

Thriving Congregations Commission: RE Karen Garrett (Knox), class of 2026; RE Tina Coleman (Harundale) class of 2026

Spiritual Leader Development Commission: RE Pete McCallum (Highland) class of 2024; RE Heather Russell (Westminster) class of 2026

Commission on Reconciliation: TE Eric Koenig-Reinke (2nd) class of 2025; TE Roger Rice (HR), class of 2026; TE Jeong Han (Korean United) class of 2026

Commission on Ministry: TE Alison Peters (Cumberland), class of 2026; RE Shirley Reiner (1st of Bel Air), class of 2026; RE Mike Kahn (Granite), class of 2026; TE Hal Bennett (Grove), class of 2026

Commission on Preparation for Ministry: RE Pat Foye (Annapolis), class of 2026

Trustees: RE Brooke Schumm (2nd), class of 2026; RE Helen Krone (Annapolis), class of 2026

Nominating Committee: TE McKenna Llewellyn (Maryland) class of 2026

Gathering Team: TE Jenn DiFrancesco (Havenwood/Slate Project), class of 2026

Administration Committee: TE McKenna Llewellyn (Maryland) class of 2025; TE Christa Burns (HR), class of 2026.

Personnel Committee: TE Scott Hoffman (Christ Memorial), class of 2026; TE Keith Paige (Cherry Hill) class of 2026

Synod Committee on Representation: TE Mary Speers (HR), class of 2025

Synod Nominating Committee: RE Barbara Yancy (Lochearn), class of 2026

2. Vice-Moderator (2023-2024): RE Soung Hee Baranowski (Havre de Grace)

Soung Hee was born and raised in Seoul, South Korea. She grew up influenced by Confucianism and Buddhism. In Korean culture, it was believed that many sons (and not daughters) brought many blessings to the family. Soung Hee writes: "I was born the third daughter among four girls and my parents only had one son. I wasn't very welcome at birth. Despite my background, I went to middle school, high school and college founded by Christian missionaries. From the seed that was planted, I became a Christian after I immigrated to America in 1979.... I tried so hard not to be burden to my parents. I wanted to be strong, smart and independent like a son. But I was wounded, fragile and lonely.

The first time I heard the voice of God was during the first Bible study at my house in 1985. "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened." (Matthew 7:7) When I heard that voice, I knew it was God because nobody knew I needed help. Immediately, I asked God to forgive my sin and I accepted Jesus for my Savior. It was a miracle that I was a sinner before and now I became a righteous one."

Her parents wished for a boy, not a girl. She came to America following the American dream to be rich, and yet became a follower of Jesus. She says: "It wasn't my plan but God's plan. I did not have any idea to be a Vice-Moderator... and now I am. Always his plan, not mine. I trust his plan to prosper us and give us hope and a future for Baltimore Presbytery." (Jeremiah 29:11) Soung Hee retired from her own insurance business in 2017 and has four grandchildren aged 12 years to 1 month. She is a ruling elder at Havre de Grace Presbyterian Church.

3. Moderator 2023-2024: TE Andrew Connors (Brown Memorial)

Andrew Connors has been Senior Pastor at Brown Memorial Presbyterian Church since 2004. From 2010-2021 he served as clergy co-chair of Baltimoreans United in Leadership Development (BUILD), a local affiliate of the Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF) and Maryland's largest citizen's power organization. One of the founders of NEXT Church, a national movement among Presbyterians excited about the future of the Presbyterian Church (USA), he has also served as co-chair. He serves on several nonprofit boards and is a frequent contributor to journals and commentaries. Andrew holds degrees from Duke University and Columbia Theological Seminary and was the 2001 recipient of the David H.C. Read Preaching Award

APPENDIX E

OTHER COMMITTEE AND COMMISSION REPORTS

The Gathering Team

Reports that the 900th stated meeting of the Presbytery will be an in-person meeting on Saturday, September 16, 2023, at Mt Paran Presbyterian Church beginning at 10AM and will include lunch.

Commission on Ministry

The Commission on Ministry reports

At its March 29 Leadership Team meeting:

Approved the request of Hunting Ridge Presbyterian Church for the use of its sanctuary by the Evangelical Baptist Church, Maryland, an independent congregation serving an immigrant community, and referred the action to the P&L commission for final approval.

At its May 3 meeting:

Approved the retirement of Rev. Kerry Slinkard effective 4/1/2019 (retroactive to correct an administrative omission because he was transferring from another presbytery at that time).
Approved Dismissing Rev. Billy Klutz to National Capitol Presbytery 05/03.2023

Reminds congregations that leasing sanctuary space to another worshipping community or congregation requires the approval of the COM and the Property and Loan Commission. All long-term leases of any space (five or more years) also require the approval of the Property and Loan Commission. (G-4.0206b)

The Commission on Preparation

The Commission on the Preparation for Ministry reports that through an email vote on March 23-24, 2023, CPM appointed RE Lisa Beacham (Govans) as its 4th reader for 2023 ordination exams. The other readers are RE Leslie Owsley (Second), TE Eric Myers (Frederick) and TE McKenna Lewellen (Maryland)

The Property and Loan Commission

Reports that via an email vote on March 20-22 it approved a "Green Energy Loan" for Ark and Dove from the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program.

The Commission on Spiritual Leader Development

At its meeting on 3/23/2023, approved the Celebration of the Lord's Supper at the 900th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery on September 16th, 2023

