

Minutes of the 902nd Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Baltimore

May 14, 2023, at 10:00 am
Hybrid Meeting at Faith Presbyterian Church and via Zoom

Moderator, Andrew Connors, called the meeting of the Presbytery of Baltimore to order at 10:04 AM and opened the meeting with prayer. A quorum was present.

He called on the Stated Clerk, Mary Gaut who moved the adoption of the Docket as amended to include the name of RE Sam Erdman (Maryland) as a nominee to COM class of 2025. It was seconded and **APPROVED** by common consent.

Rev. Catherine (Cat) Goodrich, pastor of Faith Presbyterian, welcomed all in-person participants to the church, giving information about the locations of restrooms and other helpful information. She thanked the members of Faith who provided the wonderful refreshments during the registration time and others who helped welcome the in-person attendees at the Presbytery meeting.

General Presbyter, Jackie Taylor and Moderator Andrew Connors, welcomed first time ruling elders and guests including Catherine Lynch from the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program, and Sy Huges who brought greetings from the Office of Ministry Engagement and Support of the PCUSA.

A video presentation 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.

The Presbytery then moved into Morning Devotions led by the New Worshipping Communities in Baltimore Presbytery: Comunidad Presbyteriana La Trinidad, Light Street Presbyterian, and The Slate Project (a joint project with the Episcopal and Evangelical Lutheran Dioceses.)

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 901st stated meeting and the called meeting on December 12, 2023, plus approval of the 2024 terms of call of installed pastors and associate pastors. The consent motion was APPROVED.

REPORT OF THE GENERAL PRESBYTER

Rev. Jackie Taylor was recognized by the Moderator for her report. She spoke on Zoom from New Orleans where she was attending a conference on New Worshipping Communities. She spoke about the number of pastors retiring or leaving ministry because of burnout and other factors. This is creating an unprecedented vacancy rate for churches seeking installed pastors and interims are hard to find. Those seeking part time pastors are struggling as few pastors can afford to work for part time salaries. She called for patience in the midst of these challenges.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

On behalf of the committee, Rev. Taylor presented the motion to approve the 2024 budget as posted in the meeting papers. (Appendix B) The motion was APPROVED.

PRESENTATION OF REBATE CHECKS FROM PILIP

Catherine Lynch, Development Specialist for the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program, appeared virtually to award rebate checks to: Ark & Dove, Christ Memorial, First & Franklin and St Andrew Presbyterian Churches. These churches have loans that include investor funds and have qualified for rebates of up to 1% of the interest paid on those funds.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION AND NOMINATIONS:

Rev. Deborah McEachran, chair of the committee, was recognized by the moderator. She moved that presbytery elect: RE Judson Arnold (Brown Memorial) Permanent Judicial Commission class of 2028, RE Sam Erdman (Maryland) COM class of 2025 and RE Jim Schroll (First and Franklin) COM, class of 2026. The motion did not require a second and there were no nominations from the floor. The motion was APPROVED.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

The COM liaison to Havre de Grace Presbyterian. Rev. Jack Carlson made the motion on behalf of the Commission that CRE Paul Martin be commissioned as Commissioned Lay Pastor for Havre de Grace. The motion did not require a second. Rev. Carlson explained that Paul Martin has been serving the church as a RE commissioned to moderate session and officiate at sacraments. The church is stable and thriving under his leadership and would welcome the designation of Paul as it's pastor. The broader commission being recommended would acknowledge that he functions in this role. The Commission on Preparation has certified his preparation for this expanded commission. Following a period of Q&A Mr. Martin left the room. The motion to commission him as lay pastor at Havre de Grace was approved. He was welcomed back and Vice-Moderator, Soung Baranowski who is a member of the Havre de Grace congregation, offered a prayer of blessing.

The moderator turned the meeting over to Vice-Moderator Soung Baranowski.

Presbytery honored the retirement of Rev. Randy Clayton who has most recently served as the Interim Pastor at Second Presbyterian. His retirement, effective March 1, was approved by the COM. Rev. John Schmidt was recognized to share highlights from Randy's ministry and Rev. Amy Carlson offered a prayer of blessing.

COM chair, Rev. Mary Speers moved, on behalf of the commission, that Presbytery concur with Overture 008 from Mid-Kentucky Presbytery: On Amending Specified Periods of Service in Temporary Pastoral Relationships. The motion did not require a second. Rev. Speers said that increasing the allowable length of temporary positions from 12 to 36 months would support our

current models that acknowledge the benefits of longer tenures in focused temporary, transitional, and interim positions. Following discussion the motion to concur was APPROVED.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY

The Vice-Moderator recognized Rev. Michael Cuppett, chair of the CPM, who moved on behalf of the commission that Candidate Elizabeth Cahoon be examined on her statement of faith (Appendix C) and be certified ready to receive a call. The motion did not require a second and Rev. Cuppett was invited to ask the first question. Following the other questions and answers a motion was made and seconded to end the examination. It was APPROVED and Ms. Cahoon was escorted from the room. The motion to certify her ready to receive a call was restated and APPROVED. Ms. Cahoon was welcomed back with applause and Rev. Nancy Lincoln-Reynolds offered a prayer of blessing.

The Vice-Moderator turned the meeting back to Moderator Andrew Connors who invited Rev. Cuppett to make the next motion from the commission. He moved that Candidate Carroll Fitzgerald be examined on his statement of faith (Appendix D) and be certified ready to receive a call. The motion did not require a second and Rev. Cuppett was invited to ask the first question. Following the other questions and answers a motion was made and seconded to end the examination. It was APPROVED and Mr. Fitzgerald was escorted from the room. The motion to certify him ready to receive a call was restated and, following additional discussion, was APPROVED. He was welcomed back with applause and Rev. Ray Meute offered a prayer of blessing.

Rev. Cuppett then introduced the next motion from the commission, that presbytery concur with overture 011 from Highlands Presbytery, On Appointing a Committee to Review the Preparation for Ministry Process. Rev. Claire Pula was invited to speak to the motion which needed no second. Following a brief discussion the motion to concur was APPROVED.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON RECONCILIATION

The Vice-Moderator called on Rev. Stephen Price-Gibson, a member of the Commission on Reconciliation and the Baltimore Guatemala Partnership. He moved on behalf of the commission that presbytery concur in overture 029 from Western NC Presbytery, On Support of the People of Guatemala. The motion did not require a second and following discussion it was APPROVED.

REPORT OF THE STEERING CABINET

The Moderator recognized RE Brooke Schumm, a member of the Steering Cabinet and President of the Trustees. He moved on behalf of the Cabinet that the Presbytery Manual of Operations section 9.6.5 be amended as follows:

*After the obligations as required by each particular sale have been met, the Trustees are to place ~~66%~~ of the net proceeds into the Enduring Witness Fund, and ~~17%~~ into The Emergency Assistance Property Grant Fund **use a portion of the net proceeds for the Enduring Witness Fund and the Emergency Assistance Property Grant Fund at a level to be determined by the Presbytery on the recommendation of the Steering Cabinet.** The Trustees shall invest and manage the remaining monies in*

accordance with their duties. Any expenditure of these remaining funds requires approval of the Presbytery, upon receipt of the advice of the Trustees and the Steering Cabinet.

The motion did not require a second. Mr. Schumm gave the rationale for the suggested change which is to provide maximum flexibility to respond to the emerging needs of the presbytery through the Enduring Witness grants by being able to adjust the funding levels from the net sale of church properties without having to change the Manual. Following considerable discussion, a motion was made and seconded to postpone the vote until the May meeting of presbytery. The motion to postpone was APPROVED.

There were no items pulled from the consent motion and there was no old or new business. The meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 12:42PM with a closing prayer by the moderator. A box lunch was enjoyed by many in the church fellowship hall following the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Gaut, Stated Clerk

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APPENDIX A Attendance Detail

Category	Present	Excused	Absent
Teaching Elders Serving Churches	41	0	8
Specialized Teaching Elders. (non-resident TEs are permanently excused)	7	5	8
New Worshiping Community Leaders	2 listed with churches	-	-
Honorably Retired Teaching Elders	15	-	-
CREs & Commissioned Pastors	2	1	4
Ruling Elder Commissioners (Including officers and Commission members)	36	0	48
Former Ruling Elder Moderators	3	-	-
Former Ruling Elder Stated Clerks	1	-	-
Certified Educators	0	-	-
Subtotal voting members	105	6	68
Corresponding Members	0		
Youth Advisory Delegates (Non-voting)	0		
Guests and Presbytery Staff (Non-voting)	14		
Candidates and Inquirers (Non-voting)	4	1 listed with church	
Subtotal non-voting attendees	18		
TOTAL PRESENT	123		

TEACHING ELDERS SERVING CHURCHES:

PRESENT: Tim Stern, (Ark& Dove), Jennifer McCullough (Ark & Dove), Andrew Connors, Sungjin Kim (Bridge), Dorothy Boulton and Ken Kovacs (Catonsville); Andy Nagel (Central); Keith Paige (Cherry Hill); Andy Gathman (Chestnut Grove), Jessie Lowry (Christ Our Anchor); Jeff Young (Christ Our King); Steve Nofel (Churchville), Catherine Goodrich (Faith); Jose Lopez-Chapa (Fallston), Alison Peters (First Cumberland), Andrew Kort. Mihee Kim-Kort (First of Annapolis); Melissa Lopez (First Bel Air); Matthew Glasgow (First Westminster); Eric Myers (Frederick), Shannon Weston (Govans), Tanya Wade (Grace), Kim Nofel (Granite), Harold Bennett (Grove), Teresa Martin-Minnich (Hancock), Susan Bouche (Harundale), 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), Mark

Hannah (Roland Park); Rebecca Crate-Price (Springfield), Dan Melton (St. Andrew's), Rob Carter and Joel Strom (Towson), Randy Bush, Nancy Lincoln-Reynolds (Woods),

ABSENT AND EXCUSED:

ABSENT: Michele Ward (Ashland); Todd Smith (Bethel), Kerry Slinkard (Good Shepherd), Karen Brown (Hope), Jeong Hoon Han (Korean United); Elizabeth McLean (Prince of Peace); Ken Page (First of Howard Co.) Mark Sandell (St. Andrew),

NEW WORSHIPING COMMUNITY LEADERS:

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

ABSENT: *Jose Lopez-Chapa (Comunidad. Listed under Fallston)*

RESIDENT SPECIALIZED CLERGY

PRESENT: Cathy Bashore, Michael Cuppett, Kate Foster, Edwin Lacy, Jackie Taylor, Janna VanderWoude,

Excused: Jennifer Barchi;

Absent: Brandon Brewer, Sarah Diehl; Laura Hollister, Richard Jones, Stephen Mann; Michael Moore, Charles Thomas, Sr., David Willerup,

NONRESIDENT SPECIALIZED CLERGY:

PRESENT: Tanya Denley

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

HONORABLY RETIRED

PRESENT: John Carlson, Randy Clayton, Doris Cowan, Mary Gaut, Janet Jones, Sue Lowcock Harris, Morton Harris, Walt Peters, Caroline Price-Gibson, Stephen Price-Gibson, Claire Pula, Roger Rice, John Schmidt, Mary Speers, Carlos Wilton

EXCUSED:

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS:

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

PRESENT: Soung Baranowski (Havre de Grace), Heather Russell (First Westminster) Cecil Phillips (Dickey Memorial), Betsy Stewart (First Annapolis), Lynn Carlson, (Highland),

RULING ELDER COMMISSIONERS FROM CONGREGATIONS:

BROWN, Courtland Robinson, CHESTNUT GROVE Debbie Schmidt, CHRIST OUR KING, Joanne Kokie; CATONSVILLE, John Dittman; CHURCHVILLE, , Bonnie Jones; FAITH, Bobbie Hall; FIRST OF ANNAPOLIS, Helen Krone; FIRST OF HOWARD CO., Nan Miller and Bruce Leipold; FRANKLINVILLE, Ed Stuebing; FREDERICK, John Eliot; GRACE, Anthony Wade, GRANITE, Michael Kahn, GROVE, Carroll Fitzgerald; HAMILTON, Janice Howard and; HAVENWOOD, and

Judy Binkley; HARUNDALE, Larry Breuer; HAVRE DE GRACE, Patricia Allingham; HIGHLAND, Claudia Scarborough; KNOX, Charese Jordan Moore;; MARYLAND, Carol Mason; MT. HEBRON, Kyle Emhoff; PRINCE OF PEACE, Lillian von Rompay; SECOND, Barbara Matheson and; SPRINGFIELD, Sharon Pappas; ST. ANDREW'S, Anne Bryant; St. JOHN UNITED, Susan Moody; WOODS MEMORIAL, Mark Bohlman.

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

ASHLAND, BABCOCK, BARRELVILLE, BETHEL, BRIDGE, CENTRAL, CHERRY HILL, CHRIST MEMORIAL, CHRIST OUR ANCHOR, DICKY MEMORIAL, FALLSTON, FIRST OF CUMBERLAND, EMMITSBURG, FIRST OF BEL AIR, FIRST OF WESTMINSTER, FIRST AND FRANKLIN, FROSTBURG, GOOD SHEPHERD, GOVANS, GRANITE, HAGERSTOWN, HANCOCK, HOPE, HUGHES MEMORIAL, HUNTING RIDGE, KENWOOD, KOREAN UNITED, LIGHT STREET, LOCHEARN, MADISON AVE, MT PARAN, PERRY HALL, ROLAND PARK, ST. ANDREW, TOWSON, TRINITY

COMMISSIONED RULING ELDERS

PRESENT: Anita Bishop-Johnson (Mt Paran), Paul Martin (Havre de Grace),

EXCUSED:

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

CANDIDATES AND INQUIRERS: Troy Bailey (Fallston), *Heather Russell (First Westminster, listed with RE commissions)* Kathy Welsh Smith (Central), Elizabeth Cahoon (Woods), *Carol Fitzgerald (Grove, listed as Grove RE)*

YOUTH ADVISORY DELEGATES: None

CERTIFIED LAY EMPLOYEES WITH VOTE: None

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

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): Robert Ashman (Christ Memorial), Andrew Fuller (Faith), Carolyn Anewich (Govans), C.J. Baranowski and Ed Matthews (Havre de Grace), Tim Rodden (New Castle Presbytery), Sy Huges (PCUSA Ministry Engagement and Support), Catherine Lynch (Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program), Greg Barrett (Trinity), Brooke Schumm (First Howard Co) Joyce Carter (Churchville), Jan Doyle (Hamilton), Stephen Plano (Havenwood), Gene Leber (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.*

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APPENDIX B

2024 Working Condensed Budget	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Budget	2024 vs 2023 Budget Ino/(Dec)
Presbytery Operating Income				
Par Capta Income	408,533	396,867	413,180	16,293
Anticipated non-payment at 6%	-	-	(32,000)	(32,000)
Shared Ministry Income	147,873	136,717	152,282	15,536
Trustee Revenue Stream	583,732	574,870	639,408	64,438
Lakeland (foused in Trustees)	47,731	39,185	53,459	14,274
Total Directed Support	1,188,869	1,146,739	1,228,279	79,540
Other Miscellaneous Income	-	17,239	-	(17,239)
COVID Income	-	-	-	-
Interim Pastor Program	37,379	618	25,000	24,382
Total Income before reserve Trf	1,226,048	1,164,398	1,251,279	103,822
(To)/from Reserves				
Par Capta Reserve (901820)	22,815	34,146	88,187	52,041
General Reserve (901830)	(51,490)	(110,308)	89,282	199,570
Shared Ministry Reserve (901840)	(15,095)	1,286	-	(1,286)
Racial Justice Reserve	7,033	20,473	15,000	(5,473)
Ministry Group Reserves	(16,961)	(12,089)	-	12,089
Total Other Income	(63,848)	(88,482)	189,468	268,941
Total Annual Income	\$1,172,200	\$1,087,904	\$ 1,441,728	\$ 360,883

EXPENSE – Program Expense				
Thriving Congregations				
Program	76,296	72,226	86,459	14,233
Ministry Groups	63,767	61,200	80,800	19,600
Spiritual Leadership Development	9,277	22,328	24,110	1,782
Commission on Ministry	12,572	7,108	17,186	10,078
Commission on Preparation for Minis	3,720	1,943	3,350	1,407
Commission on Reconciliation	800	2,800	3,050	250
Demanting Racism	7,033	20,473	15,000	(5,473)
Mission Partnership Funds	27,000	24,000	27,000	3,000
Shared Witness	-	-	1,400	1,400
General Assembly & Synod Giving	120,973	123,486	113,102	(10,384)
Rent	53,771	51,500	47,687	(3,813)
Office Expense	70,767	65,413	79,200	13,787
Communications	3,113	1,864	3,000	1,136
Steering Cabinet	1,354	3,501	5,950	2,049
Presbytery Gatherings	1,847	7,650	7,650	-
Sub Total Program	\$462,280	486,892	\$ 614,944	\$ 48,052

EXPENSE – Presbytery Staff Expense				
General Presbyter	155,633	164,025	179,061	15,036
Stated Clerk	48,091	52,728	58,205	5,477
Strategic Associate for SLD	-	89,535	73,451	(8,916)
Stret. Assoc. for Thriving & MG	112,117	71,864	132,581	60,717
Stret. Assoc. for Community Engage.	51,141	5,722	118,757	113,036
Consultant - Social Justice	21,739	22,933	26,514	3,581
Stret. Assoc. for Youth	61,245	-	-	-
Office:				
Finance Administrator	84,781	89,047	92,701	3,654
Accountant	26,916	28,337	48,212	19,875
Director of Admin. Ops.	78,401	82,373	85,886	3,513
Communications Spec./Grant Coord.	42,477	47,830	70,716	22,886
Partnership Administrator	-	-	15,500	15,500
Interim Pastor Program	37,379	618	25,000	24,382
Sub Total Staff	\$718,820	832,012	\$ 826,784	\$ 294,772
Total Expenses	\$1,172,200	1,087,904	\$ 1,441,728	\$ 343,824

RECAP				
Total Income	1,172,200	1,087,904	\$ 1,441,728	\$ 360,883
Subtract Total Expense	1,172,200	1,087,904	\$ 1,441,728	\$ 343,824
Non Budgeted Extraordinary	103,007	16750		
Total Income/(Expense)	(103,907)	(18,760)	\$ 0	\$ 17,039

Programming Expenses by Fund:		
Par Capta	\$ 231,299	\$ 230,081
Shared Ministry	124,914	152,282
Trustees	50,021	64,182
Lakeland	39,185	53,459
Reserves	20,473	15,000
Total	\$ 465,892	\$ 514,944
Salary Expenses by Fund:		
Par Capta	\$ 216,753	\$ 237,266
Shared Ministry	-	-
Trustees	415,259	699,518
Total	\$ 632,012	\$ 926,784
Total Expenses	\$ 1,087,904	\$ 1,441,728

Full Budget attached at end of the minutes and reports

APPENDIX C

Carroll Fitzgerald's Statement of Personal Faith

I believe that there is only one true God. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are of one substance (essence), but three distinct persons. Through this example of unity in one, the Trinity is the ultimate example of love. With one, there is only self-love; with two, there is love for each other at the exclusion of others; with three, there is inclusion/invitation to others to be loved and love.

I believe Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God and was fully incarnated as a human being without ceasing to be fully God. He, alone, was without sin and willingly gave himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all humankind. On the third day after his death, he rose from the grave and continued to interact with, and teach, his disciples. He ascended physically into heaven where he sits at the right hand of the Father, where he makes intercession for all the saints.

I believe that the Bible is the Holy Spirit inspired Word of God and is the ultimate authority for our Christian faith and practice. Because the Bible was inspired by the Holy Spirit, it is a trustworthy source for God's revelation to us concerning himself, his works, and is a guide to how we should live our lives.

I believe that it is inherent in human nature that we are all sinners and are subject to God's condemnation for our sins. Without Jesus Christ, there is nothing we can do to save ourselves from eternal damnation. It is only through the grace of God, through the Holy Spirit, that our hearts are prepared to receive Jesus Christ as our personal savior. When we place our faith in Jesus Christ, God declares us righteous and we become children of God. Through the work of the Holy Spirit, God dwells in us and we become new persons, growing in holiness and strength in our faith. None of this is accomplished through our own efforts, but only through the undeserved grace of God.

I believe there is one universal church, founded on our Lord, Jesus Christ. The church is guided by the Holy Spirit. God calls the church to worship, evangelize, care for all of God's people and creation, and to be a shining light to demonstrate God's love to the whole world.

I believe there are two sacraments that were instituted by Jesus Christ. Baptism is the sacrament of initiation into life in Christ. Baptism is not dependent on us. It is all about God. It is an outward sign of an inward grace. In baptism, we become/or come into the family of God and God's church, and it is up to the church family to help and nurture those baptized at all times.

The Lord's Supper was instituted by Jesus on the evening he was betrayed. It is a remembrance, a thanksgiving, a communion, and a declaration of faith. The elements represent Jesus' body and blood given as a sacrifice for humankind's salvation on the cross. We celebrate the Lord's Supper with all the saints – past, present, and future.

I believe that Jesus Christ will return physically to earth in great power, glory, and majesty. The dead will be raised bodily, and Jesus will sit in judgement over all. The wicked will be

condemned to eternal punishment and the righteous will live in eternity with God, worshiping and serving God forever.

APPENDIX D

Statement of Faith

Elizabeth Baril Cahoon

1 I believe in God, the Almighty, revealed to us in the form of three persons: God, the
2 Creator; Jesus
3 Christ, the Redeemer; and the Holy Spirit, the Sustainer. I believe it is through God we
4 are molded
5 into God's image. I believe it is through the life and death of Jesus Christ, fully human,
6 fully God,
7 we witness the great sacrificial love of God. I believe it is through the Holy Spirit we
8 are able to
9 share that love with all of God's children. I believe all three were at work in the
10 creation of the
11 universe and continue to have an active role in sustaining grace.
12 God's providence unfolds into three forms of benevolent intervention: the
13 protection of all
14 creation, the accompaniment of humanity, and in directing the story of God's children.
15 God reveals
16 this to us through the life of Jesus Christ and through the power of the Holy Spirit. I
17 believe in the
18 traditions of the Reformed Faith – that by grace alone, faith alone, and scripture
19 alone – we are
20 empowered to live a life of faith.
21 I believe in a confessional and confessing faith. Like an anchor for a ship, a confession
of faith
centers Christians to the Gospel, while also allowing us to explore doubts without fear
of losing
our beliefs.
I believe the Son of God, Jesus Christ, was born of Mary and lived among enemies and
friends,
experiencing despair and hope, temptation and peace, anger and joy, hate and love.
God sent Jesus
to earth, so that we might learn how to live as one community; but gave us Jesus'
atoning life,
death, and resurrection so that those who believe might be saved as one, eternally in
the kingdom
of God.
I believe that all people sin and fall short of the glory of God, but it is by the grace of
God we are
forgiven. I believe in God's beloved community, that people of every race,

gender, sexual
22 orientation, identity, and age are welcome in the kingdom of heaven.
23 The Bible is the living Word of God. As an extension of God, it is prevalent for
Christians from
24 different generations of time, therefore it was not written from one monolithic
voice, but used
25 different voices. We read the Bible through the Holy Spirit to not only understand
God's divine
26 will, but also to experience the expansive love and grace of Jesus Christ.
27 As followers of Christ, the Church is called to serve with a heart filled with loving-
kindness for all
28 of God's creation: humankind, the earth, and all creatures that live among us. I believe as
Christians
29 we are also called to reflect the life of Jesus Christ by feeding the hungry, providing
water to the
30 thirsty, clothing the naked, caring for the sick, visiting the imprisoned and welcoming the
stranger.
31 In doing so we answer Christ's Great Commission: to go and make disciples of all
nations.
32 I believe that in Baptism we are claimed by God, washed clean of sin, called to a new
way of life
33 as Jesus' disciples, and united in God's eternal kingdom with the holy communion of
saints. At
34 Communion, with God as our host, we testify the offered bread and cup, as signs of
Jesus Christ's
35 body and blood broken for us, so that we may live without fear of death.
36 I believe in the spirit of Advent, that Jesus Christ will come again as he promised, to
unite all
37 believers: past, present, and those to come. In Christ's return there will be an end to all
sufferings
38 of this world and we will live as one eternally in the kingdom of God.

APPENDIX E

Other Reports

Stated Clerk's Report

The Stated Clerk reports

- That RE Steve Derby (1st Annapolis) has resigned from the PJC
- The 2023 statistical reports show total congregational membership in the Presbytery of 10,108 at the end of 2023, a decrease of 177 members over 2022. (Summary membership report is included in meeting papers.)

Commission on Ministry

The Commission reports

- At its meeting on November 6, 2023, the Credentials Team approved the transfer of Kenneth Page from Grand Canyon Presbytery to serve as Interim Pastor of First Presbyterian of Howard County.
- At its meeting on December 12, 2023, The Credentials Team approved the transfer of Mark Phillips from Detroit Presbytery to accept the call of First and Franklin as pastor.
- By common consent via email approval the Leadership Team approved the Bridge Pastor contract between Renee Mackey and St. John United Presbyterian.
- At its meeting on February 19, 2024, the Credentials Team approved the Bridge Pastor contract between Shannon Weston and Govans Presbyterian.
- At its meeting on February 26, 2024, the Credentials Team approved the Bridge Pastor Contract between Sue Lowcock Harris and Second Presbyterian.
- At its meeting on March 6, 2024, the COM approved
 - The retirement of Randy Clayton on March 1, 2024
 - The dismissal of Scott Hoffman to Huntingdon Presbytery April 1, 2024
 - The Dismissal of Randy Bush to Milwaukee Presbytery April 15, 2024
 - The Dismissal of Tom Harris to San Jose Presbytery March 1, 2024

Commission on Preparation for Ministry

The Commission reports,

- It appointed the following as ordination examination readers for 2024: RE Lisa Beacham (Govans), RE Leslie Owsley (Second), TE Eric Myers (Frederick), TE Keith Paige (Cherry Hill)

Commission on Spiritual Leader Development

The Commission reports,

- At its meeting on January 18, 2024, on behalf of the presbytery it elected RE Bobby Hall (Faith) as ruling elder commissioner to the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic class of 2026.

Property and Loan Commission

The Commission reports,

- At its meeting on February 27, it heard from Mt. Hebron PC about its opportunity to create a conservation easement through the Howard County Conservancy. There are many questions still unanswered, but the church was encouraged to continue to explore

the opportunity which would require Presbytery and Trustee approval if the church chooses to move forward.

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