

Minutes of the 903rd Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Baltimore

May 16, 2023, at 10:30 am
Hybrid Meeting at Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church
and via Zoom

Moderator, Andrew Connors, called the meeting of the Presbytery of Baltimore to order at 10:34 AM and opened the meeting with prayer. A quorum was present.

Rev. Nancy Lincoln Reynolds, Associate Pastor at Woods Memorial, welcomed all in-person participants to the church, particularly the extensive native gardens across the campus. The church is the recipient of the Maryland State Sustainability Award. Commissioners were invited to take a Jeana Phlox plant from the tables outside as they left the meeting.

General Presbyter, Jackie Taylor welcomed first time ruling elders, and two new teaching elders: including Rev. Mark Phillips, pastor elect at First and Franklin, and Ken Page, interim pastor at First of Howard. Mark Phillips' installation is Sunday, May 19, 2024.

The Vice Moderator called on the Stated Clerk, Mary Gaut, who moved the adoption of the Docket as amended to include a time for the Spiritual Leader Development Commission. The motion was seconded and **APPROVED** 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.

The Presbytery then moved into Morning Devotions with a Pentecost theme, inviting the presbytery to consider what new languages (generational, cultural etc.) Rev. Harold Bennett, RE Lynn Carlson, RE Charese Jordan-Moore, and Rev. Tanya Wade (in absentia) were commissioned as commissioners to the 226th GA. Rev. Michele Ward was commissioned as alternate.

STATED CLERK'S REPORT AND CONSENT MOTION

Following devotions, the Vice- Moderator called upon the Stated Clerk who presented the consent motion. The motion included the approval of the minutes of the 902nd stated meeting, and two amendments to the Manual making explicit that a member of the Commission on Preparation for Ministry is a member of the Steering Cabinet. The consent motion was seconded and was **APPROVED** by common consent.

REPORT OF THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Stated Clerk Mary Gaut left the room for the report of the Personnel Committee. Rev. Keith Paige reported for the committee which has nominated Rev. Gaut to a second term as Stated Clerk. He referenced the Manual which gives the committee the responsibility of nominating for an additional term. The motion did not require a second. There were no nominations from the

floor. She was ELECTED to the office of Stated Clerk 2024-2027, and returned to the room, expressing thanks and saying she looked forward to serving for another three years.

The Vice-Moderator then returned the meeting to Moderator Andrew Connors. Who called on Rev. Amy Carlson, chair of the Spiritual Leader Development Commission. She recognized and gave thanks for the work of former staff associate Jennifer Barchi who has resigned for health reasons. Rev. Carlson offered a prayer of thanksgiving and blessing.

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 Soung Hee Baranowski (Havre de Grace) as Moderator of the Presbytery for the program year 2024-25. The motion did not require a second and there were no nominations from the floor. RE Baranowski was ELECTED.

Rev. McEachran then moved on behalf of the committee, the election of Rev. Barbara Renton (HR) as Vice-Moderator for the program year 2024-25. The motion required no second and there were no nominations from the floor. Rev. Renton was ELECTED.

Rev. McEachran then read the slate of nominees to fill other positions which included RE Catherine Blacka to COM class of 2027 (See Appendix B). There were no nominations from the floor and the motion was APPROVED. RE Sarah Walker spoke of the importance of everyone asking members of their congregations to consider serving in one of the committees and commissions of the presbytery. Rev. McKenna Lewellen read the names of the 20 churches which currently have no members serving at the presbytery level.

Moderator Andrew Connors recognized the service of Rev. Deborah McEachran who is retiring and rotating off the committee in preparation for moving out of the area.

REPORT OF SYNOD COMMISSIONERS

The Moderator recognized Rev. Carl Wilton and RE Bobby Hall to report on the last assembly of the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic. Their report included the farewell to retiring synod administrator Tami Scott and the Next Generation Initiative which seeks to address the decline in historically African American congregations and the lack of younger and visionary black pastors and leaders. The synod is engaging in a study of per capita as a funding model. There is also an on-going conversation around the issue of reparations and reparative justice as an act of repentance for what was lost at the 1983 reunion which absorbed the African American presbyteries without regard to their history and legacy.

They called attention to the grant to Hope Presbyterian for improvements to its playground which is a community outreach and to the Jubilee grant awarded to the In-the-Loop ministry group.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

Rev. Ken Kovacs, a member of the COM, moved that Presbytery commission RE Troy Bailey as Commissioned Lay Pastor at Dickey Memorial from June 1 through November 30, 2024. This "Bridge Pastor" position will enable the church to further discern the best way forward in terms of temporary or installed pastoral leadership. Troy has completed extensive training under the

supervision of the CPM and is certified ready to be commissioned. The COM has determined that commissioning him for this position, including moderating the Session, officiating at sacraments and weddings, will serve the church well and support the mission strategy of the presbytery.

RE Bailey was examined on his statement of faith (Appendix C) and his reasons for seeking this particular commission. After a period of questions TE Walt Peters moved that the examination be arrested, and the motion be put to a vote. It was seconded by TE Laura Hollister and was APPROVED by more than 2/3 of those voting. RE Bailey left the sanctuary. The motion, which did not require a second, to Commission RE Bailey as CLP at Dickey Memorial was APPROVED. The presbytery affirmed the action with applause when he returned to the sanctuary.

REPORT OF THE GENERAL PRESBYTER

General Presbyter Rev. Jackie Taylor focused her report on the changes being recommended to the grants programs established in 2018 (The Enduring Witness Grants and the Emergency Property Repair Grant.) She explained that the recommended revisions come as a result of the mandated review this year which assessed the grants in light of the strategic priorities recently identified. The review concluded:

1. The Enduring Witness and Emergency Property repair grants were a “great idea.”
2. The Enduring Witness grants align perfectly with the mission of Challenging, equipping and encouraging congregations to thrive.
3. Since 2018 the needs of congregations have evolved.
4. Both grant funds have a solid balance to support a robust program and some of the recommended changes are intended to “right size” the funding formulas.

She pointed out that the three motions from cabinet must be voted on separately, but they are all part of the comprehensive revisions that are recommended. The Manual change motion the cabinet wishes to put forward will require the defeat of the current motion postponed from the March meeting.

REPORT OF THE STEERING CABINET

Jackie Taylor, GP as a member of the Cabinet, presented the motions related to the revisions of the Grant Programs:

She moved that That Presbytery amend the Trustees Emergency Property Assistance Grants Policy as indicated on the document with the meeting papers (Appendix D). The motion did not require a second. The motion was APPROVED.

She then moved that Presbytery amend the Enduring Witness Grants Policy by replacing it with the Revised Enduring Witness Grants Policy as presented in the meeting papers (Appendix E). The motion did not require a second. Following discussion and clarification the motion was APPROVED.

OLD BUSINESS

The moderator restated the motion from the Cabinet that was postponed from the March meeting (902nd) 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.

Jackie Taylor spoke on behalf of the Cabinet explaining why the motion should NOT be approved as the Cabinet would like to present another motion in its place that provides a more explicit funding formula for the grants. Following brief discussion the motion FAILED.

She then moved, on behalf of the Cabinet, that Manual 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 ~~45%~~ of the net proceeds into the Enduring Witness Fund, and 17% into ~~15%~~ into The Emergency Assistance Property Grant Fund. 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 and was APPROVED.

There being no other business it was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned and APPROVED by common consent. The Moderator closed the meeting with prayer at **ADJOURNED** at 12:16PM. A box lunch was enjoyed by many in the church fellowship hall following the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Gaut, Stated Clerk

APPENDIX A
Attendance Detail

Category	Present	Excused	Absent
Teaching Elders Serving Churches	36	3	11
Specialized Teaching Elders. (non-resident TEs are permanently excused)	8	0	8
New Worshiping Community Leaders	<i>2 Listed above</i>		
Honorably Retired Teaching Elders	10	1	0
CREs & Commissioned Pastors	1	1	5
Ruling Elder Commissioners (Including officers and Commission members)	30	0	33
Former Ruling Elder Moderators	3	0	0
Former Ruling Elder Stated Clerks	1	0	0
Certified Educators	0	0	0
<i>Subtotal voting members</i>	89	5	57
Corresponding Members	0		
Youth Advisory Delegates (Non-voting)	0		
Guests and Presbytery Staff (Non-voting)	11	0	0
Candidates and Inquirers (Non-voting)	4	0	0
<i>Subtotal non-voting attendees</i>	15		
TOTAL PRESENT			

TEACHING ELDERS SERVING CHURCHES:

PRESENT: Jennifer McCullough (Ark & Dove), Michele Ward (Ashland); Andrew Connors Brown), Sungjin Kim (Bridge), and Ken Kovacs (Catonsville); Andy Nagel (Central); Keith Paige (Cherry Hill); Jessie Lowry (Christ Our Anchor); Jeff Young (Christ Our King); Jose Lopez-Chapa (Fallston), Alison Peters (First Cumberland), Mark Phillips (First and Franklin), Andrew Kort. Mihee Kim-Kort (First of Annapolis); Melissa Lopez (First Bel Air); Ken Page (First of Howard Co.), Matthew Glasgow (First Westminster); Eric Myers (Frederick), Shannon Weston (Govans), 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), McKenna Lewellen (Maryland), Amy Carlson (Mt Hebron), Elizabeth McLean (Prince of Peace); Mark Hannah (Roland Park); Steve Nofel (St John United), Dan Melton (St. Andrew's), Joel Strom (Towson), Randy Bush, Nancy Lincoln-Reynolds (Woods),

ABSENT AND EXCUSED: Dorothy Boulton (Catonsville), Tim Hughes Williams; Tanya Wade (Grace), Karen Brown (Hope)

ABSENT: Tim Stern, (Ark& Dove), Todd Smith (Bethel), Andy Gathman (Chestnut Grove), Catherine Goodrich (Faith); Kerry Slinkard (Good Shepherd), Jeong Hoon Han (Korean United); Phyllis Felton (Madison Ave.), 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. Listed under Fallston)*

RESIDENT SPECIALIZED CLERGY

PRESENT: Jennifer Barchi; Cathy Bashore, Michael Cuppett, , Edwin Lacy, Jackie Taylor, Janna VanderWoude, Shannon Weston, Jenine Zabriskie

Excused:

Absent: Brandon Brewer, Sarah Diehl; Kate Foster, 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, Stacy Martin,

HONORABLY RETIRED

PRESENT: John Carlson, Mary Gaut, Laura Hollister, Janet Jones, Walt Peters, Claire Pula, Barbara Renton, Roger Rice, John Schmidt, Carlos Wilton

EXCUSED: Mary Speers,

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS:

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

PRESENT: Soung Baranowski (Havre de Grace), Betsy Stewart (First Annapolis), Lynn Carlson, (Highland),

RULING ELDER COMMISSIONERS FROM CONGREGATIONS:

BROWN, Courtland Robinson, CATONSVILLE, John Dittman; CENTRAL, Robert Smith; CHESTNUT GROVE Debbie Schmidt, CHRIST MEMORIAL, John Kim; CHURCHVILLE, Bonnie Jones; FAITH, Bobbie Hall; FIRST AND FRANKLIN, David Pierson; FIRST OF ANNAPOLIS, Helen Krone & Deborah Dixon; FIRST OF HOWARD CO., Jon Barnett; FRANKLINVILLE, Ed Stuebing; GRANITE, Michael Kahn, HARUNDALE, Helen Martin; HAVENWOOD, Stephen Plano; HAVRE DE GRACE, Patricia Allingham; HUNTING RIDGE, Suzanne Jewell; KNOX, Charese Jordan Moore; MARYLAND, Joe Wright; MT. HEBRON, Kyle Emhoff; PRINCE OF PEACE, George Munro; SECOND, Scott Silverwood; SPRINGFIELD, Bob Stepling; ST. ANDREW'S, Anne Bryant;, WESTMINSTER, Heather Russel,

WOODS MEMORIAL, Steve Haines, Blumenthal, Marjorie Tschantre & Doug Nauman.

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

ASHLAND, BABCOCK, BARRELVILLE, BETHEL, BRIDGE, CHERRY HILL, CHRIST OUR ANCHOR, CHRIST OUR KING, DICKEY MEMORIAL, FALLSTON, FIRST OF CUMBERLAND, EMMITSBURG, FIRST OF BEL AIR, FIRST OF WESTMINSTER, FREDERICK, FROSTBURG, GOOD SHEPHERD, GOVANS, GRACE, GROVE, HAGERSTOWN, HANCOCK, HAMILTON, HIGHLAND; HOPE, HUGHES MEMORIAL, KENWOOD, KOREAN UNITED, LIGHT STREET, LOCHEARN, MADISON AVE, MT PARAN, PERRY HALL, ROLAND PARK, ST. ANDREW, St. JOHN UNITED, TOWSON, TRINITY

COMMISSIONED RULING ELDERS

PRESENT: Ed Terry (Hamilton)

EXCUSED: Stanley Howes (First Frostburg-Huntingdon Presbytery)

ABSENT: John Brewington (Lochearn), Anita Bishop-Johnson (MT Paran), Paul Martin (Havre de Grace), Donna Lea (Mt Paran), Cleoda Walker (Knox)

CANDIDATES AND INQUIRERS: Troy Bailey (Fallston), Heather Russell (First Westminster), Kathy Welsh Smith (Central), Sarah Wilson (Woods)

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, Susan Krehbiel, Laura Mullen, Frank Perrelli, Felicia Scott,

GUESTS (without vote): Jiyeon Bae, Patricia Foy (First Annapolis), Judy Binkley (Havenwood), Sarah Walker (Knox), Elisabeth Paulk (Second), Dave Merrill (Woods)

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
REPORT of COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS AND REPRESENTATION, MAY 16,
2024

Thriving Congregations:

RE Betsy Stewart, (First of Annapolis), class of 2027
TE Morton Harris (HR), class of 2026

Spiritual Leader Development:

TE Sungjin Kim, (Bridge), class of 2025;
TE Shannon Weston,(At Large), class of 2027;
RE Pete McCallum (Highland), class of 2027

Reconciliation:

RE Chrystie Adams (Brown), class of 2026
TE Barbara Renton (HR), class of 2027
RE Marty Clayton (Woods), class of 2027

Commission on Ministry:

TE Ken Kovacs (Catonsville), class of 2026
RE Neil Nemser (Faith), class of 2027
TE Mihee Kim-Kort (First of Annapolis), class of 2027
TE Laura Hollister (HR), class of 2027
TE Jennifer DiFrancesco (Slate Project), class of 2027

Commission on Preparation for Ministry:

TE Cat Goodrich (Faith), class of 2026
RE Debbie Schmidt (Chestnut Grove), class of 2027

Trustees:

TE Hal Bennett (Grove), class of 2026
TE Andrew Kort (First of Annapolis), class of 2027
TE Carrie Finch-Burriss (Kenwood), class of 2027

Permanent Judicial Commission:

RE Julie Helms (Light Street), class of 2030
TE Michele Ward (Ashland), class of 2030

Nominations and Representation:

RE Barbara Yancy (Lochearn), class of 2027
TE McKenna Lewellen, Chair
REMOVE TE Mary Speers (HR) from class of 2025

Gathering Team:

TE Mary Speers (HR), class of 2025

Personnel:

RE Deborah Dixon (First of Annapolis), class of 2027

Property and Loan:

RE Paul Martin (Havre de Grace), class of 2027

Thank you to 25 presbyters who have agreed to share their gifts with the Presbytery. And, we still have 18 openings! Please contact TE McKenna Lewellen at 443-613-2249 or mckenna@mpchurch.org

VICE MODERATOR

Thriving: TE and RE, class of 2027

Spiritual Leader Development: RE class of 2025

Commission on Ministry: 2 RE class of 2027

Preparation for Ministry: TE and RE class of 2027

Permanent Judicial Commission: TE or RE class of 2030 (6 year terms)

Nominations and Representation: church member class of 2026, TE class of 2027

Administration: church member class of 2027

Personnel: RE class of 2025, RE of 2026, TE class of 2027

Gathering Team: Church member, class of 2026

Property and Loan: TE class of 2026

APPENDIX C

TROY BAILEY STATEMENT OF FAITH

I believe...

in a benevolent Creator that transcends all description, yet we may call upon Him in personal familiarity as Father.

that God has set us apart from the rest of creation and endowed humankind with certain gifts including reason along with the knowledge of good and evil.

we are intended to use these gifts to better ourselves and the world around us, for the greater glory of God and not for individual gain.

in Jesus of Nazareth as God Incarnate/Absolute Paradox/New Being and particular manifestation of the divine in history as revealed in Scripture.

he was born of the material world and that his sacrifice was necessary to impute guiltlessness on fallen humanity.

his sacrifice on the cross was sufficient for all in terms of atonement, while acknowledging that not everyone will respond to the Gospel message.

in our resurrected Messiah and his triumph over death, the enduring mystery of faith.

in the Holy Spirit or continuing revelation of God in the present, that it illuminates our minds and influences our actions.

that we cannot ever hope to attain salvation on our own, and for that reason it dwells within us to act as our guide.

it is the lens through which Scripture is rightly interpreted and what makes the ancient text relevant to our present circumstances.

that Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are three aspects of the triune God, coexistent and coequal forms of the divine being.

ultimate truth exists; creeds are essential for placing boundaries on what constitutes orthodoxy, but no single expression of faith has a full understanding of it.

in one church that unites all Christians while also recognizing the extent to which it is capable of reflecting the diversity of human experience through cultural adaptation.

its mission is to enact the Kingdom of God on earth by caring for each other, not only in terms of material comfort, but also in the health of our collective souls.

the sacraments of baptism and communion serve as potent symbols of divine grace, a badge of membership in the body of Christ, and the promise of future redemption.

that in the fullness of time sinful humanity will be reconciled to God, transcending our self-imposed alienation while simultaneously restoring our true nature.

APPENDIX D

The Trustees of the Presbytery of Baltimore Emergency Assistance Property Repair Fund

Funding:

After the obligations as required by each particular sale of church property that accrues to the presbytery, ~~17%~~ 15% of the net proceeds will be placed in The Emergency Assistance Property Grant Fund. [Manual 9.6.5]

Guidelines:

The Presbytery of Baltimore Emergency Repair Assistance Fund will be used to provide emergency financial aid to congregations in time of an urgent church property need. This fund may not be applicable for cases in which long-term financial support is needed. This fund is intended as a last resort, and to be used only after the requestor has explored all other possibilities of help. The maximum amount of disbursement per ~~individual~~ congregation in a calendar year shall be up to ~~\$3,000~~ \$8,000 per request. The

Presbytery of Baltimore reserves the right to adjust or decline an applicant's request. The Presbytery of Baltimore does not discriminate between applicants based on race, color, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, age or disability.

Eligibility

Eligible applicants are Presbytery of Baltimore congregations who have experienced a need for emergency property repair.

Procedures

A completed "Emergency Assistance Property Repair Request Form" must be submitted by the eligible individual or by any active/retired participant in the Presbytery of Baltimore on behalf of the congregation and be signed-off by the Clerk of Session. NOTE: Incomplete request forms will not be processed and will be returned to the requestor.

- a. All requests must be reviewed and approved by ~~the General Presbyter and President of the Board of Trustees~~ a team from the Board of Trustees including the General Presbyter. Additional documentation such as an estimate from a licensed contractor may be requested from the applicant.
- b. The President of the Trustees or General Presbyter shall report all expenditures to the Trustees in a timely manner. ~~Such reporting does not require that the specific individual being helped be named, but the number and status of the Emergency Assistance Property Repair Fund must be reported.~~
- c. Preference will be given to first-time requests.

Parameters

Emergency Assistance Property Repair funds can only be granted for property repairs. These needs include, but are not limited to, the following: obvious roof leaks, water main breaks, flooding resulting from HVAC malfunction, fire. Emergency Assistance Property Repair funds cannot be granted for the following: long-term building repair issues, ~~weather-related flooding, penalties for~~ or irresponsible actions. ~~expenses incurred for rental space.~~

Administration

With the consent of the Board of Trustees, the General Presbyter, or the Presbytery of Baltimore, unrestricted gifts, contributions, and bequests can be directed to the Emergency Assistance Property Repair Fund.

POLICY ON ENDURING WITNESS GRANTS FUND

For Congregational Vitality, Pastoral Assistance and Community Engagement

The Presbytery of Baltimore is privileged to receive funds, either through the sale of church property or transfer of assets from congregations whose ministries have ended. The legacy of the faithful ministries of these congregations can continue through grants from the Enduring Witness Fund for Congregational Vitality, Community Engagement, and Pastoral Assistance.

The Enduring Witness Fund will be supported through a percentage of the net proceeds from the sale of closed church properties as specified in 9.6.5 of the Manual of Administrative Operations. The Enduring Witness Grants Budget is \$200,000 per year, distributed annual as follows:

Grant Title: Community Engagement

Group Responsible: Commission on Reconciliation

Grant Range: \$3,000 - \$10,000 per award

Annual Amount Budgeted: \$75,000 (or 25% of annual EW grant budget)

Description: Awarded to congregations engaging in community outreach, more specifically for community engagement.



Grant Title: Congregational Transformation

Group Responsible: Ministry Group Convenors

Grant Range: \$3000 - \$10,000 per award
Annual Amount Budgeted: \$75,000 (or 37.5% of annual EW grant budget)

Description: Awarded to congregations engaging in programmatic initiatives of evangelism and congregational transformation and growth

Grant Title: Pension Dues Assistance

Group Responsible: Commission on Ministry

Annual Amount Budgeted: \$65,000 (or 32.5% of annual EW grant budget)

Description: BOP dues for ½ - ¾ time positions for pastoral leadership for up to 3 years

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Grant Title: Administrative Leave Pulpit Supply

Group Responsible: Commission on Ministry

Annual Amount Budgeted: \$10,000 (or 5% of annual EW grant budget)

Description: assisting congregations with pulpit supply when pastor is on administrative leave

This policy may be amended by the Presbytery, on recommendation of the Steering Cabinet.

RATIONALE FOR REVISION

The Enduring Witness Grant Fund was established in 2018. Since then, needs have evolved and changed. More churches are reaching out to their communities and need assistance with these initiatives. There is an increased need for support of pastors in emergency situations.

Since the Fund's inception the Presbytery has completed an eighteen-month Strategic Planning process identifying priorities of the congregations and ministries. As a result, the work of Commissions and Committees is shifting, requiring a reassessment of which entities are best situated to administer the grants.

The original grant policy required 66% of the net proceeds from the sale of closed church properties to seed the fund for future use. This percentage has been successful in providing a well-funded and sustainable program. The Trustees and Cabinet recommend changing the Manual mandate of 66% of net sale to 45% which both entities agree will be sufficient for adequately funding this grant program. (Changing 9.6.5 in the Manual is a separate vote.) This POLICY revision revises the administration and amounts of individual grants reflecting the needs, priorities and structural changes identified in the strategic planning process.