



**THE DOCKET**  
**907<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting of Baltimore Presbytery**  
**Highland Presbyterian Church**  
**May 22, 2025**

*. Empowering leaders, engaging churches and embodying justice and inclusivity  
in the name of Christ.*

- The documents that make up the Meeting Papers are available on-line.
- No printed copies of the papers will be available. Please download and/or print before arrival.
- New Business must be given to the Stated Clerk by the conclusion of devotions/worship.
- New main motions and amendments must be pre-filed in writing with the Stated Clerk and may be emailed to [mgaut@baltimorepresbytery.org](mailto:mgaut@baltimorepresbytery.org).

9:30	Registration & Fellowship. In person: Please pick up your name tag.  <b>Virtual:</b> Once you are “in the meeting room” please mute yourself & use the CHAT function to greet each other and enjoy short conversations. If you are a ruling or teaching elder voting <u>commissioner</u> , please rename yourself by adding TE or RE after your name.		
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***Stories and Celebrations...***

10:00	Call to Order Declaration of a quorum Opening Prayer	Action Item #	Moderator,
	***Adoption of the docket	1	TE. Mary Gaut, Stated Clerk
10:05	Greetings from Host Church Pastor		TE. Ray Meute, pastor of Highland Presbyterian
10:10	Introductions—new Pastors, first-time Ruling Elder Commissioners, and guests; seating corresponding members <b>Virtual:</b> If you are attending virtually and are a first-time commissioner, please send your name and congregation through the Chat function.		TE. Jackie Taylor, GP
10:15	Remembrance of Native Americans		,

10:15	<b>Devotions</b>		RE Lea Gilmore and members of the Gathering Team
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***Discernment and Decisions***

	<b>Virtual:</b> Please use the raise hand function to be recognized for questions or discussion. Virtual attendees will also vote with the raised hand.	Action Item #	
10:25	Report of the Stated Clerk Adjust the Docket, if needed Consent Motion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approval of minutes of the 906<sup>th</sup> stated meeting on March 13, 2025</li> <li>Approval of the minutes of the called meeting on May 8, 2025</li> <li>Approval to celebrate the sacrament of the Lord's supper at the 908<sup>th</sup> stated meeting on September 13, 2025.</li> </ul>	2-4	Rev. Mary Gaut, Stated Clerk
10:30	Report of the General Presbyter <b>The State of the Presbytery</b>		TE Jackie Taylor
	The Committee on Administration: First quarter 2025 Financials reports		<b><i>Printed report only. See meeting papers</i></b>
10:40	The Committee on Representation & Nominations recommends: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>That Presbytery elect RE Rob Smith (Central) as Vice-Moderator for 2025-26</li> <li>That Presbytery elect TE Sue Lowcock Harris (HR) as Moderator for 2025-26</li> </ul>	5 6	TE McKenna Wallen
10:50	Report of Commissioners to the Synod Assembly		TE Carlos Wilton
10:55	Report of the Ministry Group Conveners		TE Ray Meute (see grant awards in meeting papers)
	The Commission on Ministry recommends that the Presbytery:		<b><i>No report</i></b>
	The Commission on Preparation for Ministry recommends		<b><i>No report</i></b>
11:00	<b>ORDER OF THE DAY</b> The Commission on Reconciliation/Dismantling Racism Team Presentation of <b><i>Restorative Justice Fund Proposal</i></b> for First Reading		RE Guy Moody RE Charese Jordan Moore TE Cat Goodrich

12:00	The Commission on Thriving Leaders and Churches recommends		<i>No report</i>
	The Steering Cabinet recommends		<i>No report</i>
	Items pulled from Consent Motion New Business.		
12:00	Adjourn		

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## Motions

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### Adoption of the Docket

**The Stated Clerk recommends:**

1. THAT the Docket be approved as printed (and as it may have been modified by announcement of the Moderator and/or Stated Clerk prior to its adoption).

### Consent Motion

**The Stated Clerk recommends:**

2. THE APPROVAL of the minutes of the 906<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Baltimore, March 13, 2025, and...
3. THE APPROVAL of the minutes of the called meeting on May 8, 2025, as posted on the website. ([www.baltimorepresbytery.org](http://www.baltimorepresbytery.org)).

**The Gathering Team recommends:**

4. APPROVAL to celebrate the sacrament of the Lord's Supper at the 908<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting on September 13, 2025, at Catonsville Presbyterian Church

### Motions for Action on the Floor of Presbytery

**The Representation and Nominating Committee recommends:**

5. That presbytery ELECT RE Rob Smith (Central Presbyterian) as Presbytery Vice-Moderator 2025-26 (see bio in meeting papers)
  6. That presbytery ELECT TE Sue Lowcock Harris (Honorably Retired) as Presbytery Moderator 2025-26. [Current vice-moderator TE Barbara Renton (HR) is stepping down following her year of service as vice-moderator]
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## Reports

### Stated Clerk's Report

The Stated Clerk reports

#### Redress Of Imbalance Report 2025 (Based on 2024 Statistics)

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

Church	Total Membership As of 12/31/2023	Additional Number of Elder Commissioners
Woods Memorial	1213	2
First of Annapolis	651	1
Total		3

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	148
Ministers who are Non-Resident	15
Ministers who are Honorably Retired, not attending	50
TOTAL (A - (B + C))	83

All churches	63
Additional Elders from churches with > 500 members	3
Elder Officers and Commission members	19
Certified Christian Educators	2
Commissioned Ruling Elders	7
Former RE Moderators attending	6
Former RE Stated Clerks attending	1
TOTAL	101

The number of ruling elders enrolled in the membership of presbytery in 2024 exceeds the number of enrolled ministers and therefore no additional elders from congregations are needed.

## **Commission on Ministry**

The Commission on Ministry reports

That Rev. J.C. Austin was installed as pastor of Woods Memorial Presbyterian on April 27, 2025 at 4PM. The installation commission was comprised of TE John Carlson (chair), TE Mary Speers, TE Nancy Lincoln Reynolds, RE Ellen Ochs, RE Catherine Blacka. The commission was dismissed at the benediction as the end of the service.

At its Leadership Team meeting on April 2,

- It affirmed the policy that churches are to pay an honorarium of \$175 for moderating session meetings. Though the payment cannot be mandated it should be standard practice.
- Reviewed and affirmed the sexual misconduct policy at its provision for placing on unpaid administrative leave those who have not completed the required boundary training in timely fashion
- Approved Woods Memorial's request for permission to form an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee
- Approved the mission study of Christ Memorial Presbyterian and granted permission to form a Pastor Nominating Committee.

At its Credentials meeting on April 28, 2025, approved the transfer of Rev. Gene Gordon (HR) from Carlisle Presbytery.

At its full commission meeting on May 7, 2025,

- approved the retirement of Rev. Theresa Martin-Minnich effective January 31, 2026.
- Approved a waiver of the requirement of participation in a congregation (required of those validated ministries other than congregations) for TE Laurie Hogge through October 2026, while she gets acclimated to being a Presbyterian
- Approved a suggested honorarium of \$50 for TE's and authorized RE's officiating at Communion in a congregation with which they are unaffiliated.