



THE DOCKET
909th Stated Meeting of Baltimore Presbytery
November 20, 2025
Knox Presbyterian Church (HYBRID)

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 worship.
- New main motions and amendments must be pre-filed in writing with the Stated Clerk and may be emailed to mgaut@baltimorepresbytery.org.

9:30	Registration & Fellowship. In person: Please pick up your name tag. Virtual: 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 commissioner, 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,
10:05	***Adoption of the docket	1	Rev. Mary Gaut, Stated Clerk
10:05	Greetings from Host Church		
10:10	Introductions—new Pastors, first-time Ruling Elder Commissioners, and guests; seating corresponding members. Virtual: If you are attending virtually and are a first-time commissioner, please send your name and congregation through the Chat function.		Rev. Jackie Taylor, GP

10:15	Worship including land acknowledgement and Renewal of Dakota Partnership		RE Adrienne Knight & RE Chrystie Adams (Baltimore Presbytery), and Rev Fern Cloud, CRE Pete Kazena and CRE Gerald Heminger, (Dakota Presbytery)
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Discernment and Decisions

	Virtual: Please use the raise hand function to be recognized for questions or discussion. Virtual attendees will also vote by the raised hand.	Action Item #	
10:45	Report of the Stated Clerk Adjust the Docket, if needed Consent Motion - Approval of minutes of the 908th Meeting - Approve Removal of 2011-13 Plan for Ministry and staff rationale from Governing Documents - Approve the validated and specialized ministries as reported in the chart with the meeting papers	2-4	Rev. Mary Gaut, Stated Clerk
10:45	Report of the General Presbyter		Rev. Dr. Jackie Taylor
10:50	The Committee on Administration recommends that the Presbytery: - Approve the Presbytery per capita amount at \$32.24 for 2026 (Total per capita: \$45) - Approve amendments to Manual section 8.7.5.2 (see motions) <u>NOTE:</u> The 2026 operating budget is presented for first reading	5-6	Rev. John Schmidt, committee chair
10:55	The Personnel Committee recommends That the Personnel Budget for 2026 be approved as presented	7	Rev. Keith Paige, committee chair
11:05	The Committee on Representation & Nominations recommends: That presbytery elect TE Melissa Lopez to COM class of 2028	8-9	Rev. McKenna Wallen, committee chair.

	That presbytery elect as commissioners to the 227th GA: TE Mary Speers, HR & TE Karen Brown, Hope, and Alternate TE Ron Hankins, Govans Presbyterian; RE Kristofer Stinson, First and Franklin & RE William Curtis, Faith		
11:15	Report of the Commissioners to the Synod Assembly: Introduction of new Synod leader Flo Barbee-Watkins		RE Bobby Hall Rev. Carl Wilton
11:20	The Commission on Preparation for Ministry recommends That Presbytery examine Inquirer Kristofer Stinson on his sense of call and approve advancing him to candidacy.	10	Rev. Mark Phillips, chair of CPM
11:35	The Commission on Ministry recommends: - That Presbytery approve “Policy for Temporary Membership for Ministers of Other Denominations” - Celebrations of Retirements: Rev. Tim Stern and Rev. Terry Martin-Minnich	11	Rev. Mary Speers, COM chair
12:00	The Commission on Reconciliation - Cindy Corell from PCUSA Global Ecumenical Partnerships <u>PLEASE SEE: <i>Restorative Justice Fund updates</i></u> with meeting papers		Rev. Michele Wallen Associate for Missional & Community Engagement
	The Steering Cabinet recommends		No Report
	Items pulled from Consent Motion New Business.		
12:10	Adjourn		

Motions

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 908th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Baltimore, September 13, 2025, as posted on the website.
(www.baltimorepresbytery.org).
3. The Administration Committee recommends the removal of the 2011-13 Plan for Ministry from the list of Governing Documents
4. The COM recommends the one-year validation of specialized ministries LISTED in the report in the meeting papers

Motions for Action on the Floor of Presbytery

The Committee on Administration recommends:

5. That Presbytery approve a per capita amount of \$32.24 for 2026. (The total per capita will be \$45: GA \$11.26 & Synod \$1.15)
6. That Presbytery amend Section 8.7.5.2.2 in the Manual as follows:
 - a. Change 8.7.5.2.2 to "First reading of the operating budget and approval of the Presbytery staff compensation at the second meeting of the program year
 - b. Change 8.7.5.2.3 to Approval of the full operating budget at the third meeting of the program year after March 1st in odd numbered year and prior to General Assembly's overture deadline in even numbered years.
 - c. Remove 8.7.5.2.4 as it has been adjusted for in the above sections.

The Personnel Committee recommends:

7. That Presbytery approve the staff compensation budget for 2026 as presented with the meeting papers

The Representation and Nominating Committee recommends:

8. That Presbytery elect TE Melissa Lopez to COM class of 2028.
9. That Presbytery approve the following as commissioners to the 227th General Assembly: TE Mary Speers, HR, TE Karen Brown, Hope; Alternate TE Ron Hankins, Govans Presbyterian, RE Kristofer Stinson First and Franklin, and RE William Curtis, Faith Presbyterian

The Commission on Preparation for Ministry recommends:

10. That Presbytery examine Inquirer Kristofer Stinson on his sense of call and to approve advancing him to candidacy (see Bio and Spiritual Autobiography in the Meeting Papers.

The Commission on Ministry recommends:

11. That Presbytery approve “Policy for Temporary Membership for Ministers of Other Denominations”

Reports

Stated Clerk’s Report

The Stated Clerk reports:

The following churches completed the required administrative review of records:

Ashland, Babcock, Bethel, Catonsville, Central, Christ Memorial, Christ Our Anchor, Christ our King (granted waiver) Churchville, Dickey Memorial, Faith, Fallston, First and Franklin, First Annapolis, First Bel Air, First Cumberland, First Frostburg, First Howard Co. First Westminster, Franklinville, Frederick, Good Shepherd, Grove, Hamilton, Harundale, Havenwood, Havre de Grace, Highland, Hunting Ridge, Kenwood, Knox, Light Street, Maryland, Mt. Hebron, Mt. Paran, Prince of Peace, Roland Park, St. Andrew, St. Andrew’s, St. John United, Second, Springfield, Towson, Trinity, Woods.

The following churches did not complete the required review:

Ark and Dove, Barrelville, Bridge, Brown Memorial, Cherry Hill, Chestnut Grove, Emmitsburg, Govans, Grace, Granite, Hagerstown, Hancock, Hope, Hughes Memorial, Korean United, Lochearn, Madison Avenue, Perry Hall

Thanks to all the clerks of session who participated in the annual review. Your commitment, your insights and questions help all of us do our jobs as clerks better. Remember that completion of the annual review is required for priority consideration for presbytery grants.

Steering Cabinet

The Steering Cabinet reports that

At its meeting on September 24, 2025, at the request of the Commission on Ministry it approved an

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION FOR LOCHEARN PRESBYTERIAN [G-3.0109b(5)] to assume original jurisdiction. The commission will

- *Meet with church leadership to ascertain what their hopes are for the future of Lochearn*
- *Conduct a special administrative review of the church records per G-3.0108a-b.*
- *Conduct a full financial review per G-3.0113 and arrange for payment of any debt that impacts on the church’s worship and program*
- *Make preliminary reports to the Commission on Ministry at its November and March meetings*
- *Make a final report to the COM no later than May 1, 2026, including a realistic assessment of the congregation’s viability and recommendations for the future.*

To accomplish these goals, the administrative commission has original jurisdiction [G-3.0303e] in all financial and corporate matters, including access to church rolls, session minutes, financial records, bank accounts and corporate filings. If the work requires specific expertise not available through volunteers within or outside the presbytery, the services of real estate, legal and/or financial professionals can be made available to the commission with the approval of the General Presbyter and the Stated Clerk

MEMBERSHIP

RE Cecil Phillips (Dickey Memorial) TE Mark Hannah (Roland Park) RE Mary Jo Zimbardo (Maryland) TE Brandon Brewer (VAL)

Commission on Reconciliation

The Commission on Reconciliation directs the presbytery to its written report on the progress being made toward establishing the infrastructure for administering the Reporative Justice Fund approved at the 908th Stated Meeting of the presbytery.

Commission on Ministry

The Commission on Ministry reports that

At its meeting on October 1, 2025, it

- Approved the retirement of Rev. Tim Stern effective December 31, 2025

At its meeting on November 5, 2025, it

- Approved the retirement of Rev. Nancy Lincoln Reynolds effective Feb. 8, 2026
- Appointed Rev. Mark Phillips as moderator of session at Perry Hall
- Approved a co-pastor model of pastoral leadership at Babcock between Rev. Jack Hodges (HR) and Commissioned Lay Pastor RE Jennifer Pearson

Commission on Preparation for Ministry

At its meeting on November 19, 2025 it certified Candidate Kathy Welsh Smith as certified ready to receive a call.