

**Minutes of the 910th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Baltimore
March 12, 2026 at 10:00 am
Virtual Meeting via Zoom**

Moderator, Sue Lowcock Harris, called the meeting of the Presbytery of Baltimore to order at 10:00 AM. She opened the meeting with prayer. A quorum was present.

She called on Stated Clerk Mary Gaut who moved the adoption of the Docket as presented in the meeting papers. It was seconded and **APPROVED** by common consent.

General Presbyter, Jackie Taylor, welcomed first time ruling elders and guests including Rev. Clayton Thomas from the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program. She moved that Rev. Thomas, a member of the Presbytery of Southern New England, be seated as a corresponding member. The motion was seconded and **APPROVED** by common consent.

PRESENTATION OF PILP REBATE CHECKS

Rev. Clayton Thomas, from the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program was introduced by the Moderator. After describing the loan program and some of the significant and innovative projects that PILP loans have supported, he announced that rebate checks had been mailed to:

Ark & Dove Presbyterian Church
Christ Memorial Presbyterian Church
First and Franklin Presbyterian Church
St Andrew's Presbyterian Church

REMEMBRANCE OF NATIVE AMERICANS

Ruling Elder Chrystie Adams 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. She utilized a reading from the book *This Land* by Ashley Fairbanks.

DEVOTIONS

The Presbytery then moved into Morning Devotions led by RE Lea Gilmore. The theme was Pursuing Peace and Justice, referencing Isaiah 2:4 and Matthew 5:9. In his reflection Rev. Mark Hanna stressed the active nature of peacemaking which seeks to build a world that does not yet exist. Lea Gilmore, Susan Krehbiel and Roderick Denning, Jr. provided music via pre-recorded video. The theme of Peace and Justice was especially appreciated in light of the war with Iran begun by President Trump and the ongoing deportations and deprivation of rights of Immigrants and citizens.

STATED CLERK'S REPORT AND CONSENT MOTION

Following devotions, the Moderator called upon the Stated Clerk who presented the consent motion:

THE APPROVAL of the minutes of the 909th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Baltimore, as posted on the website. (www.baltimorepresbytery.org).

Approval of the celebration of communion at the 2026 Stewardship Kaleidoscope Conf. 9.21.26 at the Renaissance Hotel, Baltimore.

Approval of 2026 terms of call (Appendix B)

The consent motion was seconded and **APPROVED** by common consent.

REPORT OF THE GENERAL PRESBYTER

The Moderator called on General Presbyter Jackie Taylor encouraged churches to build their future on who they are, including their current membership, location and gifts, rather than striving toward an imagined ideal (more young families) which may be unrealistic.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE:

The Moderator called on TE John Schmidt, chair of the Administration Committee. He presented the 2026 budget [Appendix C] which was posted on the website. Using a creative short video and a colorful chart, he explained the various funding sources that support the presbytery budget, stressing that per capita apportionment and shared ministry are the income streams supported directly by congregations. The motion did not require a second and was **APPROVED**.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION AND NOMINATIONS:

Rev. McKenna Wallen chair of the committee reminded the Presbytery that the May meeting is the time to elect officers and commission and committee members for the following program year. They are specifically seeking those interested in serving as vice-moderator and chair of steering cabinet as well as members of the nominating committee itself. But many positions are open and she encouraged presbyters to submit their interests to the committee early to enhance the chances of being nominated to a position that coincides with their interests and skills.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

The Moderator invited RE Denise Hill, clerk of session of Woods Memorial Presbyterian, to recognize the years of ministry of Rev. Nancy Lincoln-Reynolds as both Associate Pastor of Woods Memorial and as Director and Counselor of the Woods Care and Counseling Center. She highlighted the community outreach initiatives and suicide prevention programs that she helped launch.

Rev. Lincoln-Reynolds shared a humorous story of working with former senior pastor, Terry Schoener, and ways that her church and counseling ministries were mutually supportive. In her retirement from parish ministry, she will continue at the Care and Counseling Center.

Rev. Jack Carlson offered a prayer of blessing for Nancy in her retirement.

COMMISSION ON RECONCILIATION

RE Chrystie Adams was recognized by the moderator. She moved that the Presbytery concur with Overture 005 from Cascades Presbytery to the 227th General Assembly, “Call to Review the Restructuring of the PC(USA) World Mission.” . The motion did not require a second. She explained the overture calls for the following:

- for the processes by which these decisions were made to be investigated.
- for a determination in whether these decisions conform with or violate PC(USA) General assembly actions
- to review the years of global consultations and study results
- to report to the 228th General Assembly with appropriate recommendations

The motion was **APPROVED**.

She then moved that Presbytery concur with Overture 006 from Cascades Presbytery to the 227th General Assembly, “Calling for a New Missiological Statement for the Presbyterian Church (USA).” No second was required. Overture 006 aims to produce a missiological statement that can guide the PC(USA)’s mission policy now and in the future, reflecting the values of the partnership model that has guided the denomination in the recent past.

The motion was **APPROVED**.

RE Charese Jordan Moore gave an update on the progress made on creating the structure that would administer the Reparative Justice Fund. The three working groups are moving along in their tasks with the following chairpersons:

Legal: TE TJ Denley
Board: TE Hal Bennett
Outreach: TE Jesse Lowry

The 15% allocation of Trustee funds was set on December 31, 2025 as \$2,274,000 and is being held in by Trustees until the structures are in place for receiving it.

Churches are invited to hold conversations about the fund to encourage participation and contributions and to research their own racial histories.

The Moderator turned the meeting over to Vice-Moderator Rob Smith who gave information about the breakout groups and lunch conversations that would take place following adjournment.

COMMISSION ON THRIVING CHURCHES AND LEADERS

Rev. Jeff Young was recognized by the Vice-Moderator to give a report on the work of the newly formed Commission on Thriving Leaders and Churches (a merger of the commissions on Spiritual Leader Development and Thriving Congregations). It focuses on and is organized for:

Holy Cow Assessments, a tool to help congregations do deep, reflective work and is helpful for all congregations, not just those in transition.

1001 New Worshipping Communities which are best seen as new opportunities for outreach rather than developing new congregations.

Innovation Lab, under the leadership of Presbytery Staff member Michele Wallen, is organized around cohorts and helps congregations use existing tools and resources for innovative planning.

Youth Ministries is focused on supporting Youth Triennium and also a Montreat trip this spring along with youth ministry activities within the presbytery.

The Commission also hopes to expand its workshop offerings, following a successful workshop on the use of Artificial Intelligence in the church.

All these subcommittees would benefit from the involvement of more people. Participation does not require membership on the committee.

There was no new business. A motion to adjourn was made, seconded and APPROVED by common consent. Vice-Moderator Smith closed the meeting with prayer at 11:55AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Gaut, Stated Clerk

APPENDIX A Attendance Detail

Category	Present	Excused	Absent
Teaching Elders Serving Churches	30	2	11
Specialized Teaching Elders. (non-resident TEs are permanently excused)	3	1	7
New Worshiping Community Leaders	1 Listed with Slate	-	-
Honorably Retired Teaching Elders	14	-	-
CREs & Commissioned Pastors	2	1	5
Ruling Elder Commissioners (Including officers and Commission members)	27	0	57
Former Ruling Elder Moderators	1	1	-
Former Ruling Elder Stated Clerks	1	-	-
Certified Educators	0	-	-
Subtotal voting members	78	5	80
Corresponding Members	1		
Youth Advisory Delegates (Non-voting)	0		
Guests and Presbytery Staff (Non-voting)	9		
Candidates and Inquirers (Non-voting)	2		
Subtotal non-voting attendees	12		
TOTAL PRESENT	90		

TEACHING ELDERS SERVING CHURCHES:

PRESENT: Jennifer McCullough, Ken Page (Ark & Dove), Michele Wallen (Ashland); Andrew Connors (Brown), Dorothy Boulton (Catonsville); Keith Paige (Cherry Hill); Janna VanderWoude (Christ Memorial), Jeff Young (Christ Our King); Catherine Goodrich (Faith); Jose Lopez (Fallston), Mark Phillips (First and Franklin), Mihee Kim-Kort, (First Annapolis); Melissa Lopez (First Bel Air); Alison Peters (First Cumberland), Eric Myers (Frederick), Tanya Wade (Grace), Harold Bennett (Grove), Susan Bouche (Harundale), Jennifer DiFrancesco (Havenwood and *Slate*); Ray Meute (Highland), Ronnie Hankins (Knox), Kate Morrison (Light Street); McKenna Wallen (Maryland), Amy Carlson (Mt Hebron), Elizabeth McLean (Prince of Peace); Mark Hannah (Roland Park); Andy Nagel (Second); Mark Sandell (St. Andrew), Rob Carter, Joel Strom (Towson);

ABSENT AND EXCUSED:), Ken Kovacs (Catonsville), JC Austin (Woods)

ABSENT: Andrew Kort (First of Annapolis); Sungjin Kim (Bridge); Jeremy Sanderson (Central); Andy Gathman (Chestnut Grove), Jessie Lowry (Christ Our Anchor); Karen Brown (Hope), Jeong Hoon Han (Korean United); Phyllis Felton (Madison Ave.), Dan Melton (St. Andrew's), Hyiwot Teshome (St John United), Matthew Glasgow (First Westminster)

NEW WORSHIPING COMMUNITY LEADERS:

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

ABSENT:

RESIDENT SPECIALIZED CLERGY

PRESENT: Edwin Lacy, Jackie Taylor,

Excused: Shannon Weston,

Absent: Brandon Brewer, Sarah Diehl; Kate Foster, Laurie Hogge, Richard Jones, Stephen Mann; Jenine Zabriskie

AT LARGE CLERGY PRESENT:

NONRESIDENT SPECIALIZED CLERGY:

PRESENT: Tanya Denley

ABSENT AND EXCUSED: John Boulware, , Rob Hoch, Stacy Martin,

HONORABLY RETIRED

PRESENT: John Carlson, Mary Gaut, (Stated Clerk); Morton Harris, Sue Lowcock Harris (Moderator), Anita Hendrix, Laura Hollister, Janet Jones, Nancy Lincoln-Reynolds, Claire Pula, Barbara Renton, John Schmidt, Mary Speers, Tim Stern, Carlos Wilton

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS: Rev. Clayton Thomas, Presbytery of Southern New England

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

PRESENT: Chrystie Adams (COR, Brown), Robert Smith (vice-moderator, Central), Luann Rau (COM, Fallston), Charese Jordan-Moore (COR, Knox),

RULING ELDER COMMISSIONERS FROM CONGREGATIONS:

CHESTNUT GROVE, Debbie Schmidt; FAITH, Bobby Hall, Robin Nemser; FIRST AND FRANKLIN, Emanuel Nixon, FIRST OF ANNAPOLIS, Lois Lander, Pat Woodward, FIRST OF HOWARD CO., Thomas Woods; GOVANS, Lea Gilmore; HARUNDALE, Wesley Garrett, HAVENWOOD, Stephen Plano; HAVRE DE GRACE, Patricia Allingham, HUNTING RIDGE, Carol Bailey; MARYLAND. Carol Mason; MT. HEBRON, Christine Hinds; PRINCE OF PEACE, Anne Weadon; St. JOHN UNITED, Susan Moody; ST. ANDREW, Anne Bryant; SECOND, Scott Silverwood; SPRINGFIELD, Bob Stepling; WOODS MEMORIAL, Betsy Stewart, Alyssa Barlis, Linda Eggbeer.

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

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

COMMISSIONED RULING ELDERS

PRESENT: Troy Bailey (Presbytery), Anita Bishop-Johnson (Mt. Paran)

EXCUSED: Ed Terry (Hamilton), Stanley Howes (First Frostburg-Huntingdon Presbytery)

ABSENT: Jennifer Pearson (Babcock), John Brewington (Lochearn), Paul Martin (Havre de Grace), Donna Lea (Mt Paran), Cleoda Walker (Knox)

CANDIDATES AND INQUIRERS: Kathy Welsh Smith (Central), Heather Russell von Marko (First Westminster)

YOUTH ADVISORY DELEGATES: None

CERTIFIED LAY EMPLOYEES WITH VOTE: None

FORMER RULING ELDER MODERATORS: Guy Moody (St. John United) Audrey Trapp (Faith) (Jim Schroll excused)

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

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

GUESTS: Jiyeon Bae, Charlie Conklin (Towson), Denise Hill & Kurt Ivey (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 C – BUDGET



2026 Condensed Budget

	2025 Budget	2025 Actual	2025 Act vs 2025 Budget Fav/(Unfav)	2026 Budget	2026 vs 2025 Budget Fav/(Unfav)
Presbytery Operating Income					
Per Capita Income	422,856	379,377	(43,479)	437,310	14,454
Anticipated non-payment at 6%	(25,000)	-	25,000	(26,000)	(1,000)
Stated Meetings	-	2,140	2,140	1,700	1,700
Shared Ministry Income	150,252	100,462	(49,790)	139,285	(10,967)
Trustee Revenue Stream	631,221	559,893	(71,528)	637,740	6,519
Lakeland (housed in Trustees)	15,205	16,835	1,430	15,205	-
Total Directed Support	1,194,534	1,058,307	(136,227)	1,205,240	10,706
Other Miscellaneous Income	-	1,209	(1,209)	-	-
Massanetta Springs 3 Yr. Contr.	20,000	20,000	-	20,000	-
Interim Pastor Program	32,500	48,745	(16,245)	32,500	-
Total Income before reserve Trf.s	1,247,034	1,128,261	(153,681)	1,257,740	10,706
(To)/from Reserves					
Per Capita Reserve (901820)	-	(1,209)	1,209	-	-
General Reserve (901830)	122,903	137,003	(14,100)	123,938	1,035
Shared Ministry Reserve (901840)	-	(9,988)	9,988	-	-
Racial Justice /MLE Reserve/Abbott	15,000	11,262	3,738	14,900	(100)
Ministry Group Reserves	-	10,642	(10,642)	-	-
Total Other Income	137,903	147,710	(9,807)	138,838	935
Total Annual Income	\$ 1,384,937	\$ 1,275,971	\$ (163,488)	\$ 1,396,578	\$ 11,641
EXPENSE – Program Expense					
TLC Program	72,198	52,746	19,452	71,841	357
Ministry Groups	80,800	64,702	16,098	70,000	10,800
Commission on Ministry	15,304	676	14,628	13,501	1,803
Commission on Preparation for Ministry	1,120	3,085	(1,945)	4,300	(3,180)
Commission on Reconciliation	3,050	1,294	1,756	3,050	-
Dismantling Racism	15,000	11,262	3,738	14,900	100
Mission Partnership Funds	27,000	18,000	9,000	27,000	-
Shared Witness	1,400	-	1,400	1,400	-
General Assembly & Synod Giving	120,715	121,616	(901)	124,002	(3,287)
Rent	43,700	43,700	-	44,574	(874)
Office Expense	80,468	76,194	4,274	74,206	6,262
Communications	3,000	1,525	1,475	2,000	1,000
Steering Cabinet	5,950	1,063	4,887	3,500	2,450
Massanetta Contribution	20,000	20,000	-	20,000	-
Presbytery Stated Meetings	3,400	4,350	(950)	5,100	(1,700)
Sub Total Program	\$ 493,105	\$ 420,193	\$ 72,912	\$ 479,374	\$ 13,731



2026 Condensed Budget

	2025 Budget	2025 Actual	2025 Act vs 2025 Budget Fav/(Unfav)	2026 Budget	2026 vs 2025 Budget Fav/(Unfav)
EXPENSE (Salary & Benefits)– Presbytery Staff					
General Presbyter	182,630	175,625	7,005	187,864	(5,234)
Stated Clerk	59,792	57,243	2,549	61,199	(1,407)
Associate for Church Care & Advocacy	135,768	133,431	2,337	140,415	(4,647)
Assoc. for Miss. & Comm. Engage.	118,464	130,391	(11,927)	137,564	(19,100)
Consultant - Social Justice Office:	27,292	24,824	2,468	27,892	(600)
Finance Administrator	96,055	95,123	932	99,113	(3,058)
Accountant	49,610	41,413	8,197	50,850	(1,240)
Director of Admin. Ops.	101,355	100,530	825	105,222	(3,867)
Communications Spec./Grant Coord.	72,788	48,453	24,313	74,585	(1,819)
Partnership Administrator	15,600	-	15,600	-	15,600
Interim Pastor Program	32,500	48,745	(16,245)	32,500	-
Sub Total Staff	\$ 891,832	\$ 855,778	\$ 36,054	\$ 917,204	\$ (25,372)
Total Expenses	\$ 1,384,937	\$ 1,275,971	\$ 108,966	\$ 1,396,578	\$ (11,641)
RECAP					
Total Income	\$ 1,384,937	\$ 1,275,971		\$ 1,396,578	\$ 11,641
Subtract Total Expense	\$ 1,384,937	\$ 1,275,971		\$ 1,396,578	\$ (11,641)
Non Budgeted Extraordinary					
Total Income/(Expense)	\$ -	\$ -		\$ 0	\$ 23,282
Programming Expenses by Fund:					
Per Capita	\$ 228,043	\$ 214,653		\$ 230,472	
Shared Ministry	150,252	101,118		139,285	
Trustees	64,605	56,527		73,568	
Lakeland	15,205	16,635		15,205	
Reserves	35,000	31,262		20,844	
	\$ 493,105	\$ 420,193		\$ 479,374	
Salary Expenses by Fund:					
Per Capita	\$ 242,422	\$ 232,868		\$ 249,063	
Trustees	649,410	622,910		668,141	
	\$ 891,832	\$ 855,778		\$ 917,204	
Total Expenses	\$ 1,384,937	\$ 1,275,971		\$ 1,396,578	