

August 1, 2025

## ATTESTATION LETTER

To: The Synod of the Mid-Atlantic Stated Clerk:

I am writing to formally certify that I have thoroughly reviewed the minutes of the Presbytery of Baltimore meetings held March 14, 2024, through November 21, 2024, as per your request. Enclosed with this letter, you will find the checklist indicating my assessment.

After careful examination, I am pleased to confirm that the minutes are in order—more precisely, that the proceedings have been correctly recorded, have been in accordance with the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), have been prudent and equitable, and have been faithful to the mission of the whole church (G-3.0108a). The completed checklist, supplied by my colleague, the Rev. Mary Gaut, Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Baltimore, was an invaluable aid in locating the items featured in the review of minutes by the Synod, and she is to be commended for the completeness and detail of these records. **I recommend that the minutes be approved without exception.**

I would offer a question and a suggestion in a spirit of collaboration aiming toward continuous improvement, noting that these things in no way detract from the minutes' overall high quality:

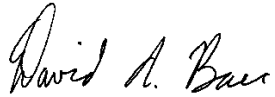
- With respect to the review of session records (p. 51), the minutes record the churches that did nor did not “complete” the review. The Book of Order appears to require the higher council to make a “**determin[ation]**” whether the proceedings [of the lower council] have been correctly recorded, have been in accordance with this Constitution, have been prudent and equitable, and have been faithful to the mission of the whole church” (G-3.0108a, emphasis added). I will refer to you, the Synod Stated Clerk, the question of whether presbytery minutes must record the substance of this determination with respect to session records—perhaps as a consideration for future review checklists.
- The roster of former PJC members provided in the Appendix includes those whose terms expired as long ago as 2006. The former members are listed in order of increasing class year, and within classes there is no discernible ordering to the names. D-3.0602b, by contrast, requires a list of “those members ... whose terms have expired within the past six years,” and provides that “The names shall be arranged alphabetically within classes beginning with the most recent class.” The order appears to matter for the purposes of selecting former members to constitute a quorum for the PJC, if there is no presbytery rule addressing how these members are chosen (D-3.0602c)—and it would also seem that only those whose terms have expired in the last six years are eligible. While the necessary information is present in the Appendix, , maintaining the roster in a way that is consistent with the prescribed order may help to prevent confusion or dissension on this point.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend my colleague the Rev. Mary Gaut, Stated Clerk of Baltimore Presbytery for maintaining records that faithfully tell the story of the presbytery's ministry

through its actions. I am grateful for the chance to learn about Baltimore Presbytery, its churches, its members, and their collective witness to the Good News of Jesus Christ. It is a privilege to serve alongside my dedicated and faithful colleagues in the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further clarification or assistance regarding my review.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David A. Baer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial 'D'.

Rev. David A. Baer, Stated Clerk  
National Capital Presbytery