



THE DOCKET
912th Stated Meeting of Baltimore Presbytery
Central Presbyterian Church
September 12, 2026

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

- The documents that make up the Meeting Papers are available at <https://baltimorepresbytery.org/>.
- A limited number of printed dockets 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.
- All times on docket are approximations only

9:30	Registration & Fellowship. Please pick up your name tag.		
10:00	Call to Order Declaration of a quorum Opening Prayer	Action Item #	TE Sue Lowcock Harris (Outgoing moderator)
	***Adoption of the docket <i>Any new business must be communicated to the Stated Clerk by end of worship</i>	1	TE Mary Gaut, Stated Clerk
	Greetings from Host Church Pastor		TE Jeremy Sanderson
	Introductions—new Pastors, first-time Ruling Elder Commissioners, and guests; seating of corresponding members <i>Seating of Rev. Paul Munday, former Moderator of the Church of the Brethren as Ecumenical Guest</i>		TE Jackie Taylor, GP
	The Committee on Nominations and Representation recommends: • That presbytery elect those listed in its report to the offices indicated	2	
	Land Remembrance		

10:15	WORSHIP, INSTALLATION AND COMMUNION		
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	<i>Please raise your hand to be recognized for questions or discussion.</i>	Action Item #	
11:15	Report of the Stated Clerk (cont.) Adjust the Docket if needed Consent Motion - Approve the Minutes of the 911th Meeting - Extend the term limit waiver for the Franklinville Session for another 3 years - Approve the 2027 Stated Meeting Schedule and Communion at the Sept. 2027 meeting	3-5	TE Mary Gaut, Stated Clerk
11:20	Report of GA Commissioners #1		TE. Karen Brown
11:25	Report of the Commission on Preparation for Ministry - Examine Inquirer Akilah Atkinson to move to Candidacy - Examine Inquirer Emma Kate Lander to move to Candidacy	6-7	TE Claire Pula RE Patricia Foy
11:50	Report of GA Commissioner #2		RE Kristofer Zammitti
11:55	Report of the Committee on Ministry - Approve a 2.7% COLA increase - Commission RE Troy Bailey as ¼ time Pastor of Granite Presbyterian - Commission RE Leigh Erdman as pastor (full time) of Ashland Presbyterian - Examine Candidate Heather von Marko for ordination	8-11	TE J.C. Austin TE Melissa Lopez
12:35	Report of the Dismantling Racism Team Update on RJF corporate structure and Board creation		
12:45	Report of GA Commissioners #3		TE Mary Speers
12:50	Report of the Administration Committee Approve the 2027 presbytery per	12-13	TE John Schmidt

	capita at \$33.46 • Approve Manual Change re membership on the Property and Loan Commission		
12:55	Introducing Innovation Labs		TE Michele Wallen
	Items pulled from Consent Motion New Business.		
1:00	Adjourn		

Motions

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).

The Representation and Nominating Committee recommends:

2. That presbytery elect the following to the positions indicated:
RE Julie Hanks, Brown Memorial, 2029 Commission on Reconciliation
RE Heather Russel, Springfield, 2029 CPM
TE Joel Strom, Towson, 2029 CPM
TE Hal Bennett, Grove, 2029 COM, 2029 Trustees
TE Amy Carlson, Mt Hebron, 2029 COM
RE Bill Daniel, 2029 COM
TE Kathy Welsh Smith, Hunting Ridge 2029 Gathering
TE Keith Paige, Cherry Hill, 2029 Personnel
TE McKenna Wallen, Maryland, 2027 Nominating (chair)
TE J.C. Austin, 2028 (Woods) and TE Melissa Lopez, 2028 (First Bel Air), as co-chairs of the COM

Consent Motion:

3. The Stated Clerk recommends THE APPROVAL of the minutes of the Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Baltimore, as posted on the website.
www.baltimorepresbytery.org.
4. The COM recommends APPROVAL waiver of term limits for the Franklinville session through December 2029.
5. The Gathering Team recommends approval of the 2027 Stated Meetings schedule including the celebration of the Lord's supper at the 916th stated meeting.

The Commission on Preparation for Ministry recommends:

6. That Presbytery examine Inquirer Akilah Atkinson on her sense of call and approve her advancement to the status of candidate.

7. That Presbytery examine Inquirer Emma Kate Lander on her sense of call and approve her advancement to the status of candidate.

The Commission on Ministry recommends:

8. That Presbytery approve a 2.7% COLA increase in effective salary for installed and temporary pastoral positions. (Mandatory for those at the minimum for their factor and strongly recommended for all others)
9. That Presbytery examine CRE Troy Bailey on his sense of call Granite and commission him to serve as ¼ time Commissioned Lay Pastor beginning Oct. 1, 2026, through December 2029, (pending annual contract renewals) and to approve commissioning him for officiating at the sacrament of baptism at Granite in September 2026. (Troy has previously been examined on his statement of faith.)
10. That Presbytery examine RE Leigh Erdman on her statement of faith and call to Ashland and commission her as full time Commissioned Lay Pastor at Ashland beginning October 1, 2026, through December 2029 (pending annual contract renewals)
11. That presbytery examine Candidate Heather von Marko on her statement of faith and call to the position of Transitional Pastor at Springfield Presbyterian Church and approve her for ordination.

The Committee on Administration recommends:

12. That Presbytery approve the 2027 presbytery portion of per capita apportionment at \$33.46
13. That Presbytery approve amending Section 7.12.2 of the Manual regarding the membership of the Property and Loan Commission (requires a 2/3 vote)

7.12.2. Membership: The Commission consists of at least seven members, in three categories of members: Trustees, Presbytery representatives, and the Presbytery **executive** staff. ~~The Executive Committee of the Trustees appoints two Trustees of its members.~~ The Chair of the Steering Cabinet, with the concurrence of the Steering Cabinet, ~~appoints two Presbytery representatives, with one these representatives serving as a member of the Committee.~~ **The presbytery elects 3 members each for a three-year term in different classes and The Committee on Administration appoints one additional member representing the presbytery..** The General Presbyter (Ex-officio with vote) and the Stated Clerk (ex-officio, voting per 7.2.2) ~~represent~~ **comprise** the Presbytery **executive** staff. A quorum of the Commission will be **a majority of the commission with** at least one person from each of the categories of members. (If the General Presbyter cannot attend a meeting, the Stated Clerk may be invited by the Commission or the General Presbyter to have voting privileges for that meeting.)

**The Manual defines executive staff as officers of the presbytery who are also compensated staff members*

Reports

Including actions taken by commissions on behalf of the presbytery

Commission on Ministry

At its meeting on May 28, 2026, the Credentials Team

- approved the terms of call of Woods Memorial to Rev. Ashley Brown as Associate Pastor and approved her transfer from South Louisiana Presbytery pending the congregational meetings

At its meeting on June 3, 2026,

- approved the transfer of Rev. Mark Phillips to Florida Presbytery, effective Aug. 1, 2026
- approved the transfer of Rev. Jeff Young to Pueblo Presbytery effective July 1, 2026
- approved June 28, 2026 for the ordination of Kathy Welsh Smith at Hunting Ridge Presbyterian Church with the following members of the commission: TE Sue Lowcock Harris (HR, Moderator), TE Jenn DiFrancesco (Havenwood & Slate), RE Rob Smith (Central), RE James Parks (Hunting Ridge), RE Debbie Schmidt (Chestnut Grove), and corresponding member RE Elizabeth Roman, St. James Presbyterian, Carlisle Presbytery and to dismiss the commission, with thanks, with the benediction at the conclusion of the service.

At its meeting on July 13m 2026,

- Approved the Transitional Pastor contract for Springfield Presbyterian
- Approved the Installation of gretchen Sausville at First Presbyterian of Howard Co. on August 23, 2026, at 2PM with the following Commission:
Elder Bill Daniel (Woods Memorial) Elder Clarence V. Baney (First-Howard) Rev. Mary Speers (HR) Rev. Susan Boucher (Harundale))Rev. Sue Harris (HR Moderator) and Rob Smith (Vice-Moderator, Central) and corresponding members: Rev. Bill Davis - Denver Presbytery, Rev. Bill Sanders- Vice Moderator of the Denver Presbytery, Rev. Adele Crawford- National Capital, Rev. Ellie John Kelley- West Virginia Presbytery. The celebration of the Lord's Supper at the installation service was approved.

At its meeting on July 20, 2026, the Credentials Team

- Approved the terms of call and the transfer of Andries Coetzee from Presbytery of Southern New England, to become Pastor of Govans, pending the congregational meeting on August 30, 2026.

At its meeting on Aug. 3, 2026, the Credentials Team

- Approved recommending Commissioning RE Troy Bailey as ¼ Commissioned Lay Pastor at Granite Presbyterian

At its meeting on Aug. 24, 2026, the Credentials Team

- Approved recommending RE Leigh Erdman as full-time Commissioned Lay Pastor at Ashland Presbyterian and approved the terms of call

At its meeting on September 2, 2026, the COM

- Approved the terms of call for Commissioned Lay Pastor Troy Bailey at Granite
- Approved the transfer of TE Ray Meute to Donegal Presbytery effective Oct. 1, 2026.

- Pending a successful examination on the floor of presbytery, Approved the following ordination commission for Heather von Marko: RE Rob Smith, Moderator, Rev. Mark Hanna, Rev. Amy Carlson, Rev. Cat Goodrich, RE Rebekah Hanson (First Westminster), RE Bob Stepling (Springfield). The celebration of the Lord's supper was approved for the ordination service.

Commission on Preparation for Ministry

At its meeting on June 17, 2026,

- approved RE and Candidate for ministry, Jeremiah Seepersad for officiating at Communion at any church in the presbytery when invited to do so by its session.

At its meeting on July 15, 2026,

- Approved the final assessment of Candidate Heather Russel von Marko and approved her ready to be examined for ordination pending a call
- Approved Candidate Kristofer Zammiti ready to negotiate for service

At its meeting On August 19, 2026

- Approved taking Inquirer Akilah Atkinson (Govans) to presbytery for examination on her sense of call and advancement to candidacy.
- Approved taking Inquirer Emma Kate Lander (First Annapolis) to presbytery for examination on her sense of call and advancement to candidacy.

Commission on Thriving Leaders and Churches

At its meeting on May 26, 2026, the commission formally recognized two new worshipping communities;

- Wild Grace (sponsored by First Presbyterian of Westminster, Heather von Marko supervising minister)
- East Africa Presbyterian Church of Baltimore (sponsored by Baltimore Presbytery,)

Property and Loan Commission

At a meeting on May 21, 2026, the commission approved Good Shepherd's loan application to PILP (Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program) for \$314,000 to be used in the renovation of their Children's Center which serves 45 children from the surrounding community.

Gathering Team

At its meeting on August 7, 2025, confirmed the following dates for Presbytery meetings through 2027 pending approval by presbytery.

DATES FOR 2027 STATED MEETINGS

Thursday	November 19, 2026	10-noon	hybrid at Cumberland Presbyterian
Thursday	March 18, 2027	10-noon	zoom,
Thursday	May 20, 2027	10-noon	hybrid,

Saturday	September 11, 2027	10-2	in-person
Thursday	November 18, 2027	10-noon	hybrid.

Steering Cabinet

Through an email vote on August 31, 2026, the cabinet unanimously approved the formation of an Administrative Commission to work with the session of First and Franklin Presbyterian to re-establish adequate administrative and financial controls and transparent financial reporting. The members appointed are: TE Carl Wilton, HR; RE Reid Spearman and RE Keith Glennan (Catonsville); TE Janna VanderWoude, Christ Memorial. The commission has original jurisdiction in finances ***if needed*** but is expected to work in partnership with the session.