

## **CALLED MEETING OF THE PRESBYTERY OF BALTIMORE**

**May 8, 2025 via Zoom**

### **MINUTES**

Under the provisions of our Manual section 3.8, Moderator Soung Baranowski called a special meeting of the presbytery for the purpose of considering the request of the Rev. Laurie Hogge to transfer her ordination and membership from the Christian Reformed Church in North America (CRCNA) to the PCUSA and Baltimore Presbytery.

Moderator Soung Baranowski called the meeting to order at 10AM and opened with prayer. Mary Gaut, Stated Clerk, confirmed there was a quorum present.

The Moderator introduced Rev. Mark Phillips, chair of the Commission on Preparation for Ministry, who explained that Rev. Laurie Hogge was seeking a transfer of her ordination from the CRCNA, another reformed denomination, under the provisions of G-2.0505. He briefly summarized the process the commission engaged to review her qualifications and attest that her ordination meets the constitutional requirements for ordination in the PCUSA. He explained the urgency brought about by the time-line imposed by the CRCNA

He introduced Rev. Hogge who shared how the changes in the CRCNA which now requires congregations and Ministers of Word to officially ascribed to a conservative interpretation of the Heidelberg Catechism concerning non-heterosexual relationships, has led her to seek membership in the PCUSA which she finds more theologically compatible. She gave an overview of her work as a chaplain with the Hospice of the Chesapeake and how she felt the integrity of that ministry was dependent on being open and accepting of all people. Additionally, she grew up at Babcock Memorial Presbyterian, PCUSA, and this transfer would be, in a sense, a coming home.

After a time for questions, which included many affirmations of Rev. Hogge and her request, she was moved to a waiting room.

Rev. Phillips moved on behalf of the Commission on Preparation for Ministry that under the provisions of G-2.0505(2) the ordination exams be waived for Rev. Laurie Hogge. There was no discussion, and the motion was APPROVED by more than the required 2/3 majority.

He then moved that Rev. Laurie Hogge's ordination be transferred to the PCUSA and that she be enrolled as a member of Baltimore Presbytery. The motion was APPROVED.

The moderator recognized Rev. Mary Speers, chair of the Commission on Ministry who moved, on behalf of the commission, that the position of Chaplain at Hospice of the Chesapeake be approved as a validated ministry. There was no discussion and the motion was APPROVED.

Rev. Hogge was returned from the waiting room to expressions of joy and affirmation. Rev. Sue Lowcock Harris offered a prayer of blessing.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned by common consent and closed with prayer by Moderator Baranowski.

Respectfully submitted  
Mary D. Gaut, Stated Clerk

### **ATTENDANCE**

Teaching Elders: Melissa Lopez, Mihee Kim-Kort, Jenn McCullough, Dorothy Boulton, Jessie Lowry, Cat Goodrich, Mark Phillips, Andrew Kort, Matthew Glasgow, John Carlson, Ron Hankins, Kim Nofel, Hal Bennett, Jenn DeFrancesco, Ray Meute, Laura Hollister, Kenneth Page, Carl Wilton, Claire Pula, McKenna Wallen, Amy Carlson, Edwin Lacy, Jackie Taylor, Mary Gaut, Michele Wallen, Mary Speers

Ruling Elders: Helen Krone, Norman Lazarus, Kathy Welsh Smith, Debbie Schmidt, James Schroll, Emanuel Nixon, Cheryl Spezzano, Judy Binkley, Stephen Plano, Patricia Allingham, Soung Baranowski, Catherine Blacka, Debbie Richmond, Jon Barnett, Joseph Banks, Carol Mason,

Guests: Rev. Laurie Hogge, Felicia Scott, Frank Perrelli