

Report from Committee on Nominations and Representation: May 2023

The Committee on Nominations and Representation recommends:

1. The following as members on commissions and committees:

Thriving Congregations Commission: RE Karen Garrett (Knox), class of 2026; RE Tina Coleman (Harundale) class of 2026

Spiritual Leader Development Commission: RE Pete McCallum (Highland) class of 2024; RE Heather Russell (Westminster) class of 2026

Commission on Reconciliation: TE Eric Koenig-Reinke (2nd) class of 2025; TE Roger Rice (HR), class of 2026; TE Jeong Han (Korean United) class of 2026

Commission on Ministry: TE Alison Peters (Cumberland), class of 2026; RE Shirley Reiner (1st of Bel Air), class of 2026; RE Mike Kahn (Granite), class of 2026; TE Hal Bennett (Grove), class of 2026

Commission on Preparation for Ministry: RE Pat Foye (Annapolis), class of 2026

Trustees: RE Brooke Schumm (2nd), class of 2026; RE Helen Krone (Annapolis), class of 2026

Nominating Committee: TE McKenna Llewellyn (Maryland) class of 2026

Gathering Team: TE Jenn DiFrancesco (Havenwood/Slate Project), class of 2026

Administration Committee: TE McKenna Llewellyn (Maryland) class of 2025; TE Christa Burns (HR), class of 2026.

Personnel Committee: TE Scott Hoffman (Christ Memorial), class of 2026; TE Keith Paige (Cherry Hill) class of 2026

Synod Committee on Representation: TE Mary Speers (HR), class of 2025

Synod Nominating Committee: RE Barbara Yancy (Lochearn), class of 2026

2. Vice-Moderator (2023-2024): RE Soung Hee Baranowski (Havre de Grace)

Soung Hee was born and raised in Seoul, South Korea. She grew up influenced by Confucianism and Buddhism. In Korean culture, it was believed that many sons (and not daughters) brought many blessings to the family. Soung Hee writes: "I was born the third daughter among four girls and my parents only had one son. I wasn't very welcome at birth. Despite my background, I went to middle school, high school and college founded by Christian missionaries. From the seed that was planted, I became a Christian after I immigrated to America in 1979.... I tried so hard not to be burden to my parents. I wanted to be strong, smart and independent like a son. But I was wounded, fragile and lonely.

The first time I heard the voice of God was during the first Bible study at my house in 1985. "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened." (Matthew 7:7) When I heard that voice, I knew it was God because nobody knew I needed help. Immediately, I asked God to forgive my sin and I accepted Jesus for my Savior. It was a miracle that I was a sinner before and now I became a righteous one."

Her parents wished for a boy, not a girl. She came to America following the American dream to be rich, and yet became a follower of Jesus. She says: "It wasn't my plan but God's plan. I did not have any idea to be a Vice-Moderator... and now I am. Always his plan, not mine. I trust his plan to prosper us and give us hope and a future for Baltimore Presbytery." (Jeremiah 29:11)

Soung Hee retired from her own insurance business in 2017, and has four grandchildren aged 12 years to 1 month. She is a ruling elder at Havre de Grace Presbyterian Church.

3. Moderator 2023-2024: TE Andrew Connors (Brown Memorial)

Andrew Connors has been Senior Pastor at Brown Memorial Presbyterian Church since 2004. From 2010-2021 he served as clergy co-chair of Baltimoreans United in Leadership Development (BUILD), a local affiliate of the Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF) and Maryland's largest citizen's power organization. One of the founders of NEXT Church, a national movement among Presbyterians excited about the future of the Presbyterian Church (USA), he has also served as co-chair. He serves on several nonprofit boards and is a frequent contributor to journals and commentaries. Andrew holds degrees from Duke University and Columbia Theological Seminary and was the 2001 recipient of the David H.C. Read Preaching Award.

The following positions remain open. Every attempt is made to keep a balance between ruling and teaching elders. If you (or someone you know) might be interested in talking about one of these positions, please contact Nominating/Representation Chair:

TE Deborah McEachran, dmceachran@hrpc.comcastbiz.net, 443-462-7154

Thriving Congregations Commission: RE Class of 2025, RE class of 2026

Spiritual Leader Development Commission: RE class of 2026

Personnel Committee: RE class of 2024, RE class of 2025

Administration Committee: RE or church member, class of 2026

Trustee: TE class of 2026

Nominating Committee: TE class of 2026

Synod Commissioner: RE class of 2026