

**Summary of 120th stated meeting of the Presbytery of the James
June 10, 2025 – Hybrid Meeting at the Bon Air Church, Richmond, VA
For the full details of the reports consult the links for this stated meeting.**

Moderator TE Josh Andrzejewski called the meeting to order with prayer with a welcome and land acknowledgements at 9:30 AM, following a time of preparation for the day and for the conduct of the meeting. A quorum was present.

The agenda for the day was presented and adopted. Various persons were introduced, including a large number of first-time commissioners and guests.

The retirements of TEs Richard Haney and Mary Bielen were noted.

Attendance:

170 persons total (99 in person, 71 on Zoom) including:

78 ministers (48 in person, 30 on Zoom)

75 ruling elders (40 in person, 35 on Zoom)

17 guests (11 in person, 6 on Zoom)

With 52 sessions represented

Presbytery convened for worship with TE James Taneti delivering the sermon.

Following a break, presbytery business commenced. Due to the absence of Temporary Stated Clerk RE Barry Parks, **TE R. Charles Grant, HR, was elected Temporary Stated Clerk *pro tem* for the meeting by acclamation.** RE James Allison served as Parliamentarian.

SC pro tem Grant moved **the Consent Agenda, which was adopted** with two items being removed for individual consideration. SC Grant then presented the Stated Clerk's report, which included that Investigating Committees IC-2024-01 and IC-2024-03 had concluded their work and no charges would be filed. He then reported the Permanent Judicial Commission had approved an alternate form of resolution in the case of IC-2024-2, resulting in the censure of rebuke being delivered to the offending party.

Reports by Temporary General Presbyter TE Kerry Foster and Mission Council Moderator TE Joel Morgan were received for information.

RE Webb Moore, President of the Trustees, reported the anticipated settlements in the sales of church properties, including the Mechanicsville Church. In accordance with presbytery policies regarding such sales, **Presbytery ratified the trustees' action.**

Later in the meeting (see Special Financial Group report below) Presbytery **approved The Trustees revision of Section 4.3 of the Bylaws as follows: "A review of the statement of financial position, and the related statement of activities, functional expenses, and cash flows and the related notes to the financial statements will be conducted each year by a qualified public accounting firm."**

[the existing ByLaws call for a financial *audit*]

The 11:10 order of the day having arrived a little early, TE Nicole Ball presented the CPM report, bringing forth inquirer Natasha Taylor to be examined for advancement to candidacy. Ms Taylor shared her sense of call to the ministry. Her examination was enthusiastically approved. After answering the required Constitutional questions and receiving a charge, prayer was offered and **Natasha Taylor was enrolled as a candidate for the ministry of Word and Sacrament.**

TE Joseph Tabor reported for the Commission on Ministry. **Presbytery approved the Minimum Terms of Call for 2026.** After some discussion and amendment, **Presbytery approved a number of COM policies and a revision of the COM Manual of Operations.**

TE David Forney reported for the Special Finance Group, walking the presbytery through the SFG's process, findings, and recommendations. The discussion ended in time for the noon Lunch Order of the Day. Blessing for the meal was offered by Vice Moderator CRE Peggy Fox. A delicious lunch was enjoyed by over 70 of the gathered commissioners and guests.

Following lunch presbytery reconvened to consider the Special Finance Group report. There was discussion regarding the proposal for annual financial REVIEWS of the presbytery finances (current policy calls for an AUDIT; recent practice has been annual REVIEWS). An amendment was considered that would require an AUDIT of the finances every three years but was **not adopted.**

SFG individual recommendations and **the full report were adopted** through a series of votes:

Motion ONE dealt with the matter of annual reviews of the presbytery's finances by recommending the Trustee's amendment of their ByLaws to mandate annual reviews instead of an annual audit.

Motion TWO was to "amend and restate" the existing Resource Management Policy through a comprehensive revision of the Presbytery's foundational financial governance document.

Motion THREE, which was not included in the original meeting packet stated:

"Upon adoption of the Resource Management Policy (RMP), the Presbytery of the James directs the Trustees to consolidate all previously established designated funds into the Presbytery's Investment Fund, unless a designated fund is explicitly referenced in the RMP. The following designated funds are named in the RMP and shall remain distinct: Operational Reserve Fund (III.C.4), Capital Maintenance Fund (VI.D.1), Resurrection Fund (VII.C.2), and Reparative Action Fund (VII.C.3). The Trustees shall prepare a summary report of the consolidated and remaining designated funds and present it to the Presbytery with the proposed 2026 budget."

With adoption of SFG's report in full, Presbytery further adopted the SFG's motion FOUR, which was to **dismiss the Special Finance Group with gratitude for its faithful and diligent service.** Presbytery expressed its gratitude with enthusiastic applause.

Moderator Josh noting the appointed business of the day had been completed, **declared the meeting adjourned at 1:10 PM** and closed the meeting with prayer.

R. Charles Grant

Temporary Stated Clerk *pro tem* for the day