



115th Stated Meeting • Saturday, October 21, 2023
Hybrid Meeting Zoom/Westminster Church, Richmond
4103 Monument Ave. Richmond VA 23230

Registration Information

Ministers and Clerks of Session: We will need to know the names and contact information (email and phone number) for your commissioners ahead of time. Please email this information to Barbara Espigh at barbara@presbyteryofthejames.org, or if you do not have internet access, please leave a message: 804-262-2074 ext. 301.

All attendees: Please use the link below to access registration on our website, even if you intend to attend in person. You will be asked for your name, a phone number where you can be contacted on the day/time of the meeting, whether you plan to attend in person or via Zoom, your church’s name and city, and whether you are a ruling elder commissioner (a ruling elder who was elected by the church session to represent the congregation), ruling elder serving as moderator of a POJ committee, minister member, commissioned pastor (CRE), certified Christian educator, or guest. All registrants will receive an email from Zoom including information regarding virtual meeting access. Please save that email to use on October 21 to log in to the meeting should you prefer to attend via Zoom.

There will be absolutely NO additional advance registrations allowed after the deadline, so please be sure to register prior to noon on Friday, October 20. If you miss the deadline and wish to attend the meeting, you will need to attend in person.

Registration: <https://www.presbyteryofthejames.com/stated-meetings/>

Thank you for your flexibility as we work on perfecting our hybrid format. If you have questions or concerns not covered in the above information, please contact Barbara Espigh at barbara@presbyteryofthejames.org.

****Emails and calls will be returned during POJ office hours Monday – Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.****

Overture Deadline: Overtures must be at the presbytery office by noon eight (8) weeks prior to a meeting. For the February 17, 2024 meeting, the deadline will be noon on December 21, 2023.

Upcoming Stated Meetings

November 16, 2023 – Called Meeting.....	TBA
February 17, 2024	Invitation needed
June 18, 2024.....	Invitation needed
October 19, 2024.....	Invitation needed

General Information

At their earliest opportunity, each moderator or clerk of session is requested to put Sections I and II of this packet in the hands of the ruling elder commissioner(s) representing their church. Participants should thoroughly review Section II of the packet prior to the meeting to become familiar with the topics that will be discussed and voted on.

- ◆ **Presbytery convenes promptly at 9:30 a.m.**
- ◆ **To participate in person:** We are asking all attendees to register online and receive a Zoom link. This will help you attend virtually should your plans change at the last minute. On the day of the meeting, check-in begins at 8:30 a.m. Please check in with POJ staff/volunteers to receive your nametag and be counted present.
- ◆ **To participate via Zoom, you must have completed registration before the deadline (noon on October 20).** The Zoom link will open at 9:00 a.m. for all commissioners and attendees. Please have ready prior to the meeting what you plan to use as your elements for the Lord's Supper.

Excused Absences: All ministers and sessions are reminded that email excuses are required for absences to be approved. Please plan to stay logged in for the entire meeting and attend to all matters. Please send excuses to office@presbyteryofthejames.org.

Physical Location Information:

- ◆ **Address:** Westminster Presbyterian Church is located at 4103 Monument Ave. Richmond, VA 23230.
- ◆ **Facility Accessibility:** Persons with disabilities will find the facility accessible. The accessible entrance is the door at the back of the church near the office.
- ◆ **Parking:** There is a limited amount of parking in the alley behind the building. Street parking is available around the building, including on Monument Avenue.
- ◆ **Child Care:** There will be no child care available at this meeting.
- ◆ **Meals:** Please bring your own bagged lunch or snack. Coffee and refreshments will be provided during registration.
- ◆ **Wi-Fi:** Please download the packet to your laptop, tablet or other device prior to arriving at the church. We would respectfully ask that you refrain from connecting to the Wi-Fi so that we may reserve maximum bandwidth for those running the virtual side of the meeting. Please do not use your Zoom link if you are attending in person. Thank you for your cooperation.

Motions/Amendments:

- ◆ Should you wish to make a motion, please fill out a motion form, which may be found at the registration table or near the microphone in the meeting space. When you have completed your motion form, present it to the Stated Clerk. If you are on Zoom, use the motion form on the stated meeting page of the POJ website and email it to the Stated Clerk at statedclerk@presbyteryofthejames.org. If possible, please present it to the Stated Clerk prior to making your motion.

A blank motion form has been included in this document on page 4.

Health Expectations

It is important to prioritize the health and safety of all attendees at any meeting of the Presbytery, committees, commissions, teams, workshops, etc. By adhering to these health expectations, we can help mitigate the spread of COVID-19, the flu, or any other airborne or contagious illnesses, and create a safe and welcoming environment for all participants.

1. Participation in the meeting includes possible exposure to and illness from COVID-19 and other illnesses. Following recommendations for being vaccinated and attending to healthy practices may reduce the risk, but the risk of serious illness and death does exist. By attending the meeting, you knowingly assume the risks.
2. Please do not attend the in-person meeting if you feel sick or if you have tested positive for COVID-19 anytime 7 days prior to the meeting. If someone comes in your stead, please let the Presbytery staff (Barbara Espigh at barbara@presbyteryofthejames.org) know who that person is before the meeting starts.
3. If you experience any of the symptoms associated with COVID-19 or other illnesses while attending the meeting, please notify the stated clerk immediately and avoid contact with other persons attending the meeting.
4. Even if you are vaccinated, you are invited to wear a mask and keep a comfortable distance from others if you choose to do so for any reason.
5. Please bring a mask to the meeting. If requested by the POJ moderator for health reasons for any of the group, we ask that you agree to wear the mask.
6. Frequent hand washing is highly recommended. All attendees are strongly encouraged to wash their hands regularly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, hand sanitizer should be used.

Following public health guidelines such as wearing masks and getting tested can feel inconvenient or uncomfortable at times, but they are important measures to protect ourselves and those around us from the spread of infectious diseases. By taking these actions, we are showing empathy and consideration for others, and doing our part to keep our communities safe and healthy. It's important to remember that we are all in this together, and small actions can have a big impact on the health and well-being of our families, friends, and neighbors.

Adopted by the Mission Council, May 17, 2023
Approved by Presbytery June 20, 2023

**Presbytery of the James Worship
October 21, 2023**

☩= Please stand in body or in spirit.

☩ Call to Worship

RE Barbara Chalfant

The LORD is my light and my salvation;
whom shall we fear?

**The LORD is the stronghold of our lives;
of whom shall we be afraid?**

We have sure faith
**that we will experience the LORD's goodness
in the land of the living!**

Hope in the LORD!

Be strong! Let your hearts take courage!

Hope in the LORD!

☩ Hymn no. 409

“God is Here!”

☩ Call to Confession

If we say that we are without sin,
we are strangers to ourselves and who we are as human beings.
Yet, if we confess our sin,
we trust that in God there is forgiveness.
Let us confess our sins together.

☩ Prayer of Confession

**Great God of deliverance,
You have worked through people
throughout the ages to bring rescue and healing.**

**We confess that we are timid and lazy disciples,
hemmed in with anxiety about the future,
and closing our minds to new possibilities.**

**We allow our fears about survival
and our desires for comfort
to keep us from venturing out beyond our comfort zone.**

Lord, forgive us.

This week I will pray for courage.

Silent Prayer

✠ Assurance of Pardon

As far as the east is from the west so far does God remove our sins from us.
Friends, trust God. Trust God’s love. Trust God’s forgiveness.
Trust that God will provide.
Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

Prayer for Illumination

TE Chris Burton

Scripture Reading

Acts 27:27-44 (NRSV)

When the fourteenth night had come, as we were drifting across the Adriatic Sea, about midnight the sailors suspected that they were nearing land. So, they took soundings and found twenty fathoms; a little farther on they took soundings again and found fifteen fathoms. Fearing that we might run on the rocks, they let down four anchors from the stern and prayed for day to come. But when the sailors tried to escape from the ship and had lowered the boat into the sea on the pretext of putting out anchors from the bow, Paul said to the centurion and the soldiers, “Unless these men stay in the ship, you cannot be saved.” Then the soldiers cut away the ropes of the boat and set it adrift.

Just before daybreak, Paul urged all of them to take some food, saying, “Today is the fourteenth day that you have been in suspense and remaining without food, having eaten nothing. Therefore, I urge you to take some food, for it will help you survive, for none of you will lose a hair from your heads.” After he had said this, he took bread, and giving thanks to God in the presence of all, he broke it and began to eat. Then all of them were encouraged and took food for themselves. (We were in all two hundred seventy-six persons in the ship.) After they had satisfied their hunger, they lightened the ship by throwing the wheat into the sea.

In the morning they did not recognize the land, but they noticed a bay with a beach on which they planned to run the ship ashore if they could. So, they cast off the anchors and left them in the sea. At the same time, they loosened the ropes that tied the steering-oars; then hoisting the foresail to the wind, they made for the beach. But striking a reef, they ran the ship aground; the bow stuck and remained immovable, but the stern was being broken up by the force of the waves. The soldiers’ plan was to kill the prisoners, so that none might swim away and escape; but the centurion, wishing to save Paul, kept them from carrying out their plan. He ordered those who could swim to jump overboard first and make for the land and the rest to follow, some on planks and others on pieces of the ship. And so it was that all were brought safely to land.

Sermon

TE Chris Burton

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Necrology

TE Charles Grant

Solo

Maya Collins

The Celebration of the Lord's Supper

TE Leigh Anne Ring, TE Chris Burton

Invitation

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Let us join together in prayer.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord.

It is right to give our thanks and praise...

(The celebrant continues to pray and all join in with the Lord's Prayer.)

The Lord's Prayer

The Sharing in the Bread and Cup

(Participants are invited to come forward from the center aisle to one of the serving stations beginning with the first rows. Please return to your seats by the side aisle.)

✠ **Hymn 326** "For All the Saints Who from Their Labors Rest"

✠ **Charge and Benediction**

Worship Leaders

Dr. Christopher Burton is Director of the Leadership Institute at Union Presbyterian Seminary.

Barbara Chalfant is a ruling elder and the Presbyter for Congregational Life of the POJ.

Maya Collins is the Music Intern at Gayton Kirk Presbyterian Church

Rev. R. Charles Grant is the Temporary Stated Clerk of the POJ.

Rev. Leigh Anne Ring is the Presbyter for Relational Care of the POJ.

Kenna Payne is a ruling elder and the organist and Choir Director at Westminster Presbyterian, Richmond, VA.

Necrology

Ruling Elders

Amelia	Judy Marchese
Bethlehem	John Crowder
Bon Air	Joan Baker, Dave Berg, Jean Sellars Hamlett, Nancy Miller, Norman Negaard
Brandermill	Sue Akin
Byrd	Lowe Lunsford
Campbell Memorial	Rebecca Ford*
Charlottesville First	Betsy Critzer, Edward “Ed” Dinwiddie, Ralph Hathaway, Margaret Wood
Chester	Marion Johnson, Ed Martin, Doris Morris, Beth Smith
Colonial Heights	Betty H. Lawrence, Henry “Hank” Vencil
Cove	Richard Bruce Napier
Fairfield	Everette Walle
Ginter Park	Suzanne (Suzi) Horner, Matilde (Mati) Kathleen Moros
Grace Covenant	John M. Nevins, George Norris
Laurel	Gladys Watson Bowles, Claudia Gray Stephenson Hicks
Meadows	Nancy Goodrich, Marlyn Hochstetler, Harold Olinger, Norman Pearson
Mechanicsville	Craig Martin, Mary Lee Peroe
Ogden	Robert Daniel Bruce, Jr., Helen Bruce
Olivet	June Herrington, Lee McCauley
Overbrook	Miriam Bailey, Stuart Jones
Petersburg Second	Gloria Baker Rose, Albert L. “Al” West
Richmond First	Max Cisne, Bob Hill, Pattie Sewell, Mildred St. Leger, Don Whitley, Jane Willis, Charles Winkler
Richmond Second	Lorraine Rayburn Abernathy, John Victor Moeser, Louisa Sager Sheets Yeuell
River Road	Stephen G. Sewell, Daniel M. Teng
Rockfish	Ed Dinwiddie, Haywood France, Ray Koon, Bruce Shafferman, Doug White
Salisbury	Gary Sypolt
Southminster	Amy Pond
St. Andrews	Jean Wiggs
Tabor	Joe Balmer Shaver
Tappahannock	John Colby
Three Chopt	David Ambruster, Carolyn “Cammy” Martin Bryan

Ruling Elders (continued)

Tuckahoe	Ruth Ann Hoge
Westminster Charlottesville	Phil Best, James Brinkerhoff, Jean Newsom, John Owen

Commissioned Pastors

Sue Bell	Member of Laurel Church; served as chaplain for Henrico County Police Department; 9/19/2023
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Ministers of the Word and Sacrament

Rev. David McFarlane	10/16/2022
Rev. Doris "Dodie" Rossell	5/29/2023
Rev. Daniel Hale	7/31/2023
Rev. Carroll Londoner*	9/3/2023

* Past Moderator, Presbytery of the James