



*Our Mission: To support leaders, congregations, and ministries in growing followers of Jesus Christ who joyfully live out God's mission in the world.*

**119<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting • Saturday, February 15, 2025,  
Hybrid Meeting Zoom/First Church, Richmond  
4602 Cary Street Rd., Richmond, VA 23226  
Section I – Registration and Worship Information**

### **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](mailto: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 ruling elder, certified Christian educator, Corresponding Member (member of another presbytery), or guest. All registrants will receive an email from Zoom including information regarding virtual meeting access. Please save that email to use on February 15 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, February 14. 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/>

If you have questions or concerns not covered in the above information, please contact Barbara Espigh at [barbara@presbyteryofthejames.org](mailto: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 June 17, 2025, meeting, the deadline will be noon on April 22, 2025.

#### **Upcoming Stated Meetings**

June 17, 2025.....	Bon Air Church, N. Chesterfield
October 18, 2025.....	Invitation needed
February 21, 2026.....	Invitation needed

## General Information

At their earliest opportunity, each moderator or clerk of session is requested to put Sections I, II and III 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 February 14).** The Zoom link will open at 9:00 a.m. for all commissioners and attendees. If you are participating virtually by phone, please use \*6 to mute or unmute and \*9 to raise or lower your virtual hand.

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

### Physical Location Information:

- ◆ **Address:** First Presbyterian Church is located at 4602 Cary Street Rd, Richmond, VA 23226.
- ◆ **Parking and Facility Accessibility:** Welcome to First Presbyterian Church, Richmond! Off-street parking is available. There are elevators to all areas of the church. There is a private, all-gender bathroom available.
- ◆ **Childcare:** Childcare is available for \$20/child for those who request it [using this link](#) by **Feb. 7**. Parents will need to provide all drinks, snacks, and food for their children. Childcare is primarily geared toward children five and under. If you need care for an older child, please contact [nursery@fpcrichmond.org](mailto:nursery@fpcrichmond.org).
- ◆ **Meals:** Thanks to a generous, anonymous donation, lunch will be provided. There will be gluten free and vegan options available.
- ◆ **Wi-Fi:** Please download the packet to your laptop, tablet, or other device prior to arriving at the meeting location. 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 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](mailto: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 6.

## Expectations for Boundary Training

For your safety and ours, the presbytery expects all teaching and ruling elders attending presbytery meetings to have had boundary training. Commissioners who attend events sponsored by the Presbytery of the James agree to be governed by the boundaries policy and behave accordingly.

Boundary training is designed to promote healthy relationships and prevent sexual misconduct, harassment, racial discrimination, microaggressions, and gender bias. The goal is to maintain personal awareness, avoid risky behavior and use appropriate settings to keep behavior healthy and appropriate. Boundary training should address:

- Addressing harassment, discrimination, and bias
- Confronting Racial Discrimination
- Recognizing biases and systemic issues
- Overcoming Gender Bias
- Awareness and promoting gender equity
- Creating a Culture of Respect and Safety
- Bystander expectations - “if you see something say something”

Adopted by the Mission Council May 15, 2024

*This policy on boundary training brings the Presbytery of the James into compliance with our Book of Order. That said, we acknowledge that not all congregations may have had the opportunity to train ruling elder commissioners to the Presbytery. Regardless of a commissioner’s status on the training, all attendees are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that respects appropriate boundaries of their fellow attendees.*

## 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](mailto: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

## **Ruling Elder Commissioners from Each Session January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2025**

### **Four Ruling Elder Commissioners from congregations having 900 or more members:**

First Charlottesville, First Richmond

### **Three Ruling Elder Commissioners from congregations having from 600 to 899 members:**

Brandermill, Salisbury

### **Two Ruling Elder Commissioners from congregations having 144 to 599 members:**

Bon Air, Chester, Culpeper, Fairfield, Fredericksburg, Ginter Park, Grace Covenant, Hebron, Lord Jesus, Korean, Meadows, Olivet, River Road, Rockfish, Second, Southminster, Summit, Swift Creek, Three Chopt, Tuckahoe, Westminster Charlottesville, Westminster Richmond

### **One Ruling Elder Commissioner from congregations having 143 or fewer members:**

Aberdour, All Souls, Amelia, Amptill, Ashland, Bethesda, Bethlehem, Blackstone, Blue Ridge, Bott Memorial, Brett Reed Memorial, Burkeville, Byrd, Campbell Memorial, Colonial Heights, Concord, Cove, Covenant, Eastminster, Ebenezer, First Chase City, First Emporia, First Hopewell, First United, Forest Hill, Gayton Kirk, Genito, Gregory Memorial, Hartwood, Hawkins Memorial, Holy Trinity, Kings Chapel, Kirk O'Cliff, Laurel, Lawrenceville, Louisa, Madison, Mattoax, Milden, Milford, Mitchells, New Hanover, Oak Grove, Ogden, Orange, Overbrook, Pine Grove, Praise The Lord, Providence Forge, Providence Gum Springs, Providence Powhatan, Pryor Memorial, Rennie Memorial, Rivermont, Rosewood, Salem, Sandston, Scottsville, Second Petersburg, South Hill, South Plains, St Andrews, St James, Tabor, Tappahannock, Thyne Memorial, Trinity, Village, Waddell Memorial, Westminster Petersburg, Woodlawn, Woodville, Zion Hill

## **Presbytery of the James News**

If you would like to be added to the mailing list to receive our e-newsletter, the Current, please visit <https://www.presbyteryofthejames.com/news/current/> to subscribe.

The POJ has a [Facebook](#) page as well as a [private Facebook group](#) which gives you a forum to seek the expertise of others, share your experience, and invite others to your congregation's events.

You may contact the POJ office at [office@presbyteryofthejames.org](mailto:office@presbyteryofthejames.org) with news to share in the Current or on POJ social media.



## Teaching Elders of the Presbytery Milestone Anniversaries of Ordination

As we begin 2025, the Presbytery wishes to recognize its teaching elders who will be celebrating five-year milestone anniversaries of their ordination in the coming year. We list them below with each person's date of ordination. We extend our congratulations to each one of them.

### 65 Years

- Xel Sant'anna, January 10, 1960

### 60 Years

- O. Benjamin Sparks, May 27, 1965
- Frederick Noll, June 13, 1965
- Harold Horan, July 15, 1965

### 55 Years

- Timothy Limburg, September 1, 1970
- Douglas McMurry, November 1, 1970

### 50 Years

- Stephen Brown, February 2, 1975
- David Knupp, March 4, 1975
- Robert Knox III, September 16, 1975
- Graham Patterson, October 26, 1975
- H. Carson Rhyne Jr., November 9, 1975

### 45 Years

- Brian Blount, January 1, 1980
- Charles Philips, June 20, 1980
- Gary Charles, July 20, 1980
- Rosalind Banbury, September 20, 1980
- Staney Skreslet, October 18, 1980
- Ronald Bullis, November 13, 1980
- William Nickels, November 16, 1980

### 40 Years

- Brenda Walker, May 31, 1985
- Mark Sprowl, August 5, 1985
- W. Clay Macaulay, September 8, 1985

### 35 Years

- Johann O'Connell, March 9, 1990
- Michael Jones, September 16, 1990

### 30 Years

- Terry Diebold, April 8, 1995
- John Grotz, September 24, 1995

### **25 Years**

- Nancy Clark, February 20, 2000
- Thomas Goodrich, August 13, 2000
- Archibald Wallace III, November 5, 2000
- Lauren Ramseur, November 11, 2000

### **20 Years**

- Michelle Freeman Owens, June 19, 2005
- Jewell-Ann Parton, September 25, 2005

### **15 Years**

- Igmara Sanchez Prunier, June 6, 2010
- David Barry, November 14, 2010

### **10 Years**

- Shannon Waite Hendricks, January 18, 2015
- Michael Weiglein, June 14, 2015
- Stephen Hitchcock, October 17, 2015

### **5 Years**

- Peter Hawisher-Faul, January 19, 2020
- Matthew Messenger, February 29, 2020
- Anna Gheen, September 27, 2020
- Ashley Diaz Mejias, October 24, 2020
- Russel Kerr, November 15, 2020
- Nathan Lee Taylor, November 22, 2020
- Samuel Shields, December 13, 2020



## Worship

**Prelude**

**Welcome**

the Rev. Amy Starr Redwine  
First Presbyterian Church, Richmond

**Opening Prayer**

**Hymn: *God of Grace and God of Glory***

**#307, *Glory to God***

**Call to Confession**

**Prayer of Confession (unison)**

**Almighty God, you love us, but we have not loved you. You call, but we have not listened. We walk away from neighbors in need, wrapped in our own concerns. We condone evil, prejudice, warfare, and greed. God of grace, help us to admit our sin, so that as you come to us in mercy, we may repent, turn to you, and receive forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our redeemer.**

**Assurance of Pardon**

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Scripture**

Psalm 29  
Numbers 27:1-11

*This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.***

**Sermon**

“Empowered to Speak” the Rev. Crystal Varner Parker,  
Providence Forge Presbyterian Church

**Prayers of the People & Lord’s Prayer**

the Rev. Noah Morgan  
Hebron Presbyterian Church

**Hymn: *O for a World***

**#372, *Glory to God***

**Benediction**

the Rev. Crystal Varner Parker

**Postlude**