

March 2026 Mission Council update for the Current

Dear Friends in Christ,

I want to share a brief update from Mission Council as we move through the first quarter of 2026.

### **Accounting and financial oversight**

Mission Council spent significant time in January through March working with Trustward and our new accounting structures. The **Accounting Task Force** has been instrumental in aligning our accounting with our Resource Management Policy. In February, we also approved the creation of a **Finance sub-committee** to help guide this work going forward. They will meet monthly beginning in April to oversee Trustward and support Kerry Foster, who serves as Treasurer. They report to the Mission Council. In March, we approved a new firm to complete our financial review for 2025.

### **Mission, funds, and grant processes**

The Accounting Task Force also made important recommendations regarding the reclassification of several legacy funds to ensure they are used more clearly and faithfully for current ministry needs. Mission Council also approved the formation of a **grant application task force** to help develop a process for the **Resurrection Fund** and **Reparative Action Fund**. This work will help us steward these resources with greater clarity and accountability.

### **Staffing and leadership**

The Personnel Committee is continuing to develop a review process for the General Presbyter/Stated Clerk role, and Mission Council is preparing for the next steps in our staffing transition. In March, Joel and Jen Rowe also provided orientation to the search committee for the **Transitional General Presbyter/Stated Clerk** position. We are grateful to all who are helping move this process forward with care. Please keep the search committee and this process in your prayers for finding the right person for this position.

### **Presbytery structure and governance**

In January, Mission Council continued work on the **Manual of Administrative Operations**, incorporating feedback from listening sessions and preparing a revised version for Presbytery, which was voted on at the February POJ meeting. In March, we made more nominations to the Committee on Nominations, which will, when approved by the Presbytery, fill all the positions on the committee.

### **Congregational and property matters**

Mission Council also spent time on matters related to congregations and property. In March, we approved the formation of an **Administrative Commission for Ebenezer Presbyterian Church**, which will come before the POJ for approval. We also continued to receive updates on the **Forest Hill Administrative Commission**, which is now studying long-term property needs and possibilities. There are also ongoing conversations about the possible sale of the POJ office

building, and any such move would require Presbytery approval. We are also reviewing insurance coverage for all POJ properties to ensure good stewardship.

**Mission priorities and communication**

The **Mission Priorities Sub-committee** is now in formation and will begin its work after Easter. The **Communications Task Force** presented their findings and plans to improve based on the feedback received. Both this group and the **Connections Task Force** have completed their work, for which we are grateful.

Thank you for your continued prayers, patience, and partnership in this season of transition and discernment. There is much work ahead, but I am thankful for the faithful and careful way this Presbytery continues to serve Christ together.

Please reach out to me with questions or concerns.

As I say to the Mission Council every month: As fast as we can and as slow as we must; More phone calls, fewer emails.

Grace and peace,

**Joel Morgan**

Moderator, Mission Council  
Presbytery of the James