



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

Theme for 2026 Stated Meetings: Called to Serve in Unity, Called to Give Sacrificially, Called to Love Unconditionally

**Called Special Meeting • Tuesday, May 12, 2026 • Virtual Format
via Zoom**

Section II – Agenda and Reports

Agenda

6:30 pm	Welcome Pre-Meeting Preparation and Instructions	CRE Peggy Fox
6:45 pm	Declaration of a Quorum – Call to Order – Land Acknowledgment – Opening Prayer	CRE Peggy Fox
	Adoption of the Agenda	TE Joel Morgan
	Committee on Nominations Report	TE Kate Fiedler
	Mission Council Report	TE Joel Morgan
	Trustees of Presbytery of the James, Inc.	TE Joel Morgan
7:45 pm	Anticipated time for Closing Prayer and Adjournment	CRE Peggy Fox

Meet Today's Leadership

Rev. Kate Fiedler: Moderator of CON; Associate Pastor, Second, Richmond

Rev. Kerry Foster: Bridge Stated Clerk/Temporary General Presbyter, POJ

Peggy Fox: POJ Moderator, 2026; CRE, Woodville

Rev. Shannon Hendricks: Zoom Host; Covenant Pastor, Tappahannock

Webb Moore: President, Trustees of Presbytery of the James, Inc.; Ruling Elder, Second Richmond

Rev. Joel Morgan: Moderator of Mission Council and Vice President, Trustees of Presbytery of the James, Inc.; Pastor, Campbell Memorial

Action Items

Report	Page	Item
Mission Council	7	Elections of those to serve on CON
Mission Council	7	Approval of Ebenezer Administrative Commission
Trustees	8	Sale of Presbytery office building
Mission Council	8	Allotment of funds from building sale
Mission Council/Trustees	8	Permission to pursue rental for office spaced

Presbytery of the James

Commonly Used Acronyms

Denomination-wide

PC(USA)	Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
BOC	<i>The Book of Confessions</i>
BOO	<i>Book of Order</i>
BOP	Board of Pensions
CLC	Church Leadership Connection
FDN	Presbyterian Foundation
IUA	Interim Unified Agency
OGA	Office of the General Assembly
PDA	Presbyterian Disaster Assistance
PEVA	Presbytery of Eastern Virginia
PHS	Presbyterian Historical Society
PILP	Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program
PMA	Presbyterian Mission Agency
POAMN	Presbyterian Older Adult Ministries Network
PW	Presbyterian Women

Presbytery of the James

AC	Administrative Commission
APC	Administration & Pastoral Care Committee (a committee of COM)
ARC	Anti-Racism Committee
COM	Commission on Ministry
CON	Committee on Nominations
COR	Committee on Representation
CREC	Commissioned Ruling Elder Committee (a committee of COM)
CPM	Committee on Preparation for Ministry
CPR	Church and Pastor Relations Committee (a committee of COM)
Exams	Examinations Committee (a committee of COM)
IAG	Investment Advisory Group (a committee of the Tr)
LCT	Leadership Connections Team (8 underlying ministries)
MAST	Mission & Service Team (5 underlying ministries)
MC	Mission Council
NWCT	New Worshiping Communities Team (incl. Immigrant Communities)
Personnel	Personnel Sub Committee of the Mission Council
PJC	Permanent Judicial Commission
SDOP	Self-Development of People (a ministry under MAST)
SMA	Synod of the Mid-Atlantic
Tr	Trustees (of the Corporation)
TRC	Transitional Relations Committee (subcommittee of the COM)

Rules for Presbytery Meetings

The Stated Clerk is available to assist anyone with the rules of order, proper motions to make to accomplish their purpose, and wording of motions. Please do not hesitate to seek help if needed.

1. Silence all electronic devices.
2. If you are attending in person, please do not log into the Zoom meeting. This will help maintain the proper internet bandwidth necessary to conduct the meeting.
3. If you are attending via Zoom, please mute your link until you are called upon to speak by the Moderator.
4. To seek recognition:
 - a. In person, go to the microphone and wait to be recognized by the Moderator.
 - b. Via Zoom, use the Raise Your Hand function and wait to be recognized by the Moderator.
 - c. Via phone, press *9 and wait to be recognized by the Moderator.
5. If you are attending via Zoom, do not use the Chat feature as a means of debating the motion.
6. Should you wish to make a motion, fill out a motion form found near the microphone. When you have completed your motion form, present it to the Stated Clerk. If you are on Zoom, use the motion form from the POJ website in the meeting information section and email it to the Stated Clerk—statedclerk@presbyteryofthejames.org. If possible, please present to the Stated Clerk prior to making your motion.
7. Debate on all debatable motions shall be limited to 3 minutes and 1 time per person.
8. The vote count will be tallied by the Zoom administrator and the Stated Clerk, with the results presented to the Moderator for announcement of the outcome.
9. Minutes of the meeting will be read and approved by a committee of four individuals who are known to have attended the meeting. These individuals will be selected by the Stated Clerk from two regions on a rotating basis. The Stated Clerk will report on the minutes at the next presbytery meeting.

Seeking to Be Faithful Together

from the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program

In a spirit of trust and love, we promise we will...

***Give them a hearing...
listen before we answer***
(John 7:51 and Proverbs 18:13)

1. **Treat each other respectfully so as to build trust, believing that we all desire to be faithful to Jesus the Christ.**
 - we will keep our conversations and communications open for candid and forthright exchange,
 - we will not ask questions or make statements in a way that will intimidate or judge others.
 2. **Learn about various positions on the topic of disagreement.**
 3. **State what we think we heard and ask for clarification before responding, in an effort to be sure we understand each other**
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Speak the truth in love
(Ephesians 4:15)

4. **Share our concerns directly with individuals or groups with whom we have disagreements in a spirit of love and respect in keeping with Jesus' teachings.**
 5. **Focus on ideas and suggestions instead of questioning people's motives, intelligence or integrity.**
 - we will not engage in name-calling or labeling of others prior to, during or following the discussion.
 6. **Share our personal experiences about the subject of disagreement so that others may more fully understand our concerns.**
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***Maintain the unity of the
spirit in the bond of peace***
(Ephesians 4:3)

7. **Indicate where we agree with those of other viewpoints as well as where we disagree.**
 8. **Seek to stay in community with each other though the discussion may be vigorous and full of tension.**
 - we will be ready to forgive and be forgiven.
 9. **Follow these additional guidelines when we meet in decision-making bodies:**
 - urge people of various points of view to speak and promise to listen to these positions seriously;
 - seek conclusions informed by our points of agreement;
 - be sensitive to the feelings and concerns of those who do not agree with the majority and respect their rights of conscience;
 - abide by the decision of the majority, and if we disagree with it and wish to change it, work for that change in ways that are consistent with these Guidelines.
 10. **Include our disagreement in our prayers, not praying for the triumph of our viewpoints, but seeking God's grace to listen attentively, to speak clearly and to remain open to the vision God holds for us all.**
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A Brief Guide and Reference Sheet to *Robert's Rules of Order*

Robert's Rules of Order is a guide for conducting meetings and making decisions. In order for the Presbytery to carry out its responsibilities in the most fair and orderly fashion, it is helpful for teaching and ruling elders to understand the rules of order which will be followed. Familiarity with the *Book of Order* is very helpful and, where our constitution is silent, we have the following:

“Meetings shall be conducted in accordance with the most recent edition of *Robert's Rules of Order*, except when it is in contradiction to this Constitution. Councils may also make use of processes of discernment in their deliberations prior to a vote as agreed upon by the body.” [*Book of Order*, G-3.0105]

With this in mind, the following brief overview of parliamentary procedure is provided for you. It will serve as the basis for the handling of the Presbytery's business. Your familiarity with and attention to these basic rules of order will be most appreciated.

Precedence Order	Description	Second Required?	Debatable?	Amendable?	Vote Required?
Main Motions					
1	Main (Principal) - to present a recommendation for consideration by the body	No – if coming from a committee Yes – if coming from the floor	Yes	Yes	Majority
Subsidiary Motions In order of precedence					
2	Postpone indefinitely	Yes	Yes	No	Majority
3	Amend - substituting, inserting, striking out, or striking out and replacing	Yes	Yes	Yes, but only one at a time	Majority
4	Refer / Commit to a Committee	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
5	Postpone - to a subsequent meeting	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
6	Limit or Extend Debate	Yes	No	No	2/3 vote
7	Call for the Previous Question - to end debate	Yes	No	No	2/3 vote
8	Lay on the table until later in the meeting - to take up more urgent business	Yes	No	No	Majority
Privileged Motions					
9	Order of the Day	No	No	No	Chair decides
10	Question of Privilege	No	No	No	Chair decides
11	To Recess	Yes	No	Yes	Majority
12	To Adjourn	Yes	No	No	Majority
13	To Fix a Time to adjourn	Yes	No	Yes	Majority
Incidental Motions					
	Point of order	No	No	No	Chair decides
	Request for Information	No			
	Parliamentary Inquiry	No	No	No	No vote taken
	Question a Voice Vote	No	No	No	No vote taken
Other Motions					
	Reconsider - can only be made by a person on the prevailing side and for a decision of the same day	Yes	Yes - if the motion being reconsidered is debatable)	No	Majority

NOTE – the above list does not include all possible motions or actions included in *Robert's Rules of Order*.

Report of Mission Council/ Trustees of Presbytery of the James, Inc.

Nominations to Committee on Nominations

Mission Council nominates the following to serve on the Committee on Nominations:

- a. Matt Messenger, TE, Bethlehem, Region B
- b. Elizabeth Smart, RE First Richmond, Region D
- c. Beverley Coleman, RE, Second Petersburg, Region E
- d. Carrie Davis, RE Brandermill, Region F

Ebenezer Church Administrative Commission

In light of the members of Ebenezer Church requesting an Administrative Commission to dissolve the congregation, the Mission Council asks the Presbytery to confirm their action taken on April 15, 2026, “that it be resolved that the Mission Council, acting on behalf of the Presbytery of the James, appoint an Administrative Commission to dissolve Ebenezer Presbyterian Church in accordance with G-3.0109, consisting of RE Jerome Wilson, Blackstone Church, TE Todd Davidson, Sandston Church, and RE Lisa Tucker, Ebenezer Church, for the Ebenezer Presbyterian Church of Kenbridge, Virginia, to act on Presbytery’s behalf, with the power to meet with the Session and members of the congregation, including calling a meeting of the Session and/or of the congregation, as necessary, to arrange for the pastoral care of the members, publicize the dissolution of the congregation, ascertain the financial status and outstanding financial obligations of the congregation , secure the Session records, secure the legal rights to all property (real or personal) held by or for the benefit of the congregation, dispose of the moveable personal property of the congregation, secure the building and property, attend to matters of insurance, dispose of the building and grounds (subject to any guidelines established by POJ or the Mission Council/Trustees) or convey the building and grounds to the Presbytery of the James Incorporation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), recommend the use of the assets of the congregation, plan and conduct a Service of Witness, secure the assistance of other individuals, as appropriate, to assist with its work, and generally to do such things and take such actions, for, in the name of, and on behalf of the Presbytery as shall be reasonably necessary to accomplish the general purpose of this resolution.”

Sale of POJ Office Building

Background

For over a decade, the Presbytery has considered selling our office building on Chamberlayne. While the Presbytery’s Strategic Plan did not specifically call for the sale of the office property, it did emphasize more active engagement of our Presbyters in the community and the reduction of the Presbytery’s long-term maintenance burdens. The current building has not been adequately maintained, and its upkeep continues to present financial and operational challenges.

Over time, the Presbytery's staffing needs have decreased, and our need for the current facility's size and scope has likewise diminished. We are not in the landlord business, nor do the Trustees wish to manage real estate.

A previous group examined alternative office arrangements and identified several church facilities across the Presbytery that could host staff as needed, offering basic resources such as workspace and Wi-Fi. Mission Council has also explored other potential office locations (seminary, commercial property, etc.).

Rationale for Sale

- **Reduced Need:** Current staffing and operations do not require a building of this size.
- **Maintenance Burden:** The facility incurs ongoing, potentially significant maintenance expenses for which there is no reserve fund.
- **Financial Stewardship:** Proceeds from the sale can be invested to cover office overhead and related expenses in the years ahead.

Current Opportunity

An interested party has made an offer to the Presbytery to purchase the property. They plan to use it as a medical office. An appraisal has been completed.

Sale Price: \$800,000.00

Proposal for the Presbytery

- That the Trustees of Presbytery of the James, Inc. be authorized to sell the property at 3218 Chamberlayne Ave. Richmond, VA 23227 for \$800,000.00
- That the proceeds from the sale of 3218 Chamberlayne Ave. be used as follows:
 - \$80,000.00 to be placed in operational reserves for any technology upgrades/transition costs and to fund the operational reserves line item in the budget.
 - The remainder of the proceeds be invested with RBC (our current investment firm) and designated to support operational expenses. The investment committee will make a recommendation to the Mission Council each July for up to 5% of this investment to be drawn down to support operational expenses for the following year.
- That the Trustees of Presbytery of the James, Inc. be authorized to enter into a lease for appropriate office space in a location to be determined.

Rationale

At this time, we need a physical location for staff and for storing and accessing records. Using the proceeds of the sale to support our operations enables the POJ to continue the administrative work required by our congregations and constitutional committees. And because this will be a POJ designation, the Presbytery can change that designation when they deem it appropriate.

Leasing appropriate office space allows us to right-size our necessary footprint and have flexibility for the future.

Q & A

Q: How was the sale price determined?

A: Our realtor did her due diligence in comparing similar buildings that have recently sold, the tax valuation, etc. We also did a few walkthroughs of the building and identified even more deferred maintenance than originally thought.

Q: Wouldn't it be better to keep the property and lease space to other ministries or non-profits?

A: Historically, the Trustees have not wanted to be landlords or property managers. We have no apparatus to support this kind of business. And to move in this direction, we would need to catch up on years of deferred maintenance and necessary upgrades, which could cost hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Q: Why don't we just move the offices into one of our congregation's facilities?

A: As we continue in this transitional time for our Presbytery, the Mission Council/Trustees will continue to look at options like these. At this time, leasing commercially available, appropriately sized space for our current needs is sensible.

Q: What might the costs be for leasing office space?

A: We anticipate that our current regular maintenance and office budget will be close to the costs of leasing space and office support. Thus, our yearly budget won't change much, except that most operational costs will be funded by proceeds from the sale investment.

Q: Why not use the proceeds the way we do when we sell a church property, placing it into the Stewardship, Resurrection, and Reparation funds as outlined in the resource management policy?

A: We believe this is an opportunity to support Presbytery operations for the long term, putting us on a firm footing for supporting the necessary work we do in fulfilling our mission "To support leaders, congregations, and ministries in growing followers of Jesus Christ who joyfully live out God's mission in the world." And because this would be a Presbytery designation, like the funds mentioned above, the Presbytery can change that designation at a future date, if so desired.

Q: Why can't the Trustees sell the property without a Presbytery vote?

A: The Trustees are only authorized in certain cases and within defined parameters to sell or encumber property held by the Presbytery. So, as with a congregation, the body must vote to approve the sale of property.