



*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

124th Stated Meeting • Saturday, October 17, 2026 • Hybrid Format Bon Air Presbyterian Church/Zoom
9201 W Huguenot Rd., North Chesterfield, VA 23235
Section II – Agenda and Reports

Agenda

- | | | |
|-------------------------|--|---|
| 9:15 | Pre-meeting Preparation & Instructions | RE Peggy Fox, Moderator
Commissioned Pastor, Woodville |
| 9:30 | Declaration of a Quorum
Call to Order
Land Acknowledgment
Opening Prayer
Adoption of the Agenda
Welcome of First-Time Commissioners, Corresponding Members, Guests
Welcome of New Minister Members
Welcome to Bon Air | CRE Peggy Fox, Moderator

TE Joel Morgan

TE Alex Creager, Vice Moderator,
Pastor Bon Air |
| 9:45 | Worship Service
Necrology (p. 9-10 Section I)

The Lord's Supper | TE Kerry Foster, Stated Clerk
TE Alex Creager, Vice Moderator
RE Peggy Fox, Moderator
TE Alex Creager Vice Moderator |
| 10:45 BREAK | | |
| 11:00 | Adoption of Consent Agenda (p. 8)
Stated Clerk Report (p. 8-10)
Mission Council (p. 17-28)
POJ Trustees (p. 29-32) | TE Kerry Foster, Stated Clerk
TE Kerry Foster
TE Joel Morgan
RE Webb Moore |
| ORDER OF THE DAY | | |
| 11:15 | Presbyterian Seminary Presentation | Dr. Asa Lee and Dr. Jacqui Lapsley |
| 11:45 | Anti-Racism Committee Report (p. 33) and Presentation | TE Laura Sugg
Hamilton Glass |
| 12:30 | LUNCH | |

ORDER OF THE DAY

1:15	Committee on Preparation for Ministry (p. 34)	TE Robert Johnson
	Examinations for Candidacy	
	• Subin Sim • Kaylyn McGhee	
1:45	Commission on Ministry Report (p. 34-43)	TE Kelly-Ann Rayle
	• Recognition of Retired Teaching Elders (p. 38)	
2:00	Committee on Nominations Report (p. 43-45)	TE Kate Fiedler
2:15	PC (USA) Investment & Loan Program (PILP)	Sung-Joo Park
2:20	PC (USA) Historical Society	David Staniunas, Records Archivist
2:30	Self-Development of People Ministry Report (p. 45-46)	RE Lamar Lockhart
2:40	World Mission Ministry Report (p. 46-47)	TE Mary Jane Winter &
	• Guatemala Trip • GA Actions	Emerson Morales
2:55	Camp Hanover (p. 56-59)	TE James Taneti
3:00	Closing Prayer/Adjournment	Doug Walters, Executive Director
		RE Peggy Fox, Moderator

Meet Today's Leadership

Jim Allison: Parliamentarian, Co-Moderator of COM; Ruling Elder, Olivet

Rev. Alex Creager: POJ Vice Moderator, 2026; Pastor, Bon Air

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

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

Peggy Fox: POJ Moderator, 2026; Commissioned Pastor, Woodville

Hamilton Glass: Guest Presenter, ARC

Rev. Robert Johnson: Acting Moderator of CPM; Retired

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

Dr. Jacqui Lapsley: Guest Presenter, President, Union Presbyterian Seminary

Dr. Asa Lee: Guest Presenter, President, Pittsburgh Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

Lamar Lockhart: Moderator, Self-Development of People (SDOP) Ministry; Ruling Elder, Chester

Ayars Lore: Moderator of New Worshiping Communities Team; RE, Providence Forge

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

Rev. Joel Morgan: Moderator of Mission Council; Pastor, Campbell Memorial

Sung-Joo Park: Guest Presenter, PILP

Rev. Crystal Varner Parker: Moderator of COR; Pastor, Providence Forge

Rev. Lauren Ramseur: Moderator of MAST; Organizing Pastor, Voices of Jubilee

Rev. Kelly-Ann Rayle: Co-Moderator of COM; Interim Pastor, Three Chopt

Rev. Carson Rhyne: Moderator, LCT; Honorably Retired

David Staniunas: Guest Presenter, Records Archivist, Presbyterian Historical Society

Rev. Laura Sugg: Moderator, ARC; Pastor, South Plains

Doug Walters: Executive Director, Camp Hanover

Rev. Mary Jane Winter: Moderator, World Mission Ministry; Member at Large

Action Items

Report	Pages	Item
Stated Clerk (p. 8-10)	8	Consent Agenda
Mission Council (p. 17-28)	18	Elections to CON and COR
CPM (p. 34)	34	Examinations for Candidacy
CON (p. 43-45)	43	Elections to Presbytery Service

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
CRE	Commissioned Ruling Elder
FDN	Presbyterian Foundation
OGA	Office of the General Assembly
PDA	Presbyterian Disaster Assistance
PHS	Presbyterian Historical Society
PILP	Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program
PMA	Presbyterian Mission Agency
POAMN	Presbyterian Older Adult Ministries Network
PW	Presbyterian Women
RE	Ruling Elder
TE	Teaching Elder

Presbytery of the James

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

Conflict of Interest Policy

All entities of the presbytery are entrusted by the members of the presbytery with responsibilities which affect the whole of the presbytery. Therefore, it is important that all people honor that trust. This requires honesty, competence, and care in managing the financial and ethical arrangements of the entities. No elected or appointed member of any entity shall accept any gift, gratuity, service, or any special favor from any person or persons, agents, or businesses which provide or receive goods and services, or which seek to provide or receive goods and services to or from the entities of the presbytery.

Anyone who has a personal interest in a matter before the presbytery – or any entity of the presbytery – shall be understood to have a conflict of interest. Anyone with a close family member (e.g., spouse, parent, sibling, or child) who has such a personal interest shall also be understood to have a conflict of interest. “Personal interest” shall be construed to mean a unique and individual interest not common to other members. Any person who might derive benefit from a decision of a presbytery entity shall not be a member of that entity. During meetings of the presbytery and any of its entities, persons regarded as having a conflict of interest shall disclose this before speaking about, advocating for, or participating in debate regarding the subject of the conflict.

Members of presbytery and its entities should not vote on subjects in which they have a direct personal interest not common to other members of presbytery; however, no member can be compelled to refrain from voting in such circumstances. This guidance should not be construed to mean that a member may not vote for themselves for an office or other position for which other members generally are eligible.

No member of an entity of the presbytery shall be eligible during the term for which they are elected or appointed to become employees of or otherwise render compensable services to that entity unless approved by the MC and the presbytery. However, members of presbytery entities may apply for staff positions that come open within the presbytery. If hired, they shall resign from service to that entity.

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**
-

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.**
-

***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*.

Consent Agenda

Presbytery of the James, 124th Stated Meeting
Virtual Meeting via Zoom October 17, 2026

Any item on the Consent Agenda can be pulled for any reason. Simply make the request at the appropriate time and it will be placed under the appropriate committee report.

- I. **The Stated Clerk makes the following recommendations for the Consent Agenda:**
 - A. That the 2027 Balancing of Commissioners Proposal be approved (see p.11-12)
- II. **The Committee on Preparation for Ministry (p. 47) makes the following recommendations for the Consent Agenda:**
 - A. The committee recommends inquirer Subin Sim (Lord Jesus Korean) be examined for candidacy for the ordered Ministry of the Word and Sacrament.
 - B. The committee recommends inquirer Kaylyn McGhee (Fairfield) be examined for candidacy for the ordered Ministry of the Word and Sacrament.

Report of the Stated Clerk

Communications

1. Readers of the presbytery minutes for the stated meeting of June 17, 2026 have approved those respective minutes.
2. The stated clerk will recruit commissioners present today from Regions E and F to read and approve the minutes of this meeting.
3. Received a letter from the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic Assembly stating that the Presbytery of the James' 2025 meeting minutes were in good order.

The Stated Clerk Reports the Following as Information:

1. The Investigative Committee reported at the June 17, 2026 Stated Meeting remains active in its charge.
2. The review of 2025 session records has been completed.
 - a. Thank you to RE Judy Blair of First Presbyterian Church in Charlottesville for coordinating the review.
 - b. Thank you to our 2025 records reviewers: Marjolijn Bijlefeld (Fredericksburg); Judy Blair (First, Charlottesville); Peggy Fox (Woodville); John McE. Garrett (St. James); Sandra Garrett (Bethlehem); Madelene Greene (Pryor Memorial), Bettie Guthrie (Second, Petersburg), Kim Hicks (Mitchells); Marilyn Johns (Gayton Kirk); LaVerne Johnson (Oak Grove); Dana McKnight (Grace Covenant), Barry Parks (Byrd); Melissa Phillips (Salisbury); Kathy Sestak (Bon Air).
 - c. The following churches submitted 2025 records for review: Aberdour, All Souls, Amelia, Ashland, Bethlehem, Blackstone, Blue Ridge, Bon Air, Bott Memorial, Brandermill, Brett-Reed Memorial, Burkeville, Byrd, Campbell Memorial, Chester, Cove, Covenant, Eastminster, Fairfield, First Charlottesville, First Chase City, First Emporia, First Hopewell, First Richmond, First United, Fredericksburg, Gayton Kirk, Ginter Park, Grace Covenant, Gregory Memorial, Hartwood, Kirk O'Cliff, Laurel, Lord Jesus Korean, Madison, Mattoax, Meadows, Milden, Milford, Oak Grove, Ogden, Olivet, Orange, Overbrook, Pine Grove, Praise the Lord, Providence Forge, Providence Gum Spring, Providence Powhatan, Pryor Memorial, Rennie Memorial, River Road, Rivermont, Rockfish, Salem, Salisbury, Sandston, Scottsville, Second Petersburg, Second

Richmond, South Hill, South Plains, Southminster, St. Andrews, St. James, Summit, Swift Creek, Tabor, Three Chopt, Tuckahoe, Waddell Memorial, Westminster Charlottesville, Westminster Richmond, Woodlawn, Woodville, Zion Hill.

- d. No records were received from: Ampthill, Bethesda, Colonial Heights, Concord, Culpeper, Ebenezer, Forest Hill, Genito, Hawkins Memorial, Holy Trinity, King's Chapel, Lawrenceville, Louisa, Mitchells, New Hanover, Rosewood, Tappahannock, Thyne Memorial, Village, Westminster Petersburg.
3. That the Presbytery has the following policies in place required by the *Book of Order* G-3.0106
 - a. [Manual of Administrative Operations](#) (approved 2/21/26)
 - b. [Sexual Misconduct and Harassment Policy](#) (approved 10/18/2025)
 - c. [Boundaries Training Policy](#) (approved 2/17/2024)
 - d. [Anti-Racism Policy](#) (approved 10/18/2025)
 - e. [Child, Youth and Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy](#) (approved 2/21/2026)

Commission Reports

1. Installation of Mark Swart at Summit Presbyterian Church, Stafford, VA

August 23, 2026

In lieu of a present or former Moderator being available, the Commission to install Rev. Mark Swart was called to order by Rev. Colleen Earp, Massanetta Springs, at 9:38 a.m.

Also present were the following commissioners:

Rev. Levi Bannerman, UVA Hospital, Charlottesville, VA

RE Nancy Chewning, Hartwood Presbyterian Church, Fredericksburg, VA

Rev. McCoy Franklin, Honorably Retired

RE Jerry Zekert, The Presbyterian Church, Fredericksburg, VA

RE David Thomen, Summit Presbyterian Church, Stafford, VA

The first order of business was a motion to elect a clerk. David Thomen moved that Colleen Earp serve in this role, to take and submit the minutes of this commission; Nancy Chewning seconded the motion. This motion passed unanimously.

Next, the commission passed a motion that the worship service constitute our work; Levi Bannerman made the motion, seconded by Jerry Zekert, approved by all.

The commission passed a motion that our work would conclude with the benediction and postlude; Nancy Chewning made the motion, Jerry Zekert seconded the motion, everyone approved the motion.

The commission proceeded to the sanctuary to participate in worship.

Rev. Mark Swart preached, and he and liturgist Ken Yealy led much of the service, with music led by Naomi Meyers.

Jerry Zekert made the statement on installation and asked the constitutional questions to the minister.

Dave Thomen asked the constitutional questions to the congregation.

Jerry Zekert prayed over and made the declaration of installation.

Dave Thomen gave a charge to the minister. Colleen Earp gave a charge to the congregation.

Pursuant to the assignment of the Presbytery and the provisions of W-4.04 of the *Book of Order*, Rev. Mark Swart was installed as a Minister of Word and Sacrament of Summit Presbyterian Church, Stafford, Virginia.

Having heard scripture read and the Word proclaimed and completing the work of the commission on behalf of the Presbytery, we celebrated this ministry partnership with the congregation after worship.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Colleen Earp, Clerk of the Installation Commission

2. **Ordination of Cate Jobe**

The Commission of the Presbytery of the James appointed to ordain TE Cate Jobe was convened with prayer by moderator Rev. Joshua Andrzejewski at First Presbyterian Church, Richmond, VA on September 12, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. A quorum was present consisting of the following:

Teaching Elders:

- Rev. Joshua Andrzejewski, First Presbyterian Church, Richmond
- Rev. Elizabeth Smith, VCU Health
- Rev. Dr. Sam Adams, Union Presbyterian Seminary

Ruling Elders:

- Barry Parks, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Charlottesville
- Peggy Fox, Woodville Presbyterian Church
- Kathy Harris, First Presbyterian Church, Richmond

Commission members approved four motions:

1. To elect Barry Parks as Clerk of the Commission
2. That the worship service would constitute the work of the Commission.
3. That the Commission's work concludes with the benediction.
4. That the clerk and moderator are empowered to record the minutes and submit to the stated clerk.

The Service of Ordination began at 10:00 a.m. in the First Presbyterian Church sanctuary. Rev. Derek Starr Redwine preached the sermon, "Enough" using Psalm 100, Philippians 2:1-4 and Luke 21:1-4 as the biblical text. Rev. Andrzejewski asked the constitutional questions to the pastor. Rev. Dr. Sam Adams charged the pastor. Rev. Cate Jobe gave the benediction.

Pursuant to the assignment of Presbytery and the provisions of W-4.04 of the *Book of Order*, Rev. Cate Jobe was Ordained at First Presbyterian Church, Richmond, VA.

The meeting of the Ordination Commission concluded with the benediction following the service of ordination, as previously approved.

Respectfully submitted, Barry Parks, Clerk of the Commission.

The Stated Clerk makes the following recommendation [for the Consent Agenda](#):

1. [That the 2027](#) Balancing of Commissioners Proposal be approved (see p.11-12)

The Stated Clerk makes the following recommendation:

1. That the [Consent Agenda](#) be approved.

The Presbytery of the James Balancing of Commissioners for 2027 in accordance with G-3.0301

Ministers of the Word and Sacrament¹		
Validated, serving in a congregation	59	
Validated, serving outside of the congregation	37	
Members at Large	34	
Subtotal		130
Honorably Retired/Retired (113), of whom we count 21 for balancing	21	
Subtotal		21
Total		151

Ruling Elders		
Elected by Sessions as commissioners to presbytery (G-3.0202a)		
4 commissioners from all congregations having 900 or more members	8	
3 commissioners from all congregations having 550 to 899 members	12	
2 commissioners from all congregations having 130 to 549 members	38	
1 commissioner from all congregations having 129 or fewer members	71	
Subtotal		129
Enrolled by presbytery during terms of elected service to presbytery or its congregations (G-3.0301)		
REs who are Moderators ² of POJ, Teams, or Committees	4	
REs commissioned ³ to do pastoral work in a congregation	10	
REs who are Certified Educators ⁴ and congregation members (G-2.1103b)	8	
RE serving as Stated Clerk ⁵	0	
Subtotal		22
Total		151

This plan is subject to amendment, if the Committee on Representation advises changes that will better "fulfill the principles of participation and representation found in F-1.0403 and G-3.0103 (G-3.0301, first paragraph).

¹ Following G-2.0503, we designate three categories of ministers: Validated (includes both those serving in a congregation and those serving in specialized, non-parish ministries), Member at Large, and Retired. Numbers of minister members are given as they were on August 18, 2026.

² Ayars Lore (NWCT), Jim Allison (COM), Peggy Fox, (POJ).

³ Jerome Bennett, Patricia Carter, Marvin Daniel, Barbara Flynt, Patricia Higgins, Scott Jackson, Susan May, Barry Parks, William Seay, Agatha Walker.

⁴ Carolyn Brown, Gloria Cauthorn, Carol Dunlap, Marian English, Marcia Hale, Bruce Harvey, Marilyn Johns, Ann Knox.

⁵ n/a

**Ruling Elder Commissioners from Each Session
January 1, 2027 to December 31, 2027**

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

First Charlottesville, First Richmond

Three Ruling Elder Commissioners from congregations having from 550 to 899 members:

Brandermill, River Road, Salisbury, Second Richmond

Two Ruling Elder Commissioners from congregations having 130 to 549 members:

Bon Air, *Campbell Memorial*, Chester, Culpeper, Fairfield, Fredericksburg, Ginter Park, Grace Covenant, Lord Jesus Korean, Meadows, Olivet, Providence Forge, Rockfish, Southminster, Summit, Swift Creek, Three Chopt, Tuckahoe, Westminster Charlottesville,

One Ruling Elder Commissioner from congregations having 129 or fewer members:

Aberdour, All Souls, Amelia, Ampthill, Ashland, Bethesda, Bethlehem, Blackstone, Blue Ridge, Bott Memorial, Brett Reed Memorial, Burkeville, Byrd, Colonial Heights, Concord, Cove, Covenant, Eastminster, Ebenezer, First Chase City, First Emporia, First Hopewell, First United, *Gayton Kirk*, Genito, Gregory Memorial, Hartwood, Hawkins Memorial, Hebron, Holy Trinity, Kings Chapel, Kirk O'Cliff, Laurel, Lawrenceville, Louisa, Madison, Mattoax, Mildew, Milford, Mitchells, New Hanover, Oak Grove, Ogden, Orange, Overbrook, Pine Grove, Praise The Lord, Providence Gum Spring, 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, Village, Waddell Memorial, Westminster Petersburg, *Westminster Richmond*, Woodlawn, Woodville, Zion Hill

Please note: Churches with changes to number of commissioners are in *italics*.

Reports of General Assembly Commissioners

Barry Parks, Ruling Elder Commissioner

The 227th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

The 227th General Assembly began on Monday, June 22nd with three days of committee meetings, all of them on Zoom for eight hours every day. I was assigned to the “Reformed Identity Around the World” committee. Our moderator, RE Rachael Eggebeen, Presbytery of de Cristo, and vice-moderator TE Matt Bussell, Salem Presbytery, did an excellent job of team building.

There were sixty people on the committee, but it worked out pretty well. We started every meeting with worship. I volunteered to lead the worship service on Tuesday morning.

We worked on eleven different overtures that had been submitted by various presbyteries around the country. Here are the titles of the ones that we worked on:

1. Call to Review the Restructuring of the PC(USA) World Mission
2. Calling for a New Missiological Statement for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
3. On Seeking God’s Peace Through Nuclear Disarmament in the 21st Century
4. On Recognizing that Israel has Violated the International Law Prohibiting Genocide
5. Peace and Justice through Just and Peaceful Means: Overture on Embargoing Israel
6. Call Israel’s War in Gaza Genocide
7. Concerning Mission Co-Workers
8. On Jeju in Korea
9. Advocacy for Religious Minorities in Syria - From the Racial Equity Advocacy Committee
10. On Affirming Kairos Palestine II: A Moment of Truth: Faith in a Time of Genocide
11. Reaching out in Concern for the Presbyterian-Reformed Church and People of Cuba

On the overture about genocide, our committee heard testimony from several people living in Gaza, and it was heartbreaking. I’ll spare you the details.

After all those meetings we got Thursday off, and then I flew out to the plenary meeting on Friday, June 26th.

Milwaukee

On Saturday, our committee members got together for lunch, all sixty of us in one big room. It was good to finally see each other in person after three long days of Zoom calls. I met several people who are also commissioned pastors, like me, and I enjoyed hearing about their churches.

The General Assembly staff made communion sets to use for our worship service, and they made some extras that we could buy. So I bought a set for my church. It’s a beautiful green chalice and platen with leaves on it, to go with the scripture (Revelation 22:2) guiding our meeting: “*and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.*”

On Sunday we all went to church, and that was quite a production. A lot of local churches volunteered to have us join them for worship, and buses were waiting at the Baird Center to take us. I went to the Christ United Presbyterian Church, a lovely little church about 3 miles away. The sermon was great and the lunch was, too. I can only imagine what it would be like to have a bus full of out-of-town Presbyterians come to your church.

I was thinking that we'd start our actual work on Monday. I mean, who works on Sundays, right? Well, we did. We had our first in-person session at 2:00. We met for three hours, and then we took a break for dinner. After dinner we met again and stayed until 8:45 that evening. What a day!

Highlights of the Plenary Meeting

One the first overtures, the vote was 369-98 to create a seven-member commission investigating the 2025 dissolution of Presbyterian World Mission and the termination of all mission co-worker positions. We spent nearly five hours debating and amending our committee's original recommendation.

For the fourth overture, the vote was 454-15 to declare that the government of Israel has violated the international law prohibiting genocide in its war in Gaza.

For the tenth overture, the vote was 447 to 21 to affirm the Kairos Palestine II: Faith in a Time of Genocide document and commend it for study.

The following overtures were included in the consent agenda:

- On Seeking God's Peace Through Nuclear Disarmament in the 21st Century
- Advocacy for Religious Minorities in Syria—From the Racial Equity Advocacy Committee
- Reaching out in Concern for the Presbyterian-Reformed Church and People of Cuba Approve

Final Thoughts

It was a real blessing to be a General Assembly commissioner. It was one of the most meaningful experiences that I've ever had. I have so many stories about making new relationships, learning about the larger church and, most importantly, what God is calling and equipping us to do.

James Taneti, Teaching Elder Commissioner

The proceedings of the GA, held between June 22 and July 2, were grace-filled and hope-giving. We met virtually in the committee meetings and then travelled to Milwaukee, WI, for the plenary. Walking through the convention hall, I was in awe of the world represented at the plenary. It included people of partner denominations, institutions, mid-councils, geographical regions, theological inclinations, and age groups. The conversations were filled with prayer, passion, candor, grace, and hope. Each day began and concluded with prayer and worship. The assembly sought to be faithful, prophetic, and responsible in its conversations and actions.

Divided into 12 committees and ably assisted by parliamentarians and resource managers, the commissioners and advisory delegates from 164 presbyteries considered the reports and overtures. I had the honor of serving on two committees: 1) Bills and Overtures, and 2) Theological Education and Ordination. I have occasionally been called to serve as an advocate for overtures related to world missions, which our presbytery endorsed.

The General Assembly addressed the changing needs in the denomination's life, mission, ministry, witness, identity, and stewardship. Our conversations addressed matters such as global environmental crises, worsening war and human rights violations, access to healthcare, inequalities (gender and racial), and the authoritative interpretation of the *Book of Order*. The issues related to the changing needs of ministry, evolving models of preparation for ministry, and world mission deserved and demanded more time than others. Co-moderators ensured divergent voices were heard and respected. The General Assembly concluded with a note of gratitude to the outgoing co-moderators,

the Rev. Cecelia Armstrong and the Rev. Tony Larson, and the election of the Rev. Marta Pumroy-Cordero and the Rev. Dr. Kristopher D. Schondelmeyer as the incoming co-moderators. The General Assembly enthusiastically approved the plans to host the next gathering in Puerto Rico in 2028. I am grateful for this joy of learning about and serving our denomination.

Chad Wayner, Ruling Elder Commissioner

The 227th General Assembly set its theme as “Persevering toward Wholeness” and took Revelation 22 as its Scriptural inspiration: “and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.” During our six days in Milwaukee, one of my most cherished moments was the sermon on that passage during daily ecumenical worship given by Rev. Dr. Kevin Vandiver, Senior Pastor at the Lutheran Church of the Reformation in Washington DC. Gratefully, that [sermon](#) is available for all on YouTube, and those eighteen minutes may be some of the best minutes you spend this week, if they can be spared.

In the week preceding the plenary sessions in Milwaukee, I served on the Racial Justice Committee, where we considered five resolutions via Zoom over three days. We benefited from excellent leadership by our Moderator, Rev. Patricia Bligen Jones, pastor of Hebron Zion Presbyterian Church in Johns Island, SC. This came out most clearly in our third day of deliberations, where our Moderator discerned that a few voices had come to dominate the previous day's discussions. Our Moderator asked to hear from each committee member--calling on individuals as needed--to make sure a fully representative hearing was available for all. It is clear now that important perspectives would not have been presented to the committee without our Moderator's intentional action. On that day, with patient and difficult conversation, the Spirit empowered the fuller expression of all the voices of our Church, and I am grateful to be a witness to the redeeming and transformative power of patient and deliberative work together, done with prayer, sometimes amid tears, and for the good of our Church and our shared life together.

Ultimately, all of the business items before the Racial Justice committee passed with an overwhelming majority. We received a report from the Special Committee on Racism, Truth and Reconciliation, appointed by the 225th General Assembly in 2022. In our discussion, representatives of that Special Committee expressed frustration with lack of institutional movement on issues of racism in the PC(USA). In their view, past General Assemblies had offered programmatic statements and transformative commitments, but in practice, the PC(USA) had been slow to follow through on what those statements may require of us. Pointed questions were raised. Has your home congregation adopted an anti-racism policy, as the *Book of Order* requires? Would members of your Session attend anti-racism training? Voluntarily? With open hearts and minds? Are there local acts of racial reconciliation and repair that might be restorative for your local community? How earnestly does your home congregation pursue such acts?

Those difficult and challenging questions land differently for each of us. It is clear though that the Belhar Confession encourages all to *earnestly* pursue visible unity in the church. And thankfully, that work does not solely fall to any one individual, or any single congregation. One resource available in the PC(USA) today is the Center for Repair of Historic Harms, led by Jermaine Ross-Allam. Based on the actions of the 227th General Assembly, Jermaine will be pursuing a partnership with leaders in Liberia--and facilitated by leadership at Princeton Seminary--to address the role of the American Colonization Society in perpetuating racial separation during the 19th century. Additionally, the 227th General Assembly tasked Presbyterian Life and Witness with developing anti-racism training available to all and fully funded the costs of that initiative.

In conclusion, the 227th General Assembly highlighted the significant value for the Church and the

world in engaging in careful, thoughtful, honest, deliberative work. Which is not to say that such work will be easy, or painless, or immediately successful as we might want to define it. The process will likely expose presumptions taken for granted. We may feel challenged, picked apart, or impatient. We may be disappointed in the outcome. We may worry that habits and institutions will be reticent and resistant to change. But it is perhaps the only way where we can begin to hear each other, to respond to the needs of our current moment, and to prepare the way for the leaves of that Revelation tree to bring healing to the nations.

Report of the Commissioner to the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic

Report of Fall 2026 Stated Meeting

The fall Stated Meeting of the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic met September 14-15, at the Bartizan Events Venue in Short Pump. The Synod is composed of 14 Presbyteries in North Carolina, Virginia, DC, Maryland, and Delaware. It meets twice each year. The theme was **“Dismantling Barriers, Cultivating Opportunities.”**

The meeting consisted of a number of reports for the day and a half meeting. This time, we heard from 11 General Presbyters reporting on the work in their presbyteries. A number of presbyteries are going through transitions with new staff, with reorganization, with financial stresses, with work to determine the future of their presbytery.

We were inspired by a Bible study on Acts 6 led by our own Frances Taylor Gench. Her way of enticing students to become involved in the study of scripture is very stimulating and powerful. She is a gifted teacher and is a member of our Presbytery! We also had a two-hour session with melvin bray of [collabyrinth](#), an organization assisting groups in reaching their goals.

Reports from the various committees of the Synod filled most of the second day of the meeting. One insight which I observed is that Synod will be having some financial problems in 2028 as it has been using 52% of its budget from reserve funds. Those funds will be depleted in 2027 and a raise in per capita is under consideration (currently per capita is \$1.50 per member) as well as reducing the budget.

One of the important programs of the Synod are grants and scholarships that come from endowed funds. Smaller membership congregations can make application for mission endeavors. Persons can apply for scholarship funds. Deadlines are February 1 and August 1 each year. Check the Synod’s website: www.synatlantic.org/more

Worship began the Council meeting and concluded the meeting. Ruling Elder Debbie Reese (Baltimore Presbytery) was installed as the new Moderator and Rev. Ron Hankins was installed as the new Vice-Moderator.

Rev. Carson Rhyne, Commissioner

Transitional Executive Presbyter/Stated Clerk Search Team

Report to Presbytery October 2026

The Transitional Executive Presbyter/Stated Clerk Search Team has been truly blessed and invigorated by our work. As we envision the next chapter of the Presbytery of the James, we remain grateful for the trust you have placed in us. Since our election, we have met 10 times and examined more than 50 applicants. We have narrowed our pool to a selection of exceptional individuals, and we are currently conducting interviews.

Please be in prayer for the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and for discernment for both the search team and the candidates. We continue our work in confident hope, and we appreciate your support.

Respectfully submitted,

Tessa Schuman, Liz Hulme Adam, Lamar Lockhart, and Russ Kerr

Transitional Executive Presbyter/Stated Clerk Search Team

Mission Council Report to the Presbytery of the James

October 2026

2027 Budget and Financial Oversight

Mission Council's budget sub-committee developed the proposed 2027 POJ budget. The Investment Committee has recommended a 4.5% investment draw, based on a rolling 12-quarter average portfolio value of \$4,886,462, resulting in a proposed draw of \$219,891 in support of the 2027 budget. The draft budget is included in the October meeting packet. A called Presbytery meeting will be held virtually on November 10 for final budget action (see [Budget sub-committee report](#), p. 20-28) for more information).

The Finance Subcommittee continues to work with Trustward to improve the format and usefulness of financial reports and to prepare for the 2025 financial review. Mission Council has also affirmed that direct contact with Trustward should be limited to the President, Vice President, and Secretary/Treasurer of the Presbytery corporation.

The 2025 Financial review is nearly complete.

Forest Hill Community Center

A significant part of Mission Council's work has focused on the future of the Forest Hill Community Center (FHCC).

Mission Council approved the FHCC Administrator job description, and the position was posted. A search committee was appointed consisting of Jen Rowe, Cherry Peters, and Kerry Foster. Following the search and interview process, Mission Council approved the hiring of Sherry MacLaughlin as administrator, with a planned start date of October 5.

The POJ Finance Committee recommended that FHCC finances remain separate while being overseen through POJ processes, with monthly financial reporting to the Finance Committee.

Mission Council is also responsible for establishing the FHCC Task Force. Current ruling elder members are Cherry Peters, Zach Parker, and Barbara Flynt. They will recommend three community members from the Forest Hill neighborhood, while Mission Council will recruit three teaching elders.

Nominations and Committee Leadership

Mission Council approved a slate for election to the Committee on Nominations (CON) and Committee on Representation (COR):

- Rev. Clay Macaulay, Region C, term 2, class of 2029 — CON
- RE Elizabeth Smart Fay, Region D, term 2, class of 2029 — CON
- Rev. Todd Davidson, term 2, class of 2029 — COR

One ruling elder position on the Committee on Representation remains to be filled. Please recommend to Mission Council anyone who would serve well on this committee.

Personnel and Leadership Development

The Personnel Subcommittee continues its work on the review process for the combined General Presbyterian/Stated Clerk position. The Personnel Subcommittee has completed its review of Kerry Foster, with Mission Council involved in the review process.

Kerry continues to visit congregations and preach throughout the Presbytery. He reports that most congregations he is visiting are doing well, while also noting the ongoing need for leadership in several churches.

Sale of the Chamberlayne Office

The sale of the Presbytery office should close before the October POJ meeting. The Mission Council is currently looking at office options.

Stewardship

Mission Council is also preparing a 2026 mid-year financial letter to mail to clerks of session and email to pastors and treasurers. There was discussion about developing some form of Presbytery-wide stewardship campaign for 2027.

Other Matters

Concord Church requested an exemption from the *Book of Order*, G-2.0404. requirements for Session terms, which Mission Council approved.

Looking Ahead

We have a good deal of work ahead: continuing to strengthen our financial systems, continuing the development of Forest Hill Community Center, filling committee vacancies, and refining how we use our mission resources. We also plan to begin working on how our Presbytery is structured to support its mission and how we might design Presbytery meetings to be more connectional.

Thank you for your continued engagement in this work. Much of what Mission Council does happens behind the scenes, but it matters. Our hope is that these efforts will help create greater clarity, stronger accountability, and more capacity for the Presbytery to live out its mission together.

Recommendations:

1. That Presbytery elect the following for service in the class of 2029 on CON and COR:
 - a. TE Clay Macaulay, Region C, term 2, CON
 - b. RE Elizabeth Smart Fay, Region D, term 2, CON
 - c. TE Todd Davidson, term 2, COR

Respectfully submitted,
Joel Morgan, Moderator, Mission Council, Presbytery of the James

SUMMARY OF OPERATING BUDGET VS ACTUAL

DESCRIPTION	2026 BUDGET AMT	2026 JAN-AUG YTD	% OF ANNUAL BUDGET
FOR ADMIN/OPERATIONS			
<i>INCOME</i>			
UNDESIGNATED SUPPORT (POJ, SYNOD, AND G.A.)	\$500,536	\$284,638	56.9%
DESIGNATED SUPPORT POJ ONLY	\$20,000	\$10,935	54.7%
PER CAPITA (\$1.15 FOR SYNOD; \$8.98 FOR G.A.)	\$18,000	\$9,058	50.3%
INVESTMENT DRAW (OPERATING)	\$47,513	\$47,513	100.0%
OTHER INCOME	\$8,000	\$14,733	184.2%
TOTAL FOR ADMIN/OPERATIONS INCOME	\$594,049	\$366,877	61.8%
<i>EXPENSES</i>			
PROPERTY/OFFICE ADMINISTRATION	\$156,548	\$89,234	57.0%
STAFFING COSTS	\$255,662	\$143,420	56.1%
DENOMINATIONAL EXPENSES	\$179,470	\$79,267	44.2%
TOTAL FOR ADMIN/OPERATIONAL EXPENSES	\$591,680	\$311,921	52.7%
FOR PROGRAM AND MISSION SUPPORT			
<i>INCOME</i>			
DRAW ON INVESTMENT (Missions)	\$190,053	\$190,053	100.0%
TOTAL FOR PROGRAM AND MISSION INCOME	\$190,053	\$190,053	100.0%
<i>EXPENSES</i>			
COM	\$4,300	\$2,277	53.0%
CPM	\$8,500	\$0	0.0%
BOO MANDATED ITEMS	\$0	\$0	
NEW WORSHIPING COMMUNITIES	\$62,447	\$200	0.3%
LEADERSHIP CONNECTIONS TEAM	\$42,175	\$41,571	98.6%
MISSION AND SERVICE TEAM	\$20,000	\$3,994	20.0%
CAMP HANOVER	\$35,000	\$35,000	100.0%
OTHER COMMITMENTS	\$20,000	\$20,000	100.0%
TOTAL FOR PROGRAM AND MISSION EXPENSES	\$192,422	\$103,042	53.5%
TOTAL POJ INCOME	\$784,102	\$556,930	71.0%
TOTAL POJ EXPENSES	\$784,102	\$414,963	52.9%
NET POJ INCOME OVER EXPENSES	\$0	\$141,966	

Presbytery of the James Mission Council's 2026 Budget Sub-Committee

The POJ Mission Council's 2026 Budget Sub-Committee (MCBSC) was formed by the Mission Council (MC) in May 2026 and was tasked with the mission of creating the proposed Presbytery of the James (POJ) budget for 2027.

The members of the 2025 MCBSC are:

Rev. Peggy Fox

Commissioned Pastor, Woodville Presbyterian Church, Richmond

Rev. Alex Creager

Pastor, Bon Air Presbyterian Church

Rev. Kerry Foster

Temporary Presbyter, Presbytery of the James

Staff Contact, Mission Council

Rev. Joel Morgan

Pastor, Campbell Memorial Presbyterian Church, Weems

Moderator, Mission Council

Gary Selmeczi

Ruling Elder, First Presbyterian Church, Charlottesville

Barbara Young

Ruling Elder, Hebron Presbyterian Church, Manakin Sabot

For 2027, the MCBSC discussed and committed to the premise that the committee would seek, to the best of its ability, to develop a budget reflecting the mission of the POJ: *"To support leaders, congregations, and ministries in growing followers of Jesus Christ who joyfully live out God's mission in the world."* The MCBSC prayerfully worked on the 2027 POJ budget through the lens of Christians committed to being faithful stewards of the generous yet limited resources of the Presbytery

As stated in the Revised Resource Management Policy in the Introduction, Part B:

"Scripture consistently calls for generosity, integrity, and justice in financial matters (Genesis 41:25–57; Proverbs 3:9–10; Amos 8:4–7; 2 Corinthians 9:6-9)."

"Stewardship, in the Reformed tradition, is a sacred trust that strives to align budgeting, planning, and resource allocation with God's mission."

"The *Book of Order* further affirms that councils of the church are to prepare and adopt budgets that support the church's witness to "God's new creation in Jesus Christ," recognizing that shared stewardship is vital to the church's unity and mission (G-3.0106; G-3.0113). Faithful financial policies, then, are essential instruments for the ministry of the gospel of Jesus Christ."

The MCBSC met as a full committee five times, and individual team members and small groups did much of the work outside those meetings. At each meeting, the team reviewed the latest version of the proposed budget. Over the five team meetings, the MCBSC produced the 2027 Proposed Budget.

To prepare the proposed 2027 budget, the MCBSC considered and was guided by various resources, including:

- The amended Resource Management Policy (RMP) adopted by Presbytery on June 10, 2025.
- Detailed Committee Budget Requests: The team solicited detailed budget requests from each Presbytery committee, ministry, and team. The MCBSC asked each Presbytery group to prioritize their financial needs to ensure continued support of our mission. When we didn't receive a request, we sought to contact the group directly.
- The Statement of Investment Objectives, Policies, and Guidelines (part of the RMP).
- The 2025 actual spending, 2026 YTD spending, and 2027 requested budgets.

Important Notes for 2027:

- The MCBSC is greatly concerned about the over \$86,000 decrease in congregational Shared Mission Support (Undesignated giving) from 2024 to 2025. Congregational giving to the POJ enables the POJ to hire and support its staff and administration, and to pay per capita to the Synod and General Assembly. If Shared Mission Support decreases similarly in 2026 and 2027, the POJ will need to make even more difficult decisions. *If Congregational support covered our operational expenses, we could dedicate \$48,000 more toward missions in 2027.*
- General Assembly per capita is 30% more in 2027 than in 2026, leading to a \$21,000 increase for the POJ. Synod and GA per capita account for over 30% of our operating costs.
- The MCBSC did recommend a 3% salary increase for our Office Administrator and Communications staff. They have not seen a salary increase in over three years.
- As allowed by the RMP, we are using 1% of the investment draw to support operations.
- With the sale of the Chamberlayne Office, we have reduced our budget line for Insurance.

The 2027 budget includes several changes.

- In the income section, you will see a draw on the Chamberlayne Office Sale Fund to support operations (approved with the sale of the POJ office). Using these funds enabled us to balance the operations side of the budget. (See notes about Shared Mission Support and GA per capita increases above.)
- Several of our budgeted items (primarily New Worshiping Communities and the Anti-Racism Committee) are funded from designated funds. The Finance Committee recommended we show these designated funds in the budget spreadsheet for transparency. Otherwise, these items would not appear in the budget, and it would seem that the POJ was not supporting these important ministries.

Action Items for November Called POJ meeting:

Approve the 2027 POJ budget with a waiver for the Capital Improvements requirement.
Rationale: We no longer own an office property

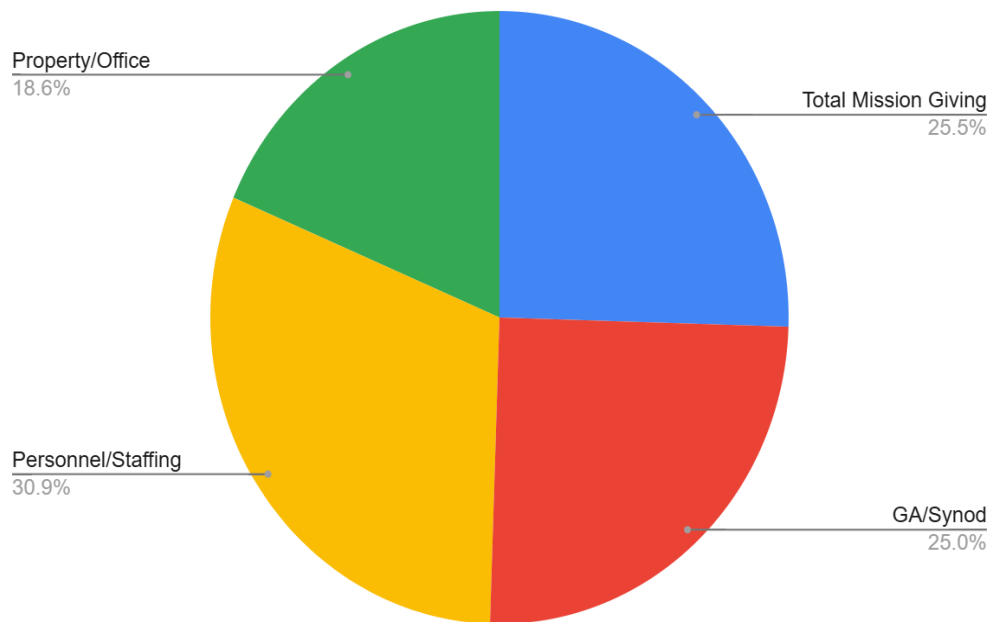
Dates:

- Listening Sessions at 6:30 PM via ZOOM:
 - Tuesday, October 20, 2026
 - Thursday, October 22, 2026
- Called Presbytery Meeting to Vote on the 2027 Budget via ZOOM
 - Tuesday, November 10, 2026

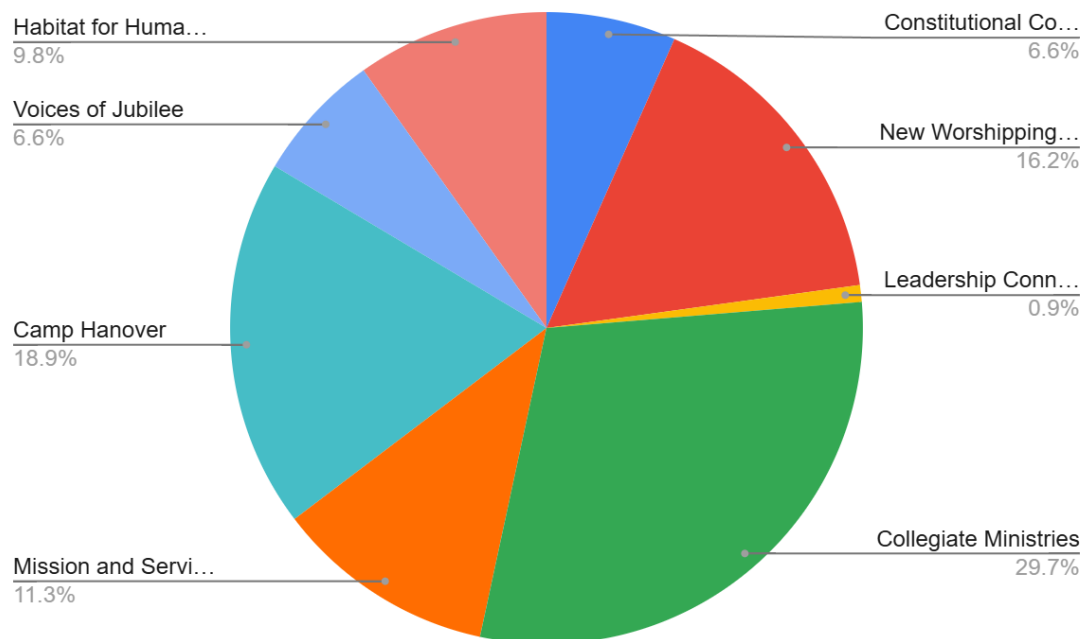
Executive Summary – 2027 Proposed Budget

<i>Revenue and Support</i>	
Undesignated Support	\$475,000
Designated POJ Only	\$20,000
Designated Per Capita	\$17,000
Designated Funds	\$33,200
Chamberlayne Office Draw	\$35,000
Draw on Investments (Operating)	\$48,865
Draw on Investments (Mission)	\$171,026
Other	
Total	\$800,091
<i>Operating and Mission Expenses</i>	
Staffing	\$246,850
Property/Office	\$148,753
GA & Synod Per Capita	\$200,230
Mission Giving	\$203,725
Total	\$799,558
Revenue/Support - Expenses(Loss)	\$533

Overall 2027 Proposed Budget Breakdown (GA/Synod is per capita)



Mission Giving Breakdown



Mission Giving Descriptions

Constitutional Committees

- Commission on Ministry
- Committee on Preparation for Ministry
- Committee on Representation
- Committee on Nominations
- Permanent Judicial Commission
- Anti-Racism Committee

New Worshipping Communities

- Every Table – a worshipping community focused on embodied reconciliation
- Holy Trinity – an immigrant worshipping community

Leadership Connections Team

- Black Caucus
- Older Adult Ministries
- The Resource Center

Collegiate Ministries (part of Leadership Connections Team)

- University of Mary Washington (Fredericksburg)
- University of Virginia (Charlottesville)
- Virginia Commonwealth University (Richmond)

Mission and Service Team

- Disaster Relief
- Self-Development of People
- World Mission
- Justice and Advocacy

Voices of Jubilee – a ministry that accompanies incarcerated youth and their families

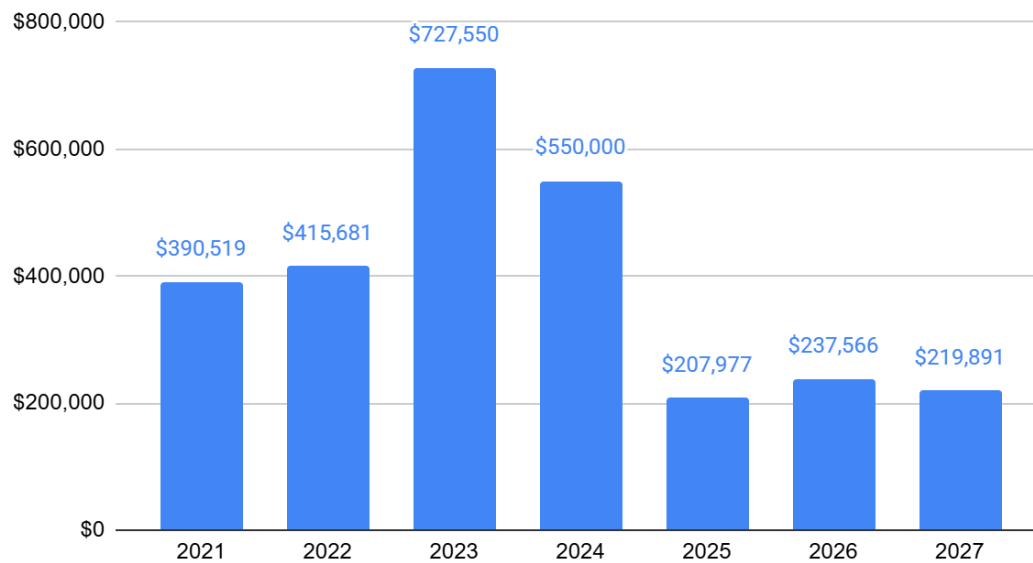
Camp Hanover - welcoming and inclusive camp and retreat center

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Charlottesville

- Presbytery of the James has a multi-year financial commitment

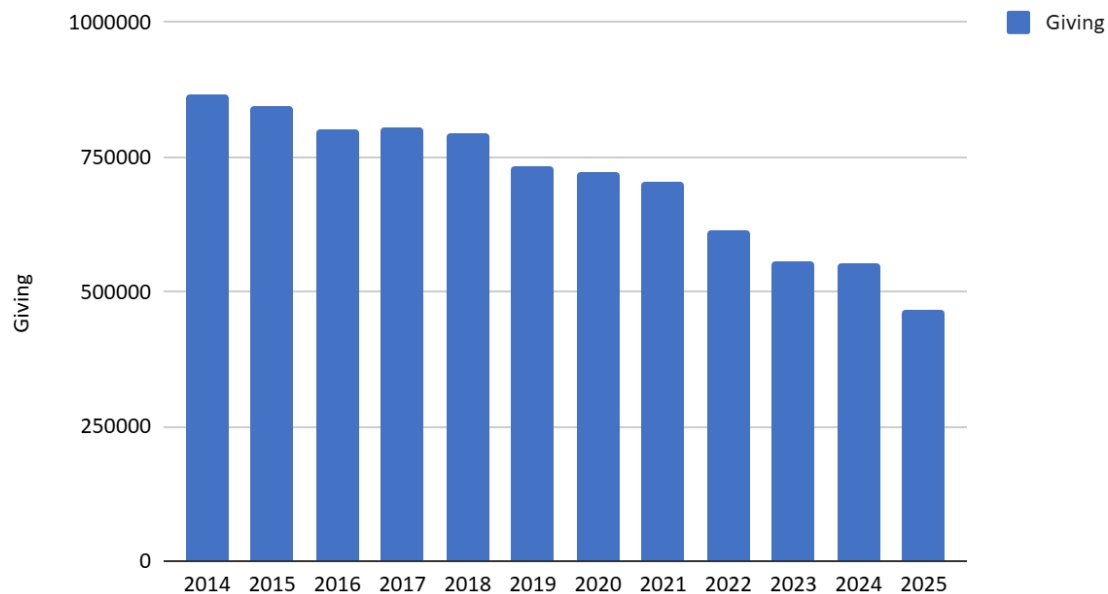
Investment Information

Draw on Investments



Undesignated Giving Information

Undesignated Giving from Congregations



Presbytery of the James – 124th Stated Meeting – October 17 2026 – Hybrid Meeting Bon Air Church/Zoom – Section II

POJ 2027 Budget Worksheet

		2025 Actual	2026Jan-July	2026 Budget	2027 Request	2027 Draft	2028 Projected	NOTES		
			Actual							
Admin/Operations										
PROJECTED INCOME										
	Undesignated Support	\$ 466,707.33	\$245,175	\$ 500,536.00	\$ 475,000.00	\$ 475,000.00	\$ 451,250.00	5% decrease applied to 2028		
	Designated POJ Only	\$ 25,994.97	\$10,196	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00			
	Per Capita	\$ 8,448.94	\$8,858	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 17,000.00	\$ 17,000.00			
	Draw on Investments (Operating)	\$ 100,000.00	\$47,513	\$ 47,513.18	\$ 48,865.00	\$ 48,865.00	\$ 48,865.00	1% draw basis 4,886,462		
	Chamberlayne Office Sale draw					\$ 35,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	5% draw basis 700,000		
Designated to GA Missions		\$ 8,687.27								
	Other	\$ 26,163.27	\$12,562	\$ 8,000.00				Rental income		
Total Projected Income		\$ 636,001.78	\$ 324,304.93	\$ 594,049.18	\$ 561,865.00	\$ 595,865.00	\$ 567,115.00			
Property/Office Administration										
	Office Rental				\$32,903.00	\$32,903.00	\$33,896.00			
	Utilities	18,512.58	\$7,673	\$11,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00			
	Insurance	34,585.33	\$24,585	\$26,000.00	\$16,000.00	\$16,000.00	\$16,000.00			
	Office Supplies	2,482.00	\$1,950	\$4,200.00	\$4,200.00	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00			
	Postage	748.17	\$247.00	\$700.00	\$700.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00			
	Telephone/Internet	1,508.92	\$4,088.00	\$10,023.00	\$9,000.00	\$9,000.00	\$9,000.00			
	Ground Maintenance	16,300.41	\$9,779.00	\$11,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00			
	Remote Bank Fees	312.57	\$255.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00			
	Financial Review	18,138.75	\$0.00	\$17,275.00	\$9,000.00	\$9,000.00	\$9,000.00			
	Accounting/Payroll Expense	3,506.48	\$25,867.00	\$55,000.00	\$52,000.00	\$52,000.00	\$52,000.00			
	Communication & IT Support	31,913.99	\$3,990.00	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00			
	Presbytery Meetings	3,715.11	\$1,599.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00			
	Administration	3,988.36		\$600.00	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$600.00			
	Conference/Retreats Travel	(935.73)		\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00			
	Capital Replacement Build-up	0.00		\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00			
	Presbyter's Discretionary Funds	1,818.38		\$285.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00			
	Church Property Expense				\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00			
		\$136,595	\$80,033	\$156,833	\$148,153	\$148,753	\$149,746			
Staffing Costs										
Office & Professional Staff										
	Subtotal	*		\$107,106	\$113,200	\$113,200	\$116,496			
Presbyter Position(s)										
	Subtotal	\$0		\$148,556	\$133,650	\$133,650	\$133,650			
Total Staff Expenses		245,007.93	\$79,267	\$255,662	\$246,850	\$246,850	\$250,146			

Presbytery of the James – 124th Stated Meeting – October 17 2026 – Hybrid Meeting Bon Air Church/Zoom – Section II

POJ 2027 Budget Worksheet

		2025 Actual	2026Jan-July	2026 Budget	2027 Request	2027 Draft	2028 Projected	NOTES	
Denominational Expenses								13,771 members in POJ	
	Synod Per Capita	8,300.00	\$0.00	\$21,098.00	\$20,656.50	\$20,656.50	\$20,656.50	\$1.50	
	GA Per Capita	78,237.70	\$79,267.00	\$158,372.00	\$179,573.84	\$179,573.84	\$179,573.84	13.04 a 30% increase for 2027	
		\$86,537.70	\$79,267.00	\$179,470.00	\$200,230.34	\$200,230.34	\$200,230.34		
Total Admin/Operations		\$468,140.95	\$238,566.80	\$591,965.00	\$595,233.34	\$595,833.34	\$600,122.34		
Admin/Operations Balance		\$167,860.83	\$85,738.13	\$2,084.18	-\$33,368.34	\$31.66	-\$33,007.34	This line helps us follow guidelines for use of investment income	
Mission									
PROJECTED INCOME									
	Draw on Investments (Mission)		\$190,052.00	\$190,052.70	\$171,026.00	\$171,026.00	\$180,000.00	3.5%-draw basis 4,886,462	
Total Projected Income			\$190,052.00	\$190,052.70	\$171,026.00	\$171,026.00	\$180,000.00		
Designated Funds Transfer		\$ 93,100.00	\$ 9,641.00		\$ 33,200.00	\$ 33,200.00			
Total Income + Transfers			\$199,693.00		\$204,226.00	\$204,226.00	\$180,000.00		
Commissions/Committees									
COM									
	Administration	97.73	\$2,256.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00		
	Compliance				\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	new for 2027	
	First Call Ministry Support	3,220.54	\$0.00	\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00		
	Psych Evaluations	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00		
	Pastor's Retreat	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
	Training Ruling Elders	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00		
	New Professional Orientation	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00		
Total COM		\$3,318.27	\$2,256.00	\$4,300.00	\$4,800.00	\$4,800.00	\$4,800.00		
CPM									
	Financial Aid	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,500.00	\$6,500.00	\$6,500.00	\$6,500.00		
	Psychological Evaluations	4,129.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00		
	Administration	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
Total CPM		\$4,129.00	\$0.00	\$8,500.00	\$8,500.00	\$8,500.00	\$8,500.00		
BOO Mandated Items									
	Committee on Representation COR	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
	Committee on Nominations CON	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
	Permanent Judicial Commission PJC	\$21.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
	Anti-Racism Committee		\$0.00		\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	Designated Funding	
Total		\$21.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00		
New Worshipping Communities								Designated Funding	
	NWC Administration Costs	\$0		\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500		
	NWC Voices of Jubilee	\$0		\$10,000	\$0	\$0	\$0		

Presbytery of the James – 124th Stated Meeting – October 17 2026 – Hybrid Meeting Bon Air Church/Zoom – Section II

POJ 2027 Budget Worksheet

		2025 Actual	2026 Jan-July	2026 Budget	2027 Request	2027 Draft	2028 Projected	NOTES		
	NWC BOP Voices of Jubilee	29,017.11		\$9,447	\$0	\$0	\$0			
	NWC Holy Trinity	\$0		\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0			
	NWC All Nations	\$0		\$10,000	\$0	\$0	\$0			
	NWC All Nations BOP	\$0		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0			
	NWC Every Table	29,246.00	\$9,441	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$0			
	NWC Coaching	1,500.00	\$200	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000			
	NWC Liability Insurance	\$0		\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500			
Total NWC		\$59,763	\$9,641	\$62,447	\$33,000	\$33,000	\$3,000			
Leadership Connections Team										
	LCT Univ. Mary Washington	14,999.99	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$13,495	\$10,000			
	LCT Ukirk University of Virginia	9,999.99	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$13,900	\$18,495	\$15,000			
	LCT Virginia Commonwealth Univ.	\$12,500	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$25,000	\$28,495	\$25,000			
	LCT Administration	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0			
	LCT Black Caucus/ASC	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0			
	LCT Older Adult	\$425	\$0	\$425	\$0	\$0	\$0	Designated Funds		
	LCT Resource Center	\$1,000	\$2,750	\$1,750	\$1,750	\$1,750	\$1,750			
	LCT Nurture	(67.07)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0			
Total LCT		\$2,240,691	\$42,750	\$42,175	\$50,650	\$62,235	\$51,750			
	Camp Hanover	\$102,000	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$84,000	\$38,495	\$35,000			
	Voices of Jubilee				\$10,000	\$13,495	\$10,000			
Total		\$102,000	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$94,000	\$51,990	\$45,000			
Mission and Service Team										
	MAST Administration	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0			
	MAST Disaster Relief	7,491.00	-\$928	\$6,000	\$9,000	\$9,000	\$6,000			
	MAST Self-Development of People	37.80	\$0	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000			
	MAST World Mission	3,000.00	\$3,820	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000			
	MAST Justice and Advocacy	\$0	\$0	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000			
Total MAST		\$10,529	\$2,892	\$20,000	\$23,000	\$23,000	\$20,000			
Other Commitments, defined terms										
	MAST Southwood Project Habitat/C'ville	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000			
		\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000			
Total Mission Giving										
		\$2,440,451	\$109,647	\$192,422	\$234,150	\$203,725	\$153,250			
Mission Giving Balance		-\$2,347,351.00	-\$80,405.00	-\$2,369.30	-\$29,924.00	\$501.00	\$26,750.00			
Final Balance										
		-\$2,179,490	-\$166,143	-\$285	-\$63,292	\$533	-\$6,257			

Trustees of Presbytery of the James, Inc.
Report to October 17, 2026 Meeting of the Presbytery
March 27, 2026 and September 16, 2026 Trustee Meetings

The Trustees report the following as information:

1. Closing on the sale of the former Gordonsville Church property is scheduled for October 1, 2026 and should be completed by the time of the Presbytery meeting on October 17, 2026.
2. The Trustees are working on obtaining Court authorization for the conveyance of the former Forest Hill Church property to the Trustees of the Presbytery. When this happens is dependent upon how quickly the Richmond City Circuit Court takes this up but the Trustees anticipate that this will happen before the end of 2026.

The Trustees report taking the following actions:

1. At a called Trustee meeting on March 27, 2026, the Trustees approved a motion to sell the Presbytery office building situated at 3218 Chamberlayne Avenue in Richmond for \$800,000. [Note: This was then approved by Presbytery at the May 12, 2026 Special Called Meeting of the POJ.]

The Trustees report the following actions made as a commission: None

The Trustees make the following consent agenda recommendations: None

The Trustees make the following recommendations: None

Respectfully submitted:

Trustees of the Presbytery of the James, Inc.

NET ASSET REPORTS

POJ 2026 NET ASSETS UNRESTRICTED										
FUND	12.31.25	Operating Revenue Income/Loss per P+L	Property Sale Proceeds	RBC/ Checking Transfers	Budget Surplus Transfer	10% of Operating Gross Profit	Prior Period Adjustments	Transfer from Restriction	Close out Operating Fund	8.31.26
Reparations Action Fund	\$ 299,759		\$ 58,880							\$ 358,639
Resurrection Fund	\$ 449,640		\$ 88,319					\$ 6,964		\$ 544,923
Stewardship Fund	\$ 749,400		\$ 147,199					\$ 6,323		\$ 902,922
Tithing Fund	\$ -									\$ -
Capital Maintenance Fund	\$ 136,610					\$ 121,356				\$ 257,966
Operational Reserve Fund	\$ 243,452				\$ 358,060					\$ 601,512
POJ Investment Fund	\$6,322,851									\$ 6,322,851
POJ Operating Fund	\$ -	\$ 773,814	\$ (294,398)		\$ (358,060)	\$ (121,356)				\$ -
Prior Period Adjustment	\$ -						\$ (134,561)			\$ (134,561)
Total	\$8,201,712	\$ 773,814	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (134,561)	\$ 13,287	\$ -	\$ 8,854,252

POJ 2026 NET ASSETS WITH RESTRICTIONS								
	Balance 12/31/25	Revenue	Expenses	Transfers	Release from Restriction	Realized Investment Income	Unrealized Investment Income	Balance 8/31/26
African Fellowship Project	\$ 3,323				\$ (3,323)			\$ -
Committee on Ministry & Worship	\$ -							\$ -
Dismantling Racism Project	\$ 7,018		\$ (71)					\$ 6,947
Elizabeth Fitzgerald Fund	\$ 3,305	\$ 612						\$ 3,917
Every Table			\$ (9,441)					\$ (9,441)
Five Cents A Meal	\$ 61,859	\$25,324	\$ (20,500)					\$ 66,683
For a Time Such As This	\$ 3,000				\$ (3,000)			\$ -
Glenmore Scholarship	\$ 2,505	\$ 1,839						\$ 4,343
Haitian Art Project	\$ 25							\$ 25
Haiti Mission Project - Corell	\$ 100							\$ 100
New Worshipping Communities	\$271,267		\$ (11,666)			\$ 52,385	\$ 3,990	\$315,976
Montgomery Immersion Matthew 25	\$ 6,430				\$ (6,964)			\$ (534)
Older Adult Ministries	\$ 5,815	\$ 559						\$ 6,373
Pastoral Care Fund	\$ 17,505	\$ 2,656	\$ (850)					\$ 19,311
Peacemaking Offering	\$ 21,521							\$ 21,521
Pentecost Offering	\$ 4,897							\$ 4,897
Presbyterian Disaster Team	\$ 735	\$ 100						\$ 835
SDOP Grant	\$ 9,582		\$ (9,500)					\$ 82
Sunnyside Retirement - New Covenant	\$ 2,457	\$ 3,723	\$ (1,230)					\$ 4,950
U of R Campus Ministry	\$ 6,695				\$ (6,695)			\$ -
Volunteer Recognition	\$ 2,032							\$ 2,032
Voices of Jubilee (including BOP)	\$ (19,271)	\$ 1,000	\$ (47,620)					\$ (65,891)
William Neal Endowment	\$ 711							\$ 711
Endowment								
Providence Powhatan	\$117,266		\$ (8,000)			\$ 14,461	\$ 6,909	\$130,637
Total Temp. Restricted	\$528,776	\$35,812	\$ (108,877)	\$ -	\$ (19,982)	\$ 66,846	\$ 10,899	\$513,475

POJ 2026 NET ASSETS WITH RESTRICTIONS (cont.)								
	Balance 12/31/25	Revenue	Expenses	Transfers	Release from Restriction	Realized Investment Income	Unrealized Investment Income	Balance 8/31/26
<u>Endowment</u>								
Anne Bolling Hobson	\$ 2,000							\$ 2,000
Eva Ross Barndt	\$ 500							\$ 500
Total Perm. Restricted Net Assets	\$ 2,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,500
Total Restricted	\$531,276	\$35,812	\$(108,877)	\$ -	\$ (19,982)	\$ 66,846	\$ 10,899	\$515,975

Report from the AntiRacism Committee for the October 17, 2026

meeting of the Presbytery of the James (POJ)

Laura S. Sugg (MWS), Moderator

Antiracism Committee (ARC) members: Liz Hulme Adam, Shady Clark, Peggy Fox, Lamar Lockhart, Laura Sugg (moderator), Joslyn Shipman, Marsha Summers, Christopher Tweel, and Mary Jane Winter. Kerry Foster (ex officio, POJ).



ARC
AntiRacism
Committee

Relate. Repair. Rejoice.

Greetings POJ Beloveds,

Thank you to the sixty folks who took the time—however brief it was—to **fill out the in-meeting online survey about congregational antiracism initiatives** during the June 17 Presbytery meeting. You should have received a thank you email from me, Laura Sugg, with info on ARC initiatives in the works or already available. Your POJ AntiRacism Committee celebrates the many **initiatives already happening in congregations**. Plans are underway to **collect more comprehensive information** (without the time-and-technology hurdles of the June meeting). The next priority will be to **share that information** in an easy way so that congregations can turn to each other instead of re-inventing the wheel.

ARC is getting the word out in various ways—blurbs in the Current and direct emails. The **ARC web page** on the Presbytery site continues to have more and more **information and resources** for your congregation to use and share. A sample congregational antiracism policy and other items will be showing up soon. (Thank you, Leah Tweel!) Please check out the page now and frequently to see new items: <https://presbyteryofthejames.com/about/committees/antiracism-committee/>

ARC is excited to have **time on the docket** at the October 17 meeting. **Artist and community organizer, Hamilton Glass** will share about the **Mending Walls project** which builds community by bringing together diverse people to create murals in cooperation with local artists. Your AntiRacism Committee created a **free curriculum—We Need to Talk—for small-group conversations** about the **documentary, Mending Walls**. A link to the curriculum and to the free documentary are on the ARC web page. After the ARC time on the floor on Oct. 17, **during lunch, there will be a chance to continue in conversation with Hamilton Glass and with each other** in a separate room for in-person attendees. Please plan on attending!

Your POJ AntiRacism Committee has met monthly either via hybrid (in-person plus Zoom) or Zoom-only. ARC sponsored a **one-hour info session on Zoom with Chad Wayner (RE) on Monday, October 5**. Chad served as one of the POJ's six commissioners to this summer's **General Assembly—on the Racial Justice Committee, specifically**. There were many initiatives from that GA Committee. See **links to approved GA Racial Justice actions on the ARC web page**. Chad shared about his experiences and how these GA actions may assist congregational and presbytery-wide antiracism efforts.

Look for more ARC-sponsored resources and educational/advocacy activities in the future!

Thank you very much to the **POJ Mission Council** for developing purpose documents and an **application process** for grants from the **POJ Reparative Action Fund**. Once approved, **consider how your congregation might apply for and use funds to repair historical harm**. ARC is also in conversation with Mission Council about how to **align Committee membership** with the “normal” way of structuring POJ entities. ARC was formed in late 2023 as a “y’all come” committee. Now that it has existed for almost three years, it will be good to create sustainability through more defined structures.

As always, **if you would like to assist the work of the AntiRacism Committee—either for a specific task or with the on-going work, please reach out to any member of the Committee (see above.)**. Like a lot of Presbytery teams, ARC is particularly seeking participation by Ruling Elders as either full Committee members or as helpers with specific initiatives.

Report of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry

Presbytery of the James

September 23, 2026

Report includes information from committee meetings held June 2026 through September 2026.

I. The committee reports the following for information:

- A. Of the 15 persons under care as of September 2026. Of these, 6 are inquirers and 8 are candidates. Of the candidates, 1 is certified ready to receive a call.

II. The committee reports the following actions:

- A. Interviewed Inquirer Subin Sim and approved her to be interviewed by presbytery for candidacy.
- B. Interviewed Inquirer Kaylyn McGhee and approved her to be interviewed by presbytery for candidacy.

III. The committee makes the following recommendations in the Consent Agenda:

- C. The committee recommends inquirer Subin Sim (Lord Jesus Korean) be examined for candidacy for the ordered Ministry of the Word and Sacrament.
- D. The committee recommends inquirer Kaylyn McGhee (Fairfield) be examined for candidacy for the ordered Ministry of the Word and Sacrament.

When inquirers seek to become candidates, the presbytery examines them in person with respect to their faith in Jesus Christ and experience of God's grace, their sense of call and motives for seeking the ministry, and forms of Christian service undertaken.

III. The committee makes the following recommendation: [None]

Report of the Commission on Ministry

Presbytery of the James

October 2026

(Includes actions taken in the June, July, August, and September 2026 meetings.)

I. The Commission Reports the Following Actions:

- A. Received Ministers Into the Presbytery:
 - a. [Rev. David Ensign](#) (retired)
- B. Dismissed Members to Other Presbyteries:
 - a. Rev. Jacobus Greyling to Shenandoah Presbytery
 - b. Rev. Leigh Ann Ring to the Presbytery of the Peaks
- C. Approved Terms of Call for Incoming Pastoral Relationships:
 - a. Between Rev. Rebekah Tucker-Motley and Gayton Kirk
 - b. Between Rev. Amy Starr Redwine and First Presbyterian Church, Richmond
 - c. Between Rev. Walter Canter and River Road Presbyterian Church

- D. Approved Validated Minister Outside of a Congregation:
 - a.
- E. Approved Requests to Labor Beyond the Bounds of the Presbytery
 - a.
- F. Approved Requests to Labor Within the Bounds of the Presbytery
 - a. Rev. Heidi Biermann, of the Presbytery of the Inland Northwest, to labor within the bounds of the Presbytery of the James. Heidi will be serving as Assistant Professor of New Testament at Union Presbyterian Seminary, primarily working remotely from Seattle, with occasional trips to Richmond.
- G. Approved the Following Commissions:
 - a. To install Rev. Mark Swart at Summit
 - b. To ordain Rev. Cate Jobe, Covenant Pastor at First Presbyterian, Richmond
 - c. To install Rev. Mary Kay Scott at Southminster
- H. Approved to Preside at the Lord's Supper
 - a. Emma Marshall, a candidate for the Ministry of Word and Sacrament and previously ordained as a ruling elder, to preside at the Lord's Supper at Second Presbyterian Church, Richmond, upon invitation of its Session, in accordance with G-2.0606 of the *Book of Order*, through her scheduled ordination on October 31, 2026.
- I. Approved Member at Large status:
 - a.
- J. Granted Exemptions to Policies:
 - a. Approved a request for an exemption from boundary training from Rev. Charlie Summers, retired.
- K. Received Covenant of Closures:
 - a. Rev. Robert Johnson, New Hanover
- L. Completed Exit Interviews:
 - a. Rev. Robert Johnson, New Hanover
- M. Approved Retired Status:
 - a. Rev. Thomas A. Goodrich from Meadows Presbyterian Church, effective November 22, 2026.
 - b. Rev. Michael Jones from Aberdour and First Emporia, effective October 4, 2026.
 - c. Rev. Clay Macaulay from River Road Presbyterian Church, effective October 15, 2026
- N. Approved Dissolution of the Pastoral Relationship:
 - a. Between Louisa Presbyterian Church and Rev. Sandra Goehring, effective July 1, 2026.
- O. Approved Pastor Emeritus status:
 - a.

- P. Approved Covenant Pastor Agreements:
- Covenant between [Emma Marshall](#) and Second PC, Richmond.
 - Covenant between Rev. Ann Cherry and Laurel PC.
 - Covenant between Rev. John William Turner and St. James PC.
 - Covenant between Rev. Donald Denton and Rennie Memorial PC.
 - Covenant between Rev. Derek Redwine and Richmond First Presbyterian.
 - Covenant (revised) between Rev. Ann Cherry and Laurel PC
 - Covenant between Rev. Ed Kross and Ampthill PC
 - Covenant between Rev. Ulysses Payne and Westminster United PC, Petersburg
 - Covenant (revised) between Rev. Derek Redwine and First PC, Richmond.
 - Covenant between Rev. James C. Goodloe, IV and Mattoax Pine Grove PC.
 - Covenant between Rev. Susan Steinberg and Providence Presbyterian, Gum Spring.
 - Covenant between Rev. Chad Rhodes and Pryor Memorial PC, Crewe
- Q. Approved Interim Pastor/ Associate Pastor Agreements:
- Interim Covenant between Rev. Clay Macaulay and River Road PC.
 - Interim Covenant between Rev. Thomas Lovell and Culpeper PC.
- R. Approved Bridge Pastor Agreements:
- Bridge Covenant between Rev. Carson Rhyne and Gayton Kirk
- S. Approved Covenant Pastor Parish Associate:
- Covenant between Rev. Colleen Earp and Tuckahoe PC.
 - Covenant between Rev. Hal Breitenberg and Tuckahoe PC.
- T. Received and Reviewed Reports from Interim/Transitional Pastors
- Rev. Tom Lovell
 - Rev. Kelly-Ann Rayle
 - Rev. Arch Wallace
- U. Recognized Completion of Covenant:
- Between Rev. Kelly Kauffman and Tabor
- V. Appointed Session Moderators:
- Rev. Shelley Barrick Parsons to moderate Milford PC
 - Rev. Derek Redwine to moderate Providence PC.
 - Rev. Karen Allamon to moderate Louisa PC
- W. Approved to preach more than three times in three months in one congregation:
- Peter Jeffrey
 - Rev. Rebecca Tucker-Motley
 - Rev. Renita Page, UCC
 - Rev. Shelley Barrick Parsons
 - Katy Pistole
 - Wendy Steeves

- X. Approved for Pulpit Supply List, or other list for which they have applied:
 - a. Ray Roberts
 - b. Wendy Steeves
 - c. Faye Cooper Baldwin
 - d. Rev. Ashley Mejias
 - e. Rev. Peter Hawisher-Faul
 - f. Charles Bagwell
- Y. Removed from Pulpit Supply List:
 - a.
- Z. Approved Request to form a PNC or APNC after review of submitted Mission Study:
 - a. Culpeper Presbyterian Church
 - b. First United Presbyterian Church
 - c. Chester Presbyterian Church
 - d. Fairfield Presbyterian Church
- AA. Approved Ministry Discernment Profile
 - a. First Presbyterian Church, Hopewell
- BB. Approved Commissioned Ruling Elder agreements:
 - a. Between William Seay and Second Petersburg
- CC. Certified Ready to receive a Commission:
 - a.
- DD. Recognized completion of work as Commissioned Ruling Elder:
 - a.
- EE. Report for information:
 - a. 2026 Liaison Assignments [2026 Liaisons](#)
 - b. **Pastoral Care Fund:** Balance as of August 31, 2026 was \$19,311.12.
- FF. Guidelines for internal COM practices:
 - a. Approved revised exit interview question guidelines
 - b. Added language to the Supply List guidelines noting that to preach more than 3 times within a three-month period at a particular church requires COM approval.
 - c. Per G-2.1002, approved including in the Supply list Ruling Elders that have been CREs previously, but are not currently commissioned, noting that they are not authorized to preside over the Lord's Supper.

II. Consent Agenda Recommendations:

- a.

III. Recommendations:

- a.

Liturgy for the Celebration of Retirement

Ask all those being recognized to come forward.

Opening Sentences of Scripture (Psalm 103:1-5), read responsively by the full body.

One: Bless the Lord, O my soul,
And all that is within me, bless God's holy name

**Many: Bless the Lord, O my soul,
And forget not all God's benefits,**

One: who forgives all your sins
And heals all your infirmities;

**Many: who redeems your life from the grave
And crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness**

One: who satisfies you with good things,

Many: and your youth is renewed like an eagle's

Benedictory Address (by Kelly-Ann):

Karen Allamon, Robert Johnson, Tom Goodrich, Mike Jones, Clay Macaulay, Gordon Mapes, Jock O'Connell, and Steve Starzer you have completed your active service as a Minister of Word and Sacrament. We praise God for the grace that has filled your ministry, we give thanks for your faithful service to Christ's church, and we rejoice at the work of the Holy Spirit in you.

Now this presbytery confers upon you the status, Retired.

We value the gifts and experiences God has bestowed on you and we welcome your continued participation in the life of the church. You remain colleagues in ministry, and we will continue to seek your wisdom and your fellowship.

We pray that each of you will find new opportunities to fulfill your baptismal calling, as one marked by the Holy Spirit, a disciple of Jesus Christ.

May God continue to bring joy and peace to your life, just as you have blessed the church with your ministry and proclaimed the good news of Jesus Christ. Amen

[Take time for all those present to be recognized by the body with applause.]

Closing Prayer:

Eternal God,

Through all the years of our lives your love protects and guides us. By your spirit you call us to varied ministries in the service of Jesus Christ. We praise you for your gifts to your servants Karen, Robert, Tom, Mike, Clay, Gordon, Jock, and Steve for the faithful proclamation of your word, the administration of the holy sacraments of Jesus Christ, and pastoral care and leadership in the church.

Grant to Karen, Robert, Tom, Mike, Clay, Gordon, Jock, and Steve time for refreshment and rest, reflection and rejoicing, and the fullness of your peace.

Through your Holy Spirit bless each of us that we may remember the love of Jesus Christ, which unites us in the service of our Lord.

In the name of Christ we pray. Amen

Revised Liaison Assignments

Region	Church	Liaison
E	Aberdour Presbyterian Church	Shady Clark
D	All Souls Presbyterian Church	Rosalind Banbury
F	Amelia Presbyterian Church	Crystal Varner Parker
D	Ampthill Presbyterian Church	Joanna W. Sydnor
B	Ashland Presbyterian Church	Mike Watson
F	Bethesda Presbyterian Church	Barbara Flynt
B	Bethlehem Presbyterian Church	Crystal Varner Parker
F	Blackstone Presbyterian Church	Jerry Zekert
A	Blue Ridge Presbyterian Church	Mary Jane Winter
F	Bon Air Presbyterian Church	Rosalind Banbury
F	Bott Memorial Presbyterian Church	Barbara Flynt
F	Brandermill Church	Jerry Zekert
B	Brett-Reed Memorial Church	Shelly Barrick Parsons
F	Burkeville Presbyterian Church	Barbara Flynt
C	Byrd Presbyterian Church	Shelly Barrick Parsons
B	Campbell Memorial Presbyterian Church	Kelly-Ann Rayle
E	Chester Presbyterian Church	Shelly Barrick Parsons
E	Colonial Heights Presbyterian Church	Shady Clark
F	Concord Presbyterian Church	Jim Allison
A	Cove Presbyterian Church	Jim Allison
E	Covenant Presbyterian Church	Mary Jane Winter
A	Culpeper Presbyterian Church	Ronda Williams
D	Eastminster Presbyterian Church	Peggy Fox
F	Ebenezer Presbyterian Church	Jewell-Ann Parton
D	Every Table	Crystal Varner Parker
B	Fairfield Presbyterian Church	Mary Jane Winter
A	First Presbyterian Church Charlottesville	Ronda Williams
F	First Presbyterian Church Chase City	Shady Clark
E	First Presbyterian Church Emporia	Jewell-Ann Parton
E	First Presbyterian Church Hopewell	Shady Clark
D	First Presbyterian Church Richmond	Shelly Barrick Parsons
D	First United Presbyterian Church	Jewell-Ann Parton
C	Genito Presbyterian Church	Todd Davidson
D	Ginter Park Presbyterian Church	Todd Davidson
D	Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church	Jewell-Ann Parton
E	Gregory Memorial Presbyterian Church	Shady Clark
B	Hartwood Presbyterian Church	Jerry Zekert
E	Hawkins Memorial Presbyterian Church	Peggy Fox
C	Hebron Presbyterian Church	Todd Davidson
C	Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church	Joanna W. Sydnor
B	King's Chapel Presbyterian Church	Mike Watson
A	Kirk O'Cliff Presbyterian Church	Jim Allison

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C	Laurel Presbyterian Church	Crystal Varner Parker
F	Lawrenceville Presbyterian Church	Peggy Fox (TBC)
D	Lord Jesus Korean Presbyterian Church	Crystal Varner Parker
A	Louisa Presbyterian Church	Jim Allison
A	Madison Presbyterian Church	Jim Purser
F	Mattoax Presbyterian Church	Barbara Flynt
A	Meadows Presbyterian Church	Ronda Williams
B	Milden Presbyterian Church	Kelly-Ann Rayle
B	Milford Presbyterian Church	Jerry Zekert
A	Mitchells Presbyterian Church	Jim Purser
B	New Hanover Presbyterian Church	Mike Watson
F	Oak Grove Presbyterian Church	Peggy Fox
F	Ogden Presbyterian Church	Crystal Varner Parker
F	Olivet Presbyterian Church	Jim Allison
A	Orange Presbyterian Church	Jim Allison
C	Overbrook Presbyterian Church	Harold Cothorn
F	Pine Grove Presbyterian Church	Barbara Flynt
B	Praise The Lord Presbyterian Church	Harold Cothorn
E	Providence Forge Presbyterian Church	Rosalind Banbury
A	Providence Presbyterian Church Gum Spring	Jim Allison
C	Providence Presbyterian Church Powhatan	Jim Purser
F	Pryor Memorial Presbyterian Church	Shelly Barrick Parsons
F	Rennie Memorial Presbyterian Church	Harold Cothorn
C	River Road Presbyterian Church	Jerry Zekert
E	Rivermont Presbyterian Church	Mary Jane Winter
A	Rockfish Presbyterian Church	Ronda Williams
E	Rosewood Presbyterian Church	Kelly-Ann Rayle
B	Salem Presbyterian Church	Mike Watson
F	Salisbury Presbyterian Church	Joanna W. Sydnor
C	Sandston Presbyterian Church	Harold Cothorn
A	Scottsville Presbyterian Church	Ronda Williams
E	Second Presbyterian Church Petersburg	Todd Davidson
E	Second Presbyterian Church Richmond	Crystal Varner Parker
F	South Hill Presbyterian Church	Jewell-Ann Parton
A	South Plains Presbyterian Church	Ronda Williams
F	Southminster Presbyterian Church	Mary Jane Winter
B	St Andrews Presbyterian Church	Jim Purser
B	St James Presbyterian Church	Mike Watson
B	Summit Presbyterian Church	Jerry Zekert
F	Swift Creek Presbyterian Church	Mary Jane Winter
A	Tabor Presbyterian Church	Mike Watson
B	Tappahannock Presbyterian Church	Kelly-Ann Rayle
C	The Gayton Kirk	Shelly Barrick Parsons
B	The Presbyterian Church	Todd Davidson
C	Three Chopt Presbyterian Church	Harold Cothorn
F	Thyne Memorial Presbyterian Church	Rosalind Banbury

C	Tuckahoe Presbyterian Church	Joanna W. Sydnor
C	Village Presbyterian Church	Todd Davidson
A	Waddell Memorial Presbyterian Church	Jim Purser
A	Westminster Presbyterian Church Charlottesville	Jim Purser
E	Westminster Presbyterian Church Petersburg	Joanna W. Sydnor
D	Westminster Presbyterian Church Richmond	Kelly-Ann Rayle
E	Woodlawn Presbyterian Church	Rosalind Banbury
D	Woodville Presbyterian Church	Rosalind Banbury
F	Zion Hill Presbyterian Church	Peggy Fox

Statements of Faith

Rev. David Ensign

Trusting the boundless grace of our Creator, inspired by the Spirit, I aspire to a life of love and justice following the way of Jesus in the company of his church. From that foundational trinitarian conviction, my pastoral mission is simple: to do justice, to love with merciful kindness, to walk humbly with God. It is simple, but, of course, the difficult work of a lifetime.

To do justice: I work to equip and empower members of the community to live out the love and the justice of the gospel of Jesus Christ by:

- Building relationships with existing or emerging community groups to empower members of our faith community to work for justice and equity in our society with special concern for the rights of the most marginalized members of the community;
- Seeking opportunities for every community member to participate in hands-on, relational mission work locally and beyond;
- Preaching the good news as it relates to issues of peace and justice.

To love with merciful kindness: I work to create in the community a spirit of welcome that reflects God's amazing and inclusive grace and truth by:

- Fostering the practice of Christian hospitality in every aspect of our common life;
- Providing pastoral care and guidance, including building a network of referrals to professional counselors and therapists who work within the context of faith;
- Building a deeper capacity for compassion, concern and lay-led pastoral care through small group ministries.

To walk humbly with God: I work to deepen the spiritual lives of each community member - including my own - that we might dwell together in the questions of life in the context of our common faith by:

- Teaching from the best insights of the Reformed tradition and its contemporary interpreters;
- Preaching from the breadth of scripture as it speaks to the concerns of contemporary life;
- Leading people into deeper relationships of discipleship to Jesus Christ;
- Creating worship opportunities that reflect the fullness of Christian worship experience drawing upon the best of our tradition and the most inspiring contemporary expressions of worship;

In these and other ways I work to advance the mission of the communities I am called to serve. My work is grounded in the deepest values of my faith as expressed in these core convictions: *The arc of the creative universe is long, but it bends toward God's love:* God created the universe and called it good. In sovereign love, God created humankind in the image of God and called us good. In

freedom, we distance ourselves from God and break the bonds of communion with God and with one another. In our brokenness, we suffer isolating alienation from God and human community. In suffering isolation we sin.

The arc of the spiritual universe is long, but it bends toward God's grace: God calls us to reconciliation in spite of our brokenness, alienation and sin. In Jesus, God was reconciling the world to God's self and creating the community of reconciliation. This invitation to reconciliation, spoken in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus the Christ, is from everlasting to everlasting; for our time and for all time. In and through Christ, wholeness and salvation break into the world.

The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward God's justice: Speaking still, through the Spirit, God invites us to continue creating the community of reconciliation - the Beloved Community. God invites us into a community of Word and sacrament that we might be for the world an exhibition of the Beloved Community, the household of God, the commonwealth of love and justice. In and through the community of disciples of Christ, God's love breaks into the world.

The arc of the temporal universe is long, but it bends toward God's kairos: The fullness of God's time lies always already before us. We live in the time between the already and the not yet, and are called to live faithful lives in the time we are given and exercise a faithful, trusting patience that while the arc of the created universe is long, it rests in the hands of the sovereign God of love, grace and justice. Even as we pray for the presence of Christ, we are called to arise, shine, for the time is come.

Emma Marshall

I believe in God whose nature is relational, who is present in creation, in the Word made flesh and in scripture, and in the generative movement of the Spirit. God's triune nature is the blueprint for sacred community: individual believers united in love in one flesh, the flesh of Jesus Christ.

I believe that God creates out of boundless love for life, and that when we are distant or turned away from our relational God, God grieves. God in graciousness both moves towards us and calls us closer, offering welcome each time we return.

I believe God ultimately chooses closeness with humanity in the person of Jesus Christ, who offers a living image of right relationship and sacred community, which, despite being made visible, we cannot even imagine in its full shalom. I believe that Jesus Christ was crucified and died, placing himself in complete solidarity with those who experience the negation of death and suffering. I believe that Christ rose from the dead, turning the powers of negation into powers of life and creation; I believe that Christ lives. I believe Christ's vision of love and solidarity will be the ultimate Word in the story of creation, and that we are called as siblings of Christ and children of God, empowered by the Holy Spirit, to be co-creators in this vision.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, by which God's life-affirming work in creation and in Christ continues. Through the Holy Spirit we are continually reinvited and welcomed into God's grace and affirmation; likewise, through the Spirit we are continually empowered and entrusted with kingdom-building work.

I believe the sacraments of baptism and communion are sacred gifts by which we both affirm and practice our membership in the family of God. Sacraments form us as citizens and neighbors in God's world, called to keep and uphold one another, to ensure that all are welcomed and fed, and to experience joy in togetherness.

I believe that the Bible is God's voice to us as individuals and communities across time and space. The stories of God and God's people form and shape us as hearers discerning God's word, as actors discerning God's will, and as dreamers and storytellers ourselves, seeking the image and imagination of God in our world.

I believe in the Church as the community of those who live in Christ and share in the work of kindom as revealed in Scripture, who are commanded to love one another as Christ loved us. To be the Church is a sacred gift and a serious responsibility to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God.

I hope in a world where God's will is done on earth, where the perfection of the triune, communitarian God brings healing and wholeness to creation. I believe that God does not consent to a world of fractured relationships and injustice; I believe in God's promise to make all things new. I believe this has been done in the person of Jesus Christ, continues to be done in the Holy Spirit, and will be done throughout time and space, in God's perfect love.

Report of the Committee on Nominations

October 17, 2026

- I. The Committee on Nominations met with members of the Committee on Representation on August 11. The Committee on Nominations met and discerned nominees for openings across the presbytery and the synod, holding meetings in July, August, September and October.
- II. The Committee reports the following:
 - a. The election for Moderator of the Presbytery of the James will take place today.
 - i. The Committee reports that its nominee for 2027 Moderator of the Presbytery of the James is Teaching Elder **Alex Creager**. Alex serves as the pastor at Bon Air Presbyterian Church, and he currently serves as the Vice Moderator of the Presbytery.
- III. The election of the following people:
 - a. The Committee nominates:
 - i. Mission Council:
 1. **Colleen Earp**, TE, Tuckahoe Parish Associate, Region C, class of 2029, second term
 - ii. Commission On Ministry:
 1. **Todd Davidson**, TE, Sandston, Region C, class of 2029, second term;
 2. **Gary Hatter**, TE, Waddell Memorial, MAL, class of 2029, first term
 - iii. Committee on Preparation for Ministry:
 1. **Christopher Tweel**, TE, Brandermill, Region F, class of 2029, second term
 2. **Carla Pratt Keyes**, TE, Ginter Park, Region D, class of 2029, first term
- IV. The Committee reports the following openings:

The following openings exist on Committees and Teams that are filled by the Committee on Nominations. ***An updated list of vacancies and nominees will be shared onscreen at the presbytery meeting.*

If you are interested in any of these opportunities for service, please contact Rev. Kate Fiedler, Moderator, Committee on Nominations at katef@2presrichmond.org.

Team/ Comm	Class	Name	Church	Pers Code	Role/ Reg./ Dist.	Term
Mission Council						
MC	2029			RE	D	1
Commission on Ministry						
COM	2027			RE	A	1
COM	2027			RE	B	1
COM	2028			RE	E	1
COM	2028			TE	F	1
COM	2028			RE	F	1
COM	2028			RE	MAL	1
COM	2029			RE	MAL	1
COM	2029			RE	C	1
COM	2029			TE	D	1
COM	2029			RE	D	1
COM	2029			RE	MAL	1
COM	2029			RE	MAL	1
Committee on Representation						
COR	2028			RE		1
Committee on Preparation for Ministry						
CPM	2027			RE	B	1
CPM	2029			RE	C	1
CPM	2029			TE	C	1
CPM	2029			TE	D	1
CPM	2028			RE	E	1
CPM	2029			RE/TE	MAL VM	1
CPM	2028			RE/TE	MALMo d	1
Permanent Judicial Council						
PJC	2029			RE	MAL	1
Leadership Connections Team						

LCT	2027			TE/RE	A	1
LCT	2027			TE/RE	B	1
LCT	2026			MC	C	1
LCT	2028			RE	E	1
LCT	2028			TE	F	1
LCT	2027				MAL VM	1
Mission & Service Team						
MAST	2026			TE	C	1
MAST	2028			RE	E	1
MAST	2027			TE	F	1
MAST	2028				MAL VM	
New Worshipping Communities Team						
NWCT	2028			TE	F	1
Westminster Presbyterian Homes Board						
WPHB	2027			TE	MAL	1
Synod Service						
Mid-Atlantic	2029			Commissioner	RE	1
Mid-Atlantic	2027			Representation		1
Mid-Atlantic	2027			Nominations		1

Mission and Service Team Ministry Reports

Self-Development of People (SDOP) Ministry Report

The SDOP Ministry is participating in new community opportunities, meeting and partnering with community leaders and non-profits. The new opportunities have resulted in an increase in SDOP grant applications, including [mid-council](#) and [national level](#) applications

Significant Events:

- SDOP National Office, Certification/Re-Certification Training completed on 08/27/2026
- Grassroots Workshop-Central Library, 07/23/2026
- C.A.S.E., SDOP grant recipient, graduation ceremonies, 8/11/2026
- Week Of Peace, Virginia Union University, invited by Shauntah Powell, 08/22/2026
- The Struggle Is Real- Training for all SDOP Ministry members, 09/03/2026, 90 participants attended
- Grassroots Workshop: Manchester Family YMCA; with host Jamal Riley, YMCA, Chaplain, 9/15/2026.

Blessings and Good News

- The local SDOP Ministry has received notification from the National Office that an application for \$15,000.00 has been received with a Richmond, VA, address.
- The SDOP Ministry has invited the three 2025 SDOP grants recipients, National Level, MAMA BEES, \$15,000 (national level), and C.A.S.E., \$6,500.00 and RVA Singers, \$3,000.00 (mid-council level) to attend the October 17, 2026, POJ Stated Meeting. All have Accepted.
- The SDOP Ministry is reaching many churches, communities, and non-profits and hopes to create partnerships with Non-PC(USA) churches.

Blessings,
Lamar Lockhart, SDOP Chairperson

World Mission Ministry Presbytery of the James October 17, 2026

World Mission Ministry is pleased to report that in July a team from four churches in our presbytery, plus several others from nearby presbyteries came to **Guatemala** for a remarkable week with our Presbyterian global mission partner, [CEDEPCA](#) (*Protestant Center for Pastoral Education in Central America*). They train pastors with a deeper understanding of scripture, empower women to succeed, reach out to teens, and support life giving initiatives such as clean water. A grant from our Hunger Committee provides seeds for vegetable gardens and egg-laying chickens to struggling families.

We joined CEDEPCA to bring clean water by delivering lifesaving 103 Eco-water filters and in caring for creation by planting 400 trees in a reforestation project. We visited a new initiative of several men to make fuel efficient, ventilated stoves to improve the life of women who cook and of the environment where too many trees are cut for firewood. We experienced the deep faith of those in CEDEPCA who are passionate about serving God by bringing hope, justice, and the fullness of life for all people and all creation. Our team can speak to your church!

James and Marsha Lockett, of Tuckahoe, wrote, “This trip touched our heads and our hearts. We learned about the recent history and the resulting challenges that remain today. We saw the country from the biggest city to small towns, from historic Spanish colonial buildings to new construction.



Our hearts were touched to see PC(USA) and POJ support for Guatemalan-led initiatives come to fruition in ways making life better for families in rural areas. We have no more vivid memories than those of the women receiving the Ecofiltro water filters that would provide their families with safe drinking water.

Although there are needs in our own country and around the world, we came away convinced that the needs in Guatemala are real and that CEDEPCA is an effective partner worthy of our support.”

Another, Bill Hamre of Rockfish, wrote about many significant experiences and concluded

“I remember our coming together in learning and service
To understand better the people and country of Guatemala.
Each bringing our faith to share
Each learning how we can serve
Each finding joy in Christian fellowship.
Each coming home changed in a significant way
Knowing more about the needs of others

Of the tireless work of committed people
Who choose to make a difference
Who choose to serve
Who choose God.”

CEDEPCA, our mission partner in Guatemala, now without any Presbyterian mission co-workers, invites us to visit them, to pray for them, and to support them that God’s love and justice, joy, and life may build a better future for all.

If you wish to hear from any of the travelers or to know more about CEDEPCA or about travel to Guatemala or how to make a gift for a water filter or more, contact Mary Jane Winter (mjwinter@comcast.net).

Hunger Ministry

More than 1 in every 4 people worldwide struggle to get enough to eat! What are we doing? In a world filled with so much abundance—so much wealth and technology and development—it is hard to imagine that any child, any person, should ever go to bed hungry, much less die too young because of a lack of food and nutrition. Your church can help by supporting the Hunger Ministry of the Presbytery of the James.

Grants are made to local congregations that have food pantries or other programs addressing the needs in their communities, as well as to justice and advocacy ministries like Bread for the World that are working for better policies to address hunger. Other grants are made internationally where we have global partners of the Presbyterian Church that are engaged in addressing urgent needs for food but also in agricultural training.

Additionally, a portion of the Hunger Ministry budget goes to the Presbyterian Hunger Program of the denomination and has an even farther reach nationally and internationally.

If your church is taking the Five Cents a Meal Offering or if your mission budget includes a donation for hunger, and either way you are sending it to the Presbytery, THANK YOU. If not, please start now! Together our small gifts can make a big impact. No child should go to bed hungry. Together we can change that!

Leadership Connection Report

There are many ministries occurring in the reports of Leadership Connection Team. Contact any of the leaders to find out ways to become involved and to participate.

The Leadership Connection Team will offer Polity 101 again this fall. The online training will be on Monday Evenings, November 2, 9, 16, and 23. Cost is \$50 per congregation regardless of the number of participants from the congregation. This course covers the *Book of Order* Form of Government, chapters 1-5. It is intended for newly elected Elders and Deacons, for “old” Elders and Deacons, for Educators, and for any member of the congregation. It is supplemental to required officer training in congregations.

Register online at <https://forms.gle/y6S3RVRdUx43RANGA>. Contact Carson Rhyne with other questions or concerns: carsonrhyne48@gmail.com

Presbyterian Women, October, 2026

- I. Presbyterian Women, Leadership Connection Team, Katheryn M. Peebles, Moderator
Presbyterian Women of the James
- II. Fall Gathering is planned for November 7, 2026. Location TBD, Keynote speaker will be
Rev Kelly Kaufman, Covenant pastor, Tabor Presbyterian
- III. Information:
Currently looking for a host church for the Fall Gathering, November 7, 2026
Spring Gathering Mission Offering was for the Presbyterian Disaster Relief of Western NC
and VA.

The Coordinating team continues to search for individuals who would like to join in supporting the PW of the James. Two of our Coordinating team, Toni Archer and Patricia Langfit, attended the Synod Summer Gathering in Massanetta Springs in June. We continue to encourage support of the Building A Place for All, Massanetta Springs' Capitol Campaign.

Resource Center

Greetings, Friends, from The Resource Center! We are your resource connection, working in partnership with local theological schools and their libraries, as well as judicatories, local congregations, and affiliated organizations. Nearly 16,000 volumes await your exploration: a wide variety of curricula for all ages, books on Christian education, spiritual formation, and related topics in theology, media resources, art, artifacts, and so much more! Check out our continuously updated searchable online catalog to explore the possibilities:
www.resourcingchurches.com (there's a link to search at the bottom of the main page).

Advent is coming! We have resources to help!

It's not too early to think about Advent! Advent is a time when congregations frequently plan special studies or times of gathering. The Resource Center has dozens of options for Advent studies, whether you prefer to read a book together, use a video series, or want to try something new. We will work with you to find and adapt tools and resources to design a strategy that are just right for your congregation! The Resource Center staff are just a phone call or email away!

Thank you for Sharing!

The Resource Center team is deeply grateful for the contributions of resources from congregations and individuals to help expand and enrich our collection! We appreciate the recent donation of past years' VBS kits from Three Chopt Presbyterian Church among others who have graciously supported our shared ministry!

A Plan for Ministry Going Forward

In partnership with the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology where we are physically located, The Resource Center will serve as the resourcing partner for a Thriving Congregations grant from the Lilly Endowment. A small portion of the grant budget has been designated to acquire and provide resources in support of the grant's work. We will continue to share about the great new resources we are able to provide through this grant! We keep innovating to serve you better with the thriving of your congregation as our first priority.

How to Get Involved

Every POJ congregation has access to The Resource Center free of charge to the congregations through the funding provided through the POJ budget! You are invited to contact Dr. Denise Janssen, executive director, at 708.955.8913 (cell) or REVDLJ@att.net. Whether in person or virtually, the staff of your Resource Center is here to help with consultation and resourcing!

Denise Janseen, Director

Older Adult Ministry

The Older Adult Ministry developed a video posted on the Presbytery's website that delves into one pastor's experience in understanding dementia. Look for it under the Ministries tab, [Older Adult Ministry](#).

Continuing with our focus on dementia here is an excerpt from an article from the 2026 Planning Guide from the Presbyterian Older Adult Ministries Network. The article is "Supporting Youth When Dementia Touches the Family" by Pat Baker, St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, Tucker, Georgia.

"The bond between grandparents and grandchildren is often unique and filled with warmth, laughter, and support. Grandparents may have more time to spend with their grandchildren and can offer a special kind of love. Bonds can change with a diagnosis of dementia. It may feel confusing, emotional, or even overwhelming for youth as they watch someone they love experience memory loss or behavioral changes. But it's important to remember: the relationship doesn't have to end—it just changes. Here are a few thoughts and tips to help leaders guide youth as they navigate this family challenge. These suggestions can also be helpful for any relationship with older adult friends."

One of the first things is to learn about dementia. The Alzheimer's Association has a website where you can begin the educational process.

Music is an excellent way of relating to people and can be the means through which youth may connect with older relatives. "We have all been exposed to music, whether by listening to recordings, playing an instrument, attending concerts, or dancing. Music can elicit emotions and memories and help link to a person's past and promote interconnection. Recent findings suggest that musical training delays cognitive decline and promotes brain plasticity in the elderly brain."

As leaders in the church, we can encourage the youth to interact with older adults both within families as well as within the church family. Consider planning events that will bring the two age groups together like a lunch for various holidays and celebrations. For example, the youth could sponsor an All Hallow's Eve lunch or a Valentine's lunch. The first Sunday in May begins Older Adult Week develop a lunch and musical program that would include the youth and musical tributes that bring the generations together.

There are various resources that can be found on our national Presbyterian Older Adult Ministries Network website. There is a particular page that is focused on dementia at <https://poamn.org/project/dementia/>. The page offers information sheets on such topics as "Becoming a Dementia Friendly Congregation" and "Conversations with Youth about Understanding the Dynamics of Dementia" and "Explaining Dementia to Children."

George Whipple, Moderator Older Adult Ministry

University Mission & UKIRK @ UVA

Elizabeth Dillon has been hired as the Campus Ministry Coordinator and began work on August 17, 2026. She is supervised by Rev. Sara Dorrien-Christians of Westminster Presbyterian Church.

Weekly programming for students includes worship at Westminster on Sunday mornings, Monday night dinners with discussion, and open-door office hours at Kindness Cafe hosted by Elizabeth or Rev. Sara on Tuesday through Friday. A new evening worship service is offered on the fourth Monday of each month, began on Monday, Sept. 28th.

In Elizabeth's first month of work has involved:

- One-on-one meetings with students
- Meaningful conversations with students at the UVA Activities Fair
- Dozens of "you are loved" stickers handed out at the Activities Fair
- Over one hundred "Happy First Day of Class" snacks handed out
- Connecting over email with the pastors of first-year students coming to UVA from a PC(USA) home church
- Improvements to advertising and signage along student-frequented walkways
- Revitalization of the UKirk @ UVA Instagram page

Since the first day of class, a consistent group of graduate and undergraduate students have been attending Sunday morning worship at Westminster Presbyterian Church, with several new faces since last term.

Please continue to pray for our University Mission and for all UVA students, especially those beginning their first semester of college.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Dillon
Campus Ministry Coordinator, Westminster Presbyterian Church

Pace Center, VCU

We have begun another academic year busy with new gatherings, opportunities to share in meals, and for college-aged students to connect with one another.

What have we been up to since our last Stated Meeting?

This summer we sent students to volunteer with local partner organizations including Second Presbyterian Walk-In Ministry, Belmont Community Resource Services, and the Red Door Ministry at Grace & Holy Trinity Episcopal Church.

Russ had the opportunity to connect with campus ministry colleagues at Zephyr Point in Lake Tahoe for the UKirk Conference. In addition to renewal, it was a time to connect about ideas working in campus ministries.

Our **Church Crawl** program is a small group of students that attend local churches together every Sunday including Second Presbyterian.

Labor Day Faith Retreat. For the first time, Pace held a Labor Day Faith Retreat to connect students to mission faith opportunities and new neighborhoods in Richmond. Six students and myself volunteered at Second Presbyterian's Walk-In ministry to prepare food and serve our unhoused neighbors in downtown Richmond.

In addition to making and serving a 'to-go' lunch for over 100 guests, the group had the opportunity to learn from Elva Mapp (Walk-In Coordinator and Second Pres member) about the different ways that Second Presbyterian and other churches in the Downtown Community Ministries work to eradicate hunger in our community. The group then had time to reflect on our experience over lunch with one another.

How can your church get involved? Here are a few ways to plug into the life of Pace:

1. **Become a Friend of Pace.** We send out 2-3 emails per month with updates of student stories and ways to get involved. Sign up for the list by emailing Shannon O'Neill (admin@thepacecenter.com)
2. **Connect/refer PC(USA) students** to Rev. Russ Kerr (community@thepacecenter.com)
3. **Provide a meal for Stories & Lunch.** This ministry gives local churches the opportunity to connect with college students over a shared meal.
4. **Donate food!** Learn more here, <https://www.thepacecenter.com/food-opportunities>
5. **Youth Group at Pace.** Encourage your youth to attend our once/semester youth group at Pace. This fall, we will host youth on Sunday, November 15th from 5:30-7pm.

For more information, please visit our website (www.thepacecenter.com) where you can sign up for our mailing list and view our past newsletters. Thank you for taking time to read through this report.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Russ Kerr
Student Engagement & Development Coordinator
The Pace Center for Campus Ministry at VCU

University of Mary Washington Campus Ministry

To the Presbytery of the James,

The House and *The CCC* are excited to build on five years of collaboration and to engage in a formal partnership during the 2026-2027 school year, under the leadership of The Rev. Ethan Lowery, and in relationship with TEC, ELCA, UMC, and PCUSA congregations in downtown Fredericksburg, and in the tri-county area.

Our two ministries combined now share resources to both to our mutual benefit. We have two meeting spaces— a small meeting house open for students, and a large meeting space for our bigger and intergenerational events. Our combined boards total 17 adult members tasked with fiduciary and programmatic support of our ministry. We have a group of 11 empty-nest church members that we call *The House Moms* who support our students' pastoral and practically, and we also run a faculty-staff group of 20 members that meets monthly over lunch of fellowship and conversation. We have almost a dozen pastors who are in relationship with our ministry, in addition to our campus minister.

We are building on the best of both of our ministries. Our weekly schedule includes a **Tuesday evening dinner**, a **Wednesday afternoon Bible study**, and **Thursday office hours**. In addition, we have a calendar of additional social events and monthly and yearly events- coffee outings in town, a Pet blessing, an ecumenical Pride service, and more. The nature of our partnership over the last five

years has informed the way we hold dear ecumenical relationships, and our desire to grow in relationship and ministry with our local churches.

Over the 2025-26 school year, our two ministries were in relationship with 45-50 students and witnessed to countless more. We also ministered pastorally to many of our students, including a higher than ever volume of mental health emergencies. It is a hard time to be a college student, and our ministries serve a vital role in giving young adults safe and challenging spaces within which to become mature adult leaders in the church and in the world. The support of the Presbytery of the James is a vital component in our ability to carry out this ministry, and we are grateful for it.

Faithfully,

The Rev. Ethan Lowery

missioner@thehousefxbg.org

<https://www.instagram.com/umwccc>

<https://www.instagram.com/thehousefxbg>

Report of the New Worshiping Communities Team

September 2026

New Worshiping Communities is the primary way that the Presbytery of the James develops new congregations. In recent years there have been four that have emerged: Voices of Jubilee and All Nations are no longer a part of New Worshiping Communities. Voices of Jubilee has obtained their 501c3 tax status and All Nations has completed its journey as a worshiping body.

Table of Contents:

- Voices of Jubilee
- Every Table
- Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church
- All Nations

Please read the following update about each of these unique witnesses in the Presbytery.

Voices of Jubilee:

Voices of Jubilee is a community of pastors, returning citizens and volunteers who meet isolation with connection by accompanying incarcerated youth and their families. They are very excited to have received their 501c3 status and are considering a move to a Validated Ministry! They are no longer part of New Worshiping Communities.

Every Table:

October 2026

It has been an exciting few months at Every Table. Our **House Parties** continue to be a good time. These evenings are spaces for people to find spiritual nourishment while building community.

On the last weekend of August, we hosted a pilot program for a **Black Sacred Lounge Pilgrimage**. This project, spearheaded by Tamice, hosted 16 Black mystics from around the country in Richmond to explore embodied practices that lead back home to self. This program was made possible through an ecumenical partnership with new ministry initiatives within the Methodist church.

We are working on a parallel program for white people who are interested in healing in collaboration within community and with the land. These programs focus on embodied practices that enable participants to develop the resources they need to find grounding in this time of monumental change.

We are excited to be partnering with **Richmond Hill** for our third 24-hour **Meditation for Peace**. These events have proven to be powerful containers for our collective imagination of a world where every child born has what they need to fully embody the person they came here to be. We then step out into the world grounded in that vision, trusting the abundance of God to make the way be known.

People often ask how we meditate for 24 hours straight. The answer is that we don't! We create the container and our team takes turns holding the space for community. The community is invited to join us at any time during the 24-hours.

In September, Tamice dropped the second season of their podcast, **Black Modern Mystic**. In this season Tamice interviews (among others), Every Table's Charles and Ruby Joy, as they discuss who they are in the world and the collective vision for healing and transformation in this city, commonwealth, nation, and world.

This November, Jess and Tamice will be keynote speakers at a conference in Austin for the annual conference for the Federation of Christian Ministries. Jess will also be participating in a pilot program for a Trauma-Informed Training for New Worshiping Community Leaders that month.

Aaaand we are still looking for a space that will be a home for a yoga studio and also serve as a spiritual hub for the community.

If you'd like to learn more about Every Table, please reach out to Jess at revjesscook@gmail.com!

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Jess Floyd Cook
Community Chaplain, Every Table

[Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church:](#)

Over the past few months, the church welcomed many visitors, and about five have become regular members. These members said they felt happy and enjoyed our worship service, inspired by the ministration of the word and music. Some of these new members now help lead worship and take part in our programs.

In May, the elders and deacons attended the Polity 101 training to build their leadership skills.

To reach many people in the Richmond area with the Gospel, the church inaugurated an Outreach Committee. The committee was tasked with organizing outreach and evangelistic programs.

Our mothers celebrated Mother's Day with a colorful celebration through talks, music, and dance. Our men's fellowship raised funds to support their activities and appreciate their sacrifices to the church.

The minister began meeting with the various committees. He first met with the Worship and Media Committee to discuss strategies to improve our worship and media activities. This is part of efforts to familiarize himself with the work of the various committees in the church and the challenges they face. The minister will continue to engage all the standing committees in the church before the end of the year.

The church elders, women's ministry, together with the pregnant lady's family, organized a baby shower for a member. This program brought excitement to the pregnant lady and the family, and they expressed their appreciation to the church. The church donated food, drinks, diapers, and money to the pregnant lady. The members later had a marriage celebration and baby christening.

On May 24, Holy Trinity and Tuckahoe churches had a joint worship service on Pentecost Sunday. With joy, both congregations performed specific roles in the worship service. Holy Trinity church led a music session, Prayers of the People, call to worship, and the Lord's Prayer. This program has strengthened the friendship with Tuckahoe Presbyterian Church.

Our fathers celebrated Father's Day in a grand style on June 14th, commissioned their new executives, and our women served them with ethnic Ghanaian dishes. Our fathers have struggled over the years to come together, but this day was joyous as they formed the new executives.

Our youth led worship on Youth Sunday on July 19th. They led the entire worship program except for the preaching. We pray that we empower the youth group in our church to lead worship and other activities and organize talks and seminars on youth topics to help them realize their important roles in the church.

The church observed its regular quarterly fasting and prayers from June 24-26th on the theme, "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength" Isa 40:31. Many members participated in the spiritual exercise and prayed for upliftment.

The church celebrated a mega summer picnic on August 9th at Hanover. Friends and loved ones of church members attended. The children had the opportunity to engage in a sack race, musical chairs, lime race, and swimming. The women cooked and served Ghanaian dishes to members and guests. It was full of fun.

Our children celebrated Children's Day on August 16th with joy and much enthusiasm. They led worship and preached to the congregation through singing, Bible memory verse recitals, and choreography.

Eric Amoah, Pastor

All Nations Presbyterian Fellowship:

All Nations has struggled with pastoral leadership since the return to Kenya in 2024 of Rev. Humphrey Muraya, its organizing pastor. Sadly, it has concluded its journey as a new worshipping community with its remaining members dispersing to other congregations. Several have returned to New Hanover PC.

Submitted:

Ayars Lore, Moderator, NWCT



Each Sunday, [Voices of Jubilee](#) volunteers and system impacted mentors visit the children at the Chesterfield Juvenile Detention Center bringing delicious snacks, caring friendship and restorative circles of conversation. It's a time of sharing our lives and listening to how God's unconditional love takes shape in each of lives, a time where prayers are shared and we lift up one another. On Tuesdays we visit youth at the Bon Air Juvenile Correctional Center bringing our stories and hope to share with the youth there. Every week we are supporting 5 youth who have returned home and are re-building their lives in community, and 9 young adults who have longer sentences are in prisons across Virginia. On Wednesdays, our volunteer Julie Grimes gets all the kids reading as the volunteer librarian at the Chesterfield Juvenile Detention Home while other volunteer reading and writing specialists help the youth grow in their confidence with these core skills. Do you have skills you'd like to share with teens, let us know!

This summer Bon Air Presbyterian Church, River Road United Methodist Church and Shady Grove United Methodist Church all sponsored a Christmas in July for Voices of Jubilee collecting snacks, toiletries, gift cards, composition books, notecards and other goodies which will be given to all children who are in detention at the Chesterfield Juvenile Detention Home, Richmond Juvenile Detention Home and the Bon Air Juvenile Detention Center at Christmas. Our office will be overflowing with goodness and mercy all fall! We are so grateful for this outpouring of support! If your congregation or youth group would like to sponsor a Christmas in July next summer please contact Program Coordinator, Jaimey Honea at jaimey@voicesofjubilee.org.

Voices of Jubilee preached at Rockfish Presbyterian Church, Cove Presbyterian Church and Brandermill Presbyterian Church this fall. If you would like Voices of Jubilee to come and share our stories of hope building with youth, please reach out to Lauren@voicesofjubilee.org. We are so proud of the new film that 180degrees made about our work after meeting us at the National New Worshipping Communities Conference in 2025. Please check it out at www.voicesofjubilee.org. We are so thankful for all of the financial support from our church partners. Your support makes all of this possible!

Camp Hanover Report to Presbytery

September 17, 2026

“By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

John 13:35 (NRSVUE)

This summer at Camp Hanover, those words became more than a Bible verse or the inspiration for our summer theme. They became a question for campers and staff to live into together:

What does it look like to live our faith in a way others can recognize?

Around the campfire, we kept coming back to the answer in the words we sang together:

“They’ll know we are Christians by our love.”

For several weeks this summer, campers stepped away from many of the distractions and pressures of everyday life and entered a space where faith was practiced around dining hall tables, on trails and playing fields, beside campfires, in worship, and in the thousand small moments that happen when people live together in community. They discovered that Christian love can look like welcoming someone into a group, encouraging someone to try something new, listening when another person needs to be heard, extending grace, sharing joy, and making room for everyone to belong. After their child returned home from Camp Hanover, one parent shared this reflection in their post-camp feedback form:

“This is a place where you can send your child to belong, no matter your background or belief, and where they will be wrapped up in the actual ethos of Christianity, instead of into performative religion.”

That sense of welcome and belonging is increasingly important to Camp Hanover’s ministry. This summer, more than 500 campers and 40 young adult leaders made Camp Hanover their home for a few days, a week, or more, bringing with them a wide range of faith traditions, church connections, and life experiences. You may be curious to learn that approximately 20% of all campers came to Camp Hanover from PC(USA) congregations. Of those, 57% came from congregations in the Presbytery of the James, 21% from National Capital Presbytery, and 11% from the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia.

At the same time, ***one-quarter of our campers reported no faith tradition or church affiliation at all.***

This means, not only is Camp Hanover strengthening connections for children and young people already growing up in the church, but for many, Camp may be one of the only places they encounter Christian community and God’s grace firsthand. At Camp, they can experience faith not simply as something people talk about on Sunday mornings, but something lived through welcome, belonging, kindness, service, forgiveness, and love.

And they’re having fun while they are at it. This year, *Virginia Living* readers named Camp Hanover **Best Overnight Camp for the sixth consecutive year.**

We are grateful for the recognition, but even more grateful for what it represents: generations of campers, families, staff, volunteers, congregations, and supporters who continue to make this ministry possible.

NEWS AND HAPPENINGS

Camp Hanover could not be the place it is without volunteers who continually put their love for this ministry into action.

On September 11, Camp Hanover participated in Hanover County's **9/11 Day of Service**, followed by an additional day of service on September 12. Volunteers tackled several very different projects. They assembled S'more Kits to share with visitors to Camp Hanover's booth at RVA Pride, shoveled and spread stone along Hadder Way to repair areas affected by erosion, and planted new fruit trees in the Camp Garden.

Some projects reached beyond Camp's gates. Others cared for the land under our feet. Still others planted something campers will literally enjoy the fruits of in summers to come. Together, they provided another answer to our summer question about what Christian love looks like. Sometimes, it looks like showing up, rolling up your sleeves, and serving.

A Growing Camp Family

Labor Day weekend brought another kind of community to Camp Hanover as 78 children and adults gathered for **Homecoming**, one of the largest gatherings of its kind since the 60th year celebration.

The **Rev. Anthony Saturno** of **New Hanover Presbyterian Church** joined us as Pastor in Residence for the weekend, helping ground our time together in worship and faith while families enjoyed the rhythms and traditions that make a weekend at Camp Hanover special.

Some of those Camp traditions require defending a title. For the **third consecutive time**, **Michael, Jennifer, Rebekah, and Morgan Raymond** of **Ashland Presbyterian Church** claimed victory in the Fire-building Challenge.

More importantly, weekends like Family Camp remind us that the "power of camp" is not limited by age. Children, parents, grandparents, friends, alumni, and newcomers can all find opportunities here to play, reconnect, worship, experience creation, and deepen relationships with one another.

BOARD BUSINESS

The Camp Hanover, Inc. Board of Directors continued its leadership of the ministry throughout the summer. Prior to the arrival of campers, Board Members gathered to commission the 2026 summer camp staff.

The Board also elected members of the Board's Class of 2029, welcomed Youth Members, elected officers, and gave thanks for members who were concluding their terms of board service. We welcomed **Faith Alejandro** (Westminster Presbyterian) and **Darin Smouse** (Bon Air Presbyterian) to the Class of 2029. **Katie Smouse** (Bon Air Presbyterian) joined the Board as a Youth Member, while **Keane Stuart** (St. Mary's Catholic) returned for another term as a Youth Member. Officers elected for the 2026–2027 term are **Erin Davidson**, **President** (Overbrook Presbyterian); **John Richardson-Lauve**, **Vice President** (St. Michael's Catholic); **Amelia Adair**, **Secretary** (Second Presbyterian Richmond); and **Jeff McDonald**, **Treasurer** (Southminster Presbyterian). At the August meeting, the Board also expressed gratitude to **Will Kirk** (Hill City Church), **Lisa Tully** (Southminster Presbyterian), and **Mai Owens** (Ginter Park Presbyterian) as they concluded their terms of service.

At the time of this report, the Board is gearing up to gather at Camp Hanover October 2–3 for its annual planning and visioning retreat. This year's retreat comes at an especially meaningful moment. Board members will spend time in worship and community, evaluate the Board's priorities and focus for the coming year, and begin reflecting on **70 years of Camp Hanover ministry** as we prepare to celebrate that milestone in 2027.

Board members spend time imagining what faithfulness might look like in the years ahead: what we have learned from nearly seven decades of outdoor ministry, what God may be calling Camp Hanover to become, and how this ministry can continue serving children, youth, adults, congregations, and communities for generations to come.

Board members have also been helping carry Camp Hanover out into the world this fall, representing the ministry in the community at events including the Autism Society of Central Virginia's DuckFest, the ASK Childhood Cancer 5K Fun Day, and the Virginia RVA Youth Pride Fest.

UPCOMING EVENTS

On **October 21**, friends of Camp Hanover will once again come together for the **GreatCampGive**, our biggest generosity day of the year. Our goal for 2026 is **\$100,000**, and matching funds will be available to help gifts go even further in strengthening Camp Hanover's ministry. Presbytery meeting attendees will have the opportunity to kick off the generosity by making their gift at Camp Hanover's display table during the meeting.

Two days later, the generosity turns into a celebration.

From **October 23–25**, Camp Hanover will host a **Fall Festival** as the capstone to this year's GreatCampGive. The weekend will include hayrides, a Trunk or Treat, roasting marshmallows over the Campfire, and a Volunteer Appreciation meal.

The highlight of the Fall Festival will be the “Candy” Cornhole Tournament, a “battle of the bags” that will add a little friendly competition to the effort to support Camp Hanover. Whether you throw a perfect bag, miss the board entirely, or wisely choose to sponsor someone with better aim, there will be a place for you. Individuals, congregations, businesses, and other organizations can get involved by creating a trunk or treat booth, entering a team in the tournament or sponsoring the event.

Registration Is Open

Registration is now open for **Winter Camp, December 28 - 30**, offering campers an opportunity to return to Camp Hanover between Christmas and New Year's for a few days of community, faith, friendship, and appropriately chilly Camp adventures.

Registration for **Summer Camp 2027** is open now too!

More Information about all of Camp Hanover's upcoming events and happenings can be found at www.camphanover.org

NEXT UP: CELEBRATING 70 YEARS OF CAMP MINISTRY

The summer of 2027 will be particularly special as Camp Hanover celebrates **70 years of camp and retreat ministry**. Seventy years represents a remarkable number of campfires, worship services, canoe trips, songs, friendships, questions about faith, moments of discovery, and lives transformed. It's also remarkable when you think about how much has changed over those seven decades. Children who arrive at Camp Hanover today are growing up in a very different world than the campers who first arrived here in 1957.

But some things remain remarkably constant. Children still need places where they can experience belonging. Young people still need opportunities to discover who God created them to be. Adults still need places for renewal. Communities still need spaces where relationships can grow. And our world still needs people willing to demonstrate their faith through the way they love one another.

For nearly 70 years, that has been part of the calling of Camp Hanover. With the Presbytery of the James as our partner in ministry, we look forward with gratitude, hope, and quite a bit of excitement to whatever God has in store for the next 70 years.

Respectfully submitted,
Erin Davidson, President
Doug Walters, Executive Director