



*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 Church/Zoom
9201 W Huguenot Rd., North Chesterfield, VA 23235
Section I – Registration and Worship Information

Registration Information

Ministers and Clerks of Session: We will need to know the names and contact information (email and phone number) for your commissioners ahead of time. Please email this information to Barbara Espigh at barbara@presbyteryofthejames.org.

All attendees: Please use the link below to access registration on our website, even if you intend to attend in person. You will be asked for your name, phone number, whether you plan to attend in person or via Zoom, your church's name and city, and whether you are a ruling elder commissioner (a ruling elder who was elected by the church session to represent the congregation), ruling elder serving as moderator of a POJ committee, minister member, commissioned ruling elder, certified Christian educator, Corresponding Member (member of another presbytery), or guest; and you will find a place to indicate your lunch preference as well. All registrants will receive an email from Zoom including information regarding virtual meeting access. Please save that email to use on October 17 to log in to the meeting should you prefer to attend via Zoom.

There will be NO additional advance registrations allowed after the deadline, so please be sure to register prior to noon on Friday, October 16. If you miss the deadline and wish to attend the meeting, you will need to attend in person.

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

If you have questions or concerns not covered in the above information, please contact Barbara Espigh at barbara@presbyteryofthejames.org.

****Emails and calls will be returned during POJ office hours Monday – Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Please be sure to contact the office with any questions well before the registration deadline****

Overture Deadline: Overtures must be at the presbytery office by noon eight (8) weeks prior to a meeting. For the February 20, 2027 meeting, the deadline will be noon on December 23, 2026.

Upcoming Stated Meetings

February 20, 2027	Invitation needed
June 16, 2027	Invitation needed
October 16, 2027	Invitation needed

General Information

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

- ♦ **Presbytery convenes promptly at 9:30 a.m.**
- ♦ **To participate in person:** We are asking all attendees to register online and receive a Zoom link. This will help you attend virtually should your plans change at the last minute. On the day of the meeting, check-in begins at 8:30 a.m. Please check in with POJ staff/volunteers to receive your nametag and be counted present.
- ♦ **To participate via Zoom, you must have completed registration before the deadline (noon on October 16).** The Zoom link will open at 9:00 a.m. for all commissioners and attendees. If you are participating virtually by phone, please use *6 to mute or unmute and *9 to raise or lower your virtual hand. To vote at this meeting, you will need to be logged into the Zoom app. You will still be able to hear the meeting if calling in by phone, but you will not have the option to vote that way. *Please have ready prior to the meeting what you plan to use as your elements for the Lord's Supper.*

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

Physical Location Information:

- ♦ **Address:** Bon Air Presbyterian Church is located at 9201 W Huguenot Rd, North Chesterfield, VA 23235.
- ♦ **Parking and Facility Accessibility:** Persons with mobility issues will find the church accessible.
- ♦ **Childcare:** There will be no childcare available at this meeting.
- ♦ **Meals:** Refreshments (coffee and pastries) will be available during registration. Lunch will consist of chicken salad and roll or gluten-free pasta salad; fresh fruit, beverages, and dessert. The total cost for all will be \$16.00 per person, please bring cash or checks made out to Bon Air Presbyterian Church. If bringing cash, exact change is always appreciated!
- ♦ **Wi-Fi:** Please download the packet to your laptop, tablet, or other device prior to arriving at the meeting location. We would respectfully ask that you refrain from connecting to the Wi-Fi so that we may reserve maximum bandwidth for those running the virtual side of the meeting. Please do not use your Zoom link if you are attending in person. Thank you for your cooperation.

Motions/Amendments:

- ♦ Should you wish to make a motion, please fill out a motion form. When you have completed your motion form, present it to the Stated Clerk. If you are on Zoom, use the motion form on the stated meeting page of the POJ website and email it to the Stated Clerk at statedclerk@presbyteryofthejames.org. Please present your motion form to the Stated Clerk prior to making your motion.

A blank motion form has been included in this document on page 6.

Ruling Elder Commissioners from Each Session

January 1, 2026 to December 31, 2026

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:

River Road, Salisbury, Second Richmond

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

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

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, Campbell Memorial, Colonial Heights, Concord, Cove, Covenant, Eastminster, Ebenezer, First Chase City, First Emporia, First Hopewell, First United, Forest Hill, 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, Woodlawn, Woodville, Zion Hill

Presbytery of the James News

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

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

Please email news you wish to share in the Current e-newsletter and on social media to communications@presbyteryofthejames.org

Expectations for Boundary Training

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

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

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

Adopted by the Mission Council May 15, 2024

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

Health Expectations

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

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

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

Adopted by the Mission Council, May 17, 2023

Approved by Presbytery June 20, 2023



3218 Chamberlayne Ave. Richmond, VA 23227
804-262-2074 presbyteryofthejames.com

The following motion is submitted for the Presbytery Meeting on October 17, 2026:

Signed: _____

Printed Name: _____

Circle one: Teaching Elder, RE Commissioner, Certified Educator, CRE

Date: _____

Please email completed form to statedclerk@presbyteryofthejames.org

Hymns for Worship

Opening Hymn: Gather Us In, #401 in Glory to God

Here in this place the new light is streaming;
now is the darkness vanished away;
see in this space our fears and our dreamings
brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken;
gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken;
we shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young; our lives are a mystery.
We are the old who yearn for your face.
We have been sung throughout all of history,
called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty;
gather us in, the proud and the strong;
give us a heart, so meek and so lowly;
give us the courage to enter the song.

Here we will take the wine and the water;
here we will take the bread of new birth.
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion;
give us to eat the bread that is you;
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

Hymn During Communion: Let Us Break Bread Together, #525

Let us break bread together on our knees; (on our knees)
let us break bread together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees,
with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us drink wine together on our knees; (on our knees)
let us drink wine together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees,
with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us praise God together on our knees; (on our knees)
let us praise God together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees,
with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

Closing Hymn: May the God of Hope Go with Us, #765

May the God of hope go with us every day,
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.
May the God of justice speed us on our way,
bringing light and hope to every land and race.
Praying, let us work for peace;
singing, share our joy with all;
working for a world that's new,
faithful when we hear Christ's call. *(sung through twice)*

Necrology

October 17, 2026

Ruling Elders	
Amelia	Ernie Staggers
Ashland	Robert Lybrand
Bon Air	Joan Collins, Amy Compton, Bettie Church
Brett-Reed Memorial	Adele Nowell Smith
Chester	Roger Clifton, Don Kim, Sue Robinson, Linda Taylor
Colonial Heights	Nancy Halbert
Concord	Thomas F. Edmunds, Jr., Max D. Roberts
Cove	Gregory Gordon Govan, Jeanne S. Huber, Fran Hooper Miller
Fairfield	Melanie Rubeck, Orlando Smith
First, Charlottesville	Thaddeus “Tod” Jablowski, Jr., Virginia “Ginny” Lindsey, Joan Nootbaar, Anne Marie Ralston, Kathleen “Kitty” Walker, Patricia “Pat” Wood
First, Emporia	Allene Williams
First, Hopewell	Onza E. Hyatt, Linda E. Hyslop, Robert G. Moore
First, Richmond	Nancy Archbell Bain, Ralph David Davison, Aubrey Cabell Ford, Jr., William Edward Garrison, III, Betty Blakey Harlan, Nancy Thomas Hill, Thomas Lamar Mountcastle, William Henry Neal, Jr., Marjorie Sykes Turnbull, Jane Pendleton Wootton
Fredericksburg	John Lay Bailey, James Paul Gillespie, Chauncey Franklin Kutz, II, Thomas Martin Lewis, M. Colleen Story
Grace Covenant	Edward R. Adams, Marjorie Branner Adams, Lloyd W. Bostian, Jr.
Hartwood	Curtis M. Dickinson, Kenneth L. Houchin
Hebron	Mary Webb
King’s Chapel	George Larkin Wood
Kirk O’Cliff	James Adler
Madison	Joan Corbin, Robert Haught
Meadows	William Shirey
Milford	George Atwell
Mitchells	Dolores Aylor
New Hanover	Elizabeth “Liz” King, Maxine Lane
Orange	Irwin Sherman, Mildred Tyner, Robert Vasquez, Louise Whitaker
Pryor Memorial	Lanny O’Neal, Mary Ann O’Neal
River Road	Milton Stuart “BO” Bolton
Rockfish	Sandy Gallagher

Salisbury	Marshall Gingery
Scottsville	John T. Nichols, Arlene Oslin, Marilyn Schwarz
Second, Petersburg	William C. Ellis, Dianne M. Hack, Dorothy N. Riggan
Second, Richmond	Franklin “Frank” E. Giles, Penelope “Penny” Holladay, Joseph Harlan “Harlan” McMurray, Sr., Philip H. Schulz, Edwin “Eddie” J. Slipek, Jack H. Spain
Southminster	Jean Derrenbacker, Robert Hall, Martin Knovacs, Peggy Morrow-Saunders
South Hill	Janet Biedenbender, Cynthia McTyre
South Plains	Larry Barnett
St. Andrews	Tony Stanley
Swift Creek	Herbert Hendricks
Tabor	Henry Montague Chiles, Jessie Key Carr Haden, Ann Huffman Pickford
Three Chopt	Walton Rush “Rush” Cowherd, Myra Dawn Garrett, Patricia Gale “Patty” Moerschell
Tuckahoe	John Flourney, Ray Hoge
Village	Joseph Saunders, Lincoln Stephenson
Westminster, Charlottesville	J. David Deck
Westminster, Richmond	Debbie Garde
Woodlawn	Anna Brooks

Ministers of the Word and Sacrament

The Rev. Richard Sommers* - October 14, 2025

The Rev. H. Davis Yeuell - November 22, 2025

The Rev. Paul Bonham - December 4, 2025

The Rev. David K. Garth - February 28, 2026

The Rev. O. Benjamin Sparks III - March 28, 2026

The Rev. Ken Goodrich - June 26, 2026

*Past Moderator, Presbytery of the James

Minister member of another presbyteries but mourned by one of our congregations:

The Rev. Howard “Flash” Gordon - June 19, 2026 (Presbytery of Arkansas); formerly associated with Westminster Presbyterian Church of Charlottesville as Assistant Minister and Presbyterian Minister to Students from 1967-1975.