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

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

Called Special Meeting • Tuesday, November 10, 2026 • Virtual Format via Zoom

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. You will be asked for your name, phone number, 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; there are a number of voluntary demographic questions for the Committee on Representation as well. All registrants will receive an email from Zoom including information regarding virtual meeting access. Please save that email to use on November 10 to log in to the meeting.

There will be NO additional advance registrations allowed after the deadline, so please be sure to register prior to noon on Monday, November 9.

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 6:30 p.m**.
- **To participate you must have completed registration before the deadline (noon on November 9).** The Zoom link will open at 6:15 p.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.

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.

Motions/Amendments:

- Should you wish to make a motion, please fill out a motion form. When you have completed your motion form, 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, Milden, 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 November 10, 2026:

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Signed: _____

Printed Name: _____

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

Date: _____

Please email completed form to statedclerk@presbyteryofthejames.org