



Called Meeting • Tuesday January 25, 2022 • via Zoom

Agenda

- 6:30** Pre-meeting Preparation and Instructions for Virtual Meeting Teaching Elder Jess Cook
Member-at-Large, Evangelist with a New Worshiping Community
- 7:00** Call to Order & Prayer..... Ruling Elder Dan Jordanger, POJ Moderator, Providence Church, Gum Spring
- WelcomeRuling Elder Dan Jordanger
- Welcoming of First-time Commissioners, Corresponding Members, and Visitors
- 7:10** Adoption of the Agenda..... Ruling Elder Kenna Payne
Mission Council Moderator; Westminster Church, Richmond
- 7:15** Call to Worship and Litany of Thanksgiving..... Teaching Elder Mary Newbern-Williams
Covenant Pastor, First United Church, Richmond
- 7:20** Commission on Ministry Ruling Elder Glenna Finnicum
COM Moderator; Ginter Park Church, Richmond
- Examinations CommitteeRuling Elder Melissa Phillips
Examinations Committee Moderator; Salisbury Church, Midlothian
- Sermons from Candidates (concurrent in three breakout rooms)
- Candidate Michelle Abel (Room 1), Interim Associate Pastor, The Presbyterian Church, Fredericksburg
 - Candidate Calvin Sydnor (Room 2), Covenant Pastor 2, Grace Covenant Church, Richmond
 - Candidate Joanna Sydnor (Room 3), Covenant Pastor 2, Grace Covenant Church, Richmond
- 7:55** Committee on Nominations Teaching Elder Walter Canter
Blue Ridge Church, Ruckersville
- 8:05** Adjournment and Closing Prayer..... Ruling Elder Dan Jordanger, POJ Moderator

A Litany of Thanksgiving

[Adapted from the P.C.(U.S.A.) *Book of Common Worship*]

One: Give thanks to the Lord who is good.

Many: God's love is everlasting.

One: Come, let us praise God joyfully.

Many: Let us come to God with thanksgiving.

One: For the good world; for things great and small, beautiful and awesome; for seen and unseen splendors;

Many: Thank you, God.

One: For human life; for talking and moving and thinking together; for common hopes and hardships shared from birth until our dying;

Many: Thank you, God.

One: For work to do and strength to work; for the comradeship of labor; for exchanges of good humor and encouragement;

Many: Thank you, God.

One: For marriage and holy relationships; for the mystery and joy of flesh made one; for mutual forgiveness and burdens shared; for secrets kept in love;

Many: Thank you, God.

One: For family; for living together and eating together; for family amusements and family pleasures;

Many: Thank you, God.

One: For children; for their energy and curiosity; for their brave play and startling frankness; for their sudden sympathies;

Many: Thank you, God.

One: For youth and young adults; for their high hopes; for their irreverence toward worn-out values; for their search for freedom; for their solemn vows; for their conviction that, with good and wise decisions, there is hope;

Many: Thank you, God.

One: For growing up and growing old; for wisdom deepened by experience; for rest in leisure; and for time made precious by its passing;

Many: Thank you, God.

One: For your help in times of doubt and sorrow; for healing our diseases; for preserving us in temptation and danger; for being with all neighbors of the world during this time of pandemic;

Many: Thank you, God.

One: For the church into which we have been called; for the good news we receive by Word and Sacrament; for our life together in the Lord, particularly in the Presbytery of the James;

Many: We praise you, God.

One: For your Holy Spirit, who guides our steps and brings us gifts of faith and love; who prays in us and prompts our grateful worship;

Many: We praise you, God.

One: Above all, Loving and Nurturing God, for your Son Jesus Christ, who lived and died and lives again for our salvation; for our hope in him; and for the joy of serving him;

Many: We thank and praise you, Eternal God, for all your goodness to us.

One: Give thanks to the Lord, who is good.

Many: God's love is everlasting. Amen.

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 and attention to these basic rules of order will be most appreciated.

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

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

Report of the Commission on Ministry

I. The Commission on Ministry makes the following recommendations:

1. That presbytery conduct the final step of the ordination examination of Candidate Michelle Abel (formerly Abrahamson), under care of the Presbytery of the Peaks. Michelle has an agreement to serve as the Interim Associate Pastor for Worship and Pastoral Care at The Presbyterian Church, Fredericksburg, VA.
2. That presbytery conduct the final step of the ordination examination of Candidate Calvin Sydnor, under care of the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia. Calvin has an agreement to serve as a Covenant Pastor 2 at Grace Covenant Church, Richmond, VA.
3. That presbytery conduct the final step of the ordination examination of Candidate Joanna Sydnor, under care of the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia. Joanna has an agreement to serve as a Covenant Pastor 2 at Grace Covenant Church, Richmond, VA.

Michelle Leslie Abel

Michelleabe@protonmail.com

Actively Seeking? Not Actively Seeking, but open to a call

Ecclesiastical Status: PC(USA) Candidate

Presbytery Membership: The Peaks

Candidacy Date: 05/31/2015

Formal Education:

- Master of Divinity Union Presbyterian Seminary 2015
 - Cumulative GPA: 3.4 on 4.00 scale
 - Awarded Full-Tuition and Saddler Merit Scholarships
 - Certified: ready to receive a call Peaks Presbytery
- Master of Arts: English/Education George Mason University 2014
 - Cumulative GPA: 3.64 on 4.00 scale
 - Awarded NVCC Teaching Fellows position Fall 2013-Spring 2014
 - Awarded Graduate Professional Assistanceship, Fall 2013 – December 2014
 - Received Graduate Certificate in Teaching English as a Second Language, Spring 2013
- Bachelor of Arts GLOBAL AFFAIRS George Mason University 2011
 - Magna Cum Laude, Cumulative GPA: 3.81 on 4.00 scale
 - Awarded 2011 Global Affairs Certificate of Merit
 - Member, Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, Tau Sigma Honor Society

Continuing Education:

- Cont. Ed: Education George Mason University & University of Phoenix 2017
 - Relevant coursework topics: Integrating Art into Curricula, Improving Literacy in youth, Multiculturalism, Understanding and redirecting behavior, Teaching & Curricula strategies, etc.
- Church Business Administration Union Presbyterian Seminary & VCCS 2015
 - Attended two-week PCUSA-accredited training course at Union Seminary
 - Acct 101 and 201 online with Virginia Community College System

Employment Type: Open to both

Minimum Effective Salary: \$50,000

Geographic Choices: Virginia

Languages: English

Leadership Competencies: Compassionate, Preaching and Worship Leadership, Spiritual Maturity, Lifelong Learner, Teacher, Technologically Savvy, Culturally Proficient, Task Manager, Collaboration, Initiative

Clergy Couple? No

Housing Type: Housing Allowance

Work Experience:

- ESOL Department Chair, FCPS Fairfax, VA, Administrator for 8+ staff and 100+ students per year, ages 12-22 (average age 16), August 2020 – Current
- High School Teacher, PWCS, FCPS Northern VA, 180 students per year, ages 12-60 (average age 16), Jan 2016 – August 2020 High school: Pre-Algebra, Algebra, Geometry, Biology, Social Studies, English, English Honors (5 years) Adult Education: Algebra, Geometry (1 year)
- Director of Children and Youth Ministries Arlington, VA, 200 active members, suburban community (ages Infant – College & intergenerational), Administrator for 4 nursery workers, 30+ teacher volunteers, 60+ Sunday School students, Jan 2015 – Jan 2017
- Assistant Professor: Bible as Literature VCU, 30+ students per semester, urban college community (ages 18-25), Sept 2014 – Dec 2014
- Professor/Program Coordinator/Writing Specialist GMU, 200 members, suburban college community (ages 18-60), Aug 2013 – Dec 2014
- Adjunct Instructor: ESL NVCC, 60 students, suburban college community (ages 18-60), June 2013 – May 2014
- Teacher Volunteer Beijing, China, 70 students, urban community (ages 3-70), Jan 2012 – June 2012
- Specialist: repair, sales, instruction Apple Retail, Northern Virginia, Sept 2011 – June 2013
- Resident Advisor GMU, 500 students, suburban college community (ages 19-25), Aug 2010 – May 2011
- US State Dept Intern Washington, D.C., Sept 2010 – Dec 2010

Other Services:

- Member (former youth elder, choir member) Bedford Presbyterian Church, Birth – Current
- Guest Preacher Various Cities, Virginia, July 2012 – Current
- Montreat Group Leader Montreat, NC, rural camp community (ages 13-18), July 2016
- Church Guest Lecturer Various Cities, Virginia - North Carolina, July 2014
- Youth Council Volunteer James Presbytery, suburban community (ages 11-18), Jul 2012 - Jul 2013
- Massanetta Counselor Harrisonburg, VA, rural camp community (ages 11-13), Jul 2009 – Aug 2009
- Logos Volunteer Leader BPC, Bedford, VA, August 2008 – June 2009

Describe a moment in your recent ministry that you recognize as one of success and fulfillment.

In my current ministry as a high school teacher, I have the honor of sharing in the many joys and successes of my 180+ students. Besides the everyday successes of test scores and special events, one specific moment I am most proud of is this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FAOFCh27Zk&feature=youtu.be>

Our principal, Mr. Morris, was apparently randomly shooting footage around the hallways, asking students, “Who is your favorite teacher?” While Lolly’s answer might seem short or silly to some, to me her answer was a profound moment of fulfillment.

What she doesn’t have time to say is:

Last year, junior year was a long, painful struggle. Lolly was severely struggling to stay in school at all. Her attendance dropped; she became extremely stressed out; and this became a vicious self-perpetuated cycle. Her family was in-and-out of conferences with the principal, upset with the entire staff and administration for several months.

So for Lolly to say that I am her favorite teacher, and that she appreciates my understanding means so much more than simple “late work.” This tells me that Lolly knows my class is a safe space where all of her assigned accommodations will be met. This tells me that she sees hope in the times she may struggle to balance her overall workload. This also significant for my bosses, who spent countless hours in meetings last year. They know they can trust me to handle sensitive situations with attentive kindness.

I cannot wait to see Lolly cross the graduation stage!

Describe the ministry setting to which you believe God is calling you.

I feel called to serve in a role that will utilize my strengths: teaching, reflecting, organizing, and collaborating. This could be a Christian Educator Pastor role, or perhaps a solo Pastor role. I have the most experience working with small to midsized churches in rural or suburban settings.

What areas of growth have you identified in yourself?

While I am always seeking ways to better myself, a few specific areas I seek to grow are:

1. Presbytery: Since I am looking for my first ordained call, I am excited to learn more about and actually experience serving in the Presbytery.
2. Preaching: most past congregants will likely share that writing and public speaking are some of my greatest strengths; however, preaching is a very special kind of public speaking. As a linguist, I am very careful with my word choice, which creates somewhat of a dependency on a physical script. I would love to develop my preaching to be less dependent on a paper sermon so that I can facilitate more interactive worship experiences.

Describe a time when you have led change.

Throughout the COVID experience, I have led many changes. In April 2020, I worked with one other teacher to personally draft the entire 4th quarter curricula for the 9th grade English department. Many of our coworkers were overwhelmed juggling children and work simultaneously. Kirsten and I spent hours of our own time putting together an emotionally considerate, modernized, skill-building lesson set that the department used for the rest of the school year. Then, during last summer, I became the Chair of the English as a Second Language department. Immediately, I was knee-deep in employee changes and hiring process, but more importantly, I was also in charge of the most vulnerable population in our school, which entailed constantly contacting families, translating announcements, monitoring grades, coordinating schedule changes, navigating student crises, and much more. I am grateful to see the hours of hard work transform into success for my staff and students as they reach the end of the craziest school year ever.

I am also proud of many changes I helped lead as a Director of Children and Youth Ministries. A few of the major changes I led were hand-designing an attendance management system for nursery staff, coordinating new intergenerational and community events, such as Trunk or Treat, and installing the AV system in the Fellowship Hall.

Michelle Abel - Statement of Faith:

Born and raised in the Presbyterian faith, I was joyously baptized at 13 years old into the body of Christ.

I believe in God, our creator, who from the darkness and chaotic waters, formed our world and everything we know to be, and declared it good. I believe in the God of Abraham, who hears our prayers and covenants with us. I believe the God of Moses, the Great I Am, who rebukes our internalized shortcomings and empowers us

with unique gifts to serve the world. Though humanity toils and sins, ignoring God’s commandments, exploiting neighbor and nature, I believe in the amazing power of God’s everlasting love.

While complete knowledge of God remains beyond us, I believe God has revealed Truth to us in Jesus Christ. I believe all people, everywhere, are called to place their faith, hope, and love in Christ. No one is saved by virtue of inherent goodness or admirable living, for “by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God” [Ephesians 2.8]. Thus I join the choir of the church universal who proclaims God was in Christ. God came to humanity in terms we could understand, sharing our joy and sorrow, healing the sick, and befriending sinners and outcasts. Jesus Christ was and is one with us in life, in celebration, in suffering, and in death. But death was not the last word, for God raised him from the dead, and along with Christ, is raising the world, and it is the mission of the church to share that profound Gospel Grace with everyone we meet and nurture discipleship!

I believe that the Triune God is always present through the Holy Spirit, knitted into the very creation of humanity itself. The Holy Spirit, the breath of God, draws us to a communal life of gratitude and praise. Because the church is founded and enlivened by the presence of God in Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit, we can be confident that it is God who works through the imperfect fellowship of the church. I believe in Holy Spirit’s presence in the creation of and sharing of Scripture, that every engagement with Scripture infallibly guides us.

Though we are saved by the grace of God alone, the sacraments of baptism and communion are invaluable, irreplaceable outward, visible signs to express our inward, spiritual grace. I believe in the life-changing power of these sacraments as covenants, between an individual and God, and between an individual and their community.

I believe in the universal church, the universal priesthood, the existence of and overcoming of sin, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Calvin H. Sydnor IV
csivK1964@gmail.com

Actively Seeking? Open to receiving a call and moving within 9 months

Ecclesiastical Status: PC(USA) Candidate

Presbytery Membership: Eastern Virginia Presbytery

Candidacy Date: 4/30/2019

Formal Education:

- M. Div., University of Dubuque Theological Seminary, IA, May 2020
- Doctor of Podiatric Medicine, Temple University School of Podiatry, 1990
- B.A. Hampton University, VA, 1986

Other Training: Certified, Prepare/Enrich Facilitator

Employment Type: Open to both

Geographic Choices: North Carolina, Virginia

Leadership Competencies: Compassionate, Preaching and Worship Leadership, Spiritual Maturity, Communicator, Culturally Proficient, Entrepreneurial, Willingness to Engage Conflict, Interpersonal Engagement, Bridge Builder, Self-Differentiation

Languages Fluent: English

Clergy Couple: Yes (Joanna Wells Sydnor)

Minimum Effective Salary: \$45,000

Housing: Open to Manse/Housing Allowance

Willingness to Serve Church of Other Race: Yes

Work Experience:

- McGuire Veterans' Affairs Hospital, Director of Reconstructive Foot and Ankle Surgery, 2006-present
- McGuire Veterans' Affairs Hospital, Director of Medical Education for Podiatric Surgery, Podiatry Division, Jan. 2002-2006
- Hampton Veterans' Affairs Hospital, Director of Medical Education, Podiatry Division, Jan. 2002-2006
- Physician Board of Directors, Sentara Port Warwick Physicians, LLC, 2007-2009
- Co-CEO, President, Dominion DME, Inc., Jan. 2001-Sept. 2006
- President, Paul Herbert, LLC, April 2002-present
- Peninsula Institute for Community Health, staff, 1998-2008
- CEO, Ambulatory Foot & Ankle Center, P.C., July 1994-present
- Chief of Podiatry Department, Irwin Army Community Hospital, Fort Riley, KS, Nov. 1991-June 1994
- Courtesy Podiatrist, Beach Pavilion, Brook Army Medical Center, Fort Sam, Houston, TX, Oct. 1991-Nov. 1991

Service to Church or Denomination:

- Synod of the Mid-Atlantic, Emerging Ideas Committee Member, 2020-present
- Ruling Elder, Co-Chair, Worship Life, Carver Memorial Presbyterian Church, 2021-present
- Committee Supply Preacher, 2019-present
- Internships, Community Pres. and New Horizons Churches, 2018
- Men's Day Speaker/Preacher, 2015
- Ruling Elder, Chair of the Audit Committee, Chair of the Youth Committee, Chair of the Nominating Committee

Describe a moment in your recent ministry that you recognize as one of success and fulfillment.

In a recent ministry where I recognized one success and fulfillment, I established and grew a faith community outside the church's walls. While on my entrepreneurial internship, I developed a written plan for engaging the local community to build trust and fellowship and establish a missionary community that could sense God's presence in everyday living and their interactions with others. The location for this community was the local Dunkin Donuts. One goal was to represent the community's diversity in age, ethnicity, and socio-economic status. Love, patience, focus and faith helped to establish and encourage our open circle. Our community numbered thirteen. The ages ranged from 16 to 80 and were diverse in their backgrounds. This intergenerational gathering was enthusiastic in appreciating their shared experiences while uniting together in God's presence.

Moreover, our community was diverse in other ways that included strong Christians, the "Nones," the religiously unaffiliated, and the "Spiritual-not religious." The missional community was nurtured by the presence of the Holy Spirit and our shared common grace. I believe those who participated in this "church beyond the walls" experienced new ways of engaging others, creative ways of fellowshiping, and learning how to sense the living God's presence in the daily routines in our lives and in the world. It was fulfilling to share in and experience Christ's redemptive mission in creative spaces, for God's glory.

Describe the ministry setting to which you believe God is calling you.

God is calling me to a small to medium church ministry setting that is open to new and creative ministries to fulfill Christ's mission in the church and world. While no church is perfect, a small to the medium-sized congregation can allow a faith community to more easily recognize God's presence and imagine new ways of

participation as being the church. Many faith communities have anxiety about their future. I hope to bring a non-anxious presence that actively listens, plans through prayer, and congregational vitality through creative and imaginative participation in discerning Christ's mission.

This current COVID-19 pandemic is revealing the Lord is calling congregations into creative ways of worship and participation. God's mission in the world rings louder than ever as many church doors remained closed during this season of a pandemic. A church open to Christ's mission is a church open to God's grace and seeks to share Christ's grace in all aspects of life, not just on Sundays. New technology mediums have given birth to nurturing the faith community in fresh ways, providing abundant opportunities for the Holy Spirit to use the broad gifts as Christ's body. I believe a ministry setting open to prayer and listening to God's voice and being available to Christ's mission for creating disciples, inside an outside the church, is a ministry setting God is calling me.

What areas of growth have you identified in yourself?

As a first-call pastor, I can grow in several areas. First, while I preach several times per year, I can grow in regularly preaching the Word of God throughout the liturgical year. It will require me to balance my post-seminary time and responsibilities as a pastor that will enable me to study and prepare sermons adequately. Being balanced in my ministry will help prepare me for the ministry of weekly preaching without feeling overwhelmed.

Second, I seek to become an effective moderator of the session. A moderator's role includes active listening, being pastoral, and being open to new ideas that reflect God's presence, discernment of Christ's will while reflecting the church's traditions. It will require me to spend time getting to know the session and congregation members, learning the church's traditions, and appreciating the congregation's tensions and anxieties while seeking ways of being the church.

Third, I will grow in gaining experience to lead a congregation in the mission of Christ. My background as an owner of medical practice has given me leadership experience, confidence, and creativity. While some similarities exist, the dynamics of working with the diversity of Christ's body presents a unique lens. In seeking God through the Holy Spirit, I will grow with the faith community enthusiastically and energetically. I will strive to work with each member of the faith community, the ecumenical community, and the community at large.

Describe a time when you have led change.

I am blessed to have chaired the youth committee while serving on the session that grew youth attendance and participation. At that time, our congregation struggled with young attendance in our faith community. Through prayer, creativity, and imagination, the youth committee engaged the kids and young adults in the church's neighborhood and community. We were able to capture the youth's attention, affirm their personhood, and arouse youth community involvement in the life of the church.

Additionally, I chaired the nomination committee two consecutive years during difficult times in my faith community. I believe I motivated and encouraged others through prayer and the Holy Spirit's inspiration to participate in the church's ordered ministries as a witness of God's grace for their gifts and response to God.

In my bi-vocational career, I established a successful medical practice from the ground up, inspired many to go onto higher education, including medical school, and grew the medical practice to owning a small 3.5-acre medical campus. My medical ministry is actively engaged in health fairs and educational seminars in the schools and churches in Hampton and Newport News, Virginia. We take pride in caring for the "least of these"

by providing healthcare to those without medical insurance. Jesus Christ calls us to help others and share the good news of Jesus Christ, as the church's mission.

Calvin Sydnor – Statement of Faith

I believe in the one Triune God. The Triune God is the eternal, inseparable, seamless, indistinguishable, and without confusion, three persons of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Triune God is how we come to know God through Christ and are inspired to reconcile all women and men to God. In Christ, we experience the reality of God's presence with us, who points to the great Commandments by which we ought to live, loving God wholeheartedly and our neighbors as ourselves.

In living in the kingdom mandate, we experience the human condition. The human condition, our humanity and sin bondage, is the problem of life we experience that is simply unexplainable apart from God. While we can lift ourselves and improve our human status, the mystery of life is only transcendent in God's revelation of Christ, through the power of the Holy Spirit, to us. Without the knowledge of God, our bondage to sin, our unbelief or unfaithfulness, captivates our hearts. It is in Christ's grace, our unmerited gift, we live in the hope of the dailiness and difficulties of life, and our hearts transformed to live for Christ.

Christ revealed that the sacraments given to us by him are means of grace that invite believers to be incorporated into Christ. We partake in the sacraments, Baptism, and the Lord's Supper, not by our desire to follow Christ but by the inspiration and power of the Holy Spirit that fills us full to live for Christ. As such, in the sacraments, through the Church, God's grace is revealed, we are called to respond to God's grace, and we experience God's grace and Christ's presence.

We learn about God's grace in the revelation of Jesus Christ through reading the Scripture. In Scripture, the written Word of God, we come to know the person and work of Jesus Christ as our Savior and redeemer through the power of the Holy Spirit. From the Incarnation of Jesus Christ to his death, resurrection, and ascension, the mystery of God reveals God's power, grace, and love for all of creation. Thus, the Bible reveals the sovereignty of God, our need for Savior in this life and the life to come, and calls us into participation in the kingdom of God for Christ's service.

Jesus Christ is the head of the Church, who calls us into the mission of the Church. The Church is called and equipped to proclaim the Word of God and administer the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper. God poured out his Spirit on all flesh, and God equips and sends believers of all ages, cultures, races, and genders to minister and bear witness to the saving grace of Jesus Christ. God graciously gifts people to participate in the body of Christ to fulfill the Church's mission, the continuing work of Jesus Christ. As the Church, we can partake in Christ's redemptive mission of the world by joining in the Church's life.

I believe Christ has called and gifted me into the particular ministry of the proclamation of the Word of God and administering the Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

Joanna W. Sydnor
Joaka101401@gmail.com

Actively Seeking? Open to receiving a call and moving within 9 months
Ecclesiastical Status: PC(USA) Candidate
Presbytery Membership: Eastern Virginia Presbytery
Candidacy Date: 4/30/2019

Formal Education:

- Master of Divinity, University of Dubuque Theological Seminary, 2020
- Master of Arts, Hampton University, 1999
- Bachelor of Science, Hampton University, 1986

Continuing Education: Chaplain Residency, Riverside Regional Medical Center, June 8, 2020-June 4, 2021

Employment Type: Full time

Geographic Choices: North Carolina, Virginia

Leadership Competencies: Compassionate, Preaching and Worship Leadership, Spiritual Maturity, Communicator, Culturally Proficient, Willingness to Engage Conflict, Collaboration, Interpersonal Engagement, Bridge Builder, Self-Differentiation

Languages Fluent: English

Clergy Couple? Yes (Calvin Herbert Sydnor, IV)

Minimum Effective Salary: \$45,000

Housing: Open to Manse/Housing Allowance

Willing to serve church of other race? Yes

Work experience:

- Chaplain Residency, Riverside Regional Medical Center, Newport News, VA, 1 year
- Practice Administrator, Ambulatory Foot & Ankle Center, Hampton, VA, 12 years
- Manager, Dominion DME, Inc., Hampton, VA, 5 years
- Speech-Language Pathologist, Newport News Public Schools, Newport News, VA, 5 years
- Speech-Language Pathologist, Spotsylvania Public Schools, Spotsylvania, VA, 1 year
- Speech-Language Pathologist, Clay Center Cooperative School District, Clay Center, KS, 1 year
- Lead Teacher, Fort Ord Child Development Center, Fort Ord, CA, 1 year
- Director, Bethel A. M. E. Child Development Center, Bryn Mawr, PA, 1 year
- Speech-Language, The Delta School, Ben Salem, PA, 2 years

Service to church or denomination for the past 10 years: Ruling Elder, Deacon, Chairperson - Edith S. Bland Women's Circle, Sunday School Teacher; Liturgist

Describe a moment in your recent ministry that you recognize as one of success and fulfillment.

Since COVID-19, it has significantly impacted worship life and participation in Christ's community. One area impacted is the Adult Sunday School ministry. Recently, I was asked to participate in a subcommittee of the Christian Growth and Nurture Committee to develop a virtual Adult Sunday School class. As a subcommittee member, I discussed ideas for a non-traditional Adult Sunday school offered weekly on Sunday evening via Zoom. At the beginning of November 2020, we formulated the plan to start the Adult Sunday School with a series of lessons with the Advent season. Each of the subcommittee members will lead one month of Sunday School lessons. We successfully commenced the first virtual Adult Sunday school lesson on the first Sunday in Advent. It was well attended, with a total attendance of 13. I recognize our virtual Adult Sunday School ministry as a success and fulfillment because this is the first time this ministry has met since March 2020 due to the COVID-19 restrictions. The number of participants exceeded that of the pre-COVID-19 Sunday School attendance, and the lesson generated a vibrant discussion. Through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we have been able to continue to spread the good news about Jesus Christ during this challenging health crisis. I look forward to my month of leading the Adult Sunday School in the new year, the opportunity to teach others about the love of God and participate in the spiritual formation of God's people.

Describe the ministry setting to which you believe God is calling you.

I believe God is calling me to a ministry setting of a small to medium-sized church congregation where there is a sense of closeness among its members. In this uncertain time of the Church, God is calling to bring creativity

and imagination to a ministry seeking stability. God is calling me to a ministry with a heart to connect with the surrounding community as it lives-out God's mission. The desire to learn about God and teach others about God is characteristic of the ministry to which God is calling me. By the Holy Spirit, God is leading me to minister where I can joyfully encourage participation in spirit-filled worship services as well as fellowship within the community of believers in Christ. During this pandemic, I am called to minister to God's Church with the love and compassion of Jesus Christ as we wait in faith for healing. The ministry setting that God is calling me to is one that welcomes and shows hospitality to all regardless of race, gender, age, or socioeconomic status, viewing all people as God's good creation. It is a ministry setting that reaches out to the marginalized encouraging and uplifting them. Finally, the ministry setting that God calls me to is one that embraces new ways of worship while valuing its history and tradition.

What areas of growth have you identified in yourself?

I identify moderating the session as one of my areas of growth. While I have experience as a medical practice administrator and facilitating staff meetings, I do not have any experience moderating a session meeting. My skills with leading and directing staff meetings will be an asset to me as I hone my skills of implementing and applying the skills, including but not limited to active listening, discernment, and using the constitution as a guide, necessary to be an effective moderator of the session. Another area where I will benefit from growth is technology. I am a novice when it comes to technology. However, in the season of COVID-19, I am rapidly moving to increased use of technology at work and in my personal life. I am becoming more comfortable using technology platforms like Zoom and Facebook Live for many things, including meetings, worship services, and Sunday School. Also, I am excited about learning about the use of technology to change how we encounter God through Sunday School, Bible Study, and worship service in general.

Describe a time when you have led change.

I led change when I served as the chairperson for the deacons. I led change by adding a few new components to the worship and planning portions of the deacon's annual retreat. First, I incorporated inviting a guest speaker, including a local hospital chaplain and a PC(U.S.A.) pastor, to provide a fresh outlook on what it means to be a deacon of the church. Then, I added the opportunity for each deacon to chair and plan a ministry or activity from the following: monthly Bible study, visitation of the sick and shut-ins and bereaved, Family Ministry, the Back-to-School supply drive, participation in P.O.R.T. (feeding/housing the homeless), Happy Birthday to Jesus, Ordination Sunday, Sunday School Breakfast, and Deacon Sunday. At the conclusion of each retreat, there were committees for each ministry or activity and preliminary plans for each for the next calendar year. The additions of the two components at the retreat led to a change with the deacons that helped us to be more organized to serve others with love and compassion as true witnesses of the love of Christ.

Joanna Sydnor – Statement of Faith

I believe in the Triune God, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, and in the authority of the Holy Scripture as to how God reveals Godself to all of humanity for God's mission of salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord. God established a covenant with God's people, Israel, as revealed in the Holy Scripture. God sent the one and only Son into the world with all authority by grace and love. As such, Jesus Christ is the leader of the Church who calls and makes provisions for his followers to glorify God for all eternity joyfully. Christ is the foundation, life, and hope of the Church by which all are reconciled to God, unified for God's mission, and assured through confession of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

God calls me to respond and encourage others to respond to God's gracious call through Jesus Christ as faithful followers. We must reflect to the world the hope and salvation of Jesus Christ by opening ourselves to

God's revelation through Bible study. We must love one another as ourselves and forgive those who do wrong to us, remembering Jesus' forgiveness of our sins. We must commit to the unified body in Christ, one faith, and be born again in Christ by the sacrament of Baptism. In remembrance, we must regularly receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion by the power of the Holy Spirit. We will work towards living holy lives in Jesus Christ. The body of Christ, the Church, must testify that God entered humanity in the form of Jesus Christ, lived among sinners, yet was sinless. His death and resurrection are a testament to his power to forgive the sins of the world, conquering death once and for all. Sharing the gospel truth of salvation through Jesus Christ to this sinful world is the legacy the Church witnessed down through history. We will continue to be witnesses from one generation to the next through eternity.

By God's grace, as I answer God's call, I will encourage the Church to regularly seek the opportunity to proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior to the world by participating in the life of the Church locally and around the world. Together, we will live the gospel by feeding and providing shelter for society's marginalized. It will be a priority to nurture all Believers in the way of the Lord and to provide for their spiritual fellowship by engaging in Sunday school, Bible study, and other ministries of the Church. In good times and in times of trouble, the Church will continue to worship and glorify our Triune God in spirit and truth by being open to new ways of encountering God. I will encourage the Church to stand for social justice and defend justice for all people according to God's mission by setting the example of serving all humankind regardless of race, gender, age, nationality, or socioeconomic status. I am called by God's grace to reflect the love of Christ to all humankind through the power of the Holy Spirit and with gratitude I humbly submit to God's will.

Report of the Committee on Nominations

Presbytery of the James

January 25, 2022

I. The Committee Recommends That the Presbytery Elect

a. For General Assembly Commissioner to the 225th General Assembly (2022)

i. MWS James Moseley, Campbell Memorial, Weems

b. For Alternate General Assembly Commissioner to the 225th General Assembly (2022)

i. RE, Barry Parks, Westminster, Charlottesville

ii. MWS, Alex Evans, Second Presbyterian Richmond

c. For Young Adult Advisory Delegate to the 225th General Assembly (2022)

i. Molly Zweckbronner, Fairfield

d. For Commission on Ministry

i. Class of 2022 Susan Steinberg, Member at Large, Charlottesville

II. Opportunities for Service

The following vacancies exist on Committees and Teams that are filled by The Committee on Nominations:

Committee on Preparation for Ministry

Class of 2024, Region A, RE

Class of 2022, Region E, MWS

Leadership Connections Team

Class of 2024, Region A, RE/MWS/MC

Class of 2024, Member at Large, Vice Moderator, RE/MWS/MC

Mission and Service Team

Class of 2021, Member at Large, Vice Moderator, RE/MWS/MC

RE=Ruling Elder; MWS=Minister of Word and Sacrament; MC=Member of Congregation

If you are interested in any of these opportunities for service, please contact the Rev. Walter Canter, canterjw@gmail.com, the new moderator of CON, to indicate your interest in serving.

In addition to these *elected* positions, POJ members may serve on Ministry Groups. Please visit <https://www.presbyteryofthejames.com/ministries/> and directly contact a Ministry Group of your choice.

Walter Canter,
Committee on Nominations Moderator