



Special Meeting • May 17, 2022 • via Zoom

Registration Information

Note: All participants (ministers, certified Christian educators, commissioned pastors, ruling elder commissioners, and guests) will be required to register in advance. We need to know the names of ruling elder commissioners (those elected by session to represent their congregations) in advance. This is a change from in-person meetings.

Ministers and Clerks of Session: We 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, or if you do not have internet access, please leave a message: 804-262-2074 ext. 301.

All attendees: Please use the link below to access registration on our website. You will be asked for your name, phone number where you can be contacted the day/time of the meeting, 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, certified Christian educator, commissioned pastor, or guest. It is important that all information is filled out. Once you have registered, your unique meeting access link, numbers, and passwords will be emailed to you. Please save that email to use on May 17 to log in to the meeting.

Please be sure to register prior to the deadline (Thursday, May 17 at 12:00 p.m.)

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

Thank you for your patience as we look forward to a hybrid meeting on June 14 and October 15. If you have questions or concerns not covered in the above information, please contact Barbara Espigh at barbara@presbyteryofthejames.org. If you do not have reliable internet access you may leave a message at (804)262-2074 ext. 301.

****Emails and calls will be returned during POJ office hours Monday – Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.****

General Information
Presbytery of the James • Special Meeting • May 17, 2022

Please thoroughly review information in this packet prior to the meeting to become familiar with the topics that will be discussed and voted on.

- ◆ At their earliest opportunity, each moderator or clerk of session is requested to put this packet in the hands of the ruling elder commissioner(s) representing their church.

- ◆ **Presbytery convenes promptly at 7:00 p.m.**
- ◆ **To participate, you must have completed registration before the deadline (May 17 at 12:00 p.m.).** The Zoom link will open at 6:30 p.m. for all commissioners and attendees.

- ◆ **Excused Absences:** All ministers and sessions are reminded that email excused absence requests are required for absences to be approved. Please plan to actively participate in the whole meeting. Send requests to Franklin Reding, assistant to the stated clerk, at franklinr@presbyteryofthejames.org.
- ◆ **Motions/Amendments:** Please raise your virtual hand by using the “Raise Hand” icon in the participants window or by using *9 if you are participating by phone. Once you have been recognized, you will be asked to unmute using the “Mute/Unmute” icon – phone users may unmute by using *6. Please state your motion or amendment, which will be typed out by presbytery staff and read back to the body.
- ◆ Overtures must be at the presbytery by noon eight (8) weeks prior to a meeting. For the October meeting, the deadline will be August 18, 2022.

Upcoming Stated Meetings

June 14, 2022.....Westminster Church, Richmond
October 15, 2022..... Invitation Needed
February 18, 2023.....Invitation needed

Agenda

6:30 Pre-meeting Preparation and Instructions for Virtual Meeting

7:00 Call to Order, Prayer, & Welcome Ruling Elder Dan Jordanger, POJ Moderator
Providence Church, Gum Spring

Welcoming of First-time Commissioners, Corresponding Members, and Guests

Evening Prayer Teaching Elders Lauren Cogswell Ramseur and Ashley Diaz Mejias
Co-Pastors, Voices of Jubilee, New Worshipping Community (NWC)

Adoption of the Agenda..... Ruling Elder Kenna Payne
Mission Council Moderator; Westminster Church, Richmond

Presbyters Search Committee Teaching Elder Jess Cook, Every Table Ministries, NWC
Certified Christian Educator Barbara Flynt, The Brandermill Church, Midlothian

Adjournment and Closing Prayer..... Ruling Elder Dan Jordanger, POJ Moderator

Information about the Presbyters Search Committee nominee will be emailed to registered ministers, commissioned pastors, certified Christian educators, and ruling elder commissioners around 6:00 p.m. on May 17. Please keep this information confidential until after the presbytery has voted on May 17.

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 Presbyters Search Committee Presbytery of the James

Name of Position: Lead Presbyter for Vision and Collaboration

Presbyters Search Committee (PSC) Co-Chairs: Jess Cook and Barbara Flynt

1. Briefly describe the process and timeline followed in writing the Ministry Information Form.

Once elected by the Presbytery, the PSC met to review the Strategic Plan spending much time on understanding the Mission Statement and the Vision Statement of the POJ. Members of the PSC are Rev. Jess Cook, Certified Christian Educator Barbara Flynt, Rev. Ken Henry, Commissioned Pastor Peggy Fox, Rev. Bev Bullock, Christian Educator Jen Rowe, and Candidate Noah Morgan. We were clear about the responsibilities of each position and wrote the job descriptions based on the Strategic Plan. Once the job descriptions were completed, they were sent to the Mission Council for approval.

2. What was the process by which candidates were reviewed?

The job descriptions for all 3 positions were uploaded and the CLC sent matching Personal Information Forms (PIFs) for the Lead Presbyter position. We also received self-referrals for this position. All PIFs and any other letters or emails from candidates, were uploaded to a Google Doc. All 7 members of the PSC read each of the 36 PIFs received and we had a system to rank the candidates. Each committee member checked off a box of either yes, maybe, or no. During a regular meeting, we then compiled the responses and those with 5 or more “yesses” rose to the top of the list. Jess, as co-chair, then reached out by email to those 10 and asked to schedule a Zoom interview. Of those 10, 5 got back to us stating that they would like to participate in a round one Zoom interview.

The Round 1 interviews were held on Friday, February 25th, up to one hour each with a 30 minute break in between. Our candidate rose to the top, to the point that we only wanted to speak further with this one person.

3. Number of PIFs Received:

- a. Total 36
- b. Men 21
- c. Women 15
- d. Racial Ethnic not listed

4. How many shortlist candidates

- a. Total 10
- b. Men 4
- c. Women 6
- d. Racial Ethnic not listed

5. How many ZOOM interviews

- a. Total 5
- b. Men 2
- c. Women 3
- d. Racial Ethnic not listed

6. Please share some of the most important reasons you chose your nominee.

This candidate rose above the other 4 instantly. This person already had mid-council (presbytery or synod) leadership and when asked what drew them to this position, the answer was that Synod Executive Warren Lesane had shared the job description with them and that they were interested in the inclusion and diversity of the job description. They also understood to the best of any of those interviewed, the analogy of the “three legged stool” where 3 Presbyters would work together, serving as a team, working together while being flexible and having trust to do something new in the POJ. This person has years of experience working to build relationships with people, serving 20 years in the military as a chaplain. This person also stated that it was important to be accessible to the people and to connect with them.

7. How does the nominee fit the qualifications/requirements of the position?

This candidate is a PC(USA) Teaching Elder with over 28 years of experience serving the Church. Currently they are a Transitional General Presbyter where they are using their skills to cultivate new strategies for ministry, especially during a pandemic. They have Continuing Education in Conflict Training and Executive Leadership. They have been a solo pastor, a campus pastor and a military chaplain. Some of the leadership qualities they have are that of Advisor, Change Agent, Willingness to Engage Conflict, and Strategy and Vision which were all listed as qualities needed for this position.

8. What support and help was received from the liaison? Are there other resources that would have been helpful? If so, what are they?

Warren Lesane met with the PSC at the very beginning outlining our task and offering whatever support we might need. Fred Holbrook also consulted with both co-chairs when there were questions that needed answers. The Mission Council was kept abreast of the progress of the PSC as was the Presbytery as a whole. What the POJ has been looking for, 3 Presbyters to work in conjunction with one another, no “buck stops here person,” has not been done to our knowledge before. We felt supported throughout this process and as we continue to seek the two others that God has called to become Presbyters for the POJ.

Next Steps:

The PSC is now proceeding with reviewing the PIFs for the two other positions of Presbyter for Relational Care and Presbyter for Congregational Life. The deadline to receive resumes and PIFs was April 1st. There were 21 PIFs received for each of these positions. The committee used the same process of ranking the candidates that we used for the Lead Presbyter for Vision and Collaboration. The first round of Zoom interviews for these positions will be held on May 11th and May 13th.

The Presbyters Search Committee continues to be led by the Spirit in each of our gatherings and we continue to ask for prayers as we discern whom God has already called to work as Presbyters in the Presbytery of the James.