

Summary
SPECIAL MEETING
PRESBYTERY OF THE JAMES
NOVEMBER 16, 2023 – 5-7 PM
HYBRID MEETING AT WESTMINSTER CHURCH, RICHMOND

The meeting was transferred from the scheduled Three Chopt Church to Westminster, Richmond, due to technology challenges discovered the weekend before the meeting.

A light meal prepared and served by RE Carol Martin of the Mission Council was served 5-5:45 while commissioners gathered, registered, and enjoyed fellowship.

Moderator TE Rosalind Banbury, interim at Bethlehem, convened the presbytery at 6 PM with prayer and a Land Acknowledgment. A quorum was declared to be present.

ENROLLMENT

TOTAL ZOOM	85	40 TE	39 RE	2 Educators	1 Commissioned Pastor	3 guests
TOTAL IN PERSON	55	29 TE	19 RE	1 Educator		6 guests
TOTAL ATTENDANCE	140					

Moderator Banbury and Stated Clerk TE R. Charles Grant explained the rules for the evening and gave directions for the Zoom participants.

RE Kenna Payne, Westminster Church, Richmond, and Moderator of the Mission Council, moved the adoption of the agenda as circulated in advance.

TE Carla Pratt-Keyes, Pastor of Ginter Park, rose to move an amendment to the agenda, specifying a change in the order of the three recommendations of the Mission Council, that recommendation #3 would be considered first, followed by recommendations 1 and 2, as found in the reports pp 9-19. The motion was seconded and TE Pratt-Keyes spoke to her motion

The AMENDED AGENDA was adopted by a vote of 120-7.

Moderator Banbury led the presbytery in a responsive reading based on Psalm 107, then offered a prayer for the evening's business.

RE Payne gave some background of the budget process and the recommendations of the Mission Council, and then moved the adoption of RECOMMENDATION # 3:

That the Mission Council form a Task Force of the Council with persons from around the Presbytery:

1. to study the current Strategic Plan and its implementation and impact on the life of the Presbytery;
2. to study present and future sources of funding that would consider, but not be limited to, sustainability, per capita, stewardship, and other sources;
3. to be comprised of persons in the presbytery with a broad base of diversity, inclusion, interest, and experience;

4. to be formed by the current Moderator of the Presbytery (Rev. Rosalind Banbury), the incoming Moderator of the Presbytery (Cherry Peters), the incoming Moderator of the Mission Council (Rev. Janet James), and the incoming Vice-Moderator of the Mission Council (Rev. Kerry Foster); and
5. to be formed and first convened in December 2023, with its initial finding(s) to be presented at the February 2024 stated presbytery meeting and final report in the month of April, 2024.

TE Gary Charles, pastor of Cove Church rose to offer substitute amendment to the Mission Council recommendation #3, striking recommendation #2 and amending #3:

That the Presbytery: *(key changes to the MC motion are highlighted)*

- Form a **Strategic Plan, Staffing Structure, and Funding Review** Task Force of the **Presbytery**:
 1. to study the current Strategic Plan and its implementation and impact on the life of the Presbytery;
 2. to study present and future sources of funding that would consider, but not be limited to, sustainability, per capita, stewardship, and other sources;
 3. to publish authorized uses of the Church & Ministries Development Fund and the Genesis & Generations Fund, and in consultation with the Trustees, recommend a financially sustainable annual draw off of these two reserve funds to support the annual Presbytery budget;
 4. to be comprised of persons in the presbytery with a broad base of diversity, inclusion, interest, and experience;
 5. to be formed by the current Moderator of the Presbytery (Rev. Rosalind Banbury), the incoming Moderator of the Presbytery (Cherry Peters), the incoming Moderator of the Mission Council (Rev. Janet James), and the incoming Vice-Moderator of the Mission Council (Rev. Kerry Foster); and
 6. to be formed and first convened in December 2023, with its initial finding(s) to be presented at the February 2024 stated presbytery meeting and final report published in April 2024. Recommendations stemming from the report would be presented no later than the **June** 2024 stated presbytery meeting.

After receiving a second, TE Gary Charles spoke to his proposed amendment.

Moderator Banbury explained to the presbytery the rules for considering a substitute motion, which presbytery then followed in considering the Mission Council (MC) main motion and the substitute:

The MC main motion was declared perfected with no amendments.

The substitute motion was declared perfected with no amendment.

The substitute motion was adopted as the main motion by a vote of 113-12.

The substitute motion was then adopted by a vote of 118-4.

By virtue of the adoption of the substitute motion, the Mission Council recommendation #2 was declared moot by Moderator Banbury.

RE Payne explained there were calculation errors in the published proposed budget.

RE Payne then moved Mission Council recommendation #1:

That the presbytery adopt a budget for 2024 of \$1,317,945 (corrected figure) with projected revenues of \$575,020, and net loss of \$742,925. Of that proposed loss, \$653,607 (87% of the loss) would be supported by the Church and Ministries Development (net asset) Fund.

TE Josh Andrzejewski of FPC Richmond rose to offer an amendment to Mission Council recommendation #1: (changes to the MC motion are highlighted)

The Mission Council recommends the presbytery adopt a budget for 2024 as presented to the 115th Stated Meeting and corrected for calculation errors at the Special Meeting on November 16, 2023, except for entities covered under "New Worshipping Communities," will remain at 2023 levels of \$144,500 as opposed to the proposed \$117,248, resulting in a TOTAL BUDGET OF \$1,321,649. The additional cost of \$27,252 will be added to the proposed draw from the Church and Ministries Development (net asset) Fund.

The amendment received a second.

The amendment was adopted 97-26.

TE Patrick Lane of Mitchells rose to offer an amendment to Mission Council recommendation #1:

That: Upon the adoption of the presbytery's 2024 budget, the Mission Council shall develop a procedure for financial reporting to hold all individuals, groups, committees, councils, teams, or other, which receive POJ funds accountable to justified spending based on the employed zero-based budgeting system. This procedure shall include reporting and a way of reviewing fund usage in its guidelines, and shall be presented before the POJ for approval and implementation at the February 17th, 2024 (116th) Presbytery meeting to be used throughout the remainder of the financial year and beyond, if deemed appropriate in future spending processes.

The amendment received a second and TE Lane spoke to his motion.

This amendment was not adopted by a vote of 18-96.

The proposed budget of the Mission Council, as first amended, was adopted 82-41.

TE Walter Canter, pastor of Blue Ridge and moderator of the Committee on Nominations, reported.

TE Canter reported that subsequent to the previous election of General Assembly Commissioners, the CON was informed that the presbytery was no longer eligible to send three TE and three RE commissioners, due to a decline in presbytery membership. Consequently, the CON has determined that TEs Nicole Ball and James Taneti would serve as principals, and TE Raymond Roberts would serve as an alternate.

On behalf of the CON, TE Canter placed the following in nomination:

RE Peggy Fox for the Commission on the Ministry as a MAL in the class of 2026
TE Rosalind Banbury for the Commission on the Ministry as a MAL in the class of 2026
RE Kendra Crabtree for the Mission Council, MAL in the class of 2026.
TE Josh Andrzejewski to serve as Vice Moderator of the Presbytery in the class of 2024

TE Canter then placed in nomination (from the floor) RE Barry Parks to serve as a commissioner to the General Assembly (joining RE James Lockett, previously elected).

There being no further nominations from the floor, **all were declared elected by acclamation.**

There being no further business before the presbytery for this special meeting, Moderator Banbury declared the meeting to be adjourned at 7:20 PM, following her concluding prayer.

R. Charles Grant
Stated Clerk (serving on a temporary basis)