

## **Highlights of the February 15, 2025 Stated Presbytery Meeting**

On February 15, 2025, the Presbytery of the James held a Stated Meeting at the First Presbyterian Church, Richmond and on Zoom. Moderator Cherry Peters (RE, Second, Richmond) called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. A quorum was present. Cherry opened the meeting with prayer, following which she made a statement of land acknowledgement.

### **Attendance**

Note: the majority of commissioners attended the meeting by Zoom:

95 Teaching Elders (37 in person, 58 Zoom)

88 Ruling Elders (34 in person, 54 Zoom)

- 79 RE Commissioners representing 57 of our 97 sessions (28 in person, 51 Zoom)
- 4 RE moderators of POJ committees, commissions, etc. (4 in person, 0 Zoom)
- 1 RE Certified Christian Educators (0 in person, 1 Zoom)
- 4 CREs commissioned to congregations (2 in person, 2 Zoom)

0 Corresponding Members

1 POJ Staff person who is not counted any other ways (1 in person)

20 Visitors/Guests (10 in person, 10 Zoom)

For a total of 204 people (82 in person, 122 Zoom)

Moderator Peters led the service of installation of presbytery's 2025 moderator, Teaching Elder Joshua Andrzejewski (First, Richmond) and vice moderator, Commissioned Ruling Elder Peggy Fox (Woodville).

Following the Worship Service, Moderator Andrzejewski called on Temporary Stated Clerk Barry Parks (RE, Westminster, Charlottesville) for the Stated Clerk's Report. Barry moved to **approve the Consent Agenda:**

- **That presbytery conduct the final step of the ordination examination of Candidate Whitney Caswell Daou (Presbytery of St. Augustine), so that she may serve as spiritual counselor at KIRVA Hospice.**
- **That Presbytery close out the Advance Fund created during the 2020 pandemic and move the monies back to where they originated in the Church and Ministry Development Fund.**

The motion to approve the Consent Agenda was seconded and **adopted by acclamation.**

Barry then introduced the report of the Administrative Commission for Mechanicsville, and the Moderator asked Dan Jordanger (RE, Providence Gum Spring Church) to speak to it.

### **Administrative Commission for Mechanicsville Presbyterian Church**

Dan Jordanger, the Moderator of Administrative Commission, presented his report and moved **that the Mechanicsville Presbyterian Church Administrative Commission be dissolved by the Presbytery of the James with appreciation and gratitude for the work that it completed.** The motion **was adopted by acclamation.**

### **Report of the Commission on Ministry**

Rev. Joseph Taber (Pastor, Culpeper) moved that **the presbytery approve the following policies:**

1. **Designated Pastor Policy (New)**
2. **Family Medical Leave Policy (New)**
3. **Sabbatical Leave Policy (Revised)**

The motion **was adopted by acclamation.**

### **Ordination Examination**

Candidate Whitney Caswell Daou presented an exposition of her chaplaincy. The Moderator of COM Exams, James Lockett (RE, Fredericksburg) moved that **the presbytery approve the exposition on ministry portion of the ordination exam for candidate Whitney Caswell Daou.** The motion **was adopted by acclamation.** James then moved that **the presbytery declare that candidate Whitney Caswell Daou has passed the final step of the ordination exam and is approved for the ordination to the ministry of Word and Sacrament** which **was adopted by acclamation.**

### **Committee on Nominations**

The Vice Moderator of the Committee on Nominations, TE Kate Fiedler (Associate Pastor, Second, Richmond) moved on behalf of the committee to **nominate Colleen Earp, Teaching Elder, to serve on Mission Council for the class of 2026.** The motion passed by acclamation.

### **Proposed Amendments to the Book of Order**

The presbytery voted to **approve all of the proposed amendments to the Book of Order sent by the 226th General Assembly (2024).** A description of all the proposed amendments is included in the Appendix below.

Moderator Andrzejewski declared the Stated Meeting adjourned at 2:14 p.m. and closed the meeting with prayer.

### **Appendix: Description of the Proposed Amendments**

24-A — F-1.0403 UNITY IN DIVERSITY (POL-01 1): This amendment establishes gender identity and sexual orientation as protected classes against which we must not discriminate.

24-B – G-1.0104 OTHER FORMS OF CORPORATE WITNESS (WORSHIPING COMMUNITIES, etc.): Provides a minimal, flexible, and adaptable level of historic Reformed polity for small worshiping communities that wish to identify with the larger church in worship and formation, discipleship, and mission.

24-C — G-2.0104b GIFTS AND QUALIFICATIONS: Adds a requirement to acknowledge F-1.0403 in the examination of all candidates for ordered ministry before ordination and/or installation.

24-D — G-2.0504b PASTORAL RELATIONSHIPS, G-2.0504b TEMPORARY PASTORAL RELATIONSHIPS: Extends the specified period of service for temporary pastoral relationship from 12 to 36 months.

24-E — G-2.0504b PASTORAL RELATIONSHIPS, G-2.0504b TEMPORARY PASTORAL RELATIONSHIPS: prohibits non-disclosure agreements at the dissolution of installed and temporary pastoral relationships.

24-F — G-2.0610 ACCOMODATIONS TO PARTICULAR CIRCUMSTANCES (ORD-05): Removes a requirement of G-2.0610 to prevent placing a record of a potentially traumatic encounter in the permanent records of the presbytery.

22-G — G-2.0901 CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: Prohibits non-disclosure agreements.

24-H — G-3.0106 ADMINISTRATION OF MISSION: Requires a protection policy for vulnerable adults.

24-I — G-3.0302d RELATIONSHIPS WITH SYNOD AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY: Removes the requirement for presbytery overtures to have at least one concurrence.

24-J — G-3.0501 COMPOSITION AND RESPONSIBILITY: Revises the proportions for determining the number of commissioners to the General Assembly.

24-K — D-7.0501 REFERRAL TO INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE: Provides an explicit mandate to take positive action to protect vulnerable people by disclosing information to authorities.

24-L — D-7.0902b ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE: This amendment would preserve the due process rights of all ministers of the Word and Sacrament accused of sexual misconduct without diminishing the protections afforded to the alleged or potential victims of that misconduct.

24-M — Episcopal-Presbyterian Agreement on Local Sharing of Ministries: Sent to presbyteries for their affirmative or negative vote pursuant to G-5.0203