Summary of the 124th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of the James

October 17, 2026, Hybrid format, Bon Air Presbyterian Church
9201 W. Huguenot Road, North Chesterfield, Virginia 23235

The 124th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of the James was held in our hybrid format, with CRE Peggy Fox Moderating. The meeting opened with worship that included our necrology report and the celebration of the Lord's Supper. The message was brought to us by Rev. Dr. Asa Lee, who, with Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lapsley, CRE Peggy Fox and TE Alex Creager, served communion to the body.

Following worship reports were received from the Stated Clerk, Mission Council, and the Trustees. On the recommendation of the Mission Council, the body elected TE Clay Macauly and RE Elizabeth Smart Fay to serve on the Committee on Nominations and TE Todd Davidson to serve on the Committee on Representation.

The Committee on Preparation presented Inquirers Subin Sim (Lord Jesus Korean) and Kaylyn McGhee (Fairfield) to be examined for candidacy for the ordered Ministry of Word and Sacrament. The body granted this action by unanimous vote on each inquirer-now-candidate.

The Committee on nominations presented a slate of nominees for various committees and all were elected by the body. Those individuals are TE Alex Creager as the 2027 Moderator of the presbytery; TE Colleen Earp to Mission Council; CRE Peggy Fox, TE Todd Davidson and TE Gary Hatter to Commission on Ministry; TE Christopher Tweel, TE Keli Cooper and TE Carla Pratt Keyes to Committee on Preparation; and TE Robert Johnson as moderator of the Committee on Preparation and TE Kelly Kaufman as vice moderator of the Committee on Preparation.

Through the adoption of the Consent Agenda the Balancing of Commissioners for 2027 was also adopted.

Throughout the meeting there were presentations from various individuals and committees highlighting the very real work of the presbytery and its members.

Rev. Dr. Asa Lee (Pittsburgh Theological Seminary) and Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lapsley (Union Presbyterian Seminary) provided an update on the environment and reality of today's theological educational process. The short summary is that our Presbyterian Seminaries are now more focused as a group to offer all of the programs that our church will need in the future, avoiding unnecessary duplication but improving the connections between the seminaries themselves and the larger church. The most prudent observation shared was that "churches make pastors; seminaries only train them" (the SC's paraphrase here).

The Anti-Racism Committee's presenter was Hamilton Glass, a local Richmond public space artist. RE Marsha Summers provided an introduction and Hamilton Glass then walked us through the many, many steps it took to present to the Richmond metro area building murals, each showcasing the work of two artists who did not know each other, but were tasked to produce a mural that would inspire cross-cultural, diverse racial outlooks, current societal hot-button topics, without having to get their ideas "pre-judged" for suitability. The highlight of this project was "beginning honest dialogue." Our guest speaker has an ongoing presence in the Richmond area and is willing and able to bring presentations and programs to any of our congregations.

Doug Walters provided an inspirational guide to growing candy corn, as well as updating all on the continuing ministry at Camp Hanover and the invite for more of us to attend functions there.

RE Lamar Lockhart brought a report and guest speakers before the body on behalf of the Self Development of People (SDOP). In addition to having a great record in grant presentation, two specific recipients brought us their thanks and reports. The recipients were “Street Singers,” a choral ministry housed at Second Presbyterian Church in downtown Richmond, and a program known as C.A.S.E. (Create a safe environment). The “Street Singers” work with the homeless population, creating a space for music and performing in the area for their clients. C.A.S.E. is a post-incarceration ministry being led by a formerly incarcerated individual, with the aim to provide support and a “safe place” for those recently returned to our communities.

World Missions brought us news from their recent joint-mission trip with Peaks Presbytery to Guatemala, and specifically, their work with CEDEPCA (Protestant Center for Pastoral Education in Central America). A local representative of the host organization brought us firsthand reports of the work of our folks, and the on-going need to support this mission since the denomination’s decision to call home our missionaries. This is a call for local congregations to step up and fill that void.

Within the packet for the meeting are written reports from other ongoing ministries and individuals involved in this shared journey of faith that we all have found ourselves called to.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Kerry Foster, Stated Clerk and Temporary General Presbyter