

October 8, 2026



From the Stated Clerk: Highlights from our September Stated Meeting

On September 22 we gathered at National Presbyterian Church for the fall stated meeting. We came to seek the will of God in the ordinary business of the church, and we came to worship.

The day began before the meeting did. Many of us spent the afternoon at Preachers' Lab: Advent Edition with Dr. Brennan Breed of Princeton Theological Seminary, asking how we preach hope, peace, joy, and love into a world that often feels cruel and cold. The room was full and the conversation was rich. Our commissioners to the 227th General Assembly offered reflections on the Assembly's work and what they carried home from it. I also had the joy of gathering with our new commissioners for orientation before they took their seats.

We welcomed new minister members. The Rev. Diane Maloney introduced herself in her new call as Associate Pastor for Youth at Burke Presbyterian Church, where she also convenes our Youth Workers Association. The Rev. Dr. Aram Feinberg, who comes to us from the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia, is serving in a temporary role at St. Mark. We look forward to welcoming the Rev. Dr. Janel Dixon at an upcoming meeting. We are thankful to God for the call of these ministers and for the blessing they will be to our collective ministry.

We gave thanks for two retirements. The Rev. Henry Brinton concludes his ministry at Fairfax Presbyterian Church after more than forty years in this presbytery. Ten affordable townhomes now rise on land Fairfax once used for parking. He urged every teaching elder to find a clergy support group.

The Rev. Brian Hamilton concludes thirty years at Westminster Presbyterian Church, twenty-six of them serving alongside his wife Ruth. He arrived convinced there was no such thing as a long-term pastorate, and then he stayed.

We are grateful for their faithful ministry, and we send them with blessing for whatever may come next!

We took up the business before us.

- The presbytery approved the sale of the Garden Memorial Presbyterian Church property, with thanks to Leadership Council, the Administrative Commission on Congregational Property, and our staff for carrying this work so faithfully.
- By three fourths vote, the presbytery determined that the Rev. Emma Horn is eligible to serve as the next installed Associate Pastor of Children and Youth Ministry at Immanuel Presbyterian Church. May God bless Rev. Emma and Immanuel in their ministry!

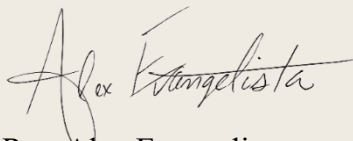
- By three fourths vote, the presbytery approved the report of the Commission on Preparation for Ministry, placing John Curran and Cynthia Gervais in the expedited candidate process and approving alternate means ordination exams for Nat Amarquaye. This is the church raising up its next pastors, one person at a time.

Then we continued our worship as we gathered for our presbytery worship service. The presbytery installed the Rev. Rachel Landers Vaagenes as Moderator and Elder Marco Grimaldo as Vice Moderator. We gave thanks for Elder Jesy Littlejohn, who moderated this body over the past year with steadiness and good humor, and who now takes up the chair of Leadership Council. The presbytery installed me as your Stated Clerk, and I receive it as both gift and trust. We also commissioned Beatrice Laryea, an elder at Potomac Presbyterian Church, to serve Christ the King Presbyterian Church as a Commissioned Ruling Elder. We surround her in this ministry, and we are thankful to God for her call.

We ended our time at the communion table, thankful to God who sustains us and unites us at the table of Christ.

Our thanks to National Presbyterian Church, to its session, staff, and members, for hosting us so graciously. Full minutes will be available soon.

May it be so. Amen.



Rev. Alex Evangelista
Stated Clerk



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