

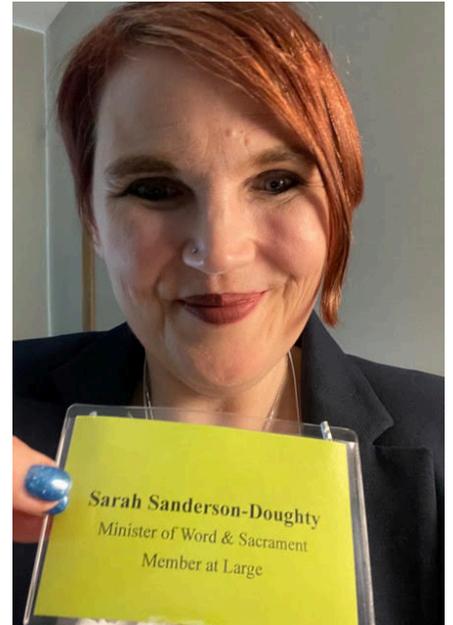


## Presbytery of West Virginia Elects Connectional Presbyter

February 25, 2026

**CHARLESTON, W.Va.** – The Rev. Dr. Sarah Sanderson-Doughty, M. Div, M.A., Ph. D, was elected as the Presbytery of West Virginia Connectional Presbyter at the Stated Meeting on Saturday, February 21, 2026. As the Presbytery has worked to implement structure under a new strategic plan, this position will work closely with the Lead Presbyter, building and strengthening connections between our churches and the Presbytery.

Sanderson-Doughty, who most recently served the Presbytery of the Cascades as the Conflict Team Leader, has a wealth of experience and describes her passion as one that treasures relationship building, particularly across generations, political perspectives and cultural differences.



Chris Bailey, Connectional Presbyter Search Committee Chair said the presbytery is in a period of intentional reflection and reform and the committee recognized Sarah’s strong sense of call to the mission and ministry of the Presbytery.

“We are excited to work alongside Sarah as she empowers the presbytery to build and strengthen relationships between colleagues, congregations, and their communities.”

A lifelong Presbyterian and third generation pastor, Sarah grew up in New York. She participated in a Peace Child tour to (then) Czechoslovakia, which opened the door, upon her return, to preach, offer workshops, and sing in many churches in the Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse, resulting in the opportunity to serve on the peacemaking task force for the presbytery. Sanderson-Doughty served as a Youth Advisory Delegate to the General Assembly in Wichita, Kansas, and on the Peacemaking Advisory Committee to the General Assembly. Obtaining a Bachelor of Arts from the College of Wooster, Sanderson-Doughty went on to obtain a Master of Divinity at McCormick Theological Seminary, and a Master of Arts and a Ph.D., both in theological studies, from Vanderbilt University

Ordained in 2002, Sanderson-Doughty, who has a passion for teaching, has served as a temporary supply pastor and worship leader, co-pastor, and solo pastor in various locations across the United States. She has served the greater church through service to the

Presbytery of Utica, Presbytery of Wabash Valley, and in her current role in the Presbytery of the Cascades.

The Rev. Annie McMillan, a member of the connectional presbyter search committee, is excited for Sanderson-Doughty to join the Presbytery of West Virginia staff.

“Sarah easily connects with others and will bring new skills and connections as well as a fresh perspective.”

Sanderson-Doughty will begin as the Presbytery of West Virginia’s Connectional Presbyter on March 15, 2026, where she will focus on relationship building, leadership development, and educational programs that support congregations, including the Authorized Lay Preacher/Commissioned Pastor preparation program.

As these responsibilities are critical to the growth of the presbytery, Lead Presbyter and Stated Clerk, Maureen Wright, is looking forward to how Sanderson-Doughty can encourage others to see their gifts and seek their callings to help the church prosper.

“I am excited to work with Sarah, to both learn from and partner with her as the Presbytery of West Virginia continues to live into the place to which God has called us to live out our mission and ministry, for such a time as this.”

Sanderson-Doughty will be moving from Portland, Oregon. Her husband, a music educator at a Catholic School and her daughter, who is in her junior year of high school, will remain in Portland until her 2027 graduation. Sanderson-Doughty plans to reside in Morgantown. Her hobbies include studying and teaching the enneagram, daily yoga practice, knitting, traveling and meaningful connections with friends.

“It is with great joy that I’m stepping into this new role in the Presbytery of West Virginia,” Sanderson-Doughty said. “I’m moved by the courage and faithfulness of the fine Presbyterians of West Virginia and delighted to have been called to listen well, teach, learn, and make connections. We’ll discover together just what a connectional presbyter is!”

The Presbytery of West Virginia is regional governing body of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) with more than 110 congregations throughout West Virginia, excepting the two panhandles.

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