

## County Council of Howard County, Maryland

2026 Legislative Session

Legislative day # 11

### RESOLUTION NO. 132 - 2026

Introduced by: Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Appointment – Dr. Yolanda R. Bethea– Interfaith Advisory Commission

Title: A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Dr. Yolanda R. Bethea to the Interfaith Advisory Commission.

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Introduced and read first time on Sep 8, 2026.

By order

Michelle Harrod  
Michelle Harrod, Administrator to the County Council

Read for a second time and a public hearing held on Sep 22, 2026.

By order

Michelle Harrod  
Michelle Harrod, Administrator to the County Council

This Resolution was read the third time and was Adopted ☒, Adopted with amendments \_\_, Failed \_\_, Withdrawn \_\_ by the County Council on Oct 5, 2026.

Certified by

Michelle Harrod  
Michelle Harrod, Administrator to the County Council

NOTE: [[text in brackets]] indicates deletions from existing language; TEXT IN SMALL CAPITALS indicates additions to existing language. ~~Strike-out~~ indicates material deleted by amendment; Underlining indicates material added by amendment.

**WHEREAS**, Section 404 of the Howard County Charter and Section 6.300 of the Howard County Code provide for the County Executive to appoint and for the County Council to confirm nominees to Howard County Boards and Commissions created by law; and

**WHEREAS**, Sections 6.352 and 12.222 of the Howard County Code provide for an Interfaith Advisory Commission in Howard County; and

**WHEREAS**, the County Executive has proposed the appointment of Dr. Yolanda R. Bethea as a member of the Interfaith Advisory Commission; and

**WHEREAS**, the County Council ratifies the County Executive's special trust and confidence in the abilities of the nominee.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland this 5 day of October, 2026 that the following person is appointed as a member of the Interfaith Advisory Commission to serve from the passage of this Resolution to October 5, 2027 or until a successor is appointed and confirmed:

Dr. Yolanda R. Bethea  
Ellicott City, Maryland

# Rev. Yolanda R. Bethea, DMin

## PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Mission-driven executive leader, minister, chaplain, and community restoration strategist with more than 30 years of leadership experience across public service, ministry, and community engagement. Proven ability to unite diverse stakeholders, strengthen community trust, and lead with compassion, integrity, and accountability. Recognized for advancing spiritual care, restorative dialogue, public safety partnerships, grief support, and faith-centered leadership in both governmental and faith-based settings.

Experienced in collaborating across cultures, denominations, and organizations to address complex community needs through service, mediation, advocacy, and transformational leadership.

## VOCATIONAL & MINISTRY EXPERIENCE

### SORORITY CHAPLAIN

**Columbia Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. | 2024–Present**

- Serve as spiritual leader and pastoral presence for more than 400 members
- Provide devotionals, prayer leadership, and pastoral support during times of transition, grief, and celebration
- Officiate Omega-Omega services and provide compassionate support to families
- Foster spiritual wellness, encouragement, and unity across the chapter

### MINISTRY LEADER, BARNABAS GRIEF SUPPORT MINISTRY

**New Psalmist Baptist Church, Baltimore, MD | 2020–2024**

- Relaunched the Barnabas Grief Support Ministry during the COVID-19 pandemic to address congregational grief and loss
- Developed and facilitated faith-centered grief support groups and healing initiatives
- Led retreats, memorial services, and spiritual care programs focused on resilience, healing, and restoration
- Provided pastoral support and crisis care to individuals and families navigating bereavement and trauma

## VICE PRESIDENT

### **Transforming Lives Community Development Corporation (TLCDC) | 2017–2024**

- Lead community outreach initiatives focused on food security, youth development, health equity, and family support
- Collaborated with faith leaders, nonprofit organizations, and community stakeholders to strengthen services and partnerships
- Supported educational enrichment programs, mentoring initiatives, and STEM engagement opportunities for youth
- Facilitated community engagement efforts designed to strengthen trust and improve access to resources

## ASSOCIATE CHAPLAIN

### **Bon Secours Hospital, Baltimore, MD | 2007–2010**

- Provided spiritual care, crisis intervention, grief counseling, and end-of-life support to patients and families
- Collaborated with interdisciplinary healthcare teams to ensure holistic and compassionate care
- Led prayer services, worship experiences, and spiritual support initiatives for patients, families, and staff

## ASSOCIATE MINISTER

### **New Psalmist Baptist Church, Baltimore, MD | 2003–Present**

- Support congregational care, teaching, preaching, and leadership development initiatives
- Facilitate small groups, discipleship opportunities, and faith-centered community engagement
- Provide mentoring and spiritual guidance to individuals and families

## OCCUPATIONAL EXPERIENCE

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PAROLE AND PROBATION**

### **Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services | 2024–Present**

- Lead statewide community supervision and reentry operations serving approximately 44,000 individuals
- Oversee more than 1,000 employees, statewide field operations, strategic planning, labor relations, and a \$131.5M operational budget

- Lead organizational stabilization, workforce wellness initiatives, public safety partnerships, and evidence-based supervision strategies
- Strengthen collaboration between law enforcement, community organizations, and public stakeholders

## CHIEF OF STAFF / DEPUTY ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

### **Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency (CSOSA), Washington, DC | 2013–2024**

- Served as senior executive advisor overseeing policy, operations, strategic planning, training, and stakeholder engagement
- Directed community engagement initiatives and interagency partnerships focused on reentry, behavioral health, violence reduction, and restorative practices
- Provided testimony and strategic guidance to executive leaders, courts, legislators, and community stakeholders
- Led conflict resolution, organizational change initiatives, and leadership development efforts

## NORTHERN REGIONAL DIRECTOR

### **Maryland Division of Parole and Probation | 2003–2013**

- Directed operations for multiple parole and probation offices and correctional institutions throughout Northern Maryland
- Led collaborative release planning, reentry initiatives, and stakeholder partnerships across county and state systems
- Oversaw workforce leadership, operational planning, program implementation, and community engagement strategies

## COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP & SERVICE

- Vice Chair, Maryland Commission on Correctional Standards (2023–2024)
- Board of Trustees, Mid-Atlantic Correctional States Association (MASCA)
- Member, American Parole and Probation Association (APPA)
- Member, Maryland Program for Mediator Excellence (MPME)
- Chaplain, Columbia Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

## INTERNATIONAL CONSULTING & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Provided training, consultation, and knowledge exchange related to community supervision, restorative practices, and leadership development for officials in;

China • Iraq • Democratic Republic of Congo • Afghanistan • Armenia • Austria • Pakistan •  
Bahamas • Guatemala • Colombia • Peru • Kosovo • Uruguay • Ethiopia • Nigeria

## EDUCATION

**Doctor of Ministry (DMin)** – United Theological Seminary

**Master's Degree** – Loyola University Maryland

**Bachelor's Degree** – Mercer University

**Certificate in Public Leadership** – Brookings Institution

## CORE STRENGTHS

- Interfaith & Community Collaboration
- Pastoral Care & Spiritual Leadership
- Conflict Resolution & Mediation
- Public Service Leadership
- Community Engagement
- Grief Support & Crisis Care
- Strategic Planning & Organizational Leadership
- Public Speaking & Facilitation
- Restorative Dialogue & Relationship Building
- Cultural Competency & Stakeholder Engagement

## REFERENCES

Available upon request.