

County Council of Howard County, Maryland

2026 Legislative Session

Legislative day # 11

RESOLUTION NO. 141 - 2026

Introduced by: Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Appointment – Rev. Hyiwot Teshome– Interfaith Advisory Commission

Title: A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Rev. Hyiwot Teshome to the Interfaith Advisory Commission.

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This Resolution was read the third time and was Adopted ✓, Adopted with amendments __, Failed __, Withdrawn __ by the County Council on Oct 5, 2026.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 Rev. Hyiwot Teshome 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, 2028 or until a successor is appointed and confirmed:

Rev. Hyiwot Teshome
Columbia, Maryland

Rev. Hyiwot Teshome

Pastor, St. John United Church

Professional Profile

Ordained Presbyterian pastor, chaplain, and community leader with experience in congregational leadership, interfaith collaboration, pastoral care, mental health advocacy, and community engagement. Demonstrated commitment to building partnerships across faith traditions and collaborating with civic, healthcare, and nonprofit organizations to address the spiritual, emotional, and social needs of diverse communities. Brings extensive leadership experience across ministry and professional sectors, including healthcare chaplaincy, community mental health initiatives, and organizational management.

Relevant Leadership & Ministry Experience

Pastor and Head of Staff

Saint John United Church (PCUSA/UMC Union Congregation)

July 2025 – Present

- Lead a union congregation affiliated with the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the United Methodist Church.
- Provide pastoral leadership, preaching, worship planning, and congregational care.
- Conduct weddings, funerals, baptisms, and special worship services.
- Visit and support hospitalized, homebound, and community members.
- Engage in county and community initiatives focused on mental health awareness and public well-being.
- Participate in interfaith and civic collaborations addressing community concerns and social needs.

Pastor and Head of Staff

First Presbyterian Church – Johnstown, Pennsylvania

December 2022 – June 2025

- Provided spiritual leadership and pastoral care for the congregation and community members.

- Planned and led weekly worship and seasonal services.
- Supported individuals and families during illness, grief, crisis, and life transitions.
- Fostered community engagement and outreach initiatives.

Congregational Depression Awareness Program (CDAP)

Community Mental Health Facilitator

2020 – Present

- Collaborate with psychologists and psychiatrists through Johns Hopkins Medicine to increase awareness of mental health concerns within faith communities.
- Facilitate educational cohorts and discussions focused on reducing stigma surrounding depression and mental illness.
- Partner with local congregations and community organizations to create supportive environments for individuals and families facing mental health challenges.
- I am currently hosting and facilitating a Howard County cohort of CDAP at our church in collaboration with Johns Hopkins through June 2nd

Chaplain Resident

Johns Hopkins Health System

2021 – 2022

- Provided spiritual care and emotional support to patients, families, and healthcare staff in a major hospital setting.
- Conducted crisis intervention, grief support, and end-of-life spiritual care.
- Participated in Clinical Pastoral Education (3 Units).

Chaplain Intern

Lancaster General Hospital

2020 – 2021

- Provided pastoral and emotional care in clinical settings.
- Assisted with memorial services, baptisms, and spiritual support for patients and families.
- Participated in Clinical Pastoral Education (1 Unit).

Community & Faith Leadership

Member, Baltimore Presbytery – PC(USA)

Ruling Elder

Christ Memorial Presbyterian Church

2008 – 2021

- Served in congregational governance, leadership, stewardship, and ministry support.
- Participated in mission, education, and community outreach initiatives.

Education

Master of Divinity (M.Div.)

Lancaster Theological Seminary

2022

Professional Leadership Experience

Associate Director, Data Storage & Backup Recovery

FINRA (Financial Industry Regulatory Authority)

2012 – 2020

- Managed highly skilled technical teams supporting critical national financial systems.
- Oversaw strategic planning, data management, security, and operational continuity.
- Developed collaborative leadership and organizational management expertise transferable to nonprofit and community leadership contexts.

Senior Technology & Infrastructure Leadership Roles

EMC • University of Maryland Medical System • The World Bank Group

2005 – 2012

- Led and advised large-scale technical infrastructure initiatives in healthcare, financial, and international organizational environments.
- Worked collaboratively across multidisciplinary teams and complex organizational structures.

Areas of Service & Interest

- Interfaith Collaboration
- Community Mental Health Advocacy
- Pastoral Care & Crisis Support
- Community Engagement & Public Service
- Equity, Inclusion, & Congregational Care
- Faith-Based Community Partnerships
- Organizational Leadership & Governance
- Public Health & Spiritual Well-Being