

MODERATOR'S LETTER

June 26, 2018 2018

Dear Commissioners,

It was a joy to have both the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly PC(USA), Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, and the Co-Moderator, Rev. Denise Anderson, who are both members of our Presbytery, in the same house, leading us in worship on May 22. Rev. J. Herbert, speaking from Matthew 23:1-12, delivered a challenge to us through his sermon message, "Re-forming Politically." It was an invitation to rise up as a Church, not in the same manner as in the past, but to let go of those things which seem so irrelevant to a "new generational culture" who are "facing new realities each day of the week".

Rev. Dr. Nelson challenged us in his message. "It is time the Church step forward and re-form as a response to the decline of our moral leadership," which means letting go of some of things that are no longer relevant to the needs of the people in the pews and look out to the broader circles of our world. He also said, "We must liberate those of us who are oppressed by the powers that be. What is going on in Israel is not right. I lived during the Jim Crow period in the South. I've been to South Africa as a young man and experienced apartheid. Palestine is no different. We must speak about this," the Stated Clerk proclaimed.

Rev. Anderson appealed to God through her prayer to hear God's call for us to be the "salt and light" and to "use the gift of unity and God's trust in us to use that gift through the Holy Spirit." How special it was to have both leaders in the same room with us. As someone said to me afterwards, "It was like hearing two sermons in one evening!"

We were also saddened by the request of Neelsville Church for dismissal from our denomination which was recommended by the Leadership Council after much deliberation. Following the vote, as was our practice with two previous churches that departed, we offered a prayer for us all. Though saddened by the decision, we will continue to hold this community in our prayers as they transition to another body and look forward to the day when the Church of Jesus Christ is united as we are called to be by our Confessions.

During the past two and half years, when I served you as best I could, first as your Vice-Moderator and later as Moderator, it has been my privilege and pleasure to worship with many of you. In your churches, I was warmly welcomed from the moment I entered your doors as a stranger in your midst. While the worship services in each church I visited followed the predictable order of the reformed tradition, each often provided a defining moment within that congregation that was unique. Whether it was the installation or ordination of a new pastor, a recognition of outstanding service of a member of the staff, a commissioning of a mission team, a celebratory event of a new Church in the Presbytery, a formation of a new relationship with the outside community, a baptism, a form of music reflecting its ethnic culture, breaking of bread and pouring of wine in so many different ways or worshipping in the primary language of the congregation, there was, in all of that diversity, a oneness in God, Spirit and in Christ.

I visited churches that were leaving our Presbytery, worshiped in churches of pastors I may have offended in the past, sang with churches that were struggling financially, prayed with those conflicted around particular issues (such as seeking a new pastor or grieving over the loss of a long-time pastoral relationship), and shared many other experiences. I wasn't able to get to all 108 of our congregations, but my journey is not finished, that I am sure. I did worship, at least once, and in some cases several times, in nearly two-thirds of our congregations - all 16 of the churches in the District and about equal numbers in

both Maryland and Virginia. I covered nearly 3,000 miles during that time, for ours is a large Presbytery, and I acquired even more respect for our staff who do the same on a regular basis.

In my work with you, I have witnessed the feet and hands of the body of our Presbytery at meetings of the Committee on Ministry, the Committee on Preparation, the Mission Coordination Committee, Worship and Theology, Bills and Overtures and the Leadership Council where over 100 of you serve on some 15 major committees of the Church in faithful and active ways with your genius, intellect and commitment to Christ's call for you. I have led more than a dozen administrative commissions for ordinations and installations of your pastors and chaplains and experienced the excitement of new beginnings. I have participated with you in celebrations, worship services and conferences involving the rich heritages of tradition and full of hope for the future. I have observed the work of our young adult volunteers serving in various service projects, living in a faith community. And, I have visited some of you by your hospital beds with life-threatening health issues, and we prayed for each other.

As I leave my time of service as your Moderator, I leave firmly convinced that the church not only has a role in the change that is needed, but it is already doing many wonderful things outside its walls. It's now time to step it up a notch; we cannot afford to be complacent. It took me awhile to clarify my Call and find a place for me to serve as your Moderator in meaningful ways. I am deeply appreciative, once again, of your welcoming me as a stranger and praying for me when I was ill and full of anxiety and self-doubt. Clearly, all of these gestures of grace led to one of the most rewarding, satisfying experiences in a life that was already blessed.

The theme for the June 26 meeting is "Think of Others". While referring to a recent candle-light vigil of Christians in front of the White House, the presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church said, with a sense of urgency, that, as Christians, we are facing "a dangerous crisis of moral and political leadership at the highest levels of our government," and called for a "reclaiming of Jesus." The Jesus we follow warned his followers that in the ways we treat the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the sick and the prisoner is how we treat Him. Cutting safety nets for the poor, encouraging attacks on refugees and immigrants, issuing policies that increase mass incarceration of Black and Brown people, and promoting ethnic nationalism does not treat "the other" as we would treat Jesus. We need to reflect on these issues.

The big event at our meeting, of course, will be the installation of our new moderator, Rev. Quinn Fox, and vice-moderator, Ruling Elder Miriam Dewhurst. I also want to invite you to join a community chorus at our meeting on June 26 that will sing for the Installation Service. We want the group to be a blend of our diversity in the Presbytery. Let's fill the sanctuary with voices of praise for our loving and merciful God. Contact Rev. Dr. Glen Zuber: glenn.zuber@gmail.com or show up at 8:00 p.m. on the evening of the 26th! It will be a simple song we can all sing together, like "Guide My Feet."

In gratitude and all humility,

BiLL

Bill Plitt
Moderator
National Capital Presbytery

Registration for Meeting

CALL TO THE STATED MEETING

National Capital Presbytery Tuesday June 26, 2018 @ 6:00pm

National Presbyterian Church, Washington DC

Open Space 4:00 – 5:15pm

Sweet/Savory Buffet 5:15 – 6pm

Stated Meeting Items:

- 1) Worship Theme: Think of Others
Preacher: Elder William Plitt
- 2) Business Items:
Report from Financial Plan Task Force
Reports from General Assembly Commissioners
Installation of New Moderator and Vice Moderator

Registration Instructions:

- 1) Use link below to complete your **meeting** registration
- 2) **Member clergy:** to be excused, use registration link below
- 3) Questions, send email: scoe@thepresbytery.org or jmoody@thepresbytery.org

Registration link: <http://www.thepresbytery.org/presbytery-meeting>

*******Reminders*******

- ❖ Please print and bring this packet with you. Paper copies ***will not*** be available at the meeting.
- ❖ The Worship and Theology Team is launching a new way of providing table fellowship for upcoming presbytery meetings. Everyone is asked to provide their own dinners (NCP will no longer offer meals). A sweet/savory buffet, in Stone Hall, will be open to **all** from 5:00 until 6:30.

Directions to Meeting

NATIONAL PC

4101 Nebraska Avenue
NW Washington, D. C. 20016 202/537-0800

FROM THE BELTWAY FROM THE EAST: Take I-495 to exit #33 south, Route #185 south (Connecticut Avenue). Continue on Connecticut Avenue across the District line at Chevy Chase Circle to Nebraska Avenue. Turn right on Nebraska Avenue and go through Tenley Circle (at Wisconsin Avenue). Continue on Nebraska Avenue to next traffic light (Van Ness Street). Turn left on Van Ness Street to parking lot entrance on your right.

FROM THE BELTWAY FROM THE WEST: Take I-495 to exit #39 east, Route #190 east (River Road). Continue on River Road to its end at Wisconsin Avenue. Turn right on Wisconsin Avenue to Tenley Circle. Turn right on Nebraska Avenue and go to next traffic light (Van Ness Street). Turn left on Van Ness Street to parking lot entrance on your right.

FROM CHAIN BRIDGE: Cross Chain Bridge into D.C. Turn right on Canal Road at the end of Chain Bridge. Turn left on Arizona Avenue (this is the first left after the bridge). Continue on Arizona Avenue to its end at Loughboro Road. Turn right on Loughboro Road which becomes Nebraska Avenue. Continue on Nebraska Avenue past American University, through Ward Circle to church entrance on your right just after entrance to NBC. Continue past the church to parking in the rear.

FROM METRO: Take the Red Line to Tenleytown. Take the West exit onto Wisconsin Avenue. Exit metro, turn right and walk south. At Tenley Circle turn right on Nebraska Avenue. Continue on Nebraska Avenue past Van Ness Street. Church is on your left in the block past Van Ness Street.

**STATED MEETING OF THE
NATIONAL CAPITAL
PRESBYTERY**

June 26, 2018

National Presbyterian Church

Washington, DC

6:00PM	CALL TO ORDER WITH PRAYER	Elder William Plitt, Moderator
6:05PM	OMNIBUS MOTION pp. 13-14	Elder Sara Coe, Stated Clerk
6:10PM	TRANSITIONS AND PASTORAL PRAYER	Rev. Dr. G. Wilson Gunn, General Presbyter
6:25PM	MISSION VIDEO	LaJuan Quander
6:35PM	FINANCIAL PLAN TASK FORCE REPORT AND MOTION p. 15	Rev. Beth Goss
6:45PM	GENERAL ASSEMBLY PANEL DISCUSSION	Elder Sara Coe
7:15PM.	BREAKOUTS FOR DETAILED REPORTS FROM GA COMMISSIONERS	

8:15PM WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY

CALL TO WORSHIP

Moderator Bill Plitt

In your wisdom, O God, you call us here to worship you.

We gather, alive to the Word of God.

You call us to be fully alive with your life abundant,
ready to listen and respond with heart, soul, strength and mind,

We listen, alive to the Word of God.

You call us to be always watchful for your Word of wisdom, sometimes
startling and unexpected,
sometimes still and quiet,
but always dwelling among us.

We watch and wait for the Word of God.

HYMN #434 *Today we All are Called to Be Disciples of the Lord p. 11*

CALL TO CONFESSION

Elder Miriam Dewhurst

Our Lord Jesus said:

“You shall love the Lord your God
with all your heart,
and with all your soul,
and with all your mind.’

This is the greatest and first commandment.
 and the second is like it:
 ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’
 On these two commandments
 hang all the law the prophets.”
 As God has instructed us in these great commandments,
 and because we have not lived in full obedience,
 let us now confess our sins to God,
 trusting Christ as our Savior and Lord.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God,
We confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you
with our whole heart and mind and strength.
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
In your mercy forgive what we have been,
help us amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be,
so that we may delight in your will
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name.
Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting
 on those who fear God
 and God’s righteousness to children’s children,
 to those who keep God’s covenant
 and remember to do God’s commandments.
 Friends, rejoice in the good news of the gospel.
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

ANTHEM

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Acts 10:1-36

Community Choir
 Elder Barbara Allen

SERMON

Think of Others

Moderator Bill Plitt

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from the Confession of Belhar)

Moderator Bill Plitt

We believe:

- that God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ; that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker, that the church is witness both by word and by deed to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells.
- **that God's life-giving Word and Spirit has conquered the powers of sin and death, and therefore also of irreconciliation and hatred, bitterness and enmity, that God's life-giving Word and Spirit will enable the church to live in a new obedience which can open new possibilities of life for society and the world;**
- that the credibility of this message is seriously affected and its beneficial work obstructed when it is proclaimed in a land which professes to be Christian, but in which the enforced separation of people on a racial basis promotes and perpetuates alienation, hatred and enmity;
- **that any teaching which attempts to legitimate such forced separation by appeal to the gospel, and is not prepared to venture on the road of obedience and reconciliation, but rather, out of prejudice, fear, selfishness and unbelief, denies in advance the reconciling power of the gospel, must be considered ideology and false doctrine.**

INSTALLATION of MODERATOR AND VICE MODERATOR

Elder Bill Plitt

As many of you as were baptized into Christ
Have clothed yourselves with Christ.

**There is no longer Jew or Greek,
There is no longer slave or free,
There is no longer male and female;
For all are one in Christ Jesus.
Lead a life worthy of the calling
To which you have been called,
Making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit
In the bond of peace.**

There is one body and one Spirit,
Just as we were called to the one hope of our calling,

**One Lord, one faith, one baptism,
One God and Father of all,
Who is above all and through all and in all.**

We are called by God
To be the church of Jesus Christ,

A sign in the world today
Of what God intends for all humankind.

**The great ends of the church are
The proclamation of the gospel
For the salvation of humankind;
The shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship
Of the children of God;
The maintenance of divine worship;
The preservation of the truth;
The promotion of social righteousness;
And the exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven
To the world.**

The call of Christ
Is to willing, dedicated discipleship.
Our discipleship is a manifestation
Of the new life we enter through baptism.
Discipleship is both a gift and a commitment,
An offering and a responsibility.

Constitutional Questions of Rev. Fox and Elder Dewhurst

Elder Bill Plitt

Constitutional Questions to all present:

Do you, members of National Capital Presbytery, confirm the call of God to
Rev. Quinn Fox and Elder Miriam Dewhurst to serve as National Capital Presbytery Moderator and
Vice Moderator in the service of Jesus Christ?

We do.

Will you support and encourage them in this ministry?

We will.

Installation Prayer

Faithful God,
In baptism you claimed us;
And by your Holy Spirit you are working in our lives,
Empowering us to live a life worthy of our calling.
We thank you for leading Quinn and Miriam to this time and place.
Establish them in your truth,
And guide them by your Holy Spirit,
That in your service they may grow
In faith, hope, and love,
And be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ,
To whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
Be honor and glory, now and forever.

Almighty God,
 You called us into the church,
 And from among us chose leaders to direct us in your way.
 We thank you for Quinn and Miriam our Moderator and Vice Moderator.
 Enlarge their gifts
 And help them to obey you,
 So that we may enjoy good work under their guidance,
 Loyally serving Jesus Christ our Lord.
AMEN

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Reverends Quinn Fox and Yena Hwang

Invitation to the Lord's Table

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right....

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

You are holy, O God of majesty...

Great is the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died,

Christ is risen,

Christ will come again.

Prayer of Consecration

Words of Institution

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Moderator Rev. Quinn Fox

HYMN #429 *Lord, You Give the Great Commission* p. 12

BENEDICTION

Moderator Rev. Quinn Fox

Leading Meeting:

Elder William Plitt, Trinity-Arlington PC, NCP Moderator
Rev. Dr. Wilson Gunn, General Presbyter
Elder Sara Coe, NCP Stated Clerk
Rev. Beth Goss, Covenant PC, Arlington

Worship Leaders:

Elder Bill Plitt, Trinity-Arlington PC
Elder Barbara Allen, Calvary PC
Elder Miriam Dewhurst, New York Ave PC
Rev. Dr. Quinn Fox, National PC
Rev. Yena Hwang, Fairfax PC

Communion Servers:

Rev. Samuel Atiemo, Christ the King PC
Elder Grace Montgomery, Trinity-Arlington PC
Rev. Susan Wilder, Parish Associate Grace PC, Springfield
Rev. Roy Howard, Saint Mark PC
Rev. Fay Acker, Parish Associate Northminster PC
Elder Jochabed Jordan, Church of the Redeemer PC
Rev. Jacob Rodawla, Parish Associate Gaithersburg
Elder Mitch Kirsch, Centreville PC

Music Leaders:

Brian Wilhour, Organist, Director of Music, Immanuel PC
Rev. Glen Zuber, Director of Community Choir

JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION

757 Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples

1 To - day we all are called to be dis - ci - ples of the
 2 God made the world and at its birth or - dained our hu - man
 3 Pray jus - tice may come roll - ing down as in a might-y
 4 May we in ser - vice to our God act out the liv - ing

Lord, to help to set the cap - tive free, make
 race to live as stew - ards of the earth, re -
 stream, with righ - teous - ness in field and town to
 word, and walk the road the saints have trod till

plow - share out of sword, to feed the hun - gry, quench their
 spond - ing to God's grace. But we are vain and sad - ly
 cleanse us and re - deem. For God is long - ing to re -
 all have seen and heard. As stew - ards of the earth may

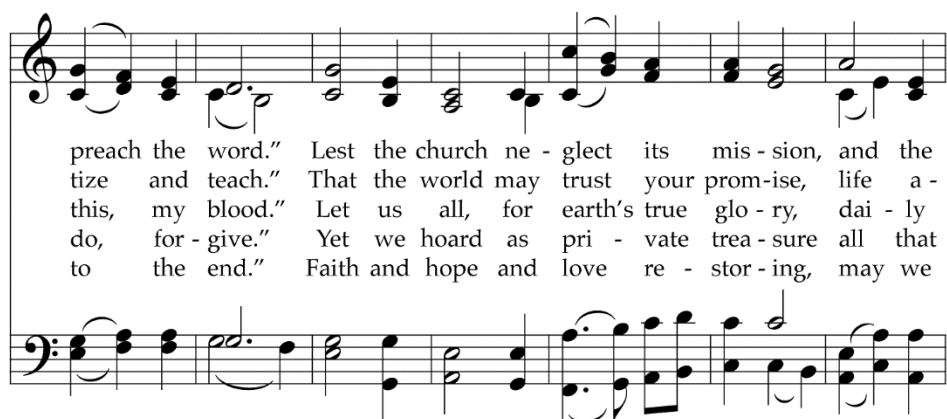
This text placing stewardship in the context of faithful witness was written by a retired Presbyterian minister to be part of the 1986 stewardship campaign titled "Called to Be Disciples." The tune name recalls the Sussex village where the arranger first heard the melody.

THE CHURCH

298 Lord, You Give the Great Commission



1 Lord, you give the great com-mis-sion: "Heal the sick and
 2 Lord, you call us to your ser-vice: "In my name bap-
 3 Lord, you make the com-mon ho-ly: "This, my bod-y;
 4 Lord, you show us love's true mea-sure: "Fa-ther, what they
 5 Lord, you bless with words as-sur-ing: "I am with you



preach the word." Lest the church ne-glect its mis-sion, and the
 tize and teach." That the world may trust your prom-ise, life a-
 this, my blood." Let us all, for earth's true glo-ry, dai-ly
 do, for-give." Yet we hoard as pri-vate trea-sure all that
 to the end." Faith and hope and love re-stor-ing, may we



gos-pel go un-heard, help us wit-ness to your
 bun-dant meant for each, give us all new fer-vor,
 lift life heav-en-ward, ask-ing that the world a-
 you so free-ly give. May your care and mer-cy
 serve as you in-tend, and, a-mid the cares that

United by the refrain after each stanza, this text relies on passages from Matthew and Luke to highlight various dimensions of the church's mission and ministry in the world. It was written for use with this tune, composed in the village near Bristol, England, for which it is named.

OMNIBUS MOTION FOR THE JUNE 26, 2018 PRESBYTERY MEETING

From the Stated Clerk

- The Stated Clerk moves the approval of the minutes of the May 22, 2018 presbytery meeting.

From the Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee moves and recommends to the presbytery the following to serve on the indicated commission or committee:

- ACCP
Eric Beckman, TE, Greenwich, Cl of 2021
Ronald Flowers, RE, Northminster, Cl of 2021
- Budget and Finance
Robert Bell, TE, At Large, Cl of 2021
- Bills and Overtures
John Quinn, RE, NY Avenue, Cl of 2021
- Leadership Council
Charles Barber, RE, Northeastern, Cl of 2021
Laura Cunningham, TE, Western, Cl of 2021
Lisa Rzepka, TE, John Calvin, Cl of 2019
- Mission Coordination
Samuel K.M. Atiemo, TE, Christ the King, 2020
Jean Brown, TE, Specialized, Cl of 2021
Charles Kuo, RE, Taiwanese PC of DC, Cl of 2021
Patricia Petty Morse, RE, Northminster, Cl of 2021
Glenera (Peggy) Sisson, RE, Berwyn, Cl of 2021
- Preparation for Ministry
Christopher Chatelaine-Samsen, TE, Georgetown, Cl of 2021
Warren Clayton, RE, Grace PC – Springfield, VA, Cl of 2021
Jenifer Dunfee, TE, Specialized, Cl of 2020
Lucius (Lou) Durden, RE, Northminster, Cl of 2021
Maggie Hayward, TE, Northwood, Cl of 2021
Melissa Kirkpatrick, RE, Manassas, Cl of 2019
Jim McCoy, RE, Gaithersburg, Cl of 2021
Meg Peery McLaughlin, TE, Burke, Cl of 2021
Benton (Ben) Trawick, TE, Grace, Cl of 2021
Charles Van Gorder, TE, At Large, Cl of 2021

From the Leadership Council

1. The Leadership Council moves and recommends to the presbytery the following for Chairs of Committees and Commissions 2019:

AC Congregational Property – **Richard Riegel, RE, Chevy Chase PC, Class of 2020**

Bills & Overtures – **Quinn Fox, TE, National PC, Class of 2020**

Budget & Finance – **Mark Stunder, RE, Boyds, Class of 2020**

Church Development – **Mary Rodgers, TE, Providence PC, Class of 2020**

Investment – **Karl Hoffman, Layman, NY Avenue PC, Class of 2021**

Ministry – **Stephen Smith-Cobbs, TE, Trinity Herndon, Class of 2019**

Mission Coordination – **Mark Eakin, RE, Warner Memorial, Class of 2020**

Nominating – **Rachel Vaagenes, TE, Georgetown PC, Class of 2019**

Personnel – **Ann Herlin, TE, OPMH, Class of 2021**

Preparation for Ministry – **Charles Van Gorder, TE, At Large, Class of 2021**

Session Records – **Daniel Stokes, RE, NY Avenue PC, Class of 2019**

2. The Leadership Council adopts the recommendation of the Commission on Preparation for Ministry and moves approval for the distribution of the following Scholarship Funds:

Matthew Hackworth - \$15,000

Linda Kurtz - \$15,000

Beatrice Laryea - \$10,000 pending her enrollment as Inquirer under CPM care

ACTION ITEMS FOR THE JUNE 2018 PRESBYTERY MEETING

From the Leadership Council

The Leadership Council moves that the net sales proceeds from the sale of the Wilson Lane manse be added to the Office Fund.

Background: Once the manse of the former Trinity Church in Bethesda has been subdivided as a separate, salable property from the UKPC church property this summer, a residential real estate broker will be hired to sell the manse.

NCP's Financial Policies require that the proceeds from the sale any NCP property be placed in the Resurrection Fund, after:

- (1) Reimbursing the General Directors funds for any expenses paid out of those funds for property maintenance, repairs, utilities, etc. before the property was sold, which currently totals \$14,800;
- (2) Topping up the Property Management Fund, adding approximately \$27,000 to reach its policy balance of \$350,000; and
- (3) reimbursing the General Directors funds for "other obligations", which in this case includes approximately \$35,000 of legal and engineering fees to win county approval for the subdivision, and \$10,000 to pay for sidewalk widening at an indeterminate time in the future as a condition of county approval.

Rather than having the net sales proceeds, roughly estimated at \$700,000, be added to the Resurrection Fund, the task force is recommending that they be allocated to the Office Fund, which, along with per capita payments, funds the entire NCP operating budget. Similar allocations of property proceeds to the Office Fund have been made in the past from church sales, and have significantly reduced the growth of NCP's per capita rate.

At its current rate of expenditure to fund NCP operations, the Office Fund will be exhausted in three years, with no other source of re-funding currently in sight. With this addition, the Office Fund should last until 2025.

Without the \$150,000 provided each year by the Office Fund, the NCP per capita would have to increase by roughly \$5.00 per year to provide the same level of funding.

Designating the manse sales proceeds to the Office Fund is not an irrevocable decision, since the proceeds are unrestricted and could be re-designated by Presbytery at any time.