

## MODERATOR'S LETTER

Dear Commissioners,

As we continue to pass through the Lenten season together, celebrate the first day of Spring at Presbytery, and enter Holy Week the following week, let us keep in mind the passage from Matthew that serves as a basis for the Great Commission calling us to go out into our world and make disciples of Jesus Christ.

*(Matthew 28:5-7) But the angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. **Come, See** the place where he lay. Then **Go** and **Tell** his disciples, "He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him." This is my message for you.'*

Come and see. Come and see. Bear witness. Jesus can make a difference in our lives. Come and see. If we feel that we are unworthy, our Lord will clothe us with the cloak of righteousness so that we can stand before the Lord. Come and see. Don't go on another's testimony or the witness of someone else, or the weight of the centuries of the church's testimony. Come and see for yourself.

And then the other imperative is to Go and tell. Go and tell. When we leave and return to our world, those people we encounter each day, I hope for us that it's just not a warm feeling in our hearts that we carry away. I hope we carry away a fresh hearing of the command and the great opportunity and the privilege to bear witness for Jesus Christ and to penetrate our world with his life.

How do you or your church community carry out the Great Commission? I see it in every visit this year among you in my ministry as your moderator of the Presbytery. Big churches and small, inside the walls and outside in the world. You are telling the story of God's unconditional love for all of us, and our love for one another through your actions and your priorities. I have renewed energy because of what I see you are doing. What a privilege it is for me to hear your stories!

My own story began in 2006 as I traveled to the Holy Land on an interfaith peace delegation. While we visited the traditional "holy sites", as everyone should do in their life time to see what some call the "dead stones" of our past Judeo-Christian experience, it's the stories from the "living stones" there in sacred places that we should experience. I was invited to "Come and See and then Go and Tell". My work here in this country for the last twelve years is rooted in that visit from which I was never the same again.

We traveled for two weeks on both sides of "the Wall" that separates and divides not reconciles and unites, and saw and heard stories of small groups who were working for the human rights and dignity of all God's people in the struggle for justice between those who wished only exclusion, and privilege, and those seeking freedom.

After several days of bus rides to the North to Haifa and the south to the gates of Gaza; from Jaffa to the northern Galilee and the Jordanian highlands, staying with families on both sides of the wall, and harvesting olives in the fields around Jenin, and those south of Bethlehem, we heard a narrative that was missing in our understanding of the region and its recent history.

Near the end of the exhausting but exhilarating tour, we traveled six miles from the town of Bethlehem having seen the historic sites of that city, still my favorite place to stay and walk through its ancient streets at night, to an orchard and farm 3,000 feet above the Mediterranean. We walked about a mile through a barrier of stone boulders placed there by soldiers two years before which prevented villagers to commute easily to the cities for work, for the Nassar family, owners of the farm since 1916, to harvest and market their suits, build structures for animals, and receive electricity and water from public sources.

We spent the remainder of the day with other internationals harvesting olives, eating and singing around a camp fire on a cold night, and hearing the family story of love, faith and hope, as well as a refusal to be enemies, printed on in three languages, Hebrew, English and Arabic on the stones near the entrance to the farm. the story we heard explained but did not dwell on the denial of their personal freedoms, but on building a place for people “to come and see, and go and tell”. They had a choice to see themselves as victims, and either leave their land, or resist violently. They chose a third way, the Jesus way, of non-violent resistance to an occupation that was destroying the souls of God’s children living on both sides of the present-day wall.

Instead of building walls, they built tents for guests to sleep. Instead of constructing fences, they recovered ancient caves for visitors to meet and share the stories, and persist in a non-violent way. We were stirred beyond belief by what we had “come to see and hear”, and what we were compelled “to go and tell” others when we returned to our homes, churches, mosques and synagogues. After eleven years of travel in 24 states, and over 400 venues including faith based organizations, and appearing on more than fifty University campuses, and sharing the story of the simple Palestinian farmer, others have gone and seen, and returned and told.

Now some 7-8 thousand visitors and volunteers come to the land in part through our efforts. the General Assembly of our denomination adopted a resolution in 2014 supporting the families’ efforts to maintain its ancestral fields, and the World Methodist Council recently announced that the Nassar family (Tent of Nations) is to receive the Peace Award for 2017 and will receive the award in Seoul, Korea at its July meeting. Other awardees of the past of have been Nelson Mandela, Jimmy Carter and Anwar Sadat.

Personally, though blessed with a wonderful career in teaching for more than 40 years, the last fifteen years have been truly golden in ways I never anticipated. I find that is what happens when we make the effort to be obedient to God’s call for us, and not just righteous. This journey with you these past two years have been a blessing for me. I am encouraged in worshipping with you by hearing your stories.

At our March meeting, we will hear the stories from three panel members and offer a chance for each of you to hear and share your story of what God has called you to be and do, with one another.

In gratitude and in humility,

Bill

Bill Plitt  
Moderator  
NCP

## Registration for Meeting

### CALL TO THE STATED MEETING

National Capital Presbytery Tuesday March 20, 2018 @ 6:00pm

National Presbyterian Church, Washington DC

Open Space 4:00 – 5:15pm

Dinner 5:15 – 6pm

### **Stated Meeting Items:**

- 1) Worship Theme: Evangelism
- 2) Business Items:
  - State of the Presbytery
  - Election of General Presbyter Nominating Committee
  - Garden Memorial PC Motion
  - Community PC Motion

### **Registration Instructions:**

- 1) Use link below to complete your **meeting** and/or **meal** registration
- 2) **Member clergy:** to be excused, use registration link below
- 3) Questions, send email: [scoe@thepresbytery.org](mailto:scoe@thepresbytery.org) or [jmoody@thepresbytery.org](mailto: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.
- ❖ \*Dinner is available for \$12.00 for those who reserve a meal online by Noon, March 16, 2018.

(Meals will not be available for sale the day of the meeting)

\*The Worship and Theology Team is launching a new way of providing table fellowship for upcoming presbytery meetings. Beginning at the May 22, 2018 meeting, everyone is asked to provide their own dinners (NCP will no longer offer meals). A dessert buffet, in Stone Hall, featuring sweet and savory treats 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.

## The Stated Meeting of the National Capital Presbytery

March 20, 2018

The National Presbyterian Church, Washington DC

6:00PM CALL TO ORDER WITH PRAYER

Elder William Plitt, Moderator

6:05PM CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 27)

Rev. Derek Longbrake

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

**The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?**

One thing I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after:

**To behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in his temple.**

"Come," my heart says, "seek his face!"

**Your face, LORD, do I seek.**

O Lord God of our salvation, we worship and adore you,

**We will sing your praises for ever and ever. Amen!**

6:10PM OMNIBUS MOTION

p. 10

Elder Sara Coe, Stated Clerk

6:15PM Introducing the "E" Word

Rev. Norm Gordon

Share #1 (Psalm 105: 1-2)

Rev. Mark Gaskill

Refrain

"Blessed Assurance"

*This is **my** story; this is **my** song,*

*Praising my Savior all the day long;*

*This is **our** story; this is **our** song,*

*Praising our Savior all the day long.*

6:20PM TRANSITIONS

Rev. Dr. Wilson Gunn,  
General Presbyter

6:40PM CALL TO CONFESSION

Elder Daniel Acker

God shows us the way of salvation, but we choose to seek the world's paths,  
thinking that we can make our own salvation.

Let us confess our folly and ask God to set us on right paths again.

Teach us the humility, O God,

to turn from what is so enticing, so persuasive:

the way of accumulating things,

and trusting in wealth,

in the hope of comfort and life.

Lead us, O God, in another way,  
the way of true security, true wealth,  
the way of Christ, the servant,  
the way of weakness and simplicity.

Lead us, O God, in another way,  
the way of caring for the neglected,  
feeding the hungry,  
housing the homeless,  
protecting the threatened,  
and challenging the powerful,  
the foolish way of the Gospel,  
that brings salvation to all. Amen.

*Time for silent confession*

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God is God of the living.  
The Holy One will make a place for you  
that is full of life and love,  
forgiveness and humility,  
kindness and justice.  
Your belonging to God is your salvation.  
You may rest in that truth.  
**Thanks be to God!**

6:50PM Share # 2 (Acts 1: 8)

Refrain

“Blessed Assurance”

Rev. Ashley Goff

6:55PM ANTHEM

"Light My Step" p.9

Thomas Nichols and Daniel Chadburn

7:05PM Mission Video

LaJuan Quander

7:10PM State of the Presbytery

Rev. Dr. Wilson Gunn

7:20PM Share # 3 (Colossians 1: 28-29)

Refrain

“Blessed Assurance”

Elder John Etherton

7:25PM Garden Memorial PC Motion

p. 11

Elder Rudy Cohen

7:35PM Election of a General Presbyter

Search Committee Motion

p. 11, 13-21

Elder Todd McCreight

Elder Rudy Cohen

Rev. Beth Goss

7:55PM Community PC Motion

p. 11-12

Elder Rudy Cohen

8:10PM Share # 4  
Refrain

(1 Corinthians 3: 6-9)  
“Blessed Assurance”

Table Conversation

8:25PM INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE    Reverends Bob Melone and Yena Hwang

GREAT THANKSGIVING

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE KINGDOM FEAST IS SHARED

ANTHEM

“Room at the Table”

Thomas Nichols and Daniel Chadburn

PRAYER

Rev. Evangeline Taylor

Lord Jesus,  
by your cross and resurrection  
**deliver us**  
by your witness to the truth  
**deliver us**  
by your passion and death  
**deliver us**  
by your victory over the grave  
**deliver us**  
from the lust of power  
**deliver us**  
from the conspiracy of silence  
**deliver us**  
from the worship of weapons  
**deliver us**  
from the slaughter of innocents  
**deliver us**  
from the nightmare of hunger  
**deliver us**  
from the peace that is no peace  
**deliver us**  
from security that is no security  
**deliver us**  
from the politics of terror  
**deliver us**  
from the plundering of the earth's resources  
**deliver us**  
from the dispossession of the poor  
**deliver us**  
from the despair of this age  
**deliver us** by the light of the gospel

**give us peace**

by the good news for the poor

**give us peace**

by your healing of our wounds

**give us peace**

by faith in your word

**give us peace**

by hunger and thirst for justice

**give us peace**

by the coming of your kingdom

**give us peace Amen**

ANTHEM “We Are a People of Hope”p. 9

Thomas Nichols and Daniel Chadburn

9:00 PM BENEDICTION and ADJOURNMENT

Rev. Dr. Quinn Fox

**Leading Meeting:**

Elder William Plitt, Trinity-Arlington PC, NCP Moderator

Rev. Dr. Quinn Fox, National PC, NCP Vice Moderator

Rev. Dr. Wilson Gunn, General Presbyter

Elder Sara Coe, NCP Stated Clerk

Elder Rudy Cohen, Leadership Council Chair, Burke PC

Rev. Beth Goss, Church of the Covenant PC

Elder Todd McCreight, NCP Director of Business Affairs

**Worship Leaders:**

Rev. Derek Longbrake

Rev. Norm Gordon, Idylwood PC

Rev. Mark Gaskill, Good Samaritan PC

Elder Daniel Acker, Northminster PC

Rev. Ashley Goff, Church of the Pilgrims PC

Elder John Etherton, Arlington PC

Elder Rudy Cohen, Burke PC

Rev. Bob Melone, Mount Vernon PC

Rev. Yena Hwang, Fairfax PC

Rev. Evangeline Taylor, HR

Rev. Dr. Quinn Fox, National PC

**Communion Servers:**

Rev. Robert Erickson, Heritage PC

Elder Rachel Messman, Heritage PC

Elder Pamela Russel McClellan, Heritage PC

Elder Scott Towle, Heritage PC

Rev. Evangeline Taylor, HR Parish Associate, Heritage PC

Rev. Jodi Langan, Clifton PC

**Music Leaders:**

Thomas W. Nichols and Daniel Chadburn



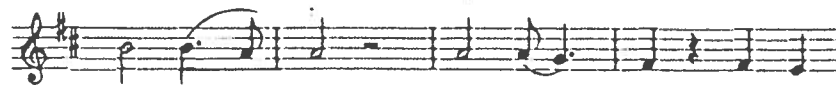
### *Light My Step*



Light my \_\_\_ step, guide my \_\_\_ feet.



Show me the path for my life.



In Your \_\_\_ love, res - cue \_\_\_ me. Light my



step, guide \_\_\_\_\_ my feet.

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### *We are a People of Hope*



We are a peo-ple of hope. Joy - ful - ly



sing-ing, faith - ful - ly cling-ing to the



pro-mise God made at our birth.



We are the chil-dren of God. Hun-gry for



jus-tice, filled with com - pas-sion,



we are a peo - ple of hope.

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## OMNIBUS MOTION FOR THE MARCH 20, 2018 PRESBYTERY MEETING

### **From the Stated Clerk**

- The Stated Clerk moves the approval of the minutes of the January 23, 2018 presbytery meeting.
- The Stated Clerk moves that presbytery receive the report of the following commission and dismiss the commission with thanks:
  - The commission to install the Revs. Stephen Smith-Cobs and Rebecca Messman as co-pastors of Trinity Presbyterian Church, Herndon.

### **From the Nominating Committee**

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

- Investment  
**Walter Laessig, RE, Chevy Chase, Cl of 2021**
- Committee on Ministry  
**Nancy Clark, TE, Redeemer PC, Cl of 2021**  
**MaryAnn McKibben Dana, TE, At Large, Cl of 2021**  
**Eric Forsyth, TE, Taiwanese PC, Cl of 2021**  
**Roy Howard, TE, St. Mark PC, Cl of 2021**  
**Lisa Larsen, TE, At Large Member, Cl of 2021**  
**Marian Stevenson, RE, Northminster PC, Cl of 2021**  
**Patrick Tarr, RE, Church of the Covenant, Cl of 2021**
- Mission Coordination  
**Therese Taylor-Stinson, RE, Northwood, Cl of 2021**

The Nominating Committee, upon recommendation of the Stated Clerk of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and selection by the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly moves the election of Linda Marilyn Kurtz, student at Union Theological Seminary (Richmond), candidate in National Capital Presbytery, as a Theological Student Advisory Delegate (TSAD) at the upcoming General Assembly.

### **From the Leadership Council**

The Leadership Council moves and recommends to the presbytery the following for Chair, Stewardship Committee:

Karl Mattison, RE, Georgetown PC

## ACTION ITEMS FOR THE MARCH 2018 PRESBYTERY MEETING

### *From the Leadership Council*

#### 1. Garden Memorial Presbyterian Church

The Leadership Council moves that the Presbytery approve posting the Garden Memorial lien payoff as a liability owed by the Garden Memorial Church to the DC Resurrection Fund. Repayment of this loan would accrue back to the DC Resurrection Fund.

#### 2. General Presbyter Search Committee

The Leadership Council moves the following slate of nominations for the General Presbyter Search Committee:

Jerome Farley, RE, Adelphi  
 Don Fink, RE, Riverdale  
 Leslie Klingensmith, MWS, St. Matthew  
 Rocky Laha, MWS, OPMH  
 Donna Marsh, MWS, National  
 Don Meeks, MWS, Greenwich  
 Tressie Muldrow, RE, Fifteenth Street  
 Jessica Tate, MWS, NEXT Church  
 Le Quan Turner, RE, Westminster DC

And Natalia Angkuw Suwuh, from the Emmanuel Indonesian Presbyterian Church, as an advisory member of the GPSC.

#### 3. Community Presbyterian Church of Alexandria

Regarding the Community Presbyterian Church of Alexandria, the Leadership Council approves and moves that the Moderator of Presbytery be empowered to appoint an Administrative Commission with the following duties:

1. The Commission shall invite the members of the Community Presbyterian Church of Alexandria to a conversation about returning to right relationship as a congregation of the PCUSA and to attend to the training of the Session in their duties.
2. The Commission shall afford the members of Community Presbyterian Church of Alexandria an opportunity to be heard on the matter of the dissolution of the congregation.
3. If the members of the Community Presbyterian Church are
  - a. unresponsive to this inquiry or
  - b. unwilling to comply with the requirements of a Session,
 the Administrative Commission shall act to dissolve the Community Presbyterian Church of Alexandria.

4. If the Community Presbyterian Church of Alexandria is to be dissolved, the Administrative Commission shall attend to all matters related to the dissolution including but not confined to:
  - a. The collection of financial records, Session minutes, rolls and registers, and other documents.
  - b. The transfer of the real property deed (or deeds) and any other property to National Capital Presbytery.
5. The Administrative Commission shall keep a full record of its proceedings and shall submit that record to the Stated Clerk for incorporation into the Presbytery records.
6. The Administrative Commission shall report all its decisions to the Stated Clerk who shall report them to the Presbytery at its next stated meeting.

To: National Capital Presbytery through Leadership Council

Date: March 9, 2018, 2018

From: Leadership Council (through Transitional Task Force Members: Beth Goss, Laura Cunningham, Elsie Reid, Ann Herlin)

RE: Finding New Leadership for National Capital Presbytery

As this presbytery heard in January, our General Presbyter, Wilson Gunn will be retiring this fall after serving us for over fourteen years. The Personnel Committee of the presbytery is already beginning to plan a time to celebrate his service and thank him for the gifts he has brought.

However, now comes a phase in our life together when we have to search for new leadership. Since Wilson arrived in 2004 the shape of governance in the PCUSA has changed dramatically, particularly for synods and presbyteries around the country. We have a new Book of Order; we have added a new Confession to our collection of confessions; and synods and presbyteries around the country are re-examining the ways we are to be the body of Christ in our connectional system. Our presbytery also has revised its Manual of Operations, and recently (two years ago) re-examined our Mission Statement. We have also recently implemented a new Staff Design after exhaustive study. It's a Kairos moment in the life of the PCUSA. All of this makes for a challenging transition time, and one which is significant. But with prayer and attention we hope to undertake this task thoughtfully and well and so continue to be a body which is about the Gospel of Jesus Christ in our context.

Your Leadership Council has taken significant time in discussing the ways in which we should be about the job—as a whole presbytery—of finding new presbytery leadership. We are committed to having as open and transparent a process as possible—a process that listens to the wide variety of voices within our presbytery and takes the time to reflect on what is being said. Later in this meeting you will hear about proposals to do this, both with respect to the actual search process and the work to be done by members of presbytery in preparation for calling a new executive presbyter.

At its retreat on February 10, the Leadership Council took considerable time to discuss the kinds of transitional presbytery leadership models that could be used. We used the expertise of a consultant who was knowledgeable about the landscape of presbytery leadership around the country and had some wide-ranging discussion about what would be a good way forward for National Capital Presbytery in particular. The Leadership Council came to some consensus points, namely that

- the presbytery could immediately proceed to elect a General Presbyter Search Committee (GPSC) to find a person to fill the position of General Presbyter shortly after the departure of Wilson Gunn.
- our **current Mission statement** does not need to be reviewed or revised prior to the calling of a General Presbyter.
- our **current staff design** can be maintained until the arrival of the next General Presbyter.

In order to maintain the independence of the Leadership Council and Presbytery decisions, Wilson Gunn has removed himself from any of the deliberations about moving forward. We are fortunate that our presbytery has some comparative strengths that allow for this expeditious and ambitious plan.

The Leadership Council solicited names from the whole presbytery to serve on the GPSC, with a

goal of finding a nine-person team. Our goal was a slate that would reflect the wide variety of voices in the presbytery and consist of people with a demonstrated history of participating in the ministry and mission of the presbytery as embraced by the presbytery's mission statement.

We received a total of seventy (70) names from many sources, including some self-nominations:

- 36 men, 34 women
- 25 ruling elders, 45 ministers of word and sacrament
- 19 with ethnicity other than white/European descent
- 8 under 40 years old, 28 in their 40's and 50's; 34 age 60 and over (as far as we can tell!)
- geographical and theological diversity
- diversity among size of congregation and length of time in presbytery service.

We were impressed by the high degree of competence and dedication to the church that we saw in the pool of names. Many combinations of available names could readily have been considered equally desirable. For the sorting process we considered (via prayer) 1) obtaining as wide a representation as possible from as many voices as possible, 2) a person's willingness to serve and commit a significant amount of time in the next 12-18 months, and 3) a person's recommendations from colleagues around the presbytery. The pool of possible names was larger than the size of the GPSC we were considering. We did not use any mathematical formula to drive any choice for 'representational' numbers. We did consider the shape of the proposed GPSC as a whole, judging whether or not, in our opinion, it could accomplish, with God's help, the search being proposed.

We nominate the following people to serve on the General Presbyter Search Committee for National Capital Presbytery (RE Ruling Elder; MWS Minister of Word and Sacrament):

Jerome Farley, RE, Adelphi

Don Fink, RE, Riverdale

Leslie Klingensmith, MWS, St. Matthew

Rocky Laha, MWS, OPMH

Donna Marsh, MWS, National

Don Meeks, MWS, Greenwich

Tressie Muldrow, RE, Fifteenth Street

Jessica Tate, MWS, NEXT Church

Le Quan Turner, RE, Westminster DC

In accordance with the Manual of Operations, all of these names are ordained as either Ruling Elders from congregations or Ministers of Word and Sacrament members of National Capital Presbytery.

In this process, too, we sensed the Holy Spirit was nudging us to consider the voices of our immigrant communities, fellowships which are not yet chartered, but are part of the body. Lay

leadership in these not-yet chartered congregations are not able to have a vote in a GPSC, but we consider their voices valuable. Therefore, we propose that **Natalia Angkuw Suwuh**, from the Emmanuel Indonesian Presbyterian Church, also be elected to serve as an advisory member of the GPSC.

All of these people have been contacted and have agreed to serve. A short biographical summary for each of them is attached. The Leadership Council nominates them for service on National Capital Presbytery's General Presbyter Search Committee.

Should they be elected by the presbytery, they will immediately be constituted to begin a search for our next General Presbyter. The Leadership Council has allocated resource funds to assist the GPSC in its work.

Submitted in faith,

Beth Goss, Transition Task Force Chair for Leadership Council

## Leadership Council Proposed Slate for the GPSC



**Jerome Farley** is a Ruling Elder of Adelphi Presbyterian Church. He is a Project Manager/Systems Analyst at Accenture where he has been employed for the past 20 years. He is originally from Guyana in the Caribbean/South America. Adelphi's congregation is mostly from Cameroon, and Jerome is familiar with that community as well. He served on the PNC at Adelphi. He earned a B.S. degree in Computer Science from Bowie State University in 1995.



**Donald Fink** is a Ruling Elder at Riverdale Presbyterian Church where he has been active in the music programs of the church and has served as a lay preacher on occasion. A federal government research scientist with the Food & Drug Administration (Dept of Health and Human Services) he and his wife, Dr. Carolyn Fink, Ph.D., a Certified Christian Educator now serving as the Interim Christian Educator at Geneva Presbyterian Church, have three adult sons. They reside in Hyattsville, MD.





**Rev. Leslie Klingensmith** became the Pastor of St. Matthew (Silver Spring, MD) in March 2002. She holds a Master of Divinity degree from Duke University Divinity School and a Doctor of Ministry from Columbia Theological Seminary. Her interests include preaching, interfaith outreach and ministry, and pastoral care. She has been active in Interfaith Works, a Montgomery County faith-based social justice agency. Leslie is married to Edward Taylor (also a Presbyterian pastor).



**Rev. Robert R. (Rocky) Laha, D.Min., Th.M., Ph.D.,** is the Senior Pastor and Head of Staff at the Old Presbyterian Meeting House in Alexandria, VA. Originally from Kentucky, he studied for the ministry at Union Theological Seminary in Virginia. He has served churches in Tennessee, Virginia and Louisiana. Rocky has also served a term on the GA Council and its Executive

Committee and is on the NPC's PJC. He has published numerous articles on Biblical interpretation.



**Rev. Donna Marsh** is the Associate Pastor for Serve Ministries and Management/Assistant Head of Staff at National Capital Presbyterian Church. A lifelong Presbyterian, she majored in History and East Asian studies at Smith College, studied abroad in mainland China, and served as a deacon of the college Chapel. She was the Development Director of the U.S. Committee for Refugees when she first arrived in Washington. She later attended Princeton Seminary and did Clinical Pastoral Education at Georgetown University Hospital. She also served as the Associate Pastor at Darnestown Presbyterian before arriving at National. She has chaired the NCP's Church Development Committee, been a commissioner to GA, and been a member of the Presbytery's PJC.



**Rev. Donald Meeks** has been the Senior Pastor at Greenwich Presbyterian Church in Nokesville, VA, since 2001. He grew up in

Northern Virginia and received a B.S. degree in Systems Engineering from the University of Virginia. His Master of Divinity degree is from Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary. He currently serves on the PJC for NCP.



**Tressie Muldrow** is a Ruling Elder at 15<sup>th</sup> Street Presbyterian Church in the District. She earned a B.S. degree in Psychology from Bennett College (Greensboro, NC), a M.S. degree in Psychology in 1965., and a Ph.D. in Psychology in 1977 from Howard University. She worked four decades at the U.S. Office of Personnel Management as a Senior Research Psychologist, where she also served 10 years as chair of the board for the agency's credit union. She represented the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic on the GA's Committee on Representation for four years. Over the past 25 years, Tressie has served on several COM committees, such as the Transitions, Counseling and Crisis teams. She is a member of the Personnel Committee.



**Natalia Angkuw Suwuh** is a lay leader at Emmanuel Indonesian Presbyterian Church in Rockville, MD, an immigrant fellowship within

the presbytery. She works at Booz Allen Hamilton and grew up in the Wheaton, MD area. A young mother, she was recommended to serve on the GPNC by her pastor. Her Facebook details include this post: “My source of strength...my source of hope...is Christ alone.” She would serve as an advisory non-voting member of the GPSC to add her voice to the discernment and selection process.



**Rev. Jessica Tate** is the executive director of NEXT Church, seeking to discern a creative, progressive future for the Church. **NEXT Church** is, according to its website “a purposeful relational community of Presbyterian leaders whose mission is to strengthen a vibrant and thriving PC(USA) that shares the good news of Jesus Christ in ways that matter to and have impact on God’s evolving world.” Jessica attended Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, VA, served as a YAV volunteer in Washington, DC, and prior to taking the leadership post at NEXT, she was an associate pastor of Fairfax Presbyterian Church in northern Virginia. She serves on the advisory council of Leadership Education at Duke Divinity. She also has served on the COM for NCP.



**LeQuan Turner** has an English Literature and Language Degree from UMCP and a Master of Human Resources Development from Bowie State. She earned her M.Div. degree at Wesley Theological Seminary. A Ruling

Elder at Westminster Presbyterian Church (DC), she has been a guest preacher at several churches within NCP, including Northminster (DC) and Church of the Covenant (Arlington). She is a member of NCP's Mission Coordination Team. She is a program manager with the Federal Aviation Administration.