MODERATOR'S LETTER

May 22, 2018

Dear Commissioners,

The Worship and Theology Committee identifies a theme for every meeting of our Presbytery. The theme chosen for our May meeting is "The Prophetic Witness of the Church." I firmly believe that every Christian in today's Church needs to be become that "prophetic witness."

What does it mean to be a prophetic witness, first within ourselves and then within the larger Church? As a people of the Old Testament, we are aware that the messages of the prophets were focused on public interest. Amos's prophecy was against societies that "trampled the heads of the weak into the dust of the earth, and forced the lowly out of the way" (Amos 2:7; 5:6-13). It was a prophecy that was aimed at leaders who collected great wealth in violent and oppressive ways. Jeremiah was concerned about a miserable society conditioned by the leaders. He scolded those leaders on behalf of the disenfranchised and denounced their corrupt and evil practices (Jeremiah 6:7). Isaiah dwelt particularly on these evil practices under the cover of religion. To him, religion was not compatible with injustice, crime and oppression (Isaiah 56:9- 57: 13). Jesus built his call for prophetic witnessing through the voices of these earlier prophets.

So, why might striving to become a prophetic witness not be a path well-traveled by us today? Some may say that it is not the role of the church to address the social realities of our time. Others might say that our national leaders are more focused on personal gains, rather than on the needs of their communities, so there is no clear direction for us to follow. Some also might say that we need to spend more time evangelizing those faithful among us rather than those neglected in the streets. Some, however, believe that we do need to recognize and act on the prophetic witnessing which Jesus practiced and called us all to do based on his commands for us to engage in the social realities of the world. It is our legacy as Christians and Presbyterians; I believe it is our responsibility to put those commands into action. Through his ministry in today's world, Dr. Martin Luther King called for such a time when the Church needed "to be the voice of justice and not the echo; to be the headlights, not the brake lights". He identified this need in our society clearly in his "Letter from a Birmingham Jail," calling for prophetic witnessing.

As I continue to travel amongst you and sit next to you in your pews, I remain convinced that there is a new period of awakening in the Church today and in our Presbytery. This is partly due to what I see as a "return to our pews" - an increase in the number of young families who are searching for truth and goodness and perhaps some guidance in how to live their lives in these troubling times. This is an opportunity to present prophetic witnessing as an option.

What I see out there in our Presbytery, amongst those churches that are flourishing, is a desire to be involved with the world outside their walls – putting into practice prophetic witnessing. With the blessing of the Presbytery, some churches are actively sharing their land with their local and neighboring communities, including the homeless and those economically vulnerable. Some churches, through grants from the Mission Coordination Committee, from other outside resources of funding and from their own internal resources, are partnering with schools and other

entities to build healthier and better-prepared students for the future. Others are reaching out through world missions to partner with, and not impose upon, struggling faith communities with local initiatives in Haiti, Central American towns, Africa and Asia, just to mention a few. And, our denomination, with the adoption of the Belhar Confession at the 222nd General Assembly, stated what we believe about the importance of the unity of the church of Jesus Christ in the new century: "...that this unity of the people of God must be manifested and be active in a variety of ways:

- in that we love one another;
- that we experience, practice and pursue community with one another;
- that we are obligated to give ourselves willingly and joyfully to be of benefit and blessing to one another."

Our guest preacher at our May meeting, Reverend Dr. J. Herbert Nelson II serves as Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the largest reformed denomination in the United States. He was elected at the 222nd General Assembly (2016) in Portland, Oregon. Rev. Nelson will be preaching on the theme of "The Prophetic Witness of the Church." Prior to becoming Stated Clerk, Rev. Nelson served as director of the PC(USA) Office of Public Witness in Washington, DC. This office has been dedicated to carrying out the mission of the Church to reach out in love and conscience since 1945. Our denomination has declared the following: "...affirms its responsibility to speak on social and moral issues for the encouragement and instruction of the Church and its members, seeking earnestly both to know the mind of Christ and to speak always in humility and love; reminds the churches that their duty is not only to encourage and train their members in daily obedience to God's will, but corporately to reveal God's grace in places of suffering and need, to resist the forces that tyrannize, and to support the forces that restore the dignity of all men as the children of God, for only so is the gospel most fully proclaimed;...." (1958 Statement – PC(USA) p. 537)

Now is the time! I look forward to being with you as we do the Church's business within the context of meaningful worship together. Together we are better! We will have time to not only reflect personally on the message of that evening, but, as a connectional body, we will also share with those around the table. More specifically, in its first meeting in April, the General Presbyter Search Committee, as one of their first actions as a committee, requested time in this May meeting to hear your hopes for our leader and the challenges we will face together in the future. The Leadership Council supports having opportunities for the presbytery at large to provide input to the GPSC.

I want to remind you that for the next two meetings, we will only be providing dessert, so you will need to bring your own food for dinner time together. For those first-time commissioners, we have created a new video resource, "Presbytery 101". I encourage you to view it.

In gratitude and with humility,

Bill Plitt, Moderator

Registration for Meeting

CALL TO THE STATED MEETING

National Capital Presbytery Tuesday May 22, 2018 @ 6:00pm National Presbyterian Church, Washington DC Open Space 4:00 – 5:15pm Dinner 5:15 – 6pm

Stated Meeting Items:

- 1) Worship Theme: Prophetic Mission of the Church Preacher: Rev. Dr. J Herbert Nelson II, Stated Clerk PC(USA)
- 2) Business Items:

State of the Presbytery Report from General Presbyter Search Committee Re-nomination of NCP Treasurer Neelsville PC Motion

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. 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.

Note: During the 5:00 dessert hour, we will be recognizing Debbie Golden's thirty-year tenure as a member of the NCP staff. Come say thank you to Debbie!

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

May 22, 2018

The National Presbyterian Church, Washington DC

6:00PM CALL TO ORDER WITH PRAYER

Elder William Plitt, Moderator

6:10PM CALL TO WORSHIP

Elder William Plitt

But I, through the abundance of your steadfast love, will enter your house.

I will bow down toward your holy temple in the fear of you.

Lead me, O Lord, in your righteousness because of my enemies; make your way straight before me. —Psalm 5:7–8

Let us worship God.

HYMN "Come! Live in the Light!" p.8

Justin Streletz, Accompanist

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Dr. Quinn Fox, Vice Moderator

The life, death, resurrection, and promised coming of Jesus Christ has set the pattern for the church's mission. His human life involves the church in the common life of all people. His service to men and women commits the church to work for every form of human well-being. His suffering makes the church sensitive to all human suffering so that it sees the face of Christ in the faces of persons in every kind of need. His crucifixion discloses to the church God's judgment on the inhumanity that marks human relations, and the awful consequences of the church's own complicity in injustice. In the power of the risen Christ and the hope of his coming, the church sees the promise of God's renewal of human life in society and of God's victory over all wrong. (from The Confession of 1967)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

Almighty and Loving God, You call us to live in faith and freedom, but we often fail to trust Your presence in the midst of life. You call us to move in new directions, but we always cling to the paths we know. You call us to reach outward in love, but we draw inward for protection and comfort. Life is a struggle between fear and love—a struggle between playing it safe and risking it all for Your glory and honor. Lord, forgive us for our timidity and grant us the courage to walk the paths that You place before us. Help us to risk letting go in order to stand free as Your servant people. Help us to capture visions of the future, so that we can truly be Your church and serve You faithfully. Being a prophetic church means telling the truth.

Examine us, O God, and know our minds. Test us and know all our worries. Make sure that we are not going the wrong way. Lead us on the path that has been tested by time. [Psalm 139:23-24]

Time for Silent Confession

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rev. Dr. Quinn Fox

Friends, the fact is, Christ suffers with us. Christ bears our pain. God did not punish him, nor does God punish us. Christ lived and died so that we would know we are free. He identified with our suffering and desired freedom for all. We are healed. We are free to go a different way. Christ confirmed God's love for us. [based on Isaiah 53:4-6]

6:25PM	OMNIBUS MOTION p.12	Stated Clerk Sara Coe
6:30PM	TRANSITIONS	Rev. Dr. Wilson Gunn
6:40PM	Report from General Presbyter Search Committee (GPSC)	Elder Tressie Muldrow
6:50PM	Table Discussion with questions from GPSC	
7:20PM	Neelsville PC Motion p.17 Rev. Mary Beth l	Elder Charles Barber Lawrence, Rev. Quinn Fox
7:35PM	Re-nomination of NCP Treasurer Motion p.18	Elder Jochebed Jordan
7:45PM	Mission Video	LaJuan Quander
7:50PM	STATE OF THE PRESBYTERY	Rev. Dr. Wilson Gunn

8:05PM PRAYER Rev. Denise Anderson, Co-Moderator, PC(USA)

HYMN "Come to the Table of Grace" p. 9 Justin Streletz, Accompanist

SCRIPTURE

SERMON Rev. Dr. J Herbert Nelson II, Stated Clerk PC(USA)

8:35PM INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson II and Rev. T. Denise Anderson

GREAT THANKSGIVING

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER

HYMN "Canticle of the Turning" p.10 Justin Streletz, Accompanist

9:00PM BENEDICTION and ADJOURNMENT Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson II

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 Tressie Muldrow, Fifteenth Street PC

Elder Charles Barber, Northeastern PC

Rev. Mary Beth Lawrence, Gaithersburg PC

Elder Jochebed Jordan, Church of the Redeemer

Worship Leaders:

Elder Bill Plitt, Trinity-Arlington

Rev. Dr. Quinn Fox, National PC

Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson II, Stated Clerk PC(USA)

Rev. T. Denise Anderson, Unity PC

Communion Servers:

Rev. Erin Keys. Capitol Hill PC

Elder MaryAnn Stampfli, Capitol Hill PC

Rev. HeeMoon Youn, Rockville Korean PC

Elder Jongmin Lee, Rockville Korean PC

Rev. Dr. Perzavia Praylow, Fifteenth Street PC

Elder Tressie Muldrow, Fifteenth Street PC

Music Leader:

Justin Streletz, accompanist, First United Presbyterian Church Dale City

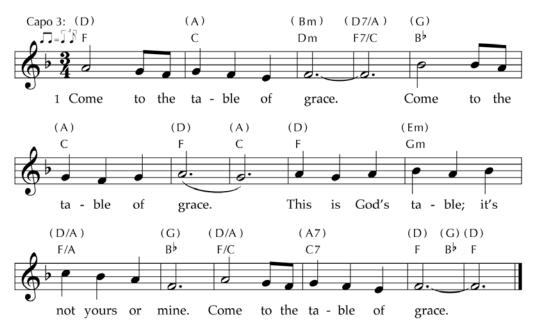
JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION

Come! Live in the Light!



The thematic and musical center of this hymn on the vocation of all believers is found in the refrain, which is based on the well-known challenge of Micah 6:8, "What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"

Come to the Table of Grace 507



- 2 Come to the table of peace...
- 3 Come to the table of love...
- 4 Come to the table of hope...
- 5 Come to the table of joy...

The simple, formulaic nature of this song makes it especially suitable for use during the communion portion of the Lord's Supper. Because it can be learned readily and does not require reference to a printed source, it frees people to sing before and after receiving the elements.

JESUS CHRIST: ADVENT

100 My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my

D

C

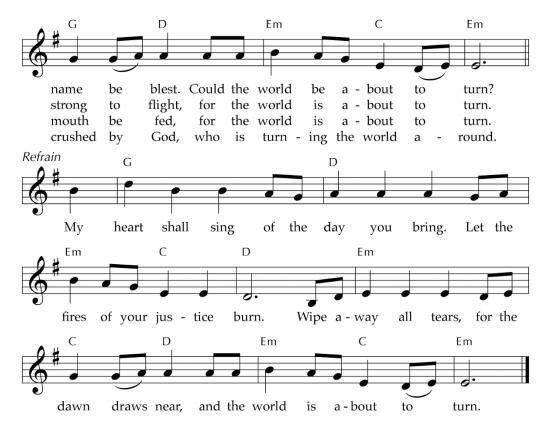
those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread; ev - ery prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be

Em

By employing an energetic Irish folk song for its melody, this ballad-like paraphrase of the *Magnificat*, Mary's song at her meeting with her relative Elizabeth (Luke 1:46–55), recaptures both the wonder and the faith of the young woman who first recognized what God was doing.

Em

JESUS CHRIST: ADVENT



OMNIBUS MOTION FOR THE MAY 22, 2018 PRESBYTERY MEETING

From the Stated Clerk

- The Stated Clerk <u>moves</u> the approval of the minutes of the March 20, 2018 presbytery meeting.
- The Stated Clerk <u>moves</u> that presbytery receive the report of the following commission and dismiss the commissions with thanks:
 - o The commission to install the Rev. Dr. Robert (Rob) Erickson as pastor of Heritage Presbyterian Church.
 - o The commission to install the Rev. Erin Keyes as pastor of Capitol Hill Presbyterian Church.
 - o The commission to install the Rev. Dr. Perzavia T. Paylow as pastor of Fifteenth Street Presbyterian Church.
 - The commission to ordain Shannon Jordan which took place at Vienna Presbyterian Church.
 - The commission to ordain Dana Olson which took place at Ingleside at Rock Creek.

From the Nominating Committee

- 1. The Nominating Committee <u>moves</u> and recommends to the presbytery the following to serve on the indicated commission or committee:
- *ACCP*

Paul Browne, RE, OPMH, Cl of 2021

• Church Development

John Molina-Moore, TE, Northminster, Cl of 2021

• Leadership Council

Rudy Cohen, RE, Burke, Cl of 2020 Neill Morgan, TE, Darnestown, Cl of 2021 Miriam Dewhurst, RE, NY Avenue, Cl of 2021

• <u>Committee on Ministry</u>

Katie Singer, TE, Immanuel, Cl of 2021 Wayne Blaser, TE, St John's ELCA, Cl of 2021 Charles Booker, TE, Bethesda, Cl of 2021 Nancy Neal, TE, Arlington, Cl of 2021 Faye Acker, TE, Minister At Large, Cl of 2021 Joan Erickson, RE, Heritage PC, Class of 2021

• Mission Coordination

Therese Taylor-Stinson, RE, Northwood, Cl of 2021

• Personnel

Loreathia Davis, RE, Northminster, Cl of 2021 Ann Herlin, TE, OPMH, Cl of 2021 Tressie Muldrow, RE, 15th Street, Cl of 2021

• Representation

Michelle Peters, RE, Northeastern, Cl of 2021

• Session Records

Susan Middleswarth, RE, Warner Memorial, Cl of 2021 Jeffrey Taylor, RE, Heritage, Cl of 2021

• <u>Stewardship</u>

David Gray, RE. Bradley Hills, Cl of 2019 Dave Durham, RE, Darnestown, Cl of 2021 Phillip Melberg, RE, Gaithersburg, Cl of 2021

From the Leadership Council

1. The Leadership Council <u>moves</u> and recommends to presbytery, upon recommendation from COM, the adoption of the following NCP Child and Youth Protection Policy:

Child and Youth Protection Policy

National Capital Presbytery

Jesus said "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." (Matthew 19:14) Jesus welcomed children and charged those who care for them to remove stumbling blocks from their paths. (Matthew 18: 5-6) National Capital Presbytery believes that it is called by God to help its congregations, pastors, and related organizations to provide a safe, nurturing environment for all children, to prevent the abuse of children while in their care, and to ensure prompt reporting of suspected abuse or neglect.

Although National Capital Presbytery rarely has children within its direct care, it is dedicated to ensuring compliance with applicable laws and provisions of the Book of Order, and to providing information, examples, guidelines, resources, and referrals to its congregations, pastors, and related organizations. Toward that end, National Capital Presbytery will:

- Provide guidelines for and make available models of child protection policies for use by congregations and related organizations in drafting their own policies;
- Support congregations, pastors, and related organizations by sharing information about available resources and training opportunities;
- Require that any organization that uses Presbytery facilities and expects to have children in attendance have and follow its own appropriate general child protection policy or a child protection plan for the specific event;
- Require that any group or organization that receives grant funding from Presbytery and works with children or includes them in the funded program have an appropriate child protection policy;

- Require that all teaching elder members who work with or are in regular contact with children, whether paid or as volunteers, take Healthy Boundaries or comparable training approved by the Sexual Misconduct Response Team every three years;
- Require that all teaching elder members comply with the mandatory reporting requirements of their local civil law jurisdiction and the Book of Order. Failure to so comply may form the basis for discipline of the teaching elder under the Rules of Discipline set forth in the Book of Order.
 - 2. The Leadership Council <u>moves</u> and recommends to the presbytery, upon recommendation from Leadership Council, the following change to the Presbytery Financial Policy:

Amend lines 544-545 to delete "three over-night or two-night retreats" and replace the current wording with "an annual retreat"

Amend line 549 to delete "next three to four years" and replace the current language with "next nine years"

Amend line 550 to delete "2018" and replace the current number with "2023"

Rationale - The Parish Pastor Retreat has become a highly valued event tending to the relational fabric of the Presbytery over the three years it has taken place. This is an event that is worth continuing. There is \$63,400 remaining in the fund. The retreat expense is around \$16,000 per year, thus there is funding for at least three more years, perhaps four. Partial funding may even be available for 2023. After funding is exhausted the Presbytery may choose to pick up this expense through its operating fund budget.

3. The Leadership Council <u>moves</u> and recommends the following to serve on the Nominating Committee, Class of 2021:

Laura Hollister, TE, Berwyn PC Rebecca (Becca) Messman, TE, Trinity PC, Herndon Judith (Judy) Wenig, RE, Darnestown PC

From the Session Records Review Committee

Based on reviews conducted on March, April, and May 2018, the committee moves the approval of the following minutes and rolls and registers <u>without exception</u>:

Aldie Faith Patuxent
Ashburn First Arlington Potomac

Bethesda Gaithersburg Prince George's Community

BoydsGood SamaritanRockvilleBradley HillsHermonSaint MarkBurkeHopeSt. Matthew

Christian Community Idylwood Taiwanese of Washington

Church of the Redeemer Immanuel Takoma Park
Clifton Laurel Trinity, Herndon
Colesville National United Parish Bowie

Darnestown Oaklands Unity

Ebenezer Old Pres. Meeting House Warner Memorial

Based on review conducted on April 21, 2018, the following minutes were approved without exception:

Poolesville

Based on reviews conducted on March, April, and May 2018, the following minutes were approved with exceptions noted and communicated to the Clerk of Session:

AdelphiGeorgetownSilver SpringBerwynGrace, LanhamSixthChesterbrook TaiwaneseKorean, RockvilleSouthminsterChrist the KingMizoSt AndrewFairlingtonNew HopeWestminster DCFells ChurchNortheastern

Falls Church Northeastern
Garden Memorial Northwood

Based on reviews conducted on March, April, and May 2018, the following rolls and registers were approved <u>without exceptions</u>:

Adelphi Georgetown Sixth

Berwyn Grace, Lanham Southminster Chesterbrook Taiwanese New Hope Westminster DC

Fairlington Northeastern
Garden Memorial Silver Spring

Based on the reviews conducted on March, April, and May 2018, the following rolls and registers were approved with exceptions noted and communicated to the Clerk of Session:

Falls Church	Mizo	Christ the King
Korean, Rockville	St. Andrew	

ACTION ITEMS FOR THE MAY 2018 PRESBYTERY MEETING

From the Leadership Council

1. Upon recommendation of the Neelsville Discernment Team, the Leadership Council regretfully moves that the presbytery dismiss Neelsville Presbyterian Church from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to the Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians (ECO) on the effective Date of Dismissal as defined herein and authorizes the President, Secretary, and Treasurer of National Capital Presbytery, Inc. to finalize and execute the agreement incorporating the terms of dismissal.

The Effective Date of Dismissal will be on the date the following have been completed:

- National Capital Presbytery votes to dismiss Neelsville to ECO.
- Neelsville and National Capital Presbytery complete an agreement incorporating the terms
 of dismissal, which terms include a dismissal amount of \$960,027 to be paid by Neelsville
 to National Capital Presbytery and requires a quitclaim deed subject to reversionary
 interest.
- Neelsville pays to Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program the amount owed on Neelsville's loan in the approximate amount of \$385,000.
- Neelsville pays National Capital Presbytery its expenses incurred in the dismissal process.
- ECO confirms in writing to the Stated Clerk of National Capital Presbytery that it will be receiving Neelsville Presbyterian Church as a member congregation concurrently with the dismissal from the National Capital Presbytery.
- Neelsville provides its original minutes and rolls and registers to the Stated Clerk of National Capital Presbytery.
- Neelsville certifies in writing to the Stated Clerk of National Capital Presbytery that it has sent a letter (to be approved by NCP) to all congregants informing them that the PC(USA) welcomes all who wish to remain in the PC(USA) and notifying them to contact the Stated Clerk of the National Capital Presbytery who will arrange a membership transfer to a PC(USA) church.
- Neelsville pays to NCP any bequests to the PC(USA) or NCP that it holds and certifies that no or no more such bequests exist.
- Neelsville certifies in writing to the Stated Clerk of National Capital Presbytery that any
 members of Neelsville as of March 26, 2018 who elect not to maintain membership at
 Neelsville after it is dismissed to ECO will have the same rights of access to and burial in
 the Neelsville cemetery as if they were members of Neelsville once it has been dismissed
 to ECO.
- The Stated Clerk of NCP sends to the Stated Clerk of ECO a letter dismissing Neelsville Presbyterian Church

2. In accordance with the Manual of Administrative Operations, Leadership Council and Nominating Committee representatives <u>recommended</u> and the Leadership Council <u>approves</u> the <u>re-nomination</u> of Ruling Elder Todd McCreight as Treasurer for a three-year term.