

PRESBYTERY REPORTS—JANUARY 2018

From the Stated Clerk

- The Stated Clerk reports that she:
 - Appointed the Rev. Lucy Bowerman to moderate the November 3, 2017 Church of the Redeemer session meeting.
 - Appointed the Rev. Mark L. Tidd to moderate the December 3, 2017 Aldie Presbyterian Church annual meeting.
 - Appointed the Rev. Lyman Smith to moderate the November 19, 2017 Sixth Presbyterian Church session meeting.
 - Appointed the Rev. Michael McNamara to moderate the November 30, 2017 Riverdale Presbyterian Church session meeting.
 - Appointed the Rev. Lucy Bowerman to moderate Grace Presbyterian Church (Lanham) session meetings.
 - Appointed the Rev. Alice Bellis to moderate Garden Memorial Presbyterian Church session meetings.
 - Dismissed the Rev. Ann Philbrick to South Louisiana Presbytery effective October 20, 2017.
 - Dismissed the Rev. Richard Anderson to Charlotte Presbytery effective October 24, 2017.
 - Dismissed the Rev. Linda LeSourd to Tropical Florida Presbytery effective November 4, 2017.
 - Appointed the Rev. Cameron Byrd to moderate the Northeastern Presbyterian Church congregational meeting on December 17, 2017.
 - Appointed Ruling Elder Angela Hemphill to moderate the Northeastern Presbyterian Church session meeting on January 4, 2017.

- The Stated Clerk reports the following resignations from committees/commissions: *Bills*

and Overtures

Dottie LaPenta

Leadership Council

Doug Anderson

Dottie LaPenta

Mission Coordination Committee

Clark Lobenstine

Committee on Representation

Philomena Ofori-Nipaah

- **Report of the Chartering Commission for Christ the King Presbyterian Church**

The Church Development Committee (CDC), having worked closely with Christ the King's (CTK) leadership board for many years, and in CTK duly satisfying all the necessary requirements of chartering a church, the Church Development Commission moved that Christ the King be chartered on November 26, 2017. This Commission's vote was unanimous and was sent to the Leadership Council of NCP for their concurrence. Both CDC and Leadership Council recommended that National Capital Presbytery concur with the request of the Council of Christ the King Presbyterian Church, a Fellowship of National Capital Presbytery (NCP) since June 2000, to become a chartered Church and to be called "Christ the King Presbyterian Church."

The Moderator of NCP, in consultation with the chair of the CDC, and the chair of COM appointed the following members to the Administrative Commission to charter the church:

- Carrie Yearick, chair
- Robert Melone
- Lyman Smith
- Godlove Mbah
- Carla Gorrell
- Leslieanne Braunstein
- George Achimbi
- Angus MacInnes
- Mbangowah Florence
- Yaw Obeng
- Evangeline Taylor
- Vivian Manga

In addition, the commission having duly fulfilled all the below commission requirements does hereby ask that the Commission be dismissed.

- a) Approve the chartering petition (G-1.0201) to organize as a congregation in the PCUSA
- b) Install the pastor, Rev. Sam Atiemo
- c) Acting in the role of Session (G-1.0201) the Commission shall examine and elect Elders;
- d) Install, and ordain as required, Elders and Deacons to serve as the leadership of Christ the King Presbyterian Church;
- e) Preside over the service of chartering/installation on November 26, 2017;
- f) Review any other necessary documents and implement any procedures necessary for the chartering of Christ the King Presbyterian Church;
- g) that the terms of call for Rev. Sam Atiemo have been approved by COM.
- h) That all are welcomed to the service of chartering to be held on Nov. 26, 2017 at 2:00 pm in the sanctuary of Berwyn Presbyterian Church, 6301 Greenbelt Road, College Park, MD 20740.

- **Report of the Northwood Presbyterian Church Administrative Commission**

**Final Report of Administrative Commission
Northwood Presbyterian Church, Silver Spring, Maryland
December 2017**

“Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One.”

As the congregation completes 2017 it is time to pause for the good gifts that surround us. There is much for which to be thankful at Northwood Presbyterian Church in Silver Spring, Maryland. In Summer 2015 the Administrative Commission was appointed by National Capital Presbytery and charged, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to “walk alongside” the Northwood Session as it navigated a process of discernment to determine the congregation’s present and future viability. Following the departure of Gap Pastor, Deb McKinley, with the help of the Administrative Commission, Reverend Maggie Hayward was elected by the Session to serve Northwood as Full-Time Stated Supply for Transitional Ministry beginning in June of 2016. Rev. Hayward had previously served for nine months in 2011-2012 as Northwood’s second interim during their search for a full-time pastor. In her return and new role as Stated Supply she was charged with guiding the leadership and membership to determine whether the congregation should prepare to dissolve, remain viable until the funds ran dry, or to work with zeal and determination to discern a new way of being church with one another and within the changing context of the surrounding community.

Rev. Hayward picked up where Rev. McKinley left off and spent time listening to the concerns of the session elders and also the needs of the membership, many of whom had been clueless to the dire shape of the church finances. The first priority was an intentional program of stewardship which stimulated an 18% increase in pledging for 2017. New rental policies and fees

were set that provided increased income. This past year an eight year deficit of \$10,000 to \$15,000 has been reversed and it is projected that Northwood will finish the 2017 fiscal year with a surplus in its General Fund of close to \$25,000. As we move into 2018 we hope to move beyond a maintenance budget into a ministry budget. A second immediate priority was increasing the attendance in weekly worship and in attracting visitors. Eight new members joined before the end of 2016 and this past spring we welcomed a Confirmation Class of seven and another group of eight adult members, a total increase of fifteen new members in 2017. Consistent pastoral care and visitation to homebound and hospitalized members was a third commitment. As these concerns were assuaged the task of discernment continued through prayer, study, and conversation. Early in 2017, following the significant growth in membership and in financial resources pledged for 2017, the Session, the church's governing board, determined that Northwood Presbyterian is poised to regain a viable witness to God's good news in the Silver Spring area. Month to month the health of the congregation continues to improve with new signs of life and the church has moved from barely surviving to thriving.

Attention in the past year has turned toward new priorities and practices.

- Initiation of the new administrative structure, the Spirit and Service Team Ministries (an idea lifted from Saint Mark Presbyterian, thank you!) held following worship on the Second Sundays of each month has led to the work of these teams to increase fuller participation of the membership in worship, work, and service of the church. Fifty-eight members are currently involved on these teams: Administration, Education, Fellowship, Finance, Memorials, Mission, Nominating, Parish Care, Personnel, Property, and Worship. The Team

Moderators and Session elders are hard at work in their efforts to enliven Northwood as a vibrant, welcoming, and serving community.

- Renovation of a beautiful nursery for infants and toddlers and a vibrant Sunday School space for elementary children were dedicated in the Summer of 2017. The young families and other members worked tirelessly a total of seven evenings, scraping, cleaning, and painting. The Memorial Committee beautified the sanctuary with needed repairs on the woodwork, new carpeting, and the removal of modesty rails to enlarge the chancel area.
- A small, but dedicated group of adults continues to meet faithfully on Sundays at 9:00 A.M. for Bible study. The Pastor offers a Bible study on Wednesday evenings at Inwood House, independent apartments for adults with physical and mental challenges. Four of these adults regularly attend worship. In addition 24 adults participated in a midweek Lenten study on Forgiveness and this fall 19 attended two Tuesday education offerings entitled “What Language Shall I Borrow?” which offered a biblical perspective of what it means to welcome the stranger among us and the strangeness within each of us.
- An education program for two groups of children now has a dedicated education hour that follows the Children’s Meditation in worship, allowing parents some adult fellowship time and *The 9:09 Class* for Middle and High School Youth prior to worship is off to a running start (donuts are good fuel). The seven youth confirmed as members last spring and the sixteen new adult members that joined in 2016-2017 have brought much joy to the congregation.

- Several property issues have consumed much volunteer time and patience, yet the Property Team has ably stepped forward with the removal of a beloved, old tree and the consequent repair to the church's roof (a gift from the tree of a large falling limb); the replacement of a major sewer pipe; the resolution of a drainage issue that had caused a "swamp"; and with efficient handling of a host of buildings and grounds concerns that always arise in the care of a cherished church home.
- The sharing of willing hands in service to others through the sandwich making for the young men's shelter (Carroll House); the Thanksgiving Boxes for families in need and the upcoming Angel Tree Gifts and the day to day signs of benevolent care for several persons with serious illnesses, says much about the congregation as God's loving, caring community.
- Worship attendance has increased on average by fifteen each Sunday and the attentive spirits and thoughtful comments of the congregation concerning God's active presence keeps things buzzing. A very active Friday Prayer group of seven regular attendees holds all things together. There is excitement about the recent hiring of the new Director of Music, Emily Bateman.
- Northwood continues to be in relationship for nearly twenty-five years with the Northwood Preschool and Day Care Program that serves 60+ children. Two additional congregations rent the church on an average of 16 hours each week, The Tamil Christian Church and Palabra De Vida Hispanic Pentecostal congregation. Both churches are very supportive of Northwood, participating in church workdays and other Northwood events, and do their best to keep the building in good shape as diligent renters. Thirteen other non-profits also hold meetings and events in the

building on a regular basis. It's all good, yet it places some strain and stress on Northwood's resources, staff, and volunteers that are of continuing and diligent concern.

- In September Rev. Hayward attended the very helpful Stepping Up to Staffing and Supervision Training offered by NCP and facilitated by Susan Beaumont.

The 2018 stewardship theme Grounded in Faith, Growing to Serve is inviting the membership to prayerfully consider raising their 2018 pledge by at least 2% above 2017 pledges to help reach the 2018 budget goal of \$185,000. The budget target for 2018 includes an increase in our mission giving and mission programming; improving the lighting and accessibility in the sanctuary; strengthening our music, education, and fellowship programs; employing a building sexton; providing increased quality education opportunities for adults, young adults, youth and children; new furnishings in Makemie Hall and the rebuilding of our endowment and major repair funds for a secure future.

The Northwood session and the Administration Commission believe their mutual tasks have been accomplished, that Northwood is now a viable congregation, and the AC requests to be dismissed. Much has been accomplished, though much remains. So with grateful hearts Northwood Church continues to offer the best of their faith-filled lives to the movement of God's Spirit in their midst.

Blessings abound...

Ruling Elder Lou Durden (Northminster)

Ruling Elder Darci Pickering (Colesville)

Ruling Elder Dale Wunder (Colesville)

Teaching Elder Rev. Margaret E. Hayward (Northwood)

- The Stated Clerk reports, in accordance with G-3.0104, that the following are the rolls of Teaching Elders, Certified Christian Educators and Certified Associate Christian Educators in National Capital Presbytery effective December 31, 2017:

ACTIVE	Chris Chatelaine-Samsen	Aaron Fulp-Eickstaedt
T. Denise Anderson	Hun Jung Cho	Judith Fulp-Eickstaedt
Edwin Andrade	Brian Clark	E Quinn Fox
Samuel Atiemo	Donald Clem	Benjamin Garris
Eric Beckman	James Cubie	Mark Gaskill
Robert Bell	Laura Cunningham	Francis Taylor Gench
Alice O. Bellis	Emily Berman D'Andrea	Roger Gench
Charles Booker	Shannon Daley Harris	Ashley Goff
Lucy Bowermann	Christopher Deacon	Gary Goleman
Lakesha Bradshaw Easter	Peter Della Santina	Norman Gordan
James Brassard	David Douthett	Beth Goss
Leslianne Braunstein	Jane Duffield	Susan Graceson
Henry Brinton	Daniel Duggan	Kendra Grams
J. Robin Bromhead	Jennifer Dunfee	David Gray
Elizabeth Brookens-Sturman	Anne Ellestad	John Green
Jean Brown	Lal Engzau	Wilson Gunn
Michael Burns	David Ensign	Juan Guthrie
Currie Burris	Shelby Etheridge Harasty	J. Campbell Hackett
Gay Byron	Ruth Everhart	William V Hale
Saul Cardona-Morales	Whitney Fauntleroy	Ruth Hamilton
Timothy Cargal	Jeri Fields	Brian Hamilton
Scott Carlson	Michelle Fincher	Edward Harding
Jan Nolting Carter	Catherine Fitzgerald	Larry Hayward
Karen Chamis	Eric Forsyth	Margaret Hayward
Judy Chan		

Barbara Heck	Chris Looker	Kori Phillips
Diane Walton	Donald Jay Losher	Mary Pullen
Hendricks	Shawn MacDonald	H. Scott Ramsey
Anita Hendrix	Donna Marsh	Christine Reimers
Ann Herlin	Catherine McCollough	David Renwick
LeAnn Hodges	James McDonald	Emily Rhodes Hunter
Laura Hollister	Sam McFerran	Mary Rodgers
Roy Howard	Jarrett McLaughlin	Lisa Rzepka
Chien Di Hung	Meg Peery McLaughlin	Amy Schacht
Patrick Hunnicutt	Geoffrey McLean	Matthew Schlageter
Diane Hutchins	Gary McMichael	John Seaman
Yena Hwang	Michael McNamara	Glenda Simpkins Hoffman
Peter James	Craig Meek	James Sledge
Wesley Jamison	Donald Meeks	Lyman Smith
Michael Jones	Robert Melone	Stephen Smith-Cobbs
David Jordan-Hass	Joyce Mercer	Jonathan Smoot
Lynn Jostes	Rebecca Messman	Jo Ann Staebler
Woong Joe Kang	Bryan Mickle	Katherine Stanford
Susan Kendall	David Milam	Lynn Stanton-Hoyle
Lisa Kenkeremath	John Molina Moore	Katie Singer Strednak
Gyeong Mok Kim	Neill Morgan	Todd Sutton
Hae Kil Kim	Sterling Morse	Beverly Swayze
Shannon Smith Kiser	Camille Cook Murray	Knox Swayze
Leslie Klingensmith	Nancy Neal	Jessica Tate
Megan Klose	J Herbert Nelson	Molly Teichert
Michael Koppel	Stephen Nkansah	Alice Tewell
Robert Laha	Philomena Ofori-Nipaah	Nancy Thornton
Olivia Lane	Adam Ogg	Mark Tidd
Mary Beth Lawrence	Bernice Parker-Jones	Carolyn Tilley
John Lee	Deborah Parsons	Minh Towner
Larry Lees	Eric Peltz	Benton Trawick
Jodi Lingan	John Peterson	Holly Ulmer

Rachel Vaagenes

John Wagner

Rose Wayland

Robert Wellington

David Williams

Elisabeth Williams

Caroline Wilson

Scott Wilson

Juli Wilson-Black

Eric Winnette

Susan Wisseman

Eunice Yang

Carrie Yearick

John Yien

Heemoon Youn

Glenn Zuber

MEMBER AT LARGE

Fay Acker

Martha Albershardt

Alice Anderson

Armstrong, Mark

Carol Barrett

Glen Benson

Heather Bobbitt

Joseph Chen

Laura Collins

Mary Ann Collins-Stauffer

MaryAnn McKibben Dana

Almir Dantas-Dias

Molly Douthett

Robert Erickson

Abigail Evans

Susan Fellows

Nancy Fox

Katherine Francis

Walter Green

Mark Greiner

Lawrence Greenslit

Loril Hawk

Hilaire Henthorne

Garrett Hoffmann

Byeong Moon Im

William Jokela

Constance Jordan-Hass

Eugene Kendall

Erin Keys

Fuad Khouri

Chul Kim

Sungte Kim

Paul Kress

Lisa Larsen

Heemoon Lee

Jong Mi Lee

Tamara Lara Leonard

Derek Longdrake

William Lover

Jill Lum

Carol Morrison

Gail Porter Nelson

Michael Parker

Kevin Powell

Charles Reinhold

Young Chan Ro

Jacob Rodawla

Carl Rush

Tara McCabe Spuhler

Teresa Suder

Jacalyn Thomas	Richard Christensen	Elenora Ivory
Richard Thomas	Nancy Clark	Madeline Jervis
Charles Van Gorder	William Clark	Carolyn Johnson
Sara Varnado	Mary Boyd Click	Kermit Johnson
Sean Walker	S. Jay Click	Lewis Johnson
Tad Wicker	Gary Cook	Mansfield Kaseman
Susan Wilder	Jean Coyle	Curtis Kearns
Richard Wurst	Stephany Crosby	Yunkuk David Kim
Christopher Yim	Jeanne Adams Daniels	Lloyd Kinzer
John Yoo	Tom Davidson	William Kosanovich
HONORABLY RETIRED	Ann Davie	Dorothy La Penta
James Adams	Karen Doty	Clark Lobenstine
Paul Anderson	Lincoln Dring	Robert Long
Robert Angus	Robert Edmunds	Russell Lynn
Graham Bardsley	Whitworth Ferguson	James Macdonell
Paul Bauer	Henry Ferry	Joseph Matthews
E. Anne Benefield	George Forner	David McNeilly
Donald Benjamin	Frank Goodlake	Judith Michaels
Wayne Blaser	Carla Gorrell	Thomas Miles
Stanley Bliss	R. Christian Halverson	Jeanne MacKenzie
Bruce Bowen	Walter Harman	John T Mathison
John Boyles	Robert Harris	Riley McDonald
Elizabeth Braxton	Bruce Hartwig	Roger Miller
Byron Buck	Minette Hope	Kathleen Mulvihill
Cameron Wells Byrd	Gerald Hopkins	Truman, Nabors
Gary Campbell	Richard Houghton	Rhoda C. Nixon
David Chambers	Su Pong Hwang	Stanley Ott, III
George Chauncey	Amitiyah Hyman	Walter L. Owensby
John Chiang	Margee Iddings	George Pera
		William Phillippe

Gary Pinder
Theodore Rosche
Suzanne Rudiselle
Gail Nicolas Schneider
Leonard Sirbaugh
M. Blaine Smith
Hallelujah Y. Son
Theodore Sperduto
Kerry Stolfus
William Stuart
Steven Swanson
Edward Taylor
Evangeline Taylor
George Taylor
Daniel Thomas
W. Sibley Towner
Douglas Trout
Margaret True
Jose Velaazco
Dewey Wallace
Donna Weddle
Gerald Wheat
Edward White
Matthew Whong
James Williams
Gayraud Wilmore
John Wimberly
John Winter
Alice Winters
Charles P. Wright
Dorothy Wright

William Yolton Yeo

Cheon Yun

TEMPORARY

MEMBERS

Ralph Benson

Jin Choi

DISMISSED MEMBERS

Jocelyn Cadwallader

Amy Carlson

Sung Eun Choi

Sharon Core

Kenneth Eimer

Dawn Haeger

Robert Hoover

Jeffrey Krehbiel

Kirby Lawrence Hill

James Lawton

William Lowrey

Jessica McClure Archer

Matthew Merrill

Kimberly Mitchel

Ann Philbrick

Douglas Ronsheim

Laurel Underwood

Charles E Wright

DECEASED

James Allen

Lawrence Glassco

William McDaniel

Jaime Ocampo

Thomas Schmid

Roger Shoup

Norman Stanhope

**CERTIFIED CHRISTIAN
EDUCATORS**

Priscilla Andre-Colton

Carroll Bastian

Carolyn Fink

Lynn Jostes

Melissa Kirkpatrick

Jan Moody

Cathy Smith

Katie Snyder

The Stated Clerk reports that the following teaching elders who are engaged in approved Specialized Ministries have failed to report on their work in 2017:

Gay Byron, Saul Cardona-Morales, Hun Jung Cho, Gary Goleman, John Green, Sterling Morse, J Herbert Nelson, Philomina Ofori-Nipaah, John Seaman, Robert Wellington,

And the following At Large teaching elders have failed to file a 2017 report:

Mark Armstrong, Carol Barrett, Heather Bobbitt, Joseph Chen, Laura Collins, Mary Ann McKibben Dana, Almir Dantas-Dias, Abigail Evans, Garrett Hoffmann, Byeong Moon Im, William Jokela, Eugene Kendall, Fuad Khouri, Chul Kim, Sungte Kim, Paul Dress, Heemoon Lee, Derek Longdrake, William Lover, Jill Lum, Carol Morrison, Gail Porter Nelson, Charles Reinhold, Young Chan Ro, Carl Rush, Tara McCabe Spuhler, Jacalyn Thomas, Richard Thomas, Sara Varnado, Tad Wicker, Susan Wilder, Richard Wurst, Christopher Yim.

From Leadership Council

Minutes from Dec. 6, 2017 Leadership Council Meeting

NCP LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING Minutes

December 6, 2017

“God is doing a new thing, now it springs forth. Do you perceive it?” Isaiah 43:19

Sent by the Triune God to be agents of salvation, reconciliation and justice, we empower and challenge our congregations to be Missional, Pastoral and Prophetic

Present:

Leadership Council: Rudy Cohen, Lee Bishop, Bill Plitt, Denise Anderson, Pat Futato, Cameron Byrd, Doug Anderson, Elsie Reid, Therese Taylor-Stinson, Quinn Fox, Dottie LaPenta, Laura Cunningham

Staff: Sara Coe, LaJuan Quander, Todd McCreight, Karen Chamis, Jan Moody

Guests: Ann Herlin (TE OPMHPC), Chair, Personnel; Karl Hoffman (New York Avenue PC), Chair, Investment Committee; Charles Van Gorder (TE), Chair, CPM; Tom Norwood, Horizons Stewardship

Excused: Charles Barber, Beth Goss, David McClung

Meeting was called to order by LC Chair Rudy Cohen at 12:30.

Bill Plitt led a devotion that included the reading of Scripture, Luke 1: 26-45 and the singing of the Hymn, *Here I Am Lord*.

New Business:

Personnel Chair Ann Herlin, on December 1, 2017, sent members of LC a letter from the Personnel Committee, along with a letter from Wilson Gunn, informing LC of Wilson's announcement to Personnel of his intention to retire in 2018 from his position as NCP General Presbyter. After discussion, the following motions were approved:

Motion: It was moved and approved to receive the Personnel Committee Report.

Motion: Doug Anderson will draft and send a statement about Wilson Gunn's announcement to retire as NCP General Presbyter to the LC Chair, Rudy Cohen for approval. The Chair will then send the announcement to the NCP Director of Communications, LaJuan Quander, for posting to members of the Presbytery.

Motion: LC appoints Laura Cunningham, Doug Anderson, Elsie Reid, LaJuan Quander, and Ann Herlin, to work on the following tasks:

- 1) Propose to Presbytery at the January 23, 2018 meeting a slate of teaching and ruling elders to be elected to serve as a Search Committee
- 2) Formulate the tasks to be undertaken by a consultant with successful Presbytery Executive background to work with the Search Committee
- 3) Develop a plan and timeline for informing Presbytery of the search process for the new General Presbyter

Annual Reports:

- Karl Hoffman, chair of the Investment Committee, presented the committee's annual report.

It was **moved and approved** to receive with gratitude the report from the Investment Committee.

- Charles Van Gorder, chair of the Commission on the Preparation for Ministry, presented the committee's annual report. LC requested additional information, such as the number of years in the process and demographic information about the Inquirers and Candidates who are under CPM care.

It was **moved and approved** to receive with gratitude the report from CPM.

Updates:

Tom Norwood presented his report on the Funding Initiative.

The LC received the report and approved the following motion:

Moved: Finance Giving Report Leadership Council accept phase one of the Mission Funding Study Report and proceed with phase two recommendations as follows:

1. Approve the concept of a new funding pattern in the area of Church Growth and Transformation as a test case for the viability of expanding the new funding model to other areas of NCP mission priorities. Obtain full NCP approval in due course.
2. Authorize the Funding Initiative Team in conjunction with Horizons to move forward with Phase 2 of the Horizons proposal to implement the recommendations of this report, finalizing a specific plan based on the feedback from the interviews and conversations with NCP staff.
3. Direct the Funding Initiative Team in conjunction with Horizons to conduct individual conversations with those pastors who indicated a willingness to champion this new mission funding pattern to confirm their willingness to implement this change in their own churches as well as their willingness to advocate with other NCP colleagues to insure the broadest possible participation in the new model.
4. Direct the Funding Initiative Team in conjunction with Horizons to develop strategies for communicating, marketing and implementing the new funding model for church growth and transformation. These strategies should emphasize the potential benefits of the new model as well as anticipate the “push-back” from NCP pastors/churches for whom designated giving is an anathema.
5. Direct the Funding Initiative Team in conjunction with Horizons to determine a specific time period for the test of the new funding model (e.g., 2-3 years) as well as metrics for measuring its effectiveness.

(Approved)

Neelsville PC

Doug Anderson, Cameron Byrd, and Todd McCreight reported on the work of the Neelsville Task Force.

LC **moved and approved** (with two votes of no) the referral of the proposed Neelsville property terms back to the Task Force for additional factual development and further report to the Jan. 3, 2018 LC meeting.

Worship and Theology Report

Bill Plitt and Therese Taylor-Stinson gave a summary of the November 14th presbytery meeting and highlighted upcoming meeting themes and business.

Announcements:

Leadership Council Planning Retreat is scheduled for **Saturday, Feb. 10, 2018** at Saint Mark.

There will be a morning orientation session for new members and an afternoon session following lunch for all members of LC.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:30 with prayer led by Bill Plitt. The next LC meeting is January 3, 2018. Bill Plitt will lead the devotion.

Minutes from Jan. 3, 2018 Leadership Council Meeting

NATIONAL CAPITAL PRESBYTERY LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
January 3, 2018

“God is doing a new thing, now it springs forth. Do you perceive it?” Isaiah 43:19

Sent by the Triune God to be agents of salvation, reconciliation and justice, we empower and challenge our congregations to be Missional, Pastoral and Prophetic.

Present: Rudy Cohen, Lee Bishop, Bill Plitt, Charles Barber, Dottie LaPenta, David McClung, Quinn Fox, Cameron Byrd, Beth Goss, Doug Anderson, Pat Futato

NCP Staff: Wilson Gunn, Sara Coe, Karen Chamis, Todd McCreight, LaJuan Quander, Jan Moody

Excused: Denise Anderson, Therese Taylor-Stinson, Laura Cunningham, Elsie Reid

Guests: From NCP Personnel Committee: Elder Gary Cluff, Trinity Herndon PC and Rev. Larry Greenslit

Following a devotion and prayer led by Bill Plitt, Rudy Cohen called meeting to order at 12:40PM. Guests Gary Cluff and Larry Greenslit were seated and welcomed.

➤ **Wilson Gunn’s annual review**

NCP staff was excused and Leadership Council, in Executive Session, conducted Wilson’s Annual Review.

➤ **Plans for filling G.P. vacancy**

NCP staff, except for Wilson, were invited back into the meeting.

Doug Anderson gave an update on the work of the Task Group appointed to present a slate of teaching and ruling elders, to be recommended to and voted on by Presbytery, who will serve on the Search Committee to find a new General Presbyter following Wilson’s retirement at the end of 2018. Doug announced that his duties on LC, including chairing the Task Group, would end in January. Rudy appointed Beth Goss as the new chair of the Task Group.

The Leadership Council, expressing the need for due diligence, asked for additional clarification on the following topics:

- Demographics of Search Committee to insure adequate representation of the body of the Presbytery
- Job description for Search Committee
- Role of Personnel, Leadership Council, Presbytery, NCP staff in support of the search process
- Best practices for providing pastoral support to congregations during time of transition in leadership
- Budget, including estimated cost of employing a consultant to help Search Committee

These topics will be included as discussion items on the agenda of the Feb. 7 LC meeting.

Motion: To delay presentation of a recommended slate of members of a Search Committee until the March 20, 2018 Presbytery meeting. **(Approved)**

Wilson was invited back into the meeting.

➤ **Church Updates**

○ **Neelsville PC**

Doug gave an update on the work of Neelsville Task Force and recommended the following:

Motion: That the Leadership Council approves the Neelsville Task Force to offer a retention amount of \$960,027 to Neelsville Presbyterian Church as the first term for a disaffiliation agreement between Neelsville and NCP and inform Neelsville of the requirement that Neelsville's PILP loan be paid off (approximately \$385,000). **(Approved)**

○ **Garden Memorial PC**

Charles Barber and Todd McCreight reported on a recent meeting with leaders from Garden Memorial PC to discuss financial matters and overdue taxes. After discussion, the following motion was recommended for presentation at the January 23, 2018 presbytery meeting:

Motion: The Leadership Council moves that the Presbytery agree to pay the overdue taxes and fees owed by Garden Memorial Presbyterian Church (up to \$53,000) to the District of Columbia, along with other settlement costs (up to \$3,000) to alleviate the tax lien presently levied on the church property, with the following conditions:

- a. Garden Memorial agrees in a Memorandum of Understanding (to be drafted by NCP's attorney) to repay the full amount at no interest in 120 equal monthly payments (10 years) delivered to the Presbytery office by the fifth of each month starting July 5, 2018.
- b. That 4% annualized interest be assessed on a monthly basis (1/3 of 1%) on the whole outstanding balance if any payment is late after July 4, 2018.
- c. If, after July 15, 2018, the church falls behind in its payments by three months or more, the Church agrees to transfer title to the property to the Presbytery to manage, sell or use in ministry as it sees fit.
- d. This agreement requires the vote of the Session and the congregation as it involves real property decisions.
- e. The funds necessary shall be from the DC Resurrection Fund balance and shall be repaid to the DC Resurrection Fund balance.
- f. The Presbytery agrees to postpone the payment on the Ministry Crisis Fund loan (\$14,935) for one year, after which the ability of the Church to repay it shall be evaluated by the COM Ministry Relations Team. **(Approved)**

Motion: To empower Todd McCreight to meet with Garden Memorial leadership and present Leadership Council's proposal. **(Approved)**

- **Covenant PC Sale**

Motion: That the \$147,994 of Covenant sales proceeds received by the Presbytery be allocated as follows:

\$131,716 to reimburse the General Unrestricted Fund tapped for Covenant debt service
16,277 to reimburse General Directors funds tapped for Covenant debt service pmts.

\$147,994 Total **(Approved)**

- **First Korean PC of Northern Virginia**

Motion: For vote at the January 23, 2018 presbytery meeting that the \$109,359 retention amount received from First Korean of Northern Virginia be allocated as follows:

\$ 16,859 to pay overdue per capita for 2014 - 2016.
92,500 to reimburse General Directors funds tapped for Covenant debt service pmts.

\$109,359 Total **(Approved)**

- **Community PC**

Wilson reported that he and Elder Tressie Muldrow, Fifteenth Street PC, will be meeting with leaders of Community PC on February 20. Wilson will give a report to LC at the February 28th LC meeting.

- **New Business**

- Nominating Committee:

Motion: that Elder Sara Parker, Western PC, Class of 2021, be nominated to serve on the Nominating Committee. **(Approved)**

- **Worship and Theology Update**

Bill reported worship themes of upcoming presbytery meetings, including theme of Evangelism and guest preacher Shane Claiborn at the March meeting. Wilson will give a State of the Presbytery report at the March meeting.

Meeting adjourned with prayer.

Next meeting: February 7.

Commission on Preparation for Ministry Annual Report

**National Capital Presbytery
Commission on Preparation for Ministry
Periodic Report to Leadership Council
December 6, 2017**

How does CPM support the presbytery mission?

G-2.06 provides the basics of the work of the Commission on Preparation for Ministry (CPM).

Within the Mission Emphases of the presbytery:

- Our primary work is certainly to challenge, equip, and support 35 emerging leaders in their discernment of God's invitation to discipleship and stewardship. Currently, there are 9 Seekers, 5 Inquirers, 3 Candidates and 12 Certified Ready to Receive a Call. Four have been Ordained to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament, and 2 were removed from the process. Encouraging each to find their calling, whether as a Minister of Word and Sacrament, Ruling Elder or layperson while nurturing loyalty and love for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is our challenge.
- At the same time, a secondary work is develop our 27 commission members representing at least 21 congregations so they may cultivate and nurture our congregations, enriching their missional identity as apostles sent into the world to serve God's mission. CPM work regularly pushes us to enriched understanding of the Presbyterian form of church government, the breadth of reformed theology and the evolving mission of the Church in changing times.

What were the significant events (positive or negative) for CPM in 2017?

- J. C. Cadwallader ably stepped into the role of CPM Chair in January, 2017 asking questions that led CPM to experiment with plenary meetings of CPM only on alternate months, so that the 4 Liaison Groups (LG) could devote other meeting nights to candidates. CPM resoundingly embraced this for 2018 as it allows the LG more unpressured quality time with candidates. Frequently a scheduled hour before the monthly plenary session was seriously reduced waiting for a quorum due to traffic and the rush to get to the main meeting; or the LG was forced to work late into the night when everyone was tired. Especially in preparing for Final Assessment, an LG needs extended time. A brief "caucus" meeting may be called on LG nights if needed—but exclusively for urgent and non-controversial actions.
- Ms. Cadwallader was called to the Presbytery of Southern New England, and I became the Chair and Rachel Kaufman (RE St. Mark) is now Vice Chair. Jan Moody has become staff contact and is a great gift to CPM.
- CPM adopted a policy on "Extended Continuation of Candidacy" for ordination exams have aged 5 years before Final Assessment. GA considers them somewhere between invalid and expired. The process adopted recognizes mitigating circumstances; a unanimous LG recommendation needs CPM's majority vote. This allows moving forward without re-taking the exams (at an added expense and burden to the candidate) when appropriate.
- The CPM interpreted its policy on Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) to be an issue for each LG group (which knows the candidate best) to explore and recommend to the CPM.

The standard is now that this is a “Should” or “Is Appropriate” rather than either a “Shall” or “May.”

- A one-page “Guide for One who has Discerned a Call to Ministry. . .” was approved for inclusion with the Manual.
- CPM maintains a healthy working relationship. Adversarial relationships between members and candidates have been avoided without need to request mutual forbearance (F-3.0105).

What issues are most pressing on CPM’s docket right now?

- Work has begun to track CPM’s work more comprehensively. With rotating LG members and leaders, we must exercise care to avoid inadvertent oversights.
- With rotating LG members and leaders, some people can be lost or overlooked inadvertently. The hope is to improve.
- NCP is blessed with candidates and congregations more diverse than the larger church sees. The seminaries and presbyteries like ours do well in care for saints from immigrant or racial/ethnic congregations/backgrounds; but the ordination exams are a hurdle that probably will need intervention. Humiliating comments to examinees whose English grammar, syntax and/or spelling is inadequate do not build the Church. Deficiencies caused by limitations in English/Korean/Spanish comprehension are a more difficult issue to address. Good and well-meaning standards keep an exam reader from knowing whether to excuse or adjust standards in this area. If working with the Presbyteries’ Cooperative Committee fails, initiating an overture may become necessary to make this process more inclusive.
- CPM decided to revisit the issue of on-line seminary training in 2018. CPM addressed this challenge just a few years ago, but the blessings and liabilities have both evolved quickly.

What direction do you see your committee’s work going over the next three-five years?

- As former Chairperson Steve Graff reported during his term, the challenges of non-traditional students or seminary schedules, and addressing cooperatively with COM the processes with transferring clergypersons are (and will continue to be) concerns for CPM.
- Work time devoted by LG’s and Liaisons may increasingly be devoted to candidates from non-traditional backgrounds. These individuals bring great zeal and piety to this calling, but often face obstacles that are not fully appreciated. Among these are student internships with congregations/pastors whose expectations approach abusiveness. Overworked candidates who cannot properly prepare for exams do not lack spiritual gifts. CPM, perhaps in conversations with the seminaries (which we will need to initiate), needs to explore ways to address the power dynamics. While ministry is not a 40-hour week or part-time job, Candidates need institutional support in practicing setting boundaries and being stewards of themselves if they are to work in our institution without burning out prematurely.
- Opportunities beyond an academic degree continue to be a problem. Most inquirers and candidates have adapted to this reality, but with over half of those formally and

completely enrolled in the care process certified ready to receive a call, we have a concern. There are various reasons for this. Historic paradigms for funding ordered ministry need redemptive re-envisioning. The Leadership Council may be able to initiate and shepherd such discussions.

How can the Leadership Council be of help to your committee?

- At this point, we primarily ask that leadership Council be aware and encourage coordination when useful with other parts of NCP.
- Keep CPM in your prayers. CPM molds the future character of the Church and denomination through decisions large and small that we make in fulfilling this calling.

Charles F. Van Gorder, Chair