

Registration for Meeting
CALL TO THE STATED MEETING
National Capital Presbytery Tuesday January 28, 2020 @ 6:00pm
National Presbyterian Church, Washington DC

Open Space 4:00 – 5:15pm

Reception 5:15 – 6pm

Stated Meeting Items:

- Theme: What does it mean to be a missional presbytery
- Preacher: Rev. Edwin Andrade
- 2020 GA Overtures
- Second Reading of 2020 Mission Budget Update

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 to: 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.

A table of 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.

Greetings Siblings in Christ,

Our January 28 meeting promises to be a rich and full time. The Presbytery strives to be missional, pastoral and prophetic. The January meeting will focus the missional aspect of the Presbytery's life. Rev. Edwin Andrade will be preaching. He is Co-Pastor of Riverside PC in Sterling. The title of his sermon is "Move In, Don't Just Show Up".

We also have important business to conduct. The Presbytery has received three overtures to the General Assembly (held this year in Baltimore, June 20-27 – worship is always great and open to everyone). They are included in your packet. Please read them ahead of time as we will be voting on whether to approve them and send them to GA.

In addition, we will hear about the creation of a Leadership Council Anti-Racism Team. The LC is taking seriously the recommendations made by the Confronting Racism Panel, as evidenced by its direct involvement in the work of the Team.

We also will be voting on the 2020 Mission Budget.

Open Space topics this month include:

- The #MeToo Reckoning: Facing the Church's Complicity in Sexual Abuse and Misconduct is the title of Ruth Everhart's new book. Rev. Everhart will lead a discussion on how churches can use the texts highlighted in her book to become safer places.
- Leadership Embodiment for the Church. Kirsten Melone will present on what it means to be a leader who is in tune with their mind, body and spirit.
- MRTI Report to 2020 GA. Elder Steve Webb of UCP, Reston, will lead a discussion of the report that the Committee on Mission Responsibility Through Investment (MRTI) will present at GA in June.
- The Mission Coordinating Committee's Race and Reconciliation Team will lead a "fishbowl" dialogue on eviscerating racism, sharing insights and learnings from a recent conference.
- Presbyterians in Cuba, Then and Now. James Baer, Elder, Christ PC in Fairfax, and Marilyn Seiber, Elder, New York Avenue PC in DC, will discuss the relationships that have formed between Cuban and U.S. Presbyterians and their potential for promoting reconciliation between Cuba and the U.S.
- Stated Clerk Sara Coe will provide orientation to NCP and its meetings for first-time Commissioners.

Other topics may be added after the packet is distributed, so please check the Presbytery website for further information.

"Sweet and savory" appetizers will be available, beginning at 5pm. And please don't forget to complete the evaluation survey available online following the meeting. Your responses are read.

Blessings,

Miriam Dewhurst
Moderator

**National Capital Presbytery Meeting
Tuesday, January 28, 2020 National Presbyterian Church, Washington DC**

We Gather in Community

6:00 CALL TO ORDER AND PRAYER

Elder Miriam Dewhurst, Moderator

6:05 CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Jean Brown

In the Spirit of the Cherokee, Iroquois, and Navaho, our Call to Worship this evening offers a Blessing in the Four Directions.

In many ancient religious traditions, it is customary to begin a service of worship or celebration by calling on the four directions. This is a way of symbolically inviting all of creation to be present and take part in the festivities. This evening, we too want to invite our ancestors and the whole of creation to be with us here and now.

O Holy One, Great Spirit of the North, we come to you and ask for the strength and the power to bear what is cold and harsh in life.

We come ready to receive the winds that truly can be overwhelming at times. Whatever is cold and uncertain in our life, we ask you to give us the strength to bear it. Do not let the winter blow us away.

O Holy One, Spirit of Life and Spirit of the North, we ask you for strength and for warmth.

O Holy One, Great Spirit of the East, we turn to you where the sun comes up, from where the power of light and refreshment come.

Everything that is born comes up in this direction: The birth of babies, the birth of puppies, the birth of ideas, and the birth of friendship.

Let there be the light.

O Holy One, Spirit of the East, let the color of fresh rising in our life be glory to you.

O Holy One, Great Spirit of the South, spirit of all that is warm and gentle and refreshing, we ask you to give us this spirit of growth, of fertility, of gentleness.

Caress us with a cool breeze when the days are hot.

Give us seeds that the flowers, trees, and fruits of the earth may grow.

Give us the warmth of good friendships.

O Holy One, Spirit of the South, send the warmth and the growth of your blessings.

O Holy One, Great Spirit of the West, where the sun goes down each day to come up the next, we turn to you in praise of sunsets and in thanksgiving for changes.

You are the great colored sunset of the red west, which illuminates us.

You are the powerful cycle, which pulls us to transformation.

We ask for the blessings of the sunset.

Keep us open to life's changes.

HYMN

“Lord, I Want to Be a Christian” p. 9

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Elder Michael Lee Rankin, Vice Moderator

As we acknowledge the inhabitation of the Nacotchtank, at Anacostia, who were affiliated with the Conoy; another village located between Little Falls and Georgetown, and a Nacotchtank village called Tohoga on the site of present-day Georgetown, we confess there are many ways to be unfaithful to what we have become through baptism, to our commitment and our obedience to God. We offer God now our prayers of repentance.

We confess to you, living God,
our failure to live as your children, and as family to one another.

**We confess to you, loving God,
that we have not loved you as you have loved us.**

We confess to you, gracious God,
that we have doubted your word and failed to obey its teaching.

**We confess to you, merciful God,
our desire to limit you to our own doctrines and theologies.**

We confess to you, almighty God,
that we do not acknowledge you as Lord of all the earth.

Forgive us and redeem us for we have not allowed your presence to shine among us.

There are many ways in which we have failed in our commitment and obedience to our fellow kin, neighbors, and friends.

We turn towards our neighbors and our friends and offer them our prayers of repentance.

-- Nolan Palsma, Pitcher Hill Community Church, North Syracuse, NY

PASSING OF THE PEACE

PRAYER FOR RECONCILIATION

Elder Miriam Dewhurst

Across the barriers that divide race from race:

Reconcile us, O Christ, by your cross.

Across the barriers that divide rich from poor:

Reconcile us, O Christ, by your cross.

Across the barriers that divide people of different cultures:

Reconcile us, O Christ, by your cross.

Across the barriers that divide Christians:

Reconcile us, O Christ, by your cross.

Across the barriers that divide genders and ages:

Reconcile us, O Christ, by your cross.

Confront us, O Christ, with the hidden prejudices and fears that deny and betray our prayers.

Enable us to see the causes of strife, remove from us all senses of superiority.

Teach us to grow in unity with all God's children.

-- Nolan Palsma, Pitcher Hill Community Church, North Syracuse, NY

Silence....

HYMN

“Breathe on Me, Breath of God” p. 10

6:30PM OMNIBUS MOTION p. 12-13	Stated Clerk Sara Coe
6:35PM TRANSITIONS	Rev. John Molina-Moore
6:45PM General Assembly Overtures/Motions p. 14	Rev. Quinn Fox
7:20PM Congregational Transitions Commission/Motion/p. 14	Rev. Stephen Smith-Cobbs
7:30PM Next Steps in Anti-Racism Emphasis	Elder Charles Barber, Rev. John Molina-Moore
7:35PM Mission Video	LaJuan Quander
7:40PM New Growth Fund/Motion p. 14, FAQ Sheet p. 30	Elder Charles Barber, Reverends Brian Clark, Tara Spuhler-McCabe
7:55PM 2nd Reading of 2020 Mission Budget/Motion p.14	Elders Charles Barber, Mark Stunder

ANTHEM

Emmanuel Indonesian Singers

We Are Immersed in the Word

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Jeremiah 29: 4-7

John 1:14

Joyce Rarumangkay

Rev. Edwin Andrade

SERMON

“Move in, Don’t Just Show Up”

Rev. Edwin Andrade

Silence....

Reflect *“How can your church be more missional?”*

8:50PM INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE Reverends Edwin Andrade, Brian Clark

GREAT THANKSGIVING

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

ANTHEM

Emmanuel Indonesian Singers

PRAYER

We Are Sent into the World

HYMN *“Arise Your Light Is Come!”* p. 11

Silence...

9:15PM CHARGE AND BENEDICTION Rev. Edwin Andrade

Serving You Today

Worship Leaders

- Rev. Jean Brown
- Elder Miriam Dewhurst, NCP Moderator, New York Avenue PC
- Elder Michael Rankin, NCP Vice-Moderator, Church of the Redeemer PC
- Elder Joyce Rarumangkav, Clifton PC
- Rev. Edwin Andrade
- Rev. Brian Clark
- Rev. John Molina-Moore

Communion Servers

- Rev. Edwin Andrade
- Rev. Brian Clark
- Rev. Sam Atiemo
- Rev. Laura Hollister
- Rev. Jean Brown
- Rev. Mark Gaskill
- Charles Kuo, Taiwanese PC of Washington

- Elder David Kepley, Providence PC

Music: Emanuel Indonesian Singers

Meeting Leaders

- Elder Sara Coe, Stated Clerk
- Rev. Quinn Fox
- Rev. Stephen Smith-Cobbs
- Rev. Brian Clark
- Rev. Tara Spuhler-McCabe
- Elder Charles Barber, Chair, Leadership Council, Northeastern PC
- Elder Mark Stunder, Chair, Budget and Finance, Boyds, PC
- LaJaun Quander

DISCIPLESHIP AND MISSION

729 Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

1 Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart, in my heart;
 2 Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart, in my heart;
 3 Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart, in my heart;
 4 Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart, in my heart;

Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart.
 Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart.
 Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart.
 Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart.

In my heart, in my heart,
 In my heart, in my heart,

Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart.
 Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart.
 Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart.
 Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart.

Through its recurring phrase, "in my heart," this poignant African American spiritual expresses the desire that our professed faith will not be superficial or hypocritical but will permeate the very center of our being, so that we may truly be the people God calls us to be.

Breathe on Me, Breath of God 286

1 Breathe on me, Breath of God; fill me with life a - new,
 2 Breathe on me, Breath of God, un - til my heart is pure,
 3 Breathe on me, Breath of God, till I am whol - ly thine,
 4 Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I nev - er die,

that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.
 un - til with thee I will one will, to do and to en - dure.
 un - til this earth - ly part of me glows with thy fire di - vine.
 but live with thee the per - fect life of thine e - ter - ni - ty.

In both Hebrew and Greek, the words for "spirit" can equally well be translated as "breath" or "wind," so it is very appropriate to address the Holy Spirit as the "Breath of God." This tune by an English organist has become the customary one in North American hymnals.

TEXT: Edwin Hatch, 1878
 MUSIC: Robert Jackson, 1888

TRENTHAM
 SM

744¹¹ Arise, Your Light Is Come!

1 A - rise, your light is come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;
 2 A - rise, your light is come! Fling wide the pris - on door;
 3 A - rise, your light is come! All you in sor - row born,
 4 A - rise, your light is come! The moun - tains burst in song!

show forth the glo - ry of your God, which shines on you to - day.
 pro - claim the cap - tives' lib - er - ty, good ti - dings to the poor.
 bind up the bro - ken - heart - ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.
 Rise up like ea - gles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.

Echoing imagery from Isaiah 61:1–2 and other passages, this text was created as an inclusive-language alternative to an older hymn using this late 19th-century tune. Because it is a song of encouragement rather than a song of praise, it is not directed to God but to people.

OMNIBUS MOTION FOR THE JANUARY 28, 2020 PRESBYTERY MEETING

From the Stated Clerk

- The Stated Clerk moves the approval of the minutes of the November 19, 2019 presbytery meeting.
- The Stated Clerk moves that presbytery receive the report of the following commissions and dismiss the commissions with thanks:
 - The commission to install the Rev. Mary Austin as the Pastor of Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church
 - The commission to install the Rev. Yeonik Park as the Pastor of Korean Presbyterian Church of Rockville
 - The commission to install the Rev. Elisabeth Williams as Pastor of United Christian Parish of Reston
 - The commission to install the Rev. Jacob Bolton as Associate Pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church, Alexandria
- The Stated Clerk moves that presbytery dismiss with thanks the Unity Presbyterian Church Administrative Commission.

From the Leadership Council

- The Leadership Council moves to amend the use of the [Parish Pastor] Retreat Fund to include “minister members and church ministry program staff of National Capital Presbytery congregations and fellowships who currently are serving in the National Capital Presbytery.”

Background:

(Current Language) Parish Pastor Retreat Fund

This fund was established upon dissolution of the Trinity Presbyterian Church, Bethesda, by action of the National Capital Presbytery at its November 18, 2014 meeting. The Retreat Fund is to be used for an annual retreat for pastors who are currently serving parishes and Presbytery Staff for spiritual refreshment and limited program and community building across the differing theological perspectives among the participants. These funds are to be used over the next nine years from the above date. Any unused funds not disbursed by November 18, 2023 shall be deposited in the Board Designated Unrestricted Fund of the Presbytery. Funds are disbursed at the direction of the Leadership Council.

(revised language) ~~Parish Pastor~~ Retreat Fund

This fund was established upon dissolution of the Trinity Presbyterian Church, Bethesda, by action of the National Capital Presbytery at its November 18, 2014 meeting. The Retreat Fund is to be used for ~~an annual retreat for pastors who are currently serving parishes~~ a designated annual event for minister members and church ministry program staff of National Capital Presbytery congregations and fellowships who currently are serving in the National Capital Presbytery and for Presbytery staff for spiritual refreshment and limited program and community building across the differing theological

perspectives among the participants. ~~These funds are to be used over the next nine years from the above date. Any unused funds not disbursed by November 18, 2023 shall be deposited in the Board Designated Unrestricted Fund of the Presbytery.~~ Funds are disbursed at the direction of the Leadership Council.

From the Nominating Committee

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

Committee on Ministry

Susan Wisseman, TE, Fairfax Presbyterian, Class of 9-2022

Leadership Council

LeQuan Turner, RE, Westminster Presbyterian, DC, Class of 9-2020

From the Session Records Review Committee

Based on reviews conducted on October 19 and November 16, 2019, the committee moves the approval of the following minutes and rolls and registers without exception:

Arlington	Brentsville	Burke
Bush Hill	Calvary	Capitol Hill
Catoctin	Chevy Chase	Christ
Clarendon	Clifton	Covenant
Fairfax	First United Dale City	Grace Springfield
Greenwich	Heritage	John Calvin
Kirkwood	Leesburg	Mount Vernon
New York Avenue	Providence	Trinity Arlington
Trinity Herndon	United Christian Parish	Vienna
Western	Westminster Alexandria	

And the approval of the following minutes and rolls and registers with exceptions noted and conveyed to the clerk of session:

Brambleton

First Annandale

And approval of Bealeton's minutes with exceptions noted and conveyed to the clerk of session and their rolls and registers without exceptions.

ACTION ITEMS FOR THE JANUARY 2020 PRESBYTERY MEETING

From the Bills and Overtures Committee

1. **Overture from the Session of Clarendon Presbyterian Church concerning gender inclusive language:**
Motion: that the presbytery adopt the Overture from the Session of Clarendon Presbyterian Church concerning the addition of inclusive gender options when gender information is collected by entities in the PC(USA). (p. 22)

2. **Overture from the Session of New York Avenue Presbyterian Church concerning depleted uranium in Iraq:**
Motion: that the presbytery adopt the Overture from the Session of New York Avenue Presbyterian Church concerning the crisis of depleted uranium in Iraq. (p. 16-21)

3. **Overture from the Sessions of Clarendon, Takoma Park, and Warner Memorial Presbyterian Churches concerning fossil fuel divestment:**
Motion: that the presbytery concur with the Overture from Monmouth Presbytery concerning divestment from fossil fuels. (p. 23- 29)

From the Committee on Ministry Transitions Commission

Motion: The Congregational Transitions Commission moves that in accord with the request of the congregation of Immanuel Presbyterian Church and the provisions of the Book of Order (G-2.0504c) the Presbytery grant approval for the Rev. Susan Graceson to be called as Associate Pastor. (This requires a $\frac{3}{4}$ vote of presbytery as Rev. Graceson will be moving from a temporary (stated supply) to a permanent position.)

From the Leadership Council

- **Motion:** The Leadership Council moves the presbytery to (1) create a new board-designated fund entitled New Growth Fund to be added to the NCP Financial Policies, (2) abolish the New Church Development Fund, and (3) transfer the balance in the New Church Development Fund and the full proceeds of the disaffiliation agreement with Neelsville Presbyterian Church to the New Growth Fund. The description in the Financial Policies will read:

“The New Growth Fund provides resources to increase membership and participation in National Capital Presbytery, particularly in new ministries, under the direction of the Church Development Committee (CDC) or its successor committee. New Growth Fund expenditures will be budgeted as part of the annual NCP Mission Budget. Monies additional to the approved Mission Budget during a given year will be allocated by Presbytery vote after approval by the Leadership Council. Any change in the designation of this fund requires the vote of the Presbytery.”

Background:

- Initial funding of the New Growth Fund will come from the New Church Development Fund, which is hereby subsumed into the New Growth Fund, along with the full proceeds (approximately \$950,000) from the disaffiliation agreement with Neelsville Presbyterian Church.
 - Recommendations for use of the funds will be presented to Leadership Council, from the CDC, for its approval. Rationale: Leadership Council oversight will insure that the use of the fund reflects the priorities of the presbytery for areas of new growth in our presbytery and our congregations.
 - New Growth Fund requests are evaluated and managed by CDC.
 - CDC, through leadership of the New Things Team, manages requests through a thorough application process that requires a three- to five-year budget plan, coaching and mentoring partnerships, and local NCP congregational support.
 - All New Growth Fund requests need to be in a partnership with a current congregation within the presbytery. Rationale: The partnership affirms the opportunities for current congregations to be strengthened through the missional and prophetic opportunities of new growth.
 - These applications will be considered even if they are beyond the scope or have already gone through the New Worshipping Communities 1001 grant process. Rationale: The two can be related. CDC recognizes that for some opportunities, there can be a best practice to start with a 1001 grant initiative and work from the first year or two in evaluating to viability of a longer and larger growth opportunity.
 - There will be an 18-month evaluation with New Things Team and Church Development Commission.
- **Motion:** The Leadership Council moves that the 2020 Mission Budget of \$851,014 be received for second reading and vote.

Overture on Depleted Uranium

The Presbytery of National Capital Presbytery overtures the 2020 General Assembly of PC(USA) to address the crisis of depleted uranium in Iraq, an ongoing effect of the US invasion which is now poisoning the people and the land. In so doing, it recalls the overtures of the 223rd General Assembly, (08-04) “On Renewing Our Call to Promote Environmental Justice” and (08-05) “On Responding to Environmental Racism” by directing the pertinent offices of PC(USA) to seek the justice of a lasting remedy by:

Comprehensive Testing and Remedy

1. Directing the Stated Clerk of the PC(USA) to send a message to the US President, the US Secretary of State, the US Secretary of Defense, and to each US Senator and Representative urging, with the consent of the Iraqi government:
 - a. an immediate and comprehensive assessment of the distribution of depleted uranium in Iraq, including inventory of remaining military equipment, and testing and mapping of soil and water contamination due to the presence of depleted uranium;
 - b. a thorough epidemiological report of the Iraqi population to discern the health effects of depleted uranium, including its infant mortality rates;
 - c. removal and containment of depleted uranium in Iraq by committing existing capabilities and resources in the US in conjunction with funding, training, and equipping Iraqi workers to do the job;
 - d. funding, training, and equipping Iraqi clinics and hospitals to treat those suffering the physical and mental health effects of depleted uranium;
 - e. ongoing testing and epidemiological reporting to discern the results of remedial measures.
 - f. Full cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in their work in Iraq.

2. Directing the Office of Public Witness and the Ministry at the United Nations to support this witness in their work, as well as the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), as they have done substantial characterization work already and have financial and oversight resources toward performing these actions.)

Work to End the Military Use of Depleted Uranium

3. Directing the Ministry at the United Nations to work with representatives of member states to urge a worldwide ban on the military use of depleted uranium.

Rationale

There is sufficient documentation available to confirm that depleted uranium (DU) was used in armor penetrating weapons by the United States and its allies in the 1990s Gulf War and the 2003 and subsequent US-led War on Terror in Iraq (including attacks against ISIS-held territories) (Al-Kinani, 2006; Al-Azzawi, 2017; Fetter & von Hippel, 1999; IAEA, 2010; Oakford, 2017; Research Advisory, 2004; many more not listed

here). There is also reason to believe Iraq was using DU-enhanced armor either self-developed in Iraq or obtained from other countries during the 2000s wars in Iraq. As a result of nearly 30 years of fighting, there are substantial regions of Iraq which have been contaminated by DU. Examples of the modes of contamination include leftover military materials containing DU lying around as litter, airborne particles of DU, and contamination of the soil, surface water, and underground aquifers. Among the regions in Iraq most affected by DU contamination are the southern region around Basra, Al Zubayr, An Nasiriyah, and As Samawah; central Iraq, especially around Baghdad and An Najaf; and Mosul in northern Iraq.

DU is a known radiological and toxic hazard. From Agaian, 2011: “DU's chemical and radiological toxicities may have negative health effects. Health consequences from DU's chemical toxicity [DU is a heavy metal much like lead] result from its inhalation, ingestion, and dermal contact and resulting entry into the bloodstream. Once the DU compounds have entered the bloodstream, they are filtered by kidneys. Depending on the level of exposure, however, DU may impair the kidney function by causing damage to the kidney cells. High DU intake over a prolonged period of time can result in acute kidney failure and death. DU's radiological toxicity has also raised health concerns. Studies on troops and local populations where DU ammunition had been used during the Gulf War and Balkan conflicts show that exposure to DU may have increased the probability of individuals developing lung and bone cancer, non-malignant respiratory disease, skin disorders, neurocognitive disorders, chromosomal damage, and birth defects. Still, these studies were not conclusive enough to determine the precise observable health effects and residual cancer risk estimates that may arise from moderate exposure to DU.”

The two most in-depth studies on the areal and compositional extent of DU contamination in Iraq are IAEA (2010) and Al-Azzawi (2017). The IAEA report describes detailed sample data across Iraq with DU content and radioactive dose rates. It also gives detailed descriptions of the surface accumulation of fragments of military equipment still left in Iraq. Al Azzawi provides a historical account of the use of DU in Iraq, and a significant amount of medical and anecdotal data regarding birth defects and health effects that have plagued Iraqis over the past three decades. The conclusions in her report include the following:

- The USA and UK continuously used Depleted Uranium weapons against the population and environment in Iraq from 1991 until today (2017).
- [The US] intentionally denied and covered up the types, locations and amounts of DU projectiles that have been used in Iraq to prevent taking measures that could have reduce health damages on civilians resulting from the exposure to cumulative doses of these contaminants.
- UNEP, WHO and other international agencies have been unable to conduct any exploration programs to detect DU contamination and assess the health risks and clean up remedies the way it has been conducted in Serbia and Kosovo.

- Exploration programs and site measurements proved without a doubt that the existence of DU related radioactive contamination all over most of Iraq (except the northern area of Kurdistan).
- Published epidemiological studies in Basra introduced a clear correlation between DU related exposure and the multifold increase of malignancies, congenital malformations, and multiple malformations among the population in DU contaminated areas.
- Other pathological and hematological studies indicated the existence of chromosomal and DNA aberrations and abnormalities in the 1991 Iraqi Gulf War veterans. Other studies proved their effects on lowering the activities of the human immune system in exposed individuals.
- Iraqi researchers' site measurements since year 2000 revealed that Muthana governorate and Al-Samawa city were DU contaminated since 1991. This fact was supported later on by the Dutch troops in 2003, and also by the results of medical tests of the American National Guardsmen who served in that area after the conflict. These tests confirmed the accuracy of the researches conducted in Iraq.

What is Depleted Uranium?

Uranium is a radioactive element that can be found naturally in rocks, water, and even human beings. It is found in various ores around the world. Its primary uses are for the generation of nuclear energy in nuclear fission power plants, various medical uses, and in certain types of military weapons. Approximately 0.0003% of earth crust and 3.0 µg/L in sea water is made up of uranium (Bleise et al., 2003). The average concentration of uranium in the human body, resulting from the normal intake of food and water, is approximately 90mg, 66% of which is found in the skeleton, 16% in the liver, 8% in the kidneys, and the remaining 10% in other tissues (Agaian, 2011).

Uranium in its natural form is typically composed of three isotopes. The most prevalent isotope is U-238. It is non-fissile, which means it cannot sustain a chain reaction in a thermal-neutron reactor. Its primary mode of ionizing radiation is alpha decay, which is the least dangerous form of radiation and the most easily blocked by shielding. For this reason, and also because of its high density, U-238 is often used in shielding materials because it will block more deadly gamma and x-ray radiation, while its own alpha radiation is absorbed by other materials. U-238 comprises about 99% of natural uranium. The other predominant component of natural uranium, approximately 0.7% or 1 atom out of 140, is U-235; this is the isotope that is desired for nuclear power generation. U-235 is also used in certain types of fissile nuclear weapons (which is why the current political situation with Iran is so important). U-235 also releases more beta and gamma radiation than does U-238, thus producing a higher dosage rate of radiation exposure.

Speaking very generally, there are two primary ways that natural uranium is processed for specific uses. One is to convert U-238 to fissile plutonium for use in nuclear weapons; this process is not a concern for the current discussion. The other is to isolate U-235 by extracting U-238 from natural uranium. This is done by a variety of

processes, most typically in a centrifuge. The resulting enriched uranium has much more than 0.7% U-235. The removed uranium, while still mostly U-238, still has some U-235 in it, but at a much lower percentage. The removed or leftover uranium is called depleted uranium (DU), and it is defined by a U-235 content of 0.3% or less.

DU has been used in civilian and military applications as a result of its high density. DU is used as shields in radiation therapy, containers to transport radioactive materials, and counterweights in aircrafts. DU is used in the military in conventional warheads, because the high density increases the penetration effectiveness of the weapon, and in armor plating because its high density will prevent penetration from less dense warhead materials, and since it will not ignite on impact for temperatures below 600°C. (Agaian, 2011).

In What Ways is DU Dangerous?

DU affects the human body through ionizing radiation and chemical toxicity. The radioactivity of DU is primarily as an alpha particle emitter. As radiation goes, this is the least damaging, because it is the largest particle and can be stopped from penetrating the skin by regular clothing (in fact, in small doses skin is a sufficient barrier to alpha particles). However, soft tissues such as lungs and kidneys can be damaged by alpha particles. For this reason, the primary radiological hazard from DU is through inhalation; airborne particles inhaled into the lungs can damage the lung tissue and lead to lung cancer. Ingestion through contaminated water or food can similarly cause damage to the kidneys.

DU is probably more damaging due to its heavy metal toxicity. Much like lead, DU exposure and ingestion can cause diseases of the kidney and liver, and also significant debilitating birth defects. Al-Kinani (2006) and Al-Azzawi (2017) provide significant documentation of widespread diseases and birth defects that are likely due to extensive DU contamination throughout Iraq.

How is Radioactive Waste Generally Disposed?

There are several levels of radioactive waste, defined primarily by the radioactivity and heat output, half-life lengths, and daughter decay products. Without getting too detailed, waste determined to be high-level radioactive waste is typified by highly radioactive material (lots of beta and gamma radiation) such as bomb-grade uranium and spent nuclear fuel rods from nuclear power plants. There is currently no underground repository for such high-level waste; the Yucca Mountain site in Nevada has been designated to be such a site but has not yet been constructed due to politics. Finland is currently the only country that is close to implementing a permanent repository for high-level waste. Low-level waste is typified by either radioactive materials with low radioactivity levels (such as alpha emitters) or materials that have been contaminated with radioactive material (work clothes, cleaning cloths, etc.) The

Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) is a facility in southeastern New Mexico where low-level nuclear waste is being buried 2000 feet deep in salt.

The following information is from a discussion with an American representative at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna. The discussion centered around how DU is classified as a waste product, and what previous IAEA involvement had occurred regarding DU contamination in Iraq. First of all, he said that in the US and Western countries, DU is not technically classified as a waste, but as a resource, because it has many uses, both military and non-military. There are no current programs directed at permanent disposal of DU. It is generally stored in containers at protected sites (also in US DOE, 2008). If it were to be classified as a waste product, it would be considered a low-level radioactive waste because of its primarily alpha-type radiation, which would make it easier to dispose of than spent fuel or bomb-grade uranium. Because DU is a heavy metal, and there may also be other heavy metals comingled with the DU, that adds a toxic waste element to the waste, but some of the waste buried at WIPP has similar characteristics.

What Can Be Done to Remediate DU Contamination?

In discussions with several people involved in permanent disposal of radioactive waste, and in cleanup of contaminated sites around the world, several key points were demonstrated. First, no cleanup or remediation effort will be able to accomplish anything without approval and cooperation of the Iraqi government. This overture authorizes officials to petition the US State Dept. to offer assistance and cleanup to the Iraqis.

The first step of cleanup would be actually identifying contaminated sites, characterize the isotopes and doses, removing leftover DU-containing armaments, and then digging or dredging the areas to collect as much contaminated soil as possible. If feasible, barriers may be installed to prevent further dispersion of DU into the surrounding water table. Much of the characterization work has already been done by the IAEA and several Iraqi scientists, but the scope of the problem is still not well defined. This material could be safely stored in barrel drums until a permanent solution is constructed. The IAEA representative said that in the 1990s, the IAEA, US, and Iraq worked together to do some characterization of the contaminated areas to develop a plan for cleanup and remediation. However, after several geopolitical changes, that cleanup effort never happened. More importantly, he said that the IAEA has funding and the capability to provide assistance in cleaning up the areas, but Iraq has to ask. There are intergovernmental and inter-agency negotiations that have to be done to secure this help, but it sounds like that is not a big hurdle if Iraq were to ask for the help.

The cost to remove the DU from the contaminated areas will be enormous, certainly in the tens of millions of dollars and perhaps more. It will require heavy equipment, facilities in which to store thousands of barrels of contaminated soil, and specific training. It will also require cooperation of the Iraqi government, and perhaps even

contracting to Iraqi companies to assist in the work. It will also be dangerous, not only because of handling contaminated soil, but also in that the workers will be targets. Between US Dept. of Energy national laboratories, other US contractors, the IAEA, and some other international organizations, the technology to remove the soil and safely store it for several years already exists. The US conducted some remediation operations in Kuwait and Kosovo after operations there (IAEA, 2003; Oakford, 2017). Site-specific procedures for removal and remediation will have to be developed.

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Overture on Inclusive Gender Options

National Capital Presbytery overtures the 224th General Assembly to approve the addition of inclusive gender options when gender information is collected by any entity in the PC(USA). This includes, but is not limited to: Session Annual Statistical Reports, registration forms for any PC(USA) body or gathering, Pastor Information Forms (PIFs), Ministry Information Forms (MIFs), and other statistical measures.

Our faith teaches us that God created all humanity in the divine image. As Genesis 1:26 proclaims, “Then God said, ‘Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness.’”

From that basic conviction about our universal human condition, the 223rd General Assembly approved the following statement of inclusion of transgender members of our church:

Transgender inclusion is lived out in our congregations and Presbyterian institutions in the following ways:

- Welcoming statements that specifically name transgender and gender non-binary people as included within the life of the church.
- Policies that are inclusive of transgender and gender non-binary people.
- Available facilities such as bathrooms that are either designated as gender neutral, or allow for transgender and non-binary people to use the facility that matches their gender identity.
- Worship, liturgy, and hymns employ language inclusive of all gender identities.
- Transgender and gender non-binary people’s pronouns are respected and used appropriately.

Therefore, we follow up on this recommendation and state that it is time to enact policies that are inclusive of transgender and people who identify as non-binary by counting them in all our roles across the PC(USA).

Supporting document A

A sample template for gender options is found below, modified from a UCLA Law School document.

1. What is your gender identity? (Check all that apply)

Male

Female

trans male/trans man

trans female/trans woman

genderqueer/gender non-conforming/non-binary

different identity (please state): _____

<https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/geniuss-report-sep-2014.pdf>

Overture on Fossil Fuels

Recommendation:

National Capital Presbytery overtures the 224th General Assembly to:

1. Recognize that fossil fuels have been used by humans to create a better world for many people and that the time of their usefulness is now over.
2. Recognize that divestment from fossil fuels is a viable approach to the climate emergency, which thousands of other institutions have used to hold the fossil fuel industry accountable for their inadequate responses to this emergency.
3. Commend Mission Responsibility Through Investment (MRTI) for their ongoing work with shareholder engagement to hold these industries accountable to the just and equitable values that Presbyterians seek to uphold.
4. Call on the PC(USA), The Presbyterian Foundation, the Board of Pensions, and Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program to divest from the fossil fuel industry, using the Carbon Underground 200 and the S&P Global Industry Classification Standard's list of publicly-traded companies engaged in coal, oil and gas exploration, extraction, and production as the criteria to identify which companies are considered to be fossil fuel companies.
5. Proscribe (stop) any new investments in fossil fuel industry securities.
6. Instruct MRTI to correspond through form letter to all fossil fuel companies and presbyteries in which they are headquartered of the action and the theological and moral rationale for this decision.
7. Encourage the Board of Pensions and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Foundation to actively seek out and invest in securities of companies whose predominant focus is in renewable and/or energy efficiency.
8. Direct MRTI to monitor the Board of Pensions and Presbyterian Foundation on actions to divest/invest and to report to the 225th General Assembly on their progress in implementing recommendations 4-7.

Rationale:

Presbyterians, and all people of faith, are always called to serve the earth. This is God's call for all humanity from the very beginning (Genesis 2:15). While fossil fuels have allowed us to create a better world for many, we now know its impact on creation and future generations is threatening the life we know and cherish. As we confess that failure, we must listen to and engage with the people in frontline communities who are already experiencing climate change, to better understand the human toll climate change has taken and will continue to take on God's children.

Here are just a couple of their voices:

“Every time there's an investment in fossil fuels, we in Africa have never been the winners of that investment. So yes this fight is about climate change but it's about decolonization and survival too.” - Coumba Toure of Trust Africa

“There’s 5.9 hours of sunlight on average every day in Puerto Rico [which is a lot]. But there’s no [infrastructure for] solar or wind. Fossil fuel companies want to make money from oil here—and that’s colonialism.” - Dr. Ediberto Lopez of el Seminario Evangélico de Puerto Rico

Everything else we do as people of faith to rationalize the need for immediate and categorical divestment takes root in this context and the way our church already acts in the rest of the world. To that end, we offer the below rationale for divestment from fossil fuels from frontline communities, according to the science, and in line with previous Presbyterian policy.

We cannot continue to invest in the past while at the same time investing in the future.

Moral Rationale

Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?" "I don't know," he replied. "Am I my brother's keeper?" Genesis 4:9

'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family,¹ you did it to me.' Matthew 25:40

“The moral rationale that undergirds the divestment movement is driven by this logic: climate change is harming our planet and many who inhabit it; fossil fuels are a large driver of the climate problem; and alternatives to fossil fuels exist that can provide the core energy requirements of modern societies. Therefore, profiting from products that drive this damage is morally wrong, and divesting from these products is a moral obligation.”¹

This quotation is from a 2019 statement in favor of divestment by GreenFaith, an international and interfaith environmental nonprofit that has been the lead on faith-based divestment movements. This is the moral foundation of the movement to divest from fossil fuels that has been present in the PCUSA since 2013. This morality is guided by the biblical call that we humans are created by God to serve the earth and other people as a way to love God. We are called to love God with our whole hearts. Where our treasure is there our heart will be also (Matthew 6:21).

We have watched as MRTI has faithfully sat at the table of fossil fuel companies, speaking boldly to companies that have lied to the world about climate change and fossil fuels. Still, their faithful witness has garnered slow promises that do not yet address the suffering and injustice implicit in climate change.

And so, it is our unequivocal commissioning to leave the table and divest from the fossil fuel industry, allowing us to reinvest in renewable energy and climate solutions. In doing so, we live

¹ Gary Gardner, for GreenFaith, 2019.

out our chief end “to glorify God and enjoy God forever.”²

Scientific Rationale

Human use of fossil fuels has spurred economic and social growth, literally fueling the industrial revolution. However, burning fossil fuels has already raised the average temperature of the earth by 1°C (1.8°F). The latest report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change³ (IPCC) shows the extent of the damage we will cause to creation if we allow the earth’s temperature to rise by 1.5-2°C, the targets agreed to by all nations of the world under the Paris Agreement of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change⁴. Even at 1.5°C of warming, we can expect to see the extinction of over 300,000 species of animals, have an ice-free Arctic in most summers, expose 14% of people to extreme heat waves (especially in the Global South), expose 250 million people to severe drought, and raise sea levels by at least 1.3 feet.

The increase in global temperature is already causing more frequent heat waves, higher sea levels, more severe droughts, and more frequent heavy rainfall events, resulting in billions of dollars in damage through flooding, wildfires, intense hurricanes, and droughts. These climate disasters have also impacted organisms and ecosystems while reducing crop yields and quality, increasing undernourishment, and damaging human health. Climate change migration is presently a fact of life for people of the Carteret Islands of Papua New Guinea, Shismaref, Alaska, and Isle de Jean Charles, Louisiana--all of whom are preparing to relocate due to the above-mentioned climate change impacts. Sea level rise is projected to reach at least 0.8 feet by the end of 2100 and as much as 6 feet if we do not take significant measures to reduce climate warming.⁵

Knowing we must keep climate to 1.5°- 2°C of warming sets limits to how much fossil fuel can be burned. We have about 10 years after GA 224 to stay within these warming limits. However, the fossil fuel industry’s own estimates⁶ show that burning the proved reserves of fossil fuels will release almost three times the carbon budget at 2°C⁷ and an astounding five times the 1.5°C

² Westminster Catechism, question 1

³ IPCC, 2018: *Summary for Policymakers. In: Global Warming of 1.5°C. An IPCC Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty* [Masson-Delmotte, V., P. Zhai, H.-O. Pörtner, D. Roberts, J. Skea, P.R. Shukla, A. Pirani, W. Moufouma-Okia, C. Péan, R. Pidcock, S. Connors, J.B.R. Matthews, Y. Chen, X. Zhou, M.I. Gomis, E. Lonnoy, T. Maycock, M. Tignor, and T. Waterfield (eds.)]. https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/sites/2/2019/05/SR15_SPM_version_report_LR.pdf

⁴ United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change 2015. *Report of the Conference of the Parties on its twenty-first session, held in Paris from 30 November to 13 December 2015*. <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/the-paris-agreement>

⁵ L. Bamber, Jonathan; Oppenheimer, Michael; E. Kopp, Robert; P. Aspinall, Willy; M. Cooke, Roger 2019. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. Ice sheet contributions to future sea-level rise from structured expert judgment. doi:10.1073/pnas.1817205116.

⁶ BP Statistical Review of World Energy 2019. 68th edition. <https://www.bp.com/content/dam/bp/business-sites/en/global/corporate/pdfs/energy-economics/statistical-review/bp-stats-review-2019-full-report.pdf>

⁷ Richard Heede and Naomi Oreskes 2016. *Global Environmental Change*. Potential emissions of CO₂ and methane from proved reserves of fossil fuels: An alternative analysis. doi: 10.1016/j.gloenvcha.2015.10.005

budget – CO₂ that will remain in the atmosphere for hundreds of years. Despite these dire realities, oil and gas production is increasing, and PC(USA)'s money has helped allowed oil and gas companies to spend over \$114 Billion in 2017⁸ to acquire new deposits of oil and gas that we can't afford to burn.

The fossil fuel industry often places new refineries and petrochemical plants in poor communities of color who lack the resources to stand in the way. This form of environmental racism drives some of the highest rates of cancer and disease in the country. A predominantly African-American South Philadelphia community, for example, surrounds the Philadelphia Energy Solutions (PES) refinery. That plant was already Philadelphia's biggest single air polluter before it recently exploded, sending toxic fumes into the surrounding community of people who cannot afford to move away from them. A 2017 report⁹ said the PES complex was responsible for 72 percent of the toxic air emissions in Philadelphia, a major factor in the city's childhood asthma rate, which is more than double the national average, as well as causing a range of other health effects including headaches and cancer.¹⁰ Marathon Oil (one of PCUSA's GA9 investments¹¹), which recently spent \$1.9 billion to expand their refinery in a Detroit suburb, purchased property from nearby white neighbors in the path of the refinery's pollution clouds, leaving communities of color to suffer.¹²

While we sit at the table trying to convince these companies to change their ways, they continue to perpetuate sins against humans and all creation. We currently profit from these scientific realities and sins against our neighbor. In the face of this climate emergency, we must stand firm in a bold witness with people who have been hurt by the fossil fuel industry--we must divest.

Criteria Rationale

The criteria this overture calls upon the denomination to use to define which companies are fossil fuel companies, and thereby, which will go on the divestment and proscription list, are of vital importance. The first criterion, the Carbon Underground 200¹³, compiled and maintained by Fossil Free IndexesSM, identifies the top 100 coal and the top 100 oil and gas publicly-traded reserve holders globally, ranked by the potential carbon emissions content of their reported reserves. This is the approach that has been most commonly used by institutions seeking to

⁸ Robert Rapier 2018. *Forbes*. Oil Company Spending And Oil Reserves Are On The Rise. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/rrapier/2018/07/27/oil-company-spending-and-oil-reserves-are-on-the-rise/#207559c54a31>

⁹ Lesley Fleischman and Marcus Franklin 2017. *Fumes Across the Fence-Line: The Health Impacts of Air Pollution from oil & Gas Facilities on African American Communities*. http://www.catf.us/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/CATF_Pub_FumesAcrossTheFenceLine.pdf

¹⁰ Frank Kummer 2019. *The Philadelphia Inquirer*. Philadelphia refinery that caught fire is city's biggest single polluter. <https://www.inquirer.com/science/climate/philadelphia-refinery-fire-pollution-history-20190624.html>

¹¹ Ibid

¹² Rich Copely 2019. *Presbyterian News Service*. Investment group meets Detroit residents living in refinery's toxic shadow. <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/investment-group-meets-detroit-residents-living-in-refinerys-toxic-shadow/>

¹³ <https://fossilfreefunds.org/carbon-underground-200>

divest. By identifying the publicly-traded companies with the largest reserves, divesting from these companies has the most immediate impact.

The second criterion is the S&P Global Industry Classification Standard (GICS®)¹⁴ listing of publicly-traded companies engaged in coal, oil and gas exploration, extraction, and production. The GICS was designed in response to the global financial community's need for accurate, complete and standard industry definitions. The GICS structure consists of 11 Sectors, 24 Industry groups, 69 Industries and 158 sub-industries. Used for financial indices such as the S&P Oil & Gas Exploration & Production Select Industry Index, the GICS Industry categories Oil, Gas & Consumable Fuels (101020) and Energy Equipment & Services (101010) capture the entire industry. Using this criterion prevents proscribing investment in companies selling petroleum products while still profiting from companies engaged in exploration, extraction, and production, such as oil rig producers and independent fracking companies.

The third criterion calls for divestment. The Board of Pensions has consistently argued that they cannot divest without undermining their fiduciary responsibility to pension holders. However, over 1000 institutions – who must also uphold fiduciary responsibility – have already divested, representing over \$11 trillion worldwide.¹⁵ *Clearly it is possible (and one might argue necessary) to divest from fossil fuels and still be responsible for the investments of pensioners.*

in 2017 the IPCC reported we have about 10 years after GA 224 to make major changes, including a 45% reduction in CO₂ emissions by 2030 and reaching net-zero emissions by 2050 to stay within 1.5°C of warming¹⁶. PC(USA)'s Mission Responsibility Through Investment (MRTI) committee currently uses a set of criteria that fail to respond prophetically to the urgency of climate change. MRTI's methodical approach is unnecessarily time consuming when there is little time left to act. MRTI has carefully constructed an evaluation rubric consisting of 20 environmental metrics, 12 social metrics, and 12 governance metrics (with several subcategories in some of these). Such an environmental, social, and governance (ESG) evaluation is the cornerstone of modern socially-responsible investing. GA222 charged MRTI with identifying these metrics in 2016. GA223 approved the metrics and identified an initial list of nine companies to consider, of which only six are oil and gas companies¹⁷. MRTI *may* deliver a list of proposed divestments to GA224 – six years since GA221 first considered divestment. There is no certainty that MRTI will consider any additional companies post 2020 because such a move would require a mandate from General Assembly. In fact, current MRTI efforts will not even provide a clear idea which of these companies are moving towards a low-carbon future and which are not until 2023, making further significant action unlikely before the 2024 GA226 meeting¹⁸. Additionally, the MRTI approach includes no proscription of investment in other

¹⁴ S&P Global 2018. *Global Industry Classification Standard*.

https://www.spglobal.com/marketintelligence/en/documents/112727-gics-mapbook_2018_v3_letter_digitalspreads.pdf

¹⁵ <https://gofossilfree.org/divestment/commitments/>

¹⁶ Ibid

¹⁷ Ibid

¹⁸https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/mrti-shares-first-round-of-general-assembly-environmental-compliance-scores/?utm_source=ActiveCampaign&utm_medium=email&utm_content=Presbyterian+Church+USA+W

fossil fuel companies, so PC(USA) funds divested from one oil company could be reinvested into another. Finally, The MRTI process is too slow to make the changes we need now to protect creation.

PCUSA Policy Rationale

He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? Micah 6:8

The PC(USA) has a long history of divestment and, in particular, of categorical divestment. The church has divested from five industrial categories – military-related products, tobacco companies, alcohol corporations, gambling businesses, and for-profit prisons. The church has also divested from particular corporations that have contributed to human rights abuses in specific times and places.

In 1984 when the PC(USA) adopted its policy on divestment¹⁹ it provided for “divestment of holdings in a particular firm or class of firms is both part of the normal management of funds and potentially an occasion for Christian witness to God’s call for justice and the renewal of society”. However, in its implementation of this policy, PC(USA)’s committee on Mission Responsibility Through Investment (MRTI) has developed a policy for divestment from an entire industrial category (class of firms). The paths to categorical divestment and the forms it has taken have thus diverged in each case. Such flexibility has allowed the church to appropriately respond to different industries and the various social and environmental problems each creates.

The 194th General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church in the USA, for example, instructed the church to divest from corporations involved in military activities. Between 1982 and 1998, the General Assembly refined this industrial category to include (1) the five biggest military contractors to the US government, (2) companies that receive at least 50 percent of their sales from military contracts and are among the 100 highest-earning military contractors, (3) the top five earning companies engaged in foreign military sales, and (4) corporations that produce weapons that can lead to mass civilian casualties. MRTI began recommending these measures after ten years of shareholder engagement.

The General Assembly instructed the church to divest from all tobacco companies in 1990. The overture to divest called upon MRTI to “develop annually a list of corporations ‘whose primary business is tobacco and are known as such.’” In 1996, GA directed MRTI to use the Investor Responsibility Research Center, the American Lung Association, and Corporate Campaign, Inc. to define what qualifies as a tobacco company. From these guidelines, 21 corporations were identified. MRTI did not conduct any shareholder engagement prior to the GA’s decision to divest.

eeaily+News&utm_campaign=Presbyterian+Church+USA+Weekly+News+%7C+Sep+04-10+2019&fbclid=IwAR1GsHB6vEJUlhx_9gGqcWN9Tkrma2U8uBhF410dLP71kt6ly-xnBB3XZqc

¹⁹ Office of General Assembly 1984. The Divestment Strategy: Principles and Criteria. 196th General Assembly Journal, 193-207.

Neither the General Assembly nor MRTI has ever called for divestment from alcohol or gambling corporations. However, the Board of Pensions and the Presbyterian Church (USA) Foundation have their own policies, which govern divesting/proscribing investments in all domestic and international alcohol and gambling corporations.

The GA voted in 2003 to call for the abolition of all for-profit prisons, jails, and detention centers. In 2012, the GA instructed MRTI to “report on the feasibility of affecting the corporate practices of Corrections Corporation of America (CCA), the GEO Group, and any other publicly traded corporation that directly manages or operates for-profit prisons and/or detention centers.” MRTI determined, “while efforts could be made through shareholder advocacy (where stock is owned in a publicly traded company), such efforts might improve some prison conditions, but would not address the fundamental contradictions identified by the 215th General Assembly (2003).” The GA therefore voted to divest from all publicly traded for-profit prison companies.

The denomination has chosen to divest from each of these entire industrial categories in the first place because the very nature of these industries has been seen as harmful to the spiritual and biological life of God’s creation.

This overture to categorically divest from the fossil fuel industry would take a prophetic stance to protect God’s creation and ensure a sustainable energy future for the church and God’s world.

Notes:

30 NEW GROWTH FUND FAQs

1. How is the New Growth Fund different than what we already have?

What we do have is the *New Church Development Fund*. We are expanding the reach of this fund by aligning the language and intention of the priorities of our presbytery to concentrate on growing our members and participation. The New Growth Fund provides funding for larger and longer-term new things.

2. Who manages the Fund?

The funds come from **UNIFIED MISSION GIVING**. Recommendations will be approved by Leadership Council when presented with a three to five-year new ministry plan. Church Development Commission (CDC) with the New Things Team will manage the use of the fund as they already do. The current process is available for Next Step Grants and New Seed Money. Each one of these opportunities begin with intentional conversations with CDC and the New Things team. There is an application process and for Next Step Grants the congregation needs to have participated in a Congregational Assessment Tool (CAT).

Before money is granted, there are goals to be named and met. Leadership for the ministry places receiving the grant is directed to get either a mentor, Spiritual Director, or coach throughout the process.

3. How will we know this is working?

Each New Seed Money grantee engages in a one-year evaluative conversation and Next Step Grant recipients engage in a one year to three-year evaluation process. 2020 is the first evaluation year for the initial Next Step Grants granted three years ago. For the larger New Ministry grants beyond New Seed Money or NextStep Grants, there will be an 18-month evaluation with New Things Team, oversight with CDC.

4. Who can apply for the Money?

Minister members of NCP and NCP congregations. These funds are to target New Things and new ministries starting in our presbytery. The funds can work with seed grants to enable congregations to start new local mission initiatives as reviewed with MCC in the current application process. If the project seems fit to be larger than the cap currently granted, then it can be recommended to the New Things Team and CDC.

National Capital Presbytery					
2020 Proposed Mission and Operating Budgets					
	Operating & Mission appd by Budget & Finance 8/20				
	Operating approved by Leadership Council 9/4				
	Operating approved by Presbytery 9/24				
	Mission approved by Leadership Council 10/30				
	To Presbytery meeting 1/15 for Mission Budget approval 1/16/20				
Line		2019 Approved	2020 Proposed	change fm 2019	Notes
1	MISSION BUDGET				
2	MISSION REVENUES				
3	Unified Mission Contributions	532,565	513,600	(18,965)	
4	Less, General Assembly contribution	(80,950)	(76,013)	4,937	
5	Less, Presbytery Leader Formation (PLF) contribution	(14,911)	-	14,911	Not anticipated to repeat in 2020
6	M NCP Net Unified Mission Contributions	436,704	437,587	883	
7	I				
8	S Miscellaneous Mission Income				
9	S PLF income from United Mission Contributions	14,911	-	(14,911)	Not anticipated to repeat in 2020
10	I Resurrection Spending Amt	97,553	110,106	12,553	
11	O DC Resurrection Spending Amt	34,150	35,317	1,167	
12	N Scholarship Funds Spending Amount (inc. Bovard)	40,822	41,004	182	
13					
14	TOTAL MISSION REVENUES	624,140	624,014	(126)	
15					
16	OTHER SOURCES of MISSION FUNDS				
17	Mission Fund Unreserved	52,323	100,000	47,677	
18	M Church Development Fund	50,910	-	(50,910)	Fund expended
19	I New Church Development Fund	223,000	127,000	(96,000)	
22	S Immig't Cong. & Emerg Mins Fund	1,190	-	(1,190)	Fund fully expended
25	TOTAL SOURCES of FUNDS for MISSION	951,563	851,014	(100,549)	
26	I				
27	O MISSION BUDGET EXPENSES				
28	N				
29	Church Development				
30	New Thing (New Worshipping Communities)				
31		10,000	10,000	-	
32		100,000	100,000	-	
33	M NWC programming				
34	I Subtotal New Church Devel	110,000	110,000	-	
35	S				
36	S Intercultural Ministries				
37	I Immigrant Support (General)				
38	O Brazilian Bible Church				
39	N Christ the King Church				
40					
41					
42					
43					
44					
45					
46					
47	Subtotal Immigrant Ministries	80,000	80,000	-	To be allocated at year end
48					
49	Transforming Congregations				
50		20,000	-	(20,000)	
51	M Transformation Grants	180,000	140,000	(40,000)	
52	I Leadership Training Events	7,000	7,000	-	
53	S Next Blessings				
54	Subttl Transform. Congres.	207,000	147,000	(60,000)	
55	I				
56	O CDC Resources				
57	N Leadership Development	-	-	-	

National Capital Presbytery					
2020 Proposed Mission and Operating Budgets					
Operating & Mission appd by Budget & Finance 8/20					
Operating approved by Leadership Council 9/4					
Operating approved by Presbytery 9/24					
Mission approved by Leadership Council 10/30					
To Presbytery meeting 1/15 for Mission Budget approval					
1/16/20					
Line		2019 Approved	2020 Proposed	change fm 2019	Notes
58	Research Services	8,000	8,000	-	
59	Equipping Ministries Grants	10,000	12,000	2,000	
60	Equipping Leaders Grants	6,500	6,500	-	
61	CDC Programming	-	-	-	
62	Subtotal Resources	24,500	26,500	2,000	
63					
66	Total Church Development	421,500	363,500	(58,000)	
67					
68	Resources/ Spiritual Formation				
72	Support and Resourcing Congregations	10,000	10,000	-	
73	Total Resources/Spiritual Formation	10,000	10,000	-	
74					
75	Mission Coordination				
76	Committee Support				
77	Mission Team Support	1,000	1,000	-	
78	Meeting Support	5,000	5,000	-	
79	Total Committee Support	6,000	6,000	-	
80					
81	Direct Support				
82	Peace & Justice Advocacy Team				
83	VA Interfaith Center Public Policy	1,500	1,500	-	
84	Washington Interfaith Network	1,000	1,000	-	
85	Action in Montgomery (AIM)	1,000	1,000	-	
86	VOICE (IAF - VA)	1,000	1,000	-	
87	Interfaith Conf of Metro DC	9,000	9,000	-	
88	PCUSA Office of Public Witness	6,500	6,500	-	
89	Subtotal Peace & Justice Advocacy Team	20,000	20,000	-	
90					
91	Young Adult Ministries				
92	Young Adult Volunteer Support	15,000	15,000	-	
93	Grants Colleges & Young Adult	6,000	-	(6,000)	
94	Campus Ministry Grants	80,000	67,137	(12,863)	
95	Subtotal Young Adult Min.	101,000	82,137	(18,863)	
96					
97	Total Direct Support	121,000	102,137	(18,863)	
98					
99	Congregational Support				
100	Local Mission Grants				
101	Matching Dues for WIN AIM VOICE	2,000	2,000	-	
105	Local Mission - Congregation Grants	34,700	15,000	(19,700)	
106	Total Congregational Support	36,700	17,000	(19,700)	
107					
108	Network Support				
109	Global Mission				
110	Global Mission Network Grants	6,000	6,000	-	
111	Mission Worker Matching Grants	10,000	10,000	-	
112	International Seminaries	5,000	5,000	-	
114	Congregational Ptnrship Grants	50,000	50,000	-	
115	Subtotal Global Mission	71,000	71,000	-	
116					
117	Other Networks				
118	Refugee Ministry Network	5,000	3,000	(2,000)	
119	Earth Care	10,000	10,000	-	

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Line		2019 Approved	2020 Proposed	change fm 2019	Notes		
120	S		Race and Reconciliation	-	25,000	25,000	
121	S		Israel/Palestine Network	2,300	2,300	-	
122	I		Urban Ministry Network	20,000	12,500	(7,500)	
123	O		Subtotal Other Networks	37,300	52,800	15,500	
124	N						
125			Total Network Support	108,300	123,800	15,500	
126							
127			Total Mission Coordination	272,000	248,937	(23,063)	
128							
186			Other				
187			Black Presbyterian Union	6,000	6,000		
188			Educator Network Support	1,400	1,400		
189			Immigrant Ministries Network	-	-		
190			Funding Initiative	6,500	-	(6,500)	
191			Presbytery Leader Formation	14,912	-	(14,912)	Not anticipated to repeat in 2020
192			Seminary Scholarships	40,822	41,004	182	
193			Total Presbyterian Affinity Groups	69,634	48,404	(21,230)	
194							
195	M		Mission Staff				
196	I		Salaries	84,644	85,491	847	
197	S		Board of Pension Benefits	31,318	31,632	314	
198	S		NCP Supplemental Medical Benefit	1,692	1,710	18	
199	I		FICA	6,475	6,540	65	
200	O		Continuing Ed Non-exempt	1,000	-	(1,000)	
201	N		Continuing Ed Exempt	1,000	1,500	500	
202			Travel & Misc Reimbursables	5,000	6,000	1,000	
203			Personnel Costs/Other	3,300	2,000	(1,300)	
204			Supplemental Expenses	2,000	3,300	1,300	
205			Training/Bonus	2,000	2,000	-	
206			Correction Calibration	40,000	40,000	-	
207			Total Mission Staff	178,429	180,173	1,744	
208							
209			TOTAL MISSION EXPENSES	951,563	851,014	(100,549)	
210			MISSION SOURCES less USES	0	0		
211			MISSION NET INCOME (Inc/(Dec) in Net Assets)	(327,423)	(227,000)		

“How can your church be more missional?”

Listed below are some of the responses to the question from the Mission Coordinating Committee:

- Look to Scripture such as Luke 4: 18-19, James 2: 14-26, Matthew 25: 31-46
- Discern call to move beyond self and church interests and preservation
- Refocus on community beyond church walls
- Reinvent and reimagine ourselves as sent by God into the world
- Acknowledge that being missional can be both scary and liberating

When you return to your churches, you are invited to continue the discussion with members of your congregations.