

PRESBYTERY REPORTS—MAY 2020

From the Stated Clerk

- The Stated Clerk reports the following resignations from committees/commissions:
 - Margaret Washnitzer, Synod Commissioner, Class of 2022
 - Maggie Hayward, TE, Riverdale Administrative Commission
 - Michael McNamara, TE, Riverdale Administrative Commission
 - Geoff McLean, TE, Riverdale Administrative Commission
 - Brian Mickle, TE, Congregational Transitions Commission

- The Stated Clerk reports that she appointed the Rev. Rick Snyder to moderate the April and May 2020 Hermon Presbyterian Church session and congregational meetings.

- The Stated Clerk reports that in accordance with COM Policy for Laboring Within and Without the Bounds, the Rev. Ellen Marquardt, a member in good standing of Heartland Presbytery, is automatically granted permission to preach for two weeks at First Presbyterian Church of Arlington.

- The Stated Clerk reports that the Supreme Court of Virginia, on January 16, 2020, sustained the decision of the Circuit Court of the City of Alexandria granting judgment in favor of National Capital Presbytery, Inc. and holding that the property of the former Community Presbyterian Church was held in trust for the benefit of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and that title to the property is vested in the National Capital Presbytery, Inc.

- The Stated Clerk reports that she appointed the Rev. Rick Snyder to moderate the March 2, 2020 Christian Community Presbyterian Church session meeting.

- The Stated Clerk reports that she appointed the Rev. John Molina-Moore to moderate the March 9, 2020 Christian Community Presbyterian Church session meeting.

- The Stated Clerk reports that she appointed the Rev. Leslieanne Braunstein to moderate the called March 2020 called session meeting of First Presbyterian Church, Arlington

- The Stated Clerk reports that she appointed the Rev. Mary Pullen to moderate the March 26, 2020 session meeting of First Presbyterian Church Arlington.

- The Stated Clerk reports that she appointed Ruling Elder Martine Laney to moderate Silver Spring Presbyterian Church session meetings beginning in March 2020.

- The Stated Clerk reports that she appointed the Rev. John Molina-Moore to moderate the Christian Community Presbyterian Church session meetings in April 2020.

- The Stated Clerk reports that Moderator Miriam Dewhurst has appointed additional members to the Riverdale Administrative Commission: Elder Lou Durden, Northminster; Rev. Diane Hendricks, Falls Church; Rev. David Bowerman, Grace (Lanham); Elder Don Fink, Riverdale; Elder India Kendall, Riverdale

- The Stated Clerk reports that she appointed the Rev. Ed Taylor to moderate the Colesville Presbyterian Church session meetings beginning on May 5, 2020.
- The Stated Clerk reports that she appointed the Rev. Cameron Byrd to moderate the Christian Community Presbyterian Church session meeting on May 11, 2020 and the congregational meeting on May 28, 2020.
- The Stated Clerk reports that the following Ministers of Word and Sacrament who are engaged in approved specialized ministries have failed to report on their work in 2019

Rev. Alice Ogden Bellis	Rev. Scott E. Carlson
Rev. Hun Jung Cho	Rev. Anne Ellestad
Rev. Frances Taylor Gench	Rev. Larry Goleman
Rev. Susan Kendall	Rev. Shannon Kiser
Rev. Tara Spuhler McCabe	Rev. John Molina Moore
Rev. Nancy Neal	Rev. Dana Olson
Rev. John Seaman	Rev. Carolyn Tilley
Rev. Minh Towner	Rev. John Wagner

- The Stated Clerk reports that the following Ministers of Word and Sacrament who are Members-At-Large have failed to report on their work in 2019:

Rev. Fay Acker	Rev. Martha Albershardt	Rev. Alice Anderson
Rev. Mark Armstrong	Rev. Carol Barrett	Rev. Glen Benson
Rev. Heather Bobbitt	Rev. Kenneth Brandt	Rev. Joseph Chen
Rev. Hilaire Henthorne	Rev. Garrett Hoffman	Rev. Byong Moon Im
Rev. Fuad Khouri	Rev. Chul Kim	Rev. Sungte Kim
Rev. Samuel Ko	Rev. Paul Kress	Rev. Heemoon Lee
Rev. William Lover	Rev. Carol Morrison	Rev. Dwight Peace
Rev. Kevin Powell	Rev. Charles Reinhold	Rev. Young Chan Ro
Rev. Carl Rush	Rev. Teresa Suder	Rev. Richard Thomas
Rev. Charles Van Gorder	Rev. Robert Wellington III	Rev. Stanton (Tad) Wicker
Rev. Richard Wurst	Rev. Christopher Yim	Rev. Jill Lum
Rev. William May		

- The Stated Clerk reports that the following churches did not submit the Annual Statistical Report for 2019:

Christ the King
United Korean of Bethesda
Korean Presbyterian Church of Rockville
Taiwanese Church of D.C.
Chesterbrook Taiwanese
United Christian Parish of Reston
Rockville United
Wheaton Community
Riverdale
Sargent Memorial

- The Stated Clerk reports that she has implemented the plan adopted by presbytery in May 2015 for the equalization of Ruling Elder commissioners and minister of Word and Sacrament commissioners eligible to vote at presbytery meetings as mandated in Book of Order G-3.0303 with the following results:

Ministers of Word and Sacrament Resident Within the Bounds	295
Ruling Elder Commissioners by Church Size	224
Ruling Elders on Leadership Council	8
Ruling Elders Chairing Committees	7
Officers/Exempt Staff	2

Ruling Elders Needed for Equalization: 54

So, the Stated Clerk allocated an additional Ruling Elder to 54 congregations regardless of membership size beginning with Geneva and ending with Trinity Arlington as listed in the National Capital Presbytery Directory. The Stated Clerk has informed the ruling elders who are entitled to voice and vote of their status and has informed the churches of their commissioner allocations.

From the Bills and Overtures Committee

The Bills and Overtures Committee approved the following motions for presbytery consideration. The General Assembly will not be considering these and other overtures at its 2020 electronic meeting, therefore they are not being brought to the presbytery for vote this month. These overtures will be considered by the 225th General Assembly in 2022.

1. Overture from the Session of Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church concerning Paid Family Leave

Motion: The Bills and Overtures Committee concurs and recommends that the presbytery concur with the Overture 018 from Hudson River Presbytery “On Amending G-2.0804 Regarding Paid Family Leave.”

Background: the overture would amend Book of Order G-2.0804 to require paid family leave of at least twelve weeks, including, but not limited to, leave for birth of a child, adoption, care of a sick family member, etc. as part of the terms of call.

2. Overture from the Session of Saint Mark Presbyterian Church concerning Our Commitment to Gun Violence Prevention

Motion: The Bills & Overtures Committee concurs and recommends that the presbytery concur with Overture 047 from the Chicago Presbytery “Regarding Our Commitment to Gun Violence Prevention.”

Background: This overture would, among other things, direct the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy to update the 2010 policy on gun violence.

- *From the Wheaton Community PC Administrative Commission*

WCC AC Final Report
(March 8, 2020)

On Nov. 1, 2018, AC members met with Sara Coe to hear about the purpose and specifics of our mission involving the problem of absent session at the WCC. NCP commissioned WCC AC to reestablish a session at the WCC where session elders resigned from the session because of the unresolved conflict with their pastor, Rev. Choi, leaving the church without a Session.

Subsequently, AC visited WCC and met with Rev. Choi and the congregations to assess the situation and further gather history of the conflict. In addition, AC informed the congregation about the purpose and the goal of AC toward the establishing the Session through the church election process.

Through such initial discovery processes, AC obtained testimonies and documents regarding the conflict that led to the elders leaving and automatic dissolution of the Session. The discovery showed that Rev. Choi made numerous decisions which escalated the conflict and moved away from the peaceful resolution. Rev. Choi escalated the conflict by continually calling the opposing elders “problem-makers,” “abusers,” and “guilty” party deserving of the “punishment” rather than inviting them for open communications. Numerous attempts were by AC asking Rev. Choi to invite other parties for an open discussion where AC has met with different groups to arrange a meeting for peaceful and constructive discussion. Furthermore, Rev. Choi established a “Steering Committee” consisting of deacons who seemed loyal to Rev. Choi’s way of conducting church operation. The WCC continued to operate such way without any guidance from the Presbytery, Book of Order or By Law.

After consulting with NCP staffs and thoughtful considerations, AC decided not to renew the Rev. Choi’s temporary service as a first step toward the reestablishing WCC Session and the survival of the WCC church. Hence, in August, NCP and AC notified Rev. Choi of his dismissal at the end of September 2019.


Since the Rev. Choi’s dismissal, AC members visited frequently to provide operational guidance in signing checks, advising on operational decisions, and scheduling the pulpit services by PCUSA pastors including Rev. Lee. The frequent visits afforded AC to notice more vibrant attitude of the congregation and the excitement toward the gradual returns of congregations who have left as result of the conflict.

As a result, on Jan. 15, 2020, AC agreed to establish a new session at WCC by Feb. 16, 2020. On Feb. 2, 5 nominating committee members were elected at a congregational meeting followed by an election of 3 new session members on Feb, 16. A subsequent service on March 2 successfully installed the new WCC Session. Further, AC has completed the elder training sessions.

Rev. Jong Lee
WCC AC Secretary

- **From the Community Presbyterian Church Administrative Commission**

Final Report of the Community Presbyterian Church Administrative Commission

In 1928, the Alexandria Community United Presbyterian Church was established as a mission under the leadership of Rev. Richard B. Strong. It was organized as a congregation of the UPCUSA on April 30, 1933, by the Presbytery of Southern Virginia (Catawba Synod). Oral history suggests that Rev. Strong would not be afforded equal membership in the Presbytery of Washington City, in whose bounds the church was located. The pastor and congregation were African American. 

The church moved to its present location, 1122 Oronoco St., Alexandria, VA, according to the deed of March 1959. Rev. Strong retired in December 1974. After a number of Pastorates and Supplies, then Pastor Sylvester Shannon facilitated the transfer of the church from the Presbytery of So. Virginia to the National Capital Union Presbytery in July of 1983. The Community Presbyterian Church continued to be a part of the UPCUSA and its successor, but struggled with membership and leadership and the intermittent attention and neglect of the Presbytery. Its last per capita payment was received by the Presbytery in 2008.

During this time the Presbytery made various attempts to reach out to the church both formally and informally. Several minister members of our Presbytery served as interim and supply pastors and moderators, but permanent pastoral leadership remained lacking. Sometime around 2010 the Rev. Florence Foust claimed the position of Pastor, and began to lead the church in the theology and polity of the Missionary Baptist Church, changing the name on the signboard to "New Life Missionary Baptist Church." In a letter dated October 5, 2012, members of Community wrote the National Capital Presbytery requesting dismissal from the PCUSA with the property. An organization and consecration service was held by the MB denomination on October 13, 2015.

In April 2018, National Capital Presbytery appointed another Administrative Commission with broad powers to invite CPC into conversation about returning to a right relationship with the PCUSA and, if the congregation was unwilling to do that, to dissolve the congregation and attend to all matters relating to the dissolution including the transfer of property to the National Capital Presbytery. The Moderator appointed the following to serve on the AC: Rev. Kevin Powell, Chair; Rev. Madeline Jervis, Sec'y; Elder Joan Erickson; and Elder Tressie Muldrow.

The AC made several attempts to meet with Rev. Foust and to worship with the congregation. Our letters and e-mails went unanswered, and our presence was politely rebuffed. Therefore, in August 2018 the Administrative Commission voted unanimously to dissolve the Community Presbyterian Church and to begin the process of restoring the property of the church to the National Capital Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church USA.

With no cooperation from the Missionary Baptist congregation and Pastor, and their stated determination to hold the property (including changing the names on the original deed on August 8, 2018), the AC, with the assistance of Stated Clerk Sara Coe, retained the services of Jackson & Campbell, PC to help us with the legal issues. Attorneys John Matteo and Chris Glaser filed suit in the Circuit Court of the City of Alexandria in October 2018.

On May 8, 2019 the Court granted National Capital Presbytery's Motion for Summary Judgment, ruling that the property rightly belonged to the Presbytery for the benefit of the PCUSA, that the

deed change initiated by the Missionary Baptist Church was void 'ab initio,' and that the defendants must vacate the property and deliver possession promptly to the Presbytery.

On June 6, 2019 the New Life Missionary Baptist Church filed a Notice of Appeal to the Supreme Court of Virginia which, on January 20, 2020, found no reversible error in the lower court decision and therefore refused the appeal. Finally, in February 2020, the congregation moved out and turned in the keys. The decision for the future of the property is now in the hands of the Church Development Commission of NCP. CDC will be exploring options to begin a new ministry opportunity in that community to ensure a PCUSA presence will continue.

The Administrative Commission hereby submits its report, and respectfully requests its dismissal by the National Capital Presbytery.

Rev. Madeline Jervis, Sec'y
May 26, 2020

- **From the Riverdale Presbyterian Church Administrative Commission**

Riverdale Presbyterian Church
Administrative Commission Report to Presbytery May 2020

Riverdale Presbyterian Church has struggled with a decline in membership and a depletion of investments for many years. This led to the sale of the church building to The Word of God Baptist Church in 2015. Since that time, the church has been tasked to generate a new vision that reflects the time, talent, and financial commitments of the body as a whole. Promise of growth toward meeting basic operating expenses also needed to be demonstrated. Provided these stipulations were satisfied, funds from the Riverdale Fund, created after the sale of the building, could be accessed upon approval of the Presbytery Leadership Council to fund viable new ministry projects. By agreement, the funds are held by the Presbytery and are not to be used for maintenance of the status quo. Over the past five years, funds equaling about \$500,000 have been released to bridge financial short fall and provide time to develop a new ministry. Sparks of energy towards developing plans have emerged which lacked follow through despite various efforts to provide support and direction.

The Leadership Council approved the last \$100,000 to be extended to RPC in January 2019. These funds could be used to pay expenses and allow the peace of mind to approach (one last time) developing a viable mission plan. Additionally, the congregation agreed that a “soft” Administrative Commission would come along-side the Session. The AC would have the authority to assume jurisdiction over the Session in the event that functions broke down.

At its meeting January 22, 2019, the National Capital Presbytery established the Riverdale Presbyterian Church Administrative Commission to:

- a. Assume original jurisdiction of the session if the Administrative Commission sees the wisdom of doing so.
- b. Develop a strategic plan for the congregation, in consultation with the congregation, to include development of a mission plan and possible relocation.
- c. Report to the Presbytery any additional recommendations for action regarding Riverdale Presbyterian Church.

d. Report quarterly the progress and decisions of the Administrative Commission to the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery.

The Administrative Commission has met throughout 2019 and until the present. The primary function of the AC was to help the session find its way to a new vision. Despite best efforts of the pastor and the addition of the Administrative Commission, no viable ministry plan has been forthcoming within the time allotted. In addition, there has been no change in the level of financial support over the past years which leaves the congregation with a large deficit budget every year. For the current year, average monthly expenses are \$12,000 while income is \$5,000.

Since June 2019, monthly session meetings attended by members of the AC have focused on finances, staffing plan, accurate membership roll and, most importantly, the articulation of their vision and development of a viable ministry plan. Session meetings were attended sporadically by several Session members. Nonetheless, every effort was made to coalesce the leadership to develop a plan. Rev. Lucy Bowerman repeatedly emphasized that the purpose or mission must come from the Session rather than being imposed from the pastor. She directed session members to spend extra time outside of session meetings for further plan development. They were encouraged to engage with the wider congregation for ideas. In order to present a proposal to the Church Development Committee for subsequent presentation to the Leadership Council, the plan needed to be ready the first week of December 2019. A writing workshop was scheduled just ahead of the deadline that had to be cancelled due to lack of attendance. That deadline could not be made.

In February 2020, when it became evident that the barriers to Session developing a new ministry plan were insurmountable, Rev. Bowerman addressed the imminent dissolution of Riverdale Presbyterian Church before the congregation during worship. Over the years, the congregation has been diminishing in terms of membership and sharing of money, time and talents of members so that the church was organically slipping towards dissolution. It is estimated operating funds would be depleted at the end of May 2020. If the church would agree to dissolution and participate in the process, the process could be managed and they could have input in the decision making and planning for final service, celebration, distribution of severance, etc.

Subsequently, considerable energy arose, and a plan was articulated to develop a robust youth ministry. Some ardently desire to continue Riverdale as a worshipping community. The plan will require drastic revision to be viable. It has been proposed that those interested could begin a new ministry or fellowship after the dissolution of RPC, taking a step by step approach to becoming a worshipping community.

Following a robust discussion about the dire financial situation and possible courses of action at the March 10, 2020 Stated Session meeting of Riverdale Presbyterian Church, Session agreed that members would vote by private email on a motion to grant Original Jurisdiction to the NCP appointed Administrative Commission that has been working alongside of them since June 18, 2019. The delay in voting would give the Session members an opportunity to prayerfully consider their best course of action. As a result of the private email vote, the Session authorized the assumption of Original Jurisdiction to the NCP-appointed Administrative Commission.

On March 19, 2020, Rev. Bowerman sent a letter to members of the congregation to share future options for Riverdale Presbyterian Church. As of March 22, 2020 the Session of Riverdale Presbyterian Church consists of Rev. David Bowerman-Grace Lanham, Elder Lou Durden-Northminster, Rev. Diane Hendricks-Falls Church, Elder Lisa Miller-St. Andrew, Rev. Mike

McNamara-Adelphi, Elder Sally Shiomichi- Oaklands, Elder India Kendall- Riverdale, Elder Don Fink- Riverdale.

A congregational gathering to give members of the congregation an opportunity to indicate their agreement or disagreement with dissolution will be held on May 17. The final church service for the RPC congregation is scheduled for May 31, 2020, with plans to schedule a celebration after the quarantine is lifted.

The current Riverdale Presbyterian Church Administrative Commission requests that the Presbytery approve the dissolution and direct the AC to oversee the dissolution of Riverdale Presbyterian Church.

Motion: The National Capital Presbytery approves the dissolution of Riverdale Presbyterian Church effective May 31, 2020. The Riverdale Administrative Commission is directed and authorized to oversee the dissolution of Riverdale Presbyterian Church to include: arranging for pastoral care for church members, planning a celebration of the life and ministry of the congregation to take place following the end of “social distancing”, settling the financial affairs of the congregation, transferring all remaining financial assets to National Capital Presbytery, determining the disposition of personal property or memorials, dissolving the corporation, securing the session records to be transferred the Stated Clerk who will grant letters of transfer for Riverdale members for one year after dissolution, reporting quarterly to the Stated Clerk concerning the progress of dissolution, submitting a final report to presbytery.

From the Leadership Council

NCP LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING Minutes

February 26, 2020 -Saint Mark PC

Present: Michael Rankin, Brian Clark, Neill Morgan, Lee Bishop, Miriam Dewhurst, Sterling Morse, Quinn Fox, Charles Barber, Beth Goss (via phone)

Excused: Laura Cunningham, Elsie Reid, Pat Futato, Dave McClung, Nancy Neal, Le Quan Turner

Staff: John Molina-Moore, LaJuan Quander, Sara Coe, Jan Moody, Todd McCreight

Guests: Karl Hoffman, Chair of Investment, Rachel Kaufmann, Vice Chair of Commission on Preparation for Ministry

At 12:30, Sterling Morse opened the meeting with a devotion that included the reading of Psalm 72 and discussion about the following qualities of good leadership: wisdom, empathy, recognition that God is the one that equips us to lead and serve, and recognition of the priority of prayer. He stressed the importance of Leadership Council praying for leaders both in and outside the church.

- **Annual Report from Investment Committee**

The chair of the Investment Committee, Karl Hoffman presented the committee's annual report. The report was received and approved with gratitude. Charles Barber directed that LC continue to discuss NCP investments, with a focus on alignment with the overture to General Assembly approved by NCP to divest from fossil fuels, at the next LC meeting.

- **Arlington PC 2020 Funding Request**

Todd McCreight presented a fund request from Arlington PC for discussion and action.

Motion: To approve the request of the Arlington Presbyterian Church session for a disbursement of \$248,000 from the Arlington Presbyterian Church Fund to be used for rent and lease-related expenses (utilities, etc.), salary for a “neighborhood organizer” (which is what half of APC’s pastor’s salary supports), continuing VOICE commitment, garden improvements, additional build-out costs (liturgical elements – font, table, paraments, art, etc.) and ongoing mission (working with Jason Whitehead to create website to tell APC’s story with the direction that Arlington PC collaborate with the NCP Church Development Committee to develop an updated mission strategy and progress report to include with next year’s proposal for future funding and that CDC make a recommendation to LC concerning the funding.

Approved

- **Annual Report from Commission on Preparation for Ministry**

The Vice Chair of CPM, Rachel Kaufmann, presented the report and answered questions.

The report was received and approved with gratitude.

John Molina-Moore requested approval of a change in the membership of CPM from 36 members to 27:

Motion: to approve and recommend that the presbytery approve a change to the Manual of Administrative Operations to provide that the membership for the Commission on Preparation For Ministry read: “Commission shall be composed of (27) ruling and teaching elders divided into three (3) equal classes, one of which is elected each year by the Presbyter. Term of service is three (3) years with an individual eligible to serve up to six (6) consecutive years.”

Approved

- **Former Community Church Update**

Sara Coe reported that the Supreme Court of Virginia sustained the decision of the Circuit Court of Alexandria in NCP’s suit against the former Community PC and that the keys to the building have been handed over to NCP. John is discussing with Westminster PC, Alexandria possible plans for the site. He will give LC an update at the next LC meeting.

- **Anti-Racism Team Update**

John and Charles are recruiting members of the team and plan to present the slate of names at the next LC meeting.

- **NCP Personnel Committee**

After dismissing staff members Todd McCreight, LaJuan Quander, and Jan Moody, the following recommendation was presented to LC:

Motion: to approve and recommend that the presbytery approve appointment of Ruling Elder Jan Moody to be Interim Stated Clerk beginning May 30, 2020 for a period up to twelve months.

Rationale:

Sara Coe is resigning effective close of business May 29, 2020.

The Manual of Administrative Operations provides that when there is a vacancy for Stated Clerk, the Leadership Council shall propose to the Presbytery a slate of teaching and ruling elders to be elected to serve as a search committee. It would be prudent to delay constituting that search committee, however, given that there is a task force that is studying and evaluating the alignment of the current presbytery structure, including staffing, with the NCP Mission Statement. Therefore, it is proposed to appoint the current Assistant to the Stated Clerk to be Interim Stated Clerk. The Interim Stated Clerk would also support the Commission on Preparation for Ministry. A part-time person would be hired to act as the Administrative Assistant to the Stated Clerk and to the Leadership Council.

Approved

NCP LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING Minutes

March 12, 2020 via Zoom 7:00 PM

Present: Michael Rankin, Brian Clark, Dave McClung, Nancy Neal, Quinn Fox, Pat Futato, and Elsie Reid, Charles Barber, Le Quan Turner

Staff: John Molina-Moore, Sara Coe, Jan Moody, Todd McCreight

Excused: Laura Cunningham, Neill Morgan, Miriam Dewhurst, Lee Bishop, Beth Goss

Charles Barber called the meeting to order and Pat Futato led prayer.

The meeting was called to respond to the impact of the COVID-19 health emergency on our communities and our churches.

The following was discussed and approved:

- Starting immediately, all Presbytery committees, commissions, teams, task groups, and ministry units will meet remotely for the next two weeks.
- There will be no in-person presbytery sponsored trips or other in-person gatherings during this time period
- The March 24, 2020 Presbytery meeting is canceled

- The office staff of NCP will be working remotely starting Monday, March 16 through March 27th at which time we'll reassess the closure.
- Leadership Council strongly recommends that NCP sessions not conduct in-person Sunday worship services for the next two weeks. Our recommendation is that churches find a way for parishioners to connect, worship and pray remotely on Sundays (and throughout the week) instead of conducting regular Sunday Worship. For those congregations who do not yet foresee how they can move worship to an online format, a pool of resources to assist in that transition, as well as help from the staff of NCP and other volunteers will be available. More information about all these resources is available at thepresbytery.org/covid-19-update.
- We recommend sessions consider having church staff work remotely, as well as creating contingency plans in case our current situation worsens.
- As the situation evolves, Leadership Council will stay in touch to provide additional guidance and support through the duration of the COVID-19 outbreak in our region.

John Molina-Moore will write a letter to the presbytery that summarizes the recommendations from the Leadership Council.

Meeting closed at 7:30 pm.

Tentative date for next Leadership Council Zoom meeting-March 24 at 6:00

NCP LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING Minutes

March 25, 2020 via Zoom 4:00 PM

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: Michael Rankin, Brian Clark, Dave McClung, Nancy Neal, Quinn Fox, Pat Futato, and Elsie Reid, Charles Barber, Le Quan Turner Laura Cunningham, Neill Morgan, Miriam Dewhurst, Lee Bishop, Beth Goss

Staff: John Molina-Moore, Sara Coe, Jan Moody, Todd McCreight, LaJuan Quander, Tara Spuhler McCabe

Charles Barber called the meeting to order and Beth Goss led a prayer.

The meeting was called to provide an update on the impact of the COVID-19 health emergency on our communities and our churches.

The following was discussed and approved:

- For the immediate future and at least through the end of April, we will continue to recommend to congregations that they worship remotely.
- All Presbytery committees, commissions, teams, task groups, and ministry units will continue to meet remotely.

- For those who need assistance in pursuing different methods to achieve this goal, the Presbytery continues to provide resources on its website at <https://thepresbytery.org/about/covid-19/>.

John Molina-Moore is working with a tool provided by the NCP Stewardship Committee Chair Karl Mattison to survey churches to identify which ones are currently worshipping remotely and offering ways for their members to donate online. The Stewardship Committee offered a webinar, that is now posted on the NCP website, on ways churches can launch online giving options on their websites.

Tara Spuhler McCabe reported that CDC and MCC are reconsidering budget requests as they monitor the impact of COVID-19 on churches.

Members of LC, Beth Goss, Pat Futato, and Le Quan Turner, will work with John Molina-Moore, Todd McCreight, Tara Spuhler McCabe, and the Chair of MCC Mark Eakin, and the Chair of CDC, Mary Rodgers to review requests from churches for financial support through the duration of the COVID-19 outbreak in our region.

Charles Barber will write a letter to the presbytery that summarizes the recommendations from the Leadership Council.

Meeting closed with prayer led by Todd McCreight.

NCP LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING Minutes

April 29, 2020 via Zoom 12:30 PM

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: Michael Rankin, Brian Clark, Dave McClung, Quinn Fox, Pat Futato, Elsie Reid, Charles Barber, Le Quan Turner, Neill Morgan, Laura Cunningham, Miriam Dewhurst, Lee Bishop, Sterling Morse, Beth Goss

Staff: John Molina-Moore, Sara Coe, Jan Moody, Todd McCreight, LaJuan Quander

Excused: Nancy Neal

Meeting opened with devotion and prayer led by Dave McClung.

The committee members then shared their experiences over the past few weeks, describing the successes and challenges with worshipping and ministering to church members and neighbors during the COVID-19 epidemic. NCP staff were commended for supporting teaching elders, ruling elders and congregations and providing guidance on various communication technologies.

- Sara Coe presented the following amendment to NCP Manual of Administrative Operations:

Motion: to approve and recommend to presbytery the amendment of the Manual of Administrative Operations by adding a bullet at the end of “Other Practices” (l. 321) to read as follows: “The presbytery may meet by electronic means if all ministers of Word and Sacrament and ruling elder commissioners have reasonable notice of the electronic meeting and the ability to discuss, deliberate, discern the will of God, and vote on business items. The quorum for such a meeting is twelve (12) teaching elder members and ruling elder commissioners representing twelve (12) separate congregations of National Capital Presbytery. All actions taken previously that are consistent with this provision are hereby ratified.”

Approved

Rationale: Neither the bylaws of National Capital Presbytery Inc. nor National Capital Presbytery’s Manual of Administrative Operations contains a provision authorizing electronic meetings of the presbytery. A recent Advisory Opinion from the Office of General Assembly states: “May a presbytery hold a meeting electronically or virtually? Yes. A presbytery may provide by rule for the meeting of the presbytery by electronic or virtual means. **The rule needs to be included in the presbytery’s manual of administrative operations.** The presbytery should make sure that all presbytery members and commissioners who are available as a quorum are able to participate in the discussion and vote. A presbytery may provide by rule for a quorum for the meeting but not fewer than three ministers of the Word and Sacrament who are members of the presbytery and three ruling elder commissioners from three different congregations. An example of such a rule is: The presbytery may meet by electronic means if all ministers of Word and Sacrament and ruling elder commissioners have reasonable notice of the electronic meeting and the ability to discuss, deliberate, discern the will of God, and vote on business items. The quorum for such a meeting is [x] minister members and [x] ruling elder commissioners, or at least three ministers of Word and Sacrament and three ruling elder commissioners from three different congregations.”

2019 Audit

Pat Futato and Dave McClung reported their meeting with the auditors to review the 2019 Audit Report and recommended its approval. Todd McCreight discussed the inclusion of new staff from the audit firm during the review that was intended to provide fresh perspective.

Motion: to approve the 2019 NCP audit.

Approved

- Todd McCreight gave an update on the financial status of NCP and reported that the loan application to the Paycheck Protection Program on behalf of the NCP staff was approved. He said that while no significant deviations from the budget had yet occurred, the Budget and Finance Committee would continue to monitor income and expenses of the Presbytery in the months ahead.
- John Molina-Moore presented the recommendation from the Personnel Committee to move forward with the election of a Stated Clerk Search Committee.

Motion: to rescind the motion adopted at the February 24, 2020 Leadership Council Meeting to approve and recommend the presbytery approve the appointment of Ruling Elder Jan Moody to be

Interim Stated Clerk beginning May 30, 2020 for a period up to twelve months; to approve and recommend to presbytery election of the following slate of ruling and teaching elders to comprise a Stated Clerk Search Committee: Rev. Cameron Byrd, HR, Rev. Lyman Smith, Specialized, Elder Jackie Moore, Sergeant Memorial, Rev. Becca Messman, Trinity Herndon, Elder Paula Hays, Christian Community, Elder Scott Slocum, Vienna, Rev. Katherine Stanford, Old Presbyterian Meeting House, Rev. Adam Ogg, Burke, and Elder Catherine Gillette, Fairlington; and to approve and recommend the presbytery approve the appointment of Ruling Elder Jan Moody to be Interim Stated Clerk for the period beginning May 30, 2020 and until there is a new Stated Clerk.

Approved

Rationale:

The Manual of Administrative Operations provides that when there is a vacancy for Stated Clerk, the Leadership Council shall propose to the Presbytery a slate of teaching and ruling elders to be elected to serve as a search committee. At the February 24, 2020 Leadership Council meeting it was thought to be prudent to delay constituting that search committee, given that there is a task force that is studying and evaluating the alignment of the current presbytery structure, including staffing, with the NCP Mission Statement. Therefore, it is was decided to appoint the current Assistant to the Stated Clerk to be Interim Stated Clerk until the task force had finished its work with the assumption that the Interim Stated Clerk would also support the Commission on Preparation for Ministry, and that a part-time person would be hired to act as the Administrative Assistant to the Stated Clerk and to the Leadership Council.

Because the COVID-19 pandemic will cause a delay in the task force work, the Personnel Committee is recommending an immediate search for a Stated Clerk and a realignment of the Stated Clerk, Assistant Stated Clerk, and COM Administrator positions.

- Leadership Council recommendation to NCP in response to the COVID-19 health emergency

Motion: to extend the Leadership Council recommendation that congregations worship remotely and that all Presbytery committees, commissions, teams, task groups, and ministry units also continue to meet remotely until further notice and to direct the stated clerk to communicate that to the presbytery.

Approved

- Closing

Sara Coe, recognizing her retirement as NCP Stated Clerk on May 30 and that this was her last LC meeting, expressed appreciation for her work with LC, the Presbytery, and the NCP staff. LC thanked her for her dedicated service.

Sara ended the meeting with prayer.

Next LC meeting: June 3, 2020