

THURSDAY MAILING



National Capital
PRESBYTERY
MISSIONAL · PASTORAL · PROPHETIC

June 25, 2020



from
Lament to Hope
Lamentations 5:20-21

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DISMANTLING RACISM

"Bear public witness to the love, truth, and justice of God in Jesus Christ specifically in the areas of racism and reconciliation."

Pastoral Concerns:



Jim Williams, H.R., died suddenly on June 14th. Jim ministered several churches in National Capital Presbytery and served as an Assoc. on the staff of NCP. He wore a rainbow stole to church decades before folks even knew what it symbolized...and he loved to answer questions about why he wore it. He was a peace activist and a decorated combat chaplain in the army. Jim leaves to mourn his wife of 50 years, Heather Dunlop Williams, two daughters, sons-in-law and his beloved grandsons. A memorial service will not be until the international borders open so that extended family members are able to attend.

Announcements:

NCP churches looking to transition from Zoom/Facebook live/etc. into live streaming services from their sanctuaries we want to help take some of the guess work out of where to start. The proposal, *"Hybrid Worship Proposal"* included in this TM, is from Zeke Dowty. He has produced ALL NCP videos for more than 7 years (*mission highlights, INSIDE with the GP, tribute videos*), all found on NCP's [YouTube Channel](#) and his wife, the Rev. Dana Olson, is a minister member of our Presbytery. Zeke has worked with several churches in our Presbytery, all very happy with his work. What Zeke is offering is designed to be easy to operate and can be done by any leader/volunteer in your congregation. This isn't intended to be the ONLY option for live streaming, but it is one we in the NCP office are fully confident in supporting. For congregations that might find this option a financial burden we have resources to help. Contact [John Molina-Moore](#) or [Tara Spuhler McCabe](#).



Greetings Partners-In-Ministry,

Hopefully you are aware of this, but in case you are not...

Our Presbytery's stewardship committee is AMAZING!

The committee regularly hosts [webinars](#) and offers high quality information on the best practices for churches as they navigate the planning of their own stewardship season. They recently conducted a survey that 68 of our churches responded to. On that survey they asked question about projected giving for the rest of 2020, online giving, livestreaming of worship services, plans for when to return to in-person worship and plans for upcoming stewardship campaigns. A lot of very helpful and insightful data was collected.

Here are a few responses from the survey:

When asked, "Has your church adopted new ways to worship and do ministry that will continue after the crisis?" an overwhelming majority (64%) responded with "YES! We are keeping new ideas";

When asked about continuing livestream/digital worship services after we return to in-person worship 66% responded they will;

77% responded that new visitors are attending their livestream/digital worship;

And when asked what their Fall stewardship campaign would be, only 10% said "much the SAME as usual", 40% said "VERY DIFFERENT".

When I see this data, I see a collection of churches who are not afraid of what lies ahead but ready to embrace and adapt to an ever-changing landscape for ministry. Three months ago, Presbyterians did a great job as being the shining example of never changing (*Go ahead and Google a few jokes about being Presbyterian*). Look at you now! You haven't "changed", you have grown. You haven't let go of things like reformed worship and good stewardship, you have broadened their understanding.

We all are about to enter the same conversation about how we best plan and budget for what 2021 might be. Know that your stewardship committee is here to assist you in that work. They will be hosting more webinars this summer to help you as you plan for the Fall.

NCP, it is wonderful watching all of you figure out how to have thriving ministries during this crisis. You have leaned on each other for help and support along the way. Keep up the good and faithful work.

John

June 25, 2020



Greetings,

From the office and work of Transitional Director of Congregational Development and Mission...all any of us are doing right now is ministering in TRANSITION! Therefore, this office and the committees who are served by this office are fully responding to the transitional needs of our congregations. We recognize everyone is.

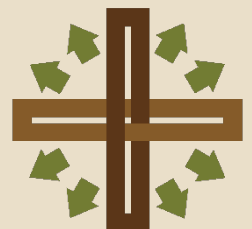
What I do want to highlight is through your contributions in **Unified Mission Giving**, churches in NCP are:

- ✦ partnering (sometimes for the first time) within their local communities and coordinating meals for those in need due to low or no employment. Financial grants from **MCC** have strengthened these efforts.
- ✦ **New Things Team** continues to get new requests and support current requests for New Worshipping Communities. Including nurturing the growth of two of our Light to the Nations fellowships as they grow closer to becoming chartered churches. Supporting four new worshipping communities in our presbytery with grants and coaching resources.
- ✦ **The Dismantling Racism Team and Race and Reconciliation Team** have put together upcoming events and leadership resources as our congregations grow pro-actively in the Missional and Prophetic work of the church.
- ✦ **Global Mission Network** has been able to check in with ongoing international missional relationships for any heightened health and educational needs due to Covid-19 while also financially supporting new missions.
- ✦ **CDC** provides Financial and Leadership resources for growing tech needs within our congregations so you can be present with your congregation in these transitional times with laptop microphones, live streaming resources, and advice for this technology reality.
- ✦ In Tools for Transformations, my desk, has been able to coordinate discernment and coaching support through our trained **Coaches, MissionInsite data, and Church Assessment Tool (CAT)** reports as congregations are asking what we do now and how.

As your staff person working with these efforts, I am grateful for the leadership and pastoral presence each member of the Committees and Teams provide. Thank you for your congregational contributions to the Unified Mission Budget. And if your congregation has not contributed yet please use this **online link** and participate in the Unified Mission Giving of NCP.

Peace and Courage,

Rev. Tara Spuhler McCabe



National Capital Presbytery Hybrid Worship Proposal

June 20, 2020

OVERVIEW

This proposal outlines the hardware and software needed for live streaming. It also provides for a phased approach to developing a versatile, user-friendly system in a logical manner.

PARTNERS

This proposal is a blanket offering for hardware, training, and support for Churches and Congregations within National Capital Presbytery.

GOALS & PURPOSE

National Capital Presbytery is providing the following recommended list of equipment to help Churches and Congregations expand their worship offerings beyond the single device solutions of Zoom or Skype that have been in use the past few months during this time of social distancing. The installation, setup, and training which are offered at a group rate for members of National Capital Presbytery will enable Churches and Congregations to get up to speed without the need of individual research.

SCOPE OF PROJECT

This proposal is written in a phased context. Beginning with the tools necessary for producing a live-switched hybrid worship service to incorporate cameras in the sanctuary with Zoom participants.

LEVEL I

The immediate needs for any Live Streaming is the development of their backbone for multicamera/multidevice switching and encoding to a web streaming service. Considerations have been made for future expansion of capabilities to include additional cameras and devices.

Switcher:

- BlackMagic Design ATEM Mini Pro HDMI Live Stream Switcher
 - **\$595.00**
 - Can take up to 4 HDMI sources (camera/laptop/etc.)
 - Enables quick deployment with existing cameras
 - Enables future-proofing for expansion beyond LEVEL I
 - One button push to Live Stream (Facebook/YouTube)
 - One button push record to USB device
 - Technical Specs: [BlackMagic ATEM \(B&H\)](#)

** The switcher will require a computer or laptop and an HDMI monitor for setup.*

Camera (recommended):

- Sony HXR-MC88 Full HD Camcorder
 - **\$1,298.00**
 - HDMI output (with embedded audio)
 - Analog audio input (for connecting to existing house audio system)
 - Technical Specs: [Sony Camcorder \(B&H\)](#)
 - Magnus VT-4000 Tripod System with Fluid Head
 - **\$159.95**
 - Technical Specs: [Magnus Tripod System \(B&H\)](#)
 - Kramer HDMI Cable
 - **\$58.40**
 - Technical Specs: [Kramer HDMI Cable \(B&H\)](#)
 - Kopul 100' XLR (to connect to existing house audio system)
 - **\$29.99**
 - *need 2*
 - Technical Specs: [Kopul 100' XLR \(B&H\)](#)
-

Audio (optional - separate from house audio system):

- Sennheiser XSW-D Lavalier/Handheld Microphone Kit
 - **\$966.70**
 - 2x wireless lavalier microphones
 - 1x wireless handheld microphone plug-on
 - 1x handheld microphone
 - Connectors for directly into switcher or camera
 - Technical Specs: [Sennheiser XSW-D Kit \(B&H\)](#)

LEVEL II

Expansion of camera capabilities and multiple devices. It also includes upgrading the presentation software for all graphics and roll-ins.

Additional Camera(s) (recommended):

- Sony HXR-MC88 Full HD Camcorder
 - **\$1,298.00**
 - HDMI output (with embedded audio)
 - Analog audio input (for connecting to existing house audio system)
 - Technical Specs: [Sony Camcorder \(B&H\)](#)
- Magnus VT-4000 Tripod System with Fluid Head
 - **\$159.95**
 - Technical Specs: [Magnus Tripod System \(B&H\)](#)
- Kramer HDMI Cable
 - **\$58.40**
 - Technical Specs: [Kramer HDMI Cable \(B&H\)](#)

Graphics/Playback: (software)

- ProPresenter
 - **\$399** (*first year*)
 - Playback of all video clips
 - Fullscreen Graphics
 - Lower thirds/graphic overlays
 - Technical Specs: [ProPresenter](#)
-

LEVEL III

Upgrade of switcher, expansion of camera capabilities, to include remote control of robotic cameras. It also includes upgrading the presentation software from powerpoint for all graphics and roll-ins.

Switcher:

- BlackMagic Design ATEM Television Studio HD
 - **\$995.00**
 - Can take both HDMI and HD/SDI Cameras
 - Enables quick deployment with existing cameras
 - Enables future-proofing for expansion beyond PHASE I
 - Able to take audio from existing house system
 - Technical Specs: [BlackMagic ATEM \(B&H\)](#)

Encoder/Recorder:

- Teradek Cube 655 h.264 Encoder
 - **\$1,990.00**
 - One button push for Live Streaming
 - Technical Specs: [Teradek Cube \(B&H\)](#)

PTZ Camera(s):

- PTZOptics 20x-SDI Gen2 Live Streaming Camera
 - **\$1,699.00**
 - Technical Specs: [PTZOptics \(B&H\)](#)
 - Kopul Premium Series 3G-SDI Cable (100')
 - **\$72.95**
 - Technical Specs: [Kopul SDI Cable \(B&H\)](#)
**number of cables depends on distance needed for each camera*
 - Pearstone Cat 6a Snagless Patch Cable (100')
 - **\$15.99**
 - Technical Specs: [Pearstone Cat 6a Cable \(B&H\)](#)
**number of cables depends on distance needed for each camera*
-

PTZ Control:

- PTZOptics 4D IP Joystick Controller (IP-based control)
 - **\$695.00**
 - Multiple Camera Control via Cat-5/6
 - Video Signal via HD/SDI (BNC)
 - Will need network switch for multiple cameras
 - Technical Specs: [PTZOptics Control \(B&H\)](#)
- Netgear ProSafe 5-Port Gigabit Desktop Switch
 - **\$29.99**
 - Technical Specs: [Netgear Switch \(B&H\)](#)

Graphics/Playback: (software)

- ProPresenter
 - **\$399** (*first year*)
 - Playback of all video clips
 - Fullscreen Graphics
 - Lower thirds/graphic overlays
 - Technical Specs: [ProPresenter](#)

Video Distribution:

- A-Neuvideo 1x8 HDMI Splitter and Extender over Cat5e/6 System
 - **\$481**
 - Video distribution for multiple monitors in sanctuary/worship space
 - Technical Specs: [A-Neuvideo HDMI Splitter/Extender \(B&H\)](#)
 - Kopul Premium Series 3G-SDI Cable (3')
 - **\$18.95**
 - Technical Specs: [Kopul SDI Cable \(B&H\)](#)
 - *number of cables depends on number of monitors*
 - Pearstone Cat 6a Snagless Patch Cable (100')
 - **\$15.99**
 - Technical Specs: [Pearstone Cat 6a Cable \(B&H\)](#)
 - *number of cables depends on number of monitors and distance needed for each monitor*
-

INTEGRATION/TRAINING

We will provide 2 technicians to integrate all equipment needed for Live Streaming. They will assist with setup and provide training on use of the equipment.

We recommend at least 2 lay members of the Church or Congregation to be available for the training session, as well as at least one representative of Staff.

Integration/Training:

- 2 Technicians
 - **\$600**
 - Up to 5 hours of integration/training
 - At least 2 lay members available for training
 - At least 1 staff member available for training

Ongoing Support

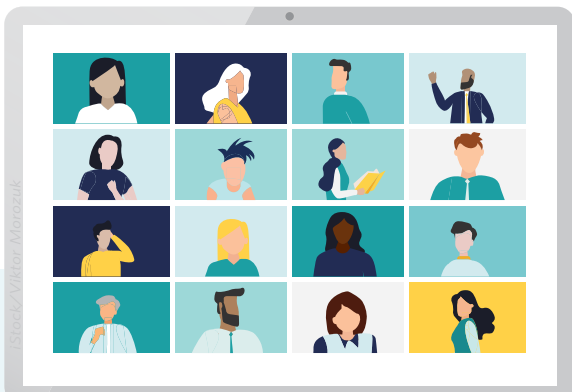
- Phone support
 - A phonecall is always free, if you should have an issue, please do not hesitate to call or email
- On-site support
 - **\$75 / hour**
 - Should you need on-site support, we will send a technician out to assist, please don't hesitate to call or email

QUESTIONS

For any questions you may have, please contact Zeke Dowty:

zeke.dowty@gmail.com

703.581.5046



A GA like no other

by Leslie Scanlon, *Outlook* national reporter

There is no question, the 2020 General Assembly will be unlike any the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has seen before.

It's being held during a stunning season in American life — the aching time when more than 100,000 Americans have died from COVID-19, when protesters fill the streets night after night to protest racial injustice and the police killing of George Floyd, when churches are trying to live into the new realities of worshipping online, when the world seems to tilt in a new direction almost every hour and who knows what will come next? Fittingly, the new theme of this assembly is "From Lament to Hope" — the implications of which seem to expand day by day.

Virtual GA. This will be the **first time a PC(USA) assembly has met virtually** — all online, a technological challenge both for organizers and commissioners, something that many Presbyterians a generation ago probably never could have imagined. The assembly had been scheduled to meet in Baltimore June 20-27, but the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly (COGA) decided formally in April that, because of the need for social distancing, that couldn't happen.

New business? This assembly will be much shorter than usual (with plenary sessions streamed online on June 19, 26 and 27) and the agenda will be abbreviated. COGA's recommendation is to include only business considered "**critical and core**," and to refer everything else to the General Assembly two years from now (although commissioners could try to alter that when the

docket comes up for a vote June 19, if they feel there's particular business — such as action on social justice — that just can't wait).

There's a lot on the list to be referred to the General Assembly in 2022 — including PC(USA) policy on climate change, gun violence, financial sustainability, racial injustice, international concerns and much more — and there's been pushback from some Presbyterian groups to add more business to the docket this year, although time will be tight.

Here's another possibility. Once the assembly convenes, a commissioner could move to suspend the rules to introduce new business. Such a motion would need a two-thirds vote to prevail — but if enough commissioners feel the PC(USA) needs to speak or act, to offer the assembly's public witness on the COVID-19 pandemic or George Floyd's killing or the systemic inequities driving the protests in the streets, that could happen.

Leadership. Much of the "critical and core" business on which the assembly will be asked to vote is not particularly controversial. It includes, for example, confirmation of the election of leaders of PC(USA) agencies and changes in standing rules.

The assembly also will make decisions about leadership, including deciding **whether to elect J. Herbert Nelson for a second four-year term** as the denomination's stated clerk — the public face and chief ecclesiastical officer of the PC(USA) — and choosing among **three teams of candidates who are standing to serve as co-moderators** of this assembly.

Friday, June 19th

7:00 pm	Plenary 1 Standing Rules Docket and Business Co-Moderator Report
9:00 pm	Moderator Election

All times are EDT.

Friday, June 26th

11:00 am	Opening Worship
12:00 pm	Recess
1:00 pm	Plenary 2 Consent Agenda Critical Business Budget Orientation
3:00 pm	Recess
4:00 pm	Plenary 3 Critical Business
6:00 pm	Recess

Saturday, June 27th

11:00 am	Plenary 4 Stated Clerk Election Critical Business
1:00 pm	Recess
2:00 pm	Plenary 5 Critical Business
3:30 pm	Recess
4:30 pm	Plenary 6 Remaining Business Meditation and Music
6:30 pm	Adjourn

Money. The commissioners also will vote on budgets — budgets that reflect the financial pain of the PC(USA) and the struggles of small churches to survive. A COVID-19 Financial Team is projecting **income declines across the denomination** of about 25% in 2020 and 2021, and the budgets this assembly will be asked to approve have been scaled back from earlier proposals to reflect that.

The proposed General Assembly per capita rate is \$8.95 per member in both 2021 and 2022 — the same as it has been in 2019 and 2020. “An increase to the apportionment rate for 2021 is not politically, or economically, feasible,” a report from the COVID-19 Financial Team states.

Worship and action. The assembly also will include a worship service on June 26 in which Nelson will speak theologically about lament, injustice and hope. Presbyterians are invited to participate online in a series of events — including the **Poor People’s Campaign Assembly & Moral March on Washington** (being held digitally at 10 a.m. EDT June 20); a Youth Rising event featuring young entrepreneurs of color from Baltimore (at 3 p.m. EDT June 23); and Bible study led by James Elisha Taneti and Mary Florence Taneti, focusing on Lamentations 5:20-21 (in two identical 45-minute sessions, at 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. EDT June 24). The offering being taken during opening worship will go to support Youth Rising.

One benefit of a virtual General Assembly: Anyone with internet access can watch online, free

of charge and without registering, either on the **GA224 website** or the **Spirit of GA** Facebook page. All business items coming to the assembly can be found at **pc-biz.org**.

The exact order of business during the June 26 and 27 plenaries is still to be determined, but here’s the **outline of the docket** (see above, all times are EDT).

New ways. Among the unknowns are how well all this will work and what glitches – technological or otherwise – might emerge, such as how commissioners discern together if they’ve never met in person and can’t spend those extra minutes gathered in small groups to get to know one another, talk through a complicated proposal or to pray together.

Some are mourning the lack of in-person connection and also that visceral sense an assembly provides of being part of a broader connective church.

This may, however, be the start of a new practice for the PC(USA) — one that’s certainly less expensive and perhaps more flexible. “We are talking about a major transformation in assemblies going forward,” Nelson has said. And also: “I don’t think we’re ever going to be the same church again.”

During General Assembly, stay up to date by visiting **pres-outlook.org/GA224** for assembly coverage, follow us on Twitter at **@presoutlook** and like us on Facebook to stay connected with what’s happening at GA.

BLACK PRESBYTERIANS UNITED
presents

**IN THE MIDST:
GOING DEEPER
WITH
GOD**

Registration Is Required

www.bit.ly/bpuretreat

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For more information contact
bpupdates1@gmail.com

SATURDAY
JULY 11TH

9:00 am-12:30pm
Online via Zoom



In the Midst: Going Deeper with God
Online Retreat

presented by Black Presbyterians United, National Capital Presbytery
July 11, 2020 - 9 am to 12:30 pm

Black Presbyterians United presents this online retreat to BPU member congregations and those who share in the mission of BPU who may need to discover, renew, or restore a deeper relationship with God. In these challenging times, come, take time to be still, reflect, hear, and receive God's invitation to draw nearer. The retreat will include short talks, times for individual reflection, and shared time in breakout groups. Together, we'll explore ways to go deeper in faith.

Save the
DATES!!!

Currents of Faith

The Stewardship of change in community, technology, and across generations.

September 22 & 29
& October 6



Three day virtual event!
11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. on each Tuesday

DETAILS COMING SOON!

[Stewardship Kaleidoscope](#) is an annual conference offering excellent plenary speakers, informative workshop leaders, provocative worship experiences, and incredible networking opportunities for all who are passionate about stewardship and generosity. Drawing leaders from across the Lutheran Church (ELCA) and the Presbyterian Church (PCUSA) and beyond, Stewardship Kaleidoscope is designed to help participants explore stewardship, in its many colorful dimensions!

Our mission is to create an annual event that:

Ignites generosity among Lutherans and Presbyterians

Gives practical tools for cultivating generosity in congregations

Expands the leadership capacity of those who lead stewardship initiatives

Cultivates adaptive approaches for funding Christ's mission

Venues vary annually, and you can count on Stewardship Kaleidoscope to provide Real Tools for Real Ministry!

Racial Awareness and Mindfulness:

A Mini-Festival of the Arts,
Awareness, Healing, and Justice



Saturday,
October 17, 2020
10am - 5 pm

Location: ZOOM

Register: <https://2020raf.eventbrite.com/>



"Rethinking
Reconciliation: Addressing the
(Powerful) Elephant in the Room"
Christena Cleveland



"Race, Ethnicity,
and the Bible"
Gay L. Byron

**PLUS: WORKSHOPS | MUSIC | DRUMMING | EMOTIONAL
EMANCIPATION CIRCLES | CAUCUSES | INTERPLAY | CHILDREN'S TRACK
| MULTIRACIAL FOCUS | INTERGENERATIONAL APPROACH |**

ORGANIZER: **COMMUNAL LEARNING** Therese Taylor-Stinson, Race and Reconciliation Team, National Capital Presbytery
Mission Coordination Committee; CONTACT: taylorstinson2@earthlink.net

CHURCH FINANCIAL LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

An educational tool for pastors

Connecting all your church financial education needs

Financial literacy is key to maintaining the economic vitality and sustainability of congregations. The Presbyterian Foundation is excited to announce the Church Financial Leadership Academy. This e-learning platform provides

financial literacy education in a convenient online format that's available any time you're ready.

As a member of the Church Financial Leadership Academy, pastors will be able to create their own schedule of courses. You can also share the customized playlists with your stewardship team or your session!



Introduction



Leadership



Governance

The self-directed video-based courses will help pastors:

- Answer questions you may have such as, “Should pastors know what people give”
- Learn the best practices for stewardship, planned giving, and year-long stewardship efforts
- Learn about the changing landscape of religious giving
- Learn how to form generous disciples

The interactive and educational church finance tool for pastoral leaders is offered at no cost.

It is an e-learning platform that provides financial literacy education in a convenient online format that’s available anytime you’re ready.

Get Started Now!

Visit churchfla.org and sign up using the registration code PCUSA.

Contact Us

For more information, contact David Loleng by email at david.loleng@presbyterianfoundation.org or phone 800-858-6127 ext. 5901.



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 (NRSV)

History is full of watershed moments — those moments when we remember things as being either before that specific moment or after it. In the wake of the unrest following the tragic killing of George Floyd, America is at such a watershed moment.

George Floyd has joined a long, unbroken line of African American people who have died at the hands of police officers who failed to uphold their oath to protect and serve. Others have been murdered by self-appointed keepers of the status quo. Former President Barack Obama says of this moment, “The waves of protest across the country represent a genuine and legitimate frustration over a decades-long failure to reform police practices and the broader criminal justice system in the United States.” We, The Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), have become keenly aware of these frustrations, and we share them; they should be the frustrations of every American.

The Stated Clerk of the PC(USA), the Reverend Dr. J. Herbert Nelson II, has challenged the Church by stating, “No longer can we hide behind not being controversial.” The President of the Board of Pensions, the Reverend Frank Clark Spencer, echoes the admonitions of Rev. Nelson and President Obama, stating, “Deep pain and suffering among Black Americans is in plain view. As an agency of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the Board of Pensions is committed to the goal of dismantling structural racism.”

By taking tangible, intentional steps and working together within our spheres of influence and beyond, we will be an active ally for change, and we will see the realization of this goal. From lament to hope, from hope to real change. The change begins now.

The Board stands in support of racial equality, and against deeply ingrained prejudices against Black Americans and other people of color simply because of the color of their skin.

We continue to keep our country and the families and loved ones of all those suffering, directly or indirectly, from the events arising from this watershed moment in our thoughts and prayers. Please join the Board and the whole PC(USA) in the pursuit to be an ally for change.

The foregoing statement was drafted by 15 of our black colleagues. In February of 2020, the Board of Pensions formed a Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion Leadership Council (DEILC), which is developing a strategy and a plan of action, to live into the call of the Church to dismantle structural racism. That Council unanimously endorsed this statement and presented it to the agency’s Executive Team and Board of Directors. With full support of all at the Board, we share this statement with you.