

PRESBYTERY REPORTS—June 2020

From the Stated Clerk

- The Stated Clerk reports that she appointed the Rev. Nancy Neal to moderate the June 28, 2020 Arlington Presbyterian Church congregational meeting.
- The Stated Clerk reports that she appointed the Rev. Lyman Smith to moderate the May 31, 2020 Rockville Presbyterian Church meeting.
- The Stated Clerk reports that she appointed Ruling Elder Donzell White to moderate a portion of the Southminster Presbyterian Church session meeting on June 14, 2020.
- The Stated Clerk reports that she dismissed the Rev. Sean Walker to ECO effective May 10, 2020.
- The Stated Clerk reports that in accordance with COM Policy for Laboring Within and Without the Bounds, the Rev. Clay Allard, a member in good standing of Grace Presbytery, is automatically granted permission to conduct a service at Arlington National Cemetery. (5/21/2020)

From the Interim Stated Clerk

- The Interim Stated Clerk reports that she appointed the Rev. Cameron Byrd to moderate the June 8, 2020 and July 13, 2020 Christian Community Presbyterian Church session meeting.
- The Interim Stated Clerk reports that she dismissed the Rev. Mark Armstrong to Pines Presbytery as of March 4, 2020
- The Interim Stated Clerk reports that she dismissed the Rev. Annamarie Groenenboom to Lake Michigan Presbytery as of March 29, 2020

From the Leadership Council

Leadership Council Meeting Minutes June 3, 2020--Via Zoom

Present: Charles Barber, David McClung, Elsie Reid, Nancy Neal, Lequan Turner, Lee Bishop, Pat Futato, Beth Goss, Quinn Fox, Neill Morgan, Miriam Dewhurst, Michael Rankin

Excused: Laura Cunningham, Sterling Morse

Absent: Brian Clark

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

Guests: Mark Eakin, Chair of Mission Coordination Committee (MCC) and Kevin Powell, Chair of Committee on Representation (COR)

- Charles Barber called the Leadership Council (LC) meeting to order with prayer at 12:30.
- Elsie Reid discussed the meaning of essential work, read the poem *To Be of Use* by Marge Piercy, and closed her devotion with prayer.

- The annual report of MCC presented by Mark Eakin was approved with gratitude. Elder Eakin highlighted the work of MCC to address issues such as following COVID-19 and how it will impact their work this year and our communities for years to come; advancing racial reconciliation, including through racial sensitivity training for clergy and other leaders in NCP; and further developing other activities arising from the Confronting Racism Task Force and through the efforts of MCC's Race and Reconciliation Team.
- The report of COR presented by Kevin Powell was approved with gratitude. Rev. Powell noted the decrease in committee and commission membership and the need for leadership from younger members. He suggested recruiting a seminarian to serve on COR in conjunction with a course on polity. Jan Moody, staff resource for the Commission on Preparation for Ministry (CPM) will discuss with CPM possible ways to implement this proposal.
- Jan Moody reported the recommendations from CPM on the granting of scholarships to Inquirers and Candidates who are in seminary and under NCP care.
The following motion was presented:

Motion: to approve the following recommendations from the Commission on Preparation for Ministry for the distribution of the scholarship fund to the following Inquirers and Candidates:

- Nat Amarquaye - \$5,000 (University of Dubuque Theological Seminary)
- Tamarah Bush - \$8,668 (Princeton Theological Seminary)
- Nick Carson - \$8,668 (Columbia Theologica Seminary)
- Matt Hackworth - \$5,000 (Chicago Theological School)
- Beatrice Laryea - \$5,000 (Wesley Theological School)
- Rebecca Leland - \$8,668 (Columbia Theological School)

Approved

- Todd McCreight requested that LC meet on June 17 to consider a request from National PC. Prior to the meeting he will send LC a recommendation from ACCP for LC consideration. LC agreed to meet, via Zoom, on June 17, at 12:30. He also announced his retirement as NCP Director of Business Affairs/Treasurer, effective June 30, 2020. John Molina-Moore is recruiting members for the Director of Business Affairs Search Committee that will include a member of LC.
- John Molina-Moore reported that the Nominating Committee is working on sending to LC their recommendations for Committee/Commission chairs. LC approved unanimously Charles Barber as LC Chair and David McClung as LC Vice Chair.
- John Molina-Moore presented a recommendation from the Personnel Committee.
Motion: to approve the recommendation from the Personnel Committee for a change in the Personnel Manual by revising the current Sabbatical Policy that reads:

Sabbatical Leave for Exempt Staff

After six years of continuous service on the staff of the Presbytery, a sabbatical leave shall be provided at full pay, but without additional allowance for expenses. The recommended length of sabbatical leave is three months. Up to a total of four weeks of accrued vacation time and/or study leave may be added to the sabbatical leave with prior approval of the Personnel Committee and in conformance with the Committee on Ministry policies. The standard 10 days of Study Leave does not accrue in the year a sabbatical is taken.

to read as follows:

Sabbatical leave is a planned time of intensive enhancement for ministry and mission. It is an opportunity for the pastor/educator to strategically disengage from regular and normal tasks so that ministry and mission may be viewed from a new perspective as a result of a planned time of focus. To enable the pastor/educator to devote a significant time to their spiritual, technical or professional development, sabbatical leave may be granted with the following guidelines:

After each six years of continuous, full-time service on the staff of the Presbytery, an eligible staff member shall qualify for a sabbatical. Staff members considered eligible by reason of the nature of their responsibilities are the General Presbyter and Director of Congregational Development and Mission.

Other staff members, including those employed on a less than full-time basis, may be eligible for sabbatical leave, if such has been negotiated and approved by the Personnel Committee at the time of employment, or negotiated at a later date as a result of a change in the staff member's responsibilities.

Ordinarily, a sabbatical will last no longer than ninety calendar days. During the sabbatical period, full pay would be provided, but without additional allowance for expenses.

Study Leave will not accrue during a year in which a sabbatical is taken.

A written statement of identified goals for the sabbatical must be approved by the Personnel Committee, long enough in advance so that budgetary and staffing issues can be adequately addressed. In addition, a brief report will be submitted to the Personnel Committee within two weeks following the conclusion of the sabbatical.

Ordinarily, it is expected that a staff member will remain in his or her position for at least a year following a sabbatical.

Charles Barber dismissed NCP Staff, except John Molina Moore, and the LC went into executive session to consider a recommendation from the Personnel Committee.

The meeting ended at 2:30.

Next LC meeting: June 17, 2020 at 12:30 PM

Leadership Council Meeting Minutes June 17, 2020--Via Zoom

Present: Charles Barber, David McClung, Elsie Reid, Nancy Neal, Lequan Turner, Pat Futato, Beth Goss, Quinn Fox, Neill Morgan, Sterling Morse, Brian Clark, Miriam Dewhurst, Michael Rankin

Excused: Lee Bishop Laura Cunningham

Staff: John Molina-Moore, Todd McCreight, Joan Erickson, Jan Moody

- Charles Barber called the Leadership Council (LC) meeting to order with prayer at Noon.
- Todd McCreight reported on the recommendation from ACCP concerning National PC seeking of a loan for planned facilities improvements and mission projects:

Motion:

The Administrative Commission on Congregational Property (ACCP) moves the Leadership Council to approve and recommend that the presbytery approve the seeking of a loan of up to \$7 million from Trustar Bank by the National Presbyterian Church, a member in good standing of the NCP, in order to complete the financing package for the church's planned facilities improvements and mission projects. The loan will be secured by the church property or by capital campaign and facility usage fee receivables, or by a negative pledge, and/or the church's investment portfolio. This approval is contingent on National's securing approval for the planned debt financing from their Session and the congregation and notifying the ACCP thereof. **Approved**

Todd will ask Dick Riegel, Chair of ACCP, to present background information about the recommendation at the June 30 presbytery meeting.

- John Molina-Moore reported on Northminster PC's request for a loan payment deferment.

Motion:

Leadership Council moves to approve the request from Northminster Presbyterian Church of a deferment of the church's loan payments for 12 months, effective May 2020. **Approved**

Rationale: The COVID-19 pandemic has strained efforts to meet church expenses. Worship, educational, and outreach ministries have moved to online platforms, which has resulted in additional unanticipated expenses for the church. At this time, financial relief is needed to adjust to the impact of moving forward as a digital church.

Background:

In March 2014, NCP approved a loan to the Northminster Presbyterian Church from the DC Equipping Resurrection Fund for \$255,000 at no interest for ten years to replace their non-

repairable heating and cooling system. This required an exemption to the current designation for this fund. Since 2014, Northminster PC has not missed a monthly payment of \$2,125.

- John Molina-Moore reported on the recommendations from the Nominating Committee.

Motion: to approve the following recommendations from the Nominating Committee for chairs of NCP committees and commissions:

ACCP	Richard Riegel, RE, Chevy Chase PC, Class of 2023
Budget and Finance	Erik Kloster, RE, Lewinsville PC, Class of 2023
COM	Rev. Stephen Smith Cobbs, Class of 2023
Nominating	Rev. Rachel Vaagenes, Class of 2022
Permanent Judicial Commission	Rev. David Gray, Class of 2021
Personnel	Rev. Ann Herlin, Class of 2021
Preparation for Ministry	Rev. Charles Van Gorder, Class of 2021
Representation	Rev. Kevin Powell, Class of 2022
Session Records	Janis Summers, RE, Darnestown PC, Class of 2022
Stewardship	Karl Mattison, RE, Georgetown PC, Class of 2021

- John Molina-Moore gave an update on the Director of Business Affairs Search Committee.

The Director of Business Affairs Search Committee includes the following members:

- Don Humphries, RE, Northminster PC
- Barbara Mitchell, RE, National PC
- Pat Futato, RE, Kirkwood, PC
- Paul Brown, RE, Old Meeting House PC
- Rev. Eric Peltz

Charles Barber reported that during the interim period following Todd McCreight's retirement, GP John Molina-Moore will serve as Acting NCP Treasurer.

Motion: to approve appointment of General Presbyter John Molina-Moore as the Acting NCP Treasurer effective July 1, 2020. **Approved**

Todd McCreight, recognizing his retirement as NCP Treasurer and Director of Financial Affairs on June 30 and that this was his last LC meeting, expressed appreciation for his work with LC, the Presbytery, and the NCP staff. LC thanked him for his dedicated service.

Todd closed the meeting with prayer at 1:00 PM.

From the Commission on Preparation for Ministry

- Sarah Sadler was approved as Candidate effective May 21, 2020
- Whitley Kaitlyn Butler was certified ready to receive a call on June 13, 2020
- Kallie Pitcock was certified ready to receive a call on June 13, 2020