July Birthday Greetings

Pastoral Concerns/Announcements

Notes from the Interim Stated Clerk
June 30, 2020 Stated Meeting of National Capital Presbytery
Jan Moody, Interim Stated Clerk

Meet Our Moderators
Elder Michael Rankin, Moderator
The Rev. Diane Walton Hendricks, Vice Moderator

Reflections from National Capital Presbytery GA Commissioners
224th General Assembly of the PC(USA)

Notes on the 224th General Assembly
from Interim Stated Clerk, Jan Moody

In the Midst: Going Deeper with God
On-line Retreat ~ presented by
Black Presbyterians United of NCP (BPU)
On-line registration available

Hybrid Worship Proposal
Live Streaming

Microsite Services
Website (platform for live streaming)

SAVE THE DATES
“Currents of Faith” – Stewardship Kaleidoscope “virtual” Conference
September 22 & 29 & October 6

Letter from DMV Justice Reform

DISMANTLING RACISM
“Bear public witness to the love, truth, and justice of God in Jesus Christ specifically in the areas of racism and reconciliation.”
Birthday Greetings for the month of July

From the staff of
National Capital Presbytery
debbie, jan, joan, john,
lajuan, tara, todd
Notes from the Interim Stated Clerk

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

Providing a forum for our leaders and congregations to equip them with the skills for adaptive change is one of the five-year emphases of National Capital Presbytery. For a time, such as this when mandated state regulations and recommendations from Mid-Council leadership restrict in person gatherings of large numbers of people, adaptive leadership is essential. Zoom and or live streamed gatherings are our new normal. On June 30th NCP held its second presbytery meeting remotely. Computer and phone screens connected us in our new relational network as we continue to find fresh and creative ways to engage in worshipful work. 4:00 PM Open Spaces via Zoom provided places for people to gather and discuss topics that included reports from the GA Commissioners, current NCP efforts to dismantle racism, and tips on navigating a remote presbytery meeting. The 6:00 PM meeting began by addressing two items of business: 1) an omnibus motion and 2) a motion to approve National Presbyterian Church’s seeking of a loan to complete the financing package for the church’s planned facilities improvements and mission projects. Both motions were approved via voting by electronic polling. In worship we were called to worship and welcomed as Rev. Billy Kluttz led from his living room the singing of the hymn “Here in this Place”. Following a time for Confession, Assurance of Grace, and Affirmation of faith, Moderator Miriam Dewhurst preached a sermon titled “Oneness” and proclaimed the Good News message of John 17:20-21, Jesus’ prayer for unity. The presbytery then responded to the Word through virtual Communion led by Rev. Heather Shortlidge. The meeting concluded with the installation of the 2020-2021 NCP Moderator Elder Michael Rankin and Vice Moderator Rev. Diane Hendricks. As the moderators’ stoles were seemingly exchanged through the screens in cyberspace, we were reminded of the wonders of technology and the many ways that God moves beyond the walls of church buildings and into our homes and hearts. We are indeed witnesses to God doing a new thing!
**Elder Michael Lee Rankin, Moderator**, Ruling Elder, Church of the Redeemer Presbyterian Church, Washington, D.C. Elder Michael Rankin is an active member of the Church of the Redeemer where he has served three terms on the session, chaired Redeemer’s Personnel Committee, served as a member and secretary of the Strategic Planning Committee and served as clerk of session for six years. He is also a member of the Chancel Choir. Michael served on the NCP Permanent Judicial Commission, Class of September 2019. During his service as vice moderator he sat on the Worship and Theology committee and the Leadership council. He was a commissioner at the historic GA 224. Michael was an Associate Judge of the District of Columbia Superior Court for 33 years and now sits occasionally as a Senior Judge. **Reach the Moderator** - mikerankin.rankin@gmail.com

**Rev. Diane Walton Hendricks, Vice Moderator** - Diane has been on staff at Falls Church Presbyterian since 2004, where she serves as Pastor for Spiritual Growth. She received her Doctor of Ministry from Virginia Theological Seminary and her Master of Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary. A practicing spiritual director, Diane previously served on staff at Little Falls Presbyterian in Arlington, Virginia. In her time at NCP she has served actively on the Church Development Committee and its working groups. Diane and her husband, Andy, make their home in Arlington and have two college-aged children. When not doing church work, Diane can be found walking or running the paths of Northern Virginia, drawing zentangles, listening to The Wailin’ Jennys, or hanging out with friends and family. She trusts in God’s grace “to do abundantly far more than we can ask or ever imagine.” (Ephesians 3:20). **Reach the Vice Moderator** - dianewaltonhendricks@gmail.com
Samuel “Sam” Atiemo, Teaching Elder Commissioner, National Capital Presbyterian Church, June 2020

THE PRIVILEGE: I am a new immigrant pastor in the PC(USA) who has had the opportunity to serve in two Presbyteries (New York City and National Capital). I also have had a three-year term working in the Denominational Offices in Louisville as an Associate for African Emerging Ministries. I feel truly blessed to have added a GA Commissioner experience after twenty-two years of service as an Ordained Minister in the PCUSA. Being among the PCUSA leadership crowd in Baltimore did not happen. But I am pleased to have been part of the first ever totally virtual PCUSA General Assembly. Once a modern technological GA has successfully been accomplished, the sky is the limit for doing important businesses of the Church by emerging technology.

TOTALLY COMMITTED STAFF/ CORRESPONDING MEMBERS/ IMMIGRATION: Much of the success was accomplished through the energy, intelligence, imagination and love of staff who work in the Denominational Offices and those mobilized in different Presbyteries. Amid Covid-19 lockdowns they embraced COGA emergency changes in plans for the GA. The Corresponding Members who were called to lead detailed explanations of the planned overtures and Budget details were excellent. One new immigrant talented staff (Vincente) who was called to assist the Stated Clerk towards the end of GA Sessions was pleasantly surprised by Dr. Nelson’s gracious acknowledgement. I was glad to hear that Vincente (a Latino and a computer genius on Staff) will become a citizen of USA in the following week. Immigration, my greatest loss as non-essential overture for this assembly is clearly one of the most devastating weapons of Systemic Racism. The PC(USA), years ago, provided a Legal Office in Louisville to assist Presbyteries with handling the practical issues which colored and black immigrants face daily. The issue is how hard it is to call Immigrant Pastors, Church Musicians and talented Staff for New Immigrant Churches. Unlike the victims of systemic racism that cause new immigrants fear and calamities, Vincente has seen victory. May God’s Name be praised!!

WHICH OVERTURES MADE IT/ ELECTIONS/ DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION: For Commissioner’s Business, much were routine, bare essential motions on personnel positions, budgets and urgent items that could keep the Church going until the 225th GA when GA hopefully will be “normal”. Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson was elected for his second term; Co-Moderators Ruling Elder Elona Street-Stewart and Teaching Elder Gregory Bentley were elected. In the elections, I felt a deep sense of gratitude to God for the PCUSA’s commitment to diversity, inclusion, multiculturalism/ interculturalism. After the election of the Co-Moderators, Dr. Oscar McCloud, a famous advocate for SDOP, and an honorably Retired Pastor who formerly served for years in New York Presbytery; offered prayers for them that moved me to “silent tears”. He referred to the blood that Native American and African American ancestors shed as victims of White supremacy. We can rejoice that in top leadership of PCUSA are people who represent our hopes for inclusiveness in our Christian witness and race relations.

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS: The theme, “From Lament To Hope” was well handled in excellent Bible Study. For me, seeds have been planted in 224th GA for PCUSA to enter the 21st Century with new technology and communication skills. Even fundraising for the Mission of the Church will be done in modern media format.
When Presbyterians Assemble - I was honored to be a commissioner to the 224th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA). This national assembly gathers every two years, and this year GA was supposed to be in Baltimore, but the coronavirus pandemic pushed it online. This was disappointing to me, since this was my first chance in 34 years of ministry to be a commissioner. But still I was glad to join online with 467 of my fellow commissioners.

So, what happened when Presbyterians assembled? We began by worshiping online. The worship was good, but frankly no better than what we are doing online at Fairfax Presbyterian Church.

We elected co-moderators to lead our church for the next two years: An elder named Elona Street-Stewart and a pastor named Gregory Bentley. Elona is a Native American woman and Gregory is an African American man.

At first, I was impressed most by a young white woman named Marie and an older white gay man named Arthur, and I voted for them. But the GA overwhelmingly elected Elona and Gregory, and I accept this and support them completely. They are absolutely the right leaders for this moment in our church’s history and in our nation’s history.

When this assembly began, we knew that the theme would be based on Lamentations 5:20-21, calling us to move from lament to hope. Yes, we were all lamenting lives lost to COVID-10; lives lost to the violence caused by white supremacy; lives lost to poverty. But we have hope, because we can be restored to the Lord. We have a living hope that comes from being servants of Jesus. The power of Jesus is at work in each of us, giving us hope and calling us to action.

Because of this, Gregory and Elona are the right people to lead us, as we work for justice for African Americans and Native Americans, two groups that the assembly focused on throughout the week. This is the right moment for them to lead us, because we are at a critical moment — as we have discovered in our worship and our Christian Formation at Fairfax Presbyterian.

Coincidentally, my favorite basketball coach, Coach K of Duke, released a video during the assembly saying strongly that Black Lives Matter. Now, he is known to be a conservative man who served in the Army and is a graduate of West Point. But he recalled a prayer from West Point which asked for God to help us do the hard-right thing instead of the easy wrong thing. That’s our challenge today around issues of racism in the US, as individuals and as a church. This is the right moment to fight white supremacy and systemic injustice.

We also did Bible Study on the Book of Lamentations and elected a stated clerk and an associate stated clerk. We passed a resolution that Black Lives Matter and that we should work together to overcome systemic racism; this certainly aligns with what we are doing at Fairfax Presbyterian. We passed support for Native American churches and for communities hit hard by COVID-19. We revised a policy protecting children, youths and vulnerable adults. We heard about a process for resolving a dispute between the denomination and San Francisco Theological Seminary over ownership of the seminary. We elected a new president for McCormick Theological Seminary and did other business. That is what happens when Presbyterians assemble!

The stated clerk commended Presbyterian pastors for turning into television evangelists after just one week of pandemic! He said that we are becoming the church that God wants us to be, and I agree. Together, let’s continue moving from lament to hope.
Ruling Elder Commissioner Warren Clayton (Westminster, DC), National Capital Presbytery, June 2020

I recall thinking last summer as presbytery issued invites for individuals interested in representing National Capital at the 224th General Assembly, what an adventure this could be. Friends and colleagues had shared their experiences attending GA – meeting and conferring with fellow Presbyterians from across the country, wrestling with solutions facing us all and a consistent praise for the worship experiences (no frozen chosen at these gatherings) – a literal 24-7 learning and prayer experience. On many levels, I consider myself a rookie Presbyterian, but I could not imagine a bigger growth opportunity than being in Baltimore.

Then, the virus hit. Today, we know it will frame everything about 2020 and probably beyond. But in March, the impact was being sorted out day-by-day. On what committee have you been assigned, a friend asked. I don’t know; I haven’t heard; let me check. Having no previous GA experience for comparison, it took two or three readings of the material being sent to us. But for the Book of Order requirement, most wanted to cancel GA this year, however, there were things to be done. There would only be three days of meetings and only one committee instead of 12. No committee assignment for me, I told my friend. We would elect moderators and re-elect a clerk; we would approve a budget; and just about everything else, the dozens and dozens of overtures prepared over the past two years by churches and presbyteries nationwide, would be moved forward for consideration at the 2022 GA. It was said that many would fight for their issue to be considered now, but that limited time would probably prohibit most exceptions. As we entered the month of May, I was convinced we, as Presbyterians, would consider appropriate responses to racism and the virus, and we did. I also was personally convinced I would begin receiving appeals via e-mail and snail mail to support specific overtures being kept on this year’s docket. That didn’t happen. There may have been Presbyterian commentators out there who could have directed me to issues likely to be pushed for consideration this year, but I was not aware of them. I would have been more prepared. I caught whiff of the San Francisco Theological Seminary controversy, read detail in Presbyterian Outlook but the issue was left in the hands of existing authorities.

So, where did we land at the end of the 224th General Assembly? We elected two outstanding co-moderators, Elona Street-Stewart, an indigenous ruling elder, and Gregory Bentley, an African American teaching elder. We affirmed the re-election of J. Herbert Nelson as clerk. I believe we laid the groundwork for existing people and resources within the denomination to consider challenges which didn’t make this year’s docket as action items long before 2022. I was surprised by the apparent disappointment in the waning hours of the assembly when a report from the Disparities Experienced by Black Women and Girls Task Force was not approved for reconsideration – another issue I wish had been directed toward my horizon. A full seven-day event would have gone far in resolving these kinds of disappointments, but I am trusting the new moderators will put some of their energy in this direction. I’m told if a second gathering of the 224th is called, I’m still a commissioner, and my prayer will be that the meeting is in the same room with my peers and not in front of a laptop.

Ruling Elder Commissioner Miriam Dewhurst (New York Avenue), National Capital Presbytery, June 2020

Reflections on the 224th General Assembly - Although the 224th General Assembly will most likely be remembered for what it was not – an in-gathering of Presbyterians that deliberated on important issues in the church, the country and the world, and that enjoyed the opportunity to greet old friends and make new ones in a celebration of the connectionalism that is a hallmark of our denomination – I hope that it will also be remembered for what it was. It was a demonstration that God’s Spirit can move among hundreds of commissioners, advisory delegates, and corresponding members, even when they are sitting at home in front of screens. It was a demonstration of concern that every voice be heard and that matters be dealt with decently and in order. One example of the Spirit’s movement was the election of
Co-Moderators Ruling Elder Elona Street-Stewart and Teaching Elder Gregory Bentley on the first ballot with a decisive majority of votes.

That the 224th General Assembly was able to accomplish what it did, is a testament to the hard work and good will that made it possible to hold an assembly at all. The Office of the General Assembly and the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly gave a lot of thought to which items of business had to be addressed at this assembly and which could be referred to the 225th GA in 2022. It was disappointing that so many substantive issues were deferred. In spite of that reality, the spirit of the assembly was such that a small number of referred items were able to be addressed anyway.

The technology team was simply amazing and great care was taken to make sure every commissioner was comfortable with the format, including training sessions and a help desk.

Usually there are 12-14 committees who do the work of the assembly by considering items of business sent to it by presbyteries and other denomination entities, and bringing them, often in amended form, to the floor of the assembly. This year there was only one committee, the Committee on Business Referrals, and it was comprised of the people who would have been the moderators and vice-moderators of the other committees. These twenty-two people had two official meetings prior to the assembly, but were able to work together, in informal meetings, to put forward two statements of their own that addressed the times we are living in. The first concerned the COVID-19 epidemic and the other concerned racial injustice. It was a privilege to be a member of that committee and to be able to contribute in a small way to its work.

It was sad not to be able to meet people in person. It was especially sad not to have had a roommate. But I still was able to meet and work with people that I hope to see in person someday, and to be impressed as I always am, with the energy, intelligence, imagination and love, as well as the faith and commitment of those who serve in this part of the body of Christ.

**Ruling Elder Commissioners, Mark Eakin (Warner Memorial), National Capital Presbytery, June 2020**

General Assembly Impressions – While I attended the 223rd General Assembly in St. Louis as an overture advocate, the 224th was to be my first GA as a commissioner. I was excited to be able to continue the work toward PC(USA)’s divestment from fossil fuels, being a commissioner would probably mean I would be assigned to another committee plus want to spend time in the Environmental Justice committee -- commissioners are randomly assigned to committees. As it turned out, I would neither have committee work nor be able to advance the work of divestment at the 224th GA as both would not happen. Only items of polity and immediate financial need were to be considered. Fortunately, the GA saw fit to include actions on racial justice (00-29, On the Church in This Moment in History), COVID-19 (00-30, On Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic), and Native American properties (00-95, 00-96). However, all the usual work on social and environmental justice normally addressed would have to wait until the 225th assembly in Columbus, OH in 2022. However, this would mean I won’t be able to help the divestment overture by speaking from the floor during discussion. That’s reserved for commissioners and a new team from National Capital Presbytery will be elected to serve as commissioners for GA 225.

Gone were the face-to-face interactions with fair trade vendors, PC(USA) programs and fellowships. Gone were the side meetings to hash out actions going to committee. Gone were the committee meetings to hash out details before sending items to the floor. PC-Biz, the electronic information and voting system was still the same but the interaction with the staff when crafting language was now a back-and-forth on email.

But just as the theme for the 224th GA in virtual Baltimore was “From Lament to Hope”, our laments over what was lost this year was met by a rea can-do attitude of the Committee on General Assembly. While they decided it would be too
much trouble to try to conduct a full GA virtually, they masterfully pulled together this abbreviated GA. Some language modifications and issues that normally would take place in committees had to take place in plenary, but some of these occur anyway. Clearly there were some issues that needed major attention, such as the status of the San Francisco Theological Seminary, these would have to be handled offline in the next two years so we could complete the matter at hand. The first night’s session was supposed to be brief business before the election, but lasted until after 11:00 at night, pushing the election to the following evening when we had not even been scheduled to meet. However, things stayed much more on schedule the following weekend and we completed all that was before us in only a bit over the scheduled time.

We truly went from Lament to Hope in this generally assembly. Let’s all pray for those who will serve in a (hopefully) full GA in Columbus two years from now.

Lisa Kenkeremath, Teaching Elder, National Capital Presbytery, June 2020

“Our hearts are breaking, our fury shaking, our souls are tired, our breath is gone. We cry, ‘How long, Lord, this evil season?’ Unending pain and tears.” These are the words of a song from a Friday morning worship service of the 224th General Assembly. The song reflected well the mood of many in our country and many of the GA commissioners as we considered the call and role of the church in a time of national upheaval: merciless killings of unarmed Black people, protests in the streets and brutal crackdowns on protesters, a raging infection that has swept the world and claimed over 130,000 lives in the U.S. The theme of the Assembly was “From Lament to Hope,” and the mood oscillated between those poles.

For several reasons, some purely personal, lament was my dominant mood as the GA began. When it became clear last spring that business as usual was not going to be possible for this year’s Assembly because of covid-19, I hoped that the GA Committee would decide to postpone the gathering until later this year or next year; when I heard that it was still on, albeit as a much abbreviated, fully online gathering, I was dismayed. Instead of having a chance to participate in our denomination’s work on the Assembly floor, to get to know the other NCP commissioners, to meet new people or renew old connections, and to consider important actions on matters like climate change and Israel/Palestine issues, I would be isolated at home and constantly worrying about when my internet connection was going to fail. I assume that many of the commissioners were feeling some of the same disappointment.

Despite this reduced experience, though, I felt more hopeful as the Assembly went on. I was excited about the election of the new Co-Moderators, Elona Street-Stewart and Gregory Bentley. I was glad that we were able to approve a resolution to begin confronting the problem of systemic racism. I was encouraged by the words of J. Herbert Nelson, who reminded us that the church needs to transition from being an institution to a movement. I was in awe of the technological expertise of the GA staff. My internet connection held. It certainly was not an ideal time for our church to “gather,” but it was still the right time. Despite the artificiality of the Zoom environment, it was possible to feel the Spirit moving through this Assembly.

Whatever happens in 2022, I know our way of being the church will be different from now on. We are now veterans of so many Zoom meetings, remote worship services, and other online assemblies that remote gathering has become the new norm and may not be easily thrown aside once we are able to get together in person again. We’ll have to think about being more of a movement than an institution in some ways that are likely to be uncomfortable for many of us (like me).

So, as we looked out from our little Zoom cages, like animals in a shelter, I still felt hopeful about the direction of our church. As J. Herbert Nelson said, we are not dying, we’re reforming! Yay!
Shawn MacDonald, Teaching Elder Commissioner, National Capital Presbytery, June 2020

This was my first time in 31 years of ordained ministry to serve as a commissioner to the General Assembly. Early in my career I was a regular observer to GA, attending most assemblies from 1994 to 2002 as I worked alongside others for the inclusion of lesbian and gay clergy. At my first GA in Wichita, I was able to testify on the main floor of GA about Reimagining and that testimony was carried on national TV that night. That remains my only time to speak on the floor of GA. More on that later.

I had to tap out of GA attendance both for financial and for survival reasons. It became too challenging to pull myself through and over the slog of having my status as a lesbian Presbyterian minister debated and my place as a beloved child of God denied by my brothers and sisters in Christ over and over again. More about this later.

This was an “irregular” General Assembly. Because there is no provision in the Book of Order for a General Assembly to meet via technology, everything we did will need to come before the next GA that can meet in person for ratification. While the planning for this GA was tremendous and the ability to pull off day long Zoom calls with 750 attendees who are also voting securely on a different platform was truly amazing, many things that make GA a GA were missed. There were no committees, no hearings, no ability to testify. There were no hallway conversations, no late-night roommate talks, no overheard bathroom conversations. We were able to see one another on Zoom, but we were not able to hear one another, and that is a great loss. In all of those GA’s where we struggled for inclusion based on sexual orientation, we had a voice. We used our voice, we demonstrated, we sang, we prayed, we wept.

It was jarring to see so much truly important business that many people have worked long hours to complete deferred to the next GA. And it was painful to see delegates struggle to find their way through difficult business working as a committee of the whole with little guidance, little ability to caucus, and in some cases little insight into the effect of their actions. The electronic cue was difficult to get through, there was no way to move someone up the cue who had essential words to say, as happens on the floor of GA. As a result, the GA fumbled and fumbled badly in allowing naïve racist comments to go unchecked, in passing on essential business, in passing less than helpful amendments, and in not hearing the voices of people long silenced.

Here is where those earlier threads come together. In this GA, it was hard to get through the cue and impossible to educate commissioners on issues. Parliamentary procedure benefits those who hold the power. The hearings, the testimonies, the speak outs, the demonstrations allow the Spirit to move and work in the hearts and minds of the commissioners. This year BIPOC Presbyterians heard their identities and needs debated by well-meaning White commissioners who did not know the impact of their actions. This GA ended as yet another blow to many, especially those who are working hard to battle the racism in our church. My strongest take away from this GA is that we as the PCUSA have much to do to recover from our racism...ironically, we deferred an overture to amend the Book of Order to require antiracism policies and training to the next GA.

Ruling Elder Commissioner Michael Rankin (Church the Redeemer), National Capital Presbytery, June 2020

I was a First Time Commissioner to the First Virtual General Assembly, and it was great!

As a Ruling Elder, elected to serve as NCP vice-moderator during a year of the General Assembly (GA), I was an appointed commissioner to GA224. The GA was scheduled to meet in Baltimore (“charm city”), Maryland until the global pandemic caused by the coronavirus led the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly (COGA) to decide on a virtual platform for the Assembly. Commissioners,
delegates and corresponding members were notified on April 22, 2020, that the Assembly would meet online for three plenary sessions, June 19, 26 and 27. The plenaries would include worship but would be restricted to a limited list of critical business items. What’s more, there would be no committees to meet and discuss the issues in advance of the plenary sessions.

On May 20, 2020, COGA opened registration for the Assembly and, for the first time, commissioners were able to see the dockets for business and the other online activities for attendees. The COGA’s criteria for establishing the items of business asked three questions: “Is the business/event/mission so time sensitive that not addressing it would have negative legal or polity implications? If we did not address an item will it have a negative impact on the church financially? If it is not addressed will it leave critically important leadership positions vacant? While all could agree that the items of business chosen for consideration by the Assembly met COGA’s criteria for inclusion, reasonable people could and did disagree regarding certain items that were excluded from the docket—particularly resolutions affecting the Church’s position on matters of social justice.

If I have learned anything useful in my 50 years working in law and the courts about making decisions, it is that President Abraham Lincoln was on the money when, borrowing from the wisdom of the monk and poet John Lydgate, he said :“you can please some of the people all of the time, you can please all of the people some of the time, but you can’t please all of the people all of the time.” I prayed for our leaders on the Committee who were charged with deciding what would be on and what would be put off until GA225, just as they prayed for the commissioners who were all “first-timers” to this new way of doing GA. Like the technology itself, we sometimes fail; but we take comfort in knowing that we have a God and Savior that never fails.

I am eternally grateful to our Presbytery staff for their efforts in doing everything in their power to prepare us for the GA. Their assistance with technology, a subscription to Presbyterian Outlook, goodie bags, and, most of all their prayers, were helpful beyond words.
The Sankofa bird was selected by GA Co-Moderators Ruling Elder Elona Street-Stewart and Rev. Gregory Bentley as a representation of both Native American and African American cultures. The bird, with its feet moving forward while still looking back reminds the church that as it moves forward it still reaches for what was precious in the past and takes that wisdom and moves forward with whatever the church is going to be in the future.

Some of the Outcomes and Recommendations from the recent General Assembly of the PC(USA) that impact congregations and presbyteries included:

- Approval that the **per capita rate for 2021 and 2022** will be **$8.98**—this represents the $8.95 proposed by OGA and COGA, no change from the current rate due to the recognition of the effects of the pandemic, plus $.03 from added expenses authorized through actions of the assembly.
- Recommendation that churches consider reviewing their Child/Youth/Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy and be attentive to including guidelines for ministry with children and youth via remote platforms such as Zoom. Resources suggested included: [https://www.insuranceboard.org/online-learning/](https://www.insuranceboard.org/online-learning/) and [https://youtu.be/2gjJR3o9oM--webinar](https://youtu.be/2gjJR3o9oM--webinar)
- Approval of the resolution *Responding to the Sin of Racism and a Call to Action* that included the following statement:

This 224th General Assembly of the PC(USA) declares that Black lives matter; that our country’s most important institutions have been built to sustain white privilege to protect white lives and white property at the expense of our siblings of color; and that the church, through ignorance, denial, and in some cases deliberate action, has participated in this injustice. We have been slow to face the reality of systemic racism. We have been slow to acknowledge the pain of our fellow Presbyterians, of our fellow Christians, of our fellow citizens, and of those who have come to America for a better life, whose value has been judged by the color of their skin. We pledge to join hands and hearts with our BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) siblings
to actively confront and dismantle systemic racism in our church and in society at large, and to work for a more just, merciful, and peaceful country that allows all of God’s children to flourish.

- Recommended actions in response to the resolution include:
  1) that PC(USA) congregations, mid-councils, and all General Assembly Entities develop and adopt an antiracism policy in their bylaws by engaging Item 02-137, “On Amending G-3.0106 to Add an Antiracism Policy with Suggested Training for All Members of Each Council.” This work can be done now at all levels, even in advance of the 225th General Assembly, at which time that General Assembly can act on setting a constitutional requirement to do so if it chooses and
  2) Commending to the entirety of the PC(USA), its members, congregations, presbyteries, synods, and the GA entities the following poem for reading, reflection, meditation.

A knee on a neck
laying bare for all to see
the evil of
callous
soulless
entitled
power
choking the life from
God’s beloved
just because.

We know what must change.
Will we, church?

We have written many
ture, significant,
sometimes even sincere
words.

We have confessed:
Belhar, C’67, Barmen...

Enough words?
Never enough witness.

We know we must change.
Will we, church?

Kairos.
To look back at some of the decisions and recommendation of the historic first virtual General Assembly and to look ahead to the future work with God’s help of transforming the church, go to https://ga-pcusa.org/ga224-videos/.
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.
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 Lavaliere/Handheld Microphone Kit
  - $966.70
  - 2x wireless lavaliere 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 Specks: [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
Overview

The goal and objective in creating Microsite Services is to give small churches the ability to create and maintain an online presence that can easily be managed by congregational staff.

Goals

1. Create simple WordPress websites with easy to add themes.
2. The ability to add streaming services for live church sermons, events and other social events.
3. Cost effective monthly hosting and domain services if needed.
Specifications

**Website Design**
With simple easy to use template based websites you can start creating your website with a few button clicks. Limited to 4 pages.

**Hosting**
Tomahawk hosts all of our client sites on HostGator Services. With HostGator, you take advantage of a scalable, reliable, and secure global computing infrastructure.

**Live Streaming**
Tomahawk recommends using a live streaming service that is not only cost effective but easy to manage. That is why we feel BoxCast is the right platform for Microsites Services.

BoxCast is an end-to-end live video streaming solution that delivers HD video from anyone with an event to everyone, everywhere. It's simple. It's reliable. It's affordable. More information and pricing can be viewed at [https://www.boxcast.com/pricing](https://www.boxcast.com/pricing)

If BoxCast is not the right fit there are many other streaming services we can work with to make adding live streaming services to your website easy.

Live Streaming services will be a third-party integration and is subject to it’s own pricing policy independent from Tomahawk Web.
Setup Pricing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Website development</td>
<td>One time setup free of $1000.00</td>
<td>$1000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hosting</td>
<td>Monthly Cost</td>
<td>$45.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$1045.00</strong></td>
</tr>
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</table>

Optional Services

- Domain Hosting
- Logo Design
- Website Maintenance
- Project Strategy
- Email Management
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!
To our neighbors,

In these very painful, uncertain times we currently face as a country, there is “a time for everything” and now is the time to act. The recent murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis by police whose public duty is to serve and protect in keeping with the functions of law and order leads us to ask whose law and what order. Now, with great urgency, we call for answers to these questions alongside demonstration of new forms of accountability from our public servants. We seek to work proactively to create a fair and just society through criminal justice reform, starting in our own communities and standing in solidarity across all our communities both in terms of faith and geography.

This is a time for all of us to take action. The events taking place within our country are serving as catalysts demanding us to tear down our current criminal justice systems and to build a new system that offers reformatory, restorative and transformative justice. Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King said, “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.” Together we can make change both at the local and federal level through:

**Exploration:** monitoring public agendas, initiatives and proposals  
**Engagement:** acting with other change agents, law and policy makers  
**Exposure:** leveraging our collective connections to bring attention to issues

We are guided by the Christian principle to serve “the least of these” by feeding the hungry, welcoming the stranger, clothing the unclothed, caring for the sick and visiting the imprisoned. The time is now to speak up for and on behalf of all our brothers and sisters who deserve the human dignity guaranteed and promised to us all. We call upon all public servants to stand with us for justice as we direct our attention to “the least of these” in all communities. We seek to establish a firmer basis for a fair and just society; one in which order serves justice and those entrusted with protecting that order are encouraged to realize the duty of care we all owe to one another.

Sincerely yours,

Rev. Norman Hall, Pastor  
Kate Addo, Clerk of Session

First Baptist Church of Ken-Gar  
Warner Memorial Presbyterian Church

We welcome the opportunity to continue the conversation with you:  
DMVJusticeReform@gmail.com