

PRESBYTERY REPORTS

From the Acting Stated Clerk

The Acting Stated Clerk reports that the following ministers are dismissed from National Capital Presbytery:

- Rev. Jan Nolting-Carter to Lehigh Presbytery, 08/04/2020
- Rev. Francis Gench to Presbytery of the James 9/11/2020
- Rev. Roger Gench to Presbytery of the James 9/11/2020
- Rev. Erin Keys to Southern New England Presbytery, 9/19/2020

The Acting Stated Clerk approved the following ministers to moderate Session meetings:

- Appointed the Rev. Mary Austin to moderate the Session meeting of Adelphi Presbyterian Church on October 15, 2020 at 7:00 PM
- Appointed the Rev. Rick Snyder to moderate the Session meeting at Hermon Presbyterian Church on September 13, 2020, and October 11, 2020
- Appointed the Rev. Mary Austin to moderate the Session meeting at Boyds Presbyterian Church on November 2, 2020

The Acting Stated Clerk reports the following resignations from committees:

- Rev. Wayne Blaser from the Care Team of the Committee on Ministry
- Rev. Chris Chatelaine-Samsen from the Commission on Preparation for Ministry

From the Leadership Council

Leadership Meeting Minutes October 7, 2020 12:30 PM Via Zoom

Present: Michael Rankin, Charles Barber, Quinn Fox, Laura Cunningham, Miriam Dewhurst, Lee Bishop, Neill Morgan, Brian Clark, Lequan Turner, Nancy Neal, Sterling Morse, David McClung, Pat Futato, Diane Hendricks, Elsie Reid

NCP Staff: John Molina Moore, LaJuan Quander, Jan Moody, Tara Spuhler McCabe

Excused: Brian Clark

Leadership Council Chair Charles Barber called the meeting to order at 12:30 pm and opened with prayer.

- Pat Futato led a devotion that included inspiration from Philippians with its reminder to rejoice in the Lord always and words of encouragement for navigating difficult times from Nadia Bolz-Weber author, Lutheran minister and public theologian.
- Report from the Nominating Committee
- Rev. Rachel Vaagenes presented the annual report from the Nominating Committee. There was discussion about ways to recruit more members for committees and commissions of the presbytery.

Motion: To receive with gratitude the 2019 annual report from the Nominating Committee.

Approved

- Report from the Committee on Ministry

Rev. Stephen Smith-Cobbs presented the annual report from the Committee on Ministry.

Motion: To receive with gratitude the 2019 annual report from the Committee on Ministry.

Approved

- September 22, 2020 NCP meeting

Charles Barber led a discussion about the last presbytery meeting. Moderator Michael Rankin was commended for moderating a meeting that included tech difficulties, a lengthy discussion about a motion from COM, and the challenges of providing voice and vote on a Zoom Webinar platform. Suggestions for moving forward included limiting access of meeting participants to the chat feature for tech issues only and providing rules for voting including information about abstentions.

- Church Updates
 - The Church of the Pilgrims

John Molina-Moore provided an update on his meetings with the Session and congregation of The Church of the Pilgrims. He discussed with LC the possibility of appointing a LC Team to work with the church on the development of a business plan to discern the best use of the church building, which is in need of major repair, in order for the church to carry out its mission. He requested that LC bring names of people who may be interested in joining this proposed Team to the next LC meeting.

- Boyds Presbyterian Church

John Molina-Moore provided an update on his meetings with the Session and congregation of Boyds PC and considerations from NCP staff and COM about best ways to encourage, support, and resource the work of the congregation for the most effective witness to the broader community.

- 2021 Mission Budget

Motion: The Leadership Council moves that the proposed 2021 Mission Budget of \$913,764.60 be approved and presented for vote at the November 17th, 2020 NCP meeting.

Approved

- Executive Session

Charles Barber dismissed the NCP staff except for the GP to receive the report from the Director of Business Affairs Search Committee.

Motion: That the Leadership Council, upon the unanimous recommendation of the Director of Business Affairs Search Committee composed of Barbara Mitchell, RE National PC, Don Humphries, RE Northminster, Pat Futato, RE Kirkwood, Paul Brown, RE, OPMH, Rev. Eric Peltz

- a. approve Heather Deacon as the Director of Business Affairs effective October 26, 2020;
- b. And that the Leadership Council approve the salary package presented by the Personnel Committee to compensate Heather Deacon.

Approved

Meeting was adjourned.

Leadership Meeting Minutes November 4, 2020 12:30 PM Via Zoom

Present: Michael Rankin, Charles Barber, Laura Cunningham, Miriam Dewhurst, Lee Bishop, Neill Morgan, Brian Clark, Lequan Turner, Nancy Neal, Sterling Morse, Pat Futato, Diane Hendricks, Elsie Reid

NCP Staff: John Molina Moore, LaJuan Quander, Jan Moody, Tara Spuhler McCabe

Excused: David McClung, Quinn Fox

Guests: Rev. Mary Austin, Co-Chair, Congregational Transition Commission, Rev. Lyman Smith, Chair of Stated Clerk Search Committee

Leadership Council Chair Charles Barber called the meeting to order at 12:30 pm and opened with prayer.

Le Quan Turner led the devotion with a reading of Psalm 46 and highlighting of the verses that remind us to “Be still and know that God is God” and that we must not be weary because there is still more work to do. She concluded with reading the text of the African American Anthem Lift Every Voice and Sing.

- Introduction of Director of Financial Affairs

John Molina-Moore introduced Heather Deacon and she shared with LC her excitement about joining the staff as the Director of Financial Affairs.

Charles Barber presented the following:

Motion: to dissolve the Director of Financial Affairs Search Committee that included Pat Futato, Don Humphries, Eric Peltz, Paul Browne, Barbara Mitchell and John Molina-Moore and express gratitude for their work. **Approved**

- Recommendation of NCP Treasurer

Michael Rankin presented the following:

Motion: To approve the recommendation from Moderator Elder Michael Rankin, Vice Moderator, Rev. Diane Hendricks, Elder Miriam Dewhurst, Rev. Rachel Vaagenes and Rev. Laura Hollister, of the nomination of Heather Deacon as Treasurer of National Capital Presbytery and to place her election on the docket of the November 17, 2020 meeting.

Approved

- Boyds PC Update

John Molina-Moore provided an update on Boyds Presbyterian Church and presented the recommendation from the Coordinating Commission of COM for the appointment of an Administrative Commission. Co-Chair of Congregational Transition Commission, Rev. Mary Austin, provided additional information about the recommendation. The following was then presented:

Motion: The Coordinating Commission of COM moves that upon approval from the Leadership Council, presbytery designate an Administrative Commission (AC), members to be appointed by the moderator, for Boyds Presbyterian Church to address rebuilding of trust in leadership and ensuring effective ministry to the current congregation and the community. The AC will have the authority to assume original jurisdiction to accomplish these goals, if it judges that action advisable.

Approved

Background:

- Responsibility of the Presbytery in relationship with congregations (from Book of Order G-3.0303 e)

A presbytery, being composed of the teaching elders and commissioners elected by the session of congregations within its district, has a particular responsibility to coordinate, guide, encourage, support, and resource the work of its congregations for the most effective witness to the broader community. To this end, a presbytery has the authority to assume original jurisdiction, or full power and responsibility, over a session. In applicable cases and in order to accomplish its responsibility towards the session, a presbytery may:

Assume original jurisdiction in any situation in which it determines that a session cannot exercise its authority. After a thorough investigation, and after full opportunity to be heard has been accorded to the session, the presbytery may conclude that the session of a congregation is unable or unwilling to manage wisely its affairs, and may appoint an administrative commission with the full power of session. This commission shall assume original jurisdiction of the existing session, if any, which shall cease to act until such time as the presbytery shall otherwise direct.

- Rationale for appointing an AC for Boyds PC

Boyds PC is located at 19901 White Ground Rd, Boyds, MD. Membership according to the 2019 Statistical Report is 147 members with an average worship attendance of 45. Leadership in the church includes 7 Ruling Elders on Session, and Deacons. In 2014 the long-time pastor retired, and the church has since been served by two Transitional Pastors. The current Transitional Pastor has served the church since 2017.

The community surrounding the church has always been rural in nature, but several years ago major development began nearby and now many homes will be built within a five-mile radius in the next ten years.

The congregation is divided in how it is called to respond to the rapidly changing community that surrounds them. One group feels deeply called to traditional forms of ministry to current members. Other members of the church have invested resources of time and finances into promoting new growth in the church. COM and NCP staff have provided guidance, including the sending in of a mediator, to try to reconcile the differences between the two sides. However, all efforts thus far have failed. It is the recommendation of the COM after consulting with the outside mediator, listening to the congregation, Session, and pastor, that LC approve the appointment of an AC to address issues of leadership and trust between the leaders and the members of the congregation.

- Church of the Pilgrims PC Update

John Molina-Moore gave an update on his recent discussions with the Session of the Church of the Pilgrims and plans for church building. The following was presented:

Motion: Leadership Council authorizes the moderator of the presbytery to appoint a team to attend to developing a business plan for the ministry resource of the building of Church of the Pilgrims located at 2201 P Street NW, Washington, DC 20037 in pursuit of a vision of how it may serve as a new vital mission center for D.C., the presbytery, and beyond. The work of the team will be in consultation with the Session of the Church of the Pilgrims, the NCP CDC, and NCP staff

Approved

- Recommendation of NCP Stated Clerk

Chair of the Stated Clerk Search Committee, Rev. Lyman Smith presented the search committee report. The following was then presented:

Motion: To approve the Stated Clerk Search Committee's nomination of Elder Jan Moody as Stated Clerk of National Capital Presbytery and to place her election on the docket of the November 17th meeting.

Approved

- From the Nominating Committee

Motion: To approve Rev. Lisa Kenkeremath to serve on Nominating Committee in the class of 09-2023.

Approved

Meeting closed with prayer.

Next meeting: December 2, 2020.