

PRESBYTERY REPORTS

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

- Rev. Robert Bayley
- Rev. Dr. Joyce Emery

The Stated Clerk reports the appointment of the following commission:

- Commission to ordain Eunjee “Stella” Lee at First Presbyterian of Annandale on March 21, 2021 at 2:30 PM

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

- Rev. Mary Austin to moderate the congregational meeting of Boyds Presbyterian Church on December 20, 2020.
- Rev. Mary Austin to moderate the session meetings at Boyds January 4, 2021, and Feb. 1, 2021.
- Rev. Mary Austin to moderate the session meeting at Adelphi PC on January 26, 2021.
- Rev. Rick Snyder to moderate the session meetings at Hermon Presbyterian Church on November 8, 2020, December 13, 2020, and January 10, 2021.
- Rev. Nancy Clark to moderate the session meetings at Northeastern PC January 9, 2020, January 27, 2021, February 13, 2021, and March 13, 2021.
- Rev. John Molina-Moore to moderate the session meeting at Northeastern PC December 12, 2020 and the congregational meeting on December 13, 2020.
- Rev. Susan Wisseman to moderate the session meeting at Mizo PC January 10 at 10:00 AM via Zoom.
- Rev. Mary Beth Lawrence to moderate the congregational meeting at Mizo PC January 17, 2021, at 2:00 PM via Zoom.
- Rev. Mary Beth Lawrence to moderate the session meeting at Boyds PC March 10, 2021.
- Rev. Roy Howard to moderate the session at Leesburg PC March 16, 2021 at 7:00 PM via Zoom.

The Stated Clerk reports that the follow churches did not submit their 2020 Statistical Report:

- Northern Virginia Korean PC
- United Korean PC
- Brentsville PC
- Taiwanese PC of Washington DC
- Saint Mark PC
- Litchfield PC
- Rockville United PC
- Wheaton Community PC
- Sargent Memorial PC

- Ebenezer PC

From Leadership Council

Leadership Meeting Minutes, Feb. 3, 2021- 12:30 PM Via Zoom

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

Excused: Laura Cunningham

NCP Staff: John Molina Moore, LaJuan Quander, Jan Moody, Tara Spuhler McCabe, Heather Deacon, Dina Bickel

Guests: Elder Karl Hoffman, Investment Committee Chair, Elder Charles Kuo, Mission Coordinating Commission Chair, and Elder Mark Eakin, EarthCare Network representative

Chair Charles Barber opened the meeting with prayer at 12:30 pm.

Leadership Council met with Elders Tressie Muldrow and Mary Hill from the Personnel Committee for the annual review of the General Presbyter.

At 12:45, LC reconvened with NCP staff present. New NCP staff member, Dina Bickel, was introduced. She serves as the Administrative Assistant working with COM, CPM, Leadership Council and the Worship and Theology Team.

Elder Karl Hoffman presented the Investment Committee Annual Report.

He then joined the discussion with Elders Eakin and Kuo who presented a recommendation for LC consideration of divestiture of NCP assets from fossil fuel companies.

LC voted on the following motions:

Leadership Council moves to approve and recommend to presbytery the recommendation from MCC to approve the request from the EarthCare Network to divest any and all of the NCP's assets from the securities of fossil fuel companies listed in the Carbon Underground 200. **Approved**

Leadership Council moves to approve and recommend to presbytery the approval of a NCP Fossil Fuel Divestment Resolution that will do the following:

1. Express its profound concern about the destructive effects of climate change on all God's creation, including a disproportionate impact on communities of persons of color, those living in poverty, and in the least developed countries; the elderly and children; and those least responsible for the emissions of greenhouse gases. The National Capital Presbytery thus recognizes the moral mandate for humanity to shift to a sustainable energy plan in a way that is both just and compassionate. This mandate

compels us to action as a presbytery to divest from the fossil fuel industry even as we reduce our use of fossil fuels and shrink our carbon footprint.

2. Acknowledge that those working in the fossil fuel sector may suffer economic disruptions and personal hardships as the world transitions from obtaining its energy from fossil fuel sources to renewable energy sources. Therefore, the NCP supports efforts of the PCUSA to use its resources to assist fossil fuel workers through this transition.
3. Call upon the Leadership Council of the National Capital Presbytery to:
 - a. Amend the “Prohibited Investments” subsection of Section 9 of *NCP Financial Policies*, as follows: “6. Investments in fossil fuel companies: The assets in the Portfolio shall not be invested in any company listed in the Carbon Underground 200 or companies listed in the Global Industry Classification Standard (GICS) 101010 and 101020.”
 - b. Direct the Investment Committee to ensure compliance with subsection 3a of this overture by December 2022.
 - c. Request regular updates from the Investment Committee detailing progress made towards bringing the Portfolio into compliance with subsection 3b.
4. Call upon the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery to inform the member congregations in the Presbytery of the passage and implementation of this resolution, and to recommend that congregations and individual members shall discern their call to divestment and report back to the Presbytery their actions in 12 months.
5. Call upon the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery to inform the larger public of the passage and implementation of this resolution.

Approved

Jan Moody presented for LC a recommendation from COM and CPM concerning Commissioned Ruling Elders.

LC voted on the following motion:

Leadership Council moves to approve the recommendation from COM and CPM that Leadership Council appoint a Task Group to research the preparation and use of Commissioned Ruling Elders in National Capital Presbytery.

Background

A CRE is an elder in the Presbyterian Church (USA) who is granted a local commission by the Presbytery to limited pastoral service as assigned by the Presbytery.

A commissioned ruling elder may moderate the session of the congregation to which he or she is commissioned, to administer the Sacraments, and to officiate at marriages where permitted by state law (G-2.1001). A commissioned ruling elder is responsible to watch over the people and provide for their worship and nurture. Permission for specific activities will be included in the contract established between the session of a particular church or organization, with the approval of the Committee on Ministry. A CRE works

under the supervision of the presbytery and a minister of the Word and Sacrament shall be assigned as a mentor and supervisor.

Approved

Elsie Reid, member of the Dismantling Racism Team presented for LC consideration a NCP Dismantling Racism Policy.

LC voted on the following motion:

LC moves to approve the following policy statement:

National Capital Presbytery Policy Statement on Dismantling Racism

Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to acknowledge the pervasive sin of racism in our church and society and commit NCP to the work of confronting and dismantling racism. NCP shall seek to accomplish the missional work of building the body of Christ by requiring anti-racism training for our clergy and key leadership and by marshalling credible, trusted resources to enable and better equip our congregations as they examine and confront the issues of racial injustice, systemic racism, restorative justice, and racial healing.

Rationale:

Racism is more than individual acts of bigotry or prejudice. Racism is any system, institution, or cultural practice or tradition, which protects or prefers the lives, property, and status of White people--or any group which takes power over another, at the expense of our siblings of color or other marginalized persons or groups. Racism is contrary to the Gospel injunction to love God and our neighbor as ourselves. Scriptures teach us that though we are individually unique, we are collectively, as children of God, one in God's eyes, equally beloved by God. As disciples of Jesus Christ, NCP will engage in this transformative work as we seek to build the beloved community of Christ where there is neither "Jew nor Greek...no longer slave or free...no longer male or female, for all of you are one in Christ Jesus." Galatians 3:28.

Implementation:

1. The first component of the policy is structured education. NCP shall offer **training** for our clergy, key leadership, and member congregations on racial and social justice. The Dismantling Racism Team has chosen Service Never Sleeps (SNS), a non-profit organization dedicated to catalyzing social justice through service and "allyship" to offer this training.
 - a. Attendance at this workshop is mandatory for:
 - 1) all ministry members of NCP and the ministry professionals of NCP member congregations (by way of example, to include but not limited to, specialized ministers, youth ministry employees, Christian educators and directors, and Chaplains),

- 2) all NCP staff, and
- 3) the chairs of all NCP standing committees.

Clergy must participate fully in one of the proffered workshops over the next three years, *i.e.*, during 2021, 2022 and 2023.

The cost of the training module will be paid from NCP funds.

The Office of the Stated Clerk and the COM Administrator will maintain a roster of those needing and those who have completed the training.

- b. SNS will also offer the Allyship workshop to the broader NCP community twice each year, so that NCP congregations and members may learn more about the work of identifying and ending racism.
 - c. NCP invites and encourages clergy and our members to embrace this discipline of training and commit to the work of confronting and ending racism. The training will provide information and insights into anti-racism efforts; however, this workshop is only a beginning. Ongoing prayer, study, conversation, discernment, and practice by and among NCP leadership will be essential. As Jesus Christ taught, to serve Him, we must minister to the least of God's children. Matthew 25:45.
2. The major work within the Presbytery of dismantling racism, of restoring right relationships with God and each other, will be done within the member congregations of NCP.
 - a. NCP, through its Dismantling Racism Team, will identify *educational resources* for our congregations, some of whom may just be starting to explore the issues of racism and racial injustice while others have already begun to study and take actions toward racial healing. The Dismantling Racism Team will maintain on the NCP website a compendium of trusted resources (written, visual, or experiential) to illuminate and guide this work wherever our congregations may be on this journey.
 - b. Financial assistance in the form of training grants will also be available to congregations needing that help. Applications for financial assistance may be directed to the Director of Congregational Development and Mission.
 - c. These tools are intended to aid our member congregations as they seek a deeper awareness of the sin of racism and its corrosive

effects and discern how they may become agents of racial justice and reconciliation.

Conclusion:

Our mission as members of the church of the Triune God is to be agents of salvation, justice, and reconciliation. These training workshops and educational resources are an opportunity and a means for our body to turn away from the sin of racism, to act as faithful disciples of Christ in ministering and caring for the marginalized in our world, and to witness God's love for all creation. We humbly undertake this work, trusting that God's Holy Spirit will be our guide and inspiration. **Approved**

John Molina-Moore reported that he plans to meet with the Bealeton PC congregation soon. He also gave an update on Wheaton PC. Pat Futato reported on the Boyds AC and its work meeting with Session leaders and members of the congregation in listening sessions and by attending Church School adult classes and worship. Heather Deacon gave a status report on the 1122 Oronoco St, Alexandria, VA property, the location of the dissolved Community PC.

Charles Barber led a discussion about the January 26, 2021 and responses to the meeting evaluations as NCP staff, LC, and the Worship and Theology Team continue to navigate the challenges of doing the worshipful work of the presbytery via virtual platforms.

Meeting closed with prayer.

Next LC meeting: March 3, 2021 via Zoom.

Leadership Meeting Minutes, March 3, 2021- 12:30 PM Via Zoom

Present: Michael Rankin, Charles Barber, Miriam Dewhurst, Lee Bishop, Brian Clark, Sterling Morse, Pat Futato, Diane Hendricks, Elsie Reid, Quinn Fox, Nancy Neal

Excused: Neill Morgan Le Quan Turner, David McClung

NCP Staff: John Molina Moore, LaJuan Quander, Jan Moody, Tara Spuhler McCabe, Heather Deacon, Dina Bickel

Chair Charles Barber opened the meeting with prayer at 12:32 pm.

Pat Futato led the devotion.

Leadership Council voted on two revisions to motions (NCP Fossil Fuel Divestment Resolution and NCP Policy Statement on Dismantling Racism) and a third motion from the Nominating Committee:

Revised Motion 1:

Leadership Council moves to approve the recommendation from MCC of the following NCP Fossil Fuel Divestment Resolution **Approved**

NCP Fossil Fuel Divestment Resolution

Whereas;

National Capital Presbytery expresses its profound concern about the destructive effects of climate change on all God's creation, including a disproportionate impact on communities of persons of color, those living in poverty, and in the least developed countries; the elderly and children; and those least responsible for the emissions of greenhouse gases. The National Capital Presbytery thus recognizes the moral mandate for humanity to shift to a sustainable energy plan in a way that is both just and compassionate. This mandate compels us to action as a presbytery to divest from the fossil fuel industry even as we reduce our use of fossil fuels and shrink our carbon footprint and

Whereas;

National Capital Presbytery acknowledges that those working in the fossil fuel sector may suffer economic disruptions and personal hardships as the world transitions from obtaining its energy from fossil fuel sources to renewable energy sources and therefore, the NCP supports efforts of the PCUSA to use its resources to assist fossil fuel workers through this transition; therefore be it

Resolved,

NCP will call upon the Leadership Council of the National Capital Presbytery to:

- a. Amend the "Prohibited Investments" subsection of Section 9 of *NCP Financial Policies*, as follows: "6. Investments in fossil fuel companies: The assets in the Portfolio shall not be invested in any company listed in the Carbon Underground 200 or companies listed in the Global Industry Classification Standard (GICS) 101010 and 101020."
- b. Direct the Investment Committee to ensure compliance with subsection 3a of this overture by December 2022.
- c. Request regular updates from the Investment Committee to the Leadership Council detailing progress made towards bringing the Portfolio into compliance with subsection 3b.

Resolved,

NCP will call upon the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery to inform the member congregations in the Presbytery of the passage and implementation of this resolution.

Revised Motion 2:

Leadership Council moves to approve the following revisions to the policy statement as suggested following conversations with NCP staff, members of the Dismantling Racism Team, and the Chair of LC:

Approved

- 1) Clarify that the training is mandatory for all minister members of NCP and NCP staff and the training is encouraged for church staffs, lay leaders and members of NCP congregations
- 2) Omit the Matthew 25 verse from c section of implementation
- 3) Omit specific name of non-profit training organization

National Capital Presbytery Policy Statement on Dismantling Racism

Purpose:

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Rationale:

Racism is more than individual acts of bigotry or prejudice. Racism is any system, institution, or cultural practice or tradition, which protects or prefers the lives, property, and status of White people--or any group which takes power over another, at the expense of our siblings of color or other marginalized persons or groups. Racism is contrary to the Gospel injunction to love God and our neighbor as ourselves. Scriptures teach us that though we are individually unique, we are collectively, as children of God, one in God's eyes, equally beloved by God. As disciples of Jesus Christ, NCP will engage in this transformative work as we seek to build the beloved community of Christ where there is neither "Jew nor Greek...no longer slave or free...no longer male or female, for all of you are one in Christ Jesus." Galatians 3:28.

Implementation:

2. The first component of the policy is structured education. NCP shall offer **training** for our clergy, lay leadership, and member congregations on racial and social justice. The Dismantling Racism Team will select a non-profit organization dedicated to catalyzing social justice through service and "allyship" to offer this training.
 - d. Attendance at the workshop is **mandatory** for:
 - 4) all minister members of NCP. NCP ministers must participate fully in one of the proffered workshops over the next three years, *i.e.*, during 2021, 2022 and 2023.
 - 5) all NCP Staff

The cost of the training module will be paid from NCP funds. The Committee on Ministry will maintain a roster of those needing and those who have completed the training and will report the list to the Stated Clerk annually.

- e. Attendance at a workshop is **encouraged** for:
 - 1) Chairs of NCP committees and commissions, church staffs, including directors of music, education, and youth, as well as members of NCP congregations, so that NCP may learn more about the work of identifying and ending racism.
 - f. NCP invites and encourages clergy and lay members to embrace this discipline of training and commit to the work of confronting and ending racism. The training will provide information and insights into anti-racism efforts; however, this workshop is only a beginning. Ongoing prayer, study, conversation, discernment, and practice by and among NCP members will be essential.
3. The major work within the Presbytery of dismantling racism, of restoring right relationships with God and each other, will be done within the member congregations of NCP.
- a. NCP, through its Dismantling Racism Team, will identify ***educational resources*** for our congregations, some of whom may just be starting to explore the issues of racism and racial injustice while others have already begun to study and take actions toward racial healing. The Dismantling Racism Team will maintain on the NCP website a compendium of trusted resources (written, visual, or experiential) to illuminate and guide this work wherever our congregations may be on this journey.
 - b. Financial assistance in the form of training grants will also be available to congregations needing that help. Applications for financial assistance may be directed to the Director of Congregational Development and Mission.
 - c. These tools are intended to aid our member congregations as they seek a deeper awareness of the sin of racism and its corrosive effects and discern how they may become agents of racial justice and reconciliation.

Conclusion:

Our mission as members of the church of the Triune God is to be agents of salvation, justice, and reconciliation. These training workshops and educational resources are an opportunity and a means for our body to turn away from the sin of racism, to act as faithful disciples of Christ in ministering and caring for the marginalized in our world, and to witness God's love for all creation. We humbly undertake this work, trusting that God's Holy Spirit will be our guide and inspiration.

Motion 3:

Leadership Council moves to approve the recommendation from the Nominating Committee for Elder Mark Eakin to chair the Committee on Bills and Overtures.

Approved

Notes:

March 23 Presbytery meeting

LC Chair Charles Barber will present the two motions approved by LC. Elder Mark Eakin, representing the EarthCare Network and Elder Charles Kuo, MCC Chair, will speak to the Divestiture Resolution and Rev. Edwin Andrade, a member of the Dismantling Racism Task Team will speak to the Dismantling Racism Policy.

Open Space

Open Spaces will be led by the Dismantling Racism Team, the New Things Team, the EarthCare Network, and the guest preacher for worship, Rev. Brian Blount. It was discussed and decided that for virtual Open Spaces the topics should be limited to topics highlighted in worship and/or the business meeting.

Updates:

Pat Futato gave an update on Boyds AC

John Molina-Moore reported the following schedule for March 23: Open Spaces from 4:00 to 5:00, Worship from 5:00 to 5:50; and NCP business meeting starting at 6:00. The Open Spaces and Worship will each have its own Zoom link. The business meeting will have its own link and will use the webinar platform.

LC Retreat/Business Meeting - April 7, 9:00 AM until NOON via Zoom.

The Leadership Council met in executive session after the regular meeting.