

THURSDAY MAILING



National Capital
PRESBYTERY
MISSIONAL · PASTORAL · PROPHETIC

May 27, 2021



In this edition

Pastoral Concerns/Announcements

From the Desk of

Jan Moody, Stated Clerk

From the Desk of

Tara Spuhler McCabe, TDir. Congregational Development & Mission

Litany from the May 25th Presbytery Meeting Worship Service

adapted from the Well Preaching Group

Learning Labs

Sponsored by NCP led by Convergence

May 27 – October 28

A Conversation with Lovett Weems & Ann Michel

Sponsored by NCP Stewardship Committee

June 2 – webinar format (registration required)

Graduation Celebration

Honoring our 2021 Graduates

Sponsored by Black Presbyterians United (BPU)

June 6

Scholarships Available

Planned Giving Days (June) & Stewardship Kaleidoscope (September)

offered through NCP Stewardship Committee

Stewardship Kaleidoscope

Real Tools for Real Ministry

September 13-15, Cincinnati, OH and Virtual

ALLY TRAINING

led by Service Never Sleeps with

the Dismantling Racism Team of NCP

(this training is NOT for Clergy)

September 15-16 (registration required)

Dismantling Racism Training – Fall Cohort

led by Service Never Sleeps (mandatory training for all clergy)

first session begins September 21-22 (registration required)

Together We Can Make A Difference!
ON-LINE GIVING

Pastoral Concerns:

Please hold in prayer the **Rev. David Bowerman** and his wife **Rev. Lucy Bowerman** on the loss of his mother Lura Lee Bowerman who died Monday, May 24, 2021.

Announcements:



You can now access **NCP's calendar** from upper right-hand side of the main page. Hover over "About" the menu will drop, click on NCP Calendar. The calendar includes a listing of all NCP committee meetings and NCP sponsored events.



On Thursday, June 3, at 7:00 p.m., via zoom staff and leadership of NCP will offer a panel discussion to share best practices on resuming public worship and other ministry group gatherings. Zoom link emailed. Contact lquander@thepresbytery.org if you need the link sent.



Once a month **Learning Labs** are an opportunity for anyone in the Presbytery – clergy or laypeople – to engage with an online Learning Lab led by members of the **Convergence** Team and invited guests to explore critical topics in ministry today. **These will be held at 12:30 p.m. the fourth Thursday of each month.** Register here: <https://faithlead.org/p/learninglabs-ncp>

We know **congregations are looking for helpful tools, resources**, and connections to navigate the virtual ministry world. Upcoming opportunities are listed below. We will continue to cultivate other opportunities and please feel free to share what resources are helpful for you. Scholarships are available, tspuhlrmccabe@thepresbytery.org

June 9-10, Rev. Jim Keat will be hosting the "**Online Church Conference**" with experts from many denominations who walk participants through the practical work of thriving in a hybrid church world. You can learn more here: <https://faithlead.org/p/tocc>

Interwoven Congregations is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting racial justice and healing by partnering diverse congregations (of all denominations & faiths) together. In April, they published their inaugural issue of Interwoven Congregations Quarterly which features: a conversation with Ambassador Andrew Young and friends (including Rev. Bernice Parker-Jones of Faith Presbyterian and Chuck Booker of Bethesda Presbyterian); a poetic lament in the time of Covid and racial injustice by Rev. Bob Melone of Mt. Vernon Presbyterian; and paintings from an emerging artist that celebrate the strength, beauty, and resilience of African American women. Submitted by Interwoven Congregations co-executive director Rev. Pat Jackson.

A Message from the Stated Clerk

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

National Capital Presbytery gathered virtually on May 25, 2021 and learned in Open Spaces about *new things springing forth in New Worshipping Communities*; creative proposals for using the *D.C. and NCP Resurrection Funds*; and *best practices for the renewal of body and spirit* as we re-enter a post-COVID-19 world.

Our time of worship was led by The Rev. Dr. Michael Koppel who preached a message reminding us of our prophetic and pastoral call to follow Christ’s example of listening and responding with compassion to the needs of those who are suffering.

In our business meeting we listened to stories of new beginnings in the faith journeys of three honorably retired NCP ministers: Reverends Laura Hollister, Dean McDonald, and Jim McDonald.

We elected Ruling Elder Shani McIlwain Vice Moderator and Rev. Diane Hendricks Moderator to lead our presbytery in June 2021-June 2022.

As a final item of business, the presbytery approved the Leadership Council’s recommendation to *approve the Budget and Finance Committee* recommendation that National Capital Presbytery (NCP) *utilize money from the NCP Resurrection Fund to satisfy in full, as a lump sum payment, the balance of the loan, with Presbyterian Investment & Loan Program* to Wheaton Community Church (formerly known as Beltsville United Presbyterian Church) on which NCP is a co-borrower.

Elder Michael Rankin closed the meeting with a prayer and a charge from James: 5: 13-17 with its call to confess our sins; sing songs of praise; anoint with oil those who are sick and pray for those who suffer and are in need of healing.

We began 2021 hearing from Rev. Trimble who called for courage and honesty as churches face an unknown future. In May 2021, churches are discerning how best to re-enter church buildings and rebuild relationships that have been socially distanced for many months. I invite us to remember Rev. Trimble’s affirmation that we are “pioneers of a new frontier rather than survivors of a declining institution.” By God’s grace and Spirit, let us move forward faithfully and boldly!

May 27, 2021

Greetings People,

I sit on the Arlington County Fair Board. Wait a minute, I don't sit. I walk, run, sweat, attend meetings, connect people, and sit to catch my breath when we are putting together the Arlington County Fair. Last year we did that cool amazing thing and PIVOTED! Instead of letting go of the whole fair experience for a year (we could have taken a sabbatical), we organized a virtual fair. To dive into a full virtual fair, we had to place other expectations on hold: the smell of funnel cakes; rides that make one dizzy; the smell of fried Oreos; standing in lines while sweating for the perfect Ferris Wheel ride, and yes, making enough money to fund a volunteer-based fair for another year. We pruned our expectations and emotions.



We were able to provide a virtual fair once we put on hold the pieces that we could not provide. Our **mission** was still the same: *our fair is a non-profit volunteer-driven organization that embraces a diverse community by educating, entertaining, and showcasing the best of our county.* When the fair is in person or virtual there will always be limits. But we stay focused on the mission: embracing a diverse community by educating, entertaining, and showcasing the best of our community.

Committed to this mission provided us a chance to blow our own minds! With our adaptations, we met and connected with new people who had never participated in the physical fair before. We had no idea that our over-functioning 'Arlingtonian' selves could be so creative, all because we stayed committed to the mission. This year, we have re-organized the fair almost three times due to updated pandemic restrictions. We are struggling on where to land.

This means, we need to focus on our mission. We must check in with what band-with we have to live into and succeed in our mission. We need to prune some expectations from last year and put things on hold until we try this phase on. We need to accept that any in person fair activities will be different than all the 43 years before of the fair. The pandemic has changed us. As we focus through our mission we need to ask, what is the most present and authentic way we can embrace our diverse community with education, entertainment, safely and responsibly? Following this practice, we give ourselves permission that these decisions are for such a time as this and there will be different decisions next year while centering around the same mission.

As each of our congregations and communities continue to navigate all that is before us, I pray your mission continues to center you in, give you focus, and re-orientate you for what lies ahead. The mission of Jesus Christ provides us with a renewal of Spirit to navigate these waters. Thank you for all the volunteer hours so many of you are providing with your church staff to live into and serve in the mission of Jesus Christ.

Peace and Courage,

Rev. Tara Spuhler McCabe



LITANY FROM THE MAY 25, 2021 PREBYTERY MEETING WORSHIP SERVICE
This has been adapted from The Well Preaching Group

It's been a year, God.
Maybe not for you, but that's a long time for us to go without a lifeline.
Because we trust your love above all else
we take a moment to name our reality.

Some of us have suffered painful losses.
We've grieved and run and cried and screamed.
We have raised our fists to you in lament
and sometimes we wonder if you have heard.
MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY?

We have navigated call processes via Zoom,
discerned the work of your Spirit from our dining room tables,
and wondered every day what kinds of faith communities
will emerge from a time we are so tired of calling "unprecedented."
MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY?

We became televangelists overnight,
preaching to our screens
and feeling disconnected from your people.
MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY?

We have lost a sense of routine
and sometimes have no idea what day it is.
We have felt cut off and alone.
MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY?

We've made Too.Many.Decisions.
And not been sure that any of them are right.
We keep trying to do our best,
but so often it feels like it is not enough.
Which means that we have been tempted to believe the lie
that *we* are not enough.
MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY?

Some of us were shamed for our failures
at precisely the time when we most needed assurances of your grace.
We've lost our moorings and energy.
We've drunk too much wine and had too little confidence.
MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY?

We have been critiqued for everything under the sun:
Too prophetic or not enough,
Too well dressed or not enough
Too flexible or not enough
Too sensitive or not enough
MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY?

We've stretched, and adapted, and worked while tired
to provide steady leadership in our day-jobs
and to keep the wheels on at home...
and now, weary as we are,
we are asked to summon fresh energy for the "restart."
MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY?

And yet we have seen your grace knock us over in countless ways:
the friend who calls at just the right time,
the church member who finally gets it,
the family time we didn't realize we were missing
and the unexpected relationships
that might even feel a little bit like resurrection.
AND GOD SAW THAT IT WAS GOOD.

We've laughed,
at these new things called "worship bloopers,"
having said or heard, "you are muted," so many times
praying that the technology angels remain on our side.
AND GOD SAW THAT IT WAS GOOD.

We've gone hiking or bike riding at 8am on a Sunday morning.
We've tried out new recipes and retreated to comfort food.
We've gotten more sleep and not enough sleep.
AND GOD SAW THAT IT WAS GOOD.

We've had break-through moments in both therapy and in prayer.
We've uncovered painful memories and learned
that we are stronger than the worst this world can throw at us.
AND GOD SAW THAT IT WAS GOOD.

We've witnessed and weathered challenges to our nation's democracy
and the center, though shaky, has held.
We've re-committed to the hard work of prophecy and peace-making.
AND GOD SAW THAT IT WAS GOOD.

We've come face to face with the Church's imperfections.
We've learned that so many of our mentors and colleagues
have all kinds of failings.
We've been dumbstruck and disappointed
and yet we have still kept faith
that this earthen vessel of a Church is Spirit-led.
AND GOD SAW THAT IT WAS GOOD.

We believe where we cannot see.
We trust, in part, because of the faith we see reflected in one another.
We hope - not because the future depends on us,
but because we are participants in the story of a God
who ultimately brings wholeness...and justice...and completion.
AND GOD SAW THAT IT WAS GOOD. INDEED, VERY VERY GOOD.

****This has been adapted from The Well Preaching Group (please credit properly)***

Learning Labs:

Once a month Learning Labs are an opportunity for anyone in the Presbytery - clergy or laypeople - to engage with an online Learning Lab led by members of the [Convergence](#) Team and invited guests to explore critical topics in ministry today. **These will be held at 12:30 p.m. the fourth Thursday of each month.**

The current curriculum for these Labs as follows:

- Learning Lab 1: Best Practices in Online Church – [Jim Keet](#) – April 22
- Learning Lab 2: Post-COVID Trends Shaping the Church – [Cameron Trimble](#) – May 27
- Learning Lab 3: The Balanced Leader: Leading from Within Without Burning Out -[Cameron Trimble](#) – June 24
- Learning Lab 4: How to Build Community and Belonging Online – [Jim Keet](#) – July 22
- Learning Lab 5: Marketing for Ministry: What you need to know as a Local Church Leader - [Anna Golladay](#) – August 26
- Learning Lab 6: Family Systems and Conflict Transformation -[Cameron Trimble](#) – September 23
- Learning Lab 7: How to Turn Your Church into a Community Hub for Social Innovation & Neighborhood Economic Revitalization – [Anna Golladay](#) – October 28
- Learning Lab 8: Leading From the Future: Emergence Leadership For The Sake of the Church – [Cameron Trimble](#) – November (TBD)
- Learning Lab 9: Coaching Skills for Church Leaders or TBD

Our expectation is that these will be offered at 12:30 ET on the fourth Thursdays for 1.5 hours. There will be presentations, breakout groups, exercises, and opportunities for Q & A. These Labs will be recorded and edited and placed on our FaithLead.org Learning Platform so that anyone not able to access them live or who would like to go back and review them can do so on-demand and without cost.

<https://faithlead.org/p/learninglabs-ncp> The registration site will also contain recordings of each Lab for access after the live event.

Learning Labs are sponsored by to Spiritual Formation Team, Congregational Development Committee, and Committee on Ministry in partnership with Convergence



National Capital
PRESBYTERY
MISSIONAL · PASTORAL · PROPHETIC

The Stewardship Committee of National Capital Presbytery host

A Conversation with Lovett H. Weems & Ann A. Michel



National Capital
PRESBYTERY
MISSIONAL • PASTORAL • PROPHETIC

Wednesday, June 2, 2021
11:30 AM to 1:00 PM
via Webinar Platform

Our guest leaders will introduce us to their book,
"Generosity, Stewardship, and Abundance:
A Transformational Guide to Church Finance"

Register [HERE](#)

Address topics around:
The Spirituality of Money
Generosity
Stewardship
Abundance

Developing a Comprehensive, Year-round Stewardship Ministry
Leadership for Stewardship

Webinar participants, after the webinar, will receive a copy of
"Generosity, Stewardship, and Abundance: A Transformational Guide to Church Finance"



Generosity, Stewardship, and Abundance

A TRANSFORMATIONAL
GUIDE TO
CHURCH FINANCE

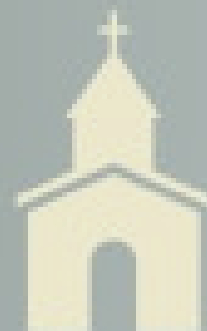
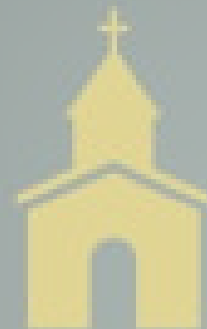
Lovett H. Weems Jr.
and Ann A. Michel



Lovett H. Weems Jr. is Wesley Seminary distinguished professor of church leadership and founding director/senior consultant of Wesley's Lewis Center for Church Leadership. He has published over 15 books on church leadership and the challenges of the church today.



Ann A. Michel is associate director of the Lewis Center for Church Leadership of Wesley Theological Seminary and teaches in the areas of stewardship and leadership. She is the author of Synergy: A Leadership Guide for Church Staff and Volunteers.



Black Presbyterian United
presents



GRADUATION CELEBRATION

Join us as we honor celebrate our 2021 graduates and their accomplishments.

SUNDAY, JUNE 6, 2021 AT 3 P.M. EST VIA ZOOM

"The Places We Can Go"



Keynote Speaker:

Elder Willie T. Montgomery, Jr
Fifteenth Street Presbyterian Church

If you are graduating, getting promoted, or completed a certificate program and want to be included in our celebration complete this form by May 20th >>> <https://bit.ly/graduationassets>



National Capital
PRESBYTERY
MISSIONAL · PASTORAL · PROPHETIC

The Stewardship committee of NCP supports and recommends to our stewardship minded folks the opportunity to participate in two offerings!

Through your Unified Giving



Scholarships Are Available!

Click to Apply



National Capital
Gift Planning Council

Planned Giving Days June 10-11, 2021

This is a unique opportunity to learn from leaders in the non-profit sector.

The Committee is offering full scholarships, on first come first serve basis for virtual attendance.

Throughout the two-day event, you'll have the opportunity to learn from experts in sessions like "A Legacy Plan in Your Hand," "Using Your Fundraising Campaign as a Catalyst for Legacy Giving," "How a Pandemic Magnified the 'Why' in Planned Giving," and more. For more info, click [HERE](#).



Stewardship
Kaleidoscope
Real Tools for Real Ministry

Stewardship Kaleidoscope September 13-15, 2021

This annual conference offers education, worship, and amazing opportunities for growth in stewardship and generosity. Kaleidoscope is the Presbyterian Foundation-sponsored Annual National Stewardship Conference.

The Committee is offering scholarships for the "virtual experience". NCP is a "friends sponsor" of this conference and we encourage NCP member participation. For more info, click [HERE](#).



Stewardship Kaleidoscope

Real Tools for Real Ministry

StewardshipKaleidoscope.org

September

13-15

2021

This annual conference offers education, worship, and amazing opportunities for growth in stewardship and generosity. Over two dozen workshops available to in-person attendees.

We will be in person in Cincinnati, Ohio, and online for a virtual experience.

Plenary Leaders



Rev. Dr. Tod Bolsinger

Assoc. Prof. of Leadership Formation
Fuller Theological Seminary
California



Rev. Dr. Brandi Casto-Waters

Pastor, Faith Presbyterian Church
Cape Coral, Florida



Aimée Cole-Laramore

Philanthropic Strategist, African-American Preaching and Sacred Rhetoric, Christian Theological Seminary & lead consultant, ALLyd Image Solutions

Worship Leader



Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, II

Stated Clerk of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A.



Rev. Elizabeth Eaton

Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

THE DISMANTLING RACISM TEAM
OF NCP INVITE YOU TO

ALLY TRAINING



FALL

led by Service Never Sleeps



UNITY · RECONCILIATION · JUSTICE

Dismantling Racism

When:

Wednesday, September 15, from 6:00pm to 9:00pm
AND

Thursday, September 16, from 6:00pm to 9:00pm

(This is a TWO day training. Your registration confirms
you will attend both sessions.)

Where: **Zoom**

Who: **ALL (Members of NCP congregations &
communities & friends of our congregations)**

Led by Whitney Parnell, CEO and Founder of Service Never Sleeps, these sessions will provide helpful definitions, invitations to self-mirroring, and active ally education involving the CLAIM acronym: Care, Learn, Act, Influence, and Maintain. The workshops teach individuals about the causes of social injustice, how to be effective allies for marginalized communities, and how to actively influence and educate others. Our time together on Zoom will involve breakouts for practice together in pairs and small groups intermittently throughout our time of learning, so come ready to "try on" the Ally Training strategies of Service Never Sleeps.

[Register HERE](#)

DISMANTLING RACISM -TRAINING- FALL COHORT

BROUGHT TO YOU THROUGH PARTNERSHIP WITH
SERVICE NEVER SLEEPS



UNITY · RECONCILIATION · JUSTICE
Dismantling Racism

COHORT TWO begins September 21! Space is limited to 50 participants for cohort one! Sign up today to reserve your spot in this four-part series happening September through November.

WHO: Minister members of NCP (**mandatory for all clergy every 3 years**) and ministry professionals of member congregations and specialized ministries ([Policy Statement on Dismantling Racism](#))

WHAT & WHEN: Four-part series on the following topics, (**all classes held from 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM**)

- Class One: Allyship (class one is TWO sessions), September 21 & 22
- Class Two: White Supremacy 101, October 12
- Class Three: Bias and Microaggressions, October 13
- Class Four: Building Equity (TWO sessions), November 9-10

Register [HERE](#)

registration for this cohort closes 9/15

WHERE: Wherever you are! Join us on Zoom.

WHY: 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.

***National Capital Presbytery is providing this series of trainings free of charge to participants. Those who wish to contribute continuing education funds toward this important educational series, to help make it available to the widest possible audience within our Presbytery, may [make contributions](#) to National Capital Presbytery, Memo: Race & Reconciliation Fund**

