



January, 2023

Dear Friends in Christ,

Happy New Year! I am always wondering how long you greet people with that term ‘happy new year,’ especially when we are already coming to the end of January. Nevertheless, we are preparing for our first meeting of 2023, and I am excited that we have our candidate for Stated Clerk to present and vote on before the body. If the way is clear, the Rev. David Baer will start on February 1st.

As we move into the new format of presbytery meetings, connection is important. We should find ways to connect with our friends and colleagues outside of meetings, especially zoom meetings. Take time away from your desk, your office, your computer and go eat. Break bread with your friends near and far. Schedule time to connect with people you haven’t seen in a while.

Other ways to stay connected is to take advantage of the training, workshops, and special services throughout the presbytery. Our **Leadership Training**, sponsored by Black Presbyterians United and the Ministry Relations team, is scheduled for Saturday, January 21. Worship and Theology has worked hard to bring in Marcia McFee for a **Worship Reboot Workshop** on Thursday, February 16. We also have our annual **Continuing Education event/retreat for Clergy and Church Professionals** March 13-15. Remember, also, that installations and ordinations are services of the presbytery, and you as a member of this presbytery are always welcomed to come and support your siblings in their call to serve. There are many different ways to connect, and if you do not find one that best works for you, create one. You are amazing!

Our stated meeting on Tuesday, January 24 begins at 6 pm on Zoom. Prior to Tuesday’s meeting, we will host Action Item Dialogue (Disbursement Plan for Riverdale Fund and Introduction of the Stated Clerk Nominee) on Monday, January 23 at 7:00 pm on Zoom. We are grateful for our NCP staff who work to ensure a seamless virtual experience. Please remember at the conclusion of our meeting there will be an evaluation link. I encourage you to take the time to share your thoughts and reflections, as leadership and staff take all feedback into consideration to make sure we are creating a meaningful experience for all.

Thank you for your time and leadership. Find time to be in community with others, find joy, find hope, and love in all you do, and with all things and the love of Jesus Christ, be you because it is more than enough.

Faithfully Yours,

Shani McIlwain, Moderator
National Capital Presbytery



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**Stated Meeting
National Capital Presbytery
January 24, 2023
6:00PM via Zoom
We Gather in Community**

6:00 PM CALL TO ORDER AND PRAYER Elder Shani McIlwain, Moderator

6:05 PM OMNIBUS MOTION (p. 4) Rev. John Molina-Moore, Acting Stated Clerk

6:10 PM ELECTION OF STATED CLERK (p. 5) Rev. Brian Clark, Chair, Stated Clerk Search Team

6:20 PM COMMISSIONING OF RULING ELDER TO SERVICE at First United Presbyterian Church at Dale City

Questions to CRE candidate Elder Shani McIlwain, Moderator

Questions to the presbytery Rev. Dr. Chris Deacon, Vice Moderator

Do you, as members of National Capital Presbytery, confirm the call of God to our sibling,
Michael Slayter to serve as a Commissioned Ruling Elder in the service of Jesus Christ?

We do.

Will you support and encourage him in this ministry?

We will.

6:40 PM TRANSITIONS / PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION Rev. John Molina-Moore, General Presbyter

7:00 PM RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMISSION ON THE PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY (CPM) (p. 5)

Rev. Megan Klose, Chair of CPM

Expedited candidate process for Courtney Vereide

Alternate Worship Ordination Exam for Ministry Candidate Samuel Sarpong

7:15 PM DISBURSEMENT PLAN FOR RIVERDALE FUND (p. 7)	Rev. Dr. Diane Walton Hendricks Chair, Leadership Council and Heather Deacon, NCP Director of Business Affairs
7:25 PM MESSAGE FROM NOMINATING COMMITTEE	Rev. Patrick Hunnicutt, Chair
7:30 PM NEW BUSINESS	Elder Shani McIlwain, Moderator
7:35 PM CHARGE AND BLESSING	Elder Shani McIlwain, Moderator

Meeting Leaders

- Rev. Brian Clark, Chair of Stated Clerk Search Team
- Rev. Dr. Chris Deacon, Vice Moderator, NCP
- Heather Deacon, Director of Business Affairs, NCP
- Rev. Dr. Diane Walton Hendricks, Chair of Leadership Council
- Rev. Patrick Hunnicutt, Chair of Nominating Committee
- Rev. Megan Klose, Chair of Commission on the Preparation for Ministry
- Elder Shani McIlwain, Moderator, NCP
- Rev. John Molina-Moore, Acting Stated Clerk and General Presbyter

OMNIBUS MOTION FOR THE JANUARY 24, 2023 PRESBYTERY MEETING

From the Stated Clerk

- The Acting Stated Clerk moves the approval of the minutes of the November 15, 2022 NCP meeting.
- The Acting Stated Clerk reports that he received the reports from the following commissions and dismisses with thanks:
 - The Administrative Commission to install Rev. Jay Moses on December 18, 2022 at Saint Mark Presbyterian Church at 5:00 pm.
- The Acting Stated Clerk moves the approval of the exemption to Book of Order rule G-2.0404 for Elder Antoine Nixon, Clerk of Session at Faith Presbyterian Church, so that he may continue his service on the Session as a Ruling Elder.
- The Acting Stated Clerk reports the approval of the following Administrative Commissions:
 - The Administrative Commission to install Rev. Jay Moses on December 18, 2022 at Saint Mark Presbyterian Church at 5:00 pm.
 - The Administrative Commission to install the Rev. Gloria Yi at Hope Presbyterian Church on January 29, 2023 at 10:30 am.
 - The Administrative Commission to install Rev. Casey Wait at John Calvin Presbyterian Church on February 19, 2023 at 10:00 am.
 - The Administrative Commission to ordain Christopher McAuliffe at Potomac Presbyterian Church on February 26, 2023 at 4:00 pm.
 - The Administrative Commission to ordain Pat Futato at Kirkwood Presbyterian Church on February 26, 2023 at 4:00 pm.
 - The Administrative Commission to install Rev. Meghan Brown at Georgetown Presbyterian Church on March 5, 2023 at 3:00 pm.
 - The Administrative Commission to install Rev. MaryAnn McKibben Dana at Trinity Presbyterian Church Herndon on March 12, 2023 at 3:00 pm

From the Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee moves the following people for nomination:

Budget & Finance

% 2025 Rev. Alice Bellis

Respectfully Submitted by Rev. Patrick Hunnicutt, Chair of Nominating Committee, NCP

ACTION ITEMS FOR JANUARY 24, 2023 NCP MEETING

Election of NCP Stated Clerk

Motion: To approve the Stated Clerk Search Committee's nomination of Rev. David Baer as Stated Clerk of National Capital Presbytery for a term of five years beginning February 1, 2023.

Letter from Stated Clerk Search Committee (p. 11)

Introduction from Stated Clerk Nominee, Rev. David Baer (p. 12)

Recommendations from Commission on the Preparation for Ministry

Expedited candidate process for Courtney Vereide

Motion #1: The Commission on Preparation for Ministry moves that Courtney Vereide be allowed to enter the expedited candidate process according to the Book of Order G-20610 *“When a Presbytery concludes there are good and sufficient reasons for accommodation to the particular circumstances of an individual seeking ordination, it may by three-fourth vote, waive any of the requirements for ordination in G-2.06, except G-2.0607d (ordination exams).”*

The expedited process simply removes the 2-year time requirement. Since Courtney has already completed her Master of Divinity degree, CPM is recommending that we waive the two-year requirement so that she can take her ordination exams and be certified ready for ministry within the next year. She is a candidate in good standing with Vienna Presbyterian Church and is under care of the National Capital Presbytery’s Commission on Preparation for Ministry.

Alternate Worship Ordination Exam for Ministry Candidate Samuel Sarpong

Motion #2: The Commission on Preparation for Ministry moves that the Presbytery approve an alternative worship ordination exam for Ministry Candidate Samuel Sarpong according to Book of Order G-2.0610.

G-2.0610 *Accommodation to Particular Circumstances*

When a presbytery concludes there are good and sufficient reasons for accommodations to the particular circumstances of an individual seeking ordination, it may, by a three-fourths vote, waive any of the requirements for ordination in G-2.06, except for those of G-2.0607d. If a Presbytery judges that there are good and sufficient reasons why a candidate should not be

required to satisfy the requirements of G-2.0607d, it shall approve by three-fourths vote some alternate means by which to ascertain the readiness of a candidate for ministry in the areas covered by the standard ordination exams. A full account of the reasons for any waiver or alternate means to ascertain readiness shall be included in the minutes of the presbytery and communicated to the presbytery to which an inquirer or candidate may be transferred.

Mr. Sarpong has taken the Worship ordination exam 5 times and not passed. He has passed all the other ordination exams. After reviewing his worship ordination exams, we believe that language and cultural differences are a major factor in his not passing the worship ordination exam. Mr. Sarpong has completed his Seminary Training and received an MDiv from Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond Virginia. Mr. Sarpong is currently serving as a student pastor at his home church, Ebenezer Presbyterian Church in Woodbridge Virginia. The worship exam is one of the few remaining obstacles preventing him from full time ordained ministry.

The Commission on Preparation for Ministry would recommend that Rev. Rob Erickson, Elder Alan Wisdom and Rev. Lisa Kenkeremath write the alternate exam to cover the standard areas of the worship ordination exam: 1) Reformed Liturgical Heritage, 2) Constructive Theological Reflection on Worship, and 3) Application for Ministry. All three of the exam writers have been graders for the nationwide PCUSA Ordination Exams. The exam will be administered by three members of the Commission on Preparation for Ministry appointed by the CPM Moderator. The candidate will be given time to prepare for the exam as all candidates do, but the exam will be evaluated through both verbal and written responses and role plays. The candidate will be expected to use all the worship resources required in the standard ordination exam: Book of Order- Directory of Worship, Book of Confessions, Book of Common Worship and demonstrate a Reformed understanding of worship, and the sacraments. Our hope is that this exam format will be a model that can be used for other candidates for whom the standard ordination exams fail to measure a candidate's readiness for ministry because of language, cultural or other communication barriers.

Recommendation from Leadership Council

Disbursement Plan for Riverdale Fund

Motion: Leadership Council moves that the Presbytery approve the monies currently held in the Riverdale Fund be allocated in the following manner:

	Percentage	Proposed Amount *
Office Fund	15%	\$ 293,818.37
Retreat Fund	12%	\$ 235,054.69
Ministry Crisis Fund	8%	\$ 156,703.13
New Growth	35%	\$ 685,576.19
NCP Resurrection	30%	\$ 587,636.74
	100%	\$ 1,958,789.12

***Based on the balance in the Riverdale Fund as of 11/30/2022**

History

In 2015, Riverdale Presbyterian Church (with approval of Presbytery) sold the worship property located at 6513 Queen’s Chapel Rd in Hyattsville to The Word of God Baptist Church. In accordance with our financial policies the proceeds, \$1,805,148 was deposited into a Donor Temporary Restricted Fund of National Capital Presbytery (aka “The Riverdale Fund”). This fund was held for the congregation by NCP and the congregation could access them with approval of Leadership Council and RPC Session.

After the sale of the property, Riverdale PC leased worship space and worked on revitalizing the mission of the church – using proceeds from the sale of that property. Despite an abundance of resources (both money and people support from NCP), Riverdale Presbyterian Church was unable to sustain vitality and ultimately dissolved in 2021. As a result of that action, monies in the Riverdale Fund reverted to National Capital Presbytery.

Relevant Policy

Our financial policies¹ lay out process for proceeds from:

- Sale of Real Property owned by the Presbytery which is not held for a congregation
 - Satisfy liabilities
 - Replenish Property Management Fund up to \$350,000 balance
 - Remaining funds to appropriate Resurrection Fund
- Sale of Real Property held for a congregation

¹ National Capital Presbytery, Financial Policies, Amended 3/23/21, pages 16-17

- Temporary Donor Restricted Fund held by Presbytery in partnership with the congregation

We do not have policy stating what happens to the funds/assets received from dissolved congregations.

Proposal

Instead of creating a new fund with the monies from the Riverdale Fund, the proposal is that we disburse its contents to existing funds in the following way:

	Percentage
Office Fund	15%
Retreat Fund	12%
Ministry Crisis Fund	8%
New Growth	35%
NCP Resurrection	30%
	100%

Rationale

Current balance as of 11/30/22 in the Riverdale Fund is \$1,958,789.12.

	Percentage	Proposed Amount
Office Fund	15%	\$ 293,818.37
Retreat Fund	12%	\$ 235,054.69
Ministry Crisis Fund	8%	\$ 156,703.13
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NCP Resurrection	30%	\$ 587,636.74
	100%	\$ 1,958,789.12

Office Fund: Currently has no source of replenishment. Purpose is to supplement operating budget (which impacts per capita rate). Rent is the largest driver of the annual \$175,000 draw. We will not see a reduction in that amount until our 2025 budget. Current balance is approximately \$563,276.16. With no intervention, funds are depleted in 3 years, at same rate of withdrawal (which would be the 2025 budget).

Retreat Fund: Currently has no source of replenishment and the 2023 draw depletes the fund. Purpose is for an annual retreat for minister members and church ministry staff.

Ministry Crisis Fund: Replenishment comes primarily from installation services. Purpose is to provide emergency assistance grants or loans to ministers and/or their families. Current cash on hand is \$21,620.66. Below is a summary of contributions and withdrawals since 2015.

	Contributions	Withdrawals
2015	\$ 9,122.00	\$ 5,530.00
2016	\$ 8,812.50	\$ 16,520.00
2017	\$ 7,609.05	\$ 9,790.00
2018	\$ 11,592.93	\$ 13,900.00
2019	\$ 5,442.00	\$ 23,395.47
2020	\$ 5,171.00	\$ 10,050.00
2021	\$ 5,627.00	\$ 5,266.52
2022	\$ <u>4,568.17</u>	\$ <u>20,000.00</u>
	\$ 57,944.65	\$ 104,451.99

New Growth Fund: Currently has no source of replenishment. Purpose is to provide resources to increase membership and participate in NCP, particularly in new ministries. Annual draw is typically \$200,000 - \$225,000. Current balance is \$1,517,086.21.

NCP Resurrection: Replenishment source is sale of property not held by a congregation. For example, if a church dissolved and NCP had to sell the property (which is no longer held by the congregation) the proceeds would be earmarked for this fund. This fund directly impacts our mission budget because we draw off of it, annually, to fund the mission budget. Current balance is \$2,782,024.80.

Summary

As Riverdale Presbyterian Church has dissolved, propose monies currently held in the Riverdale Fund be allocated in the following manner:

	Percentage
Office Fund	15%
Retreat Fund	12%
Ministry Crisis Fund	8%
New Growth	35%
NCP Resurrection	30%
	100%

Additionally, request that the Financial Policies be updated to reflect the contribution of Riverdale Presbyterian Church monies to the recipient funds, where appropriate.

Letter from the Stated Clerk Search Committee

The Stated Clerk Search Committee is pleased to announce our candidate for Stated Clerk of National Capital Presbytery, Reverend David Baer - January, 2023

David demonstrates the ability to think creatively, to move the mission forward within our polity and also to consider and address areas where our polity makes people outsiders. - Rev. Brian Clark



David brings extensive experience both as a pastor and stated clerk to this position. He demonstrates the ability to develop a shared vision and to chart the steps to carry it out. David accurately describes himself as a non-anxious presence who endeavors to bring calm and order by reminding us of whose we are.

*- Sally Shiomichi, Ruling Elder,
Oaklands Presbyterian Church*

Rev. David Baer demonstrates in his vocational life, wise counsel in managing a complex organization. David uses a creative approach to interpreting polity and its application in the changing landscape of congregational life and mission. David's compassionate spirit drives his efforts. I recommend him to NCP for such a time as this.

- Rev. Dr. Sterling Morse

Search Committee

Rev. Brian Clark,
Chairperson

Rev. Juli Wilson-Black

Elder Norman Cobb, First
United, Dale City

Rev. Dr. Sterling Morse

Elder Sally Shiomichi,
Oaklands

Rev. Elizabeth Brookens-
Sturman

Rev. John Molina-Moore,
General Presbyter



David's references spoke of him having "the heart of a pastor." His love for the church is evident, as well as his passion for cultivating the gifts of its leaders.

- Rev. Juli Wilson-Black

Ordained as Minister of Word and Sacrament: December 11, 2005, holds Master of Divinity, Yale Divinity School, 2004, and Bachelor of Science, Cornell University, 2000

David brings a wealth of experience to National Capital Presbytery, having served as Stated Clerk, Presbytery of Southern New England, 2018-present (3 years part-time)

Pastor, Highlands Presbyterian Church, Allendale, New Jersey, 2006-2018 (12 years full-time), 2018-present (3 years part-time). Suburban setting, 74 members.

Assistant to the Stated Clerk, Presbytery of the Palisades, 2013-2016 (3 years, part-time, paid). Served as Acting Stated Clerk during stated clerk's medical leave and at General Assembly in 2014.

Seminary Intern, First Presbyterian Church, Stamford, Connecticut, 2002-2004 (2 academic years). Urban/suburban bedroom community, approx. 500 members.

David's ecclesiastical experience includes working on behalf of the Synod of the Northeast to consolidate seven New Jersey presbyteries to four. He also has extensive experience working with Permanent Judicial Commissions as well as Administrative Commissions. As a member of the Task Force on the New Form of Government (NFOG), David was instrumental in revising the standing rules of the Presbytery of Palisades to adapt to the NFOG in the Book of Order.

David currently resides in New Jersey but is very familiar with the DMV. His parents reside in Fairfax, Virginia, where David grew up.

David shares a home with wife, Amy, their two children, Johanna and Timothy, and a lively beagle mix named Baxter.



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DAVID BAER

Stated Clerk Nominee, National Capital Presbytery



I am honored and excited to be the search team's nominee to be your next Stated Clerk! Having had the opportunity to meet with the search team, I am energized to offer my gifts in service of your work "empower[ing] and challeng[ing] our congregations to be Missional, Pastoral and Prophetic." Inviting and equipping others to serve has been a source of deep satisfaction throughout my ministry, both in the congregation and in mid-council work. I look forward—with your approval—to helping the congregations and leaders of National Capital Presbytery use our polity as they move where God calls.

Although I have lived in New Jersey for many years, in many ways the DC area is home as well. My parents, Jim and Carolynn Baer, are ruling elders and active members of Christ Presbyterian Church in Fairfax, the congregation where I made my public profession of faith. This congregation shaped my faith in Christ as an adolescent and—as I look back—nurtured a growing sense of call to ministry. I am a graduate of Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, where I met my first-love-turned-undergraduate-major, computer science. In my role as Clerk, I am grateful for the ability to reason about and explain formal systems and processes that I received from this discipline.

I look forward to the chance to meet you, and to learn how I might be helpful in your ministry!

David Baer