

Presbytery Reports for March 28, 2023

Report from the Stated Clerk

The Stated Clerk reports that NCP has been named as a respondent in a remedial case filed with the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic by the Rev. Willie Keaton. The Leadership Council has appointed Elder Miriam Dewhurst (New York Avenue), Elder John Hagner (Saint Mark), and Rev. Stephen Smith-Cobbs to serve as the presbytery's committee of counsel. The Synod's Permanent Judicial Commission has entered a temporary stay of enforcement of the COM Coordinating Commission's action on January 8, 2023, dissolving the pastoral relationship between Rev. Keaton and Northeastern Presbyterian Church. The Manager for Judicial Process at the Office of the General Assembly, Flor Velez-Diaz, advises that the stay of enforcement *applies only to the Coordinating Commission's action on January 8*, and does not prevent NCP from taking up and acting upon the recommendation of the Committee on Ministry at this stated meeting.

The Stated Clerk advises that, with the approval of the COM's Coordinating Commission, the following moderators of sessions have been appointed:

- Rev. Nancy Neal for Brentsville PC, for January and February 2023, including one meeting of the congregation.
- Rev. Blair Moorhead for congregational meeting at First Arlington on February 5, 2023.
- Rev. Megan Klose, the stated supply associate pastor, for Falls Church PC, effective February 6, 2023, until the arrival of a transitional pastor.
- Rev. John Molina-Moore for Brentsville PC on February 5, 2023.
- Rev. Yena Hwang for Falls Church PC, March 14, 2023 (during Rev. Megan Klose's study leave).

The Stated Clerk reports the statistical summary for NCP (see following page), based upon the Annual Reports submitted by sessions through the close of the Office of the General Assembly's reporting period on March 6.

Complete reports received from: Adelphi; Aldie; Alexandria, Calvary; Alexandria, Fairlington; Alexandria, Mt Vernon; Alexandria, Westminster; Alexandria, Bush Hill; Alexandria, Heritage; Annandale, First; Annandale, John Calvin; Arlington, Trinity; Arlington; Arlington, Clarendon; Arlington, Church of the Covenant; Arlington, Little Falls; Ashburn; Bethesda; Bethesda, United Korean; Bethesda, The Rock; Bethesda, Hermon; Bethesda, Bradley Hills; Bowie, Christian Comm; Bowie, United Parish; Boyds; Brambleton; Bristow, Brentsville; California, Patuxent; Clifton; College Park, Berwyn; Derwood, Taiwanese PC of Washington DC; Derwood, New Hope; Fairfax; Fairfax, Chesterbrook Taiwanese; Fairfax, Providence; Falls Church; Falls Church, Idylwood; Gaithersburg; Gaithersburg, Mizo; Herndon, Trinity; Kensington, Warner Memorial; Lanham, Grace; Laurel; Leesburg; Manassas; McLean, Lewinsville; McLean, Immanuel; Mitchellville, Hope; Nokesville, Greenwich; Oxon Hill, Southminster; Poolesville; Potomac; Purcellville, St Andrew; Reston, United Christian Parish; Rockville; Rockville, Geneva; Silver Spring, Northwood; Silver Spring; Silver Spring, Colesville; Silver Spring, St Matthew; Springfield, Grace; Springfield, Kirkwood; Sterling, Riverside; Takoma Park; Vienna; Waldorf, Good Samaritan; Washington, Church of the Pilgrims; Washington, Northeastern; Washington, Sixth; Washington, Chevy Chase; Washington, Capitol Hill; Washington, Fifteenth Street; Washington, Georgetown; Washington, New York Avenue; Washington, Northminster; Washington, Sargent Memorial; Washington, Western; Washington, Faith; Waterford, Catocin; Woodbridge, Covenant; Woodbridge, First United Dale City.

Partial reports received from: Alexandria, Old Presby Mtg House (missing: racial-ethnic); Arlington, First (missing: racial-ethnic); Bealeton (missing: membership, finance); Fairfax, Christ (missing: finance); Hyattsville, Eastminster (missing: membership); Laurel, Oaklands (missing: finance); Leesburg, Furnace Mountain (missing: membership, finance); North Bethesda, Saint Mark (missing: finance); Washington, National (missing: racial-ethnic)

No report received from: Annandale, Northern Virginia Korean (report submitted with no sections completed); Berwyn Heights, Christ the King; Burke; Camp Spring, Prince Georges Community; Darnestown; Falls Church, Knox; Remington,

Litchfield; Rockville United; Silver Spring, Wheaton Community; Washington, Church of the Redeemer; Washington, Garden Memorial; Washington, Westminster; Woodbridge, Ebenezer

**2022 Presbytery
Statistical Report**

Presbytery National Capital
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Membership

Prior Active Members	24744	Adjusted membership	24647
Gains		Losses	
Certificate	178	Certificate	129
Youth Professions	187	Deaths	276
Professions & Reaffirmations	283	Deleted for any Other Reason	1386
Total Gains	648	Total Losses	1791
Total Ending Active Members	23504		

Baptisms

Presented by Others	190	Average Weekly Worship Attendance	9817
At Confirmation	41	Friends of the Congregation	4439
All Other	54	Ruling Elders on Session	851
		Do you have Deacons? Yes / No	54 / 35

Age Distribution of Active Members

17 & Under	798
18 - 25	1894
26 - 40	3309
41 - 55	4273
56 - 70	4857
Over 70	4872
Total Age Distribution	20003

People with Disabilities

Hearing impairment	463
Sight impairment	147
Mobility impairment	520
Other impairment	431

Gender Distribution

Women	12120
Men	8361
Non-Binary	24

Youth in Congregation

Age 4 and under	710	Middle School (6th – 8th grade)	914
Elementary School (K-5th grade)	1558	High School (9th – 12th grade)	1187
		Total Youth	4369

Racial Ethnic

Asian/Pacific Islander/South Asian	1078	Native American/Alaska Native/Indigenous	20
Black/African American/African	2638	White	14443
Middle Eastern/North African	101	Multiracial	156
Hispanic/Latino-a	202		
		Total Racial Ethnic	18638

Budgeted Income 51,213,671

Budgeted Expense 54,127,504

Receipts

Regular Contributions	42,988,697	Bequests	1,917,219
Capital Building Fund	5,855,889	Other Income	8,251,039
Investment Income	3,947,186	Subsidy or Aid	158,137

Expenditures

Local Program	47,272,450	Investment Expenditures	735,116
Local Mission	3,390,022	Per Capital Apprt	927,095
Capital Expenditures	6,207,655	Other Mission	2,180,608

Report from Leadership Council

NCP LEADERSHIP COUNCIL Business Meeting Minutes - APPROVED

February 1, 2023

12:30PM via Zoom

Sent by the Triune God to be agents of salvation, reconciliation, and justice, we empower and challenge our congregations to be Missional, Pastoral and Prophetic

Present: Lee Bishop, Brian Clark, Chris Deacon, Miriam Dewhurst, David Douthett, Quinn Fox, Patricia Futato, Diane Walton Hendricks, Shani McIlwain, Sterling Morse, Nancy Neal

Excused: Neill Morgan, Michael Rankin, Le Quan Turner

NCP Staff: David Baer, Dina Bickel, Heather Deacon, Tara Spuhler McCabe, John Molina-Moore, LaJuan Quander

At 12:32pm, Leadership Council (LC)'s meeting was called to order by LC Chair, Diane Walton Hendricks. Nancy Neal led the devotion about navigating change with open hearts and minds as God leads us. Rev. Neal followed with prayer. LC minutes from January 11, 2023 were approved.

LC Chair, Dr. Hendricks, welcomed Rev. David Baer to LC and NCP.

Dr. Hendricks welcomed Erik Kloster, Chair of Budget & Finance. Elder Kloster recognized the downward trend of giving toward the Unified Mission Giving. Elder Kloster recommends a survey of individual churches to see why they are not giving. Giving as a spiritual issue was raised and to think of giving to NCP as tithing and trusting God to provide our needs. Information about Unified Mission Giving is being communicated through videos, Thursday Mail, Impact 2022 – Narrative Budget, etc. but there still is a mystery about Unified Giving. The next steps for Leadership Council is for John Molina-Moore and LaJuan to reconnect with The James and report back to LC at the next meeting. Dr. Hendricks thanked Elder Kloster for reporting to LC about Unified Giving.

Rev. Leslieanne Braunstein, Chair of Boyds' AC and AC member, Rev. Mary Beth Lawrence joined LC to give an update. The AC met with Boyds' steering committee to report the current AC has fulfilled its charge. Rev. Derek Longbrake is the interim pastor for sixteen weeks and will be with Boyds to help them drill down their future as a viable congregation or not. At the end of sixteen weeks, the steering committee would need to either be prepared to elect their leadership according to their current bylaws or establish a new AC to assess their legacy. March will begin their discernment process. Stated Clerk, David Baer, will work on the motion to say the current AC has fulfilled their charge and will amend their charge and resources.

The LC Retreat and next steps discussion was table to next month's meeting.

The January presbytery meeting evaluations were distributed. Elder Shani McIlwain highlighted that the body elected a new stated clerk. There was feedback for more in person meetings. In person offerings have taken on a new look, now called, "The Gatherings."

Personnel has an update. Jesy Littlejohn is no longer on staff. The search is underway, and the staff is hopeful to have a new hire mid-March.

Nominating Committee is looking for some committee members. A few more names are in the works.

Motion: The Leadership Council moves to approve Rev. Jennifer Dunfee to serve on Nominating Committee, Class of 2025.

Approved

Dr. Hendricks called for new business. This year, LC will request from Committee Chairs their committees' annual reports to be submitted by Monday, March 20.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer by Dr. Hendricks at 2:16pm.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 1 @ 12:30 Devotion: Shani

Reminders:

February 13 – Deadline to register for the Continuing Education Gathering and Retreat at Hyatt Regency, Cambridge held March 13-15

February 16 - 9:00am to 3:00pm – Worship Reboot – Lewinsville

Mondays February 27- April 3 –7:30pm via Zoom- Lenten Bible Study

Ordinations/Installations

February 19 at 10am – Rev. Casey Wait (installation) at John Calvin

February 26 at 4pm – Chris McAuliffe (ordination) at Potomac

February 26 at 4pm – Patricia Futato (ordination) at Kirkwood

March 5 at 3pm – Rev. Meghan Brown (installation) at Georgetown

March 12 at 3pm – Rev. MaryAnn McKibben Dana (installation) at Trinity Herndon

April 16 at 4pm – Rev. Taekhan Yoon (installation) United Korean

**NCP LEADERSHIP COUNCIL
Business Meeting Agenda - DRAFT**

March 1, 2023

12:30PM via Zoom

Sent by the Triune God to be agents of salvation, reconciliation, and justice, we empower and challenge our congregations to be Missional, Pastoral and Prophetic

Present: Lee Bishop, Brian Clark, Chris Deacon, Miriam Dewhurst, David Douthett, Quinn Fox, Pat Futato, Diane Walton Hendricks, Shani McIlwain, Sterling Morse, Neill Morgan, Nancy Neal, Mike Rankin, Le Quan Turner

NCP Staff: David Baer, Dina Bickel, Heather Deacon, Tara Spuhler McCabe, John Molina-Moore, LaJuan Quander

Leadership Council (LC)'s meeting was called to order by Rev. Dr. Diane Walton Hendricks at 12:32 pm. Elder and Moderator Shani McIlwain provide the devotional from, "Plenty Good Room: A Lenten Bible Study Based on African American Spirituals" by Marilyn Thornton, titled, "Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit" and based on Matthew 17:1-9. LC Minutes from February 1, 2023 were approved.

LC Chair, Dr. Hendricks, welcomed Rev. Ashley Goff, pastor of Arlington Presbyterian Church (APC), reported things are well. The congregation is in a good place. They are always in the spirit of discernment and feel called to respond to the needs of the community of Gilliam Place. Rev. Goff was thanked for coming.

The motion was moved. The history of why APC comes to LC annually was recounted: APC sold their building to APAH to build Gilliam Place and the money is held by the presbytery for APC to use however they see fit. This is an annual vote. There was discussion. The motion was moved, seconded and carries.

MOTION: Leadership Council moves to concur with the request of the Arlington Presbyterian Church Session for a disbursement of \$250,000 from the Arlington Presbyterian Church investment account at New Covenant Trust to be used for Gilliam Place rent/utilities, half of the pastor and music minister salaries, and community

gifts/assistance as outlined in the attached document.

Approved

Following approval, there was more conversation about the ongoing relationship between APC and NCP. The written understanding between NCP and APC is as follows and is paraphrased, "The MOU states in accordance with the Presbytery's approval of the sale of the property, ... The liquid assets resulting from the sale of this property is held by NCP in partnership with APC in a custodial fund which will not be accessed or redesignated by any future decision of the presbytery unless the congregation dissolves. Any withdrawals from the fund must be initiated and approved by the session of APC and require the concurrence of the presbytery's LC The custodial fund will be named NCP/APC and statements will be delivered monthly to both NCP and APC." From the agreement, the session initiates what happens with this money and LC has to concur. There was discussion about the changes that have occurred within the presbytery and at APC, and how the ongoing partnership has evolved. After discussion, a new motion was presented. The motion carries.

MOTION: Leadership Council moves that CDC reevaluate the MOU with the congregation of APC and come up with a new mutual way forward in partnership and collaboration for the gospel and mission of Jesus Christ in Arlington, VA.

Approved

Director of Business Affairs, Heather Deacon, cautioned that LC should think carefully before any action as this action may affect other congregations considering the same model and want congregations to be good stewards of the resources. Heather Deacon will communicate with Rev. Goff about the approval of the disbursement. LC Chair, Dr. Hendricks will communicate that the LC has directed CDC to work with APC to create a new MOU. Tara Spuhler McCabe will follow up on how to do that with CDC. LC Chair, Dr. Hendricks, thanked LC for their good work.

Stated Clerk, Rev. David Baer, spoke about a remedial complaint filed against the Presbytery with the Synod of the Mid Atlantic. The complaint was filed by Rev. Dr. Willie Keaton, who had been the pastor at Northeastern Presbyterian Church. The complaint has to do with the dissolution of the pastoral relationship between him and the church under the Coordinating Commission of the Committee on Ministry on January 8, 2023. The Synod has ordered the presbytery to appoint a Committee of Counsel that will represent it in this case. The motion was moved. There was discussion and the motion carries.

MOTION: To appoint the following members to serve on a Committee of Counsel representing the presbytery in the remedial case Keaton vs. National Capital Presbytery: Elder Miriam Dewhurst (New York Avenue), Rev. Stephen Smith-Cobbs, and Elder John Hagner (Saint Mark). (Additionally, the Rev. David Gray will serve in a consultative role.)

Approved

LC Chair, Dr. Hendricks, welcomed colleague and chair of the Administrative Commission (AC) of Garden Memorial, Rev. Bernice Parker-Jones, to give an update. Since October, the AC has communicated with Garden Memorial PC, with the members that we have information from. The AC has sent correspondence. The first letter was to explain the function of an AC. Another letter was sent asking for a meeting. The meeting occurred in November. Four members attended. The members request money to repair their church and get a pastor so they can do their ministry. Another letter was sent requesting records so that the AC could do what they were asked to do: to determine Garden Memorial's vitality. No response was given to that letter. Another letter was sent certified mail to the former clerk and the office manager. The letters were never picked up. The AC asked again for records and gave deadline for January 31, 2023. Four members showed up to the meeting. The AC has not received the records that they requested in order for the AC to move forward in their charge.

LC thanked Rev. Parker-Jones and the AC for their work. Rev. Parker-Jones asked LC for any recommendations. AC will meet March 2 and talk about next steps. There is ministry need and desire at Garden Memorial. Heather Deacon noted there is urgency to deal with the building as bills are piling up.

General Presbyter, Rev. John Molina-Moore suggested the possibility of two ACs, the present one to work with the congregation on ministry issues and a new AC to deal with property responsibilities. There is a need to resolve the property issues as soon as possible. LC lifted this situation up to prayer. Rev Parker-Jones would like to invite the

congregation to join a meeting of the AC and try to complete the present scope of the AC. After the present AC has completed its work, then a new commission to deal with the property issues.

LC decided to postpone the consideration of a motion to amend the AC's charge. LC will wait until after the present AC has one more meeting with Garden Memorial and then LC will have a special called meeting to move forward before the March presbytery meeting.

MOTION: Moved and seconded this proposal as presented by David Baer but no action.

Recommendation to Amend the Charge of the Administrative Commission for Garden Memorial Presbyterian Church

The Leadership Council recommends that the Presbytery AMEND the charge of the Administrative Commission for Garden Memorial Presbyterian Church, established in September 2022, to add the following:

The Administrative Commission, after consultation with such remaining members of the congregation as it is able to contact, shall have the power and authority, at its sole discretion, to carry out all matters related to the dissolution of the church:

1. The continued exercise of original jurisdiction, in accordance with **Book of Order G-3.0303e**.
2. Pastoral care of the members.
3. An appropriate celebration of the ministry and mission of the congregation.
4. The orderly dismissal of members to other congregations of their choosing.
5. Securing, holding, and using of the properties of the congregation, including the maintenance of property and liability insurance.
6. The making of recommendations to the Presbytery about the sale or disposition of such property.
7. Conveying all original church records (minutes, rolls, and registers) and historically important documents or artifacts to the Stated Clerk of the presbytery for preservation.
8. Dissolving the legal corporation, once all property has been transferred or disposed of.

The Moderator of the Presbytery shall have the authority to fill any vacancies that may arise in the membership of the Commission.

In accordance with **Book of Order G-3.0109(b)**, the Commission shall keep a full record of its proceedings for incorporation into the records of the Presbytery. The Commission shall report its decisions to the Stated Clerk, who shall report them to the Presbytery at its next stated meeting.

MOTION: To postpone consideration of amending the AC's charge. It's been seconded. The motion carries. LC sincerely thanked Rev. Bernice Parker-Jones for her service.

LC Chair Dr. Hendricks asked Stated Clerk, Rev. Baer to speak about Boyds and the motion. This motion captures the way forward that LC decided at the last meeting. Boyds' AC Chair Rev. Leslianne Braunstein met with the steering committee and they are fine with it as well as the Boyds' AC. The motion was moved, seconded, and carries.

MOTION: To recommend that the Presbytery amend the charge of the Administrative Commission for Boyds Presbyterian Church as provided in the attached document. **Approved**

LC Chair, Dr. Hendricks invited Stated Clerk, Rev. Baer to speak about the Amendments to the Book of Order. Rev. Baer informed LC that there are 33 proposed amendments to the PCUSA Constitution that Presbyterians need to consider in this cycle. Rev. Baer will work with Bills and Overtures to bring these items to the floor of the presbytery in an orderly way. Our responses to OGA are needed by early July.

No new updates from General Presbyter, John Molina-Moore. He will give updates during the special called meeting. There was no new business. The meeting closed with prayer by Dr. Hendricks at 3:30pm.

Called Meeting: Sunday, March 20 @ 2:30pm

Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 5 @ 12:30 Devotion: _____

Spring Retreat: Wednesday, May 3, 2023 @ 10:00am - 2:00pm Location: TBD

Reminders:

Mondays February 27- April 3 –7:30pm via Zoom- Lenten Bible Study

Ordinations/Installations

March 5 at 3pm – Rev. Meghan Brown (installation) at Georgetown

March 12 at 3pm – Rev. MaryAnn McKibben Dana (installation) at Trinity Herndon

April 16 at 4pm – Rev. Taekhan Yoon (installation) United Korean

October 28 - Fall Installation Service

NCP LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Special Meeting - DRAFT

March 19, 2023

2:30PM via Zoom

Sent by the Triune God to be agents of salvation, reconciliation, and justice, we empower and challenge our congregations to be Missional, Pastoral and Prophetic

Present: Lee Bishop, Brian Clark, Chris Deacon, Miriam Dewhurst, Quinn Fox, Pat Futato, Diane Walton Hendricks, Shani McIlwain, Sterling Morse, Nancy Neal, Le Quan Turner, Michael Rankin.

NCP Staff: David Baer, Heather Deacon

Excused: Dina Bickel, Tara Spuhler McCabe, John Molina-Moore, Neill Morgan, LaJuan Quander

Leadership Council (LC)'s meeting was called to order with prayer by Rev. Dr. Diane Walton Hendricks at 2:33 p.m.

At LC's Stated Meeting on March 1, LC voted to postpone consideration of the motion below to a special meeting to be called by the chair. Following the adjournment of that meeting, the Stated Clerk, the Rev. David Baer, provided the text of the motion to the members of LC via e-mail, inviting members to pose questions or share suggestions. Dr. Walton Hendricks therefore put the motion before LC:

MOTION:

Recommendation to Amend the Charge of the Administrative Commission for Garden Memorial Presbyterian Church

The Leadership Council recommends that the Presbytery AMEND the charge of the Administrative Commission for Garden Memorial Presbyterian Church, established in September 2022, to add the following:

The Administrative Commission, after consultation with such remaining members of the congregation as it is able to contact, shall have the power and authority, at its sole discretion, to carry out all matters related to the dissolution of the church:

1. The continued exercise of original jurisdiction, in accordance with **Book of Order G-3.0303e**.
2. Pastoral care of the members.
3. An appropriate celebration of the ministry and mission of the congregation.

4. The orderly dismissal of members to other congregations of their choosing.
5. Securing, holding, and using of the properties of the congregation, including the maintenance of property and liability insurance.
6. The making of recommendations to the Presbytery about the sale or disposition of such property.
7. Conveying all original church records (minutes, rolls, and registers) and historically important documents or artifacts to the Stated Clerk of the presbytery for preservation.
8. Dissolving the legal corporation, once all property has been transferred or disposed of.

The Moderator of the Presbytery shall have the authority to fill any vacancies that may arise in the membership of the Commission.

In accordance with **Book of Order G-3.0109(b)**, the Commission shall keep a full record of its proceedings for incorporation into the records of the Presbytery. The Commission shall report its decisions to the Stated Clerk, who shall report them to the Presbytery at its next stated meeting.

Dr. Walton Hendricks then invited the Stated Clerk, the Rev. David Baer, who, following consultation with Heather Deacon, suggested the following amendment to the text above:

From #6 under the list of new powers of the Administrative Commission, strike the words “making of recommendations to the Presbytery about the”

The amendment would have the effect of allowing the Administrative Commission to sell the church property without further approval by the presbytery. The amendment was **moved and seconded**. Following discussion, the amendment was **defeated**.

LC proceeded to discuss the main motion, which it **approved**.

There being no further business proper to the special meeting, Dr. Walton Hendricks adjourned the meeting with prayer at 3:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

- signed -

Rev. David A. Baer, Stated Clerk