



Dear Faithful Ones,

It has been three years now since author Glennon Doyle's phrase in her book "Untamed" took a life of its own and resonated with so many people during the start of the pandemic: "We can do hard things," A simple quote from the book went on to become a podcast and served as a balm during a time of uncertainty and chaos. Nuances like this remind me of God's ever presence in all things. I am sure that as the book was being written a year or two years prior to publication, no one from the publisher to Glennon herself would know that the world would shut down exactly one week after the release date. Only God knows timing like that, and only God knows why we are called, when we are called, and what we are supposed to do for such a time as this.

These are hard times. These are different times. But my faith tells us that together we can hold each other in love and truth and do what we have been called to do.

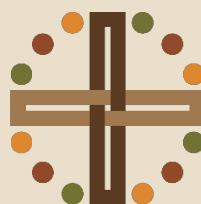
As we gather on Tuesday, I want to reassure each and every commissioner and member of this presbytery that your voice matters. *The action item dialogue* conversations that are held on Monday nights before our meetings are additional ways to connect, communicate and ask questions. Please do not think that if you are unable to attend a Monday night zoom meeting, you forfeit your right to ask a question during our stated meeting. As you review the items that will be before you to vote, I want you to be thoughtful and knowledgeable of the motions presented. If you have a question, please follow the process, and you will be heard.

Our silence does not help with changing or dismantling systems meant to divide us or cause us to not remain stagnant. We are reforming and constantly reforming, and we do that when all voices in the community are acknowledged and heard.

As we prepare to enter Holy Week, we are reminded that we serve a living Christ that bore the weight of humanity and went to the cross for each of us. Philippians 4:13 reminds us that we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us. Let us rest in this promise that together, we can do hard things and we do these things remembering what Christ did for us.

With love and gratitude,

Elder Shani McIlwain
Moderator, NCP



National Capital
PRESBYTERY
MISSIONAL · PASTORAL · PROPHETIC

**Stated Meeting
National Capital Presbytery
March 28, 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. 3) Rev. David A. Baer, Stated Clerk

6:10 PM COMMISSIONING OF RULING ELDER TO SERVICE Kristina Maldarelli to Warner Memorial PC

Questions to CRE candidate Kris Maldarelli 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,
Kris Maldarelli to serve as a Commissioned Ruling Elder in the service of Jesus Christ?

We do.

Will you support and encourage her in this ministry?

We will.

6:20 PM TRANSITIONS / PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION Rev. John Molina-Moore, General Presbyter

6:40 PM Recommendation from Committee on Ministry (p. 5) Rev. Mary Austin,
Chair of Committee on Ministry

7:00 PM Recommendations from Leadership Council Rev. Dr. Diane Walton Hendricks,
Chair of Leadership Council

- Boyds AC (p. 6)
- Garden Memorial AC (p. 8)

7:30 PM NEW BUSINESS Elder Shani McIlwain, Moderator

7:35 PM CHARGE AND BLESSING

Elder Shani McIlwain, Moderator

Meeting Leaders

Rev. Mary Austin, Chair of Committee on Ministry

Rev. David A. Baer, Stated Clerk

Rev. Dr. Chris Deacon, Vice Moderator, NCP

Rev. Dr. Diane Walton Hendricks, Chair of Leadership Council

Elder Shani McIlwain, Moderator, NCP

Rev. John Molina-Moore, General Presbyter

OMNIBUS MOTION FOR THE MARCH 28, 2023 PRESBYTERY MEETING

From the Stated Clerk

- The Stated Clerk moves the approval of the minutes of the January 24, 2023 NCP meeting.
- The Stated Clerk reports that he received the reports from the following commissions and dismisses with thanks:
 - 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.
- The Stated Clerk reports the approval of the following Administrative Commissions:
 - The Administrative Commission to install the Rev. Taekhan Yoon at United Korean Presbyterian Church on April 16, 2023 at 4:00 pm.

From Leadership Council

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

From the Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee moves the following people for nomination:

Administrative Commission on Congregational Property

% 2023 Rev. LeAnn Hodges

Mission Coordination Commission

% 2026 Rev. Jay Moses

Committee on Preparation for Ministry

% 2026 Rev. Grace Woodward

% 2026 Rev. Crawford Brubaker

Committee on Ministry

% 2026 Rev. Glenn Zuber

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Patrick Hunnicutt, Chair of the NCP Nominating Committee

ACTION ITEMS FOR MARCH 28, 2023 NCP MEETING

ACTION ITEM #1

Recommendations from Committee on Ministry

Pastoral Relationship between Rev. Willie Keaton and Northeastern Presbyterian Church

MOTION: The Committee on Ministry, through its Coordinating Commission **RECOMMENDS** that the pastoral relationship between the Rev. Willie Keaton and Northeastern Presbyterian Church be **DISSOLVED** with immediate effect because “the church’s mission under the Word imperatively demands it” (G-2.0904).

Rationale: Through January 8, 2023, the Rev. Willie Keaton was on a paid leave of compassion with full benefits, granted by the session of Northeastern Presbyterian Church in September, 2022 to pursue a disability claim through the board pensions. Prior to offering this leave The Session of Northeastern Presbyterian Church believed the pastoral relationship was irretrievably broken. Since then, the Committee on Ministry (COM) consulted with Rev. Keaton and the church about a negotiated dissolution without success. The COM also believes that the pastoral relationship has disintegrated.

Therefore, the COM has exercised the process outlined in G-2.0904:

The presbytery may inquire into reported difficulties in a congregation and may dissolve the pastoral relationship if, after consultation with the minister of the Word and Sacrament, the session, and the congregation, it finds the church's mission under the Word imperatively demands it.

The presbytery held the following consultations:

- With Rev. Keaton and members of the Committee on Ministry on January 3, 2023
- With the session on several occasions
- With the congregation on January 8, 2023. At this meeting, held on Zoom, there were sixty screens (some with two or more participants) and we heard a list of concerns about Rev. Keaton’s ministry. We also gave an opportunity for people to email privately with their support in case they didn't feel comfortable speaking in the meeting. There were no emails.

The Book of Order requires that “[w]hether the minister of the Word and Sacrament, the congregation, or the presbytery initiates proceedings for dissolution of the relationship, there shall always be a meeting of the congregation to consider the matter and to consent, or decline to consent, to dissolution” (G-2.0901). At a special congregational meeting held on March 19, 2023, and moderated by the Rev. Mark Greiner, the congregation voted as follows:

- 51 in favor of dissolution of the pastoral relationship, with severance consisting of full salary and benefits through January 31, 2023 (already paid)
- 1 opposed to dissolution with the specified severance
- 1 abstention

- 1 invalid ballot

National Capital Presbytery's "Policy for the Dissolution of Installed Pastoral Relationships" provides that "[i]f the Congregation or the Pastor does not concur with the dissolution, opportunity will be granted to either party to appear before a Presbytery Meeting to present reasons for not dissolving the Pastoral relationship." On March 15, Rev. Keaton was given notice through his counsel, Rev. Rob Eyre, of the Committee on Ministry's intention to bring this recommendation to the stated meeting of the presbytery on March 28, and that an opportunity would be provided to him to present reasons for not dissolving the pastoral relationship.

On January 8, the Coordinating Commission voted to dissolve the pastoral relationship, and informed Rev. Keaton of its action via a letter to his counsel, Rev. Rob Eyre, on January 9. Rev. Keaton has filed a remedial case with the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic challenging the Coordinating Commission's action to effect the dissolution, and the Synod's Permanent Judicial Commission has entered a stay of enforcement of that action. Elder Flor Velez-Diaz, the Manager for Judicial Process at the Office of the General Assembly, advises that the stay applies *only to the Coordinating Commission's action on January 8, and does not prevent the presbytery from taking up the Committee on Ministry's recommendation at this stated meeting*. She further advises that, should the presbytery adopt this recommendation, it would have the effect of superseding the Coordinating Commission's action, rendering the pending remedial complaint moot.

Following the process outlined in the Book of Order in G-2.0904 and after prayerful discernment following these consultations, the Committee on Ministry, recommends the dissolution of the pastoral relationship.

ACTION ITEM #2

Recommendation from Leadership Council

To Amend the Charge of the Administrative Commission for Boyds Presbyterian Church

MOTION: The Leadership Council recommends that the Presbytery **AMEND** the charge of the Administrative Commission for Boyds Presbyterian Church, established in November 2020, to add the following:

The Administrative Commission is authorized to engage the leadership of the church in a period of discernment, for the purpose of developing a sustainable model for the church's ministry and mission. The Moderator of the Presbytery may appoint up to three (3) additional members of the Commission who may be helpful in this discernment.

If, as a result of this discernment, it is the determination of the Administrative Commission that Boyds Presbyterian Church is not able to continue as a congregation of the Presbytery, then the Commission shall have the power and authority to carry out all matters related to the dissolution of the church, to include:

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.

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.

Background Information

From the 9/17/20 Stated Presbytery Meeting Minutes

The Chair of the Committee on Ministry (COM), Rev. Stephen Smith-Cobbs, presented a second motion from COM and provided the background and rationale for the appointment of an Administrative Commission for Boyds PC. During the time of questions and discussion, Anne Davies, clerk of the Boyds PC Session voiced support of the action.

Motion: The Coordinating Commission of COM moves, with the approval of the Leadership Council, that the 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 Presbyterian Church 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 seven 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 the presbytery approve the appointment of an AC to address issues of leadership and trust between the leaders and the members of the congregation. Should the AC decide that assuming original jurisdiction is in the best interests of the continued ministry of the congregation, they will do so only after consultation with the Session. This is an instance where the AC is a means by which the presbytery is seeking to come alongside the session in partnership to better allow the congregation to serve Jesus Christ and be the church.

ACTION ITEM #3

Recommendation from Leadership Council

To Amend the Charge of the Administrative Commission for Garden Memorial Presbyterian Church

MOTION: 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.

Background Information

From the 9/27/22 Stated Presbytery Meeting Minutes

Payment of Garden Memorial Property Taxes & Establishment of AC

Background: Garden Memorial – 1720 Minnesota AVE SE, District of Columbia

Summary Statement Garden Memorial Presbyterian Church’s worship property was put up for sale and subsequently sold at the DC tax sale in July of 2022. Records indicate that property taxes are owed for years 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022.

The current amount of debt owed to District of Columbia is approximately \$145,000 and comprises past due taxes, legal fees and expenses.

Contact from the presbytery office was made with the congregation requesting a time to meet.

Relevant Background Information

In 2017, this same situation occurred, resulting in NCP paying the property taxes totaling approx. \$55,000 and incurring \$20,000 in legal fees. Garden Memorial entered into an agreement to repay the tax portion only, on a monthly, interest-free plan. Those payments were consistently made through April

of 2021. The last payment received was in March of 2022. Currently, the balance on the loan is approximately \$42,000.

Action Information

There is a small window to pay the outstanding debt by October 31, 2022 which would halt foreclosure proceedings and reduce incurring significant legal fees.

Leadership Council recommends the following:

Motion #1: Leadership Council moves that the Presbytery pay outstanding taxes owed to the District of Columbia for the worship property located at 1720 Minnesota Avenue, SE, Washington, DC, known as Garden Memorial Presbyterian Church. Communication regarding this action is to be sent to all known members of the church. The DC Resurrection Fund will be used for expenses related to this action, including all legal fees incurred by the Presbytery. **APPROVED**

Motion #2: Leadership Council moves that the presbytery designate an Administrative Commission (AC), members to be appointed by the moderator, to assume original jurisdiction and act as the session for Garden Memorial Presbyterian Church to assess the vitality of the congregation. The commission is instructed to report quarterly to Leadership Council. **APPROVED**