

***THURSDAY  
MAILING***



National Capital  
P R E S B Y T E R Y  
MISSIONAL · PASTORAL · PROPHETIC

***April 20, 2023***



## **In this edition . . . .**

### **Announcements**

#### **From the Desk of**

*John Molina-Moore, General Presbyter*

#### **From the Desk of**

*Davide Baer, Stated Clerk (Clerk's Corner)*

#### **From the Desk of**

*Tara Spuhler McCabe, Dir. Congregational Dev. & Mission*

#### **Greetings from DC Young Adult Volunteers (YAV)**

*DC YAV site coordinator Rev. Blair Moorhead*

*DC YAV Board Chair Shani McIlwain*

*DC YAV Board Members: Rev. Tara Spuhler McCabe, Rev. Nancy Neal, Rev. Katie Murchison Ross, Jesy Littlejohn, Christina Hogan, Willie Montgomery*

#### **Jesus, Saul Alinsky and a Common Life Politics**

*with Dr. Luke Bretherton*

*Sponsored by the McClendon Scholar Program*

*April 26 – New York Avenue Presbyterian Church*

#### **NCP YOUTH EVENT**

*A Hike through the Criminal Justice System*

*April 29 – Occoquan Regional Park*

#### **75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**

*May 7 – Calvary Presbyterian Church*

#### **Ally Training led by Service Never Sleeps**

*sponsored by Dismantling Racism Team of NCP*

*May 7 & 8 – Zoom*

#### **Concerts from Kirkwood presents MARCOLIVIA**

*A Violin & Viola duo*

*May 13 – Kirkwood Presbyterian Church*

#### **In This Yes and the Next: Practices for Discerning God's Call**

*A vocational discernment toolbox building retreat*

*May 18-21 – Massanetta Springs Camp & Conf. Center*

#### **Stewardship through Storytelling – Part II – Making it Work for You!**

*Hosted by the Stewardship Committee of NCP*

*May 18 – Virtual (Zoom)*

#### **Author Talk: What Kind of Christianity by Dr. William Yoo**

*May 21:*

*11:00 am – Worship – Old Presbyterian Meeting House*

*3:00 p.m. – Presentation & Q& A – Fairlington Presbyterian Church*

**NCP GATHERING – SAVE THE DATE**

*“At the River: Struggle and Grace in the Segregated South”*

*A Film Documentary*

*presented by Burke Presbyterian Church & the Dismantling Racism Team of NCP*

*June 4 – Southminster Presbyterian Church*

**Presbyterian Women Synod of the Mid-Atlantic**

*2023 Summer Gathering*

*June 8-11 – Massanetta Springs Camp and Conference Center*

**Synod of the Mid-Atlantic 251<sup>st</sup> Assembly Highlights**

**Science-based Targets for Faith: A Global Colloquium**

*Jointly sponsored by World Resources Institute and Georgetown Univ.*

*May 11-12 – Georgetown University*

## Announcements:

**The Darnestown Presbyterian Church** and its music director, Mr. Rob Keene, invite you to attend the dedication concert for our organ at 4 p.m. on Sunday, May 21. Both organ and choral music will be presented. Please celebrate with us! 15120 Turkey Foot Rd., Darnestown (Gaithersburg), MD 20878; 301-948-9127.

**Rockville Presbyterian Church (Maryland) welcomes you to join us in a Holy Land pilgrimage** from January 14 to 25, 2024. The trip includes 10 days of touring in Israel, 9 nights of hotels/guest houses, bus transport, entrance fees, and most meals. An extended tour to Petra (Jordan) is being offered. A team of seasoned professionals, one a US-based Presbyterian minister and the other a Tel Aviv tour operator, will lead the trip. They have worked together since 2008 and together have more than 60 years of combined tour leading experience. For more information and registration forms, email Pat Wolff, RPC volunteer coordinator, at [superwolff@hotmail.com](mailto:superwolff@hotmail.com). Put Holy Land Pilgrimage in the subject line. The sign-up deadline is May 15 but flights are being booked as registrations are received.

**Medical Benevolence Foundation (MBF) Awareness Event** - April 25, 2023 - 12:00 pm – 1.30 pm (lunch will be provided by MBF) - Burke Presbyterian Church 5690 Oak Leather Drive, Burke, Virginia 22015 - *Guest Speaker: Dr. Douglas Lungu, MBF Chief Medical Officer & VP International Operations*

Learn about:

- MBF innovative approach cultivated through 60 years of global medical ministry aimed at achieving sustainability.
- How a new approach to medical mission is making a dramatic change in Malawi and other countries.
- How doctors and nurses are being locally trained, and hospitals and clinics are learning to become economically sustainable.
- How acts of benevolence through medical mission today will bear fruit long into the future.
- How MBF uses an innovative and sustainable way to meet the critical need for medical care in Malawi with the help of people like you.

**Organizing Church:** Clifton Presbyterian Church & Burke Presbyterian Church



Use this link to the [BCMC website](#) where more information and how to register is available.



April 20, 2023

Colleagues in ministry,

One of the best examples of the “*work of the presbytery*” is an installation service. It is a moment that captures, and celebrates, all that went into the call process of selecting a new pastor. An installation service is a time for the congregation, the pastor, and members of the presbytery to come together for worship, celebration, and fellowship. For this to happen, we ask that all our installation services happen in the afternoon so that all members of the presbytery can attend. The reality is, there are several services happening around this presbytery, and most are not as well attended by other members of the presbytery as intended. So, how can we help churches mark and celebrate their new relationships alongside the presbytery so that the installation service is life giving to all?

My hope for that is **one presbytery-wide installation service**. You’re probably already wondering how that would work. Let’s start with what the Book of Order says about installation services...

*When the congregation, the presbytery, and the minister of the Word and Sacrament (or candidate) have all concurred in a call to a permanent or designated pastoral position, the presbytery shall complete the call process by organizing and conducting a service of installation. Installation is an act of the presbytery establishing the pastoral relationship.*

*A service of installation occurs in the context of worship. G-2.0805*

For this service we’ll have one amazing preacher (Dr. Jonathan Lee Walton who is the new president at Princeton Theological Seminary), one commission of NCP granted the authority to install, one choir filled with members from around our presbytery, one reception after the service, and hopefully MANY members around the presbytery dressed in their finest red garb. There will be a role for members of each congregation welcoming a new pastor during the service.

Here’s what we hope will continue at each congregation to honor and mark this new relationship. Use a Sunday morning to fully celebrate the new relationship between pastor and church. Bring in a guest preacher. Have friends and colleagues of the pastor participate in the service. Let there be a “charge to the pastor” and a “charge to the congregation”. Celebrate afterwards with a reception. To help with this new way of the local celebration on a Sunday morning the Worship and Theology Team of NCP are working on sample liturgy for these celebrations.

There is more information to come, so save the date now! October 28th at Providence Presbyterian Church in Fairfax VA.

Your friend in Christ,

John





*"[Y]ou shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. ... You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to your house."*

*– Deuteronomy 26:2,10b-11*

Dear Friends,

One of the areas where sessions exercise leadership is **stewardship**. The session is responsible for "encouraging the graces of generosity and faithful stewardship of personal and financial resources" (G-3.0201c). The session's encouragement in this area takes shape in ways that are both administrative and pastoral.

First, the administrative: clear lines of accountability and clear procedures around church finances establish trust with church members. It is the session's responsibility to "authorize offerings for Christian purposes and shall account for the proceeds of such offerings and their disbursement" (G-3.0205). In other words, the session oversees the gathering of offerings, and it is also responsible for keeping track of what happens after they are gathered, providing "full information" to the congregation about its decisions.

The session is also responsible for establishing rules for church finances, which, at minimum, must provide for the counting of offerings by two or more persons, or by one fidelity bonded person; adequate books and records available for inspection by church officers; and periodic (at least annual) reports of all financial activities to the session.

These structures help to create a space for members' generosity to take root and grow, and the session should periodically review not just whether the *Book of Order's* provisions are being observed, but whether the session's financial decisions and procedures are helping to build up faithful stewardship. For the session to live into the fullness of its calling to encourage generosity and stewardship, though, something more is needed...

A few years ago, my family worshiped at a Presbyterian church while we were vacationing in upstate New York. A member of the congregation, a farmer, stood up and asked us to give thanks with him for the first fruits of the harvest. He invited us to help ourselves freely from the basketful of new potatoes he had brought, explaining that the first fruits of the earth belong to God, who sends the rain and the sun to make them grow. He and his wife, he said, could think of no more fitting way to acknowledge the gifts they were beginning to receive than to share them with God's people.

Years later, I still remember the farmer's vivid, earthy testimony about stewardship. Who are the folks in your congregation brimming with such grace and gratitude? How can you invite them to share with others their joy in offering back a part of what God has given? Growing generosity, as the *Book of Order* calls us to do, requires trust and accountability, but it also requires imagination and joy. May God help you to inspire all of these things as you lead God's people!

Grace and Peace,  
Rev. David Baer, Stated Clerk

Greetings People,



Pentecost, we are on the Eastertide journey towards **Pentecost!** There are many local congregational traditions and practices for Pentecost. WE would love to learn what energizes you as we enter Pentecost and for the ultimate Celebration. Decorations, particular songs, bold community engagements with others, and how about a Special Offering?

As a connectional church, we can relate with others through the Pentecost Offering. When you engage with the



Pentecost offering the breakdown goes a little something like this:  
40% of your total collection is the congregation's use for youth and young adult specific ministry.

60% of the total collection is sent to PCUSA ministries for youth and young adults.

I have a direct ask to you in relationship to our Presbytery and your Pentecost Offering opportunity for these ministries of NCP: NCP Youth Connection and the DCYAV program.

[\(https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/offering/pentecost/\)](https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/offering/pentecost/)

**Please consider, if you do not have a particular youth or young adult ministry designation for the 40%, consider designating 20% to the DC YAV ministry and 20% to the NCP Youth Connection for this year.**

**Your directed offering will impact:**

- Ongoing program development in the DC YAV program for vocational ministry discernment.
- DCYAV Site Coordinator salary.
- Training for laity leaders who volunteer their leadership for youth ministry in their local congregations.
- Bringing NCP youth to the Synod Youth Event, Keep Awake at Massanetta Springs. Last year, 80 plus youth from NCP attended from 8 different congregations.
- NCP regional youth ministry gatherings for Faith Development and Fellowship like shared confirmation classes and resources.

"I did not realize there were so many of us (youth from Presbyterian churches in NCP). This means a lot to know we are not alone, and it is really important to get out of my bubble and meet others." *Youth from Providence Presbyterian church.*

We welcome any of your curious questions and engagement! We are excited to be moved by the Spirit together as we organize with our youth and young adults so that our churches can grow.

Peace and Courage,

Rev. Tara Spuhler McCabe

**so that our churches can grow**



## **Greetings from DC Young Adult Volunteers (YAV):**

Friends, we thank you all for your prayers, support, and participation in the Washington DC Young Adult Volunteers community.

As you may know, DC YAV, in conversation with the whole YAV program nationwide, has been in a process of discernment about the future of YAV. Our current reality since the pandemic has been that we have very few YAVs each year (21 volunteers nationwide in 2022 compared to over 50 in 2019) and more limited resources with which to live out our mission. We've taken seriously the question of the way forward, and these deep conversations have included Louisville YAV colleagues, PC(USA) World Mission, and YAV site boards. Through meetings, prayer, and in-person retreats, we've been working to give real consideration to our future surviving and thriving as a ministry. The more we have dreamed about a collaborative future and structure, the more we have realized that we need to take time and energy to create such a model.

Together, the YAV sites discerned that to step out of the cycle of scarcity and provide more robust community experiences for the YAVs who do serve (e.g. fewer sites but each with 4-5 volunteers instead of more sites with 2 volunteers), a few of the sites should proactively elect not to host programs in 2023-24. Instead, these site boards would continue to fund a program and commit their site coordinators' staff time to visioning, recruitment, development, and other forms of building out what is next. DC YAV board and site coordinator collectively discerned that we were called to be one of the sites not to host YAVs in 2023-24. We are grateful to have a site coordinator who feels called to the work of dreaming about the future of YAV; we also recognized that with a low number of applications again this year, we might very well be forced later on to make a decision regarding whether we could run a program.

This decision was made with careful and prayerful consideration, and with many feelings among the group: grief over not hosting YAVs in the fall, excitement for diving into the creative next-step work, anxiety of the uncertain future, and peace that this is a faithful next step in the discernment work we have been doing for some time.

We know this email may be received with a mix of emotions as well. You care about this program and its future. You have been a faithful supporter of our work and our young adults. We thank you so much for that, and we hope that you will continue to support our work in this new season. We invite you to reach out with any questions and concerns you might have.

**Thank you for walking with DC YAV in this journey, and being a part of this community.**

With gratitude,

DC YAV site coordinator Rev. Blair Moorhead ([dcyavprogram@gmail.com](mailto:dcyavprogram@gmail.com))

DC YAV Board Chair Shani McIlwain

DC YAV Board Members: Rev. Tara Spuhler McCabe, Rev. Nancy Neal, Rev. Katie Murchison Ross, Jesy Littlejohn, Christina Hogan, Willie Montgomery



# Jesus, Saul Alinsky and a Common Life Politics

Dr. Luke Bretherton



Dr. Luke Bretherton, Professor of Moral and Practical Theology at Duke Divinity School, will discuss the organizing philosophy of Saul Alinsky and the ways that it is consistent with a faithful Christian political witness that seeks the common good. After his presentation, he will respond to questions from individuals involved with Alinsky style organizing in congregations in Washington, DC.

## Wednesday April 26, 7:00 pm

Sponsored by the McClendon Scholar Program of The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church

Register to receive the zoom link:  
[jesusandalinskyApril 26.eventbrite.com](https://jesusandalinskyApril26.eventbrite.com)



For more information, contact 240 393-7246 or [dialogdays@aol.com](mailto:dialogdays@aol.com)



# NCP YOUTH EVENT A HIKE THROUGH THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

SATURDAY, APRIL 29 | 10 AM – 3 PM | OCCOQUAN REGIONAL PARK



## THE EVENT

Youths and leaders from a diverse group of NCP churches will hike the grounds of the now closed Lorton Reformatory, talk about the incarceration of suffragist women and African American men, and explore what Jesus meant when he said, "I was in prison and you visited me" (Matt. 25:36).

Shani McIlwain will facilitate our discussions along the way.

The event is free of charge and supported by a grant from the Presbyterian Mission Agency and Office of Presbyterian Youth.

Gas cards will be provided to group leaders to help with travel costs to Occoquan Regional Park, 9751 Ox Rd, Lorton, VA 22079.

We will begin the day by meeting at 10 AM at the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial.

## LEADERSHIP

Shani McIlwain, NCP  
Moderator ...  
Henry Brinton, pastor  
of Fairfax Presbyterian  
Church ...  
Erin Sanzero, NCP  
Inquirer

## WHAT TO EXPECT

We will be hiking throughout the day, stopping for snacks and lunch, which are provided. Wear appropriate clothing and shoes.

## HOW TO SIGN UP

Contact Henry Brinton  
at  
[hgbrinton@gmail.com](mailto:hgbrinton@gmail.com)  
or 703-618-1793

Group is limited to 28,  
so contact Henry ASAP



**JOIN US!**

**Sunday, May 7th, 2023**

**Service 10am; Potluck Lunch/Activities Follow**

**Sunday Service**  
*and*  
**Anniversary Celebration**



ALL are  
welcome  
in person  
or online!

Scan for Event Details



[www.calvarypres.org/75th-anniversary](http://www.calvarypres.org/75th-anniversary)

Calvary Presbyterian Church  
celebrates  
**75**  
YEARS

**Calvary Presbyterian Church**

6120 North Kings Hwy, Alexandria

[www.calvarypres.org](http://www.calvarypres.org)

703.768.8510 [info@calvarypres.org](mailto:info@calvarypres.org)

THE DISMANTLING RACISM TEAM  
OF NCP INVITE YOU TO

# ALLY TRAINING 2023

led by Service Never Sleeps



UNITY · RECONCILIATION · JUSTICE  
**Dismantling Racism**

## TRAINING OPPORTUNITY FOR 2023

(Training consists of TWO sessions.

Your registration confirms you will attend both)

**Sunday, May 7 and Monday, May 8**  
**6:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.**

Where: **Zoom**

Who: **ALL Clergy AND Members of NCP  
congregations & communities & friends of  
our congregations. Want to register a  
group, let us know!**

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](#)**

*Concerts  
from  
Kirkwood*

*presents*

**MARCOLIVIA**

*a violin & viola duo*

**SATURDAY, MAY 13 AT 3 PM**

*Freilach -  
A Celebration of Jewish  
and Eastern-European Music*

*Free Admission,  
Donations Appreciated*

Kirkwood Presbyterian Church  
8336 Carrleigh Parkway, Springfield, VA 22152  
kirkwoodpres.com







# In This Yes and the Next: Practices for Discerning God's Call

May 18-21, 2023

Massanetta Springs Camp and  
Conference Center

**A vocational discernment toolbox building retreat**

Daring to be curious about the next “yes” God is speaking into your life can be a transformative thing. You’re invited to Massanetta Springs this May to spend some time apart in curiosity and practice. This retreat offers an exploration of frameworks for vocational discernment that hold spaciousness for how our senses of call can shift throughout our lives. God is always speaking - this space will give you the opportunity to engage in a variety of practices, tools to equip your toolbox for ongoing listening.

Join facilitators alison wood and Luke Rembold in creating a space for discernment for folks of all ages and life stages, whether you are actively discerning or want to prepare for future discernment.

Registration is available on a sliding scale to make this experience accessible to as many people as possible. More details, and registration, can be found on the [registration form](#) or at [bit.ly/nextyes](https://bit.ly/nextyes).



# Stewardship through Storytelling - PART II

## MAKING IT WORK FOR YOU!

Hosted by the Stewardship Committee of NCP

### Thursday, May 18, 2023

7:00 - 8:00 pm

via Zoom

During our time together we will recap the April 20th Storytelling event with Robyn Davis Sekula and offer practical ways to boost your stewardship by sharing your stories.



**HIGHLIGHTS  
FROM  
APRIL 20TH**



**STORYTELLING  
USING 4 METHODS:**

- VIRTUAL
- SOCIAL MEDIA
- SPOKEN WORD
- PRINT

To receive the Zoom link

*Register  
Here*





# AUTHOR TALK: What Kind of Christianity

**by Dr. William Yoo**

A DISCUSSION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH'S HISTORY OF SLAVERY AND  
ANTI-BLACK RACISM

## Sunday, May 21

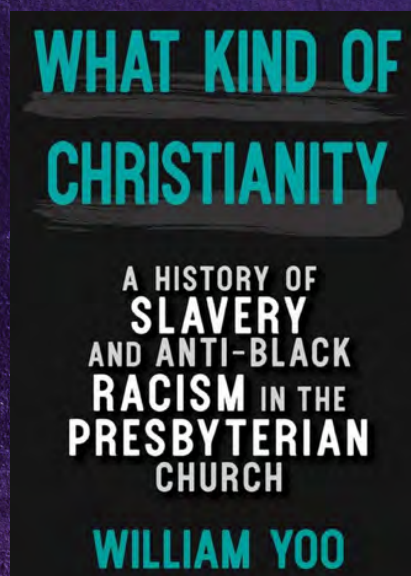
### 11:00am

Worship at Old Presbyterian  
Meeting House, Dr. Yoo  
preaching  
323 S. Fairfax St  
Alexandria, VA 22314

### 3:00pm

Presentation and Q&A with Dr.  
Yoo  
Fairlington Presbyterian Church  
3846 King St  
Alexandria VA 22302

Reception to follow



Presented by: First  
Presbyterian Arlington  
and Fairlington  
Presbyterian Church's  
Joint Mission Ministry,  
National Capital  
Presbytery's Dismantling  
Racism Task Force, Old  
Presbyterian Meeting  
House, and Reformed  
Institute



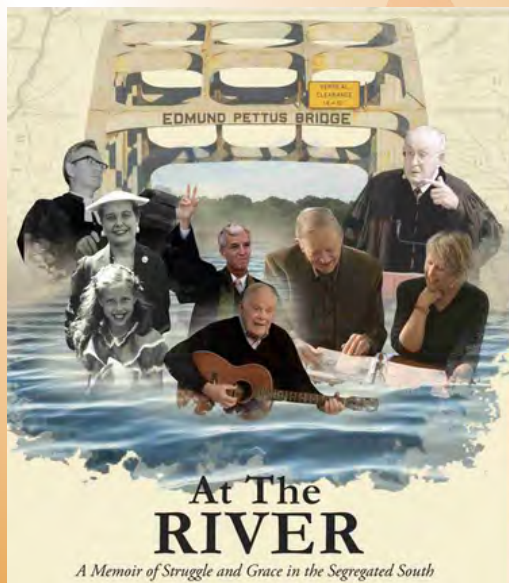


National Capital Presbytery

# The Gathering

## "At the River: Struggle and Grace in the Segregated South"

presented by Burke Presbyterian Church and the Dismantling Racism Team of NCP



*At The River* is a feature length film documentary about a certain time and place in the deep south. In the Civil Rights era of the 50's and 60's, most Presbyterian ministers stood on the banks of the cultural river of segregation and white supremacy. They opted not to stir the waters in their congregations and communities by speaking out. However, a few young southern Presbyterian ministers did brave those currents through their sermons, community organizing and participating in marches and protests. They faced dangerous, hate-filled consequences for these actions.

*At The River* chronicles their lives and their decisions, as well as director Carolyn Crowder's firsthand experience as a young white southern girl from Montgomery, Alabama. During those mean and turbulent times these ministers, through their love and example, had a huge impact on her life in helping her overcome her southern racist brainwashing. More information: <http://carolyncrowder.com/>

Registration coming soon!

June 4, 2023

3:00 PM to 5:30 PM

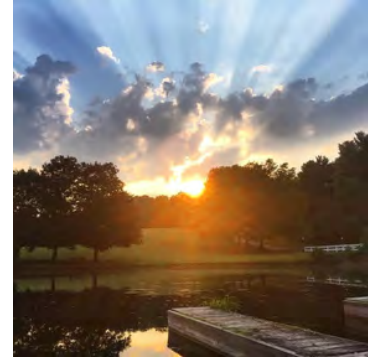
Southminster

Presbyterian Church

Open to All

SAVE THE  
date

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**  
in the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic  
**2023 Summer Gathering**  
June 8-11, 2023



*Open your heart to a Sacred Encounter . . .  
Come on to me (Luke 18:16)*



Rev. Dr. Olive Mahabir

Author of 2023-2024 Horizons Bible Study  
*Sacred Encounters: The Power and  
Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke and Acts*

**Featuring...**



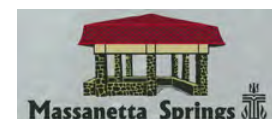
Shani McIlwain

Author - Podcaster - Leadership Coach  
Sharing Love, Light and Life  
[www.shanimcilwain.com](http://www.shanimcilwain.com)

**Also joining us are:**  
**PW Moderator Kathy Reeves & PW Executive Director Susan Jackson Dowd**

**For more information  
and to register:**  
[www.pwsma.com](http://www.pwsma.com)

**Hybrid Option**  
Plenaries & some  
workshops will be  
available on zoom.



Join us at  
Massanetta Springs Camp and Conference Center  
Harrisonburg, Virginia 22801  
[www.massanettasprings.org](http://www.massanettasprings.org)

# SYNOD OF THE MID-ATLANTIC 251<sup>st</sup> ASSEMBLY HIGHLIGHTS UNION PRESBYTERIAN SEMINARY

An amazing planning team contributed to an impactful Hybrid Synod Assembly held on Union Presbyterian Seminary Campus, March 10-11, 2023. The Team included WD Hasty, Moderator Addie Peterson, Stephen Scott, and Vice Moderator David Cho. But when one adds Cindy Kohlmann, Connectional Presbyter (NEW) who staged and provided technical support, and Preacher and Presenter Cesar Carhuachin, March Madness had nothing on this Dream Team. The synod is blessed to have such talented leadership who willingly promote the mission of the Presbyterian Church (USA).



**LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:** The Synod Stated Clerk challenged the assembly to move beyond simple land acknowledgement to the next action step of repair and to provide reparation for Native American church properties. In October 2022, twelve Synod Executives traveled to Utah, New Mexico and Arizona to view the buildings, churches and sacred land. The 223<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly called upon the Presbyterian Mission Agency to document the physical needs of all Native American church properties and create a fund for repairing those churches. The result documented that approximately \$5.5 million dollars in repairs are needed to various churches. A Native American and Native Alaskan Fund <https://www.presbyterianfoundation.org/nativeamericanchurches/> held at the Presbyterian Foundation has been established for funding the effort to rebuild. The 225<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (2022) took action on Directing the Office of the General Assembly to Issue Apologies and Reparations for the Racist Closure of the Memorial Presbyterian Church, Juneau, Alaska. This action includes the reparation of \$220,000 to the Native American and Native Alaskan Fund which will be received from the PMA in 2023. Commissioners, Churches and Presbyteries are encouraged to contribute to the fund using the link above.



**WORSHIP AND COMMUNION:** Vice Moderator David Cho introduced Rev. Dr. César G. Carhuachín, Mission Co-Worker in Baranquilla, Colombia at the School of Theology, Reformed University of Colombia as the preacher. The sermon was titled “Mission and Poverty.” The Assembly was reminded of the missionary journeys of Barnabas and Mark to Cypress and Asia Minor and also how the Holy Spirit guided them to Macedonia. César is on a seven-month interpretation assignment in the United States which will allow him and his wife (Dania) to visit churches, presbyteries, synods and other groups to share the work they are doing in Colombia, South America. The Lord’s Supper was observed.



**SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION:** During the Hybrid Assembly, Commissioners, Corresponding Members and Guests had several opportunities to participate in small group discussions in response to the five plenaries; even those on zoom, vigorously engaged in dynamic discussions. During plenary one and two, Dr. Alonzo Johnson, Coordinator for the PCUSA Self Develop of People Program, challenged all to explore ways that Matthew 25 intersects with the Poor People’s Campaign.





The Synod and the Presbyterian Mission Agency previously drew on the knowledge and expertise of Dr. Liz Theoharis, Co-Chair of the National Poor People's Campaign in order to connect the dots. Dr. Theoharis was the key-note presenter during the 250<sup>th</sup> Synod Assembly last September. Alonzo's power packed an information filled presentation; it used professional and personal stories to illustrate how poverty connects to justice and how racism intersects with poverty. His guiding questions for breakout group discussions included (1) When you heard the word "Poor" for the very first time, what did it mean to you; and (2) Where do you see Christ among the poor? One commissioner raised a question during plenary as to what can the CHURCH do beyond discussion of these issues to impact laws and public policies? One way is to register and attend Ecumenical Advocacy Days which will focus on bringing about a more peaceful world. "Swords into Plowshares: Achieving Enough for All & Pursuing Peace" is the theme of the April 25-27 conference, [Presbyterian Office of Public Witness](#) in Washington, D.C.

**PLENARIES THREE AND FOUR** provided a deep dive into Matthew 25. David Eunil Cho and WD Hasty



delivered an eye-opening presentation on the Demystification of Matthew 25. Too many Presbyterians view the Vision of Matthew 25 as a political movement of the Left and because of this misguided understanding, resistance results. Some churches and presbyteries are already doing Matthew 25 work, but don't realize it. David and WD went to extreme measures to state what Matthew 25 is NOT! They provided conversation and strategies to implement Matthew 25 into churches and presbyteries. Three myths illustrated were (1) Matthew 25 is a Liberal and Political Agenda: Matthew 25 comes from Matthew 25:31-46, The parable of the Sheep and Goats "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me". (2) Systemic Issues are Not Real: Do you believe there is systemic racism in America survey poll (Harris Poll – 2022) revealed that ¼ people did not believe and 53% white people were unconvinced that it existed. (3) We can never be Matthew 25 Churches for ??? Reasons: whether you identify as Matthew 25 or not, following God and doing what matters to God is a principle and calling, we've all been doing something that matters to God. This video and slides are posted on the website!

**CELEBRATING MATTHEW 25**: Dr. Cho highlighted stories and videos from churches and presbyteries

across the Synod that demonstrated the implementation of Matthew 25 and commissioners were captivated by them. CCC highlighted its Bilingual Youth Event, "When did we see you?" The program is providing workshops for youth to connect their passions with God. AKAP, Bethany Korean PC celebrates its Mission Team's building an indoor gym and multi-purpose center in Honduras for education and worship.



SHE, Trinity PC celebrates its Step-by-Step and Brick by Brick- unearthing the walls of a building to find bricks that were originally laid by enslaved people, uncovering building's past and the history of those indigenous and enslaved people of the land. WNC celebrates eight Matthew 25 churches and the presbytery addressing poverty, affordable housing, healthcare, and early childcare grants. Grants will help establish and develop building living space, and properties to serve those with low incomes. EVA, Kings Grants PC celebrates its Hunger Ministry Team and educational programs that support various efforts to



- Building congregational vitality
- Dismantling structural racism
- Eradicating systemic poverty

[www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/matthew-25/](http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/matthew-25/)

dismantle racism. It feeds the hungry and advocates for the marginalized. NHO, St. Paul PC is less than 40 members situated in rural Franklin County NC. 20% of the children here live in food insecure families. Hunger is one of the first signs of poverty. Since March 2020, 35 bag lunches are provided for the homeless; it consistently hosts full-service events that feed hundreds. In 2022, they served 5137 families that represented

14,819 individuals. They have self-service facilities in two refrigerators in our walk-up pavilion that are on a 'take what you need basis'. The church has resumed serving hot meals once a week to 50 – 60 people

in Blessings Soup Kitchen. Synod of the Mid-Atlantic celebrates allocating \$150,000.00 to support presbyteries (a) Becoming a Matthew 25 Presbytery, and/or (b) Move Matthew 25 to the next level, or (c) Assist Churches to become Matthew 25. Black, Indigenously and People of Color Churches (BIPOC) are allocated \$52,500.00 to develop leadership skills. Many congregations in presbyteries are doing Matthew 25 work, but have not formally embraced being Matthew 25. We wait for other churches to fully embrace the Vision of the Presbyterian Church USA to share your stories.

**PLENARY FIVE:** Mission Co-Worker César Carhuachín shared an international perspective on poverty from the ministry which he serves. Steps away from the Reformed University where he teaches, he comes face to face with some of Columbia's most marginalized people. He encounters Venezuelan refugees who seek to survive by selling candy on the streets. The United Nations estimated that 3.4 million Venezuelans have fled their homeland, where political repression has created severe economic hardship and shortages of food and medicine. Carhuachín expounded on biblical themes such as neighbor love and God's concern for impoverished people. Beyond the Barranquilla campus, he puts the teaching into practice among the refugees. He engages them on the streets and in their homes, in his home and in Columbia's Presbyterian congregations. According to the United Nations, the highest number of Venezuelan refugees-more than 1 million- are living in Columbia.



**SCHOLARSHIPS:** Emails have been received from college/seminary recipients from the 251<sup>st</sup> Synod Assembly. *"Thank you so much! I am thrilled to know that this support will continue. It is very much appreciated. I will also mail a thank-you note to the Grants Committee."* *"I am so excited!!! The note will be coming shortly."* *"I am sincerely honored to have been selected as the recipient of the Euler scholarship 2023-24. Thank you for your generosity, which will allow me to concentrate more on my studies and fulfill my calling to the Christian ministry."* Stultz and Euler Scholarships awarded \$31,000 to students enrolled in PCUSA colleges and seminaries. They included Rien Freeman (SAL- \$5,000.00), Joshua Gilhart (BAL - \$7,000), Kanyugi Gichuki (JAM - \$7,000), Andrew Hall (NAT - \$6,000), and Donna Graves (EVA - \$6,000).



**SMALL CHURCH GRANTS:** Totaled \$20,000 and enabled the following churches to address important mission projects: Anderson Memorial (ABI) was awarded \$5,000 for Handicap Accessibility; Hamilton PC (BAL) was awarded \$5,000 for flooring replacement; Reid Memorial PC (SAL) was awarded \$5,000 to replace an HVAC system; and Sweetwater PC (WNC) was awarded \$5,000 for steeple/roof repairs.

**KATE B. RENOLDS TRUST:** Totaled amount awarded was \$665,765.06. 446 Honorably Retired Ministers in North Carolina Presbyteries each received a distribution of \$1,492.75.

**FINANCES:** Synod 2022 revenue and expenses were in line with the budget. The Assembly approved the following: (a) Automobile reimbursement was increased to 65.5 cents/mile. (b) Granted \$20,000.00 to AKAP for expenses associated with legal matters. (c) Amended the 2023 budget by \$10,000 to provide for communications/publications costs. (d) Synod per capita rate remains at \$1.15 for 2024. (e) A future discernment discussion be held during Assembly regarding possible per capita increases.

**NOMINATIONS:** Presbyteries are asked to ensure that your presbytery is represented on synod committees and commissions. The following leadership was approved: WD Hasty and Felicia Hoyle are Administration Committee Co-chairs; Amanda Pine and Cassandra Thomas are Emerging Ideas Co-Chairs, and Tom Holden and George Hall are Committee on Representation Co-Chairs.

Committee Vacancies include:

- Committee on Representation NAT, BAL, SAL and WNC
- Jubilee Fund Committee PEA, WNC, and JAM
- Nomination Committee BAL, PEA, WNC
- Synod Permanent Judicial Commission PEA

**SYNOD EXECUTIVE/CLERK:** Female Executives and Stated Clerks were recognized for Women's History Month. ABI and BAL are in compliance with synod standing rules. Synod leadership participated in a consultation with AKAP and Office of the General Assembly concerning remedial complaint and civil case. Presbytery updates: ABI – is a Matthew 25 mid-council; NHO - Bruce Grady, Executive Presbyter; NAT - David Baer Stated Clerk; NEW - Gifted the synod with \$30,000; JAM - Steven Hicks, Stated Clerk; SAL - Formed Executive Search Committee. There are nine civil cases that synod is named as a defendant. Presbyterian Leader Formation includes Floretta Watkins, Elyse Hicks and Bruce Grady and synod pays \$1,500 annually for the three-years. SPJC has three remedial complaints. Executive Committee addressing ministry areas: (1) To Enhance Leadership Skills among Committee Chairs; (2) To Develop a Comprehensive Marketing and Communications Plan. (3) To Address Organizational and Structural Changes necessary so that Matthew 25 might flourish across the region.

**REMINDER:** Every commissioner represents a particular presbytery. Commissioners are the presbytery's access to the work and mission of the synod. Assembly meets twice annually. Commissioners are expected to report synod actions to the appropriate presbytery body following each assembly. Feel free to share this document with the appropriate bodies and churches across your presbytery. Both Word and or PDF copies are included! On behalf of all the commissioners, corresponding members and visitors to the 251<sup>st</sup> Synod of the Mid-Atlantic Assembly we extend immeasurable gratitude and appreciation to Moderator Addie Peterson and Vice Moderator David Cho for their incredible leadership. In addition, synod staff is ready to assist synod committees and presbyteries as needs arise. Reach out to us! Remember that Cindy Hollingshead's birthday is January 21<sup>st</sup> and Tami Scott's birthday is January 28<sup>th</sup>.



**HOLD THE DATE:** September 10-13, 2023, Massanetta Springs Campus/Conference.

#### **ACRONYM KEY**

Abingdon Presbytery	ABI	National Capital Presbytery	NAT
Atlantic Korean American Presbytery	AKAP	New Castle Presbytery	NEW
Baltimore Presbytery	BAL	New Hope Presbytery	NHO
Charlotte Presbytery	CHA	Peaks Presbytery	PEA
Coastal Carolina Presbytery	CCC	Salem Presbytery	SAL
Eastern Virginia Presbytery	EVA	Shenandoah Presbytery	SHE
James Presbytery	JAM	Western North Carolina Presbytery	WNC







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## Science-Based Targets for Faith

*A World Resources Institute and Georgetown University Partnership*

April 16, 2023

Dear Colleague,

You are cordially invited to *Science-based Targets for Faith: A Global Colloquium*, a joint WRI and Georgetown University convening on **May 11-12, 2023 in Washington, DC**.

This invitation-only convening will be in-person and taking place on the campus of Georgetown University in Washington D.C.

The goals of this convening include reviewing recent progress on this project, growing a global community of emissions reduction practice and exploring next steps to advance the mission of this project. Participants in the convening will include global FBO leaders, stakeholders and researchers engaged in the initiative as well as other leading organizations working to mitigate climate change in the FBO community.

Your organization, along with other thought leaders committed to reducing emissions in their faith communities are invited to share your insights and recent progress surrounding the challenges and methods to creating and reaching Science-Based-Targets in the global faith community.

More details regarding event logistics will be provided in the coming weeks. [Please RSVP to confirm your interest and participation here](#). If you have additional questions, please reach out to us at: [sbtf@georgetown.edu](mailto:sbtf@georgetown.edu).

Sincerely,

Alberto Pallecchi  
Acting Director, WRI Faith and Sustainability Initiative

Uwe S. Brandes  
Faculty Director, Georgetown Global Cities Initiative, Principal Investigator, SBTF Project



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## Science-Based Targets for Faith

*A World Resources Institute and Georgetown University Partnership*

### Project Overview

#### Project Overview

Faith-based organizations (“FBOs”) have long been recognized for their role in social service delivery, working with the poor and alleviating human suffering throughout history. More recently, FBOs have been regarded as critical partners to address climate change. With the immense physical and financial assets which they control, and their ability to influence the value and behavior of the vast majority of the world’s population affiliated with faith, FBOs have a crucial role to play in tackling the climate crisis. They can do so by setting science-based targets (“SBTs”) to reduce their operational emissions in line with climate science. In addition, great potential lies in FBOs’ ability to steer investments into climate solutions and motivate climate-friendly behaviors in their followers.

SBTs are performance management goals to provide a path to reduce global greenhouse gas (“GHG”) emissions. An emissions reduction target is defined as ‘science-based’ if it is developed in line with the scale of reductions required to keep global warming well below 2°C from pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit warming to 1.5°C, as established by the Paris Agreement. SBTs define how much and how fast an organization’s emissions need to be reduced and have become the standard for emissions reduction targets for over 2,500 corporations globally.

Adoption of SBTs by FBOs will enable FBOs to come together in unity, lead by example, and become new climate leaders in the race to net zero emissions by 2050. SBTs enable FBOs to raise their profile in sustainability, take part in global efforts to curb emissions (such as the United Nations’ ‘Race to Zero’) and have their efforts accounted for within national and local strategies and inventories.

The World Resources Institute has partnered with Georgetown University and Porticus Foundation to develop the *Science Based Targets for Faith* project. The Project is built on WRI’s leadership in establishing GHG accounting standards, science-based climate target setting practices (as a partner of the Science Based Targets Initiative), and Georgetown’s mission to advance serious and sustained discourse among people of different faiths, cultures, and beliefs.

## **Project Vision**

We envision a world where FBOs are prominent climate leaders in the race to net zero in a manner that contributes to the achievement of the Paris Agreement on climate change and the Sustainable Development Goals. With coordinated and science-based efforts, they will report and reduce their emissions, make climate-friendly and climate-positive investments, and shift followers' consumption patterns. This leadership and positive example will help shift their followers' consumption patterns towards sustainable solutions and drive the adoption of community-level solutions to sustainability challenges.

## **Project Goals**

The project is organized around three areas of engagement:

1. *Advance Measurement* - The Project delivers a global standard for FBOs data collection methodologies and tools which enable FBOs of all faiths to measure and report the GHG emissions associated with their tangible and intangible assets. The Project currently focuses on scope 1 and 2 emissions of FBOs as defined by the GHGP Corporate Standards with the potential to extend to scope 3 (indirect) emissions in the future.
2. *Provide Guidance* - The Project delivers knowledge and analysis which strengthens the capacity of FBOs to set their own science-based targets and advance best management practices to meet climate mitigation targets.
3. *Facilitate Education* - The Project delivers education and training which support the growth of internal and external capacity to achieve FBO targets and promote a global community of practitioners advancing best asset management practices within the FBO sector.

## **Project Status**

The project has drafted a guidance document with expected publication in Summer 2023 to assist FBOs advancing climate mitigation efforts. It has created an online survey for FBOs to perform and report a GHG Inventory of their emissions. It has completed a pilot and testing phase with a select group of global FBO partners.

### ***About WRI***

*WRI is a global research organization that works with governments, businesses, multilateral institutions and civil society groups to develop practical solutions that improve people's lives and ensures nature can thrive. We organize our work around seven global challenges: Food, Forests, Water, Energy, Climate, the Ocean and Cities. We analyze these issues through the lenses of our four Centers of Excellence: Business, Economics, Finance and Equity.*

### ***About Georgetown University***

*Georgetown University is one of the world's leading academic and research institutions, offering a unique educational experience that prepares the next generation of global citizens to lead and make a difference in the world. We are a vibrant community of exceptional students, faculty, alumni and professionals dedicated to real-world applications of our research, scholarship, faith and service.*