



Dear Friends in Christ,

Our Eastertide is coming to an end as we get closer to Pentecost. I have been more intentional during this 50-day journey than I have been in previous years. I lean into what others are saying, I've taken the time to fully understand why I do the work I do, and what impact it will have after the work is done. I've been thinking about those first followers of Christ not calling themselves Christian, but followers of the Way. In John 14:6 Jesus declares himself as the way, the truth, and the life. Which way is God leading you in this season? Where are you being led to go? Think of these things in your time with God. Follow the prompts of The Holy Spirit.

As our May meeting approaches, I am reminded how my journey in this role began in the middle of a global pandemic and it is coming to an end soon. I am grateful I said YES despite the unknown. I have been blessed by every invitation to preach at your congregation, every picture you let me take and post on social media, every prayer, every thoughtful handwritten note expressing gratitude for my leadership. I am grateful to my own congregation Faith Presbyterian that is nestled in SW Washington, DC. It is that community that continues to bear witness, and guide my leadership, in what it means to love our neighbors as ourselves and to go where God leads.

During our time together on Tuesday, we will work faithfully on 4 key agenda items.

- Election of a Moderator and Vice Moderator for 2023-2024
- Recommendation from LC for an increase in funding for CDC/New Things
- Recommendation from CPM to waive the minimum time requirement for Ken Rathje
- Action on proposed amendments to the Book of Order (Bills and Overtures)

Please review your packet and if you have not done so register at thepresbytery.org to receive the zoom link. I look forward to seeing you on Tuesday, May 23rd at 6:00 pm. Perhaps there will be a prompt of the spirit meeting you there.

In Christ's Service,

Elder Shani McIlwain
Moderator- NCP

**Stated Meeting
National Capital Presbytery
May 23, 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. 2)	Rev. David A. Baer, Stated Clerk
6:10 PM RECOMMENDATION FROM LEADERSHIP COUNCIL (p. 4)	Rev. Diane Walton Hendricks, Chair of Leadership Council
6:20 PM TRANSITIONS / PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION	Rev. John Molina-Moore, General Presbyter
6:30 PM ELECTION OF MODERATOR AND VICE MODERATOR (p. 10)	Rev. Patrick Hunnicutt, Chair of Nominating Committee
6:40 PM REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY (p. 11)	Rev. Megan Klose, Chair of CPM
6:50 PM REPORT OF THE BILLS AND OVERTURES COMMITTEE (p. 12)	Elder Mark Eakin, Chair Bills & Overtures
7:30 PM RECOGNITION OF DEPARTING MODERATOR, SHANI MCILWAIN	Rev. Chris Deacon Vice Moderator
7:45 PM NEW BUSINESS	Elder Shani McIlwain, Moderator
7:50 PM CHARGE AND BLESSING	Elder Shani McIlwain, Moderator

Meeting Leaders

Rev. David A. Baer, Stated Clerk
Rev. Dr. Chris Deacon, Vice Moderator, NCP
Elder Mark Eakin, Chair of Bills and Overtures Committee
Rev. Dr. Diane Walton Hendricks, Chair of Leadership Council
Rev. Patrick Hunnicutt, Chair of Nominating Committee
Rev. Megan Klose, Chair of the Commission on Preparation for Ministry
Elder Shani McIlwain, Moderator, NCP
Rev. John Molina-Moore, General Presbyter

OMNIBUS MOTION FOR THE MAY 23, 2023 PRESBYTERY MEETING

From the Stated Clerk

- The Stated Clerk moves the approval of the minutes of the March 28, 2023 NCP meeting.
- The Stated Clerk reports the Decision and Order of the Permanent Judicial Commission of the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic in *Rev. Dr. Willie J. Keaton v. National Capital Presbytery* (Synod of the Mid-Atlantic #2023-1) and moves that the full Decision and Order be entered upon the minutes of this meeting. (Full text of this Decision and Order is found in the Stated Clerk's Report.)
- The Stated Clerk reports that he received the reports from the following commissions and recommends that they be dismissed with thanks:
 - The Administrative Commission to install the Rev. Taekhan Yoon at United Korean Presbyterian Church on April 16, 2023 at 4:00 pm.
- The Stated Clerk reports the approval of the following Administrative Commissions:
 - The Administrative Commission to install the Rev. Bill Kluttz at First Presbyterian Church of Arlington on June 4, 2023 at 3:00 pm.

From the Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee places in nomination the following persons for election:

Administrative Commission on Congregational Property

John Hagner (Ruling Elder, Saint Mark), Class of 2026

Mike McAdoo (Ruling Elder, Westminster, VA), Class of 2026

Budget and Finance

Patrick McElwaine (Teaching Elder, Geneva), Class of 2026

Church Development Commission

Mark Gaskill (Teaching Elder, Good Samaritan), Class of 2026

Joyce Rarumangkay (Ruling Elder, Emmanuel Indonesian), Class of 2024

Committee on Ministry

Chair, Juli Wilson-Black (Teaching Elder, Fairlington)

Vice-Chair, Carla Gorrell (Teaching Elder, At-large)

Jesy Littlejohn (Ruling Elder, at-large), Class of 2026

James Sledge (OPMH), Class of 2024

Committee on Preparation for Ministry

Todd Sutton (Teaching Elder, Specialized), Class of 2026

Beth Williams (Teaching Elder, United Christian Parish of Reston), Class of 2026

Personnel

Barbara Mitchell (Ruling Elder, National), Class of 2025

Session Records

Ann Feder (Ruling Elder, Christ), Class of 2026

Stewardship

David Gray (Teaching Elder, Bradley Hills), Class of 2024

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

ACTION ITEMS FOR MAY 23, 2023 NCP MEETING

ACTION ITEM #1

Recommendation from Leadership Council

MOTION: The Leadership Council, with the concurrence of the Budget Committee, **RECOMMENDS** that the Presbytery **AUTHORIZE** a mid-year budget increase for the Church Development Commission in the amount of \$102,000, to be drawn from the New Growth Fund.

Rationale: On April 21, the Stated Clerk received the following request from the chair of the Church Development Commission:

This year New Things has a budget for funding New Worshiping Communities (NWCs) at \$190,000. (Plus \$10,000 to fund education and coaching for our New Things leaders.) This year we have received more requests than every and for terrific NWC ideas – and this is good news!

To date we have received requests totaling \$262,000 (see attached spreadsheet) for New Worshiping Communities. These requests have been approved; however, all but one was funded at 50% of the requested amount with the understanding that the remaining 50% would be funded subsequent to their successful performance in a mid-year assessment. These mid-year assessment meetings are scheduled to take place on May 24th. This assessment process is new this year and creates a good opportunity for the New Things team to hear directly from the individual NWC leaders about how their initiatives are progressing against a set of evaluation criteria the New Things team developed in January.

Given all this, the New Things team is requesting a current year budget increase to enable us to fully fund our current initiatives and for NWCs experiments/initiatives that have not yet come forward. (We do not want to have to make a second budget increase request later in the year.) Please see the attached spreadsheet for details on the existing NWCs. For those not yet identified we are requesting budget funding to support 3 new experiments/initiatives at \$10,000 each. In short, our request is, as follows:

• Necessary to fully fund identified, on-going NWCs	\$ 72,000
• <u>Funding for not yet identified NWC experiments/initiatives</u>	<u>\$ 30,000</u>
• TOTAL	\$102,000

It is possible that one or more of our current NWC initiatives will fare poorly in its mid-year assessment. In that case, an agreement would be reached with the NWC leader(s) to determine fair compensation and employment while they seek their next call/opportunity. This would decrease our current year spending from what is projected above. Similarly, if 3 new opportunities do not come forward this year, our current year spending would be less than projected above. In either case, the remaining monies would revert back to the NCP New Growth Fund, which is our expected source of our budget increase funding and the source of our New Things funding in recent history.

The *Book of Order* provides that “each council shall prepare and adopt a budget for its operating expenses” (G-3.0106). NCP’s Manual of Administrative Operations requires that the Leadership Council “[p]resent ... budgets to the Presbytery for final approval” (p. 8), and that “[a]ll expenditures from designated funds shall be approved by the [Budget] Committee’s membership and, in some cases, may require additional approvals as determined by the Presbytery” (p. 6).

On April 28, the Budget and Finance Committee reported the following:

Budget & Finance recommends to Leadership Council that the following motion from CDC be approved: *Approved recommendation to be sent to the Leadership Council/floor of the Presbytery for New Things budget increase (\$102,000/NCP New Growth Fund) to support additional programs (from draft of CDC minutes). CDC is hopeful this recommendation will be approved by LC in time to be acted upon at the May Presbytery meeting.*

On May 3, the Leadership Council considered the request during its regular meeting, and received the following additional information from the CDC:

ADDENDUM to April 13 Memo: Budget Increase for New Things, CY2023
A Review of the Currently Funded New Worshiping Communities

1. Creekside Church

- a. Led by Carrie Yearick, Creekside Church is in the Cabin Branch area of Clarksburg, MD -- an area of tremendous population growth in upper Montgomery County.
- b. Creekside, over its three-year history has been focused on building relationships with local folks (those new to the area), specifically:
 - i. Building Community
 - ii. Fostering Community
 - iii. Serving Others
 - iv. Loving God with All We Got
- c. Specific ministries/activities include:
 - i. Large community-outreach events
 - ii. Community Worship
 - iii. Service work with such community groups as the Up County Food Hub
- d. Most recently, at Easter, Creekside hosted a large-scale Easter Egg Hunt at Clarkmont Park, followed by an outdoor Easter Worship.

e. Creekside has received NCP monies as follows:

- i. \$ 8,453 Tech Grant- Dec. 2020
- ii. \$35,000 New Things Grant, 2021
- iii. \$57,500 New Things Grant, 2022
- iv. \$25,000 New Things Grant, 2023 (\$50,000 requested; \$25,000 granted thus far for first 1/2 of year)

2. Germantown Global Connection (GCC)

a. Led by Norm Gordon and centered in the Germantown, MD area

b. Focused on outreach to individuals in the community who have grown disillusioned with the institutional church yet yearn for community and faith. GCC's ministries and activities focus on three priorities, "Gather, Serve, Grow." These ministries and activities include:

- i. Partnership with a local food pantry for the delivery of food to those who are struggling financially or for whom travel from the home is not possible.
- ii. Partnership with a local elementary school to provide 2x/week English tutoring to 2nd graders who are testing below grade level with the goal of getting these students to at-or-above grade level by the time they enter 3rd grade. This program was widely successful and grew to include ESL tutoring for the parents of these students as well.
- iii. Bi-Weekly Soup & Salad discussion meetings focused on Bible study, discussion, community-building and mutual accountability.

c. While work on GCC began three years ago, only just recently (3/2023) was awarded the PC(USA) "1001" Investment Grant – the second of the three "1001" grants available to New Worshiping Communities.

d. GCC has received NCP monies as follows:

- i. \$62,500 New Things Grant, 2020
- ii. \$60,250 New Things Grant, 2021
- iii. \$53,500 New Things Grant, 2022
- iv. \$39,500 New Things Grant, 2023 (\$39,500 requested; \$19,750 granted thus far for first 1/2 of year)

3. Earthen Hands

- a. Led by Jean Brown, Earthen Hands is focused on gathering in community individuals focused on God's creation and the wonders of nature. As they state: "we are Adamah, people of the Earth, Earthlings, made of dust, yet we have become disconnected. God's wider creation needs our attention more than ever. We are made of Earth and Earth is in our hands. How will we respond to the call?"
- b. Earthen Hands is centered out of the Dayspring Retreat Center in Germantown, MD
- c. From Spring through Fall, Earthen Hands leads a time of outdoor meditation and contemplation - a time to gather and listen to God through the sacred text of Holy Scripture and the Book of Creation.
- d. Jean Brown also leads work in a community garden at Dayspring, preaches from her potter's wheel at Earthen Hands gatherings, local churches and other opportunities.
- e. Earthen Hands has received NCP monies as follows:
 - i. \$52,000 New Things Grant, 2021
 - ii. \$49,900 New Things Grant, 2022
 - iii. \$48,700 New Things Grant, 2023 (\$48,700 requested; \$24,350 granted thus far for first 1/2 of year)

Note: In 2022 NCP provided \$100,000 for a multi-year lease of office space to be jointly used by Creekside Church, Germantown Global Connection, and Earthen Hands.

4. Queerly Gathered

- a. Queerly Gathered is a new initiative, led by Matt Nabinger (Director of Christian Education at Bradley Hills) and Cali Bronkema (Director of Next Generation Ministries at Geneva)
- b. Queerly Gathered is an affirming Christian faith community that welcomes all who identify as LGBTQ+ to social and spiritual activities, seeking to build community and encouraging individuals to explore a relationship with God.
- c. This year Queerly Gathered has hosted a variety of outreach/community building events, ranging from rock climbing to faith conversations to a Holy Saturday Dinner and Worship on April 8th.
- d. Queerly Gathered received initial funding from New Things of \$9,900 in February 2023 (\$19,800 requested; \$9,900 granted thus far for first 1/2 of year)

5. Faith Chapel

- a. This is a new, second iteration of a New Worshiping Community at Faith Chapel in Lucketts, VA – after the first NWC initiative came to an end in 2021 and was allowed to lay fallow for a year. This second effort is being led by Brian Clark (Riverside Church) and a local person-of-peace Amanda Vela.
- b. The building at Faith Chapel is evolving into a center of the Lucketts Community, hosting events from weekly Zumba to community meetings to art classes to theatre.
- c. At Easter, Brian and Amanda began “Messy Church” for families with younger children in the area. They are planning a series of “summer camps” for children and students in music, art and dance – as well as a weeklong Vacation Bible School.
- d. Faith Chapel continues to be the site of the Lucketts Community Food Pantry, a twice-a-month food distribution site dispersing approximately 4 tons of food per month.
- e. Faith Chapel came to New Things with a request for \$35,000 toward the cost to replace the HVAC in Faith Chapel. That request was approved and paid-out in full.
- f. Faith Chapel (Riverside) also received \$9,000 from NCP toward the repair/re-painting for the Faith Chapel roof (most of which was paid-for with locally-raised funds). At the same time, Faith Chapel (Riverside) generated \$10,000 to be paid to NCP by negotiating a contract for a right-of-way through the Faith Chapel property for telecommunications cabling – for net proceeds to NCP of \$1,000.

6. Impacto LGBT

- a. Led by Victor Claros, Thomas Villa, and Jorge Miranda Impacto LGBT arises from the lack of spaces and services with equal opportunities aimed at the Latino LGBT community in Northern Virginia.
- b. Impacto seeks to carry out advocacy actions that generate changes and contribute to improving the quality of life of the community, working toward an informed, safe, strong, and empowered Latino LGBT community.
- c. Impacto gathers, rejoices, and serves in several ways:
 - i. HIV/AIDS ministry
 1. Education, testing and counseling
 2. Peer support, such as accompaniment to first appointment and medical advocacy

- 3. Small Group support meetings
- ii. Community resilience ministry
 - 1. Health and relationship education
 - 2. "Last Resort" financial assistance
 - 3. Services and referrals to and through local community service organizations
- iii. Spiritual Healing and Formation activities/ministries include:
 - 1. Ecumenical faith workshops for the LGBT community
 - 2. Healing retreats of 8-10 participants, once-twice annually since 2020
 - 3. Lead Sunday worship, quarterly since 2022 (at Clarendon Presbyterian)
 - 4. Gratitude exercises, blessings and prayers of thanks integral to all activities
- d. While Impacto has been in existence since 2017, they made their first funding request to New Things last year. Impacto has received NCP monies as follows:
 - i. \$20,000 New Things Grant, 2022
 - ii. \$68,977 New Things Grant, 2023

			Obligated			
			For First		For	
Approved Grants			6 Months		Whole CY	
Creekside			\$ 25,000.00		\$ 50,000.00	
Germantown Global Connection			\$ 19,750.00		\$ 39,500.00	
Earthen Hands			\$ 24,350.00		\$ 48,700.00	
Queerly Gathered			\$ 9,900.00		\$ 19,800.00	
Faith Chapel			\$ 35,000.00		\$ 35,000.00	(entire grant paid upfront)
Impacto LGBT			\$ 34,488.50		\$ 68,977.00	
TOTAL			\$ 148,488.50		\$ 261,977.00	

ACTION ITEM #2

Nominating Committee – Election of the Moderator and Vice Moderator

The committee nominates **Rev. Dr. Chris Deacon** (Northwood) to be Moderator of the National Capital Presbytery for 2023-2024.

The committee nominates **Elder Lucius “Lou” Durden** (Northminster) to be Vice-Moderator of the National Capital Presbytery for 2023-2024.

Biographies of Nominees



2023-2024 Moderator— The Rev. Dr. Chris Deacon - currently serves as the Stated Supply Pastor for Redevelopment at Northwood Presbyterian Church. He previously served the United Parish of Bowie for 8 years and the First Presbyterian Church of Farmington, IL for 6 years. He has served as chair of the New Things team and currently serves on CDC, Leadership Council, and as Vice-Moderator of the Presbytery. Within his local community, he has served as a community mentor for High School students and is a founding board member and treasurer of the Bowie Interfaith Coalition.

He enjoys spending time with his family. His wife, Heather, works as the Director of Business Affairs for National Capital Presbytery. His daughter, Hannah, is too busy with third grade to find Presbytery activities very interesting. His two golden retrievers are Episcopalian, but he is working on them! In his spare time, Chris likes woodworking, home improvement, cooking, reading, board games, and watching movies. He especially enjoys watching his beloved Tennessee Titans, proving that hope springs eternal!



2023-2024 Vice Moderator - Lucius “Lou” Durden is a ruling elder at Northminster Presbyterian Church, where he has been the Adult Bible School Leader for over ten years. A Commissioner of the 225th General Assembly, he is also on the Commission for Preparation for Ministry (CPM) and has served on three Administrative Commissions, including one he currently chairs.

Lou retired from IBM after 32 years in various marketing management positions and as Director of Community Relations in the Washington DC area. After leaving IBM, he led the marketing team for the DC Chamber of Commerce. Additionally, he has served on various committees and nonprofit boards over the years, including United Way of the National Capital Area, Washington Tennis and Education Foundation, the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities and Leadership Greater Washington.

Lou is married to Dorothy Durden, they have two (2) daughters and three (3) grandchildren.

ACTION ITEM #3

Commission on Preparation for Ministry

Motion: The Commission on Preparation for Ministry moves that, in keeping with G-2.0610, Accommodations to Particular Circumstances, National Capital Presbytery waive the minimum time requirement for preparation for ministry as defined in G-2-0602, Time Requirements, for Ken Rathje of National Presbyterian Church, and approve Mr. Rathje for Final Assessment in June 2023.

This motion requires a three-quarters vote of the presbytery (G-2.0610).

Rationale: Ken Rathje is a man of mature faith with a heart for service. After retiring from the Army, Mr. Rathje finally answered God's call of 40 years and enrolled in seminary. He was enrolled as an Inquirer under care of CPM in 2020, and was advanced to Candidate in October 2022. Mr. Rathje has completed his M.Div. at Wesley Theological Seminary, and CPM affirms his outer call. Normally Mr. Rathje would be required to wait until he had fulfilled one year as a Candidate, in accordance with G-2-0602, Time Requirements, and have to wait until November 2023 for Final Assessment. Given his life experience, the clarity of his discernment, and CPM's affirmation of his outer call, CPM moves that the Presbytery waive the one-year minimum and approve Mr. Rathje for Final Assessment in June 2023.

ACTION ITEM #4

Report of the Bills and Overtures Committee – National Capital Presbytery – May 23, 2023

Special Rule of Order

MOTION that the Presbytery **SUSPEND** Standing Rule 3 (“A Special Rule of Order for the consideration of proposed amendments to the Book of Order”), by the required two-thirds majority, and **ADOPT** the following Special Rule of Order for the present meeting only:

- The Chair of the Bills and Overtures Committee shall present the committee’s judgment and recommendation on each of the proposed amendments in the form of a written report. The report may designate certain “blocks” of amendments, for which the committee recommends approval, to be presented together.
- Thereafter, the Moderator of the meeting shall announce that the presbytery is to vote on each block of amendments. When a block is presented, the Moderator shall inquire whether any member of the assembly wishes to remove any item from the block for later separate consideration. *Any one member of the assembly has the right to remove any item in this way.*
- The Moderator shall say to the assembly, “Does the presbytery wish to approve of the following proposed amendments ... (stating here the numbers of the amendments remaining in the block)? A vote of YES indicates that all of these amendments shall be approved by the presbytery. A vote of NO indicates that all of these amendments should be considered separately.”

The assembly shall proceed to consider each of the remaining proposed amendments in sequence, in the manner prescribed by Standing Rule 3.

Rationale: The 225th General Assembly has proposed thirty-three amendments to the *Book of Order*. NCP’s Standing Rule #3 requires a separate presentation, discussion, and vote for each proposed amendment. Following this process for such a large number of amendments would be time-consuming and impractical. The proposed rules allow the presbytery to make more efficient use of its time, with the flexibility to shape and extend the time as needed. This is similar to the Presbytery’s use of a consent agenda to more quickly decide on proposed actions that are expected to be non-controversial.

Recommendations

Bills and Overtures Committee – Recommendations on Proposed Amendments to the Book of Order

Please note: Proposed amendments marked with one or two asterisks () are included in one of the blocks. If you are a voting member, you may request that any of these be removed for separate consideration when invited to do so by the Moderator.*

If the Presbytery approves the proposed Special Rule of Order, the Committee will present the following blocks of amendments for approval together:

- Block 1: 22-A, 22-B, 22-C, 22-D, 22-F, 22-G, 22-H, 22-J, 22-K, 22-L, 22-M, 22-N, 22-O, 22-P, 22-Q, 22-R, 22-S, 22-T, 22-U, 22-V, 22-W, 22-X, 22-Y, 22-Z, 22-AA, 22-BB.
- Block 2: 22-CC, 22-DD, 22-EE, 22-FF

The Committee will present the following amendments for *individual consideration*:

- 22-E (no recommendation)
- 22-I (recommend approval)
- 22-GG (recommend approval)

The order of votes shall be:

- Block 1
- Block 2
- 22-E
- 22-I
- 22-GG
- All other amendments requested for separate consideration

* 22 – A: Amending F-1.0302c

Description: Amending language to the marks of the church to be more inclusive from a gender and ability perspective

Recommendation: Approve

Rationale: This change is in keeping with the inclusive nature of the church embraced by NCP

* 22 – B: Amending F-1.0404

Description: Consistent with Amendment 22-A

Recommendation: Approve

Rationale: As per 22 - A - This change is in keeping with the inclusive nature of the church embraced by NCP

* 22-C: Allowing electronic congregational meetings

Description: Robert's Rules to govern congregational meetings; electronic meetings of the congregation permitted

Recommendation: Approve

Rationale: This amendment combines a needed clarification on the use of a parliamentary rule for congregational meetings with a permissive change providing an option for electronic meetings.

* 22-D: Authorize receiving disciplinary decision against a member at congregational meeting

Recommendation: Approve

Rationale: When findings of guilt in the disciplinary process against a church member, the reporting process should mirror that of a Teaching Elder.

22-E: Amending G-2.0503

Description: The proposed amendment would strike down the word “honorably” from “honorably retired”.

Recommendation: NO RECOMMENDATION

Rationale: The reason for the amendment is that some retired minister may have service that is marked with “difficulties and challenges that do not rise to the level of formal disciplinary charges and censure, but are hardly worthy of the label ‘Honorable’.” The Bills and Overtures Committee is not of one mind about the need for this change and encourages members of the presbytery assembly to exercise their own discernment about this amendment.

* 22-F: Change process for receiving immigrant ministers

Description: Add language for consultation with community, encourage provision of educational opportunities

Recommendation: Approve

Rationale: This amendment helps presbyteries provide needed pastoral leadership for immigrant communities.

* 22-G: Amending G-2.0603

Description: Amending language to include Inquirers complete boundary training, which includes the topic of sexual misconduct, and child sexual abuse prevention training with recertification at least every thirty-six months.

Recommendation: Approve

Rationale: That Inquirers participate in such boundary training as part of the Candidate’s preparation for ministry.

* 22-H: Amending G-2.0605

Description: Amending language to include that during the time an individual is enrolled as an Inquirer or Candidate, the session shall report to the presbytery any matters of sexual misconduct.

Recommendation: Approve

Rationale: That Inquirers and Candidates be subject to the same oversight by presbytery as are Ministers of Word and Sacrament and Christian educators with regard to reporting of sexual misconduct.

22-I: Require ministers' terms of call to include 12 weeks paid family leave

Recommendation: Approve

Rationale: This policy is in line with our theology to uphold the dignity and wellness of all persons. From the Advocacy Committee on Women's concerns: The PC(USA), as an employer from the national level down to the local congregation, has the opportunity to model just employment practices through family leave policies that encourage balance in life between work and family and are consistent with PC(USA) theology and policies on work and workers. Many churches in our Presbytery already have a provision of 12 weeks paid for family medical leave.

* 22-J: Allow multiple commissioning for CREs

Description: Currently,

Recommendation: Approve

Rationale: This is a permissive amendment, increasing the flexibility of presbyteries to provide pastoral leadership and commission elders to validated ministries.

* 22-K: G-2.1002

Description: Amending language to include that a ruling elder seeking to serve as a Commissioned Ruling Elder complete boundary training, in the same manner as Ministers of Word and Sacrament.

Recommendation: Approve

Rationale: That Commissioned Ruling Elders participate in boundary training on sexual misconduct and child abuse prevention as is required of Ministers of Word and Sacrament.

* 22-L: G-2.1103

Description: Amending language to include that Certified Christian educators shall complete boundary training on sexual misconduct and child sexual abuse prevention at least every 36 months.

Recommendation: Approve

Rationale: That Certified Christian educators shall participate in the same boundary training required of Ministers of Word and Sacrament, Commissioned Ruling Elders, Inquirers, Candidates, and Certified Christian educators.

* 22-M: Encourage councils to adopt procedures for electronic session meetings

Description: Amend G-3.0104 to add the text: "It is appropriate for councils to adopt procedures that may allow for electronic session meetings."

Recommendation: Approve

Rationale: This amendment is permissive, and may be helpful to presbyteries and sessions.

* 22-N: Authorize electronic meetings for councils

Description: Makes clear that PCUSA councils may conduct meetings electronically in accordance with Robert's Rules.

Recommendation: Approve

Rationale: This is a permissive change that adds flexibility.

* 22 – O: Amending G-3.0106

Description: Directing each council to include in its sexual misconduct policy and child / youth protection policies requirements for boundary training which includes the topics of sexual misconduct, child sexual misconduct and child sexual abuse prevention training for members every 36 months.

Recommendation: Approve

Rationale: This makes protection more standard across the denomination, and is consistent with present NCP policy

* 22 – P: Amending G-3.0106

Description: amends the present requirement so that each council have a sexual misconduct policy, a harassment policy, a child and youth protection policy and an antiracism policy

Recommendation: Approve

Rationale: This makes the expectation of policies consistent throughout the denomination, and highlights the importance of antiracism work that is in keeping with NCP practices

* 22-Q: Amend minimum compensation standards

Description: Allow presbyteries to establish provisions for dissolution terms for calls, set minimum standards for temporary pastoral relationships

Recommendation: Approve

Rationale: NCP already provides minimum compensation standards for those in temporary pastoral relationships. Permitting presbyteries to establish terms for dissolution adds flexibility.

* 22-R: Permit synods to establish rules for participation, representation

Description: The proposed language permits synods to adopt rules, subject to the approval of a majority of their presbyteries, to extend voting privileges to additional persons in the synod for the purpose of participation and representation.

Recommendation: Approve

Rationale: This is a permissive amendment, and it seems to further the values of unity and diversity expressed in the Foundations section of the Book of Order (F-1.0403).

* 22-S: Amend G-4.0301 – Trust and Confidentiality

Description: Strongly encourage not using confidentiality as an excuse to hold secret knowledge or risk of harm

Recommendation: Approve

* 22-T: Addition of sacrament of baptism

Description: Celebration of the sacrament of baptism listed as an element that may follow confession and forgiveness in worship

Recommendation: Approve

Rationale: While the Committee feels the amendment is not strictly necessary, it makes clear that churches have flexibility regarding when the sacrament is celebrated during worship.

* 22-U: Addition of “when appropriate” to invitation to the Lord's Supper

Description: Add words "when appropriate" to recommendation that unbaptized persons who present themselves to receive the Lord's Supper should be invited to prepare for and receive baptism

Recommendation: Approve

Rationale: While the Committee feels the amendment is not strictly necessary, it makes clear that those who preside at the Lord's Supper have flexibility regarding how and whether to invite unbaptized persons to be baptized.

* 22-V Amending W-3.0414

Description: Amends W-3.0414 Communion ... by substituting language (“A prayer follows,”) to allow more flexibility for the prayer following communion (rather than requiring that this prayer be led by a Minister of the Word and Sacrament). The ACC advised approval.

Recommendation: Approve

Rationale: This amendment is permissive in nature, providing flexibility in who may lead this part of the service.

* 22-W: Amending W-4.0403

Description: The proposed amendment simply adds the words “Signs and symbols of blessing may be conferred on the newly installed or commissioned person.”

Recommendation: Approve

Rationale: The Bill & Overtures committee recommends a “yes” vote for this proposed amendment since many churches already do this and it is merely a ‘may’ provision.

* 22-X: Addition of household worship to W-5.0104

Description: Describe household worship as "central and important practice" and "important means of faith formation"

Recommendation: Approve

Rationale: The Committee felt it worthwhile to include this emphasis on household worship in the Directory for Worship.

* 22-Y: Emphasizing the role of mealtime prayers

Description: Add paragraph emphasizing the role of mealtime prayers

Recommendation: Approve

Rationale: The Committee felt it worthwhile to include this discussion of mealtime prayers in the Directory for Worship.

* 22-Z Amending W-5.0201

Description: Amends W-5.0201 The Church’s Ministry Within the Community of Faith by adding “discipleship” to God’s call to the Church (along with mutual love and service). The ACC advised approval.

Recommendation: Approve

Rationale: This amendment does not seem controversial.

* 22-AA Broadening the scope of pastoral care ministries

Description: Amends the third paragraph of W-5.0204. Pastoral Care ... to substitute “particular specialized pastoral care” for “pastoral care or counseling”. The amendment broadens the scope of pastoral care ministries to include spiritual direction without appearing to provide an exhaustive list of such approved ministries. The ACC advised approval.

Recommendation: Approve

Rationale: This amendment does not seem controversial.

* 22-BB Amending language about healing

Description: Amends the fourth paragraph of W-5.0204. Pastoral Care ... to offer theological and pastoral perspective on the nature of healing and wholeness: that healing happens in a variety of ways (added language: “in life and in death, in body, mind, or spirit”) and wholeness is not necessarily synonymous with physical recovery (added language: healing “in its many forms” comes as a gift from God, not as “an accomplishment” of human prayer.). The ACC advised approval.

Recommendation: Approve

Rationale: This amendment does not seem controversial.

CHURCH DISCIPLINE SECTION

** 22-CC: Continuation of judicial process

Description: Continue judicial process after renunciation of jurisdiction

Recommendation: Approve

Rationale: Note that this amendment will be effective only if 22-GG is *not* approved by a majority of the presbyteries. This amendment allows the church to make use of the disciplinary process to uncover the truth and attend to harms committed by someone who has withdrawn from the PCUSA. There are already provisions in the Rules of Discipline for counsel to be appointed for a person who refuses to participate. NCP concurred with this overture after discussion.

** 22-DD: Amending language to avoid bias and partiality

Description: Replace "that person" with "they" in D-10.0302

Recommendation: Approve

Rationale: Note that this amendment will be effective only if 22-GG is *not* approved by a majority of the presbyteries. This does not seem to be a substantive change.

** 22-EE: Communicate determination not to file charges both to the accused and the accuser

Recommendation: Approve

Rationale: Note that this amendment will be effective only if 22-GG is *not* approved by a majority of the presbyteries. Notifications of both the accused and the accusing party of “No Charges” is the correct and fair thing to do.

** 22-FF: AMENDING ‘THE ACCUSED’

Description: This proposed Amendment to the Current Rules of Discipline would change the term “the accused” to “the person accused” to acknowledge that the “current language conveys an impression of bias and partiality”. Of course, if the revision of the entire Rules of Discipline is passed, this proposed amendment would not matter.

Recommendation: Approve

Rationale: Note that this amendment will be effective only if 22-GG is *not* approved by a majority of the presbyteries. The Bills & Overtures Committee of the Presbytery recommends that we vote “yes” on this proposed amendment. It does acknowledge the personhood of the accused person and well as the personhood of the one who is doing the accusing.

22-GG: CHURCH DISCIPLINE SECTION

Description: This proposed amendment would replace the entire Rules of Discipline with a set of rules which is easier to understand with clear steps for implementation; includes a strong theological grounding for the disciplinary process; stresses the difference between secular and church discipline; and provides three forms of alternative resolution for church conflict: Restorative Justice, Mediation, and Other negotiated Agreements.

Recommendation: Approve

Rationale: The Bills & Overtures Committee of Presbytery recommends a “yes” vote on the new Rules of Discipline for the arguments cited in the Background and Rationale. The Advisory Council on the Constitution (ACC) also recommends approval.