



*For just as the body is one and has many members,
and all the members of the body, though many,
are one body, so it is with Christ. ...
Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.
– 1 Corinthians 12:12,27*

Dear Friends,

I am grateful to be a Presbyterian—even more so as I look back on my years in ministry and see how my colleagues and the wider church have undergirded my service. From my weekly small group in New Jersey that helped me face early challenges as a new pastor, to the friends that planned and offered officer training together, to the institutional support of Committees on Ministry and presbytery staff, I give thanks to God for that I have been connected in community with others, and for the ways my ministry has been richer and more joyful for that connection. I can see and feel us living out Paul's vision for the church as the body of Christ.



This year National Capital Presbytery is trying something new—a worship service conducted by the presbytery at Fairlington Presbyterian Church on October 28, to install several ministers to pastoral calls at our churches.

When a pastor or associate pastor is installed to serve a congregation of the PCUSA, the installation is an act of the presbytery (*Book of Order*, G-2.0805). The installation completes the call process and establishes the pastoral relationship, and it takes place in the context of a service of worship that focuses on Christ and the joy and responsibility of serving him through the mission and ministry of the church (W-4.0403).

By carrying out the installation of pastors and associate pastors in this way, we remember that we engage in ministry together. No one of us is isolated. No one part of the church stands on its own. And so, I look forward to this fall's joint installation service as an especially powerful reminder of our connectedness as Presbyterians. We will celebrate each individual call, while at the same time rejoicing at the strength and support, we draw from one another in our larger community.

So, mark your calendar, and plan on joining us for a Spirit-filled installation!

Grace and Peace,
Rev. David Baer, Stated Clerk