



*Yours is the day, yours also the night;
you established the luminaries and the sun.
You have fixed all the bounds of the earth;
you made summer and winter.*

– Psalm 74:16-17, NRSV –

Dear Friends,

The summer months have flown by! My children start school this week, and many of you are doubtless resuming your routines after summer vacations or just the different pace afforded by longer days and warm weather. I am looking forward to a busy fall in National Capital Presbytery, and I wanted to remind you of some important upcoming events.

We will gather for an **in-person stated meeting of the presbytery on September 26** at National Presbyterian Church. Please remember that while this meeting will be live-streamed, members of the presbytery and session commissioners will be able to participate in deliberations and exercise the privileges of voice and vote *only* if they are physically present. But I encourage you all to come for what promises to be an eventful and joyful meeting. At this stated meeting we are hoping, among other business, to:

- worship God together, hearing the proclamation of the Word by our outgoing Moderator, Elder Shani McIlwain, and installing our new Moderator (Rev. Dr. Chris Deacon), Vice Moderator (Elder Lou Durden), and Stated Clerk;
- recognize Emmanuel Indonesian Presbyterian Church as a fully chartered congregation of the presbytery;
- commission one or more ruling elders to pastoral service; and
- welcome new members of our community and reconnect with old friends.

Session records reviews are scheduled for September 23 (Takoma Park), October 21 (Grace, Springfield), and November 4 (Lewinsville). Clerks of session should look for an invitation e-mail with a link to sign up. You can choose the time and place that is most convenient for you, regardless of where your church might be located.

I am also looking forward to our **presbytery-wide installation service on October 28**, celebrating the individual calls of new pastors while giving thanks for the gift of shared ministry. The Rev. Dr. Jonathan Lee Walton, President of Princeton Theological Seminary, will be our preacher, and we will be led in praise by a presbytery choir. Come and help us complete the call process as we install these new pastors in an enthusiastic and energetic service of worship.

This is a small preview of what I'm looking forward to this fall. I wish you God's blessings in what remains of summer and in any transitions that the fall may bring!

Grace and Peace,
Rev. David Baer, Stated Clerk