

## WELCOME TO NATIONAL CAPITAL PRESBYTERY. . . .

*Being introduced at the September 26, 2023, Stated Meeting*



**Blake A. Collins** has accepted his first call for associate pastor at Darnestown Presbyterian! Blake grew up in Columbia, MD as a lifelong member of First Presbyterian Church of Howard County. Blake attended Temple University in Philadelphia receiving degrees in Communications with a focus on Police & Community Relations. Following grad school, Blake served as a Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) in Comas, Peru accompanying local churches' partnerships with the Joining Hands Network Against Poverty. Afterwards, Blake worked for the national office in Louisville, Kentucky in fundraising, recruitment, and communications for YAV. In Louisville, Blake met Kelsey and together they set out for a new chapter in Chicago. Blake graduated from McCormick Seminary in May 2022.

In seminary, Blake passionately supported students in pre-trial detention with the Solidarity Building Initiative while also working as a hospital chaplain. He interned at Friendship Presbyterian Church assisting the congregation's move to the commercial floor of a brand new, affordable housing complex for veterans, people with disabilities, and working families in Chicago's northwest-side. Blake is excited about an (almost) return home and joining the National Capital team. **Blake can be reached at [blake@darnestownnpc.org](mailto:blake@darnestownnpc.org)**



**Rev. Dr. Robert Austell** has spent most of his life in NC/SC and comes to Vienna Pres after serving 21 years as a solo pastor in Charlotte, NC. He is a lifelong musician and spent several years in Nashville as a studio musician and engineer before going to seminary at Gordon-Conwell and Princeton Seminaries. He has been active in worship and music leadership, most notably as the conference worship leader for the Montreat Wee Kirk Conference for 20 years. He is thrilled to be called to serve Vienna Pres as Associate Pastor for Worship and Adult Discipleship and focus on two areas of pastoral ministry that have been central to his lifelong calling as pastor, teacher, and musician. Robert was also very involved in the leadership of Charlotte Presbytery, working through significant re-visioning and re-structuring. Robert is married to

Heather, and they have three young adult daughters who all live in the Charlotte area. **Reach out to Robert Here: [robert.austell@viennapres.org](mailto:robert.austell@viennapres.org)**



**Dr. Raymond I. Hylton, Sr.** is a devoted family man, happily married to his childhood sweetheart, Judith, whom he met in their native Jamaica. She and Ray together are the authors of a book on Christian marriage, *Five Disciplines of a Growing Marriage: Falling in Love Again*. They are the grateful parents of three adult children: Judene, Ray Jr., and Joel.

A graduate of Duke University Divinity School, Dr. Hylton received his Doctor of Ministry from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and holds a master's degree in pastoral leadership from Huntington University. His undergraduate degree is from

Taylor University, a Christian university in Indiana.

After serving in churches in Ft. Wayne, Indiana and New Castle, Pennsylvania, Dr. Hylton was called to serve as the senior pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Evanston, Illinois, in 2009. His service near Northwestern University has given him extensive experience partnering for engagement with students and young adults. He has joyfully accepted the call to be the senior pastor of National Presbyterian Church in Washington, D.C. **Reach out to Ray here at [mrhylton@nationalpres.org](mailto:mrhylton@nationalpres.org).**



**Vanlalhriatrenga Vanlal Chhangte “VLC” (CRE)** - I was born into a Presbyterian Church family in Mizoram, India. I have been engaged in so many interesting stories from my childhood days to date. I was elected as President of the Evangelical Union in High School; Student's Representative in Higher Secondary School, President & Vice President of Literature Club and Evangelical Union in College, Joint Editor of Christian Outlook Magazine etc., Secretary of The Writer's Club etc., besides my professional services as a Counselor/Director of Counseling. I have conducted Research on Substance Abuse among the Youths. I am passionate about formal and non-formal education. I did my Bachelor of Arts, Master of Social Work, Bachelor of Divinity at the Presbyterian Seminary, which is called Aizawl Theological College (University), and continued a Master of Theology in Pastoral Counseling and Psychology at Trinity International University, Chicago, Illinois. I am pursuing a doctorate in Trauma, Moral Injury and Christian Life and a PhD in Marriage and Family Therapy. I have been actively involved in Counseling, literature, and presented my papers at an International Seminar and attended an Advocacy Workshop at the United Nations General Headquarters, New York beyond the pastoral ministry. I am so grateful for the support I have received from the Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church, Mizo Presbyterian Church, and the National Capital Presbytery. Most importantly, I am deeply touched by the gracious God allowing me to be His servant. **Reach out to VLC:** [vlcvanlalhriatrenga@gmail.com](mailto:vlcvanlalhriatrenga@gmail.com)



**Elder Le Quan Turner, (CRE)** M.Div., was born into a family of preachers and teachers of the gospel. At a young age, she made a public confession of her faith and was baptized. A member of Westminster Presbyterian Church (Washington, DC) she has served as a Seminary Student Intern at Faith Presbyterian Church (2012-2014) and Minister for Community Life at Northminster Presbyterian Church (2019-2020). She has served on several committees throughout National Capital Presbytery to include Spiritual Nurture Communicator for the National Capital Presbyterian Women (2021-2022), Mission Coordination Committee (2017-2019), General Presbyter Search Committee (2018-2019). She currently serves on the Leadership Council National Capital Presbytery (2019-present). Le Quan has provided pulpit supply for many NCP churches.

Le Quan holds a Master of Arts degree in Human Resource Development with a concentration in Training and Consulting from Bowie State University.

Le Quan is a native Washingtonian and a product of the Prince George's County Public School System. Ms. Turner is a solo world traveler and has traveled extensively throughout the United States (35 states) and internationally (50 countries visited). Le Quan has visited all seven (7) continents. Additionally, Le Quan competed and finished the 30th Annual Marine Corps Marathon and a 2-mile high-120 mph free fall skydive. She enjoys reading, traveling, and farmers markets. **Reach out to LeQuan here:** [readabook14@hotmail.com](mailto:readabook14@hotmail.com)