



Dear Friends in Christ,

Wow! I cannot believe this is my last letter to you. March 2021 seems like yesterday, yet so far away now. That is essentially when this journey started for me.

A little fun fact, I love worship. Anytime I am attending a conference, workshop, training, or even presbytery meeting, worship is and always my favorite. This past spring, I served on two hiring committees simultaneously. Yes, I know—that's a lot! In one of the searches to find the right candidate we asked the question, "What sermon moved the needle for you?" It was trying to get at the question we are always searching for – what changed you? What makes you decide to do the work Jesus has called you to? Faith Presbyterian (my home church) and I have been working to make worship meaningful and do whatever the Spirit needs it to do for you, and for us together. I cannot not wait.

We will begin at 5:00 p.m., during which we will install Rev. Dr. Chris Deacon and Elder Lou Durden as your next moderator and vice moderator, install our stated clerk, Rev. David A. Baer, commission a few faithful leaders, and charter Emmanuel Indonesian as a new congregation.

There are so many opportunities to connect and collaborate with each other this fall. Join us for World Communion Sunday, October 1st at Northeastern Presbyterian, Allyship Training October 2-3 online, Leaders Training on October 7th and our NCP Installation Service on October 28th at Gaithersburg Presbyterian. All these events and more can be found in the [Thursday Mail](#).

As I close, I just want to say, thank you! Thank you for your prayers, texts, phone calls, cards, and invitations to visit your churches. Thank you for your trust and faithfulness. Thank you for your patience in the growing edges. But, most importantly, thank you for your love.

Faithfully Yours,

Shani McIlwain, NCP Outgoing Moderator

**Stated Meeting**  
**National Capital Presbytery**  
**September 26, 2023**  
**5:00 p.m.**  
**National Presbyterian Church**  
**We Gather in Community**

5:00 PM CALL TO ORDER AND PRAYER Elder Shani McIlwain, Outgoing Moderator

5:05 PM WELCOME FROM NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Rev. Dr. Raymond I. Hylton, Sr.

5:10 PM SERVICE OF WORSHIP

CALL TO WORSHIP Deacon Veronica White

Leader: God willingly satisfies our greatest needs

**All: when we bring what little we have.**

Leader: Let us love our neighbor as ourself

**All: joining in God's miracle-working power**

OPENING HYMN "Hold to God's Unchanging Hand"

CALL TO CONFESSION Elder Tony Nixon

In this world of multiple pandemics and the promotion of individualism, there are many claims on our lives. In this moment, we remember the nature of our baptism, rooted in God's grace. We acknowledge before God and one another that we have not followed the model set before us in Jesus Christ. With every confidence in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O Lord our God, you call us to love our neighbor as ourself, ensuring that all will be fed and have dignity. But in our own distractions, we are blinded by our selfish desires. We are sick and have turned away those who are hungry and crying out for your help. We have forgotten to trust you with our little, to multiply it with your great power. Forgive us, O Lord. Turn us to your will by the power of your Spirit, so that all may know your abundance and grace; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear the good news! The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love. The Lord is good to all, and compassionate toward all of creation. Believe this good news and give thanks: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Elder Tony Nixon

Being reconciled to God, let us also be reconciled to one another.  
May the peace of Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

HYMN

“Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me”

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

*Dear God, may your word be a lamp to our feet  
and a light for our path. Amen.*

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Colossians 1:15-20

Elder Edward Jones

ANTHEM “ Waymaker “

Faith Choir

SECOND SCRIPTURE

Psalm 133

Elder Shani McIlwain

SERMON

“We Need Each Other”

Elder McIlwain

SONG OF RESPONSE

“I Need You to Survive”

Choir

COMMUNION

Rev. Bernice Parker Jones and Rev. Tara Spuhler McCabe

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Deacon Veronica White

INSTALLATION OF MODERATOR AND VICE MODERATOR

Constitutional Questions of Rev. Dr. Deacon and Elder Durden

Elder McIlwain

Constitutional Questions to all present

Elder McIlwain

Do you, members of National Capital Presbytery, confirm the call of God to Rev. Dr. Chris Deacon and Elder Lou Durden to serve as National Capital Presbytery Moderator and Vice Moderator in the service of Jesus Christ?

**We do.**

Will you support and encourage them in this ministry?

**We will.**

INSTALLATION OF STATED CLERK

Constitutional Questions of Rev. David A. Baer

Rev. Dr. Deacon

Constitutional Questions to all present

Elder Durden

Do you, members of National Capital Presbytery, confirm the call of God to Rev. David Baer to serve as National Capital Presbytery Stated Clerk in the service of Jesus Christ?

**We do.**

Will you support and encourage him in this ministry?

**We will.**

COMMISSIONING OF RULING ELDERS TO SERVICE AT MIZO AND SOUTHMINSTER

Questions to CRE candidates Rev. Dr. Deacon

Questions to the presbytery Elder Durden

Do you, as members of National Capital Presbytery, confirm the call of God to our siblings, VLC and Le Quan, to serve as Commissioned Ruling Elders in the service of Jesus Christ?

**We do.**

Will you support and encourage them in this ministry?

**We will.**

6:15 PM OMNIBUS MOTION (p. 5) Rev. David A. Baer, Stated Clerk

6:20 PM TRANSITIONS / PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION Rev. John Molina-Moore, General Presbyter

6:40 PM REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON MINISTRY (p. 7) Rev. Juli Wilson-Black, Co-Chair of COM

7:00 PM REPORT OF THE CHURCH DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (p. 9) Rev. Jeri Fields, Chair of CDC

7:25 PM NEW BUSINESS Rev. Dr. Chris Deacon, Moderator

7:30 PM RESOLUTION OF THANKS Rev. David Baer, Stated Clerk

CHARGE AND BLESSING Rev. Dr. Chris Deacon, Moderator

**Meeting Leaders**

Rev. David A. Baer, Stated Clerk

Rev. Dr. Chris Deacon, Moderator-Elect, NCP

Elder Lou Durden, Vice Moderator-Elect, NCP

Rev. Jeri Fields, Chair of the Congregational Development Commission

Rev. Dr. Raymond I. Hylton, Sr., Pastor, National Presbyterian Church

Elder Shani McIlwain, Outgoing Moderator, NCP

Rev. John Molina-Moore, General Presbyter

Rev. Juli Wilson-Black, Co-Chair of the Committee on Ministry

*This document, the Packet, contains the **action items** for the Stated Meeting.  
Please refer to the additional reports posted on the NCP web site  
for important information about the work of our officers and committees.*

### **OMNIBUS MOTION FOR THE SEPTEMBER 26, 2023 PRESBYTERY MEETING**

#### ***From the Stated Clerk***

- The Stated Clerk recommends the **APPROVAL** of the minutes of the May 23, 2023 NCP meeting.
- The Stated Clerk reports receiving the resignation of the Rev. Dean McDonald as commissioner to the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic, effective July 25, 2023, and recommends that the Presbytery **ACCEPT** Rev. McDonald's resignation with thanks for her service.

#### ***From the Nominating Committee***

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

##### Administrative Commission on Congregational Property

Erin Counihan (Teaching Elder, Church of the Pilgrims), Class of 2026

LeAnn Hodges (Teaching Elder, Gaithersburg), Class of 2025

##### Budget and Finance

Cary Pugh (Ruling Elder, Old Presbyterian Meeting House), Class of 2025

##### Congregational Development Commission

Gloria Yi (Teaching Elder, Hope Presbyterian Church), Class of 2026

##### Commission on Preparation for Ministry

Erik Akyeamong (Ruling Elder, Christ the King), Class of 2026

##### Commission on Ministry

Katherine Stanford (Teaching Elder, Old Presbyterian Meeting House), Class of 2026

Blair Moorhead (Teaching Elder, Specialized Ministry), Class of 2026

Laura Batten-Carbaugh (Teaching Elder, Colesville), Class of 2026

Ako Cromwell (Ruling Elder, Fairfax), Class of 2026

Kris Maldarelli (Commissioned Ruling Elder, Gaithersburg), Class of 2026

Gary Sowers (Ruling Elder, Fairfax), Class of 2026

Matthew Nabinger (Teaching Elder, Specialized Ministry), Class of 2026

##### Leadership Council

Hope Lee (Teaching Elder, Vienna), Class of 2026

Shelby Etheridge Harasty (Teaching Elder, Saint Mark), Class of 2026

Diane Hendricks (Teaching Elder, Clifton), Class of 2026

Mission Coordinating Committee

Freddie Asinor (Layperson, St. Matthew Presbyterian Church), Class of 2026

Ronald Kearns (Ruling Elder, Sargent Memorial), Class of 2026

Perzavia Praylow (Teaching Elder, Specialized Ministry), Class of 2026

Personnel

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

Session Records

Robert Patrick (Ruling Elder, Grace Springfield), Class of 2026

Stewardship

Jeri Fields (Teaching Elder, Adelphi), Class of 2026

*The following are nominated as Chairs of Committees:*

Kate Addo (Ruling Elder, Warner Memorial) Session Records

Carla Gorrell (Teaching Elder, Honorably Retired), Co-Chair, Committee on Ministry

Rachel Pacheco (Teaching Elder, New York Avenue), Chair, Mission Coordinating Commission

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Patrick Hunnicutt, Chair of the NCP Nominating Committee

***From the Leadership Council***

The Leadership Council places in nomination the following persons for election, in accordance with the NCP Manual of Administrative Operations:

Nominating Committee

Elder Jennifer Swanson (First Arlington), Class of 2026.

Elder Shani McIlwain (Faith), Class of 2026.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Diane Walton Hendricks, Chair of the NCP Leadership Council

## ACTION ITEMS FOR SEPTEMBER 26, 2023 NCP MEETING

### ACTION ITEM #1

#### Recommendation from the Commission on Ministry

**MOTION:** The Commission on Ministry, pursuant to Book of Order G-2.0504(c) and the Presbytery's Policy on Changes in Pastoral Roles within a Congregation, recommends that the Presbytery **GRANT** an **EXCEPTION** to allow the Rev. Connie Jordan-Haas, who is currently serving as a Stated Supply Associate Pastor at Vienna Presbyterian Church, to be eligible to be called and installed as Associate Pastor.

*Rationale:* The Book of Order recognizes the special role played by ministers in temporary pastoral relationships, as they work with congregations through periods of transition, and accordingly provides that “[a] minister of Word and Sacrament in a temporary pastoral relationship is *ordinarily* not eligible to serve as the next installed pastor, co-pastor, or associate pastor” (G-2.0504(b), emphasis added). Nonetheless, our polity also recognizes that in certain circumstances, the mission of the church may be better served by allowing a minister serving in a temporary pastoral relationship to make a transition to an installed pastoral relationship. Therefore, G-2.0504(c) allows a presbytery to grant an exception to the ordinary practice, with the approval of at least three quarters of those present and voting.

National Capital Presbytery's Policy on Changes in Pastoral Roles within a Congregation establishes a process whereby a minister in a temporary pastoral relationship who feels called to move to an installed position in the same congregation can work with both the COM and the session to discern whether such a move is appropriate. The minister begins by discussing the transition with representatives of the COM. The Congregational Transitions Commission (CTC), if it approves, then grants permission for the session of the church to begin a period of discernment with the congregation, guided by a number of key questions. In the case of associate pastors moving to an installed role, the questions center on the health of working relationships, the overall health of the congregation, and whether the congregation would prefer to have the opportunity for other candidates to be considered for the role.

If, following the period of discernment, the session wishes to proceed with the transition in role for the minister, it notifies the CTC, which brings the matter to the presbytery for approval under G-2.0504(c).

Vienna Presbyterian experienced an extraordinary loss when the Rev. David Jordan-Haas passed away while serving as Associate Pastor in July 2019. Vienna leaders consulted with COM leadership about hiring the Rev. Connie Jordan-Haas, who already had deep ties with the congregation, to serve as stated supply in the wake of his untimely death. The church was not only dealing with transition of pastor through unexpected death, but also the coming retirement of their Head of Staff, which had already been announced. Vienna's Session felt it would be destabilizing to embark on an extended search process in the wake of this sudden loss and the anticipated retirement of their long-time pastor. Last year, another Associate Pastor departed after the new Head of Staff had been there less than a year, adding to this season of transitions, and increasing the desire of the Session to install Rev. Jordan-Haas, affirm their commitment to their pastoral relationship with her, and express their appreciation of her faithful leadership throughout this time.

Following conversation between the Rev. Connie Jordan-Haas and representatives of the COM, the session of Vienna Presbyterian Church was granted permission to begin discernment with the congregation in June 2023. After considering the feedback they received through this process, they reported the following, in a letter dated August 15, 2023:

With joy we report to you Vienna Presbyterian Church Session's approval today of the exception requested by the Rev. Connie Jordan-Haas to move from her current temporary position as Stated Supply Associate Pastor to become Vienna's called Associate Pastor for Congregational Care and Fellowship. Pastor Connie has served in her temporary position at Vienna since December 2019.

This action was taken only after a period of deep congregational discernment facilitated by a team approved by Session on June 20, 2023, upon our being informed that the Congregational Transitions Commission (CT) had granted approval of this request for an exception. Our team devoted itself energetically to this work over the ensuing weeks. The congregation was fully informed, and its response has been unequivocally enthusiastic and positive.

We appreciate the support and guidance you have provided, which assisted us in fulfilling our important responsibilities. The team's work was intensive and Spirit-filled.

The discernment team and Session itself carried out this work in a manner consistent with and animated by the guidance found in the National Capital Presbytery's (NCP) "Policy on Changes in Pastoral Roles Within a Congregation" and in the NCP (CTC's "Questions for Discernment," July 7, 2016.

We understand that implementation of this action is subject to approval by the full Presbytery, followed by our congregation's election of Pastor Connie to this Associate Pastor position and approval of the Terms of Call. Accordingly, in accordance with the Book of Order, G-20504c, we ask that you arrange for this matter to be brought before the Presbytery for a vote at the earliest opportunity.

Accordingly, the COM recommends that the presbytery grant this exception to the ordinary rule governing eligibility for installed service.



## **ACTION ITEM #2**

### **Recommendation from the Congregational Development Commission**

The Congregation Development Commission **RECOMMENDS** that National Capital Presbytery:

- **DECLARE** the Emmanuel Indonesian Presbyterian Church to be an organized congregation of this presbytery, with its membership constituted by those persons who have signed the attached petition; and
- **AUTHORIZE** the Congregational Development Commission to carry out the responsibilities of the presbytery under G-1.0201, including:
  1. Exercising original jurisdiction as the session of the congregation, until the installation of elders elected by the congregation.
  2. Calling a meeting of the congregation to elect officers, and preparing, examining, ordaining, and installing these newly elected persons.
  3. Working closely with the congregation and the Commission on Ministry to confirm or secure pastoral leadership.
  4. Reviewing the current governing instruments of the congregation, including its incorporation and bylaws, and counseling with the session concerning any adjustments that may be needed to conform to the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).
  5. Giving other forms of support and encouragement that will strengthen the mission of the congregation in the larger life of the denomination.

#### *Rationale and background:*

The *Book of Order* provides for the organizing of new congregations in the following way: Persons wishing to form a new congregation present the organizing covenant in the form laid out in G-1.0201, and the presbytery “at its sole discretion” *may* declare these persons to be an organized congregation of the presbytery. After this declaration, the presbytery continues to provide practical support to the congregation in establishing its governing structures and in choosing its officers and pastoral leadership.

The Emmanuel Indonesian Presbyterian Church (EIPC) was organized as a fellowship. They have worked closely with the CDC, adopting forms of governance in the manner of PCUSA congregations, incorporating under the laws of the State of Maryland and entrusting the oversight of the fellowship to a session of elected elders. The CDC feels that this fellowship is ready to become an organized congregation.

The NCP Manual of Administrative Operations provides that the Congregational Development Commission is to “[e]xercise the powers and assume the responsibilities of a session with jurisdiction over new worshipping communities, fellowships and new church developments as defined by the Church Development Commission” (p. 20). While the CDC also has the responsibility to “[r]ecommend the formation of separate Administrative Commissions to oversee a particular New Church Development through the process of becoming a chartered congregation,” we feel that a separate commission is not necessary in this case because EIPC has already accomplished most of the work that is needed.

#### PETITION

We, the undersigned, in response to the grace of God, desire to be constituted and organized as a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), to be known as **Emmanuel Indonesian Presbyterian Church**. We promise and covenant to live together in unity and to work together in ministry as disciples of Jesus Christ, bound to him and to one another as a part of the body of Christ in this place according to the principles of faith, mission, and order of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

*The original petition with signatures will be presented at the stated meeting.*