

Report of the Stated Clerk – National Capital Presbytery Stated Meeting – May 21, 2024

The Stated Clerk reports the following as items of information. Items for action by the presbytery are included in the omnibus motion, which can be found in the Presbytery Meeting Packet.

Administrative Commissions

1. In accordance with the Presbytery's action at the January 2024 Stated Meeting, the Moderator appointed the following persons to serve as the Administrative Commission for Warner Memorial Presbyterian Church: The Rev. Bob Melone (chair), Elder Phillip Boyer (Takoma Park), the Rev. Eric Forsyth, the Rev. Pat Futato, and Elder Barbara Shaw (Warner Memorial).

In accordance with G-3.0109(b), the Commission reports that it has:

- Determined that the Session, having been reduced to one ruling elder member in addition to the pastor/moderator, is not able to carry out its responsibilities under the Book of Order, and consequently voted to assume original jurisdiction from the Session (G-3.0303(e)), effective April 4, 2024.
2. In accordance with the Presbytery's PNC/Session Handbook, the Stated Clerk has approved the formation of the following commissions:
 - a. To ordain Candidate Kenneth William Rathje, Jr., (under care of National Capital Presbytery) to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament, so that he may serve as the Stated Supply Pastor of Calvary Presbyterian Church.

Date and Time: April 28, 2024, 2:00 p.m.

Place: Calvary Presbyterian Church

Members: Rev. Dr. Chris Deacon (Moderator), Rev. Dr. Quinn Fox, Rev. Jeri Fields, Elder Richard Pera (National), Elder Glenn Fahrig (Calvary)

Ecumenical Representatives: Rev. Richard Overcash (ELCA)

Other Participants: Andrea Munson (reading scripture)

On April 28, 2024, the Administrative Commission to ordain Kenneth William Rathje, Jr., to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament carried out its responsibilities joyfully and in good order at a service of worship held at Calvary Presbyterian Church. The commission enrolled the Rev. Richard Overcash (ELCA) as a corresponding member and approved the celebration of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper by the Rev. Kenneth Rathje during the service, following his ordination.

- b. To install the Rev. Rachel Landers Vaagenes as Pastor of Capitol Hill Presbyterian Church.

Date and Time: May 19, 2024, 3:00 p.m.

Place: Capitol Hill Presbyterian Church

Members: Rev. Dr. Chris Deacon (Moderator), Rev. Mark Greiner, Rev. Camille Cook Howe, Elder Ami Dziekan (Capitol Hill), Elder Lou Durden (Northminster)

Ecumenical Representatives: Rev. Stephanie Vader (UMC)

Other Participants: Rev. Alice Barnes Tewell (charge to the pastor) and Rev. Whitney Fauntleroy (preaching)

Judicial Process

1. The Stated Clerk advises the presbytery that, subsequent to his report to the presbytery at the January Stated Meeting that the matter of the Rev. Dr. Willie Keaton v. National Capital Presbytery had concluded, he was informed on March 14 by the Office of the General Assembly that a Notice of Appeal had been received on January 11, but was not communicated to NCP as the appellee. The appeal from the decision of the Permanent Judicial Commission of the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic has been accepted by the General Assembly's Permanent Judicial Commission. The members of the committee of counsel appointed for this matter are: Rev. Stephen Smith-Cobbs, the Rev. David Gray, and Elder Miriam Dewhurst. (Elder John Hagner has resigned from the committee for reasons of health, replaced by Mr. Gray, who had been appointed as an alternate member.)
2. On March 11, the Stated Clerk received a Request for Vindication from a minister member of the presbytery. In accordance with the Church Discipline D-7.0202, the matter is being referred to an investigating committee formed under the NCP Standing Rules.
3. The Stated Clerk has received a remedial complaint, David Adu-Koranteng v. the Session of Christ the King Presbyterian Church (NCP 2024-01). The papers have been referred to the officers of the Permanent Judicial Commission for a preliminary review (D-4.05).