

Siblings in Christ,

Two years ago, I attended the Festival of Homiletics when it was in Denver. The theme was “Preaching Hope in a Weary World,” and it was mostly geared at what the church looks like in a post-Covid world. Rev. Nadia Bolz-Weber preached an incredible sermon about suicide and self-harm based on Acts 16. She told us she had preached this sermon before. It had actually been one of the first sermons she preached after Covid. She said that when she was reading the scripture during that service, she unexpectedly got caught up on the beginning of the first verse, “One day, as we were going to the place of prayer.” She said the half verse would have been a throw away verse prior to Covid, but as congregations began to gather together after Covid, it took on a special meaning.



There is something special about gathering together. Zoom meetings have several benefits. They are efficient. There is no travel time. Finally, we always have great participation! More people come to our virtual meetings than our in person meetings. But there is just something about making eye contact with a person instead of a screen. While I appreciate our Zoom meetings, I look forward to seeing you all face to face at our May Presbytery Meeting.

It is fitting that our May meeting is the week after Pentecost. If I had to pick a theme for our May meeting it would be “the call of the Holy Spirit.” We will commission those who are called to serve as delegates to this summer’s General Assembly. We will also be commissioning Katherine Nichols, who has been called to serve at Trinity Presbyterian in Arlington. We will vote on those who have answered the call of the nominating committee to serve on the various councils, teams, and committees that help keep the work of our Presbytery going. We will hear some exciting news about the mission incubator, that will provide new ways to live out our calling to serve our congregations and communities. As if that wasn’t enough, we will celebrate LaJuan Quander’s retirement, and all the ways she has lived out her calling to NCP over the last forty years! It is obvious that the Spirit of Pentecost is moving through National Capital Presbytery.

As we prepare to come together for our May Presbytery Meeting, let us carry the spirit of Pentecost within us, embracing the call of the Holy Spirit to serve, to connect, and to celebrate. May our gathering be filled with joy, inspiration, and a renewed sense of purpose as we continue to journey together in faith and service. I look forward to seeing each of you face-to-face, sharing in fellowship and the work of the Spirit as we move forward together as a community of faith.

Psalm 122:1: “I was glad when they said to me, ‘Let us go to the house of the LORD!’”

Faithfully,

Rev. Dr. Chris Deacon

Moderator, National Capital Presbytery



**Stated Meeting
National Capital Presbytery
May 21, 2024
5:00PM at National Presbyterian Church
Streaming Link: <https://nationalpres.org/watch/>
We Gather in Community**

5:00	CALL TO ORDER	Rev. Dr. Chris Deacon
	OPENING PRAYER	
	FORMATION OF THE ROLL, DOCKET, OMNIBUS MOTION (p. 3)	Rev. David Baer
5:10	WORSHIP Rev. John Molina-Moore, Preaching	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Commissioning of NCP GA Commissioners and Advisory Delegate• Commissioning of Elder Katherine Nichols to service at Trinity Presbyterian, Arlington	
5:45	TRANSITIONS / PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION	Rev. John Molina-Moore
6:00	RECOGNITION OF OUTGOING MODERATOR	Rev. John Molina-Moore
6:10	REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE (p. 5)	Rev. Patrick Hunnicutt
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Election of Moderator and Vice Moderator	
6:20	COMMISSION ON MINISTRY (pp. 6 & 7)	Rev. Carla Gorrell & Rev. Juli Wilson-Black
6:30	LEADERSHIP COUNCIL (p. 8)	Elder Miriam Dewhurst
6:40	INTRODUCTION TO THE MISSIONAL INCUBATOR	Rev. John Molina-Moore
6:55	RETIREMENT OF LAJUAN QUANDER, NCP DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATION	Rev. John Molina-Moore
7:00	NEW BUSINESS	Rev. Dr. Chris Deacon
	CHARGE AND BLESSING	Rev. Dr. Chris Deacon

Meeting Leaders

Rev. David A. Baer, Stated Clerk
Rev. Dr. Chris Deacon, Moderator
Elder Miriam Dewhurst, Leadership Council Chair
Elder Lou Durden, NCP Vice Moderator
Rev. Carla Gorrell, Commission on Ministry Co-Chair
Rev. Patrick Hunnicutt, Nominating Committee Chair
Rev. John Molina-Moore, General Presbyter
Rev. Juli Wilson-Black, Commission on Ministry Co-Chair

*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 MAY 21, 2024, PRESBYTERY MEETING

From the Stated Clerk

1. The Stated Clerk recommends the **APPROVAL** of the minutes of the March 19, 2024, NCP meeting.
2. The Stated Clerk recommends that the Presbytery **ACCEPT** the resignation of the Rev. Brian Clark from the Leadership Council.
3. The Stated Clerk recommends that the Presbytery **ACCEPT** the resignation of the Rev. Ben Trawick from the Stewardship Committee (class of 2025).
4. The Stated Clerk recommends that the Presbytery **GRANT** a waiver of the limitation of terms to Prince George's Community Presbyterian Church to allow Elders Brenda Zanders and Kenneth Jeffries, who have each served for six years on the session, to be installed to additional three-year terms.
5. The Stated Clerk recommends that the Presbytery **DISMISS** the Commission to Ordain Kenneth William Rathje, Jr., with thanks for their service. (The report of the commission may be found in the Stated Clerk's Report.)

From the Nominating Committee

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

Administrative Commission on Congregational Property

Jacob Bolton (Teaching Elder, Westminster-VA), Class of 2027

Steve Dunn (Ruling Elder, Warner Memorial), Class of 2027

David Regan (Ruling Elder, Immanuel), Class of 2027

Budget and Finance

Brian Hamilton (Teaching Elder, New York Avenue), Class of 2027

Don Humphries (Ruling Elder, Northeastern), Class of 2026

Mark Stunder (Ruling Elder, Boyds), Class of 2027

Church Development Commission

Casey Thompson (Teaching Elder, Idylwood/Knox), Class of 2027

Committee on Preparation for Ministry

Blair Moorhead (Teaching Elder, Immanuel), Class of 2027

Darrell Whiting (Ruling Elder, Fifteenth Street), Class of 2027

Committee on Ministry

Ben Trawick (Teaching Elder, Grace Springfield), Class of 2027

Investments

Jason Howell (Ruling Elder, First Arlington), Class of 2027

Tack Richardson (Ruling Elder, Old Presbyterian Meeting House), Class of 2026

Session Records

Midge Curry (Ruling Elder, First Arlington), Class of 2027

Julia McBee (Ruling Elder, St. Matthew), Class of 2027

Synod Commissioners

Chris Deacon (Teaching Elder, Northwood), Class of 2027

Nachee Miller (Ruling Elder, Northeastern), Class of 2027

To approve the following as chairs:

David Durham (Ruling Elder, Darnestown) - Stewardship Committee

Mark Gaskill (Teaching Elder, Good Samaritan) -- Church Development Commission

Karl Hoffman (Layperson, New York Avenue) - Investments

Patrick Hunnicutt (Teaching Elder, Westminster-VA) -- Nominating Committee

Mike McAdoo (Ruling Elder, Westminster-VA) - Administrative Commission on Church
Property

Julia McBee (Ruling Elder, St. Matthew) -- Session Records

Barbara Mitchell (Ruling Elder, National) -- Personnel

Blair Moorehead (Teaching Elder, Immanuel) -- Committee on Preparation for Ministry

Rachel Pacheco (Teaching Elder, New York Avenue) -- Mission Coordination Committee

Mark Stunder (Ruling Elder, Boyds) -- Budget and Finance

Juli Wilson-Black (Teaching Elder, Fairlington) & Carla Gorrell (Teaching Elder, Retired) --
Committee on Ministry

ACTION ITEMS FOR MAY 21, 2024 NCP MEETING

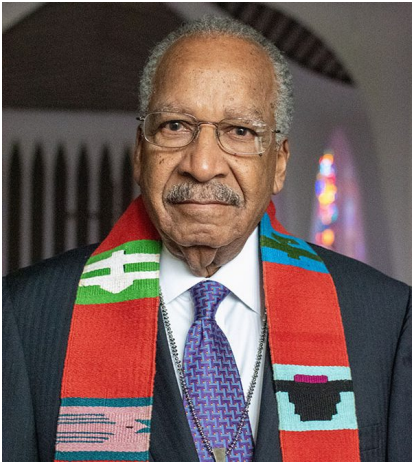
ACTION ITEM #1

Nominating Committee – Election of the Moderator and Vice Moderator

The committee nominates **Elder Lucius “Lou” Durden** (Northminster) to be Moderator of the National Capital Presbytery for 2024-2025.

The committee nominates **Elder Jesy Littlejohn** (Oaklands) to be Vice-Moderator of the National Capital Presbytery for 2024-2025.

Biographies of Nominees



2024-2025 Moderator – Elder Lucius “Lou” Durden is a ruling elder at Northminster Presbyterian Church, (Washington DC.), where he has been the Adult Bible School Leader for over ten years. Lou has served the last year as our presbytery's Vice-Moderator, and he will serve as a delegate in the upcoming 225th General Assembly in Salt Lake City, UT. He also serves on the Commission for Preparation for Ministry (CPM) and has served on three Administrative Commissions, including one as chair.

Lou retired from IBM after 32 years in various marketing management positions and as Director of Community Relations in the Washington DC area. After leaving IBM, he led the marketing team for the DC Chamber of Commerce. Additionally, he has served on various committees and nonprofit boards over the years, including United Way of the National Capital Area, Washington Tennis and Education Foundation, the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities and Leadership Greater Washington.



2024-2025 Vice Moderator – Elder Jesy Littlejohn (they/them) is the Director of Operations at More Light Presbyterians. Jesy is a ruling elder at Oaklands Presbyterian Church where they also serve as Clerk of Session and Office Manager. In the presbytery, Jesy serves on the Committee on Ministry and was elected to serve as a delegate to the upcoming 225th General Assembly in Salt Lake City, UT. Jesy also divides their working time as the part-time office administrator at Arlington Presbyterian Church, the Social Media Producer at Presbyterian Outlook, and a coach with NEXT Church. When not

working, Jesy uses their voice and passion as co-host of the podcast Embracing Race: Conversations with Truth and Intention. Jesy lives in Laurel, Maryland with their wife Sara and two kiddos: son, Toby and daughter, Charlie. They are an avid Pittsburgh Pirates fan, a Tom Hanks enthusiast, and they hate, vehemently, peas and ham.

ACTION ITEM #2

Commission on Ministry

The Commission on Ministry, through its Coordinating Commission, **MOVES** that the Presbytery grant an exemption from the ordination examinations to the Rev. Robert Allman, a minister holding membership in the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA), in accordance with *Book of Order* G-2.0505(a)2, so that he may be received as a PCUSA minister and a member of National Capital Presbytery laboring in a validated ministry.

Rationale: The “Policy to Receive Ministers from Other Denominations” governs the reception of these ministers into membership in NCP. Robert Allman was ordained in the PCA in 2000, and currently serves as an Army chaplain based in Germany. He has presented a letter of standing and transcripts that demonstrate he meets the educational criteria for ordained ministry in the PCUSA (G-2.0607b,c).

In accordance with the policy, Rev. Allman was given a preliminary examination by the COM for theological and collegial fit on May 8, 2023. The exam team recommended that Rev. Allman be granted an exemption from the requirement to take the standard ordination examinations (G-2.0607d), on the condition that he take and pass a course in PCUSA polity. Rev. Allman subsequently enrolled in a polity course offered by the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary and presented a certificate demonstrating satisfactory completion.

Also, in accordance with the policy, the Commission on Preparation for Ministry provided a standard psychological evaluation and subsequently conducted a final assessment of Rev. Allman on April 6, 2024. The assessment team recommended that Rev. Allman be received as a minister member of NCP.

Rev. Allman’s military chaplaincy has been approved as a validated ministry, contingent upon his being received as a member of NCP. The COM has approved his examination for membership, subject to the grant of an exemption by the presbytery.

Please note that the exemption from examinations is permitted for those ministers of other Reformed churches that have been ordained for five or more years, and it requires a two-thirds majority vote of the presbytery (G-2.0505(a)2).

ACTION ITEM #3

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. Rachel Pacheco, who is currently serving as an Associate Pastor (Stated Supply) at New York Avenue 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. 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).

The Rev. Rachel Pacheco entered into a temporary pastoral relationship with New York Avenue Presbyterian Church as Associate Pastor (Stated Supply) in August 2020, in an intentionally tentative role. The then transitional pastor and the church leadership did not want to lock the new pastor in, and therefore Rev. Pacheco's position as stated supply was intended to give natural and necessary freedom to the system and the next pastor. In the fall of 2023, Rev. Pacheco contacted the COM to explore a sense of call to a permanent, installed pastoral relationship.

With the approval of the CTC, the NYAPC session entered into a period of discernment with the congregation and reported the following to the CTC:

We have identified a call for Rev. Rachel Pacheco to transition into a called and installed associate pastor position with our congregation. Rev. Pacheco has been a steady and thoughtful partner in ministry in a time of transition as our congregation navigated the retirement of a senior pastor of 17 years, the hiring of an interim pastor, and finally, the calling of Rev. Dr. Sarah Johnson to serve as our senior pastor. She has led our children and youth ministry and our social justice ministry, and contributed to many other programs and activities in the life of our church, with commitment, creativity and care. We shared with our congregation in our annual meeting on March 3, 2024 that the Session and Rev. Pacheco had mutually discerned this call for Rev. Pacheco to move into a called and installed associate pastor position and the congregation joyfully and affirmatively responded. ... Rev. Rachel Pacheco continues to be a vital part of the life and ministry of NYAPC and we are grateful for your partnership as we seek to move into this new chapter of ministry together.

ACTION ITEM #4

Leadership Council - Proposed Amendment to the Bylaws of National Capital Presbytery, Inc.

The Leadership Council **MOVES** the Presbytery **APPROVE** the following amendment to the NCPI Bylaws:

(Text to be added is set in *italics*.)

Section 3.07 Vote. Each member who is physically present *or participating electronically as provided in Section 3.09* shall have one vote. Proxy voting shall not be permitted. A majority of members present and voting shall be required to take any corporate action unless applicable District of Columbia law, the Articles of Incorporation, these bylaws or a previous action NCPI shall require a higher number of votes.

...

Section 3.09 Electronic Meetings. *When some or all participants are participating by means of electronic communications equipment, the notice of the meeting shall provide information regarding the means of accessing the platform(s) provided for electronic participation. Such platform(s) shall afford to all participants—any who are physically present, as well as those participating electronically—the ability to hear and be heard simultaneously, and an equal opportunity to be recognized. At the time of the establishment of a quorum for any meeting where electronic participation is provided, the presiding officer shall explain or provide for an explanation of the method for establishing and assuring the maintenance of a quorum, as well as the means by which participants are to seek recognition, make motions, and vote.*

Rationale: The bylaws' current language provides that only those who are physically present for a meeting are entitled to vote. In order for electronic meetings of the presbytery to qualify as meetings of the corporation, it is necessary to make clear that the bylaws authorize such meetings. The proposed language is based on similar provisions in the Standing Rules of the General Assembly, adapted to reflect our current electronic meeting practices for establishing a quorum and explaining how to participate.

The *Book of Order* provides as follows:

In accordance with the requirement of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, councils and their commissions and committees may meet electronically, provided that the technology employed allows for all members present to hear and be heard simultaneously. This includes joining one or more persons electronically to an otherwise in-person meeting. Councils should adopt special rules of order and standing rules to govern such meetings. (G-3.0105)

The NCPI Bylaws provide as follows: "The Articles of Incorporation and these Bylaws may be amended by a vote of two-thirds of the Members at any regular or special meeting duly convened after notice of that purpose has been given" (6.07).