

## **NCP LEADERSHIP COUNCIL**

### **Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, May 1, 2024

12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Lewinsville Presbyterian Church (Youth Room – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)

1724 Chain Bridge Rd, McLean, VA 22101

***Sent by the Triune God to be agents of salvation, reconciliation, and justice, we empower and challenge our congregations to be Missional, Pastoral and Prophetic***

Attendance: Miriam Dewhurst, Chris Deacon, David Douthett, Lou Durden, Shelby Harasty, Sterling Morse, Nancy Neal, Mike Rankin, Mary Rodgers, Le Quan Turner, Diane Walton Hendricks

NCP Staff: David Baer, Dina Bickel, Tempest Davis, Tara Spuhler McCabe, John Molina-Moore, LaJuan Quander

Excused: Shani McIlwain, Neill Morgan

Resigned: Brian Clark as of May 2024

Leadership Council gathered for prayer and lunch at Lewinsville Presbyterian Church at 12:00 prior to LC meeting. The meeting began at 12:41 p.m. with a devotion led by Rev. Dr. Diane Walton Hendricks based on Colossians 1:17b and invited Council to pray about God holding it all other.

**LC approved the LC minutes from April 3, 2024. No other actions were taken this meeting.**

Rev. Tara Spuhler McCabe led a discussion about the Landscape, a survey tool by HolyCow! Consulting, for the presbytery to better understand how we operate and serve as a mid-council governing body. LC was asked what resonated with you? If you had a magic wand what would you need or want in order to lean into that transformational energy? Rev. Shelby Etheridge Harsty offered to follow-up with LC and request input. The staff will also discuss.

General Presbyter, Rev. John Molina-Moore spoke about the Missional Incubator which was initially visioned through the New Things team and Leadership Council and derived by the perceived need in NCP for a more proactive and intentional approach in establishing new worshiping communities and new expressions of existing churches. Our churches can no longer be sustained by giving only. Throughout scripture there are stories of how God used shepherds, vinedressers, farmers, accountants, financial planners, tent makers, textile business owners, anglers, and many others to lead and gather God's people. Today those might be baristas, personal trainers, spiritual directors, artists, bakers, cooks and film makers. The Missional Incubator is currently designing the program, building interest, and identifying and securing funding. The pilot program (stage one) will gather a cohort of eight to ten leaders of current churches and New Worshiping Communities, draw on experts to partner with, develop mission plans, including business plans that identify funding and investors that support the work of NCP, and develop funding sources for a new expression of church paired with a compelling business. The second stage will continue to work with the first cohort, recruit for the second cohort, identify a permanent director, and establish accountably structure for the Missional Incubator as well as the blossoming mixed economy ministries.

General Presbyter, Rev. John Molina-Moore also spoke about the black churches in our presbytery whose pastors have either passed away, retired or will retire shortly. In addition, these churches are in disrepair. The GP is in conversation with these churches about a plan.

The Treasurer, Heather Deacon, promised to provide a written statement re: Garden Memorial, which has been inserted into these minutes:

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Garden Memorial Update to Leadership Council – May 1, 2024

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Legal Summary/Update: Legal action continues as we work to have the property deeded into National Capital Presbytery's name. (Currently property is deeded in the name of the Trustees of Garden Memorial Presbyterian Church). Since our last update, the court denied former member's motion to grant standing in the matter. The filing deadline for opposition to our petition is May 8. We have been granted the authority to access the property for the purposes of securing and doing repairs; however, we have to negotiate the actual action with opposing counsel.

Property Summary/Update: Unhoused individuals continue to occupy the property. We have met with a representative of DC Department of Buildings about their work to secure the property and their related invoices. We have a bid to secure the property which will include fencing, lights, and metal bars over access points; however, it is very costly. Once erected, we will have to pay to maintain the measures. Metro Police have cleared the property out several times. Property taxes are also due on property.

Financial Summary/Update:

Total Paid Since 2022	\$129,588.06
Outstanding Bills/Securing Costs	\$86,762.30
2018 Expenses	<u>\$75,148.52</u>
	\$291,498.88

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Elder Dewhurst gave an update from the Dismantling Racism Team. They continue to review the responses from the survey. The team along with the Baltimore presbytery will sponsor a mini Matthew 25 Summit on October 26, 2024 from 9am to 4pm. The workshop is for those congregations who are interested in creating an anti-racism policy.

There was no new business and the meeting closed with prayer at 2:46 pm.