# Stated Meeting National Capital Presbytery May 21, 2024 5:00PM at National Presbyterian Church We Gather in Community

#### **DRAFT Minutes**

The 317<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting of National Capital Presbytery was called to order with prayer at 5:03 PM by the moderator, Rev. Dr. Chris Deacon. The meeting was held at National Presbyterian Church and recorded 227 participants. Dr. Deacon acknowledged the land of the Piscataway people, on which National Presbyterian Church sits, as well as the contributions of enslaved peoples to the development of and honored the people within the bounds of the presbytery. Dr. Deacon offered a way through action to support future generations of the Piscataway people.

The Moderator recognized the Stated Clerk, Rev. Baer, who noted that a QUORUM was present. The roll was formed by the pre-registrations to the meeting and first-time commissioners were welcomed.

MINISTERS PRESENT: Acker, Fay Anderson, Denise Andrade, Edwin Baer, David Baker, Matthew Beckman, Eric Brookens, Elizabeth Brubaker, Layne Byrd, Cameron Cadwallader, J.C. Cargal, Timothy Clark, Brian Collins. Blake Counihan, Erin Coyle, Jean Crawford, Adele Cunningham, Laura Deacon, Chris Douthett, David Douthett, Molly Ensign, David Erickson, Rob Etheridge Harasty, Shelby Fauntleroy, Whitney Fitzgibbon, Laura Forsyth, Eric

Foster, Garnett E, Fox, Quinn Fulp-Eicksteadt, Aaron Goff, Ashley Golemon, Larry Gordon, Norm Gorrell, Carla Graceson, Susan Gray, David Greiner, Mark Guthrie. Juan Hackett, J. Campbell Hamilton, Brian Harper, Mark Harris, Bob Hayward, Maggie Hayward, Larry Heck, Barbara Hendricks, Diane Walton Herlin, Ann Hodges, LeAnn Hunnicutt, Patrick Hwang, Yena Hylton, Raymond Ivory, Elenora Giddings Jervis, Madeline

Johnson, Sarah Jokela, William Jones Lundeen, Allison Kekung, Cynthia Kenkeremath, Lisa Kiser, Shannon Klingensmith, Leslie Klose, Megan Kluttz, Billy Larsen, Lisa Lawrence, Mary Beth Lee, Jong MacKenzie, Jeanne McAuliffe, Christopher McCollough, Catherine McDonald, Jim McDonald, Dean McMurtry, Kori Meeks, Don Melone, Bob Messman, Rebecca Milam, Rev. Dr. David Molina-Moore, John Morgan, Neill Morse, Sterling Moses, Jay

Nabinger, Matt Neal, Nancy Olson, Dana Pacheco, Rachel Parker-Jones, Bernice Patterson, Olivia Peace, Dwight Praylow, Perzavia Ramsey, Scott Rathje, Ken Renwick, David Rodgers, Mary Ross, Katie

MINISTERS EXCUSED: Austell, Robert Batten-Carbaugh, Laura Bolton, Jacob Braxton, Beth Brinton, Henry Brubaker, Crawford Clark, Nancy D'Andrea, Emily Diaab, Denise Dunfee, Jennifer Fields, Jeri Forsyth, Eric Sarpong, Samuel Sledge, James Smith-Cobbs, Stephen Spuhler McCabe, Tara Stanford, Katherine Sutton, Todd Taylor, Catherine Tewell, Alice Thomas, Daniel Thompson, Lewis Thompson, Keith Tilley, Carolyn Ulmer, Holly

Futato, Pat Gaskill, Mark Hackworth, Matthew Henthorne, Hilaire Howard, Roy Kapp, Deborah Lee, Hope Looker, Chris Mulvihill, Kathleen Nagel, Aaron Phillips, Paul Reimers, Christine Wait, Casey Walker, Elizabeth Wayland, Rose Weddle, Donna Williams, Emilee Williams, David Wilson-Black, Juli Wood, Shelly Woodward, Grace Yearick, Carrie Yi, Gloria

Smoot, Jonathan Strednak Singer, Katie Swayze, Beverly Tate, Jessica Teichert, Molly Tidd, Mark Van Gorder, Charles Walker, Elizabeth Wilson, Scott Wilson, Caroline

COMMISSIONED RULING ELDERS PRESENT: Maldarelli, Kris Mears, Gary Nichols, Katherine

FELLOWSHIPS and NEW WORSHIPING COMMUNITIES PRESENT: Creekside Germantown Global Connection

ELDER COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Cornelius	Debbie	Adelphi
Ayibisse	Rose	Berwyn

Koolemans-	Johanna	Bethesda
Beynen		

Russell	Norma	Boyds
Holcomb	Bonnie	Bradley Hills
Mullin	Molly	Capitol Hill
Rutkowski	Michael	Capitol Hill
Akyeampong	Eric	Christ the King
Donoian	Steve	Christian Community
Blackshaw	Hille	Church of the Covenant
Ratumangkay	Joyce	Clifton
Reimers	Mark	Clifton
Miller	Michael	Colesville
Rogers	Diane	Colesville
Frenck	Roland	Darnestown
McClung	David	Darnestown
Summers	Jan	Darnestown
Jones	Edward	Faith
McIlwain	Shani	Faith
Nixon	Tony	Faith
Porter	Sara	First United Dale City
Porter	Robert	First United Dale City
Melberg	Evi	Gaithersburg
Penn	Кау	Gaithersburg
Bryant	Ed	Grace Springfield
Bryant	Cindi	Grace Springfield
Gold	Victoria	Grace Springfield
Barnhart	Bill	Greenwich
Bishop	Lee	Greenwich
Hayes	Edward	Heritage
St John	Glenn	Heritage

Barden	Leslie	Hermon
Hodgman	Edward	Hermon
Zhang	Bin	Hermon
Gregory	Andrew	Immanuel
Johnston	David	Laurel
Douglass	Betty	Lewinsville
Hager	Karen	Lewinsville
Johnson	Beverly	Lewinsville
Massie	Kathleen	Manassas
Norville	Charles	Mount Vernon
Bennett	William W	National
Byus	Fred	National
Glaser	Lewrene	National
Lewis	Peggy	National
Mack	David	National
Schottke	Dave	National
Yamate	Мау	National
Ford	Kristin	New York
		Avenue
Taylor	Melissa	New York
	Jane	Avenue
Weitz	Matthew	New York
		Avenue
Durden	Lou	Northminster
Crichton	Alison	Northwood
Littlejohn	Jesy	Oaklands
Lloyd	Royce	Oaklands
Klinkman	Monika	Old Presbyterian Meeting House
		_
Parker	Jenny	Old Presbyterian Meeting House
Pommerer	Christopher	Old Presbyterian
		Meeting House

Johnson	Cynthia	Patuxent
Laryea	Beatrice	Potomac
Herzfeld	Michael	Rockville
Cooper-Martin	Elizabeth	Rockville United Church
Корр	Leta	Rockville United Church
Gregory	Rose	Southminster
McGeehan	Janis	Southminster
Mcbee	Julia	St. Matthew
Martin	George	Takoma Park
Dykstra	Jim	Trinity, Arlington
Harhan	Lisa	Trinity, Herndon

Miller	Priscilla	Trinity, Herndon
Tamaccio	Thomas	Trinity, Herndon
Eakin	Mark	Warner Memorial
Farr	Susie	Western
DeWitt	Martha Bess	Westminster, Alexandria
Griffin	Adrienne	Westminster, Alexandria
Helm	Susie	Westminster, Alexandria
Kerr III	George	Westminster, DC

## CHURCHES NOT REPRESENTED BY ELDER COMMISSIONERS:

Aldie, Arlington, Ashburn, Bealeton, Brambleton, Brentsville, Burke, Bush Hill, Calvary, Catoctin, Chesterbrook Taiwanese, Christ Presbyterian, Clarendon, Covenant, Eastminster, Ebenezer, Emmanuel Indonesian, Fairfax, Fairlington, Falls Church, Fifteenth Street, First Arlington, First Annandale, Furnace Mountain, Geneva, Georgetown, Good Samaritan, Grace Lanham, Hope, Idylwood, John Calvin, Kirkwood, Knox, Korean Presbyterian Church of Rockville, Leesburg, Litchfield, Little Falls, Mizo, New Hope, Northeastern, Northern Virginia Korean, Pilgrims, Poolesville, Prince George's Community, Providence, Redeemer, Riverside, Rock, Saint Mark, Sargent Memorial, Silver Spring, Sixth, St. Andrew, Taiwanese Presbyterian, United Korean, United Christian Parish of Reston, United Parish of Bowie, Vienna, Wheaton Community

Rev. Baer presented the proposed docket, which was distributed with the meeting materials. Upon a motion properly made and seconded, the presbytery voted to APPROVED the docket.

Rev. Baer presented the omnibus motion, which was APPROVED by the presbytery as amended.

## 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.)
- 6. The Stated Clerk recommends that the Presbytery **DISMISS** the Administrative Commission for Boyds Presbyterian Church, with thanks for their service.

## 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, Westminster-DC), Class of 2027 Don Humphries (Ruling Elder, Northeastern), Class of 2026 Mark Stunder (Ruling Elder, Creekside NWC), 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, Creekside NWC) -- Budget and Finance Juli Wilson-Black (Teaching Elder, Fairlington) & Carla Gorrell (Teaching Elder, Retired) --Committee on Ministry

# WORSHIP

The Presbytery proceeded to worship God, led by the General Presbyter, the Rev. John Molina-Moore. Taisha Estrada, the Music Director of Clarendon Presbyterian Church, accompanied the presbytery on guitar. Mr. Molina-Moore delivered the sermon, "In the Clouds," based on Exodus 19 and Hebrews 12. The presbytery commissioned those who will be serving on its behalf at this year's meeting of the General Assembly: commissioners Chris Deacon, Lou Durden, Mark Eakin, Jesy Littlejohn, Dean McDonald, and Bernice Parker-Jones; and Young Adult Advisory Delegate Jackie Hager. The presbytery commissioned Elder Katherine Nichols (Trinity, Arlington) to service at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Arlington.

## TRANSITIONS

At the invitation of the General Presbyter, the following persons addressed the presbytery regarding changes in their ministry:

- The Rev. Allison Lundeen, who is returning to the presbytery as an at-large member.
- The Rev. Kenneth Rathje, recently ordained to service as the Stated Supply Pastor of Calvary Presbyterian Church.
- The Rev. Dr. Shelly Wood, who has begun serving as the Pastor of Old Presbyterian Meeting House.
- The Rev. Dr. David Ensign, newly retired from active ministry.
- The Rev. Dr. Rob Erickson, newly retired from active ministry.
- The Rev. Neill Morgan, newly retired from active ministry.
- CRE Katherine Nichols, serving Trinity Presbyterian Church in Arlington.

The General Presbyter recognized a number of other transitions and led the presbytery in prayer.

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Rev. Patrick Hunnicutt, chair, presented the report of the Nominating Committee. On behalf of the committee, he placed the following names in nomination for election:

• 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.

There were no nominations from the floor. The nominations were closed, and the presbytery **ELECTED** the nominees presented by the committee.

#### COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

The Rev. Carla Gorrell presented the report of the Commission on Ministry. On behalf of the commission, she offered the following motion (with rationale provided in the meeting materials):

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).

The presbytery **VOTED** to **GRANT** the requested exemption from ordination examinations, by the required two-thirds majority.

Ms. Gorrell presented a second motion on behalf of the commission:

**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.

At the invitation of Ms. Gorrell, Elder Kristin Ford, the clerk of session of New York Avenue Presbyterian Church, spoke about the Rev. Rachel Pacheco's ministry at the church and expressed the hope that she might be allowed to continue her service to the congregation as an installed associate pastor. Following discussion, the presbytery **VOTED** to **GRANT** the exception, by the required three-fourths majority.

The Moderator led the assembly in prayer.

#### LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

At the invitation of the Moderator, the Vice Moderator, Elder Lou Durden (Northminster), assumed the chair.

Elder Miriam Dewhurst (New York Avenue) presented the report of the Leadership Council. On behalf of the Council, Ms. Dewhurst offered the following motion:

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.

<u>Rationale</u>: 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).

The presbytery VOTED to AMEND the bylaws as indicated, by the required two-thirds majority.

The Vice Moderator led the assembly in prayer, and relinquished the chair to the Moderator, Rev. Dr. Chris Deacon.

#### MISSIONAL INCUBATOR

The Moderator recognized the Rev. John Molina-Moore, General Presbyter, who introduced the Rev. Casey Thompson and the Rev. Layne Brubaker, of the New Things Team of the Congregational Development Commission, who joined him in speaking about a new initiative of the presbytery.

"Can you marry a non-profit with a struggling church, and in doing so strengthen both of those things?"

The Missional Incubator is a cohort based program where pastors and congregations can dream about new ministries for their churches and their neighborhoods. It may be a social enterprise—something that seeks to meet a social need through a business. It could be a coffee shop, an enterprise that creates a third place where you can interact with people who may never walk into a church. It could be a packaging business that helps people who have difficulty finding employment find work and develop an employment history.

The New Things Team is undertaking this initiative now out of a sense of the need for a different model for ministry—on the one hand, pursuing financial stability for churches, and on the other, providing opportunities for engagement with those who would not otherwise visit a church.

The Rev. Brian Clark will provide staff leadership for the Incubator.

This fall, the a cohort of 8-10 leaders will meet weekly, hearing from experts who have undertaken similar projects, and developing business plans that include new funding models for a church paired with a compelling business.

In the spring of 2025, it is hoped that a second cohort will begin the program, perhaps including others from outside of the presbytery. A new permanent Director will be identified, and an accountability structure will be established for the Missional Incubator, as well as the new mixed-economy ministries.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

No new business was offered.

#### RETIREMENT OF LAJUAN QUANDER, NCP DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATION

The presbytery recognized the retirement of Ms. LaJuan Quander, the Director of Communication, after 40 years of service. The Rev. Dr. Chris Deacon, Moderator, and the Rev. Dr. Cameron Byrd, former Moderator,

spoke in appreciation of Ms. Quander's service, in addition to the Rev. John Molina-Moore, General Presbyter. The presbytery staff and the NCP Personnel Committee presented gifts. Ms. Quander addressed the presbytery, introducing the members of her family who were present. She expressed her appreciation for the other members of the presbytery staff.

#### CHARGE AND BLESSING

At the invitation of the Moderator, Ms. LaJuan Quander offered the closing benediction at 7:38 p.m., and the meeting adjourned to a time of fellowship.

Faithfully submitted,

David A. Bar

Rev. David A. Baer, Stated Clerk