

**Stated Meeting
National Capital Presbytery
September 24, 2024
5:00 PM at National Presbyterian Church
We Gather in Community**

DRAFT Minutes

The 318th Stated Meeting of National Capital Presbytery was called to order with prayer at 5:02 PM by the outgoing Moderator, Rev. Dr. Chris Deacon. The meeting was held at National Presbyterian Church and recorded 248 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:

Allman, Rob	Fox, Quinn	Jones Lundeen, Allison
Andrade, Edwin	Fulp-Eickstaedt, Judith	Kathleen, Mulvihill
Austell, Robert	Fulp-Eickstaedt, Aaron	Kekung, Cynthia
Baer, David	Goff, Ashley	Kemery, Amanda
Batten-Carbaugh, Laura	Golemon, Larry	Kenkeremath, Lisa
Beckman, Eric	Gorrell, Carla	Klingensmith, Leslie
Bolton, Jacob	Goss, J Beth	Klose, Megan
Braunstein, Leslieanne	Graceson, Susan	Kluttz, Billy
Braxton, Beth	Gray, David	Larsen Lisa
Brinton, Henry	Greiner, Mark	Lee, Sung
Brookens-Sturman, Elizabeth	Guthrie, Juan	Lee, Hope
Clark, Brian	Hackett, J. Campbell	MacKenzie, Jeanne
Collins, Blake	Harper, Mark	Manning, Peter
Counihan, Erin	Hayward, Larry	McDonald, James
Crawford, Adele	Hayward, Margaret E	McDonald, Dean
D'Andrea, Emily	Heck, Barbara	McElwaine, Patrick
Deacon, Chris	Hendricks, Diane	McMurtry, Kory
Diaab, Denise	Herlin, Ann	Meek, Craig
Douthett, David	Hodges, LeAnn	Meeks, Don
Ensign, David	Hopkins, Gerald	Melone, Robert
Evans, Abigail	Horn, Emma	Messman, Rebecca
Fields, Jeri	Hunnicut, Patrick	Molina-Moore, John
Fitzgibbon, Laura	Hwang, Yena	Moorhead, Blair
Forsyth, Eric	Hylton, Raymond	Morse, Sterling
Foster, Garnett	Jackson, Patrick	Moses, Jay
Fox, Nancy	Jervis, Madeline	Nabinger, Matt

Nagel, Aaron
Neal, Nancy
Oti-Boateng, Frank
Pacheco, Rachel
Patterson, Olivia
Pooley, Matt
Ramsey, Scott
Rathje, Ken
Renwick, David
Rodawla, Jacob
Rodgers, Mary
Ross, Katie

Smith-Cobbs, Stephen
Spuhler McCabe, Tara
Sutton, Todd
Tate, Jessica
Taylor, Catherine
Teichert, Molly
Tewell, Alice
Thompson, Keith
Thompson, Casey
Tilley, Carolyn
Trawick, Benton
Vaagenes, Rachel

van Gorder, Charles
Walker, Elizabeth
Wayland, Rose
Weddle, Donna
Wilder, Susan
Williams, Elisabeth
Wilson-Black, Juli
Yearick, Carrie
Yi, Gloria
Yoon, Taekhan
Zemke, Robert

MINISTERS EXCUSED:

Anderson, Denise
Brown, Jean
Brubaker, Crawford
Cargal, Timothy
Clark, Nancy
Futato, Pat
Gaskill, Mark
Hackworth, Matthew
Harris, Bob
Hilaire, Henthorne
Howard, Roy
Jokela, William

Jordan-Haas, Connie
Kapp, Deborah
Lawrence, Mary Beth
Looker, Chris
McAuliffe, Chris
McCollough, Catherine
McKibben Dana, MaryAnn
Milam, David
Olson, Dana
Park, Yeonik
Praylow, Rev. Dr. Perzavia
Pullen, Mary

Reimers, Christine
Sledge, James
Smoot, Jonathan
Stanford, Katherine
Stanton-Hoyle, Lynn
Strednak Singer, Katie
Swayze, Bev
Swayze, Richard
Thomas, Daniel
Tidd, Mark
Ulmer, Holly
Wood, Shelly

COMMISSIONED RULING ELDERS PRESENT:

Maldarelli, Kris
Slayter, Michael
Turner, LeQuan

FELLOWSHIPS and NEW WORSHIPING COMMUNITIES PRESENT:

Creekside

ELDER COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Philander	Candace	Adelphi
Pollock	Lynn	Arlington
Fogwe-Gwan	Shadrack	Berwyn
Russell	Norma	Boyds
Holcomb	Bonnie	Bradley Hills
Hannold	Elizabeth	Capitol Hill
Mollenkamp	Allison	Capitol Hill
Blackshaw	Hille	Church of the Covenant
Tarr	Susan	Church of the Covenant
Davis	Kimberly	Clifton
Martin	Mitch	Clifton
Stunder	Mark	Creekside Church
Frenck	Roland	Darnestown
Summers	Janis	Darnestown
Ellis	Anita	Emmanuel Indonesian
Hutabarat	Meirina	Emmanuel Indonesian
McIlwain	Shani	Faith
Nixon	Tony	Faith
Bruce	Carolyn	Falls Church
Kusterbeck	Anne	Falls Church
Sarver	Marnie	Falls Church
Stewart	Katharine	Falls Church
Volpe	Michael	Falls Church
Muldrow	Tressie	Fifteenth Street Church
Curry	Midge	First Arlington
Albrecht	Cathlene	First United Dale City
Cornelius	Debbie	First United Dale City
Porter	Sara	First United Dale City
Porter	Robert	First United Dale City
Slayter	Michael	First United Dale City
Amatuzzi	Nicholas	Grace Springfield
Bryant	Cindi	Grace Springfield

Gold	Victoria	Grace Springfield
Bishop	Lee	Greenwich
Flanagan	George	Greenwich
Henson	Steve	Greenwich
Taylor	David	Greenwich
Hayes	Jim	Heritage
Towle	Malcolm	Heritage
Magee	Corinne	Immanuel
Pratt	Dana	Immanuel
Azorsky	Tami	John Calvin
Farabee	Marcia	John Calvin
Kloster	Madison	Lewinsville
Kohlenberger	Jerry	Lewinsville
Bennett	William	National
Glaser	Lewrene	National
Lewis	Peggy	National
Mack	David	National
Yamate	May	National
Amor	Adlai	New York Avenue
Dewhurst	Miriam	New York Avenue
Ford	Kristin	New York Avenue
Durden	Lou	Northeastern
Hodges	Denise	Northeastern
McCray	Valerie	Northeastern
Davis	Lorethea	Northminster
Brumfield	Christine	Northwood
Crichton	Alison	Northwood
McNutt	Kim	Northwood
Littlejohn	Jesy	Oaklands
Parker	Jenny	Old Presbyterian Meeting House
Winslow	William	Old Presbyterian Meeting House

Johnson	Cynthia	Patuxent
Kleinschmidt	Diane	Patuxent
Lorek	Sarah	Patuxent
Smouse	David	Patuxent
Kelley	Norman	Pilgrims
Cyrway	Christopher	Potomac
Barnes	Karla	Redeemer
Jordan	Jochebed	Redeemer
Lenhardt	Nichelle	Redeemer
Wolff	Patricia	Rockville
Cooper-Martin	Elizabeth	Rockville United Church
Kopp	Leta	Rockville United Church
Ako Egbe	Susan	Silver Spring
Dorothe	Dorothe	Silver Spring
Gregory	Rose	Southminster
McGeehan	Janis	Southminster
Kincer	Blair	St. Matthew

Mcbee	Julia	St. Matthew
Belyeu	Kathy	Takoma Park
Martin	George	Takoma Park
Showalter	Thomas	Takoma Park
Gillard	David	Trinity Herndon
Hufford	Steve	Trinity, Arlington
Miller	Priscilla	Trinity, Herndon
Allen	Charles	Vienna
Carter	William	Vienna
Portman	Robin	Vienna
Eakin	Mark	Warner Memorial
Kline	Susan	Warner Memorial
Brose	Margarita	Western
Gunter	David	Westminster, Alexandria
Jordan	Vaughn	Westminster, Alexandria
Turner	LeQuan	Westminster, DC

CHURCHES NOT REPRESENTED BY ELDER COMMISSIONERS:

Aldie, Ashburn, Bealeton, Bethesda, Brambleton, Brentsville, Burke, Bush Hill, Calvary, Catoctin, Chesterbrook Taiwanese, Chevy Chase, Christ Presbyterian, Christ the King, Christian Community, Clarendon, Colesville, Covenant, Eastminster, Ebenezer, Fairfax, Fairlington, First Annandale, Furnace Mountain, Gaithersburg, Geneva, Georgetown, Good Samaritan, Grace Lanham, Hermon, Hope, Idlywood, Kirkwood, Knox, Korean Presbyterian Church of Rockville, Laurel, Leesburg, Litchfield, Little Falls, Manassa, Mizo, Mount Vernon, New Hope, Northern Virginia Korean, Poolesville, Prince George's Community, Providence, Riverside, Rock, Saint Mark, Sargent Memorial, Sixth, St. Andrew, Taiwanese Presbyterian, Trinity Arlington, United Korean, United Christian Parish of Reston, United Parish of Bowie, Wheaton

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, with corrections, which was APPROVED by the presbytery.

OMNIBUS MOTION FOR THE SEPTEMBER 24, 2024, PRESBYTERY MEETING

From the Stated Clerk

The Stated Clerk recommends the **APPROVAL** of the minutes of the Stated Meeting held on May 21, 2024, and the Special Meeting held on July 16, 2024.

From the Leadership Council

The Leadership Council places Heather Deacon in nomination for NCP Treasurer, for a three-year term to begin September 24, 2024.

From the Commission on Ministry

In accordance with the NCP Manual of Administrative Operations, the Commission on Ministry places the following names in nomination for election to a one-year term on the COM-associated commissions as indicated:

Congregational Transitions Commission

Mark Harper, co-chair (TE, Takoma Park)
Mike Volpe, co-chair (RE, Falls Church)
Carla Gorrell (TE, retired)
Henry Brinton (TE, Fairfax)
Jesy Littlejohn (RE, Oaklands)
Susan Graceson (TE, Rockville)
Kris Maldarelli (RE, Gaithersburg)
Dean McDonald (TE, retired)
Matt Nabinger (TE, Oaklands)
Juli Wilson-Black (TE, Fairlington)
Taekhan Yoon (TE, United Korean)

Coordinating Commission

Carla Correll, co-chair (TE, retired)
Juli Wilson-Black, co-chair (TE, Fairlington)
Larry Goleman (TE, specialized)
Mark Harper (TE, Takoma Park)
Emma Horn (TE, Immanuel)
Linda Lanam (RE, OPMH)
Gary Sowers (RE, Fairfax)
Katherine Stanford (TE, OPMH)
Michael Volpe (RE, Falls Church)

From the Nominating Committee

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

Committee on Preparation for Ministry:

Emilee Williams (TE Fairfax), Class of '27
Mary Casper (RE, St. Mark); Class of '25
Blake Collins (TE, Darnestown), Class of 2027
Aaron Fulp-Eickstaedt (TE, Immanuel), CPM, Class of 2027
Samuel Sarpong (TE, Ebenezer), CPM c/o 2027

Committee on Ministry:

Larry Goleman (TE, Validated ministry), Class of 27
Taekhan Yoon (TE, The United Korean Presbyterian Church), Class of 27
Linda Lanam (RE, OPMH), Class of 27
Henry Brinton (TE, Fairfax), Class of '27
Emma Horn (TE, Immanuel), Class of 2027
Carla Gorrell (TE, Retired), Committee on Ministry c/o 2027
Laura Fitzgibbon (TE, Manassas), Class of 2027

Church Development Committee:

Cynthia Kekung (TE, Emanuel Indonesian), Class of 2027
Betsy Weingarten (RE, St Mark), Class of 2027

Permanent Judicial Commission:

Emily Berman D'Andrea (TE, Potomac), Class of 2029

Leadership Council:

Jeri Fields (TE, Adelphi), Leadership Council, Class of '27

Shani McIlwain (RE, Faith) for Leadership Council, Class of 2027

Personnel

Priscilla O'Donnell (RE, St. Andrew), Class of 2027

Stewardship

David Gray (TE, Bradley Hills), Class of 2025

WORSHIP

The Presbytery proceeded to worship God, led by the outgoing Moderator, the Rev. Dr. Chris Deacon, together with Jesse Colon, piano accompanist, and Allison Crichton, soloist. Dr. Deacon's sermon, "Which Song Will You Sing?" was based on Matthew 9:18-26. The presbytery installed Elder Lou Durden (Northminster) and Elder Jesy Littlejohn (Oaklands) to service as National Capital Presbytery Moderator and Vice Moderator for 2024-2025.

Following worship, Lou Durden assumed the chair from Dr. Deacon.

TRANSITIONS

The Moderator recognized the General Presbyter, the Rev. John Molina-Moore. At the invitation of the General Presbyter, the following persons addressed the presbytery regarding changes in their ministry:

- Rev. Amanda Kemery, who recently began her service as Pastor at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church in Purcellville.
- Rev. Peter Manning, who recently began his service as Associate Pastor at Lewinsville Presbyterian Church in McLean.

The General Presbyter also recognized the Rev. Keith Thompson, who is now serving with UKirk at University of Maryland. He concluded this time by leading the presbytery in prayer.

LANDSCAPE CONVERSATIONS

The Moderator invited the Rev. Tara Spuhler-McCabe, Director of Congregational Development and Mission, to address the Presbytery about the Landscape Survey, which members of the NCP community took in the spring. She noted the variety of persons who participated, and of congregations represented, and reviewed some of the findings on the survey, which indicated an overall high level of energy and satisfaction within the Presbytery.

The Presbytery spent some time in table groups discussing the following three questions:

1. “Take a leadership role in working with churches that are struggling” is one of the top three priorities named in the Landscape. What does that look like from your perspective, for the Presbytery to take a leadership role?
2. “Equip congregations to be more effective in addressing problems affecting their surrounding communities” is one of the top three priorities named in the Landscape. How does your congregation inquire, learn, notice, understand what are the problems affecting the surrounding communities? What are the practices of engagement and discipleship you have done so far?
3. What would you need to support your congregation to engage in anti-racism? Would you welcome a listening session with members of the Dismantling Racism Team? Please share the name of your Congregation / Community and a contact person for the DRT Team to respond to.

COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

The Moderator recognized the Rev. Juli Wilson-Black, co-chair of the Commission on Ministry, who presented the first item of business.

MOTION: That National Capital Presbytery ESTABLISH an Administrative Commission for the Prince George’s Community Presbyterian Church, in accordance with *Book of Order* G-3.0109(b), in response to reports of disorder. The Commission shall have the authority to:

- Visit with the session and the congregation to inquire into and settle the difficulties therein (G-3.0109(b)5, G-3.0303(d)).
- Review the church’s bylaws and Manual of Administrative Operations (G-3.0106), providing recommendations to the session for any required policies or documents that may be absent or incomplete.
- Provide for a regular financial review for the church, in accordance with G-3.0113.
- Provide training for the church’s officers, in consultation with the NCP Stated Clerk.
- Direct the session and the congregation to meet as necessary (G-1.0502, G-3.0203).
- Assume original jurisdiction, if it determines that the session cannot exercise its authority, following the procedural safeguards in G-3.0303(e).

The commission shall afford to all persons affected by any of its decisions fair notice and an opportunity to be heard on matters at issue before making a decision final.

The commission shall keep a full record of its proceedings and shall submit that record to the council or councils for incorporation into its records. It shall make a report of its decisions to the NCP stated clerk, who shall transmit it to the council at its next stated meeting. NCP may rescind or amend an action of its administrative commission in the same way actions of the council are modified.

The Moderator of the Presbytery is authorized to name up to five (5) members to serve on this Administrative Commission, divided as equally as possible between ruling and teaching elders.

Rationale: In March of this year, Prince George’s Community Presbyterian Church lost its beloved pastor, the Rev. Dr. Edward Harding, Jr., following a period of illness. During the pastor’s illness and following his death, the presbytery has appointed moderators to work with the session. The COM became aware that the session

had not held regular meetings in some time, and that members of the session were unsure of who had access to the church's accounts.

The *Book of Order* provides a non-exclusive list of functions that may be entrusted to Administrative Commissions created by councils of the church. Among these functions is:

(by presbyteries, synods, and the General Assembly) visiting particular councils, congregations, or agencies over which they have immediate jurisdiction reported to be affected with disorder, and inquiring into and settling the difficulties therein, except that no commission of a presbytery shall be empowered to dissolve a pastoral relationship without the specific authorization by the designating body (G-2.0901); (G-3.0109(b)5)

The Presbytery **APPROVED** the recommendation.

The Rev. Carla Gorrell, co-chair, presented the 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. Yena Hwang, who is currently serving as an Interim Pastor at Falls Church Presbyterian Church, to be eligible to be called and installed as Pastor.

Rationale: The Book of Order states that a pastor serving in a temporary pastoral relationship is "ordinarily" not eligible to become the installed pastor (G-2.0504b), but allows the presbytery to grant an exception by a three-quarters vote (G-2.0504c). The NCP Policy on Changes in Pastoral Role provides a process whereby the CTC is able to bring such a recommendation for a minister who has been serving for at least 12 months. In accordance with this policy, Yena has communicated her request in writing and met with representatives of the CTC (Carla Gorrell and Mark Harper), who have recommended granting the exception.

Rev. Yena Hwang began serving as interim pastor in May 2023. During the search process, her Personal Discernment Profile (PDP) was matched with the Ministry Discernment Profile (MDP) for the installed position at Falls Church PC, indicating a fit between her perceived gifts and the church's perceived needs for permanent pastoral leadership.

When approached by the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC), initially Yena declined to be considered as a candidate. Her intent was to continue to pursue interim ministry as a vocation. After prayer and conversations with colleagues, Yena discerned that there was high energy in the congregation for change and future possibilities for new mission. This led to Yena's decision to be considered as a candidate and to request an exception.

Yena submitted and the Session approved her resignation as Interim effective June 30. This action allowed the discernment process to proceed without her presence as a pastor. Yena wanted to make a clean break between serving as Interim and a potential call to serve as Head of Staff.

Session conducted the required discernment in July. The process included answering questions provided by CTC and scheduling two listening sessions with members of the congregation, to be completed in Sept.

Session request sent July 24:

The Falls Church Presbyterian Church (FCPC) Session and Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC) are requesting a Presbytery exception to the usual process for selection of our next Senior Pastor/Head of Staff. Based on an extensive PNC search and Session discernment, we are asking approval to call Rev. Yena Hwang, our former Transitional Pastor, to this position. As required by COM, we have answered the "Questions for Discernment as It Relates to Changes in Pastoral Roles within a Congregation". (Sent with the Session's answers to the Discernment questions.)

CTC approved the Session's request on August 1st.

CTC also recommended that Falls Church hold listening sessions with members of the congregation to answer questions and hear any concerns. Those sessions were held Sept 8 and 15.

Conclusion:

The PNC was formed in May 2023. They held a jumpstart event for the congregation to imagine priorities for future ministry and mission, and to provide feedback to the PNC for the kind of pastoral leadership needed to serve their vision for the future.

The PNC interviewed three final candidates, prior to considering Yena. One was not a good fit. One withdrew. One accepted a different call just days before the scheduled on-site visit and interview. That left Yena as the only remaining candidate.

NCP's mission strategy is to assure that congregations are able to call qualified pastors that have the requisite gifts, experience and leadership skills. The new reality is that, in a national search for pastoral leadership, there is a chronic shortage of applicants that are a good fit with a particular congregation's needs. The COM believes that PNCs should be able to fill pastor vacancies within a reasonable period of time, and that during the search process, the Spirit sometimes surprises with an unexpected match between a congregation and a candidate. Therefore COM recommends the approval of this exception.

The motion was **APPROVED** without opposition, and therefore by the required three-fourths majority.

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

The Chair of the Leadership Council, Elder Miriam Dewhurst (New York Avenue), presented its report.

MOTION: The Leadership Council moves that the Presbytery AMEND the purpose of the Next Blessing Fund, established by the Presbytery at its Stated Meeting on November 18, 2014, by replacing the existing text in its entirety with the following:

Next Blessings Fund: This fund is established upon dissolution of Trinity Presbyterian Church, Bethesda, by action of the National Capital Presbytery at its November 18, 2014, meeting. This fund is to provide support for struggling churches through discerning their future sustainability. The fund will subsidize a presbytery staff position of a pastor/facilitator to work with churches is assessing their current and future vitality. This position will work with multiple churches, congruently, and provide realistic routes for churches to pursue. These routes could include but will not be limited to: developing new community-based mission and ministry, redeveloping church property, merging with other churches, closing. Use of these funds will be approved by the Leadership Council. Any unused funds remaining in the "Next Blessings Fund" on September 24, 2029, will revert to the Board Designated Unrestricted funds of the Presbytery.

Rationale: In November 2014, National Capital Presbytery created the Next Blessings Fund, using \$500,000 from the proceeds of the sale of the property held by Trinity Presbyterian Church in Bethesda, following the dissolution of that congregation. In the ten years since that time, no disbursements from the fund have ever been requested or made. The balance of the fund, as of June 30, 2024, is \$590,669.37. In the absence of further action from the Presbytery, the balance of this fund will revert to the Presbytery's Unrestricted Fund in November of this year.

Following discussion, the Presbytery VOTED to **APPROVE**.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was introduced.

CHARGE AND BLESSING

The Moderator, Lou Durden, offered the closing benediction at 7:00 p.m., and the meeting adjourned.

Faithfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David A. Baer". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the text "Faithfully submitted,".

Rev. David A. Baer, Stated Clerk