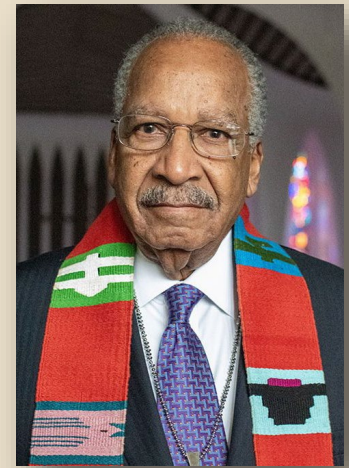


Siblings in Christ,

Greetings!

As we journey through this Lenten season, it is essential to create more space in our lives for God to enter. Many of us choose to give up something during this time, but it is just as important to reflect on the things that hinder us from being true disciples of Christ.



With this in mind, I wanted to share an insightful interpretation of Micah 6:8 from *The Message Bible* by Eugene H. Peterson:

"But he's already made it plain how to live, what to do, what GOD is looking for in men and women. It's quite simple: Do what is fair and just to your neighbor, be compassionate and loyal in your love. And don't take yourself too seriously—take God seriously."

I found this translation both thought-provoking and enlightening, offering a fresh perspective on how we are called to live out our faith.

Faithfully,

Lou Durden

Moderator, National Capital Presbytery

Stated Meeting
National Capital Presbytery
March 25, 2025
6:00PM via Zoom
We Gather in Community

6:00 PM CALL TO ORDER AND PRAYER	Elder Lou Durden, Moderator
6:05 PM APPROVAL OF DOCKET, OMNIBUS MOTION (p. 3).	Rev. David Baer, Stated Clerk
6:10 PM THE LIFE OF OUR PRESBYTERY COMMUNITY	Rev. John Molina-Moore, General Presbyter
6:20 PM UPDATE ON MISSION GIVING	Rev. Jeri Fields, Chair, Leadership Council
6:30 PM COMMISSION ON MINISTRY (p. 4)	Rev. Juli Wilson-Black, Co-Chair
6:40 PM BILLS AND OVERTURES COMMITTEE (p. 5)	Elder Mark Eakin, Chair
7:10 PM NEW BUSINESS	Elder Lou Durden, Moderator
7:15 CHARGE AND BLESSING	Elder Lou Durden, Moderator

Meeting Leaders

Rev. David A. Baer, Stated Clerk
Elder Lou Durden, Moderator
Elder Mark Eakin, Chair, Bills and Overtures Committee
Rev. Jeri Fields, Chair, Leadership Council
Elder Jesy Littlejohn, NCP Vice Moderator
Rev. John Molina-Moore, General Presbyter
Rev. Juli Wilson-Black, Co-Chair, Commission on Ministry

*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 MARCH 25, 2025, PRESBYTERY MEETING

From the Stated Clerk

- The Stated Clerk recommends the **APPROVAL** of the minutes of the January 23, 2025 NCP meeting.

From the Commission on Ministry

- The Commission on Ministry recommends that the Presbytery **APPOINT** Elder Charles Barber (Northeastern) as a sixth member of the Administrative Commission for Northwood Presbyterian Church.

Rationale: The Commission on Ministry, which brought the recommendation to form an Administrative Commission to carry out matters related to the dissolution of Northwood Presbyterian Church to the January Stated Meeting, had approached Mr. Barber about serving on the commission, but his availability was not confirmed in time for him to be elected at that meeting. Mr. Barber has served previously on commissions charged with carrying out the dissolution of congregations (Unity, Garden Memorial), and is the former chair of the Presbytery Leadership Council. While the Moderator has the power to fill vacancies, action of the presbytery is needed to add a new member beyond the five that were elected in January.

From the Nominating Committee

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

Stewardship:

Barbara Heck (TE, Bush Hill), Class of 2027

Session Records:

Janis Summers (RE, Darnestown), Class of 2028

Budget and Finance:

Cary Pugh (RE, OPMH) - Class of 2028

Church Development Commission:

John Lee (TE, The Rock), Class of 2026

Mission Coordinating Committee

Perry Austin (Lay member, FPC Arlington), Class of 2027

ACTION ITEMS FOR MARCH 25, 2025 NCP MEETING

ACTION ITEM #1

Recommendation from the 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. Olivia Patterson, who is currently serving as an Associate Pastor (Stated Supply) at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Alexandria, to be eligible to be called and installed as Associate Pastor.

NOTE: Approval of this exception requires a three-fourths majority.

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, Rev. Patterson has communicated her request in writing and met with representatives of the CTC, who have recommended granting the exception.

Olivia Patterson became the Associate Pastor (Stated Supply) for Youth and Young Adults at Westminster in the fall of 2021. Over the past three years, the congregation has come to value her gifts and her leadership. In April 2024, she contacted the CTC to request an exception so that she might become an installed associate pastor at the church. With the agreement of the CTC, the church adapted its staff review process, which includes feedback from the congregation, to meet the needs of the congregational discernment process outlined in the Policy on Changes in Pastoral Role. The co-chairs of CTC received confirmation that this process had been completed, and that the session, having consulted with the congregation, wished to proceed with requesting an exception under G-2.0504(c).

ACTION ITEM #2

Report of the Bills and Overtures Committee

MOTION that the Presbytery **SUSPEND** Standing Rule 3 (“A Special Rule of Order for the consideration of proposed amendments to the Book of Order”), by the required two-thirds majority, and answer the following items proposed by the 226th General Assembly with an **AFFIRMATIVE** vote:

- 24-B, 24-D, 24-E, 24-F, 24-G, 24-H, 24-J, 24-L, and Episcopal-Presbyterian Agreement on Local Sharing of Ministries

(Note that 24-G is mislabeled 22-G in the booklet of proposed amendments, while 22-G and several others are mislabeled 22- in the booklet’s table of contents)

This motion is being presented as a **CONSENT AGENDA**: at the request of any one voting member, the Bills and Overtures Committee will remove any of the above items for separate consideration in accordance with Standing Rule 3.

Rationale: The 226th General Assembly has proposed thirteen amendments to the *Book of Order*. NCP’s Standing Rule #3 requires a separate presentation, discussion, and vote for each proposed amendment. Following this process for such a large number of amendments would be time-consuming and impractical. Adopting this motion will allow the presbytery to make more efficient use of its time, with the flexibility to shape and extend the time as needed. This is similar to the Presbytery’s use of a consent agenda to more quickly decide on proposed actions that are expected to be non-controversial. Amendments 24-A and 24-C were already approved by the Presbytery at the January 23, 2025 meeting.

Recommendations

Bills and Overtures Committee – Recommendations on Proposed Amendments to the Book of Order

The Committee will present the following amendments for *individual consideration*, in addition to any others removed from the consent agenda:

- 24-I (no recommendation)
- 24-K (recommend approval)

Please note: A full description of each of these items is provided in a separate document, “Proposed Amendments to the Constitution And Episcopal-Presbyterian Agreement on Local Sharing of Ministries” from the Office of the General Assembly, which is included with the materials for this meeting on the presbytery web site.

* 24 – B: Amending G-1.0104

Description: On Amending the Book of Order to Include Other Forms of Corporate Witness (Small Worshipping Communities, etc.)

Recommendation: Approve

Rationale: This change provides flexibility in new worshipping communities

* 24-D: Amending G-2.0504b

Description: **Amends temporary pastoral relationship to be specified for up to thirty-six months in length.**

Recommendation: Approve

Rationale: This change provides more flexibility in temporary pastoral relationships.

*24-E: Amending G-2.0504b

Description: Disallows non-disclosure agreements at the end of temporary pastoral relationships

Recommendation: Approve

Rationale: Continues the move to eliminate the use of non-disclosure agreements

* 24-F: Amending G-2.0610

Description: Modifies Documentation reported for Alternative Exams

Recommendation: Approve

Rationale: The overture seeks to allow “for greater pastoral sensitivity” when candidates for ministry require waivers from ordination requirements or an alternate means to assess readiness

* 24-G: Amending G-2.0901

Description: Disallows non-disclosure agreements at the dissolution of pastoral relationships

Recommendation: Approve

Rationale: Continues the move to eliminate the use of non-disclosure agreements.

* 24-H: Amending G-3.0106

Description: Adds adults with vulnerabilities protection to mandatory training.

Recommendation: Approve

Rationale: Adults with vulnerabilities require the same protection as other vulnerable populations.

24-I: Amending G-3.0302

Description: Eliminates the requirement for every overture to General Assembly to have at least one concurrence

Recommendation: NO RECOMMENDATION

Rationale: Bills and Overtures was split on this amendment. It seems eliminating the requirement of at least one concurrence should reduce the burden on originating bodies. However, removing the requirement of a concurrence it may result in more work for General Assembly and an increase in the number of overtures that GA will have to address.

* 24-J: Amending G-3.0501

Description: Modifies the composition and responsibility of commissioners to General Assembly

Recommendation: Approve

Rationale: This modifies the number of commissioners sent by each presbytery to better match our current membership numbers.

24-K: Amending D-7.0501

Description: Requires the clerk to report to civil legal authorities any knowledge of harm, or risk of harm, related to the physical abuse, neglect, and/or sexual molestation or abuse of a minor or adult lacking mental capacity

Recommendation: Approve

Rationale: We are responsible for recognizing a risk and that once we know, we are obligated to act to reduce the possibility of harm.

* 24-L: Amending D-7.0902b

Description:

The cost of paid administrative leave shall be borne by the employing entity whenever possible or be shared by the presbytery as necessary. Recommendation: Approve

Rationale: This is a clarification of the source of funding for pastors during paid administrative leave.

* 24-M Episcopal-Presbyterian Agreement on Local Sharing of Ministries

Send to presbyteries for their affirmative or negative vote pursuant to G-5.0203 (ECU-05)

Recommendation: Approve

Rationale: This enhances ways in which The Episcopal Church and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) can participate in the Churches Uniting in Christ recognition of ordered ministry.