



Summary of the 321st Stated Meeting of National Capital Presbytery

National Capital Presbytery held a stated meeting via Zoom teleconference on March 25. The Moderator, **Elder Lou Durden**, convened the meeting with prayer.

During the meeting the presbytery:

- Granted an **exception** allowing the Rev. Olivia Patterson to become an installed Associate Pastor at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Alexandria.
- Acted on ten **amendments to the *Book of Order***, and one **ecumenical agreement** proposed by the General Assembly:
 - Approved:
 - 24-B, G-1.0104, “Other Forms of Corporate Witness (Worshiping Communities, etc.)” – allowing presbyteries to provide for participation and representation of worshiping communities other than chartered congregations through ruling elder commissioners
 - 24-D, G-2.0405b, “Temporary Pastoral Relationships” – allowing a maximum term of 36 months for temporary pastoral relationships, before renewal
 - 24-E, G-2.0405b, “Temporary Pastoral Relationships” – forbidding the use of non-disclosure agreements when a relationship ends
 - 24-F, G-2.0610, “Accommodations to Particular Circumstances” – allowing a presbytery to omit sensitive or personal information from its minutes regarding the need for alternate means ordination examinations for particular candidates
 - 24-G, G-2.0901, “Dissolution of Pastoral Relationships” – forbidding the use of non-disclosure agreements when a pastoral relationship is dissolved
 - 24-H, G-3.0106, “General Principles of Councils” – requiring councils to adopt and implement an “adults with vulnerabilities” policy
 - 24-J, G-3.0501, “The General Assembly: Composition and Responsibility” – adjusting the formula for assigning commissioners to presbyteries (NCP will now be afforded 4 ruling elder commissioners and 4 teaching elder commissioners, instead of 3 each)
 - 24-K, D-7.0501, “Investigation: Referral to Investigating Committee” – reminding the clerk of duty under G-4.0302 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.”
 - 24-L, D-7.0902b, “Allegations of Sexual Abuse” – restore language omitted in rewritten Church Discipline section clarifying that administrative leave is paid, with the cost borne by the employing entity whenever possible
 - 24-M, “Episcopalian-Presbyterian Agreement on Local Sharing of Ministries” – allows for the limited exchange of ministers between the PCUSA and the Episcopal Church
 - Disapproved:
 - 24-I, G-3.0302d, “Relationships with Synod and General Assembly” – removes the requirement that overtures to the General Assembly originating in presbyteries receive one or more concurrences from other presbyteries in order

to be considered

- Recognized transitions in our community:
 - The **Rev. Dr. Chris Deacon** has become the new installed Pastor at Laurel Presbyterian Church.
 - The **Rev. Sung Lee** has been serving as Stated Supply Pastor at Christ Presbyterian Church, Fairfax.

The next stated meeting will be held at National Presbyterian Church on Tuesday, May 20.

Grace and Peace,

Rev. David A. Baer, Stated Clerk