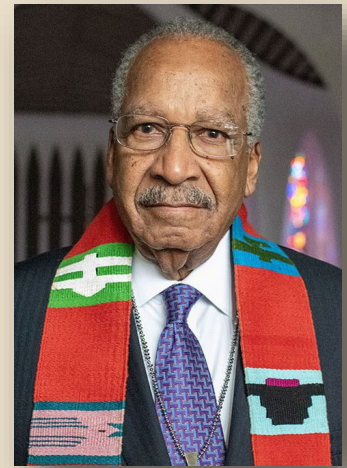


Siblings in Christ,

Greetings!

It is hard to believe that this upcoming Stated Meeting will be the last one I will moderate in its entirety. Serving as your moderator over the past year has been both an honor and a privilege. Throughout this time, I've had the joy of visiting various churches and learned a great deal about our presbytery. I sincerely thank you for the opportunity to serve our community in this role.



One of our PCUSA confessions, the Belhar Confession, reminds us that unity is “both a gift and an obligation for the church of Jesus Christ; that through the working of God’s Spirit it is a binding force, yet simultaneously a reality which must be earnestly pursued and sought: one which the people of God must be continually built up to attain (Eph. 4:1-16).”

As we have done and will continue to do, let us commit to both celebrating and pursuing the unity in Christ which is God’s gift.

I look forward to gathering with you at the upcoming Stated Meeting of the National Capital Presbytery on Tuesday, May 20, 2025.

May God’s peace and joy be with you throughout this year.

Faithfully,

Lou Durden

Moderator, National Capital Presbytery

**Stated Meeting
National Capital Presbytery
May 20, 2025
5:00PM at National Presbyterian Church
We Gather in Community**

5:00 PM CALL TO ORDER AND PRAYER	Elder Lou Durden, Moderator
5:05 PM APPROVAL OF DOCKET, OMNIBUS MOTION (p. 3).	Rev. David Baer, Stated Clerk
5:10 PM SERVICE OF WORSHIP	
• Rev. John Molina-Moore, Preaching; Rev. Billy Kluttz, Music	
• Sacrament of the Lord's Supper	
5:45 PM TRANSITIONS / PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION	Rev. John Molina-Moore, General Presbyter
5:55 PM NOMINATING COMMITTEE (p. 5)	Rev. Patrick Hunnicutt, Chair
• Election of Moderator and Vice Moderator	
6:15 PM COMMISSION ON MINISTRY (p. 6)	Rev. Juli Wilson-Black & Rev. Carla Gorrell
• Exception for Rev. Lisa Larsen to become an installed Associate Pastor at NPC	
• A word on when to call COM	
6:30 PM LEADERSHIP COUNCIL (p. 7)	Rev. Jeri Fields, Chair
• First reading of proposed amendment to Standing Rule #3	
6:40 PM NEW BUSINESS	Elder Lou Durden, Moderator
CHARGE AND BLESSING	Elder Lou Durden, Moderator

Meeting Leaders

Rev. David A. Baer, Stated Clerk
Elder Lou Durden, Moderator
Rev. Jeri Fields, Chair, NCP Leadership Council
Rev. Carla Gorrell, Co-Chair, Commission on Ministry
Rev. Patrick Hunnicutt, Chair, Nominating Committee
Rev. Billy Kluttz, Pastor, First Presbyterian Church of Arlington
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 MAY 20, 2025, PRESBYTERY MEETING

From the Stated Clerk

- The Stated Clerk recommends the **APPROVAL** of the minutes of the NCP Stated Meetings held on January 23, 2025, and March 25, 2025. [NB: Due to an oversight, the January minutes were not posted in advance of the March meeting and therefore still need to be approved.]
- The Stated Clerk recommends the **DISMISSAL** with thanks of the Commission to install the Rev. Adrian Rodriguez as Associate Pastor at Vienna Presbyterian Church on March 30.
- The Stated Clerk recommends the **DISMISSAL** with thanks of the Commission to install the Rev. Dr. Chris Deacon as Pastor at Laurel Presbyterian Church on May 4.
- The Stated Clerk recommends the **DISMISSAL** with thanks of the Commission to install the Rev. Olivia Patterson as Associate Pastor at Westminster Presbyterian Church (Alexandria) on May 11. (This Commission was formed in accordance with the Presbytery's PNC/Session Handbook, as reported in the Stated Clerk's Report of the Reports document for this meeting.)

From the Nominating Committee

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

Chairs for 2025-26 committees (with the concurrence of the Leadership Council)

- Mike McAdoo Chair, ACCP
- Mark Stunder (RE, Boyds) for Chair of Budget and Finance
- Mark Gaskill (TE, Good Shepherd) for Chair of CDC
- Blair Moorhead (TE, Immanuel) for Chair of CPM

ACCP

- Madison Kloster (RE, Lewinsville), ACCP c/o 2028

Budget and Finance Committee

- Matt Baker, TE Providence, for Budget & Finance c/o 2028

Congregational Development Commission

- Casey Wait, TE John Calvin, for CDC c/o 2028
- Dorothe Ngo Ikoula (RE Silver Spring), CDC c/o 2028

Committee on Preparation for Ministry

- Molly Douthett (TE, Furnace Mountain), c/o 2028
- Matt Pooley (TE, Patuxent), c/o 2028

- Denise Diaab (TE, Bradley Hills), c/o 2028
- Eve Jelstrom (RE, Lewinsville), c/o 2028
- Amanda Kemery (TE, St. Andrew), c/o 2028
- Mary Casper (RE, St. Mark), c/o 2028

Mission Coordinating Committee

- Marco Grimaldo (RE, NYAPC), c/o 2028

From the Leadership Council

The Leadership Council places the following names in nomination for election:

Nominating Committee c/o 2028

- Katie Murchison Ross (TE Grace Springfield)
- Jen Dunfee (TE Lewinsville)
- Mike Volpe (RE Falls Church)
- Denise Anderson (TE specialized ministry)

Nominating Chair for 25-26

- Katie Murchison Ross (TE Grace Springfield)

ACTION ITEMS FOR MAY 20, 2025 NCP MEETING

ACTION ITEM #1

Nominating Committee – Election of the Moderator and Vice Moderator

The committee nominates **Elder Jesy Littlejohn** (Oaklands) to be Moderator of the National Capital Presbytery for 2025-2026.

The committee nominates **Rev. Rachel Vaagenes** to be Vice Moderator of the National Capital Presbytery for 2025-2026.

Biographies of Nominees



2025-2026 Moderator – Elder Jesy Littlejohn (Oaklands) (they/them) is the Director of Operations at More Light Presbyterians, the Social Media Producer for *Presbyterian Outlook*, a coach with NEXTChurch, and they do administrative and communications work for three churches in National Capital Presbytery. Jesy serves on multiple teams and committees in the presbytery and the denomination. They also cohost the Embracing Race Podcast: Conversations with Truth and Intention. Jesy is married to their favorite person, Sara, and they have two awesome kids, Toby and Charlie. They live in a state of perpetual hope and disappointment as an avid Pittsburgh Pirates fan. They love jolly ranchers and vehemently dislikes peas and ham!



2025-2026 Vice-Moderator – Rev. Rachel Vaagenes (she/her) has been active in NCP for nearly 15 years, serving at Georgetown Presbyterian for ten, and currently at the Capitol Hill Presbyterian Church. She served on the Nominating Committee for as long as Jacob labored in Laban's fields, and has also served on MCC, along with contributing to the refugee network, dismantling racism efforts, and NCP Pride events. Having heard the call to ministry, Rachel left Los Angeles and her dream of being an extra in Hallmark movies and headed to seminary in New Jersey. She ended up in DC and has loved it ever since. She is bisexual, and cares deeply about making sure everyone feels welcome and knows that they are loved by God! Rachel lives in Glover Park with her librarian husband Adrian; their two teen daughters Maewynn and Evangeline; dogs

Ladybird and Lucy; and 100 rescued houseplants.

ACTION ITEM #2

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. Lisa Larsen, who is currently serving as an Associate Pastor (Stated Supply) at National Presbyterian Church, 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.

The Rev. Lisa Larsen began serving as Associate Pastor (Stated Supply) for Care in February 2022. In accordance with this policy, Rev. Larsen communicated her request in writing and consulted with representatives of the CTC, which then approved the request to explore this change in pastoral role and advised the session on conducting a discernment process with the congregation of National Presbyterian Church. This discernment process was completed in March, and the session reported the results in a letter to the CTC.

The session reports that in her more than three years of service at the church, Rev. Lisa Larsen "has cultivated strong relationships with members of NPC. Many members express gratitude for her guidance, support, and compassionate care. During her tenure she has revitalized our Deacon ministry, established a vital Prayer Team, and restarted the impactful Grief Support program for those experiencing profound loss. ... Comments received from congregants and staff ... confirm that members of the NPC community do not view Lisa as a temporary pastor. Indeed, numerous participants in the discernment process have expressed surprise that she is not already an installed pastor. Accordingly, we believe that members and staff alike would enthusiastically welcome her becoming a called-and-installed pastor at NPC and would have no difficulty adjusting to her transition from a temporary pastoral role to an installed position." The session also noted its desire to support and continue the initiatives Lisa has undertaken, and weighed her strong performance in her role against the uncertain possibility of finding an equally satisfactory candidate in an open search.

For these reasons, the COM recommends that the Presbytery grant the requested exception.

ACTION ITEM #3

Recommendation from the Leadership Council

The Leadership Council PRESENTS FOR A FIRST READING the following amendment to NCP Standing Rule #3. (Text to be inserted is shown in underlined italics. Text to be removed is ~~struck through~~.)

Standing Rule # 3 (SR-3)

A Special Rule of Order for the consideration of proposed amendments to the Book of Order

When proposed amendments to the Book of Order are before the presbytery for debate and vote, the Chairperson of Bills and Overtures Committee shall present the committee's judgment and recommendation in the form of a report, not a motion.

The committee's report may designate one or more amendments to be included in a consent agenda. Following the presentation of the committee's report, an opportunity shall be given to any voting member of the assembly to remove items from the consent agenda for regular consideration. Once all such removals have been made, the Moderator shall declare that the items not removed have been answered in accordance with the committee's recommendations.

Immediately thereafter, the Moderator of the meeting shall *proceed with each of the items in the committee's report that the presbytery has not yet acted upon, saying:*

"Amendment ____ is now before the presbytery. (And, following discussion and debate, the Moderator shall continue) All in favor of Amendment ____ say "aye"; all opposed say "no". Amendment ____ is approved/is not approved."

The third option which is available, "take no action" would require a motion to the effect "I move that the presbytery take no action on Amendment ____" which would be made before the Moderator has called for the vote on the Amendment. It would be handled in the same manner as any main motion.

Rationale: The last two General Assemblies sent many proposed amendments to the presbyteries for consideration. As NCP engaged in discernment with respect to these proposed amendments, it emerged that only a small number required the careful review and debate of the whole body of the presbytery. To expedite voting on the amendments, the Bills and Overtures Committee each time recommended that the Standing Rules be suspended so that most items could be approved by means of a consent agenda. Suspension of the standing rules requires a two-thirds majority and is rightly perceived as a course deviating from the standard practice. The proposed amendment regularizes this process without abridging the right of any voting member of the assembly to require individual consideration, including a period of discussion, for any item presented by the Bills and Overtures Committee.

In accordance with Standing Rule #1, any amendments to the proposal offered at this meeting—along with less formal feedback—will be referred to Leadership Council for consideration. The proposed amendment will be presented for final approval at the September Stated Meeting.