

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

DRAFT Minutes

The 322nd Stated Meeting of National Capital Presbytery was called to order with prayer at 5:01 PM by the moderator, Elder Lou Durden, in Stone Hall at National Presbyterian Church. There were 177 participants registered and present.

The Moderator recognized the Stated Clerk, the Rev. David 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 (85):

Allman, Rob	Hackett, J. Campbell	Moorhead, Blair
Anderson, T. Denise	Harper, Mark	Nabinger, Matt
Austell, Robert	Hendricks, Diane	Neal, Nancy
Baer, David	Hodges, LeAnn	Olson, Dana
Batten-Carbaugh, Laura	Horn, Emma	Park, Ill Jong
Bolton, Jacob	Hunnicutt, Patrick	Patterson, Olivia
Braunstein, Leslieanne	Hylton, Raymond	Peace, Dwight
Braxton, Beth	Ivory, Elenora Giddings	Rodawla, Jacob
Brown, Meghan	Jervis, Madeline	Rodgers, Mary
Brown, Jean	Kapp, Deborah	Rodriguez, Adrian
Clark, Brian	Kathleen, Mulvihill	Smoot, Jonathan
Crawford, Adele	Kemery, Amanda	Spuhler McCabe, Tara
Deacon, Chris	Kenkeremath, Lisa	Stanford, Katherine
Diaab, Denise	Klose, Megan	Teichert, Molly
Douthett, David	Kluttz, Billy	Tewell, Alice
Ensign, David	Larsen, Lisa	Thompson, Lewis
Etheridge Harasty, Shelby	Lee, Jong	Thompson, Keith
Evans, Abigail	Longbrake, Derek	Tilley, Carolyn
Fields, Jeri	MacKenzie, Jeanne	Trawick, Ben
Fitzgibbon, Laura	Manning, Peter	Tyler-Williams, Angela
Fox, Quinn	McAuliffe, Christopher	Ulmer, Holly
Fulp-Eicksteadt, Aaron	McCollum, Brian	Vaagenes, Rachel
Fulp-Eicksteadt, Judith	McDonald, Jim	Van Gorder, Charles
Gaskill, Mark	McDonald, Dean	Walker, Elizabeth
Gorrell, Carla	McMurtry, Kori	Wilder, Susan
Graceson, Susan	Meek, Craig	Williams, David
Gray, David	Melone, Bob	Wilson-Black, Juli
Guthrie, Juan	Molina-Moore, John	Yoon, Taekhan

MINISTERS EXCUSED (33):

Brinton, Henry	Byrd, Cameron	Cargal Timothy
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Cunningham, Laura
Douthett, Molly
Futato, Pat
Gordon, Norm
Goss, Beth
Heck, Barbara
Herlin, Ann
Jokela, William
Jordan-Haas, Connie
Lawrence, Mary Beth

Lee, Sung
Lee, Hope
Looker, Chris
Lundeen, Allison
MacDonald, Shawn
Meeks, Don
Park, Yeonik
Phillips, Paul
Pooley, Matt
Reimers, Christine

Smith-Cobbs, Stephen
Stanton-Hoyle, Lynn
Strednak Singer, Katie
Sutton, Todd
Swayze, Bev
Swayze, Jr., Richard
Wayland, Rose
Wellington, Robbie
Yearick, Carrie

COMMISSIONED RULING ELDERS PRESENT (2):

Maldarelli, Kris
VLC, Vanlalhriatrenga

FELLOWSHIPS and NEW WORSHIPING COMMUNITIES PRESENT: Creekside

ELDER COMMISSIONERS PRESENT (82):

Russell	Norma	Boys	Melberg	Evi	Gaithersburg
Gaffney	John	Bradley Hills	Tracy	Mindy	Good Samaritan
Holcomb	Bonnie	Bradley Hills	Amatuzzi	Nicholas	Grace Springfield
Postlewaite	R. Craig	Burke	Hayes	Edward	Heritage
McAvoy	Susan	Capitol Hill	Pote	Frank	Heritage
Nadig	Claudia	Capitol Hill	Johannsen	Rick	Immanuel
Blackshaw	Hille	Church of the Covenant	Eplee	Gene	Laurel
Tarr	Susan	Church of the Covenant	Renner	Heidi	Leesburg
Basham	Jennifer	Clifton	Gale	Janet	Lewinsville
Bybee	Ashley	Clifton	Johnson	Beverly	Lewinsville
Herman	Lynne	Colesville	Kohler	Alan	Lewinsville
Patrick	Susan	Colesville	Hodgdon	Patricia	Manassas
Rogers	Diane	Colesville	Massie	Kathleen	Manassas
Stunder	Mark	Creekside	Shriver	Jeff	Manassas
Frenck	Roland	Darnestown	Lewis	Peggy	National
Summers	Janis	Darnestown	Mack	David	National
Ellis	Anita	Emmanuel Indonesian	Roe	Price	National
Hutabarat	Meirina	Emmanuel Indonesian	Schottke	David	National
RoeGiantho	Hareanoiann	Emmanuel Indonesian	Smiley	Lucille	National
Suryanto	Ari	Emmanuel Indonesian	Yamate	May	National
Mcllwain	Shani	Faith	Yanisko	George	New Hope
Sarver	Marnie	Falls Church	Dewhurst	Miriam	New York Avenue
Volpe	Michael	Falls Church	Ford	Kristin	New York Avenue
Ellis Jones	Sharon	Fifteenth Street Church	Hoff	David	New York Avenue
Washnitzer	Margaret	Fifteenth Street Church	Durden	Lou	Northeastern
LaGanga	Scott	First Arlington	McCray	Valerie	Northeastern
Mitchell	Rick	First United Dale City	Davis	Lorethea	Northminster
Porter	Robert	First United Dale City	Littlejohn	Jesy	Oaklands
Porter	Sara	First United Dale City	Olson	William	Old Presbyterian Meet-

Parker	Jenny	ing House	Bennett	Nancy	Trinity, Arlington
Winslow	William	Old Presbyterian Meet-	Rosenberger	Clare	Trinity, Arlington
Daugherty	Nancy	ing House	Miller	Priscilla	Trinity, Herndon
		Pilgrims	Allen	Charles	Vienna
Kopp	Leta	Rockville United	Eakin	Mark	Warner Memorial
Sims	Michele	Church	Recchia	Nancy	Warner Memorial
Walker	Johnny	Sargent Memorial	Farr	Susie	Western
McGeehan	Janis	Sargent Memorial	DeWitt	Martha Bess	Westminster, Alexandria
White	Don	Southminster	Griffin	Adrienne	Westminster, Alexandria
Mcbee	Julia	St. Matthew	Helm	Susie	Westminster, Alexandria
Hoefner	Ferd	Takoma Park	Hamer	John	Westminster, DC
Martin	George	Takoma Park	Kerr III	George	Westminster, DC
			Swan	Barbara	Westminster, DC

CHURCHES NOT REPRESENTED BY ELDER COMMISSIONERS:

Adelphi, Aldie, Arlington, Ashburn, Bealeton, Berwyn, Bethesda, Burke, Bush Hill, Calvary, Catoctin, Chesterbrook Taiwanese, Chevy Chase, Christ Presbyterian, Christ the King, Christian Community, Clarendon, Covenant, Eastminster, Ebenezer, Fairfax, Fairlington, First Annandale, Furnace Mountain, Geneva, Georgetown, Grace Lanham, Greenwich, Hermon, Hope, Idlywood, John Calvin, Kirkwood, Knox, Korean Presbyterian Church of Rockville, Litchfield, Little Falls, Mizo, Mount Vernon, Northern Virginia Korean, Northminster, Patuxent, Poolesville, Potomac, Prince George's Community, Providence, Redeemer, Riverside, Rock, Rockville, , Saint Mark, Silver Spring, Sixth, St. Andrew, Taiwanese Presbyterian, , United Korean, United Christian Parish of Reston, United Parish of Bowie, Wheaton

The Stated Clerk, the Rev. David Baer, presented the proposed docket, which was distributed with the meeting materials. The Presbytery APPROVED the docket by consent.

Rev. Baer presented the omnibus motion. The omnibus motion was APPROVED by the presbytery.

OMNIBUS MOTION

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)
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WORSHIP

The Presbytery proceeded to worship God, led by the General Presbyter, the Rev. John Molina-Moore, preaching, and the Rev. Billy Kluttz, Pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Arlington, providing musical accompaniment. The Presbytery celebrated the Lord's Supper, with Rev. Molina-Moore presiding.

TRANSITIONS / PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Following worship, the Moderator, Elder Durden, assumed the chair again and recognized the Rev. John Molina-Moore, General Presbyter. Rev. Molina-Moore called attention to coming events and recent transitions in the life of the Presbytery, inviting the Rev. Brian McCollum, Stated Supply Pastor at Sargent Memorial Presbyterian Church, to address the assembly, and noting the retirement of the Rev. Susan Wilder (specialized ministry). Rev. Molina-Moore led the assembly in prayer.

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The report of the Nominating Committee was presented by the chair, the Rev. Patrick Hunnicutt. On behalf of the committee, Rev. Hunnicutt placed in nomination:

- Elder Jesy Littlejohn (Oaklands), for the office of Moderator (Sept. 2025-Sept. 2026)

- The Rev. Rachel Vaagenes, for the office of Vice Moderator (Sept. 2025-Sept. 2026)

There were no nominations from the floor. Upon a motion properly made and seconded, the Presbytery voted that the nominations be CLOSED, and those nominated by the committee were thereby ELECTED. The Moderator and Vice Moderator will be installed at the September Stated Meeting.

Rev. Hunnicutt informed the Presbytery that the Nominating Committee was seeking ruling elders and teaching elders to serve as commissioners to the 227th General Assembly in 2026. He invited those who might be interested in serving in this role to get in touch with the Nominating Committee.

The Moderator offered a prayer of thanksgiving for the work of the Nominating Committee.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

The Rev. Juli Wilson-Black presented the commission's report. On behalf of the commission, she moved the following:

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.

Following a period of discussion, the Presbytery **VOTED** to **GRANT** the exception, by the required three-fourths majority.

The Moderator recognized the Rev. Carla Gorrell, co-chair of the Commission on Ministry, who spoke briefly about the work of the COM. She highlighted opportunities for “wellness visits,” which allow sessions to share their successes and challenges with the presbytery outside of the context of a pressing problem. She spoke of the work of the COM in guiding churches through transitions in pastoral leadership, and of the various working teams responsible to the COM. She asked that in the event of conflict, churches contact the presbytery early for support. She reminded pastors to seek the approval of COM before sabbaticals and for changes in pastoral role. Pastors who are retiring or otherwise departing should consult with the General Presbyter, who will work with the COM.

REPORT OF THE LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

The Moderator recognized the Rev. Jeri Fields, the chair of the Leadership Council. Rev. Fields presented a proposed amendment to the Presbytery’s Standing Rules for a first reading:

(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.

A period for questions and feedback was offered. In accordance with Standing Rule #1, no action was taken at this meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was offered.

CHARGE AND BLESSING

The Vice Moderator, Elder Jesy Littlejohn, adjourned the meeting with a closing prayer at 6:25 PM.

Faithfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David A. Baer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rev. David A. Baer, Stated Clerk