

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

National Capital Presbytery

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**NATIONAL CAPITAL
PRESBYTERY**

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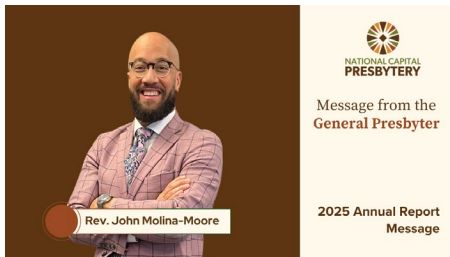
2025 ANNUAL REPORT



As we close another year of faithful ministry together as National Capital Presbytery, we are grateful for our congregations, pastors, leaders, and friends for their partnerships across Washington D.C., Maryland, and Virginia.

Your giving to per capita and unified mission giving has made this year's work possible as we live out our missional, pastoral, and prophetic calling. Because of your commitment, the presbytery has adapted to the landscape and remains a connectional community of disciples.

Together in 2025, **we equipped, we grew, we moved, and we connected.**



VIDEO: Message from Rev. John Molina-Moore
General Presbyter and Co-Acting Stated Clerk
["Showcasing Our Faithfulness"](#)

National Capital Presbytery Staff

Rev. John Molina-Moore, General Presbyter & Co-Acting Stated Clerk
Heather Deacon, Senior Director of Finance & Operations and Treasurer
Rev. Tara Spuhler McCabe, Director of Congregational Development & Mission
Dina Bickel, Communications Coordinator
Rev. Brian Clark, Director of Missional Incubator
Gabrielle Dowery, Finance & Office Administrative Assistant
Tempest Davis, Administrative Assistant for Committee Support
Shani McIlwain, Social Media Coordinator
Rev. Keith Thompson, Campus Minister at UKirk Maryland

Leadership Council

Elder Lou Durden (Northminster), Moderator 2024-25

Elder Jesy Littlejohn (Oaklands), Vice Moderator 2024-25, Moderator 2025-26

Rev. Rachel Vaagenes (Capitol Hill), Vice Moderator 2025-26

Rev. Jeri Fields (First Presbyterian, Annandale), Chair, Leadership Council

Rev. Dr. Chris Deacon (Laurel) *completed term in 2025*

Rev. David Douthett (Catocin)

Rev. Shelby Etheridge Harasty (Darnestown)

Rev. Dr. Diane Hendricks (Clifton)

Rev. Leslie Klingensmith (St. Matthew)

Elder Shani McIlwain (Faith)

Rev. Dr. Sterling Morse (Church of the Redeemer & Northminster) *completed term in 2025*

Elder Michael Rankin (Church of the Redeemer) *completed term in 2025*

Rev. Mary Rodgers (Providence)

2025 Budget

We have two budgets at NCP, the Operating Budget and the Unified Mission Budget. Both serve the same purpose: to fulfill NCP's ministry goals of being Missional, Pastoral, and Prophetic. Below is a helpful visual that shows how our resources are used to live into our shared identity. Your per capita giving and your unified mission gift help complete the picture of the work we can do together as a presbytery.



Missional – 32% | \$773,290 | *Missional* is based on the Latin “missio,” meaning “sending.” A missional church is outwardly focused. A Missional church understands that its ministry is not to bring people into a church building, but rather to “Go ye therefore into the world” and meet people where they are. But that explains how churches are Missional. How can a Presbytery be Missional?

The Presbytery isn’t Missional...however, it does empower its congregations to become more outward-focused. It does so by being a catalyst and providing tools and training. The Presbytery is also Missional when it enables the formation of new worshipping communities.

Pastoral – 35% | \$845,786 | *Pastoral* is the way in which we care for our clergy, educators, congregations, and assist in crises.

Prophetic – 33% | \$797,455 | *Prophetic* refers to the calling and cry of the prophets ringing out God’s love, justice, and mercy. In response to this focus, we continue our work through the Dismantling Racism Team, Earth Care practices, Global Mission partnerships, and Congregational community partnerships.

Office Move



In 2025, the office of National Capital Presbytery relocated from its location on Rockville Pike to an office park in Bethesda. This move allowed us to maintain a central location within our geographic bounds while reducing our annual operating budget by \$60,000. Our new offices include access to meeting rooms and limited free parking. With the logistics of the move behind us, staff have enjoyed settling into the new space and look forward to welcoming you in the coming year. If you have not updated your records, please note our “new” address:

National Capital Presbytery
6700-A Rockledge Drive, Suite 250
Bethesda, MD 20817

HOW WE EQUIPPED

In 2025, National Capital Presbytery invested deeply in strengthening the people who carry out God's work.

- **Equipped pastors and CREs** through renewed cohort learning, workshops, and leadership training designed to support our many ministries.
- **Equipped congregations** with consulting support, mission grants, vitality resources, and digital tools to help churches grow in changing times.
- **Equipped new worshipping communities** by coaching, providing seed funding, and nurturing leaders discerning innovative ministry paths.
- **Equipped ruling elders and deacons** through presbytery-wide formation trainings that emphasize spiritual leadership, Session responsibilities, managing change, and hospitality.



Congregation Led Worship Seminar

The **Congregation-Led Worship Seminar** equipped congregations with strategies to deepen participation, creativity, and shared leadership in worship. Through practical tools and collaborative learning, participants explored ways to honor diverse voices and gifts while shaping worship that is faithful and engaging.

- Funded through Per Capita & Unified Mission Giving

Healthy Boundaries Training



Clergy from the presbytery and neighboring presbyteries participated in the **Healthy Boundaries** mandatory training, which equipped them with essential tools to cultivate safe, ethical, and trustworthy ministries. Through guidance and practical scenarios, the training strengthened accountability, promoted healthy relationships, and supported the well-being of congregations and leaders. Special thanks to the Committee on Ministry's Minister Relations Team (MRT) for taking the lead on the training.

- Funded through Per Capita

Allyship Training



National Capital Presbytery's Antiracism Team, offered in partnership with *Service Never Sleeps*, provided participants with opportunities to engage in honest learning, reflection, and action during the **Allyship Training**. The training equipped leaders and congregations with practical tools to challenge systemic racism, practice faithful allyship, and live more fully into God's call for justice and reconciliation.

– *Funded through Unified Mission Giving*

Leadership Training



Leadership Training equipped clergy and lay leaders with skills for faithful, adaptive, and collaborative ministry in a changing church and world. Through learning, reflection, and shared practice, participants are strengthened to lead with vision, integrity, and resilience in their congregations and communities.

– *Funded through Per Capita & Unified Mission Giving*

Missional Incubator



Through the **Missional Incubator** program, leaders from across National Capital Presbytery gathered to dream, strategize, and imagine what a faithful community looks like in this moment; not the church of yesterday, but the church that is emerging. Marked by energy,

curiosity, and imagination, the Missional Incubator gatherings invited bold questions and fresh thinking about serving our neighbors with courage and purpose. Together, we are cultivating hope, possibility, and a shared vision for the future of mission, and we remain committed to building, dreaming, and moving forward together. The three Missional Incubator Cohorts included:

Cohort 1: Amanda Vela (Faith Chapel), Rev. Campbell Hackett (Kirkwood), Rev. Casey Wait (John Calvin), Rev. Gloria Yi (Hope), Rev. Matt Nabinger (Oaklands)

Cohort 2: Rev. Alice Tewell (Clarendon), Rev. Bob Melone (Mount Vernon), Rev. Casey Thompson (Idylwood & Knox), Rev. Dr. Diane Hendricks (Clifton), Rev. Dr. Sarah Johnson (New York Avenue)

Cohort 3: Rev. Mary Rodgers (Providence), Rev. Erin Counihan (Church of the Pilgrims & Western), Rev. Mark Greiner (Northeastern), Rev. JC Cadwallader (Warner Memorial)

- Funded through the New Growth Fund

Church Communications & Marketing



Late summer, pastors, elders, lay leaders, and church staff from 26 NCP congregations gathered for learning and fellowship at a presbytery-wide **Church Communications and Marketing** event. John Falke of *Johnny Flash Productions* shared insights on effective church communication, marketing, and trends shaping the church. Stay tuned for another communications-focused event in 2026!

– Funded through Per Capita

Youth Ministry Leaders Training



Youth Ministry leaders from Chevy Chase, Christ the King, Coleville, Leesburg, and Silver Spring gathered for a **Youth Ministry Leaders Training**. We discussed key updates to child protection policies, confirmation class, played games, and learned a lot from each other. Leaders spent time connecting and sharing resources while having fun!

– *Funded through Unified Mission Giving*

HOW WE GREW

2025 was a year of steady, Spirit-led growth across our presbytery.

- We welcomed **new minister members** and expanded cross-cultural ministry collaborations.
- **Youth and young-adult** participation grew through presbytery-supported retreats and leadership opportunities.
- We welcomed **new members** in churches around the presbytery.
- We thank those congregations who have given and have increased giving towards mission.

Because of your giving, the seeds planted across National Capital Presbytery continued to grow.

New Minister Members and CREs

In 2025, we welcomed:

- Rev. Sharon Core, Interim Pastor, Lutheran Church of the Redeemer
- Rev. Caitin Culp, Stated Supply Pastor, Church of the Covenant
- Rev. Samantha Gonzalez-Block. Specialized, Interfaith Families Project
- Rev. Rebekah Greniven, Associate Stated Supply, Manassas Presbyterian Church
- Rev. Dr. Troy Hong, at large
- Rev. Lisa Martin, Pastor, Heritage Presbyterian Church
- Rev. Joshua Narisse, Pastor, Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church
- Rev. Mark Piedmonte-Silvoy, Pastor, Brambleton Presbyterian Church
- Dr. Shawn Richmond, Commissioned Ruling Elder, Prince George's Community Church

Those minister members who retired from active congregational ministry included:

- Rev. Elizabeth Brookens-Sturman, Brambleton Presbyterian Church
- Rev. Rev. Dr. Quinn Fox, National Presbyterian Church
- Rev. Dr. Chris Looker, First Presbyterian Church, Annandale

-The work of the Committee on Ministry (COM) is funded through Per Capita.

Keep Awake 2025



Eighty participants from 11 National Capital Presbytery churches represented NCP at the **Keep Awake Gathering** at Massanetta Springs Camp and Conference Center. Marking our fourth year of youth and leadership participation, NCP's presence at this gathering reflects the commitment to faith formation with connection across the presbytery. Participating churches included Burke, Chevy Chase, Faith, Hope, Immanuel, New York Avenue, Oaklands, Prince George's Community, Providence, Silver Spring, and St. Andrew.

– Funded through Unified Mission Giving

Presbytery-Wide Confirmation Class



This year, six NCP churches participated in the Presbytery-wide **Confirmation Class**. Congregations included Adelphi, Hope, Kirkwood, Oaklands, Silver Spring, and Southminster.

Leaders who lead the classes are the pastors, CREs, and members of each church, along with Rev. Keith Thompson, Rev. Tara Spuhler McCabe, and guest speaker Zyana Bryant.

– Funded through Unified Mission Giving

Campus Ministries

NCP continues to support and affirm **Young Adult Ministry** through the fellowship with our partners in College and Campus Ministry. **ARISE at George Mason University and UKirk Maryland at the University of Maryland.** Over the past year, the chaplain ministries have continued to meet students' spiritual needs in various ways. In 2025, a new fellowship was introduced: an Easter brunch and a Friendsgiving meal held together at both locations.



Arise's revamped Take What You Need Tent feeds students every other week and has been an effective way for us to reach new students and share the love of God with students at Mason. If you are interested in having your church join us in sponsoring a meal or volunteering at our Take What You Need Tent, please reach out to us at admin@arisegmu.org

UKirk Maryland launched a pilot program for a young adult vocational discernment cohort. In this first iteration, we have a local college and graduate student joining Rev. Keith Thompson, UKirk Maryland's Campus Minister, each month to engage in practices of reflection and discernment. Through our connections with the Young Adult Transformation Collective (YATC), we have resources on creative practices developed by Dream and Scheme to guide our gatherings.

Churches that grew in membership (from 2023 to 2024).

Adelphi
Berwyn

Arlington
Burke

Calvary
 Fairfax
 Fairlington
 Good Samaritan
 Greenwich
 Laurel
 Mizo
 National
 New York Avenue
 Rockville
 Silver Spring
 Takoma Park

Darnestown
 Faith
 Georgetown
 Grace Lanham
 Kirkwood
 Manassas
 Mt. Vernon
 Northminster
 Potomac
 Sargeant Memorial
 Southminster

Thank you to those congregations that gave to Unified Mission Giving in 2025.

Adelphi
 Boyds
 Burke
 Calvary
 Catoclin
 Clifton
 Creekside (NWC)*
 Emmanuel Indonesian
 Falls Church
 Gaithersburg
 Germantown Global Connection (NWC)*
 Heritage
 Immanuel Presbyterian
 Laurel
 Lewinsville
 Mizo
 New Hope
 Church of the Pilgrims
 Providence
 St. Matthew
 Trinity Herndon
 Vienna
 Western
 Westminster DC

Arlington
 Bradley Hills
 Bush Hill
 Capitol Hill
 Chevy Chase
 Colesville
 Darnestown
 Fairlington
 First Presbyterian, Arlington
 Geneva
 Good Samaritan
 Hope
 John Calvin
 Leesburg
 Manassas
 Mt. Vernon
 Old Presbyterian Meeting House
 Potomac
 Rockville United
 Trinity, Arlington
 United Christian Parish, Reston
 Warner Memorial
 Westminster Alexandria

*New Worshipping Community (NWC)

**Thank you to those congregations who donated space to host
presbytery-wide events in 2025.**

Adelphi
Colesville
Lewinsville
National
Oaklands
Saint Mark
Southminster

Church of the Covenant
Hope
Mt. Vernon
New York Avenue
Riverside
Silver Spring
Warner Memorial

HOW WE MOVED

We committed this year to taking faithful actions moving toward mission, justice, and congregational vitality.

- We **moved resources** toward ministries and networks.
- We **moved with courage** to support churches discerning redevelopment, transformation, or partnerships as faithful next steps.
- We **moved** to be more responsive, collaborative, and mission-oriented, strengthening the presbytery's ability to serve congregations well.
- We **moved out into our communities**, partnering with civic and interfaith organizations to be a visible witness of Christ's love.

Every step we took was made possible through Unified Mission Giving.

Mission Work through the Global Mission Network

Through the collaborative efforts between the Mission Coordination Committee (MCC) and Church Development Committee (CDC) to form the Equipping Congregations Committee (ECC), the [Global Mission Network](#) granted funds to the following:

- **Arlington Presbyterian Church** – Purchased and delivered materials to allow local residents to construct freshwater wells in two places in Cameroon.
- **Georgetown Presbyterian Church** - The 'STEAM for Teachers' (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) project will equip teachers for introducing STEAM in their classrooms in Niger and will include the necessary materials and training through Remember Niger.
- **John Calvin Presbyterian Church** - Supported the sustainability and education objectives of Kisima Child Care Academy (KCCA)



- **Saint Mark Presbyterian Church** - The project helped with the purchase of materials to lay the foundation and make significant progress toward the walls and roof for a three-classroom block for Institut Gufwa-Gubila High School in Congo.
- **Trinity Arlington Presbyterian Church** - VBS program, serving 600 Dalit children (India)
- **Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church** - Solar-powered water pump to ensure reliable, clean water for a village called Shikokho, Kenya
- **Fairfax Presbyterian Church** - Construction of an apartment for a missionary family at Camp Rancho Vida run by JPC (Youth for Christ), Honduras



- **Westminster Alexandria Presbyterian Church**
Installation of a biogas system in the kitchen of the United Orphanage and Academy in Moi's Bridge, Kenya



The Global Mission Network meets quarterly and welcomes congregations to engage in global mission and the grant opportunities offered through NCP.

Ministry in Action

NCP minister members and leaders of congregations offered **Ministry of Presence**, met people where they are, and offered messages of prayers, care, gratitude, and solidarity at metro stations across the DMV.



From the Ministry of Presence emerged **In Times Such As Now**, a series led by the Mission Coordinating Commission (MCC) and the Committee on Ministry's Teaching Elder & Care Team (TECN) to nurture and resource NCP ministers and spiritual leaders. Throughout the year, *Listen & Learn* sessions highlighted how congregations are partnering in ministry today, while *Listen & Pray* offered meaningful time for prayerful connection with colleagues. During the Listen & Learn sessions, speakers included representatives from: Amica, Congregation Action Network (CAN), PC(USA)'s Office of Public Witness, Just Neighbors, and PC(USA)'s Office of Immigration Issues.

Thank you for being part of these connectional and educational gatherings.

Mission Work through Earth Care Network



Through the Mission Coordinating Committee, the [Earth Care Network](#) brought congregations together to offer support, share ideas, and administer the Power to Change Grant Program. Congregations were able to access grant funding to care for God's creation and to take faithful steps toward more carbon-neutral living. The Earth Care Network meets quarterly and welcomes congregations interested in certification or grant applications.

- *Funded through Unified Mission Giving*

Church Assessment Tool (CAT)

The following congregations in the National Capital Presbytery used the **Church Assessment Tool (CAT)** in 2025 to thoughtfully evaluate the health and vitality of their congregations. Interpretations were led by Rev. Tara Spuhler McCabe and trained NCP CAT interpreters. Through this process, churches gained insights into their strengths, challenges, and growth opportunities. The CAT supported leaders and members in discerning faithful next steps for their ministry and mission. – *Funded through Unified Mission Giving*

Ashburn
Lewinsville
Korean Presbyterian Church of Rockville

Falls Church
Little Falls

HOW WE CONNECTED

Above all, 2025 was a year of connection.

- **We gathered congregations**—large, small, urban, suburban, rural—into shared spaces of worship, learning, discernment, and celebration.
- **We connected churches** through peer cohorts, shared mission opportunities, multilingual worship collaborations, and regional gatherings.
- **We strengthened relationships** across the District, Maryland, and Virginia, celebrating who we are, which makes our presbytery unique.
- **We connected with partners** nationally and globally who inspire us to continue living out Christ's mission with imagination and resilience.

Your giving created pathways of connection.

Presbytery Meetings



Presbytery Meetings are a time for business and connection. This year, we celebrated our outgoing Moderator, Elder Lou Durden (Northminster); installed Moderator, Elder Jesy Littlejohn (Oaklands); and Vice Moderator, Rev. Rachel Vaagenes; and welcomed new minister members and a CRE. Before in-person NCP business meetings, the presbytery hosted Town Hall sessions to increase engagement, including a new commissioner orientation and a discussion of the new model of global mission ecumenical partnership through the PC(USA)'s Interim Unified Agency. – *Funded through Per Capita*

Launch of New Logo



The new **logo** reflects the identity of National Capital Presbytery. At its center, the cross anchors our shared faith in Jesus Christ with the light of God guiding us. The diamond shape represents the DMV region with the surrounding rays expressing the missional, pastoral, and prophetic callings that support our ministries. – *Funded through Per Capita*

Launch of New Website



NCP introduced a redesigned [website](#) to strengthen communication, enhance usability, and better reflect our presbytery. We aim to create:

- **A Central Hub for Connection**
The new site creates a unified and welcoming space where congregations, leaders, and partners can easily connect and share information.
- **Enhanced Tools and Resources**
Designed to support clergy, ruling elders, and congregational leaders, the site offers access to forms, training materials, ministry tools, and guidance.
- **Improved Navigation and Clarity**
A simplified structure and intuitive layout make it easier to locate documents, events, mission opportunities, and contact information.
- **Expanded Engagement Opportunities**
Dynamic event listings, ministry highlights, and calls to participation encourage involvement in the mission and work of the presbytery.
- **Strengthened Transparency and Communication**
With timely updates and messaging, the site supports clarity and informed participation throughout the presbytery.

– *Funded through Per Capita*

Continuing Education Gathering & Retreat



The **Continuing Education Gathering and Retreat**, held March 10–12, 2025, brought together National Capital Presbytery’s clergy and church leaders for learning, reflection, and renewal. The framer, Rev. Dr. Ted A. Smith, and the weaver, Rev. Corwin Davis, led participants in exploring how to embrace today's realities while equipping leaders and congregations for tomorrow. Through worship, teaching, and shared conversation, the retreat fostered faithful imagination, practical insight, and a time for rest and renewed connection within our presbytery. We look forward to this annual gathering of colleagues!

- Supported in part by the Retreat Fund & Presbyterian Foundation.

Dialogue for Peaceful Change (DPC)



In collaboration with Presbytery of Baltimore and New Castle Presbytery, and with over 90 church leaders completing the **Dialogue for Peaceful Change (DPC)** training over the past three years, we held our first Reunion Reboot gathering! A way to connect and deepen good practices for change and conflict management. In late April, another DPC training session was offered for newly trained leaders. – *Funded through Unified Mission Giving*



Amendment Process



National Capital Presbytery engaged in a thoughtful and prayerful season of discernment around proposed Book of Order **Amendments 24-A and 24-C**, beginning with a pre-presbytery conversation facilitated by the NCP staff. Approved by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and sent to presbyteries for consideration, the amendments invited presbyteries to reflect more deeply on their commitments to diversity in baptism and the formation of church leaders. Through honest conversations, times of prayer, and opportunities to listen across differences, NCP sought to honor one another's thoughts and concerns as the body prepared for faithful decision-making. – *Funded through Per Capita*

[Discerning Amendments 24A & 24C](#)
[Amendment Follow-Up](#)

Light to the Nations Christmas Festival



Thank you, Church of the Covenant, and the leaders of congregations throughout our presbytery, for the annual **Light to the Nations** Christmas Festival with guest preacher, elder, and former Moderator, Shani McIlwain (Faith Presbyterian). Christ the King, Church of the Redeemer, Emmanuel Indonesian, Maryland Indonesian, Hope Presbyterian, Oaklands, Silver Spring, Southminster, and Sixth Presbyterian gathered for a joint worship in anticipation of the birth of Christ. – *Funded through Unified Mission Giving*

Praying with Our Feet



Speaker Zyana Bryant, a School Board member in Charlottesville, VA, met with youth as we engaged in a variety of spiritual disciplines to center our callings in leadership. Prayers through walking a labyrinth, Bible Mad Libs, and community organizing grounded our youth in opportunities for faithful leadership in their daily lives. – *Funded through Unified Mission Giving*

THANK YOU

The ministry of National Capital Presbytery is possible because of your prayers, your leadership, your creativity, and your financial support.

Thank you for giving in 2025.

Thank you for believing in our shared mission.

Thank you for helping us equip, grow, move, and connect as the Body of Christ.

As we look to 2026, we move forward with gratitude and expectation, trusting that God is already preparing the way.



If you'd like to support the mission of NCP in 2026, visit our website.

[Giving | National Capital Presbytery](#)