

2026 GA Commissioners - Approved Slate

RULING ELDERS



NATIONAL CAPITAL
PRESBYTERY

Jesy Littlejohn, (they/them) Moderator of NCP Ruling Elder, Oaklands Presbyterian Church



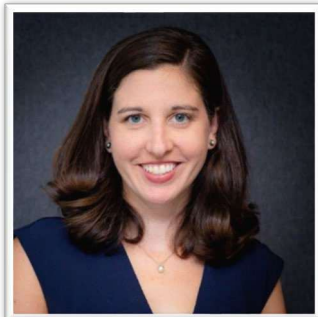
Jesy Littlejohn is the Director of Operations at More Light Presbyterians, the Social Media Producer for *Presbyterian Outlook*, a coach with NEXTChurch, and they do administrative and communications work for three churches in National Capital Presbytery. Jesy serves as Oakland's Clerk of Session and at the presbytery level serves on the Congregational Transition Commission, Dismantling Racism Team and is a CAT Interpreter. They also co-host the *Embracing Race Podcast: Conversations with Truth and Intention*.

Theological Spectrum: Moderate/Liberal

What I believe are key theological and social issues facing the church: As a progressive/liberal thinker, I believe we need to talk about spirituality and Jesus more frequently. Having these conversations will light a path to the places God is calling us to serve (marginalization of groups of people, sinfully oppressive systems, unjust wars).

Why I want to represent NCP at GA: I'm a polity nerd and get excited about being part of the process. I love this Presbytery and consider it a privilege to represent us at a denominational level.

Kristin Ford Ruling Elder, New York Avenue



Kristin Ford is the Clerk of Session at New York Avenue Presbyterian Church. At NYAPC, she also chairs the Children and Youth committee and the Mission Strategy Task Force. She previously co-chaired the Pastor Nominating Committee and served as a Deacon. A lifelong Presbyterian with a deep appreciation for our connectional and representative polity, she is excited about the opportunity to serve the presbytery as a commissioner at the 227th General Assembly (having previously had the opportunity to serve as a Youth Advisory Delegate from

National Capital Presbytery at the 216th General Assembly!).

Theological Spectrum: Liberal

Share what you believe are the key theological/social issues currently facing the church and society, and how they shape your experience in the church: We are continuing to expand our commitment to inclusion....and grappling more deeply with ongoing impact of structural racism. As a member of an urban congregation committed to radical hospitality and ministry with those experiencing homelessness, poverty, mental health, substance use are all intertwined in how we experience God at work in the world.

Please indicate why you want to represent National Capital Presbytery at the General Assembly: The Presbyterian church has been a place of community and identity since my earliest years. I have been privileged to serve in leadership in a number of ways and would look forward to thoughtfully, prayerfully represent our presbytery.

Beverly Johnson
Ruling Elder, Lewinsville Presbyterian Church



Beverly Johnson is current member of Session at Lewinsville Presbyterian Church and throughout the years has served in a number of PC(USA) congregations as an ordained deacon, ruling elder, personnel committee member and chair in two congregations. She has directed children's choirs and Christmas pageants, rung handbells, polished offering plates and served on one "new hymnbook selection" committee (a task she says she'll never do again). A retired Employee Development Executive, Beverly lived in and traveled throughout the world with her husband of 55 years and their

four now grown children. Beverly enjoys regularly attending presbytery meetings in NCP and looks forward to actively participating at General Assembly in Milwaukee!

Theological Spectrum: Moderate

Please share what you believe are the key theological/social issues currently facing the church and society, and how they shape your experience in the church: The Church's role in societal and political issues

Please indicate why you want to represent National Capital Presbytery at the General Assembly: Our local churches are one unit of a larger church body and the GA enables us to unite and address issues together.

Jacquelyn Moore
Ruling Elder, Sargent Memorial Presbyterian



Dr. Jacquelyn R. Moore is a deeply committed leader within the National Capital Presbytery; her home congregation, Sargent Memorial Presbyterian Church (SMPC); her family and the wider community. Sargent is the church of her birth and foundation of her spiritual walk and life of service. She has served as the Clerk of Session since 2014 and has served at SMPC as a Sunday School and Confirmation Class teacher, a Ruling Elder and Deacon, part of the Church Clusters, Presbyterian Women, Senior Ministry, Worship Service Committee, Scholarship Committee, sign language interpreter

for the Gospel Choir, and coordinator of Home Communion. Professionally, she dedicated her career to helping others, as a speech-language pathologist for 32 years in Washington,

D.C. and Montgomery County, earning her Ph.D. in Speech-Language Pathology in 2006. Dr. Moore has been nominated to NCP's Personnel Committee and is excited about these opportunities to learn, serve, and become more involved in our presbytery.

Theological Spectrum: Moderate/Liberal

Please share what you believe are the key theological/social issues currently facing the church and society, and how they shape your experience in the church: People are struggling in their day to day lives. They are having difficulty in their belief in God, but rigid doctrines are not making them feel accepted as they are when they walk in the door.

Please indicate why you want to represent National Capital Presbytery at the General Assembly: I attended many years ago as a young person. I found the procedures and the governance interesting. When amendments come to our presbytery, there is always something of a question of how GA arrived at the question and their response. To feel I can have an active part in the process excites me.

Alternate: Le Quan Turner

Ruling Elder, Westminster Presbyterian Church



Le Quan Turner is a ruling elder at Westminster Presbyterian (DC), and currently serves

as a Commissioned Ruling Elder (CRE) at Adelphi Presbyterian. A graduate of Wesley Theological Seminary, she has served many roles in the presbytery, including as a seminary student intern at Faith Presbyterian, Minister for Community Life and pulpit supply at Northminster, and various other presbytery churches as pulpit supply. She has also served on Mission Coordination Committee, General Presbyter search committee,

and Leadership Council.

Theological Position: Liberal

Please share what you believe are the key theological/social issues currently facing the church and society, and how they shape your experience in the church: The Church, as the body of Christ, is called not only to proclaim the gospel but to embody it through radical love, justice, and inclusion...Systematic bias, the marginalization of women, people of color, LGBTQ+ persons, and the persistent misunderstanding of cultural differences remain wounds in the body of Christ that we cannot heal by mere comfort or polite conversation... To be Christ's Church is to be a community that not only welcomes all people but listens deeply, learns humbly, and transforms faithfully in response to the experiences of those long excluded. This means dismantling systems of privilege that distort our witness and reimagining our structures, language, and practices so that every person can flourish as a full image-bearer of God. The work is not easy, but it is holy.

Please indicate why you want to represent National Capital Presbytery at the General Assembly: My calling—and my voice—compel me to advocate for a Church that lives out the gospel not as an abstract ideal but as a concrete reality of justice and compassion... The Spirit is already stirring in those places where the marginalized are being heard and

where transformation begins with listening. I hope for the Church to have the courage to follow that Spirit, toward a deeper, truer reflection of Christ's inclusive love. I am ready to be one of these listeners, to serve as an alternate to General Assembly as needed.

TEACHING ELDERS

Rev. Rachel Vaagenes, Vice-Moderator of NCP Teaching Elder, Capitol Hill Presbyterian Church



Rev. Rachel Vaagenes has been active in NCP for nearly 15 years, serving at Georgetown Pres 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. She has contributed to the refugee network, dismantling racism efforts, and NCP Pride events. She is the new Vice Moderator for this wonderful presbytery. She puts the "Bi" in "Pres-bi-terian," and cares deeply about making sure everyone feels welcome and knows that they are loved by God.

Theological Spectrum: Moderate/Liberal

What I believe are key theological and social issues facing the church: We are often told we need to choose between taking faith "seriously" or sacrificing our seriousness to allow for full acceptance for queer people...if we take our faith seriously, we will break down barriers and all find ourselves transformed by the grace of God. Another is the notion of community over individuality; also, how we place our faith in power and certainty rather than the vulnerability and openness of Jesus; creation care, consumerism, there's a lot of good work to do!

Why I want to represent NCP at GA: I love this presbytery and its people and I would be honored to serve in this way.

Rev. Elizabeth Brookens-Sturman Teaching Elder, Retired



Rev. Elizabeth Brookens-Sturman has served as a pastor in Berkeley, CA and Bethlehem, PA, before spending 20 years planting and leading the vibrant and growing Brambleton Presbyterian. In the presbytery, she has been a part of multiple task forces and policy writing initiatives and currently serves the New Things Team. Elizabeth has also been a part of various GA task forces and serves as a coach and consultant for the 1001 New Worshipping Communities movement. Prior to ordained ministry, Elizabeth was a social worker advocating for vulnerable children and youth in Dayton, OH.

Theological Spectrum: Moderate/conservative

What I believe are key theological and social issues facing the church: The current administration, the uneven global distribution of wealth, the apathy among wealthy nations to leverage our wealth to meet humanitarian crises, the rise of Christian nationalism and racism in the USA. Sadly our seminaries are not equipping pastors for the leadership needed. Yet there are signs of a spiritual re-awakening emerging especially from the global south and Great Britain. We must lean into our faith and press on.

Why I want to represent NCP at GA: As one who leans right theologically while simultaneously being committed to justice, I love the PCUSA and am a skilled bridge-builder. As a trained evangelist, I believe PCUSA's commitment to a "big tent" gifts us to call people who are far from God into faith-filled and Jesus-right-sized transformation anchored in the church and rooted in God's grace.

Rev. David A. Douthett

Teaching Elder, Catoctin Presbyterian Church



Rev. David A. Douthett is the pastor of Catoctin Presbyterian Church, where he has served since January 2004. Catoctin is working hard, like most other small churches, to find what it means to bring the gospel into the world in meaningful ways while extending God's Kingdom by serving those in need. David has served on the Leadership Council for NCP since 2022 and is on the Dismantling Racism Team. He previously served on the Worship and Theology committee and as a GA overture advocate. David looks forward to bringing what wisdom he has gleaned in 35

years of ministry, a dedication to openness to the movement of the Holy Spirit, and an unbridled hope and faith in Christ's power to reform the Church for such a time as this.

Theological Spectrum: Moderate/Liberal

What I believe are key theological and social issues facing the church: The breakdown of the social norm of voluntary associations and organizations and the move to individualization; the polarization of our culture; Christian nationalism. My experience as a pastor in these days is one of managing people's anxiety by focusing on the sovereignty of God, the resurrection of Jesus Christ, and the call of the Holy Spirit. When everything seems to be coming apart, we do what the church is always called to do—be faithful, love all, serve and glorify Christ.

Why I want to represent NCP at GA: I believe I am reasonably typical of our presbytery in terms of theology and social outlook; as a solo pastor of a congregation with under 100 members, I can represent the interests of small churches. I have always found GA to be a fascinating enterprise, generally faithful and hopeful, even in the midst of turmoil.

Rev. Emma Horn

Teaching Elder, Immanuel Presbyterian Church



Rev. Emma Horn is the Associate for Children and Youth at Immanuel Presbyterian Church. She also serves as the co-chair of the Teaching Elder Care and Nurture Team of National Capital Presbytery and is part of the Presbytery's Youth leaders' group. She is involved in the greater denomination serving as a volunteer at the Montreat Youth Conference and Middle School Conference and as well as part of the 2026 Omega Youth Conference Planning Team. She deeply loves being Presbyterian and all of the hard and beautiful work that the General Assembly does.

Theological Spectrum: Liberal

What I believe are key theological and social issues facing the church: Christian nationalism/political divides, erasure of more difficult parts of society and church history, rights of LGBTQIA+, women, and BIPOC being taken away...I never want another young person or adult to feel like they are anything other than a beloved child of God. I work hard to make this narrative of belovedness.

Why I want to represent NCP at GA: Serving the greater church feels like an important part of my ministry and how I live into God's call. I love Presbyterian Polity and that we are a church reformed and always reforming, staying flexible to the call of the Holy Spirit.

Alternate: Rev. Charles Van Gorder

Teaching Elder, At Large



Rev. Charles F. Van Gorder has been a Minister-at-Large member of National Capital Presbytery since 1996. He served as Stated Clerk from 1986-1988, has been on the Commission for Preparation for Ministry, and currently serves as the moderator of the Permanent Judicial Commission. Van has served with various churches including Church of the Pilgrims (former Parish Associate), Brentsville Presbyterian (former moderator), and has also taught Presbyterian Polity for Wesley Theological Seminary. For several years, Van is a professional registered parliamentarian and has worked with the U. S. Department of Justice.

Theological Spectrum: Moderate

What I believe are key theological and social issues facing the church: Meaning of the Church in a transitory time; Peace and Justice issues for all people; support and enablement of local congregations as primary mission stations

Why I want to represent NCP at GA: My ordination vow continues to be a faithful minister, active, serving in the councils of the church; I have great respect for our Presbyterian and reformed denomination and its mission, and care about its future.

YOUNG ADULT ADVISORY DELEGATE

Sofia Turkman

Saint Mark Presbyterian Church



Sofia Turkman is a member of Saint Mark Presbyterian Church. Over the years, she has served as a Lay Leader and choir member. Sofia has also been a participant and leader in many youth mission efforts at Massanetta and Appalachia Service Project, and with the Montreat Youth Conference. Growing up in the church has instilled in her a lifelong passion for service, as she has seen the church at work in the world through participation in countless volunteer efforts. She is very much looking forward to being able to serve God and represent the National Capital Presbytery as a YAAD.

Theological Spectrum: Liberal

What I believe are key theological and social issues facing the church: I believe the church must make efforts to combat Christian nationalism and its manifestations in the current social and political atmosphere; these are antithetical to Christ. I also believe there is a critical need to recenter youth in the future of the collective Presbyterian church. Finding unique methods of encouraging younger generations to be involved in churches and their communities is essential for the church's long-term growth.

Why I want to represent NCP at GA: As an active member and leader in the local presbyterian church, I can accurately represent the voices of youth; I would aim to lift up voices of youth church members that may not always have been heard in the larger church's governing processes. Additionally, I am interested in the field of public policy and would like to learn more about the way policy is made in the context of the Presbyterian Church.