

SUMMARY OF THE MINUTES OF THE 208th STATED MEETING OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL PRESBYTERY, NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, WASHINGTON, DC, APRIL 5, 2005

The meeting was convened by the Moderator, Mark Stunder, at 6:05 p.m. The Moderator read a communiqué from Clifton Kirkpatrick, Stated Clerk of General Assembly, regarding the death of Pope John Paul II, and opened the meeting with a prayer for church meetings written by Pope John Paul II.

The Clerk assured that the call was in order and a quorum present. Full enrollment will be set out in the permanent minutes. An item on the proposed docket was withdrawn and one item was put forth as new business. Presbytery approved the docket as amended to include the item of new business from the Session of Bradley Hills Church.

OMNIBUS MOTION– The Clerk moved the Omnibus Motion as amended.

From the Stated Clerk

The Stated Clerk recommends that the summary minutes of the January 2005 meeting be approved.

The Stated Clerk recommends that presbytery receive the reports of the following commissions, and dismiss the commissions with thanks:

- Carl Rush—installation, Pastor, Bush Hill PC
- Mark Armstrong—installation, Associate Pastor, Ashburn PC
- Richard Sheffield—installation, Pastor, Georgetown PC

The Stated Clerk recommends that presbytery approve the following process for equalization of elder-commissioners to resident ministers to be in effect for all presbytery meetings from April 5, 2005 through and including the January 2006 meeting:

Total resident ministers		311
Elder commissioners by membership size	137	
Elder officers/chairpersons	6	
Elders who are Certified Christian Educators	16	
	<u>159</u>	
Elders needed for equalization	<u> </u>	<u>152</u>

Therefore the Stated Clerk moves that the Sessions of all 111 congregations be invited to send one additional elder-commissioner to all presbytery meetings from April 2005 through and including January 2006; and that the Sessions of 41 churches, in the order they appear in the Directory of National Capital Presbytery beginning with Fifteenth Street PC through and including Old Presbyterian Meeting House, be invited to send a second additional elder.

And, in accordance with the policy adopted by presbytery in January 2001, the Stated Clerk moves that presbytery elect the following elders who are committee chairpersons, elders serving on Council, or officers of presbytery, as voting members of presbytery:

Mark Stunder	Jill Fri	Charles Higdon
Wilhelmina Stone Mason	Rachel Messman	Eleanor Shubinski-Mosser

And the Stated Clerk moves that presbytery elect the following elders who are Certified Christian Educators who are members of, or who are employed by, one of the presbytery's churches, as voting members of presbytery:

Betsy Burkhart	Julia Fegley	Ann Kulp
Ellie Cammer	Sarah Hipps	Jane Campbell
Bev Bailey	Cathey, Mary	Johns, Marilyn
Jostes, Lynn	Kirkpatrick, Melissa	Rahal, Betty
Sutter, Joan	Werner, Karen	White, Virginia

From the Nominating Committee

The committee moves that presbytery elect the following persons to the indicated committee memberships—all in the Class of 2007 unless otherwise noted:

Committee on Preparation for Ministry—Linda Rice-Johnston (Knox PC)
 Mission Interpretation and Coordination—Andrew Walton (Pastor, Capitol Hill PC)—Class of 2006
 Committee on Ministry—Molly Douthett (At-large minister)—Class of 2006; Ann Davie (Chaplain, Ingleside), Ed Dawkins (Pastor, Trinity PC Arlington); Betsy Preston (Westminster PC/Alexandria)

From Committee on Preparation for Ministry

CPM recommends and moves that presbytery enroll James Fowler (National PC) and Mark Frimpong (Ebenezer PC) as Inquirers effective April 5, 2005.

From the Treasurer of Presbytery

The Treasurer recommends and moves that in keeping with the dissolution resolution of Chesterbrook Presbyterian Church, the following scholarship fund be established as a permanent fund of National Capital Presbytery:

The Chesterbrook Presbyterian Church Scholarship Fund for Seminarians

This fund was established by action of the Session of Chesterbrook Presbyterian Church on January 17, 2001 to disburse \$50,000 to National Capital Presbytery prior to the dissolution of the congregation.

Because there were no conditions or restrictions made by Session, the Committee on Preparation for Ministry determined that the principal amount-- \$50,000—would be invested by the appropriate committee within presbytery. The annual income is available to Committee on Preparation for Ministry to provide scholarship assistance to enrolled Inquirers or Candidates.

The intent of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry is that the investment objective be to maximize the earnings, and that the principal is not to be invaded.

From the Board of Directors of NCP, Inc.

The Board of Directors recommends that presbytery approve the request of Ebenezer Presbyterian Church, a member in good standing of the presbytery, to purchase property located at 14508 Telegraph Road, Woodbridge, VA for \$2.9 million and to encumber the property and incur indebtedness of up to \$2.6 million with such lenders as may be available for the purpose of acquiring and renovating the property. Further, that the presbytery authorize the officers of National Capital Presbytery, Inc. as agents of the corporation to sign and/or co-sign such agreements (including guaranty agreements) as are required by the lender(s) to arrange the loan(s) and encumber the property, provided that National Capital Presbytery, Inc. is named as owner of the property.

The Board of Directors recommends that conditional upon Business Advisory Committee approving the congregation's 2002, 2003, and 2004 year-end financial statements and final plan for repayment, presbytery approve the request of Clifton Presbyterian Church, a member in good standing of the presbytery, to encumber its property with a Deed of Trust not to exceed \$2,200,000 with such lenders as may be available for the purpose of a building project (which includes an east wing addition, a rear wing addition, the renovation of the current annex and the remodeling of the sanctuary), and that presbytery authorize any of the officers of National Capital Presbytery, Inc., as agents of the corporation to sign and/or co-sign such agreements (including guaranty agreements) as are required by the lender to arrange the loan.

And, further that the Board of Directors approve the request of Clifton Presbyterian Church to take any and all actions to consolidate the church property and the manse property into a single property, if necessary in the reasonable discretion of the Trustees of Clifton Presbyterian Church; approve the request of Clifton Presbyterian Church to take any and all actions to have the Virginia Department of Transportation abandon its interest in Richards Lane, if necessary in the reasonable discretion of the Trustees of Clifton Presbyterian Church; and, approve the request of Clifton Presbyterian Church to take any and all actions to provide needed easements to adjoining property holders, if necessary in the reasonable discretion of the Trustees of Clifton Presbyterian Church.

From Session Records Committee

The Committee recommends that the following minutes books be approved without exception:

Aldie	Boyds	Bradley Hills
Burke	Chesterbrook Taiwanese	Darnestown
Geneva	Grace, Lanham	Hermon
New Hope	Northwood	Saint Mark
Southminster	St. Matthew	United Korean

And that the following minutes books be approved with exceptions noted and communicated to the Clerk of Session:

Bethesda	Brentsville	Colesville
Ebenezer	Georgetown	Providence
Rockville	Rockville United	Silver Spring
Taiwanese/DC	Wheaton	

The committee recommends that the following registers be approved without exception:

Aldie	Bethesda	Boyds
Bradley Hills	Brentsville	Burke
Chesterbrook Taiwanese	Colesville	Darnestown
Ebenezer	Geneva	Georgetown
Grace, Lanham	Hermon	New Hope
Northwood	Providence	Rockville
Rockville United	Saint Mark	Silver Spring
Southminster	St. Matthew	United Korean

And the committee recommends that the Register of Taiwanese/DC be approved with the exceptions noted and communicated to the Clerk of Session.

From Church Development Committee

CDC recommends and moves that presbytery approve the relocation of Ebenezer Presbyterian Church to 14508 Telegraph Road, Woodbridge, Virginia (as required by G-11.0103).

The Omnibus Motion was approved.

GENERAL PRESBYTER’S REPORT—Rev. Wilson Gunn

Rev. Gunn underscored and celebrated the values of the Presbyterian Church including educated leadership, the ordination of women pastors, egalitarian forms of leadership and parity between lay and clergy, and discursive faithfulness.

STATED CLERK’S REPORT—Rev. Richard McFail

The Stated Clerk reported that a complaint against a minister member has been lodged and an Investigative Committee will be formed; the names of the committee members will be reported at the May meeting. Rev. McFail noted that on April 29, the Synod’s Permanent Judicial Commission will hold a trial to hear the case of Chesterbrook Taiwanese PC vs. National Capital Presbytery. A three-person committee of Council whose members are Rev. Lynn Stanton-Hoyle, Rev. Gerry Hopkins, and Rev. Jim Williams will represent presbytery. In his role as Treasurer, Rev. McFail called attention to the budget summary and balance sheets. He noted that the information is being provided to make the presbytery more aware of the financial conditions of NCP.

From Committee on Preparation for Ministry

CPM reports that the following candidates have been certified “ready for examination for ordination, pending a call” (G-14.0310):

Elizabeth Callendar (Arlington PC)
David Garrison (Gaithersburg PC)
Amanda Adams (Mt. Vernon PC)
Katie Cummings (Lewinsville PC)
Corey McLellan (National PC)
Leslianne Braunstein (Arlington PC)

CPM reports that Esther Acolatse, an Inquirer, has been transferred to the care of New Hope Presbytery.

CPM reports that Candidates Harold Breitenberg, Jr., Rachel Clark, and Allie Latimer have withdrawn from the process.

From the Permanent Judicial Commission

The PJC reports that the officers for 2005 are:

Rev. Robert Angus (HR)-Moderator
Rev. Lewis Johnson (HR)-Clerk

From Presbytery Council

Council reports that it has implemented the phase down of Synod mission funding (approved at the January 25, 2005 presbytery meeting) based on subsequent information that Synod had decided in 2002 to end all mission funding at the end of 2004. The implementation is as follows:

- The entire amount allocated to Synod mission in 2005 (\$55,000) is reallocated to the presbytery’s mission budget. These anticipated funds will be used in 2005 to fund ministries whose funding is being eliminated by Synod to the degree that mission giving and other budgetary priorities allow.
- Council approved a one year grant of \$23,000 from mission funds to the Westminster Foundation, a regional cabinet that supports Presbyterian-related ministries on campuses in Virginia, DC, Maryland, and Delaware. The foundation was established to ensure the continuation of campus ministries no longer funded by Synod. Mission Interpretation and Coordination Committee (MICC) will appoint a representative of NCP to serve on the Board of Directors of the foundation.
- Council agreed that the phase down approved by presbytery has now been eliminated and replaced by these provisions.

From the Stated Clerk

The Stated Clerk reports the following information submitted by the churches in their ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORTS as reported to the General Assembly:

Membership

Active Members reported 12/31/03	36,493
Active Members reported 12/31/04	36,048

Gains

Profession, reaffirmation, restoration	1,545
Certificate	589
Other	190
Total Gains	2,324

Losses

Certificate	547
Death	369
Other	1,853
Total Losses	2,769

Racial Ethnic Composition

Active Asians	839
Active African Americans	2,925
Active Hispanics	145
Active Native Americans	14
Active Other	86
Active Caucasians	25,401

Financial (Receipts)

Contribution	\$42,224,815
Capital/Building	9,083,750
Investments	1,876,529
Bequests	3,269,664
Other	5,140,441
Subsidy	293,590
Total Receipts	\$61,888,789

Financial (Expenses)

Local Program	\$37,159,385
Local Mission	3,912,065
Capital Expenditures	17,914,518
Investments	1,125,453
Per Capita Apportionment	863,897
Validated Mission	2,654,923
Theological Education	34,091
Other Mission	1,223,338
Total Expenses	\$64,887,670

The Stated Clerk reports that the Sessions of the following congregations have not submitted the required annual report to presbytery and General Assembly for 2004:

Bealeton	Korean of Rockville
Beltsville United	Litchfield
Eastminster	Riverside
First Korean of Virginia	Rockville
Gaithersburg	St. Paul's
Hana	

RECOGNITION OF AN EDUCATOR—Rev. Jim Williams

Rev. Williams recognized Debra McKune, Interim Educator (Darnestown PC), and presented her with a certificate upon her achievement as an Enrolled Education Assistant in her progress towards certification.

WORSHIP

A worship service celebrating the environment was led by the Rev. Laura Collins, Rev. Laura Cunningham, Tom Dowdell (piano), Steve Dryden, Elizabeth St. John, Jeanne Tustian, Susie Wellman (soloist and guitar), and Tom Whitley, and Rev. Scott Winnette.

The Vice Moderator, the Rev. Dr. Beth Braxton, assumed the chair.

RECOGNITION OF ELDER COMMISSIONERS—Rev. Richard McFail

First-time elders were welcomed to the meeting.

GLENKIRK /MEADOWKIRK CELEBRATION—Michael Raines

Michael Raines, Program Director, reported on the March 12 celebration of 40 years of ministry at Camp Glenkirk. The celebratory event then progressed to the new Meadowkirk camp and retreat site. Michael announced that there will be summer camp, and also extended an invitation to four open house dates at the new camp site.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY—Rev. Al Butzer

The motion on the second reading of the revised policy on Specialized Ministers was withdrawn in light of new information from General Assembly.

Presbytery approved the following recommendations from COM:

1. that presbytery receive Patricia Barth (Interim Pastor, Takoma Park PC). As Rev. Barth is a UCC minister, she will have dual standing in both denominations for the duration of this relationship;

2. that presbytery receive Tamara Leonard Lara (Associate Pastor, Darnestown PC) upon dismissal from Chicago Presbytery;
3. that presbytery receive Erin Sharp (Pastor, Calvary PC) upon dismissal from the Presbytery of the James;
4. that presbytery receive René Whitaker (Interim Associate Pastor, Trinity PC, Herndon) upon transfer from Maumee Valley Presbytery;
5. that presbytery receive Matt Merrill (Pastor, Little Falls PC), upon dismissal from the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, and that presbytery waive the requirement that he take the other ordination exams [note: Rev. Merrill took and passed the polity ordination exam]; and
6. that presbytery receive Chaplain Edward Brogan as a minister member upon dismissal from Susquehanna Valley Presbytery.

Report from Committee on Ministry, February 10, 2005

1. **APPROVED:** Approve \$15,600 as the 2005 housing allowance designation for the Rev. Jean Coyle, Chaplain at Capital Hospice.
2. **APPROVED:** Approve the installation plans for the Rev. Mark Armstrong, Associate Pastor at Ashburn Presbyterian Church: Sunday February 13, 7 pm at the church. The Administrative Commission will be as follows:

Moderator	Moderator Elder Mark Stunder (Boyd)
Clergy	The Revs. John Peterson, David Douthett;
Elders	Paul Hoop (Ashburn), Pat Nobles (Trinity, Herndon)
Corresponding members-- Rev. Ronald Rosenau (Philadelphia Presbytery); David Bellamy.	
3. **APPROVED:** Approve the Interim Pastor contract between the Session of Takoma Park Presbyterian Church and the Rev. Patricia Barth, a United Church of Christ pastor, effective February 14, 2005. Terms:

Effective salary - \$50,000	Social Security offset - \$3,825
Pension paid into the UCC system - \$7,000	Business expenses - \$4,000
Continuing education and book allowance - \$1,000	
Study leave-- two weeks	Vacation-- four weeks

(Note: this is a Formula of Agreement relationship which requires the approval of the UCC Conference Minister. Patricia will have "dual standing" for the duration of this relationship.)
4. **APPROVED:** Concur in the request of the Rev. William Craig, Associate Pastor, and the congregation of Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church that the relationship between them be dissolved effective January 31, 2005. The congregation acted on this matter on January 30, 2005.

5. **APPROVED:** Approve the Interim Associate Pastor relationship, pending a successful clearance interview on February 11, between the Session of Trinity Herndon Presbyterian Church and the Rev. Rene Whitaker, currently a member of Maumee Valley Presbytery, for the period March 1-December 31, 2005. Terms: (full-time)

Effective salary - \$43,000	Vacation - 4 wks
Social Security offset - \$3,290	Continuing ed/book allowance -\$750
Pension/medical at the required percentage	Travel reimbursed by voucher-
Study leave - 2 wks	\$2,000

6. **APPROVED:** Concur in the call of the congregation of Darnestown Presbyterian Church to the Rev. Tamara Leonard Lara, currently a member of Chicago Presbytery, to be Associate Pastor effective March 1, 2005. Terms (full-time):

Effective salary - \$44,550	Auto expense - \$2,000
Pension/medical at the required percentage	Dental coverage - \$720
Medical deductible reserve - \$1,439	Book allowance - \$500
Social Security offset - \$3,409	Moving expenses - up to \$2,000
Study leave - 2 wks and \$750	Vacation – 4 weeks

The congregation extended this call at a meeting on January 30, 2005.

7. **APPROVED:** Renew permission to labor inside the bounds for Rev. Douglas Ronsheim, a member of Pittsburgh Presbytery, who is Executive Director of the American Association of Pastoral Counselors. (Pittsburgh Presbytery agrees to renew permission to labor outside.)

8. **APPROVED:** Concur in the deletion of inactive member the Rev. Richard A. Tatum from the rolls of National Capital Presbytery and the Presbyterian Church (USA).

9. **APPROVED:** Approve the interim pastor relationship between the Rev. Walter Harman and the Session of Calvary Presbyterian Church, effective January 1, 2005 – December 31, 2005. Terms: (full time)

Effective Salary - \$61,450	Medical Expenses - \$4,000
Pension/medical - \$20,317	Study/Book Allowance - \$800
Continuing Ed - \$1000 & 2 weeks	Vacation – 5 weeks

Report from Committee on Ministry – March 10, 2005

1. **APPROVED:** Concur in the call of Chesterbrook Taiwanese PC to Kenneth Liu, currently a candidate under care of New Brunswick Presbytery, to be Associate Pastor effective May 1, 2005. Terms (full-time):

Effective salary - \$42,600	Auto expense - \$1,200
Pension/medical at the required percentage	Study leave - 2 weeks and \$1,000
Vacation - 4 weeks	

The congregation extended this call at a meeting on February 13, 2005.

2. **APPROVED:** Concur in the Call of Calvary Presbyterian Church to the Rev. Erin Sharp, currently a member of Presbytery of the James, to be Pastor effective May 1, 2005. Terms (full-time):

Effective salary - \$55,000	Study leave - 2 wks and \$1,800
Pension/medical at the required percentage	Auto expense - \$2,000
Medical deductible reserve - \$2,500	Other professional expenses - \$500
Social Security offset - \$4,208	Vacation - 4 wks
Full moving costs	Sick leave - 1 day/month

The congregation extended this call at a meeting on February 20, 2005.

3. **APPROVED:** Approve the installation plans of the Rev. Richard Sheffield, Pastor at Georgetown Presbyterian Church on Sunday, March 13, 2005 at 4 p.m. at the church. The Administrative Commission will be as follows:

Moderator	Elder Mark Stunder (Boyds)
Clergy	The Revs. Albert Butzer and Wilson Gunn
Elders	Ann Dailey (Trinity, Herndon) and Phil Fleming (Georgetown)
Corresponding Member	The Rev. William Murphey (Presbytery of Carlisle)

4. **APPROVED:** Concur in the call, pending the vote of the congregation, of Little Falls Presbyterian Church to the Rev. Matthew Merrill, currently an ordained minister in the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Synod (ARP), to be Pastor effective May 1, 2005. Terms (full time):

Effective Salary - \$63,000	Auto expenses - \$2000
Pension/medical at the required percentage	Book allowance - \$375
50% of social security	Study leave – 2 weeks and \$2000
Vacation – 4 weeks	

5. **APPROVED:** Concur with the terms of the call, pending a satisfactory clearance interview, which Church Development Committee is recommending that presbytery extend to Edwin Andrade and grant the Presbytery of the Pacific the authority to examine him for ordination. The terms are as follows (full-time):

Effective salary - \$52,000	Vacation – 4 weeks
Pension/medical - \$16,306	Car allowance reimbursed at the IRS rate
Dental insurance - \$600	Expense account - \$1,000
Social Security offset - \$4,024	Moving costs – Up to \$4,000
Study leave – 2 weeks and \$650 (time & money can accumulate up to 3 years)	

6. **APPROVED:** Concur with the terms of the call, pending a satisfactory clearance interview, which Church Development Committee is recommending that presbytery extend to the Rev. Elizabeth Brookens-Sturman as Organizing Pastor of the Brambleton New Church Development. The terms are as follows (full-time):

Effective salary - \$100,000	Vacation – 4 weeks
Pension/medical - \$29,650	Professional expenses - \$4,021

Dental insurance - \$406
 Retirement plan - \$2,094
 Housing equity share - \$100,000
 Study leave – 2 weeks and \$1,000 (time
 & money can accumulate up to 3 years)

Medical deductible reserve - \$500
 Social Security offset - \$7,880
 Full moving costs
 Sabbatical leave – as negotiated with the
 Brambleton Session and in compliance with
 Committee on Ministry’s policy

7. **APPROVED:** Concur in the Call of the Rev. Edward Harding, Organizing Pastor, to be Pastor of Prince George's Community Presbyterian Church upon its chartering without a PNC or a call process, as permitted in G-14.0513f, and approve the following terms:

Effective salary - \$90,000
 Social Security offset - \$5,760
 Auto/travel - \$2,200
 Dental insurance - \$1,116

Pension/medical at the required percentage
 Life insurance - \$139
 Vacation - 4 weeks
 Study leave - 2 weeks and \$650

8. **APPROVED:** Concur in the extension of the contract for six months beginning February 1, 2005 between the Rev. Chris Looker, Interim Pastor, and Warner Memorial Presbyterian Church.

9. **APPROVED:** Approve changes in terms of call for GA staff who are members of NCP effective January 1, 2005:

The Rev. Elenora Ivory: Salary \$79,677.64 including housing allowance designation of \$38,961.27.

The Rev. Curtis Kearns: Salary \$104,542.27 including housing allowance designation of \$23,349.87.

Moderator Mark Stunder reassumed the chair for the remainder of the meeting.

COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY—Rev. Rose Herr Wayland

Presbytery approved the following recommendations from CPM:

1. that presbytery enroll Inquirers Anne Ellestad (Rockville PC) and Kenneth Hughes (Vienna PC) as Candidates effective April 5, 2005;
2. that presbytery examine Candidate Kenneth Liu (currently under care of New Brunswick Presbytery), for ordination as Associate Pastor at Chesterbrook Taiwanese PC.

CHURCH DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE—Rev. Donna Marsh

Rev. Marsh provided a brief background on the formation, progress and growth of Prince George’s Community Church and the leadership of the Rev. Ed Harding. Presbytery approved the following chartering resolution of Prince George’s Community Presbyterian Church:

Chartering Resolution—Prince George’s Community Presbyterian Church

The Church of Jesus Christ has sought to spread the gospel to all people from generation to generation. One means of spreading the gospel is to create new churches, called into being by an act of God, proceeding through the presbytery and those who then covenant together (Companion to the Constitution, 94/95-33).

Scripture and our confessions declare one church, one unity...*we firmly believe that from the beginning there has been, now is, and to the end of the world shall be one Kirk(C-3.16)*. Thus, the act of chartering a church is in response to the grace of God, and contains a promise by chartering members to live in unity and to work together in ministry as disciples of Jesus Christ according to the principles of faith, mission and order of the Presbyterian Church (USA). (G-7.0201).

The act of chartering is seen as a response to God’s call for a new ministry, one called “Prince George’s Community Presbyterian Church:” and one that will continue to advance the mission of the Church in Prince George’s County and throughout the world.

Resolution

Whereas the congregation of Prince George’s Community Church was called into being as a Presbyterian Mission in February 2000 and began worship in March 2001;

Whereas the Mission since that time has shown increasing energy and enthusiastic commitment to spreading the gospel in Prince George’s County, Maryland;

Whereas after much study and prayer, the congregation of the Mission, at a called congregational meeting on March 20, 2005 voted affirmatively to petition the presbytery for chartering, to affirm the call of a minister and took other necessary charter-related actions;

And whereas the presbytery’s authority to charter a church [G-11.0103h, G-7.0201, G-9.0503 (2)] is implemented and assisted by presbytery’s Church Development Committee (CDC) (Presbytery Manual, page I-7);

Now therefore the Church Development Committee recommends that National Capital Presbytery concur with the request of the Prince George’s Community Mission to become a chartered church of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and to be called “Prince George’s Community Presbyterian Church.”

Further, the Church Development Committee recommends that National Capital Presbytery commend the pastor, leadership and congregation members of Prince George’s Community church for a job well done in reaching this point of chartering and celebration.

Presbytery also approved the following recommendations from CDC:

1. Consistent with G0-7.0201 and G-9.0503(2), and Administrative Commission shall be appointed to charter the church and shall have the following responsibilities:

- a. Approve the chartering petition (G-7.0201) to organize as a congregation in the Presbyterian Church (USA).
 - b. Install the pastor
 - c. Examine elders-elect, acting in the role of Session (G-9.0503(2), G-10.0102)
 - d. Install (and ordain as required) the Elders and Deacons that shall make up Prince George's Community Presbyterian Church's boards
 - e. Preside over the service on chartering/installation on May 1, 2005.
 - f. Review any necessary documents and implement any procedures necessary for the chartering of Prince George's Community Presbyterian church.
 - g. Dissolve the commission at the closing of the chartering service, and file its report with the Stated Clerk.
2. That the Moderator of presbytery appoint the seven-member commission.
 3. Approve the call of Edward Harding, Jr. as Pastor of Prince George's Community Presbyterian Church effective May 1, 2005 with the following terms:

Effective salary—90,000 (salary—41,000; housing allowance—44,000; utilities allowance—5,000)

Pension/medical at the required percentage

Social Security offset—5,760

Auto/travel—2,200

Dental—1,116

Life insurance—139

Study leave—2 weeks and 650

Vacation—4 weeks

(The call was approved by Committee on Ministry on March 10, 2005.)

- 3A. That the Treasurer of National Capital Presbytery, Inc. is hereby authorized and directed to transfer the funds designated for the new church development in Prince George's County (Charles Schwab account listed in item 0116-700 of the Presbytery financial statement) to Prince George's Community Presbyterian Church (PGCPC) by May 15, 2005. PGCPC shall use these funds for the acquisition of real property and as needed for the renovation of any property acquired. PGCPC shall report annually to the Church Development Committee and to the Business Advisory Committee on the status and stewardship of the funds.
4. Welcome all to the service of chartering to be held on Sunday May 1, 2005 4pm at Charles Herbert Flowers School, Springdale, Maryland.

Presbytery approved the following two calls for organizing pastors as recommended by CDC:

1. Edwin Andrade to become Organizing Pastor of Nueva Orilla del Rio effective April 15, 2005 at the following terms:

Effective salary—52,000 (salary—27,000; housing allowance—25,000)

Pension/medical – 16,306

Dental insurance—600

Social Security offset—4,024

Study leave—2 weeks and 650 (time and money can accumulate up to three years)

Vacation—4 weeks
 Car allowance reimbursed at the IRS rate
 Expense account—1,000
 Moving costs—up to 4,000

[It was noted that upon chartering, the Organizing Pastor is eligible to be the called pastor without election of a PNC and a search process (G-14.0513). Church Development Committee approved this action on March 9, 2005 and COM concurred on March 10, 2005.]

The motion to call Edwin Andrade was approved with the amendment that CDC and COM together are to review the adequacy of the terms of compensation and report back at the May presbytery meeting.

2. Elizabeth Brookens-Sturman to be Organizing Pastor of Brambleton Presbyterian Church effective July 1, 2005 at the following terms:

Effective salary—100,000 (salary—35,000; housing allowance—65,000)
 Pension/medical—29,650
 Dental insurance—406
 Medical deductible reserve—500
 Retirement plan—2,094
 Social Security offset—7,880
 Study leave—2 weeks and 1,000 (time and money can accumulate up to three years)
 Vacation—4 weeks
 Professional expenses—4,021
 Sabbatical leave—as negotiated with the Brambleton Session and in compliance with Committee on Ministry's policy
 Housing equity share—100,000
 Full moving costs

[Upon chartering, the Organizing Pastor is eligible to be the called pastor without election of a PNC and a search process (G-14.513). Church Development Committee approved this action on March 9, 2005 and COM concurred on March 10, 2005.]

The presbytery approved the motion to extend the meeting for 15 minutes.

BILLS AND OVERTURES COMMITTEE—Elder Stephen Morse

The presbytery approved the following amendments to the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) [note: the page numbers refer to those in the Constitutional Amendment booklets issued by the General Assembly]:

- 04-A.—Former COM Elder moderating congregational meetings—p. 1
- 04-B.1.—Recognizing Immigrant Leaders as Elders—p. 5
- 04-B.2.—Granting a Fellowship Voice and Vote—p. 7
- 04-C.—Ending Parish Associate Relationships—p. 10

04-D.—Clarifying Time Limits in the Rules of Discipline—p. 11

04-E.2.—Pastoral Inquiry—p. 17

Presbytery disapproved 04-E.9.—Initiation of Appeal in a Disciplinary Case—p. 29.

NEW BUSINESS—PROPOSAL FROM BRADLEY HILLS PC

Elder Bonnie Holcomb presented the following recommendation from Bradley Hills PC on a positive investment strategy to promote peace in the Middle East:

Subject: Moving Toward a Positive Investment Strategy to Promote Peace Between the Israeli and Palestinian People, While Repairing the Relationship Between the Presbyterian Church and the Jewish People in the United States of America

I. Relationship between Bethesda Jewish Congregation and Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church, Bethesda, Maryland

For forty years, the congregations of Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church and Bethesda Jewish Congregation have shared the same building for worship, education, and fellowship. The congregations have undertaken a joint campaign to raise money for building renovations and for the addition of a space suitable for worship by both Jewish and Presbyterian congregations. The two congregations have undertaken joint social service and community outreach projects, have participated in pulpit exchanges, have engaged in annual joint Thanksgiving services, have held Kristallnacht Memorial Services, and over many years have sustained Bible study and extensive dialogue about shared moral and ethical values.

The scriptural vision that our two congregations share comes from the Pentateuch and the prophetic writings that portray justice as righteousness and integrity in the relations among all people and in all God's creation. In our belief systems, the central concepts of justice and righteousness are one and the same. Ultimately, as spiritual partners sharing faith in God, we believe, as Isaiah proclaimed in chapter 32:17, "...the work of justice shall be peace."

Because of the history of our two congregations who have shared sacred space as spiritual siblings, we feel uniquely able and obligated to address the fracture in Jewish-Presbyterian relations growing out of actions taken by the 216th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA).

II. Honoring the Covenant Relationship

We reaffirm Psalm 133:1, "How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity." This very Psalm hangs in our joint congregational space. We value our interfaith relationship and share a belief (articulated by PCUSA's study paper of 1987) that both Jews and Christians are in covenant with God and therefore Jews are not appropriate subjects for proselytizing by Christians. It is entirely appropriate that Presbyterian churches throughout the United States have called attention to the fact that PCUSA's actions of the 216th General Assembly have been exceedingly disturbing to the American Jewish community and, we would add, to many Presbyterians as well. Prominent among these actions is funding for the Avodat Israel, a messianic congregation in the Presbytery of Philadelphia that focuses on Jews for conversion and is funded by presbytery, synod, and General Assembly funds. Our experience leads us to believe that targeting Jews for conversion is not an expression of justice, and we believe funding for Avodat Yisrael and similar congregations should be ended.

III. Toward a Positive Investment Strategy

The other General Assembly action that concerns us is the decision to begin a phased process of selective divestment from corporations supporting Israeli military activity. With regard specifically to the introductory statement on "historical background" of the General Assembly resolution, we believe the

statement should note that all parties bear responsibility for the current situation, and that no party should be singled out as bearing primary responsibility.

We note with approval a positive development that has occurred since the General Assembly resolutions were adopted in June 2004, that is, the progressive evolution represented by amendments to guidelines made by the Mission Responsibility Through Investment (MRTI) committee on November 6, 2004 to include language applying to Palestinians as well as to Israelis.

There is no consensus within our two congregations or between our congregations as to the wisdom of the divestment possibility. However should any action be taken by MRTI pursuant to the General Assembly resolution, it should be applied in accordance with the recommendations and actions below.

IV. Recommendations

- a. Interventions by PCUSA of any sort should represent an evenhanded application of our commonly held principles of justice and peace.
- b. Positive interventions should be emphasized.
- c. Any changes in the investment portfolio of PCUSA should focus on a positive redirection of Presbyterian resources to companies doing business in the region, following standing PCUSA investment guidelines, i.e., encouraging activities that are positive, helpful and peaceful and avoiding those that serve as obstacles to peace.
- d. We underscore that any interventions in the region should not have the intent or actual effect of the following:
 - i. An attack on the Israeli or Palestinian economy or on the future viability of either state
 - ii. A boycott of either party in any respect
 - iii. A net loss of investment from either the Israeli or Palestinian economy
- e. Any intervention by PCUSA should have the objective of encouraging activities leading toward peace, while condemning and taking action against violators of human rights on all sides of the conflict.

V. Immediate Actions

Recognizing the evolution in thinking from the original General Assembly divestment strategy to the November 6, 2004 MRTI guidelines for the implementation of the action of the General Assembly, we propose the following additional changes to this policy going forward.

- a. As profitable investment opportunities arise that involve multi-national companies operating in both Palestinian and Israeli economies or that involve cooperation between Palestinian and Israeli companies, then PCUSA should especially explore these opportunities.
- b. We propose identifying companies for investment that satisfy either of the following criteria:
 1. Creating equitable employment and building capacity in the Palestinian and Israeli economies as an outcome of the companies' business in the region. If possible, such business should be to the mutual benefit of both Israeli and Palestinian societies.
 2. Joint ventures between Palestinians and Israelis in the region and/or companies that supply and support them.

VI. Related Actions

We encourage the Stated Clerk of the PCUSA to work with its international ecumenical and interfaith partners in Europe and the United States to explore and identify means to press countries providing budgetary support to the parties to the conflict to use this support as a means of encouraging progress towards a long-term peace between Palestinians and Israelis and discouraging acts of terrorism and violations of human rights. Any such support should be conditioned on a full, transparent public accounting of how it is used.

VII. Our Hope and Vision for the Future:

- a. A reaffirmation of our affection for each other and our respect for one another's faith;
- b. An end to violence and conflict in the land that is precious to Jews, Muslims, and Christians;
- c. Two nations, Israel and Palestine, co-existing peacefully within mutually respected borders, with both nations thriving and participating fully in the world economy and community.

Presbytery approved the motion to accept this recommendation for first reading.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

After hearing the announcements, the meeting was adjourned with prayer by the Rev. Peg True (Honorably Retired) at 9:35 p.m.

Richard McFail
Stated Clerk