

**851th STATED MEETING
OF NEW CASTLE PRESBYTERY**
Meeting on-line via Zoom Internet Conference System
Tuesday May 19, 2020
4:00 – 6:15 PM



MINUTES

We began gathering at 3:15 PM for orientation and instructions on utilizing Zoom for this meeting. The Stated Clerk Bob Schminkey led the orientation. Vice Moderator Neta Pringle shared about the role of Commissioners at Presbytery meetings, and about the role of these meetings in our system of governance.

**SPARKED BY GRACE TO TRANSFORM THE
CHURCH FOR THE GOOD OF THE WORLD**

At 4 PM Moderator Charles Collier opened the meeting with prayer. He declared a quorum to be present, welcomed commissioners and first-time participants and noted that we had about 140 people registered for this meeting, a number about 50% higher than our last four meetings. (Attachment #1 – Official Notice of Meeting and Attachment #2 - Roll)

The Moderator called upon Stated Clerk Bob Schminkey to present the Consent Agenda. The Clerk **MOVED** the Consent Agenda (Attachment #3), including the Docket (Attachment #4) for this meeting, with the following additions:

The Docket is amended to allow Missional Presbyterian Tracy Keenan to have five minutes following our worship time. She will address the issue of “re-opening” our churches.

Also, our first action following adoption of the docket will be to commission our Delegate and Commissioners to the 224th General Assembly of the PCUSA to be held virtually in June. This change was made at the request of our Young Adult Advisory Delegate, Ellie Jetton, who has a party to attend in honor of her 18th birthday today. Happy Birthday Ellie!

Two additions to the Committee on Ministers and Congregations report were reported:

1. COMC on May 14, approved Minister of Word and Sacrament Amy Lawrence as Pastor of the Manokin congregation as well as member of New Castle Presbytery, including terms of call, transferring from Newton Presbytery in New Jersey, with an effective date target of July 15, 2020, as well as installation date TBD. The congregation met via zoom and the call was approved May 7 pending COMC approval.
2. COMC on April 14 approved the request of Minister of Word and Sacrament Doug Gerdts to labor outside the bounds of New Castle Presbytery in the Presbytery of West Jersey, effective June 22, 2020. Rev. Gerdts last Sunday at First & Central will be May 24, and the relationship between Rev. Gerdts and First & Central is dissolved effective June 21, 2020.

The Stated Clerk also noted for information that:

1. Community Presbyterian Church has received two grants from the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance program to assist the church in their response to area needs during this pandemic public health crisis.
2. We have posted on the docket page the most recent public health guidance from the governors of Maryland and Delaware on reopening churches. This is for information and ease of access only.

With those changes and additions, the **MOTION** to **APPROVE** the Consent Agenda was **PASSED** without objection.

CONNECTING WITH THE LARGER CHURCH: With assistance from the Co-Moderators of the 223rd General Assembly who joined us via the miracle of Zoom and video, Co-Connectional Presbyter Sara Holben, Moderator Charles Collier and Vice Moderator Neta Pringle led the presbytery in Commissioning New Castle Presbytery's Commissioners and Young Adult Advisory Delegate (YAAD) to the 224th General Assembly of the PCUSA. Duly commissioned and sent were:

- Minister of Word and Sacrament Emma Horn (Lower Brandywine)
- Ruling Elder Rourke Moore (Community)
- Deacon Ellie Jetton (Chestertown)

PRESBYTERY WORSHIP was led by a cadre of pastors, including Tracy Keenan (Missional Presbyter), Tim Bostic (Limestone), Fred Hanna and kids (Community), Joel Tolbert (Chestertown) and Miriam Foltz (New Castle). Our offering was designated for the Pentecost Offering, one of the PCUSA's four "special offerings." On-line giving was encouraged, for millennials and non-millennials (millennial wanna-bes?) alike.

Moderator Charles Collier reconvened the meeting at 4:55 PM and introduced Missional Presbyter Tracy Keenan for her report on the questions of re-opening churches during this public health crisis. Her moving report is attached. (Attachment # 5)

SPARKING MISSION PARTNERSHIPS AND NEW CHURCH INITIATIVES

Moderator Charles Collier then called on Nona Holy (MWS, LUMOS Campus Ministry) to lead the Ignite Committee report.

Nona Holy shared with the presbytery an update on the Ignite Grants, noting the attached Ignite Budget Summary (Attachment #6), and shared a report from Hilary Livingston on the Unglued Church Project.

Ignite then **MOVED** that New Castle Presbytery endorse the invitation to partnership with Red Clay Creek Presbyterian Church and Friendship House with a grant from the Ignite budget of \$20,000 in 2020 and \$20,000 in 2021.

After a short video presentation by Randy Clayton (MSW, Red Clay Creek) and Kim Eppenheimer (Friendship House/Red Clay Creek Ruling Elder), the motion was **PASSED** without objection.

Nona Holy then introduced Rev. Chelsea Spiers from the Riverfront New Worshipping Community and Grace United Methodist Church. Spiers shared a video presentation on their ministry and the Grace Café project.

BEING GOOD STEWARDS

The Moderator then called on the Trustees and Financial Resources Committee for their report.

Mark Olson (RE, First and Central) briefly shared the recent history of the Beaver Dam Presbyterian Church and their desire to be separated from the PCUSA. After reminding the presbytery that today's action reflects the work of many committees and negotiations (See Attachment #7: Agreement for Separation) with the Beaver Dam congregation, he made the following motion:

MOTION: That New Castle Presbytery concur with the request of the congregation of the Beaver Dam Presbyterian Church, New Castle Presbytery Trustees and Financial Resources Committee, the Committee on Ministers and Congregations and the Administrative Commission for Beaver Dam, and **dissolve the denominational relationship between the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the congregation of Beaver Dam Presbyterian Church** effective upon the execution and delivery of the Separation Agreement between New Castle Presbytery and the Beaver Dam Presbyterian Church and the ancillary documents contemplated thereby; and to approve the Separation Agreement substantially in the form attached to the Presbytery Docket.

The Motion **PASSED** without objection. The Moderator then declared:

Therefore, by the authority of the Presbytery of New Castle I declare the congregation of the Beaver Dam Presbyterian Church to be dissolved upon the completion of all required documents.

Sara Holben led us in prayer.

The Chair of the Trustees, Shannon Hanson (RE, First and Central) then briefly presented a budget report and information on Presbytery Loans and Grants made available from "rainy day" funds to assist congregations during this pandemic. (See Attachment #8: New Castle Presbytery Covid-19 Emergency Crisis Assistance Grants and Loans)

DEVELOPING AND SUPPORTING LEADERS

The Moderator recognized Jeanette Zipf (RE-First and Central) for a **memorial minute for Rev. John Dean**.

The Committee on the Preparation for Missional Ministry Report was shared by Lyle Dykstra (MWS, HR). Lyle introduced Sara Snowden (RE – First and Central), an Inquirer under care of the CPMM and then made the following motion:

The Committee on Preparation for Missional Ministry **MOVES** that New Castle Presbytery advance Inquirer Sara Snowden to Candidacy as she continues on the journey towards ordination in the PCUSA.

Following an examination by the Presbytery, Sara was placed outside the meeting while the Moderator asked if there was any objection to the motion. Hearing none, the Moderator declared

the motion **PASSED** by unanimous consent, and invited Sara back to the meeting. After offering congratulations to Sara, the Moderator requested that her pastor, Doug Gerdts (First & Central) offer a pray of thanksgiving.

There being no additional business, The Moderator called for a **MOTION to ADJOURN**. The motion was made and seconded and **PASSED**.

Vice Moderator Neta Pringle then closed our meeting with prayer at 6:15.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Official Notice of Meeting
2. Roll
3. Consent Agenda
4. Docket
5. Missional Presbyter Report
6. Ignite Budget Report
7. Beaver Dam Separation Agreement
8. Presbytery Crisis Grants and Loans Program

ATTACHMENT #851-: Official Notice of Meeting

From: Stated Clerk
Sent: Wednesday, May 6, 2020 2:43 PM
Cc: Donna Scully <dscully@ncpresbytery.org>
Subject: OFFICIAL NOTICE OF PRESBYTERY MEETING

TO ALL MINISTER MEMBERS, COMMISSIONED RULING ELDERS, CLERKS OF SESSION, CHURCH ADMINISTRATORS AND OFFICES, COMMISSIONERS AND PRESBYTERY LEADERS



This is your OFFICIAL NOTICE of MEETING for the 851th Stated Meeting of New Castle Presbytery!

TUESDAY MAY 19, 2020 AT 4:00 PM

Meeting from 4:00 PM – 5:45 PM

Meeting via Zoom

This meeting will be held utilizing the ZOOM electronic meeting platform. Instructions to log on to the meeting will be sent in the coming few days. Participation by computer or smart phone is preferable and highly recommended to facilitate your involvement, but you may join on a good old-fashioned land line telephone if necessary.

The meeting docket will include:

- Worship lead by our Missional Presbyter, Tracy Keenan, and friends!
- Examination of Sara Snowden to advance to "Candidate" as she seeks to become a Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church.
- An update on the PCUSA General Assembly and the Commissioning of our Youth and Young Adult Advisory Delegate and our Commissioners to the Assembly.
- Updates on Ignite funding
- And more...
- The docket will be simplified for our first virtual meeting

Docket materials will be posted on the New Castle Presbytery web page and sent to all recipients of this note on Tuesday May 12, 2020. Information on registration and "practice" zoom meetings will be distributed at that time.

Join us as we do something new and venture into the virtual world for our Presbytery meetings!

Bob Schminkey
Interim Co-Connectional Presbyter/Stated Clerk
410-708-6463 Cell

New Castle Presbytery
1102 W. Church Road
Newark DE 1971

ATTACHMENT #851-2

MINISTER/CRE/ELDER SERVING CHURCHES:

CHURCH	MINISTER(s)	ELDER(s)
Beaver Dam	Vacant	
Buckingham	P-Glenn Zuber	Paul Cook
Calvary	P-Tom Speers	Kenneth V. Jones
Chesapeake City, <i>First</i>	Vacant	
Chestertown	P-Joel Tolbert P-Caitlan Gartland	Letha Hammon, Scott Loveless, Melissa McIntire
Christiana	Vacant	Paula M. Sims
Church of the Covenant	P-Kate Morgan P-Ginny Jones (CRE)	Christy Gleason
Church on Main	Vacant	
Community	P-Fred Hanna	Fred Massie
Concord	P-Steve Clark	Al Lund, Rick Rudolph
Coolspring	Vacant	David Wall
Delaware City, <i>First</i>	Vacant	
Dover, <i>Presbyterian Church of</i>	P-Duke Dixon	Reid Beveridge
Easton	Vacant	
Elkton	P-Gary Willingham-McLain	Richard Baldwin, Bill McQuiston
Elsmere	A-Matt Waters (Lay)	
Faith Chapel	P-Pam Ruarke (CRE)	
First & Central	P-Doug Gerdts	David Teager, Jana Nazari
Frankford	P-Peter Maurer	
Georgetown	P-J. Gerald Egger	
Green Hill	Vacant	
Hanover	A-Tim Arnold (CRE) P-Andrew Jacob	Maggie Alexander, Karin Wilson
Head of Christiana	P-Hilary Livingston	Deborah Reeves
Limestone	P-Tim Bostick	
Lower Brandywine	P-Dave Lovelace P-Emma Horn	
Makemie Memorial	P-Samuel Monte	John Curtis
Manokin	Vacant	
Milford, <i>First</i>	P-Dianne Deming	Judy Adams
Newark, <i>First</i>	P-Steve Brundage	Ann Roybal, Sarah Huckleberry, Nancy Lewis
New Castle	P-Miriam Foltz	Beverly Stoudt, Connie Reese
New Covenant	P-Carol Fisher	Barbara Montazella, Brian Lindgren
Ocean City, <i>First</i>	A-Dan McKenty	
Ocean View	P-Terrence Dougherty	Bob Wolf
Olivet	P-Mawuna Gardesey (CRE)	Vivian Gyening
Perryville	P-Anne Gunn (CRE)	
Pitts Creek	Vacant	
Port Deposit	A-Rich Watters (CRE)	
Port Penn, <i>First</i>	A-Tim Arnold (CRE)	
Red Clay Creek	P-Randy Clayton P-Eric Koenig-Reinke	Kim Eppenheimer, Carrie Sharp, Darlyn Green-Kocher
Rehoboth (MD)	P-Kirk Dausman	
Rehoboth Midway	Vacant	
Riverfront (NWC)	P-Edwin Estevez	
Rock	P-Tom Euston	
St. Andrews	P-Victoria Bethel	Winnie Wagner
Seaford	P-Laurie Hiller	Melinda Thompson
Smyrna, <i>First</i>	P-John Riley	
Trinity	E-Brad Martin P-Barbara Price-Martin	Carol Shumway, Penny Lindell
West Nottingham	P-Kristin Reinhold	Susan P. Orndorf
Westminster Rehoboth	P-Doug Griffin	Ed Pillsbury
Westminster Wilmington	P-Gregory Knox Jones E-Sudie Niesen Thompson	Susan Williamson, Janet Steinwedel, Carrie Saathoff
Wicomico	P-Maggie Gillespie	Martha Swain

****CHART LEGEND:** P=Present; A=Absent; E=Excused

HONORABLY RETIRED:

E-Francis Ackerman	E-Jim Herrington	E-Bob Prior
E-John Ames	P-Sara Holben	E-Clifford Richards
E-Alex Ayers	E-Jim Horn	E-Eric Ruoss
P-Susan Bennett	E-David W. Jones	E-Everett Sahrbeck
E-Earl Brooks	E-David Kaminsky	E-Julius Schiedel
E-Scott Burkley	P-James Kay	E-Will Shackelford
E-Brian Childs	E-Debra Latture	E-Kate Simons
P-Tom Davis	E-Richard Loring	E-Kerry Shull
E-John Dean	P-Laurie Loveless	E-Bob Snable
E-Frank Deming	P-Barbara Macfie	P-Bob Stoddard
E-Beth Doty	E-Carl Mazza	E-Jane Stover
E-Stuart Dunlap	E-James Mehler	E-Edward Torsch
P-Lyle Dykstra	E-John Paderson	E-Robert Undercuffler
E-Edee Fenimore	E-David Parke	E-Michael Williams
E-Nancy Ferguson	P-John Potter	E-Francis Wolf
E-Charles Gilmore	P-Neta Pringle	E-Cameron Yorkston
E-Richard Hays		

OTHER MINISTERS ON THE ROLL:

E-Donna Bowers	E-Kai Moore LeFranc
A-Elisa Diller	P-Kimberly Bracken Long
A-Marge Egger	A- Randy Otto
P-Nona Holy	E-Koo Suh Pak
P-Jeongju Grace Howard	P-Kathie Pownall
P-Jeffrey Howard	P-Tim Rodden
P-Catherine Jackson	P-Emily Schwenker
P-Tracy Keenan	A-Beth Thomas
P-Anne Ledbetter	P-Jenny Warren
	E-Tim Woodruff

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS: Warren LeSane, Synod of the Mid-Atlantic

ELDER COMMISSIONERS BY VIRTUE OF PRESBYTERY OFFICE:

Charles Collier, NCP Moderator	Rourke Moore, NCP CRE
Mark Douyard, NCP CRE	Gary Patterson, COL Chair
Terry Dykstra, Mission Advocate	Bob Schminkey, NCP Co-Interim Connectional
Lynette Kenton, NCP Treasurer	Presbyter

GUESTS:

Steven Bingham, West Nottingham	David Michener, Westminster Wilm.
Jean Bostwick, Trinity	Cindie L. Moore, Guatemala Partnership
Lisa Chase, Dover	Eileen Oiler, First & Central
Christine Fagles, New Castle	Mark Olson, First & Central
Cindy Faulkner, Lower Brandywine	Donna Scully, NCP Administrator
Jessica Fitzgerald, Presby of Eastern Virginia	Sara Snowden, First & Central
George Hall, Community	Chelsea Spyers, Riverfront
Shannon Hanson, Trustees	Susan Williamson, Westminster Wilm.
Cathy Higgins, Westminster Wilm.	Jeanette Zipf, First & Central
Bobbi Hoffman, Presby of Plains & Peaks	
Sy Hughes, Presbyterian Mission Agency	
John Huntzinger, First Pres-Milford	
Julius Jackson, Community	
Ellie Jetton, Chestertown	
Tim Jooste, Limestone	
Patricia Linnane, Seaford	
Carol McBride, New Covenant	

CONSENT AGENDA

851st Stated Meeting of New Castle Presbytery
Held Electronically via Zoom
May 19, 2020

Items for the Consent Agenda are collected and **MOVED** by the Stated Clerk to expedite routine business that usually does not require discussion and debate. All of these items will be included in one omnibus motion for a single vote unless there is a request to lift one or more out for separate action during the meeting. If you have questions or would like information about any item on the Consent Agenda, please contact the Stated Clerk prior to the meeting, or at the meeting request that item be lifted out for separate consideration.

THE STATED CLERK MOVES that the following items be APPROVED or AFFIRMED.

- **APPROVAL** of the Docket for the 851st Meeting of New Castle Presbytery (this meeting).
- **APPROVAL** of the Minutes from the 850th Meeting of New Castle Presbytery.
- **RECEIVE** the written report of the Committee on Ministers and Congregations.
- **RECEIVE** the Pastor's Compensation Report for 2020 (NOTE: This report was emailed to all pastors and session clerks on 5/12/20. It is our practice not to post this document on our webpage.)
- **RECEIVE** the report of the Stated Clerk which includes information on:
 - Crisis Grant and Loan Program of New Castle Presbytery
 - Suggested language for local church by-laws regarding holding session meetings electronically.
 - Returning to Public Worship guidance from the PCUSA
 - Notice of an Investigating Committee
- **Affirm** the Schedule for Presbytery Meetings for 2020 and note the schedule for 2021. The Stated Clerk and Committee on Coordination, in consultation with other Presbytery leadership, will seek to follow guidelines issued by our public health agencies for living in a time of pandemic. Any meeting listed below may be moved to an "online" or "virtual" platform:
 - **852nd Stated Meeting** – Tuesday September 22, 2020, 4 PM
Lower Brandywine Presbyterian Church, Wilmington, DE
 - **853rd Stated Meeting** – Saturday November 14, 2020, 10 AM
First Presbyterian Church Milford, DE
 - **854th Stated Meeting** – Tuesday, January 19, 2021, 10 AM
Location TBA
 - **855th Stated Meeting** – Saturday, March 6, 2021, 10 AM (Tentative)
Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay, 100 Heron Boulevard, Cambridge MD

**851th STATED MEETING
OF NEW CASTLE PRESBYTERY**
Meeting on-line via Zoom Internet Conference System
Tuesday May 19, 2020

Meeting begins at 4:00 PM
Online practice begins at 3:15 PM

DOCKET

3:15 PM REGISTRATION AND MEETING SIGN IN BEGINS

You are welcome to sign onto Zoom at any time after 3:15 PM to become familiar with the system and chat with your friends from Presbytery. (Instructions for joining the Zoom call and for signing in to the meeting will be posted on the Presbytery web site and shared extensively prior to the meeting.)

3:30 PM NEW COMMISSIONERS ORIENTATION

Neta Pringle

New Commissioners are invited to gather in a Zoom Chat Room for conversation. The “New Commissioner Orientation Booklet” is available for download on the Presbytery Meeting web page. The Committee on Coordination highly recommends that all new Commissioners download and review this material. Please share with new commissioners from your congregation. More experienced commissioners may also find it useful!

***SPARKED BY GRACE TO TRANSFORM THE
CHURCH FOR THE GOOD OF THE WORLD***

4:00 PM CONVENING THE MEETING

Moderator Charles Collier

Opening Prayer
Declaration that a Quorum is present
Welcome First Time Commissioners and Visitors

All are welcome at meetings of New Castle Presbytery, but please remember that only Minister members, Ruling Elder Commissioners, and Ruling Elder’s serving as officers of the Presbytery have both “voice” and “vote” at presbytery meetings. The Moderator, Stated Clerk and Meeting Webmaster will recognize people to speak.

Rules for the meeting will be posted on the Presbytery web page and will be provided to people who are preregistered.

This meeting is simplified in the hope that our first “virtual” Presbytery Meeting will go smoothly. Business is limited to only the most essential items. The Stated Clerk asks for your patience and forgiveness as we move into the future with this new format.

4:05 PM CONSENT AGENDA

*Bob Schminkey
Co-Interim Connectional Presbyter*

NOTE: Items for the Consent Agenda are collected and MOVED by the Stated Clerk to expedite routine business that usually does not require discussion and debate. All of these

items will be included in one omnibus motion for a single vote unless there is a request to lift one or more out for separate action during the meeting. If you have questions or would like information about any item on the Consent Agenda, please contact the Stated Clerk prior to the meeting, or at the meeting request via a note in the “chat” room that item be lifted out for separate consideration.

The Stated Clerk **MOVES** The Consent Agenda (see attached), which includes:

- **APPROVAL** of the Minutes from the 850th Meeting of New Castle Presbytery.
- **APPROVAL** of the Docket for the 851th Meeting of New Castle Presbytery (this meeting).
- **Receive** the Report of the Committee on Ministers and Congregations (COMC)
- **Receive** the Pastors Compensation Report for 2020 (This is always distributed in hard copy only and not posted on the docket page. In keeping with this practice, this report was emailed to Pastors and Session Clerks on 5/11/20)
- **Receive** the Report of the Stated Clerk

4:10 PM

ORDER OF THE DAY

CONNECTING WITH THE LARGER CHURCH: Commissioning New Castle Presbytery’s Commissioners and Young Adult Advisory Delegate (YAAD) to the 224th General Assembly of the PCUSA- *Sara Holben, Co-Interim Connectional Presbyter*

- Minister of Word and Sacrament Emma Horn (Lower Brandywine)
- Ruling Elder Rourke Moore (Community)
- Deacon Ellie Jetton (Chestertown)

4:15 PM

WORSHIP

*Tracy Keenan
Missional Presbyter*

Our offering today is for the Pentecost Offering, one of the PCUSA’s four “special offerings.” A gift to the Pentecost Offering helps the PCUSA encourage, develop, and support its young people, and also address the needs of at-risk children. To give, you may send a check made out to New Castle Presbytery to the presbytery office (1102 W. Church Road, Newark DE 19711), OR donate ON-LINE at the presbytery web site <https://www.ncpresbytery.org/events/presbytery-offering/>

4:45 PM

RECONVENE MEETING

Moderator Charlie Collier

SPARKING MISSION PARTNERSHIPS AND NEW CHURCH INITIATIVES

4:45 PM

IGNITE COMMITTEE REPORT

Nona Holy and Friends

- Update on Ignite Grants (See Ignite Budget Summary attached)
- Update on the Unglued Church Project

- VIDEO – Friendship House and Red Clay Creek Presbyterian Church partner to support Friendship House as it expands its work with residents living in transitional housing needing additional services for substance abuse disorders. (See Ignite Grants for Endorsement Report attached.)

MOTION: Ignite moves that New Castle Presbytery endorse the invitation to partnership with Red Clay Creek Presbyterian Church and Friendship House with a grant from the Ignite budget of \$20,000 in 2020 and \$20,000 in 2021.

- VIDEO – Riverfront Church. The Invitation to Partnership from Riverfront is in support of its Café Grace project. Ignite was glad to see the progress made to date, having funded this effort in 2019, and wanted to see the project completed and launched. Because this grant amount is so close to the \$20,000 threshold set by Ignite which requires a presentation to Presbytery and since the committee felt it was important to keep the Presbytery updated on the work of this New Worshipping Community, Riverfront has been asked to make a presentation to today’s meeting though no Presbytery endorsement will be sought.

BEING GOOD STEWARDS

5:10 PM TRUSTEES AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE –

Shannon Hanson / Mark Olson

- Budget/Financial Update
- Emergency Grants and Loans Program (see attachment)
- Action on Beaver Dam Presbyterian Church (See attached Separation Agreement)

MOTION: To concur with the request of the congregation of the Beaver Dam Presbyterian Church, New Castle Presbytery Trustees and Financial Resources Committee, the Committee on Ministers and Congregations and the Administrative Commission for Beaver Dam, and **dissolve the denominational relationship between the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the congregation of Beaver Dam Presbyterian Church** effective upon the execution and delivery of the Separation Agreement between New Castle Presbytery and the Beaver Dam Presbyterian Church and the ancillary documents contemplated thereby; and to approve the Separation Agreement substantially in the form attached to the Presbytery Docket.

Following action on this motion, Moderator Charlie Collier will lead us in a word of prayer.

DEVELOPING AND SUPPORTING LEADERS

5:20 PM COMMITTEE ON MINISTERS AND CONGREGATIONS

- Memorial Minute for Rev. John Dean

Jeanette Price Zipf

5:25 PM COMMITTEE THE PREPARATION FOR MISSIONAL MINISTRY

Lyle Dykstra

The Committee is presenting Inquirer Sara Snowden to be examined by the Presbytery. Following the examination the Committee will offer the following motion:

MOTION: The Committee on Preparation for Missional Ministry moves to advance Inquirer Sara Snowden to Candidacy as she continues on the journey towards ordination in the PCUSA.

5:45 PM **ADJOURN WITH PRAYER**

Neta Pringle

REMINDER: Our offering during worship today is for the Pentecost Offering, one of the PCUSA's four "special offerings." A gift to the Pentecost Offering helps the PCUSA encourage, develop, and support its young people, and also address the needs of at-risk children.

To give, you may send a check made out to New Castle Presbytery to the presbytery office (1102 W. Church Road, Newark DE 19711), OR donate ON-LINE at the presbytery web site:

<https://www.ncpresbytery.org/events/presbytery-offering/>

REQUESTS FOR A PRINTED DOCKET PACKET MAY BE DIRECTED TO:

Donna Scully: (302) 366-0595 or dscully@ncpresbytery.org

NEXT STATED PRESBYTERY MEETING:

Tuesday September 22, 2020 @ 4:00 PM

The 852nd meeting will either be held at:

Lower Brandywine Presbyterian Church
101 Old Kennett Road, Wilmington, DE

OR

Live on Zoom

ATTACHMENT #851-5: MISSIONAL PRESBYTER REPORT

Thoughts on “Re-opening” Churches by Tracy Keenan, Missional Presbyter

May 19, 2020

New Castle Presbytery

All things are lawful, but not all things are beneficial. – 1 Cor. 10:23

Hey, beloveds.

People are asking about guidelines for re-opening our churches. Since our presbytery includes both Maryland and Delaware, we have two governors offering guidance. And, of course, local jurisdiction holds sway, so if your particular town or county may call things differently. There are so many unknowns in all of this, and our church membership population tends to be the very picture of “vulnerable population,” **so we are seeking to be faithful and caring.**

No matter your politics, we can agree that we would like our congregants to stay alive and well.

Some of the specifics for gathering back at church, you have probably been researching:

- Vulnerable populations are encouraged to stay home. This includes people over the age of 65 and anyone with health issues. Will you put up a sign on your church door advising who may enter and who may not?
- In Delaware’s document, the first paragraph says that gathering in person is still discouraged. But for those who really want to, physical distancing of 6’ between people and households, side to side, front, and back. In Maryland, the recommendation is 7’ all the way around.
- In Delaware, no more than 30% capacity gathered in a space, and that includes clergy, musicians, etc. In Maryland, no more than 50% capacity. Please, read these documents yourselves – they are posted in our docket, and you can find them online.
- Masks must be worn indoors. (And remember that touching, removing and then replacing masks means immediate use of hand sanitizer.)
- Follow CDC guidelines and governmental recommendations responsibly. CDC guidelines also talk about the cleaning of spaces thoroughly, so even multiple services to accommodate numbers would involve disinfecting spaces between. Cleaning crew alone is daunting.
- Then they advise no pew bibles, no hymnals, no offering plates, no passing of the peace; bulletins are self-serve and must be tossed afterwards; no coffee hour; there was one recommendation of serving communion by salad tongs by a masked pastor, baptism by squirt gun (okay, that’s what one priest posted on Facebook), but seriously, no anything that involves close interaction between people.
- Factors include proximity of person to person, airflow, indoors vs. outdoors, and time of exposure. One recommendation was that worship ought not be more than one hour, which may come as a relief to some of our folks.
- Then – and here’s a heart-breaker – singing, laughing, and loud talking are close to coughing in terms of sharing whatever germs you might have. Choir, congregational hymn-singing, even with masks, is a danger for now.
- Add to the mix no nursery or child care, and myriad other complications, and you may wonder how satisfying it would actually be to resume worship in the sanctuary.
- PLUS: You would do well to check with your church insurance carrier and see what THEY recommend.

But wait. Maybe we don’t need to be in such a hurry.

We have parsed the scientific ramifications to pieces, and are unanimous in wanting to keep our congregants and communities safe. No one wants to endanger their beloved members.

But what about the spiritual ramifications?

You have spent the past two and a half months learning new ways of being church without having the church building be the central focus. You have inspired one another with your creativity, asking,

How can we best preach the gospel right now?

How can we best love our people right now?

How can we best teach and pray and connect right now?

How can we best create new and deeper relationships right now?

You're getting pretty good at this. You're at the point now where your hair is no longer on fire.

You are no longer frantic. You have this gift now of pausing, stepping back, breathing, and asking what God is doing here, what the Holy Spirit is calling us into.

What's the rush?

The danger here, besides the scientific one – **is the spiritual danger that we will miss this opportunity, that we will be so distracted by the measuring and masking, so obsessed with sanitizers and scolding, trying to decide who can enter our churches and who we should keep out (!), and so bent on some anemic effort at replicating public gathering, that we stop asking the questions about how we can best BE church in this time, not best imitate what we were.**

We are finally at a pausing point where we can explore the questions that could help us blossom into something even more faithful than what we were before. How else might we continue reaching people beyond our walls? We are learning to be curious, to learn about others without trying to get them in our doors so we can “assimilate them.” We are opening our eyes to what God is doing in their lives. We find ourselves walking alongside them in this holy journey, sharing our experiences, deepening our love. Why try to force this blossom to open?

Instead of jonesing to get back to the way it was, how about asking God what's next? “Playing it safe” should only pertain to protecting our communities from the *virus*. This is our time to let the Holy Spirit have its way with us. We are being changed. What's the rush? There's no deadline. **There's only the very real danger that we may hurry past this holy invitation in order to crawl back into a past that will not offer the comfort we dream it will.** This has to unfold. We are poised on the edge of the unknown. **Take the pressure off. Something new is emerging. It is organic and wondrous. Give it time.**

How about if your next step, if you haven't already done this, is simply to put together a team of people representative of your congregation **and prayerfully imagine your way through all of this and more?** Read the CDC and state documents, yes, but read your Bible. Read the signs of new life nibbling at the edges of your newfound virtual gatherings. Pray together. Spin out scenarios. Let yourselves get anxious and silly and passionate. Allow some no holds barred brainstorming. **Stop trying to force the past to return.**

When it's truly safe for us to gather again as the people of God, we will be different, thanks be to God. I don't know what this new thing will look like. Some kind of hybrid worship with both online and physical? Or what even that new thing will grow into.

The only long range plan God gives us is that love wins.

In the meanwhile, God calls us beyond our comfort in every age and circumstance. Ours age and circumstance is now. Let the Holy Spirit shake us up and make a new thing grow out of this.

What's your hurry?

Bottom line is this:

You are free to do as you feel led. We must respect each other's discernment.

But we strongly encourage you to take your time before opening your doors.

All things are lawful, but not all things are beneficial. – 1 Cor. 10:23

ATTACHMENT #851-6: IGNITE BUDGET SUMMARY

Ignite Budget Update: Revised May 3, 2020

Ignite 2020 Total				\$569,678
				Budget/ <i>Remaining</i>
Administrative				\$11,403/\$2991.81
Denominational Mission, Covenantal Partners, Grants to Congregations, and Supporting Programs				\$558,275/\$55,975
<i>Denominational Mission</i>			<i>\$110,000/\$0</i>	
General Assembly	\$80,000			
Synod	\$30,000			
<i>Covenantal Partners</i>			<i>\$215,000/(\$25,000)</i>	
International Partners		\$65,000		
Congo	\$15,000			
Guatemala	\$50,000			
New Worshipping Communities		\$150,000		
Riverfront	\$75,000			
Church on Main	\$75,000			
MAC (Matthew 25 Action Committee)		\$25,000		
<i>Grants to Congregations/Invitations to Partnership</i>			<i>\$184,519/\$72,239</i>	
Milford/The Coming Edge	\$15,000		Hanover/Gathering Place	\$14,780
Chestertown/Community Table	\$3,000		Easton/Interfaith Shelter	\$15,000
PCOC/Combating Trauma	\$15,000		Red Clay/Friendship House	\$20,000 (addtl. \$20,000/2021)*
Riverfront/Café Grace	\$19,500		Riverfront/Kitchen Incubator	\$10,000
			Total 2020 Grants: \$112,280	
<i>Supporting Programs</i>			<i>\$48,756/\$8736</i>	
Unglued	\$40,000			
Grant coaching	\$5000			
Kindling funds	\$3,756			
				2020 Remaining \$58,966.81

*As this grant exceeds \$20,000, Presbytery's endorsement will be sought at the May NCP meeting to confirm Ignite's discernment in response to this Invitation to Partnership.

AGREEMENT FOR SEPARATION

This Agreement For Separation (this “*Agreement*”) is made and dated _____, 2020, by and between:

BEAVER DAM PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, a corporation organized and existing under Maryland law (“*Beaver Dam*”), acting as the corporate form of Beaver Dam Presbyterian Church, an ecclesial body (the “*Church*”); and

NEW CASTLE PRESBYTERY, a corporation organized and existing under Delaware law (the “*Presbytery*”), acting as the corporate form of the New Castle Presbytery.

RECITALS

WHEREAS, the Church is and has been at all times relevant hereto a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) (the “*PC(USA)*”); and

WHEREAS, New Castle Presbytery (as an ecclesial body, hereafter referred to as “*New Castle Presbytery*”) is a governing body of the PC(USA) having ecclesiastical jurisdiction over its churches and their members, including the Church and the members thereof; and

WHEREAS, the Church has asserted that numerous deep theological differences exist between the Church and the PC(USA), such differences being greater than the “truths and forms as to which men of good characters and principles may differ,” which are to be “tolerated through mutual forbearance” as contemplated by the Constitution (as hereafter defined); and

WHEREAS, as a result of such differences, the Church has requested that New Castle Presbytery dissolve the congregation for the purpose of making the way clear for the members of the congregation to organize themselves as a worshipping body independent of and separate from New Castle Presbytery and the PC(USA), and other denominations; and

WHEREAS, also as a result of such differences and upon due consideration, New Castle Presbytery is willing to dissolve the congregation in order to make the way clear for the members of the congregation to organize themselves as a worshipping body independent of and separate from New Castle Presbytery and the PC(USA), and other denominations; and

WHEREAS, the Church and New Castle Presbytery, by the actions of their respective governing bodies, have appointed representatives to determine the terms under which New Castle Presbytery will dissolve the congregation; and

WHEREAS, during all time periods relevant hereto, Beaver Dam has held legal or equitable title to that certain real property described in *Exhibit A* hereto (the “*Real Property*”) and various tangible and intangible personal property, including, but not limited to, investments, bank accounts and the name “Beaver Dam Presbyterian Church” (collectively, and without limitation, the “*Personal Property*”); and

WHEREAS, the Church has used the Real Property and the Personal Property in its worship services, ministry and mission; and

WHEREAS, New Castle Presbytery has authority according to the Constitution to dispose of the property of a congregation of the PC(USA) which is dissolved; and

WHEREAS, New Castle Presbytery has taken into consideration the PC(USA)’s use and benefit of the Real Property and the Personal Property, the spiritual needs, financial condition and circumstances of the Church, the value of the Real Property and the Personal Property, and the preservation of the peace and unity of the PC(USA) and its member congregations; and

WHEREAS, the Church and New Castle Presbytery desire to compromise and settle their differences and all claims which any party may have against any other party in accordance with the terms and conditions contained herein.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the promises, representations and warranties of each of the parties contained herein and hereinafter expressed, the parties hereby agree as follows:

1. Definitions. The definitions set forth in the Recitals shall be applicable throughout this Agreement. As used in this Agreement, the following additional terms shall have the following meanings (such meanings shall be equally applicable to the singular and plural forms of the terms used, as the context requires):

(a) “Claims” shall mean and include any and all claims, losses, damages, rights, demands, causes of action, rights of action, obligations, expenses, costs, debts, and liabilities of any nature whatsoever, liquidated or unliquidated, matured or unmatured, contingent or existing, arising under federal or state statute, in tort, contract, law or equity, known or unknown, asserted or unasserted, now existing or hereafter arising, anticipated or unanticipated, including, without limitation, monetary damages and costs of litigation.

(b) “Closing” shall mean completion of the deliveries to be made by the parties in accordance with this Agreement; all deliveries shall be considered to have taken place simultaneously as a single transaction at 5 p.m. prevailing local time on the thirtieth day after the meeting of New Castle Presbytery at which dissolution of the congregation of the Church is approved; and no delivery shall be considered to have been made until all deliveries are completed.

(c) “Constitution” shall mean The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), as amended.

(d) “The Church-Released Parties” shall have the meaning set forth in Paragraph 10 below.

(e) “Presbytery-Released Parties” shall have the meaning set forth in Paragraph 11 below.

(f) “Release” shall mean to fully, finally, and forever release, discharge, surrender, cancel, settle, compromise, satisfy, waive, acquit and surrender.

(g) “Settle” shall mean to fully, finally, and forever compromise, transact, settle, satisfy, and release.

2. Payment to New Castle Presbytery. At Closing, the Church shall pay to New Castle Presbytery Ten Thousand Three Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$10,350.00) in immediately available funds which amount, it is understood and agreed, New Castle Presbytery shall dispose of at its discretion.

3. Quit Claim Deed. At Closing:

(a) The Presbytery shall deliver a quit claim deed in substantially the form attached hereto as **Exhibit B**, forever releasing and quitclaiming to the use and benefit of Beaver Dam Christian Church, a corporation or other legal entity to be formed by the Church, any interest of the Presbytery, acting for the benefit of the PC(USA), in the Real Property, which shall, at the sole expense of the Church, be promptly recorded in the Land Records Office in and for Worcester County, Maryland; and

(b) Beaver Dam shall deliver a quit claim deed in substantially the same form forever releasing and quitclaiming to the use and benefit of the Presbytery any interest of Beaver Dam in that certain real property, commonly known as the “Pitts Creek Cemetery” and to be further described to the mutual satisfaction of the parties, which shall, at the sole expense of the Presbytery, be promptly recorded in the aforementioned Land Records Office.

4. Personal Property. At Closing, the Presbytery shall be deemed to have relinquished any right, title or interest in or claim to the Personal Property, including, but not limited to, any rights that could be asserted by the Presbytery pursuant to the Constitution.

5. Historical Documents. At a time before Closing to be mutually agreed by the Church and the Presbytery:

(a) The Church shall deliver to the Presbytery all of the original historical records of the Church that are in the possession or control of the Church, and not already on deposit with the Presbyterian Historical Society, including, but not limited to, minutes of Session, minutes of congregational meetings, records of membership (in and out), reports of Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly meetings, Presbyterian Women records, records of service elders and deacons, records of marriages, baptisms and deaths, etc. through the date of Closing. The Church may reproduce and retain, at its own expense, true and correct copies of all such historical records; and

(b) The Church shall make available for inspection by representatives of the Presbytery all photographs in the possession or control of the Church, and the Presbytery shall be allowed to reproduce and retain, at its own expense, true and correct copies of any photographs it chooses.

6. Signage. Beaver Dam grants to the Presbytery, effective upon Closing, an irrevocable license to place and maintain on the Real Property and visible at the front entrance to the sanctuary of the Church,

a sign no larger than twenty-four inches in height and thirty inches in width (24" x 30") identifying the Beaver Dam Presbyterian Church as a congregation organized by Rev. Francis Makemie in 1683. The Presbytery shall have sole responsibility for maintenance and upkeep of the sign in a manner reasonably satisfactory to Beaver Dam.

7. Acknowledgments. (a) At Closing, the Church acknowledges that, at all times prior to Closing: (i) the Church was governed in all respects by the Constitution and (ii) without limiting the generality of the foregoing, all property held by or for the benefit of the Church, including all real, personal and intangible property, and whether legal title was lodged in the Church or otherwise, was held in trust nevertheless for the use and benefit of the PC(USA).

(b) At Closing, the Presbytery acknowledges that, immediately following Closing, (i) based upon the consent of the Presbytery to this Agreement, the Church will no longer be a congregation of New Castle Presbytery, the PC(USA), or any associated body, and will no longer be governed by the Constitution, and (ii) based upon the consent of the Presbytery to this Agreement and the deliveries to be made at Closing, the Church's property, including all real, personal and intangible property, whether legal title is lodged in the Church or otherwise, will no longer be held in trust for the use and benefit of the PC(USA).

8. Conditions Precedent To Closing. The Presbytery's obligations to be performed at Closing shall be subject to the satisfaction at or before Closing of the following conditions (unless waived in writing by the Presbytery):

(a) The Church shall have filed with the Stated Clerk of New Castle Presbytery a statement to be recorded among the permanent records of New Castle Presbytery, specifying in substance and detail satisfactory to the Presbytery, the disagreements between the Church and the PC(USA) which have led the Church to seek dissolution and separation from the PC(USA);

(b) The Church shall have furnished to the Presbytery a true and accurate roll containing the full name and mailing address of each current member of the Church, whether shown on the Church's rolls as a full member or in some other category, intended to be sufficient to permit the Presbytery to provide notice by letter to each such current member explaining the situation and settlement, and stating the intention of New Castle Presbytery to provide pastoral care and spiritual support to any members of the Church who may wish to remain as members of the PC(USA);

(c) The Church and Beaver Dam shall have entered into a written agreement with Beaver Dam Christian Church reasonably satisfactory to the Presbytery pursuant to which the Church and Beaver Dam shall have assigned to Beaver Dam Christian Church all of the rights and obligations of the Church and Beaver Dam arising under this Agreement and such corporation or other entity shall have agreed to perform the same;

(d) The Church shall have paid its 2020 *per capita* assessment according to an invoice therefor to be delivered by the Presbytery and

(e) Beaver Dam shall have filed with the State of Maryland such forms or documents as may be necessary to effect the change of its name to a name that does not include the word “Presbyterian.”

10. Church Releases. In consideration of the mutual promises contained in this Agreement, effective upon the Closing, the Church and Beaver Dam hereby Settle all Claims and Releases the Presbytery and its officers, directors, trustees, commissions (specifically including the individual members of the Beaver Dam/Pitts Creek administrative commission appointed by New Castle Presbytery), agents, employees, attorneys, and their respective assignees (the “*Church-Released Parties*”) of and from any and all Claims which the Church and Beaver Dam or their respective insurers and assignees have or might have, now or in the future; *provided, however,* that such Release shall not release the Presbytery from any obligation or undertaking made by it in this Agreement.

11. Presbytery Releases. In consideration of the mutual promises contained herein, effective upon the Closing, the Presbytery hereby Settles all Claims and Releases the Church Beaver Dam and their respective officers, trustees, employees, attorneys, and assignees (the “*Presbytery-Released Parties*”) of and from any and all Claims which the Presbytery, New Castle Presbytery, or their respective insurers and assignees have or might have, now or in the future; *provided, however,* that such Release shall not release the Church or Beaver Dam from any obligation or undertaking made by either of them in this Agreement.

12. Warranties And Representations. (a) Beaver Dam warrants and represents to the Presbytery that:

(i) Beaver Dam is a corporation duly organized, validly existing and in good standing under the laws of the State of Maryland;

(ii) The execution of this Agreement by Beaver Dam and the performance of its obligations hereunder have been duly authorized by all necessary action on the part of Beaver Dam;

(iii) This Agreement has been duly executed and constitutes the valid and legally binding obligation of Beaver Dam and is enforceable against Beaver Dam according to its terms;

(iv) The Church and Beaver Dam are the sole owners of the Claims Settled herein;

(v) No claim has been filed for injury to persons, death, damage to property or loss of property arising out of or related in any way to the ownership or use of Beaver Dam’s real property, nor is Beaver Dam aware of any facts or circumstances which could give rise to the filing of such a claim; and

(vi) The “Funds Balance Report As Of October 31, 2019” contains a complete and accurate disclosure of the assets of Beaver Dam, no liabilities of Beaver Dam are known to it, and no material change in the financial condition of Beaver Dam has occurred since the date of such report.

(b) The Presbytery warrants to Beaver Dam that:

- (i) The Presbytery is a corporation, duly organized, validly existing and in good standing under the laws of the State of Delaware;
- (ii) The execution of this Agreement by the Presbytery and the performance of its obligations hereunder have been duly authorized by all necessary corporate action on the part of the Presbytery;
- (iii) This Agreement has been duly executed and constitutes the valid and legally binding obligation of the Presbytery, and is enforceable against the Presbytery according to its terms;
- (iv) The Presbytery is the sole owner of the Claims Settled herein; and
- (v) In executing this Agreement and performing its obligations herein, the Presbytery is acting upon the authority vested in it by its by-laws and the Constitution including, but not limited to, acting with respect to any trust imposed upon the Real Property or the Personal Property for the benefit of the PC(USA).

13. Indemnification. The Church and Beaver Dam indemnify and agree to hold harmless the Church-Released Parties from and against any further liability for the Claims Released herein. The Presbytery indemnifies and agrees to hold harmless the Presbytery-Released Parties from and against any further liability for the Claims Released herein.

14. Binding Nature of Agreement. Each party acknowledges and agrees that:

- (a) Such party is executing this Agreement as a compromise of disputed claims, without admissions of fault or liability, under the advice of each party's own counsel, after due deliberation and with full knowledge of all circumstances surrounding or relating to the matters covered hereby;
- (b) Such party hereto is obligated to take such action as may be consistent with and in furtherance of, and necessary to the consummation of this Agreement and the transactions contemplated hereby;
- (c) Each and all of the provisions of this Agreement have been thoroughly negotiated by the parties with the benefit of counsel and that if a court or other tribunal determines that any term or provision of this Agreement is ambiguous, the interpretation of such provision shall not in any way include a consideration or determination of who actually drafted such provision, as such fact shall not be a factor in the interpretation; and
- (d) This Agreement shall be binding upon and shall inure to the benefit of the parties hereto, and their respective successors and assignees.

16. Applicable Law. This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Delaware, without regard to its conflicts of law provisions.

17. Execution. This Agreement may be executed in any number of counterparts and by different parties hereto in separate counterparts, each of which when so executed shall be deemed to be an original and all of which when taken together shall constitute one and the same agreement.

[This space intentionally left blank]

18. Integration. The terms and conditions of this Agreement constitute the entire agreement between the parties with respect to the subject matter hereof, and are the sole, exclusive and only obligations

imposed upon the parties hereto. There are no oral terms or oral commitments relating to this Agreement or the subject matter hereof. No modification of this Agreement shall be effective unless in a writing signed by the party against which enforcement of such modification is sought.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have signed this Agreement For Separation on the date(s) hereafter set forth, the latest of which shall be inserted as a ministerial act as the date of this Agreement, for the purposes expressed above.

New Castle Presbytery
A Corporation of the State of Delaware

Beaver Dam Presbyterian Church
A Corporation of the State of Maryland

By: _____
Print Name: Shannon T. Hanson
Title: President of New Castle
Presbytery

By: _____
Print Name: _____
Title: President

Date: _____

Date: _____

Beaver Dam Presbyterian Church, an ecclesial body of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and an unincorporated association of the State of Maryland, acting by and through its duly elected and installed Session, has executed this Agreement For Separation acknowledging and agreeing to be bound by those provisions which, according to their terms, apply to it.

M. Katherine Gilliss

Margaret Blair

James F. Holland

David E. Cunha

Virginia Fay Brittingham

New Castle Presbytery Covid-19 Emergency Crisis Assistance Grants and Loans

New Castle Presbytery Leadership is reaching into our “rainy day” reserve funds to provide assistance to our congregations during this time of pandemic-related crisis. Representatives from our Trustees, COMC, Ignite and staff have been meeting virtually to craft a response to the financial implications of this crisis. Of focused concern is the financial ability of our congregations to continue to pay staff during this very difficult time. To that end, we would like to share the following:

STAGE ONE RESPONSE

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY and until May 15, New Castle Presbytery is making available **Emergency Crisis Assistance Grants**. These grants are intended to assist your church in making your payroll **IF** you have a short-term financial crisis created by Covid-19 restrictions. While limited to payroll expenses, you may include your entire staff payroll, including clergy and non-clergy (Administrative staff, Educational Director, Musicians, Janitorial). Intended to help you through the end of May, these grants of up to \$10,000 are based on financial need and are a symbol of the connectional nature of our church. Funds come from Presbytery “rainy day” Emergency Reserve Funds.

To apply, please send the following information in an email to Bob Schminkey at: statedclerk@ncpresbytery.org.

Name of Congregation:
Your Name:
Your Position in Congregation
Your Email Address
Preferred Phone Number
Secondary Phone Number
Grant amount requested (Note this request may be for payroll only)
Please note staff covered in this request
Approval by Clerk of Session

Upon approval, you will be requested to provide bank details so that an electronic deposit can be sent directly to your account.

For more information, please call or email our Co-Connectional Presbyter, Bob Schminkey (statedclerk@ncpresbytery.org) 410-708-6463, or our Presbytery Treasurer Lynette Kenton (lynettekenton@gmail.com).

STAGE TWO RESPONSE

Available starting May 15, 2020, New Castle Presbytery is offering **Emergency Crisis Assistance Loans**, that will provide longer term loans for payroll and other ongoing expenses. This package will be based on demonstrated need and require a sharing of financial information. Please review and complete the fillable application form available at:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd6oaUeSvyDkXIFXMAL-i7yobyNSmN32RIVZGrI3oV2f6OMmA/viewform?usp=sf_link

Specifically, these funds are intended to assist your congregation with meeting payroll needs of your staff and other necessary expenses for the next few months. Allowable expenses may include coronavirus related needs such as paying utilities, church cleaning expenses and staff benefits. Expenses not allowable in this program include building maintenance, repairs and renovations, new construction or repayment of mortgages, or other expenses that can be delayed.

This loan is not intended for congregations whose financial needs are above and beyond the pandemic's effect. Congregations applying will need to demonstrate through financial documentation their ability to handle loan repayment, per the terms of the loan.

Loans may be made available for a maximum of \$20,000 per congregation. If a congregation has received a grant under New Castle Presbytery's Stage One Emergency Crisis Grant program, the amount of the grant will reduce, dollar for dollar, the maximum amount available to the congregation as a loan.

Funds will be provided as a Five Year LOAN at the prime interest rate on April 30 (currently 3.25%) with no interest charged until May 2021. If the loan repayments are up to date, the five year LOAN will convert to a GRANT when 50% of the loan principal is repaid.

Illustration:

Program Loan amount: \$10,000.00

Interest rate: 3.25%

Monthly payment: \$180.80

If all payments are made in full and on time, one-half of the principal will have been paid when the 32nd monthly payment has been received, with an additional principal payment of \$36.

What is "The Fine Print?"

To apply, you must:

- Submit the fillable form, available online at:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd6oaUeSvyDkXIFXMAL-i7yobyNSmN32RIVZGrI3oV2f6OMmA/viewform?usp=sf_link
- Agree to engage with presbytery leaders regarding your financial situation. That includes providing a copy of your:
 - o Annual Report
 - o Budget vs. Actual statements for 2019 and YTD for 2020
 - o most recent bank and investment account statements
- Provide a statement describing the financial impact of the pandemic on your congregation.

- Agree to the repayment schedule as noted above. This is a 5 year convertible loan at 3.25%, and it becomes a grant when 50% of the loan principal is repaid on time.
- Have Session approval. (A session vote by email is permissible.) Your Session Clerk or Treasurer should sign the application. Presbytery approval is NOT required to apply for this loan. The following language is suggested for a Session Resolution:

The Session of (your church), taking action on (date), APPROVES the application for a 5 year convertible loan from New Castle Presbytery in the amount of (amount here) to assist us in meeting our payroll needs and other critical expenses during this pandemic crisis.

- Be actively seeking additional financial resources through the following sources:
 - o The Board of Pensions. BOP is willing to discuss the temporary suspension of dues. Contact the board directly for details. For more information go to: https://www.pensions.org/news-and-events/articles/board-of-pensions-offers-covid-19-relief-to-churches-and-employers?utm_source=web&utm_medium=homepage_news&utm_campaign=coronavirus.
 - o Online Giving Opportunities. If you do not have online giving available for your congregation, we recommend you contact the Presbyterian Foundation for assistance. Online giving may be critical during these days of social isolation.
 - o The Payroll Protection Plan of the CARES Act. Churches may find loan terms under the Payroll Protection provisions to be more favorable and complete forgiveness of those loans is available in some circumstances. Especially if 75 per cent or more of a Presbytery Crisis loan will be used for payroll purposes, the church is encouraged to consider the Payroll Protection loan program. More information can be found at: <https://www.sba.gov/sites/default/files/2020-04/SBA%20Faith-Based%20FAQ%20Final.pdf>. Your bank can provide you with additional information on the availability of these funds.

Please note: **This pandemic is causing New Castle Presbytery to reach into our “rainy day” emergency and reserve funds to assist congregations.** We hope that we can stretch these funds to their maximum benefit. You can help by reaching into your own “rainy day” funds as possible, and not requesting more than your congregation needs at this time.

ADDITIONAL RESPONSE

Presbytery committees are continuing to work on longer term and missional responses to the pandemic and will likely offer additional assistance as this crisis develops. Information will be shared on our New Castle Presbytery webpage (<https://www.ncpresbytery.org/>) and in our Mid-Week Musings newsletter as it becomes available. Know that you are in our prayers as we all seek to find a clear path forward. We welcome hearing from you and your ideas, and we covet your prayers for staff and leadership as we seek to adapt to our new reality.