

Committee on Ministers and Congregations  
Report to New Castle Presbytery  
Saturday November 19, 2022

**COMC Action Items: COMC recommends**

THAT, Presbytery concur in the request of the Session of First Presbyterian Church of Milford that the New Castle Presbytery waive the usual six-year term limitation for ordained officers for the next three years under the provisions of G-2.0404 of The Book of Order (2019-2023) *(as contained in the Consent Agenda)*.

THAT, Presbytery enroll the Rev. Lance Ness as a Temporary Member of New Castle Presbytery during his service as Pastor of Pitts Creek Presbyterian Church.

THAT, Presbytery authorize Mr. Ness to moderate the session and administer the sacraments during his service as Pastor of the Pitts Creek Presbyterian Church upon his enrollment as a Temporary Member.

THAT, Presbytery approve the Fees for Services for 2023 *(as contained in the Consent Agenda)*

**Introductions of new members:**

The Rev. Rick Upchurch, pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Milford, DE  
The Rev. Alison Halsey, Honorably Retired  
The Rev. Bill Hathaway, Honorably Retired  
The Rev. Debbie Johnson, Honorably Retired

**Recognition of Honorably Retired:**

The Rev. Leonard Hedges-Goettl, April 1, 2022  
The Rev. Jeffrey Howard, September 1, 2022

**Actions taken by COMC:**

October 13, 2022 –at their requests, COMC granted Honorably Retired status to the Rev. Len Hedges-Goettl effective July 1, 2022 and the Rev. Jeff Howard effective Sept 1, 2022.

October 13, 2022 – approved the candidacy of the Rev. Mark E. Parsons as pastor of Dover Presbyterian Church and if the way be clear, pending congregational action, approved that he be received in New Castle Presbytery upon his dismissal from Scioto Valley Presbytery and that the Moderator appoint an administrative commission to install him. His effective date to begin ministry is November 27, 2022.

October 13, 2022 – approved the contract between the Rev. Chris Scott and the Session of West Nottingham Presbyterian Church as bridge pastor.

October 13, 2022 – approved that in addition to in-person options, those required to take a refresher course may use the praesidium course to fulfill the every three year requirement. To fulfill the requirement, you must take Preventing Abuse and Exploitation in Pastoral Ministry and at least two other classes from this list:

- Promoting a Safe Environment: Employee Sexual Harassment
- Prevent Sexual Activity Between Adolescents
- Abuse Risk Management
- Keeping your Church Safe
- Preventing Sexual Activity Between Young Children
- Social Media Safety

October 13, 2022 – approved that med-wrap remain at 2% of total effective salary.

October 13, 2022 – approved the reception of Rev. Alison Halsey and the Rev. Bill Hathaway as honorably retired members of New Castle Presbytery on dismissal from Baltimore Presbytery and that they be placed on the pulpit supply list.

October 13, 2022 – approved special permission for the Rev. Dr. Nancy Rowland to participate in a funeral service on October 23, 2022 at New Castle Presbyterian Church where she had been pastor.

November 2, 2022 – approved the gap pastor job description and terms for Head of Christiana Church while the Rev. Dr. Hilary Livingston is on sabbatical.

November 10, 2022 – approved the contract between the Rev. Dr. Kim Long and the session of Easton Presbyterian Church to be bridge pastor.

November 10, 2022 – approved the allocation of \$750 towards a coaching contract for the Rev. Brooke Scott at Church on Main which represents 50% of the cost of coaching for an 18-month period.

November 10, 2022 – approved the request of the Rev. Sara Holben that her membership be transferred to Shenandoah Presbytery.

November 10, 2022 – approved the request of the Rev. Andy Jacob that his membership be transferred to Philadelphia Presbytery.