



NORTHEAST REGION
**ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
REPORTS**

REPORTS

SATURDAY
AUGUST 14
2021



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BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA¹

Saturday, August 14, 2021 • 10:00 A.M. EST

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

<i>President</i>	Rev. Maxine E. Jenkins, Pittsburgh
<i>Former President</i>	Elder Barbara Adams-Smelter, Philadelphia
<i>Vice-President</i>	Rev. Bernard Downing, Philadelphia
<i>Secretary</i>	Elder Alpha Brown, New York City
<i>Treasurer</i>	Dr. Gayle Griffin, Newark
<i>Assistant Secretary</i>	Elder Elaine McCray, Philadelphia
<i>Regional Representative</i>	Mrs. Rasheeda Hastings, Philadelphia
<i>Chair of Nominating Committee</i>	Elder Anita Perry, Pittsburgh
<i>Members at Large</i>	Elder Etta Graham-Mitchell, New York City Elder Judith Jerry, Pittsburgh

Call to Order & Welcome	Rev. Maxine E. Jenkins
Opening Prayer	Rev. Dr. Flora Wilson Bridges President, NYC Chapter
Quorum Established	Rev. Jenkins
Approval of the Minutes (August 2019) and Agenda (August 14, 2021)	
Report of Officers	
President	Rev. Jenkins
Vice-President	Rev. Downing
Secretary	Elder Brown
Treasurer's Report and 2020 Approved Budget	Elder (Dr.) Griffin
Regional Representative	Mrs. Hastings
Report of Committees	
Executive Committee	Rev. Jenkins
Bylaws Committee	Mrs. Hastings
Nominating Committee	Elder Perry
Election of Officers – President, Treasurer and Assistant Secretary	
Election of Nominating Committee and Executive Committee Members at-large	
New Business	
Volunteers for By-Laws Committee	
Volunteers for Financial Review Committee	
Announcements	
• 225th General Assembly in Louisville, KY (June 25 – July 2, 2022)	
Information for the General Assembly:	
Resolutions 05-09 GA 2018, 02-020 GA 2020, and 02-084 GA 2020	
• NER Annual Meeting in New York City (August 12-13, 2022)	
Closing Prayer	Rev. Doris Glaspy President, New Jersey Chapter
Adjournment	Rev. Jenkins

¹ From Revision of current bylaws: "It is the mission and purpose of THE REGION to advocate for racial justice and equity in the PC(USA) and the global community."

2021 Annual President Report

• **REV. MAXINE E. JENKINS** •

August 14, 2021

It is with a joyful heart and much gratitude to a living and faithful God that the president pens this annual report. In August 2019, with great trepidation, but eagerness and audacious hope to join God on another adventure, she embarked on this new opportunity as president of the Northeast Region of the National Black Presbyterian Caucus. The Lord revealed that those on the executive committee (EC), which acts between annual meetings, were competent and committed, but mostly novices to this level of the caucus and its unique culture. Therefore, EC began by getting acquainted and setting goals that would enable the region to live into its mission and purpose.

The president and the EC continue to work on these three goals: to better communicate with the members, chapters, and congregations, to become a Matthew 25 organization, and to support the Office of Public Witness (OPW). Three taskforces were formed: Communications, Matthew 25, and OPW.

The Communications taskforce (Elder Alpha Brown NYC, Chair) set up an email address (NORTHEAST48) to connect with past and present members of the NER. In addition, the president has quarterly meetings with NER chapter presidents: Rev. Dr. Flora Wilson Bridges (NYC), Rev. Doris Glaspy (NJ), Rev. Dr. Janel Dixon & Rev. Ethelyn Taylor (Philadelphia), and Elder Lenore Williams (Pittsburgh).

The Matthew 25 taskforce (Elder Elaine McCray, Philadelphia, Chair) brings information and updates from this Presbyterian Mission Agency's initiative. The Office of Public Witness taskforce (Elders Judith Jerry & Anita Perry, Pittsburgh, Co-Chairs) shares calls to action in alignment with our mission and purpose.

The EC reactivated the bylaws committee (Rev. Dr. James Reese & Mrs. Rasheeda Hastings, Philadelphia, Co-Chairs) and started a Website Committee (Rev. Downing, Philadelphia, Chair). The Rev. Glaspy and Mrs. Hastings were appointed as parliamentarian and regional representative, respectively. We attempted to begin work on a financial review for 2020, but lacked source papers, such as articles of incorporation for the NER.

Near the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the fundraiser committee hosted a Stay-at-Home Tea, raising \$630 and the chapter presidents were asked to spearhead a letter writing campaign, proposed by Rev. Rita Dixon. It was with regret and wisdom that we cancelled the 2020 Annual Meeting and continued planning for the 2021 Annual Meeting with the Philadelphia Chapter.

The president assisted the National, the Pittsburgh Chapter, and the Rev. Oghene'tega Swann with racial and injustice issues concerning the Beaver- Butler Presbytery and the Synod of the Trinity. Numerous attempts were made to contact the Rev. Dr. Peters about Sankofa Hope, without success. The president registered with the National Association of Parliamentarians and completed five online courses to improve her skills as a moderator. In addition, the president served on four National committees and two Pittsburgh Chapter committees. She attended the 46th Biennial Convention, June 24 – 26, 2021. Submitted by

The Rev. Maxine E. Jenkins, Honorably Retired
President, NBPC Northeast Region

2021 Annual Vice President Report

• **REV. BERNARD DOWNING** •

August 14, 2021

Greetings in the name of our Resurrected Lord and Savior. Here is my Annual Vice President's Report. I was able to meet with our President, Reverend Maxine E. Jenkins to discuss upcoming meetings as well as other endeavors aimed to enhance our caucus. In addition, we engaged in discussions about some of our goals and the agendas that were shared with our executive committee. We further conversed about some of subject matters relative to the Reports that written previously that were sent to the chapters and their president's. We both looked forward to meeting with the rest of the committee in the upcoming meetings that normally took place on Wednesday evenings.

Other actions worth noting are listed below:

- Attend Meetings monthly for both the Philadelphia Caucus and Northeast Region
- Partnered with our President in moderating parts of the Executive Committee meetings.
- Spearheading the website team and assisted with the future development of a web-stie for the NE region
- A member of the planning committee for the Annual Business Meeting
- I attempted to make myself available to any fellowship or chapters in need assistance. My desire was to do my very best to provide my expertise and knowledge of technology as much as possible and of course within reason. Nevertheless, it is very important that we continue to seek innovative ways to keep our congregants connected during this time of crisis.
- Finally, my goals were to implement impactful youth programs and to recruit more members by developing new concepts that are infectious as well as challenging. This is with the understanding that some of the old methods may not be as productive or effective in this millennium. Another goal that comes to mind, creating future leaders and lay preachers, especially since many of our churches need of pastor leadership.

In closing, this has been quite a challenging couple of years due to the pandemic Covid-19. It was and continues to be my prayer that each of our chapters/fellowships were able to continue their worship, by utilizing the modern technology that is made available. No weapon formed against us shall prosper, we are grateful for each of you and look forward to our continued effort to serve you as the Executive Committee. Please continue to be blessed!

Rev. Bernard Downing

Vice President, NBPC NER

2021 Annual Secretary Report

• **ELDER ALPHA BROWN** •

2020-2021

This has been an exciting year being the Secretary and a member of the Northeast Region Caucus. As Secretary from October 2020 through July 2021 my responsibilities are to keep written records of all regional and Executive Committee monthly meetings. All minutes for the October 2020 – July 2021 and reports have been filed. There is a record of all motions that have been moved, seconded and carried from 2019 to 2021 by the Executive Committee; this is only highlights of the motions carried are:

2019 Motions, seconded and carried

To accept the slate and approve the election of incoming officers

Fundraising “Stay-At-Home Tea”

Letter Writing Campaign inviting new members

2020 Motions, seconded and carried

2020 New officers were installed

Letter Writing Campaign - suspend the letter writing campaign.

Motion carried unanimously to create a website and an email address

The proposed Budget for 2021 Annual meeting,

2021 Annual Meeting be held virtually.

2021 Motions, seconded and carried

To create taskforce for (Communication, Matthew 25 and Public Witness)

Creation of a new expense Voucher

Dues should be paid before January 2022

I also assist the Treasurer in keeping records of all accurate records of all dues, payment, donations, contributions and other receipts.

As Secretary I am responsible for keeping the data base updated to reflect the National information. In 2021, an email went to Chapters to update the Black Churches in their Presbyteries. The Churches will be recorded in the National Directory of African American Churches.

Submitted by,

Alpha Brown, Secretary
NBPC Northeast Region

2021 Annual Treasurer Report

• **DR. GAYLE GRIFFIN** •

2019-2021

REPORT INTENTIONALLY OMMITTED

**NBPC BYLAWS
ARTICLE 7, SEC 4
REGIONAL
REPRESENTATIVES**

Each region shall elect or designate a Regional Representative. The Regional Representative shall represent the region on the NBPC Board of Directors and is accountable to the Board. The Regional Representative should be committed to participating fully in the work of the Board, with particular emphasis on serving as liaison between the Board, the Region, and Chapters. They may also be asked to fulfill other related responsibilities assigned by the Board.

2021 Annual Regional Representative Report

• **MRS. RASHEEDA HASTINGS** •

August 14, 2021

In about the month of May of 2020, I accepted the invitation to represent the Northeast Region (NER) on the national board. It has been an honor and a privilege to be active in the caucus in such a manner. The guidance from our region president and support of our members has truly been invaluable.

The region has had a successful and productive year. Because of our perseverance and steadfast faith, the region has continued to maintain our membership numbers despite the challenges of a national pandemic and inability to meet in person. We have seen the New York chapter reactivate. The New Jersey chapter (formerly known as Newark) has completed their reorganization. The Philadelphia and Pittsburgh chapters continue to engage active members. While the Northeast Region (NER) continues to thrive, there is a lot of work to be done, but we are up for the challenge. Thus, here we are treading new waters. We are the first region to hold an annual meeting virtually. To coin a phrase, "The struggle is real", and this is surly God's grace. I am truly grateful to be in your midst.

Throughout the year I have been involved in the following activities:

- Attended National Board Meetings every three months with voice and vote for the NER
- Attended monthly meetings with the executive committee
- Attended meetings with the Regional Representative / RRR committee
- Attended chapter presidents meeting every three months
- Attended monthly meetings with the Philadelphia chapter
- Written reports and communications were presented at each meeting and are on file with the secretary.
- Assisted the president, Pittsburgh Chapter, and National, and the Rev. Oghene'tega Swann with racial and injustice issues concerning the Beaver- Butler Presbytery and the Synod of the Trinity.
- Continued to consult with president in support of the good of the region
- Attended planning meetings for the Annual Meeting
- Attended biennial meeting
- Attended 2020 virtual General Assembly

Going forward, it is my hope to:

- Visit each chapter individually in order to establish better relationships
- Continue to provide open dialogues where members can feel safe to express how we can support our congregations and grow as a caucus
- Continue to support Matthew 25 initiatives and task forces
- Involvement with issues at General Assembly
- Promote initiation of programs to be offered by our region
- Represent the caucus with integrity
- Pray for World Peace

Continued Blessings to All!

Respectfully Submitted,

Rasheeda J. Hastings, NER Representative

2021 Annual Executive Committee Report

• **REV. MAXINE E. JENKINS on behalf of COMMITTEE** •

August 14, 2021

Since the 2019 annual meeting, the executive committee (EC) has met most months on the third Wednesday to continue the business of the NER between annual meetings. The members of the EC are Rev. Maxine E. Jenkins, Elder Barbara Adams-Smelter, Rev. Bernard Downing, Elder Alpha Brown, Elder (Dr.) Gayle Griffin, Elder Elaine McCray, Mrs. Rasheeda Hastings, Elder Anita Perry, Elder Judith Jerry and Elder Etta Graham-Mitchell. These individuals represent, with competence and dedication, all four of the region's chapters: New York City, New Jersey, Philadelphia, and Pittsburgh.

The EC set goals, reactivated committees, established task forces, and pursued a fundraiser and letter writing campaign. They acted on the following items:

- Approved the establishment of three goals;
- Approved three task force;
- Approved the ad hoc fundraiser committee;
- Approved the letter writing campaign;
- Approved the Philadelphia Chapter to host the 2021 Annual Meeting;
- Approved the resignation of Elder Lenore Williams, with gratitude, as regional representative to the National Board of Directors;
- Approved Mrs. Rasheeda Hastings as regional representative;
- Approved Rev. Doris Glaspy as parliamentarian;
- Approved Nominating Committee letters and forms;
- Approved the purchase of a Zoom account;
- Approved the proposed budgets for 2020 & 2021; and
- Approved bylaws revision.

In addition the committee received numerous reports/forms and worked diligently with the Philadelphia presidents/moderations to plan the 2021 Annual Meeting (virtual). May God be glorified!

Submitted on behalf of the Executive Committee by
Rev. Maxine E. Jenkins, Honorably Retired
President, NBPC Northeast Region

2021 Annual Bylaws Committee Report

• **MRS. RASHEEDA HASTINGS on behalf of COMMITTEE** •

August 14, 2021

The members of the bylaws committee are Rev. Dr. James Reese, Rev. Maxine E. Jenkins (ex officio), and Ms. Rasheeda J. Hastings. The goal of the bylaws committee is to suggest a set of bylaws that clearly states who we are and how we operate.

The committee commenced reviewing the bylaws in February of 2020. Activities were as follows:

- We met via conference call primarily on a monthly basis, and sometimes bi-weekly when necessary. We approached discussing revisions by addressing one article at a time, one section at a time.
- The final draft with revisions was completed and submitted to the executive committee (EC) for review in July of 2020.
- The final draft was accepted to be presented at the annual meeting by the EC committee in August of 2020.

MOTION: The bylaws committee recommends the adoption of this revision of the Adopted 2018 bylaws.

This revision of the bylaws may be amended by the membership at this Northeast Region Annual Meeting by 2/3 majority of the membership voting today. Operational Guidelines changes shall be made by the EC and reported to the membership at the next annual meeting.

Respectfully Submitted on behalf of the Bylaws Committee by

Rasheeda J. Hastings

2021 Annual Nominating Committee Report

• **ELDER ANITA PERRY on behalf of COMMITTEE** •

August 14, 2021

February 4, 2021 – Nominating Committee met to prepare and plan for elections at the Annual Meeting in August 2021.

March 12, 2021 – Nominating Committee meeting began discussion concerning adjustments to introductory letter announcing the open positions of President, Assistant Secretary, and Treasurer. A draft was sent to members of the Executive Committee requesting input. It was agreed to send the first mailing requesting nominations to ALL members of the Northeast Region.

Letter was to be mailed March 29, 2021. Letter mailed

March 17, 2021 – Draft was presented to the Executive Committee requesting input.

March 20, 2021 – REMINDER was sent to EC requesting adjustments.

April 9, 2021 – Introductory letter and nomination forms were sent to entire membership (as of April 2, 2021) of the Northeast Region.

May 5, 2021 – ALL Chapter presidents received another copy of the introductory letter and nomination forms for President, Assistant Secretary, and Treasurer.

President, Rev. M. E. Jenkins agreed to be placed on the ballot as she is available to serve a second term.

Assistant Secretary, Elder E. McCray chose not to serve a second term.

Treasurer, Elder G. Griffin agreed to be placed on the ballot as she can serve another term.

June 2021- A member of the Northeast Region of NBPC from Pittsburgh agreed to be on the slate for the position of Assistant Secretary.

To date, and after several attempts, we have not been able to reach her nor any members of her church. This position will be open for nominations from the floor.

Respectfully submitted,

Elder Anita Perry, Chair, Pittsburgh

Elder Moretha Matthews, New York City

Rev. Doris Peterson, New Jersey

Rev. Dr. James Reese, Philadelphia

2021 Annual Communication Task Force Report

• **ELDER ALPHA BROWN on behalf of COMMITTEE** •

2020-2021

The Communication Task Force (CT) is a new task force voted by the Executive Committee to operate electronically to allow the flow of information to the Chapters. Our main purpose is to keep the Chapters Connected to enhance the Northeast Region (NER) to move forward with our mission by creating ways to increase the membership.

We have created an email address to receive and distribute information on behalf of the Northeast Region Caucus.

We have e-mailed and US postal service to send information to active and inactive members regarding the Annual Meeting and other important information to the Chapters. As of July, we have sent over 1,500 emails. Emails were sent on behalf of the Caucus regarding: meetings for Committees, concerns of the Chapters, events for Black History Month and vital reports that are helpful to the Chapters. CT also send eblasts concerning actions from the Office of the Public Witness so members will become knowledgeable of legislation that is being acted upon.

The CT is devoted in keeping the communication open for the NER so the membership will be abreast of information that is being sent and received. The CT have reevaluated our goals and discussed that this task force is one of the main components in NER. We have had many positive reactions to our emails.

At present, the CT has created a form, allowing Chapters to keep the Executive Committee updated of the Chapter Chairs, Secretaries and Membership information.

The email address is Northeast48 at npbc.ner@gmail.com

Submitted by,

Elder Alpha Brown, Chair

2021 Annual Matthew 25 Task Force Report

• **ELDER ELAINE McCRAY on behalf of COMMITTEE** •

August 14, 2021

In 2020 the Northeast Region Executive Committee voted and approved the Northeast Region a Matthew 25 organization and convened a Matthew 25 Task Force.

The Matthew 25 Task Force purpose is to be actively engaged and be supportive to local chapters and congregations who may seek to accept the Matthew 25 Invitation.

The Northeast Region is committed to the three Matthew 25 fundamental principles as the Caucus lives into its mission and purpose.

During the past eighteen months, the Matthew 25 Task Force has shared and profiled, from the PC(USA) Presbyterian Mission Agency Matthew 25 and other sources, different entities and churches sharing how their congregations are implementing some or all the Matthew 25 principles:

- **Dismantling Structural Racism**
- **Eradicating Systematic Poverty**
- **Building Congregational Vitality**

Several presbyteries and synods are now Matthew 25.

It has been amazing to see how resilient and creative some of these churches and their congregations have been carrying out their ministries during this pandemic.

The NBPC Northeast Region Matthew 25 Task Force welcomes stories from our churches, councils and synods to share with our members.

The PC(USA) Presbyterian Mission Agency – Matthew 25 – A Bold Vision and Invitation – “How the Matthew 25 Initiative unites all Presbyterians?”

“By accepting the Matthew 25 Invitation, you can help our denomination become a more relevant presence in the world. We can recognize Christ’s urgent call to be a church of action where God is.”

You can learn more from the PC(USA) Presbyterian Mission Agency Matthew 25 website on how to become a Matthew 25 Church, Council, or Group.

Will you accept the invitation?

Respectfully submitted,

Elder Elaine McCray

Northeast Region Matthew 25 Task Force, Chair

2021 Annual Office of Public Witness Task Force Report
• **ELDER JUDITH A. JERRY on behalf of COMMITTEE** •
August 14, 2021

The Presbyterian Office of Public Witness Office (OPW) is the public policy information and advocacy office of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA). NBPC Northeast Region has been reporting to its members a variety of issues that have come out under the title “Action Alerts.” These alerts are to publicize to the general public and to encourage legislators to take the position of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

A sample of the Action Alerts brought to the attention of the Northeast Region, and disseminated through the Communication Task Force to Chapters and members were to:

- Encourage US Senators to vote for the PLANET Act (Preserving Leadership Against Nuclear Explosives Testing);
- Support to the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program (DACA);
- Support the Commemoration of World Refugee Day and;
- Support Bill H.R. 40 first introduced in 1989 (finally moving forward to create a Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposal for African Americas Act).

The OPW continues to encourage and support the annual training for and the Ecumenical Advocacy Days conferences.

Submitted by,

Elder Judith A. Jerry, Pittsburgh