

# The Presbytery of Elizabeth

Presbyterian Church (USA)

STATED MEETING

## #656

The Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church, Plainfield, NJ

January 26 MMXIII

### Attendance.

Congregation	Teaching Elder		Ruling Elder	
Avenel	[Vacant (P)]	--		A
Basking Ridge (2)	Dennis Jones Maureen Paterson	P A	Joan Anson John Hoare	P P
Bedminster, Lamington	Matthew Davis [Vacant (A)]	E --		A
Berkeley Heights, Westminster	Diane Ruffle	P	Eugene Daniel	P
Bernardsville, First	Chester Kim	A		A
Carteret, First	[Vacant (P)]	--		A
Clark, Osceola	Brian Croak (I)	P	Fran Huckel	P
Clinton	William O. (Tex) Culton (I)	P		P
Cranford (2)	Chris Kile Valencia Norman (A)	P A	Christine Esposito	P A
Edison, Community	Kenneth Macari	P	Glenn Renollet	P
Edison, Lord of Hope	Chang Woo Lee	A		A
Edison, Oak Tree (2)	Jill Hedlund Kitsko	P	Madelynne Lindsey	P A
Elizabeth, First (2)	Robert Higgs (D)	E	Rafael Rodriguez	P A
Elizabeth, Second (2)	Michael Granzen	P	Linwood Bagby	P A
Elizabeth, Third-Westminster (2)	Frank K Muse (D)	P	Betty Prezzy Bryant	P A
Elizabeth, Siloam-Hope (2)	John Howard	P	Helen Mosley	P A
Fanwood (2)	David Jahnke	P	Richard Sharrett Judy Wussler	P P
Fords, First (2)	Douglas Kurtz (SS)	A		A A
Garwood (2)	Howard Bryant [I]	E		A A
Hillside Millennium (2)	Jupiaci Gomes	P		A A
Iselin, First (2)	James F. Thomas	E	Harry Senzek Betty Stauffer	P P

Liberty Corner (4)	Donald Feuerbach Anne Havrilla (A)	A E	David Erlenborn Don Mayer-Brown Gerard Nelson Jack Paddon	P P P P
Linden (2)	William Weaver	A	Mmaezi Chiobi	P A
Linden, Calvin (2)	Ryan Landino	A		A A
Martinsville, Christ (2)	Susan Joseph Rack	P	Jamie Breeding	P A
Metuchen, First (3)	Samuel Massengill Arlo Jones (A) Mercy Rumengan (PA)	E E P	Phyllis Black	P A A
Middlesex (2)	Neal Presa	A	Ruth Mikalonis	P A
Mountainside, Community (2)	Chris Belden	P	Marjorie Bradshaw Nicholas Bradshaw	P P
New Providence (3)	Jeffrey Ebert Michael Flavin (A) Ian Rankine (A)	A A A		A A A
No. Plainfield, Watchung Ave. (2)	Shannan Vance-Ocampo	P	Doug Boleyn Dianne Ledder	P P
Perth Amboy, First	Peter Hofstra	A		A
Pittstown, Bethlehem	Laurie Sponaugle	E	Alicia Tamilio	E
Plainfield, Bethel	Jonathan Williams (CRE)	A	Paul Broady	P
Plainfield, Crescent Ave	Lynn Santulli (I)	P	Joan Pivnichny	P
Plainfield, United	Victor Aloyo, Jr. (TS)	A		A
Pluckemin	A. Coile Estes Margaret Mitsuyasu (A)	P P	Richard Lant	P
Rahway, First	Brooks Smith (I)	A	Joanne Noblitt	E
Roselle, First	Karen Chamis	P		A
Scotch Plains, Willow Grove	Cynthia Cochran-Carney	E	Maryjane Finne	E
Springfield, First	Victoria M. Ney	P	Don Rathjens	E
Summit, Central (2)	Charles Baier (I) John Illian (A) Cynthia Betz-Bogoly (A)	P P P	Claire Davis Betty Torell	P P
Union, Connecticut Farms	Roberta Arrowsmith	P	Elsie Bauer	P
Union, Townley	Chris Taylor	P	Lois Tangowski	A
Warren, Trinity United	[Vacant (P)]	--	Kay Hurd	P
Westfield (3)	Raymond Roberts Mike Samson (A) Emily Wilmarth (A)	P P A	Mark Fleder David Foltz Don Williams	P P P
Woodbridge, First	Leslie Dobbs-Allsopp Shelley Gardner (A)	P E	Tom Walsh	P

**Teaching Elders Engaged in a Validated Ministry (G-2.0503a)**

Gregory A. Albert, Interim Executive Presbyter (Presbytery of Elizabeth)	P
Nadia Ayoub, Mission Worker, (PUCSA Worldwide Mission - The Ukraine)	E
Karen Brostrom-O'Brien, Int Dir (Johnsonburg Presbyterian Center)	E
Linda Owens, DCE, (Bound Brook PC, New Brunswick Presbytery)	A
Paul F. Rack, Stated Clerk (Presbytery of Elizabeth)	P

**Teaching Elders Engaged in a Validated Ministry Beyond the Jurisdiction of the Church (G-2.0503a)**

Isaac Ahn (Evangelical Fellowship Chapel (EFC) of Parsippany, NJ)	A
Nancy Munshour Asbury (Raritan Valley Habitat for Humanity)	P
Leonard Bethel (Rutgers University)	A
Sally Campbell (St. Luke's Hospital, Bethlehem, PA)	A
Deirdre Greenwood White (Annisquam Village Ch, Gloucester, MA)	E
Kathryn Henry (Peapack Reformed Church, Gladstone, NJ)	E
Jennifer T. Hrynyk (Community Congregational Ch, Short Hills, NJ)	E
Christina L. McCormick (The Westminster Schools, Atlanta, GA)	E
Dorothy Morris (Norwood Terrace, Plainfield, NJ)	E
Arthur Pace, U.S. Army Chaplain (Pennsylvania)	E

**Members at Large (G-2.0503b)**

Jennifer Butler (Washington DC)	E
Lawrence Finn III	P
Leslie Foltz-Morrison (Delmar, NY)	P
Murv Gardiner	A
Philip M. Jones	E
John S. Oh (Fullerton, CA)	E
Young Jin Park	A
Joseph Yoon	A

**Honorably Retired (G-2.0503c)**

Beth Anderson-Domer	E
Helen Beglin	E
Robert Beringer	P
Frederick Black	P
Russell Block	E
George Bonnell	E
Charles Brackbill	E
Howard Bryant [see GARWOOD]	--
Reid S. Byers, Jr.	E
William O Culton [see CLINTON]	--
John Dunlap, Jr. (Pennsylvania)	E

Abraham Luckhoff (Georgia)	E
Charles Maxell (Michigan)	E
John Millar (Manitoba Canada)	E
Hibbert Moss	E
Douglas Muller (Pennsylvania)	E
John Naugle (Pennsylvania)	E
Janet Vane Pederson	E
Corina Rodriguez (Oklahoma)	E
Bruce Schundler	E
Timothy J.J. Shu	E
Brooks Smith [see RAHWAY First]	--



# Minutes.

## **Call to Order.**

The 656<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Elizabeth was held on Saturday, January 26, 2013, at the Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church, in Plainfield, NJ. The meeting was called to order at 9:05 am (EST), and opened with a prayer by Shannan Vance-Ocampo (Watchung Avenue) the Vice-Moderator of Presbytery.

Linwood Bagby (Second), the Moderator of Presbytery, assumed the chair.

A quorum was present.

1. The Moderator introduced the host Pastor, Lynn Santulli (Crescent Avenue), who welcomed the presbytery, spoke of the life and mission of the congregation in the community, and explained the facility.
2. First-time commissioners were introduced from the Central and Connecticut Farms churches.
3. The presbytery **VOTED** to seat Minner Serovy (Milwaukee Presbytery), Allison Seed (Heartland Presbytery), Leslie Dobbs-Allsopp (Woodbridge), Donald Steele (Carlisle Presbytery), and Tracey Cowen Henry (Pittsburgh Presbytery) as Corresponding Members for this meeting.

## **Stated Clerk.**

Paul F. Rack (Stated Clerk) presented his report. He explained the Consent Agenda.

1. The distributed Docket for this meeting.
2. The distributed Minutes of the 655<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting.
3. The requested Excuses collected at the meeting or otherwise. Teaching Elders: Davis, Higgs, Bryant, Havrilla, Massengill, A Jones, Sponaugle, Cochran-Carney, Gardner, K Henry, Hrynyk, Morris; and Ruling Elders: Tamilio, Noblitt, MJ Finne, Rathjens, Hale,
4. The report of the Treasurer of Presbytery. (See Appendix I.)
5. The Minutes of the Presbytery Cabinet for December 4, 2012, and January 3 and 8, 2013. (See Appendix II.)
6. The **Committee on Preparation for Ministry** reported the following actions:
  - a. Approved the Final Assessment of Doris Katherine (Katja) Gruening (Basking Ridge) and certified her ready to receive a call as a Teaching Elder in the PC(USA).
  - b. Enrolled Andrew Chun (Bernardsville, First) as an Inquirer.
  - c. Approved the withdrawal of candidate Christine R.A. Treger (Westfield) from under care of the committee
  - d. Accepted Amaury Tañón-Santos, an ordained minister in the American Baptist Church, to be placed under care while he completes PCUSA ordination exams.

7. The **Committee on Ministry** reported the following actions:
  - a. The extension of the Commissioned Ruling Elder covenant with Jonathan Williams and the session of the Bethel church.
  - b. The approval of the Church Information Form (CIF) for the Avenel church.
  - c. A Triennial Visit was conducted at the Cranford church.
8. The **Evangelism & Church Vitality Unit** requests that the presbytery act to transfer funds in Long-Term Liability Permanent Accounts #2108 and #2120 to a Jeremiah Journey Reserve Fund for use by the unit.

The presbytery **VOTED** to approve the items on the Consent Agenda.

**The Presbytery Gathered for Worship with the Celebration of the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper.**

Nancy Asbury (SM) preached and Cynthia Betz-Bogoly (Central) served as celebrant for this service.

**Nominating Committee.**

Susie Krivenko (Rahway), chair, brought her report of the Nominating committee, placing the names of the following presbyters into nomination.

<u>Cabinet</u>	Teaching Elder Chris Kile (Cranford)	At-large member	2014	
<u>Audit Committee</u>	Teaching Elder John Howard (Siloam-Hope)		2014	Term I
<u>Johnsonburg Presbyterian Center Board</u>	Ruling Elder Heather Meyers (Iselin)		2014	Term I
<u>Outreach and Social Concerns Unit</u>	Ruling Elder Roy Meyers (Iselin)		2014	Term I

There being no nominations from the floor, the presbytery **VOTED** to elect these presbyters to these positions.

The presbytery listened to several announcements from the churches.

**Cabinet.**

1. Coile Estes (Pluckemin), chair, presented the first part of the report of the Personnel Committee of the Cabinet. She began by offering an invitation to the presbytery to attend an “open-house” at the presbytery office from 10-2 to bid farewell to Greg Albert and thank him for his service as our Interim Executive Presbyter.
  - a. Presbyter Estes also presented a report recommending three presbyters to cover the responsibilities of the Interim Presbytery Executive during the months when we will not have anyone officially in that position.
    - (1) The presbytery **VOTED** to hire ruling elder Gerald Nelson (Liberty Corner) as Connectional Presbyter at 10 hours a week, at \$40 per hour.
    - (2) The presbytery **VOTED** to hire teaching elder Ken Macari (Edison) as Pastor-to-Pastors at 10 hours per week, at \$40 per hour.

- b. The presbytery **VOTED** to endorse the proposal from the Personnel Committee to give a 2% cost of living salary increase to all presbytery staff members.
  - c. Presbyter Estes also announced that the Personnel Committee had collected money to be presented to Greg Albert, the outgoing Interim Executive Presbyter, as a farewell gift.
2. Barbara McLaughlan (Westfield) presented the report of the Stewardship Committee of the Cabinet, consisting of the proposed 2013 Budgets for a First Reading.

The presbytery **VOTED** to keep to the terms of the 2012 budget until the 2013 budget is officially approved.

The presbytery **VOTED** to exempt the recently approved cost of living raises for the staff from the 2012 budget extension, and allow those to take effect as of January 1, 2013.

3. Shannan Vance-Ocampo (Watchung Ave), co-chair, presented an update from the Transitional Leader Search Committee. They have been meeting at Chris Belden's home on Thursdays.

The committee is committed to transparency, while maintaining confidentiality where appropriate.

She introduced Margaret Mitsuyasu (Pluckemin) who gave a PowerPoint presentation on behalf of the committee.

#### **Personal Privilege.**

Karen Chamis (Roselle) apologized to the presbytery for her unloving words at the last presbytery meeting.

#### **Interim Executive Presbyter.**

Greg Albert presented a final report to the presbytery. (See Appendix III.)

#### **Intentional Conversations.**

The presbytery broke into several smaller groups to discuss emergent issues, including: The Board of Pensions, the Presbyterian Foundation, the Disaster Response Commission, the Mission Design Plan, and the Youth Triennium.

#### **Consultation Hour:** PROPOSED BOARD OF PENSIONS CHANGES

Allison Seed (Heartland Presbytery), BOP Regional Representative, gave a video presentation regarding the proposed changes in the medical side of the Board of Pensions.

#### **Cabinet.**

Coile Estes resumed her report from the Personnel Committee of Cabinet. The presbytery **VOTED** to approve the following motion from the Cabinet.

**The Presbytery of Elizabeth hereby petitions the Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church (USA) to delay taking action regarding the so-called "dues-plus" plan, which would reduce the premium paid by churches but also require members to contribute more for family coverage, until the Board has presented to the denomination a detailed report indicating what other options have been considered and the implications of any changes on churches and pastors.**

#### **The Committee on Ministry.**

The report of the Committee on Ministry was presented by Claudia Heffner (Westfield).

1. She presented teaching elder Donald J. Steele (Carlisle Presbytery), who is the candidate for the position of Pastor at the Central church, effective February 24, 2013. A congregational meeting was held on January 6, 2013, moderated by Charles Baier (Central). The presbytery examined presbyter Steele and **VOTED** to enroll him as a member of Elizabeth Presbytery, and the following Terms of Call:

<u>TERMS OF CALL</u>		
Salary	\$70,800	
Housing	\$49,200	
<b>Total Effective Salary</b>		<b>\$120,000</b>
Pension and Medical	\$39,600	
Social Security Offset	\$ 9,180	
Utilities	\$ 5,500	
Vacation	One month	
<b>Total Compensation to Pastor</b>		<b>\$174,280</b>
Business/professional Allowance	\$ 3,000	
Continuing Education Allowance	\$ 3,000	
Travel Allowance	\$ 3,000	
Continuing Education Leave	Three weeks	
<b>Total Cost to Church</b>		<b>\$183,280</b>
<i>(AA/EEO guidelines were followed.)</i>		

A delegation from the Central church came forward for prayer with presbyter Steele by Vicky Ney (Springfield).

2. Presbyter Heffner presented teaching elder Tracey Cowen Henry (Pittsburgh Presbytery), who is the candidate for the position of Pastor at the Clinton church, effective March 1, 2013. A congregational meeting is to be held on January 27, 2013, moderated by Tex Culton (Clinton). The presbytery examined presbyter Henry and **VOTED** to enroll her as a member of Elizabeth Presbytery, and the following Terms of Call:

<u>TERMS OF CALL</u>		
Salary	\$65,000	
Manse value	\$30,000	
<b>Total Effective Salary</b>		<b>\$95,000</b>
Pension & Medical	\$31,350	
Dental	\$ 1,446	
Social Security Offset	\$ 7,268	
Vacation	One month	
<b>Total Compensation to Pastor</b>		<b>\$135,064</b>
Professional and Travel Allowance	\$ 3,000	
Continuing Education Allowance	\$ 1,800	
Continuing Education Leave	Two weeks	
<b>Total Cost to Church</b>		<b>\$139,864</b>
<i>(AA/EEO guidelines were followed.)</i>		

A delegation from the Clinton church came forward for prayer with presbyter Henry by Tex Culton.

3. The presbytery **VOTED** to approve the following measures in one motion:
  - a. The request of the Elizabeth First church to call Robert Higgs (DP) as Pastor
  - b. The transfer of Karen Brostrom-O'Brien (SM) to Newton Presbytery.
  - c. The transfer of Greg Albert (IEP) to New Brunswick Presbytery.
  - d. Moving Leonard Bethel (SM) to the status of honorably retired, and transfer him to Philadelphia Presbytery.



- e. The following Administrative Commission to install Margaret Mitsuyasu as Associate Pastor at the Pluckemin church on Sunday, January 20, 2013 at 10:00 AM

Ruling Elders: Linwood Bagby (Second), Moderator presiding,  
Ruth Arriaza (Plainfield, *Nuevas Fronteras*)  
Gavin Millard (Pluckemin)

Teaching Elders: A. Coile Estes (Pluckemin)  
Dorothy Morris (IC)

4. The presbytery **VOTED** to approve a Warrant for an Administrative Commission to work with the Third-Westminster church, and to authorize the Moderator to appoint members of this Administrative Commission and report the names back to the next Stated Meeting of the presbytery. (See Appendix VI.)

**Adjourn.**

The presbytery **VOTED** to adjourn at 2:00 pm (EST) with prayer by the Vice-Moderator.

Attest:

Paul F. Rack  
Stated Clerk