

The Presbytery of Elizabeth

Presbyterian Church (USA)

STATED MEETING

#660

United Presbyterian Church, Plainfield, NJ

September 24 MMXIII

Attendance.

Congregation	Teaching Elder (TE)		Ruling Elder (RE)	
Avenel (2)	Robert Louer (I)	P	Darla Hunt	P A
Basking Ridge (3)	Dennis Jones Maureen Paterson	A A	Ed Landis Mike Rountree	P P A
Bedminster, Lamington (2)	Matthew Davis [Vacant (A)]	P --		A A
Berkeley Heights, Westminster (2)	Diane Ruffle	P	Eugene Daniel	E A
Bernardsville, First (2)	Chester Kim	P		A A
Carteret, First (2)	[Vacant (P)]	--		A A
Clark, Osceola	Brian Croak (TS)	P	Carol Riddlestorffer	P
Clinton	Tracey C. Henry	P	Lisa Lomauro	P
Cranford (2)	Chris Kile Vacant (A)	P --	Gail Clauer Arthur (Skip) Winter, Jr.	P A
Edison, Community	Kenneth Macari	P	Ron Buchmann	P
Edison, Lord of Hope	Chang Woo Lee	A		A
Edison, Oak Tree	Jill Hedlund Kitsko	P	Madelynne Lindsey	P
Elizabeth, First	Robert Higgs	p	Rafael Rodriguez	P
Elizabeth, Second	Michael Granzen	P	Linwood Bagby	P
Elizabeth, Third-Westminster	[Vacant (P)]	--	Betty Prezzy Bryant	P
Elizabeth, Siloam-Hope	John Howard	P	Katherine Whitted	P
Fanwood	David Jahnke	P	Carol Thomson	P
Fords, First	Douglas Kurtz (SS)	A		A
Garwood	[Vacant (P)]	--	Kathy Murphy	P
Hillside Millennium	Jupiaci Gomes	P		A
Iselin, First	James F. Thomas	P	Heather Meyers	P
Liberty Corner (3)	Donald Feuerbach Anne Havrilla (A)	A P	Don Mayer-Brown Gerard Nelson Jack Paddon	P P P
Linden	William Weaver	E	Mmaezi Choibi	P

Linden, Calvin	Ryan Landino	P	Anne Kenderes	P
Martinsville, Christ	Susan Joseph Rack	P	Jamie Breeding	P
Metuchen, First (2)	Samuel Massengill Arlo Jones (A) Mercy Rumengan (PA)	E P P	Phyllis Black Gary Ostermueller	P P
Middlesex	Neal Presa	E	Ruth Mikalonis	E
Mountainside, Community	Chris Belden	P	Marjorie Bradshaw	P
New Providence (2)	Jeffrey Ebert Michael Flavin (A) Ian Rankine (A)	P A A		A A
No. Plainfield, Watchung Ave.	Shannan Vance-Ocampo	P	Doug Boleyn	P
Perth Amboy, First (2)	Peter Hofstra	P		A A
Pittstown, Bethlehem (2)	Laurie Sponaugle	E	Alan Ford Alicia Tamilio	P E
Plainfield, Bethel (2)	Jonathan Williams (CRE)	P	Fredrica Williams	P A
Plainfield, Crescent Ave (2)	Lynn Santulli (I)	P	Janice Haer Nicholas Stevens	P P
Plainfield, Nuevas Freonteras (2)	Victor Aloyo, Jr.	E	Elizabeth Lorenezo	A A
Plainfield, United (2)	Victor Aloyo, Jr. (TS)	E	Pat Dawson Barbara Hiney	P P
Pluckemin (2)	A. Coile Estes Margaret Mitsuyasu (A)	P P		A A
Rahway, First (2)	Erin Hayes	P	Joanne Noblitt Patrick Weaver	P P
Roselle, First (2)	Karen Chamis	E		A A
Scotch Plains, Willow Grove (2)	Cynthia Cochran-Carney	P	Bonnie Ruggiero Jill Segulin	P P
Springfield, First (2)	Victoria M. Ney	P	Dawn Clarke Don Rathjens	P E
Summit, Central (3)	Don Steele John Illian (A)	P E	Dave Bomgaars Noni McPherson Dave Woodbury	P P P
Union, Connecticut Farms (2)	Roberta Arrowsmith	P	Frank Green John Griffen	P P
Union, Townley (2)	Chris Taylor	E	Lois Tangowski	P A
Warren, Trinity United (2)	[Vacant (P)]	--	Kay Hurd	P A
Westfield (4)	Raymond Roberts Mike Samson (A) Emily Wilmarth (A)	P A P	Barbara McLaughlan David Rogers	P P A A
Woodbridge, First	Leslie Dobbs-Allsopp Shelley Gardner (A)	P P	Donna Halloren	P A

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

Cheryl D. Galan, Transitional Leader (Presbytery of Elizabeth)	P
Nadia Ayoub, Mission Worker, (PUCSA Worldwide Mission - The Ukraine)	E
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
Deirdre Greenwood White (Annisquam Village Ch, Gloucester, MA)	E
Kathryn Henry (Peapack Reformed Church, Gladstone, NJ)	P
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)	P
Arthur Pace, U.S. Army Chaplain (Pennsylvania)	E

Members at Large (G-2.0503b)

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

Honorably Retired (G-2.0503c)

Beth Anderson-Domer	E
Charles Baier	E
Helen Beglin	E
Robert Beringer (Maine)	E
Frederick Black	P
Russell Block	E
Charles Brackbill	E
Howard Bryant	P
Reid S. Byers, Jr.	E
John Dunlap, Jr. (Pennsylvania)	E
Else Farr (California)	E
Joseph Garlic	E
Leonard Grant (Florida)	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	P
Corina Rodriguez (Oklahoma)	E
Bruce Schundler	P
Timothy J.J. Shu	E
Brooks Smith	P
Mark Smith	E
John Stephenson	P

Douglas Grote	E
Linda Hora	P
David Krotchko	E
Winter Lantz (North Carolina)	E

John Talbot (Florida)	E
W. Alfred Tisdale, Jr. (Connecticut)	E
James Verser	E
Je Sun Yoo	E

Corresponding & Temporary Members

Rev. Leslie Dopps-Allsopp, New Brunswick Presbytery	P
---	---

Ruling Elders Serving on Cabinet

Amy Aaroe (Cranford, First), Presbyterian Women	P
Linwood Bagby (Elizabeth, Second), Moderator	--
Phyllis Black (Metuchen, First), Vice-Moderator	--
Dawn Clarke (Springfield, First), COM	--
David Rogers (Westfield), Trustees	--
Alicia Tamlino (Pittstown, Bethlehem), EDU	--
Arthur Winter, Jr. (Cranford, First), OSCU	--

Ruling Elders Who Have Served as Moderator

John Cavicchia (Fanwood)	A
Alan Ford (Bethlehem)	--
Susan Krivenko (Rahway, First)	P
Barbara McLaughlan (Westfield)	--
Bonnie Ruggiero (Willow Grove)	--
Michael Young (Bethlehem)	A

Commissioned Ruling Elder (G-2.10)

Jonathan Williams (United), serving Bethel	--
--	----

Certified Church Service: Presbytery and Certified Church Service (G-2.1102); VOICE no VOTE

RE Sara L Burke (Westfield) (Presbytery Staff), Administrative Personnel Association Level III	P
Sue Harmon (Metuchen), Administrative Personnel Association Level III	E
RE Meredith Matlock (Metuchen), Administrative Personnel Association Level III	E
RE Ruth Mikalonis (Middlesex), Administrative Personnel Association Level III [see Middlesex]	E

Certified Church Service: Certified Christian Educators (G-2.1103)

TE Chester Kim (Bernardsville) [see Bernardsville, First]	--
TE Shannan Vance-Ocampo (Watchung Avenue) [see North Plainfield, Watchung Avenue]	--

Inactive Roll (G-2.0508)

Robert A. Davis (Florida)	--
Jeff Neufeld (Georgia)	--

Others in Attendance

Elizabeth Quintero (Presbytery Staff), Claudia Heffner (Osceola), Rev. Keith R. Schmitt (RCA), Pat Meyer (Edison, Community), Charlotte Toke (Edison, Community), Jennifer Rodriguez (Elizabeth, First), Pat Loboda (Elizabeth, First), Helen Mosley (Siloam-Hope), Marisa Watkins (Siloam-Hope), Marybeth Lapham (Westfield), Mark Smith (Watchung Ave), Ann Tucker (Garwood), Nancy Leardi (Metuchen).

+
+
+
+
+
+
+
+
+
+

Minutes.

Call to Order.

The 660th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Elizabeth was held on Tuesday, September 24, 2013, at the United Presbyterian Church, in Plainfield, NJ. The meeting was called to order at 4:01 pm (EDT), and opened with a reading of Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 as a prayer by Shannan Vance-Ocampo (Watchung Avenue) the Moderator of Presbytery.

A quorum was present.

1. The Moderator introduced Cheryl Galan, the new Transitional Leader of the presbytery, who is enjoying her first meeting with us.
2. The Moderator also introduced Dottie Morris (SM) who serves as Parish Associate at the United church, who welcomed the presbytery on behalf of the church. She explained the facility, and introduced Tom Robinson (United), who spoke briefly of the congregation and its mission.
3. First-time commissioners were introduced from the Woodbridge and Avenel churches.

Stated Clerk.

Paul F. Rack (LOB), the Stated Clerk, presented his report, which consisted first of the following Consent Agenda.

1. Approve the distributed Docket.
2. Approve the distributed Minutes of the 659th Stated Meeting.
3. Approve the requests for Excuses (collected at the meeting).
4. Approve the Report of the Treasurer of Presbytery. (See Appendix I.)
5. Receive the Minutes of Presbytery Cabinet for July 23, 2013; September 3, 2013; & September 17, 2013.
 - Approve David Rogers (Westfield) to serve as Acting-President of the Board of Trustees (See the Cabinet Minutes of September 3, 2013).
6. Committee on Ministry.
 - a. Dissolve the call of Christopher Taylor as Pastor of the Townley church; and change his status to Member-at-Large.
 - b. Approve the 2013 Compensation Report for Ordained Personnel Serving Churches. (See Appendix II.)
8. Trustees of Presbytery
 - Approve agreement with Bedminster Twp. dedicating as "open space" property belonging to the Lamington church. (See Appendix III.)

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

Peacemaking Team.

Chris Belden (Mountainside) presented the report of the Peacemaking Team. He reminded the presbytery about the upcoming Peacemaking Offering 2013, which most churches will be receiving on October 5, 2013. He noted some of the priorities associated with the offering, including reducing gun violence.

Presbyterian Women.

Amy Aaroe (Cranford), President, presented the report of the Presbyterian Women. She drew the presbytery's attention to the 25th anniversary of the union of the southern and northern Presbyterian Women organizations. She noted some of the priorities of the group, and announced the Fall Gathering on Saturday, October 26, inviting all women from our churches.

Disaster Response and Preparedness Commission.

Brooks Smith (HR), chair, & Leslie Foltz-Morrison (MaL), Coordinator, reported from the Disaster Response and Preparedness Commission. This is the last opportunity for people who need relief due to damage from Superstorm Sandy to apply. Presbyter Foltz-Morrison thanked many people in our presbytery who have served in a wide variety of ways, helping their neighbors recover from the storm. She lifted up in particular Mike Rountree (Basking Ridge), who has organized 24 Saturday work trips (and counting!). Some members and Bob Higgs (First Elizabeth) the pastor of the First Elizabeth church were also recognized for their great generosity in hosting, in their church, volunteer rebuilding teams from out-of-state. Presbyter Smith finally recognized presbyter Foltz-Morrison for her work in organizing our presbytery's whole response to this disaster, including raising \$250K from the Red Cross. Cheryl Galan (Staff) gave presbyter Foltz-Morrison a prayer-shawl made by members of the Watchung Avenue church, reading a dedication and blessing from the presbytery.

Evangelism and Congregational Vitality Unit.

Jill Kitsko (Oak Tree), chair, with Madelynn Lindsey (Oak Tree) presented the report of the Evangelism and Church Vitality Unit, inviting new churches to join the Jeremiah Journey process. Presbyter Lindsey spoke about the total commitment that the Jeremiah Journey is asking for; it is not just another program, but a new lifestyle for the church. She recounted how the process worked in her church: including Bible Studies, Conferences on the Past and Present, and other events pointing to the radical love of Jesus, leading to many "Oh-Hah!" moments. Most recently the church enjoyed a "vision panel" process. Participation in the Jeremiah Journey has deepened the spirituality of the congregation, which even some visitors have identified.

Outreach and Social Concerns Unit

Skip Winter (Cranford), chair, presented the report of the Outreach and Social Concerns Unit. He recognized the receipt of a \$22K grant from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts to The Institute of Music for Children, a ministry of the Third-Westminster church. They now have 650 students, participating all year round.

Transitional Leader.

Cheryl Galan (Staff) gave her report. She has been making connections with people in the presbytery since her arrival in July.

She introduced the new Presbytery Meeting Evaluation Form, using a model called "appreciative inquiry," a method that focuses on what is good, healthy, and life-giving about our work, using open-ended questions about how our meeting is aligning with our calling and values. It includes a checklist of best practices to

identify our strengths and growing edges. The evaluation will be reviewed by the Cabinet as a way to continually improve our working together. Hopefully, this will show how God's work is unfolding in our lives and churches even between meetings. (There will also be an on-line version, available through Survey Monkey.)

Presbyter Galan noticed that some folks are working on a complete redesign of the presbytery web-site to make it more welcoming and informative. She asked for new, high-resolution, digital photos of our church buildings, which can be incorporated into the web-site, also inviting churches to update contact and basic information about our churches.

CONSULTATION HOUR.

The Moderator introduced the practice of using significant time in our Stated Meetings of presbytery for a process of shared learning experience. The book that will be guiding these times is, *I Refuse to Lead a Dying Church*, by Paul Nixon, a United Methodist pastor.

A SHARED LEARNING EXPERIENCE: "Choosing Life or Death."

Presbyter Galan spoke of the book's introduction and purpose. The author identifies six critical choices that are entailed in becoming a servant of life: Life over death, community over isolation, fun over drudgery, bold over mild, frontier of fortress, and now rather than later. The author also observes that living churches have a higher proportion of apostolic leaders than dying churches. Apostolic leaders have had a personal experience of Jesus Christ and know themselves to be sent to share Christ's love to others, with others.

She noted that our first year together will be mostly about restoring trust and cultivating leadership.

Choosing life over death. "Where Jesus is, there is life" (J. Moltmann). We must not become accustomed to the many ways death rules in our world.

She asked how people choose life in our congregations. Several answered in different ways: living with HIV/AIDS, experiencing nature, working with premature infants, being close to the dying, listening to music, engaging in physical movement/dancing, prayer, working with field education students, and other life-giving experiences.

How do churches find life? We viewed a clip from a film, *Something the Lord Made*, in which two unlikely collaborators found a new way to do a surgical procedure. "You can't separate the past from the future anymore than you can separate the right arm from the left arm." They are both separated but also *connected*, by the heart. *Noli tangere*, "do not touch" the heart, was a rule in heart surgery that the characters successfully challenged.

Jesus also challenged the conventional wisdom of his day. Eg. Luke 13:10-17.

Nixon: Choosing life means finding the coalition of partners, "bright-eyed people" in the congregation; inviting them to invest in what is living, not in what is passing away.

NIXON: REFUSE EVER AGAIN TO BE SERVANTS OF DEATH.

- Become a coalition of partners who tend to what is living, not to what is passing away.
- We need to spend less time in pastoral care of accumulated membership; more in building bridges in the community.
- We need to spend less time in pointless meetings, more time developing leaders for the future, for the sake of God's mission in the world.

The Presbytery at Worship.

Worship for this meeting was led by the participants from our presbytery in the recent Youth Triennium. A sermon was preached by Cheryl Galan; and the presbytery celebrated the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Finally, the Moderator led the presbytery in a commissioning service for our new Transitional Leader

After worship, the Moderator made a few announcements of joys in the presbytery, which included two weddings, one new baby, and a pregnancy.

Cabinet.

Alan Ford (Bethlehem), chair, presented the First Reading of the Proposed 2014 Mission and Operations (per capita) Budget. He noted that we have a better idea of expenses than we do of income. This budget assumes our drawing down of our savings by about 1%. The budget matches all our expenses against all our revenues, both mission and operations. The presbytery per capita rate will remain the same at \$25.83; however the per capita for General Assembly and synod will go up, for a total of \$36.80.

He also thanked the churches of the presbytery for their generosity in the past, and in advance for the year to come.

Administrative Commission Working with the Third-Westminster Church.

Jim Thomas (Iselin), chair, presented the report of the Third-Westminster Administrative Commission. (See Appendix .) He expressed some hope and joy around the incoming new pastor of that church, Keith Schmitt (Reformed Church in America).

Committee on Ministry.

Vicky Ney (Springfield), co-chair, presented the report of the Committee on Ministry.

1. She introduced Keith Schmitt (Reformed Church in America), who is the Candidate for Temporary Pastor at the Third-Westminster Church (G-2.0506). The presbytery was given an opportunity to question him, and he made a brief statement. The presbytery **VOTED** to appoint Keith to that position, approve the terms of his covenant, and make him a temporary member of this presbytery. Members of the Third-Westminster church and the Administrative Commission came forward for prayer with presbyter Schmitt.

Terms of the Covenant

Salary	\$37,251.00	
Housing/Utilities	\$18,000.00	
Total Effective Salary		\$55,251.00
Pension & Medical	\$14,715.52*	
Social Security Offset	\$4,073.00	
Vacation	One Month	
Total Compensation to Pastor	\$74,039.52	
Travel and Ministry Expenses	\$7,000.00	
Continuing Education Allowance	\$1,800.00	
Total		\$82,939.52

*Pension benefits of \$6,325 paid through the Reformed Church in America; and medical benefits of \$8,390.52 through presbyter Schmitt's spouse's place of employment.

2. The Committee informed the presbytery of the following actions taken by the Committee on the presbytery's behalf, by authority granted under G-3.0106(5).
 - a. Approval of the termination of the Designated Pastor Covenant between the session of the Third-Westminster church and Frank K. Muse, effective August 31, 2013, changing his status to Member-at-Large. A congregational meeting was held on July 21, 2013, Moderated by James Thomas (Iselin).
 - b. Approve Charles Baier (MaL) for Honorably Retired status, effective September 1, 2013.

- c. Change the status of Cynthia Betz-Bogoly to Member-at-Large, effective August 1, 2013.
 - d. Transfer William O. (Tex) Culton (HR) to Newton Presbytery, where he has been invited to serve as the Interim Pastor of the Madison church, effective August 1, 2013.
 - e. Dissolve the call of Valencia Norman as Associate Pastor at the Cranford church, effective August 15, 2013; and transfer her to Newark Presbytery, where she has received a call as Designated Pastor at the First and Trinity church in East Orange. A congregational meeting was held on July 28, 2013, moderated by Christopher Kile (Cranford).
 - f. Grant permission to Young Jim Park (MaL) to labor outside the bounds of presbytery, to serve as the Interim Pastor of the Korean Central church in the Presbytery of New York City, with the permission of that presbytery, effective June 16, 2013 to December 31, 2013.
 - g. Approved the dissolution of the Interim Pastor Covenant between the session of the Garwood church and Howard Bryant (HR), effective August 31, 2013.
3. Other actions taken by the committee.
- a. Approved the extension of the Temporary Supply Covenant between the session of the Osceola church and Brian Croak, from October 1, 2013, to December 31, 2013.
 - b. Approved the extension of the Interim Pastor Covenant between the session of the Avenel church and Robert C. Louer, III, through December 31, 2013. The terms of the covenant remain unchanged except that the statement prohibiting him to be a candidate for the permanent position has been removed.
 - c. Approved the renewal of the Commissioned Ruling Elder Covenant between the session of the Bethel church and Jonathan Williams (United) through December 31, 2013. He will receive a salary of \$350 per week for preaching, visitation and office hours, and an additional \$100 for each session meeting he moderates. Money from the church's manse fund has been released to supplement the budget.
 - d. Approved the Ministry Information Form (MIF) of the Avenel church, pending suggested corrections.
 - e. Approved the use of up to \$500 from Committee on Ministry funds to assist the Edison Community church with sexual misconduct training.
 - f. Approved the subsidy of \$60 per person from the Committee on Ministry budget to attend a pastors' retreat scheduled for mid-September at the Kirkridge Retreat Center in Bangor, PA.
 - g. Conducted a Triennial Visit at the Millennium church.
 - h. Approved the following presbyters to serve as moderators of sessions:
 Carteret – David Krotchko (HR)
 Third-Westminster – James Thomas (Iselin)
 Garwood – James Thomas (Iselin)
 Townley – Brooks Smith (HR)
 Trinity United – Margaret Mitsuyasu (Pluckemin)

Nominating Committee.

Susie Krivenko (Rahway), chair, nominated Kathryn Henry (Peapack Reformed Church) to serve as a member of the Committee on Ministry, for the class of 2015 (Term I). There being no nominations from the floor, the presbytery **VOTED** to elect presbyter Henry to this position.

Education and Discipleship Unit.

On behalf of Alicia Tamilio (Bethlehem), chair, the Moderator made an announcement about the “Nuts and Bolts” training event, to be held on October 19, in Hightstown. This annual event is sponsored by the presbyteries of Elizabeth, Monmouth, and New Brunswick.

Adjourn.

The presbytery **VOTED** to adjourn at 8:50 pm (EDT) with a poem-prayer by W.E.B. DuBois, read by the Moderator.

Attest:

Paul F. Rack
Stated Clerk

+++