

The Presbytery of Elizabeth

Presbyterian Church (USA)

STATED MEETING

#661

Community Presbyterian Church, Edison, NJ

November 26 MMXIII

Attendance.

Congregation	Teaching Elder (TE)		Ruling Elder (RE)	
Avenel (2)	Robert Louer (I)	A	Darla Hunt	P A
Basking Ridge (3)	Dennis Jones Maureen Paterson	P A	Rob Brown Mike Rountree	P P A
Bedminster, Lamington (2)	Matthew Davis [Vacant (A)]	A --		A A
Berkeley Heights, Westminster (2)	Diane Ruffle	E	Eugene Daniel	E A
Bernardsville, First (2)	Chester Kim	P		A A
Carteret, First (2)	[Vacant (P)]	--		A A
Clark, Osceola	[Vacant (P)]	--	Deidre Buchner	P
Clinton	Tracey C. Henry	E		A
Cranford (2)	Chris Kile Vacant (A)	E --	Amy Aaroe Gary Thorn	P A
Edison, Community	Kenneth Macari	P	Pat Meyer	P
Edison, Lord of Hope	Chang Woo Lee	A		A
Edison, Oak Tree	Jill Hedlund Kitsko	E		A
Elizabeth, First	Robert Higgs	A	Pat Loboda	P
Elizabeth, Second	Michael Granzen	P		A
Elizabeth, Third-Westminster	Schmitt, Keith R. (TS)	P		A
Elizabeth, Siloam-Hope	John Howard	E	Wanda Sizemore-McRae	P
Fanwood	David Jahnke	P	Judy Wussler	P
Fords, First	Douglas Kurtz (SS)	A		A
Garwood	[Vacant (P)]	--		A
Hillside Millennium	Jupiaci Gomes	A		A
Iselin, First	James F. Thomas	P		A
Liberty Corner (3)	Donald Feuerbach Anne Havrilla (A)	E P	Don Mayer-Brown Gerard Nelson	P P A
Linden	William Weaver	P	Meredith Schachter	P

Linden, Calvin	Ryan Landino	P	Lynne Habrak	P
Martinsville, Christ	Susan Joseph Rack	P	Jamie Breeding	P
Metuchen, First (2)	Samuel Massengill Arlo Jones (A) Mercy Rumengan (PA)	P P P	Goris Gulotta Bob Hale	P P
Middlesex	Neal Presa	E	Ruth Mikalonis	P
Mountainside, Community	Chris Belden	P	Marjorie Bradshaw	P
New Providence (2)	Jeffrey Ebert Michael Flavin (A) Ian Rankine (A)	A A A		A A
No. Plainfield, Watchung Ave.	Shannan Vance-Ocampo	P	Doug Boleyn	P
Perth Amboy, First (2)	Peter Hofstra	A		A A
Pittstown, Bethlehem (2)	Laurie Sponaugle	E		A A
Plainfield, Bethel (2)	Jonathan Williams (CRE)	P	Ray Bostwick	P A
Plainfield, Crescent Ave (2)	Lynn Santulli (I)	A	Janice Haer Joan Pivnichney	P P
Plainfield, Nuevas Freonteras (2)	Victor Aloyo, Jr.	P	Ruth Arriaza Jennie L. Rodriguez	P P
Plainfield, United (2)	Victor Aloyo, Jr. (TS)	P		A A
Pluckemin (2)	A. Coile Estes Margaret Mitsuyasu (A)	E A		A A
Rahway, First (2)	Erin Hayes	P	Charlene Edwrdas Joanne Noblitt	P P
Roselle, First (2)	Karen Chamis	P		A A
Scotch Plains, Willow Grove (2)	Cynthia Cochran-Carney	E	Mary Jane Finne Judy Murphy	P P
Springfield, First (2)	Victoria M. Ney	P	Dawn Clarke Don Rathjens	P E
Summit, Central (3)	Don Steele John Illian (A)	P	Dave Bomgaars Dave McCaffrey Jim Northrop	P P P
Union, Connecticut Farms (2)	Roberta Arrowsmith	P	Norman Heckel	P A
Union, Townley (2)	[Vacant (P)]	E	Lois Tangowski	E A
Warren, Trinity United (2)	[Vacant (P)]	--		A A
Westfield (4)	Raymond Roberts Mike Samson (A) Emily Wilmarth (A)	E E E	David Foltz David Rogers	P P A A
Woodbridge, First	Leslie Dobbs-Allsopp Shelley Gardner (A)	P P	Linda Thorstenson Tom Walsh	P P

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
Brian Croak	P
Lawrence Finn III	A
Leslie Foltz-Morrison (New York, NY)	E
Murv Gardiner	A
Philip M. Jones	E
Frank Muse (Leola PA)	E
John S. Oh (Fullerton, CA)	E
Young Jin Park	A
Chris Taylor (Weaverville, NC)	E
Joseph Yoon	A

Honorably Retired (G-2.0503c)

Beth Anderson-Domer	E
Charles Baier	P
Helen Beglin	E
Robert Beringer (Maine)	E
Frederick Black	P
Russell Block	E
Charles Brackbill	E
Howard Bryant	E
Reid S. Byers, Jr.	E
John Dunlap, Jr. (Pennsylvania)	E
Else Farr (California)	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	P

Joseph Garlic	E
Leonard Grant (Florida)	E
Douglas Grote	E
L:inda Hora	E
David Krotchko	E
Winter Lantz (North Carolina)	E

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

Corresponding & Temporary Members

Rev. Leslie Dobbs-Allsopp, New Brunswick Presbytery	A
Rev. Keith R. Schmitt, Reformed Church in America (Elizabeth, Third-Westminster)	P
Rev. Lilia Ramírez, Palisades Presbytery	P
Rev. Dr. Amaury Tañón-Santos, candidate under care, Princeton Theological Seminary	P

Ruling Elders Serving on Cabinet

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

Ruling Elders Who Have Served as Moderator

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

Commissioned Ruling Elder (G-2.10)

Jonathan Williams (United), serving Bethel	P
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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), Nicholas Bradshaw (Mountainside), Michael Hora (Woodbridge), Mark Smith (New Brunswick), Christine and Hank Treger (Westfield), Jon Finne (Willow Grove), Linda Macari (Edison, Community) Jennie L. Rodriguez (Nuevas Fronteras).

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Minutes.

Prior to this meeting the presbytery enjoyed an informal "Brown-bag" Dinner & Fellowship/Networking time together.

Call to Order.

The 661st Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Elizabeth was held on Tuesday, November 26, 2013, at the Community Presbyterian Church, in Edison, NJ. The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm (EST), and opened with a reading from e.e. cummings, followed by some encouraging words and a prayer by Shannan Vance-Ocampo (Watchung Avenue) the Moderator of Presbytery.

A quorum was present.

The Moderator introduced the Host Pastor, Ken Macari (Edison Community).

First Time Commissioners were introduced from the Metuchen and Woodbridge churches

Stated Clerk.

Paul F. Rack (LOB), the Stated Clerk, began by outlining the background and procedure for concurring the overtures originating from other presbyteries and seeking a "second." Basically, as given in the Minutes of the Cabinet for November 5, 2013, the practice will be for such motions to come to Cabinet to acquire time on the Docket of a Stated Meeting of the presbytery. Only motions from two members of the presbytery will be so scheduled. (Mere reception in the office of an overture from another presbytery is not sufficient.)

Consent Agenda

1. The distributed Docket for this meeting.
2. The distributed Minutes of the 660th Stated Meeting
3. The applications for permission to be excused from this meeting.
(See Attendance.)
4. The Report of the Treasurer of Presbytery (See Appendix I.)
5. The Minutes of Presbytery Cabinet for October 1, 2013 & November 5, 2013. (See Appendix II.)
6. The following items from the report of the Committee on Ministry:
(See report for details.)
 - a. Transfer Cynthia Betz-Bogoly (MaL) to Philadelphia Presbytery.
 - b. Transfer Young Park (MaL) to New York City Presbytery.
 - c. Remove Jeff Neufeld & Robert Davis from Inactive Roll. G-2.0508.
7. The following items from the report of the Outreach and Social Concerns Unit: Approve the following New Hope Grants: (See Appendix III.)

Willow Grove- \$6,000; Red Ribbon Fellowship- \$15,000; Millennium- \$1,500; Indonesian Fellowship- \$3,200; Elizabeth First- \$5,500.

8. The records of the following sessions were reviewed by the presbytery in 2013:

Avenel; Basking Ridge; Westminster; Osceola; Cranford; Oak Tree; Third-Westminster; Fanwood; Iselin; Liberty Corner; Calvin; Metuchen; Middlesex; Mountainside; Watching Avenue; Rahway; Central; Connecticut Farms; Trinity United; Woodbridge.

Nominating Committee.

Susie Krivenko (Rahway), chair, presented the report of the Nominating Committee.

1. The committee nominates the following presbyters to positions in the presbytery structure.

<u>Committee on Preparation for Ministry</u>			
Ruling elder Sheila Breeding (Christ)	2016	Term I	
<u>Permanent Judicial Commission</u>			
Ruling elder James Breeding (Christ)	2018		
Ruling elder Brenda Johnson (Siloam-Hope)	2016		
<u>Trustees of Presbytery</u>			
Teaching elder Williams C. Weaver (Linden)	2016	Term I	

The Moderator not hearing any nominations from the floor, the presbytery **VOTED** to elect the slate from the Nominating Committee.

2. Presbyter Krivenko outlined the process the committee will be using in the nomination of Commissioners and Young Adult Advisory Delegate to the 221st General Assembly (2014).

Disaster Response and Preparedness Commission.

Brooks Smith (HR), chair, reported on current issues and opportunities having to do with the continued recovery from Superstorm Sandy. Union County has received a grant and is looking for people with energy for the long run. There is progress, however slow.

Committee on Preparation for Ministry.

Bobbie Arrowsmith (Connecticut Farms), chair, gave the report of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry.

1. She introduced Inquirer Jennie Rodriguez (*Nuevas Fronteras*) to be advanced to Candidacy. Ms. Rodriguez read her Statement of Sense of Call, and responded to questions from the presbytery. The presbytery **VOTED** to advance Jennie Rodriguez to Candidacy status. The Moderator called Victor Aloyo (*Nuevas Fronteras*) forward to stand with Jennie, and led the presbytery in the brief ritual from *The Book of Occasional Services*, concluding with a prayer.
2. Presbyter Arrowsmith explained the committee's recommendation that Jennie Rodriguez be permitted to use an Alternate Ordination Examination Process. The reason is that Jennie has shown a disability in taking exams by computer. The plan is to administer the exams orally with a committee from presbytery. The presbytery **VOTED** unanimously to endorse this plan.

Special Nominating Committee.

Reporting for the Special Nominating Committee, Alan Ford (Bethlehem) presented the names of the following presbyters to serve on the Nominating Committee of the presbytery.

Ruling elder Tom Hale (Springfield)	2015	Term I
Ruling elder Janice Haer (Crescent Avenue)	2016	Term I
Teaching elder Emily Wilmarth (Westfield)	2016	Term I
Commissioned ruling elder Jonathan Williams (Bethel)	2016	Term I

The Moderator not hearing any nominations from the floor, the presbytery **VOTED** to elect these presbyters to the Nominating Committee.

Cabinet.

Alan Ford (Bethlehem), chair, presented the Second Reading of the Proposed 2014 Budget and Per Capita Assessment Figure. He explained that the budget does have a deficit of \$77K or 14%. We intend to use *ca.* 16% of our unrestricted assets to meet the deficit. The presbytery portion of the per capita assessment will be maintained at its present level. The total is \$.20 higher than 2013 because of increases at the synod and General Assembly levels. The presbytery **VOTED** to approve the presbytery per capita rate of \$25.83.

A question was raised about the principle of separating the per capita and mission sides of the budget, which is not reflected in this budget. The Cabinet felt that enough of the staff's time is given to mission to justify using general mission income to fund some of their time.

The presbytery **VOTED** to approve the 2014 budget. (See Appendix IV.)

Committee on Ministry.

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

1. She presented the Second Reading of the proposed Minimum Terms of Call for 2014. (See Appendix V.)
2. Presbyter Ney also informed the presbytery that the Committee, by authority granted under G-3.0106(5), acted to approve the dissolution of the temporary pastoral relationship between Brian Croak and the session of the Osceola church, effective October, 2013, and recommended that the church pay him through the end of the covenant, December 31, 2013, changing him to Minister-at-Large status.
3. She also noted that the Committee has conducted Partnership Visits (formerly known as Triennial Visits) at the Willow Grove, Basking Ridge, and Fanwood churches.
4. The Committee has approved the following presbyters to serve as Moderators of sessions:
 - Teaching elder David Krotchko (HR), Carteret
 - Ruling elder Dawn Clarke (Springfield), Osceola
 - Teaching elder James Thomas (Iselin), Garwood
 - Teaching elder Brooks Smith (HR), Townley
 - Teaching elder Margaret Mitsuyasu (Pluckemin), Trinity United
5. The Committee also reviewed and approved the Mission Study report of the Woodbridge church.

Education and Discipleship Unit.

Shelley Gardner (Woodbridge) reported for the Education and Discipleship Unit.

1. The unit is proposing a method by which educational leaders in the churches maybe contacted directly.
2. The Equipping the Saints training day at Princeton Seminary will be on January 11, 2014.
3. She also related that Camp Johnsonburg has a new Director, Elise Bates Russell, and asked for prayers for her.

Special Greeting.

Lilia Ramirez (Palisades Presbytery) spoke on behalf of Angel Suarez-Valera, who was unable to be with us in person, on the North Jersey Latino Project. The intent is to share resources with immigrant communities.

The Moderator of Presbytery.

Shannan Vance-Ocampo (Watchung Avenue) announced that she is leaving Watchung Avenue and the Moderatorship of presbytery at the end of the year to take a new call as Transitional Leader in Albany Presbytery beginning February 1.

She advised the presbytery to allow younger leaders to take significant roles.

Chris Belden (Mountainside) rose to give words of thanks and encouragement to Shannan for her time of service with us.

Transitional Leader.

Cheryl Galan (Staff) also thanked Shannan for her service.

Part of the restructuring work she is doing is to help us reimagine how we can be in ministry together, with more collaboration, partnering, and sharing. For instance, she is working with the Plainfield congregations about what it means to be five churches in one community, soon to have only one installed Pastor between them. She then led the presbytery in a Shared Learning Experience. (See Appendix VI.)

A SHARED LEARNING EXPERIENCE:

“Choosing Community Over Isolation.”

Presbyter Galan began by asking: Other than the church, in the community in which your church is located, where else do people go to look for community? The people responded with: *Bars, libraries, sports events, the butcher shop, the Y, street corners, Starbucks, block parties, the knitting store, the Mall, Barnes and Noble....* People are looking for deep, authentic, life-giving relationships, alternatives to rapid vapid superficial contentiousness. They want to be woven into community where their spiritual lives can be nurtured, and that summon their deepest concern, compassion, and generosity.

Drawing from Paul Nixon's book, *I Refuse to Lead a Dying Church*, she noted the following signs of isolation in our churches:

- people scattered across the worship space.
- No design to connect with people who drop out for more than a couple of weeks.
- Settings beyond coffee hour to share real talk.
- Fortress-like buildings.
- Ministries to the poor offered at arms' length.

She then suggested three things that usually need improvement in many of our churches:

1. Our relationships with wider community.
2. The quality of real community within the church.
3. Our knowing ourselves to be in relationship with Christ.

Two strategies for addressing these areas include developing intentional, relational small groups, and building bridges between the church and the larger community.

She then introduced the participants in a panel discussion:

Jennifer Rodriguez (Palisades Presbytery) Red Ribbon Fellowship
Michael Granzen (Second), prison ministry and support group
Christine Treger (Westfield), "Unbinding" study groups, reclaiming spiritual disciplines
Mike Rountree (Basking Ridge), disaster assistance
Kris Smith (Lamington), Interfaith Hospitality Network/"Sequencing" Art Therapy

Each person spoke of their work in building community in these very different contexts. These all have passion in common, starting with someone in a congregation connecting with a need in the community. They had no idea whether it was going to work, but took the risk

and were not afraid to fail. These initiatives were not designed to bring new members into the church. They drew people outside their personal comfort zones.

Three challenges were identified:

- the challenge of the habits and routines of existing groups in the church and possible resistance therefrom;
- the challenge of vulnerability coming from starting a new thing;
- the challenge of leading by example and experience, especially when there is no prior track record.

Evening Prayer.

The presbytery turned to a time for Scripture, music, and meditation featuring the Edison Community Church Choir, and singers from the Metuchen Indonesian Fellowship.

Adjourn.

The presbytery **VOTED** to Adjourn at 9:10 pm (EST) with prayer by the Moderator.

Attest:

Paul F. Rack
Stated Clerk
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