

Minutes of the Stated Meeting of Newton Presbytery
 Online ZOOM Meeting
 Tuesday, November 10th, 2020
(to be approved at the January 12th, 2021 Stated Meeting of the Newton Presbytery)

The Body of Christ, A Call to Gather

The Presbytery of Newton of the Presbyterian Church (USA) held its Stated Meeting on November 10th, 2020 on the ZOOM platform.

The Vice Moderator, Rev. Robin Miller Curras, called the meeting to order at 7 pm and led the opening prayer.

FORMATION OF THE ROLL

The roll was formed as Commissioners signed the registration forms. Stated Clerk, Teaching Elder Jeremy Campbell, certified that a quorum was present.

REPORT OF THE ATTENDANCE CLERK

<u>Congregation</u>	<u>Teaching Elder</u>		<u>Ruling Elder</u>	
Allamuchy, Panther Valley	Rev. Ninabeth Metcalf	A		A
Alpha	Rev. Tex Culton (HR)	E		A
Andover	Rev. Karen Brostrom (HR)	P		A
Belvidere	Rev. Dr. Pamela Szurek	A		A
Blairstown	Rev. David Harvey	P	Zach Burke	P
Boonton (2)	Rev. Jennifer Van Zandt	P	John Crozier Ken Nickel	P P
Branchville (2)	Rev. Dr. Jefferson Hatch	A	Kathleen Katzenstein	P A
Califon, Fairmount	Rev. Scott Foster	P	Donna Rahmann	P
Califon, Lower Valley	Rev. Chad Rodgers	P		A
Cedar Knolls, Hildale Park	Rev. Ross Lang	A		A
Chatham Township (2)	Rev. Ellen Clemot Rev. Thomas Brown	P P		A A
Chatham, Ogden Memorial	Rev. Kathi Heath	P	Allan Paradise	P
Chester	Rev. Christopher Scrivens	A	Jeanne Perry	P
Delaware	Rev. Amy Sandlin	A	Mary Van Horn	P
Denville, Union Hill	Rev. Tim Clarkson	P		A

Dover, First Memorial (2)	Rev. Alan Schaefer (HR)	E		A A
East Hanover	Rev. Joanne Miller	P		A
East Hanover, Kitchell	Rev. Dan Schroeder	P	Lilly Kwong	P
Flanders	Rev. Heather Morrison-Yaden	A		A
Florham Park, Calvary	Rev. Ronald de Groot	A	Nancy Lack	P
Franklin	Rev. Julie Raffety	P		A
Gillette, Meyersville	Rev. Barbara Aspinall	P		A
Hackettstown (2)	Rev. Brian Merritt	A		A A
Hampton, Musconetcong Valley	Stephanie Farley, CRE	A		A
Hazen, Oxford 1st	Rev. Amy Sandlin	A		A
Long Valley (2)	Rev. Robin Curras	P		A A
Long Valley, Highlands	Rev. Claire Pula	A	Paula Benson	P
Madison (2)	Rev. Jacquelyn Van Vliet	P	Becky Moody	P A
Mendham (2)	Vacant Rev. Alison Paden	V P	Jeff Betz	P A
Mine Hill	Rev. Charles Thompson	E	Jane Smith	P
Morris Plains (2)	Rev. Donald Brown	A		A A
Morristown (3)	Rev. Dr. Ed Halldorson Rev. Sarah Green	E P	Susan Wood Wendy Doidge Lisa Fraebel	P P P
New Vernon (2)	Rev. William Stone	A		A
Newton (2)	Rev. David Young	P		A A
Newton, Yellow Frame	Rev. Michael Nelms	A		A
Oak Ridge	Rev. Christopher Doyle	P		A
Ogdensburg	Rev. Alden Johnson	A		A
Oxford 2nd	Rev. Joicy Becker-Richards	A		A
Parsippany	Rev. Donald Bragg	A		A
Phillipsburg, Harmony	Rev. Scott Bohr	P		A
Phillipsburg, Pilgrim	Rev. Richard Gelson	P	Doris Haring	P
Phillipsburg, Westminster	Rev. Scott DeCaro	P		A
Port Murray, Rockport	Vacant	V		A
Rockaway (2)	Rev. Dr. Nancy Young	P	Joe Martinoni	P

			Laurie Morse	P
Sparta (2)	Rev. Dr. Patrick Sileo	A		A A
Stanhope (2)	Rev. Peter Magnan	P		A A
Stewartsville (2)	Rev. Stephen Choi	P		A
Stewartsville, Old Greenwich (2)	Vacant	V	Lisa Gray	P A
Stirling	Rev. Dr. Thomas Peters	E		A
Succasunna (2)	Rev. Carie Morgan	P		A
Sussex (2)	Vacant	V	Penny Bates Michael Kosco	P P
Wantage, Beemerville	Rev. Barry Young	P		A
Washington (2)	Rev. James Scovell	A		A
Wharton	Rev. Kathleen Stone	A		A
Wharton, Berkshire Valley	Rev. Christopher Doyle	P	Beth Blanchard	P
Wharton, Hungarian	Rev. Csilla Lucskay	A		A
Whippany (2)	Rev. Sarah Cairatti	A		A A

Teaching Elders Engaged in a Validated Ministry

Rev. Dr. Robert Gamble (<i>This Child Here Inc.</i>)	E
Rev. Barbara Peters (<i>Pastor – Wilson Memorial Union Church, Watchung</i>)	E
Rev. Jeanne Radak (<i>Presbytery Leader – Newton Presbytery</i>)	P
Rev. Salvatore Seirmarco (<i>Chaplain – United Methodist Communities</i>)	A
Rev. Angella Son (<i>Professor – Drew University</i>)	E

Members at Large

Rev. Liz Blythe	E
Rev. Elizabeth Morrison	P
Rev. Hayley O'Connor	A
Rev. Gail Pendleton	A

Honorably Retired

Rev. Peter Amerman	E
Rev. Jeff Archer	E
Rev. John Arnedt	E
Rev. Arthur Benjamin	P
Rev. Clifford Bergdahl	E
Rev. George Blank	E
Rev. Karen Brostrom (<i>serving Andover</i>)	P
Rev. Robert Colman	E

Rev. Cindy Crouner	E
Rev. William Culton (<i>serving Alpha</i>)	E
Rev. James D'Angelo	E
Rev. William Davis	E
Rev. Richard Dole	E
Rev. Birda Ferguson	E
Rev. Guy Ferguson	E
Rev. Janet Fishburn	E
Rev. Dr. Edward Halldorson (<i>serving Morristown</i>)	E
Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Hall	E
Rev. Herbert Huffmon	E
Rev. Harold Johnson	E
Rev. Eugenia Johnston	E
Rev. Heup Young Kim	E
Rev. Dr. David Lawrence	P
Rev. Unzu Lee	E
Rev. William Lehr	E
Rev. Tony MacNaughton	P
Rev. Richard Oppelt	E
Rev. Chet Penza	E
Rev. Donald Prytherch	E
Rev. Bronc Radak	E
Rev. Jack Roan	E
Rev. Stephen Ross	E
Rev. Alan Schaefer (<i>serving Dover</i>)	E
Rev. Donald Scott	E
Rev. Lorrie Skinner	E
Rev. Sherman Skinner	E
Rev. Sara Taylor	E
Rev. Charles Thompson (<i>serving Mine Hill</i>)	E

Ruling Elders by Virtue of Office

John Hellreigel, Member of PCT (<i>Community Presbyterian Church, Chester</i>)	P
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Others in Attendance

Rev. Jeremy Campbell, Stated Clerk (<i>Newton & Elizabeth Presbyteries</i>)	P
Sonja Gaertner, Office Manager & Attendance Clerk (<i>Newton Presbytery</i>)	P
Lizabeth Hutchinson, Financial Administrator (<i>Newton Presbytery</i>)	P
Hildy Benjamin (<i>Presbyterian Church of Morris Plains</i>)	P
John Eyre (<i>Presbyterian Church of Morristown</i>)	P
Craig Barth (<i>Presbyterian Church of Morristown</i>)	P

Total in Attendance – 63

~ Sonja Gaertner, Attendance Clerk – Newton Presbytery

Introductory Items

Quorum was present

ENROLLMENT OF CORRESPONDING MEMBERS

ADOPTION OF THE DOCKET

The Presbytery **VOTED** to adopt the docket

REPORT ON ARRANGMENTS:

Stated Clerk Jeremy Campbell reviewed the methods of participation using Zoom for a Stated Meeting.

STATED CLERKS REPORT:

Consent Agenda

SC-1

Approve the minutes of the Presbytery meetings held October 20, 2020.

SC-2

Approve excuses for the Presbytery meeting of November 10, 2020.

SC-3

Approve the 2021 Imbalance Correction.

SC-4

Receive the report of the Committee on Ministry.

SC-5

Receive the report of the Presbytery Coordinating Team.

SC-6

Receive the report of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry

SC-7

Receive the report of the Trustees.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

John Crozier introduction of New Pastors

Rev. Dr. Ellen Clark Clémot

Pastor

Presbyterian Church of Chatham Township

Rev. Scott Foster

Interim Pastor

Fairmount Presbyterian Church, Califon

Rev. Peter Magnan

Interim Pastor

First Presbyterian

Church, Stanhope

Rev. Heather Morrison-Yaden
Interim Pastor
United Presbyterian Church, Flanders

PRESBYTERY COORDINATING TEAM

2021 Budget Highlights

The budget is based on the transition to the new Presbytery structure in early 2021

Income:

- Per capita for 2021 set for \$40 per person
- Income includes per capita collected at historic rates
- Other income areas set based on current trends

Expenses

- Slight increase to staff hours to support transition in 2021 (already approved)
- Lower than average expenses for committees, most work will be virtual for 2021
- covers for 100% per capita to PCUSA and Synod even if not received from congregations

What can you do?

Churches should continue to support Per Capita and Missional Giving into the future. The Presbytery supports us and we can do the same.

PCT Recommends:

PCT-1

MOTION: That the Presbytery approve the Per Capita for 2021 at \$40.

MOTION APPROVED

PCT-2

MOTION: That the Presbytery approve the Presbytery 2021 Operating Budget with a deficit of \$66,753.

MOTION APPROVED

TRANSITION TEAM

Robin Curras

4 zoom coffees with pastors helping us create the new presbytery.

One recruit for the transition team

New Brunswick voting tonight

Monmouth and West Jersey voting next week.

WORSHIP

"Finding Light in the Darkness". " For it is God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness' " 2 Corinthians 4: 6

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: To adjourn with benediction.

MOTION APPROVED

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Attested: _____
Jeremy Campbell, Stated Clerk

Reports:

2021 Imbalance Correction.

report of the Committee on Ministry.

report of the Presbytery Coordinating Team.

report of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry

report of the Trustees.

NEWTON PRESBYTERY
IMBALANCE CORRECTION FOR 2020
 Effective January 1, 2021

The Book of Order, G-3.0301, states:

“The presbytery is the council serving as a corporate expression of the church within a certain district and is composed of all the congregations and ministers of the Word and Sacrament within that district. The presbytery shall adopt and communicate to the sessions a plan for determining how many ruling elders each session should elect as commissioners to presbytery, with a goal of numerical parity of ministers of the Word and Sacrament and ruling elders. This plan shall require each session to elect at least one commissioner and shall take into consideration the size of congregations as well as a method Councils of the Church G-3.03 G-3.0301a–c Book of Order 2017/2019 51 to fulfill the principles of participation and representation found in F-1.0403 and G- 3.0103. Ruling elders elected as officers of the presbytery shall be enrolled as members during the period of their service. A presbytery may enroll, or may provide by its own rule for the enrollment of, ruling elders during terms of elected service to the presbytery or its congregations.”

The recommended imbalance correction is based on the following information:

<u>Teaching Elder Members</u>		
Members as of 10/31/2019		92
Temporary Members		4
Non-resident Members	<14>	
TOTAL RESIDENT TEACHING ELDERS		82
<u>Ruling Elder Commissioners</u>		
Presbytery Coordinating Team Members	6	
Committee/Team Chairs and Officers	2	
Commissioned Ruling Elders		1
Certified Christian Educator		0
One Commissioner Elected by Each Church Session	57	
Additional Elected Commissioners by Church Size		16
TOTAL RULING ELDER COMMISSIONERS		82

Churches Entitled to Additional Ruling Elder Commissioners

<u>Church</u>	<u>Total Commissioners</u>
Morristown	3
Chatham Township	3
Blairstown	2
Branchville	2
Flanders	2
Hackettstown	2
Kitchell	2
Long Valley	2
Madison	2
Morris Plains	2

Newton	2	
Rockaway		2
Stewartsville, Old Greenwich		2
Whippany		2

**Please note that the proposal to redress the imbalance is designed to get ruling elder commissioners to stated meetings. It is evaluated annually. Churches who routinely fail to send the additional commissioners that they are allotted under the proposal may not be granted additional commissioners when the imbalance proposal is re-evaluated next year.*

Report of the Committee on Ministry November 10, 2020

Items for Consent Agenda:

None.

Items for Action:

None.

Items to Report:

From the October 6, 2020 Meeting:

COM-1

Rev. James Scovell was appointed moderator for Fairmount Presbyterian Church, Califon.

COM-2

Approved MIF for Long Valley Presbyterian Church.

COM-3

Began working on reviewing and updating the Ordination Resource Sheet to reflect the New Book of Common Worship.

COM-4

Approved the Covenant Supply position description for First Presbyterian Church of Sussex.

COM-5

Approved the TOC and Interim Covenant between First Presbyterian Church of Stanhope and Rev. Peter Magnan.

COM-6

Approved Congregational Care Team to review and approve position descriptions for those that may be ready before the next COM meeting.

COM-7

Approved the TOC for Pastor position for Presbyterian Church of Chatham Township.

COM-8

Approved the possible TOCs and Interim Pastor position descriptions for United Presbyterian Church, Flanders and Fairmount Presbyterian Church, Califon.

From the November 3, 2020 Meeting:

COM-9

Approved the MIF for First Presbyterian Church of Mendham.

COM-10

Approved the TOC for Pastor for Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church, Stewartsville.

COM-11

Approved the TOC and Interim Covenant between United Presbyterian Church, Flanders and the Rev. Heather Morrison- Yaden.

COM-12

Approved the TOC and Interim Covenant between Fairmount Presbyterian Church, Califon and Rev. Scott Foster.

COM-13

Approved the TOC for a Covenant Supply pastor position for First Presbyterian Church of Sussex.

COM-14

Approved the recommendation from Missional Ministry team to approve the Discernment Report of First Presbyterian Church of Rockaway with some additional questions and that they be allowed to elect their Pastor Nominating Committee.

Report of the Presbytery of the Coordinating Team November 10, 2020

Items for Consent Agenda:

None.

Items for Report:

From the PCT October 27, 2020 Meeting -

PCT-3

Reviewed the October Presbytery meeting and discussed the upcoming November meeting.

PCT-4

In review of the October meeting it was noticed that many stayed on to chat with each other. Following the upcoming meetings, the ZOOM will remain open for an additional 30 minutes for conversations.

PCT-5

Agreed the Worship theme will focus on "Light in the Darkness: Where do we find encouragement and hope?".

PCT-6

Scheduled the following dates for 2021 stated meetings of the Presbytery:

- January 12, Tuesday
- February 20, Saturday
- March 16, Tuesday
- April 13, Tuesday
- May 11, Tuesday
- June 8, Tuesday

PCT-7

Voted that all Presbytery, Team, Committee or other gatherings will be virtual until further notice. The only exception will be a Presbytery Ordination where safety protocols will be followed.

PCT-8

It is being discussed that the February Presbytery will be the last meeting of the Presbytery of Newton and we will celebrate the history and ministry of the Presbytery. The March meeting will be, "hopefully", the first meeting of the new presbytery.

PCT-9

After significant conversation, the PCT approved the 2021 working budget. With the presbytery transition to begin March 1 it is understood that the budget will need to be reviewed within six months to fit the new presbytery needs and goals.

PCT-10

Rev. Jeanne Radak, Presbytery Leader, announced that at the Synod Assembly, Rev. Stephen Choi, Stewartsville Presbyterian Church was elected to be the Moderator Elect for the Synod of the Northeast and that the Synod Assembly approved a loan program for Presbyteries for COVID related programs or expenses.

Report of the Trustees November 10, 2020

Items for Consent Agenda:

None.

Items for Action:

None.

Items to Report:

TR-1

The Trustees continue to review and approve re-opening plans on behalf of the presbytery. If your church is meeting in person and has not already done so, please submit your plan ASAP for review. As we approach winter and cases beginning to trend upward, we urge sessions to continue to take community safety very seriously and plan appropriately.

TR-2

The Trustees along with PCT and the Finance Team met with representatives of the New Covenant Trust Company for our annual investment consultation on 10/12/20. Our investments continue to be well managed despite a volatile year in the markets so far. At that meeting we discussed with the NCTC the Presbytery's decision to move

to a fossil free investment strategy and we subsequently entered new investment policy statements for each of our funds reflecting the additional fossil free screen over and above the other PC(USA) socially responsible investment screens. This will prompt NCTC to move our investments into the appropriate fossil free vehicles.