# First Meeting of the Presbytery of the Highlands of New Jersey

Online ZOOM Meeting
Tuesday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021
(to be approved at the Presbytery of the Highlands Stated Team meeting)

Intro to Zoom Voting – *Rev. David Young, Moderator* 

# **Opening Prayer**

Ruling Elder Terri Youn, Member of the Synod Administrative Commission

# The Body of Christ, A Call to Gather

Call to Order by the Synod of the Northeast New Jersey Missional Communities Administrative Commission – Ruling Elder Terri Youn March  $16^{th}$ , 2021 on the ZOOM platform.

# **Appointment of the Clerk**

#### **Election of the Moderator and Vice-Moderator**

Moderator - Rev. David Young for a term of March 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021 Vice Moderator - Rev. Robin Miller Currás for a term of March 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021

#### Installation of the Moderator and Vice Moderator

- Ruling Elder Terri Youn

# Adoption of the Agenda

- Moderator Rev. David Young

<u>Congregation</u>	<u>Teaching Elder</u>		<u>Ruling Elder</u>	
Allamuchy, Panther	Rev. Ninabeth Metcalf	A		A
Valley				
Alpha	Rev. Tex Culton (HR)	P		A
Andover	Vacant	V	Marcia Bruno	P
Basking Ridge (3)	Rev. Dennis Jones	P	Carol Skidmore	P
	Rev. Maureen Paterson	P		A
				A
Belvidere	Rev. Dr. Pamela Szurek	A		A
Blairstown	Rev. David Harvey	P	Zachary Burke	P
Boonton	Rev. Jennifer Van Zandt	P		A
Bound Brook (3)	Rev. Linda Owens	A	Kathy Hobbs	P
			Sal Lalama	P

			Marion Oliver	P
Branchville (2)	Rev. Dr. Jefferson Hatch	P	Kathleen Katzenstein	P
	·		John Newcomer	P
Califon, Fairmount	Rev. Scott Foster	P	Pete Peterson	P
Califon, Lower Valley	Rev. Chad Rodgers	A		A
Cedar Knolls, Hildale	Rev. Ross Lang	A		A
Park				
Chatham Township (3)	Rev. Ellen Clemot	P	Steve Suter	P
	Rev. Thomas Brown	P	Jamie Wilson	P
				A
Chatham, Ogden	Rev. Kathi Heath	P	Allan Paradise	P
Memorial				
Chester (2)	Rev. Christopher Scrivens	P	Jeanne Perry	P
				A
Clinton (2)	Rev. Tracey Henry	A		A
				A
Delaware	Vacant	V	Mary Van Horn	P
Denville, Union Hill	Rev. Tim Clarkson	A	John Ware	P
Dover, First Memorial	Rev. Alan Schaefer (HR)	A		A
East Hanover	Vacant	V		A
East Hanover, Kitchell	Rev. Dan Schroeder	P	Carol Williams	P
TI 1 (0)	D II d M		T . C. 1	
Flanders (2)	Rev. Heather Morrison-	P	Lois Steward	P
Elaminatan (2)	Yaden	P	Andrew Black	A
Flemington (3)	Rev. Amy Lincoln	P		P P
			Jamie Evans	P
Elauham Dault Caleraur	Rev. Ronald de Groot	A	Albie Meglauglin	A
Florham Park, Calvary Franklin	Rev. Julie Raffety	P	Beth Westerfield	P
	, ,	H	Detil Westerneid	P
Frenchtown (2)	Rev. Will Myers	A		P
Gillette, Meyersville	Rev. Barbara Aspinall	Р		A
Hackettstown (2)	Rev. Brian Merritt	A		A
Hackettstown (2)	Rev. Dilaii Mellitt	Λ		A
Hampton,	Stephanie Farley, CRE	A		A
Musconetcong Valley				
Hazen, Oxford 1st	Vacant	V		A
Hillsborough	Vacant	V	Vicki Elkins	P
Lambertville	Rev. Dan Dorrow	A		A
Lambertville, 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Rev. Brad Morgan	A		A
English				
Lamington (2)	Rev. Caroline Jinkins	P	Bob Wittpenn	P
<b>G</b> (=)			1	A

Long Valley (3)	Rev. Robin Curras	Р	Mel Prestamo	P
			Sally Strusz	P
			,	A
Long Valley, Highlands	Rev. Claire Pula	P	Ruth Babula	P
Madison	Rev. Jacquelyn Van Vliet	P	Becky Moody	P
Mendham (3)	Vacant	V	Cliff Lee	P
(0)	Rev. Alison Paden	P		A
				A
Milford	Rev. Linda Erkert- Bullock	A		A
Milford, Alexandria (2)	Rev. Nicholas Hatch	P		A
(2)	The V. I (Ieliolao Ilaceli	1		A
Milford, Holland Bible	Rev. Geoff Stanley	A	Virginia Derbyshire	P
Mine Hill	Rev. Charles Thompson	A	Randy Hooper	P
Morris Plains (3)	Rev. Donald Brown	A	Susan Vigilante	P
				A
				A
Morristown (3)	Rev. Leslie Dobbs-	P	Walt Fleischer	P
	Allsopp	P	Janet Foster	P
	Rev. Sarah Green			A
New Vernon (2)	Rev. William Stone	P		A
27 (0)	D D 1177		0 01 1	A
Newton (2)	Rev. David Young	P	Susan Shake	P
N	D M: 1 1NI 1		Alice Sharik	P
Newton, Yellow Frame	Rev. Michael Nelms	P		A
(2) Oak Ridge	Pour Christopher Doule	A	Cindy Riggs	A P
Ogdensburg	Rev. Christopher Doyle Rev. Alden Johnson	A	Cilidy Riggs	A
Oxford 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Rev. Joicy Becker-	A		A
OAIOIU Z	Richards	11		11
Parsippany	Rev. Donald Bragg	P		A
Phillipsburg, Harmony	Rev. Scott Bohr	P		A
Phillipsburg, Pilgrim	Rev. Richard Gelson	P	Doris Haring	P
Phillipsburg,	Rev. Scott DeCaro	P	- 0	A
Westminster				
Pittstown, Bethlehem	Rev. Linda Gaden	P	Dorothy Youngs	P
Pluckemin (3)	Rev. Ian Rankine	A	Sue Quimby	P
				A
				A
Port Murray, Rockport	Rev. Bronc Radak	P		A
Ringoes, 1st Amwell	Rev. Courtney Cromie	A		A

Ringoes, Kirkpatrick	Rev. Michael Atzert	P		A
Ringwood (3)	Rev. Benhardt Fraumann	P	Sue Arnell	P
			Heather Nemeth	P
				A
Rockaway (2)	Rev. Dr. Nancy Young	P	Joe Martinoni	P
			Betty Shuman	P
Somerset	Rev. Nancy Nalepa-Skibo	P		A
Sparta (2)	Rev. Dr. Patrick Sileo	P		A
				A
Stanhope	Rev. Peter Magnan	P	Carol Barry	P
Stewartsville (3)	Rev. Stephen Choi	P		A
				A
				A
Stewartsville, Old	Rev. Mary Beth Mardis-	P	Lisa Gray	P
Greenwich	Lecroy			
Stirling	Rev. Barbara Aspinall	P	Joyce Koenig	P
Stockton	Rev. Jin Hee Han	A		A
Succasunna	Rev. Carie Morgan	P	Linda Fleischer	P
Sussex	Rev. Katherine Scott-	E	Mike Kosco	P
	Kirschner			
Taiwanese/American	Rev. D. Paul	P		A
	LaMontagne/Annie Tsai			
Wantage, Beemerville	Rev. Barry Young	P		A
Warren, Trinity United	Rev. Roberto Fois (RCA)	A	Kay Hurd	P
Washington (2)	Rev. James Scovell	A		A
				A
West Milford	Rev. Justin Choi	P		A
Wharton	Rev. Kathleen Stone	A	Ericka Berg	P
Wharton, Berkshire	Rev. Christopher Doyle	A	Fred Wawra	P
Valley				
Wharton, Hungarian	Rev. Csilla Lucskay	A		A
Whippany (2)	Rev. Sarah Cairatti	A		A
				A

Teaching Elders Engaged in a Validated Mnistry

Rev. Christine Davies	P
Rev. Barbara Ewton	A
Rev. Dr. Robert Gamble (This Child Here Inc.)	A
Rev. Deirdre Greenwood White	A
Rev. Kathyrn Henry	A
Rev. Jennifer Hrynyk	A
Rev. John C. Kile	A
Rev. Joanne Miller	E

Rev. Jeanne Radak (Presbytery Leader – Newton Presbytery)	
Rev. Salvatore Seirmarco (Chaplain – United Methodist Communities)	A
Rev. Amy Sandlin (Chaplain)	A
Rev. Angella Son (Professor – Drew University)	Α

Members at Large

Rev. Liz Blythe	A
Rev. Jim Huang	A
Rev. Donna McDaid	A
Rev. Elizabeth Morrison	E
Rev. Merideth Mueller	P
Rev. Hayley O'Connor	A
Rev. Gail Pendleton	P
Rev. Diane Ruffle	A

Honorably Retired

Honorably Reurea	
Rev. Peter Amerman	E
Rev. Jeff Archer	Е
Rev. Nancy Asbury	Е
Rev. Charles Baier	Е
Rev. Arthur Benjamin	P
Rev. Clifford Bergdahl	Е
Rev. Frederick Black	Е
Rev. George Blank	Е
Rev. Sally Campbell	Е
Rev. Robert Colman	Е
Rev. Cindy Crowner	Е
Rev. William Culton (serving Alpha)	P
Rev. James D'Angelo	Е
Rev. William Davis	Е
Rev. Judith Dean	Е
Rev. Richard Dole	Е
Rev. Birda Ferguson	Е
Rev. Guy Ferguson	Е
Rev. Janet Fishburn	Е
Rev. Mervin Fry	Е
Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Hall	Е
Rev. Dr. Edward Halldorson	Е
Rev. David Hengerer	Е
Rev. Jean Holmes	P
Rev. Herbert Huffmon	E
Rev. Harold Johnson	P

Rev. Eugenia Johnston	Е
Rev. Philip Jones	Е
Rev. Steven Kengeter	Е
Rev. Heup Young Kim	Е
Rev. Dr. David Lawrence	Е
Rev. Winter Lantz	Е
Rev. Unzu Lee	Е
Rev. William Lehr	Е
Rev. Tony MacNaughton	P
Rev. James Morris	Е
Rev. Szabolcs Nagy	P
Rev. Chet Penza	Е
Rev. Barbara Peters	Е
Rev. Dr. Thomas Peters	P
Rev. John Potter	P
Rev. Donald Prytherch	P
Rev. Bronc Radak (serving Rockport)	P
Rev. Jack Roan	E
Rev. Stephen Ross	E
Rev. Alan Schaefer (serving Dover)	Е
Rev. Bruce Schundler	Е
Rev. Donald Scott	Е
Rev. Lorrie Skinner	Е
Rev. Sherman Skinner	Е
Rev. Sarah Taylor	Е
Rev. Charles Thompson (serving Mine Hill)	Е
Rev. Alfred Tisdale	Е
Rev. John Verser	E

# Ruling Elders by Virtue of Office

Paula Benson, Moderator of ACT, (Highlands Presbyterian Church)	P
John Crozier, Moderator of COM, (First Presbyterian Church, Boonton)	P
Lisa Fraebel, Member of ACT, (Presbyterian Church in Morristown)	P
Ken Nickel, Member of ACT, (First Presbyterian Church, Boonton)	P
Scott Riker, Member of ACT, (Highlands Presbyterian Church)	P

# Others in Attendance

Sonja Gaertner, Office Manager & Attendance Clerk (Highlands Presbytery)	P
Rev. Stephen Huston, Transitional Support & Resourcing Coordinator (Highlands	P
Presbytery)	
Lizabeth Hutchinson, Financial Administrator (Highlands Presbytery)	P
Rev. Dr. Carl Wilton, Acting Stated Clerk (Highlands Presbytery)	P
Matt Allen (Calvary Presbyterian Church, Florham Park)	P

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Sandawna Ashley, Transitional Leader of the NE Synod	
Craig Barth (Presbyterian Church in Morristown)	P
Penny Bates (First Presbyterian Church, Sussex)	P
Hildy Benjamin (Presbyterian Church of Morris Plains)	P
Alan Ford (Bethlehem Presbyterian Church, Pittstown)	P
Lilly Kwong (Kitchell Memorial Presbyterian Church, East Hanover)	P
Kim Manzella (Flemington Presbyterian Church)	P
Nancy Talbot, Acting Stated Clerk of the NE Synod	P
Terri Youn, Member of the Presbytery AC	P

#### **Total in Attendance – 127**

~ Sonja Gaertner, Attendance Clerk – Highlands Presbytery

# **Enrollment of Corresponding Members**

- Moderator Rev. David Young

# **Consent Agenda**

- Acting Stated Clerk Rev. Dr. Carl Wilton

#### SC-1

Approve excuses for the Presbytery meeting of March 16, 2021.

#### SC-2

Approve that revised Imbalance Correction dated March 1, 2021.

# SC-3

MOVED that the Presbytery recommission the Administrative Commission for the First Presbyterian Church of Bloomsbury that was established by the Presbytery of Newton, composed of Rev. Rich Gelson, chair (Phillipsburg, Pilgrim); Rev. Carie Morgan (Succasunna); and Elder Kathy Montgomery (Stewartsville); with duties and powers specified in the attached document.

# **SC-4**

MOVED that the Presbytery recommission the Administrative Commission for the First Presbyterian Church of Stillwater that was established by the Presbytery of Newton, composed of Rev. Heather Morrison-Yaden, chair (Flanders); Elder Joe Martinoni (Rockaway); and Elder Dave Simmons (Beemerville, Wantage); with duties and powers specified in the attached document.

## SC-5

MOVED that the Presbytery recommission the Administrative Commission for the First Presbyterian Church, East Hanover that was established by the Presbytery of Newton, composed of Rev. Sarah Cairatti, chair (Whippany); Elder Carol Corea (Kitchell, East Hanover); Rev. Ron de Groot (Calvary, Florham Park); Elder Richard Kaller (Morristown); and Rev. Tim Clarkson (Union Hill, Denville); with duties and powers specified in the attached document.

#### SC-6

MOVED that the Presbytery recommission the Administrative Commission for Christ Presbyterian Church, Martinsville that was established by the Presbytery of Elizabeth, composed of Elder Alan Ford, chair (Bethlehem, Pittstown); Elder Jamie Breeding (Christ, Martinsville); the Rev. Ian Rankine (Pluckemin); and Elder Lois Tangowski (Townley, Union, of the Presbytery of Northeast New Jersey); with duties and powers specified in the attached document.

# <u>SC-</u>7

Receive the report of the Northwest New Jersey Technical Team.

#### SC-8

Receive the report of the Nominating Committee.

#### SC-9

Receive the report of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry.

# SC-10

Receive the report of the Committee on Ministry.

#### CPM-1

March 3, 2021 (approved via e-vote)

The Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM) moves:

That the Presbytery of the Highlands of New Jersey adopt the CPM Manual of the former Newton Presbytery (revised Jan 2017) and that it remain in effect for all new Inquirers and Candidates until such a time that a new CPM manual is approved by the new presbytery; and That all Inquirers and Candidates coming under care of the Presbytery of the Highlands of New Jersey be subject to the provisions of the manuals

the Highlands of New Jersey be subject to the provisions of the manuals of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry (or equivalent) of their presbytery of care as of February 28, 2021.

# **Stated Clerk Report**

- Acting Stated Clerk Rev. Dr. Carl Wilton

## **SC-11**

From the Blair Academy October 30, 2020 Board of Trustees meeting:

Two modifications below were approved. Modifications to the Blair By-Laws requires ratification by the Presbytery.

#### **Modification -1**

Strike the word "Chairman" from the By-Laws where it appears and use the more gender inclusive word "Chair".

#### **Modification -2**

Approve the incorporation of and language for the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity Committee, which states:

<u>Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee</u> – The Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee shall be responsible for providing Trustee oversight, support and engagement around Blair's diversity, equity and inclusion efforts, including areas of focus and goals articulated in Blair's strategic plan – All In. Those areas include employee, Trustee and student diversity, DEI-related programs and services and efforts to sustain and enhance a community culture that promotes the dignity, belonging and safety of all at Blair. "

# SC-12

Future Presbytery Meetings of the Presbytery of the Highlands of NJ will be:

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April 13, 2021 – 7:00pm (tentative – only if necessary)
May 11, 2021 – 7:00pm
June 8, 2021 – 7:00pm (tentative – only if necessary)
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# **Adoption of the Manual of Operations**

- Rev. Dr. Carl Wilton and Moderator Rev. David Young

#### <u>NWNJ-1</u>

Approve the Draft of the Manual of Operations for the Presbytery of the Highlands of New Jersey.

#### PRESBYTERY BYLAWS AND POLICIES

- 1A. Transitional ByLaws
- 1B. Child and Youth Protection Policy
- 1C. Sexual Misconduct Policy
- 1D. Electronic Meetings
- 1E. Personnel Policy and Practices

#### COMMITTEE AND TEAM DESCRIPTIONS

- 1F. Presbytery Ecclesiastical Officers Positions
- 1G. The Nominating Committee
- 1H. Church Development Team
- 1I. Property and Insurance Team
- 1J. Purpose of the Committee on Ministry

#### PROPERTY AND INSURANCE GUIDELINES AND POLICIES

- 1K. Capital Construction Loan Policy
- 1L. Emergency Loan Policy
- 1M. Historic Grant Policy

#### COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

- 1N. Criminal Background Check Policy
- 10. Commissioned Ruling Elder Policy
- 1P. Ethical Standards for Ministers
- 1Q. Ethical Standards for Ordained Officers

# **Nominating Committee Report**

- Rev. Barbara Aspinall

# Committee/Teams for Highlands Presbytery Nominations will be for March 1 through December 31, 2021

# **Nominating Committee**

The Synod Administrative Commission nominates the following to the Nominating Committee:

- Class of 2021
  - Rev. James Scovell (Washington/First)
  - Elder Lisa Gray (Stewartsville/Old Greenwich)
- Class of 2022
  - Rev. Amy Lincoln (Flemington/Presbyterian)
  - Rev. William "Tex" Culton (HR) (Alpha/United)
- Class of 2023
  - Rev. Barbara Aspinall (Gillette/Meyersville) (Moderator)
  - Vacant (Elder Male)

# **Administration and Coordinating Team**

# The Team is responsible for:

Coordinating the work of the Presbytery

- Continuing to explore vision for the Presbytery's journey
- Serving as the interpreter for the ministry and mission of the Presbytery
- Organizing Presbytery meetings (planning, content and worship)
- Telling our story and communication
- Preparing the annual budget
- Overseeing the books, records and accounts of the Presbytery
- Encouraging the generosity of congregations
- Nominating the nominating committee
- Overseeing matters of personnel in relation to paid and volunteer staff
- Providing oversight of all continuing mission partnerships
- Relating to all other councils of the church

9 elected members for 3-year term, plus Current Moderator, Vice Moderator and immediate past Moderator. Staff resource: Presbytery Leader (PL) and Stated Clerk (SC)

# Administration and Coordinating Team (ACT)

- Class of 2021
  - Elder John Hellriegel (Chester/Community)
  - Elder Paula Benson (Long Valley/ Highlands) (ACT Co-Moderator)
  - Elder Kenneth Nickel (past moderator) (Boonton/First)
  - Vacant (Clergy -Female)
- Class of 2022
  - Rev. Kathi Heath (Chatham/Ogden Memorial)
  - Elder David "Pete" Peterson (Califon/Fairmount)
  - Rev. Chad Rodgers (Califon/Lower Valley)
  - Rev. David Young (Newton/First)(Moderator)
- Class of 2023
  - Elder Lisa Fraebel (Morristown/Presbyterian)
  - Elder Scott Riker (Long Valley/ Highlands)
  - Rev. David Harvey (Blairstown/First)
  - Rev. Robin Miller Currás (Long Valley)(Vice Moderator)

# Property and Insurance Team

The Property and Insurance are responsible for:

- Matters that deal with real estate:
  - historic grants
  - loans and loan guarantees

- emergency capital loans
- sale and rental of church property
- manse and church building inspections
- Presbytery property and offices
- Management of the Presbytery's investments according to the Presbytery's Investment Policy
- Insurance and risk management
- Legal issues pertaining to real property.
- Developing and maintaining the Property and Insurance Team Manual of Operations

6 elected for 3-year term, plus members co-opted as necessary.

# **Property and Insurance**

- Class of 2021
  - Rev. Jen Van Zandt (Boonton/First)
  - Rev. Julie Raffety (Franklin/First)
- Class of 2022
  - Rev. Scott Bohr– (Philipsburg/Harmony) (Moderator)
  - Ruling Elder Jeff Willard (Bound Brook/Presbyterian)
- Class of 2023
  - Ruling Elder Doug Smith (Gillette/ Meyersville)
  - Vacant (Elder)

# The Congregational Development Team

The Church Development Team

- Assists congregations and new worshiping communities in discerning their story.
  - Challenge and nurture congregations that are engaged in transformation and redevelopment.
  - Partner with COM when congregations are in transition by providing oversight and guidance of the mission/discernment study with the interim pastor, congregation, and COM liaison, and approve the final document.
  - Oversee the development of new worshiping communities
- Assists congregations and new worshiping communities in writing their story.
  - Resource congregations engaged in developing ministry strategies
  - o Provide experiences of growth for congregational leaders
  - Develop Missional Practices in congregations
- Assists congregations in writing their final chapter

- When a congregation has made a decision to dissolve, walk with them through the process of closing (in conjunction with the Property and Insurance Team and COM).
- Resource congregations as they discern their legacy

# Church Development Team

- Class of 2021
  - Rev. Chris Scrivens (Chester/Community)
  - Rev. Ninabeth Metcalf (Allamuchy/Panther Valley)
  - Vacant
- Class of 2022
  - Elder Colleen Duffy, (Newton/First)
  - Elder Karen Graf (Washington/First)
  - Vacant
- Class of 2023
  - Rev. Scott Foster (Califon/Fairmount)
  - Rev. Christopher Doyle, (Berkshire Valley/First & Oak Ridge/Presbyterian)
  - Vacant

# Committee on Preparation

The Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM) Nurtures and encourages those who are discerning God's call to ministry as Teaching Elders or Commissioned Ruling Elders

3 classes with 3 each to a class.

# **Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM)**

- Class of 2021
  - Rev. Chet Penza (HR)
  - Rev. Thomas Brown (Chatham/Presbyterian)(Moderator)
  - Elder Donna Rahman (Califon/Fairmount)
- Class of 2022
  - Rev. Stephen Choi (Stewartsville/Presbyterian)
  - Rev. Dr. Nancy Young (Rockaway/First)
  - Vacant Elder

- Class of 2023
  - Rev. Robert "Bronc" Radak (HR) (Port Murray/Rockport)
  - Elder Susan Vigilante (Morris Plains/Presbyterian)
  - Vacant Elder

## **Permanent Judicial Commission**

- Class of 2022
  - Elder Ray Smickle (Belvidere/United)
  - Rev. Scott Foster (Madison/Presbyterian)
  - Rev. Dennis Jones (Basking Ridge/Presbyterian)
- Class of 2024
  - Rev. Barbara Aspinall (Gillette/Meyersville)
  - Elder Donna Keoppel (Boonton/First)
  - Elder Stuart Ours (Washington/First)
- Class of 2026
  - Rev. David Harvey (Blairstown/First)
  - Vacant Elder

# **Committee on Ministry**

The Committee on Ministry (COM) nurtures and cares for all minster members of the presbytery (both active and retired), Certified Christian Educators and Commissioned Ruling Elders while they are serving in the presbytery's congregations; the congregations of the Presbytery and parish-pastoral relationships.

24 elected members (Teaching and Ruling Elders) for 3-year term The COM meets on the First Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm

# **Committee on Ministry (COM)**

#### Class of 2021

- Elder Jeanne Perry (Chester/Community)
- Rev. Brian Merritt (Hackettstown/First)
- Rev. Timothy Clarkson (Denville, Union Hill)
- Rev. Amy Sandlin (Chaplain)
- Elder Jean Bowers (Washington/First)
- Rev. Dr. Patrick Sileo (Sparta/First)

- Elder John Crozier (Boonton/First) (Co-Moderator)
- Rev. Linda Gaden (Pittstown/Bethlehem)

#### Class of 2022

- Rev. Tracy Henry (Clinton/Presbyterian)
- Elder Ginny Pontious (Morristown/Presbyterian)
- Rev. Alison Paden (Mendham/First) (Co-Moderator)
- Rev. Salvatore Seirmarco (Chaplain)
- Rev. Lorrie Skinner (HR)
- Elder Joe Martinoni (Rockaway/First)
- Elder Kay Hurd (Warren/Trinity United)
- Rev. Rich Gelson (Phillipsburg/Pilgrim)

#### Class of 2023

- Elder Jerry Chandler (Newton/First)
- Elder Betty Darcy (Morristown/Presbyterian)
- Elder Sherry Guthrie (Morristown/Presbyterian)
- Rev. Ross Lang (Cedar Knolls/Hildale Park)
- Rev. Jacquelyn Van Vliet (Madison/Presbyterian)
- Rev. Michael Atzert (Ringoes/Kirkpatrick Memorial)
- Elder Carol Skidmore (Basking Ridge/Presbyterian)
- Vacant (Elder)

# Presbytery Officers - \*thru end of 2021

- Moderator -\*Rev. David Young (Newton/First)
- Vice Moderator \*Rev. Robin Miller Currás (Long Valley/Presbyterian)
- Treasurer Elder Becky Moody (Madison/Presbyterian) (2019 -2023)
- President of Corporation \*Elder Paula Benson (Long Valley/Highlands) Term: ACT moderator
- Secretary of the Corporation \*Rev. Scott Bohr (Philipsburg/Harmony) Term: Trustee Moderator

# **Blair Academy Consultation Team**

Class of 2021

- Elder Barbara Morgan (Berkshire Valley/First)
- Rev. Jim Scovell (Washington/First)
- Class of 2022
  - Rev. David Young (Newton/First)
  - Elder Erika Wulster (Blairstown/First)
- Class of 2023
  - Elder Owen Newson (Stanhope/First)
  - Rev. Barry Young (Wantage/Beemerville)

# Synod of the Northeast Mission and Ministry Commission Term thru end of 2021 only

- Rev. Jeanne Radak (Presbytery Leader)
- Rev. Amy Lincoln (Flemington/Presbyterian) alternate

#### NOMINATIONS STILL TO BE COMPLETED

- Committee on Representation
- Johnsonburg Camp & Retreat Center Board of Directors (elected in November to begin January)
- Synod Commissioners (2022)
- General Assembly Commissioners (November election for 2022)
- Blair Academy Board of Trustees
- Young Leader Formation Team

# **Next Steps Report**

Rev. Jeanne Radak. Shared progress of the transition to the new presbytery -- The Presbytery of the Highlands of NJ. Website, emails, nominating, new community and following

# Worship

Rev. SanDawna Ashley, Transitional Leader Synod of the Northeast, Preaching

# **Benediction and closing**

- Rev. SanDawna Ashley

Meeting closed at 9

Attested:	<b>:</b>			
Rev. Dr. (	Carlos Wilton	Actina	Stated	Clerk

Reports:

# THE PRESBYTERY OF THE HIGHLANDS OF NJ IMBALANCE CORRECTION FOR March 1, 2021

Effective March 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 3/1/2021	138	
Temporary Members		6
Non-resident Members	<26>	
TOTAL RESIDENT TEACHING ELDERS		118
Ruling Elder Commissioners		
Presbytery Coordinating Team Members	6	
Committee/Team Chairs and Officers	1	
Commissioned Ruling Elders		1
Certified Christian Educator		0
One Commissioner Elected by Each Church Session		
Additional Elected Commissioners by Church Size		37
TOTAL RULING ELDER COMISSIONERS		118

# **Churches Entitled to Additional Ruling Elder Commissioners**

Church	Total Commissioners
Morristown	3
Basking Ridge	3
Chatham	3
Flemington	3
Bound Brook	3
Long Valley	3
Mendham	3
Morris Plains	3
Stewartsville	3
Ringwood	3

Pluckemin	3	3
Sparta	2	2
New Vernon	2	2
Frenchtown	2	2
Chester	2	
Whippany	2	2
Clinton	2	2
Alexandria	2	2
Lamington	2	2
Branchville	2	2
Hackettstown	2	2
Flanders	2	2
Washington	2	2
Rockaway	2	2
Newton	2	
Yellow Frame	2	2

<sup>\*</sup>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 March 16, 2021

From March 2, 2021 COM meeting:

#### COM-1

COM Liaisons are being assigned to congregations. The final list will be available in early April.

#### COM-2

Approved the Terms of Call for:

- Rev. Sarah Cairatti and First Presbyterian Church of Whippany. A one-time exemption was allowed for a lower travel allowance.
- Rev. William Culton and United Presbyterian Church of Alpha.
- Rev. Dr. Pamela Szurek and United Presbyterian Church in Belvidere.
- Rev. David Harvey and First Presbyterian Church of Blairstown.
- Rev. Ross Lang and Hildale Park Presbyterian Church, Cedar Knolls.
- Rev. Thomas Brown and Presbyterian Church of Chatham Township.
- Rev. Christopher Scrivens and Community Presbyterian Church, Chester.
- Rev. Alan Shaefer and First Memorial Presbyterian Church, Dover.
- Rev. Scott Foster and Fairmount Presbyterian Church, Califon.
- Rev. Robin Curras and Long Valley Presbyterian Church.
- Rev. Chad Rodgers and Lower Valley Presbyterian Church, Califon.
- Rev. Jacquelyn Van Vliet and Presbyterian Church of Madison.
- Rev. Alison Paden and First Presbyterian Church of Mendham.
- Rev. Barbara Aspinall and Meyersville Presbyterian Church, Gillette.
- Rev. Charles Thompson and Mine Hill Presbyterian Church.
- Rev. Donald Brown and Presbyterian Church of Morris Plains.
- Rev. Sarah Green and the Presbyterian Church in Morristown.
- Rev. Christopher Doyle and the Oak Ridge/Berkshire Valley Presbyterian Churches.
- Rev. Joicy Becker-Richards and Oxford Second Presbyterian Church.
- Rev. Donald Bragg and Parsippany Presbyterian Church.
- Rev. Robert B. Radak and Rockport Presbyterian Church, Port Murray.
- Rev. Dr. Patrick Sileo and First Presbyterian Church of Sparta.
- Rev. Stephen Choi and Stewartsville Presbyterian Church.
- Rev. Barbara Aspinall and First Presbyterian Church, Stirling.
- Rev. Carie Morgan and First Presbyterian Church of Succasunna.
- Rev. James Scovell and First Presbyterian Church of Washington.
- Ruling Elder Stephanie Farley and Musconetcong Valley Presbyterian Church, Hampton.
- Rev. Richard Gelson and Pilgrim Presbyterian Church, Phillipsburg.
- Rev. David Young and First Presbyterian Church of Newton.
- Rev. Dr. Nancy Young and First Presbyterian Church of Rockaway.

#### COM-3

Received the Terms of Call for Rev. Ninabeth Metcalf and Panther Valley Ecumenical Church, Allamuchy.

# **COM-4**

Approved the Interim Pastor Position Description for Wharton United Community Church.

#### COM-5

Approved the Separation Agreement between Rev. Dr. Thomas Peters, HR and First Presbyterian Church, Stirling.

#### **COM-6**

Appointed Rev. Dr. Ellen Clark Clemot as moderator of the Pompton Valley Presbyterian Church.

#### **COM-7**

Approved request for transfer of Rev. Merideth Mueller from Lehigh Presbytery to The Presbytery of the Highlands of New Jersey as a Member at Large.

# Warrant

for an

**Administrative Commission** 

of Newton Presbytery concerning

The First Presbyterian Church Stillwater, NJ

March 12, 2019

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant and a time to pluck up what is planted.

\*\*Ecclesiastes 3: 1-2\*\*

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life.

Those who believe in me, though they die, will live; and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.

John 11: 25-26

A commission is empowered to consider and conclude matters referred to it by a governing body. The appointing body shall state specifically the scope of power given to a commission. A commission shall keep a full record of its proceedings, which shall be submitted to its governing body to be incorporated in its minutes and to be regarded as the actions of the governing body itself. (G-3.0109b)

The decision of an administrative commission shall be the action of the appointing governing body from the time of its completion by the commission and the announcement, where relevant, of the action to parties affected by it. Such decision shall be transmitted in writing to the stated clerk of the governing body, who shall report it to the governing body at its next meeting. A governing body may rescind or amend an action of an administrative commission in the same way actions of the governing body may be modified. (G-3.0109b)

Since 1749, the First Presbyterian Church has existed as a faithful witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ in the village of Stillwater. Originally a joint congregational witness of Dutch Reformed and Lutheran faiths, the church became a member of the Reformed Church in America in 1816 and later in 1823 petitioned the Presbytery of Newton and was received into the Presbyterian Church. In the 1830's the original stone church in the old Stillwater cemetery became structurally unsound and was replaced by current wood frame structure. An early adopter of a "Sunday School" for the education of children, the church was expanded in 1910, and later in the 50's and again in the 90's to accommodate its education and fellowship efforts.

More recently the church has supported its community by hosting a Boy Scout Troop, and AA meetings. A recent harp concert was a highlight for this small but faithful congregation. From its days as "The Dutch Meeting House," "The Reformed Association of Hardwick," and "The Lutheran Congregation of Hardwick" through its 196 years as First Presbyterian Church of Stillwater the congregation has faithfully borne witness to the work of the Triune God in the Stillwater community.

For the past two years the congregation has been served by an administrative commission of Newton Presbytery. The AC was able to secure a student pastor to provide steady worship leadership and consistent pastoral care. They were able to help the session lead the church and tend to its affairs establishing a budget and leading a stewardship campaign. Congregational meetings were held and after much wrestling with the situation and significant prayer it was determined that the capacity of the congregation to continue simply does not exist.

The AC serving First Presbyterian Church of Stillwater therefore requests that the presbytery, at its Stated Meeting on March 12, 2019, create and empower a new Administrative Commission with the gifts and skills to carry out the dissolution of the congregation and the related matters. This Administrative Commission shall have the power to conclude the following actions:

- 1. To dissolve the First Presbyterian Church of Stillwater.
- 2. To provide for the continuing spiritual and pastoral care of the remaining members of the First Presbyterian Church of Stillwater.
- 3. To transfer members of First Presbyterian Church of Stillwater to other congregations and to provide for pastoral care for those who do not wish to, or are unable to transfer their membership.
- 4. To grant letters of dismissal to members for those who have not found a new church after a period of one year.
- 5. To ensure, to the extent possible, the continuation, on the church's property or elsewhere, of mission projects such as AA and the Boy Scouts.
- 6. To take possession of all real and personal property of the First Presbyterian Church of Stillwater along with financial records and inventories of equipment and to oversee transfer of all real property and accounts to the Presbytery.
- 7. To ensure that bills are paid, the property is maintained and secured and adequate insurance coverage is in place.
- 8. To oversee the completion of the Manse restoration project. This is necessary due to a manse fire in January 2018.
- 9. To consult with the congregation or its representatives regarding requests the congregation may have relating to the disposition of equipment, memorials and other property, honoring them where possible and to retain such for future use at the discretion of the Presbytery.
- 10. To assert the claim of the Presbytery to any property of the First Presbyterian Church of Stillwater congregation not known at this time or property which may come as beneficiary of a will or trust not known at this time.
- 11. To assert that the First Presbyterian Church of Stillwater property remains a vital asset to the ministry of the Presbytery of Newton and to hold prayer services on the property.
- 12. To discern, in consultation with the MMT and Trustees of the Presbytery, the future use of the real property, and in the event that the decision is to sell the property to carry out that sale.

- 13. If the decision is to sell the property the AC will consult with the trustees and funds development team, who together will decide how to best use the funds to honor the legacy of the Stillwater congregation and ensure vibrant Christian witness throughout the presbytery.
- 14. To transfer to the Stated Clerk for forwarding to Presbyterian Historical Society all official records of the congregation. Other historical records shall be transferred to the stated clerk for storage or transfer to PHS at their direction.
- 15. To see that the long life and faithful history of the First Presbyterian Church of Stillwater is suitably celebrated in a service of worship.

In undertaking these actions, the Administrative Commission shall be sensitive to the memory, heritage, and concerns of the members of the First Presbyterian Church of Stillwater. It shall have the power to act as the session of the church, and as the corporation of the church in any manner necessary to complete its task.

Membership in this Administrative Commission shall be by appointment of the Moderator of Presbytery. Its five members shall include members of the current AC, a representative from the Presbytery Trustees and members of the presbytery at large, consisting of teaching elders and members of congregations in numbers as nearly equal as possible.

This Administrative Commission shall report its actions to a future Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Newton. They shall provide the Presbytery with interim reports semi-annually and their warrant shall conclude with the completion of the above delegated tasks.

Rev. Heather Morrison-Yaden, Chair, First Presbyterian Church of Stillwater AC Rev. Jeremy T. Campbell, Stated Clerk of Presbytery

# Administrative Commission of Newton Presbytery concerning the First Presbyterian Church East Hanover, NJ

February 20, 2021

The Presbytery is given the authority in our polity to:

**Nurture the covenant community of Christ**... promoting the peace and harmony of the congregations, and inquiring into sources of congregational discord; supporting congregations in developing the graces of generosity, stewardship, and service; assisting

congregations in developing mission and participating in the mission of the whole church;... warning and bearing witness against error in doctrine and immortality in practice within its bounds; and serving in judicial matters in accordance with the rules of discipline (G-3.0303d.)

In exercising this authority, the Committee on Ministry has made a deliberate inquiry into the situation at the First Presbyterian Church, East Hanover. This inquiry consisted of sending a team of COM members and Presbytery staff and officers to meetings of the session, communicating with former members of both the Church and its session in response to letters of concern, and conferring with the current covenant supply pastor. In addition, the COM and other representatives of the presbytery have received various communications, written and/or informal, from members of the First Presbyterian Church, East Hanover, and others who have observed the situation there.

In our connectional polity we are well suited to provide support for one another in times of trouble. We often form response or support teams to help in various situations. In order for a response or support team to be able to act on behalf of the presbytery and with the presbytery's full authority it requires technical language of a warrant for an Administrative Commission. This document describes the ways in which the commission will support, protect, and encourage the First Presbyterian Church, East Hanover's "Ministry under the Word." COM, the Stated Clerk and the Presbytery Leader remain committed to the long-term viability of this congregation and find this means of official support to be the best suited to ensure the future of their ministry. While the Church is currently experiencing difficulties, we have great hope for its future life and ministry and have been encouraged by the commitment to ministry we have seen during our visits.

Therefore, the Committee on Ministry has determined, at its electronic meeting of February 2,\_2021, that significant disorder is reported to exist in the First Presbyterian Church, East Hanover such that its ministry under the Word is placed in jeopardy. The Committee on Ministry requests the Presbytery of Newton, at its Stated Meeting, on February 20, 2021 create and empower an Administrative Commission.

Among the responsibilities given to an Administrative Commission in our polity are the following:

visiting particular councils, congregations or agencies over which they have immediate jurisdiction reported to be affected with disorder, and to inquire into and settle the difficulties therein, except that no commission shall have the power to dissolve a pastoral relationship unless such power has been specifically delegated to it by the appointing body. (G-3.0109b(5))

The Administrative Commission for East Hanover will have the following

#### powers and responsibilities:

- 1. To visit the First Presbyterian Church, East Hanover.
- 2. To inquire into the difficulties occurring in the First Presbyterian Church, affording to all interested parties fair notice and an opportunity to be heard on the matters at issue, in accordance with G-3.0109b.
  - a. The Administrative Commission shall have access to all records and documents which pertain to the life and mission of the First Presbyterian Church, without limitation. This shall include access to all financial documents and accounts.
  - b. The Administrative Commission shall seek to hear from all concerned parties, including members, former members, former pastors, families of members, friends of the church, visitors, the pastor and her family, employees, building users, neighbors, and community figures. The Commission shall use its discretion in ensuring that all concerned parties have all pertinent documents communicated to them. The Commission shall conduct its business in the open, without undue secrecy. At the same time, the Commission shall take seriously any evidence or allegations of wrongdoing in the life of this church by any party.
- 3. To settle whatever difficulties may be discovered, acting on behalf of the presbytery, which is "responsible for the mission and government of the church throughout its geographical district." In carrying out this responsibility, the Administrative Commission, acting on behalf of presbytery, is hereby empowered:
  - a. To provide coordination and guidance for the First Presbyterian Church, assisting the church in mobilizing its strength for making the most effective witness to Jesus Christ. (G-3.0303a) This will include at a minimum helping the session develop and implement a comprehensive stewardship campaign. It will also include helping the session to examine the budget, trim costs where possible and help implement appropriate financial procedures and controls if those in place are found to be lacking. It will also include helping the session to plan in the short and longer term for sustainable pastoral leadership for the congregation. Any other such guidance and coordination as becomes necessary during the course of the Commission's work shall be included in the scope of this warrant.
  - b. To determine whether there are constituencies in the First Presbyterian Church which are unrepresented on Session and

to counsel with the church if necessary. To assist in assessment of leadership capacity and potential for leadership development within the congregation.

- c. To "take appropriate action to correct any irregularity or delinquency it may discover." (G-3.0303d(3))
- d. To provide pastoral care for the First Presbyterian Church in a time of crisis, conflict, and uncertainty. This shall include praying with and for the congregation, Session, Pastor, and her family; encouraging communication among the participants in the church's life; seeking opportunities to recommend services of confession, healing, and reconciliation; and directing all
  - confession, healing, and reconciliation; and directing all participants in the church's life to a renewed encounter with the demands of God's Word.
- e. To order-- if it determines, after a thorough investigation, and after full opportunity to be heard has been accorded to the session, that the session is unable or unwilling to manage wisely the affairs of its church-- that the presbytery assume original jurisdiction over First Church.

The Commission shall be empowered to perform all administrative and other tasks necessary to fulfill its charge and to carry out the responsibilities delegated to it.

This Administrative Commission shall assist the Session of the First Presbyterian Church in the fulfillment of its responsibilities listed in G-3.0201. The Commission members shall serve along side the session members of First Presbyterian Church with vote, advising them and encouraging them as they fulfill their responsibilities. The Committee on Ministry shall appoint the moderator of the session.

This Administrative Commission shall report to presbytery, or its successor at least every six months, beginning in November 2021.

Membership in this Administrative Commission shall be by appointment of the Moderator of presbytery, in consultation with the Committee on Ministry, the Stated Clerk and the Presbytery Leader.

If requested by the Administrative Commission, Newton Presbytery, or its successor, shall secure Counsel for their work.

Rev. Alison Paden and Elder John Crozier, Co-Chairs of the Committee on Ministry

# Presbytery of Newton Administrative Commission for First Presbyterian Church of Bloomsbury Dissolution

Administrative commissions are designated to consider and conclude matters not involving ecclesiastical judicial process...A commission of presbytery...shall be composed of ruling elders and teaching elders in numbers as nearly equal as possible and sufficient to accomplish their work (Book of Order 2015-2017, G-3.0109b).

#### Background

In the fall of 2015, the Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Bloomsbury approached the Missional Ministry Team (MMT) regarding the process for the dissolution of the church. At that time MMT, in consultation with the Presbytery Leader, appointed a transition team to work with the Session and congregation in the final discernment process and initial steps to dissolution. A congregational meeting was held on September 27, 2015 at which time the recommendation for dissolution was approved. The First Presbyterian Church of Bloomsbury held its final worship service on December 27, 2015. At this time, the transition team has finished its work. An administrative commission will complete the dissolution process.

#### Composition of Administrative Commission

The commission shall include five members. The members should have appropriate gifts, skills and experience to conclude matters related to the dissolution of the First Presbyterian Church of Bloomsbury. The commission shall be appointed by the Moderator of Presbytery and resourced by the Presbytery Leader.

#### Commission by the Presbytery

The administrative commission shall have the authority to:

- Assist the Session or its representative(s) to complete the affairs of the church including, but not limited to, transferring the remaining members to congregations of their choice and to provide for pastoral care for those who do not wish to or are unable to transfer their membership.
- Transfer to the Presbytery all Session records for forwarding to the Presbyterian Historical Society (PHS). Other pertinent historical documents may be transferred to the Presbytery for storage and/or transfer per the direction of the PHS.
- Grant letters of dismissal to members for those who have not found a new church for a period of one year.
- Under the Form of Government (Book of Order 2015-2017) all property of the First Presbyterian Church of Bloomsbury is held in trust for the PCUSA. The administrative commission is authorized to take possession of all real and

- personal property, assets, financial records, inventories of equipment, and arrange for transfer of title to the Presbytery of all accounts and real property.
- Ensure that bills are paid, the property is maintained and secured, and adequate insurance coverage is in place.
- Consult with the Session or its representative(s) regarding requests the congregation may have relating to the disposition of equipment, memorials and other property or retain for future use at the direction of the Presbytery.
- Discern, in consultation with MMT and the Trustees, the future use of the property and to recommend to the presbytery such use or the disposal of the property. In the event that the decision is to dispose of the property, the administrative commission will oversee that process.
- Assert the claim of the Presbytery to any property of the First Presbyterian Church of Bloomsbury not known at this time or property which may come as beneficiary of a will or trust not known at this time.
- Assert that the First Presbyterian Church of Bloomsbury property remains a vital asset to the ministry of the Presbytery of Newton.

# → 2021 ORDINATION

# ANNIVERSARIES •——

"As Many of You as Were Baptized into Christ have Clothed Yourselves with Christ."

Galations 3:27

Rev. Donald Brown, Morris Plains – 15 Years (12/30/2006)

Rev. Sally Campbell, HR – 45 Years (6/13/1976)

Rev. James D'Angelo, HR – 55 Years (10/16/1966)

Rev. Christine Davies, Minister Member/Validated Ministry – 10 Years (6/15/2011)

Rev. William Davis, HR - 60 Years (6/18/1961)

Rev. Judith Dean, HR – 35 Years (3/9/1986)

Rev. Richard Dole, HR – 55 Years (6/28/1966)

Rev. Christopher Doyle, Oak Ridge/Berkshire Valley – 10 Years (10/2/2011)

Rev. Barbara Ewton, Minister Member/Validated Ministry – 20 Years (12/2/2001)

Rev. Scott Foster, Fairmount – 10 Years (2/6/2011)

Rev. Benhardt Fraumann, Ringwood – 45 Years (12/16/1976)

Rev. Barbara Peters, HR – 40 Years (9/27/1981)

Rev. Dr. Thomas Peters, HR - 40 Years (9/13/1981)

Rev. John Potter, HR – 45 Years (8/22/1976)

Rev. Donald Prytherch, HR – 60 Years (5/21/1961)

Rev. Claire Pula, Highlands – 30 Years (11/24/1991)

Rev. Jack Roan, HR – 45 Years (6/2/1945)

Rev. Amy Sandlin, Minister Member/Validated Ministry – 5 Years (6/5/2016)

Rev. Daniel Schroeder, Kitchell – 40 Years (7/12/1981)

Rev. Dr. Pamela Szurek, Belvidere – 25 Years (5/5/1996)

Rev. Jacquelyn Van Vliet, Madison – 10 Years (10/9/2011)