



CALL FOR A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PRESBYTERY OF THE HIGHLANDS

In accordance to the Bylaws of the Presbytery of the Highlands, A special meeting of the Presbytery has been called for Wednesday, June 23 at 10 am via ZOOM at the request of the Committee on Ministry for the purpose of 1) of examining Candidate Emily Arnold for ordination and transferring her to the Presbytery of Long Island upon ordination 2) and acting on a request for the transfer of First Presbyterian church of Titusville from Central Presbytery to The Highlands Presbytery.

MOTION (following the examination of Emily Arnold for ordination): That Emily Arnold be approved for ordination, and that, pending the Presbytery of Long Island's examination of her for membership and their validation of her proposed ministry as a chaplain, she be ordained by the Presbytery of the Highlands and subsequently transferred to the Presbytery of Long Island.

MOTION (after hearing a report of Emily's plans for ordination): That Emily Arnold's plans for her ordination service be approved, if the way be clear.

RATIONALE: Emmie, a candidate under care of the Presbytery of Highlands, has been called to a position as a chaplain within the bounds of the Presbytery of Long Island, but would like to be ordained in her home congregation, the Bound Brook Presbyterian Church. This motion provides an expedient way forward for both presbyteries, once we have examined her to determine her suitability for ordination, and once the Presbytery of Long Island has validated her new ministry and examined her to become a member of that presbytery. The Committees on Ministry of both presbyteries are recommending these actions.

Motion: That, upon request of the Presbytery of Central New Jersey and with the concurrence of the General Assembly's commission that is overseeing boundary changes, the Presbytery receive the First Presbyterian Church of Titusville as a member congregation.

RATIONALE: Just before the present boundaries of New Jersey presbyteries were set, congregations adjacent to one of the new borders were invited to apply for adjustments that would put them in the neighboring presbytery rather than the one to which they had been assigned. The Titusville congregation, which is located in Mercer County just across the Hunterdon County line, missed the deadline for making such a request but desires to do so now. Their reason is that they are one of a group of mostly Hunterdon-County congregations -- known informally as "the river churches" -- who were once included in the former New Brunswick Presbytery and who have a long history of working together on local ministries and mission projects. The Central Presbytery expects to vote on this proposal on Tuesday, June 22. If both presbyteries concur, the General Assembly's boundaries commission is prepared to vote on this in September.

Why a Special Presbytery Meeting?

We have learned during the pandemic that Presbytery meetings can be done through video conferencing platforms such as ZOOM. This provides a safe environment but also saves time and driving to a central location for a brief meeting.

We do not call special meetings often. On this occasion waiting until the September meeting is not timely for both requests. The September meeting will be our first in person (and hopefully hybrid), meeting and is already busy and a full agenda. An examination for ordination may be a "nerve wracking" event for the candidates but it is also important to give the candidates our full attention after all the work that they put into getting to this point.