

Special Meeting of The Presbytery of the Highlands of NJ

Online ZOOM Meeting
Tuesday, June 23, 2021
*(to be approved at the 3rd Stated Meeting of
The Presbytery of the Highlands of NJ)*

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

Opening Prayer

Call to Order and Opening Prayer

Quorum

<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	Vacant	V		A
Basking Ridge (3)	Rev. Dennis Jones	E		A
	Rev. Maureen Paterson	A		A
				A
Belvidere	Rev. Dr. Pamela Szurek	A		A
Blairstown	Rev. David Harvey	A		A
Boonton	Rev. Jennifer Van Zandt	A		A
Bound Brook (3)	Rev. Linda Owens	A	Marion Oliver	P
			Elaine Tetreault	P
				A
Branchville	Rev. Dr. Jefferson Hatch	A		A
Califon, Fairmount	Rev. Scott Foster	A	Pete Peterson	P
Califon, Lower Valley	Rev. Chad Rodgers	A		A
Cedar Knolls, Hildale Park	Rev. Ross Lang	A		A
Chatham Township (3)	Rev. Ellen Clemot	P		A
	Rev. Thomas Brown	P		A
				A
Chatham, Ogden Memorial	Rev. Kathi Heath	P		A
Chester (2)	Rev. Christopher Scrivens	A	Jeanne Perry	P
				A
Clinton (2)	Rev. Tracey Henry	A		A

				A
Delaware	Vacant	V		A
Denville, Union Hill	Rev. Tim Clarkson	E		A
Dover, First Memorial	Rev. Alan Schaefer (HR)	E		A
East Hanover	Vacant	V		A
East Hanover, Kitchell	Rev. Dan Schroeder	A	Carol Williams	P
Flanders	Rev. Heather Morrison-Yaden	P	Lois Steward	P
Flemington (3)	Rev. Amy Lincoln	A	Kay Hoge Mike Russell	P P A
Florham Park, Calvary	Rev. Ronald de Groot	A	Matt Allen	P
Franklin	Rev. Julie Raffety	P	Beth Westerfield	P
Frenchtown (2)	Rev. Will Myers	A		A A
Gillette, Meyersville	Rev. Barbara Aspinall	A		A
Hackettstown	Vacant	V		A
Hampton, Musconetcong Valley	Stephanie Farley, CRE	A		A
Hazen, Oxford 1st	Vacant	V		A
Hillsborough	Vacant	V		A
Lambertville	Rev. Dan Dorrow	A		A
Lambertville, 2nd English	Rev. Brad Morgan	A		A
Lamington (2)	Rev. Caroline Jinkins	P		A A
Long Valley (2)	Rev. Ryan Irmer	A		A A
Long Valley, Highlands	Rev. Claire Pula	A		A
Madison	Rev. Jacquelyn Van Vliet	A	Becky Moody	P
Martinsville	Vacant	V		A
Mendham (2)	Vacant Rev. Alison Paden	V E		A A
Milford	Rev. Linda Erkert-Bullock	A		A
Milford, Alexandria (2)	Rev. Nicholas Hatch	E		A A
Milford, Holland Bible	Rev. Geoff Stanley	A		A
Mine Hill	Vacant	V	Jane Smith	P
Morris Plains (2)	Rev. Donald Brown	P	Susan Vigilante	P A
Morristown (3)	Rev. Leslie Dobbs-Allsopp	P A	Craig Barth	P A

	Rev. Sarah Green			A
New Vernon (2)	Rev. William Stone	A		A A
Newton	Rev. David Young	P	Alice Sharick	P
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	A		A
Phillipsburg, Pilgrim	Rev. Richard Gelson	P		A
Phillipsburg, Westminster	Rev. Scott DeCaro	A		A
Pittstown, Bethlehem	Rev. Linda Gaden	P		A
Pluckemin (2)	Rev. Ian Rankine	A		A A
Port Murray, Rockport	Rev. Bronc Radak	E		A
Ringoes, 1st Amwell	Rev. Courtney Cromie	E		A
Ringoes, Kirkpatrick	Rev. Michael Atzert	P		A
Ringwood (2)	Rev. Benhardt Fraumann	A	Heather Nemeth	P A
Rockaway	Rev. Dr. Nancy Young	P	Laurie Morse	P
Somerset	Rev. Nancy Nalepa-Skibo	A		A
Sparta (2)	Rev. Dr. Patrick Sileo	A		A A
Stanhope	Rev. Peter Magnan	P		A
Stewartsville	Rev. Stephen Choi	A		A
Stewartsville, Old Greenwich (2)	Rev. Mary Beth Mardis- Lecoy	A		A A
Stirling	Rev. Barbara Aspinall	A		A
Stockton	Rev. Jin Hee Han	P		A
Succasunna	Rev. Carie Morgan	P		A
Sussex	Rev. Katherine Scott- Kirschner	P		A
Taiwanese/American	Rev. D. Paul LaMontagne/Annie Tsai	P A		A
Wantage, Beemerville	Rev. Barry Young	A		A
Warren, Trinity United	Rev. Roberto Fois (RCA)	A		A
Washington	Rev. James Scovell	A		A
West Milford	Rev. Justin Choi	P		A
Wharton	Rev. Joanne Miller	E		A

Wharton, Berkshire Valley	Rev. Christopher Doyle	P	A
Wharton, Hungarian	Rev. Csilla Lucskay	A	A
Whippany (2)	Rev. Sarah Cairatti	A	A A

Teaching Elders Engaged in a Validated Ministry

Rev. Robin Curras (<i>servicing church out of bounds</i>)	E
Rev. Christine Davies	A
Rev. Barbara Ewton	A
Rev. Dr. Robert Gamble (<i>This Child Here Inc.</i>)	A
Rev. Deirdre Greenwood White	A
Rev. Kathryn Henry	A
Rev. Jennifer Hrynyk	E
Rev. John C. Kile	A
Rev. Merideth Mueller	P
Rev. Jeanne Radak (<i>Presbytery Leader – Newton Presbytery</i>)	P
Rev. Amy Sandlin (<i>Chaplain</i>)	A
Rev. Beth Scibienski (<i>Servicing RCA church</i>)	A
Rev. Salvatore Seirmarco (<i>Chaplain – United Methodist Communities</i>)	A
Rev. Christopher Small (<i>Chaplain – Hunterdon Healthcare Systems</i>)	A
Rev. Angella Son (<i>Professor – Drew University</i>)	A

Members at Large

Rev. Liz Blythe	E
Rev. Robin Curras	E
Rev. Donna McDaid	P
Rev. Elizabeth Morrison	E
Rev. Hayley O'Connor	A
Rev. Gail Pendleton	A
Rev. Diane Ruffle	A

Honorably Retired

Rev. Peter Amerman	E
Rev. Jeff Archer	E
Rev. Nancy Asbury	E
Rev. Charles Baier	E
Rev. Arthur Benjamin	E
Rev. Clifford Bergdahl	E
Rev. Robert Beringer	E
Rev. Frederick Black	E
Rev. George Blank	E
Rev. Sally Campbell	E

Rev. Robert Colman	E
Rev. Cindy Crowner	E
Rev. William Culton (<i>serving Alpha</i>)	E
Rev. James D'Angelo	E
Rev. William Davis	E
Rev. Judith Dean	E
Rev. Richard Dole	E
Rev. Birda Ferguson	E
Rev. Guy Ferguson	E
Rev. Janet Fishburn	E
Rev. Mervin Fry	E
Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Hall	E
Rev. Dr. Edward Halldorson	E
Rev. David Hengerer	E
Rev. Jean Holmes	E
Rev. Herbert Huffmon	E
Rev. Harold Johnson	E
Rev. Eugenia Johnston	E
Rev. Philip Jones	E
Rev. Steven Kengeter	E
Rev. Heup Young Kim	E
Rev. Dr. David Lawrence	E
Rev. Winter Lantz	E
Rev. Unzu Lee	E
Rev. William Lehr	E
Rev. Tony MacNaughton	E
Rev. James Morris	E
Rev. Szabolcs Nagy	E
Rev. Chet Penza	E
Rev. Barbara Peters	E
Rev. Dr. Thomas Peters	E
Rev. John Potter	P
Rev. Donald Prytherch	E
Rev. Bronc Radak (<i>serving Rockport</i>)	E
Rev. Jack Roan	E
Rev. Stephen Ross	E
Rev. Lorrie Rowland-Skinner	E
Rev. Alan Schaefer (<i>serving Dover</i>)	E
Rev. Bruce Schundler	E
Rev. Donald Scott	E
Rev. Sherman Skinner	E
Rev. Sarah Taylor	E

Rev. Charles Thompson	E
Rev. Alfred Tisdale	E
Rev. John Verser	E

Ruling Elders by Virtue of Office

Candidate Emmie Arnold (Bound Brook Presbyterian Church)	P
Elder Paula Benson – PCT Member (Highlands Presbyterian Church, Long Valley)	P
Elder John Crozier – COM Moderator (First Presbyterian Church, Boonton)	P
Elder Alan Ford – Past Moderator (Bethlehem Presbyterian Church, Pittstown)	P
Elder Lisa Gray – Past Moderator (Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church, Stewartsville)	P
Elder Joe Martinoni – Past Moderator (First Presbyterian Church, Rockaway)	P
Elder Ken Nickel – Past Moderator (First Presbyterian Church, Boonton)	P
Elder Mel Prestamo – Past Moderator (Long Valley Presbyterian Church)	P
Elder Donna Rahmann – Presbyterian Women (Fairmount Presbyterian Church, Califon)	P
Elder Scott Riker – PCT Member (Highlands Presbyterian Church, Long Valley)	P

Others in Attendance

Sonja Gaertner, Office Manager & Attendance Clerk (<i>Newton Presbytery</i>)	P
Rev. Stephen Huston, Transitional Support & Resourcing Coordinator (<i>Newton Presbytery</i>)	P
Lizabeth Hutchinson, Financial Administrator (<i>Newton Presbytery</i>)	P
Rev. Dr. Carl Wilton, Acting Stated Clerk (<i>Newton Presbytery</i>)	P
Sal Lalama, Visitor (Bound Brook Presbyterian Church)	P
Terri Youn, Visitor (Bedford Park Presbyterian Church)	P

Total in Attendance – 57

~ Sonja Gaertner, Attendance Clerk – *The Presbytery of the Highlands of NJ*

Enrollment of Corresponding Members

Introduction of New Ruling Elder Commissioners

Adoption of the Agenda

Stated Clerk

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.

Committee on Ministry

Motion: The Presbytery of Long Island has request that the Presbytery of the Highlands examine and ordain Emily Arnold, candidate for ministry and member of the Bound Brook Presbyterian Church and upon ordination transfer her to the Presbytery of Long Island.

Rationale: Request for examination and ordination

Emmie has been called to a chaplain validated ministry within the bounds of Long Island Presbytery. Ordinarily, the calling presbytery would examine candidates for ordination and then request the home presbytery to ordain the candidate.

Because of scheduling and the requirement to validate her ministry, the COM of the Presbytery of the Highlands and the COM of the Presbytery of Long Island agreed that The Highlands Presbytery would examine her for ordination and ordain her at her home congregation, Bound Brook Presbyterian and the Presbytery of Long Island would examine her for membership in the presbytery and validate her ministry pending her ordination. Otherwise, it would take months to move through the process. The Book of Order does give us flexibility if both presbyteries agreed.

Adjournment

Meeting closed at 9

Attested: _____
Stated Clerk

Emily (Emmie) Ferstandig Arnold Bio

Bio 1

Emmie Arnold is a 27-year-old member of the PC(USA) who is deeply humbled to be considered for ordination, especially since she became a Christian as a young adult. She graduated from Vanderbilt University with a bachelor's degree in child studies and Princeton Theological Seminary with an M.Div. after exploring every possible career within healthcare. She works as a pediatric palliative and intensive care chaplain at Cohen Children's Medical Center in Queens, New York, and as a communications manager at First Presbyterian Church of Glen Cove. When she's not working, she's probably with family and friends, writing, enjoying music, reading, cooking, or seeking adventure.

Bio 2

I am
the daughter of two scientists
the sister of a caregiver
the grand-daughter of one family that hoards history and one that tried to throw it away
the firecracker
the calm in the storm

a bearer of God's own image
a companion to many who look upon the world with compassion
a person who connects people to others and themselves
a minister to the sick and dying
a writer
a musician
an adventurer
a feeler
a seeker
 a sometimes-finder

forged by fire
soft as sand
learning and unlearning
filled with awe
 overflowing

Emily (Emmie) Ferstandig Arnold's Statement of Faith

I believe in an almighty God who has so much love that a universe was borne of it. We enjoy God and creation through each member of the Trinity—the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God the Father and Creator is the first member of the Godhead. God reaches out to human beings and allows them freedom in receiving this love. God is intimate and makes all of creation new again.

I believe that we have damaged our bonds with God. In the second creation narrative, the first two people followed the voice of a stranger rather than the God who created them.

Their relationships with God and each other were divided. We have followed in their footsteps in oppressive systems and actions that elevate some and crush others. God the Father sent Jesus Christ to be the world's bridge-builder and heart-restorer.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son and second member of the Godhead. He came to Earth in a divine and human body and lived, loved, served, died, and rose again for humankind's salvation. He reconciled all people to God on the cross, atoning for our sins and proving that hatred would not overpower love. He ministered to people who were on the margins; invited ruling figures to new understandings of power; and cleansed, forgave, and offered everything for His friends and adversaries. He is the One who sustains the Church. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the third member of the Godhead, who goes where She will, bringing God's love to desperate places, justice to unjust places, wholeness to broken places, and renewal to places of death. She offers discernment and hope to those who desire God's guidance. She helps us to pray by translating our pain, confusion, and joy so we can communicate more fully with God.

I believe that the two sacraments of the Presbyterian Church, baptism and communion, are outward signs of inward grace. Baptism is a public declaration of God's love upon humankind. It serves to build beloved community on Earth and bestows upon us our true identities: Beloved child of God. Communion is bread and cup for the journey. It is a reminder of God's sustaining manna, as well as Jesus' broken body and blood. It unites people in the name of Jesus Christ. The Church's mission of spreading God's love is bolstered by these sacraments.

I believe that the Holy Scriptures are a unique and authoritative way to understand and love God through a lifetime of discipleship. Authors of growing faith communities came together over a thousand years to share their stories of God and what God had done for them. We connect with the saints' stories of stumbling and rising, discern God's movements in the past and present, and join in imagining what God longs for in the future.

I believe that the Church universal is an amalgam of global communities that seek God's face. The mission of the Church is to share and live the Gospel, and Christ empowers us to do this. Within church communities, Christians live a life of discipleship. To be a disciple is to do justice and walk humbly with God, invite others to the same restorative relationship by loving without exception, and participate in God's reformation of broken systems.

I believe that the hope of creation in Jesus Christ is an unbroken promise that leads all of humankind toward God's original vision. There is a future in heaven that holds no more pain or injustice. All things return to what they were supposed to be. God's loving-kindness will join all people together again. This Kingdom of God is not a distant future; we are called to bring it closer to Earth with our words and actions. The love of the Kingdom of God wins.