

Presbytery of the Highlands
Stated Meeting
Interim Report of the Administrative Commission
For Christ Presbyterian Church, Martinsville
November 9, 2021

The Session of Christ Presbyterian Church, Martinsville (CPC), requested that the Presbytery of Elizabeth create an Administrative Commission to help conclude the affairs of the Church. The AC was approved at the October 13, 2020 meeting of the Presbytery, and Lois Tangowski, Ian Rankine and Alan Ford, with Jamie Breeding of the Christ Church as liaison, were appointed. Subsequently, as part of the reorganization of the presbyteries in New Jersey, the Presbytery of the Highlands of New Jersey, of which CPC has become part, authorized the continuation of the Administrative Commission.

The AC met and began considering future possibilities for the congregation and its assets, working with the Session and encouraging them in discussions with the Bound Brook Presbyterian Church (BBPC) for providing care for the congregation and honoring the legacy of CPC's continuing ministry and mission in the Martinsville area. The commission has received regular reports on activities and financial information from CPC, and has acted as needed to enable progress.

A joint task force, composed of members of both CPC and BBPC, developed a plan for union entitled, "The Plan for Moving Forward." It was approved by the BBPC Session and the CPC Session. The Plan is a guide for managing the CPC property until the assets of CPC are transferred to BBPC and the church is dissolved.

During hurricane Ida, stream flooding resulted in serious damage to the building and grounds at CPC. The CPC Session, and especially Jamie Breeding and Matt Bell, have spent considerable time and effort in managing the securing, remediation and repair of the building, which is well underway at the present. The situation has been further complicated by the recalcitrance of the insurance company to honor the statements and promises made by their claims adjustor. The issue of insurance recovery is ongoing and not yet resolved. The building itself is returning to use, with several AA groups already meeting. The HVAC repairs should be made by the end of this month.

The BBPC Session considered the new issues arising from Ida, and agreed to continue with the process. The Task Force continues with the

process of completing the building work and preparing for the dissolution of CPC. On November 1, the title to the Martinsville property was transferred to BBPC. We are working toward a final transfer and dissolution before the end of 2021.

The manse sale was completed earlier this year, and the net proceeds of \$512,000 were deposited in the CPC accounts. Some of these funds are being used for needed repairs to the CPC church building, including the additional costs arising from the Ida flooding. The remainder of the funds will be used for mission, ministry and to maintain the property through a period of discernment expected to last for two to three years, and focusing under the direction of BBPC on using the campus as a vehicle for ministry and mission.

We are continuing the walk alongside the CPC Session and congregation as discernment continues. We pray for guidance as the plan for the care and dissolution of Christ Presbyterian Church evolves.

Respectfully submitted for the AC by Alan Ford