

Presbytery of the Highlands
Stated Meeting
Administrative Commission for the Christ Presbyterian
Church, Martinsville Report
January 22, 2022

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 Interim Report at November 9, 2021 describes the process followed which will lead to the dissolution of CPC and the transfer of all remaining assets to Bound Brook Presbyterian Church (BBPC) which will, for a period of further discernment, continue the Martinsville church property in community mission under the supervision of BBPC. This is guided by "The Plan for Moving Forward." 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.

Complicated by significant damage to the property by hurricane Ida, the completion of the plan is nearing completion, with final resolution expect by the end of February. Most of the repairs necessitated by the flood damage as well as some improvements planned before the storm have been completed. A few remaining tasks remain to complete those repairs and renovations. Upon completion the CPC will take final action to dissolve the congregation and to transfer the accounts and other assets to BBPC. Note that the title to the CPC church real property has already been transferred, as of November 1, 2021.

The issues with insurance have been settled, with the immediate remediation costs having been covered by the agreed settlement at no cost to CPC. Repairs to the HVAC systems, flooring and drywall have been paid from the assets, which include some improvements that were contemplated before the hurricane struck. It appears that financial assets in excess of \$400,000 will be transferred to BBPC when the work is complete, and that these assets will be sufficient to support the ongoing operation of the building and property as the discernment process continues.

We are continuing the walk alongside the CPC Session and congregation as the process nears conclusion. We pray for continued guidance in the days ahead, and expect to make a final report to the March presbytery meeting.

Respectfully submitted for the AC by Alan Ford