

The 6th Stated Meeting of The Presbytery of the Highlands of NJ

Via ZOOM

7 pm, Tuesday, March 8th, 2022

*(to be approved at the 7th Stated Meeting of
The Presbytery of the Highlands of NJ)*

The Body of Christ, A Call to Gather

The Presbytery of Highlands of NJ of the Presbyterian Church (USA) held its 6th Stated Meeting on March 8th, 2022, on the ZOOM platform.

The Moderator, Rev. Tracey Henry, called the meeting to order at 7 pm and led the opening prayer.

Intro to Zoom Voting – *Rev. Tracey Henry, Moderator*

FORMATION OF THE ROLL

The roll was formed as Commissioners signed the registration forms. Stated Clerk, Teaching Elder Carl Wilton, certified that a quorum was present.

REPORT OF THE ATTENDANCE CLERK

<u>Congregation</u>	<u>Teaching Elder</u>		<u>Ruling Elder</u>	
Allamuchy, Panther Valley	Rev. Ninabeth Metcalf	A		A
Alpha	Rev. William “Tex” Culton (HR)	P		A
Andover	Vacant	V		A
Basking Ridge (3)	Rev. Dennis Jones	P	Tina Bramel	P
	Rev. Dr. Maureen Paterson	A		A A
Belvidere	Rev. Dr. Pamela Szurek	A		A
Blairstown	Rev. David Harvey	P	Zach Burke	P
Boonton	Rev. Jennifer Van Zandt	P		A
Bound Brook (3)	Rev. Linda Owens	A	Judy Wahrenberger	P
			Marion Oliver	P A
Branchville	Rev. Dr. Jefferson Hatch	A	Kathleen Katzenstein	P
Califon, Fairmount	Rev. Scott Foster	A	Pete Peterson	P
Califon, Lower Valley	Rev. Chad Rodgers	P		A
Cedar Knolls, Hildale Park	Rev. Ross Lang	A		A

Chatham Township (3)	Rev. Dr. Ellen Clemot Rev. Thomas Brown	P P	Carolyn Smith	P A A
Chatham, Ogden Memorial	Rev. Kathi Heath	P	Allan Paradise	P
Chester	Rev. Christopher Scrivens	A	Jeanne Perry	P
Clinton	Rev. Tracey Henry	P		A
Delaware	Vacant	V		A
Denville, Union Hill	Rev. Timothy Clarkson	P		A
Dover, First Memorial	Rev. Alan Schaefer (HR)	E		A
East Hanover	Vacant	V		A
East Hanover, Kitchell	Vacant	V		A
Flanders	Rev. Heather Morrison-Yaden	P		A
Flemington (3)	Rev. Amy Lincoln	A	Andrew Black Jenn Currie Eric Meisner	P P P
Florham Park, Calvary	Rev. Ronald de Groot	A		A
Franklin	Rev. Julie Raffety	P	Beth Westerfield	P
Frenchtown	Rev. William Myers	P		A
Gillette, Meyersville	Rev. Barbara Aspinall	P		A
Hackettstown	Rev. Erin Hayes-Cook	P	Carl Erickson	P
Hampton, Musconetcong Valley	Stephanie Farley, CRE	A		A
Hazen, Oxford 1st	Vacant	V		A
Lambertville	Rev. Dan Dorrow	A		A
Lambertville, 2nd English	Rev. H. Bradford Morgan	P		A
Lamington	Rev. Caroline Jinkins	A	Bisham Singh	P
Long Valley (2)	Rev. Ryan Irmer	A		A A
Long Valley, Highlands	Rev. Robin Ray	E	Lyn Smith	P
Madison	Rev. Jacquelyn Van Vliet	E	Becky Moody	P
Mendham (2)	Rev. Merideth Mueller-Bolton	P	Sharon Betz Per Ralamb	P P
Milford	Rev. Linda Erkert-Bullock	A		A
Milford, Alexandria	Rev. Nicholas Hatch	P		A
Milford, Holland Bible	Rev. Geoff Stanley	A		A
Mine Hill	Rev. Carie Morgan	P	Jane Smith	P
Morris Plains (2)	Rev. Donald Brown			A

				A
Morristown (3)	Rev. Leslie Dobbs-Allsopp	E	Christine Allen Elizabeth Annis	P P A
New Vernon (2)	Rev. William Stone	P		A A
Newton	Rev. David Young	P	Susan Shake	P
Newton, Yellow Frame	Rev. Michael Nelms	P		A
Oak Ridge	Rev. Christopher Doyle	E	Dave McDonald	P
Ogdensburg	Rev. Alden Johnson	A		A
Parsippany	Rev. Donald Bragg	P		A
Phillipsburg, Harmony	Rev. Scott Bohr	P		A
Phillipsburg, Pilgrim	Rev. Richard Gelson	A		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. Robert "Bronc" Radak	P		A
Ringoes, 1st Amwell	Rev. Courtney Cromie	A		A
Ringoes, Kirkpatrick	Vacant	V		A
Ringwood (2)	Rev. Caroline Unzaga	P	Sue Cail	A A
Rockaway	Ryon Herin, Candidate	P		A
Somerset	Rev. Nancy Nalepa-Skibo	P	Tom Hauck	P
Sparta (2)	Rev. Dr. Patrick Sileo	P		A A
Stanhope	Rev. Peter Magnan	A	Carol Barry	P
Stewartsville	Rev. Stephen Choi	P	Denise DeMasi	P
Stewartsville, Old Greenwich (2)	Rev. Mary Beth Mardis-Lecroy	A	Lisa Kolterjahn	P A
Stirling	Rev. Barbara Aspinall	P		A
Stockton	Rev. Jin Hee Han	P		A
Succasunna	Rev. Carie Morgan	P		A
Sussex	Rev. Katherine Scott-Kirschner	P	Rich Hayzler	P
Taiwanese/American	Rev. D. Paul LaMontagne Rev. Chia Chun (Annie Kakun Tsai)	P A	Christine Su	P
Titusville	Vacant	V	Kristine Schmidt	P
Wantage, Beemerville	Rev. Barry Young	P		A

Warren, Trinity United	Rev. Roberto Fois	A		A
Washington	Rev. James Scovell	A	Stuart Ours	P
West Milford	Rev. Justin Choi	P		A
Wharton	Rev. Sarah Green	P		A
Wharton, Berkshire Valley	Rev. Christopher Doyle	E	Dan Mullen	P
Wharton, Hungarian	Rev. Csilla Lucskay	A		A
Whippany	Rev. Sarah Cairatti	A	Tim Lee	P

Teaching Elders Engaged in a Validated Ministry

Rev. Mike Atzert (<i>Chaplain</i>)	P
Rev. Joanne Miller	A
Rev. Robin Miller Curras (<i>serving church out of bounds</i>)	A
Rev. Christine Davies	P
Rev. Barbara Ewton	A
Rev. Jennifer Hrynyk	A
Rev. John C. Kile	A
Rev. Jeanne Radak (<i>Presbytery Leader – Highlands Presbytery</i>)	P
Rev. Amy Sandlin (<i>Chaplain</i>)	P
Rev. Beth Scibienski (<i>Serving RCA church</i>)	A
Rev. Salvatore Seirmarco (<i>Chaplain – United Methodist Communities</i>)	A
Rev. Dr. Steven Shusset (<i>Stated Clerk – Highlands Presbytery</i>)	P
Rev. Christopher Small (<i>Chaplain – Hunterdon Healthcare Systems</i>)	A
Rev. Angella Son (<i>Professor – Drew University</i>)	A

Members at Large

Rev. M. Elizabeth Blythe	E
Rev. Donna McDaid	P
Rev. Hayley O'Connor	A
Rev. Gail Pendleton	A

Honorably Retired

Rev. Peter Amerman	E
Rev. Jeff Archer	E
Rev. Nancy Asbury	E
Rev. Charles Baier	E
Rev. Joicy Becker-Richards	E
Rev. Robert Beringer	E
Rev. Frederick Black	E
Rev. George Blank	E
Rev. Sally Campbell	E
Rev. Robert Colman	E
Rev. Cynthia Crowner	E
Rev. William "Tex" Culton (<i>serving Alpha</i>)	P
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. Benhardt Fraumann	E
Rev. Mervin Fry	E
Rev. Deirdre Greenwood White	E
Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Hall	E
Rev. Dr. Edward Halldorson	E
Rev. David Hengerer	E
Rev. Kathryn Henry	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	P
Rev. James Morris	E
Rev. Elizabeth Morrison	E
Rev. Szabolcs Nagy	E
Rev. Chet Penza	E
Rev. Barbara Peters	E
Rev. John Potter	P
Rev. Donald Prytherch	E
Rev. Claire Pula	E
Rev. Bronc Radak <i>(serving Rockport)</i>	P
Rev. Jack Roan	E
Rev. Stephen Ross	E
Rev. Lorrie Rowland-Skinner	E
Rev. Diane Ruffle	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
Rev. Dr. Nancy Young	E

Ruling Elders by Virtue of Office

Elder Matt Allen, Past Moderator, Calvary Presbyterian Church, Florham Park	P
Elder Paula Benson, Past Moderator, Highlands Presbyterian Church, Long Valley	P
Elder Alan Ford, Past Moderator, Bethlehem Presbyterian Church, Pittstown	P
Elder Lisa Gray, Past Moderator, Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church, Stewartville	P
Elder Joe Martinoni, Past Moderator, First Presbyterian Church of Rockaway	P
Elder Mel Prestamo, Past Moderator, Long Valley Presbyterian Church	P
Elder Donna Rahmann, Presbyterian Women, Fairmount Presbyterian Church, Califon	P

Others in Attendance

Sonja Gaertner, Office Manager & Attendance Clerk (<i>Highlands Presbytery</i>)	P
Lizabeth Hutchinson, Financial Administrator (<i>Highlands Presbytery</i>)	P
Hannah Faye Allred, Candidate, Presbyterian Church of Madison	P
Nancy Bedner, Basking Ridge Presbyterian Church	P
Hildy Benjamin, Presbyterian Church of Morris Plains	P
Colleen Duffy, First Presbyterian Church of Newton	P
Lilly Kwong, Kitchell Memorial Presbyterian Church, East Hanover	P
Kristina Woodrow, Inquirer, First Presbyterian Church of Newton	P
Jamie Evans, Flemington Presbyterian Church	P
Rev. Dr. Carrie Mitchell, Board of Pensions	P
David Staniuas, Presbyterian Historical Society	P

Total in Attendance – 97

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

Introduction of New Ruling Elder Commissioners

Enrollment of Corresponding Members & Guests

Carrie Mitchell, The Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church USA.
David Staniunas, Records Archivist, Presbyterian Historical Society

Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted as presented.

Consent Agenda & Stated Clerk's Report

SC-1

Approve the minutes of the Presbytery meetings held January 22, 2022, and February 23, 2022.

SC-2

Approve excuses for the Presbytery meeting of March 8, 2022.

SC-3

Receive the 2021 Presbytery Annual Statistical Report. 100% Presbytery Reporting Participation.

SC-4

Receive the Annual Reports of the Presbytery.

SC-5

Receive the report of the Committee on Ministry.

SC-6

Receive the report of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry.

SC-7

Receive the report of the Nominating Committee.

SC-8

Receive the report of the Administration and Coordinating Team.

SC-9

Receive the report of the Property and Insurance Team.

SC-10

Receive the report of the Synod Mission and Ministry Commission.

SC-11

Receive the report of the Youth Leader Formation Team.

Board of Pensions Presentation – Establishing Our Foundations ~ Rev. Dr. Carrie Mitchell, Church Consultant

Committee on Ministry – Part 1 Introduction of New Ministers
Introduced were Rev Caroline Uzaga, Interim Pastor, Community Presbyterian Church of Ringwood and Rev Erin Hayes-Cook, Designated Pastor, First Presbyterian Church of Hackettstown.

Presbyterian Historical Society – Establishing Our Foundations ~ David Staniunas, Records Archivist

Committee on Ministry – Part 2 Introduction of New Ministers
Introduced were Ryon Herin, Candidate, First Presbyterian Church of Rockaway and Rev. Sarah Green, Covenant Supply Pastor, Wharton United Community Church.

Committee on Preparation for Ministry
Examination of Inquirer Committee on Ministry – Part 3
Inquirer Kristina Woodrow was introduced to and examined by the Presbytery. The MOTION WAS APPROVED, at which time liturgy and prayer marked her transition to Candidate.

Examination of Candidate
Candidate Kristina Woodrow was introduced to and examined by the Presbytery. The MOTION WAS APPROVED, at which time liturgy and prayer marked her transition to Minister of the Word and Sacrament.

Nominating Committee
Administration and Coordinating Team

- Class of 2022
 - Elder David "Pete" Peterson (Califon/Fairmount) – co-moderator

Committee on Ministry

- Class of 2022
 - Rev. Robin Ray(A)(Long Valley/Highlands)

Property and Insurance Team

- Class of 2024
 - Elder Lisa Kolterjahn(A)(Stewartsville/Old Greenwich)

Blair Academy Trustee

- Class of 2025
 - Rev. Dr. Nancy Young (HR)

Committee on Representation

- Class of 2022
 - Elder Mel Prestamo(A)(Long Valley/Presbyterian)
 - vacant
- Class of 2023
 - Rev. William "Bill" Stone(A)(New Vernon/First)
 - vacant
- Class of 2024
 - Elder Marie Knapp(A)(Milford/Alexandria First)
 - Rev. Erin Hayes-Cook(A)(Hackettstown/First)

Items to Report:

None.

Adjournment and Prayer

Worship

Anniversary Celebration

Installation of the Stated Clerk

Attested: _____
Steve Shussett Stated Clerk

Reports:

Committee on Ministry

Administrative Committee

Committee on Preparation for Ministry

Property & Insurance Team

Youth Leader Formation

Attachments:

Committee on Ministry Report

March 8, 2022

From the February 1, 2022 meeting:

COM-1

Appointed Rev. Jean Holmes as Moderator of Community Presbyterian Church of Ringwood.

COM-2

Appointed Rev. Gail Pendleton as Moderator of Kitchell Memorial Presbyterian Church, East Hanover.

COM-3

Request the Administration and Coordinating Team for a special presbytery meeting to examine Ryon Herin for ordination.

COM-4

Set dates and developed Special Presbytery Celebration Gathering to honor 3 retirees in February.

COM-5

Approved the following Terms of Call:

- Rev. Thomas Brown and the Presbyterian Church of Chatham Township
- Rev. Dr. Ellen Clemot and the Presbyterian Church of Chatham Township
- Rev. Roberto Fois and Trinity United Church, Warren
- Rev. Sarah Green and Wharton United Community Church
- Rev. Ryon Herin and First Presbyterian Church of Rockaway
- Rev. Caroline Jinkins and Lamington Presbyterian Church, Bedminster
- Rev. Katherine Scott-Kirschner and First Presbyterian Church of Sussex
- Rev. Jacquelynn Van Vliet and the Presbyterian Church of Madison

COM-6

Approved the Clergy Renewal Leave requests of:

- Rev. Richard Gelson
- Rev. Linda Owens
- Rev. Dr. Patrick Sileo

COM-7

Approved the Session Rotation Exemption requests for:

- Andover Presbyterian Church
- First Church of Hanover, East Hanover

- United Presbyterian Church, Flanders
- Mine Hill Presbyterian Church

COM-8

Approved Discernment Report for United Presbyterian Church, Flanders and approved their election of a PNC.

From the March 1, 2022 Meeting:

COM-9

Discussed process for addressing the pastors who are non-compliant with Sexual Misconduct/Background Check documentation.

COM-10

Began planning for a Pastor's spring retreat.

COM-11

Approved the following Terms of Call:

- Rev. Nicholas Hatch and Alexandria First Presbyterian Church, Milford
- Rev. William Culton and United Presbyterian Church of Alpha
- Rev. Courtney Cromie and United First Presbyterian Church of Amwell, Ringoes (Larison's Corner)
- Rev. Barry Young and Beemerville Presbyterian Church, Wantage
- Rev. Linda Gaden and Bethlehem Presbyterian Church, Pittstown
- Rev. David Harvey and First Presbyterian Church of Blairstown
- Rev. Ross Lang and Hildale Park Presbyterian Church, Cedar Knolls
- Rev. Alan Schaefer and First Memorial Presbyterian Church, Dover
- Rev. Amy Lincoln and Flemington Presbyterian Church
- Rev. Julie Raffety and First Presbyterian Church of Franklin
- Rev. Ryan Irmer and Long Valley Presbyterian Church
- Rev. Carie Morgan and Mine Hill Presbyterian Church
- Rev. David Young and First Presbyterian Church of Newton
- Rev. Alden Johnson and First Presbyterian Church of Ogdensburg
- Rev. Kathi Heath and Ogden Memorial Presbyterian Church, Chatham
- Rev. Stephen Choi and Stewartsville Presbyterian Church
- Rev. Carie Morgan and First Presbyterian Church of Succasunna
- Rev. Michael Nelms and Yellow Frame Presbyterian Church, Newton

- Rev. James Scovell and First Presbyterian Church of Washington
- Rev. Leslie Dobbs-Allsopp and Presbyterian Church in Morristown
- Rev. Marie Branigan, Interim Covenant and TOC and Kirkpatrick Memorial Presbyterian Church
- Rev. Scott Bohr and Harmony Presbyterian Church, Phillipsburg
- Rev. Dr. Jefferson Hatch and First Presbyterian Church of Branchville

COM-12

Approved Position Descriptions for:

- Part time Covenant Supply for First Presbyterian Church of Titusville
- Interim Associate Pastor for the Presbyterian Church in Morristown

Administration and Coordinating Team Report March 8, 2022

Items to Report:

The Administration and Coordinating Team reports the following from the February 22, 2022 meeting:

ACT-1

The ACT reviewed the January Presbytery meeting and the February Special meeting.

ACT-2

Presbytery Leader, Jeanne Radak, provided an update on the NJ Presbyteries. Items on the checklist provided by the Synod Commission have been completed.

ACT-3

Financial Reports from 2021 and 2022 were reviewed. The Synod's 2022 Per Capita was paid in full.

ACT-4

The plans for the March Presbytery meeting were reviewed which incorporates celebrating the First Anniversary of the Presbytery of the Highlands of NJ.

ACT-5

The ACT discussed plans for the May 10 Hybrid Meeting at Johnsonburg Camp and Retreat Center.

ACT-6

ACT Team assignments were discussed and reviewed.

ACT-7

The ACT will work with Presbyterian Women to develop on how they will partner together in the new presbytery.

ACT-8

The ACT discussed next steps in developing a Discernment Team that will engage the presbytery in learning where God is calling us to be in mission and ministry in the next this new season as a community.

ACT-9

The ACT voted to as of April 1, 2022, the Presbytery will authorize ordination and installation services to be in person with protocols appropriate to the setting and for those who are in attendance, providing that the COVID positivity rate is 7 % or lower. in the area where the ordination/installation service is taking place. This would allow for services to take place in an area that meets that requirement while the positivity rate might be higher in other areas of the Presbytery and we would not allow a service in that area.

Committee on Preparation for Ministry Report March 8, 2022

Items to Report:

CPM-1

February 21, 2022

- The committee met with Inquirer, Kristina Woodrow for her annual consultation/candidacy review. Kristina is a member of First Presbyterian Church of Newton.
- *Motion:* to move Inquirer, Kristina Woodrow to Candidate.
Approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Rahmann and Bronc Radak

CPM Co-Moderators

Property and Insurance Team Report

March 8, 2022

Items for Consent Agenda:

None.

Items for Action:

None.

Items to Report:

The Property & Insurance Team reports the following from the March 1, 2022 meeting:

P&I-1

Approved the Bloomsbury Cemetery lawn service contract for 2022 at \$400 per month.

P&I-2

Approved the sale of land to the State of New Jersey due to eminent domain for the Parsippany Presbyterian Church and the First Presbyterian Church of Berkshire Valley.

P&I-3

Discussed Cemetery Associations. Individual Cemetery Boards are in the process of being filled for the cemeteries currently owned by the Presbytery. These boards will report to the P & I Team.

P&I-4

Received an update on the churches in our Presbytery which are affected by the Boy Scout lawsuits and the current situation facing the BSA.

P&I-5

Updated Covid guidelines for the Presbytery in light of the changes to the mask mandates. We are asking that each church consider their own audiences' needs before making any changes to their policies.

P&I-6

Reviewed proposal of the Pluckemin Presbyterian Church regarding the leasing of part of their property.

P&I-7

Approved seven (7) Manse grant applications totaling \$11,022.70.

Youth Leader Formation Team Report

March 8, 2022

Items for Consent Agenda:

None.

Items for Action:

None.

Items to Report:

The Youth Leader Formation Team reports the following from the February 24, 2022 meeting:

YLF-1

Team members introduced themselves and welcomed Tommy Campbell, Associate Director of Programming at Johnsonburg Camp and Retreat Center and Rev. Dr. Steve Shussett, Resource Staff and Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of the Highlands.

YLF-2

The history of this committee's work was reviewed, moving into consideration of how it can best serve the Presbytery and the Youth of the Presbytery given that Triennium will not happen this year.

YLF-3

Joanne Willans, First Presbyterian Church of Whippany, shared some of the service projects the Whippany Youth Group has been engaged with recently and offered to advertise those opportunities to the Presbytery for youth from other churches to join. Other congregations are invited to share their mission opportunities that are open to participation from the wider Presbytery, and all are asked to share stories and photos from these endeavors.

YLF-4

It has been challenging to reach youth leaders and pastors. Such persons are asked to check their spam filters to make sure they are receiving YLF communications.

YLF-5

Tommy shared information on a Johnsonburg event for high school students on the theme of social justice, to be held during the dates that were Triennium. Enthusiasm and support were shared by the group and

some questions regarding logistics were discussed. More information to come.

YLF-6

Plans were discussed for a possible day-long event for youth ministry leaders and volunteers, perhaps at Johnsonburg, to be offered in the summer or early fall.