

**Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley Assembly
Minutes of Saturday September 16, 2017
Nineveh Presbyterian Church, Nineveh NY**

Following worship using *Lectio Divina* readings of Psalm 46, led by **Julie Jensen**(Nineveh), **George Budine**(Nichols), **Lisa Heckman**(Owego), **Becky Kindig**(Binghamton United), **Lisa Ruth Mays**(Delhi First), **Mark Montfort**(Oneonata First), **Mark Piedmonte**(Gilbertsville/Garrattsville), and **Pat Raube**(Endicott, Union) the meeting was called to order with prayer by Moderator **George Budine**(Nichols) at 9:50 a.m. An offering of \$1145 was received for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

A quorum was present – 17 churches were represented by Ruling Elder Commissioners, 20 Teaching Elders, 3 Commissioned Lay Pastors, 2 Ruling Elders with vote due to office, and 10 visitors and office staff. There were no corresponding members, but commissioners **Sherry Dans**(Christ Community, Cortlandville) and **Dean VeenHoff**(Gilbertsville) were recognized, along with guests **Diane Olmstead**(Johnson City) and **Bill and Sandy Thomas**(Nichols) and infant **Caleb Shindler**(voice but no vote). The total enrolled attendance was 52.

Host Pastor **Julie Jensen** greeted the assembly, shared about updates to the sanctuary and logistics for lunch and facilities including the Internet password. The built-in projection system and screen were used for the duration of the meeting for papers and presentations. The Roll was taken by computers in the fellowship hall:

Roll:

CHURCH	Sept 16, 2017	May 20,2017	March 3, 2017	Nov 19, 2016	Sept 17, 2016
Afton			Lynn Reeves	Lynn Reeves	Lynn Reeves
Andes					
Bainbridge	Cheryl Nages	Paula Epply	Excused	Paula Epply	Cheryl Nages
Binghamton, Immanuel					Catherine Bocinski
Binghamton, John Hus					
Binghamton, Ross Mem'l					
Binghamton, United	Suzanne Northrop	Chris Burger	Cynthia Burger	Marilyn Myers	Cynthia Burger
Bovina Center					
Cincinnatus					
Conklin			Beth Lewis	Doug Moore	Doug Moore
Cortland, United		Darlene Latten	Thomas Corey	Russell Ruthig	Carol Foster
Cortlandville, Christ	Sherry Dans	Nancy Wheatley	Jenny Wissink		Dot Thomas
Charlotte Valley	Nancy E Banker	Excused	Roberta Barringer	Nancy E Banker	Joan Burger
Cabin Hill					
De Lancey					
Delhi First	Susan Little	Beatrice Mooney	Excused	Thomas Phillion	Bea Mooney
Delhi United Ministry		Otto Frederick Onasch	Otto Frederick Onasch	Fred Onasch	
West Delhi			Steven Fleming		
Deposit	Alice Martin	Michael Armstrong	Alice Martin	Alice Martin	Alice Martin
Dryden		David Smith	David Smith		John Scott
East Guilford		Sharon Havens	Janet Lafayette	April Geiger	Sharon Havens
Endicott Union	Jane Park	Peggy Williams			Peg Corwin

CHURCH	Sept 16, 2017	May 20,2017	March 3, 2017	Nov 19, 2016	Sept 17, 2016
Endwell Northminster	Kathy Close	Diana Nogaret	Juni Brooks	Junieta Brooks	Suzanne Erle
Garrattsville	Joan Loeffler			Joan Loeffler	Joan Loeffler
Gilbertsville	Dean VeenHoff		Don Osborne	Susan Pochy	Winona Slaughter
Hamden	Excused	Karen Marshfield	Karen A. Marshfield	Karen Marshfield	Karen Marshfield
Hancock					
Hobart				William Coleman	
Johnson City	Glenna Coutts		Glenna Coutts		
Laurens					
Lordville					Excused
Marathon					
Margaretville/ New Kingston					
Masonville	Wendy Caldiero	Jo Ann Aymar	Excused	Jo Ann Aymar	Kathryn Carvin
Nichols	Andrea Seeley	Andrea Seeley	Excused	Excused	Andrea Seeley
Nineveh		Barbara Dillingham	Barbara Dillingham		Barbara Dillingham
Oneonta First			Ron Wood	Shirley Fioravanti	Carolyn Palm
Oneonta First United			Linda Allen		
Otego					
Owego	Oliver, Joan	Leslie Anne King	Leslie Anne King	Leslie Anne King	Leslie Anne King
Smithville Flats		Diane Merrill			Ruby Fiene
Stamford	Dave Betz				
Unadilla	Louise Lesh		David Johnson		Louise Lesh
Walton	Michael Krusinski	Michael Krusinski	Michael Krusinski	Michael Krusinski	Michael Krusinski
Valley United			Jim Parks		Dale Barber
Windsor					
Worcester					Judith McAdams
TOTAL	17	18	22	19	27

Status	CLERGY	Sept 16, 2017	May 20, 2017	March 3, 2017	Nov 19, 2016	Sept 17, 2016
HR	Amalfitano, Frank					
HR	Arnold, Earl	Present				
HR	Beattie, Douglas G					
HR	Bjorkman, Leonard		Present			Present
CLP	Budine, George	Present	Present	Present	Present	
CLP	Carruth, George			Present		Present
	Chastain, Kimberly		Present	Present	Present	Present
CLP	Davis, Shirley			Excused		Excused
HR	De Noyelles, Roger					
HR	Dittman, Sharon J					
HR	Downing, Barry					
	Elfond, Cheryl Ann	Excused	Excused	Excused	Excused	Excused
CLP	Fleming, Deborah	Present	Excused	Present		Excused
HR	Francis, Dale		Present	Present	Present	Present
EPIS	Hamilton, Paul			Present		Present
UCC	Hansen, Janet Adair	Present	Present	Present	Excused	Present
	Hatch, Douglas	Present		Present	Present	
	Heckman, Lisa S.	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
at large	Heinle, Robert H	Excused	Present	Excused	Excused	Present
	Hooker, Christopher	Excused	Excused		Excused	Present

Status	CLERGY	Sept 16, 2017	May 20, 2017	March 3, 2017	Nov 19, 2016	Sept 17, 2016
	Hooker, Sarah	Excused	Excused		Present	Present
	Horne, Douglas A		Present		Present	
	Jensen, Julie	Present	Present	Present		
	Johnson, David H.	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
	Kindig, Rebecca	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
HR	King, Marie					
	Rosso (Knoell), Sharan		Present	Excused	Present	
	Kwon, Peter					
HR	Mahler, John					
Clerk	Martin, James F	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
Valid min	Mattice, Taryn B					
	Mays, Lisa Ruth	Present	Excused	Present	Present	Present
HR	Miller, Dean					
	Montfort, Mark	Present	Excused	Present	Present	Present
	More, H Adelbert III	Excused	Excused		Present	Excused
CLP	Muller, Marsha	Present				
	Outterson-Murphy	Excused	Present	Present		
	Peak, Robert T	Present	Present	Present	Excused	Present
	Piedmonte, Mark	Present	Present	Present	Present	Excused
HR	Presby, Allen L				Present	
	Raube, Patricia	Present	Present	Excused	Excused	
HR	Renton, Barbara A	Present	Present	Excused	Present	Present
HR	Robinson, David C					
	Schindler – see Vittorio					
at large	Schwartz, Barbara		Present	Excused	Present	Present
	Shepard, Lynn	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
	Suggs, Arthur M					
HR	Thomas, Ronald					
ABC	Vance, Tom	Present	Present	Excused	Present	Present
	Vittorio Schindler, Garrett	Present	Excused	Present		Present
	Vittorio Schindler, Marena	Present	Excused	Present		Present
	Walton-Leavitt, Cynthia	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
HR	Wemple Jr, Delbert					
	Wilson, Carol	Present		Present	Present	Present
	Wolff, Patty	Excused	Present	Present	Present	Present
Total		20+3Clp	22+1Clp	21+3Clp	23+1Clp	26+1 Clp

HR = Honorably Retired, at large = at large member, valid min = validated ministry, gov body = serving governing body of the church; other denominational affiliations: UCC = United Church of Christ, UMC = United Methodist Church FMC = Free Methodist Church, ABC = American Baptist Church

ELDER (“equalized”)	Sept 16, 2017	May 20, 2017	March 3, 2017	Nov 19, 2016	Sept 17, 2016
Scott Kindig – Cabinet	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
Marsha Muller -- COM co-chair	See CLP	Present	Present	Present	
Joan Oliver -- Cabinet	See Church	Present	Present	Present	Present
Wildenstein, Judith – PWP Rep.	Present	Present	Present	Present	
Total	2	4	4	4	2

Corresponding Members: none

Visitors, Staff & Host church volunteers: Christine Rogalski, David Banker, Cheryll Berg, Chris Burger, Cynthia Burger, Neal Miller, Diane Olmstead, Frederick Onasch, Sandra Thomas, Bill Thomas and infant Caleb Vittorio Schindler.

Total Tally of Presbytery Commissioners

Teaching Elders Present:	20	Churches Represented by a Ruling Elder:	17
Corresponding Members:		Corresponding Member (ruling elder):	
Total Teaching Elders:	20	Commissioned Lay Pastors Present:	3
Teaching Elders Excused:	7	Other Voting Ruling Elders Present:	2
Teaching Elders Absent w/o Excuse:	8	Total Ruling Elders Present:	22
APA Members: 0		Commissioned Lay Pastors absent w/o excuse:	2
Visitors+ Host Church Volunteers:	10	Commissioned Lay Pastors Excused:	
Total Enrolled Attendance	52	Churches Requesting Excuse	1
		Churches Not Represented:	30

Introduction of New Business, Approval of the Agenda

Moderator **George Budine** took a moment to remind the Assembly of the basic purposes of a Presbytery in G-3.03, assisting and supporting the witness to the gospel so that all congregations become communities of Faith, Hope and Love where the Word of God is preached and the sacraments celebrated so that the covenant community is a place of nurture and growth.

The **Agenda** was **approved**, adding a report from the Committee on Lay Preaching.

In place of a Consent Agenda a **motion was approved** to receive the Treasurer and Financial reports and approve the minutes of the previous meeting as well as the 2018 dates for Presbytery Assemblies in the report of the Stated Clerk.

Speaking for the **Committee on Nominations, Garrett Schindler**(Bovina) addressed the issue of the Stated Clerk's retirement at the end of the year and spoke of the decision to nominate Co-Stated Clerks. Presbytery **approved** a motion to divide the question and after discussion **voted** to have the office of **Stated Clerk shared by Co-Stated Clerks.**

Ruling Elder **Chris Burger**(Binghamton United) and Minister **Rebecca Kindig**(Binghamton United) were nominated, answered questions and hearing no nominations from the floor, they were **elected as Co-Stated Clerks effective January 1, 2018.** The term of Stated Clerk is three years.

Cheryl Berg(Owego) presented both the report of the **Ethiopian Partnership Team**, highlighting the opportunities for support in the handouts.

Mark Piedmonte(Gilbertsville/Garrattsville) presented a report from the **Christian Nurture Team** about a trip for youth through age 29 to the Taize Community in France this summer from June 30 to July 8. **Bobby Outterson-Murphy**(Delhi, United Ministry) will be the organizer. Presbytery **approved** a motion supporting the plan and subsidizing up to one-third of the cost for up to 20 young adults.

Under the **Cabinet** report, **Dave Johnson**(Cortland UP and Cabinet Chair) reported that Presbytery is on-track with receipts for Per Capita and Mission giving. The report also shows projects that have supported some churches from Development Funds. **Julie Jensen** will be attending the Stewardship Kaleidoscope as one of those projects. He also highlighted the discussion with Synod Leader Harold

Delhagen regarding future directions and creative plans between Presbyteries at the Synod level. David presented the draft 2018 Presbytery Budget for a first reading and questions. He also noted the sale of the **Luce Center**(former Methodist church building), property belonging to **United Ministry, Delhi** to a non-profit group.

George Budine reported on some of the conversations between Central New York Presbyteries that have begun and are ongoing. Two videos were shown, one from Larry Beasley of Utica Presbytery, and another by Mario Bolivar of Cayuga-Syracuse Presbytery. Both videos highlighted a couple different initiatives of the **Central New York Presbyteries Network** and enthusiastically welcomed PSV into that Network.

After a stretch break, under the **Committee on Ministry** report, Lisa Heckman presented **Carol Wilson** who is requesting **Honorable Retirement** after 14 years of as Pastor for the Charlotte Valley Presbyterian Church. After sharing of stories and memories, Presbytery **approved** dissolving the pastoral relationship and granting her retirement effective November 13, 2017.

A spreadsheet report of **2017 terms of contract or call** for many churches and ministers of the Presbytery was received by Presbytery action.

After explanation from the written report, Presbytery **approved** establishing an **Administrative Commission** to work with the **Hobart Presbyterian Church**. 4 persons have indicated willingness to serve so far. Moderator **George Budine** was empowered to fill the remaining names of those serving on the commission.

Presbytery also approved declaring the **Hobart** pulpit vacant effective October 1, 2017 and placing the Rev. **H. Adelbert More** in at-large status , since there has been no approved contract since 2014.

Marsha Muller(CLP, Deposit and COM co-chair), noted that the minimum terms of call for 2018 were adopted previously when a 5 year plan of equalizing minimum salaries for those churches with manses and those with housing allowances last year.

Marena and **Garret Schindler** shared a survey being taken today on the future plan for congregations to serve as liaisons to one another, since COM will be using teams for topical areas of church support.

The **Stated Clerk** reported the dates of upcoming **Session Record Reviews** at various locations

October 7 Walton,
October 21 Oneonta, First United (Red Door)
November 4 Unadilla,
November 11, Northminster, Endwell

The Session Annual Statistical Reports will open Dec. 1, 2017 on the GA website, deadline Feb. 15, 2018. The Clerk's Annual Questionnaire is a recommended but optional survey, not a required report.

He also highlighted a communication from James Evinger of the General Assembly Task Force on Safe and Sacred Space (Child and Youth protection policies), if there is interest, please contact the Stated Clerk.

A motion was **adopted to extend the Order of the Day** for lunch and adjournment as long as needed to share announcements of Good News

Deb Fleming(CLP, Cabin Hill) gave a report from the **Committee on Lay Preaching** which showed that almost 20% of our congregations are served by lay preachers and about the plan to have a discussion on combining that committee and the Committee on Preparation together.

Good News - over fifteen announcements of activities, projects and events were shared from around the Presbytery.

Presbytery **adjourned** with prayer and singing led by the Moderator at 12:18.